

Mecklenburg Co, VA Deed Book 7, p.52
Meredith Poythress to William Cleaton, 1786
Transcribed by Bpn from FHL film 1,870,876 or 32,535 Mecklenburg Co, VA Deed
Book 7, p.52. Bpn notes:

- (1) I thank Maynard Poythress, who on 11 Apr 1997 provided his transcription of this document to our Poythress List; while that transcription was missing some words that this transcription provides/corrects, Maynard identified for us the additional information that "firken" (spelled "furkin" below) was a small pail for clabber, butter, etc.)
- (2) The below-named witness Alexander Pointer was husband of William Cleaton's daughter, Nancy (sister of Edith and Jeane), by the time Cleaton made his will in 1791. So in 1786 Pointer may have already been Meredith Poythress' brother-in-law.
- (3) On 1 March 1786 in this document Meredith Poythress refers to (his father-in-law) William Cleaton having paid the tax that Meredith owed for two years of taxes on 375 acres of land. NO location is mentioned for the land. We need to see if that land could have been in Brunswick Co, VA or perhaps Warren Co, NC (across the state line where many Mecklenburg County residents had numerous family connections). It appears that Meredith did NOT own 375 acres in Mecklenburg Co, VA, unless perhaps he only owned it from 1783 through 1786: the Mecklenburg Co, VA Land Tax records I've previously reviewed began in 1782, in which year no Poythress was taxed in either the Upper or Lower District. The Lower District lists were missing for 1783 through 1786 on the films I examined, so perhaps those lists could be found in a more thorough examination of tax records. No Poythress was taxed for land in either District in 1787 through 1792. After 1792, a Peter Poythress began being taxed on land; in 1797 Lewis Poythress began being taxed as well as Peter. Later other Poythress mens' names appeared, but in all the years of 1787 through 1850 Meredith was never taxed by Mecklenburg for land.
- (4) Yet we know that Meredith lived in Mecklenburg Co, VA beginning in 1786. Arriving in Mecklenburg in 1786 is another indication that his 375 acres of land (for which his father-in-law had paid the 2 years of tax) was likely in some other county. We know he arrived in Mecklenburg in 1786 because he began being listed on Mecklenburg Co's Personal Property Tax List beginning in 1786 and his listing there continued every year through 1801. Meredith's "son Peter" was added to Meredith's own listing for both 1800 and 1801, but after that neither of them were on Mecklenburg's Personal Property Tax List, so apparently both had gone (to Georgia, for both?).
- (5) One further indication that perhaps the 375-acre tract was in a very near county comes from the posting I made to our Poythress List on 17 Feb Transcribed by Bpn from FHL film 1,870,876 or 32,535 Mecklenburg Co, VA Deed Book 7, p.52 1 2009, in a posting captioned "1789 Wm Cleaton Deed of Trust re land where Meredith Poythress then lived." That Deed of Trust by Meredith's father-in-law William Cleaton (who owed money to George Nicholson of Warren Co, NC) was secured by "One hundred and fifty Acres of Land, lying on the Waters of Parham's Creek Adjoining William Taylor, Isham Epps and from thence to Crawleys Line, it being part of a Tract of Land that Meredith Poythress now lives on."
- (6) This March 1786 document was not listed in the Mecklenburg Deeds Grantors Index. Even though this document is not labelled in the margin as being a "Deed of Trust" (that is, a document securing a loan) I am convinced that is what it is, even though it does not give a certain date when Wm Cleaton could sell these personal items if the debt was not yet repaid, as we have seen in other Deeds of Trust I've recently transcribed. (Not all documents are properly labelled in the margin of the Deed Book.)
- (7) I am of the opinion, based on the above, that Meredith was simply sheltering all of his assets, by moving them into his father-in-law's name to protect them from creditors. I don't think his father-in-law actually took possession of the items. Meredith and his wife Edith Cleaton (who was still alive when her father wrote his will in 1791) and their children would have needed use of these personal items.
- (8) That conclusion is reinforced by the fact that just 3 years later, Merodith [sic] Poythress was listed as an Insolvent owing tax on 1 Horse for the year 1789, in a list returned to the Nov 1790 Court in Mecklenburg Co, VA by John Wilson Junr, D. Shff. This info is in a serialized article in The Virginia Genealogist, contributed by Robert Y. Clay; Poythress appears in Vol.22 (1978), p.49.
- (9) I've added punctuation, in square brackets, to aid in reading the list of items.

Mecklenburg Co, VA Deed Book 7

p.52

Poythress

to

Cleaton

Know all men by these presents that I Merideth Poythress of the County of Mecklenburg have Bargained and sold unto William Cleaton of the same County two feather Beds and furniture[,] one Iron Pott[,] one Dutch Oven[,] one Iron skillet; one frying pan[,] one Desk[,] half Dozen house Chaers[,] one chest[,] one Sow and Six piggs[,] one heifer Yearling[,] one Woollings wheel and Cards[,] one flax wheel[,] one Table[,] two pewter Dishes[,] five plates[,] two Basons[,] three punch Boles[,] half Dozen knives and forks[,]

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one Looking Glass[,] one Mare filley[,] one water pale[,] one piging[,] one washing Tub[,] two Small axes[,] Two plow hoes[,] three weeding hoes[,] one Coffee pot[,] Two Small Juggs[,] one Grid Iron[,] one Chees Toster[,] one Rost meet Spit[,] two flatt Irons[,] one pare of fire Tongs and Shovel[,] one hocake hoe[,] half Dozen Spoons[,] Two Small Casks[,] one Churn[,] one

furkin[,] one Candle Stand[,] one Reel[,] two Geese[,] forteen pottrey[,]
one Canteen[,] two Sugar Boxes[,] two Slays[,] three Bottles[,] one Raw Cow
hide[,] one fiddle[,] and all the Rest of my Goods and Chattels for the Sum
of five hundred and fifty weight of Inspected Petersburg Tobacco and
thirteen pounds Eighteen Shillings[,] and the tax of three hundred and
Seventy five Acres of Land for two years paid in hand[,] I the said
Poythress do warrant these Said articles to him the Said Cleaton Clean from
all persons whatsoever as Witness my hand and Seal

Merideth Poythress (L.S.)

Signed Sealed and Delivered

in presence of

Test

Isham Eppes

Alexander (his + mark) Pointer March 1st day, 1786

Henry Wartman

=

At a Court held for Mecklenburg County the 10th day of July 1786

This Bill sale was acknowledged by Merideth Poythress a party thereto and

Ordered to be recorded -

Teste John Brown Ck Curt

Examined

William Cleaton to George Nicholson, Mecklenburg Co, VA, February 14th, 1789

This Deed of Trust secured a pre-existing debt that William Cleaton of
Mecklenburg Co, VA owed to a man in Warren Co, NC. By this Deed of Trust the
debt was secured by land owned by William Cleaton, which was part of the
tract of land on which Meredith Poythress was then living (while married to
William Cleaton's daughter Edith). What is curious to me, is that the
document does not say in what county or state the land is located;
presumably in Mecklenburg Co, VA since that's where the Deed of Trust was
recorded.