The SMYTH of Nibley Papers, 1613-1674.

(PRINTED TO THE NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY BY ALEXANDER MAITLAND.)

Smyth Papers. Virginia papers, 1613-1614. The manuscript collection of John Smyth of Nibley Cloisters, the author of the "Lives of the Berkelys," one of the original Adventurers in the promotion of plantations and settlements in the second Virginia colony. With some papers of later date added. F. 2

The above title in modern handwriting is prefixed to a volume of forty-seven documents each enclosed separately. For a brief account of the collection see N. Y. P. L. Journals (Mar. 1875) p. 62.

The pagination are A. L. for Autograph letter signed; A. I. for Autograph letter; L. S. for Letter signed; A. D. for Autograph document; D. S. for Document signed.


Printed in Brown's General of the U. S., vol. 2 (1st ed., 1610) pp. 661-681. The signature there made (page 369) that "Mr John Smiths, of Nibley," the above-named adventurer in the promotion of plantations and settlements in the second Virginia colony. The editor of this volume has been omitted accidentally by the canceller.

Letter: Cave (Bryan), Somers Islands [Ber- nuclis], July 14, 1616. "To the W. his worthy friend Mr. Thorpe one of the Adventurers for the Somers Islands." Urging him to send supplies for his land; the slaves secured by him in the new allotment are better than his earlier ones, and equal to any in the colony; to oversee the work; their efforts to get rid of the rats that infest the island. A postscript from the Governor, Daniel Tucker, endors for all these statements and urges Thorpe to send provision for two or three men. A. L. S. 1 page and 1 leaf with address. F. 2

Document: Smyth (John) of Nibley. Thirty-eight papers relating to the settlement of Virginia, 1609 to 1622, collected by John Smyth and transmitted by various hands into one volume; with table of contents, partly in the handwriting of John Smyth. 154 pp. F. 3

SMYTH OF NIBLEY PAPERS, 1613-1674

Letter: Throckmorton (Sir William) and others. London, Feb. 15, 1614. To Sir George Yeardley, Virginia. Inclining a copy of the petition for their Virginia colony; one-fifth share secured for him; their ship was delayed by adverse winds but next season they will send fifty men; they ask what provisions will be necessary; he is to pay for his share by merchandise. The names of Mr. Thomas Throgmorton, Sir Berkeley, Geo. Throckmorton, John Smyth are signed in the handwriting of John Smyth. 1 page and 1 leaf with endorsement by Smyth: "Copy of a Petition, Sir Yeardley in behalf of L. S. Virginian from London." F.

Letter: Berkeley (Richard). Stoke, Apr. 15, 1619. To my worthy good friend Mr. John Smyth at Nibley. A kinsman [William Chester], a worthy man, wishes to join them in their Virginia investment; he is willing to undertake the command of the men there; a surgeon of Bristol also offers himself. Berkeley has written to Throckmorton and Thorpe about it and now waits the advice of the associates to deal with the offers. A. L. S. 1 page and 1 leaf with endorsement by John Smyth: "Mr. Berkeley preys on Mr. Chester to be good general." F.

Letter: Throckmorton (Sir William). Cloweston (Clowestonshire). Apr. 10, 1619. To my approved good friend John Smith, Esq. at Nibley. Speak these, Like Smyth he intends to go to London next week; Thorpe's delay in answering his letter about their forest business; arrangements as to his share of money and of men for Virginia; reasons for his approval of Chester as overseer in Virginia. A. L. S. With seal affixed. 1 page and 1 leaf with endorsement by John Smyth: Sir William Throgmorton is about Mr. Wm. Chester to bee our chefe. Apr. 1619. On the same page are signatures by Smyth concerning Mr. Ellington, Mr. Woodlief, Mr. Chester, tools, etc. F.

Letter: Thorpe (George). [London?] July 2, 1619. To the Rt. Worthy my yeerte Louinge friend John Smith, Esquire give these att Nibley. It being for other things to be send down; has given orders that the amount necessary to make up his subscription towards the expenses of the voyage by 1619; begs him to convince Sir William Throckmorton, if the latter seems discontented with him, that he will give whatever security Throckmorton may wish. A. L. S. With seal affixed. 1 page and 1 leaf with endorsement. F.

Letter: Thorpe (George). [London?] July 8, 1619. To the Worthy my yeerte Louinge friend John Smith, Esquire given these. Expresses his sorrow at Partridge's misbehavior; hopes that when he returns with the horses he has been sent for they may reduce him to submission; offers to speak with Lady Dale concerning his promise to Smyth. A. L. S. With seal affixed. 1 page.

Document: Throckmorton (Sir William) and others. [London?] Sept. 4, 1619. Agreement between Sir Wm. Throckmorton, Richard Berkeley, George Thorpe, John Smyth, and John Woodlief; the plantation to be called Berkeley Hundred; expenses and profits; settlement of disputed points; status of transported servants; Woodlief to serve them alone; similar powers are to be given to Wm. Chester; conditions by which Woodlief may be admitted in place of Sir George Yeardley, and by which he may secure a third part of Sir William Throckmorton's share; amount assessed each of the Adventurers. 33 leaves, folded. Endorsed by John Smyth: "Covenent & agreement mutually amongst ourselves. 1619. 17. Jac." F.


Document: Thorpe (George) and others. [London?] Sept. 30, 1619. Indenture between George Thorpe, and Robert Oldsworth and John Smyth, assigning to the two latter in consideration of £50, one-fourth of Thorpe's one-fifth part of the profits from the Virginia enterprise, and of any lands granted the Adventurers in the future; the two latter are to bear a like proportion of expenses made for losses. 3 leaves, folded, and leaf 1 with endorsement by John Smyth: "30. Sept. 1619. A copy of the Indenture of Mr. Thorpes grant of a 111th part of his adventure ye motion in Virginia made to Rob Oldsworth & John Smyth." F.


Letter: Yearley (Sir George). James City, [Va.] Jan. 10, 1619. To John Smyth of Nibley. 1 page and 1 leaf with endorsement by Smyth: "Sir Geo. yealde it 10 Jan. 1619: of the Place assigned for our Berkeley: And yt it is not ye lord de la. wares land. And ye he refuseth to Ioayes with vs." F.

Letter: Smyth (John), of Nibley. [Nibley?] June 1, 1620. "To Richard Berkeley. No hope of getting paid the shares assigned St. Geo: Vardy or Mr. Woodliefc; amount due from each of the four Adventurers; his discontent with Woodliefc; wonders at the lack of private intelligence from Virginia; preparations of [William] Tracy in London for the next voyage; chides him for lack of confidence. Endorsed by John Smyth: "Copy of my letter Mr. Berkeley, 1. June 1620 about our attempts for the Virginia ship then returned."  2 pp. F°.

SMITH 1

Letter: Tracy (William). [Gloucestershire?] Apr. 25, 1620. "To my worth friend Mr. John Smith this. affidavit." Expresses his gratification at the good news from Virginia; he will consent to whatever Smyth and Barkli [Richard Berkeley] agree upon; he may probably go up to London with the latter; there they will have time enough to determine all; he has leased twenty men promised him and is sure of the greater part; they may leave some over until the next shipment. A. L. S. 1 page and 1 leaf with endorsement by John Smyth. 4°.

SMITH 15

Letter: Tracy (William). [Gloucestershire?] June 1, 1620. "To my sure friend Mr. John Smith this, affidavit." Offers his writing at the good news from Virginia; he will consent to whatever Smyth and Barkli agree upon; he may probably go up to London with the latter; there they will have time enough to determine all; he has leased twenty men promised him and is sure of the greater part; they may leave some over until the next shipment. A. L. S. 1 page and 1 leaf with endorsement by John Smyth. 4°.

SMITH 18

Letter: Tracy (William). [Gloucestershire?] June, 1620. "To my friend William Arthard or his dehbit [deputy] at Mr. Gill his house." Has spent £70, thus making the sum total paid his master for Tracy's share bought from St. William Throckmorton £267. A. L. S. Endorsed in the handwriting of John Smyth: "207 b. paid by me to Mr. Tracy. June 1620." Narrow strip. SMITH 16


SMITH 17


SMITH 18

Letter: Tracy (William). [Gloucestershire?] July 5, 1620. "To my assured worthy friend Mr. John Smith this." Urges him to get the shipping from London, or any other place; blames Barkli for putting him in his present difficulties; enumerates in detail the household he will take with him. A. L. S. Endorsed. 1 page. F°.

SMITH 20

Letter: Tracy (William). Bristol, July 14, 1620. "To I hope my friend Mr. John Smith this." Speaks of the grief of his wife on account of their delay at Bristol; begs that they may get off soon; offers to invest some two hundred and odd pounds if it will help on the venture. A. L. S. 1 page. 4°.

SMITH 21

Letter: Tracy (William). Bristol, July 14, 1620. "To my worthy good friend Mr. John Smith this." Asking for speedy assistance so that they may get off to the next voyage; offers to invest some two hundred and odd pounds if it will help on the venture. A. L. S. 1 page and 1 leaf with endorsement by John Smyth: "... 14 July 1620 by Toby Felpgate." 4°.

SMITH 22

Letter: Tracy (William). [Bristol?] Aug. 2, 1620. "To my worthy good friend Mr. John Smith of nibley this." Expresses his anxiety to get away, and calling on Smyth to aid him; each day he stays weakens his already too weak purse. A. L. S. 1 page and 1 leaf with endorsement by John Smyth. 4°.

SMITH 23

Letter: Tracy (William). [Gloucestershire?] Aug. 9, 1620. "To worthy good friend Mr. John Smith gene [give] this. cask ye yo frind opersed with bines & know not how to wad[e] throw without yow," begs that he be spared from Bristol as long as possible; he intends to get there a fortnight before the ship is ready, but will make other arrangements if Smyth so desire; urges him to be careful about trusting Mr Felpgate [Toby Felpgate, the pilot]; reiterates his dependence on Smyth and his determination to be faithful to him. A. L. S. 1 page and 1 leaf with endorsement by John Smyth. 4°.

SMITH 24

Letter: Tracy (William). Bristol, Sept. 23, 1620. "To my assured friend Mr. John Smith this." His gratification at hearing of Smyth's recovery from illness; trusts he will soon come to Bristol, when he will see how neglect has detained them twelve days, at least. A. L. S. 1 page and 1 leaf with endorsement by John Smyth. "Mr. Tracyes payes for his dispatch into Virginia. June 1620. 18. Jac. sent mee to London." 4°.

SMITH 25

Letter: Tracy (William). Bristol, Sept. 15, 1620. "To my assured friend Mr. John Smith this. at ye white lion." Asks that any papers to be sealed by him be sent by George Cewe or some one else, for the "sercher" has asked him for a discharge from the Custom House; asks that Smyth have patience and he will repay him for all his troubles, twice over. A. L. S. Endorsed by Smyth. 1 page. 4°.

SMITH 26

Letter: Tracy (William). Bristol, Sept. 14, 1620. "To my assured good friend Mr. John Smith this." Speaks of the persons he had to refuse passage to; suggests that they be sent by the next ship; of these he has promised Richard Smith £3: the rest he leaves to Smyth's discretion; crowds the ship; kindness of the searcher, Mr. Haskins; asks advice about his suit. A. L. S. 2 pp. on 4. 4°.

SMITH 27

On the letter are written a receipt signed by Richard Seet for £3 nor from John Smyth; and one signed Robert Blysger, his mark. 4°.

Letter: Tracy (William). [Crook.] Sept. 25, 1620. "To my assured friend Mr. John Smith this." They are ready for sailing and now wait only on the wind. A. L. S. With seal and endorsement by John Smyth. 4°.

Letter: Bridges (John). Castlet [Eng?]. Sept. 23, 1620. "To my much respected friend John Smith esq. at nibley be these directed. Expresses his pleasure at hearing that Tracy had been set at liberty through Sir Will Throckmorton and Smyth; asks how to remove his case [probably
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**Letter: Arundel (Mr.),** [Virginia, Jan., 1621.] To John Smyth, of Nibley. Fragment of a letter speaking of the Chickahominy river, of their cattle, and of the favorable prospect the country offers to a man willing to work; begs for participation from every one zealous for the propagation of the gospel. Endorsed by Smyth: “Arundell ire to me, Jan. 1621. in praise of Virginia.” 1 page. 4°. SMYTH 36

**Document: Russell (Mr.),** [London?] July, 1620. Suggestions for making artificial wine in Virginia; estimates of the amount necessary, and of the cost of production; good wine was made there. Mr. Russell; the Alchemist (?). 4°. SMYTH 29

**Document: Berkeley (Richard) and others,** [London?] Aug. 28, 1620. Commission from Richard Berkeley to Smyth appointing George Thorpe and William Tracy governors of their Virginia colony, and giving them power to trade for the joint profit of the four. Transcript; attested by Robert Massey, April 1621. Endorsed by John Smyth. 3 leaves, folded. 4°. SMYTH 31

**Document: Smyth (John), of Nibley,** [Nibley?] Sept. 20, 1620. Account of expenses for the Virginia plantation, A. D. Endorsed: “Copy of the account I sent Mr. Thorpe in to Virginia, Sept. 20, 1620 & for money since rec’d & pay’d.” 1 page. 4°. SMYTH 32

**Letter: Thorpe (George),** Southampton Hundred, Va., Dec. 19, 1620. “To the Rt. worthy my very loving friend John Smith Esquier at Nibley give these.” Trial of Captaine Argoll; rumor as to unhealthfulness of Virginia are unfounded; his own good health; the new drink made out of Indian corn; urges him to send more cattle; asks him to look after his wife, to whom he has written to come to Virginia. A. L. S. 2 pp. and 1 leaf with endorsement by John Smyth: “Mr. Thorpe Star. Dec. 19, 1620. S. J. A. endorsed by Thomas Pridge.” 4°. SMYTH 33

**Document: Yardeley (Sir George),** [Jamestown, Va.] Jan. 1621. Certificate to the Council and Company for the first southern colony of Virginia, of the arrival at Berkeley on January 29, 1621, of the fifty persons whose names are given on the document. D. S. George Yardeley; countersigned by Jo. Pory, Secretary. With seal affixed. 1 page and 1 leaf with endorsement. 4°. SMYTH 34

**Letter: Berkeley (Richard),** Readli [Eng.?], Aug. 3, 1633. “To my worthy & kind friend Mr. John Smyth of Nibley.” Sends him a book in which to set down the amount of his subscription to their new venture. In a postscript he suggests that any friends of Smyth’s who may wish to join them will be welcome. A. L. S. With seal affixed. 1 page and 1 leaf on which Smyth has written the names of six subscribers and the amount subscribed by each. 4°. SMYTH 35

**Document: Ferrar (Nicholas),** [London.] Dec. 1621. Received from John Smyth of Nibley, of £13 1s. 4d. subscription to the fair trade. D. S. Endorsed by Smyth; Mr. Nicholas ferrars receipt of 20. nobles for the trade of furrs: And -13d for carpenters. Dec. 1621.” 1 page. 4°. SMYTH 36

**Document: Combe (Thomas),** From Mr. flowes house in Chancery Lane, Whitmonday, 1632. To the worthy his very good friend John Smyth the Esqrf. at his House at North Nibley this he deliver’d. Sends letters from Virginia relating to their cattle and plantation; points out that the Governor is not so much their friend as he professes to be; his advice with regard to the increased number of servants asked for by John Gibbes; comments on the many new commodities from Virginia; urges him to con­ sider with Mr. Berkeley the reviving of their plantation. A. L. S. With seal affixed. 2 pp. and 1 leaf with endorsement by John Smyth. 4°. SMYTH 37

**Letter: Berkeley (Richard),** Readli [Eng.?], Apr. 10, 1634. Inventory of his estate, by Samuel Sharpe, Richard Bigge, and Thomas
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Letter: Thorpe (William). Bristol, Aug. 14, 1674. To Mr. Taylor. Asking him to make certain inquiries about the assets in Virginia of his father, George Thorpe. A.L.S. 1 page and 1 leaf with endorsement: "Mr Thorpe his [illegible] into Virginia", and "notes of Virginia brought by Mr Taylor." F'

Letter: Gate (Timothy). Ockle [Eng. ?], Sept. 22 [1669?]. "To my worthie good cony Mr Will'm Tracy att Bristol these." Speaks of his recent purchase at Beauford of all of Mr Wakeham's part of tobacco; his sorrow at Tracy's troubles; assures him that Robert Bridges vows he would do anything in his power to free him from arrest; offers to speak to any friends he may desire him to. A.L.S. Endorsed: by John Gates. "Mr Gates Yr to Mr Wynnoue." F'

Letter: Smith (Richard). Narragansett, [R.I.], Oct. 22, 1669. "This for his much respected well." Mr William Barton at his house in Morton neck Thorinbury in Gloucestershire. deliver this seal to Cristopher flourer to be Conveyed as above directed with Care." Makes inquiries about his health; he himself intends to close his business as soon as possible and return to England; asks about sundry friends and wishes to be remembered to them. A.L.S. Endorsed: "Richard Smyth Pres out of new England to Mr Barton, 22 Oct. 1669." F'

Letter: Smith (Richard). Narragansett, [R.I.]. Dec. 12, 1674. "For the Worshipfull John Smith [Jr.] Esq' att his house in Nibley in the Countys of Gloucester." Thanks him for his efforts to maintain his interests in England during his absence; he has lost much in the late war; intends to return to England in the following spring; asks for further assistance in keeping that small matter he has in England out of the hands of rogues and knaves. In a postscript be recommends to him the bearer, William Harris. A.L.S. With seal affixed. Endorsed: "... Mr Smith y' will come for engl and in ye springe" F'

Palmer at 1323 lbs. of tobacco; with memoranda of goods not valued nor appraised. Transcript; attested by Benj Harryson. 4 pp. F'

SMYTH 43

SMYTH 44

SMYTH 45

SMYTH 46
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The following record indicates the availability of published versions of the Smyth of Nibley Papers, in addition to those references supplied in the calendar thereof printed in the Library's Bulletin, vol. 1, pp186-190. It is recommended that readers use the published texts instead of the manuscripts themselves in view of the physical weakness of many of the originals. "K." stands for Susan Kingsbury's edition of Records of the Virginia Company of London. "V. C. R. M."

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Separate listing of Smyth of Nibley Papers, Smyth No. 3:
When the text has been published in Susan Kingsbury's edition of Records of
the Virginia Company of London the reference is given simply as "K."
When the reference is given as Bulletin it means this Library's Bulletin.

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An introduction to the records of the Virginia company of London, with a bibliographical list of the extant documents, by Susan M. Kingsbury.


Introductory to the proposed edition of the records of the Virginia company of London, to be published from the ms. in the Library of Congress.

Limited edition of 350 copies. Also issued (with extra half-title and "Vita," 1 leaf at end) in an edition of 150 copies as the author's dissertation for the degree of doctor of philosophy, Columbia university.

Virginia Company of London.

Virginia Company of London -- Bibliography.

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