

Correspondence with Henry Poulton, 1873 and 1885

Ref: Letters transcribed by Elizabeth Cookson, great niece of Leland Lewis Duncan

1873 H. Poulton to Henry Poulton¹

Hatch End,
Near Watford,
7 June 1873

Henry Poulton Esq.

Dear Sir,

I lose no time in replying to your favor of yesterday's date. It would be a great pleasure to me to be able to give more substantial information but you are doubtless aware of the expenditure both in time and money which a thorough investigation of the subject would involve.

Separately I send you four rough but fairly complete Pedigrees, which please return at your convenience, the result of my researches during the past ten years. I have succeeded best in the matter of the Desborough Poultons and my own immediate family, indeed of both I have compiled a pretty full account, which will I hope some day be printed for private circulation, and in the meantime whenever you are in London it will be at your disposal. To oblige one of my own name I would go a great way - but I am afraid of losing the only MSS notes I possess, while copying would take time - but I will think about it and refer to the subject hereafter - I have also a fair collection of most interesting Monumental Inscriptions which should be printed with the memoirs - These also and indeed anything else I have, I would be glad to show you.

I have an order from the Judge of the Probate Court to search the Wills in London and as I have twice made a thorough search among those at Oxford, I can safely say that there is nothing at either place to help me with your branch, at least at present.

Of course you know that at one time a very influential branch flourished in Gloucestershire, chiefly about Tewkesburie and Hartburie, as the old spelling has it. Unfortunately I have never been so far West although some of the Wills deposited at Bristol and Gloucester would throw considerable light upon many of the names of whom at present I know but little :- as for such records of your own family, I am inclined to think that Salisbury is the right place - Are there no Monumental Inscriptions at Cricklade or neighbourhood and have you looked into the Parochial Registers? As stated I have gone through the Wills in London and I can do no more until I visit Salisbury, Cricklade, Gloucester and Bristol. However, I see no chance of such a trip just yet, for now that I have recovered my health I am anxious to be hard at work again. Eleven years ago I had the management of Shand Fairlie & Co. business in Calcutta, their London agents being the recently failed but well know firm of Gladstones & Co but I have troubled you enough.

Believe me to be Dear Sir

Yours most sincerely

(signed) H. Poulton.

¹ The author is probably Henry Poulton, born in 1808 in Watford, Herts, to Nathaniel and Sarah. The recipient is Henry Poulton, born in 1823 in Cookham, Berks, to James and Maria.

[Note: The letter has a note made on it, about the Pedigrees to which H. Poulton refers, but it appears that Henry Poulton made no copy of the Pedigrees.]

*Pedigree of Poultons of Desborough carried back thro' female line to Geoffrey son of
Richard 1st Duke of Normandy
Pedigree of Poultons of Bourton Co. Bucks carried back thro' male line to Giles
Poulton of Desborough 1540
Pedigree of Poultons of Witney & Isleworth (Mr. H.N.P's family) carried back to
Thomas Poulton of Witney abt. 1600*

1885 Henry Poulton to Gordon A. Lewis²

c/o Mrs. Beard,
High Street,
Sidmouth,
6th August 1885

Dear Sir,

I have pleasure in acknowledging the receipt of your letters of the 21st and 31st ulto and the enclosures with the latter, and thanking you for your kind gift of a photograph copy of the miniature of great grandfather to which an especial interest attaches as my father's children are the only Poultons having a double relationship with him - on the one side through his brother (Joseph) of the half blood, and on the other through his sister (Maria) of the whole blood. It is the only portrait of any of our ancestors, previous to the last generation (except one of my grandmother Poulton) that I possess - and his fine features as delineated in your photograph give a good idea of his character and abilities.

In reply to your questions

1st. At the date in question the County of Berks was included in the Diocese of Salisbury and wills of persons resident at Cookham might have been proved or Administrations (in case of intestacy) granted, either in the Archdeaconry Court of Berks - the Diocesan or Consistory Court of Sarum - or the Prerogative Court of Canterbury. All the old records of these various courts previously to 1800 have been transmitted to the Principal Probate Registry in London and may be searched at Somerset House so that you will have no difficulty in getting access to them, or further information on application to the Record Keepers.

2nd. Having no 2nd copy of the will of Christopher Poulton I enclose herewith the Office Copy, only asking you kindly to return it when done with. At the same time I shall send you 2 letters I received in the years 1873 and 1877 from Mr. Henry Poulton (the gentm mentioned in my last letter, who was then 1877 residing at Mitcham - You will remark that in his 1st letter he mentions having "an order from the Judge of the Probate Court to search the Wills in London". This was evidently an order of a special character and I imagine it must have resulted from an application for liberty to make such a search for genealogical purposes without payment of the usual fees, because otherwise if such fees were paid there was no occasion of any such special order.³ And it must have been an

² Enclosed were a copy of the Will of Christopher Poulton, basketmaker of Cookham, died 1683, and two letters from a Henry Poulton.

³ This is annotated by Leland Lewis Duncan as follows "If so could not such an order be obtained now?"

order for searches for the name of Poulton generally, in the same way as we should search through an Index of names for mentions of that name. Further you will remark that in the 2nd letter he mentions an "epitome of sundry Wills of Cookham, Wycombe etc. Poultons". There you will observe we appear to travel across the Thames from Bucks (Wycombe) into Berks (Cookham) and as Wycombe is not so very far from Bourton, Aylesbury and Desborough your idea of a connection with the Bourton family seems to get some confirmation. At the time I received Mr H. Poultons last letter I was not sufficiently interested in the subject to investigate it any further and being also much occupied otherwise and then under the pressure of a recent severe domestic affliction I simply replied to it thanking him for it and have had no subsequent communication. I made some enquiries lately as to his present address but without success. Please return the letters at your leisure.

3rdly. The early entries in the Parish Register of which you wish to have a copy are as under:

Burials

1665 23rd Jan. A servant of William Poultons

" 29 April Ann the dau of John Poulton

4thly. I am unable to supply information as to the place of the 2nd marriage of Richard Poulton. I have only a memorandum of the fact and date in my grandfather's handwriting. I have some indistinct recollection of hearing my father say that the 2nd wife (Sarah Sellon) was connected with the family of Sergeant Sellon, a lawyer of celebrity in the last century. Mr. Baker Smith, a Barrister, who was some years ago and may still be residing at Maidenhead was I believe connected with the same family. He built a house at Maidenhead and called it "Sellon House" or Lodge.

5thly As to the licences for marriages, I can only suggest Salisbury not feeling sure about the Archdeacon of Berks jurisdiction as to licences.

6thly. The Bishops transcripts of the early Registers had not occurred to me before you mentioned them. If in existence (as is quite possible) they would I imagine be at Salisbury as it is not probable they would have been transferred to the Somerset House Registry.

In the Cookham Registers as you may have remarked there are notes from time to time of transcripts having been sent to Salisbury.

Thank you for the notes accompanying your last letter. They evidently point to Glostershire as also does Mr H. Poulton's letter, for the locality of what he refers to as "an influential branch" but my own thought as to the Cookham Poultons is that the earlier pedigree is more likely to be traced in Bucks.

I shall be interested in hearing the result of any researches you may be able to make (at) the Registry of Wills at Somerset House and of enquiries as to the Bishops' transcripts of the Parochial Registers. Thos. Brodrick Esq. is the Registrar of the District Probate Registry at Salisbury and I think also Registrar of the Diocese.

Yours very truly

(signed) Henry Poulton.

Gordon A Lewis Esq.

1885 Gordon A. Lewis to Leland Lewis Duncan

Saracens Head Hotel
Beddgelert
North Wales
9 Aug. 1885

My Dear Leland,

I have only just time to save the post which leaves at 4.30 to send you the enclosed which came this morning from Mr. Poulton.

I am enjoying my self very much indeed: and have been to Bangor to see the Dean. Let me hear from you. It appears the other Poulton has looked at all the Wills, so it is scarcely worth while for us to do so. He seems to think our branch is related to his own, don't you think so by one of his letters. I really have no time for more so with best love,

Your Affect. Uncle

Gordon A. Lewis