

Observations at Blandford Church Cemetery, Petersburg, Virginia,  
on October 16, 1992 by Barbara Poythress Neal and Charles Neal:

In "**Ward A, Square 2, Old ground**" just inside the walled corner  
of the cemetery at the corner of Crater Road and Rochelle Lane  
(which becomes Columbian Avenue past the church going further in  
to the cemetery): on the cement border of the square (which  
contains space for 10 graves), is cut the name: "W. D.  
POYTHRESS"

Within the "W.D. POYTHRESS" cement border of the plot  
are six graves that have stones, numbered here from 1 through 6  
as reading stones from left to right (words that were not clear  
to us are shown in brackets):

#1

"In loving memory  
of our dear friend  
Lena Virginia  
HUTNEY  
[Dec] 1858  
Jan. 14, 1929  
May peace and  
happiness be hers  
in the beyond"

"OUR LENA"

[this last line is at the foot of her grave on the border]

#2

" In loving remembrance of  
our beloved brother and uncle  
William D. Poythress  
Born  
July 11, 1834  
Died Jan. 29, 1919  
To live in hearts we leave  
behind, is not to die"

"OUR"

[this last line is at the foot of his grave on the border]

[Note: this is adjacent to the border of #3, so  
together the borders at the foot of #2 & #3  
form a combined message reading "OUR ALL"]

#3

"To memory of  
Louisa O. Poythress  
Died  
July 30, 1903

publishing "30" indicates **end** \_\_\_\_\_ [Note: in

Safe at home"

"ALL"

[this last line is at foot of her grave on the border, thus  
forming "OUR ALL" (See Note at bottom of #2 above)]

Blandford Cemetery Observations on October 16,1992  
**Ward A, Square 2, Old ground**

#4

"MOLLIE  
Only daughter of  
Wm. D. and Louisa O. Poythress  
Born January 13, 1857  
Died October 29, 1859  
The great Jehovah full of love,  
An angel bright did send  
And took my little harmless dove  
To Joys that never end.  
Fare well dear Mollie till we meet at the throne,  
where love fears no parting and tears are unknown.

"L.O.P."  
[this stone, bearing the initials of Mollie's mother Louisa O.  
Poythress is at the foot of the same plot where Mollie is  
buried,  
on a separate, very small rectangular stone]

[Note: Mollie's is a huge rectangular headstone. The  
interment documentation for Mollie's grave plot in the  
Blandford Church Cemetery Office, shows that the date  
of her death was as shown above, October 29, 1859,  
but that the grave was removed on October 9th, 1872 from its  
location in "W. D. Poythress' Garden" to this current  
location.]

#5

Our Beloved  
Annie I. Taylor  
Sept. 4, 1886  
Aug. 12, 1979  
"Miss Annie"  
She lived  
helping others  
to live

#6

"To Our Devoted  
Mother  
Mary A.  
Wife of  
[illegible] Taylor"

"M.A.T."  
[this last line is on a small stone at the foot of her  
graveplot]

Blandford Cemetery Observations on October 16, 1992

In "**Ward AA, Square 6, Section 2, New ground**" where cemetery interment records list the burials of:

- #7            John T. **Poythress** (date of death Oct. 12, 1923)
- #8            & Minnie B. **Poythress** (date of death Nov. 8, 1928)
- #9            & John Clyde **Poythress** (date of death Dec. 20, 1939)

on this **square owned by Mrs. Cora P. Clifton** [I speculate Cora **Poythress** Clifton & that these were her parents & her uncle or brother perhaps], we observed that the square has a cement border, on which is cut "CLIFTON." There are no grave markers whatsoever in the square. (Each square contains 10 graveplots.)

Blandford Cemetery Observations on October 16, 1992

In "**Ward D, Square 2, Section 44, Old ground**" where cemetery interment records list the 4 burials of:

- #10 John W. **Poythress** (date of death Aug. 28, 1852)
- #11 Benjamin **Poythress** (date of death March 16, 1859)
- #12 Benjamin **Poythress** (date of death July 27, 1865)
- #13 Susan M. **Poythress** (date of death Nov. 18th, 1877)

on this **square owned by Benjamin Poythress**, we observed that no markings could be located **for** the square itself whatsoever, and there were no gravemarkers whatsoever **in** the square.

It seems probable to me that the Benjamin who died in 1859 was a young son of the other Benjamin, who had been born after the 1850 Federal Census. The 1850 Dinwiddie County/City of Petersburg Federal Census lists, in the City of Petersburg, a 42-year old Benjamin Potress "Huxter" as the head of a household with a 26-year old white female "Mary" Poythress and with George Poythress a 1-yr old white female [sic]; also in the household were a Black 31-yr old female Mariah Day, and two other whites: Elizabeth Johnson age 50, and Levy Johnson, a 35-year old male whose occupation was "Taylor." Also in the same 1850 Census, about 50 households earlier in the listing for City of Petersburg, was a 14-year old white male William Poythress who had attended school during the past year, living in the household of 33-year old J.M.H. Brunet whose occupation was "Editor-News" and his probable wife 32-yr old Catherine from Ireland, with their children Mary age 6, James age 3, & Robert age 1; plus 28-yr old Ellen Keating; 26-yr old Margaret from Ireland; and 2 other school-attendees, Sarah Russell age 16 & Susan Leonard age 15.

In the 1860 Dinwiddie County/City of Petersburg Federal Census, are:

Benjamin Poythress, "Huckster" age 50;  
"Susan" Poythress white female age 36 (perhaps the above-listed burial of Susan M. is for Susan Mary Poythress which could explain the primary female listed in Benjamin's 1850 household as "Mary" & then in 1860 as "Susan");

George Poythress, white male age 10;  
Virginia Poythress, white female age 6; &  
Mary Poythress, white female age 4.

It is possible that the John W. Poythress whose burial is listed above was a son of Benjamin's who died in infancy in 1852 after being born later than the 1850 census; it is also (more remotely) possible that John W. was a brother of the elder Benjamin, who for some reason had moved in with him from some other county after the 1850 Census. Craig Scott is descended from Benjamin & Susan Poythress, I believe -- probably from either their daughter Virginia or their daughter Mary, since he says his great-grandmother was a Poythress. Craig thinks Benjamin was probably son of William Poythress, rather than Lewis Poythress.

Blandford Cemetery Observations on Nov. 12, 1994

Observed on visit by Barbara Poythress Neal on November 12, 1994 with Ben Poythress, Jr. & his wife Sarah & son Ben III: in the immediate **churchyard within Ward A**, to the northeast of the church itself, within about 50 feet of the church building, are the below-listed two raised gravemarkers, side-by-side, for

#14 William **Poythress**

#15 & Sarah Eppes **Poythress**

which were not found on the cemetery's interment records when Charles & I went to the Sexton's office in October 1992.

#14

[Note: Col. William Poythress' gravemarker is raised, in the form of a bench.]

Here lies the corpse  
of  
Col. WILLIAM POYTHRESS  
Son of  
Mr. JOHN POYTHRESS  
Who died  
the 18 Jan 1763  
Aged 68 years

#15

[Note: Sarah Poythress' gravemarker is on a raised brick platform. The underlined portion below has been patched reportedly due to a cannonball hitting it during the Civil War.]

HERE LYES THE CORPSE  
OF SARAH POYTHRESS  
DAUGHTER OF COLLONEL  
FRANCIS EPPES AND WIFE  
TO COLLONEL WILLIAM  
POYTHRESS WHO DIED  
TH7 OCTOBER 1730  
AGED 48 YEARS

[Note: Since these 2 graves are beside each other, and since Sarah's states that she was the wife of Colonel William Poythress (and that she died in 1730 at age 48, & thus was born circa 1682), and since William's states that he was Colonel William Poythress who died in 1763 at age 68 & thus was born circa 1695, it seems reasonable that these were husband and wife

even though she was about 13 years older than he. They would not have been mother & son because her marker says she was wife of a Colonel William Poythress, and his marker says he was the son of a John Poythress.]