

Early-Poindexters-in-America Research Committee

26. SALT LAKE CITY REPORT

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Contacts and Discussions, Apr. 2003–Sep. 2003

1. Howard Poindexter, a long-time member of PDA, but not our vice-president, enquired about finding pictures of some early American Poindexters, specifically, Thomas (b. ca. 1667), Thomas (b. ca. 1705), Captain Thomas (b. 1733), and Robert Alexander (b. 1788). EPARC has none in our files, and I am not optimistic. Anyone know of such pictures?

2. Margaret Goss enquired about descendants of her Lewis–Poindexter linkage in the late 1700s. She has examined a Lempriere monograph; the family is mentioned in Landers. Her area of concern is outside the EPARC purview; she was referred to Doris Lucas.

3. Larry Matson contacted us regarding the meaning of our numerical suffixes on early Poindexter first names, like “George-1.” (It means that he is the first George present in in America.) He hopes to connect his line with lines documented by PDA. I referred him to Doris Lucas.

4. Gerald Irion contacted us regarding the supposed Gizage connection to British royalty, cited in Landers, and remarked in EPARC report No. 25. He notes that the claimed linkage is specious, and almost certainly wrong.

5. Frederica Warren called regarding the “Partridge Store.” She has learned that this store was in Bumpass, Virginia, and does not exist now. It has no connection with the original “Poindexter Store,” in Louisa, now reincarnated as the restaurant “Tavern on the Rail.” Apparently, neither store has any connection with the present-day establishment in the crossroads hamlet “Poindexter,” southwest of Louisa.

6. Anne Biggers contacted us regarding the Ann Poindexter who married Richard Clough in 1718. She has a beautifully-handwritten old family document *re* the Andersons, prepared to look like a legal paper, which says that Ann was the daughter of Thomas Poindexter, and grand-daughter of George(-1) Poindexter, the original immigrant. No original sources or evidence are cited. Neither does EPARC have any direct evidence; but based on the indirect evidence, we had concluded she is most likely the daughter of George-1. Anne will continue her research on the matter.

7. Carey Bankhead’s grandmother had middle name Poindexter; he wants to link up. I referred him to Doris Lucas as starting point.

8. Sherain Poindexter contacted us from China, where she is an English teacher. She

wants to connect up and become involved in Poindexter research. She has sent several later emails, but regrettably, mainly anecdotes—no further Poindexter issues.

9. By a miraculous coincidence, Priscilla Poindexter, daughter of Robert Downs Poindexter, tried to contact us on Saturday, 12 July, while the PDA business meeting was in session—and we were discussing John Landers's book! (Downs supported Landers financially.) Priscilla has some insider info on the book and its preparation, and she wishes to do some research to repair ambiguities, omissions, and errors. Welcome, Priscilla!

10. Marcel Poindexter Blair, an agent for America West Airlines at the Salt Lake City airport, noted our name on the ticket, and expressed much interest in PDA and its programs. Hopefully, we will hear from her in the near future.

11. Heather Poindexter wants to prepare an extended family history as a Christmas gift for her parents. As she is starting from scratch, it's a real challenge. We suggested she first seek possible cousins in our master file, courtesy Doris Lucas.

12. Janet Ariciu requested info and evidence regarding the land transactions of David Crawford and his daughter Sarah, and her marriage to Thomas-1 Poindexter. We sent her photocopies of the few documents that we have, which are not anything beyond the well-known. She is aspiring to membership in the *Colonial Dames of America*.

13. Sandy Kay contacted us regarding the Elizabeth Poindexter of Virginia who married Joseph Henderson Nicholas ca. 1774. She wants to link up with earlier Poindexters. As she is later than the EPARC era, I referred her to Doris Lucas.

Reunion Activities

Review and Certification Panel. The R&C Panel, convened at the PDA Reunion in Burlington in June 2002, felt unable to perform the assigned task of evaluation of evidence and models *re* the George Poindexter sequence, as reported by EPARC over the years. The following critique on the Panel concept is explicit or tacit from their report.

1. The email+chatroom mode of operation failed to generate any significant dialogue among panelists.

2. The accumulated EPARC reports were found too daunting for effective review, and a computer-accessible data base was deemed essential.

3. The panel rejected the EPARC probabilistic approach, and recommended a wait for the possible discovery of direct evidence. They further proposed interim acceptance of the published Landers model.

4. In addition, the Panel went beyond their assigned mission area, and recommended similarly for the Susanna Nicolle(?) and Thomas-1 Poindexter problems.

Adequate response to the critique will take substantial thought and effort, and new talents. Hence the Panel was dissolved, and members discharged with thanks.

Research in the LDS Family History Library. PDA members descended almost en masse upon the LDS Family History Library, to tackle problems assigned by PDA and to seek their own personal linkages. Here we present some of the preliminary findings reported to EPARC at the Reunion.

Susanna Nicolle(?). Robin Daviet made an astute observation regarding the “importation” of Susanna by George-1 Poindexter in 1672/3, as documented in a York County record (which is more detailed than the oft-cited brief report from another source). The incident in question is the application for land grants based on the importation of persons, often called “head rights.” A few entries away from the importation paragraph is a record of the application of one of the importees, apparently an indentured servant, for his freedom, based on his having discharged his contracted service. The important deduction is that George’s application was not immediately after the arrival of the immigrants. Thus the common assumption that Susanna arrived more than 20 years after her marriage to George is not *a priori* justified. This reduces the need to rationalize, and may reduce any consequent distortion of genealogical models regarding, e.g., birth of Thomas and Sarah and Anne, whose birth records have never been found.

To take full advantage of this observation, we need to know the pertinent time windows. In the case of indenture, I have noted the interval 8 years mentioned in several records. As to the deadline for importation land grants, I have no idea. Can anyone help us here?

Gloucestershire and George-1 Poindexter. It has been suggested several times that a marriage record for George and Susanna, and/or a birth record for their children, might be found in Gloucestershire records, since Bristol was an important seaport for trade with the colonies. The Library contains photostats of original records—thousands of them—far too many to scan in two days. So we inspected summary documents:

Gloucestershire Marriage Index 1526–1675, Grooms, Vols. 1 and 2, compiled by Eric Roe, typed by LDS staff, 1958; and Brides, Vol. 2, 1960. Alphabetized, indexed.
Transactions of the Gloucestershire Archaeological Society, 106 volumes. Indexed.

Alas, no *Poindexters*, *Poingdestres*, or *Nicolles* were noted in either of these vast compendia.

In addition, we thumbed through the records of the *Bristol and Gloucestershire Family History Society*; but these were not indexed, and it was a fruitless search.

Other Counties in England. The Library contains extensive bound, indexed compilations of marriages for about half the original counties of England, containing several million names. No *Poindexters* were found in any of these. Library personnel recommended that we pursue the matter on the internet, as enthusiasts are committing records there so fast that LDS cannot keep up with them, nor do they feel that they could offer much advantage by their attention.

Related English Searches and Other Search Venues. Our Bruce Anderson felt that Barbados was a possible site for George-1 events. Thus, we examined the following.

Barbados Records: Marriages 1643–1800, compiled by Joanne McRee Sanders (Sanders Historical Publications, Houston, 1982).

Barbados Records: Baptisms 1637–1800, compiled by Joanne McRee Sanders (Genealogical Publishing Co., Baltimore, 1984).

No *Poindexters* were found.

We further spent some time on a computer terminal, seeking the relevant names/events (including postulated names *Benskin* and *Marston*) in various formats and contexts, and in the various archives accessible thereby. In all cases, either nothing came up, or we simply circled back to info and sources already known and exploited.

Jersey Archives. The Library has extensive Jersey records, especially the important Land Registry. Robin reported a number of promising records with pertinent *Poindexters* mentioned, and I verified two which I had found on a previous visit. While the names are easily spotted, the records require experts to translate and interpret. Richard Kajma has volunteered to serve as liaison to the Library to arrange for such services.

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