

## Sussex Records

### Sussex County

“A Tale of Three Centuries”, compiled by workers of the writer’s program of the Works Project Administration in the State of Virginia, supplies some early background. Land eventually composing Sussex County was originally set aside for “ye Colledge of Wm and Mary.” William & Mary Colledge tarried in “taking up” (using) the land:

“It is no small wonder that a pleasant place like the college lands in Sussex should have caused considerable bickering on the part of Virginians desirous of profiting by their migration to one of the British colonies. Complaint and supplication were the order of the day – and the matter of the college lands was no exception. On November 1, 1697 it was recorded that ‘ye Trustees of ye Colledge of Wm and Mary, have not taken up ye land given them by his M’astie on black water Swamp & Pomunky Neck, to ye great prjudice & hindrance of his Majties Subjects, who are ready to enter and take up land there. And it not appearing that any Surveys are returning into ye Secretarys Office, of What Land they have taken up. The Gent of Ys [this] board who are Trustees are desired to acquaint ye rest of ye Trustees therewth for effectuall care therein.’

On October 7, 1698 a survey was recorded of ‘a certain quantity of Land on the South Side of blackwater Swamp; and on June 21 of the following year the council ordered that sheriffs proclaim ‘throughout their Respective Baliwicks’ that commissioners appointed to settle claims to Blackwater lands would sit in Surry on September the twentieth.’

‘....the law was taking its course for on August 11,1701 Theodorick Bland reported to the Council that ‘he had made severll Surveyes’ on the south side of the blackwater’, and that a few days later ten burgesses and five councilors – including William Byrd, ....met ‘to Consider ye best and properest method to settle all matters Related to ye Indian affairs and & Concluding all Busines relating to Pomonkey Neck and Black Water Lands.’

‘Accordingly the following patents were issued – and in most proper manner- on September 4, 1701: to Francis Epes, William Epes, and Littlebury Epes for 1000 acres.....to John Poythres for 350 acres....’

‘On April 25, 1704 Governor Nicholson told the House of Burgesses that the ‘Severall Addresses and Papers’ presented to him concerning the land on the Blackwater had been sent to England and that he was then waiting ‘her Majests gracious Commands about the matter So that these places may be as soon seated as the rest of the ffrontiers are.’

‘An argument of the petitioners – naturally enough – was that freedom to patent the college lands would prevent emigration to the Province of Carolina. On May 10, 1705 the burgesses, in an attempt to persuade Nicholson to allow the college lands to be surveyed and settled, dangled before him prospects of large sums to be derived by quit rents from college lands. He was ‘heartily Sorry,’ the governor replied two days later but he could not comply with the request since ‘her Majestys Royall Commands Concerning The said Lands’ had not been received.

‘Queen Anne, in response to the petitions of the people, finally revoked that part of the college charter assigning the two tracts for support of the college, and Governor Edward Nott on June 22, 1706 announced to the General Assembly that as soon as he could advise with ‘ye Councill in settling proper Rules for preventing all disputes that may happen about priority of Entries,’ he would ‘forthwith give directions for Laying open the Land in Pomunky Neck, and whenever the bounds of ye Counties on ye South side black water swamp are setled according to the Act agreed on, this Session, the Like permission’ would be given ‘for making Entries there.’”

[note that this land remained a part of Surry County until its formation as Sussex County in 1754. The above account of the process of westward migration and acquisition of land by colonists is presented as not untypical of the Virginia colony’s expansion process]

## **1754**

Sussex County formed in 1754 from Surry County.

## **Mar, 1755 (order)**

Joshua Poythress Plt. vs. David Jackson Deft: In Case, The Deft. not being arrested on the motion of the Plt. by his attorney an alias Capias is awarded agt. returnable here, &c.

## **May 1755 (order)**

Elizabeth & Peter Poythress Exors. &c. of Robert Poythress deced. who was assignee of Judith Eldridge Exrix. of Thomas Eldridge deced. Plts. vs Henry Meachum Exor. &c. of Edward Mecham decd. Deft: p:sentmt. for adultery. Continued.

**Sept 1755 (order)**

Joshua Poythress Plt. agt. David Jackson Deft: In Case. Continued.

**Nov 1755 (order)**

Joshua Poythress Plt. vs. David Jackson Deft. Discontinued for want of prosecution.

**Feb 1756 (order)**

Elizabeth & Peter Poythress Exors of Robert Poythress deced. who was assignee of Judith Eldridge Exrix of Thos. Eldridge deceased Plaintiffs against Henry Meachum Executor of Edward Meacham decd. Deft: By petition for 38/ said to be due by Note of hand. This day came the parties by their attornies who being heard of and upon the premises and Mature Deliberation thereupon had & the Plt. producing the said Note for the aforesaid sum of thirty eight Shillings therefore its Consider'd that the Plts. recover the same agt. the said Deft. and his (sic) Costs by him in this behalf hands of the said Henry if so much thereof he hath in this hands unadministred (sic), if not, the Costs is to be levied of his own proper goods & Chattles. Present Thomas Vines Gentt.

**24 April 1759 & 15 Jun 1759, (will)**

Benjamin Tomlinson....above dates....to Brother Tomlinson all the crop on the land of Mr. Joshua Poythress where I am overseer. (misc other behests.) (WB "A", p. 131).

**18 Feb 1759/60 (administration)**

Inventory of Estate of Sloman Wynne, decd, for Robert Wynne, executor. (WB "A", p. 228).

**28 May 1762, (administration)**

Account of Estate William Tomlinson, decd., by James Tomlinson and Thomas Tomlinson, executors, shows payments to (among many others), Joshua Poythress. (WB "A", p. 237).

**19 May, 1763, p. 6 (deed)**

**Joshua Poythress** and wife, **Mary Poythress**, of Prince George CO to Abraham Parham for £10, 20 acres in Albemarle Parish in Sussex CO on the north side of Monks Neck Creek and bounded by the Gum Swamp on John Leeth's line and Abraham Parham.

Wit: Richard Hackel, John Raines and  
John Chambliss, Jr.

**Joshua Poythress**

Rec: 15 Sep 1763

**26 Nov 1763, p. 36 (deed)**

**Joshua Poythress** and wife, **Mary Poythress**, to William Wilkerson and his wife Elizabeth Wilkerson, John Adams and his wife Mary Adams (said Elizabeth and Mary are sisters and coheirs of John Ricks, decd, late of Sussex CO for 400£....595 acres on Monkoneck Creek (less the land deeded to Abraham Parham in 1763) and bounded by Abraham Parham, Charles Leath, Sr., Sir William Skipwith and the county line.

Wit: William Gilliam, Francis Harman,  
**John Poythress, Jr.**, and William Hamlin

**Joshua Poythress**  
**Mary Poythress**

Rec: 19 Jan 1764

**1764**

In 1764 there is a **John Poythress, Jr.** in Sussex County. (NFI)

**16 Feb 1764, p. 56 (deed)**

Thomas Heath and wife, Sarah Heath, to William Parham for 120£...198 acres bounded by the east side of the Indian Swamp, John Smith in Leatherboats (sic) Branch and **Poythress**. (Sarah Leath relinquished her Right of Dower.)

Wit: Edward Pettway, John Raines and  
John (x) Leath, the Elder

Thomas (x) Leath  
Sarah (x) Leath

Rec: 16 Feb, 1764

**21 Jun 1764, p. 88 (deed)**

Edward Pettway to his son John Pettway, for Love and Affection....200 acres bounded by Thomas Heath on **Peter Poythress'** line, the Trading Branch, James Heath, Daniel Epps, John Smith and the Leathercoat Branch.

Wit: Michael Bailey and Edward Pettway

Edward Pettway

Rec: 21 June 1764.

**17 Nov 1768 (deed)**

Joel Tucker and wife, Judith Tucker, to John Walker for 195£...200 acres bounded by north side of Nottaway River and joining said Tucker, the Gally Swamp and **Poythress**. (Judith Tucker relinquished her Right of Dower).

Wit: Rec: 17 Nov 1768

Joel Tucker

Judith Tucker

**15 Mar 1769 (deed)**

John Jackson, planter of Albemarle Parish, to his son Robert Jackson, for love and affection and 5 shillings...730 acres on north side of Nottaway River being the land whereon John Jackson now lives and bounded by the Galley Swamp, **Peter Poythress**, John Walker, Joel Tucker, William Broadnax, John Echols, the main road leading to Cabbin Point, James Robinson and Monks Neck Cree.

Wit: John Walker, Joel Tucker and William (x) Wilkerson    John (x) Jackson

Rec 16 Mar 1769

Robert Jackson

(DB "D", p. 73).

**29 Jan 1772 (deed)**

John Walker and wife, Hannah Walker, of Sussex CO to William Broadnax of Dinwiddie CO for £275....200 acres on Nottaway River and bounded by Joel Tucker, the Galley Swamp and **Maj. Peter Poythress**. (Hannah Walker relinquished her Right of Dower.)

Rec: 21 May 1774

John Walker

(DB "E", p. 224)

Hannah Walker

**24 Jan 1773, p. 105 (deed)**

William Black and wife, Frances Black, of King & Queen CO to Robert Walker of Dinwiddie CO for 300£....200 acres on Nottaway River and bounded by the Hardware Run, Mark Harwell and the Mill Road. (Frances Black relinquished her Right of Dower.)

Wit: William Mc\_\_\_\_\_, **Joshua Poythress**

William Black

Richard Yarbrough, Nathaniel Rains

Frances Black

Frederick Rains and Addison Day.

Rec: 19 Aug 1773 and 16 Sep 1773.

**16 Sep 1773 (administration)**

Account of the Estate of Capt. Thomas Parham by Stith Parham, administrator, shows payments to Dr. James Greenway, quitrent on 770 acres and 9 levies, John Parham, Capt. John McNabb's store account, Abram Parham, Richard Booker, William Wynne, Hugh Belsches, Alexander Taylor, John Adams,

estate of Matthew Parham, Goodrich Haddin, Maj. **Peter Poythress**, Robert Tucker and John Parham.  
(WB "C", p. 68).

**7 Jan 1775, p. 281 (deed)**

William Parham of Albemarle Parish in Sussex CO to **Peter Poythress** of Martin's Brandon Parish in Prince George CO for 100£ ....198 acres bounded by the Indian Swamp, John Smith, the Leather Coats Branch, John Pettway and the said **Peter Poythress**. (Mary Parham, wife of William Parham, relinquished her Right of Dower.)

Rec: 16 Feb 1775

William Parham  
Mary Parham

**19 Dec 1776, p. 371 (deed)**

Matthew Parham, Jr. of Sussex CO to **Peter Poythress** of Martin's Brandon Parish in Prince George CO for 110£...133 acres on north side of Nottoway River and bounded by the Gum Swamp, the Indian Swamp, James Parham, Cherry Island Swamp and Stith Parham. (Ann Parham, wife of Matthew Parham, relinquished her Right of Dower.)

Wit: William Parham

Matthew Parham

Rec: 19 Dec 1776

**18 Apr 1782**

(Virginia Revolutionary War Publick Claims)

At a court held for Sussex County the 18<sup>th</sup> day of April 1782....:

**Poythress, Peter** 91 bu corn, 4 beeves, 30 gal. 1 pt. brandy, ½ \_\_\_ barley, corn, for Col. Dick's baggage wagon. (amounts of compensation not shown in Sussex records).

**28 Jun 1783**

**Peter Poythress** in Prince George County advertises for sale 1000 acres on Nottoway River in **Sussex County** near Bollings Bridge (described), 500 acres on Tomaheton Creek in Dinwiddie County about thirty miles from Petersburg, and a tract in the same county adjoining Major Muir, about 25 miles from Petersburg. The merchant mills on Swift Creek in Chesterfield County, lately called Randolph's Mills, will be sold or rented.

(Virginia Gazette 28 June 1783)

**11 Oct 1784 (deed)**

Benjamin Hunnicutt, Mary Hunnicutt, & Dorothy Hunt, all of Albemarle Parish Sussex Co. to **Mary Poythress** of Bristol Parish Prince George Co. 11 Oct 1784. £174 Va. 177 acres, joining Thomas Hunt, Wm. Cain, the road, Raine, Lewis. Wit: Thomas Hunt, James Lewis, John Hall. 16 Dec 1784. No. Cocke Clerk (Bk. F)

**16 Dec 1784 (deed)**

Benjamin Hunnicutt & his wife Mary to James Lewis, all of Sussex Co. 22 Oct 1784. 5s. 100 acres (messuage) which had belonged to Wm. Carter, joining **Mary Poythress**, Cane, Straw Meadow. Wit: Elisha Wilkerson, William Cain, John(x)Washer, Carol Mishell. 16 Dec 1784. Jno. Cocke Clerk (Bk. F)

**16 Jun 1785 (order)**

George Booth, George Rives, & Green Hill, of Sussex Co., are appointed a commission to examine Mary wife of Benjamin Hunnicutt & Dorothy wife of Thos. Hunt of Sussex Co. They had sold II Oct 1784 to **Mary Poythress** of Prince George Co. 177 acres. 16 Jun 1785. Jno. Cocker Clerk. A note indicates: "See page. 327 for Deed." (Bk. F)

**1787 Personal Prop Tax proxy Census of Virginia**

Sussex County

**Poythress, Mary**

Charged with tax:	self
1-Additonal male tithables over 21:	0
2-White males between 16 and 21:	1
3-slaves over 16	3
4-slaves under 16	1
5-horses, cattle & carriages	9 [not tithable]

**25 June 1787 (deed)**

Hadden Parham of Sussex Co. & John Biggins & his wife Molley of Prince George Co. to JAMES CURATON of Northampton Co. NC. 21 Jun 1787. Edward Smith of Sussex Co. & Daniel Gurr of Prince George Co. by their deed of trust 2 Jul 1784 appointed sd Haddon Parham & John Biggins trustees, placing in their trust land, negroes, & other articles, including 183 acres on north side of Indian Swamp, all to secure the payment of 381£16s2p specie to the sd Jame Cureton. Now sd Cureton has become the purchaser of the sd 183 acres for 70£ specie. Sd 183 acres is where Edward Smith now resides, joining

Frederick Smith, Indian Swamp, **Poythress**, Branch Mitchell, Thomas Weekes.  
Wit: Abraham Parham Jr., William Niblet, Reaps Mitchell,  
McDuel(x)Anderson. 25 Jun 1787. Michael Bailey Clerk (Bk. G)

**00 Sep 1787 (sic) (deed)**

Haddon Parham of Albemarle Parish Sussex Co. to William Call, Jr.  
of Prince George Co. 20 Sep 1787. 336f VA. 384 acres on south side of Indian  
Swamp in 2 tracts: 1 of 184 acres, joining **William Poythress**, Indian Swamp,  
sd Haddon Parham, John Leath, Joel Hall, Matthew Parham, Charles Raines; I  
of 200 acres which sd Haddon Parham bought from Matthew Parham in 1787,  
joining Joel Hall, John Leath, Haddon Parham, Charles Raines, the road leading  
to Halls Tavern. (witnesses omitted) 20  
Sep 1787. Michael Bailey Clerk (Bk. G)

**17 Jan 1788 (deed)**

Abraham (x) Parham Sr. of Sussex Co. to Abraham Parham, Jr. of same.  
17 Jan 1788. 100£. 170 acres on north side of Mockerson Neck Creek, joining  
Robert Parham, Stith Parham, John Leath, **Joshua Poythress**, Whotleberry  
Branch, William Burge. Wit: Joel Hall, Abraham(x)Haddon, Thomas Haddon  
Parham, William Burge. 17 Jul 1788. Michl. Bailey Clerk  
(Bk. G)

**17 Apr 1788 (administration)**

Account of Estate of John Edmunds, decd., by Sterling Edmunds, shows  
(among many others) **John Poythress** for **Maj. William Poythress**, **Col. Peter  
Poythress**. (WB "D", p. 502).

**Mar 1787**

March Court

Hartwell Barham vs. Nathaniel Newsum

continued August 1787, (p. 264), continued August 1788 Court, (p. 383)  
Arbitrators Report - Do not think Hartwell Barham ought to sustain any  
loss from **Thomas Poythress** Bond and that Nathaniel Newsum pay the  
said bond.

Signed: Isham GILLIAM

Order Book 1786/91, p. 186, Sussex County

**21 Jun 1787 (sic) (deed)**

James Cureton of Mecklenburg Co. NC (?) to William Cureton



of Prince George Co. **27 Nov 1788**. 100£ VA. 183 acres which sd James Cureton had purchased from Haddon Parham & John Biggins 21 Jun 1787, joining Frederick Smith, Indian Swamp, **Poythress**, Branch Mitchell, Thomas Weekes. Wit: Peter Williams, Hambleton Burge, John Redding, Thomas Mitchell, Branch Mitchell. (Bk. G)

**20 Dec 1787 (sic) (deed)**

William Call Jr. & his wife Helen of Prince George County to Reaps Mitchell of same. 25 Oct 1787. 345£12s VA. 384 acres which sd William Call purchased from Haddon Parham, on south side of Indian Swamp, joining Charles Raines, the road leading to Halls Tavern, Joe Hall, John Leath, **William Poythress**.

Wit: Briggs Rives, Thos. Young, Timothy Rives. 20 Dec 1787. M. Bailey Clerk (Bk. G)

**5 Feb 1789 (deed)**

Frederick Batts of Sussex Co. to Reapps Mitchell of same. 18 Aug 1788. 165£12s VA. 184 acres joining Raines, Indian Swamp, Mitchell, Warriocker Branch, the road, Hall, Leath, **William Poythress**. Also signed by Susanna Mitchell. Wit: Charles Raines, Robin Mitchell, Polley(x)Redding. 5 Feb 1789. Michl. Bailey Clerk. A not indicates "see page 714 in Succeeding Book for Ackt of feme." (Bk. G)

**5 May 1789**

Personal Property Tax, Sussex County, Virginia

Name: **Mary Poythress**

Whites above 16: 1

Blacks above 16: 2

Blacks over 12, under 16: 2

Horses, etc.: 2

Carriage Wheels: --

Ordinary Licenses: --

Billiard Tables: --

Stud horses: --

Rates of covering by the season: --

**25 Aug 1789**

List of taxable property within the district of Wm Nicholson, Comsr North District in the County of Sussex for the year 1789:

Owner: **Wm Poythress**

Name of whites above 21: Edward Jolley  
Number of whites above 16, under 21: --  
Blacks above 16: 6  
Blacks above 16, under 21: --  
Horses & Mules: 4  
Number of Carriage wheels: --  
Ordinary Licenses: --  
No. of Stud Horses: --  
Rates for Season: --  
Physicians: --

### **1790**

In the estate of Richard Harrison, dec'd.  
"1790, to paid **Jno. Poythress's** bond, to paid William Wilkins bond."  
(Will book "G", Sussex County, p. 448)

### **16 Jun 1790**

Accounts current of Alexander Harrison Exec of Richard Harrison; on the estate of Richard Harrison dec'd in Accounts Current:  
"June 16 to pay Mrs. Cocke for the balance of **Poythress** bond vs estate: £76.19.6"

### **6 Dec 1791**

Branch Mitchell & his wife Elizabeth of Albermarle Parish Sussex Co. to William Cureton of Bristol Parish in Prince George County...£20..40 acres.. "joining **William Poythress.**" (Bk. G)

### **12 Feb 1792**

Allen Cain of Sussex Co. to Winfield Mason of Dinwiddie County...£50... 96 acres..."joining **Mary Poyther.**" (Bk G) [widow of William above?]

### **17 Mar 1790 (deed)**

Stith Parham & his wife Patty of Albemarle Parish Sussex Co. to William Peters of same. 17 Mar 1790. 444£ VA. 296 acres on north side of Nottoway River, joining Stith Parham Sr., Robert Parham, Abram Parham, John Leath,

Frederick Battes, **William Poythress**. Wit: William Burge, Archelaus Carlos, Abram Haddon. 2 Sep 1790. Mich. Bailey Clerk. A note indicates: "sent to Thos. Eloridge." (Bk. G)

**12 Feb 1792 (deed)**

Allen Cain of Sussex Co., to Winfield Mason of Dinwiddie Co. 12 Feb 1792. 50£. 96 acres which was part of a land granted to Thomas Hunt dec'd who gave it to his son Thomas Hunt who sold it to John Rivers dec'd & by him to Judkins Hunt & by him to Joel Wilkinson & by him to Allen Cain, on north side of Harrys Swamp, joining William Rivers Jr., **Mary Poyther**, James Lewis Sr., Winfield Mason. Wit: Littlebeary Carter, William Dwyer Jr., Thomas (x) Yergin. 7 Jun 1792. M. Bailey Clerk (Bk. G)

**7 Jun 1792 (deed)**

Branch Mitchell & his wife Elizabeth of Albemarle Parish Sussex Co. to William Cureton of Bristol Parish in Prince George Co. 6 Dec 1791. 20£. VA. 40 acres, joining Leather Coat Branch, **William Poythress**, sd Mitchell, William Courton, Thomas Weeks. Wit: Benja. Mason, Frederick (x) Smith, William Cotton, William Smith. 7 Jun 1792. Michael Bailey Clerk (Bk. G)