

George B. Pool and Family of Laurens County, South Carolina

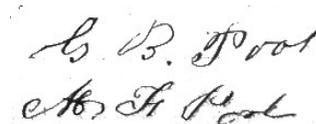
October 3, 1838- May 25, 1900

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Gilbert, SC

Revised March, 2013

George Berry Pool was born 3 October 1838¹, the ninth child of Berry Pool and Mary Blackstock. He married Mary Farrow on 7 October 1857². They had at least five children. After her death on 31 August, 1885³, he married Sarah A. Horton (1843- 1907)⁴. George Berry Pool is traced in the Census records, land transfers, and other legal documents. His children are traced in Census and other records.



Handwritten signatures of George B. Pool and Sarah A. Horton.

- 1 Bessie Poole Lamb & Mary Mack Poole Ezell, A Genealogical History of the Poole, Langston, Mason Families and Kindred Lines of Upper South Carolina, 1931. Additional birth date confirmation is on George B. Pool's headstone at Langston Baptist Church.
- 2 An Account of Marriages Solemnized by Tolaver Robertson in South Carolina between October 1842 & February 1867, edited by Joseph R. Gainey, A Press, Greenville, SC, 1985. In the Probate of Thomas Farrow, a Petition to make W. H. Farrow the executor in place of the now deceased wife Sophia contains the phrase "...and Mary F Pool wife of G. B. Pool...". See Laurens County Probate Court, "Laurens County Ordinary/Probate Judge Index to Estate Papers 1800-1939" Box 122, Pkg. 1. Also see Wm. Montgomery Clemons, "North Carolina and South Carolina Marriage Records" and the "Georgia Genealogical Magazine" No. 47.
- 3 Headstone at Langston Church. *Laurens Advertiser* September 2, 1885. Also see Marriage and Death Records from Laurens County, SC Newspapers, Vol. 7, 23 October, 1885.
- 4 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.

South Carolina in George B. Pool's Lifetime

*"Why, there are still five years of good stealing in South Carolina."
John J. Patterson, US Senator from South Carolina 1873- 1879.⁵*

The single event that affected almost the entirety of George's life was the Civil War. He grew up in the shadow of the Nullification Crisis, when South Carolina politics was absorbed in defending slavery at home and retaining at least the theoretical possibility of transporting slavery anywhere in the nation⁶. Upstate South Carolina was sharply divided between the "fire-eaters" who "abused cooperation as the doctrine of 'submission and disgrace'" and the Unionists who "countered such charges with claims that it was not the large slaveholder who favored secession but a reckless clique of glory-seeking young hot-heads"⁷.

Before the War

In the 1850's, South Carolina abandoned its long standing aversion to banking and credit, and "the cotton boom and the commercial expansion of the 1850's lured more and more Upcountrymen into the pursuit of the main chance, and, as a result, prompted a marked increase in the demand for credit"⁸.

Reconstruction

The Civil War was financially devastating for much of the South, and George B. Pool's financial troubles, leading to a Federal bankruptcy filing in 1877, will be documented. In addition, there was increasing social unrest as South Carolina adjusted to the new reality, and the Federal government tried to find a way to re-integrate the former Confederacy.

5 Quoted in Reconstruction in South Carolina, 1865-1877, John Schreiner Reynolds, State Co., 1905

6 Tariffs were also an issue. In the political era dominated by John C. Calhoun tariffs were as contentious as slavery. The Northern tier of states favored tariffs, which were a burden on an agrarian South that relied heavily on imported manufactured goods financed and shipped by Northern industrialists and merchants.

7 Origins of Southern Radicalism: the South Carolina Upcountry 1800-1860, Lacy K. Ford, Jr., 1988, p.202.

8 Origins of Southern Radicalism: the South Carolina Upcountry 1800-1860, Lacy K. Ford, Jr., 1988, p.321.

The Laurens Riot

"Question. Do you know what has been the condition in Laurens County?

Answer. Yes, sir; there is where the most serious riot that we have had in the State occurred, last October, the day after the election.

Question. I perceive that Laurens voted for the constitution by a majority of about four hundred⁹.

Answer. Yest, sir; they have had a great deal of trouble there. There are some bad men there, I can assure you, according to my judgment."¹⁰

According to testimony before Congress¹¹, the time leading up to election day, October, 1870, was filled with tension in Laurens and the nearby town of Clinton. As is usually the case, there are varied and conflicting accounts of the riot itself¹². By most accounts, events on election day itself went reasonably well, but on the following day¹³ tensions between the black and white citizens of Laurens escalated to violence. Both groups were responding to increasingly wild rumors that the other group was arming to attack. A number of people were killed, and several prominent black political leaders were killed soon after in apparently related retaliation. The Federal government declared Laurens to be under martial law as a result of the riot.

9 There had been an election in 1868 to accept or reject a new constitution for South Carolina. The constitution had been drafted by a convention held in Columbia. Despite serious opposition from former Confederates the measure was accepted. The Early Period of Reconstruction in South Carolina, Dissertation by John Porter Hollis, Johns Hopkins University, 1904, p. 275.

10 Testimony Taken by the Joint Select Committee to Inquire Into the Condition of Affairs in the Late Insurrectionary States, South Carolina Volume 3; Washington, Government Printing Office, 1872.

11 Report of the Joint Select Committee to Inquire Into the Condition of Affairs in the Late Insurrectionary States Made to the Two Houses of Congress February 19, 1872, Washington, Government Printing office, 1872, P. 554 and following.

12 An account written by a person arrested for involvement in the riot, A Voice from South Carolina by John A. Leland, 1879, contradicts most of the official account in the Congressional Record and other official sources. Leland's defense was that he was an innocent bystander, knowing nothing about the event until he was arrested by misguided Federal forces. That defense is somewhat weakened by his book, which recounts in detail the events leading up to the riot, and the event itself.

13 Confusion exists even regarding the date of the event. Most references refer to the "Laurens riot of October 20, 1870, the day after the election". However, in Congressional testimony, the event is placed on Wednesday, "the great court day" in Laurens. October 20, 1870 was a Thursday, so if the riot occurred on Wednesday, it would be October 19, 1870.

The Laurens Riot resulted in a petition to President Grant on March 29, 1872, signed by Senator Young P. Owens and Representatives Joseph Crews, Harry McDaniel, and Griffin C. Johnson, all from South Carolina. It is interesting to note that Joe Crews appears as the instigator of the trouble in most accounts of the riot. His poor public reputation, his political machinations favoring black voters, and accusations that he maintained an arms cache on his property near Laurens figure largely in the accounts of the riot¹⁴. The petition to Grant claims that "the assailants were all Democrats and the victims all Republicans... and there is every reason to believe ... that this riot was planned and executed by the Ku Klux Klan." It implores Grant to "reestablish a Military Post at Laurens C. H., with a sufficient number of troops to protect the citizens from persecution, and to assist in the arrest of those persons who are now or shall hereafter be charged with violations of the laws of the United States."¹⁵

What part, if any, George B. Pool played in these events is unrecorded. But his residence in Tylersville was close to both Laurens and Clinton, both of which were sites of disturbances relating to the riot.

George and Slavery

George B. does not appear to have been a significant slave holder. As a part of his father's probate, he received one slave:

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

During the estate settlement, George transferred Dave to his mother:

"Appraisal Bill of the property willed to the Widow- by the last will of Berry Pool, dec'd Dec 13th 1847

*... negro boy David willed to Geo \$500*¹⁶ "

In the 1850 and 1860 Census Slave Schedules, George is not listed as an owner. The only connection is the curious reference to slavery in the 1866 Court Case George B. Pool vs. William Hunter:

14 Joe Crews chief sin, however, was that he was a "scalawag", the pejorative term white Democrats leveled at white members of the Republican party. See South Carolina Scalawags, Hyman Rubin III, University of South Carolina Press, 2006, p. xviii.

15 The Papers of Ulysses S. Grant Volume 23: February 1- December 31, 1872, Edited by John Y. Simon, Southern Illinois University Press.

16 Probate for Berry Pool, Box 104, Pkg. 19 Laurens County Probate Court, 1848. Allen Pool Executor.

" his promissory note ...which was given for the purchase money of an old negro woman, for some Confederate treasury notes,...and for the aggregate amount of several notes...¹⁷".

The 1870 Federal census records a 74 year old black female Jane Pitts resident in George's home, occupation given as "cook". Whether or not she is the woman referenced is unknown.

A court case to be discussed later indicates that his wife Mary Frances may have been a slave owner. However, the 1860 Slave Schedule appears to show George B.'s mother as the only Mary Pool in Laurens County holding slaves.

Census

George appears in Census records from 1850 through 1880, including both Federal and South Carolina records.

1850 *United States Federal Census Year: 1850; Census Place: , Laurens, South Carolina; Roll: M432_855; Page: 246A; Image: 92*

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

1869 *South Carolina Census of 1869 State Population Census Schedules Horry- Marlboro*

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

1870 *Agriculture Schedules Census Year: 1870; Census Place: Scuffletown, Laurens, South Carolina; Archive Collection Number: AD266; Roll: 6; Page: 5; Line: 35; Schedule Type: Agriculture.*

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

1880 *Agriculture Schedules: Census Year: 1880; Census Place: Scuffletown, Laurens, South Carolina; Archive Collection Number: AD273; Roll: 12; Page: 4; Line: 7; Schedule Type: Agriculture.*

17 Laurens District Equity Court Decree Book 1840- 1868, pp. 203- 204.

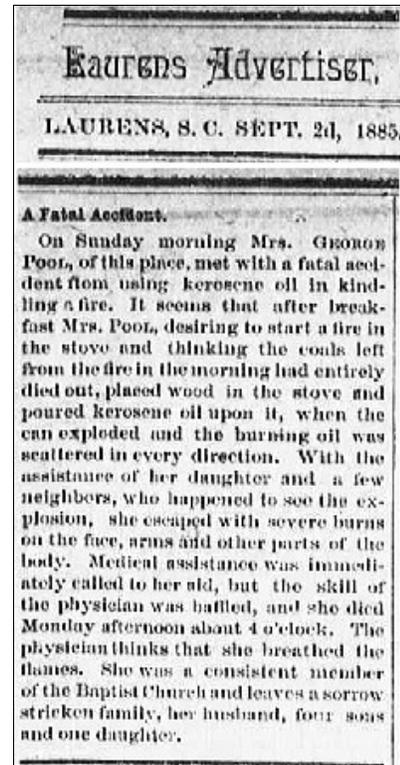
Domestic Matters

Mary Farrow

Mary Farrow was born August 22, 1836, the daughter of Thomas and Sophia W. Farrow. She married George B. Pool on 7 October 1857¹⁸.

Mary encountered a fatal accident on Sunday, August 31, 1885. She was badly burned in an explosion at a stove, and died from her injuries later that day.

On Sunday morning Mrs. George POOL, of this place, met with a fatal accident from using kerosene oil in kindling a fire. It seems that after breakfast Mrs. Pool, desiring to start a fire in the stove and thinking the coals left from the morning had entirely died out, placed wood in the stove and poured kerosene oil upon it, when the can exploded and the burning oil was scattered in every direction. With the assistance of her daughter and a few neighbors, who happened to see the explosion, she escaped with severe burns on the face, arms and other parts of the body. Medical assistance was immediately called to her aid, but the skill of the physician was baffled, and she died Monday afternoon about 4 o'clock. The physician thinks that she breathed the flames. She was a consistent member of the Baptist Church and leaves a sorrow stricken family, her husband, four sons and one daughter. - Laurens Advertiser September 2, 1885



"Mrs. Mary Fannie Pool, 49 year old wife of George Pool, died on Sunday

18 An Account of Marriages Solemnized by Tolaver Robertson in South Carolina between October 1842 & February 1867, edited by Joseph R. Gainey, A Press, Greenville, SC, 1985. In the Probate of Thomas Farrow, a Petition to make W. H. Farrow the executor in place of the now deceased wife Sophia contains the phrase "...and Mary F Pool wife of G. B. Pool...". See Laurens County Probate Court, "Laurens County Ordinary/Probate Judge Index to Estate Papers 1800-1939" Box 122, Pkg. 1. Also see Wm. Montgomery Clemons, "North Carolina and South Carolina Marriage Records" and the "Georgia Genealogical Magazine" No. 47.

Aug. 31; she is buried at Langford's Church¹⁹".

Her headstone in Langston Baptist Church Cemetery reads:

*Mary F. Poole / wife of
George B Poole/ and dau of
Col. Thomas Farrow
born / Aug 22 1836
died / Aug 31 1885
Dear mother we do miss thee
From this world of sorrow here
But we do hope to greet thee
In that blessed land so dear
Erected by / her son Thomas P. Pool*

Children

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 List	1860 Census	1870 Census	1880 Census
Harvey	WH	William H.	Harvey
Thomas Pitts		Thomas P.	Thomas
Ora		Mary L.	Mary L.
			Arthur R.
Luke			Farrow

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 records 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. I suspect that Luke and Farrow are the same person. See **Finding Children in Public Records**, below, for more detail.

19 Marriage and Death Records from Laurens County Newspapers, Vol. 7

Glimpses of Domestic Life

1862 The purchases George B. made at the Thomas Farrow Estate Sale on 1 March 1862 give a glimpse of what his household valued and required.

1877 Schedule B2 of a 1877 legal document²⁰ lists the personal property in George's household. He and Mary owned 4 bedsteads and bedding valued at \$50, 2 tables and

12 chairs valued at \$10, cooking utensils valued at \$5, plates, knives and forks valued at \$15, and one sideboard and bureau valued at \$15.

His farm consisted of 1 mule valued at \$100, 1 cow and calf valued at \$10, 1 old wagon valued at \$25, buggy and harness valued at \$75, 2 pairs of plow gear and 12 old plows valued at \$5.

His stored crop was 100 lbs. of cotton worth \$10 and 25 bu. of corn worth \$25.

1900 *"Mr. Robert Farrow, a native of Laurens County but now of Missouri, is visiting his uncle, Mr. George B. Poole and other relatives and friends here and in the county." -Laurensville Herald, 12 January, 1900²¹.*

Sarah Horton

Sarah Horton was born 13 March, 1843. She married George B. Pool on 21 June, 1888²². From surviving records, it appears that she was generally called "Sallie".

On 27 September, 1899, Thomas Pitts Poole conveyed to Mrs. Sallie Poole *"... all that lot or parcel of land situated within...the City of Laurens and on the west side fronting on North Harper Street... containing one and 45/100 acres more or less..."²³.*

This transaction was recorded on 21 February, 1902, the same day that a

G. B. Poole's Sale Bill	
4 Old wagon wheels	1.00
1 Weaver's loom & apparatus	6.00
Lot bottles	0.25
Potato [.]itter	0.45
Candle Molds & [...]	1.35
1 Reel	1.80
1 Wood Clock	2.50
1 Side Board	1.00
Wash Stand & Contents	3.25
1 Bed & furniture	<u>24.00</u>
	\$47.40

20 United States District Court, District of South Carolina, Case 1730, held in National Archives, Atlanta.

21 Mildred Brownlee, "Abstracts From The Laurensville Herald 1900".

22 Birth date from headstone at Langston church. Marriage and Death Records from Laurens County, SC Newspapers, Vol. 7.

23 Conveyances of Real Estate, Laurens, Book 12, page 245. The deed mentions that this is the "...same lot of land conveyed to me by J. H. P[...] on the 14th day of September 1899. I have not been able to find this conveyance.

conveyance from Sallie A. Pool to M. V. Hazel for the same property²⁴.

She died on 27 May, 1907²⁵, and is buried beside George B. in Langston Baptist Church cemetery.

Langston Baptist Church

George B. and Mary were members of Upper Duncan's Creek Baptist Church, now renamed Langston Baptist Church. However, on May 12, 1866 George was the subject of a disciplinary action by the church membership. At the regular Saturday church business meeting he was accused of theft, and a delegation was appointed to communicate with him on the matter.

"...After which the case of Bro George Pool was stated to the church accused of theft which was on motion agreed to be inquired into and looked after in a legal manner. The following brethren were then appointed as a committee to see Bro Pool and inform him of the charge [by cause] of the church. James Compton and W. [J.] Patterson."

George's troubles at church continued. At the Saturday meeting, July 7, 1866, the congregation chose to exclude him from the church over an accusation of "a dishonest manner of dealing" and "running a still to Spartanburg".

"... 3rd Took up the case of Bro George Pool. Being accused of being implicated in a dishonest matter of dealing. [And] of running a still to Spartanburg and exchanging it for another, said still belonging to Mrs. Pitts. It was resolved. Whereas George Pool being accused of the above stated charge and being duly cited to the church to give satisfaction and refused to do so, that his fellowship be put to the church which was done, and was excluded from our church by unanimous voice."

It was not until 8 September 1877 that George B. was again allowed to attend Upper Duncan's Creek Church.

"...Opened the door of the church for the reception of members by letter Experience or otherwise and received by Experience [Will] Wofford, by restoration George B Pool²⁶.

24 Direct or Grantor Index- Conveyances of Real Estate- Laurens County, S. C.. p. 81.

25 Birth and death dates taken from gravestone at Langston Baptist Church cemetery.

26 All extracts from Upper Duncan's Creek Baptist Church Record Book, privately held. Transcription by the author. A microfilm copy is held by Furman University.

George apparently remained on good terms with the church thereafter. On at least two occasions- August 8, 1879 and October 18, 1881- he was appointed as a delegate to regional Baptist meetings. At his death on 25 May 1900 he was buried in the church cemetery.

Digression- The Evangelical Church and Exclusion

The local church often served a dual purpose in the post-Great Awakening South Carolina Upstate. On the one hand it preached religious dogma and teaching. But it also dispensed judgment and punishment on those who transgressed the social and moral standards of the community. This function was performed in regular meetings of the members, usually on a weekday or sometimes before the Sunday services. Langston Baptist seemed to typically hold their sessions on Saturday. Any member could bring an accusation against any other member: it would then be publicly debated, and a suitable response affirmed by vote.

"For the many sincere evangelicals the sense of community gained through church membership no doubt paled by comparison with the promise of salvation and eternal life, but the sense of belonging and enjoyment of the church's earthly fellowship were still matters of some importance."

"Also important was the moral guidance offered by evangelical Christianity to a society scarcely one generation removed from the frontier. Evangelical morality was taught in the churches and enforced by church courts, but in the final analysis the only power evangelicals held over those who violated church teachings was their ability to exclude violators from the fellowship of the church."²⁷

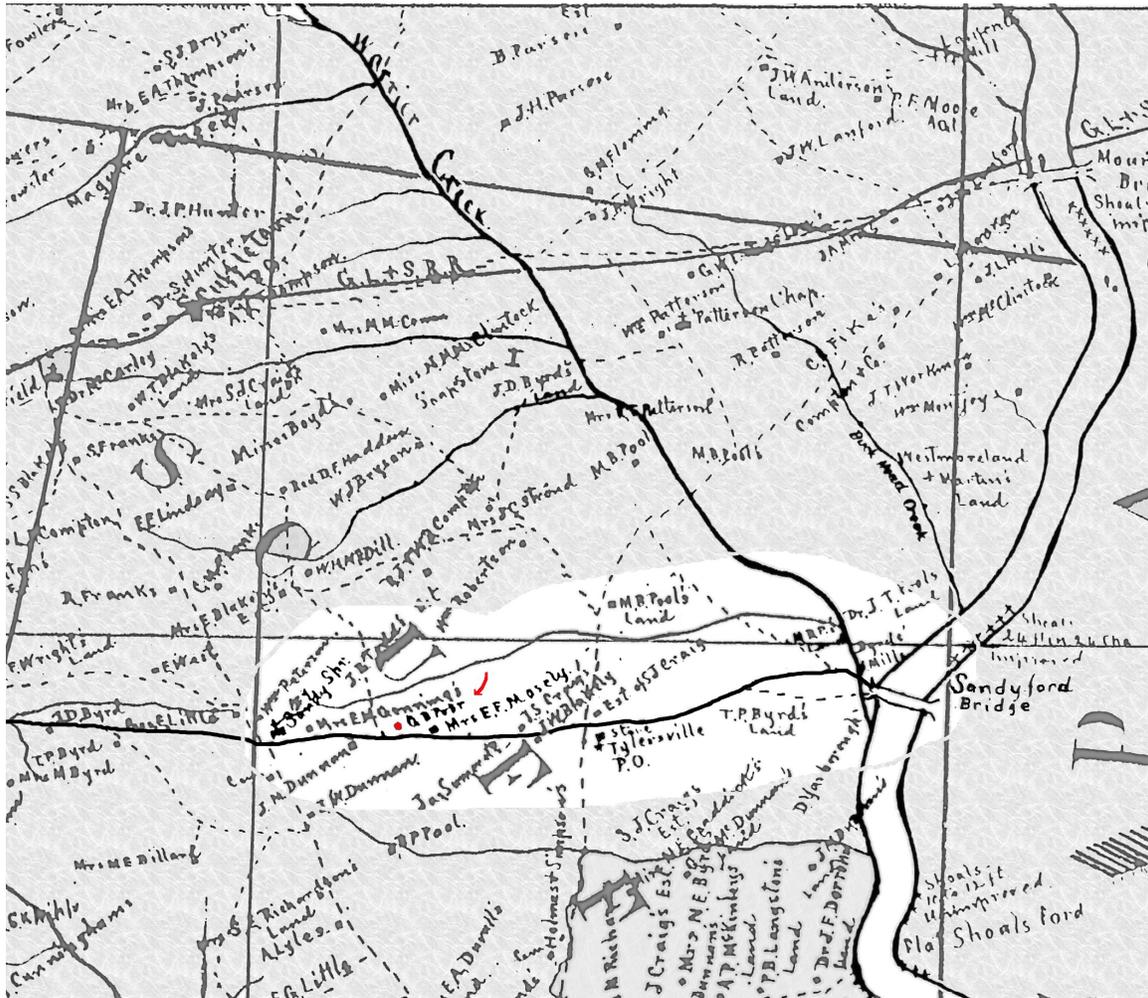
Land

On 13 January 1896, a deed was registered transferring 58 acres from George B. to Thomas Pitts Pool for \$200. The property is described as

"... All that tract piece or parcel of Land situated in Scuffletown Township Laurens County South Carolina containing Fifty eight (58) Acres more or less and bounded by lands of Mrs. Betsey Moseley Public Road leading from Laurens CH to Sandy ford Mrs. Jimmie E Pool [...] and others being [...] known as the George B. Pool old Home

²⁷ Origins of Southern Radicalism; the South Carolina Upcountry 1800-1860, Lacy K. Ford, Jr., Oxford University press, 1988. ISBN 0-19-506961-7, p. 33.

The 1883 Kyzer & Hellams map of Laurens County does not show the George B. Pool land clearly. However, it is probably the property labeled "G [B] Poor" which is located next to the property of "Mrs. E. F. Mosely". The "Sandy Sp" Church shown on the map exists today, at the intersection of South Carolina Route 49 and Route 308. The "Sandy Ford Bridge" on the map is on present day SC 49, leading to Cross Anchor in Spartanburg County. The "Tylersville P.O." is located in the present day unincorporated community of Tylersville shown on the Ora U.S. Geological Survey Map²⁹.



28 Direct or Grantor Index, Conveyances of Real Estate, Laurens County, SC, Book 7, Page 250. The extract is from the referenced deed.

29 U.S. Department of the Interior, U.S. Geological Survey URL: <http://www.usgs.gov/pubprod/index.html>. The cross referencing of deed entries to present landmarks by the author.

By the late 1800's, George was apparently living in the city of Laurens. The Tax Auditor's Assessment of 1899 records him as owning one lot valued at \$400 and one building valued at \$1000 in Laurens Township.³⁰

Occupation

George had multiple occupations in his lifetime. In the Federal Census of 1860- 1880, he gave his occupation as "farmer". He was in addition a distiller, and later in life he was a shopkeeper and sometime building contractor.

Farming

The 1880 Agricultural Schedule records Geo. B. Pool's farming activity. He was the owner of 35 tilled acres, 6 acres of pasture, and 17 acres of unimproved land³¹. The farm was valued at \$400, with \$50 worth of machinery and \$150 in livestock. George reported spending \$15 building fences, purchased \$150 in fertilizer, and paid \$100 wages for 52 weeks of hired labor in 1879 . He estimated that he produced \$300 in farm products.

He had 1 milch cow, 2 calves, and 2 other cattle. He had purchased one animal and sold two in 1879. He had 2 swine, 15 chickens and 2 other poultry. He produced 150 pounds of butter and 15 dozen eggs.

Distilling

A Georgia blockader (moonshiner) told former attorney general Amos Akerman 'he'd like to know what his grandfather 'fit' in the Revolution for if he was not to be allowed to make a little corn whiskey'"³²

In an effort to pay the cost of the war, the Federal government imposed an Excise tax on a number of items, including liquor and brandy stills. In May 1865 George was assessed \$9.34 Federal Excise

30 Laurens County Office: Auditor Auditor's Tax Duplicate 1899. George was also taxed on 1 cow, 1 mule, and 2 carriages.

31 United States Census: Census: Original agriculture, industry, social statistics, and mortality Schedules for South Carolina 1850-1880. Agriculture Schedules: Laurens- York S108086; SC Department of Archives and History.

32 Quoted in Revenuers & Moonshiners: Enforcing Federal Liquor law in the Mountain South, 1865- 1900, Wilbur R. Miller, 1991, p. 41.

Tax as a Distiller³³. George's family had a history of distilling. Among his Grandfather Seth Petty Pool's Probated possessions were a still, casks and brandy³⁴.

These Excise taxes were meant to be temporary, and all were eventually dropped except for those on liquor and tobacco, which still exist today. This taxation was very unpopular in the the Piedmont and mountain South, and it helped initiate the 'moonshine' culture that arose in in the late 19th and early 20th century. "Nevertheless, the whiskey and tobacco taxes came to be accepted by both political parties...although subject to partisan criticism... by whichever party was on the 'outs', the liquor excise and its collection bureaucracy had become an essential component of the state that neither party was ready to jettison".³⁵

George suffered a severe injury while engaged in distilling activities. During the third week of September 1885:

Last week while Mr. George Pool was sealing a keg of whiskey, on the premises of Martin B. Pool, in this County, the burning wax caused it to explode and injured him severely. He was blown some ten or twelve feet and also severely burned, but is now out of danger and will probably be up in a short time. -The Laurens Advertiser, 23 September, 1885.

See Legal Matters and Langston Baptist Church for additional distilling related incidents.

Digression- The Cotton Market, 1865- 1866

If George B. needed to sell cotton to pay his \$9.34 Federal Excise tax, he faced a wild market in 1865. By early 1865, it was clear that the entire South would soon be open for trade in the cotton market. And while farmers like George were planting again, the cache of cotton that had been hidden away throughout the war years began to surface when the owners sensed the war's end and better markets. This prompted "eager merchants in the North and in Europe... to re-

33 The taxes were assessed on a variety of items. George's mother Mary Pool was taxed on her buggy (\$1), his brother Martin B. on a buggy (\$1) and a watch (\$2), and his first cousins Berry P. and Elihu on their buggies (\$1 each). U.S. IRS Tax Assessment Lists, 1862-1918, National Archives (NARA) microfilm series: M603, M754-M771, M773-M777, M779-M780, M782, M784, M787-M789, M791-M793, M795, M1631, M1775-M1776, T227, T1208-T1209.

34 Laurens County Probate Court, Box 58, Pkg. 4, 1837.

35 Revenuers & Moonshiners: Enforcing Federal Liquor law in the Mountain South, 1865- 1900, Wilbur R. Miller, 1991, p. 6.

ceive cotton at prices as high as \$1.80 a pound"³⁶. The Memphis market hit a high of 52 cents per pound in 1865.³⁷ "With the completion of the Atlantic telegraph cable linking America and Europe in 1866, cotton prices jumped the pond in minutes, not weeks"³⁸, and prices soon stabilized much lower, averaging 11 cents per pound for most of the remaining 19th century.³⁹

So, in the unlikely event that George was fortunate enough to have hidden cotton during the war, and if it had survived rot, burning by marauding Union and Confederate troops, and confiscation by any number of authorities, he would have had to sell only a few pounds to pay his taxes. But if, as was typical, he had only cotton growing in the field when the tax man arrived, he would have had to find some other means of raising the cash. And, at 11 cents per pound, he would have had to sell about 85 pounds of ginned cotton to recover the tax money in 1866. Or, he could supply his customers with 10 jugs of distilled spirits.⁴⁰

Shopkeeping

Based on surviving legal records, George B. seems to have moved from time to time between legal and illegal distilling activities.

The September 1, 1887 publication *Laurens of 1887, A Review of our Business Firms* records George as a business owner: "Geo. B. Pool who is engaged in selling wines, liquors, cigars, tobacco, etc. He opened out in January '87."⁴¹

Mr. George Pool has purchased the site of his old saloon and erected a new building. The old house was pulled down on Monday and on Saturday he was conveniently quartered in his new saloon. -The Laurens Advertiser, 30 November 1887.

36 King Cotton and His Retainers Financing and Marketing the Cotton Crop of the South, 1800- 1865, Harold D. Woodman, p.236.

37 The Encyclopedia of Arkansas History & Culture Project, Agriculture, www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net

38 Cotton: The Biography of a Revolutionary Fiber, Stephen Yafa

39 It is interesting that a number of recent headlines about cotton prices refer to this period. An example would be the Dow Jones Newswire of 02/09/2011, *Cotton futures hit fresh post-Civil War high*. Agricultural markets have a long memory.

40 Estimate, based on a practice, typical in the "moonshine" region, of leaving an empty jug and a dollar for the distiller to fill for you.

41 Published in the Laurens Tree Climber, Laurens District Chapter SC Genealogical Society, Vol. 12, No. 3 p. 55.

Other Business Activity

The Laurens Advertiser brought a touch of 'purple prose' to one account of George's occasional building activities:

Passers-by cannot resist the spell to stop and watch the work going so bravely on in clearing the debris of the old burnt Bendella Hotel. That Napoleon of workers and rushers, Geo. B. Pool, has the contract, with about thirty hands at the business, and he also has the contract for the brick work for the new structure. George B. Pool is not over twenty-five in pluck and energy, and he will soon have a new Bendella, as bright and prim as a sixteen-year-old graded school girl graduate. An Atlanta architect is engaged on the drawings for the plan of the new Bendella. -The Laurens Advertiser, 11 June 1895

Legal Matters

1866- George B. Pool vs William Hunter

George B. Pool's sixty acres were advertised for sale by William Hunter to satisfy a mortgage executed as security for a loan of \$773.18 on 17th September 1863. George offered payment in Confederate dollars which Hunter refused, saying "that he had as much of that money as he wanted". The court continued an injunction "heretofore granted" pending further hearings and "decreed that each party do pay his own costs". Records of what preceded this hearing, or what "the further order of the court" might have been, has not been found.

George B. Pool vs. William Hunter At Laurens June 1866

On the 17th day of September 1863, the complainant executed and delivered to the Defendant his promissory note for seven hundred and seventy three dollars and eighty cents, payable twelve months after the date thereof, which was given for the purchase money of an old negro woman, for some Confederate treasury notes, loaned to or advanced for the Complainant by the Defendant and for the aggregate amount of several notes, given by the Complainant to the Defendant prior to the first day of January 1862. And for the purposes of securing the payment of the note, Pool executed a mortgage to Hunter for the tract of land on which he was residing, containing sixty acres, in which there is a stipulation that if the note is not paid, when it becomes due according to its terms and effect, then that Hunter the mortgagee is authorized and empowered to sell the land, after giving twenty one days notice of the time and place of sale, and that he do apply the proceeds to the payment of the note.

Before the note became due, the amount of it was tendered to him, but he declined to receive it on the ground that it was Confederate money and that he had as much of that money as he wanted.

The defendant acting under the authority conferred upon him in the mortgage, advertised the land to be sold at Laurens C. H. on the first Monday in November last for the payment of the note. The possession of the land having passed from the complainant to one Bobo, but in what way it did not appear. This bill was filed for the purpose of enjoining Hunter from making the sale- first because it is insisted that the stipulation in the mortgage conferring the authority is in law inoperative and void and secondly because the note was given [...] for Confederate money or for property purchased on the basis of Confederate money was consequently subject to be [...] under the provisions of the Ordinance of the Convention, adopted for the purpose. The injunction was granted by by the Commissioners.

Judge Withers in delivering the opinion of the Court in the case of Mitchell vs. [Bogoice] 11.Rich.690 observes that the "leaves to sell real Estate conferred by the mortgagors on the mortgagee, is not familiar in our observat[iace]but it is sometimes inserted in conveyances by way of mortgages of land. Nor is it liable to any legal objections. It is now usual in England says Mr. Coote in his treatise on the law of mortgages and it seems to be common enough in various of the States of the Union." The opinion of the Court is that the first ground for the injunction must be over ruled, but that the c[...] under the second ground, [...] the evidence submitted on the trial is entitled to introduce testimony showing the true value and real character of the consideration of the note at the time it was given, in order that a decree may be ordered, which will effect substantial Justice between the parties before the sale is made. And for that purpose, it is ordered and decreed that the injunction heretofore granted be continued until the further order of the court. It is ordered and decreed that it be referred to the Commissioners to hear testimony as to the "true value and real consideration" of the note to [...] which the mortgage was given and report, with leave to report any special matters. It is also ordered and decreed that each party do pay his own costs.
October 24 1866 ⁴²

42 Laurens District Equity Court Decree Book 1840- 1868, pp. 203- 204.

1866- Pool G. B. & Mary F his Wife ex parte Equity Court

George B. Pool's financial troubles continued. In November 1866 there was a hearing at the Laurens Court at which it was decreed that

"the interest of the petitioner Mary F. in the estate of her father and the household furniture therein mentioned be settled in trust for the sole and separate use of the said Mary F. Pool during her natural life, and at her death to be equally divided among her children, ... and that W. H. Farrow be appointed her trustee".

In a later decision, George's brother Martin B. was selected to replace W. H. Farrow as trustee.⁴³ The trustee arrangement remained in effect until December 29, 1868 when George and Mary reported to the Court that they had "received of Martin B. Pool our trustee forty dollars in provisions the balance in full of the Trust funds".

Ex Parte Laurens Equity Court, 21 November 1866 in Laurens, South Carolina.

"On hearing the petitioners and the report of the Commissioners in this case, it is ordered on motion of ... solicitors for the petitioners that the [...] [...] mentioned in the petition and the interest of the petitioner Mary F. in the estate of her father and the household furniture therein mentioned be settled in trust for the sole and separate use of the said Mary F. Pool during her natural life, and at her death to be equally divided among her children, the child or children of a deceased child to represent their parents: and that W. H. Farrow be appointed her trustee upon his entering into bond with at least two good sureties in double the amount of her estate, conditioned for the faithful discharge of his trust: It is further ordered that [...] & James Farrow Executors of the estate of Patillo Farrow be authorized and empowered to convey to the said trustee the said slave Simon in trust for the uses and purposes above sanctioned and that the said trustee be authorized to expend so much of her estate of her father as may be necessary to pay for the furniture bought for her, and then he be further authorized and empowered to invest the balance if necessary, by and with the consent of the [...] [...] trust in such other property as may be for the interest of the parties [...] reporting all such investments to the court. 26th Sept'r 1862"

⁴³ 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) TR 17, 29 December 1868.

*"Ex Parte Petition to Authorize Trustee to Ex[...]
Geo B Pool
Mary F. Pool
His wife*

On hearing the Commissioner's report dated November 13" 1866, and on motion of C. J. [Jayes] petitioner's solicitor, it is ordered that the said report be confirmed and become the decree of the Court, the petitioner to be at liberty to apply at the foot of the same for any further orders that may be necessary or proper in the [...].

*H. D. [Lessure]
Nov 21 1866"*

Pool, Martin B. Trustee for G. B. Pool & Wife, 29 December 1868 in Laurens, South Carolina. 21a

*"Final Return of Martin B. Pool Trustee for George B. Pool & Wife
Filed Dec 29" 1868*

*The Trustee returns the following receipt towit:
Received of Martin B. Pool our trustee forty dollars in provisions the balance in full of the Trust funds in his hands, paid out for our benefit under an order of the court December 20" 1868.*

*Sworn before me George B. Pool
December 29" 1868 Fannie M. Pool
[Wm] Cowan Martin B. Pool ⁴⁴
[.....]*

44 Laurens District Equity Court Decree Book 1840- 1868, p. 205.

1877- Declaration of Bankruptcy

On 3 April, 1877, an "Order of Reference to Register... in the MATTER OF George B Pool Bankrupt" was brought before the Federal Court in Charleston. The case was referred to the Newberry County Court, with an appearance set for 12 o'clock, 10 April, 1877.⁴⁵ Attached to the file is an oath George was required to swear, dated October, 1875:

I, George B Pool, the Petitioning Debtor mentioned and Described in the foregoing Petition, do hereby make solemn that the statements contained therein are true, according to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief; and I do further swear that I am a citizen of the United States of America and that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same.

Schedule A lists George's secured creditors:

John C Hunter Adm'r of John Hunter Dec'd, Scuffletown, Laurens Co., Lien by mortgage of land in Schedule B.1, Laurens Co, Sept. 17th, 1863, 60 acres of land value \$773.80

John [L]ilson, Lien by Judgment Court of Common Pleas, Laurens Co., all the property in remaining Sched. only

The unsecured Creditors are listed as:

Creditor	Amount	Contracted	Obligation
Estate John Kyle, Ex. John G. Lars	not known	1860 or about	ac't as note for merchandise
[...] Fleming	not known	about 1860	note as rec't for merchandise
Ex'tr of Jack Whit[...]	\$20.00	1860	note for merchandise
Frank Waters	\$30.00	1863	note for merchandise
Reuben Martin, Martin Store	\$6.00	1860	note for merchandise
Mills & Robertson	\$50.00	1860	acc't for merchandise

⁴⁵ United States District Court, District of South Carolina, Case 1730, held in National Archives, Atlanta.

An additional Schedule lists the "Interest in Land":

58 Acres of land in Laurens County on the waters of Enoree River bounded by lands of Albert Pool James Todd & others.

Schedule B. 5 lists the exemptions given George. Under the federal Bankruptcy laws, all the personal property was exempted. Under the State of South Carolina Act of Assembly, 1873 & 1874, \$1000 worth of personal property was exempted from sale. Since George appears to have conveyed the same 58 acres of land listed in this bankruptcy filing to his son Thomas P. in 1896, it seems that every asset listed was exempted from sale.

1887- Sworn as a Witness in General Sessions Court

February 1887 in Laurens, South Carolina.

*"The Court now proceeded to the trial of Jno Washington & Jim Mack for Burglary and Larceny... The following witnesses were sworn for the State to wit... G. B. Pool..."*⁴⁶

1887- Indicted for Selling Liquor without a License, General Sessions Court

*"Seizures more than doubled between 1885 and 1886, the first full year of Democratic rule... The initial surge may have reflected new official's efforts to prove they were doing their job or moonshiners' increased activity under false expectations that Democrats would ignore them."*⁴⁷

February 1887 in Laurens, South Carolina:

The State vs. Geo. B. Pool Selling Liquor without a License

*"\$75.00 Fine or Three Months in the Penitentiary at hard labor."*⁴⁸

George's conviction was announced in the March 2, 1887 edition of The Laurens Advertiser, in an article that noted that " the present term of the Court of Sessions has been long and tedious and has resul-

46 Laurens County Clerk of Court (General Sessions) General Sessions Journal 1800-1810 1810-1824 1825-1840, February Term, 1887.

47 Revenuers & Moonshiners: Enforcing Federal Liquor law in the Mountain South, 1865- 1900, Wilbur R. Miller, p. 150.

48 Laurens County Clerk of Court (General Sessions) General Sessions Journal 1800-1810 1810-1824 1825-1840, February Term, 1887.

ted in sending a strong delegation to the penitentiary".⁴⁹ Showing the effects of South Carolina's enforcement of the liquor laws, five other men were also found guilty of selling without a license during this session.

Obituary

Mr. George B. Poole.

This good citizen died at his home in this city on the 8th instant after a protracted illness, aged sixty-one years. His remains were buried at Langston's church, where he held his membership in the Baptist church. He leaves a widow and three sons and was a brother of Dr. Poole, of this city and Mr. M. B. Poole, of the Enoree. He was a veteran and after the war diligently pursued the arts of peace, a man of extraordinary energy and faithful to his friends. *The Laurens Advertiser, May 16, 1900*

Note: Dr. Poole is John Terry Poole, who by 1900 was living in the city of Laurens, working as a physician and retail merchant. M. B. Poole is Martin Bobo Poole, who farmed extensive acreage in Laurens County. The widow is Sarah 'Sallie' Horton, George's second wife.

⁴⁹ The Laurens Advertiser, March 2, 1887, <http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn93067760/1887-03-02/ed-1/seq-3/>

Finding the Children in Public Records

William Harvey

William Harvey was born August 9, 1858. Federal Census records show him at home with George & Mary through 1880. The Census of 1900 records him as married for 14 years, living in Union, SC, with his wife and three sons, Graham (10), Guy (7), and Jim (2). The 1910 census records the arrival of Mary E. (4). The Census of 1920 records the addition of Lucile F, (7). The 1930 Census records William Harvey as a "dealer in real estate".

Census

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;

Year: 1900; Census Place: Union, Union, South Carolina; Roll: T623_1544; Page: 10B; Enumeration District: 78.

Year: 1910; Census Place: Union, Union, South Carolina; Roll: T624_1474; Page: 3A; Enumeration District: 0125; Image: 1141; FHL Number: 1375487.

Union, Jan. 10 William Harvey Poole, 79, prominent business man of this city, died at his home on South Street at 2 o'clock this morning following a lingering illness.

Mr. Poole was born August 9, 1858, in Laurens County, and came to Union about 55 years ago to enter business. He was married to Miss Frances Cornelia Graham of Union, on January 20, 1886. She died about two years ago.

Mr. Poole was a member of the First Baptist church of Union. He is survived by the following children: G. G. Poole and W. G. Poole of Mullins, J. H. Poole of Union, Mrs. Lewis Sanders of Belton and Mrs. Paul Inman of Union.

Funeral services will be conducted by his pastor, the Rev. C. G. Campbell, assisted by the Rev. C. W. Watson of Belton, at 11 o'clock Tuesday morning at the First Baptist church here. Interment will be in Rosemont cemetery here.

Active pallbearers will be Jake Sparks, Russell Poole, John Wilnanks, Guy Sparks, Ben Gibson, and Tom Harmon.

The following will serve as honorary pallbearers: Dr. A. P. McElroy, J. H. Schappaul, T. A. Murrah, Sr., A. G. Kennedy, Edgar Norman, P. O. Whisenant, R. C. Williams, Sr., J. A. Sawyer, L. M. Rice and Lewis Gilliam.

Spartanburg Herald Journal, January 11, 1938

Year: 1920; Census Place: Union, Union, South Carolina; Roll: T625_1713; Page: 13A; Enumeration District: 146; Image: 1018.

Year: 1930; Census Place: Union, Union, South Carolina; Roll: 2215; Page: 2A; Enumeration District: 19; Image: 197.0.

Thomas Pitts

Thomas Pitts Pool was born 29 January, 1861. He married Jemie Elizabeth Alexander. He was a cotton farmer in the Sandy Springs area of Scuffletown Township, Laurens County.

Thomas and Jemie had nine children: Martin Milton, Russell Earl, Joshua Craig, James Furman, Mary Frances, Grace, Nina Pitts, Mattie Bobo, and one who died as an infant.

Census

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; .

Year: 1900; Census Place: Scuffletown, Laurens, South Carolina; Roll: T623_1534; Page: 19A; Enumeration District: 59.

Year: 1910; Census Place: Scuffletown, Laurens, South Carolina; Roll: T624_1465; Page: 6A; Enumeration District: 60; Image: 273.

Year: 1920; Census Place: Scuffletown, Laurens, South Carolina; Roll: T625_1700; Page: 2B; Enumeration District: 67; Image: 291.

Mary L

The Census of 1870 records Mary, age 3. Lamb & Ezell state that Mary married "her first cousin John Powers". The Census of 1900 for John Powers⁵⁰ records him as widowed, with a daughter Mary L, born June 1897. This implies that Mary must have died between 1897 and 1900.

Census

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; .

⁵⁰ John H. Powers, Year: 1900; Census Place: Scuffletown, Laurens, South Carolina; Roll: T623_1533; Page: 7B; Enumeration District: 59.

Arthur Russell

Death

Russel, a 15 years old son of Mr George B. Pool, of this place, who accidentally shot himself some days ago, after the most intense suffering died on Tuesday last.

*Mr. Pool has been particularly unfortunate by casualties to members of his family in the past few months. The friends and relatives have the sympathy of the entire community.*⁵¹

Arthur Russell Pool died March 15, 1885. His headstone at Langston Baptist Church reads:

*In loving remembrance of / Arthur Russell
son of / Geo B & Mary F Pool / 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*

Census

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

Luke and Farrow

No record has been found for Luke. The only account is in Lamb & Ezell: "Of (4) Luke, the fourth child of (3) George Poole we have no record."⁵²

Farrow is one year old in the 1880 Census. No additional record of him has been found.

I suspect that "Luke" and "Farrow" are the same person. No record beyond the 1880 Census has been found for either name. However, Mary's obituary in the Laurens advertiser refers to "four sons", so Luke/Farrow must have still been alive by September, 1885.

Census

51 *The Laurens Advertiser*, March 23, 1887,
<http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn93067760/1887-03-23/ed-1/seq-3/>

52 Bessie Poole Lamb & Mary Mack Poole Ezell, *A Genealogical History of the Poole, Langston, Mason Families and Kindred Lines of Upper South Carolina*, 1931, p. 59.

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

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.

Some References

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