

Dumfries, Va. – 2 June 1803
Governors Executive Papers – John Page
Accession #41056, Box 1, Folder 1

Dumfries District Court the 2 June 1803

The report of William Tyler and William Morgan two of the commissioners appointed at this term to examine into the State of the Gaol erected for this District at Haymarket was returned in these words” In pursuance of an order of the honorable the District Court of Dumfries dated the 25th day of May 1803 directed to William Tyler, Henry Washington and William Morgan or any two of them. We the subscribers have viewed the Public Gaol erected for this District at Haymarket, and report to the court as follows. The situation of the gaol independent of the doors and windows we consider as sufficiently strong to secure the prisoners that may be confined therein. The doors to the criminal’s rooms are sufficiently strong, but improperly hung on the inside, and will jeopardize the life of the gaol here if they are not changed to the outside, and it’s our opinion that his life will not be sufficiently secured unless there are Iron Grates erected on the inside. There is a great space in the upper end of the Staple which receives the Bolt of the Locks & will enable the criminal to make his escape with the assistance of a small piece of iron calculated to the purpose. We do further report that there are five Doors and ten Windows in said Gaol, the outward Door we do also state is sufficiently strong, the other two in the Debtors Rooms are trifling and insubstantial, being made of thin Pine Plank, with very indifferent & small stock Locks, and the Doors are also hung on the inside, and can with the greatest ease be opened with a Pen Knife, or ten penny Nail, the four Windows in the Criminal Apartments are secure with double Iron Grates & sufficiently strong except as to two of the Windows, which have two or three bars in each broke, there are two indifferent Locks on the lower Doors and one good one. The rest of the Windows are considered to be sufficiently secure.

Haymarket, 30th May 1803
Wm. Tyler
Wm. Morgan

Dumfries, Va. – 12 September 1803
Governors Executive Papers – John Page
Accession #41056, Box 1, Folder 15

At a meeting of the citizens of Dumfries held at the court house in the said town on the 12th day of September 1803 for the purpose of devising means for preventing the introduction of the Malignant Fever, which at this time unhappily prevails in the Town of Alexandria, on previous notice to you.

Resolved unanimously that Alexander Henderson be appointed chairman of the meeting and that John Williams be appointed secretary.

The meeting taking the aforesaid subject into consideration find that owing to the absence of Col. Tebbs the superintendant of quarantine for the Town of Newport, from this state they are unable to take all the efficient measures necessary at this alarming crisis. It is therefore unanimously resolved that the chairman of this meeting be and he is hereby requested to state the absence of Col. Tebbs to the Executive, and the absolute necessity of an immediate appointment of a proper person to perform the duties of Superintendant of Quarantine during his absence, and of the unanimous opinion of the meeting that Capt. George Williams will be a proper person citizen to perform that duty.

Resolved that Doctor John Spence, Doctor John Bronaugh and Doctor James Muschett be appointed a Board of Health that it be requested of them or either of them to examine every person who may come into town, and ascertain whether they may be infected with or capable of communicating the aforesaid fever and give immediate notice thereof to the committee of safety here after to be appointed by the meeting.

Resolved unanimously that a committee of safety be appointed for the purpose of preventing the introduction of the said Fever, and that the said committee do consist of James Muschett, Timothy Brundige, James Reid, Philip Dawe, and John Lawson or any two of them – that it be the duty of the said committee forthwith to provide a convenient house free from the communication of the inhabitants of the town or others, for the reception of such persons as shall be reported to them by the board of health to be dangerous to the health of the inhabitants or such as principles of humanity may require to be provided for. Also to procure one or more proper nurses to attend the sick.

Resolved unanimously that Philip Dawe be appointed a treasurer and that he solicit from the inhabitants of the town such contribution as they may chose to advance for the purpose of carrying out the execution of the resolutions of this meeting and that he note the respective contributions made.

Resolved unanimously that a copy of these resolutions be sent to the Executive of this Commonwealth immediately by the chairman and that he likewise enclose another copy to the Mayor of Alexandria.

Signed by order of the meeting
A. Henderson, chairman
John Williams, secretary

Dumfries, Va. – 2 June 1803
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Accession #41056, Box 3, Folder 2
Condition of Hay Market Courthouse & Jail

At a Superior Court held at Hay Market for the District composed of the Counties of Loudoun, Fauquier, Fairfax and Prince William the 19th day of May 1804. Present, the Honorable Paul Carrington Junior Esquire, Judge.

On the motion of the Attorney for the Commonwealth it is ordered that Gwyn Page, Thomas Swann, William Tyler and Edmund Brooke Esquire or any three of them do view the present situation of the Court House and Lott, the Clerk's Office and Gaol of the District generally as to the state of repair in which these buildings now are and report thereon to the Court.

June 1st 1804 – A report of Edmund Brooke, William Tyler and Thomas Swann Esquire, three of the commissioners appointed at this term to examine into the present situation of the Court House lot &c returned their report in these words "In obedience to an order of the humble the District Court of Haymarket hereunto annexed we have examined the present state of Gaol and Clerk's Office of the said District, as also the situation of the Lott whereupon the Public Buildings stand and upon this review do report, that an additional door of iron grate is necessary to each of the criminal rooms for the safety of the Gaoler whose life otherwise would be exposed to danger in opening the doors of those apartments for the conveyance of necessaries to the criminals. Those grate doors we think should be hung on the inside of the rooms and the other doors on the outside thereof. The locks upon both doors of the criminal rooms are out of order and without strong new locks these rooms are insecure. The post of the outer door of the gaol being shrunk leaves the ketch at too great a distance from the bolt which may be remedied by a facing of iron, a pair of hinges is necessary to one of the Debtor Rooms, the door of which has fallen down in consequence of the hinges being broken. A floor over each of the Debtor Rooms we think would be convenient to the Gaoler and necessary for the preservation of the joist and floors below as well of the comfort of persons confined by preventing the snow and rains from being drifted into these rooms: The door to the upper stairs of the Gaolers apartment we think highly necessary to protect the same from the influence of severe Rains & Snows. The roof of the Clerk's Office has lost several sheets of slate, which occasions it to leak and the slate being broken new sheets will be required to repair this loss, and without such repairs the office will be much injured. The Clerk's Office in other respects is in good repair except a part of the cornice on the outside which being insufficiently nailed has fallen and which can easily be tacked on again. An additional press for the books and papers of the said office is required those belonging to the same being nearly full. With respect to the improvements necessary on the Lott upon which the Public Buildings stand. We think from the complaints expressed about the distance of drinking water that a well upon the said Lott would remedy this inconvenience and is a desirable object as well to the Clerk and Gaoler, whose convenience ought to be particularly considered, as to those who attend the Courts at their Sessions. An enclosure of Posts and Railing is an improvement which we also deem highly necessary to the Public Square to prevent the trespass of stock and the intrusion of Suttlers whilst the Courts are sitting, which are frequently much incommoded thereby – To make the repairs and alterations above specified and the improvements necessary on the Public Lott we think from the best estimate we are able to form from our own opinion and the judgment of others will require the sum of three hundred pounds at the least. Given under our hands this 31st day of May 1804.

E. Brooke
William Tyler
Thos. Swann

Which is ordered to be certified to the Executive of this Commonwealth forthwith.

Teste, J. Lawson C.D.C.

Prince William, Va., August 26th 1804
Governors Executive Papers – John Page
Accession #41056, Box 3, Folder 3

To Daniel L. Hylton, Esquire, Clerk of the Council

Sir, We have to request you to inform the Governor and Council of State that we duly received the Letter Patent appointing us commissioners for the County of Prince William to execute the act passed January 21st 1804 "for appointing Electors to chose a President and Vice President of the United States" – that we feel sensibly impressed

with the confidence reposed in us by the Executive Council – and shall exert our best abilities to discharge with fidelity our duties as commissioners at the ensuing election.

We are, Sir, very respectfully
Your obedient servants
N. Harrison
John Spence

Dumfries, Va. – 1 November 1804
Governors Executive Papers – John Page
Accession #41056, Box 4, Folder 1
Condition of Hay Market Clerk's office

Hay Market District Court, November 1, 1804 – It appearing to the Court that the Clerk's Office is not in a situation at this time for the safe keeping of the records and papers therein deposited or for the comfortable accommodation of the clerk residing there. It is ordered that William Tyler, John Williams, William Morgan, William Robinson, Andrew Heath Jun. and William Cundiff or any two or more of them do view the situation of the said office and report thereon to the court.

A report of William Cundiff, William Robinson and Andrew Heath Jun. three of the commissioners appointed this day to examine into the situation of the Clerks, returned their report in these words. “ In obedience to an order of the Hay Market District Court respecting the insufficiency of the Office thereto belonging for the preservation of the records and the accommodation of the clerk. We the subscribers are of opinion that to make the same sufficient as expressed above, that there be a floor of Plank two inches thick laid down and the Brick put upon that will prevent the dampness that now appears to arise and that for the lodging of the said clerk, it will be necessary that there be another story added and stair case with brick or stone at the bottom with a good cover of slate for the whole of the office the present one being insufficient.

William Cundiffe
William Robinson
Andrew Heath Jr.

Which is ordered to be certified to the Executive for this Commonwealth forthwith

Teste, J. Lawson C.D.C.

Dumfries, Va., 9 September 1805
Governors Executive Papers – John Page
Accession #41056, Box 5, Folder 8
John Linton letter

Sir,

The death of Col. Thomas Lee late collector for the Commonwealth on Bristoe's tract has left a vacancy in that office which I take the earliest opportunity of announcing my wish to obtain.

I shall take the liberty of transmitting a proper recommendation to satisfy the Executive that their confidence will not be misplaced should they feel disposed to appoint me.

With respect I am sir
Your obedient servant
John Linton

Richmond, Va. – October 1805
Governors Executive Papers – John Page
Accession #41056, Box 5, Folder 10
Bristoe Tract

Governor Page

Sir, There is now depending in the Court of appeals a cause of great importance to the state. The suit is brought by Robert Bristoe to recover a tract of land in Prince William which is now in possession of the public. The value of the land itself I am told is many thousand pounds besides a large claim for profits. In a case of such

magnitude I think the public interest would be promoted by employing assistant counsel. I am induced to make this suggestion because it has been the practice of the Government in cases of great importance, & because too I am sanguine in my expectation of a result favorable to the state, yet the cooperation of tenants which the Commonwealth may be avail of cannot but be beneficial. I am with the greatest respect your obedient servant.

Philip Norborne Nicholes

separate page – Oct 9, 1805 - The Council having received information from the attorney general that an appeal from the decision of the High Court of Chancery for the District of Richmond is now pending before the Court of Appeals. The Commonwealth against Bristoe's heirs: On consideration of which the board deem it indispensable necessary from the magnitude and importance of the cause to the Commonwealth. That assistant council be employed in aid of the attorney general and do whereupon advise that Edmund Randolph & George Hay Esquires be paid fee of 40 dollars each with promise of an additional fee³ in case of success.