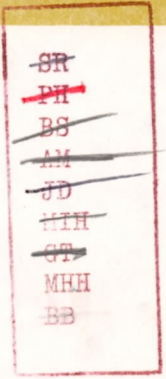
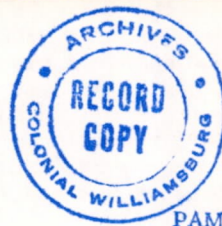


# “These Boisterous Times...” THE WEEK IN '76

Alexander Purdie, *Virginia Gazette*,  
January 1, 1776

SEPTEMBER 1976

September 19–25, 1976



September 21, 1776

Marriages—Rev. John Bracken, Rector of Bruton parish, to Miss Sally Burwell, daughter of the late Carter Burwell, Esq., of Carter's Grove.

The Reverend John Bracken arrived in Virginia in 1772 and was appointed rector of Bruton Parish the following year. His marriage to Sally Burwell brought him connections with some of Virginia's most prominent families—the Carters and Burwells. Sally's brother owned Carter's Grove, and her uncle, Robert Carter Nicholas, was treasurer of Virginia. The marriage inspired the following poem published in the *Virginia Gazette*:

Could I on airy pinions soar,  
Where mighty poets flew before,  
How would I, in unpolish'd lays,  
Rehearse this happy couple's praise!  
My tight-strung lyre should sing the fair,  
With whom but few can well compare,  
For modesty and sense combin'd,  
Those valu'd qualities of mind.  
Of Bracken too my muse should sing,  
His praise should echo from my string;  
Religion, virtue, all around,  
And morals good, should loudly sound.  
Such lofty themes I must resign,  
Such, abler poets, such be thine.

In 1775 Bracken was appointed Master of the Grammar School and Professor of Humanity at the College of William and Mary and held the position until the College was reorganized in 1779. In 1793 Bracken was granted a doctor of divinity degree by William and Mary and in 1812 he was named president of the College. He remained president until 1814 when he retired. He died four years later and was buried at Carter's Grove.

September 27, 1776

Strayed from Williamsburg, on or about the 6th Instant (September) a Light Bay Horse with a long Switch Tail, a Star in his Forehead, remarkable flat Hoofs, upwards of 14 Hands high, and galled with a Harness; his Brand (if any) forgot. Whoever brings the said Horse to me in Williamsburg shall receive a Reward proportioned to the Trouble and Distance.

Thomas Everard.

Thomas Everard was a prominent citizen of Williamsburg who served several terms as mayor of the town. He was appointed clerk of York County in 1745 and held the position until his death. As county clerk he maintained an exceptional set of records that have been of basic importance in the restoration of Williamsburg. Everard also served four terms as clerk of the Committee of Courts and Justice in the House of Burgesses, and he was one of the trustees of the Public Hospital.

Sometime before 1779 Everard purchased the house on Palace Green now called the Brush-Everard House. He also owned farms in James city and Brunswick counties. He died in 1781.



Doctor Amson's Prescription for the HOOPING-COUGH.

It will be proper to begin with a Vomit, of an Infusion in boiling Water of Ipecacuanha, with the Addition of Oxymel of Squills, and once in five or six Days to purge gently with a little Manna and Cream of Tartar, or the like; having Regard to the Age of the Child. For a Boy of 10 Years old, 25 Grains of Ipecacuanha, with a Spoonful of Camomile Flower Tea, and to give, when it has done working, thirty or forty Drops of Elixir Paregoticum in a little Pennyroyal Tea and Mint Water, sweetened at Pleasure; and this is proper to be given every Night.

Give every day, once in 2 or 3 Hours, a Spoonful of the following Mixture: Take two Drahms of Gum Ammoniac, dissolve them in a Pint of Pennyroyal Tea, strain off, and add four Spoonfuls of Honey, and Half a Pint of the following:

Take two Hundred Woodlice, wash them in wine, then press out the Juice, and mix it with a Pint of White Wine, in which two Drahms of Saffron have been infused.

N.D. These Doses being for one of 10 Years old, must be made less for younger Children, according to their Ages: For a sucking Child 3 Months old, mixt the Juice of an Hundred Woodlice with a Pint of Pennyroyal Tea and two Spoonfuls of Honey; it may be given with a little Milk, or (if it do not sit on the Stomach) with a little small Cinnamon Water. From 4 to 6 Drops of Elixir Paregoticum will be a sufficient Dose.

The publication of the cure in the *Virginia Gazette* was no doubt caused by the epidemic of whooping cough in Virginia during the summer and fall of 1776. The fact that the prescription was published over ten years after Amson's death shows the respect held for his abilities.

Dr. John Amson first appeared in Williamsburg in 1746 when the trustees of the city granted him the block of lots north of Scotland Street bounded by Boundary and Henry streets. Two years later he was elected mayor. Like most graduate physicians, he did not operate an apothecary shop. Dr. Amson practiced medicine in Williamsburg until his death about 1764.

*Compiled by Harold B. Gill, Jr.*



The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation