

Selected records pertaining to the location of lands owned by Samuel Poe who died in Essex County, Virginia in 1725 and the Poe men who appear in the Essex / Caroline County records within a decade or so of his death.

This is by no means a complete account as I am sure I have not collected all records that exist. However, this constitutes as much as anyone has put together. Please forgive my speculations, which I try to keep to a minimum. These records are so few, many interpretations are possible.

On note: As I went through these again, I realize that some presumptions I had formed earlier cannot be easily supported. Let me start with a brief statement here.

After Samuel Poe died in 1725, all we know is that a Benjamin Poe and a William Poe (wife Lydia) seem pretty clearly to be living on the lands Samuel Poe owned. Caroline County, VA was formed in 1728 taking in the Samuel Poe lands. But we have no Caroline County records for about 5 years. We suffer because that is precisely when the lands must have been sorted out between whatever heirs of Samuel Poe existed.

By the mid 1730s we see William Poe move to an area that today is in Fauquier County and during the colonial period was in Orange and then Culpeper County.

The early Benjamin Poe is very hard to track. He may have moved close to William Poe (wife Lydia) as there is a record showing a Benjamin Po(e) in Orange County in 1754. Then Benjamin Poe we see in land deals during the Revolutionary War in 1778 moving between Caroline County, VA and Spotsylvania County, VA may be a different man (there are two or three other men named Benjamin Poe during this overall time period).

We know that Simon Poe SR was born in 1707 or 08 from a newspaper announcement of his marriage late in life to a woman named Rhoda. But we do not know where he was born. We do not

know if he was in Caroline County prior to the first mention in the court records, which is not until 1737 (the same year William Poe and Lydia move quite far away, seemingly never to return to Caroline County). However Simon Poe was a major non-gentry tobacco grower in Caroline County, a man with strong connections to the Herndon sheriffs and other officials. The landed gentry “went after him” to the degree that he took his entire family to North Carolina in the 1750s.

Samuel Poe, a younger man, is hard to track, also, except it seems he never left Caroline County. He is in a significant lawsuit with Simon Poe, making it appear the two men are brothers. Yet, Samuel Poe appears to fall on hard times while Simon Poe’s family flourishes.

One reason I put this page together is that descendants of men who moved from Caroline / Culpeper Counties, VA to Franklin County, KY (by way of Amherst County, VA) show much diversity in their DNA. The historical records also supports distinct families (however pretty closely related) moving together into Franklin County.

I hoped putting together this page might help us see who among the first Colonists were closest and moved to the same areas. But really it does not shed too much light. We just don’t have enough records to paint a clear picture of events.

Be that as it may, I hope the following proves helpful.

Samuel Poe land records:

<http://www.mindspring.com/~poefamily/SamuelPoeLand.htm>

See also the various Virginia county records linked from this “menu”

<http://www.mindspring.com/~poefamily/PoeVirginiaMenu.htm>

[Virginia Tax Records from the *Virginia Magazine of History and Biography*, *The William and Mary Quarterly*, and *Tyler’s Quarterly*. Baltimore. Genealogical Publishing Company, Inc. 1983](#)

Virginia Quit Rent Rolls, 1704

Essex County Poe, Samll 800 acres

(Curiously, no Poe is mentioned in the tax roll of 1715)

The general location of Samuel Poe lands can be ascertained through descriptions in various deeds. A deed from 11 February 1708 describes a 50 acre parcel of the Meders/Peters grant as “in St. Mary’s Parish” bordering “Samuel Poe’s land by a branch ... **north side of the south fork of [Peumansend Swamp](#)**” (which is a name for a portion of Mill Creek).

In a deed between John Bell and William Bryan dated 18 May 1719, land in St. Mary’s Parish is described as “part of 4200 acres formerly granted to John Medows and Henry Peters by patent 17 April 1667” bordering “Saml. Poe’s land ... corner gum on the **north side of the north fork of Pemonsend Swamp** ... corner to **Saml. Poe’s land at the mouth of a branch...**”

From the foregoing description, it appears that **Samuel Poe’s land was at the mouth of a fork in the Pewmansend and going south from the fork**. Or, it may be said, lying between the waters of the fork – if that is a proper reading of “north side of south fork” contrasted with “north side of the north fork.”

Of Samuel Poe’s neighbors, important to note is Francis Browning, who became administrator of the “estate” and in 1734 moved to an area that became Culpeper County. In 1737 William Poe (wife Lydia) left Caroline County and in a joint patent with William Watson (connection between the men unknown) and moved next to Francis Browning’s Culpeper County land.

Samuel Poe acquired another 105 acres in 1708

(it is worth noting that at the end of the 1700s, a William Poe was paying taxes in Caroline County on exactly 105 acres of land)

On 10 February 1708, Matthew Collins sold Samuel Poe 105 acres of land for 2000 pounds of tobacco.

This new land is described as being “on the **west side of the south fork of Pumansend Swamp**” (the original 800 acres was on the north side of the south fork).

The part of Essex County where Samuel Poe had land became part of **Caroline County** in 1728

William Poe (whose wife was Lydia) acquires land from John Jones. Amount of land unspecified. I don't quite understand in the wording how James Jones figures into this deed.

William Poe

Caroline County Court 11 May 1732

James Jones acknowledged his deeds of lease and release of land indented to William Poe. John Jones by virtue of a power from Mary wife of James relinquished her rights of dower.

William Poe and Lydia moved to Orange/Culpeper County. They now release land to William Taliaferro. John "Gough" Gouge acquires William Poe's land in Culpeper County later in the century. (Almost every other place the name is spelled Gouge).

William Poe

Lydia Poe

(p. 461 [9 Dec. 1737])

William Poe's deeds of lease and release of land indented to William Taliaferro Gent. (and also a power of attorney from Lydia Poe to Benjamin Robinson) was proved by John Gough, John Gough, Jr, and Samuel Edwards, witnesses thereto.

Benjamin Poe

Benjamin releases land to John Bradley. (Note that a William Poe in Caroline County administers the estate of Rachel Bradley. The records imply a very close connection between Benjamin Poe and the Bradley family. It is not clear if Benjamin is moving away or just divesting of some land. There seems to be some Benjamin in owning lands in Spotsylvania County, VA by 1760. There is quite a gap in what we see regarding any Benjamin Poe.

10 Oct. 1734

Benja. Poe acknowledged his deeds of lease and release of land indented to John Bradley.

Assuming this "Po" means "Poe" there is a Benjamin in Orange County in 1754

[Orange County*, Virginia Tithables 1734-1782 Part 1](#)

[Barbara Vines Little c. 1988 revised 1990-1](#)

[Pub. Dominion Market Research Corp.](#)

*not sure if this part of Orange became Spotsylvania or Culpeper County

Benjamin Po February 1754

A Benjamin Poe is in Spotsylvania County by 1760

Benjamin Powe (spelling of court record)

25 November **1760**

Page 271 of Deed Book G 1766-1771

Isaac Darnall of Spots. Co. to Nickolas Darnall of Caroline Co. Pounds 45 curr.

150 a. in **Spts Co. Benja. Powe**, Jos. Willoughby, Wm. Mastin, Benja. (X)

Mastin. No date of record.

Benjamin Poe

23 September 1771.

John (X) Sutton, Senr., and Elizabeth, his wife, of Orange Co. to **Benjamin Poe, of Berkeley Par., Spts.** Co. Pounds 12 curr. 164 acres. Jos. Willoughby, Edward Brasfield, Leonard Brasfield. No date of Record.

6 June 1772*

Dudley Gatewood and Sarah, his wife, and James Gatewood and Frances, his wife, of **Amherst Co.**, to Edward Brasfield, of Spts. Co. Pounds 80 curr. 220 a. in Berkeley Par., Spts. Co. (Mentions brother, Peter Gatewood), Joseph Willoughby, **Benja. Poe**, Leonard Brasfield, Thos. Penn, Jno. Penn, James Coleman, Larkin Gatewood. No date of Record.

*Benjamin Poe is witnessing transaction of land transfer from Dudley and James Gatewood of **Amherst Co.** to Edward Brasfield of Spotsylvania County. Then Brasfield deeds lands to Benjamin Poe two months later. Note that "a" **Samuel Poe** is established in Amherst County by 1766

Some Benjamin Poe buys land in Caroline County in 1772

Benjamin Poe

8 August 1772

A Deed Indented & Receipt from Edward Brasfield & Elizabeth his wife (she being first privately examined) to Benja: Poe acknowledged & ordered to be recorded.

two months later Benjamin Poe sells land in Spotsylvania County. These deals seem convoluted. John Sutton family figures into Poe family dealings all throughout the 1700 going back to the early Samuel Poe.

20 October 1772. Benjamin Poe and Elizabeth, his wife, of Spts. Co. to Edward Brasfield of same Co. Pounds 40. 160 a. in Spts. Co. purchased of John Sutton,

etc. Witnesses, Uriah Edwards, Charles Pemberton, Uriah Edwards, junr. No date of Record.

Evidence I do not have at hand suggests that all these deals may relate to the burning of homes and crops during the Revolutionary War as well as confiscations by the armies. We see here that a Benjamin Poe has a wounded son. Probably the Virgil Poe of Amherst County, Va and later Franklin County, KY. This wording is so vague however, that Benjamin may be getting compensation for tending the son of John Hoomes.

Benjamin Poe

p. 48 Court 8th January 1778

The Court are of the opinion that the sum of ten pounds be paid to John Hoomes, Gentleman, for the use of Benjamin Poe, as compensation for his trouble and expence in maintaining his **sick son*** while on Furlough from the Army of the United States.

A Benjamin Poe and wife, Elizabeth appear to divest of Caroline County land

p. 126 Court 8 Oct 1778

A deed indented and receipt from Benjamin Poe and Elizabeth his wife (she being first privately examined) acknowledged and ordered to be recorded (to whom granted not named)

Samuel Poe, a younger one, is in **Caroline County** only 7 years after the old Samuel Poe's death

Samuel Poe, defendant

Page 55 [8 March 1732/3]

Petition. George Tilly agt. Samuel Poe. Judgment is granted the plaintiff for pounds 1.2.11

He appears to be farming tobacco

Samuel Poe, levied

Page 168 [13 Dec. 1734]

The Court proceeded to lay the County Levey:
(Among the names)

To Samuel Poe per account 270

Samuel Poe is associated with Simon Poe, one supposes they were brothers.

Simon Poe
Samuel Poe

13 December 1751

Action of debt Samuel Coleman's executors agt **Samuel Poe and Simon Poe**. The defendants not appearing, the judgment of last July court is confirmed agt. them & James Taylor Gent, late sheriff, for pounds 34.12.11 current money, to be discharged on the defendants' paying pounds 17.6. 5 1/2 with interest from 17 June 1749
(note: Coleman was plaintiff against many others).

Simon Poe's plantation produces many thousands of pounds of tobacco, even as evidenced by the fines levied. One presumes he is on some portion of the Samuel Poe, Peumensend lands.

One example

Simon Poe

9 August 1753

p. 411

Our Sovereign Lord the King agt. Simon Poe. Information William Elliott, foreman. It's considered by the Court that the plaintiff recover **3000 pounds of tobacco**.

One could read the following records, showing Samuel Poe in debt, as indicating that if Simon Poe and Samuel Poe were brothers, they had separate business affairs. While Samuel seems to have fallen on hard times, Simon Poe does well, despite the heavy fines. Simon Poe's family has resources to acquire much land in North Carolina by 1760.

Samuel Poe

13 September 1753

p. 422

Suit on Attachment. Roger Madison agt. the estate of John Wright. The plaintiff proving his account. judgment is granted him for pounds 7.12.11 current money. The Sheriff served the attachment in the names of James Jemson and Samuel Poe. Poe declared he had 105 shillings which he ordered to pay the plaintiff. Jemison declared he has a hogshead of uninspected tobacco which when inspected he is ordered to deliver to the Sheriff to sell..

Samuel Poe, debtor
p. 36 [14 Feb 1755]

Suit on attachment. Peter Copland Gent. Agt the estate of John Wright. The Plaintiff proving his account, judgment is granted him for pounds 32.12.9. The Sheriff made return he levied the attachment in the hands of Samuel Poe who declared he has 10 shillings which he is ordered to pay to plaintiff in part of his debt.

Samuel appears to divest of land in 1757. Note William Strachen.

Samuel Poe

10 March 1757

p. 240

Samuel Poe's deed indented to Peter Copland (Copeland)* Gent. was proved by **William Strachen**.

Note that 10 years later an Elizabeth Poe (widow?) who possesses tobacco is involved in legal issues with William Strachen (which may be Straughn, a family that married into the Simon Poe family)

Elizabeth Poe, widow. Defendant

p. 32 Court 14th of August 1767

William **Strahn** Plt. Against Elizabeth Poe deft. In Case. The plaintiff not being a Resident of this Colony and failing to give the Defendant security for her costs agreeable to the Rule of this Court, on the motion of the Defendant, Judgment is granted her against him for costs by her about her defence in this behalf granted. **(Strahn or Strachan? Or is it really Straughan?)**

14 August 1767.

p.32

Ordered that **Elizabeth Poe** pay James Samuel **425 pounds of tobacco** for attending this court nine days as an evidence for her at the suit of **Strahn**

Note that a Samuel Poe shows up in Amherst County VA in 1766. By 1785 we see a Benjamin Poe, John Poe and Virgil Poe. The records show these families finally settling in Franklin County, KY. Records there make it clear they all came out of "Culpeper County, VA" orginally.

| | | |
|----------------|-------------|-----------|
| Amherst County | white souls | dwellings |
| Poe, Benjamin | 6 | 1 |
| Poe, John | 2 | |
| Poe, Virgil | 4 | |

It must be taken into account that a Benjamin Poe out of Culpeper County, born in 1749 appears in Chatham County, NC by 1772 and moves to Wake County, NC then on to Allen County, TN. These are two different Benjamin Poe families.

In 1767 we see a **William Poe** in Caroline County, “in debt.” One supposes he is a son of Samuel Poe who is connected to the Elizabeth Poe above. It is easy to think that Elizabeth is Samuel’s widow

William Poe*

13 November 1767

p. 63 Robert Gilchrist, Gent agt. **William Poe. In debt.** The defendant saith that he cannot deny plaintiff’s action. It is considered by the Court that the plaintiff recover pounds 61.12.1 and his costs. This judgment except the costs is to be discharged by the payment of pounds 30.16. 1/2 with legal interest from 89 July 1765.

A William Poe pays taxes on 105 acres of Caroline County land from 1788 through 1799. By the 1810 Census, we see no Poe men listed in Caroline County. It may only be coincidence, but we should note that 105 acres is the amount of land Samuel Poe acquired in 1707 adding to his 800 acres acquired sometime prior to 1704.

Poe, William 105 acres (listed each year for the period 1788-99)

This is the first clear mention of “Mossom / Mersom / Marson, etc.” in the records.

Mersam Poe

11 December 1749

Petition. William Johnston etc. executors of Samuel Coleman* agt. Mersam Poe. Judgment is granted the plaintiffs for pounds 2.16.6 current money.

**Coleman’s executors also sue Simon Poe on 11 July 1751. Marsom Poe appears still to live in Caroline County, and perhaps near or with Simon Poe.*

By 1754 this man seems to be in Spotsylvania County. It may be noteworthy that this man signs by X. Other sources confirm he could not read or write. As far as can be ascertained, the men mentioned above were all literate.

Mossom Poe

17 August 1754

page 197

Samuel Waggener and Bettie, his wife, of St. George Parish **Spots.** Co. to Edward Coleman of Co. and Par afsd pounds 40 curr 100 a in St. George Par. Spots Co. Joseph Allen, Richard Long, **Mossom (X) Poe.** Oct 1, 1754. (note that Elsie Chapman alters this spelling to Powe in her book).

