

Jefferson's Time in Williamsburg Source Packet 'Dreams of the Future'

Document J is a letter Thomas Jefferson wrote as a William and Mary college student to a friend and fellow classmate, John Page on October 7th, 1763. In the letter, Jefferson tells Page about his unsuccessful attempts to woo a woman named Rebecca Burwell. In this letter, Jefferson calls Burwell by the name Belinda.

From Thomas Jefferson to John Page, 7 October 1763," Founders Online, National Archives(<http://founders.archives.gov/?q=Thomas%20Jefferson%20John%20Page%20October%207%201763&s=1111311111&sa=&r=1&sr=>). Source: *The Papers of Thomas Jefferson*, vol. 1, 1760–1776, ed. Julian P. Boyd. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1950, pp. 11–12.

DEAR PAGE

In the most melancholy fit that ever any poor soul was, I sit down to write to you. Last night, as merry as agreeable company and dancing with Belinda in the Apollo could make me, I never could have thought the succeeding sun would have seen me so wretched as I now am! I was prepared to say a great deal: I had dressed up in my own mind, such thoughts as occurred to me, in as moving language as I knew how, and expected to have performed in a tolerably creditable manner. But, good God! When I had an opportunity of venting them, a few broken sentences, uttered in great disorder, and interrupted with pauses of uncommon length, were the too visible marks of my strange confusion! The whole confab I will tell you, word for word, if I can, when I see you, which God send may be soon...The court is now at hand, which I must attend constantly, so that unless you come to town, there is little probability of my meeting with you any where else. For God's sake come. I am, dear Page, Your sincere friend,

T. JEFFERSON

Document K contains two excerpts from Dumas Malone's extensively researched six-volume biography of Thomas Jefferson. Though he wrote in 1948, Malone is still considered one of the single most respected Jefferson scholars. In the selections, Malone seeks to explain where Jefferson's misgivings on religion originated, and he discusses the role Virginia Governor Francis Fauquier and his teacher William Small had on forming these beliefs.

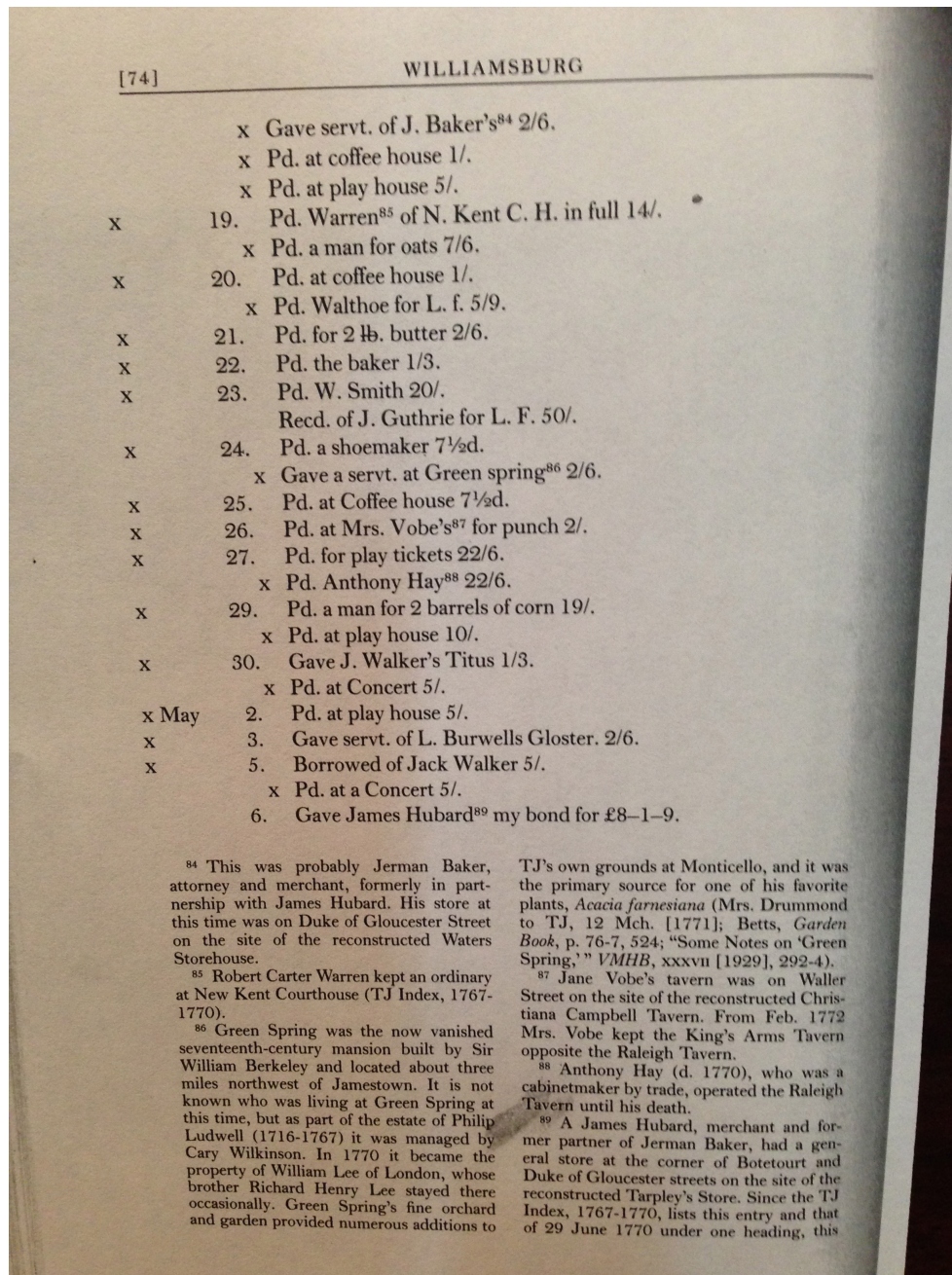
Malone, Dumas. *Jefferson and His Time*. Volume 1 [1st ed.] Boston: Little, Brown, 1948, p. 53 and 102.

The fundamental question was whether the Bishop of London or the gentlemen of Virginia should have final authority over the College and the Church, and the gentry would have given the same answer to this if Thomas Jefferson had never gone to school in Williamsburg. His later distinction among his fellows was owing to his championship, not merely of local self-government, but of complete religious liberty. The seeds of anticlericalism, however, were probably sown in his mind while he was in college or soon afterwards, when he became intimate with Francis Fauquier...It is a highly significant fact, also, that the early teacher who did most to fix the destinies of his life [William Small] was the only layman in the faculty of the College.

How did the influence of the Enlightenment reach him in the forests of Virginia? The chief personal impact upon his receptive mind came from the Williamsburg trio: Small, Fauquier, and Wythe. They anticipated the greater trinity of Newton, Locke, and Bacon.

Document L come from Jefferson's *Memorandum Books*, a detailed account Jefferson kept of spending over the course of his life from 1767 on. This selection comes from time spent in Williamsburg during 1768.

Jefferson, Thomas, James Adam Bear, and Lucia C Stanton. *Jefferson's Memorandum Books : Accounts, with Legal Records and Miscellany, 1767-1826, Volume 1*. Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press, 1997, p. 74-75.



- x May 6. Borrowed of Isaac Coles⁹⁰ 5/.
 x Pd. at play House 5/.
- x 7. Gave The. Munford⁹¹ £10-5 = 8£-4/ sterl. to lay out in best
 Crown glass and 150 yds. Window line.
 Gave Jerman Baker my bond for £15-11-3.
 (Recd. of Treasurer for J. Bolling £41-16.)
 (Recd. of Do. for Colo. A. Lewis £4-0-3.)
 x Pd. treasurer for last year's dues £22-6-8.
 x Pd. Mr. May for writs &c. £2-12-6.
 x Gave Jupiter to pay Bramer⁹² for candles 4/
 Moyer for bread 7½d.
 Burdet⁹³ for candles 2/6.
 x Gave servt. at Southall's⁹⁴ 2/6.
 x Pd. Isaac Coles 5/.
 x Pd. Bailis 10/.
 x Recd. of A. McCaul £75.
 x Pd. Christ. Ayscough⁹⁵ 5/.
 x Pd. Charlton⁹⁶ £5-10-7½.
 x Pd. Anthy. Hay £15.
 x Pd. Charles Taliaferro⁹⁷ £5-12-6.
 x Pd. J. Dixon exr. of Royle £25.
 x Pd. at printg. office for blk. book for D. Carr 6/.
 Gave Walter Lenox note of hand for £5-14.
 x Pd. W. Smith £3.
- x 8. Gave Mrs. Chiswells Tom 2/6.
 x Pd. ferriage at Claiborne's 3/.

may be another James Hubard (d. 1782), attorney, judge of admiralty in 1776, and finally Loyalist.

⁹⁰ Isaac Coles (1747-1813) of Halifax County was brother of John Coles II of Enniscorthy.

⁹¹ Theodorick Munford (d. 1772) was captain of the *William*, which was about to depart for Bristol, England (*Virginia Gazette* [P & D], 26 May 1768).

⁹² The store of Thomas Brammer, general merchant, was east of the Capitol on the site of the reconstructed Blue Bell.

⁹³ William Burdett was a merchant associated with the Norfolk chandler Freer Armston.

⁹⁴ James Barrett Southall (1726-1801) kept Wetherburn's Tavern until 1771, when he took over the Raleigh Tavern.

⁹⁵ Christopher and Anne Ayscough kept

a tavern on the site of the reconstructed Ayscough House on Francis Street. During its brief existence, it was a favorite of TJ's possibly because of Mrs. Ayscough's cooking, which he had enjoyed when she was Governor Fauquier's cook.

⁹⁶ According to the Ledger, 1767-1770, this was Edward Charlton, barber and wigmaker. Between 15 Apr. 1769 and 25 Apr. 1773 TJ bought from Charlton a brown "Dress Queue," a brown "Tye Wig," three pounds of hair powder, two brown "Dress Bob Wig[s]," and two "pair Curls" (Charlton account book, Colonial Williamsburg Archives).

⁹⁷ Charles Taliaferro was a merchant and coachmaker, whose shop was near Bruton Parish Church at the present Taliaferro-Cole Shop.

Document M

George Wythe not only instructed Jefferson in the law, but he also taught Jefferson many new techniques and ideas from the Enlightenment. One characteristic of the Enlightenment is strict record keeping and experimentation rooted in science. Historian Bruce Chadwick recounts in his 2009 book on George Wythe that Jefferson and Wythe regularly shared scientific knowledge together.

Chadwick, Bruce. *"I Am Murdered." George Wythe, Thomas Jefferson, and the Killing That Shocked a New Nation*. Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley & Sons, 2009, p. 63.

The pair enjoyed a love of gardening, instilled in Jefferson by Wythe when he tended the gardens around his home in Williamsburg. They regularly exchanged grapevines and grafts for fruits such as nectarines and apriocots to be replanted in each other's gardens. Elizabeth Wythe sent Jefferson newly grown peas, and he mailed her plants he had obtained from the East Indies. Wythe forwarded Jefferson garden catalogues he had purchased. Wythe and Jefferson developed new types of mulch and strains of seed that they shared with each other.

Document N is a digital image of sheet music Jefferson acquired for the violin. Jefferson was an avid violinist. According to accounts, Jefferson played up to three hours a day. Some historians believe he was quite talented. Regardless of his ability, Jefferson loved the instrument and would often play in the company of Governor Francis Fauquier.

This particular piece of music is undated, but there is evidence that Jefferson acquired sheet music throughout his time in Williamsburg.

Image courtesy of the Thomas Jefferson Foundation. An interactive copy and recording of the song can be found at http://explorer.monticello.org/?s1=0|s4=5_54.

More information on Jefferson and his violins can be found here: http://www.monticello.org/site/research-and-collections/violins#footnoteref27_rf317gy



Document O comes from a letter Thomas Jefferson wrote in 1815 to Louis Girardin, a Richmond teacher. In this letter, Jefferson shares his thoughts about his educators at William and Mary. It is worth noting that family tradition has it that Jefferson studied up to 15 hours a day while a student at William and Mary.

Looney, J. J., ed. *The Papers of Thomas Jefferson: Retirement Series Volume 8 1 October 1814 to 31 August 1815*. Princeton: Princeton UP, 2011. For polygraph copy, see <http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/ampage?collId=mtj1&fileName=mtj1page047.db&recNum=1099>

To Louis H. Girardin

TH: JEFFERSON TO MR GIRARDIN Monticello Jan. 15. 15.

I have no document respecting Clarke's expedition except the letters of which you are in possession, one of which I believe gives some account of it; nor do I possess Imlay's history of Kentucky.

Of mr Wythe's early history I scarcely know any thing, except that he was self-taught; & perhaps this might not have been as to the Latin language. Dr Small was his bosom friend, and to me as a father. to his enlightened & affectionate guidance of my studies while at College I am indebted for every thing.

he was professor of Mathematics at W. & M. & for some time was in the philosophical chair. he first introduced into both schools rational & elevated courses of study, and from an extraordinary conjunction of eloquence & logic was enabled to communicate them to the students with great effect. he procured for me the patronage of mr Wythe, & both of them, the attentions of Governor Fauquier, the ablest man who ever filled the chair of government here. they were inseparable friends, and at their frequent dinners with the Governor (after his family had returned to England) he admitted me always to make it a partie quarreé. at these dinners I have heard more good sense, more rational & philosophical conversations than in all my life besides. they were truly Attic societies. the Governor was musical also & a good performer and associated me with 2. or 3. other amateurs in his weekly concerts. he merits honorable mention in your history, if any proper occasion for it offers. so also does Dabney Carr, father of Peter Carr, mover of the proposition of Mar. 1773. for Commees of correspondence, the first fruit of which was the Call of an American Congress: I return your two pamphlets with thanks & salute you with esteem & respect

RC (DLC); dateline at foot of text. Not recorded in SJL. Enclosures not found.

George Rogers Clark's (CLARKE'S) Revolutionary War campaigns culminated in the conquest of the region later known as the Northwest Territory (DVB). Gilbert Imlay's HISTORY OF KENTUCKY was entitled *A Topographical Description of the Western Territory of North America; containing a Succinct Account of its Climate, Natural History, Population, Agriculture, Manners and Customs . . . to which is annexed, a Delineation of the*

Laws and Government of the State of Kentucky (London, 1792).

During the colonial period the College of William and Mary (w. & m.) had both a collegiate department and a grammar school. As a member of the Board of Visitors, in 1779 TJ championed the elimination of the latter, although it was later revived (Susan H. Godson and others, *The College of William and Mary: A History* [1993], esp. 1:29-30, 130-4, 173; *PTJ*, 2:535-43). PARTIE QUARRÉ (partie carrée): "foursome."
On 12 Mar. 1773 TJ's brother-in-law

19 JANUARY 1815

Dabney Carr (1743–73) presented a series of resolutions according to which the Virginia House of Burgesses would establish a committee of CORRESPONDENCE charged with establishing better communications with its counterparts in the other British colonies. They were unanimously adopted that same day (William J. Van Schreeven, Robert L.

Scribner, and Brent Tarter, eds., *Revolutionary Virginia, the Road to Independence: A Documentary Record* [1973–83], 1:89–92).

Missing letters from Girardin to TJ of 26 Dec. 1814, 6, 15, and 16 Jan. 1815, the first and last of which are described as sent from Glenmore, are recorded in SJL as received the days they were written.

From Charles W. Goldsborough

SIR,

Georgetown Jan^y 19th 1815

Understanding that you have it in contemplation to establish a few of the most approved patented looms, I beg leave to call your attention to my advertisement in the "Federal Republican" & "National Intelligencer" upon the subject of Patented Looms—I do this for two reasons—1st because I believe I can establish, by competent testimony, that the essential principles of Jane's loom, which I am told you highly approve, have been taken from a Loom invented & patented by M^r Richard Crosbie a considerable time before M^r Janes took out his Patent for his improved Loom—& 2nd to afford you an opportunity of procuring, should You desire it, the right of using Looms which without question are preferable to any now in use.

In a short time I shall have a Loom for exhibition in this place—& shall be happy to shew it in operation to any gentleman whom you may wish to see it, & whose opinion as to it's merits you might desire.—I will here only observe that, in addition to all the improvements in Jane's Loom, it may be put in operation by elementary power, & will work with infinite ease & celerity.—

When you shall be satisfied as to the merit of M^r Crosbie's Loom, I would dispose of to you the right of using any number, on terms probably as moderate as you would desire.

I am with great respect

sir y^r ob s^t

CH: W: GOLDSBOROUGH

RC (DLC); endorsed by TJ as received 30 Jan. 1815 and so recorded in SJL.

Charles Washington Goldsborough (1777–1843), public official and merchant, was born in Cambridge, Maryland, joined the Navy Department in 1798, and served as its chief clerk, 1802–13. He operated a store in George-

town for a number of years and was a director of the Farmers and Mechanics' National Bank in that city, a member of the District of Columbia's city council in 1808, and sat on the Board of Aldermen, 1821–24 and 1832–41 (with service as president, 1835–41). Goldsborough returned to the Navy Department as a clerk of the Navy Board in 1815, served

Document P comes from Thomas Jefferson's autobiography. Written at the end of his life, Jefferson reflected on earlier times. His testimony provides clues about what events and which people were important to him while growing up.

Jefferson, Thomas, Paul Leicester Ford, and George Haven Putnam. *Autobiography of Thomas Jefferson, 1743-1790: Together with a Summary of the Chief Events In Jefferson's Life*. New York: G. P. Putnam's sons, 1914. For a digital transcript, see <https://seaofliberty.org/explore/autobiography/194>.

It was my great good fortune, and what probably fixed the destinies of my life that Dr. Wm. Small of Scotland was then professor of Mathematics, a man profound in most of the useful branches of science, with a happy talent of communication, correct and gentlemanly manners, & an enlarged & liberal mind. He, most happily for me, became soon attached to me & made me his daily companion when not engaged in the school; and from his conversation I got my first views of the expansion of science & of the system of things in which we are placed.