

Isle of Wight County Records

1634

Isle of Wight County formed in 1634 as one of the original 8 counties (shires).

Note: hereinafter many records cite members of the Portis family assuming Portis to be a variant spelling of "Poythress." This is doubtful since Portis is a family of Scottish descent with considerable documentation as an entirely different family; "Portis" citations may thus be ignored unless one is intent on proving Portis to be a derivation of Poythress. The first incontestable Poythress to appear in IOW court seems to be in 1740.

9 Dec 1662 (administration)

Webb, John. By will left all of his estate to **John Portis** and Joseph Carroll. Proven by John Hardy and Richard Jordan. Administration granted legatees. Dated 9 Dec 1662. Rec: 24 Dec 1662 (p. 3)

9 Nov 1667 (administration)

West Nicholas. Administration requested by John Watson in right of his wife Sarah, who was the relict of the said West. Dated 9 Nov 1667. Rec: 18 Feb 1667/8. Security, **John Portis**, John Davis (p. 15).

19 Oct 1671(administration)

Appraisal of the estate of William Cole taken Nov 24, 1670. Appraisers, Anthony Mathews, Owen Griffith, **John Portis**. Presented by James Pedden to Mr. John Hardy and William Oldis. Rec: 19 Oct 1671 (p. 99)

26 Apr 1681(administration)

Bond, Dorothy: Division of estate made by Mr. Owen Griffin, Nicholas Cobb and **John Portis**. Rec: 26 Apr 1681 (p. 244)

9 Jul 1685 (administration)

Edwards, Robert: Appraisal by **John Portis**, Alexander Mathews, Thomas Parnell. Rec: 9 Jul 1685 (p. 245)

15 Feb 1687 (will)

Bond, John. Leg: William Manyard; William Watson; son John; Joyce Farnum to live with my two children; reversion of bequest to son John to aforementioned Manyard and Watson. Ex: John Bell, my wife's brother. Dated 15 Feb 1687. Rec: 9 Apr 1688
Wit. Edmond Prime, **John Portis**, Reuben Gladhill, Thomas Dorrell.
(p. 274)

19 Aug 1692 (will)

Frizzell, John. Of the Upper Parish. Leg: son William land adjoining Col. Smith and Richard Reynolds, daughter Susanna, daughter Mary, daughter Elizabeth; wife Susanna. Wife Extx. Dated 19 Aug 1692.
Rec: 10 Apr 1693.
Wit: **John Portis Sr.**, Edward Griffen, John Davis. (p. 326)

1693

John Frizzell (obviously "Jr." considering the entry immediately above) m. Susannah Portis, dau. of John Portis. DBI p. 8 & 65.

9 Jun 1698 (will)

Watson, William: Nuncupative, proven by John Prime, age 22 years and **John Portis age 29 years**. Whole estate to brother John, since his sister was unnatural to him. Rec: 9 Jun 1698 (p. 280)

5 Mar 1703/4

Will book. Hadley, Ambrose: Leg – son Robert land I bought of William Boddie; son Ambrose, son Henry, now wife Margaret; son-in-law Richard Gent; daughter Elizabeth Edwards. Wife Extx. Dated 5 Mar 1703/4.
Rec: 27 Apr 1713
Wit: William Boddie, Martin Luther, **Deborah Portis**, John Boddie, Henry Goldham, Abraham Jones. (p. 555)

7 Apr 1703

Will book. **Portis, John**: Leg – son **John**, son **Thomas**; daughter **Susanna**; son **George**, wife **Jane**. Dated 7 Apr 1703 Recorded 9 Oct 1707
Wit: William Copeland, Sarah Jordan, Richard Reynolds, Ambrose Hadley.
(p. 485)

15 Apr 1704

Will book. Jones, Ann: Leg – son John the 300 A. purchased of Edmond Palmer, **John Portis, Sr.** and Henry Martin; son Abraham; son John's three

children Joseph, John and Ann; daughter Ann Barnes. Capt. Arthur Smith and Henry Applewhaite overseers. Dated 15 Apr 1704. Rec: 9 January 1706/7
Wit: John Watts, John Duke, Henry Applewhaite. (p. 477)

19 Oct 1704

Will book. **Portis, John Jr.** Carpenter. Leg: wife Debora. Wife Extx.
Codicil: "I do desire my wife Debora may not be anyways hindered or delayed....after debts are paid in her departing...expedition of this country to Pensilvania." Dated 19 Oct 1704 Rec: 9 Dec 1704 (p. 465)

21 Oct 1707

Gov. Spotswood appoints **Capt. John Poythres Sr.** to serve with Colonel John Hardyman, Major Joshua Wynne and Captain Ffrancis Mallory as members of the Commission to investigate the Virginia-North Carolina line. They are to examine under oath "such ancient inhabitants of Prince George, Surry, **Isle of Wight** and Nansemond counties and discover the truth as to the said bounds between the said colonies." Also they were to ask the "ancient and intelligent indians of the Nottoway, Meherins and Nansemond nations," what they knew about the area. Among the old inhabitants of Prince George county deposing were: Robert Bolling, Gent. aged 61, who "hath known the Nottoway river for 37 years or more .. and "Major Wynn's quarter is on the sight of the old Nottoway Indian town." (Diary entry of William Byrd II of Westover).....source: Journal of the Executive Council of Colonial Virginia, Vol. III, p. 155)

1707

Va. Hist. Soc. Mss1 L51 f 15-22, Lee Family Papers, record 185270; Contains material concerning the boundary between Virginia and North Carolina. Items include a letter written by Francis Foster, William Glover, Edward Moseley, and Samuel Swann (while serving on the Council of North Carolina) to the Council of Virginia; a commission of Arthur Allen, John Hardyman, Benjamin Harrison, Francis Mallory, **John Poythress**, and Joshua Wynne (signed by Edmund Jenings) to receive affidavits in Isle of Wight, Nansemond, Prince George, and Surry Counties, Va.; and affidavits (copies), concerning the presence of Nottoway and Meherrin Indians along the Nottoway River in Virginia, of Robert Bolling, Benjamin Harrison, James Thweatt, and Thomas Wynne.

8 Sep 1711

Diary of William Byrd II of Westover:

“.....After dinner we sat in council concerning the Indians and some of the Tributaries came before us who promised to be very faithful to us. It was agreed to send **Peter Poythress** to the Tuscaroras to treat (with) them and to demand the Baron Graffenriedt who was prisoner among the Indians. It was also resolved that the militia of Prince George, Surry, and **Isle of Wight** should rendezvous at Nottoway town on Wednesday next and the Governor [Spotswood] be there with them to show some part of our strength to the Indians. In the evening came several gentlemen and Mr. Bland among them with letters from the Governor of Carolina which told him how backward the people of that country were to (advantage) themselves. About 10 o'clock we went to bed. Colonel Ludwell and I lay together. I neglected to say my prayers but had good health, good thoughts, and good humor, thank God Almighty”.

Footnotes to passage above:

Peter Poythress: “An Indian trader and interpreter.”

Baron, etc: Baron Christopher de Graffenriedt, a Swiss, who was instrumental in settling Swiss and Palatine Germans in North Carolina. He, with John Lawson, surveyor-general of North Carolina, was responsible for the settlement of New Bern, North Carolina. When the Tuscarora Indians revolted in 1711, De Graffenriedt and Lawson were captured. De Graffenriedt was later released but Lawson was burned at the stake.

Nottoway town: Isle of Wight County.

Also: (Executive Council Journal of Colonial Virginia, 8 Oct 1711, Vol. 3, p. 284)

10 Jan 1740

Grant to John Brantley, Isle of Wight County....”on a line of John Poythress’ land.”

1 Jul 1762

Will book. Johnson, Ann. Appraised by Henry Lancaster, **Edward Portis**, Thomas Holloman. Ordered 5 Jun 1762 Rec: 1 Jul 1762 (p. 177)

17 Jul 1763

Will book. Atkinson, Christopher: Leg – grandson Owen Atkinson; son Benjamin; daughter Elizabeth Manford; son Arthur, daughter Lucy; daughter Martha Arnall; wife Elizabeth. Exs. wife and Benjamin Atkinson.

Dated 17 Jul 1763 Rec: 6 Oct 1763

Wit: John White, James Cofer, **Edward Portis** (p. 314)

30 Mar 1781

Will book. **Poythress, Edward**: Leg. daughter **Elizabeth**; daughter **Sarah**; daughter **Mary**; daughter **Tabitha**. Richard Hardy, guardian of daughters **Mary** and **Sarah**. Exs. Richard Hardy and James Davis. Dated 30 Mar 1781. Rec: 3 May 1781. Security: Joseph Cornwell, James Pedon, James Wills. (p. 73) [see wills file]

2 Feb 1798

Will book. Wombwell, Mary: Leg.- **sister Tabitha Portis** to keep my plantation and children; daughter Lucy; son Jordan; son Harrison; son Joel Wombwell.

Exs. Henry Gray and John Gwaltney.

Dated 12 Feb 1798. Rec: 3 Sep 1798

Wit: James Deford, Sarah Gwaltney, **Tabitha Portis**.

Security: James Gwaltney (p. 125)

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