

## NOTES FROM THE ENGLISH ADMIRALTY PAPERS.

CONTRIBUTED BY J. FRANKLIN JAMESON.

---

The following notes were sent to me by Mr. Reginald G. Marsden of London. They are summaries of papers found among the records of the High Court of Admiralty in the Public Record Office, relating to two cases: Popham *c.* Havercombe, and Warwick *c.* Bruster or Brewster. Though they are merely Mr. Marsden's notes, it will always be possible for anyone who chooses to do so to obtain the full text of the documents by means of the references given. While the documents are not of the first importance, those relating to the first case cast an interesting light upon the Popham colony, and give some details which I have not seen elsewhere. The second case concerns the *Treasurer*, the history of whose voyage is well known not only on account of its semi-piratical or more than semi-piratical character, but especially because of its connection with the first importation of negroes into Virginia. Here also some details are given respecting the voyage of that ship, the voyage of the *Neptune*, and the death of Lord De la Warre, which are apparently new.

### POPHAM *c.* HAVERCOMBE.

ADM. CT. EXAM. 29. 3 SEP., 1607.

Deposition of Roger Bamford, Lewis Owen, Wm. Lancaster, Wm. Angell and Jno. Halsey, owners of the *Triall*, 160 tons: George Kennethorpe and others hired her for a nine months voyage to Virginia; covenanted to bring her back to the Thames within nine months from 10 March, 160<sup>5</sup>/<sub>6</sub>; George and Arthur Chambers took her to Dover and Weymouth and Dublin and Waterford; Sir Ralph Bingley

came to Waterford and put Roger Bamford under arrest for asking the Lord Deputy of Ireland to stay the ship, as the nine months were then passed; Bingley and Chambers quarrelled; Chambers left; Bingley made Arthur Chambers captain, as the crew would not sail without him; the ship went (filibustering?) to the coast of Spain. (Fourteen pages.)<sup>1</sup>

ADM. CT. EXAM. 30. 10 JUNE, 1608.

Lancelot Booker deponent: On 5 July, 1607 deponent in the *Penelope*, Rd. Hall owner, met the *Gift of God* 60 leagues from Isle of Flowers<sup>2</sup> bound to Virginia, John Havercombe master, George Popham captain; deponent went in *Gift of God* as cooper,<sup>3</sup> George Popham was accepted in Virginia as president; the *Mary and John* was with the *Gift of God*; the president and council sent the *Mary and John* back from Virginia to England in October 1607;<sup>4</sup> the "Salvages" gave information to the president and council that the French intended to attack the English, so the *Gift of God* was ordered to stay in the harbor of Sakadahoc; she stayed there eight or nine weeks, watching; Capt. Elliot was appointed by the president and council captain of the *Gift of God*; on her return to England Elliot was directed to sell some masts and ordnance at the Azores; *Gift of God* arrived in Virginia in August, 1607; she sailed for England 16 December, 1607;<sup>5</sup> arrived at Topsham in February, 1608; Elliot received his orders in Capt. Gilbert's house in St. George Town, in the presence of Geo. Popham, Rawleigh

<sup>1</sup> Bacon's remarks, in his report to the House of Commons, June 17, 1607, on a speech of Salisbury's in a conference with the Lords, "that this very last voyage to Virginia, intended for trade and plantation where the Spaniard hath no people nor possession, is already become infamed for piracy; Witness Bingley, who first insinuating his purpose to be an actor in that worthy action of enlarging trades and plantation, is become a pirate, and his ship is taken in Ireland, though his person is not yet in hold." Spedding, *Letters and Life*, III. 353.

<sup>2</sup> Flores in the Azores.

<sup>3</sup> The cooper's house appears as No. 14 on the map of St. George's Fort, 1608, found in the Spanish archives at Simancas. See the reproductions in Brown's *Genesis*, I, 190, in the Gorges Society's *The Sagadahoc Colony*, and in Dr. H. S. Burrage's *Early English and French Voyages chiefly from Hakluyt*, p. 412.

<sup>4</sup> Strachey in *Early English Voyages*, p. 418.

<sup>5</sup> This confirms Brown's conjecture, *Genesis*, I. 144, 145.

Gilbert, Gawyn Cary,<sup>6</sup> Robert Seaman, Jas. Davies, Edw. Harley, Jno. Elliot (of the council) and Mr. Foscue and Jno. Havercombe.

John Seaman deponent: Sir John (?) Popham went captain, Jno. Havercombe master; she sailed from Plymouth Sound in May or June 1607; arrived in Virginia in August; George Popham went in her to be president.

IBID. 18 JUNE, 1608.

John Elliot deponent: *Gift of God* in Virginia from 11 August to 16 December; then ordered to England.

WARWICK *c.* BRUSTER,

ADM. CT. EXAM. 110. 29 Nov., 1622.

Edward Bruster's answers: Earl of Warwick (then Sir Robert Rich) sent out the *Treasurer*, Daniel Elfrey master, for James Town; she cost £850. (One page.)

Signed by Brewster.

ADM. CT. EXAM. 44. 4 MAY, 1624.

Thos. Hopkins deponent: *Treasurer* was received by Sir Sam. Argoll in Virginia; Lord De la Warre died in the *Neptune* on 7 June, 1618; his patent as governor mentioned; De la Warre (not Brewster) was in command of the *Neptune*; she met with the *Treasurer* to the west of the Western Islands [Azores]; Elfrey was master of *Treasurer*; the *Neptune* put into De la Have (Canada)<sup>7</sup> for provisions; a flag was put up in the *Treasurer's* main top as Admiral ship; Brewster never captain of the *Neptune*; Rd. Beamonte was her master; Brewster wished the *Treasurer* and the *Neptune* to capture a French ship at De la Have; the ship's company refused because unlawful. (Four pages.)

<sup>6</sup> Captain John Smith, in his *Generall Historie*, p. 203, gives this man as "Gome Carew, chiefe Searcher." He also mentions Popham, Gilbert, "Master Seaman Secretary, Captaine James Davis Captaine of the Fort," and "Captaine Edward Harlow master of the Ordnance," to whose relation he professes himself chiefly indebted for his account of the colony on the Kennebec.

<sup>7</sup> Cape de la Hève on the Nova Scotian coast.

AD. CT. EXAM. 44. 4 JUNE, 1624.

William Blackwell deponent: the *Treasurer* and the *Neptune* met at sea; the *Treasurer* had ordnance; the *Neptune* was set out by De la Warre; he went in her; died 7 June, 1618; the *Neptune* and the *Treasurer* met off St. Michael's Island;<sup>8</sup> 11 or 12 people put out of the *Neptune* into the *Treasurer* at De la Warre's request, to go to Virginia; Elfrey master of the *Treasurer*; the *Treasurer* and the *Neptune* put into a port in Canada. (Three pages.)

AD. CT. EXAM. 44. 5 MAY, 1624.

Sir Thos. Smith deponent: the *Treasurer* belonged to Argoll and De la Warre had no interest in her. (One page.)

IBID. 14. MAY, 1624.

Sibella wife of Edw. Counstable deponent: the *Treasurer* had no fishing gear; she went for a man of war; put into Canada. (Two pages.)

---

<sup>8</sup>San Miguel in the Azores.

Copyright of Proceedings of the American Antiquarian Society is the property of American Antiquarian Society and its content may not be copied or emailed to multiple sites or posted to a listserv without the copyright holder's express written permission. However, users may print, download, or email articles for individual use.