

THE VIRGINIA ARGUS. 24 Mar. 1809

452

EXTRACT from the proceedings of the President and Professors of William and Mary College; March 2d, 1809.

"Resolved, That Charles I. Cabell, Benjamin B. Jones, and William Old, students, be, and hereby are, forever expelled from this College, for having been concerned in a duel; the two first as principals, and the other as a second to one of the parties."

Signed,

J. MADISON, President.

mvo

21 mar 41

Dueling--1802

A VOICE FROM THE PAST

The following from the New York Evening Post will be somewhat striking to the people of the present day, while at the same time, it will have rather a familiar sound.

We learn by a gentleman from Virginia that the College of William and Mary at Williamsburg, is completely broken up and the system of education there, for the present at least, entirely discontinued.

The circumstances of this extraordinary affair are as follows: In consequence of a difference between two of the students, a Mr. Lee, of Norfolk, and a Mr. Yates, of Fredericksburg, a duel was fought, in which the latter was wounded. For this gross violation of the rules of the college they were both expelled, which so enraged the rest of the collegians that they assembled, went to the church, broke and destroyed all the windows, cut down the pulpit, tore out all the leaves of the Bible and gave them to the wind, from thence they proceeded to the house of Judge Tucker (whose opinions have of late been so often quoted in congress) professor of law in the university, broke all his windows, pelted his house, abused him, and then each repaired to his own home. The judge, it is said, has resigned his office of professor, in consequence of the outrage, and thus dies one of the oldest and wealthiest seminaries of learning in the United States of America. These may be considered as some of the blessed effects of the modern, or Jeffersonian system of religion; for party politics, instead of science, appear long since to have been the primary objects of instruction in that university, and from that foul source have flowed many of the heretical doctrines of the present day.

This was published originally in the Post of April 2, 1802.

It shows that an occasional boiling over at William and Mary is no new thing at that venerable institution, but was a characteristic of its early and lusty youth. It also illustrates the truth that the newspapers and people of a hundred years ago were as eager to find political argument in every incident as they are to-day. That pessimistic man that the students' duel and rebellion and the consequent destruction of the institution were the results of the teaching of Mr. Jefferson sounds curiously like some of the political observations of 1802.

William and Mary is still in healthy existence after a century, and Mr. Jefferson's teachings did not destroy the republic or debauch its citizenship. We hope the college will be yet thriving in 2007, and probably the people of that year will look back to the newspapers of this one with the same amusement and recognition of the unchanging characteristics of human nature with which we contemplate the Post of 1802.

April 23, 1803 The (Chillicothe, O.) Scioto Gazette

A duel lately took place at Williamsburg, (Virg.) between Messrs. Breckenridge & Chapman, both students of the college in that place, in which Mr. Chapman was mortally wounded. Mr. Breckenridge and the two seconds have absconded.

Gratz, Simon

"Thomas Rodney

PMB XLIII ~~(1811)~~ - XLV (1919-1921)

43: 3-23, 117-142, 208-227, 332-367

44: 170-189, 270-284, 289-308

45: 34-65, 180-203

Downes, Randolph Chandler

Frontier Ohio, 1788-1803

Columbus, 1935

Apr 21, 1802 Green Mt Patriot

EXPERIMENTS

In Natural & Political Philosophy, in
the Virginia University

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[E. Post]

NOTE:

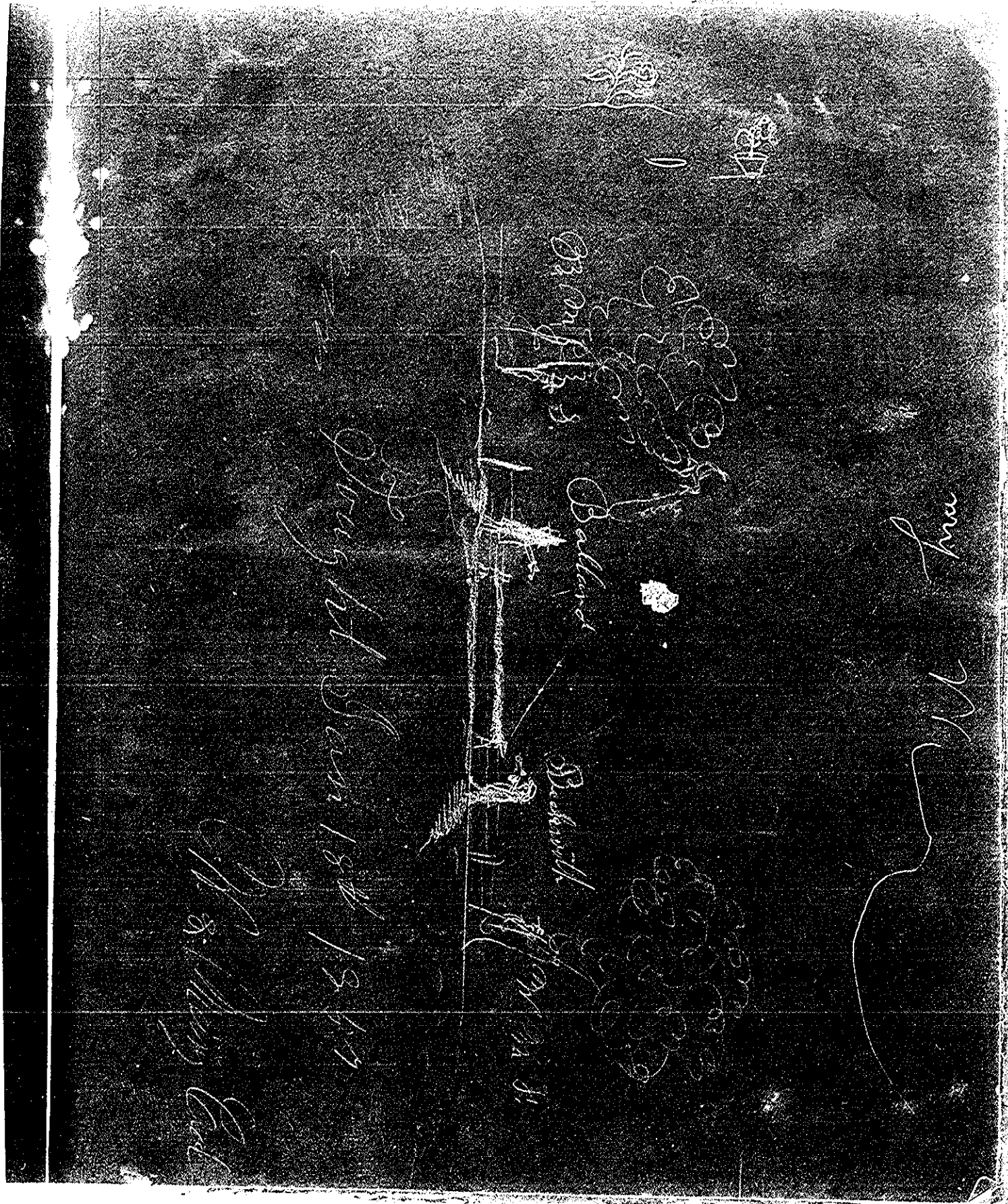
Two more duels -

① Samuel Myers vs Somerville [William C.?
January 30, 1809

see: Samuel Myers Faculty / Alumni
File

② A. Peachy vs R. Saunders
in the History of the College
of William and Mary, pg. 273

7/16/2003
CJS



From Mary F. Southall notebook - W&M Folder 239 - c. 1855-56