
Maryland Laws Printed in Philadelphia and London

nitude in that day and place as to convince one that the colonial Marylanders regarded the correct transcription of their records as an undertaking of importance. In the year 1718 Jones petitioned, unsuccessfully it seems, for the privilege of carrying the mails, and except for the very important service to the colony which is now to be described, little is heard of this busy and intelligent public servant until his death in the month of June 1722.¹

THE JONES-BRADFORD EDITION OF THE LAWS, PHILADELPHIA, 1718

It was doubtless while Jones was engaged in the tedious employment of transcribing the records of the Province that there occurred to him the idea of the project which it is now time to take account of. On May 9, 1718, he proposed to the Upper House that he be allowed to print the body of provincial law, and their Honours approved the petition and sent it down to the delegates with the following endorsement:

“The within proposall is recommended to the Lower House of Assembly as reasonable in the Charge and usefull in the Work & to oblige the said Evan Jones to print them upon good Paper and with a fair Letter.”²

When this endorsement was read in the Lower House, Thomas Bordley and John Beale immediately offered

“. . . to make a Compleat Colleccon of all the Laws . . . in force in an entire Body and to make a perfect Index and proper Marginall Notes throughout the whole for Fifty Pounds.”³

Further than this the journal is silent. Thomas Bordley was a leader of the House in the contention as to the force of the English statutes in the American colonies, and as the struggle between the delegates and the Proprietary interests was now becoming close after years of relative peace on this subject, Bordley was allowing to pass few chances to annoy the gentlemen of the Upper Chamber. As Evan Jones held with the Lower House in this contention, one is baffled to determine whether in the present instance Bordley's action was a part of his general strategy, or whether he had in view merely the editorial preparation of the copy for Jones's publication. Whatever may be the true interpretation of the incident, however, it forms

of 7tber Ano dm 1716 aged two years. (Five lines of Welsh).” See Riley, E. S., *Ancient City*, p. 76. Evan Jones was a vestryman of St. Anne's Parish from 1709 to 1716. See *The Endowment Guild of St. Anne's Parish*, by John Wirt Randall, Annapolis, 1909, and Allen, Ethan, *Historical Notices of St. Ann's Parish*. Baltimore, 1857.

¹“Births, Marriages and Deaths,” in “Parish Register,” St. Anne's Parish, Anne Arundel County. Copy in Maryland Historical Society. The foregoing facts relating to Evan Jones's connection with the Provincial government are to be found in the Lower House journals for the years named.

²L. H. J., May 9, 1718, *Archives of Maryland*, 33: 271. It is possible that this petition had been introduced originally in the Lower House and passed upon there and that this entry indicates simply the concurrence of the Upper House. Neither clerk seems to have made a complete entry of the transaction.

³L. H. J., May 9, 1718, *Archives of Maryland*, 33: 272.