

Early-Poindexters-in-America Research Committee

REPORTS 18–21

18. WINTER REPORT

[PDA *Newsletter*, Vol. XVI, No. 1, pp 4–5 (Jan. 1997).]

Committee Activities, 1996

1. Researches are continuing in the Channel Islands. We have completed an extensive search of critical and representative records on Guernsey, and have concluded that no further studies there are warranted. On Jersey, several entreaties to our researchers there have failed to reactivate our project. We are not entirely sure what the problem is; most likely, it is just the usual situation with volunteer organizations—services are subject to the demands of members's employers and families. Also there seems to be a recent overload of requests for research assistance.

Because research charges are very modest for members of the Channel Islands Family History Society, I offered to pay the non-member rate to elicit extra personnel who might not otherwise be willing, but to no effect. Mr. Moullin, our “professional” researcher on Guernsey, has offered to work on Jersey. However, we would use him only as a last resort, since travel expenses would be needed, and time would be spent in getting acquainted with the archives. His charges, while reasonable for his caliber and promptness, would become very high upon these extra needs.

We are trying one more appeal to our Jersey colleagues; but in the interim we have also contacted the archivist at the St. Helier library in search of someone who can get on with our research for an appropriate fee.

2. We have had no success in tracing the marvelous Brodnax Bible. The several PDA persons who might have had some direct association with it have either turned out to have no connection or have forgotten any initial contact with the original document.

3. Wilma Powell succeeded in obtaining the Hunsaker records *re* the Rev. James Brechin, second husband of Sarah Poindexter, after an impressive bit of detective work. Though not original source documents, the info presented—like that in the Brodnax Bible—is somewhat self-authenticating. For example, it states that Brechin is buried next to his (first) wife Anna in Westmoreland County, VA, and gives the date of death 28 Mar 1722. This surely indicates first-hand inspection of source info, and inspires confidence in the rest of the document.

4. Madeline Stewart sent several tracts on Chief Donnahoo and Bettie Pledge.

5. Martha Poindexter Henry sent us her studies and deductions on the Poingdestre line in Jersey around 1300 A. D. We hope she will continue this effort, as I have noted fragmental bits of information on this era are popping up every now and then over the past 10 years. We have had no opportunity to consolidate or correlate.

6. Both Gerald Irion and Robert W. Poindexter have sent us substantive explanations of the calendar situation in the EPARC era. We thank them profusely. The info does not resolve our problem with the birth dates of John Poindexter and his sister Susanna; that must await further info via the Brodnax Bible or other source. Probably, simple error in transcription is the explanation. See *Technical Topics*, below.

7. Virginia Ripberger sent us her applications info for DAR and Colonial Dames, and credits the EPARC reports in the Newsletter as being a useful source of sound analyses for DAR. Thanks much, Virginia!

8. Dorothy Knox Brown learned of a new Poindexter treatise published by Delores Caylor Lansford. It is \$20. Dorothy and I are wondering if someone or the PDA should get a copy, just in case she's discovered something good. Our limited budget precludes acquiring everything, unless we know whether it hits key problems with new evidence. Personally, I always buy such books if I learn that useful new facts are included; but I suppose a prior inspection or trial purchase would not work well for the authors in most cases. If anyone should get a copy, do let us know.

9. Madame Denise Bona of La Colle sur Loup, France, contacted us for possible sharing of info on Jersey Poingdestres c. 1600. Unfortunately, we have no focus on the ancillary persons of interest to her.

10. Art Poindexter called regarding possible mixed-breed servant descendants of George-1 Poindexter. His source of info was indirect, and he has been unable to re-establish contact.

Technical Topics

The Calendar in the EPARC Era. The Julian calendar in general use in the western world was devised nearly 2000 years ago, and had New Year's Day as 25 March. It also had leap year every 4 years. This leap year rule is not quite correct, and things were getting unacceptably out of synch by the 1500s. Pope Gregory proclaimed a general revision in 1582, which adjusted leap years, and set New Year's Day on 01 January. Some countries adopted this rather late—Britain in 1752. Thus dates from 01 Jan through 24 Mar were often written with the two years which were extant in that interval, like 1719/20, for example.

19. WINTER REPORT, 1997-1998

[PDA *Newsletter*, Vol. XVII, No.1, p. 5 (Jan. 1998).]

Committee Activities, 1997

1. Researches are continuing in the Channel Islands. We contacted our old reliable

sources at the Jersey Library, and they let us know that the Société Jersiaise now has Mr. Jack Worrall, an excellent genealogist, on the staff, who does research for 10 GBP per hour. He is knowledgeable, prompt, and thorough. So far, he has got fine copies of several parish archives for us. In turn, Mr. Worrall recommended Ms. Patricia Neale, another fine “semi-pro” genealogist, who does truly arduous research in property records, providing not only copies, but translations and explanations as required. She is also prompt, and well worth her fee of 15 GBP per hour. Some early findings are presented in Technical Topics, below.

2. Nan Overton West has written to us regarding Ann Poindexter (dau. of George-2) who married Richard Clough. She is working on the Clough line. Presently, she can shed no light on the Mary Overton(?) who is rumored to be wife of George-2, one of EPARC’s major problems.

3. Doris Lucas had a web contact, Mr. Mike Shults, who claimed that the wife of George-1 was Susanna Benskin from Middlesex, England. We immediately contacted Mr. Shults, who reported back that his info was from a Mr. Vernon Peterson. Our query to Mr. Peterson has so far had no response. Susanna is a major EPARC problem.

4. Doris Ann’s cousin Gloria has been searching the St. Pauls Parish records. Hey, Gloria—I’m publicly sorry here that I never wrote to you. To be sure, there are very few mentions of Poindexters in this archive. But very useful info can be gathered from the *absence* of the name, coupled with other *positive* info! See *PDA Newsletter*, Vol. IX, 22 (April 1989).

5. Lila (Mrs. Ben) Garner contacted us about Sarah Bondville (or whatever), supposedly the wife of Thomas-2 Poindexter. son of Thomas-1, the first Thomas in America. We have nothing to offer on Thomas and Sarah, but they are a major EPARC problem. So far, I have have received no definitive new info since our appeal for contributions/assistance several times in the *Newsletter*. We hope that Lila and others will soon uncover some new facts here. With luck, I will also be researching it soon.

Technical Topics

New Findings on Jersey. Pat Neale has found a previously unknown (to me, anyway) property record *re* George-1 Poindexter. In 1675, he deeded all his remaining property (nature not specified) on Jersey to his cousins Jean and Marie, children of his brother Jacob. This has all sorts of implications.

1. George was occasionally present and active in Jersey (on occasion) 20 years after his move to Virginia.

2. George had a close and affectionate relation with Jacob and Jacob’s children.

3. Note that Jacob also had a son Thomas, who would be the only other possible candidate for our Thomas-1 besides a presumed son of George-1.

A new approach to solving the Thomas problem is thus suggested. We will be pursuing it by mail in the coming months. I also expect to discuss the matter personally with Pat Neale, Jack Worrall, and Channel Islands Family History Society researchers during our June PDA reunion in Jersey.

20. WINTER REPORT, 1998-1999

[PDA *Newsletter*, Vol. XVIII, No. 1, p. 6 (Jan. 1999).]

Jersey Activities

1. We attended the business meeting of the Channel Islands Family History Society (CIFHS) in Jersey on Mon 22 Jun 1998. PDA members and participants in our marvelous Jersey reunion tour were special guests. I had extended conversation with Mr. Alex Glendinning and Ms. Patricia Neale of CIFHS, and also had the surprise privilege of being interviewed on Jersey radio. Doris Lucas reserved a rare copy of Mr. F. de L. Bois's history of the St. Saviours Parish church for me, and I was able to chat with Mrs. Betty Bois.

2. Alex has expressed personal interest in the Poindexter lines; and indeed, he labored mightily to present a comprehensive overview at the CIFHS meeting, including preparation of extensive charts (which he kindly gave to me for our perusal and PDA files).

3. Pat spent much time with us, and escorted me on a tour of the Jersey greffe archives, which are the analogue of county courthouse records in the USA. (The appearance of the room, the records, and the attorneys poring over them was indistinguishable from county courthouse scenes in the USA.) I also inspected the transcribed genealogical records in the Société Jersiaise (SJ) library. Pat detailed the situation regarding record-searching in Jersey, and her personal commitments and responsibilities.

4. We are now at a barrier and dilemma in our Jersey research. Pat Neale is one of the very few non-attorneys who has access to the Jersey greffe. The present greffier (i.e., county clerk) is reluctant to allow inspection and attendant wear and tear or abuse of precious old records by non-professionals whose interest is genealogical DIY. Unhappily, Pat has many other responsibilities. She is alone in raising her family, and also has a pivotal role in the CIFHS. Moreover, many other persons have requested her assistance in genealogical research. So it is unclear when she can resume our Poindexter study, or how much time she can share with us.

The pool of qualified and authorized researchers on Jersey is small. Pat was the sole recommendation to us by Mr. Jack Worrall, genealogical archivist for the SJ; and she has been strongly endorsed by Alex and others in CIFHS. She is the only researcher who has been specifically recommended to us, despite numerous inquiries to persons mentioned, and to the staff of the St. Helier public library, which also has pertinent archives. Alex is a highly skilled researcher and analyst, but also has very heavy roles

in CIFHS. Jack has been very helpful; he is well-versed in general aspects of the Poindexters, but cannot do detailed studies.

5. A fair number, but by no means all, Jersey records, mostly parish registers, have been transcribed by SJ and are in the SJ library. Some may be photocopied for us, but others may not, which significantly restricts our research. The greffe records, moreover, are not available except as on-site originals.

6. We may recall that on Guernsey, we were led to an attorney (Bonamy Moullin) who had full access to the records and very good expertise, but his fees were much higher than Pat's. (Apparently, the fees are not an issue with her; we explored the matter as graciously and tactfully as we could.) The attorney route offers a possibility if we could find someone suitable. Mr. Moullin is willing to give it a try; but costs would be very high, due to need to travel and to become familiar with the Jersey archives.

7. So near and yet so far: Recall that we are addressing only one problem on Jersey, viz, the parentage of our Thomas-1 Poindexter, ancestor to about 2/3 of our PDA members. It is truly frustrating to be thwarted at this juncture.

8. In the meantime, we will explore the situation at Salt Lake City, in hopes that the Mormon scouts have been successful on Jersey. Ideas and suggestions would be MOST WELCOME!

21. WINTER REPORT, 2000-2001

[PDA *Newsletter*, Vol. XX, No. 1, p. 8 (Jan. 2001).]

Interim Activities

1. Our main focus continues to be on clarifying of the missing linkage between Thomas-1 Poindexter and the main line which includes George-1, the immigrant. We need stronger evidence on the parentage of this Thomas. Indirect evidence makes a very good case that he is son of George-1. The evidence could be stretched to allow him to be son of George-2, but a stronger alternative is that he was son of George's brother Jacob. Jacob is known to have had a son Thomas. So far, we have found very little info on this Thomas, though his siblings were recorded recipients of George's properties in Jersey.

2. In summer 1999, I spent a day in Salt Lake City, and found several Jersey archival documents pertinent to our line. I planned to return in a few days to make copies. Alas, the tornado struck on the day before my scheduled return, and the library was closed. I hope to resume this study in April 2001.

3. We remain at a barrier in our search of the Jersey archives. These archives are not open to DIY researchers; and there are very few authorized researchers in Jersey (unlike

the situation in the USA), where every county seems to have several eager researchers). Pat Neale did some very fine studies for us in 1997-1998, but is swamped with requests and responsibilities.

4. One ray of hope is the rumored publication of records on CDROM, to be offered for sale. We have recently written to Mr. J. R. Worrall of *Société Jersiaise* to enquire about the status and scope of this project.

5. We do have copies of most Jersey parish records, and have been studying them for unfitted pieces of the puzzle. So far, little has turned up. This Thomas on Jersey seems to have been as elusive as our Thomas in Virginia.

6. Doris Lucas and I are currently doing an in-depth coordination of our respective genealogical models for the early-America era, to settle or acknowledge differences of data or opinion, and, hopefully, to come up with an improved consensual model. Again: we eagerly seek research colleagues!

7. As of several years now, there have been only scanty inputs from our membership or other sources, leading us to believe that we have successfully gleaned and collected all the “easy” info on the early Poindexters. We now hope for the unexpected, hidden treasure in someone’s attic.

8. Please note my new address *et al.*

Ed Poindexter
6284 Stofer Road
Chelsea, Michigan 48118

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