

May 10 1749

Dr. Carroll, from the Committee appointed to search in the Offices for Precedents in the Journals, relating to the manner of choosing and appointing Clerks, delivers to Mr. Speaker the following Report:

IN Obedience to an Order of your honourable House, we have made search in the Offices for Precedents in the Journals of Assembly, relating to the Manner of choosing and appointing of Clerks; and we find, that in a Trunk in the Provincial Office are kept, in loose Paper-Books, Journals of the Assembly, from September Session, 1664, until the Year 1705; which are imperfect, some being lost, and others partly torn away; out of which, in the best manner we could, we have made the following Abstracts:

We find, that in September Session, 1664, *William Bretton* acted as Clerk to the Lower House; but that Journal not beginning with a new Assembly, no mention is made how, or in what manner, he was chosen or qualified.

In April Session, 1666, is the following Entry: 'And being come into their House, they elect *William Bretton* Clerk of the Lower House of Assembly.'

We cannot find any Journal from 1666 'til 1671, at which Time *Robert Carville* acted as Clerk; but the former Part of that Session being lost, we cannot discover how, or in what manner, the said *Carville* was chosen or qualified.

In May Session, 1676, we find the following Entry: 'Mr. Speaker, in Behalf, and by Order of the whole House, humbly requests of his Lordship Liberty to chuse their Clerk; which his Lordship grants them as a particular Favour to them; and not to be construed as their Right to elect; but that his Lordship is ready to appoint whom he pleases to be Clerk of this House. They elect *Robert Ridgely* to be their Clerk; his Lordship approves of him, and they retire to their own House.'

In the Journal of 1694 we find, that the Speaker and the House desire that *Cleyborn Lomax* may be admitted the Clerk; which was granted; and a Commission given him under the Lesser Seal of this Province; and at the same Time had admitted to him the Oaths appointed by Act of Parliament, instead of the Oaths of Allegiance and Supremacy, as also the Oath as Clerk of this House, and likewise signed the Test; which was signified to the House by the following Message:

By his Excellency the Governor and Council, September 21, 1694.

'*Cleyborn Lomax* having received a Commission at this Board for being Clerk of your House, had administered unto him the Oath appointed by Act of Parliament, instead of the Oaths of Allegiance and Supremacy, as also the usual Oath of Clerk of that House; and likewise subscribed the Test.'

Signed per Order, Henry Denton, Cl. Ca.

And the said *Cleyborn Lomax* had likewise a Copy of the Clerk's Oath, for the Satisfaction of this House.

The Speaker, with the rest of the Members, return again to the Stadthouse.

We find, that in March, 1697, *William Bladen* signed as Clerk to the House of Delegates; but it nowhere appears how he was appointed.

And in June, 1699, *Christopher Griggery* signed as Clerk; but when, or in what manner appointed, does nowhere appear.

We can't find any Journal for the Year 1700.

In May Session, 1701, we find the following Entry: '*William Taylard* being elected and chosen Clerk of this House, Ordered, That Mr. *Samuel Young*, and *George Muschamp*, Esq; go to his Excellency, and signify their Choice of their Clerk, and humbly desire he may be sworn and qualified; They return, and say they saw him qualified.'

We find in November Assembly, 1708, the following Entry: 'Then the House made choice of Mr. *Richard Dallam* for their Clerk; Ordered, That Mr. *Nathaniel Dare* and Mr. *Philemon Hensley* go with the Clerk, and present him to his Excellency for Approbation, and to see him qualified if approved: They return, and say they saw the Clerk qualified by taking the usual Oaths, his Excellency having approved of him.'

We find in October Assembly, 1709, the following Entry: 'Upon which the House made choice of Mr. *William Taylard* to be their Clerk, in the Room of Mr. *Richard Dallam*, who was very sick; and Ordered, That Mr. *Robert Tyler* and Mr. *Samuel Worthington* go with him, and present him to the Honourable Council for Approbation, and to see him qualified: They return, and say they saw the Clerk qualified, by taking the usual Oaths, and signing the Test, the Council having approved of him.'

We find in October Assembly, 1712, the following Entry: 'The House made choice of Mr. *Richard Dallam* to be their Clerk; Ordered, Mr. *Daniel Mariarte* and Mr. *James Lloyd* go and present him to the Honourable the President and Council for their Approbation, and to see him qualified: They return and say, the Honourable President and Council approve of the Clerk, and he is qualified.'

We find, in November Assembly, 1713, the following Entry: 'Mr. *Richard Dallam*, Clerk of this House, being very sick, had Leave to go home; therefore, Ordered, That Mr. *Tyler* and Mr. *Mariarte* attend Mr. *Evan Jones* to the Council, to see him sworn and qualified to be Deputy Clerk of this House: They return, and say they saw him qualified.'

We find, in June Assembly, 1714, the following Entry: 'This House wanting a Clerk to supply the Place of Mr. *Richard Dallam*, who, since the last Sessions of Assembly, died, make choice of *Thomas Macnemara* as Clerk of this House; and humbly pray his Excellency's Approbation of him, and that he may be qualified by taking the usual Oaths: Ordered, That Col. *Hepkins* and Mr. *Tyler* acquaint his Excellency the Governor therewith: They return, and say they deliver'd their Message; upon which Mr. *Macnemara* was accordingly approved of, and qualified by taking the usual Oaths, and the Oath of Clerk of this House, in the Council Chamber.'

We find, in July Assembly, 1716, the following Entry: 'The House made choice of *Thomas Macnemara* their Clerk, and Ordered, That Mr. *James Stoddert* and Capt. *James Frisby* go and present him to his Excellency the Governor for his Approbation, and to see him qualified by taking the usual Oaths: They return, and say that his Excellency approved of the Clerk chosen, and that he is duly qualified.'

May, 1749

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