



The Poythress Family

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THE POYTHRESS FAMILY

By William B. Hall

A Study of the Joshua Poythresses

Land Office Richmond, Va. Grant to Joshua Poythress of 333 acres in Book II Prince George County for transportation of six persons. 1719-24. 22 June 1722. p.131.

Prince George County, Deed 9 July 1725 from John Hardyman and Records. Henrietta Maria his wife to Joshua Poythress of 300 acres of land called "Flower de Hundred."

Land Office Richmond, Va. Grant to Joshua Poythress, of Prince Book 15, George County, for 382 acres in same county, consideration 1732-35. 20 shillings. p. 437. 24 March 1734.

Charles City County Court Court July 1741. Robert Poythress and Orders Robert Poythress and Thomas Poythress executors of the last 1737-1751, will and testament of Joshua Poythress deceased vs. Benjamin Harrison, continued. On page 172 of same record Robert Poythress and Thomas Poythress executors of the last will and testament of Joshua Poythress deceased, vs. Benjamin Harrison no prosecution the case is dismissed. p. 168

Surry County Records. Attachment obtained by Peter and Elizabeth Poythress, executors of Robert Poythress, deceased, and Joshua Poythress executor of Thomas Poythress, deceased, against the estate of Thomas Sisson. May 15, 1750.

Idem. Will of William Short, of Southwark Parish in Surry County, mentions daughter Sarah Cocke and said daughter Sarah's children, namely William Cocke, Elizabeth Cocke, Susanna Cocke, Sarah Cocke; also son-in-law Joshua Poythress (be-1768, Part queaths to him slaves already in his possession) daughter I, p. 85. Mary Poythress' children, namely, Joshua Poythress, William Poythress, and Elizabeth Poythress; daughter Mary Reade; wife Mary Short; son William Short. Witnesses:—John I. Anson, John Cocke, James Kee. Will dated 24 December 1756, proved 15 may 1757.

Prince George County Suit brought in 1738 by Joshua and Francis Records. Poythress vs. Hannah Poythress, executrix of Francis Poythress, deceased.

Idem. Will of Mary Poythress, of Prince George County, dated 9 February 1782, proved February 1788. Legatees Wilmuth Harrison, daughter Susannah Poythress all the rest of her estate, including the testator's (Mary Poythress') share in the property bequeathed by her deceased son Peter Poythress. Friend Nicholas Faulcon and Joshua Poythress, executors.

We have not been able to place the first Josua Poythress in his proper nitch in the Poythress family. He is shown to have received grants of land in Prince George County in 1722 and 1734. John Hardy-

man and his wife Henrietta Maria deed to him in 1725 a place called "Flower de Hundred." This deed seems to have been the first possession in the Poythress family of "Flowerdew Hundred." Attention is called to the Col. Peter Poythress the first as of "Fower de Hundred," but we are of the opinion that he never was in actual possession, otherwise it would most probably have passed into possession of his only daughter and heir Anne who married Richard Bland of "Jordans." Vide note on "Flowerdew Hundred" under study of the Peter Poythresses. Joshua Poythress died prior to 1741 for in that year Thomas Poythress is shown to have been an executor under his will and with Robert Poythress co-executor, suit is brought against Benjamin Harrison, but the case was later dropped. It is however an indication that in some way Robert and Joshua had a claim against Benjamin Harrison. In 1738 Joshua and Francis Poythress brought suit in Prince George County against Hannah Poythress, executrix of Francis Poythress. Who was this Hannah and in what way was she connected with the Francis for whom she was acting as executrix? We had concluded that the Francis Poythress who brought suit was the son of John of the will of 1724 but in this we may be in error, and she could have been his widow, as another Francis sells in 1765 his interest in certain slaves left by his grandfather to be divided among his heirs at the death of the widow but at that date in possession of Hannah Poythress, and others. He evidently refers to John of the will of 1724 as his grandfather. What was the relationship between Joshua and Hannah and why was he a party to the suit? It can be interpreted that the Francis Poythress for whom Hannah was acting could have been Francis,³ the son of Major Francis.² Again was this Joshua coclaimant in the suit in 1738 against Hannah the same Joshua who dies shortly thereafter for whom Robert and Thomas act as executors in 1741? It is a possibility that there were two Joshua Poythresses in 1738. We know that there was a Joshua who married Mary Short and they had three children in 1756 and this was eighteen years after the suit. We are of the opinion that the second Joshua was the one who in 1750 as executor of Thomas Poythress joined with Peter and Elizabeth Poythress executors of Robert Poythress against the estate of Thomas Sisson in 1750. This can be so interpreted since Robert and Thomas were coexecutors in 1741 for the first Joshua and the three executors of 1750 were acting for the Robert and Thomas in business affecting jointly both estates. On account of this close association of Peter and Joshua as thus shown and a subsequent close study of the "Bonacord" and "Aberdeen" properties, which passed into the possession of Capt. James Cocke and Elizabeth Poythress, we think it advisable to give briefly the genealogies which appeared in connection with notes attached to Abstract no. (507) of Virginia Land Patents in the Virginia Magazine, Vol. VI p. 71.

"The earlier portion of the following account of the Poythress family is derived chiefly from the memoranda of a descendant now dead. As he gave but few authorities for his statements this pedigree, as far as relates to the earlier portion, may be regarded as tentative. The account is certainly correct as far as relates to the descendants of Joshua and ----- (Peachy) Poythress. This has been recently revised by a member of the family. Later, extracts from various records will be given.

"Capt. Francis Poythress came to Virginia about 1633, was Burgess for Charles City 1645, commanded against the Indians in the same year; burgess for Charles City 1647, and for North-

umberland 1649, He married ----- and had besides, (according to tradition a daughter who married Thomas Rolfe) a son Major Francis Poythress, Justice of Charles City 1677, married Rebecca ----- and had issue:

1. John, burgess of Charles City 1723, married -----.
2. Francis, married -----.

Issue of John and ----- Poythress:

1. Col. William, born 1695, died June 18, 1763, vestryman of Bristol Parish 1726, married Sarah, daughter of Col. Francis Eppes.
2. Col. Peter, of "Flower de Hundred," Prince George County, married -----.

Issue of Col. William and Sarah Eppes Poythress:

1. Richard, married daughter of Peter Poythress of "Flower de Hundred" and had two sons:
 1. William County Lieutenant of Prince George 1779, married -----.
 2. Joshua of "Flower de Hundred," married ----- Peachy.

Issue of Joshua and ----- Peachy Poythress:

1. Joshua, married about 1780, Elizabeth Robertson (aunt of Governor Wyndham Robertson) and had Susan Peachy who married John V. Wilcox, of Petersburg.
2. William, married Mary Gilliam.
3. Elizabeth, married James Cocke, and inherited the Bonaccord estate, Prince George County.
4. Susan Ann, born 1776, died Feb. 19, 1799, and married David Maitland of Blandford.

Issue of Col. Peter and ----- Poythress of "Flower de Hundred":

Anne, born Dec. 13th. 1712, died April 9, 1758, only child and heir; married Richard Bland of Jordan's Point, Prince George Co."

Note to 507 continued:

Issue of Francis Poythress, born 1688, and his wife:

Son Robert, born 1690 married ----- had;

Peter, born 1715, married ----- had:

Peter, born 1732, married -----, had issue, nine daughters, who married as follows: Bland, Blair, Cocke, Goode, Harrison, Lee, Morrison, Epes, Rubsaman and one son

Peter, married Elizabeth (Bland) daughter of Richard Bland of "Jordan's Point."

Issue of peter and Elizabeth (Bland) Poythress'

(For this vide study of the Peter Poythresses.)

"The Poythress Family. (Addenda to Vol. VI 71-72, communicated.)"

"Descendants of Mary Poythress and John Batte (who died at White Sulphur Springs in 1816, and was buried in close proximity to the Old Church at Lewisburg, Va., there being no means of communication with Tidewater Virginia except by stage.)

"Mary Poythress, wife of John Batte, of Mancellle, Prince George County, Va. descends from Robert, grandson of Captain Francis Poythress, who came to Virginia in 1633. Robert Poythress had one son and nine daughters. (Note that the father of Peter Poythress of Branchester, had nine daughters and one son, and Peter Poythress of Branchester, had eight daughters and one son, hence the family connection which was spread all over Virginia, and so often spoken of as the descendants of the "nine Miss Poythresses," the nine being sisters of Peter, of Branchester, and the eight his daughters.) The nine as well as remembered by the older members of the Poythress-Batte connection married Goode, of Whitby, Gilliam, Eppes, Rubsaman, Morrison, Lee, Cocke, Baird and Harrison. The sisters of Peter Poythress were etc."

Note that the names are the same in the two cases except in the former we have Bland and the second Baird.

The following was taken from Tyler's Enc. Va. Biog.:

"PETER POYTHRESS of "Flower de Hundred," Prince George county, was a son of John Poythress, and was member of House of Burgesses from Prince George from 1768 and 1775, and also member of the revolutoart conventions of 1774, 1775, and 1776. He was also a member of the House of Delegates. His only daughter and heiress, Ann, born 13 December, 1712, died 9 April 1758, married Richard Bland of Jordan's Point, Prince George county."

Here is a confusion of identities in making Peter Poythress of "Flower de Hundred" the same as his grand-son-in-law Peter Poythress of "Branchester," who did marry his grand-daughter, Elizabeth Bland, daughter, and they are the ones acting together with the Joshua Poythress under discussion May 15, 1752 against the estate of Thomas Sisson. Richard Bland married Anne Poythress, daughter of Peter Poythress of "Flowerdew Hundred." Elizabeth Bland, daughter of the above Richard married Peter Poythress of "Branchester," only son of Robert Poythress.

The following is taken from the Richmond Standard:

"Bonaccord, "Aberdeen" and Branchester" are the names of the seats of the Poythress family lying in Prince Geo. county. The first named was the original seat of the ancestor of the family, Col. Richard Poythress who married ----- Poythress of "Fleur de Hundred" and had issue: I. Richard², II Susan², the first married Susan Robertson and the second ----- Harwood of Charles City county, Virginia, and had issue: Susan³ who married John V. Wilcox of Petersburg, Va."

(This is almost identical with note on "Bonaccord" under the Eppes family in Dr. Slaughter's Bristol Parish, p. 173.)

Also from the same source the following correction:

"Elizabeth Robertson married Joshua Poythress of Flower de Hundred, a seat on James River, Prince George county; left issue a daughter. She married John V. Wilkinson, a merchant in Petersburg, died leaving issue."

(We do not know the source of this last, but Dr. Slaughter makes Susan Robertson to marry Richard Poythress². Vide Bristol Parish, p. 223.) Wilcox however seems to be correct name.

The following is given as the lineage of Elizabeth Poythress:

James Cocke married Elizabeth⁷ Poythress, who inherited "Bonaccord" estate. She was the daughter of Joshua⁶ and ----- Peachy Poythress; gdaughter of Richard⁵ Poythress who married a daughter⁽⁵⁾ of Peter⁴ Poythress of "Flower de Hundred ggdaughter of Col. William⁴ (born 1695, died 18 June 1763, vestryman Bristol Parish 1726, married Sarah daughter of Col. Francis Eppes); gggdaughter of John⁴ Poythress, burgess for Charles City 1723, married -----; ggggdaughter of Major Francis Poythress, justice for Charles City 1677 married Rebecca -----; gggggdaughter Captain Francis Poythress who came to Virginia about 1633."

The last lineage contains a number of errors, but conforms pretty closely to the first of the genealogies given. It is to be noted that two Richards are introduced for the first time in our studies, and it seems rather strange that there is no original record of a Richard owning any property beyond the genealogy given and Dr. Slaughter's notes as to the "Bonaccord" and "Aberdeen" estates. It is not known where he obtained his information concerning these estates. There is no question in regard to the ownership after the marriage of Capt. James Cocke and Elizabeth Poythress, who seems to have been the daughter of the Joshua Poythress who married a Peachy. We can see these properties in the possession of this Joshua and can also interpret the passing of "Flowerdew Hundred" from him to his descendants and is still in their possession. We can trace "Bonaccord" to **John Poythress Cocke** and "Aberdeen" to Thomas Poythress Cocke the second son of James and Elizabeth (Poythress) Cocke after the final settlement of the estate of James Cocke, in 1820. Thomas P. Cocke married Martha Colley of "Tarbay" thus acquired and they lived there. In 1818, according to the tax record of the "Estate of James Cocke," there were 1076 acres known as Bonaccord, located on Blackwater, 7 miles S. W. of the courthouse. This clearly gives the location of "Bonaccord" near Blackwater and carried us back to the grants to the early Poythresses in this location some time before the Joshua under consideration. It certainly disproves the statement of Dr. Slaughter as to Richard being the ancestor of the family but seems to verify a tradition that "Bonaccord" was the seat of certainly one of the early Poythresses. Before this notice we were inclined to make "Bonaccord" a part of the 750 acres granted to the first Francis Poythress in 1648 but we soon saw from its location on Baileys Creek that this was erroneous. Maj. Francis Poythress received by grant in 1681, 609 acres which lapsed and John Poythress had this tract regranted him in 1703 on the south side of Blackwater, and in 1704 he is shown to possess 916 acres in Prince George. The will of John Poythress proved in 1724 shows that he left his oldest son John "my tract of land lying on the south side of Blackwater," devises to second son Francis, and to William 150 acres at a place called "Powells," but also directs his executors to buy for him more land to bring it up to 400 acres. We know nothing further but it must be borne in mind that Powells Creek runs in a northerly direction and to the west of "Bonaccord," and the place called "Powells" is rather indicative in connection with a creek of the same name in the neighborhood of "Bonaccord." James B. Cocke owned "Bonaccord" in 1832 and his tax list from 1832 to 1863 shows 581 to 588 acres on the head of Powell Creek.

The following record is the first notice we have found of "Bonaccord":

"Charles City Court, 3 Feb. 1658/9.

John Burton ----- Lt. John Banister one plantation at
Bonaccord which I hold by lease for thisteen years or upwards to
come.

12 January 1658.

Wit. Robert Wynne.
Thomas Crane.
Howell Pryce, C. C."

Whereas the abstract does not give the exact location it establishes Burton ownership in 1658 and the leasing to Lt. John Banister, father of John Banister the Naturalist, who died in 1693, and who was the grandfather of Col. John Banister of "Battersea." When it became Poythress property we can not say. Yet Maj. Francis acquired property not far away and we have already shown that his wife was most probably the daughter of this Robert Wynne a neighbor, who witness the lease in 1658.

Capt. James Cocke, conspicuous in the Revolution, died prior to 1782, leaving an estate comprising some 2823 acres. Some small tract was transferred in 1795, and in 1803 some 1197 acres was passed to "William Colvin by John P(oythress) Cocke, Attorney for James, by deed." This was Dr. James Cocke the eldest son. In 1809 some 322 acres was transferred to Thomas Cocke, leaving a remainder of 1076 acres listed in one tract which in 1813 is styled in the tax book as "Bonaaccord." The estate was finally settled in 1820 and went principally to the heirs of John Poythress Cocke, deceased, whom we interpret as the owner of "Bonaccord." There is no record which actually shown how "Bonaccord" came into the possession of James Cocke, though it is so recorded in the tax returns as part of his estate. It might have been given direct or devised to him by his father-in-law Joshua Poythress. It is certainly not included in the holdings of his wife, who should have been the natural owner. She died circa 1800, and in the tax record for 1801 is the following:

Prince George County. July Court 1801, by will. "In 1800 Elizabeth Cocke to Elizabeth Cocke the plantation she bought of Richard Harrison Estate (A 400 acre tract), also 100 acres adjoining it known by the name of the "Woodyard." To James Cocke the land she inherited "by the death of her brother John Poythress called "Goodwine," also the land she purchased of John Worthen. And to Benjamin Cocke the remainder of Woodyard after deducting 300 acres devised to her daughter, Elizabeth."

Her estate conveyed in 1803 two tracts listed later as 5321/2 acres known as the "Woodyard to John P. Cocke and in 1813 is described as being 12 miles east of Prince George Courthouse, which was just east of Thomas Cocke's property. Without going into detail of transfers, her estate in 1810 consisted of 487 acres, which went to Thomas Cocke, being actually listed as in his name as 483 acres, which appears to have been all or a part of "Aberdeen." It is to be noted in her will that she left to her son James, the eldest the land she inherited at the death of her brother John Poythress, called "Goodwine." In 1789 she is listed with two tracts of 234 acres each, one of which she inherited direct and the other at the death of her brother John Poythress. Nothing further is known of John Poythress Cocke, but it is surmised that he was the father of James B(land) Cocke referred to by a descendant of Thomas Cocke, now living, as "Cousin Jimmy Cocke." It is stated by

him that James B. Cocke owned "Bonaccord," but the tax returns between 1832 and 1863 does not specifically mention in his large holding by name "Bonaccord." We quote from his letter of January 25th. 1933:—

"The property of Thomas P. Cocke who died in 1840 that went to Nathaniel C. Cocke, his son was Aberdeen. Tarbay was left to his daughter, who was my grandmother. She married James, her first cousin, and the son of Dr. James Cocke, who died about 1853. Martha died in 1874, the year I was born, in my father's house at City Point."

Capt. James Cocke and his wife Elizabeth Poythress had issue:

1. James Cocke, M. D., married Elizabeth Smith of the Eastern Shore of Maryland. A successful physician of Baltimore.
2. Thomas P. Cocke, married Martha Colley of Tarbay, lived and died there in 1840.
3. Benjamin Cocke, married Mary Eppes of City Point. They had a son Richard Cocke who changed his name to Eppes so that he might inherit the property of his grandfather Richard Eppes, who Dr. Slaughter states married Christian Robertson and his mother was a Poythress.
4. John Poythress Cocke. possessed "Bonaccord," married -----
5. Elizabeth Cocke, married George Hoffman.

Considerable details have been given above but considerable information is given as to the Poythress properties of "Bonaccord" and "Aberdeen." Also Elizabeth (Poythress) Cocke had a brother John Poythress. Certainly no son by the name of John is given among the children of Joshua and ----- Peachy Poythress. An element of doubt naturally enters as to her being the daughter, but it is certainly the most acceptable interpretation. For information and Poythress study we give all by the name Elizabeth Poythress of whom we have record during the eighteenth century as follows:

1. Elizabeth Poythress, daughter of John Poythress and Mary Batte, devisee under his will of 1724.
2. Elizabeth Poythress, daughter of Francis and Hannah Poythress, b. Feb. 11, 1731.
3. Elizabeth Poythress, daughter of Robert Poythress, married a Cocke.
4. Elizabeth Poythress, daughter of William Poythress and Sarah Eppes, born Sept. 6, 1741.
5. Elizabeth Poythress, daughter of Joshua and ----- Peachy Poythress, married James Cocke.
6. Elizabeth Poythress, daughter of Joshua Poythress and Mary Short.

We submit the following record of a later date, without having made a study of it or its relation to the Poythress family.

"Circuit Court of Charles City Co. 1855.
Poythress et als. v. Harrison.
Thomas E. Poythress d. 1847.
Will shows Widow Beersheba ----- estate during life.

Legatees: Brother Joshua; niece Nancy G. B. Harrison; Thomas P. Harrison an infant and his sister Eceana, children of Braxton Harrison, deceased.
 Camilla A. M. Harrison was Thomas P. Harrison's guardian. He willed his watch to his neighbor, Thomas H. Wilcox.
 George Walker Executor.

A Study of Thomas Poythress

Prince George County Records. The quit rent rolls for 1704 show that Francis Poythress Sr., then owned 1283 acres, Thomas Poythress 616 acres and John Poythress, Jr. 916 acres.

Land Office Richmond, Va. Grant to Thomas Poythress of 180 acres Book 10, lying on the North side of Nottaway River in Surry County, 1710-19. consideration 20 shillings 3 March 1715.
 p. 265.

Idem, p. 228. Grant to Thomas Poythress of Prince George County, Book 12, tract of land containing 248 A. lying on both sides of the 1724-26. upper run of ----- Creek, consideration 25 shillins. Land lying in Prince George County. 22 February, 1724.

Idem, p. 59. Grant to Thomas Poythress of Prince George County of Book 15, 400 A. in Prince George. 20 June 1733.
 1732-35

Charles City County, Suit in 1741 July by Robert Poythress, and Court Robert and Thomas Poythress, executors of Joshua Poythress vs. Benjamin Harrison. Continued.
 1737-51
 p. 168.

Idem. p. 172 Suit of Robert and Thomas Poythress extrs. of the last will and testament of Joshua Poythress, deceased, no prosecution the case is dismissed. (Case against Benjamin Harrison.)

Surry County Records. Attachment obtained by Peter and Elizabeth Poythress, executors of Robert Poythress, deceased and Joshua Poythress, executor of Thomas Poythress, deceased, against the estate of Thomas Sisson. May 15, 1750.

Bristol Parish Vestry Thomas Poythress on the jury trying the case of Book, Samuel Jordan vs. Wm. Batte. 11 March 1740.
 (Chamberlayne)
 p. 103.

Prince George County Will of John Poythress of Martins Brandon Records. Parish, Prince George County, proved at a court held at p. 706. Merchant's Hope the second Tuesday in May, being the 12th. (1713-28) of said month, Anno Domini 1724. Thomas Poythress mentioned as a brother. Robert Poythress and John Woodlief executors.

Henrico County Records. Will of Elizabeth Cocke dated 9 August Will 1751, probated first Monday in July 1752, mentions her daughter Elizabeth "Portriss" (Sic.), her grandson William Flem-

p. 158. ing Cocke, granddaughters Rebecca, Ann and Tabitha Cocke, and her son James Cocke who is named executor.

Dower of Mary Binford, widow of Joseph Peoples, deceased. July 2. Prince George 1759. Geo. Noble, Thos. Poythress, Joseph Carter, Holmes Boisseau. Report returned Oct. 9, 1759. Vide Wm. & Mary County Quar., January 1931, p. 42. Records, Book 1759-60.

The first record that we have of Thomas Poythress is from the quit rents roll of Prince George County in 1704, which show that Francis Poythress Sr. owned 1283 acres, Thomas Poythress 616 acres and John Poythress, Jr. 916 acres. The will of John Poythress names his brother Thomas as owning lands adjoining him, and which from their location would seem to have belonged to Major Francis Poythress². In our first study of this will we were inclined to place both Thomas and John brothers, as sons of the Major, and some genealogies so place this John. Careful study later of the John Poythress, Sr. show that the John Poythress Jr. of the rent roll of 1704 was the John Poythress of the will of 1724 and hence a brother to Thomas. It is therefore seemingly impossible to place them as sons of the Major and they were most probably grandsons. (Vide our study of the John Poythresses) Robert Poythress, who was one of the executors of the will of John, is by some given genealogies given as his son, but that is certainly erroneous. Robert seems to have been the son of a John and it may have been the John Poythress, Sr. mentioned above. Certainly Thomas and Robert were closely related and were thrown together in a business way. It can not be stated when Thomas was born, but he owned considerable property as early as 1704 and acquired further holdings in Surry in 1715 and in Prince George in 1724 and 1733. We were first led into a study of the Poythresses in our attempt to disclose the lineage of William Hall the son of Robert Hall Burgess of Prince George in 1718. Several lineages placed this William as having married a Susannah Poythress. We have never seen any printed record of the children of this Robert Hall, but the descendants of William Hall continue the name of Susannah Poythress. Tradition is so strong that it may be accepted that the wife of William Hall was a Susannah Poythress, but whose daughter was she! It is stated that she was the daughter of Thomas Poythress. This may be true, but we have no record which would establish this as a fact. Take up next the wife of Thomas Poythress. It has been stated that she was Elizabeth Pleasants Cocke, the daughter of James Cocke and his wife Elizabeth Pleasants. Now it is well established that James Cocke married in 1791 Elizabeth Pleasants, the daughter of John Pleasants. Elizabeth (Pleasants) Cocke the widow of James Cocke, in her will probated in 1751 distinctly devises to her daughter Elizabeth "Portriss." Note the spelling.

From this will it is impossible to draw an inference as to the Poythress. Mr. W. Mac Jones of Richmond, has made a very careful study of this point and has come to the conclusion that Thomas Poythress was the husband. He is so careful and accurate in his work that we feel like accepting it. He may have some record that we do not know, which would give absolute proof. Certainly they could have had a daughter Susannah of marriageable age to have married William Hall. We have seen no record of a daughter nor record of the Marriage of Susannah Poythress and William Hall beyond the family tradition. In

a digest of Robert Hall from "Our Kin" William Hall, son of Robert married Susannah Poythress daughter of Thomas and Elizabeth Pleasants (Cocke) Poythress, and in the Compendium of American Genealogy Vol. I, p. 377 and Vol. III p. 352 William Hall son of Robert married Susannah, daughter of Thomas Poythress. He was born about 1700 and they later moved to North Carolina. Again in a communication from a descendant of William it is stated that William son of Robert married Susannah Poythress and about 1750 they moved to Craven County, North Carolina, which later became Jones County. A granddaughter Susannah Poythress Hall married Rev. John Howard. These are the only references that we possess relative to the above. In the records of Charles City County Court it is to be noted that Robert Poythress himself and Robert and Thomas Poythress as executors of the "last will and testament of Joshua Poythress were in a suit against Benjamin Harrison in 1741, which suit was dismissed for lack of prosecution. Both Robert and Thomas were living at this date. In Surry County in 1750 an attachment was made against the estate of Thomas Sisson by Peter and Elizabeth Poythres, executors of Robert Poythress, deceased, and Joshua Poythress, executor of Thomas Poythres deceased, which shows that both Robert and Thomas Poythress had both died prior to this date. The exact date of the death of Thomas Poythress we can not state, and there is no direct date as to children. In this connection it is interesting to note that a Joshua Poythress appointed Thomas Poythress as an executor in the record of 1741.

The name Thomas Poythress has been carried on in the female side and certainly in the descendants of Robert and Joshua. Attention is called to the Dr. Thomas Poythress Atkinson the son of Roger Atkinson and Agnes Poythress the daughter of Peter and Elizabeth (Bland) Poythress and the granddaughter of Robert. Also there was a John Poythress Cocke who died about 1815 son of Capt. James Cocke and Elizabeth Poythress seemingly of the Joshua line.

A Study of Robert Poythress

Executive Council Colonial Virginia.

Journal Vol. 3, p. 366, Order entered to prosecute Robert Poythress for furnishing ammunition to the Tuscaroras Indians. 27 Feb'y 1713.

Prince George County Robert Poythress Juryman, February 1715. Records.

Idem. Robert Poythress and John Woodlief appointed executors of the will of John Poythress. This will was proved at a court held at Merchants Hope, for Prince George County, the second Tuesday in May, being the 12th. of said month, Anno Domini 1724. Fra. Eppes, Jr. was one of the witnesses to the will.

Land Office Richmond, Virginia. Grant to Robert Portris of Prince Grants. George County, 291 acres on the lower side of Butterwood Book 13. Swamp, in Prince George County, consideration 30 shillings. p. 205 18 Sept. 1728
1725-30

Surry County Deed Book, David Poythress of Surry County to Robert 1730-35, Poythress ----- 600 acres on the north side of Nottaway p. 506 River in Surry County, 350 acres of said land was devised to

said David by his father John Poythress by his last will and testament, and the other 250 acres was patented by David Poythress 5 September 1723. Recorded 16 July 1735.

Idem. Deed of Thomas Bolling, Mariner to Robert Poythress of Prince George County, conveying a tract of land on Nottaway River in Surry County. 17 June 1735

Land Office Richmond, Virginia. Grant to Robert Poythress 400 acres Book 19, in Amelia County on the north side of Nottaway River, consideration 40 shillings. 1 June 1741.
(This was Prince George prior to 1734)

Charles City Court Orders. Robert Poythress, and Robert Poythress 1737-51 and Thomas Poythress executors of Joshua Poythress, dec'd vs. Benjamin Harrison. Court held July 1741.

Idem. Robert and Thomas Poythress exrs Joshua Poythress, dec'd. p. 172. No prosecution case is dismissed.

Bristol Parish Vestry Book.

p. 127 Payment ordered to executors of Robert Poythress, 16 October 1747. Payment made to executors of Robert Poythress, p. 133 10 November 1748.

Surry County Court Records. Attachment obtained by Peter and Elizabeth Poythress, executors of Robert Poythress, deceased, and Joshua Poythress, executor of Thomas Poythress, deceased, against the estate of Thomas Sissin. 15 May 1750.

Idem, Order Book. Elizabeth and Peter Poythress, exrs Robert Poythress, dec'd, vs. Thomas Eldridge. 21 July 1742. ?

The parentage of Robert Poythress is in question. Certain members of the Colonial Dames drew through him as the son of Francis³ the son of Maj. Francis². In the Virginia Magazine under a note to (507) continued of the Abstracts of Virginia Land Patents this same lineage is given, and Dr. Stanard seems to rather approve of this interpretation. Descendants of Mary Poythress and John Batte of "Mancelle" claim that Robert was the son of a John Poythress, the grandson of Francis¹. If so he was certainly not the John Poythress of the will of 1724. It is to be seen under our study of the John Poythresses we are inclined to consider Robert the son of John Poythress, Sr., but we realize the difficulty of placing the parentage of this John. At any rate Robert seems to have been born in 1790, and the first recorded notice that we have of him is in 1713 in connection with the Tuscaroras Indians furnishing them ammunition. He was a jurymen in 1715 and he is next seen as Executor with John Woodlief of the will probated in 1724 of John Poythress the husband of Mary Batte. It has been surmised that he was a brother but this is certainly erroneous and certainly John Poythress did not so term him in his appointment as an executor as he did in the case of Thomas Poythress in the body of the will. Later we find Robert in 1741 acting with Thomas Poythress as executors of the will of Joshua Poythress in a suit against Benjamin Harrison. We find the two acting thus together and they must have had business interests otherwise for after the death of both Robert and Thomas we find his executors his son Peter and daughter-in-law Elizabeth and Thomas' executor Joshua Poythress acting together in a suit

against the estate of Thomas Sisson in 1750. The suit brought in Surry by his executors against Thomas Eldridge must have been in July 1752, and the date 1742 as given an error in copying. Robert as seen acquired considerable land holdings by grant and purchase in 1728, 1735, and 1741 in Prince George, Surry and Amelia Counties. Note particularly the purchase of 600 acres in Surry County in 1735 from David Poythress, 350 acres of which was granted to John Poythress of Deep Bottom in 1701, and left to David, by will of his father. Carefully consider our discussion of this tract in our study of the John Poythresses, as it might be possible that this John of Deep Bottom might have been the father of Robert as well as the father of David. The exact date of the death of Robert is not known but it was probably in the middle of 1747 for it is noted in Bristol Parish Vestry Book that in October 1747 payment was ordered to the executors of Robert Poythress and they were finally paid in November 1748. We have seen no intimation as to who was his wife. He is credited as being the father of one son and nine daughters. There is a marked tradition in the family relative to this and several lists are given as to whom the "nine Poythress sisters" married, all agreeing to a greater or less extent. Below will be found a list of the supposed husbands, with a few remarks but no verification. Robert Poythress' only son was Peter and he was studied in detail under the Peter Poythresses.

Children:

1. Peter Poythress, only son, born 1732, married his first cousin Elizabeth Bland, daughter of Richard Bland and Anne Poythress.
2. daughter married Goode of "Whitby," not mentioned in "Goode's Virginia Cousins."
3. daughter married Gilliam. In a genealogy of the Gilliam family William Gilliam³ married Jane Poythress and their son Robert Gilliam born circa 1741 married Lucy Skelton. Bristol Parish p. 174 gives a William in Va. 1682 to marry a Poythress which is absolutely incorrect.
4. daughter married Eppes. In Bristol Parish p. 172 Richard Eppes³ is said to have married a Poythress and their son Richard⁴ married Christian Robertson p. 223 and their daughter Christian married Wm. Gilliam p. 172.
5. daughter married Rubsaman.
6. daughter married Morrison.
7. daughter married Lee. This may have been John Lee of "Lee Hall" whose brother Richard Lee as an old man married in 1786 Sally Bland Poythress the daughter of Peter Poythress and Elizabeth Bland and the granddaughter of Robert.
8. daughter married Cocke. Elizabeth Poythress married Capt. James Cocke but she is stated to have been the daughter of Joshua and ----- (Peachy) Poythress.
9. daughter married Baird or Blair, given both ways.
10. daughter married Harrison.

We can not vouch for the above marriages and the solution must be left for further interpretation and elucidation. It is easy to see how confusion should have arisen in the marriages of nine aunts and eight nieces.

A Study of the John Poythresses**Land Office, Richmond, Virginia.**

Grants:

Book 9, 1696-1706, p. 396. Grant to John Poythress Sr. of Deep Bottom, 350 acres lying on the north side of Nottaway River, for the transportation of seven persons; John Lee, Robt. Boreman, Humphry Hix, Henry Snetgrove, Mary Drin, U. Standback, Wm. Lambud. 24, Oct. 1701.

1

Notes from the Journal Executive Council Colonial Virginia.

Vol. III, p. 187. John Poythress took out patent for 600 acres in Prince

2 George County, and found part of it in Surry -----
ordered that Surry Surveyor lay that part off etc. -----
22 June 1708.

Surry County, Deed Book 1730-1735, p. 506.

Deed between David Poythress of Surry County, and Robert Poythress ----- 600 acres on the north side of Nottaway River in Surry County, 350 acres of said land was devised to said David by his father John Poythress by his last will and testament, and the other 250 acres patented by David Poythress 5 September 1723. 18 July 1735.

3

Land Office, Richmond.

Grants:

Book II, 1719-1724, p. 284. Grant to David Poythress, of Surry County, tract of 250 A. lying on the north side of Nottaway River, in Surry County, consideration 25 shillings. 5 September 1723.

4

Notes from Journal of the Executive Council Colonial Virginia.

Vol. III, p. 155. Benj. Harrison, Col. John Hardyman, Capt. John Poythress and others appointed to examine inhabitants of

5 Prince George, Surry and I. of Wight Counties regarding boundary disputes with the Province of North Carolina. 21 Oct. 1707.

Quit Rent Rolls of Prince George County 1704.

Francis Poythress, Sr. is shown to possess 1283 acres of land, in Prince George County, Thomas Poythress 616 acres, and John Poythress, Jr. 916 acres.

6

Land Office Richmond.

Grants:

Book 9, p. 571. Grant to John Poythress a tract on the south side of James River in Charles City County, beginning on the south side of Blackwater, including 609 acres, 2 roods and 9 poles. The said land was formerly granted unto Francis Poythress, by patent dated 28 Sept., 1681, by him deserted and is since granted unto the said John Poythress by order of court bearing date 21 April 1703, due for transportation of 13 persons into the Colony. 23 Oct. 1703. (Names given.)

7

Idem, Book 10, p. 280.

Grant to John Poythress of Prince George County, tract or parcel of land containing 100 acres in Isle of Wight County

- 8 for the transportation of two persons: Richard Inglesby and John Phillips. 23 March 1715.

Idem, Book 10, p. 327.

- Grant to John Poythress of Prince George County, tract of 267 acres on the south side of Main Blackwater in Surry County for the transportation of six persons: Alex Sutton, John Paire, Daniel Medhurst, Amos Alloth, Thomas Borden, John Hardiman. 15 July 1717

Prince George County Records, Va. Mag. Hist. & Biog. Vol. 19, pp. 428-9. (1713-28)

- Deed from John Poythress, Sr., and Mary his wife of Prince George County (and others named Ligon), etc., reciting that Henry Batte dec'd of Prince George, in his will bequeathed a tract of land in Prince George, of 1200 acres to his daughter, the said Mary Poythress etc. ----- 10 Sept. 1720.

- Idem. Will of Henry Batte, of Prince George County, dated 8 July 1727, proved 2 October 1727. Legatees, his mother Mary Batte, sister Mary Poythress etc.-----

- Idem p. 706. Will of John Poythress, of Martins Brandon Parish, Prince George County, devises to son John Poythress "my plantation on which I now live," 100 acres adjoining called "Colebrooks," as also "my tract of land lying on the south side of Main Blackwater Swamp"; to son Francis by the place called "Brick Chimneys" binding on land of son John Poythress and "my brother Thomas Poythress"; to sons John and Francis to be equally divided 280 acres adjoining Thomas Poythress; to son William place called "Powells" binding upon Thomas Poythress and also directs executors to sell sufficient cattle to purchase for son William in his name 400 acres; to sons John, Francis and William when he reaches the age of 18 to be turned over to him certain cattle stock and negroes; to daughters Elizabeth, Rebecca and Ann; and lastly "to my loving Wife Mary Poythress." Appoints Robert Poythress and John Woodlief executors. Signed in the presence of Fra. Eppes, Jr., Wm. Stainback and John Winnington.

(The three sons were under age at the time of the signing) This date seems not to be given. The will was probated, proved by Robert Poythress and John Woodlief, at a court held at Merchants Hope, for Prince George County, the second Tuesday in May, being the 12th day of said month, Anno Domini 1724. ("Jordans" is written on the Page of the Record Book.)

Records of Chesterfield County.

- Deed from Francis Poythress, of Prince George County, conveying to Thomas Walke his interest in certain slaves now in possession of Hannah, Poythress, Mary Poythress and Peter Woodlief, which slaves "were devised by my grandfather" to be (after the death of his widow) divided equally among his children. 23 Jan'y 1765.

Land Office Richmond.

Book II, p. 258. Grant to John Poythress of Prince George County, tract of 200 acres lying on the south side of Meherrin River in Isle of Wight County, consideration 25 shillings. 5 September 1723.

Book 17. p. 293. (1735-1738) Grant to John Poythress, 325 acres in Brunswick County on the south side of Maherin River, on the north side of Fountain's Creek, consideration 35 shillings. 17 March 1736.

Book 13 p. 205. (1725-30) Grant to Capt. John Poythress of Prince George County, for 225 acres on the south side of Maherin River in Brunswick County. 13 Oct. 1727.

House of Burgesses. John Poythress member 1723-26. In attendance at meeting 27 May 1726.

The preceding records are grouped and numbered for the purpose of more accurate and detailed study and reference.

To clearly differentiate the early John Poythresses is a difficult problem, but we will endeavor to show from the foregoing records certain facts relative to the John Poythresses who lived preceding and following 1700, and for better study we group the records under three headings. After giving the studied results of the groupings, we will give certain speculation thereon. Scientific speculations are permissible, and any hypothesis is allowable for it is simply an attempt to explain known facts which exist. When it becomes acceptable to the scientific world it becomes a theory of the day, and holds until a fact is discovered which runs contrawise. The theory passes, another hypothesis arises, becomes accepted and a new theory reigns. This is science and knowledge expands and continues to grow. This is our problem with the Poythresses and if you so wish to term it the Poythress puzzle. We do not expect to solve it but in the repercussion following new facts will doubtless arise from the interested descendants of the Poythress and allied families. The result will be increased and more accurate family knowledge and that is our desire in these studies. In our first grouping we considered the first six records.

This John Poythress of Deep Bottom certainly owned property in the counties of Prince George and Surry. Bear in mind that Surry County was set off from James City County in 1652 and Prince George from Charles City County in 1702 and both extended to the boundary of the Province of North Carolina. Prince George was an enormous county extending to the west and south from the Appomattox and James Rivers, and it is difficult at the present day to delimit the boundary between Prince George and Surry in the early part of the eighteenth century. Blackwater River empties into the Nottaway and passes through Isle of Wight County and has its headwaters in Prince George. A careful study of the grants on main Blackwater in connection with the Poythress family, as also other families would elucidate much history of these early families. It will be noted that later we find grants to Poythresses in Isle of Wight and Brunswick the former set off from Surry and the latter from Prince George. John Poythress' first grant in 1701 was for 350 acres north of the Nottaway River and this grant was not so far from North Carolina. The next record of him is in

1707 when the Executive Council of Virginia appoints him styled Capt. John Poythress with Col. John Hardyman and others to investigate the dispute as to the boundary line between Virginia and North Carolina. From this investigation he evidently discovered that his patent in Prince George which he thought was in that county was found to be partly in Surry, and the Executive Council in 1708 ordered that the Surry Surveyor lay off the part in Surry. The next direct evidence of him is brought out in connection with his son David. In 1723 David Poythress is granted 250 acres in Surry on the north side of Nottaway River. In 1735 David Poythress of Surry deeds to Robert Poythress at that time of Prince George 600 acres on the north side of Nottaway River, 350 acres of which had been devised to him by his father John Poythress, and 250 acres was granted to him in 1723. This 350 acres was the grant originally in 1701 to John Poythress, Sr. of Deep Bottom. The study of this grouping and particularly of this tract of 600 acres is direct evidence of the John Poythress Sr. and his son David. These two records of David are the only knowledge of him we possess, but there is indirect information relative to John Poythress, Sr. In the quit rent rolls of Prince George County in 1704 John Poythress, Jr. is shown to possess 916 acres of land, which indirectly establishes a John Poythress, Sr., as of that date. Again this John Poythress, Jr. of 1704, in 1720 as John Poythress, Sr. of that date join his wife Mary in selling a tract of land of 1200 acres devised to her by her father Henry Batte. This is indirect evidence that the John Poythress, Sr. of Deep Bottom had died prior to 1720. This is all the knowledge we have of him, unless we find the tradition in the family of Robert Poythress sufficient to make him the father of Robert as well as David. This is considered later.

In the second grouping for study we place the next seven records.

There was a grant to John Poythress in 1703 of 609 A. 2 roods and 9 poles in Charles City County, which was the same tract granted to Major Francis Poythress² in 1681, deserted by him and regranted on the south side of Blackwater. This was one year after Prince George was set off from Charles City, and in the next year 1704 in the quit rent rolls John Poythress, Jr. is shown possessed of 916 acres. These two records establish John Poythress, Jr. The next record is questionable as it is in Isle of Wight and may have belonged to John Poythress, Sr. We however leave the possession of the 267 on the south side of Main Blackwater to the John Poythress we are studying even if in Surry county on account of its being on Blackwater. The next record shows that in 1720 that this same John Poythress, now styled Sr., and his wife Mary née Batte sell 1200 acres of land devised to her by her father Henry Batte. Next in 1727 her brother Henry Batte makes his mother Mary and his sister Mary Poythress legatees, proving also the marriage of this John Poythress to Mary Batte and that the mother's name was also Mary. In the meantime between 1720 and May 1724 John Poythress died and his will is proved and probated in that year. This will is very informative and we consider it in detail. John Poythress evidently the oldest son receives "my plantation on which I now live," 100 acres called "Colebrooks" and "my tract of land lying on the south side of main Blackwater Swamp." Francis the next son receives "a tract of land lying at and by the place called the "Brick Chimneys" binding upon my son John Poythress, my brother Thomas Poythress, and so around the patent taking in the whole tract or dividend of land." John and Francis equally receive 280 acres adjoining Thomas Poythress across from the Horn Branch. William the third son and youngest re-

ceives 150 acres of land called "Powells" and under another item he directs that stock etc. should be sold sufficient "to enter a survey of 400 A. of land in the woods, according to the discretion of my executors, for my son William Poythress, to be patented in his name." Bequests are made to daughters Rebecca, Elizabeth and Ann under separate items, as also to "my loving wife Mary Poythress." The will was witnessed by Fra. Eppes, Wm. Stainback, and John Winnington. There seems to be no date of the signing, but the executors Robert Poythress and John Woodlief proved the will at court held at Merchant's Hope, for Prince George County the second Tuesday in May, being the 12th day of said month, Anno Domini 1724. On the page of the Record Book is written Jordans. We do not understand the word Jordans being placed here unless it refers to Jordans Parish which may have antedated Martins Brandon Parish in which John Poythress lived. Study this will for a time. The sons John, Francis and William are shown therein to be under age at the time the will was made. William was the youngest and later became possible the most widely known of the three. William Poythress the son of John Poythress and his wife Mary Batte is generally accepted as the Col. William Poythress who married Sarah Eppes, the daughter of Col. Francis Eppes. The epitaph on the tomb of Col. William Poythress at old Blandford Church, Petersburg, is as follows: "Here lies the corpse of Col. William Poythress, son of John Poythress, who died January 18, 1763, aged 68 years." This would make him born in 1695 and he was the youngest of the three sons. Considering this in connection with the will, and as the will seems to bear no date we can only interpret that the will was signed a number of years prior to its probation in 1724. Otherwise Col. William Poythress was not the William Poythress of the will and the son of John Poythress. Certainly Col. William was a resident of Prince George from its inception and a vestryman of Bristol Parish up to 1752 after which date he was thrown into Dinwiddie. Again John the oldest son must have been born close after 1690, if his youngest brother William was born in 1695, and the year 1690 is the year given as the birth of Robert Poythress one of the executors of the will. Robert and John were therefore of the same age. John the son was evidently the member of the House of Burgesses in 1723 and 1726, and not his father as has been stated. It seems that this will might have been written some time near the year 1712 for in one of the items of the will as to the distribution of the slaves William's share were to be turned over to him when he became 18 years of age, and that would have been in 1713, if born in 1695 as evidenced by his epitaph. In our opinion after most careful consideration Col. William Poythress was son of John Poythress and Mary Batte. As late as 1765 the deed of Francis Poythress in Chesterfield County to Thomas Walke evidently refers to the division of slaves in this will of his grandfather. We have however not the full text of this deed and the name of his grandfather is not given in our record though the slaves at the date 1765 seem to have been in the possession of Hannah Poythress, Mary Poythress and Peter Woodlief.

From the above the children of John Poythress and Mary Batte were:

1. John Poythress.
2. Francis Poythress.
3. William Poythress.
4. Rebecca Poythress.
5. Elizabeth Poythress.
6. Ann Poythress.

In the last grouping we have placed the remaining records.

John Poythress the oldest son of the above John Poythress and Mary Batte seems to have purchased other lands than those acquired by bequest from his father in Prince George for we see grants to him in 1723 in Isle of Wight, in 1727 in Brunswick and in 1736 again in Brunswick and each time on Meherrin River. In 1727 he is referred to as Captain. He lived in Prince George and was evidently its representative as Burgess in 1723 and 1726.

A Study of William Poythress

Prince George County Will of John Poythress, of Martins Brandon Parish, Prince George County, proved May 13, 1724, cites 1713-28. brother Thomas Poythress, children John, Francis, William, p. 706. Rebecca, Elizabeth and Ann, and wife Mary. Robert Poythress and John Woodlief executors, and will proved by them. Cites children under age. No date of signing the will.

Land Office Richmond, Virginia. Grant to William Poythress of Book 12, Prince George County 206 acres upper or west side of Butter-1724-26. wood Swamp, in Prince George County, consideration 45 p. 68 shillings. (On both sides of Reedy Branch) July 9, 1724.

Book 13, 1726-30, Grant to William Poythress of Prince George County p. 273 343 acres in the forks of Reedy Branch of Butterworth Swamp, consideration 30 shillings adjoining his own and Eppes lines in the county of Prince George. October 13, 1727.

Book 15, 1732-35, Grant to William Poythress of Prince George p. 39 County, 1024 acres lying in same county, consideration 5£. 5s. June 20, 1733.

Idem, p. 61. Grant to William Poythress of Prince George County 381 acres in same county on south side of Butterwood Swamp, Consideration 40 shillings June 20, 1733.

Idem, p. 47. Grant to William Poythress of Prince George County 297 acres in same county, consideration 30 shillings. June 20, 1733.

Idem, p. 461. Grant to William Poythress of Prince George County 400 acres near Sapponi Chapel in same county, Consideration 40 shillings. Mch 24, 1734.

Book 19, 1739-41. Grant to William Poythress 1572 acres in Prince p. 950. George County on the upper side of Tomaheton Swamp, consideration 40 shillings. June 1, 1741.

Idem, p. 983. Grant to William Poythress 200 acres in Prince George County on south side of Butterwood Swamp, consideration 20 shillings. June 1, 1741.

Book 31, p. 171. Grant to William Poythress 531 acres in Dinwiddie County, on the south side of Butterwood Swamp. Aug. 3, 1752.

Bristol Parish Register. Births.

- 9 April 1726 Anne Isham dau. Maj. William and Sarah Poythress.
 14 March 1728 William, son Maj. William and Sarah Poythress.
 7 August 1731 Sarah, dau. Maj. William and Sarah Poythress.
 21 Sept. 1741 Elizabeth, dau. Maj. William and Sarah Poythress.

Bristol Parish Vestry Book, (Chamberlayne) p. 103.

- Idem, p. 29 Feb. 19, 1726, William Poythress chosen vestryman.
 Idem, p. 32 Nov. 10, 1726, William Poythress sworn in as vestryman.
 Idem, p. -- Oct. 15, 1728, William Poythress elected Church Warden.
 Idem, p. 45 Oct. 15, 1729, William Poythress called Captain.
 Idem, p. 71 Oct. 11, 1734, William Poythress called Major.
 Idem, p. 125 July 13, 1747, William Poythress called Colonel.
 Idem, p. 155 Nov. 15, 1754, That Col. William Poythress have leave to inclose a piece of ground for a burying place for his family etc.—
 Idem, p. 145 June 22, 1752, Thomas Williams made vestryman in place of Col. William removed from the Parish.
 Idem, p. 174 Aug. 5, 1760, Mr. William Poythress elected vestryman in place of Maj. Wm. Eppes, dec'd. (evidently the son of the Col.)
 Idem, p. 217 June 10, 1769, Theophilus Field, Jr. elected vestryman in place of Capt. William Poythress dec'd. (? the date.)

Journal Executive Council Colonial Virginia. William Poythress named Vol. IV. by the Governor Sheriff Prince George County. 25 April p. 171. 1728

Idem, p. 200. William Poythress appointed sheriff Prince George for ensuing year. 2 May 1729.

Idem, p. 202. William Poythress granted 2000 acres in Prince George County, on Tommaheton Creek. 2 May 1729.

Idem, p. 237. Governor appointed Danl. Walker, William Poythress and Peter Jones inspectors of Tobacco at Appomatox, Munnfords and Powell Creek. 27 April 1731.

Idem, p. 285. Governor appointed William Poythress and Peter Jones inspectors tobacco at Appomatox. 22 Oct. 1732.

Poythress Family Notes Vir. Mag. Vol. XXXIII

William Poythress Justice of the Peace Prince George County 1738. William Poythress and Francis Poythress Military Officers of Prince George County 1738.

Hening's Statutes Vol. VI May 1755. Isham Eppes and William Poythress appointed commissioners of Proprietors whose tobacco burnt at Bolling's Point warehouse.

Idem. Vol. VII, p. 608. William Poythress appointed Trustee for Town of Blandford.

Abstracts of Prince George County Records, Book for 1759-60.

Wm. & Mary Quart. Indenture between William Poythress of the Jan. 1931, County of Dinwiddie— and Samuel Gordon of the County of

pp. 44, Prince George— two lots in the town of Blandford. Wit:—
45 & 46. John Baird, Patrick Ramsey, Robert Mackie. Livery and
Seizen of above lots, Aug. 14, 1759. Wit:—Jer. Baker,
James Clark, Patrick Ramsey.

Indenture Feb. 7, 1760 between William Poythress of the
County of Dinwiddie and Samuel Gordon of the County of
Prince George. A "parcel of land ----- in the town of
Blandford ----- outermost corner of the Main and Neilson
Street ----- to Hardaway's corner ----- John Hood's line."

Indenture Jan. 30, 1760, between William Poythress of Din-
widdie County ----- and William Brodnax of the same
county ----- "one lot in a certain Town Called Blandford."
Wit:—John Butler, Peter Bland, Samuel Gordon.

Indenture Dec. 11, 1759, between High Miller of the Parish of
Bristol and John Baird of the same parish. "Two lots in the
town of Blandford purchased by the said Miller viz: number
eight of William Poythress and number nine of Lewis and
Armistead Burwell -----" Wit:—Bolling Stark, Jane
Clark, James Johnson. Memorandum Dec. 11, 1759.

At Blandford Church Cemetery, Petersburg, Virginia, there are the
following epitaphs:—

Here lyes the corpse of Sarah Poythress daughter of Col.
Francis Eppes and wife to Col. Wm. Poythress, who died the
----- October 1750 aged 48 years.

Here lyes the corpse of Col. Wm. Poythress son of John Poy-
thress who died 18 Jan. 1763, aged 68 years.

William Poythress was the youngest son of John Poythress and his
wife Mary Batte. From the date of death on his tomb stone in Old
Blandford Churchyard, Petersburg, Virginia January 18th, 1763, aged
68 it is evident that he was born in 1695. It is there also stated that
he was the son of John Poythress, and all family tradition upholds
this. At the time of his birth his father was living in Charles City
County. He therefore during his lifetime saw the formation of Prince
George in 1702, Amelia in 1734 and Dinwiddie his last residence in 1752.
He became a vestryman of Bristol Parish in 1726 and remained as such
until 1752 when he was thrown into Dinwiddie and evidently Bath
Parish, but he was associated with his old Church and is buried in its
Cemetery, besides his wife Sarah Eppes. She died in October 1750 at
the age of 48 years, and her tomb shows she was the daughter of Col.
Francis Eppes. He served in the military establishment of Prince
George passing through the grades of Captain in 1729, Major in 1734
and Colonel in 1747; he was Sheriff in Prince George in 1729 and also
appointed in 1730 for the ensuing year; and tobacco inspector in 1731
and 1731 and possibly other years for Appomattox, Munford and Powell
Creek. He inherited lands and personal property from his father, and
acquired very large land holdings in addition beginning in 1724 through
the years up to 1752, in the counties of Prince George, Amelia and Din-
widdie. At the time of his death his largest holdings were in Dinwiddie.
It will be noted that he sold several lots in the old Town of Bland-
ford. The last two records evidently refer to his son William, though
he died in 1794. According to the record of births in Bristol Parish he
and his wife Sarah Eppes had the following children:—

1. Anne Isham Poythress, born April 9, 1726.
2. William Poythress, born March 14, 1728, died October 15, 1794.
3. Sarah Poythress, born August 7, 1731.
4. Elizabeth Poythress, born September 21, 1741.

William Poythress was the son of Col. William Poythress and Sarah Eppes. He was County Lieut. in 1769 for Prince George. His name on the Monument in Williamsburg is to be found in the list of Burgesses, who in Raleigh Tavern on May 18, 1769, May 27, 1774, and August 1776 voted against the importation and purchase of British Manufactures. The name of his wife we do not know, nor the names of his children beyond the son William Poythress the third of the same name in direct line.

Records from the Tax Books of Prince George County.
 William Poythress Tax returns for personality 1782-1795.
 Estate William Poythress Tax returns for real estate. 1797-1811.
 Estate William Poythress Tax returns for personality 1795-1801.

William Poythress died October 15, 1794.

William Poythress, evidently Jr. made the tax returns on acreage from 1795 to 1814 for the Estate. From 1796 to 1814 the 400 acre tract is specifically mentioned and in 1812 it is styled "400 acre tract on Bayleys Creek." In 1814 the "original tract" is again mentioned, tracts given as 100, 381, 400, & 225 acres respectively 2 miles north of Court House. This shows that William Poythress owned this 400 acreage spoken of as "the original tract" on Bayleys Creek. This seems to coincide with the original grant of 400 acres to Francis Poythress¹, 13 July 1637 and 8 May 1648. In the last grant it is shown that he purchased 350 acres from Jenkins Osborne it being a part of Osborne's patent 9 July 1735, giving him a total of 750 acres. (Note that Francis Osborne had a patent for 1300 acres due in right of his father Jenkins Osborn 14 July 1637 which passes to Capt. Francis Eppes.) This property seems to have been in possession of the Poythress family from the first Francis Poythress down to this William, who was the grandson of John Poythress and his wife Mary Batte. He was born March 14, 1728 and died October 15, 1794. His father Col. William Poythress must have owned it but there is no record of how he came into possession. He did not inherit it from his father whose will is of record in 1724. John Poythress however did instruct his executors to purchase land for his son William so as to make his holdings more or less equal to those of his brothers Francis and John, specifically indicating 400 acres to be purchased in the woods. It is possible that the executors adjusted it in this way with the Poythress property on Bayley's Creek. Otherwise it must have come from gift from a Poythress or purchase on the part of Col. William. It is possible that it came into possession of an Eppes and came through Sarah. We have no record covering this point.

It is interesting to note that in 1814 in the tax records that this 400 acre tract adjoins property belonging to a John Batte.

A Study of the Peter Poythresses

Executive Journal Council of Colonial Virginia.

Vol. 3, Mr. Peter Poythress sent to negotiate with the Tuscaroros
 p. 284 Indians, 8 October 1711.

Idem p. 300 Mr. Peter Poythress, before the House of Burgesses for deputation of the above Indians. 8 December 1711.

Va. Mag. Vol. XXXIII. Francis and Peter Poythress were guardians pp. 31-33. for the orphans of Roger Drayton. 12 July 1715.

Surry County, Deed from William Moore, of Southwark Parish, Surry Wills & County, to Peter Poythress of Prince George County, Martins Brandon Parish, for tract in Lawnes Creek Parish, in 1715-30, Surry County, containing by estimation 92 acres consideration p. 302. 630 pounds of tobacco and 11 shillings. 14 Feb. 1720.

Idem p. 622. Deed from Henry Jones and Katherine his wife, of Surry County, to Peter Poythress, of Prince George County, consideration 25 shillings, for 250 acres on the south side of Nottaway River, in Surry County. Witnesses:—William Poythress, Wm. Freeman and Wm. Dennis. 15 February 1725.

Slaughter's Richard Bland of "Jordan's," son of Richard Bland and Bristol Elizabeth Randolph, was born May 6th. 1710, and died October 26th. 1776, married Anne, daughter and heir of Peter 156 & Poythress, of Fleur de Hundred, James River. (1) She was Wm. & born December 13th. 1712 and died April 9th. 1758.

Mary
Quar. p.
157.

Surry County Order Book. Elizabeth and Peter Poythress, Executors 1751-1753. of Robert Poythress, dec'd vs. Thomas Eldridge. 21 July 1742.

Surry County, Suit vs. Peter Poythress, Carpenter. 19 September Record 1749.
Book.

Idem. Attachment obtained by Peter and Elizabeth Poythress, executors of Robert Poythress, deceased, and Joshua Poythress, executor of Thomas Poythress, deceased, against the estate of Thomas Sisson.

Land Office, Richmond, Virginia. Grant to Peter Poythress of 324 Book 29 acres in Prince George County, on the south side of Butterwood Swamp, consideration 35 shillings. 5 August 1751.
1749-1751.

Idem Book 35. p. 233. Grant to Peter Poythress of 178 acres in Amelia 1762- County, on the Nottoway River and Hurrican Swamp, consideration 25 shillings. 27 July 1763.
1764.

Idem Book A. p. 328. Grant to Peter Poythress by Thomas Jefferson, 1779- Governor of the Commonwealth, for a tract of land containing 1780. by survey bearing date 24 November 1779 nearly 13 acres lying in Bath Parish and Dinwiddie County on the south side of Butterwood Creek, beginning at Peter Wynne's corner, consideration 5 shillings. 29 May 1780.

Idem Book B. p. 298. Grant to Peter Poythress by the Governor tract containing 173 acres, survey made Nov. 21, 1774, and lying in

Prince George County, on the south side of Black Water Swamp, consideration 20 shillings. 20 June 1780.

Sainsbury Papers, XIV, p. 77. In 1769 Peter Poythress Burgess from Colonial Prince County, succeeding Alexander Bolling.

Papers X
No. 29, p.
77. Journal
House of
Burgesses,
1766-1769,
p. 136.

Prince George County Records. Will of Mary Poythress, of Prince George County, dated 9 February 1788, proved February 1788. Legatees Wilmuth Harrison, daughter Susannah Poythress all the rest of her estate, including the testator (Mary Poythress') share of the property bequeathed by her deceased son Peter Poythress. Friend Nicholas Faulcon and Joshua Poythress, Executors.

Idem. Deed from William Poythress, son and heir of Peter Poythress deceased. July 1790.

Court Records of Prince George County.

p. 17. Deed from Elizabeth Poythress, of Prince George County, widow and relict of Peter Poythress of the same county, deceased, to daughter Sally Lee, so as to prevent any dispute which may arise on the construction of the will of Peter Poythress deceased, respecting the bequest in the said will of Kate's daughter Fannie to her said daughter Sally, together with her increase, she and her increase in the will being devised to Elizabeth Poythress the wife of Peter Poythress. The said negroe Fannie is now deeded to daughter Sally Lee. Proved, April 10, 1787.

Prince George County Records.

Deed from John Hardyman and Henrietta Maria his wife to Joshua Poythress, conveying 300 acres of land called "Flower de Hundred" 9 July 1725. (Note 1)

Prince George County, Division of the estate of Richard Bland, October 10, 1786. Richard Bland, Ann Poythress Morrison, and Elizabeth Blair Bland, and Mary Bland, widow and relict of Richard Bland, deceased, received slaves, household furniture, chariot and four horses. Richard Bland the younger receives half of the plantation and half of the stock of cattle, sheep and hogs, and negro boy John Wilson, specifically devised by the will of the deceased.

Edmund Ruffin, Jr.

Wm. Green.

Wm. Poythress.

At the court held for Prince George County at the court house March 17, 1787, the foregoing division of the estate of Richard Bland, dec'd was returned and is by order of the court truly recorded. Teste: C. Russell, Clerk.

- Idem, p. 403.** Will of John Morrison, husband of Ann Poythress Morrison, daughter of Richard Bland. April 12, 1785.
 Richard Bland, born March 3, 1731, married October 8, 1761 Mollie Bolling (Mary Blair Bolling), born July 16, 1744, daughter of John Bolling. Children:—
1. Richard Bland, born 1762, died 1806.
 2. Ann Poythress Bland, born 1765, mar. 1st. John Morrison. 2nd. Peter Woodlief.
 3. John Bolling Bland, born 1767, died, 1777.
 4. Elizabeth Blair Bland, born 1770.

The first mention of a Peter Poythress that we have is a notice in the Journal of the Executive Council where "Mr. Peter Poythress" is sent to negotiate with the Tuscaroros Indians in October 1711, and he makes report in the following December. To have been so selected he must have been of mature age and dependable character. His parentage has not been clearly set forth. We have him mentioned in two genealogies of the Poythress family, and in the first is the following outlined:—Major Francis Poythress married Rebecca—and had issue: 1. John and 2. Francis who married. John married and had issue 1. Col. William, born 1695 and 2. Col. Peter of "Flower de Hundred" (1) Prince George County. Later on Col. Peter Poythress of "Flower de Hundred" had issue Anne (born Dec. 13, 1712 died April 9, 1758) only child and heir, married Richard Bland of Jordan's Point, Prince George County. In the second genealogy:—Francis Poythress and wife— had Robert born 1790, married and had Peter born 1715 and he had Peter born 1732. Both of the above are incorrect, but it is difficult to interpret the accurate sequence of parentage of a number of the early members of this family. On account of the statement given in the traditions of the Poythress family that both Robert and Peter Poythress were sons of a John Poythress but not of the John given in the above genealogy, we feel inclined to give credence to Peter being the son of a John. We would prefer to select the John Poythress, Sr., and not the John Poythress, Jr. of the will of 1724, undated but proved in that year. This John Poythress, Sr. is definitely shown in the study of the John Poythresses, and particularly referred to in the Deed of David Poythress to Robert Poythress in 1735 of 600 acres of land situated on the Nottaway River in Surry County, a part of it having come to him by the last will and testament of his father John Poythress. Note carefully the location of land in Surry County on the Nottaway River acquired by purchase of Peter Poythress from Henry Jones in 1725, and that David Poythress the son of John acquired by grant a part of the place he sold Robert Poythress in 1723. David and Peter had lands in the same location in Surry County, and whereas that does not prove that they were brothers, but taken with the stated fact David was the son of John and in the family genealogy that Peter was the son of John it might be taken as presumptive evidence that they were both sons of this John Poythress, Sr. If this surmise should be correct it might also be possible that this John Poythress, Sr. could have been another son of the first Francis Poythress, a brother of Major Francis, and uncle of the John Poythress, Jr. of the will of 1724. This is however pure speculation on our part, as we have no stated fact to prove its truth, and is simply an attempt to make tradition jibe with records. Again Robert Poythress, in a genealogical statement of one of his descendants who distinctly states

that an old aunt of hers said that Robert was a grandson of Francis¹ of 1633. This of course is undependable. One of the genealogies above give Peter to be the son of Francis³, and that may be true. At any rate Peter and Robert belong to the same time and were either first cousins or brothers. We are inclined to make special plea of the relationship being brothers. Bear in mind that Robert Poythress had only one son Peter Poythress born in 1732 and he with his wife Elizabeth Bland were executors of the will of his father Robert. Robert and Peter were in intimate relationship and what would have been more natural than for Robert to name and what turned out his only son Peter for his brother. We do not know the date of birth of Peter but his daughter Anne was born in 1712, and her daughter Elizabeth Bland married her cousin Peter Poythress and they were Robert's executors. Col. Peter Poythress lived during his life time through the changes which occurred in Charles City County and in reference to him is spoken of as of "Flower de Hundred." This brings up the question of "Flowerdew Hundred" and when it came into possession of the Poythress family. (Vide note (1)) We do not interpret that he owned "Flowerdew Hundred" but he may have lived there. Certainly if he owned it possession would have passed to his only daughter and heir Anne. It did come into possession of Joshua Poythress in 1725. We do not know how he acquired the title of Colonel, but he was a man of means, of acumen, and one in whom trust was imposed. The date of his birth and whom he married is not known. Attention here is called to the deed made to him by Henry Jones and Catherine his wife of Surry County of 250 acres on the south side of Nottaway River for 5 shillings. The price of 5 shillings is rather suggestive of some close family relationship between the Jones and Poythress families. Might not a daughter of Henry Jones have been the wife of Peter Poythress? It is seen that both owned property on the Nottaway River. The date of his death is not known but he died close about or before 1730 as he had an only daughter and heir Anne who had a son born in 1732. There is a possibility that the second name Peter Poythress of one of the genealogies born in 1715 as stated might have been his son instead of the son of Francis, but if so he died before his father.

Note 1. We desire to call particular attention to the spelling "Flowerdew Hundred," which was originally derived from the maiden name of the wife of Governor George Yardley (1626-27). This was as it should be in conformity to the early division of the Colony into plantations, hundreds, towns and counties. The original patent of "Flowerdew Hundred" was in the bend of James River below Windmill Point and where Flowerdew Creek flows into the James. On account evidently of the french sound of the last syllable of Flowerdew the name lapsed into Flower de as also Fleur de. We find in 2nd. Hening page 472 that in 1689, "fifty acres of land were laid off for a town at Varina, where the court house is, and at flower de hundred." It is to be much regretted the first spelling should not have been retained for its historic origin. However by the end of the seventeenth century it had acquired practically the name "Flowed de Hundred" which it maintains to the present day.

The Peter Poythress, styled of "Branchester," born in 1732, was the only son of Robert Poythress though he is said to have had nine

sisters. Dr. Philip Slaughter in his "Bristol Parish states that "Bonaccord," "Aberdeen" and "Branchester" were seats of the Poythress family in Prince George County, as also that the first named was the original seat of the ancestor of the family, but we do not know the authority for the last statement, but in our opinion he is in error. Peter and Elizabeth Poythress were executors of the estate of his father Robert in July 1742 against Thomas Eldridge in Surry County, though we are of the opinion that the date 1742 is an error of copying the record and should be 1752 instead, as they could not have been married in 1742 on account of age in the case of each. In May 1750 attachment was made in the Court of Surry County by Peter and Elizabeth Poythress, executors of Robert Poythress, deceased, and Joshua Poythress, executor of Thomas Poythress, deceased against the estate of Thomas Sisson. The following grants were made to Peter Poythress in 1751 324 acres in Prince George on the south side of Butterwood Swamp, in 1763 178 acres in Amelia County on Nottaway River and Hurrican Swamp, in 1780. In Bath Parish Dinwiddie County on the south side of Butterwood Creek, and in June 1780 173 acres in Prince George on the south side of Black Water Swamp. In 1769 Peter Poythress was elected Burgess from Prince George County in the place of Alexander Bolling, of "Mitchell's." In 1790 there is a record of deed from William Poythress in which he is stated to be the son and heir of Peter Poythress, deceased. A deed of Elizabeth Poythress is found recorded in Prince George, in which she is styled widow and relict of Peter Poythress, deceased. In this deed she is evidently legally giving to her daughter Sally Lee a negro girl in 1787. A question must have arisen in the interpretation of her husband Peter's will as to the disposition of this girl. Elizabeth seems to have had this girl bequeathed to her in the will, and she is curing the title to the girl to her daughter Sally. This deed is dated in 1787, but attached to it is "Proved 10 April 1787." It appears that this was the date of the proving in court of her husband's will but we can not speak definitely as to this. At any rate it establishes pretty accurately the date of death of Peter Poythress. His will was seemingly destroyed as were in large measure the records of Prince George County. Peter Poythress and his wife Elizabeth Bland had the following children, which are given more or less in detail but we are unable to give the dates of their births and therefore the proper sequence.

1. William Poythress, married 1st, ----- Bolling; 2nd, Mrs. Marable.
2. Mary Poythress, married June 28, 1779 John Batte of Mancell, Prince George County, according to the Virginia Gazette, but made the error of calling her Sally instead of Mary. (Issue 8 children.)
3. Ann Poythress, married Robert Randolph.
4. Agnes Poythress, married Roger Atchinson² September 29, 1788, the son of Roger Atkinson of "Mansfield," Dinwiddie County and Anne Pleasants the granddaughter of John Pleasants the emigrant of 1665.
5. Elizabeth Poythress, born in 1759, married William Mayo of Henrico County. Their tombs were originally at Powhatan but later moved to Hollywood.
6. Sallie Bland Poythress, born in 1770, married at the age of sixteen Richard Lee, the son of Henry Lee, who was sixty

years of age. She outlived him and married for the second time Willoughby Newton.

7. Lucy Poythress, married John Eppes of Eppesville, Prince George County. (No issue.)
8. Jane Poythress, married Joseph Mayo.
9. Susan Poythress, married December 24, 1787, her cousin Richard Bland (1762-1806.) Issue:
 1. Richard Bland, mar. 1st, -----; 2nd, ----- Ledbetter.
 2. John Bolling Bland, mar. 1st, ----- Eppes; 2nd, Rachel Reed; 3rd, E. Cargill.
 3. Sarah Bland, mar. Thomas Bott.
 4. Theodorick Bland, mar. Mary Harrison. (The last owner of "Jordans")
 5. Mary Bland, mar. Elgin Russell. (Pocahontas & Her Descendants p. 45)

Synopsis of the Poythress and Bland Connections

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|---|--|--|
| <p>Robert Poythress. One son and nine daughters.</p> <hr/> | <p>Peter Poythress of "Flowerdew Hundred"</p> <hr/> | <p>Richard Bland of "Jordans Point." b. Aug. 11, 1665. d. April 20, 1720. m. Mary Swann, six children all died young. " 2nd. Elizabeth Randolph</p> <hr/> <p>Richard Bland of "Jordans" b. May 6, 1710. d. Oct. 26, 1776. m. Anne Poythress, only dau. and heir of Peter Poythress. (Bristol Parish p. 156 and Wm. & M. Quar. Vol. V., p. 157.)</p> <hr/> <p>2. Richard Bland b. 1731. d. 1776. m. Mary Bolling, dau. of John Bolling and Elizabeth Blair. She was born July 16, 1744, mar. Oct. 8, 1761. (Pocahontas pp. 32 and 36.)</p> <hr/> <p>Issue:— 2. Elizabeth Bland, b. 1770 3. John Bland, b. 1767, d. 1777.</p> <hr/> <p>1. Richard Bland, b. 1762, d. 1806. m. Susan Poythress.</p> <hr/> <p>2. Anne Poythress Bland, b. 1765. m. 1st. John Moerrison.</p> <hr/> <p>2nd. Peter Woodlief. † Issue:— 1. Ann Poythress Woodlief, m. Jeffrey. 2. Hannah Woodlief, m. Dr. Hardaway. 3. Elizabeth Woodlief, m. Dr. Shadrach Alfriend, (Pocahontas, p. 45.)</p> |
| | <p>Anne Poythress mar. --- b. Dec. 13, 1712. d. April 9, 1758.</p> <hr/> | |
| | <p>Peter Poythress of "Branchester." mar. --- Issue:— 1. William Poythress—m. 1st Bolling. 2nd Mrs. Marable. 2. Mary " " John Batte of "Mancelle." 3. Ann " " Robert Randolph. 4. Agnes " " Roger Atkinson, Sept. 29, 1788, son of Roger Atkinson of "Mansfield" and Anne Pleasants.</p> <hr/> <p>5. Elizabeth " " b. 1759, m. William Mayo of Henrico. 6. Sallie Bland " " 1st. 1776 at age of 16 Richard Lee of "Lee Hall" who died May 28, 1788 2nd Willoughby Newton.</p> <hr/> <p>7. Lucy " " John Eppes of Eppesville, Prince George. 8. Jane " " Joseph Mayo. 9. Susan " " Richard Bland</p> <hr/> <p>Issue of Richard Bland & Susan Poythress:— 1. Richard Bland m. 1st. 2nd. Ledbetter. 2. John Bolling Bland, m. 1st. Eppes. 2nd. Rachel Reed. 3rd. E. Cargill. 3. Sarah Bland, m. Thomas Bott. 4. Theorerick Bland, m. Mary Harrison. (Last owner of "Jordan's.") 5. Mary Bland, m. Elgin Russell.</p> | |