

A Guide to the William Byrd Papers, 1728-1729

William Byrd Papers, 1728-1729.
1728-1729.

A Collection in the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation's John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Library MS 40.2
John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Library, Colonial Williamsburg Foundation
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History

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Descriptive Summary

Manuscript number

MS 40.2

Language

English

Creator

William Byrd, 1674-1744.

Extent

5 items.

Repository

John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Library, Colonial Williamsburg Foundation

Administrative Information

Access

There are no restrictions.

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Purchase, 1940.

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William Byrd Papers, Manuscript MS 40.2, John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Library, Colonial Williamsburg Foundation

Alternative Form

Also available on microfilm M-1553. Some items also available as photostats PH/07.

Additional Descriptive Data

Bibliography

The Secret history and the History are printed in their entirety in *Prose works ...*, but the Colonial Williamsburg fragments are incorrectly cited as being in the William Blathwayt Papers.

Byrd, William. *Prose works; narratives of a colonial Virginian*. Cambridge, Mass.: Belknap Press, 1966.

Biographical/Historical Information

William Byrd II resided at Westover in Charles City County, Virginia.

Scope and Content Information

Writings of William Byrd II (1674-1744), of Westover, Charles City County, Va., including a fragmentary rough draft, in his hand, of the November 5-22, 1728, entries in his Secret History of the Dividing Line, which he later revised as the History of the Dividing Line Betwixt Virginia and North Carolina. When Thomas Jefferson sent a contemporary fair copy from Berkeley to the American Philosophical Society in 1817, the text of these pages was missing. Also included is a contemporary transcript of Byrd's entries for October 29 through November 5, 1728, in the History of the Dividing Line.

The collection contains Byrd's letterbook for 1728-1729, including copies of letters to Mrs. Armiger, [Mr?] Bradley [Lord Islay?], Gov. Sir William Gooch, Col. Edward Moseley, Col. [Mann] Page, Micajah Perry, Mr. Spencer, "Cousen" Taylor, and [Sir Charles Wager?]; and a synopsis of Moses's death and Joshua's winning of the Promised Land, in handwriting similar to that of the History, but with interlineations that may be Byrd's.

For the provenance of these papers, see Maude H. Woodfin, "Thomas Jefferson and William Byrd's Manuscript Histories of the Dividing Line," *William and Mary Quarterly*, 3rd Ser., I (1944), pp. 363-373; and Maude H. Woodfin, "The Missing Pages of William Byrd's Secret History of the Dividing Line," *ibid.*, II (1945), pp. 63-70. The latter article also prints the 20-22 November section of the Secret History fragment.

Index Terms

Persons:

Byrd, William, 1674-1744.

Byrd, William, 1674-1744. Histories of the dividing line betwixt Virginia and North Carolina.
Gooch, William, Sir, 1681- 1751
Moseley, Edward, 1661-1736
Page, Mann, 1691- 1730
Perry, Micajah, d. 1753.
Wager, Charles, Sir.

Subjects:

Boundary disputes.

Geographical Names:

North Carolina--Boundaries--Virginia.
Virginia--Boundaries-- North Carolina.
Virginia--History--Colonial period, ca. 1600-1775.
United States-- Politics and government--To 1775.

Arrangement

Chronologically arranged.

Contents List

Rough draft of Secret History of the Dividing Line, 5-22 November 1728.

History of the Dividing Line, 29 October-5 November.

Letter Book I, [June] 1728-April 1729 .

Extent Pages 15-18, 27-32.

Letter Book II, [May] 1729-27 June 1729.

Extent Pages 8-11, 34-37.

Account of Moses' death and Joshua's winning of the Promised Land, n.d.