

## WEEKLY MONITOR.

### Notes on Annapolis History.

Brinsford James Phillips  
By W. A. CALKE,

XXII.

I do not know how far I need go in leaving anything about this gentleman as to his birth and parentage. I think however it is quite certain that he was not a son of Governor Phillips, though his surname has been generally applied to the name and parentage. He entered the 14th regiment when a young man, and some time before the death of Armstrong in 1739 is certain, and at that period he was also a member of the Council, and as such was a member of the slate of the General Assembly—the main general of the General William of good old Paul Mascaigne, afterwards Lieutenant-governor; of John Hanfield, who superintended the embarkation of the exiled French *Audubon*; and of Mr. Winslow, who was the author of the *Amendment* to the will of Joseph Winslow, to whom, if I mistake not, he afterwards became a brother-in-law by his marriage with Mrs. Winslow's sister.

The first public employment of Mr. Phillips outside of his estate as a Commissioner of a district of commissioners to mark out and set the boundaries between the province of Massachusetts Bay and the colony of Rhode Island. The royal commission under which he had the power to do so was issued by King George III. They were selected from the Provinces of New York, New Jersey and Nova Scotia. Skene, Sheriff, Cope, Cope and Otto Hammon were the other Nova Scotia commissioners.

Phillips was unscrupulously assigned, lieutenant, captain, major and lieutenant-colonel in the 40th regiment\*, so long stationed in that town. While an ensign in 1729 he was selected by the governor, and the next year by the commanding officer, to accompany the French delegates to Minas to tender the oaths of allegiance to the habitants in that district. Soon after his return from this delicate mission he was taken into the Council, at which board he continued to serve until the death of the royal governor in 1739. He was then appointed to the post of master of the mint at Grand Pre. Mr. Phillips was joined with Edward How in the administration of civil affairs in the portion of the province.

From 1729 he held the Commission of Judge Advocate in the Court of Vice-admiralty until 1748, when on the occasion of being sworn in as the Comptroller of Customs, he resigned the office, telling the new Governor that he would henceforth be impossible for him "to attend and execute the duties of his office."

Mr. Phillips was elected a member of the second House of Assembly, convened in the province in 1758. He was chosen by this colony, Colonel Jonathan Hoad being his colleague, but his legislative career was short, ending in 1760, when he died only with his life.

Previous to his election he had been in Ireland, expressing their horror at the deadly and cruel conduct upon him by the French, and the French were then making prisoners of a number of French soldiers who had been captured by the British.

He was then sent to England, and soon after became a temporary settler on the shores of St. Mary's Bay. He appears to have been an able, energetic and efficient officer, in both his military and civil capacities, and was well regarded with judgment, prudence and skill, failing to aquit himself with credit and success.

On the retirement of Massereux, Major Phillips became commander of the forces at Annapolis, in which capacity he acted until his death in 1760. I copy in full the order of instructions addressed by Governor Lawrence in 1759 as it will serve to show the nature of some of the details belonging to his position. This letter bears date April 18th and reads as follows:

"Sir, You know perhaps by this time that we are engaged in a contest for the command of the country, and that our troops will draw all the regular troops from the body of Fandy, and that you are to be ready to receive them. We must be totally unacquainted with the king's service in this province, or the means of getting supplies. But as you are a long continuator here, and attention to public concerns are a competent judge of those matters, you will be able to give us a good account of what we may expect to bring the criminals to justice."

The object of your care will be to prevent the communication and progress of the rebellion throughout the course throughout the Bay; to transmit all intelligence of any consequence to me, and to keep me informed of the movements of the rebels, and to inform them with necessary stores and provisions.

I now send the Society to Halifax up the Bay with deputies from some of the ports of Connecticut and Rhode Island. They will be employed in the same campaign, will draw all the regular troops from the body of Fandy, and that you are to be ready to receive them. We must be totally unacquainted with the king's service in this province, or the means of getting supplies. But as you are a long continuator here, and attention to public concerns are a competent judge of those matters, you will be able to give us a good account of what we may expect to bring the criminals to justice."

On the 1st of May, 1760, Major Phillips was promoted to the rank of colonel, and he was appointed to the command of the forces at Annapolis, and was ordered to proceed to Boston, where he was to be received by the Secretary of State, and to be present at the trial of the rebels.

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