

The Diary of a Squire¹
The Bibles of Colonial Virginia

Part One
2 June 2016

One doesn't write all that one knows. One knows so s(he) can write what is right.

If God created the earth in seven days, what was S(He) doing before then?

Dr. Dennis Cogswell

The Cogswell's Come to America

Do I speak Colonial, or the King's Good English, or American, either Bostonian or Virginian version? Is not the language of the 21th Century Virginian different from that of my four century old diary? As I traveled so often in my formative years between the Virginia Colonies to Bristol, England and beyond and then back to the Northern Colonies, tis a difficult task for me to decide on the manner to approach you, my present reader. My diary that I present here will be adapted somewhat to the styles and language customs-never mind the peculiarities- of your times. Sometimes I will just have to add a footnote or two to explain!

The diary speaks to the many places visited, the many people I have met and the life experiences of a three hundred ninety-six year (396) journey. I am the Squire Bin Forever, born May 20, 1620 to English parents, Joseph and Dorothy Thorpe on the Isle of Wight. Our good family life didn't last long as both Joseph and Dorothy died in 1637, just thirty-seven years old. What happened to my two younger sisters and younger brother, I know not. We all were over the age of eight and considered adults on their own. As a seventeen year old, I survived by becoming an indentured sailor on a boat to England, then back to America, this time to the Northern Colonies.

Becoming a Cogswell

For several decades I have been journeying with Dennis and Nancy Cogswell of 124 Zelkova Rd. from their Parkway Wyndam Plantation. Dennis presently also is an author, writing under

¹ The Squire Bin Forever is a factitious character penned by Dr. D. The facts around his life are often historical accurate. Where they are not, it is because they are missing. You may think you actually know the people in the diary in your life; that is coincidence. Laugh on it and move on. Life is short.

the pen name of “Dr. D.”. Nancy, pen name Nana, serves both of us as editor and planner. I have been a member of “The Cogswell’s in America” ever since 1637 when I went to work for John Cogswell who had just arrived on the Good Ship Angel Gabriel in the northern territory near what is now Pemaquid, Maine. John was an entrepreneur in the fabric business and I convinced him I knew my way around both the Northern and Virginia Colonies. I was put on a retainer with commissions. My role was to be an X-man² for John Cogswell and many others colonists.

The Diary of a Squire

My diary of four plus centuries is gathering much interest in many places; ‘tis for your education and entertainment that I share it with you here. It focuses on life in America over four centuries, much of it in the Colonial periods. **The Diary of a Squire**, a book, will be publically released in book form in about a year. You can participate in this process if you like by going to my website at www.SquireBinForever.com. There you can quickly offer your opinion on each chapter. Also there will be a timeline for the whole diary and a reading list.

Today’s diary entry, Part One of Four on Colonial America Bibles, sets the stage for the introduction of Colonial Bibles, especially **Thomas Jefferson’s Bible** or as it was first known, **The Life and Morals of Jesus of Nazareth**. Because a Squire usually works out of the public eye with the people who lead and live in our country, I am likely to be sharing stories and portions of events that have not been known to you before now. Some of my other diary entries include my talks with Mrs. Elizabeth Downing Franklin about her famous husband and his Casanova inclining’s; George and Martha Dandridge Custis Washington’s parenting of their wayward son, Jack; The Squire as an X-man for patriot leaders at the Raleigh Tavern; Corresponding with Queen Victoria of England about sexual morals of the times. I will share about my own romances with Christina and then Victoria and also the voices of many on whether Thomas Jefferson was true to the love of his life, Martha. I have chatted with Patrick Henry, four times Colonial governor, on how he had time to father seventeen children; In addition, I spent time with colonial women looking at the feminine side of running a plantation manor; Being the X-man for a duel that was a dud; My time spent with Snow White and the Eight Dwarfs at Walt Disney’s place in the 20th Century (Do you know that 6 out of 7 Dwarfs were not Happy?). Each entry will include quotes from famous people and some I have penned

² Now known as a Notary Public

myself. Commentary will follow each entry. Finally, each entry will conclude with “The Squire’s Secrets on Life”.

Bibles in Colonial America: Part One 1635-1675

Life as we know it here in the New World began at the beginning of the 17th century (1601-1605) when Queen Elizabeth I and Sir Walter Raleigh set out two exploration and settlement boats to what was called The New World. One went to the Northern part of the land (to become New England); another went south to what was then known as The Old Dominion, the Virginia Colony, or the Province of Virginia. My father, John Thorpe, was a surveyor for the latter set of adventures. They arrived at an area known as Tidewater Virginia in an area called Tsenacomoco comprised of the later named James, York and Rappahannock Rivers. This area contained 15,000 Algonquian Indians, led by their chief, Powhatan Wahunsenacawh, It was for this group of New World inhabitants that the first Bible was printed in America in 1633: John Elliot’s Algonquin Indian Bible , printed in the Indian language of the times³.

Like many English settlers, I sought out the comfort of a Good Book, raised to be a God-fearing & loving fellow. My next journal entry will start with the introduction of the Geneva Bible into America and how copyright policy in England kept King James I from sending over his Bible.

Famous Quotes

“The distinction between Virginians, Pennsylvanians, New Yorkers, and New Englanders, are no more. I am not a Virginian, but an American." Patrick Henry 1774. A call for Unity.

A Squires Secret on Life.

Today’s leaders, in the age of Selfies, must repeatedly offer a call to Unity. Negative politicizing puts America in a bad light in the rest of the world and deserts us in our time of growth and further development. This call for unity must focus on what we are and will be, not on what we don’t want. Change always occurs from strength. Use the past and its experience to bring about a good today and tomorrow. Experience counts. Experience the Now.

Squire Bin Forever
New to You But Not to the World.

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³ Elliot’s Bible was printed in America nearly 120 years before the first English language Bible was printed in America in 1782 by Robert Aitken.