

Peter Pettypool's Role in the Southern Campaign of Earl Cornwallis

James F. Poole 3 November, 2013

Evidence for the activities of Peter Pettypool during the time of the British Southern Campaign derives from two primary sources: Militia Pay Abstracts and Thomas Brandon's list of Loyalists in the Ninety Six District.

Militia Pay Abstracts

Dr. Bobby Gilmer Moss has published the results of a study in which he set out to "gather the names of the individual loyalists and the units in which they served" for the battle of King's Mountain and the siege of Fort Ninety Six.¹ Among the sources Moss used is a series of Pay Abstracts created by the British forces in South Carolina. These documents are now archived at the British National Archives.² Murtie June Clark has abstracted many of these papers in her book *LOYALISTS IN THE SOUTHERN CAMPAIGN OF THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR*.³

In his study, Moss includes the following biographical sketch of Peter Pool:

POOL, PETER (Poole) served from 14 June 1780 under Capt. Shadrack Lantry and Maj. Daniel Plummer, in the Fair Forest Militia. He was in the battle of Kings Mountain. Pool evacuated Fort Ninety Six with Lt. Col. John H. Cruger. From 21 August to 20 October 1781 he served under Capt. John Fanning in the Independent Troop of South Carolina Volunteer Horse. He served from 13 November 1781 to 31 December 1782 under Col. William Ballentine in the Second Camden Militia.⁴

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- 1 THE LOYALISTS IN THE SIEGE OF FORT NINETY SIX, 1999 and THE LOYALISTS IN THE BATTLE OF KINGS MOUNTAIN, 1998. Both published by Scotia Hibernia Press, Blacksburg, SC.
 - 2 Kew, Richmond, Surrey, TW9 4DU, primarily as T 50 TREASURY: PAY LISTS AND OTHER DOCUMENTS CONCERNING REFUGEES.
 - 3 Murtie June Clark, Baltimore, Genealogical Publishing Company, 1981.
 - 4 Quoted abstract from THE LOYALISTS AT KINGS MOUNTAIN, p. 67. Both loyalist books contain substantially the same biography.

The evidence listed by Dr. Moss is as follows:

PA#_/T50/1 Pay Abstract Number (None), Treasury Papers 50, Vol. 1. Major Daniel Plummer's Regiment, Fair Forest Militia, Ninety Six Brigade, Captain Shadrach Lantry's Company, 14 June- 13 December 1780. 7 August 1781. Public Record Office, Kew, Surry, England.

PA#_/T50/2 Pay Abstract Number (None), Treasury Papers 50, Vol. 2. Colonel Daniel Plummer's Regiment, Fair Forest Militia, Ninety Six Brigade, 183 days pay, 14 June- 13 December 1780. Public Record Office, Kew, Surry, England.

PA#_/T50/3 Pay Abstract Number (None), Treasury Papers 50, Vol. 3. Colonel James Gibbes Ninety Six Regiment, Inspector of Refugees on John's Island, SC 163 days 31 May- 9 November 1781. Public Record Office, Kew, Surry, England.

PA#2/T50/2 Pay Abstract Number 2, Treasury Papers 50, Vol. 2. Major Daniel Plummer's Regiment, Fair Forest Militia, Ninety Six Brigade, Captain Shadrach Lantry's Company, men who came to Orangeburg, SC with Lieutenant Colonel John H. Cruger, Six months pay, 14 June- 13 December 1780, Public Record Office, Kew, Surry, England.

PA#46/T50/3 Pay Abstract Nr. 46, Treasury papers 50, Vol. 3, Captain John Farrings Independent Troop, South Carolina Volunteer Horse, Soldier's Certification, 61 Days pay, 21 August- 20 October 1781, to be paid 1 February 1782, Public Record Office, Kew, Surry, England.

PA#98/T50/1 Pay Abstract Nr. 98, Treasury papers 50, Vol. 1, Colonel William Ballentine's Regiment, Second Camden Regiment of Militia, Soldier's Certification, 13 November 1781- 12 March 1782, Charlestown, SC 25 March 1782, Public Record Office, Kew, Surry, England.

PA#126/T50/6 Pay Abstract Nr. 126, Treasury papers 50, Vol. 6, Colonel William Ballentine, Second Regiment Camden Militia, Soldier's Certification, 54 Days, 13 March - 5 May 1782, (n. d.), Charlestown, SC, 25 March 1782, Public Record Office, Kew, Surry, England.

PA#127/T50/2 Pay Abstract Nr. 127, Treasury papers 50, Vol. 2, Colonel William Ballentine's Regiment, Second Regiment of Camden Militia, Soldier's Certification, 6 month's duty, 13 June - 5 December 1780, (n. d.), Charlestown, SC, 25 March 1782, Public Record Office, Kew, Surry, England.

PA#154/T50/3 Pay Abstract Nr. 154, Treasury papers 50, Vol. 3, Colonel William Ballentine's Regiment, Second Regiment of Camden Militia, pay for 92 days service, 6 May - 5 August 1782, (n. d.), Public Record Office, Kew, Surry, England.

PA#171/T50/2 Pay Abstract Nr. 171, Treasury papers 50, Vol. 2, Captain James Robinson's Troop of Militia Dragoons, Ninety Six Militia, 93 days pay, 9 July - 9 October 1782, Charlestown, SC, Public Record Office, Kew, Surry, England.

SA#171/T50/2 Subsistence Abstract Number 171, Treasury papers 50, Vol. 2 6 August- 5 October 1782, Public Record Office, Kew, Surry, England.

Brandon's List

In 1783 the South Carolina General Assembly instructed militia commanders throughout the state to prepare a list of loyalists in their area. Thomas Brandon prepared such a list for the Spartan District. In his list were two individuals- Peter Pool and Peter Pettypool.

It has been speculated that these two names referred to one individual. While the original of Brandon's List is now lost, sometime between 1945 and 1950 Susan Padgett of the South Carolina Department of Archives and History made a transcription of the list.⁵ She placed asterisks beside the names Peter Pool and Peter Pettypool, and in the margin, she noted:

* Both in Brandon's List; Pettypool was often written thus: "Pool, Wm P.", etc. (See Index to Plats).

Analysis

In August, 2013, I discussed the Moss biography with Michael Scoggins, Historian, at the Southern Revolutionary War Institute.⁶ In his opinion, one individual could not have been operating on both sides of the Saluda River simultaneously, as the Moss biographical sketch implies. The Saluda River is a significant boundary in colonial SC. For example, the Ninety Six district Plat Books are divided into "North Side of the Saluda" and "South Side of the Saluda".⁷ Two of the commanders, William Ballentine and John Fanning, are known to have operated north of the Saluda.⁸ John Fanning was a well known

5 Forfeited Estates: Officer's Returns of Persons who have Gone Over to the British 1783, Staff Member Susan Padgett's Index, ca. 1945-1950, South Carolina Department of Archives and History.

6 212 E Jefferson St., York, SC 29745, Phone 803.684.3948, ext. 31, <http://chmuseums.org/southern-rev-war-institute-mc/>

7 Plat Books: Ninety Six District, North Side of the Saluda River, Office: Commissioner of Locations Plat Book A 1784-1785, 1788, 1793-1794 and Ninety Six District, South Side of the Saluda River, Office: Commissioner of Locations Plat Books B 1785-1787, C 1786-1788; both films at the South Carolina Department of Archives and History.

8 Scoggins: Discussion, James F. Poole with Michael Scoggins, at the Southern Revolutionary War Institute, York, SC, 3 August, 2013.

loyalist, with property in the Camden District.⁹

One of the other commanders listed, Daniel Plummer¹⁰, operated on the south side of the Saluda, the location of the Fair Forest area of the Ninety Six District.¹¹ Peter Pettypool is known to have been a landowner in the Fair Forest area.¹²

Based upon the geographical distinction and the fact that the pay abstracts for for the different regions cover the same time period, Michael Scoggins was convinced that Moss had merged two distinct individuals. So despite the reservations of Susan Padgett- apparently the last person to see the originals of Brandon's list- there apparently was a Peter Pool, residing or active somewhere north of the Saluda, whose existence to date is known only from the Treasury Pay Abstracts.

Confidence that the Peter Pettypool in Brandon's list is Peter Pettypool of Fair Forest is bolstered by knowledge that Colonel Patrick Ferguson was recruiting militia near Mitchel's Creek in Fair Forest in July 1780, and Peter's pay extends from 14 June, 1780. The evidence is a letter, Ferguson to Cornwallis, dated 24 July 1780. Ferguson gave his location as "Mitchel's Creek Fair Forest".¹³ Peter Pettypool's property was located "on Black Walnut Creek otherwise Called Mitchels Creek being Branch of Fair Forest."¹⁴

9 CONTRIBUTIONS IN HISTORY AND POLITICAL SCIENCE, Issue 7; Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio, p 108. Available at <http://books.google.com/books?id=MDANAAAAIAAJ&pg=PA108&#v=onepage&q&f=false>

10 CONTRIBUTIONS IN HISTORY AND POLITICAL SCIENCE, Issue 7; Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio, p 88. Available at <http://books.google.com/books?id=MDANAAAAIAAJ&q=Daniel+Plummer#v=snippet&q=Daniel%20Plummer&f=false>

11 The Fair Forest area encompasses portions of modern Spartanburg and Union SC counties. Peter's property was in present day Union county.

12 Peter Pettypool (son of Seth and Martha Pettypool) of Virginia and the Carolinas, Carolyn S. Hartsough, March 2013, www.pettypool.com/Peter/Peter.html

13 Ferguson to Cornwallis, 24th July 1780 2(360):ALS, THE CORNWALLIS PAPERS THE CAMPAIGNS OF 1780 AND 1781 IN THE SOUTHERN THEATRE OF THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR, Volume 1, arranged and edited by Ian Saberton, Naval and Military Press November 10, 2010.

14 See Peter Pettypool (son of Seth and Martha Pettypool) of Virginia and the Carolinas, Carolyn S. Hartsough, March 2013, www.pettypool.com/Peter/Peter.html

Rewriting the Moss Biography

Moss's biography, as I would rewrite it:

Pettypool, Peter (Pool) Served from 14 June 1780 under Capt. Shadrack Lantry and Maj. Daniel Plummer, in the Fair Forest Militia. He was in the battle of Kings Mountain. Pool evacuated Fort Ninety Six with Lt. Col. John H. Cruger.

PA#_/T50/1 Pay Abstract Number (None), Treasury Papers 50, Vol. 1. Major Daniel Plummer's Regiment, Fair Forest Militia, Ninety Six Brigade, Captain Shadrack Lantry's Company, 14 June- 13 December 1780. 7 August 1781. Public Record Office, Kew, Surry, England.

PA#2/T50/2 Pay Abstract Number 2, Treasury Papers 50, Vol. 2. Major Daniel Plummer's Regiment, Fair Forest Militia, Ninety Six Brigade, Captain Shadrack Lantry's Company, men who came to Orangeburg, SC with Lieutenant Colonel John H. Cruger, Six months pay, 14 June- 13 December 1780, Public Record Office, Kew, Surry, England.

Pool, Peter (Poole) From 21 August to 20 October 1781 he served under Capt. John Fanning in the Independent Troop of South Carolina Volunteer Horse. He served from 13 November 1781 to 31 December 1782 under Col. William Ballentine in the Second Camden Militia.

PA#98/T50/1 Pay Abstract Nr. 98, Treasury papers 50, Vol. 1, Colonel William Ballentine's Regiment, Second Camden Regiment of Militia, Soldier's Certification, 13 November 1781- 12 March 1782, Charlestown, SC 25 March 1782, Public Record Office, Kew, Surry, England.

PA#126/T50/6 Pay Abstract Nr. 126, Treasury papers 50, Vol. 6, Colonel William Ballentine, Second Regiment Camden Militia, Soldier's Certification, 54 Days, 13 March - 5 May 1782, (n. d.), Charlestown, SC, 25 March 1782, Public Record Office, Kew, Surry, England.

PA#127/T50/2 Pay Abstract Nr. 127, Treasury papers 50, Vol. 2, Colonel William Ballentine's Regiment, Second Regiment of Camden Militia, Soldier's Certification, 6 month's duty, 13 June - 5 December 1780, (n. d.), Charlestown, SC, 25 March 1782, Public Record Office, Kew, Surry, England.

PA#154/T50/3 Pay Abstract Nr. 154, Treasury papers 50, Vol. 3, Colonel William Ballentine's Regiment, Second Regiment of Camden Militia, pay for 92 days service, 6 May - 5 August 1782, (n. d.), Public Record Office, Kew, Surry, England.

PA#171/T50/2 Pay Abstract Nr. 171, Treasury papers 50, Vol. 2, Captain James Robinson's Troop of Militia Dragoons, Ninety Six Militia, 93 days pay, 9 July - 9 October 1782, Charlestown, SC, Public Record Office, Kew, Surry, England.

SA#171/T50/2 Subsistence Abstract Number 171, Treasury papers 50, Vol. 2 6 August- 5 October 1782, Public Record Office, Kew, Surry, England.

Unassigned Pay Abstracts

Some of the references cannot be assigned to either individual with certainty.

PA#46/T50/3 Pay Abstract Nr. 46, Treasury papers 50, Vol. 3, Captain John Fannings Independent Troop, South Carolina Volunteer Horse, Soldier's Certification, 61 Days pay, 21 August- 20 October 1781, to be paid 1 February 1782, Public Record Office, Kew, Surry, England.

Examining the names on this abstract, this troop seems to be a mix of Ballentine's and Plummer's militia. A note on the reverse of the original implies it is primarily Camden militia, so it is probably describing Peter Pool. Additional evidence that this is probably men from the Camden and Orangeburg Districts can be found in Lambert's SOUTH CAROLINA LOYALISTS IN THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION:

'Men of the loyalist families escorted by Lord Rawdon on the retreat from Camden or whom the rebels had driven out of Orangeburg District were recruited for two regiments... the second was led by William Ballentine of Orangeburg...'¹⁵

I have not been able to find a copy of the following abstracts.

PA#_/T50/2 Pay Abstract Number (None), Treasury Papers 50, Vol. 2. Colonel Daniel Plummer's Regiment, Fair Forest Militia, Ninety Six Brigade, 183 days pay, 14 June- 13 December 1780. Public Record Office, Kew, Surry, England.

PA#_/T50/3 Pay Abstract Number (None), Treasury Papers 50, Vol. 3. Colonel James Gibbes Ninety Six Regiment, Inspector of Refugees on John's Island, SC 163 days 31 May- 9 November 1781. Public Record Office, Kew, Surry, England.

Peter Pettypool- A Speculative Timeline

Peter was probably recruited by Major Patrick Ferguson in June or July 1780. Ferguson had been assigned the task of recruiting and training militia by Cornwallis¹⁶, and a 24 July 1780 letter from Ferguson to Cornwallis was written from Mitchels Creek, Fair Forest, very

¹⁵ Robert Stansbury Lambert, *SOUTH CAROLINA LOYALISTS IN THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION*, Second Edition, 2010, Clemson University Digital Press, p. 156. Also see note 3, page 161, where Lambert references John Fanning's troop of light horse.

¹⁶ "...Major Patrick Ferguson, who had been appointed Inspector of Militia and Major Commandant of the first battalion of militia. (Letter of Commission, May 22, 1780, Clinton Papers), *LOYALISTS AND REDCOATS- A STUDY IN BRITISH REVOLUTIONARY POLICY*, Paul H. Smith, University of North Carolina Press for the Institute of Early American History and Culture, Williamsburg, VA, 1964, p. 138.

near Peter's property.¹⁷

Peter served under Capt. Shadrack Lantry and Maj. Daniel Plummer, in the Fair Forest Militia. (we know this from: Treasury Papers 50, vol. 1. Major Daniel Plummer's Regiment, Fair Forest Militia, Ninety Six Brigade, Captain Shadrach Lantry's Company, 14 June- 13 December 1780. 7 August 1781.)

Daniel Plummer is known to have been in the battle of King's Mountain, October 7, 1780, where he was severely wounded. Since Peter served under Plummer, it is possible that he was at the battle as well. However, he may have been elsewhere. As Robert Lansbury Lambert notes in his SOUTH CAROLINA LOYALISTS IN THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION:

“... the British pay records reveal that all of the Ninety Six militia regiments were represented at the battle... (it) is less clear exactly how many men from each of these units fought at King's Mountain... Zacharias Gibbs declaring that about 100 men from his own Spartan Regiments and from Daniel Plummer's Fair Forest Regiment had served in the battle.”¹⁸

Peter either was among the “200 men... detached before the battle, perhaps as foragers”¹⁹, or not captured at King's Mountain or else he made a quick escape, since he is next recorded at Fort Ninety Six, commanded by Col. John Harris Cruger. (we assume this from: Pay Abstract Number 2, Treasury Papers 50, vol. 2. Major Daniel Plummer's Regiment, Fair Forest Militia, Ninety Six Brigade, Captain Shadrach Lantry's Company, men who came to Orangeburg, SC with Lieutenant Colonel John H. Cruger.) When Cruger abandoned Fort Ninety Six 1 July 1781, he traveled next to Orangeburg. From there he went to Charleston.

Peter apparently arrived in Charleston with Cruger. (Assumption based upon Treasury Papers 50, vol. 1. Major Daniel Plummer's

17 Cornwallis: Ferguson to Cornwallis, 24th July 1780 2(360):ALS, THE CORNWALLIS PAPERS THE CAMPAIGNS OF 1780 AND 1781 IN THE SOUTHERN THEATRE OF THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR, Volume 1, arranged and edited by Ian Saberton, Naval and Military Press November 10, 2010.

18 Robert Stansbury Lambert, SOUTH CAROLINA LOYALISTS IN THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION, Second Edition, 2010, Clemson University Digital Press, p. 101.

19 Lambert, p. 101.

Regiment, Fair Forest Militia, Ninety Six Brigade, Captain Shadrach Lantry's Company, 14 June- 13 December 1780.) Since this roster was paid on 7 Aug 1781, the presumption is that Peter was in Charleston to receive his pay.

Nothing documenting Peter Pettypool after 7 August, 1781 has been found. Whether or not he was present to see the last British troops leave Charleston on December 14, 1782 is unknown.