

Amanda Bryan Kane

Mrs. Kane is the daughter of the late John Stewart Bryan, president of the college from 1934 to 1942 and chancellor from 1942 until his death in ¹⁹⁴⁴~~1943~~. Although she was in Williamsburg infrequently during her father's presidency, she was close to him; thus this interview is more biographical than most in this project.

Mrs. Kane now lives in Charlottesville. Both she and her brother, Tennant Bryan of Richmond, read the transcript.

INDEX SHEET

Interviewee Amanda Bryan Kane
 Date of interview Oct. 15, 1975
 Place 1600 Gordon Ave., Charlottesville, Va.
 Interviewer Emily Williams
 Session number 1
 Length of tape 46 mins.

Contents:	Approximate time:
influences on J.S. Bryan	4 mins.
career prior to 1934	1 mins.
assumption of W&M presidency, contributions	10 mins.
period of presidency	
roles of Charlie and Virginia Duke	5 mins.
relations (prior) with L.A.C. Chandler	2 mins.
building ^{the} quality of W&M	8 mins.
miscellaneous	7 mins.
retirement	1 min.
in retrospect (Bryan's views)	2 mins.
athletics	3 mins.
connections in Williamsburg	2 mins.

Amanda Bryan Kane

October 15, 1975

Charlottesville, Virginia

Williams: Mrs. Kane, I've talked to a number of people who did know your father, who served on the faculty under him, and they've described him as "a cultured gentleman," a true Virginian, a patrician of the old school." ^{old} And I wanted to ask you what do you think were some of the influences on Mr. Bryan's personality, on his sociability?

Kane: Well, I think probably the greatest influence on his personality was his parents. He was very much influence^d by his father, who ~~had come back after the war~~ ^{Civil War} and started with nothing -- as most people did after the war -- and had to put himself through the University of Virginia and had then come to Richmond and ^{after practicing law in Fluvanna Co. for two years,} started in various enterprises -- some of which have been successful and some of which haven't. But he had become a very useful citizen and had become particularly interested in education. ~~I guess~~ ^{as} my grandfather served on the Board of Visitors of the university ~~and~~ ^{as} my father did at one point, and I think this was perhaps one of the very strong influences in his life. His mother also happened to have a remarkable sense of humor and a great interest in people, ^{which} ~~as such~~ influenced him because he loved people. He liked to deal with them on all sorts of bases, and I think this was his great strength in Williamsburg. He enjoyed people and they enjoyed him, and he brought to the college something which ~~my~~ ^{my} guess is that it had not had before, which was a sociability -- and I don't mean

that in the line of just entertainment, but of friendliness and coming-and-going, and he was always welcoming people at his house when he went there and loved doing it. So I would say his interest in education and his interest in young people gave him a real sense of obligation to the colleges with which he was associated. He himself had gone to the University of Virginia, and then he went to Harvard for law. Then he came back, and he worked in New York as a lawyer for a very short while. He said he earned ^{\$4} four dollars a week and found that it hardly paid his ferry fare from Staten Island to New York, so

eventually he came back to Richmond, ~~and~~ then gave up law and ^(joined his father in newspaper) went into publishing. ^(had served as Rector of) But after he ~~was on~~ the University of Virginia Board of Visitors he was then on the William and Mary

Board of Visitors and finally became ^[vide-] rector of that board and was very deeply interested in William and Mary ~~so~~ when Dr.

Chandler ^{in 1934} died there was a lot of discussion as to who might succeed him. Finally it was suggested that my father might take this as a stopgap until the board reached some conclusion.

His family was very much opposed to it; ^{we} we thought he was too old to take on any such new responsibilities. And we were entirely wrong.

He took it as a stopgap and stayed. I think it was ^{eight} nine years and loved it, and I think he did a great deal for William and Mary at that point. It was just at the time ^{that} Mr. Rockefeller was doing so much in Williamsburg, and there was a great deal of revived interest in Williamsburg and a great many people were coming there, and he was able to meet them and

see them and interest them in the college in practical ways as well as in theoretical ways. I think his great interest was in building up the faculty ~~and my guess is~~ that probably ~~for~~ Dean Lambert came under him, I think, and Jimmy Fowler -- ~~and~~ I remember them particularly -- but I think that they are just examples of the kind of people he would try to find and bring in.

Williams: Why was it that Mr. Bryan had an interest in William and Mary over, say, his alma mater?

Kane: Well, he'd been on the board here ^[at U.Va.] and that was something ^{(when Gov. Fairlee refused to reappoint him as a visitor} that he sort of put behind him ~~and when he continued his~~ ~~interest in the university and as a matter of fact,~~ in his last years he was also on the Board of Overseers at Harvard, which he enjoyed very much, but I think that William and Mary appealed to him because he felt that it needed to be brought into the public eye, that it should no longer be just a ^{little} low college in the country. ~~And~~ I think it all came together. He had this interest in bringing William and Mary back to its original position in the nation, ~~and~~ Williamsburg was being rebuilt, and the whole thing fitted into together. Interestingly enough, his mother had ~~been one of the first~~ people ~~I think she~~ founded the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities. Anyway, they bought the powder horn in Williamsburg and saved that, so that he'd always had a feeling about trying to save Williamsburg and do something. It all came into one general ^{scheme} thing; it fitted into one interest for him

at that time. I was amused the other day. I saw an old friend of ours who was very much involved with the university, and he said that he remembered having run into father one day in New York during his years in Williamsburg, ~~and~~ ^{to him,} he said, "Mr. Bryan, I suppose you're up here looking for faculty." And he said, "No, ^{halt back,} As a matter of fact, this time I'm up here looking for a horse pack." ~~I'm not saying that~~ ^{he} as his children we felt that ^{he} sometimes let that line of interest, perhaps, carry him too far afield, but he didn't think that anything that could build the -- the word they use now is image, (none of us ever heard of that word before) -- but could build a picture of William and Mary in the public mind as a place that was worthwhile ~~and~~ ^{was a good} with valuable things. So does that bring us more or less up to what you're talking about?

Williams: Yes. When he was appointed to the Board of Visitors at William and Mary, I wondered if this was perhaps partly because he was a friend of Governor Byrd; this was about the time Governor Byrd was --

[Discussion of when Mr. Bryson was appointed to the board.]*

Kane: I think it was after Governor Byrd that he was appointed. I'm sure it was after Governor Byrd. He was a friend of Governor Byrd's, but I can't think it was that far back that he was appointed to William and Mary. It must have been later. I don't know under which one it was.

omit

Williams: It may have been --

Kane: It might have been under Governor Pollard. They were friends.

* After checking (as I should have done beforehand) I found that Mr. Bryson came on the William and Mary board in 1926. The governor would have been either ~~Frank~~ Byrd, who took office that year.

He stayed there nine years and he resigned in '41 and died in '42 and so nine years would go back into Governor Pollard's time but he was nine years as president and I think he'd been on the board, I don't know, five or six years before that so it might have been before Governor Pollard. Trinkle.

Williams: Trinkle was between Byrd and Pollard. Yes, perhaps it was Governor Trinkle.

Kane: ~~Though~~ I would think that Governor Pollard would have been a more likely person to have appointed him than Governor Trinkle, but I'm not sure ~~of Pollard and~~ I don't believe it was as early as Governor Byrd, though they were friends and collaborators, I would suppose, on many state plans. But William and Mary ^{became} ~~began~~, really, the great interest of his life at that point ~~and~~ he was always taking people there, having people come. Although he'd never been a teacher himself, from his very early days as a young man ~~back~~ in Richmond, he'd been involved in local school boards, particularly interested in the work of some of the schools for the colored children. Virginia Randolph, who was one of the great educators of the Negro race, was someone with whom he worked a great deal. So although he had not had the practical experience of classroom work he did have quite a background ⁱⁿ of administration of schools which, I think, helped him when he reached William and Mary.

Williams: So that when it was first considered that he would be president, he did feel that he could do the job?

Kane: He must have. We were all very doubtful about him ^{but} we thought from the point ^{of} view of his age ^{and} his health that it was more than he should do, ^{and} in addition to the fact that he had not had the ~~really~~ practical training of college work. But I do think that when he took it and when the board suggested it ^{they} thought of it simply as an interim measure while they looked about for someone else. But it seemed ^{to} work so well from the board's point of view and was such a joy from father's point ^{of} view that nobody had the heart to ask him to leave. — never wanted him to leave, I guess, so it more or less just went on that way.

Williams: But your family did try to talk him out of it.

Kane: We did, before he decided. But he made up his mind ^{and} that was that.

Williams: In his farewell speech to the board ⁽ he was speaking of when he took the presidency) ⁾ ~~and~~ he said ^{that} a number of people had urged him in 1934 to take the presidency, and ^{one} of them was John D. Rockefeller. Do you know anything of the reasons Mr. Rockefeller would have urged him to take it?

Kane: Well, I ~~just~~ ^{guess} they knew each other, not intimately but pleasantly, and my guess would be that Mr. Rockefeller just felt that with what he was trying to do in Williamsburg ^{it} would be a happy situation to have someone he knew and liked there at the college with whom he could talk and who would know how to take care of people who ~~came~~ came through Williamsburg so that they

could see both Williamsburg and the college under agreeable auspices ~~of~~ that would be my guess on it. I don't think it was for any higher educational angle that Mr. Rockefeller thought about, but just that it would be someone he knew and liked and could talk with pleasantly if he needed to -- because they did see quite a bit of each other in the following years.

Williams: Did your father ever say anything to you or did you ever know about any plans to have Mr. Rockefeller contribute a large amount of money to the college?

Kane: No.

Williams: This was rumored in Williamsburg at several points.

Kane: No, I think Mr. Rockefeller's interest was rebuilding Williamsburg, and that was the line he took ~~and~~ I don't believe -- oh, I do think father was interested ~~in~~ trying to interest him ^[in] something with the library at one point. ~~and~~ I think he may have done something about the library. -- Did he, do you know?

Williams: No, I think he made contribution of some books, ~~but~~ I think that eventually they did, yes.

Kane: But I think -- from my point of view -- I would [#] guess that [with] ~~Dr. Goodwin,~~ Mr. Rockefeller giving to Colonial Williamsburg, ~~and~~ it was sort of ~~an~~ hands off ~~and~~ I mean the college was there ~~and that was that~~ but they couldn't be competing as rivals for Mr. Rockefeller's generosity. That would be my guess about it. I don't ever remember discussing it, but I

would think that it would not have seemed fair to try to pull
~~put~~ his interest in both ways. ^{at} Course, the Rockefellers
 have their plans, and they follow them out, and they're
 not likely to be swerved from them anyway, even if you
^t
 ary.

Williams: One of the conditions on which Mr. Bryan took the presi-
 dency was that he would have Charlie Duke in Williamsburg
 as his right-hand man. What was Charlie Duke's role in your
 father's administration? (I know that you were not in Wil-
 liamsburg at the time.)

Kane: Well, he and his wife, Virginia, lived quite near the presi-
 dent's house, just across the street, I guess, across Richmond
 Road, somewhere there, and they did a great deal -- Virginia
 did -- a great deal of help ^{ing him #} run the house, and Charlie Duke
 was sort of an administrative assistant, I guess would be the
 word that you would use, ~~because~~ he had no faculty position,
~~and I think he was just there as~~ I'll call him an executive
 secretary, a ^{an} staff adjutant as it were, and he was extremely
 helpful and useful, ^{person,} But I really didn't even know that this
 had been a condition. I guess he had been there under Dr.
 Chandler ~~and~~ probably doing the same sort of thing, and I sup-
 pose the way it came along was father saying, "Well, he's been
 doing this, and I'd like ^{for} continuity to be there." Virginia
 Duke was extremely helpful and very nice because she really
 took over the management of the house. My mother was ~~very~~ ill
 at that time and in the hospital; I was living in New York; my

brothers and their wives lived in Richmond and ^{were} very much occupied with their own family life, though we all came and went as much as we could but Virginia was the person who really took responsibility for managing the house and was very, very kind and very helpful ~~to be about~~. ~~My guess~~ as I say, I didn't know that this had been a condition, but I can imagine this perfectly well, ~~that~~ having been under Dr. Chandler he had his finger on a great many ^{of the} ~~use~~ problems that had to be dealt with, and he ^{continued} ~~came along~~ in that way and ~~continued~~.

Williams: Charlie Duke, too, seems to have had a great deal to do with working the General Assembly in Richmond. Your father being a preeminent newsman, he, too, I would think, would have had some influence there.

Kane: Well, I'm sure he tried to have it because it seems to me that all the colleges -- well, of course, they do now more than they did then -- depended on the good will of the legislature for all sorts of assistance. Tuitions never did take care of financial needs, and it's less and less now. ^{(I don't know what's going to happen with these ^{various} areas cuts now,} and all the colleges have expanded to such a point that they'll find themselves in great difficulty.) I think this was probably one of Charlie Duke's specialties: dealing with the legislature and keeping in touch with all sorts of political requirements.

Williams: You mentioned Dr. J. A. C. Chandler and how Charlie Duke had been there previously. Mr. Bryan did know Dr. Chandler before he came?

Kane: Oh, yes, because of course Dr. Chandler was the president during the time that he was the ^[vice-]rector of the board.

Williams: What was his relationship like with Dr. Chandler?

Kane: Very friendly. I think they worked together during this time on the board, trying to improve the college. I remember Dr. Chandler used to come up to Richmond, you know, sometimes to spend an evening, talk things over. Father was going down to Williamsburg ^{even} and then quite a bit when he was just on the board. I think he tried very hard in those days to help the college choose distinguished speakers and people to whom they would give honorary degrees and things to try to give it a little more national prominence.

~~you know, and I can remember~~ I can't remember whether President Roosevelt had come ^{when JSB was president} and he was -- I guess it must have been in father's time, but he came down.

Williams: I think ^{it} ~~he~~ may have been for his inauguration, in fact.

Kane: I couldn't go to the inauguration; I was having a baby at that point. I wasn't able to risk it, but I remember father was very cross because I couldn't come ^{and} I explained that my plans had been made several months before his had, and I couldn't change. I think it may have been that Roosevelt came to the inauguration, but ^{even} ~~even~~ as I say, before he became president, when he was working with Dr. Chandler, I think he was then trying to have people brought in from outside who would add a little modern ~~more than~~ luster. There was so much luster of the old days and then there was a slump coming out of there. I think, for

instance, that ^{about} ~~by~~ the time father was president he arranged to have the Harvard Board of Overseers come and meet at Williamsburg, ~~and~~ Harvard being the only college in this country older than William and Mary ~~and~~ they have ^d never met anywhere but in Cambridge since Harvard was founded, so he invited them to Williamsburg ~~and they came and these were~~ ^{This was} a group of thirty-odd men, all of them quite important in their own towns, and he felt it would do a great deal to carry back the picture of William and Mary ^{the point} and ~~what~~ it had reached, and I think it did. Even now, I run into people who remember that occasion and what it taught them about the ^{the} south and the quality of William and Mary, which they had never considered before.

Williams: Would you say that building up the quality of William and Mary was your father's prime objective?

Kane: Oh, yes, I think so. ~~Within~~ the college and in the ^e eyes of the world, ~~Lord~~. I think that he felt that it was a very good college, but very little was known about it outside the state of Virginia. Then of course, people began to want to come there, and the problem was to find spaces for some of the ~~out-of-town~~ people, out-of-state people who wanted to come -- up until the war, I guess. When the war came, that's when ^{there were} ~~we had~~ too many girls coming because the boys were off in the army.

One of the things that I think ^[of in connection with] ~~about~~ people who were brought [in] is ~~here the year~~ they had the sesquicentennial of Yorktown. ^{in 1931.}

~~at~~ William and Mary gave an honorary degree to

some of the people who came to that, including Marshall Pétain, who of course, at that point, was very highly thought of. Unfortunately, he later lost some of his luster ~~by his involvement~~ by giving way to the Germans in France, but at that point he was still a great hero, and there was a marvelous reception ^{in front of} out ~~at~~ the Wren Building, down the lawn, and all sorts of things happening. All these things ^{created} gave a great deal of interest, ^{and} one of the things that father started that I think may still go on is the Christmas feast in the Wren Building. That was a big ~~to-do~~ do with people in costume and an Elizabethan banquet ~~almost~~ ^{(I suppose rather than an} although Elizabethan banquet you'd say a Georgian banquet). These were just various occasions to add color and excitement to the daily life of the college. But this had a great effect on the interest of the student body and built up a sense of affection for the college.

Williams: Would you say that even the very act of ^{choosing} choosing a person of your father's standing as the president ^{was} was a conscious move towards this, perhaps?

Kane: Well, I suppose it may have been. This is very possible that the board realized his interest and enthusiasm for the college and decided that since they had no one else in mind at the moment, they might as well let him try it ^{and} certainly by the time he left, it was a far more desirable job than it was when he took it. I think that's fair to Dr. Chandler to say even that. ^{of} Course, Dr. Chandler was a remarkable educator; he had had that long experience in the public schools and knew

so much about the needs of the state students, but I think he was not able to give to the college this extra excitement, which I think father did bring, so that Dr. Pomfret ~~was~~ was, I think, much more satisfied to take the position ~~it~~ it was more of a position to take because by that time Williamsburg had become a center -- not quite as much as it is now, ~~we hadn't had an emperor come to stay~~ -- but Williamsburg had become a center of interest for the whole country and so William and Mary was known -- known not only as the college of Williamsburg but as a college in its own right.

Williams: Dr. Chandler had been preeminently a builder of the campus. Now ~~if~~ if the depression had not intervened ~~do~~ do you think your father would have been a builder, too, or do you think he was more interesting infusing what was there with quality?

Kane: I think he was more interested in quality than building; I really do. I think that's what he cared about. No, I don't think his mind ran to ~~outward~~ outward physical signs, but Dr. Chandler, of course, had built so firm a base and done so much ~~and afterwards~~ ~~after~~ after ^[World War II] the war, with the increase of students ~~many~~ many more buildings were needed. Last time I was there ~~(which was two years ago)~~ (which was two years ago) I was just absolutely dazed. I didn't know what was going on at all. I've gotten used to not having Lord Botetourt on the front campus, and that incredible Swem Library -- that's a marvelous building. There'll never be anybody like Dr. Swem himself. He was a most remarkable person. He could go through a library, a shelf of books, -- I've seen him do it at our house -- ~~a shelf of books and~~

he'd just look, and before you knew it there were five that
 he'd just spotted that he knew he wanted and they usually
 went home with him! I can see him. It was a great de-
 light to feel his knowledge and his interest, and he had
 great acquisitiveness ^{too,} which a librarian has to have. I'm
 so glad that they named the library for him, that it will be
 such a useful ~~set-up~~ center.

Williams: This is something of a tangent, but while we are off into
 another personality let me ask you did you ever know
 the bell ringer at William and Mary, Henry Billups?

Kane: Just to say "hello" to ^{him,} I never knew anything about him.
 He died? Must have because he was old even when I can
 remember. When I think of the daughter whose birth inter-
 fered with my getting to my father's inauguration is now ^u forty-two
 years old, I have to remember that quite a few years
 have gone by. One funny little bit that I can remember.
 I can remember when General Marshall was here for an
 honorary degree and made a commencement speech -- ~~or summer~~
~~commencement~~, I'm not just sure ^{when} -- it was obviously after
 the war. He was, of course, running on a very pressed schedule
 and I was sitting by Mrs. Marshall down in the audience, and
 she turned around to me and said, "What sort of a college is
 William and Mary?" And I said, "A liberal arts college," and
 she said, "Oh, I thought it was ^s normal school." And then
 she scribbled on a little piece of paper: "This is not a nor-
 mal school," and she said, "Do you think we can get this mes-

sage to the general!" before he was to make his speech and I caught the eye of ~~some boy~~ one of the aides that I knew, who was getting people seated, handing out programs, or doing some such, so I got the note to him. And I saw him a little bit later deliver it to General Marshall, so ^{apparently} proud his speech had been ^{based} ^{theory} made on the ^{basis} of it being a normal school. But it's people like that who were brought ^[in], whereas in earlier days I think there hadn't been anyone from outside the state who had come.

Williams: Your father was able to attract people like, say, Robert Frost, Frank Lloyd Wright, Alexander Woolcott...

Kane: I know there was a constant stream of people coming and going. I even remember one day we were sitting at lunch, and there was a knock at the street door ~~(we usually used the campus door)~~ somebody went to the street door and came back and ^{it was} said, "A lady from Washington, Mrs. Truxton Beale," who owned the Decatur House and gave it to the National Trust. She had with her Mr. and Mrs. Robert Woods Bliss, who lived at Dumbarton Oaks and had a very fine library and [#] other things. Mr. Bliss had been a friend of father's for many years, and ~~they had come down for~~ ~~some reason or another~~ Mr. Beale had had some Williamsburg connection, and he had died, and ^{had} they had his body cremated, and they were bringing the ashes down to bury them in Bruton Parish Church yard, and they all needed a place to stop and have a drink on their way, and they just appeared! So you never knew

what was going to turn up. ~~We dealt with that at lunch that day and then they went on to Bruton Parish, disposed of Mr. Beale and I suppose went back to~~ but it just interested me because it was an example of how people knew father, knew

they could come under any circumstances come in and come by ~~and that Mr. Bliss eventually did do something for William and Mary;~~
 I think ^{and} that Mr. Bliss eventually did do something for William and Mary; I'm not sure. His chief interest was Byzantium ^{art}, William and Mary didn't fit into that very well.)

Williams: You mentioned that your father stayed longer than he had originally planned. When you and your brothers were trying to talk him out of this, what arguments did he use ~~that he~~ for coming? ~~wanted to come?~~

Kane: Well, the argument he used was that he had been very much interested in the college, that this was really an emergency situation ~~because it seemed~~ ^s to me that Dr. Chandler just dropped dead ~~and~~ and that no one was thinking of a successor in any way at that time, and that the board just needed time to consider the matter ~~and~~ ^{and} he thought that the thing for him to do was just to take it over for at least a year or so while they recovered themselves and looked about ~~and~~ ^{and} then I think the staying on was purely ~~no one's~~ ^{of} thinking anything better about. ~~that~~ ^{that} the board never did come up with any more brilliant suggestion ~~and~~ ^{and} father was enjoying it, and it was obvious from the very beginning that things were going well, that the changes he was making were satisfactory. So they just mutually let it go on that way. ~~And~~ ^{and there} then he was quite ill, ~~It~~ ^{It} was no

question about it. He retired in 1941 and he'd been quite ill that year, and so it was very clear that he couldn't continue, but by then the board had come to some very satisfactory conclusions about ^{who} ~~what~~ it wanted. Mr. Pomfret came along.

Williams: I was going to ask if it was his health or if the war, perhaps, was a contributing factor.

Kane: No, his health was very bad. He ~~had~~ had a couple of slight strokes just after he retired. He hadn't been well, and he realized it ~~and he lived another year~~ just about a year after ~~his election~~ resignation. to the Chancellorship.

Williams: ~~How did he view~~ in the context of his life ~~as~~ as you mentioned, he had had a very full career prior to his appointment as president of William and Mary. How did he view his years as college president?

Kane: Oh, he loved it and felt it was very useful to himself, and I think, useful to the college, too. He couldn't help seeing that he had done a good job there ^(as good a) job as was needed at the moment. I think that he knew his own shortcomings in knowledge of practical aspects of education, but he also knew that what was needed was good men, and he knew enough to choose good men and certainly did.

Williams: ~~What would he have thought was his or~~ how would he have rated his contributions? Do you know? Now that's a difficult question.

Kane: To what?

Williams: To the college.

Kane: Well, my guess is that he would have felt that the best thing he did was ~~in~~ injecting a new spirit of interest and knowledge of the outside world and also creating, in reverse, the outside world's knowledge of William and Mary. I think that he would certainly put ^{this} as one of the first things. Then, I think, he would take great pride in some of his appointments of faculty members who came in under him. I think ~~they were people~~ he felt very great satisfaction in.

Williams: You mentioned the story about his being in New York and looking for a halfback. It seems unusual for a man of Mr. Bryan's taste to have been interested in athletics.

Kane: Well, this was one of the things that we all found absolutely unbelievable. He really wasn't interested in athletics at all; ~~all~~ all he ever did himself was he ~~played~~ ^{rode} and play ^{ed} a little golf, ~~but~~ but I think ~~he~~ he felt that this was a way of building up the standing of the college. I remember one day we really laughed at him so much because all of a sudden ~~one year~~ ^{time} he said, "You know, it's the most interesting thing," -- and he said this, I think, quite honestly -- "people really are getting to know about William and Mary. There's a little town up in Pennsylvania in the coal-mining district ^{where} and they seem to have heard about it, and there are three or four boys from there who want to come. There ^y're going to need scholarships, but they sound like such good boys." Well, ~~all of~~

~~thought that is it~~ The next thing we knew all those nice boys from the coal-mining district were playing on the football team, and I don't know how soon father found out that they really ~~probably~~ probably it just hadn't been wholly spontaneous on their part that they wanted to come to William and Mary, ~~but~~ I think he would have been horrified by the later athletic scandals that came out because he just could not have felt that it was right to subsidize as many people as were brought in that way, though he loved the feeling that the college was being known because it did have a good team. ~~I can remember her going~~ he always wanted a big party before the games and ~~to~~ have people come and enjoy it. But I think that athletics in themselves were not his interest; what he cared about was that the college should show up well in any field. That may sound a little complicated, but that's the way it seems to me that it was.

Another thing I think that gave father great satisfaction there and where he was very useful was that he was descended from one line of the ~~the~~ [#]uckers, and he, therefore, had a real feeling for the town of Williamsburg and the old citizens and he was a cousin of Mr. George Coleman, who had been the mayor of Williamsburg for many years ^{had} and also gone to the college, and I think father's connections and friendship with that group of people was very useful because ~~they weren't~~ ^{were} all of them ^{sure} they liked all of the changes that were coming. Dr. Goodwin's schemes were wonderful, but sometimes in accom-

plishing them people felt they were being pushed around a
 little bit, and I think that father's ^{set} ~~set~~ of family and
 friendly connections with some of the older people was a
 useful thing at that point. ^[Discussion of Coleman family.] I think that angle meant
 a great deal to father, and as I say, it was a useful line
 because not everybody was completely won over by the
 reconstruction ^{of} Williamsburg; it was very inconvenient at
 times. ¶ One of the people he brought in ^{who} I think did
 a great deal (and later became the director of the ^{II} Virginia
 Museum) was Leslie Cheek. I think he was just out of the ^{Haward and}
 Yale School of Fine Arts, and he had great imagination
 and great dramatic sense, ~~and~~ he worked with the theater
 department, and he did a lot in planning entertainments
 so that they were really spectacular. I think he was the
 one who thought up the ^{II} Feast of the Yule Log, and I remem-
 ber the great golden cornucopias that he brought to put
 on the table ~~that added~~ — — — just little details that
 created a sense of something unusual and wonderful, and I
 think that Leslie would be a very interesting person if you
 could talk with him. If you don't talk to him, I would cer-
 tainly want it to go down in my recollections that he was
 one of the very special people who had a great effect on those
 early years. ¶ Another person who was absolutely unbelievable
 was father's secretary, Miss Tomlinson. She'd been his secre-
 tary for about thirty years when they moved to Williamsburg.
 She lived in a little house on the campus ^{II} just down near the [old]

library were a couple of little white frame houses, I think.
 They may have been pulled down now.)

Williams: No, I think they're still there.

Kane: Well, she lived in one of those. ~~And~~ she used to drive back and forth to Richmond with father, taking dictation as they drove. She made a great many friends (She was a great friend of Miss Marguerite Wynne-Roberts). ~~and~~ she was very remarkable because somehow she kept Richmond and Williamsburg in proper relationship ~~and~~ I think Miss Tomlinson's contribution was very marked, ^{though} ~~but~~ no one ever gave her any credit for it, but she did manage to keep things going together in a very good way. ~~I can't think of who else in those days who used to see. Dr. Swem, of course, was always around. I don't know, I picture him almost more in Richmond than I do in Williamsburg, coming up~~