

Berry P. Pool and Family of Laurens County, South Carolina

1792 - 1847

by James F. Poole

Gilbert, SC

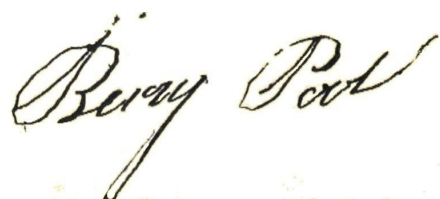
November 9, 2011

Berry Pool was born in 1792, by tradition the son of Seth Petty Pool and Elizabeth Berry. Although no primary evidence of paternity has been found, there is circumstantial evidence that the traditional account in the 1931 book A Genealogical History of the Poole, Langston, Mason Families and Kindred Lines of Upper South Carolina by Bessie Poole Lamb & Mary-Mack Poole Ezell (Lamb, Ezell) is correct. One of the best pieces of secondary evidence is the entry for his son Dr. John Terry Pool in the 1892 Cyclopedia of Eminent and Representative Men of the Carolinas of the Nineteenth Century¹. The entry reads: "Dr. John T. Poole...His father's name was Berry P. Poole... the son of Seth Poole, a native of Virginia... who removed from his native state to Laurens in 1767".

Although the contribution of Lamb and Ezell is immense in documenting the Laurens County, SC Poole family, unfortunately they did not rigorously document the sources of their knowledge or research conclusions, and with the scarcity of documentation of the Upstate South Carolina region in the 19th century, there will always be some suspicion of error in the account. This paper is an attempt to use surviving primary sources to confirm and extend what Lamb & Ezell wrote about Berry Pool.

Berry Pool can be easily confused with his nephew Berry P. Pool (1812- 1897)². The potential for confusion is strengthened in that nephew Berry P. married uncle Berry's daughter Jane. Contemporary documents differentiate the two by using *Berry Sr* or *Berry* for the uncle, *Berry P.* for the nephew.

Berry Pool is traced in the Census records, land transfers and grants and other legal documents. His children are traced in Census, Probate Court and other records as well.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Berry Pool". The ink is dark and the handwriting is fluid and somewhat slanted to the right.

1 Madison, Wis.: Brant & Fuller, 1892.

2 Berry P. Pool was the son of William Petty (before 1813- 1822) and Elizabeth Pool. Berry P. was executor of his mother's will. After Jane's death, he married Margaret Jane. He is buried at Langston Baptist Church, Laurens, SC.

Table of Contents

Domestic Matters.....	3
Census.....	3
Spouse.....	3
Children	4
Children in 1879.....	5
Household Economy.....	5
Mary Pool's Grave Site.....	5
Land.....	6
Farm.....	6
Legal Matters.....	7
Thomas Fleming vs. Martin P. & Berry Pool, John Taylor, 1833.....	7
Henry Meredith & Daniel Meridith vs. Berry Poole, 1834.....	7
Indictment for Assault, General Sessions Court, April 1837	8
Trustee for Anna Cottrell.....	9
Three indictments General Sessions Court, 1842.....	9
In the Name of God, Amen	9
Berry's Grave Site.....	10
Probate	11
Second Probate Sale.....	11
South Carolina in Berry's Lifetime.....	11
Finding the Children in Public Records.....	12
Jane.....	12
William.....	12
James.....	13
Elizabeth.....	13
Allen.....	14
Mary.....	14
Martha	14
Dr. John Terry.....	15
George B.....	15
Martin Bobo.....	16
Ascenith.....	17
Repositories.....	18
Some References.....	18
Appendix One- Henry Meredith & Daniel Meridith vs. Berry Poole.....	19
Appendix Two- Samuel Meredith vs Berry Pool, Assault, 1836.....	20

Domestic Matters

Bessie Poole Lamb gives the year of the marriage of Berry and Mary Blackstock as 1820. However, the 1820 census has one female under 10 in Berry and Mary's household. If the girl is their child, it probably is Jane, since Bessie Lamb give no date of birth for Jane. Given that the census was taken on August 7, 1820, there is a possibility that Jane was born prior to their marriage or that the marriage date is erroneous. This is confirmed in the 1850 census, where Jane (now Berry P. Jr.'s wife) states her age as 31, for a birth year of 1819³.

Census

Berry first appears in the census of 1820. There is only 1 male, age bracket given as 16- 25. This would imply birth between 1795 and 1804. Berry Pool's tombstone on the old farm cemetery has been located, and the inscription states that Berry died "in the 55th year of his age", giving a birth year of 1792. There is also listed 1 female in the age bracket 16-25. This fits with Bessie Poole Lamb's assertion that Berry married Mary Blackstock in 1820. She would have been 19 in 1820.

1820 1820 U S Census: , Laurens, South Carolina, Page: 4; NARA Roll: M33_121; Image: 16.

1829 State Population Census Schedules Fairfield and Laurens Districts, p. 7.

1830 1830 U S Census: , Laurens, South Carolina, Page: 275; NARA Roll: M19-169; Family History Film: 0022503.

1840 Year: 1840; Census Place: , Laurens, South Carolina; Roll: 41; Page: 513; Image: 86; Family History Library Film: 0022510.

Spouse

Mary Blackstock was the daughter of William Blackstock (circa. 1770- 1841) and Mary Yarborough⁴. She is referenced as Berry's wife in her father's Will, 17 February 1841.

"... my two daughters, Mary Pool and Jane Foster... And lastly I do appoint, my Son in Law Berry Pool Executor, and my daughter Jane..."⁵.

Mary was of significance to Bessie Poole Lamb and Mary- Mack Poole Ezell. They used Mary as one of the connections to gain membership in the Daughters of the American Revolution. The battle of Blackstocks was fought on the Blackstock Farm November 20, 1780⁶. No records have been found showing Revolutionary War action by any of the Laurens Pool family, so Bessie and Mary-Mack used in-law connections⁷. According to their DAR application, William Blackstock's service record was:

3 Year: 1850; Census Place: , Laurens, South Carolina; Roll: M432_855; Page: 241A; Image: 82.

4 The 1840 Federal Census indicates that Mary was close to the same age as her husband; they both are in the 70- 79 Census age bracket. Year: 1840; Census Place: , Spartanburg, South Carolina; Roll: 94; Page: 515; Image: 195; Family History Library Film: 0022511.

5 Spartanburg County Probate Will Book D, page 9.

6 The Battle of Blackstock's Farm is also called Blackstock's Plantation, Blackstock's Hill, and Blackstocks in Revolutionary War references.

7 Bessie P. Lamb is DAR member 190461; Mary M. P. Ezell is member 197689. Although they listed the Berry & Mary Blackstock lineage, they actually documented that of Solomon Langston. Bessie's Grandfather Allen Pool married Rebecca Langston.

"Service: South Carolina Rank: Soldier Birth: 1750 South Carolina Death: 5- -1841
Spartanburg Dist South Carolina Service Description: 1) In Roebuck's Regt Militia"

Mary appears in the 1850 Census as household head.

6/19/67	Mary Pool	47	71	1800						17
	Allen B	24	44							18
	Martha	17	51							19
	John T	13	44							20
	George B	10	44							21
	Martin B	8	44							22
	Ascenith P	5	71							23
	James Rose Capt	28	44	Expenses						24
										25

Additional Census

Year: 1860; Census Place: , Laurens, South Carolina; Roll: M653_1222; Page: 342; Image: 250;
Family History Library Film: 805222.

Year: 1870; Census Place: Scuffletown, Laurens, South Carolina; Roll: M593_1501; Page: 155B;
Image: 315; Family History Library Film: 553000.

Children

Unlike his father Seth Petty Pool, Berry was very detailed about his children in his Will, listing the children alive in 1847 by name and including the husband's name for married daughters:

...my several children (viz.) Jane Pool who intermarried with Berry Pool Jr., Elizabeth who intermarried with William Rose, Allen Poole, Mary Pool, Martha Pool, John Terry Pool, George Berry Pool, Martin Bobo Pool, Seena Priscilla Pool.

Lamb & Ezell provide a complete list, as follows.

Jane Pool
William , 21 November 1821- 15 October 1832
Elizabeth Rose
Allen
James, 1 February 1828- 15 September 1844
Mary
Martha
John Terry
George Berry
Martin Bobo
Ascenith (Seena Priscilla).

Children in 1879

The final settlement account for Berry's probate did not occur until January, 1879. By then, the list of children reflected some change, as can be seen in this extract:

<p><i>Account for Adams</i> 5.04 \$20.75</p> <p>B.W. Ball attys fees #10 by Paid</p> <p>\$1946.19</p> <p>\$215.68 Sharey Each</p>	<p>2070</p> <p>\$1941.19</p>
<p>Allen Pool</p>	<p>\$214.30 / 215.68</p>
<p>Elizabeth Rose</p>	<p>\$214.00 215.68</p>
<p>Martha Patterson</p>	<p>\$214.30 215.68</p>
<p>Martin B. Pool</p>	<p>\$214.30 215.68</p>
<p>George B. Pool</p>	<p>\$214.30 215.68</p>
<p>John J. Pool</p>	<p>\$214.30 215.68</p>
<p>Jane Pool (deceased)</p>	<p>\$214.30 215.68</p>
<p>Mary Powers (" ")</p>	<p>\$214.30 215.68</p>
<p>Ascenith P. Bobo (" ")</p>	<p>\$214.30 215.68</p>

Jane Pool, Mary Powers and Ascenith Bobo are deceased, and their share goes to their children. Martha is now married to a Patterson.

Household Economy

In the accounts of the Estate Sale of John Hunter⁸, 1835, in Laurens, South Carolina are the following entries:

Berry Pool Sr purchased "3 1/4 yards of white homespun 12 1/2 Cents per yard for 41 cents".

Berry's indebtedness to the estate of \$1.75 is rated as "good" for chance of collection.

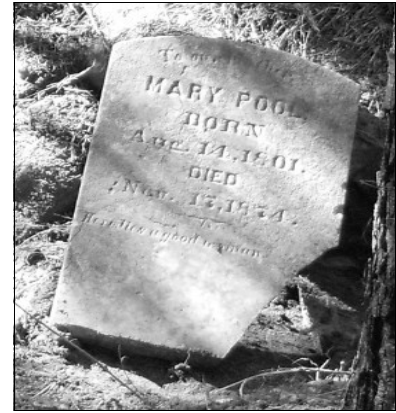
Notes Due list includes "*James Compton & Berry Pool Sr due 6th Janry 1836 15.25*"

Mary Pool's Grave Site

The burial site for both Mary and Berry has been located on privately owned property in Laurens County, SC. They were buried in a family cemetery on the Berry Pool farm. The cemetery has been neglected for many years, portions of the surrounding stone wall have collapsed, and trees have invaded the space. Despite the years, Mary's stone is still very legible:

⁸ Box 33, Pkg. 2, Estate of John Hunter, Laurens County Ordinary/Probate Judge Index to Estate Papers 1800-1939. Based on the extensive accounts in this Probate, Mr. Hunter was probably a local merchant.

To our mother
Mary Pool
Born
Aug 14 1801
Died
Nov 17 1874
Here lies a good woman⁹



Land

25 February 1819: Plat for 38 acres on Enoree River, Lawrence District, surveyed by Burrel Bobo., Laurens, South Carolina

*"I do certify for Berry P. Pool a tract of Thirty Eight acres of land in Laurens District on the South side of Enoree River and bounded by it N. Eastwardly & land laid out to James Waldrip & S. Eastwardly land laid out to [Philliman] Waters and hath Such Shape [caurds] and [Marks] as the above plat represents. Surveyed for him the 28th day of Febr'y 1819
Burrell Bobo D. []. ..."¹⁰*

Berry's property is listed as an adjacency in a Land Grant for William Waldrope, 23 February 1818 in Laurens, South Carolina.

"I do certify for William Waldrope a tract of twenty six acres of land surveyed for him the 23 of Feb'y 1818 Situated in Laurens District on the South Side of Enoree River Bounded on the West by Land claimed by Moses Couch & William Higgens and East by lands claimed by Berry Pool & the said Enoree River..."¹¹

On 11 April 1838 Berry purchased substantial property at the Seth Petty Pool Estate Sale. Among other items, he purchased the "Glen Tract of land 138 more or less" for 1575 dollars and "Negro Man Ned" for 801 dollars¹².

His property is cited in the Will of Willis D. Cheek of Laurens District, about 1849.¹³

"... do sell at public auction my tract of land known as the Berry Pool tract, supposed to contain one hundred and forty acres..."

Farm

Mary Pool retained much of Berry's property at his death and continued to farm. As a result, the 1850 United States Census Agricultural Schedule gives us a view of how Berry's farm enterprise must have looked¹⁴. She had 150 acres of improved land and 100 acres unimproved land with an estimated value

9 Inscription transcribed by the author from the gravestone in Laurens County, SC.

10 South Carolina State Plats: Columbia Series 1784- 1860, Series: S213192 Volume: 0046 Page: 00006 Item: 002.

11 South Carolina State Plats: Columbia Series 1784- 1860, Series S213192, Volume 46, Page 7, Item 3.

12 Laurens County Probate Court, "Laurens County Ordinary/Probate Judge Index to Estate Papers 1800-1939" Box 58 Pkg 4, 1837.

13 Mss Will: Book A, Page 113; Estate Packet: Bdl 111, Pkg 13; also see Laurens County Ordinary/Probate Judge Index to Estate Papers 1800-1939.

14 United States census: original agriculture, industry, social statistics, and mortality schedules for South Carolina 1850-

of \$5000. Farming implements were valued at \$25. There were 8 horses, 3 mules, 3 milch cows, 2 sheep, 50 swine and 5 other cattle.

Mary produced 182 bushels of wheat, 500 bushels of corn, 100 bushels of oats and 50 bushels of sweet potatoes. Her cotton production amounted to 30 ginned bales at 400 pounds/bale. Butter production of 350 pounds and 25 pounds of beeswax were recorded. The value of slaughtered animals was put at \$80, and on-farm manufactures were valued at \$40.

Legal Matters

Berry made several appearances in the Laurens Courts.

Thomas Fleming vs. Martin P. & Berry Pool, John Taylor, 1833

On 1 February, 1833 Martin and Berry Pool were sued by Thomas Fleming for "... a plea of trespass on the case, and so forth, and also for certain promises and assumptions by the said Martin P. John Taylor & Berry to the said Thomas, Indorsee made and not performed to his damage one thousand Dollars". The jury found for Thomas Fleming, and on 28th October, 1833 another Sheriff's order was issued for \$500 against Martin P. Pool, John Taylor and Berry Pool. The Sheriff's writ records the settlement:

"8th November 1833 Levied the within Executions on one Negro man Named Hil as the property of the Deft John Taylor.

8th November 1833 Levied the within Execution on one negro boy 11 years old as the property of the Deft Berry Pool¹⁵

Henry Meredith & Daniel Meridith vs. Berry Poole, 1834

In June of 1834, he brought suit against Henry and Daniel Meredith¹⁶, accusing them of trespassing on his property and stealing trees. Unfortunately for Berry, the jury concluded that the property was not Berry's, and therefore the Meredith's were innocent and Berry must pay the costs of the suit.

*"AND NOW AT THIS DAY, to wit, the fourth Monday in March to which day the issue aforesaid was continued in the Court of Common Pleas, at Laurens district,... come as well the said Berry Poole by his Attorney aforesaid, as the said Henry Meredith & Samuel Meredith by their Attorney aforesaid; and the Jurors aforesaid being demanded, ... do, on their oath say, that We find for the Defendants... THEREFORE, it is considered, that the said Henry Meredith & Samuel Meredith do recover against the said Plaintiff Berry Poole costs and charges aforesaid, to the said Henry & Samuel Eighty -five dollars & thirty six & 1/2 cents for his costs & charges by the said Court, now herewith their assent adjudged, and be the said Berry in mercy, and so forth
2nd June 1834*

The Sheriff of Laurens County was duly notified:

State of South Carolina. TO ALL AND SINGULAR THE SHERIFFS OF THE SAID

1880 Agricultures Schedules: Laurens- York 1850 S108086, P. 31.

15 Judgment 3138 Thomas Fleming vs. Martin P. Pool John Taylor & Berry Pool, Laurens Court of Common Pleas

16 The Pool's and the Meredith's had a rocky relationship. In January 1819, Seth Petty Pool, Thomas Pool, and George Pool were indicted for Forcible Entry against Henry Meredith. The case was declared Nolle Prosequi, Court of General Sessions, Fall Term 1820. See Laurens County Court of General Sessions, loose papers in L30149, Box 31, South Carolina Department of Archives and History.

STATE---- Greeting, YOU, and each of you are hereby commanded without delay, that the Goods, Houses Lands and other Hereditaments and real estates of Berry Poole you cause to be levied the sum of Eighty five Dollars and thirty six & half cents Costs and Charges by Them expended in and about defending their said Suit in that behalf, whereof the said Berry is convicted, as appears on record. And that you have the Monies "according to Law" before the Judges, at the Court of Common Pleas, to be holden at Laurens Court House, to render to the said Plaintiffs aforesaid." 25 May 1834

Berry lost one horse to pay the Court costs:

*15th June 1834 Levied the within Execution on one by horse as the property of the Deft Berry Pool
Levy \$1 00
11 miles 55
\$1 55
John Simmons, Det.*

Appendix One contains a more complete transcription of this legal document¹⁷

Indictment for Assault, General Sessions Court, April 1837

Apparently, the hard feeling between Berry and the Meredith's continued. Three years later, Berry was back in Court, this time accused of "presenting his gun and threatening to shoot" Samuel Meredith.

"...WHEREAS, Complaint hath been made to me, upon the oath of Samuel Meredith in the district aforesaid that Berry Pool Sen'r of L. District did on the 23'd of the Instant assault him the said Samuel Meredith by presenting his gun and threatening to shoot him the said Meredith, contrary to the peace and dignity of said state..."

"...personally came before me Samuel Meredith who being duly sworn as law directs on his oath says that he is afraid the Berry Pool Sen'r of the district aforesaid will beat or do him some bodily harm and hath therefore prayed security..."

Berry was found guilty at trial, fined ten dollars, and ordered to jail for one week.

The State vs. Berry Poole Senior "The jury... which were charged to try this indictment and returned the following Verdict viz. Guilty."

"The defendant Berry Poole being convicted of an assault appeared in court to receive sentence where the court [...ed] the following sentence [...] viz. [Let] the defendant be imprisoned one week and pay a fine of ten dollars." April Term, 1837¹⁸

Berry likely spent his week in jail in the Laurens County Jail built between 1826 and 1828. It was "designed by the the famed architect Robert Mills" and "was located on Caroline Street"¹⁹. This was the third jail constructed in Laurens, and served the community until the late 1980's.

Appendix Two contains a more complete transcription of this case file.

17 From Roll 3179, Laurens Court of Common Pleas, 1834

18 Laurens County Court of General Sessions, Indictment No. 608.

19 The Laurens County Advertiser, Vol. No. 112, Pub. No. 30600, December 20, [year illegible].

Trustee for Anna Cottrell

This case²⁰ provides compelling secondary evidence that Berry is indeed the son of Seth Petty Pool. In 1839 Berry was appointed Trustee for the children of his deceased sister Anna Cottrell. Berry periodically provided an account to the Court of his actions as trustee. One account contains the following entry:

16th January 1840 rec'd of Peter Pool Exor of Seth Pool dec'd Eight Hundred & forty six dollars and sixty seven cents.

The amount seems significant, in that taken together with this entry from Seth Petty's Probate:

(pay to) the children of [Cottrell] \$219.94,

the total amount is \$1066.61, which seems to be a practical legatee share- \$1066.02- as calculated in Seth Petty's Probate²¹. If Anna's children are receiving their mother's share of Seth Petty's Estate, then it seems reasonable that Anna would have chosen a close family member to be her trustee.

Three indictments General Sessions Court, 1842

The State vs. Berry Pool Assault

The State vs. Berry Pool Unlawfully Trading with a Slave

The State vs. Berry Pool Retailing without a Licence

In each of these cases, the Jury returned a verdict of "No Bill"²².

Additional Court cases are discussed in the section **Finding the Children in Public Records** under **William**.

In the Name of God, Amen

Berry's Will is dated 2 September 1847. The Upper Duncan's Creek Baptist Church membership roll records that he "Departed this Life Sept. 10th, 1847"²³.

In the name of God, Amen. I Berry Pool of Laurens District State of South Carolina being of sound and disposing mind and memory, but weak in body and calling to mind the uncertainty of life, and being desirous to dispose of all such worldly Estate as it has pleased God to bless me with, do make and ordain this my last will in manner following.

I desire that three of my negros (viz.) Jim, Dan, & Harriet²⁴ together with all my stock of every kind and my Farming tools be immediately sold after my decease and out of the monies arising therefore, all my just debts and funeral expenses be paid.

20 Laurens County Ordinary/Probate Judge: General Estates index (Guardian and Trustee Returns, Equity Estate Records, A-1, C-1, D-1 and Will Book A), TR18.

21 Laurens County Probate Court, Box 58, Pkg. No. 4.

22 Laurens County Clerk of Court (General Sessions) General Sessions Journal 1800-1810 1810-1824 1825-1840, Fall Term. The indictments are lost, only the journal entries survive,

23 Unpublished church records of Langston Baptist Church (formerly Upper Duncan's Creek Baptist). Also see Bessie P. Lamb, [A Genealogical History of the Poole, Lamb, Mason Families and Kindred Lines of Upper South Carolina](#), p. 16.

24 Jim stayed at the Berry farm, since he was purchased by Mary at the Estate sale. Daniel was purchased by John Cox. [Major] M. [Milano] purchased Harriet. "Negro girl Frances", not mentioned in Berry's Will, was purchased by Benjamin Neuman..

After payment of my debts and funeral expenses I give to wife Mary Pool the tract of land called and known by the name of the Glen tract²⁵, whereon my dwelling House stands, and where I now live together with all my household and Kitchen furniture. also three of my negros (viz.) Sam, Lew, & Sarah during the term of her natural life, and after her decease I desire that the property be sold and equally divided among my several children (viz.) Jane Pool who intermarried with Berry Pool Jr., Elizabeth who intermarried with William Rose, Allen Poole, Mary Pool, Martha Pool, John Terry Pool, George Berry Pool, Martin Bobo Pool, Seena Priscilla Pool, to them and their heirs forever.

In case my wife should die before my youngest child shall arrive of age, I desire that the property given to my wife should not be sold before that time arrives. I also give to my wife my riding carriage in the same way and manner with the property above described.

I give to my son Allen Pool my Waldrep tract of land lying in Laurens district on Enoree River containing one hundred and twenty and a fourth acres more or less bounded by lands of Samuel Meridith, Peter Pool, and others. also my negro boy Henry, to him and his heirs forever.

I give to my daughter Mary Pool my negro girl Caroline, to her and her heirs forever.

I give to my daughter Martha Pool my negro girl Matilda, to her and her heirs forever.

I give to my son John Terry Pool my negro boy Calvin, to him and his heirs forever.

I give to my son George Berry Pool my negro boy Dave, to him and his heirs forever.

I give to my son Martin Bobo Pool my negro boy Tobe, to him and his heirs forever.

I give to my daughter Seena Priscilla Pool my negro child Harriet, to her and her heirs forever.

All the rest of my estate both real and personal of whatever nature or quality soever it may be not herein before particularly disposed of, I desire may be equally divided among my several children herein before named, and I give the same to them their heirs and administrators and assigns forever.

And lastly I do constitute and appoint my son Allen Pool Executor of this my last will and testament.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal this 2nd day of September A. D. 1847.²⁶

Berry Pool

Berry's Grave Site

Berry was buried in the family cemetery, with two of his sons William and James, Mary Blackstock Pool, and Berry's youngest daughter Ascenith. The cemetery is located on the old Berry Pool farm, very close to the ruins of the Berry Pool home. The site today is forested land located off SC Secondary Road 52 in northeastern Laurens County, SC.

Berry's epitaph reads:

*Sacred to the memory of
Berry Pool
Who died 10th September
1847*



25 Berry purchased the Glen Tract at Seth Petty Pool's Estate sale. See Laurens County Probate Court, "Laurens County Ordinary/Probate Judge Index to Estate Papers 1800-1939" Box 58 Pkg 4, 1837.

26 Box 104, Pkg. 19 Laurens County Probate Court, 1848. Allen Pool Executor.

In the 55th year of his age

Probate

Berry's Will was proven 10 November, 1847. John P. Pool was one of the three persons making oath of authenticity.

The "*Appraisal Bill of all the goods & Chattles of Berry Poole Dec'd*" shows the extent to which slavery and real estate comprised the wealth of a middling Upstate SC planter of the mid 19th century. The estate was appraised at about \$12, 140, of which about 60 % was slave value and about 25% land value²⁷.

Second Probate Sale

A second Probate sale for Berry's Estate occurred on 16 December 1873. M. B, G. B, and Allen Pool all purchased items. The Sale Bill includes the following notation:

*"In addition to the above I return that I sold on the same day One hundred & thirty eight (138) acres of land for \$2725.00 and sixty seven acres & one half for \$775.00 on a credit of one and two years with interest from the day of sale- but the widow who was willed a lifetime estate became dissatisfied and that Executor who was the purchaser allowed her to retain the said land under the advice of his Counsel and she is still in possession of said real Estate."*²⁸

Allen Pool Exor

South Carolina in Berry's Lifetime

Berry was born during George Washington's Presidency, when the country was still working to establish itself. South Carolina had arrived at its final form, having resolved most of its border disputes, and the Upstate region had finally achieved political representation in the new capital at Columbia. In his youth, the arrival of short staple cotton, along with the cotton gin, finally gave the farmers in the South Carolina Backcountry a viable cash crop.

However, that prosperity came at a cost. The bond between Southern cotton and slavery had already begun to cause political friction between the conservative agrarian South and the more progressive and industrial Northern tier of states. The reliance of Northern manufacturing upon high tariffs made the situation that much more volatile. John C. Calhoun, South Carolina's major national political leader, and others led the State into the first Nullification Crisis in the 1830's over the twin issues of slavery and tariffs despite opposition from Upcountry Unionists, who were Jacksonian Democrats supporting "state's rights, strict construction of the Constitution, minimal government, slavery, and Andrew Jackson" and opposing "protective tariffs, national banks, federally financed internal improvements, John Quincy Adams, and nullification"²⁹. On December 18, 1830, the South Carolina General Assembly passed an ordinance to nullify the Federal tariff laws³⁰. Jackson ordered armed forces to Charleston and privately threatened to hang Calhoun. Violence seemed imminent until Clay negotiated

27 Calculated by the author from the Probate documents, Box 104, Pkg. 19, Laurens Probate Court. The appraisers included the "home tract of land" willed to Mary and "1 tract of land the old tract". A later document in the Probate file appraises the tract willed to Allan Pool at \$466.

28 Laurens County Probate Judge: Inventories, Appraisements and Sales 1897-1929, pp. 186- 187.

29 Origins of Southern Radicalism the South Carolina Upcountry 1800- 1860, Lacy K. Ford, Jr., p. 129.

30 School History of South Carolina, John Abney Chapman, 1893, p. 192.

a compromise: tariffs were lowered and South Carolina dropped nullification.³¹ Though the immediate issue was resolved by compromise, the Nullification Crisis was in many ways the harbinger of the Civil War three decades later.

"There were many persons who did not favor the measures of the nullifiers... and in some places where the nullification feeling was high it was somewhat risky to be an avowed (opponent). The present writer (John Chapman) was a child at the time, but he has quite a vivid recollection of the excitement that prevailed in the county of Edgefield"³². Feeling clearly ran high in the Laurens area as well. At the November 24, 1832 meeting of the Laurens Circuit Methodists, a charge was brought against a Thomas Glen for allegedly asserting that "Jesus Christ was a nullifier"³³. As in his father's time with the Regulators and the Tory/Patriot split, in Berry's day political differences quite often led to personal violence. No records exist to allow us to surmise Berry's position on the Nullification issue.

Berry survived the unusually cold winter of 1834-1835, when on January 14 and March 2 and 3 nearly a foot of snow fell over upstate South Carolina³⁴, the Panic of 1837 which precipitated a major agricultural depression and the devastating drought of 1845, when much of the South Carolina faced a food shortage.

Berry died during the Presidential term of James K. Polk, the last of the "Jacksonian" Presidents. Under Polk's leadership, America was pursuing an expansionist policy, adding Texas and Oregon to the country, despite war with Mexico and threat of war with Great Britain. This expansion was to add to the growing rift between slaveholder and abolitionists.

Finding the Children in Public Records

Jane

Jane was born about 1819 and died sometime between 1860 and 1870. She married Berry P. Pool, the son of William Petty and Elizabeth Pool. In 1850, she had children Mary, Franklin, Margaret and Eliza. In 1860, "JJ" Pool has added James P, "SL" (Sarah L), and "LA" (Laurah A) to her family. The 1870 Census enumerates Berry's second wife Margaret J.

Census

Year: 1850; Census Place: , Laurens, South Carolina; Roll: M432_855; Page: 241A; Image: 82.

Year: 1860; Census Place: , Laurens, South Carolina; Roll: M653_1222; Page: 333; Image: 232; Family History Library Film: 805222

William

William Pool's gravestone reads:

*William Pool
Son of Berry & Mary
Born Nov 25 1821
Died Oct 15th 1842
Aged 20 Years 10 Months*

31 The White House, www.whitehouse.gov/about/presidents/andrewjackson.

32 School History of South Carolina, John Abney Chapman, 1893, p. 193.

33 *Laurens Circuit Record Book*, Placed in Steward's Book of Laurens Circuit, Wofford College Archives.

34 School History of South Carolina, John Abney Chapman, 1893, p. 196.

*And 20 days
Living men as you pass by
As you are so once was I
As born now so you must be
Pure for death and follow me
Our friend he died and here is laid
Beneath this heavy load
He has the debt on nature paid
But lives now with his God³⁵*

There were two Summary Process Judgments in the Laurens Court of Common Pleas which relate to the education and death of William Pool. James H. Dillard vs. Berry Pool Sr , 1842 seeks to recover from Berry a debt of \$85, relating to the "use of medical books and tuition of his son William Pool"³⁶. R. E. Todd, Executor vs. Berry Pool Senr, 1848, "...was a suit to recover the amount of a note held by the Plaintiff as Executor, and made by William Pool deceased to the Plaintiff's testator, from the defendant as executor du son tort"³⁷.

James

James' gravestone reads:

*Sacred
To the memory
James Pool
Who was born
Feb 1st 1828
Died Sept 15th
1844³⁸*

Lamb & Ezell state that James was "a medical student in Augusta, Ga.", the same thing recorded about William. I have not been able to identify James in any surviving records.

Elizabeth

Elizabeth married William Rose, as recorded in Berry's Will. Lamb & Ezell give her birth year as 1824, and state that "she died early in life". However, a recently published genealogy of the Rose family³⁹ states that she was born 8 June 1823 and died 15 May 1891. The Census records support the latter version.

35 Inscription transcribed by S. Poole from the cemetery in Laurens County, SC. Lamb & Ezell record that William lived from 21 November 1821- 15 October 1832, and that "he had studied in Augusta, GA to be a doctor", which is obviously at odds with an age of 11 at his death. They later state that he was 21 years old at his death, which would be place his death in the correct year of 1842. One of the rare instances of error in their book.

36 Laurens County Court of Common Pleas, Summary Process Judgment 12212.

37 Laurens County Court of Common Pleas, Summary Process Judgment 12253. An *executor de son tort* is a stranger who inter-meddles without authority in the distribution of the estate of a deceased person.

38 Inscription transcribed by the author from the cemetery in Laurens County, SC.

39 *The Tree Climber*, Laurens District Chapter South Carolina Genealogical Society, Volume 25, No. 4, p. 41. The information source is given as William Rose's Bible.

In the 1850 Census, Elizabeth has one child, Pamela E., age 10. In 1870, she and William have moved to Clinton, SC⁴⁰. In 1870, they are back in Laurens, SC. Permelia at age 28 is still living at home. In 1880, William and "Betsy" Rose are living with their son-in-law William P. Manfay in Clinton, SC.

Census

Year: 1850; Census Place: , Laurens, South Carolina; Roll: M432_855; Page: 257A; Image: 114.

Year: 1860; Census Place: Clinton, Laurens, South Carolina; Roll: M653_1222; Page: 336; Image: 238; Family History Library Film: 805222.

Year: 1870; Census Place: Hunter, Laurens, South Carolina; Roll: M593_1501; Page: 44A; Image: 91; Family History Library Film: 553000.

Year: 1880; Census Place: Clinton, Laurens, South Carolina; Roll: 1233; Family History Film: 1255233; Page: 129A; Enumeration District: 102; .

Allen

Allen was the executor of Berry's Will. Lamb & Ezell state that he was born 16 November 1826 and died 11 July 1879. In the 1850 Census, 24 year old Allen "Paul" was still living with his mother Mary.

"Married on the 25th ult., by Rev. Wm. B. Byrd, Mr. Allen Poole to Miss Rebecca Langston, all of this district." Laurensville Weekly Herald August 2, 1850 .

In 1860, Allen and Rebecca are living in Scuffletown Township with their five children. In 1870, their family has increased to nine children.⁴¹

Census

Year: 1850; Census Place: , Laurens, South Carolina; Roll: M432_855; Page: 246A; Image: 92.

Year: 1860; Census Place: , Laurens, South Carolina; Roll: M653_1222; Page: 343; Image: 251; Family History Library Film: 805222.

Year: 1870; Census Place: Scuffletown, Laurens, South Carolina; Roll: M593_1501; Page: 154A; Image: 312; Family History Library Film: 553000.

Mary

Mary is not in her mother's household in the 1850 Census. Lamb & Ezell state that Mary was born 21 February 1831, died 28 October 1864, and that she married William Powers. The 1860 Census has "ML Powers" in William Powers household, but the list of children does not match that of Lamb & Ezell. Mary was deceased by the time of the final settlement of Berry's Estate in 1879, since the children of Mary Powers are receiving her share.

Census

Year: 1860; Census Place: , Laurens, South Carolina; Roll: M653_1222; Page: 293; Image: 152; Family History Library Film: 805222.

Martha

Seventeen year old Martha was still living with her mother in the 1850 Census.

40 The ages do not match, but the names do, so this is a likely Census match.

41 Both Bessie Poole Lamb and Mary-Mack Poole Ezell are granddaughters of Allen Pool.



Martha's epitaph reads:

A devoted wife
Martha
Wife of
W. P. Patterson
Dec. 6, 1833
May 23, 1906
A kind and affectionate
Wife and mother

Lanford, S. C., May 25 Mrs. Martha Poole Patterson, wife of Mr. William P. Patterson, died at her home at this place Wednesday evening at 9 o'clock, and was buried the following afternoon in Patterson Chapel cemetery, the Rev. J. W. Shell of Spartanburg conducting the funeral. Mrs. Patterson was about 73 years of age, was a pious and lovable character, was held in the highest esteem by a large circle of relatives and friends, and is survived by a loving husband, four sons and a daughter who with a host of friends, are wrapped in grief because of the taking away of this good woman.

The Spartanburg Daily Herald May 26, 1906

Census

Year: 1870; Census Place: Scuffletown, Laurens, South Carolina; Roll: M593_1501; Page: 153A; Image: 310; Family History Library Film: 553000.

Year: 1880; Census Place: Scuffletown, Laurens, South Carolina; Roll: 1233; Family History Film: 1255233; Page: 205C; Enumeration District: 104;

Year: 1900; Census Place: Scuffletown, Laurens, South Carolina; Roll: T623_1533; Page: 5B; Enumeration District: 59.

Dr. John Terry

John Terry was born 25 April 1836 and died 14 December 1909, according to Lamb & Ezell. In the 1850 Census, thirteen year old John T. is living with his mother Mary.

"Married on the 27th Oct., by the Rev. C. C. Merchison, Dr. J. T. Pool, formerly of Laurens District, but now of Greenville District, to Miss Anna W. Allen, of Spartanburg District." Marriage and Death Notices from Baptist Newspapers of South Carolina, 1835-1865, 10 November 1860, p. 99.

"He practices medicine 50 years, served in Civil War as private & surgeon in Co B, first S. C. Cavalry Capt. Nesbitts Command in Hampton Brigade." Laurens County Epitaphs, Laurens Cemetery 1792- 1935 W. P. A. Project 65-33-118, 1936.

Dr. John Terry's entry in the 1892 Cyclopedia of Eminent and Representative Men of the Carolinas of the Nineteenth Century⁴² indicates that he also engaged in extensive retail merchandising activity.

Census

Year: 1870; Census Place: Cross Anchor, Spartanburg, South Carolina; Roll: M593_1508; Page: 428A; Image: 256; Family History Library Film: 553007.

Year: 1880; Census Place: Cross Anchor, Spartanburg, South Carolina; Roll: 1240; Family History Film: 1255240; Page: 184A; Enumeration District: 141; .

Year: 1900; Census Place: Laurens, Laurens, South Carolina; Roll: T623_1533; Page: 12A; Enumeration District: 57.⁴³

George B.

George Berry was born 3 October 1838 and died 17 November 1900. This is confirmed by his headstone at Langston Baptist Church.

In the 1850 Census, ten year old "George B Paul" is living with his mother.

⁴² Madison, Wis.: Brant & Fuller, 1892.

⁴³ Incorrectly transcribed as *James Pool Doctor* or *John J Poole Doctor* on some Census sources.

George married Mary Farrow. After her death 31 August, 1885⁴⁴, he married Sarah A. Horton (1843-1907)⁴⁵.

There is some confusion about the children of George and Mary. Lamb & Ezell have a different list than is derived from the Census and headstone evidence. In the 1860 Census, George and Mary are living in Scuffletown with two year old WH (almost certainly William Harvey, the "Harvey" of Lamb & Ezell). The growth of their family over the next two Census cycles is shown in the table below.

Lamb & Ezell	1860 Census	1870 Census	1880 Census
Harvey	WH	William H	Harvey
Thomas Pitts		Thomas P	Thomas
Ora ⁴⁶		Mary L	Mary L
			Arthur R ⁴⁷
			Farrow
Luke			

Census

Year: 1850; Census Place: , Laurens, South Carolina; Roll: M432_855; Page: 246A; Image: 92.

Year: 1860; Census Place: , Laurens, South Carolina; Roll: M653_1222; Page: 333; Image: 232; Family History Library Film: 805222.

Year: 1870; Census Place: Scuffletown, Laurens, South Carolina; Roll: M593_1501; Page: 162B; Image: 329; Family History Library Film: 553000.

Year: 1880; Census Place: Scuffletown, Laurens, South Carolina; Roll: 1233; Family History Film: 1255233; Page: 197C; Enumeration District: 104; .

Martin Bobo

Martin's headstone at Langston has the dates August 22, 1841- 22 March 1919. In the 1850 Census, five year old Martin B. is living with his mother. The 1860 Census shows eighteen year old Martin still at home. In 1870, twenty-eight year old Martin is still resident. Mary is "keeping house", Martin is a "farmer". By 1880, Martin is living alone, classified as "widower", and an illness of "liver com" is recorded.



The 1900 Census is ambiguous. 'B. Martin Pool' has the expected location and age, but is recorded as a black male.

On 18 September, 1891 a deed was recorded in Laurens, conveying 3 acres of land

44 *Marriage and Death Records from Laurens County, SC Newspapers*, Vol. 7, 23 October, 1885.

45 Sarah Horton Poole's headstone at Langston Baptist Church. Also see *Marriage and Death Records from Laurens County, SC Newspapers*, Vol. 7, 29 June 1888.

46 In the Lamb & Ezell account, "Ora" is a female married to John Powers, so she is probably the "Mary L" of the Census. The 1900 Federal Census has a John H. Powers with children Roy P. (age 8) and Mary L. (age 2). Lamb says that "Ora" had a son Roy Poole Powers. Since John H. has no spouse, Mary L./ "Ora" must have died between 1888 and 1900.

47 Arthur Russell Poole died March 15, 1885. His headstone at Langston Baptist Church reads: In loving remembrance of/ Arthur Russell /son of / Geo B & Mary F Poole / Born Dec. 29, 1870/ and died from the accidental/ discharge of a gun in/ his own hands/ March 15, 1885/ Asleep in Jesus, blessed sleep/ From which none ever makes/ to weep/ A calm and undisturbed repose/ Unbroken by the last of foes

from Martin B. Pool to "Duncans Cr. Bapt. Ch. of Colored People (Deacons: C. Stroud, D. Bradley, O. Cromwell, A. Feeter)⁴⁸. This church is still in existence, and the church website records the transaction: "Duncan Creek's first church building was erected years later. Three acres of land was purchased from Mr. Martin Poole for \$75.00 to build the church. The one room church was located "down under the hill"⁴⁹."

Lamb & Ezell report that Martin married Janie Cheek January 9, 1873, that Janie died May 1876 and that there was one child.⁵⁰

Census

Year: 1850; Census Place: , Laurens, South Carolina; Roll: M432_855; Page: 241A; Image: 82.

Year: 1860; Census Place: , Laurens, South Carolina; Roll: M653_1222; Page: 342; Image: 250; Family History Library Film: 805222.

Year: 1870; Census Place: Scuffletown, Laurens, South Carolina; Roll: M593_1501; Page: 155B; Image: 315; Family History Library Film: 553000.

Year: 1880; Census Place: Scuffletown, Laurens, South Carolina; Roll: 1233; Family History Film: 1255233; Page: 193C; Enumeration District: 104; .

Ascenith

Lamb & Ezell state that Ascenith Priscilla was born 29 October 1845 and died 12 October 1864. In the 1850 census, five year old "Asenath P" is in her mother's household. "Lena P" is still there in 1860.

In 1870, Mary Pool's household has a six year old child named Ida A Bobo resident. According to Lamb & Ezell, "Seena" married James Bobo and they had one child, Ida. Ascenith is referred to as "Ascenith P. Bobo" in the final settlement of Berry's estate.

Ascenith is buried in the Berry Pool family cemetery. Her gravestone is broken, and all that remains of the inscription is:

*To our sister
Ascenith P. Bobo
Born Oct. 29 1845
Departed this life
[stone broken]⁵¹*



Census

Year: 1850; Census Place: , Laurens, South Carolina; Roll: M432_855; Page: 241A; Image: 82.

Year: 1860; Census Place: , Laurens, South Carolina; Roll: M653_1222; Page: 342; Image: 250; Family History Library Film: 805222.

Year: 1870; Census Place: Scuffletown, Laurens, South Carolina; Roll: M593_1501; Page: 155B; Image: 315; Family History Library Film: 553000.

48 Direct or Grantor Index- Conveyances of real Estate- Laurens County, S. C., Book 5, page 59.

49 See www.duncancreekbc.org/history.php.

50 Lamb and Ezell, pg. 60.

51 Inscription transcribed by the author from the cemetery in Laurens County, SC.

Repositories

Unless otherwise noted, all of the records referenced in this document are housed in the South Carolina Department of Archives and History, 8301 Parklane Road, Columbia, SC 29223.

The Laurens Circuit Record Book is housed at the Sandor Teszler Library, Wofford College, 429 North Church Street, Spartanburg, SC 29303-3663

Some References

- Origins of Southern Radicalism The South Carolina Upcountry 1800- 1860, Lacy K. Ford, Jr., Oxford University Press, 1988. ISBN 0-19-506961-7.
- The classic study of the Laurens County Pettypool family is A Genealogical History of the Poole, Langston, Mason Families and Kindred Lines of Upper South Carolina by Bessie Poole Lamb & Mary-Mack Poole Ezell, 1931. It has been reprinted and is available from a number of genealogical book vendors; a copy is available in the Laurens County Public Library, West Main Street, Laurens, South Carolina 29360.

Appendix One- Henry Meredith & Daniel Meridith vs. Berry Poole

23 June 1834 Henry Meredith & Daniel Meridith vs. Berry Poole, Laurens, South Carolina^{8a}

Berry Pool Court of Common Pleas

South Carolina Laurens District To wit Henry Meredith and Daniel Meredith the Defts were attached to answer to Berry Pool the [Pltf] of a plea why with [force] & [...] they the said Henry & Daniel into the close of plantation of him the said Berry lying and being in Laurens District adjoining lands of Seth Pool the said Henry Meredith the said Berry Pool, containing five hundred acres did break and enter his trees then [& there] did cut down & carry away and then [...] and [...] [...] [...] then & there did commit to the great damage of the said Berry.-- Whereupon the said Berry Pool by [July] & Farley his attornies complained for that whereas the said Henry Meredith and Sam'l Meredith heretofore to [...] on the first day of January in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred thirty nine at Laurens Court House in the District & State aforesaid & within the jurisdiction of this court with force into into the the close or plantation of his the said Berry lying and being in Laurens District adjoining lands of Seth Pool the said Henry Meredith the said Berry Pool, containing five hundred acres did break and enter his trees then & there growing did cut down and carry away and other wrongs and [...] then & there did commit against the peace and dignity of the said State and to his damage One hundred dollars wherefore he brings, [...] & deposeth"

"Filed 17th September 1833

[...]

Ordered for Judgment 19th October 1833

Order for Judgment Set Aside & leave to plead granted

Plea & [...] filed 23rd Oct. 1833

William H. Farrow, Chancy Farrow & James Burke subpoenaed as witnesses for trial. 28th February 1834

Thos. F. Farrow, Samuel Farrow, Joel [Dean], Thos Hutchinson subpoenaed as witnesses for trial. 28th February 1834

James Burk claimed one day attendance, 16th April 1834

T. F. Farrow claimed two days attendance " & that he lives 12 miles fro, LC house in Spartanburg Dest..." 31st March 1834

W. H. Farrow claimed two days service April 18th 1834

Jas [L] Rogers , "...to settle with Mr. Berry Pool Five Dollars and 31 1/2 for my attendance in the case of Pool against Meredith June [30] 1834"

John Hutchinson claimed four days attendance 21st March 1834

Joel Dean claimed two days attendance "and that he resides in Spartanburgh District 14 miles [...] from Laurens Court House" 28th March 1834

W. H. Farrow claimed five days attendance " & that he lives twelve miles from LC house in Spartanburg Dist" 28th March 1834

"The Defendants Henry & Samuel Meredith is hereby notified to produce on the trial of this case a deed executed by him to Harmon Waldrope for the land now the subject of this present suit- March 21st 1834."

Thos Wright charged "To 2 days surveying \$3 \$6 platting & [representations] 2 6

attending court In March term 1834 5 days 5

"AND NOW AT THIS DAY, to wit, the fourth Monday in March to which day the issue aforesaid was continued in the Court of Common Pleas, at Laurens district,...

come as well the said Berry Poole by his Attorney aforesaid, as the said Henry Meredith & Samuel Meredith by their Attorney aforesaid; and the Jurors aforesaid being demanded, ...

do, on their oath say, that We find for the Defendants...

THEREFORE, it is considered, that the said Henry Meredith & Samuel Meredith do recover against the said Plaintiff Berry Poole costs and charges aforesaid, to the said Henry & Samuel Eighty -five dollars & thirty six & 1/2 cents for his costs & charges by the said Court, now herewith their assent adjudged, and be the said Berry in mercy, and so forth

2nd June 1834

State of South Carolina. TO ALL AND SINGULAR THE SHERIFFS OF THE SAID STATE----

Greeting, YOU, and each of you are hereby commanded without delay, that the Goods, Houses Lands and other Hereditaments and real estates of Berry Poole you cause to be levied the sum of Eighty five Dollars and thirty six & half cents Costs and Charges by Them expended in and about defending their said Suit in that behalf, whereof the said Berry is convicted, as appears on record. And that you have the Monies "according to Law" before the Judges, at the Court of Common Pleas, to be holden at Laurens Court House, to render to the said Plaintiffs aforesaid." 25 May 1834

15th June 1834 Levied the within Execution on one by horse as the property of the Deft Berry Pool

Levy \$1 00

11 miles 55

\$1 55

John Simmons, Det⁵².

Appendix Two- Samuel Meredith vs Berry Pool, Assault, 1836

"...WHEREAS, Complaint hath been made to me, upon the oath of Samuel Meredith in the district aforesaid that Berry Pool Sen'r of L. District did on the 23'd of the Instant assault him the said Samuel Meredith by presenting his gun and threatening to shoot him the said Meredith, contrary to the peace and dignity of said state..."

"Be it remembered that on the seventh day of May in the year of our Lord One thousand and Eight hundred & thirty Six personally came before me Berry Pool Sen'r and Seth P. Pool- who acknowledged themselves to be indebted to the State of S. Carolina, that is to say the said Berry Pool Sen'r in the sum of five hundred dollars and the said Seth P. Pool- in the sum of five hundred dollars to be levied of their several Lands and Tenements Goods & Chattels respectively to and for the use of the said State if the above mentioned Berry Pool Sen'r Shall fail in performing the condition underwritten..."

"...personally came before me Samuel Meredith who being duly sworn as law directs on his oath says that he is afraid the Berry Pool Sen'r of the district aforesaid will beat or do him some bodily harm and hath therefore prayed security..."

"Be it remembered that on the Twenty fourth day of October in the year of our Lord One thousand and Eight hundred & thirty Six personally came before me James Martindale and Peter Pool- who

52 From Roll 3179, Laurens Court of Common Pleas, 1834

acknowledged themselves to be indebted to the State of S. Carolina, that is to say the said James Martindale in the sum of fifty dollars and the said Peter Pool- in the sum of fifty dollars to be levied of their several Lands and Tenements Goods & Chattels respectively to and for the use of the said State if the above mentioned James Martindale shall fail in performing the condition under written... to give Evidence in a case The State against Berry Pool for an assault on the person of Samuel Meredith on the [...] and behalf of the v'd State."

The State vs. Berry Poole Senior "The jury... which were charged to try this indictment and returned the following Verdict viz. Guilty."

"The defendant Berry Poole being convicted of an assault appeared in court to receive sentence where the court [...ed] the following sentence [...] viz. [Let] the defendant be imprisoned one week and pay a fine of ten dollars." April Term, 1837⁵³

53 Laurens County Court of General Sessions, Indictment No. 608.