A Birthday Is a Day

No one in our view raised an eyebrow when President Johnson signed a bill this summer to make four national holidays always fall on Monday. Herewith your trusty mouthpiece, The Quarto, enters vigorous protest.

It doesn’t matter so much which day of the week we observe as Memorial Day or Labor Day, or even Thanksgiving or perhaps Columbus Day. But the arbitrary shifting of George Washington’s birthday to any day other than February 22 gives us a wrench. If we are going to revere a man on the day of his birth, then let us stick to the day of his birth and not substitute some nearby day. There is no more logic in it than there would be in marking the Fourth of July on the first or the seventh. The convenience of the working man, so he can have a three-day weekend, is a pretty poor excuse.

Yes, yes, we know that Washington was born on February 12 according to the calendar then in use. But that calendar was changed in 1752, and February 12 became February 22, so the birthdate is the same. We scorn the new shifting date.

Campaign of 1828

The current exhibition concerns the presidential election campaign of 1828, when Andrew Jackson defeated incumbent John Quincy Adams. It was a bitter campaign because these two men had already faced each other in 1824. Henry Clay was a third candidate then, and he finally withdrew and threw his support to Adams. When Adams was elected, he named Clay as Secretary of State; the Jackson adherents cried “corrupt bargain.”

Old wounds were opened in the campaign of 1828. Both Adams and Jackson were 61 years old, but the former was an Easterner, a graduate of Harvard, and widely traveled. Jackson was a Westerner, unschooled except in frontier law, crude in manners, undistinguished in his political experience, only a successful general. Even the latter virtue was denied him because in 1814 he had approved of the courtmartial of six militia men and their death sentence for mutiny. The Whigs tried to demonstrate that he was cruel and autocratic.

New England was for Adams, the South was for Jackson. The border and western states held the balance. They went for Jackson. The result was 647,000 votes for Jackson to 508,000 for Adams, or 178 electoral votes against 83. Adams was a “loose constructionist” of the Constitution, advocating internal improvements, a national university, and federal promotion of the arts and sciences. The Southerners feared that if Congress could do all this, it could interfere with slavery. Adams also favored a protective tariff for U.S. manufacturers, Indian rights against the state of Georgia (which was trying to move them out), and high prices for western lands so as not to tempt workers to leave eastern factories. Westerners wanted internal improvements at federal expense, but cheaper land. In the end the personal qualities (largely unknown) of Jackson did not matter; he was a challenge to forty years of Tidewater aristocrats in the Presidency.

Summer Harvest

Summer in the rare book business sometimes turns out to be the “dog days,” when nothing of great moment is offered or acquired. Our recent hot season, however, made available two titles of more than passing interest.

One was Considerations on the American War (London 1782) by Joseph Williams, Esq. We do not know Squire Williams, but his proposal for British victory in America, while sound enough in itself, was simply too late. The British ministry was left in a considerable dither after Cornwallis’ defeat at Yorktown in October 1781; what should be done about a new campaign in 1782? Williams dipped back to an earlier idea that the way to
and educated abroad, and migrated to New York about 1715, where he was a merchant and rabbi. Later he moved to Massachusetts, obtained a master's degree from Harvard in 1730, and two years later was baptized a Christian at a public ceremony in Cambridge. The Rev. Benjamin Colman preached a sermon, and Monis wrote three discourses called The Truth, The Whole Truth, and Nothing But the Truth. The four titles were published together in Boston, 1722. They constitute the item we have just purchased. It is exceedingly scarce.

The sincerity of Monis’ conversion was sometimes questioned, because he continued to observe the seventh day as the Sabbath. But he joined a Congregational church and upon his death left the bulk of his estate for the benefit of the widows of Christian ministers. He taught for 38 years at Harvard, and his Hebrew grammar is noted in educational histories. As might be expected, he couldn’t stand the Rev. George Whitefield’s evangelical exhortations.

Annual Progress
Some of the information in our report for 1967-68 has already appeared in these columns. One of the highlights is the larger than usual number of volumes published in that time based on research at this Library. A total of 22 books have appeared making acknowledgments to Clements for source materials. These are not our sole justification for existence, but they are good evidence, and good advertising.

The full report will be printed this fall and sent to all Associates.

We are happy to add that the University is making it possible for us to replace the rugs in the Main Room. They were original with the building and after 45 years show serious signs of wear. We are engaged with the University decorator in looking at samples for color and quality.

Colonization vs. Abolitionism
The great proliferation of reform movements in the early nineteenth century (among these were temperance, prison reform, peace, educational improvement, Sabbatarianism, missionary proselytizing, and the first effective antislavery sentiment) attracted an inordinate number of clergy. The evangelical and Utopian quality of these reform impulses stimulated a fervent response among the ministry of the more evangelical Protestant sects.

Among those to become involved was Joshua Noble Danforth (1798-1861), a Presbyterian minister. He was a graduate of Williams College and spent two years at the Princeton Theological Seminary before being ordained in 1825. In 1832 Danforth became a general agent (for the New England area) for the American Colonization Society. The purposes of the society were to suppress the slave trade, aid in the manumission of slaves, and to sponsor the colonization of the African colony of Liberia by free blacks. The society received an initially friendly reception in the South because it offered a solution to the problem of the existence of the free Negro; Northerners were attracted by the humanitarian nature of the colonization project which also managed to work within the social order and thus reduce the threat of social revolution by disaffected Negroes. It was a reform venture designed to produce the widest possible appeal.

Danforth’s activities as general
agent in the years 1832–34 and his continued interest in society affairs in later years are fully documented in a small collection recently acquired by the library. The letters, mostly from agents working under Danforth's direction or from the national office of the society, discuss the local reception of agents, national attitudes toward the society, the colony and schools of Liberia, the manumission of slaves, fund raising, the appointment of officers and agents, and the anti-Garrisonian sentiment of the society.

The hostility to the abolitionism of the Garrisonians reflects the limitations of the American Colonization Society, if not its willingness to compromise with evil,—as the Garrisonians would have it. In a letter of June 11, 1832, Ralph Gurley reported to Danforth that he had “encountered Garrison in Philadelphia and find he has great influence with the free people of colour. I have serious apprehension that he will wake up a spirit of insurrection in the South...” This comment by Gurley, who devoted his life to the Liberian colonization projects, reflects the hope that all men, irrespective of section, would see the need for freeing the slaves and sending them to Africa.

But willingness to allow the continued existence of slavery (manumission was to be only at the sufferance of slaveholders), combined with the effort to rid the nation of all free blacks did violence to the spirit of the Declaration of Independence. In a letter of July 8, 1832, a free Negro signing himself as “Justice” excoriates Danforth because “the society to which you are pledged...denounced, Negroes, as vile, vicious vagabonds not fit to remain on this Repub-

lick assuring them that the prejudice (Christian prejudice) will never allow them to live here and rise to any degree of respectability.”

This collection illustrates vividly the emerging preoccupation of American society with the issue of slavery and the question of the relation of the Negro to the American democratic ideal in the decades before the Civil War.

---

One Plus One Is Two

During the past year, three of our Associates who are connected with corporations had their contributions matched by grants from those businesses. They gave a total of $1600, and the corporations gave an equal amount, so that the Library received a double benefit.

If any other of our Associates are connected with similar minded corporations, we hope they will let us know so that their contributions may be matched and doubled in size.

---

The Longest War

Toward the end of June some pinheaded Associated Press reporter announced that the Vietnam War was now our longest war, since it had run a day longer than the American Revolution. Then it developed that the writer was citing the end of the Revolution as October 19, 1781, when Lord Cornwallis surrendered at Yorktown.

No one at the time considered the war was over, except for the campaign of that year. The British were still in possession of New York, Charleston, and Savannah, and the ministry showed no sign of quitting. However, as the winter passed, the British decided in March 1782 not to mount a new campaign. Gen. Anthony Wayne conducted operations in Georgia during the first half of 1782 that forced the evacuation of Savannah in July. Gen. Nathanael Greene tightened his siege of Charleston and fought enemy foraging parties. Our Spanish allies laid siege to Pensacola and forced the British to surrender in May after heavy losses. British-allied Indians attacked Col. Crawford's expedition in June. British militia and Indians from Detroit descended on Kentucky in August and defeated the frontiersmen at the Blue Licks. George Rogers Clark retaliated in November.

The last military action of the war occurred on November 14, 1782, on James Island, South Carolina, when Col. Kosciuszko dispersed a British foraging party and lost five men. On November 30, 1782, a preliminary peace treaty was signed. Either of these two November dates may be taken as the end of hostilities, but these dates are 13 months after Yorktown. So much for newspaper reliability, and the gullibility of editors.

---

New Members

New members of the Associates who joined in the past year include: Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Beurmann, East Lansing; Miss

Secretary, Clements Library Associates
The University of Michigan
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104

... Count me as an Associate. Here is my contribution ($10 minimum) for 1968. As a bonus I shall receive a copy of the Memoirs of John Adlum.
Ellen Blue, Ann Arbor; Mr. & Mrs. David Brose, Ann Arbor; Lee A. Buck, New York City; Ira W. Butterfield, Bay City; Willard G. Davis, Ann Arbor; Frances D. Fitzgerald, Bay City; Bernice M. Francis, Saginaw; Mrs. William Gallmeyer, Grand Rapids; Mrs. Frederick B. Gif ford, East Greenwich, R.I.; Dr. & Mrs. Peter Guthorn, Brielle, N.J.; W. Kent Hackmann, Moscow, Idaho; Harry S. Hawkins, Ann Arbor; William S. Herbert, Ann Arbor; Mrs. Clarence R. Hosch, Royal Oak; Margaret R. Houston, Denver; Milton Kirshbaum, Chicago; Henriette L. Klawans, Chicago; Dr. & Mrs. William Kutowicz, Ann Arbor; Mrs. C. Rust Macpherson, British Virgin Islands; Geraldine F. Masters, Grand Rapids; Marjorie M. Miller, Ann Arbor; Mrs. J. H. Mitchell, Ann Arbor; Mrs. George M. Montross, Detroit; Mrs. L. W. Mosher, Detroit; Milo E. Oliphant, La Grange, Ill.; Barbara G. Owens, Dearborn; Swen F. Parson Library, DeKalb, Ill.; Rev. L. W. Pearson, San Diego; Joseph A. Placek, Ann Arbor; Mrs. James M. Plumer, Ann Arbor; Robert L. Poley, Brookfield, Wis.; Mr. & Mrs. Ward L. Quaal, Winnetka, Ill.; Martha Seger, Detroit; Wayne B. Smith, Wilmington, Del.; Frank B. Stone, New York City; Nila D. Struble, Roseville; Dr. Walter H. Swartz, Ann Arbor; Mr. & Mrs. Robert Trost, Grand Rapids; Clarissa Vyn, Detroit; Mason Wade, London, Canada; Mary A. Wales, Birmingham; Frank A. West, Ply-

mouth; Hudson White, Jr., Grand Rapids; Mr. & Mrs. J. Curtis Willson, Bloomfield Hills; and Cledan B. Wyllie, Ann Arbor.

---

Law and Order
In South Carolina
A scarce Charleston, South Carolina imprint of 1761 was presented recently to the library by Professor George Miller of Ripon College. An excellent example of a popular publication issued by colonial printers, it is entitled The Practical Justice of the Peace and Parish-officer, of His Majesty's Province of South Carolina.

The compiler of this useful legal handbook was William Simpson, one of the assistant judges of the Court of General Sessions. He sets down procedures and decisions to guide the justice of the peace, ordinarily a layman. Quoting from actual laws he takes him alphabetically from “Accessory” to “Workhouse” and includes examples of legal forms to follow. Not surprisingly, many of the laws refer to situations involving slavery and various articles of commerce, such as rice. Even a reader not particularly interested in legalities can learn much about every day life and customs of the time from perusing its rules of conduct.

The owner’s name inscribed on the title-page is that of Daniel Horry, junior, member of a well known family in South Carolina. For some reason, the book has not suffered heavy usage and the wide margins with marginal guides are still intact. Charles Evans in his American Bibliography located only the copy in the British Museum library.

---

Skinner Memorial
Upon the death in June of Associate Clarence O. Skinner of Coloma, Michigan, Mrs. Skinner asked friends to contribute to the Clements Library in his memory. Several checks have been received from scattered sources, and a fund built up for purchase of books in memory of Mr. Skinner. We are grateful to Mrs. Skinner for her thoughtfulness. Mr. Skinner had done some book binding as a hobby, and in last fall’s loan exhibition from Associates we showed two examples of his work.

---

Reverse Rarity
The Refutation of the Claim of John Livingston to Lands in the Western District of the State of New York (1811) does not sound very important. It was issued by the Holland Land Company, which owned a huge grant in western New York. Actually it is a defense of their tract from the rival New-York Genesee Company, run by John Livingston. As it turned out, Livingston lost his case because the state legislature deemed his title from the Indians was invalid.

The point is, while historians know a good deal about the Holland Land Company, nothing much is known about the New-York Genesee Company except what appears in this pamphlet. Probably not many copies were published, and it didn’t get preserved, so that today we have one of two or three known copies.

My address, or send information about membership to:

