

Early-Poindexters-in-America Research

SUPPLEMENTS 1–2

1. RECENT RESEARCH IN THE JERSEY LAND REGISTRY

[PDA *Newsletter*, Vol. XXIV, No. 3, pp 23–27 (Jul. 2005).]

Status of PDA Research in the Registry

The Jersey records in the Mormon (Church of Latter-Day Saints; LDS) Family History Library in Salt Lake City are the last major known archive which had not been well-explored by our PDA researchers. The Jersey Land Registry is by far the largest and best Jersey archive at the Library. During the 2003 PDA Reunion, several attendees probed the Land Registry; Robin Daviet summarized their efforts and reported some suggestive findings. In 1999, I spent a few hours in a preliminary scan of the Registry, and also discovered a couple of hopeful entries.

This past February (2005), I spent 24 hours over 3 days in the Library, and undertook a wide-range scan of the Registry. My initial goal was to find evidence on (1) the parentage of our Thomas-1 Poindexter, almost certainly a descendant of George-1, the first Poindexter in America; and (2) the maiden name of Susanna, wife of George.

Archive Details and Research Approach

Over the pertinent range of dates (*ca.* 1645 to *ca.* 1710), the Land Registry fills 13 microfilm reels, Nos. 0,394,719–0,394,731. Each reel comprises one or more “Books”; each book is individually paginated. A typical reel contains 350 numbered “pages” of records, but only every other page is denumerated; an archive page is actually two pages in our common meaning of the term. (Anyone seeking a record cited here should look not only at the numbered page cited, but also on the page preceding and page following.) Typically, each double page contains 7 documents. The entire relevant archive thus contains about 30,000 documents. About 1% to maybe 2% pertain to Poindexters, a name conspicuous despite spelling variations and bad handwriting.

A two-stage index is collected in a smaller series of microfilms nearby, but not included in the above series, reels 0,394,652–0,394,655. The index originals were in beautiful handwriting on lined paper. The first stage is an alphabetical list, which refers you to the second stage. The latter is roughly chronological, often with a brief indication on the nature of the transaction; it leads you to the main collection above. To make use of the index can require frequent time-consuming shift from one reel to another.

Each document in the main archive is denoted in its upper left margin by the names of the principal persons involved. I compared the merits of (a) going via the index, and (b) simply scanning all the document archive margins directly. All-in-all, the direct-scan method was about as time-efficient as going through the index—but depending on the details of what info that one was seeking. The direct approach seemed better in seeking for surnamed Poindexters as the principals; it would have been worse in seeking for Susanna, as the principals would have most likely been of an unknown surname.

Thus I decided to limit myself to the Thomas problem, and leave Susanna to another time or another researcher.

Earlier Findings

Thus far, the most important—indeed, only important—finding in the Land Registry was made in Jersey by Patricia Neale of the Channel Islands Family History Society in 1997.¹ The content and genealogical meaning of this document have been discussed previously.² It helps us construct a better model of George's Jersey provenance, confirms Payne on his move to Virginia, and it gives indirect evidence regarding Thomas.³ Copies of the document and her translation are included here.

Findings in February 2005

I found 4 documents which seemed worthy of study. As a confidence-builder, I also rediscovered the document earlier found by Ms. Neale, above, and the best one from my 1999 search, which I made via the index. I made photocopies in the Library, and sent them to Mr. Jack Worrall of the Société Jersiaise, who kindly consented to translate them after he arranged necessary transcriptions by Ms. Jean Arthur. Unfortunately, none of

Votre passe par devant Jean Poindexter, G.^e Sieur de Monfr^e le Bailly
 Jean Poindexter Thomas Lapon Jean de la Roche & P^r le Sieur & J^r de
 d'après de l'an mille six cent septante & cinq le vingt huit
 mois d'Aoust. come M^r George Poindexter & plusieurs de
 Poindexter & de M^r Elizabeth & de sa femme chebre
 d'offine son habitation a la riviere, & voulu avant son
 J^r & cognoistre & ratifier Jean Poindexter & Marie Poindexter sa femme
 enfant de feu M^r Jacob Poindexter son frere de quelque chose que
 luy ou les siens pussent peu ou pourroyent prétendre en cette J^r, en
 consideration dont de la bonne affection & volonté qu'il leur porte &
 pour de bonnes raisons a ce la mauvaise il a quitte cede & trans porte
 & donne & par ces p^rte donne, quitte cede, & trans porte afin d'heritage
 pour luy & ses heirs auxd^s Jean Poindexter & Marie Poindexter p^rnt &
 & acceptans moitie par moitie & a leur heir par voye de donation
 entre vif tout & tel lot part & portion d'heritage entiere & generable
 sans exception ny reservation come il luy pourra & après succeder
 & eschoir arrivant le trespas de lad^e M^r Elizabeth & de sa mere sans
 que jamais luy ny ses heirs y puissent reclamer ny demander aucune
 chose veu qu'il la laisse absolument a fond^s N^r p^rveu & N^r p^rce p^r luy
 partages moitie par moitie entiere selon qu'elle se trouvoit lors du
 deces a quy fournir effectu^r & accomplis led^e George Poindexter
 s'oblige p^r luy & ses heirs selon le contenu des p^rmisses & Jura & c.

Jersey Land Registry deed from George Poindexter to his nephew John Poindexter and niece Marie Poindexter, dated 28 August 1675. Photocopied from LDS archive of Jersey Land Registry, microfilm reel No. 0,394,728, Bk. 24 (1684–1688), p. 105. The discrepancy in dates suggests that the documents might be recorded in the Registry a long time after their execution.

these contained evidence on the Thomas problem, and thus seem not worthy of portraying here. However, they reinforce Pat's finding and clarify George's provenance in Jersey, so I include a brief description.

(1) Thomas Poindexter, son of Jean, and George Aldrey in a transaction involving a quantity of wheat as rental for a parcel of land. January 1645.⁴ *Note: not our Thomas-I Poindexter; date too early.*

(2) Pierre Effard, procurer of George Poindexter, younger son of Thomas, arranges for payment of quantities of wheat in exchange for lease of lands which were part of George's elder brother Philippe's inheritance. 27 June 1657.⁵ *Note: this is our George. Pierre also in Virginia records. I had earlier discovered this one in 1999, but it was not translated.*

EXTRACT TAKEN FROM
THE
LAND REGISTRY

BOOK 24 PAGE 106

BETWEEN GEORGE/JEAN/MARIE POINGDESTRE

LETTER PASSED BEFORE JEAN POINDESTRE ESQ LIEUTENANT BALIFF; PRESENT JEAN PIPON, THOMAS PIPON, JEAN DE LA CLOCHE & PHILIPPE LE GEYT, KING'S JURATS DATED THE 28TH DAY OF AUGUST 1675.

WHEREAS MASTER GEORGE POINGDESTRE YOUNGER SON OF THE LATE MASTER THOMAS POINGDESTRE AND OF MISTRESS ELIZABETH EFFARD, HIS WIFE, STILL LIVING, HAVING DETERMINED TO MAKE HIS HABITATION IN VIRGINIA (AYANT DESTIRE SON HABITATION A LE VIRGINIE) HAS WAVED BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE FROM THIS ISLAND TO RECOGNISE AND THANK JEAN POINGDESTRE AND MARIE POINGDESTRE HIS SISTER, CHILDREN OF THE LATE MASTER JACOB POINGDESTRE HIS BROTHER WITH WHAT EVERYTHING THAT HE OR HIS HEIRS MAY HAVE OR COULD CLAIM IN THIS ISLAND.

IN CONSIDERATION OF THE AFFECTION AND GOODWILL WHICH HE BEARS TOWARDS THEM AND FOR GOOD REASONS MOVING UNTO HIM HE HAS QUIT CEDED HIS HEIRS TO THE SAID JEAN POINGDESTRE AND MISTRESS MARIE POINGDESTRE, PRESENT AND ACCEPANCE, HALF & HALF AND TO THEIR HEIRS, BYWAY OF A GIFT BETWEEN ME LIVING ALL AND SUCH SHARE, PART AND PORTION OF INHERITANCE ENTIRELY AND GENERALLY WITHOUT EXCEPTION OR RESERVATION UPON THE DEATH OF THE SAID MISTRESS ELIZABETH EFFARD, HIS MOTHER, SO THAT NEITHER HE NOR HIS HEIRS MAY CLAIM OR DEMAND ANYTHING FROM IT; IT BEING SEEN THAT HE LEAVES IT ABSOLUTELY TO HIS SAID NEPHEW AND NIECE TO BE DIVIDED HALF & HALF BETWEEN THEM ACCORDING TO WHAT IS FOUND AT THE TIME OF THE SAID DEATH, TO THE FAVOUR WE OFFERING AND ACCOMPLISHING THEREOF THE SAID GEORGE POINGDESTRE OBLIGES HIMSELF, FOR HIM AND HIS HEIRS ACCORDING TO THE CONTENTS OF THE FOREGOING.

I DO SWEAR SIGNATURE OF GEORGE POINGDESTRE

Translation of Jersey Land Registry deed from George Poindexter to his nephew John Poindexter and niece Marie Poindexter, derived from handwritten French original. Document discovered in Jersey archive and translated by Pat Neale of the Channel Islands Family History Society in 1997. There was no signature in the LDS version of the Registry entry, shown in previous illustration.

(3) George Poindexter, younger son of Thomas, sells part of his inheritance to Pierre Poindexter in return for quantities of wheat, in the presence of Edouard Poindexter, son of the late Philippe Poindexter, the elder son and main heir of Thomas. 28 August 1675.⁶

Note: our George; correlated with Pat Neale's document.

(4) George Poindexter, younger son of Thomas, sells part of his inheritance from Thomas and his aunt Marie Poindexter to Edouard Poindexter in return for quantities of wheat. 28 August 1675.⁷ *Note: our George; correlated with Pat's document.*

Summary and Comments

The entire Land Registry over the time range reasonable for our Thomas-1 has now been surveyed, based on the principal Poindexters involved. Again, we found nothing directly relevant to Thomas's parentage. Our earlier efforts, however, were fragmentary; and this latest one was speedy. It is possible that some items may have escaped notice, though I am not optimistic about further prospects in regard to Thomas-1.

In regard to Susanna, one might scan the corpuses of transactions in hopes of catching sight of a dowry for Susanna, similar to the Virginia document in which David Crawford leaves a dowry to his daughter Sarah for marriage to our Thomas-1 Poindexter. Such a search would, I estimate, require 2× to 4× the time I spent. I surely hope that someone in PDA will be inspired to conduct such a search in the near future, and will also re-scan the archives to reinforce and extend the Thomas study.

Our PDA research at LDS completes a major part of what we had in mind for PDA when I joined about 20 years ago, *viz.*, for us to be made aware of all major archives pertinent to the early Poindexters in America, to perform a meaningful inspection of all of them, and to publish the results in the Newsletter. Gleanings from all the previously-studied major archives have already been presented in EPARC reports in the Newsletter. At this juncture, it seems likely that only minor archives, and documents hidden in unknown attics, remain to be discovered.

References

1. Jersey Land Registry, Bk. 24 (1684–1688) p. 105, in LDS microfilm reel 0,394,728.
2. EPARC Report No. 19, *PDA Newsletter*, Vol. XVII, No. 1, 5 (Jan. 1998).
3. EPARC Report No. 22, *PDA Newsletter*, Vol. XX, No. 2, 6–9 (Apr. 2001).
4. Jersey Land Registry, Bk. 12 (1630–1640) p. 330, in LDS microfilm reel 0.394,719.
5. Jersey Land Registry, Bk. 15, 2nd part (1640–1654) p. 487, in LDS microfilm reel 0,394,722.
6. Jersey Land Registry, Bk. 21 (1674–1677) p. 54, in LDS microfilm reel 0,394,727.
7. *Loc. cit.*

2. SOME UNSUCCESSFUL SEARCHES

[PDA Newsletter, Vol. XXV, No. 3, pp 8–9 (Jul. 2006).]

Early-Poindexters-in-America Research During 1985–2005

During nearly 20 years of EPARC research reported in the PDA Newsletter, much useful evidence was discovered, studied, reported, and bibliographically cited. Despite our urging of contributors to describe negative findings and fruitless archival searches, I, myself, was not completely faithful to this exhortation. So, in this tardy overview, we will note the scope of some major searches which never turned up anything useful, and which were not explicitly noted as unsuccessful in the EPARC reports.

Jersey Parish Records

We requested from CIFHS copies of any Jersey parish register pages which contained selected Poindexter events over the range 1600–1700. As a start, only the alphabetized indexes to the registers were copied by CIFHS researchers. The table shows the dates or date ranges of events noted in the indexes; a blank may mean that no events were noted, or that the index was not reported to us. No promising new events involving George, his wife Susanna, or his son/grandson/nephew Thomas were discovered; so no register page copies were requested. The search merely confirmed what has already been reported in numerous well-known treatises. The “George son of George”¹ turned out to be an infant who died only a few months old.² Note that St. Helier and St. Saviour contain by far the most Poindexters; our George line is from St. Saviour.

<i>Parish</i>	<i>Baptisms</i>	<i>Marriages</i>	<i>Interments</i>
Grouville	1591–1722	1618–1699	.....
St. Brelade	.....	1628–1749	.....
St. Clement	1651–1693	1641–1701	.....
St. Helier	1596–1698	1599–1704	1597–1707
St. John	.....	1727	.....
St. Lawrence	.....	1656–1692	.....
St. Martin	1662–1680	1597–1685	.....
St. Mary	.....	.....	.....
St. Ouen	.....	1662	.....
St. Peter	1644–1709	1641–1713	.....
St. Saviour	1548–1700	1562–1684	1541–1755
Trinity	1626–1684	1674	.....

Other Searches, Sources, and Venues

Island of Sark, Channel Islands. Queen Elizabeth was worried about holding Sark for Britain, and decreed the establishment of a colony by Jerseyans. Carterets and Poindexters

were important settlers. A George Poindestre and a Thomas Poindestre died there on dates very close to the deaths of our George and Thomas in Virginia. During the 1700s, the colony began to have problems from too few people breeding together, and it was disbanded. Because of this genetic weakness, and the strength of our Jersey evidence, we did not try to verify that the Sark Poindexters were not our line.

Alderney, Channel Islands. We tried to contact a parish priest referred by our contact in the Guernsey library, but he never responded; and we did not pursue the matter.

Claiborne Letters of Governor George Poindexter. We obtained a copy of the large Claiborne Collection microfilms from the Mississippi State Library in Jackson, courtesy Michael Hennen, curator of manuscripts. These comprise personal letters mostly to and from the Governor, and some ancillary persons; we thought they might reveal a critical connection to our George-1 Poindexter. No such luck. There was mention of the Governor's ancestry, but nothing definitive *re* our George–Thomas problem.

Unpublished Treatises. We were given copies of several very fine unpublished family histories, described very respectfully by the donors and other PDA members. Two notables are those of Dr. John B. Poindexter, the financier, and William Admire Turner. These both show very high interest in Poindexter genealogy, and intelligent weighing of facts; but, alas, they shed no light on our George/Thomas/Susanna problems.

The Swem Library. This is the main library at the College of William and Mary. It seems reasonable that, the College's being in Williamsburg and very old (1693), it might contain some priceless and very useful old records. I did not have much time there, and did not find anything useful. Our Jamie Poindexter seems to have been privy to an entirely different cache of info there. I hope someone will go to the Swem, get to know someone authoritative, and explore thoroughly.

PDA Member Contributions. Many PDAers heeded our plea, and sent info and ideas. I hope I have acknowledged all these in our reports, but please forgive me if I missed yours. We did not mention them again if they were not useful to our main problems, as I felt it would discourage future contributions. Only a very few of them contained really new and useful info. The point is, yes, there is a lot of the useless to cope with; but without contributions, we'd miss out on the gems. Don't try to judge the worth of your info; send it in!

References

1. EPARC Report No. 16, *PDA Newsletter*, Vol. XIV, No. 3, pp 6–8 (Jul. 1995).
2. St. Helier Parish register, interments, p. 152.

Ed Poindexter
734-433-9648
epoindex@tm.net

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