

XIII

SOME RECORDS OF THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY OF BARBADOS

(Continued from Volume XIII, No. 2, page 92)

SESSION OF 1756-57

St. Michael	Codrington Carrington	William Moore
Ch. Ch.	Hon. Samuel Adams	Richard Callender
St. Philip	Hon. Enoch Gretton	John Gittens
St. George	Hon. John Lyte	Archibald Carmichael
St. James	Reynold Gibbes	Robert Fercharson
St. John	Hon. Henry Leslie	Francis Bell
St. Thomas	Hon. John Cobham	Hon. William Maynard
St. Peter	Hon. Sir William Gibbons, Bart.	Hon. Philip Gibbes
St. Lucy	William Rollock	Hillary Rowe junr
St. Andrew	Abraham Cumberbatch	William Marshall
St. Joseph	Edward Parris	Benjamin Mellowes

Writs were issued by Hon. Ralph Weekes, President, administering the government, and the returns made by the sheriffs are as above stated. The first meeting was held on 18 February 1756, when Sir William Gibbons (who had been created a baronet) was again elected as Speaker. William Duke continued as Clerk, William Thompson was appointed as deputy clerk, and Michael Pike was continued as Marshal.

The members, with the exception of Reynold Gibbes who was said to be dangerously ill, attended the opening of the legislature and were duly sworn.

The election of William Moore for St. Michael and of Philip Gibbes for St. Peter respectively were severally controverted; and at the hearing of the two petitions on 4 May 1756 Matthew Best was held to have been duly elected in the room of Philip Gibbes, and the other petitioner failed in his claim against William Moore, who retained the seat. Matthew Best took his seat on 16 March 1756, after being sworn.

On 1 June 1756 the House requested a new writ to be issued for a member for St. George in the place of Archibald Carmichael (Comptroller of the Excise) whose death was reported. James Sedgwick was elected to fill the vacancy.

On 10 May 1756 Charles Pinfold, Esq., LL.D. who had been nominated as successor to Governor Grenville, arrived in Carlisle Bay and assumed the government.

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SESSION 1757-58.

St. Michael	Codrington Carrington	Richard H ton
Ch. Ch.	Hon. Samuel Adams	Richard C
St. Philip	Hon. Enoch Gretton	John Gitt
St. George	Hon. John Lyte	James Sed
St. James	Reynold Gibbes	Robert Fer
St. John	Hon. Henry Leslie	Francis Be
St. Thomas	John Wheeler Ridge- way	Richard C
St. Peter	Hon. Sir William Gibbons, Bart.	Matthew I
St. Lucy	William Rollock	Hillary Ro
St. Andrew	Abraham Cumberbatch	William M
St. Joseph	Benjamin Mellowes	Henry Eva

Governor Pinfold issued writs for a General Assembly on 9 March 1757. Sir William Gibbons was again Speaker, and the officers of the House were re-appointed. The House appointed a Chairman of Committees on Hon. John Lyte.

On 7 June 1757 the House asked for a new writ to fill the vacancy caused by the elevation of Abraham Cumberbatch to the Council. John Gay Alleyne was elected and took his seat on 5 July 1757; thus beginning a career which had no former equal, and which has only been equalled by the late Sir Frederick Clarke, K.C.M.G.

At the same meeting, a bill was passed to raise money by two lotteries to provide funds in aid of a department of which sum £10,500 was for relieving and supporting sufferers by the great fire in Bridgetown on 8 August. The war with France begun in May 1756 had had a great expense upon the inhabitants. To add to their distress, commerce and shipping were despoiled by swarms of pirates which infested the Caribbean waters. The British warships on the station were very active in pursuing them with some measure of success. Captain Penha of H.M.S. Blanford, captured two french privateers, and voted him a hundred pistoles for the purchase of a recognition of his valued services. On 2 August 1757 a resolution for the amount in question the House passed that "two of its members Codrington and Richard Callender attend Captain Cumming with the thanks of the House for the said particular service which hath procured the inhabitants of this place from being distressed for provisions, several vessels laded therewith hay

RECORDS OF THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY OF BARBADOS

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SESSION OF 1756-57

... Codrington Carrington	William Moore
... Hon. Samuel Adams	Richard Callender
... Hon. Enoch Gretton	John Gittens
... Hon. John Lyte	Archibald Carmichael
... Reynold Gibbes	Robert Fercharson
... Hon. Henry Leslie	Francis Bell
... Hon. John Cobham	Hon. William Maynard
... Hon. Sir William Gibbons, Bart.	Hon. Philip Gibbes
... William Rollock	Hillary Rowe junr
... Abraham Cumberbatch	William Marshall
... Edward Parris	Benjamin Mellowes

Writs were issued by Hon. Ralph Weekes, President, administered the government, and the returns made by the sheriffs were stated. The first meeting was held on 18 February 1756. Sir William Gibbons (who had been created a baron) was again elected as Speaker. William Duke continued as Speaker. William Thompson was appointed as deputy clerk, and William Marshall was continued as Marshal.

Members, with the exception of Reynold Gibbes who was dangerously ill, attended the opening of the legislature. Writs were duly sworn.

Re-election of William Moore for St. Michael and of Philip Callender for St. Peter respectively were severally controverted; and the granting of the two petitions on 4 May 1756. Matthew Best and John Gittens have been duly elected in the room of Philip Gibbes, and John Gittens, the other petitioner failed in his claim against William Marshall who retained the seat. Matthew Best took his seat on 18 February 1756, after being sworn.

In June 1756 the House requested a new writ to be issued for St. George in the place of Archibald Carmichael (the son of the Excise) whose death was reported. James Callender was elected to fill the vacancy.

In May 1756 Charles Pinfold, Esq., LL.D. who had been appointed as successor to Governor Grenville, arrived in Barbados and assumed the government.

SESSION OF 1757-58.

St. Michael	... Codrington Carrington	Richard Hall
Ch. Ch.	... Hon. Samuel Adams	Richard Callender
St. Philip	... Hon. Enoch Gretton	John Gittens
St. George	... Hon. John Lyte	James Sedgwick
St. James	... Reynold Gibbes	Robert Fercharson
St. John	... Hon. Henry Leslie	Francis Bell
St. Thomas	... John Wheeler Ridge-way	Richard Cobham
St. Peter	... Hon. Sir William Gibbons, Bart.	Matthew Best
St. Lucy	... William Rollock	Hillary Rowe junr
St. Andrew	... Abraham Cumberbatch	William Marshall
St. Joseph	... Benjamin Mellowes	Henry Evans Holder.

Governor Pinfold issued writs for a General Assembly to meet on 9 March 1757. Sir William Gibbons was again elected as Speaker, and the officers of the House were re-appointed.

The House appointed a Chairman of Committees in the person of Hon. John Lyte.

On 7 June 1757 the House asked for a new writ for St. Andrew to fill the vacancy caused by the elevation of Abraham Cumberbatch to the Council. John Gay Alleyne was elected to succeed him and took his seat on 5 July 1757; thus beginning a legislative career which had no former equal, and which has been exceeded only by the late Sir Frederick Clarke, K.C.M.G.

At the same meeting, a bill was passed to raise £70,000 cy. by two lotteries to provide funds in aid of a depleted treasury, of which a sum of £10,500 was for relieving and assisting the sufferers by the great fire in Bridgetown on 8 February 1756. The war with France begun in May 1756 had been a heavy expense upon the inhabitants. To add to their troubles, commerce and shipping were despoiled by swarms of privateers which infested the Caribbean waters. The British men-of-war on the station were very active in pursuing the enemy with some measure of success. Captain Penhallon Cumming of H.M.S. Blanford, captured two french privateers which had been ravaging shipping around these shores, and the House voted him a hundred pistoles for the purchase of a sword in recognition of his valued services. On 2 August 1757 in passing a resolution for the amount in question the House resolved that "two of its members Codrington and Richard Hall, do attend Captain Cumming with the thanks of the House as well for the said particular service which hath probably saved the inhabitants of this place from being distressed by the want of provisions, several vessels laden therewith having lately been

taken by French privateers to windward of the island, as the laudable zeal he hath shown for promoting the trade since he hath been appointed to cruise upon this coast."

Captain Charles Middleton, Commander of H.M. brigantine *The Speaker*, was responsible for the destruction of no less than seventeen of the french privateers, in recognition of which the House, on 25 October 1757, voted him a hundred pistoles to purchase a sword. In the gallant Captain's letter of acknowledgement, recorded at length in the Assembly's minutes, he thanked the House for the compliment but refused to accept the money. Whereupon, Mr. J. G. Alleyne, moved a resolution that the Barbados Agent in London (Mr. Middleton) be requested to purchase a gold hilted sword for 100 pistoles, to be presented to Captain Middleton.

The charges for maintenance of a considerable number of French prisoners of war bore heavily on the Barbadians Mr. J. G. Alleyne made his first important speech on 22 November 1757 on the motion for passing a vote for £1669. 8. 3¼. to David Miln for guarding and supporting the prisoners then in custody. This was the last meeting of the Session; on four succeeding occasions the meeting failed for want of a quorum, and the session expired.

SESSION OF 1758—59

St. Michael..	Codrington	Carrington	Samson Wood
Ch. Ch.	Hon. Samuel Adams		Richard Callender
St. Philip....	Hon. Enoch Gretton		John Gittens
St. George....	Hon. John Lyte		James Sedgwick
St. James....	Reynold Gibbes		Robert Fercharson
St. John	Hon. Henry Leslie		Hon. Francis Bell
St. Thomas....	John Wheeler	Ridge	Richard Cobham
		way	
St. Peter	Hon. Sir Wm. Gibbons		John Denny
	Bart.		
St. Lucy	William Rollock		Hillary Rowe junr.
St. Andrew....	John Gay Alleyne		Wm. Marshall
St. Joseph....	Hon. Benj. Mellowes		Henry Evans Holder

The first meeting of the Session was held on 5 April 1758 when Sir William Gibbons was again chosen as Speaker. Rev. John Carter was continued as Chaplain, and William Duke as clerk. Henry Duke was appointed Deputy clerk, Michael Pike as Marshal. Walter Caddell and Codrington Carrington were appointed as Treasurer and Comptroller of the Excise respectively.

Hon. Samuel Adams was unable to attend the first meeting to be sworn and he took his seat on 9 May following.

On 20 July 1758, the Speaker was absent through illness and Hon. Francis Bell was elected as Speaker *pro tempore*.

The House chose Joseph Pickering as Agent of Barbados in London at a salary of £200 per annum. Henry Fish named as Storekeeper of the Magazine.

The Directors and Managers of the lotteries which had been sanctioned by the former Assembly petitioned to be reimbursed their charges of £77. 2. on the business of the Session which had been a complete failure. The House voted an amount of the deficit.

The famous expedition against Martinique took place during the present session; the fleet with a regiment of soldiers was forced by Barbadians under the command of Major Hopson, setting out from Carlisle Bay on 13 January 1759. Later in the Session the House recorded a vote of thanks to Colonel Gedney Clarke, junr. and the officers under his command for the readiness they showed in joining the expedition.

The session closed with the last meeting of 13 March 1759.

SESSION OF 1759—60

St. Michael....	Codrington	Carrington	Samson Wood
Ch. Ch.	Hon. Samuel Adams		Richard Callender
St. Philip ..	Hon. Enoch Gretton		John Gittens
St. George...	Hon. John Lyte		James Sergwick
St. James....	Reynold Gibbes		Robert Fercharson
St. John	Hon. Henry Leslie		Hon. Francis Bell
St. Thomas....	John Wheeler	Ridge	Jonathan Worrel
		way	
St. Peter	Hon. Sir Wm. Gibbons		John Denny
	Bart.		
St. Lucy	William Rollock		Hillary Rowe junr.
St. Andrew	John Gay Alleyne		William Marshall
St. Joseph....	Hon. Benjamin Mellowes		Henry Evans Holder

Writs issued by Governor Pinfold were made returnable on 2 May 1759, the date of the first meeting of the Session. Sir William Gibbons was elected as Speaker for the Session. The officers remained unchanged. Hon. John Lyte was appointed Chairman of committees.

On 22 May 1759, the date to which the adjournment had been made at the first meeting, the small pox was raging in the town, and the Assembly met at the house of Mr. O'Connell in Fontabelle, when in the absence of the Speaker, Hon. Francis Bell was elected as Speaker *pro tem*. The House proceeded to Pilgrim to present their *pro tem* Speaker for the Governor's approval, which being accomplished, they repaired to Government Fort to conduct their deliberations. They proposed to elect Hon. Samuel Adams as Treasurer, but he pleaded illness. At his request his son Samuel Adams, junr., was given the position of Treasurer.

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Middleton, Commander of H.M. brigantine responsible for the destruction of no less than the french privateers, in recognition of which October 1757, voted him a hundred pistoles. In the gallant Captain's letter of acknowledgment at length in the Assembly's minutes, he spoke for the compliment but refused to accept it. Upon, Mr. J. G. Alleyne, moved a resolution that the Agent in London (Mr. Middleton) be rewarded with a gold hilted sword for 100 pistoles, to Captain Middleton.

for maintenance of a considerable number of privateers of war bore heavily on the Barbadians. Middleton made his first important speech on 22 November 1757, in motion for passing a vote for £1669. 8. 3 $\frac{1}{2}$. to guard and supporting the prisoners then in the island. This was the last meeting of the Session; on four occasions the meeting failed for want of a quorum, and expired.

SESSION OF 1758—59

Codrington Carrington	Samson Wood
Samuel Adams	Richard Callender
Enoch Gretton	John Gittens
John Lyte	James Sedgwick
Reynold Gibbes	Robert Fercharson
Henry Leslie	Hon. Francis Bell
John Wheeler Ridge way	Richard Cobham
Sir Wm. Gibbons	John Denny
Bart.	
William Rollock	Hillary Rowe junr.
John Gay Alleyne	Wm. Marshall
Benj. Mellowes	Henry Evans Holder

Meeting of the Session was held on 5 April 1758. William Gibbons was again chosen as Speaker. He was continued as Chaplain, and William Duke was appointed Deputy clerk, Michael Duke as Treasurer and Comptroller of the Excise

Samuel Adams was unable to attend the first meeting and he took his seat on 9 May following. In 1758, the Speaker was absent through illness and Sir Francis Bell was elected as Speaker *pro tempore*.

The House chose Joseph Pickering as Agent of Barbados in London at a salary of £200 per annum. Henry Fisher was named as Storekeeper of the Magazine.

The Directors and Managers of the lotteries which had been sanctioned by the former Assembly petitioned to be reimbursed their charges of £77. 2. on the business of the lotteries which had been a complete failure. The House voted the amount of the deficit.

The famous expedition against Martinique took place during the present session; the fleet with a regiment of soldiers reinforced by Barbadians under the command of Major General Hopson, setting out from Carlisle Bay on 13 January 1758. Later in the Session the House recorded a vote of thanks to Colonel Gedney Clarke, jnr. and the officers under him for the readiness they showed in joining the expedition.

The session closed with the last meeting of 13 March 1759.

SESSION OF 1759—60

St. Michael	Codrington Carrington	Samson Wood
Ch. Ch.	Hon Samuel Adams	Richard Callender
St. Philip	Hon. Enoch Gretton	John Gittens
St. George	Hon. John Lyte	James Sergwick
St. James	Reynold Gibbes	Robert Fercharson
St. John	Hon. Henry Leslie	Hon. Francis Bell
St. Thomas	John Wheeler Ridge way	Jonathan Worrell
St. Peter	Hon. Sir. Wm. Gibbons	John Denny
	Bart.	
St. Lucy	William Rollock	Hillary Rowe junr.
St. Andrew	John Gay Alleyne	William Marshall
St. Joseph	Hon. Benjamin Mel lowes	Henry Evans Holder

Writs issued by Governor Pinfold were made returnable on 2 May 1759, the date of the first meeting of the Assembly.

Sir. William Gibbons was elected as Speaker for the last time. The officers remained unchanged. Hon. John Lyte was appointed Chairman of committees.

On 22 May 1759, the date to which the adjournment had been made at the first meeting, the small pox was raging in the town, and the Assembly met at the house of Mr. Ostrehan in Fontabelle, when in the absence of the Speaker, Francis Bell was elected as Speaker *pro tem*. The House proceeded to Pilgrim to present their *pro tem* Speaker for the Governor's approval, which being accomplished, they repaired to Grenville Fort to conduct their deliberations. They proposed to appoint Hon. Samuel Adams as Treasurer, but he pleaded illness, and at his request his son Samuel Adams, junr., was given the position of Treasurer.

The Speaker, Sir William Gibbons, died on 11 April 1760. The last meeting of the House was on 18th March when, the Speaker being ill, Benjamin Mellowes was elected as Speaker *pro tem* and presented. The Session expired on 1 May 1760.

SESSION OF 1760—61

St. Michael ...	Codrington Carrington	Samson Wood
Ch. Ch.	Hon. Samuel Adams	Richard Callender
St. Philip ...	Hon. Enoch Gretton	John Gittens
St. George....	Hon. John Lyte	James Sedgwick
St. James ...	Reynolds Gibbes	Robert Fercharson
St. John ...	Hon. Henry Leslie	Hon. Francis Bell
St. Thomas....	John Wheller Ridge way	Jonathan Worrell
St. Peter	John Denny	Phillip Gibbes junr.
St. Lucy ..	William Rollock	Hon. Hillary Rowe junr.
St. Andrew....	William Marshall	John Gay Alleyne
St. Joseph....	Hon. Benjamin Mel- lowes	Henry Evans Holder

The Session commenced on 28 May 1760 when the Assembly elected as their Speaker Hon. John Lyte. The officers of the House remained unchanged. Hon. Enoch Gretton, as senior member of the Assembly was appointed Chairman of Committees.

Francis Bell, one of the members for the parish of St. John, died on 27 August 1760, and on 16 September following the House passed an Address to the Governor asking for the issue of a new writ. Richard Downes, the successful candidate, took his seat on 29 October 1760.

The last meeting of the Session was held on 5 May 1761.

SESSION OF 1761—62

St. Michael....	Codrington Carrington	Samson Wood
Ch. Ch.	Richard Callender	John Adams
St. Philip ...	Hon. Enoch Gretton	John Gittens
St. George....	Hon. John Lyte	James Sedgwick
St. James ...	Reynold Gibbes	Phillip Gibbes junr.
St. John ...	Hon. Henry Leslie	Richard Downes
St. Thomas....	Jonathan Worrell	George Saunders
St. Peter	John Denny	Joseph Leacock
St. Lucy	William Rollock	Hon. Hillary Rowe junr.
St. Andrew....	William Marshall	John Gay Alleyne
St. Joseph....	Hon. Benjamin Mel- lowes	Hon. Henry Evans Holder

Governor Pinfold issued writs to be returned on 24 June 1761. The Assembly met on that day and again elected Hon. John Lyte as Speaker. The officers of the House remained as before.

The elections in the parishes Christ Church Thomas were severally controverted. On 7 July the House considered the merits of the two petitions and decided as to Christ Church that the elections were void, and as to St. Thomas that the petition should be dismissed, there being no error in the elections.

A new writ was issued for two persons to serve the parish of Christ Church, but the old candidates were returned as elected.

The Treasurer, Samuel Adams, junr., was found to have misappropriated over £9000 of the public funds, and that of his late father, Samuel Adams, and Richard Callender (one of the sitting members for Christ Church) £1000. Out of this incident arose a most remarkable case in the annals of the Assembly. The Treasurer's brother, John Adams (the other sitting member for Christ Church) having been convicted at Grand Sessions and fined and imprisoned for opposing the Marshal of the Committee of Public Accounts in the execution of a levy for raising the moneys to a loan of £100000 to the Treasury occasioned by his brother's default in paying the same, by arming a body of slaves and inciting them to delay the Marshal, he was expelled from the House on 12 December 1761.

In time a new writ was issued to fill the vacancy in the representation of Christ Church, when Thomas Ince was elected and took his seat 16 March 1762.

The sequel to these events will be found in the minutes of the following session.

The last meeting of the Assembly was held on 17 May 1762.

SESSION OF 1762—63

St. Michael....	Hamlet Fairchild	Samson Wood
Ch. Ch.	John Adams	Thomas Ince
St. Philip ...	Hon. Enoch Gretton	John Gittens
St. George....	Hon. John Lyte	James Sedgwick
St. James	Reynold Gibbes	Phillip Gibbes junr.
St. John ...	Hon. Henry Leslie	Richard Downes
St. Thomas....	William Gibbes Alleyne	John Wheeler
St. Peter	John Denny	Joseph Leacock
St. Lucy	William Rollock	Hon. Hillary Rowe
St. Andrew ...	William Marshall	John Gay Alleyne
St. Joseph....	Hon. Benjamin Mel- lowes	Hon. Henry Evans Holder

The Assembly met on 28 July 1762 and again elected Hon. John Lyte as Speaker. The officers were re-appointed with the exception of the Deputy Clerk whose place was now filled by John Adams.

The Sheriff at the St. Thomas elections made a report which showed that Rigdeway and George Saunders