

Early-Poindexters-in-America Research Committee

REPORTS 1–3

1. SCOTLAND REPORT

[*PDA Newsletter*, Vol. VI, No. 1, pp 17-18 (Jan. 1987).]

I spent all day Tuesday 29 July 1986 in the Genealogy-Local History Department of the Mitchell Library (the main branch of the municipal public library) in Glasgow. I was working on the hypothesis that George–2 Poindexter spent time in that area before moving to Virginia, and that he may have married Susanna Nichols—Nicholson—Macnicol while there. Also, the family of Thomas-1's wife, Sarah Crawford, has its ancestral home near Glasgow; perhaps George P. and Sarah C.'s father, David, had some dealings in the area before emigrating; and perhaps Thomas was born there. So I looked for both the George-Susanna marriage and the Thomas birth.

The following documents were searched, with negative results in all cases; i. e., no mention of any Poindexters, nor any suggestive or relevant events concerning the Crawfords or Nichols-like names by themselves.

1. *International Genealogical Index (IGI)* for Scotland, 1984. No Poindexters at all. Lots of Crawfords south of Glasgow for 1600 and later.

2. *IGI* for the British Isles, Scotland Sections, 1991. No Poindexters.

3. *Scottish Record Society*, Vols. 1–20, 1897–. Births, marriages, wills, court actions, deeds, et al., from 1200 through the late 1800s. No Poindexters.

4. *Principal Families in Ayreshire*, by George Robertson, 4 vols., 1823-9. No Poindexters. This set ran well over 1000 pages total.

5. *Nicol of Ballogie*, by W. E. Nicol, 1909. No Poindexters.

6. *Clan Nicholson*, by J. G. Nicholson, 1938. No Poindexters.

7. *Memorials of the Family Nicholson*, by Francis Nicholson, 1928. No Poindexters, and this one even tracks the clan to such unlikely places as Detroit.

I considered visiting the public libraries in the pertinent towns of Ayr, Lanark, and Kilmarnock. However, this would have been impossible in a one-day visit. But to this end, I looked at the book *Genealogical Records in British Libraries*, by Kaminkow, 1967. It said that there were NO such records in these 3 towns. (However, there has been a surge of interest in the past few years; so they shouldn't be written off totally.)

Next, I met and chatted with Mr. Joe Fisher, curator of records for the Glasgow–West Scotland Genealogical Society. Their collection is housed in the Mitchell library; but it is not part of the public collections and is kept in a locked room on a different

floor. There was a strong implication that you had to be a member to use it (Scottish thriftiness, no doubt, However, advice was free.)

Mr. Fisher listened to the object of my search and my tale of the day's activities. He said that I had done everything which it was reasonable to do in the Mitchell, at least in a brief visit. The Library has additional extensive records of everything pertaining to Glasgow, but they are mainly copies of excerpts from the vast Edinburgh collections. They cover only the city of Glasgow, not the suburbs nor adjacent counties. There aren't any hidden caches of info which he is privy to or knows about and which would be helpful in our particular case. But he strongly urged us to keep an eye on the IGI. Apparently, the Mormons are now pushing into southern Scotland. In the next few years, he expects a great increase in the amount of readily-accessible info. He felt this would be much the better course of action when looking for a needle in a haystack.

2. WILLIAMSBURG REPORT

[*PDA Newsletter*, Vol. VI, No. 3, p. 11 (Jul. 1987).]

We EPARCers were very pleased by the fine turnout of volunteers at our 1987 reunion in Williamsburg. Quite a number of PDA folks attended our two EPARC sessions, either bringing or reporting information, or offering their help, or both. Included were Ed Terry, D. D. Cayce, Bob Poindexter, Betty Rogers, Miles Poindexter, Nancy Talley, Elizabeth Dana, Virginia Hulvey, Robin Daviet, J. Carl Poindexter, Pauline Dunn, and Mrs. L. Martin. If any volunteer should be missing from this list, we would really appreciate your letting us know; a couple of people approached me when I was without my notebook. We will be in touch with most of you individually in the next few months.

Several promising pieces of information were contributed or offered, and I am glad that everyone is starting to understand that all information on the early Poindexters is important. More than one person, when asked, explained that they hadn't brought their info earlier because they didn't realize its importance. Again, even seemingly irrelevant scraps can help to fill in a total picture or give clues for further search. Having all of these various bits centralized in one place—in the PDA's EPARC files—vastly enhances the potential value of each piece. Keep it up! EPARC will be preparing a digest of reunion and other recent contributions, and the current status of our research, for inclusion in a future edition of the Newsletter.

I spent one day, en route to Williamsburg, in Louisa, which is a major Poindexter stronghold. More than 20 are listed in the phone book, and the county has only about 18,000 residents. The library, the historical society, and the court house have useful record—especially the latter, where extensive records from the 1700s are available. The archive staff are cordial, but not able to help; generally, they would prefer the researcher to take advantage of local genealogical specialists, to reduce wear and tear on the records. Mrs. Janice Abercrombie of the Louisa County Historical Society spent a couple of hours with us, showing us the ropes. She has recently completed a compilation of court actions and suits, which might well bear study as a guide to records search for indirect clues on EPARC problems. Surprisingly, cemeteries and their records are in very poor condition in Louisa County.

I had hoped to find additional evidence for the maiden name of William (descent: George, Thomas, John) Poindexter's wife, which I believed to be Daniel. Didn't find it in Louisa: but, lo! on those big charts at the reunion, there were several sets of Margarets and Daniels among William's descendant—pretty well clinching it. This is the power of accumulated, correlated little bits of information.

3. ANNUAL REPORT—1987

[*PDA Newsletter*, Vol. VII, No. 2, pp 16-18 (Apr. 1988).]

EPARC Operations

EPARC has had a generally successful year, the first year in which a significant number of PDA members participated. We hope for and expect an even more productive 1988 as everyone catches the spirit of operations. We encourage our 1987 volunteers to keep up their interest, and we hope that more volunteers will show up in Phoenix.

Research Accomplishments for 1987

We have completed an examination of much of the material submitted to us at Williamsburg and afterward. The following notable items have surfaced.

1. Virginia Hulvey gave us a copy of a letter from Miles-1 Poindexter to someone back in her family line. The letter states that Governor George Poindexter of Mississippi is a fairly close cousin of George Benskin Poindexter. This could well be a real breakthrough. Such a relationship would be important to the link between Thomas-1 Poindexter and George-1 Poindexter. Most PDA members are descendents of Thomas-1 (as indeed are most Poindexters in general), and their genealogies are thus somewhat afloat because of this weak link. So this is a major genealogical finding; properly substantiated, it proves that Thomas was a descendent of George, rather than of some unidentified Poingdestre back in Jersey. Terrific!!

2. D. D. Cayce brought a picture of the Reverend John Poindexter and his wife, giving date and ages for the photographic event. Excellent. The birthdate of the Reverend John has not been found in any of the records we have searched, and Landers cites a totally ridiculous date without substantiation.

3. Betsy Owen examined records of the Caribbean area, a suspected region in which George-1 may have operated his ships. No trace of Poindexters were found.

4. Bob Poindexter searched California sources and found a direct immigrant from England—John Edward Poingdestre, born in London, 1853. This finding keeps alive the notion that we should keep poking around in the UK whenever opportunity arises.

Objectives for 1988

1. We did not have time at Williamsburg to examine all the material submitted to us, due to start-up confusion and extensive sightseeing. I will be spending much more time on EPARC and on scrutiny of submitted data at Phoenix. I ask that all of you who brought information to Williamsburg also bring the same material (as well as any new material, of course) to Phoenix. If you are not coming, we'd surely appreciate copies mailed to me.

2. We'd like a volunteer to visit the Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts in Winston-Salem, NC. The Museum contains a reproduction of a room from George-I's home, Christ's Cross. Gather all the info they have there, and scan the room carefully for graffiti or other clues. Bob Poindexter has heard of some provocative initials or names carved in the woodwork.

3. May we have volunteers willing to examine the St. Peter's Parish records in detail -- page by page— and attempt to fit a model together. This will probably require buying the book, as it is a thick one and not available in any but major historical libraries.

4. If anyone can locate a copy—or already has a copy —of any works on Governor George Poindexter of Mississippi, please bring them to Phoenix. Works by Max Swearingen are especially important; these are not commonly available in libraries everywhere, but might be found in college history collections or in Mississippi or Louisiana, or adjacent states.

Remarks

The information submitted to EPARC this past year was often preceded by a comment or apology for bringing trivial material. Yet included in these humble offerings were the jewels cited above. Moral: don't assume your mementoes are worthless. Bring them in!

Ed Poindexter
6284 Stofer Road
Chelsea, Michigan 48118

Phone: 734-433-9648
Fax: 734-433-9649
Email: epindex@tm.net