

Primary Document Form

Doc # Misc 1001

Title – Isaac Royall and Family (Portrait)

Date of Item – 1741

Description/Pages – Oil on canvas, 56 3/16 x 77 3/4 in

Database/Repository – Harvard Law Library

Format – Painting

Record Number – 006817392

URL –

<http://discovery.lib.harvard.edu/?hrciid=%7clibrary%2fm%2faleph%7c006817392>

Creator/Author – Robert Feke

Publisher – N/A

Date accessed – 2/14/09

Series Notes – Seated from left to right the female individuals are believed to be identified as Penelope Royall (Vassal), May Palmer (Isaac's sister in law), his daughter Elizabeth, and his wife (also Elizabeth), while Isaac Royall, Jr. stands to the right. The original painting was gifted to Harvard School of Law, however, a copy the original portrait is on display above the staircase at Royall House where it is available for study. Also for a transcript of the inscription on the back of the portrait and brief summaries on Isaac Royall, Jr. and painter Robert Feke see Document S1001.

Subject(s) / Keywords – Royall family portrait, Robert Feke, Isaac Royall, Jr., Penelope Vassal, Elizabeth Royall, Mary Palmer

Primary Document Form

Doc # Misc 1002

Title – Transcripts from the record book of Christ Church in Cambridge, MA

Date of Item – April 1762 to August 1794

Description/Pages –MSS Small Manuscript Collection; 1 folder (13 leaves); 3 introductory pages followed by 7 pages of typed transcript from the original church records.

Database/Repository – Special Collections: Harvard Law Library

Format – Small Manuscript

Harvard Law Library Record Number – 002202282

URL –

<http://discovery.lib.harvard.edu/?hrciid=%7clibrary%2fm%2faleph%7c002202282>

Creator/Author – Gardiner Mumford Day

City – Cambridge

Publisher – Harvard

Date accessed – 3/5/09

Series Notes – These documents display Isaac Royall, Jr.'s involvement and investments in Christ's Church at Cambridge. According to the pew purchases in these pages Isaac would have had ample room for one or more of his slaves to attend services with the rest of the Royall family as suggested by Samuel Francis Batchelder's *Bits of Cambridge History* (1930)

Subject(s) / Keywords – Isaac Royall, Jr., Madame Elizabeth Royall, Henry Vassall, Christ Church

Primary Document Form

Doc # Misc 1003

Title – Order to Appear at Training to Mr. Peley Stearns

Date of Item – September 10, 1764

Description/Pages – Preprinted text with additional handwriting; 1 pg

Database/Repository – Massachusetts Historical Society

Format – Letter

Call Number – Misc. Bd. 1764 September 10

URL – N/A

Creator/Author – David Wood

Other author(s) –

City – Boston

Publisher – N/A

Date accessed – 6/11/09

Series Notes – A military summons to appear “at the Place of Parade in Boston”

Subject(s) / Keywords – Milita in pre Revolutionary America, Brigadier General Isaac Royall, Jr., Peley Stearns, David Wood

Primary Document Form

Doc # Misc 1004

Title – Statutes of the Professorship of Law in Harvard University

Date of Item – April 17, 1816

Description/Pages – MSS Small Manuscript Collection; 1 folder (4 leaves)
Photographs of original manuscript; 4 pgs

Database/Repository – Special Collections: Harvard Law Library

Format – Small Manuscript

Record Number – 002194547

URL –

<http://discovery.lib.harvard.edu/?hrciid=%7clibrary%2fm%2faleph%7c002194547>

Creator/Author – Isaac Parker

City – Cambridge

Publisher – Harvard

Date accessed – 3/5/09

Series Notes – Isaac Parker was the first named to the Royall Professorship at Harvard Law. The professorship was funded by land and money Isaac Royall, Jr. left to Harvard in his will. Doc #1003 (by Janet Halley) entertains the perspective that Harvard Law was funded through slaves belonging to wealthy masters such as Isaac Royall, Jr.

Subject(s) / Keywords – Isaac Royall, Jr., Slave Labor, Isaac Parker, Harvard School of Law, Royall Professorship of Law

Primary Document Form

Doc # Misc 1005

Title – Discourses pronounced at the inauguration of the Author as Royall Professor of Law in Harvard University

Date of Item – August 26, 1834

Description/Pages – Printed; pgs 24 – 28 (the Notes section) and the cover page

Database/Repository – Massachusetts Historical Society

Format – Pamphlet

Call Number – Box 1834

URL – N/A

Creator/Author – Simon Greenleaf

Other author(s) – N/A

City – Cambridge

Publisher – James Munroe and Co.

Date accessed – 6/11/09

Series Notes –The notes section includes information on Issac Royall, Jr. as a founding benefactor of the Royall Professorship of Law at Harvard School of Law. There are also a summary of notes on benefactors other ‘professorships of law’ at Harvard.

Subject(s) / Keywords – Isaac Royall, Jr., Royall Professorship of Law, Simon Greenleaf, Nathan Dane, Christopher Gore

Col.
B10

*Professor Channing
with the respects of
the Author*

A
DISCOURSE
PRONOUNCED AT THE
INAUGURATION OF THE AUTHOR
AS
ROYALL PROFESSOR OF LAW
IN
HARVARD UNIVERSITY,
AUGUST 26, 1834.

By SIMON GREENLEAF.

CAMBRIDGE:
JAMES MUNROE AND COMPANY.
1834.

NOTES.

OF ISAAC ROYALL, Esq., founder of the Professorship which bears his name, but little can now be gleaned, except from the Probate Office in Boston, where his will, the evidence of his munificence, is recorded. He was a gentleman of ample fortune; and being connected by blood and marriage, as well as by political opinions, with the principal royalists of the Province of Massachusetts, he left the country with them at the commencement of the Revolution; and died at Kensington, in England, about the year 1781.

By his will, he devised to the town of Medford, in Massachusetts, where he formerly resided, certain lands in Granby, for the support of schools. The residue of his estates in that town, and certain other lands in the county of Worcester, he devised to the Overseers and Corporation of Harvard College, "to be appropriated towards the endowing a Professor of Laws in said College, or a Professor of Physic and Anatomy, whichever said Overseers and Corporation shall judge to be best for the benefit of said College." All his other real estates, not specifically devised, he settled on certain members of his family in succession, with trustees to preserve contingent remainders; directing that on failure of all the issues in tail, one half the income of those estates, consisting of his mansion-house and farm in Medford, and of other houses and lands in Walpole, should be applied to the erection of a hospital in Medford or Cambridge, for the support of the poor, giving preference to those of Medford; and that the other half should be applied towards the support of a Professor of Laws in Harvard College. He further directed, that after the line of his grand-daughter, Harriet Pepperell, daughter of Sir Wm. Pepperell, one of his devisees in tail, should become extinct, no other devisee should succeed to the estate, till he should first have given bond to the Treasurer of Harvard College, for the annual payment of £10 sterling, for the support of students, to be designated by the Fellows and Overseers. Whether there has yet been any failure of issue among the devisees, is not known.

The capital, resulting from the property directly devised to the University, is \$7943.63; yielding an annual income of about four hundred dollars. The Professorship of Law, under this devise, was established in 1815; and was ordered, for the present, to bear the name of Royall. The residue of the funds for its support, have been hitherto furnished by the University.

students of law at this Institution have gratuitous access to all the public lectures in the University; as well as to the General and Law Libraries. The latter contains at present about 3500 volumes, to which are regularly added all the American and most of the English law Treatises and Reports, as they are published.

The following notice of the public services and benefactions of Mr. Dane is furnished by a friend best entitled to speak of them.

"The Honorable Nathan Dane, L.L.D., who is still living in Beverley, founded the Dane Professorship of Law in 1829, and then bestowed upon it an endowment of ten thousand dollars; to which munificent donation he has since added five thousand dollars more. In honor of so distinguished a benefactor, the elegant structure recently erected for the Law department in Harvard University has been called Dane Law College. And well does this gentleman deserve to have his name and character thus perpetuated in the most appropriate monument to his worth. Mr. Dane has been long known as an eminent lawyer and statesman. He served, with great reputation, in the Continental Congress during some of its most trying difficulties. To him we owe the formation of the celebrated Ordinance of 1787 for the organization and government of the northwestern territory; an Ordinance, which laid the solid foundations of the great and almost unrivalled prosperity of the States of Ohio, Indiana and Illinois. He served also, with great reputation and ability, in the Legislature of his native State of Massachusetts. In 1780 he was appointed chairman of the legislative committee to revise the Laws of this Commonwealth; and that revision still constitutes the basis of our statutable jurisprudence. Again in 1812 he was appointed by the legislature chairman of a committee to collect the ancient charters and laws of the colony and province of Massachusetts; a labor which he performed to the entire satisfaction of the public. But his great work, a noble present to the profession, of which he is so high an ornament, is his Abridgment and Digest of American Law, originally published in 1823—1824, in eight royal octavo volumes, to which he has since added another, besides supplements. Of this most valuable work, it is scarcely necessary now to speak, since its merits are so well known and appreciated by the whole body of the profession. It is the fruit of his steady devotion to the law, during a period of more than forty years; and affords a most ample proof of his various and profound learning, his almost unexampled diligence, and his

zealous and untiring love of his profession. It has conferred on him, by the unanimous voice of the Bar, the enviable title of the AMERICAN VENER."

THE Honorable Christopher Gore, son of a highly respectable mechanic, was born in Boston in the year 1758, and received his primary education in the public schools of that town. He was graduated at Harvard University, with great honor, in 1776; and soon after commenced the study of law in the office of the late Judge Lowell, in whose family he resided during the whole period of his professional studies, and whose entire confidence and friendship he always enjoyed. He entered upon the practice of law in his native town, depending on himself as the artificer of his own fortune; and by his strict attention to business, diligent study, and faithful discharge of every trust, and by his manly eloquence, and gentlemanly bearing, he soon rose in the public esteem to an eminence seldom attained at so early an age. Before he arrived at the age of thirty he was sent, with Hancock and Samuel Adams, to the Convention of Massachusetts, assembled to consider the national Constitution. In 1789 he was appointed by President Washington to the responsible office of United States Attorney for the District of Massachusetts. In the critical period of our history which ensued, when the whole country was deeply agitated by the shock which the French revolution gave to all civilized communities, and our citizens, impelled by blind yet ardent attachments, were committing the most alarming breaches of professed neutrality, the duties of this office were of the most embarrassing and laborious nature; but delicate and difficult as they were, he met and discharged them with a degree of firmness, prudence and decision, which few could equal and none surpass. The intrepidity and talent which distinguished his conduct in this office, probably led to his appointment in 1796, with the late William Pinkney and Col. Trumbull, as one of the Commissioners under Jay's treaty, to settle the claims of our citizens for British spoliations on our commerce. It is to his powerful and convincing argument and exertions, in favor of that class of claims which was founded on captures made under the rule of 1756, that our citizens are indebted for their allowance, to the amount of many hundreds of thousands of dollars. He remained in England eight years, during part of which time he had charge of the diplomatic relations between the United States and that country, which had been confided to him by our minister, Rufus King, on his own return home in 1803, and which he sustained with great ability and honor.

In 1804, on his return to Boston, he resumed the practice of law, which he followed with his customary zeal, activity and success, occasionally being a conspicuous member of the legislature, till 1809, when he was elected Governor of the Commonwealth. To this call of the people he most reluctantly yielded obedience, surrendering his private feelings, his professional prospects and emoluments, and his love of lettered retirement and repose. But having become convinced of the duty of making the sacrifice, he formed the resolution, which he firmly maintained, of giving himself wholly to the faithful discharge of the office, and of being the chief magistrate of the Commonwealth, and not the head of a party. In 1814 he was appointed a member of the Senate of the United States, in which office he closed his political career. Of various Religious, Literary and Benevolent Societies in his State and county he was an active and useful member. He was for some years a most efficient and vigilant Fellow of Harvard College, to which Institution his attachment was ardent and its proofs substantial. His name is inscribed high among the most munificent of the benefactors of his *Alma Mater*. During his life, he gave his ample law library to the Law Department of this University; and by his will, after the provision made for his lady, and certain legacies, among which were two thousand dollars to the Massachusetts Historical Society, and one thousand to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, of both which he was a member, he devised all the residue of his estate, not devised to his lady, and remaining after her decease, "to the President and Fellows of Harvard College and their successors, to and for the use of the University in Cambridge, and for the Promotion of Virtue, Science and Literature in said University." The property thus accruing, since the decease of Mrs. Gore, is valued at \$91,868; which however is still subject to the payment of legacies, estimated at the present value of ten thousand dollars; and to some annuities. He died March 1, 1827, at the age of sixty-nine; leaving to his country, beyond his pecuniary benefactions, the legacy of his character and his example.