

Copy

Sir,

The following account of Genl. Spotswood, his family & fortunes, will I hope satisfy your Brother; in return if he can send me an Account of all the posterity of Archbishops Spotswood, I shall be extremely thankful. It seems then, that Alexander Spotswood Esq. was born at Tangier in the latter end of the year 1676 he was educated, at Westminster School. While he left in August 1692 in May 1693, he had a Commission to be Ensign in the Earl of Bath's Regiment, then in Flanders; and thither he went to his post: Soon after he obtained a Commission to be Lieutenant in the same Regiment, in the year 1702 he had a Company, a Commission to command as Col. and began to act as Lieutenant Quarter Master General to the Army in 1704, as one of the Quarter Master Generals, with extreme fatigue. He conducted the Army from Brede to the Danube marching 150 leagues in 42 days, leaving Brede April 24<sup>th</sup>, and reaching the Schellinc Burg the 21<sup>st</sup> of June August 2<sup>d</sup> was wounded at Blenheim August 12, 1707 he was taken prisoner his horse being shot under him and a Squadron of Horse forsaking him; in May 1708 he was exchanged, when he impeached the Squadron of Cavalerie This was disagreeable to his Grace, & tho' he was supported by Cadogan yet the officers of the Squadron being publicly abetted by Genl. Wood, & the prosecution discontinued by the Duke, were acquitted He discharged his duty as 2<sup>d</sup> Lt. Genl. to the end of the year 1709 an office of immense fatigue & danger when he was constituted Lieutenant Governor of Virginia a change which he never considered as a

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\* These dates appear from the Marlborough Despatches to be not quite correct.

preference Here he remained 12 years, and happy  
for the country which improved so much under his adminis-  
tration, that the people both with respect to their manners  
& fortunes made a very different appearance In 1722,  
he was superseded for the same Reason he was not advanced  
in the Army; He scorned to purchase any Great Man's favour,  
nor never sold his own.

In 1724, He went to Britain where he married Miss  
Butler Braine, & continued to the year 1730. I shall but  
mention his Employment of Lt. Col. Genl. that being well  
enough known. One particular I think worth reciting  
in the year 1728, at my Lord Townshend's house. that Lord  
asked him whether there might not an attack be successfully  
made on the Spaniards in America, He replied Yes. -  
and in consequence gave that Lord his scheme My  
Lord Townshend soon after in council was for declaring  
War against Spain saying he would answer for the success  
with his Head: However pacific measures prevailed,  
My Lord gave up his places at Court, & Col. Spotswood  
retired to the forests of America here he directed  
himself on his Estate to the year 1740 when the  
Colchester Man of War was sent with his scheme, which  
had lain in the Secretary's Office from the year 1728,  
a Commission, to command a Regiment to be raised  
in America to be Lt. Col. Genl. of the Forces in or to be  
sent to the West Indies and a Major Genl. But  
lest you should think of this scheme by the success  
of the Expedition Observe how different the execution  
was from the projection According to the Scheme

plenty of provisions the best of their kinds, Extraordinary  
pay men insured to warm climates, to be sent from  
Gibraltar & Minorca to rendezvous at the Bahama or  
some of the Windward Islands, to attack the Havana which  
he judged the only place fit for keeping In the  
Expedition, provisions not good, their pay 25 per cent less  
than common, every necessary of life much dearer, young  
raw men that never had been submerg'd, rendezvous at  
Jamaica and the attack on Carthagena which had it been  
taken we could not have held. Happy for Genl. Spotswood

He died June 9<sup>th</sup> 1740, for such orders would have broke his  
heart, or he would have broke his orders The Regiment  
was however raised I had not the news of his death  
damp't the spirits of the people His Regiment might  
have consisted of the same number as a Roman Legion  
instead of 3600 which were thought impossible to be  
raised

He left four Children, John born Dec: 26, 1725  
Anna Catharina born 8<sup>bre</sup> 1728. Dorothea born 1731  
and Robert born Nov: 1733 — He left a large  
Quantity of Land some of which is tenanted — twenty  
thousand Acres allotted for an Iron work and about  
200 Negroes. This he gave to his son John and his  
heirs male — failing him & his heirs male to his  
Robert, in the same manner, and failing him to his  
nearest heir — and bequeathed it with £2000 for Debt  
£4000 to his two Daughters £300's to his youngest son

and his widows Dowry £500 per annum, half of which  
she on her marriage has resigned to her son.

The profits of the Estate arise from Iron & Cob:  
may amount to £1200 per. this year and is improvable  
to £2000 & more. You may depend on the truth of  
this Account if it can be read. Tho I think Mr Miller  
should Copy it, for my finger makes me unable to mend  
either the Character or the Diction

I am

Your Most Humble Serv<sup>t</sup>

(Signed) Robt Pope

July 25<sup>th</sup> 1743.

Letter on the Quantity  
of the Fishery in  
Virginia  
A. D. 1743