

Early-Poindexters-in-America Research Committee

REPORTS 12–13

12. SUMMER REPORT

[PDA *Newsletter*, Vol. XI, No. 1, pp 6–7 (Jan. 1992).]

Committee Activities, Winter–Spring 1990–1991

1. We have engaged an agent who is searching archives on the Isle of Guernsey for the period 1620–1720. She has discovered several Poindesters, including a Thomas Poindestre on the Isle of Sark, married 2 Oct. 1683, and Marie Poindestre of Sark, married 17 Sep. 1679. Note the spelling of the name—different from American Poindexter or Jerseyan Poingdestre. We have not yet fitted these two into the Channel Islands family tree.

2. We are presently trying to engage search on Sark and Alderney, and the outlying parishes of Jersey (i. e., other than St. Saviours Parish, the home base, and presumably well worked-over).

3. A microfilm copy of the many personal letters of Governor George Poindexter has been obtained from the Mississippi Department of Archives and History. We have constructed a microfilm reader out of Tinkertoys, and have been scrutinizing these letters for subtle genealogical clues. (See *Technical Topics*, below.)

4. Ralph is keeping EPARC up-to-date with new member lineage sheets.

5. A prospective review board has been nominated to examine and critique EPARC genealogical models, to advise, and to certify the final product as a best-efforts family history, worthy of the PDA's endorsement. The nominations and a suggested procedure have been submitted to the Executive Board for discussion, approval, modification, or rejection.

6. Doris Ann Lucas has sent us her latest computer summary of the EPARC era to aid the scrutiny of Governor Poindexter's letters.

7. Ray Poindexter prepared a mint-quality copy of the latest version of Dr. John B. Poindexter's impressive "A Poindexter History." He also corresponded with us concerning critical genealogical events where substantiation is needed.

8. Katherine Bowles is researching the Poindexters in Charles City County, Virginia.

9. Mildred Marshall has continued efforts to track down the "Sally Tate Connection." See the EPARC report in PDA *Newsletter*, Vol. IX, No. 4, pp 14–18 (Oct. 1990). She has also furnished documents on the Gizage family, a tributary line.

10. William R. Poindexter has told us of the possible death of John Poindexter Landers, author of the major published treatise on the Poindexters.

11. Judy Cornett has sent a publication on Channel Islands history. She has also been analyzing the handwriting of George-2 Poindexter, which may offer some confirmation of his identity and birth date.

12. Judy has also found a reference to a Bond Veal Brown in Prince William County, Virginia, in 1782. This may help clear up the uncertainties regarding the name Bond Veal Poindexter. She is also pursuing legal transactions involving Jersey in some way during the EPA era.

13. Ron Poindexter has been doing yeoman service as *Newsletter* genealogical queries editor and advisor. This has resulted in great reduction of inquiries to EPARC, thus greatly lightening our load and allowing more time for the research.

14. Doris Gilbert has found some very interesting news about John (son of George-1) Poindexter and his wife Katherine. They are a very ghostly couple, indeed. We await further communique after the annual meeting is over.

Future Plans

1. The Channel Islands search will continue until we feel that no reasonable stone remains unturned. We are attempting to substantiate the parentage of Thomas-1 Poindexter and verify his point of connection to the main Jersey-to-Virginia line. We also hope to find a record of the marriage of George-1 Poindexter, and thereby learn the maiden name of his wife Susanna (often given as Nicolle or Nichols, but nobody knows where this info came from, or indeed, if it is from original documents and not just hearsay.)

2. The Governor's letters will continue to be searched. We are hoping for clues or proof of the connection of his line Thomas-1 to the main line, as discussed above.

3. We are poised to begin our research on Thomas-2 and descendants, a line whose connection to the main line is also weak. We hope to hear from you descendants of Thomas-2 soon!

Technical Topics

Thomas-1 Poindexter. Substantiation of the parentage of Thomas-1 Poindexter is a major goal of EPARC. There is no known document which gives good direct evidence. We have recently found another promising indirect clue. The letters of Governor Poindexter contain oblique mention of a Parke (Poindexter), who is apparently a known relative of the Governor. The only Parke we know of is descended via the line of Georges. If he is a cousin of the Governor, then the Governor's line, i. e., the line of Thomas-1, is

proven to be connected to the line of George-1. The question then becomes, just where—at George-1, or before, or after. Info and ideas from PDAers would be very welcome here!

Wives of the Georges. Despite examination of reams of documents, we are still unable to find the original source of the alleged maiden names of Susanna, wife of George-1; Mary, wife of George-2; Sarah, wife of George-3, or Susanna, wife of George-4. Included in these documents are the treatises of John Landers, John B. Poindexter, Richard Admire Turner, and Mack Swearingen—the major known Poindexter historical compilations. Every new lead has turned out to trace back to sources already known—which in themselves are just hearsay. We urge every PDA member to be on the lookout for info in this matter.

13. WINTER REPORT

[PDA *Newsletter*, Vol. XII, No. 1, pp 5–6 (Jan. 1993).]

Committee Activities, Summer 1991–Autumn 1992

1. We have continued our hired researches in the Channel Islands records. As of yet, we have found none of the definitive clues which we were perhaps naively hoping for. However, there have been some interesting and disconcerting tidbits. The newly-uncovered Sark colony was home to a George Poindestre and a Thomas Poindestre who died in 1696 and 1705, respectively—amazingly close to the dates for our George-1 and Thomas-1. Our archivist, Mr. W. T. Gallienne, has been unable to prove or disprove the origins and the relevance of these two Poindexters to our own lines. So tempting, yet so revolutionary if they are indeed our Poindexters! We have also engaged searches of Jersey parish records. Most, but not all, parish records are open to inspection; but several are not, due to the policies of the local priests. Channel Islands Family History Society folks are trying to get this unhappy situation remedied.

2. We continue the microscopic search of the papers of Governor George Poindexter of Mississippi. Some pregnant clues have surfaced, but we have no deduction or conclusion to offer at this time.

3. Doris Gilbert has continued her research on ancillary and tributary lines in old Virginia, England, and Jersey. She has located in Massey family records a Cecilia Poindexter who emigrated to Virginia about 1650. Thus we have another Poindexter who arrived in America at about the same time as George-1, the only one who is noted in Payne's Armorial. You can always expect to uncover more people than you can immediately digest when you are searching for that key missing link! We cannot place Cecilia yet, nor deduce the meaning of her existence. Doris has also been sifting Clough and Anderson records of that era.

4. We await without success any sort of response from PDAers who are descendants of

Thomas-2 Poindexter and Sarah (Veal?) before beginning our research to substantiate the linkage to Thomas-1 Poindexter.

5. Mr. Gilbert Dorey of Boulogne, France, has contacted us regarding his Poindextre lineage. He has offered to help with research in France, under our guidance; we hope he may turn up some vital French clues to our Jersey-to-Virginia transition problems. He reports that there are only 11 Poindextres in all of present-day French phonebooks.

6. Barbara Safford discovered some interesting facts regarding the Overton family while researching in the McClung Collection in Knoxville. She suggests that some PDAer investigate the Claybrooke Collection in Nashville, which apparently contains substantial Overton records. Recall that the wife of George-2 has hesitantly been ascribed as Mary Overton.

7. Doris Gilbert sent us a useful compilation of the descendants of Governor George Poindexter.

8. Doris Lucas contributed some biographical documents on the Anderson and Clough families.

Comments on EPARC Operations

1. We have had a splendid outpouring of compiled Poindexter treatises by numerous PDAers. The major ones received so far are those by Landers, Swearingen, Turner, and John B. Poindexter. In the past couple of years, we have received 3 or 4 copies of each, but no new ones. Thus we may have smoked out all the important treatises. However, please don't hesitate to send in these or other treatises! New ones are always welcome; and repeat copies sometimes contain helpful notes or better print quality. (And as noted above, the repeating of submissions in itself provides useful info.) Unhappily, none of these major treatises gives any connected genealogical analysis or systematic bibliography, a familiar disappointment which limits their usefulness to less than we had hoped. We will try at least to correct these latter deficiencies in our own PDA report.

2. Beyond compiled treatises, PDAers have also continued to turn in much info and fragmental genealogies. Several members are active in research; we try to note each contribution in our periodic reports, both as acknowledgment, and to record the facts for future use or recall. If we miss you, please remind us! No hard feelings—we just don't want to lose track of data.

3. We still have two major and inter-related problem areas in EPARC. So far—and I mean over a near-10-year span—almost no one in PDA has revealed an inclination to engage in serious analytical thinking and deduction besides the undersigned. I recall only Tracy Walker, who has since dropped out of PDA. This is a serious weakness; we need a clashing and convergence of different minds, different ways of thinking, to produce the best possible consensual PDA genealogy.

4. The second major problem area is resources to press the search on critical linkages. Serious genealogy is an expensive hobby, in terms of time, effort, and money. Those of us who devote substantial resources do not feel put-upon; rather, our sole concern is the slow pace of progress. We'd like to see the Thomas-1 problem wrapped up before the 21st century! The problem is aggravated by the fact that many of our researchers are still working for a living, which seriously limits the attention they can give to the hobby. Another genealogy club of which I am a member has worked to establish a fiscal base sufficient to reinforce their research with paid help—researchers and clericals—who keep things rolling along and well-organized even during periods when the unpaid volunteers are otherwise engaged. I urge serious-minded PDAers to think about it.

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