

The
Edward Pleasants Valentine
Papers



ABSTRACTS OF RECORDS
IN THE LOCAL AND GENERAL ARCHIVES
OF VIRGINIA RELATING TO
THE FAMILIES OF

Allen, Bacon, Ballard, Batchelder, Blouet, Bras-
sieur (Brashear), Cary, Crenshaw, Dabney
Exum, Ferris, Fontaine, Gray, Hardy, Isham
(Henrico County), Jordan, Langston, Lyddall,
Mann, Mosby, Palmer, Pasteur, Pleasants,
Povall, Randolph, Satterwhite, Scott, Smith (the
family of Francis Smith of Hanover County),
Valentine, Waddy, Watts, Winston,
Womack, Woodson.

VOL. I
ALLEN—GRAY

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PREFACE

THE abstracts of wills, deeds and court orders contained in the volumes now published as The Edward Pleasants Valentine Papers are from the files of family papers bequeathed to The Valentine Museum by the late Edward Pleasants Valentine, of Richmond, Virginia. Some thirty years ago Mr. Valentine, then in his early manhood, became intensely interested in local and family history, and with a view towards writing a history of his own family began collecting data from the local and general archives of Virginia. This family history was to include accounts of all the families whose blood mingled in his veins.

One can readily understand the magnitude of such an undertaking. Progress in the work of gathering the requisite material developed many difficulties: vicissitudes of time and war had caused large gaps in the official records (Colonial, County and State) and family archives (family Bibles, letters, memoranda, etc.) were scarcely to be found; to which was added the further trying circumstances of obtaining the services of persons qualified to make the necessary research into the records that remained.

With a keen sense of the importance of obtaining every item which the records afforded relative to the matter in which he was interested, Mr. Valentine instituted a systematic research through the remaining records. Into the hands of each person whom he employed in his "field work" he placed a carefully prepared set of instructions with a most forceful injunction to follow them to the letter. The reports from the "field" were sent to him weekly and from these he culled the data essential to his undertaking; abstracting and arranging the documents according to a system which he had worked out. In March, 1908, during the most intensive period of his work, Mr. Valentine died. His collection of family papers passed to The Valentine Museum, of whose Board of Trustees he was a member and of which Institution he was for many years Treasurer.

In 1910 a vacancy occurred in the Secretaryship of The Valentine Museum by the resignation of the late Colonel

Joseph V. Bidgood, and the Board of Trustees elected Clayton Torrence, of Richmond, to that position, with the specific purpose in view of editing and publishing Mr. Valentine's papers. Mr. Torrence, who had been trained in methods of historical research by Mr. Valentine and was fully conversant with Mr. Valentine's plan for editing the data he had accumulated, at once entered into the work for which he had been chosen. After carefully reading the collection of manuscript (some twelve thousand pages of copies and abstracts of documents) Mr. Torrence completed the abstracting of the collection (Mr. Valentine having completed an abstract of about one-third thereof prior to his last illness). This careful study of the manuscript disclosed memoranda made by Mr. Valentine of many references to be verified and of suggestions for further research. A large section of the abstracts was compared with the documents in the original sources and much additional information was unearthed; but after several years work on the whole collection it was seen that an arbitrary limit must be placed on the investigation of sources and the verification of references in order to bring the work within reasonable bounds for publication. In 1918 Mr. Torrence resigned the Secretaryship of The Valentine Museum, having first prepared the manuscript of the work for publication.

This publication of the abstract of Mr. Valentine's manuscript collection is now made in the hope that the many people who are interested in the histories of the families included by him in his study may find the work of value in solving their individual genealogical problems.

In publishing the work it is but just to call attention to two facts. *First*: A work of such magnitude, involving as it does a research carried over such a long period of time through such a variety of sources and employing several persons at different times must not be assumed to be "letter perfect." That errors will be discovered in this abstract there can be no doubt, but it is hoped that these will prove to be of a restricted minimum. Every reasonable pains have been taken to make this work as nearly perfect as possible. *Second*: There is a value in such a work as this for transcending the questionable one involved in the study of genealogy just for the sake of gratifying one's so-called family pride. Mr. Valentine was interested in sociology, not in genealogy *per se*; it was his intention to write a

history, not to compile a pedigree. He laid the foundations for his work both deep and broad. If one will but read these volumes of abstracts with eyes open to the data which they really disclose, and with a mind free from prejudice and clean to receive impressions of truth, he will find himself possessed of an incomparable depth of knowledge relative to the factors involved in social advance and decline.

Nearly every stratum of society is represented among the families whose names appear in this work; while within a specific family group may be found individuals representing innumerable degrees in human character and occupation. Withal the work is one which embodies a deep appeal to the lover of history.

So, to bring the long story to a close, the data given in this work represents a labor of love of one of the most profound students of social conditions (in the widest sense of that term) of the Colonial period of North American history. Does the field in which Mr. Valentine expended such tremendous labor seem narrow? In reality it is but an evidence of the limited area which a human being interested in life in general must set for himself if he feels impelled to analyze critically factors in the development of human life. This field then was the choice for his labor of love by a man who touched life at many points. From his study of the sources he obtained a penetrating vision of the past, and the narrative as he gave it to those gathered by his hearthstone conveyed the same sense of reality that one felt in the touch of his friendly hand. The truth of the past was revived in the crucible of his mind. Many lesser men with half his knowledge have not been able to resist the temptation to put their findings about life into the written word. But, this man was still about his business of gathering facts when the call from out the larger life came and he answered it. So we have only the facts which he so painstakingly gathered. These facts may answer to people generally for a purpose far different from the original one for which they were gathered; while those to whom Mr. Valentine told the story up to the point to which he had worked it out, will find in them an imperishable memorial of one whose life was an inspiration to seek always the truth and to have faith that the processes of history are ever working towards final good.

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Womack, Woodson.

VOL. II
HARDY—PLEASANTS

PUBLISHED BY
THE VALENTINE MUSEUM
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

Richmond, Virginia
WHITTET & SHEPPERSON
Printers

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ERRATA

Page 602, line 39 read "Harding" for Hardind."

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VOL. III
POVALL—WOODSON

PUBLISHED BY
THE VALENTINE MUSEUM
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

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ERRATA

- Page 1340, line 7, read "Goochland" for "Goochaland."
Page 1518, line 22, read "in Par." for "of Par."
Page 1522, line 1, read "of" for "af."
Page 1523, line 18, read "audited" for "auditor."
Page 1558, line 1, read "Lowe" for "Lome."
Page 1570, line 4, insert comma after Wm. Scott.
Page 1620, line 8, insert comma after James.
Page 1752, line 22, read "of" James.
Page 1753, line 2, read "1781-1805" for "1699-1756."
Page 1755, line 2, read "1781-1805" for "1699-1756."
Page 1841, line 28, "sd." Drury," repeated by error.
Page 1931, line 1, read "Ambrose" for "Ambrs."
Page 1954, line 31, read "Mackneil" for "Mackmill."
Page 1955, line 9, read "Mackneil" for "Mackmill."
Page 1956, line 36, read "objections" for "odjections."
Page 2056, line 24, omit second "are."

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ERRATA

- Page 2243, line 31, read "sterling" for "steeling."
Page 2256, line 1, read "died 17——."
Page 2257, line 34, read "1883" for "18883."
Page 2257, line 38, read "Lucy" for "Lacy."
Page 2286, line 1, read "safety" for safty."
Page 2291, line 33, read "Henrico" for "Henroc."
Page 2429, read "Clark" for Clarke."
Page 2563, read "Skoot" for "Skoob."
Page 2593, read "Whitlocke" for "Whitelocke."
Page 2605, read "Elizabeth Buth" for "Ruth."
Page 2616, read "Amadeus" for "Amadens."
Page 2621, read "biscuitt" for "bisquith."
Page 2623, line 19, 157 for 318.
Page 2646, line 3, insert Ballard family, p. 102-167 (between Bacon & Batchelder).
Page 2696, read 149 for 15 (Ballard family—Spotsylvania Co.)