## The Robert Gilbert Story

## THE VIRGINIA GAZETTE. The Freedom of the Prefs is one of the great Bulwarks of Liberty, and can never be refrained but by defpotic Governments. [JULY 18, 1777.] WILLIAMSBURG: Printed by DIXON & HUNTER. M A D R I D, March 10. A NEW expedition is talked of, and orders are given for reling filters themselved more more. An embarge is I also on all these at Sardin, which ferry as transport these following. An order is given to part the art officer. An order is given to part the art officer. An order is given to part the stronger three defended. An order is given to part the stronger three defended, and spoon mixing men have recovered orders to march at a momental warning. COLOGNE, March 11. Twelve bendered two-ps belonging to the Margarave of Benderburg Anglotch, and the stronger of Benderburg Anglotch, and the stronger of the stron row, water tourn articular, as a people of these defendents after at this critic, that feweral American privaters have entered their ports, and taken freth water and provisions. What a placid behaviour has assense of the Addiblied Stiffer arrived from New York, who was in the addien at the taking of first Walkington, fays we left at least one thousand good stoops by that affair. A letter from American fays, it may be relied on that the States General have ordered feveral one at war to be got ready as foot may price their and the states of th they have been assument, by a sump part accross there two the place bearing hear florgetted and facked by the native Indiana. The flor which Dr. Franklin has made to the Count of France, by a color of Congrafe, is the cole Canada to that crown, the Florada to Eppin, to allow the singularization of all forms of France, by color of Congrafe, is the cole Canada to that crown, the Florada to Eppin, to allow the singularization of all forms of France manufactures, duty free, into all their perits; to Supply the Well India thands of France with providenos and hember at fixed rates, full tentral per cent. chapter than they ever were before, and to alid France effectivally in the congret of the British Well India. Letturs from France admire, that this propositions have been agreed to without most distinctly, but the return for them has not been fo cably fielded. Dr. Franklin domended a declaration of war against Great British, and a Franch among of twenty thousand one to effect the Congrets, but this had been franced alone to a fact of the first thouland men, to be lodged at Martinico, at the expence of the Franch. This was the last flute of the agreement for the control of the line. What is the last flute of the negrotation which Lend Stormsott first over but their have finee asidim many apparament which florak an immediant war. Upon Lord Harcourt's going to the lever, after the news of General Lor's being taken, the King came cagnity up to hom, "Go, my Lord, your fash have behaved with the usuall gailanty! It gives not be usually gailanty in gives in the unamb particular, and I doubt not but if does the finee to your, which printed his Lorddhyp and a storie. Has Majetty added, "I fail take use of Col. Harcourt; Jewes his ferture to my care. Lord Amberd, upon Green's Harry to protein, observed their interest that his Lorddhyp and a very accurate judgment of that affire that distinguished his Lorddhyp made a very accurate judgment of that affire his to keep some enough together to make a windor's champing, which he is his engabours, and is very delivered proteining in classicians. March 18. The answer of the Stairs General, to the last meet do one court, evidently these that the Bollanders are not to be to vist of metaliums conducine to their instead. They have Supplied, they will correlate to loggly the Americans with washing the company of the conduction are too requirement to be instanted. We could much topic away then pay off their demands. The fabric of one public is to exceedingly delicate, that even the fyiristics of an extenty of their instances. Orders are feat to Ireland for genting ready providents fafficient to forty fail of transports for America, which are to be at Cocke by the of Agril next. A delipanth of great importance, concerning the railing forms a regiments of Irela Catholics, has been sent to the Earl of Backing flast. dyrid 1. This day both Houles of Parliament will meet purfacut to their last afjournment. The growth of popery in this kingdom is very rapid, and the expectation of having the fatal tracus of that obligion chabitined in some action of the haring the fatal tracus of that obligion chabitined in some and more excited in the mind of every impartial perion. The taxes for the fervice of the present year are faced, and faid to conside of the fatalogue; articles; An excise of five fatilings a thoulesed on brinks, no be levied on the maker, at the kills or pushing in. A does of wearity ficilings a year on all livery fervants. A does of wearity ficilings a year on all livery foreigns, and the contract of livery. A does pound a year additional on force-wheel carriages. Their dotters Lord Borch heings in sorder the convoluent, that they will do for all the meeting security to be rainfel for their power to come; be thinks it made beneficial to provide lecurious for a much higger from that is seament, rather than be found to conte every year with new tracts for but mandeners institute in calculated to being in three hardwald thou-April'S. This day both Houses of Puliament will meet pursuant to hundley. We are now, in forms, acquainted with the fecret defination of the French first. It must be of prodigious confequence to the nation, if the French flould execute their defign before our flops are not of port.

## The Virginia Gazette

Eleven advertisements placed in the weekly newspaper for Williamsburg, the Virginia Gazette, from 1768 to 1783, remain the sole evidence of the business venture of Robert Gilbert, boot and shoemaker. His shop was in Williamsburg on Back Street in a house where he formerly resided opposite

to Mr. Richard Charlton. The story is one of the hazards faced by most craftsmen in eighteenth-century Williamsburg; debts piling up, excess stock on hand, shortage of capable and reliable help, and a market that dried up when the capital moved to Richmond in 1780. He crafted men and womens wood-heeled shoes, calf skins, sole leather, calimanco and pumps, childrens morocco, etc.

"ROBERT GILBERT, BOOT and SHOEMAKER, &c. HEREBY acquaints the publick that he has opened shop near the Capitol in Williamsburg, where he intends carrying on his business in all its branches, viz. shoe or channel, calf or buckskin boots, jockey do. and splatterdashes, mens plain, stitched, spring, and wood-heeled, shoes and pumps, calf or dogskin; campaign, single, double, or turned channels, slippers, blue or red turkey, cork soles, galloches; womens leather, stuff, silk, and braided shoes and pumps, slippers, cork soles, galloches, and clogs. As he imports the whole of his materials from Great Britain, where punctual payments are required, he proposes supplying Ladies and Gentlemen with any of the above articles on the most reasonable terms, for ready money. Those who please to favour him with their custom may depend on their work being speedily executed, in the genteelest and newest fashions, and in such a manner as he hopes will merit a continuance of their favours. Source: Virginia Gazette, June 30, 1768.

Source: The Leatherworker in Eighteenth-Century Williamsburg Being an Account of the Nature of Leather, & of the Crafts commonly engaged in the Making & Using of it by Thomas K. Ford.