

THE 1739-40 RENT ROLL FOR COPLE PARISH, WESTMORELAND COUNTY

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In the Northern Neck during the Proprietorship, the Proprietor collected an annual rent from property holders (akin to the quit rents collected in the rest of Virginia). This transcription of the rent roll entitled "A Rentroll for the parish of Cople from Michaelmas 1739 to Michaelmas 1740, Westmorland [*sic*]" is reproduced by permission of *The Huntington Library, San Marino, California*, which has graciously allowed me to transcribe it for publication.

The Huntington manuscript appears to be a copy of the instructions sent to the rent collector. In particular, while the manuscript has space to record what rents were paid and note changes in property ownership, these spaces were left blank. The manuscript simply lists each land holder, the acreage held, and notes any amounts in arrears from previous years.

While one cannot be certain, the manuscript appears to have been composed by copying the old rent roll and updating it as the writer went along, presumably from other sources of information such as a list of land transactions. This approach would explain why a few entries, most notably those for the Ayris and Kenner orphans, are placed out of order. They were inserted when the compiler discovered them.¹

The actual date of composition is uncertain, since it appears the compiler was not local to the parish. There are some major errors in names clustered in one spot in the manuscript and probably due to difficulty reading the previous year's roll. A local resident would have known the correct names, but the

¹ The case of the Ayris and Kenner orphans is particularly striking. They appear following Captain Footman, who is John Footman who died in October or November 1739 and is the last person whose probate is recorded (see Augusta B. Fothergill, *Wills of Westmoreland County, Virginia, 1654-1800* [n.p., 1925; Baltimore, 1973], p. 108). It hints of a separate document that listed these three probates together. Another entry that suggests the compiler was combining an original roll with updates is that of George Walter, where the compiler inserts a note that Walter is also due to pay on 1506 acres in Prince William County. It seems likely this information would normally be in the Prince William rent roll.

compiler had to guess. However, it is clear that the compiler's information included local events through Dec. 1739 or Jan. 1739/40 but not much after that, as deaths that occurred in the late winter are not reflected in the roll. So the roll lists the executors of John Footman (will of 19 Oct. 1739, proved 27 Nov. 1739) and notes that Patrick Spence (will of 10 Dec. 1739, proved 25 March 1740) was dead, but treats Gerrard Hutt (will of 15 Nov. 1739, proved 25 March 1740) and Lawrence Washington (will of 5 Feb. 1739/40, proved 24 June 1740) as living.² Allowing for some time for information to reach the compiler of the roll, it seems likely the roll was written in January or February 1739/40.

The transcription is of the first, second and fifth columns of the rent roll (the only three columns used). These three columns were entitled "Landholders names," "No. Acres," and "Reasons for non-payment & property is altered & how." Holdings of multiple tracts are usually noted under the line on which the name appears but sometimes were entered on the line above.

A		Beale Thomas	132
Allerton Isaac Capt Ex ^r .	1800	Baugus Robert	230
Allisson Thomas	200	Brown Charls	145
Attwel John	220	Brown John	125
Attwel Samuel	250	Brown Thomas	130
Asbury Ann	530	Bennett Thomas	300
Asbury Henry	150	Butler Thomas	150
B		Butler William Exr.	200
Bragg Charles	100	Bruce George	100
Ball George	107	Brinnan Owin	335
7 acres not p ^d for		Buckley William	100
Baley Stephen	155	Bushrod John Gent.	1964
Baley William	230	Bushrod Richard	100
Baley John Juni ^{or}	100	Bonam Sam ^l . Ex ^{rs} .	466
Baley James	160	Bonam Dan ^l . Ex ^{rs} .	192
	40	Baugus Thomas	180
Baker John	209	100 acres not p ^d for	
Barnett John	238	Bulger Edmond	300

² Fothergill, *op. cit.*, pp. 108-10.

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C		Dozer W ^m	200
	500	Debutts Laurence Reve rd	500
Coleman Richard	169	100 p ^d Tob ^c due	
Critcher John	150	Eskridge Eliz ^b Madam	1300
	500	Eskridge William Jun	750
Car Joseph	450	Que why he will not pay for	
Courtney James	210	50 Acres	
Cockrill Thomas	50	Eskridge Sam ^l . Sen ^r	247
Collinsworth Thos ^s now John	250	F	
Crab Dan ^l . Ex ^r .	227	Footman Capt Ex ^{rs} .	100
Crab John	154	Ayris Orphans	600
Crab Osborn	<u>154</u>	Kenners D ^o	1100
	800	Frood Winifreind	50
Chilton Tho ^s Gent:	1300	2 years due	
Callis William	170	Fleming John	50
Crawley John	200	Fryer William	125
Cox Charner	570	Fryer W ^m Jun ^r .	290
Cooper ³ Thomas	100	G	
Coleman John Orphat [<i>sic</i>]	125	Garland Jeremiah	350
	118	Garner Joseph	100
Curtis Thomas Ex ^{rs} .	175	Garner Henry	295
Cox Charnock Jun ^{or}	253	Garner Martha	150
2 years due			30
Creswick William	50	Garner Archabald	100
D		Gar ^d ner Joseph	200
Davies John	200	Gar ^d ner Thomas	110
Davies Elius	100	Grace William	133
Demouvell Hannah	150	Gibbert Michael	200
Duncan Peter	300	Goram John	100
2 years		2 years	
Duncan Henry	300	Garner John	100
Duncan William	300	H	
Dozer Thomas	910	Harris W ^m Heirs	100
Dozer Richard	514	2 years	

³ The name is unclear and may be Cowper.

Hopwood Mary	50	K	
Hamock Robert	100	King John	150
2 years		Kink ⁵ Anne	150
Headly Robert	130	L	
Holland Simon	250	Lane William	100
Harrison Geo widow	375	2 years due	50
Harrison John	64	Lgnton ⁶ Mary	150
Harrison Peter	64	Luins ⁷ John	100
Harrison Willoughby	128	Lambert Thomas	80
Hardwick James	170	Lamkin George	200
Hardwick James Juni ^{or}	600	M	
Holiday Richard	50	Minor John	61
Hasebrigg Richard ⁴	188	Middelton Robert	450
Hutchenson Andrew	200	Middelton Robert	325
75 acres not p ^d for		100 acres unpaid	
Hutt Gerand	600	Middelton Benedict	150
Howell John Ex ^{rs} .	50		140
Hamilton James	100	Middelton Tho ^s Heirs	106
Que Cap ^t M ^c Carty		Middelton Benj ^a	200
J		More Thomas	100)
Jeffris Edmond ddd	472		90)
Jenkins John	250	2 years	
Jackson Dan ¹ .	140	More William	15)
Jennings Dan ¹ .	[no acreage given]		60)

⁴ Haselbrigg is meant to be Haselrigg. Richard Haselrigg was mentioned in the will of William Edwards in 1733, and returned the inventory of the estate of James Haselrigg in 1713 (Fothergill, *op. cit.*, pp. 51, 98). This error is the start of a series of errors in which four of fourteen names are notably misspelled and suggests that the original roll from which this roll was produced was damaged or hard to read in this section.

⁵ Anne's last name was Kirk. She was the widow of Edward Kirk, whose will was proved 28 May 1734 (Fothergill, *op. cit.*, p. 98).

⁶ Mary's last name was Lynton or Linton. She was the widow of William Linton, whose will was proved 26 March 1734 (Fothergill, *op. cit.*, p. 98).

⁷ It seems likely that John's last name was actually Lewis. John Lewis was one of the sons of Surles Lewis, whose will was proved 29 June 1736 (Fothergill, *op. cit.*, p. 101).

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Mildram, Michael	640)	Pickrill Rich ^d	80
	35)	R	
M ^c Memam, Lawrence	85	Rust Matt:	650)
2 years			150)
M ^c Kenney, Daniel	100	Rust Jere ^{ah} Orphan	540
Moxley, John	50	Rust W ^m .	300
Moxley Joseph heirs	50	Rust Peter	150
Moxley William	130	Rochester W ^m	270
Moxley Sam ^l .	70	Rodgers John	100
Murphey John	200	Remy W ^m	100
Minor Nicholas	696	2 years	
	100	Remy John	50
Marmaduke Christop ^r	150	Remy Jacob	130
M ^c Kenney Gerard	150	2 years	
50 acres unpaid		Ransdell Wharton	240
Minor Nicholas J ^r	200)	Read Coleman	465
	296)	Rice William	180
Mullins George	50	Robinson Tho ^s	150
Muse William	100	Robinson Michael	150
M ^c Kenney W ^m	200	Robinson James	340
N		Russell James	100
Newton Will ^{by} Capt	800)	2 years due	
	1000)	Reddall Tho ^s	150
Neale Presby	300	Ramsdell Edward	100
M ^c Cullock John	56	Rice W ^m	180
O		S	
Oldham Sam ^l .	400	Smith Robert	100
Omohundre Jaca ^{ll}	100	Smith Anne	33
Omohundre John	100	Smith N ^{am}	33
Omohundre Rich ^d	380	Smith Peter	100
P		Smith Tho ^s heirs	120
Patridge Rich ^d .	300	Smith John	80
Perry William heirs	95	Smith James Nom	227
Perry Jo: Ex ^{rs} .	48	Smith James Nom forest	150
Porter W ^m	240	Smith Nicholas	100
Plunkett W ^m	290	2 years	
2 years due		Self Jo: ⁿ W ^m Mores Senior	50

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Self Henry	100	Short Tho ^s	100
Self W ^m	100	40 acres unpaid for 2 years	
Self Stephen	109	Spence John	300
Self Walter	80	Sorrell John	862
Self Thomas	89	Steptoe James Gent ^l	246
Self Robert	80	T	
Self Frances	50	Tidwell Rob ^t	363
Shurman Tho ^s heirs	300	Turner Edw ^d orph ^{ns}	100
2 years		Tebbs Dan ^l	800
Shurman W ^m heirs	<u>270</u>	W	
	900	Walker Edmond	120
Stone Tho ^s Orphans	100	Walker W ^m heirs	175
Sanford Tho ^s	150	Walter Geo	160)
Sanford Rob ^t	250	Prince William 1506)	
Sanford John	135	2 years	
Sanford Joseph	115	Walker James	330
2 years		2 years	
Sanford W ^m	100	Walker Peter	100
Sanford Rich ^d	350	Wiginton W ^m orph ⁿ	316
Sutton Rich ^d	350	Williams Jo ⁿ	80
Spence Tho ^s	300	Williams W ^m orph ^{ns}	200
Spence Patrick Cap ^t Dead	950	Wright Ja ^{ms} Widow	300
Sanders John	131	Wright Rich ^d	316
Sanders W ^m	80		100
2 years		Washington Law	400
Sanders Philip	80	Wellington Jn ^{os} widow	300
Sanders James	40	2 years	
2 years		Walker Benja:	150
Steward W ^m	100	Wright Tho ^s	230