

Virginia (Colony) general assembly. House of Burgesses.

JOURNALS
of the
HOUSE of BURGESSES
of
VIRGINIA
1702/3-1705, 1705-1706,
1710-1712.

Edited by
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RICHMOND, Virginia
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Burgeffes for the Affembly

of 1702/3-1705.

The fpelling of the names in this lift, as in thofe that follow, is in each cafe that of the name as it appears for the firft time in the Journal of the feffion.

Accomack:	Tully Robinfon Richard Drummond	New Kent:	Joeeph Fofter James Moffe
Charles City:	Richard Bland Jofhua Winn	Norfolk:	James Wilfon Thomas Hodges
Elizabeth City:	Anthony Armiftead ¹ William Armiftead	Northampton:	Benjamin Nottingham Jacob Johnfon
Effex:	James Baughan Richard Covington	Northumberland:	Richard Haney John Harris
Gloucefter:	Peter Beverley James Ranfon	Prince George: ⁴	Robert Bolling William Harrifon
Henrico:	William Randolph Francis Epps	Princes Anne:	Edward Mofeley Adam Thorowgood
Ifle of Wight:	Arthur Smith Thomas Giles	Richmond:	William Robinfon David Gwyn ⁷
James City:	Benjamin Harrifon George Marable	Stafford:	Rice Hoe Richard Poffaker
King & Queen:	William Leigh ³ William Bird	Surry:	Nathaniel Harrifon William Edwards
King William:	John Weft Thomas Weft	Warwick:	Miles Cary Robert Hubbert
Lancafter:	John Turberville William Ball	Westmoreland:	Charles Afhton Henry Afhton
Middlefex:	Gawin Corbin Edwin Thacker ⁴	York:	Thomas Barbar Thomas Ballard
Nanfemond:	Thomas Swan ⁵ Henry Jenkins		

¹ Richard Bland and Jofhua Winn were difcharged at the beginning of the third feffion (p. 50), and were fucceeded by Drury Stith and Edward Hill (p. 62). Bland and Winn had been elected to represent Charles City County as the county ftood before Prince George was formed from it. After Prince George was cut off and allowed representatives, a new election was held in Charles City.

² Anthony Armiftead died during the fourth feffion, and was fucceeded by Nicholas Curle (p. 109).

³ William Leigh died before the opening of the third feffion (p. 47), and was fucceeded by John Walker (pp. 60, 62).

⁴ Edwin Thacker died fome time before the opening of the third feffion (p. 47), and was fucceeded by William Churchill (pp. 60, 62).

⁵ Thomas Swan died before the opening of the third feffion (p. 46), and was fucceeded by Daniel Sullivant (p. 69).

⁶ Prince George County was firft represented in the third feffion of this Affembly (p. 48).

⁷ David Gwyn died fome time before the opening of the fourth feffion (p. 87). No fucceffor was elected.

Burgeſſes for the Affembly

of 1705-1706.

Accomack:	John Waſhbourn John Wife	Nanfemond:	Daniel Sullivan Henry Jenkins
Charles City:	Benjamin Harrifon Edward Hill	New Kent:	Nicholas Merriwether Nathaniel Weſt
Elizabeth City:	William Armiftead Anthony Armiftead	Norfolk:	Thomas Hodges George Maſon
Effex:	Francis Goldman Francis Merriwether	Northampton:	William Waters John Cuſtis, Jr.
Glouceſter:	Peter Beverley James Ranſon	Northumberland:	Chriſtopher Neale Peter Hack
Henrico:	William Randolph Francis Epes	Prince George:	Robert Bolling Richard Bland
Iſle of Wight:	Anthony Hollyday Samuel Bridger	Princeſs Anne:	Edward Mofeley Adam Thorowgood
Jameſtown:	Robert Beverley	Richmond:	William Robinſon William Tayloe
James City:	George Marable John Gadis	Stafford:	George Maſon Wm. Fitzhugh
King & Queen:	William Bird James Taylor	Surry:	Nathaniel Harrifon William Edwards
King William:	Thomas Weſt John Weſt	Warwick:	Miles Cary William Cary
Lancaſter:	William Ball William Leiſter	Westmoreland:	George Eskridge Daniel McCarty
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the sheriff of York County. But many friends he still undoubtedly had in that body, in addition to the three members by the name of "West," Mr. Nathaniel West, of *New Kent*, and Mr. John West and Mr. Thomas West, of *King William*, the first of the three named having been connected in some way with the *New Kent* petition, and the latter two probably connected with a petition from *King William*,⁴³ almost certainly of a similar nature, also ordered to be burnt. That the members of the Council had exercised themselves at the polls to have a majority thus composed returned, is evident from another petition from *King William* County, rejected by the House, praying that suitable care might be taken to prevent councillors from voting at the election of Burgesses and from attempting to influence the people.⁴⁴ It is almost certain that the atmosphere surrounding the House in the earlier days of the session was not conducive to the best legislative results and that accordingly much time was wasted. Hence when the House, on *November 24*, asked the governor that a recess be allowed, the governor was constrained to express his surprise at this being moved when so little of the necessary business of the session had been attended to. However, he agreed that an adjournment be taken on the 30th of *November* till the 24th of the following *May*. The reasons given by the House in their address to the governor for asking for the adjournment were the shortness of the days, the coldness of the weather, and the inconvenience occasioned by the distance their lodgings were from the capitol and from each other, all of which retarded the work on which they were engaged, and so made it the more expensive to the people. Though this additional reason is not given, it is not at all improbable that the honorable members were laboring under some fear that an epidemic of smallpox might spread among them; for on the very day that the address was delivered to the governor in which the recess was asked for, the House, being informed that Mr. Ballard, who had lately had the smallpox, was ready to begin his attendance, in haste gave the following order: "That Mr. Gaddis do acquaint Mr. Ballard that the House will dispense with his attendance at the present, and his being here will be very unacceptable."⁴⁵

After the recess the main work of the session was done. Great excitement was created on *May* the seventh by a written message from the governor that he had received information of the devastation of *St. Christophers* and the capture of the *Isle of Nevis* by a *French* force, which he was afraid might also make a descent on *Virginia*. After conference with the Council, through a committee, the House came to the conclusion, properly expressed in an address to the governor delivered on the 9th of *May*, that the merchant ships in the country should proceed as far as possible up the several rivers in which they lay; that an embargo should be laid, and no vessel allowed to leave the country till the fleet should sail under convoy; that strict lookouts ought to be kept and her majesty's two ships of war then in the *Chesapeake* to act as convoy to the merchant fleet ought to cruise about the capes at the mouth of the bay for the purpose also of giving warning; that, in order to prevent false alarms, the masters of merchant ships should be forbidden from firing their guns except as an alarm; that pilots should upon an alarm, in order not to fall into the hands of the enemy, go if possible aboard the *English* men-of-war, or up into the country, and that all other persons who could do so proceed upon an alarm up the rivers; and that a bill should be passed giving the governor power in case of insurrection or invasion to call out such of the militia as he might deem necessary to defend the country, who were to be paid by the public. "An act for security and defense of the country in times of danger" was duly passed, which was to be in force till the 30th of *June*, 1708.⁴⁶ This was probably little more than the "Ordinance of Assembly for defense of the country in times of danger" passed in *April* 1705, put in the form of an act and thus given a sanction that apparently a mere ordinance did not possess. The ordinance, which had been

⁴³ See pp. 140, 141, 150, 152.

⁴⁴ See p. 166.

⁴⁵ See p. 169.

⁴⁶ Hening, III, 362-367.