

SETH PETTY POOL AND FAMILY OF LAURENS COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA

CIRCA 1754- 1837

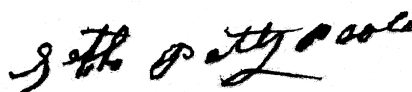
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REVISED DECEMBER 12, 2012

The family of Seth Petty Pool¹ and his descendants are documented 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). The ancestry of Seth Petty Pool is documented in the 2003 article *The William Pettypool Family of Southside Virginia: Lineage Reconstruction Based on Current Review of Evidence* by Carolyn S. Hartsough, Ph. D². Taken together, these two documents record my Pettypool ancestry from the mid 1600's until 1931, since my direct ancestry traces to Berry Pool, who is included in the list of the children of Seth Petty Pool in Lamb & Ezell.

Although the contribution of Lamb and Ezell is immense in recording 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 early part of the 19th century, there will always be some suspicion of error in the account. This paper is an attempt to confirm and extend what Lamb & Ezell wrote about Seth Petty Pool using surviving primary sources.

Seth Petty Pool is traced in the Census records, an estimate of his birth year is arrived at from the Census, and the list of his children in Lamb & Ezell is compared to the Census and Probate Court records for Seth Petty Pool. Land transfers and grants are examined. His children are traced in Census, Probate Court and other records as well.



1 The Pettypool's of early Laurens County seem to have become Pool's by the late 1700's, based on what is generally seen in contemporary records. However, through the years they have been inconsistent in the use of "Pool" and "Poole", a practice that continued down through the author's father. This document honors that long tradition by retaining a Pool/Poole naming inconsistency.

2 Published in The Virginia Genealogist, Vol. 4, No. 1 (January-March, 2003)

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A Cautionary Note

As a cautionary note, please consider that the research into this family is complicated by issues- in addition to the common factors that plague all genealogical research- which can make much of what follows herein tentative and speculative. The family itself contributes to the confusion in two ways. First, by the late 1700's most of the Pettypool family in SC had begun to shorten their name to Pool or Poole, which often makes them difficult to distinguish from members of the original Poole families.

Secondly, many names were repeated for generations- William, Elizabeth and Seth being prime examples- so it is often impossible to be certain if the person referenced is the father, the son, the grandson, or a cousin, uncle, etc. In this era, the Pettypool men often married women named Elizabeth, who in turn had daughters named Elizabeth, which combined with the scarcity of documentation on females in this period, contributes to the confusion.

The physical location of the family can lead to ambiguity. Seth Petty settled in the north-central part of present day Laurens County, SC, near where Buckhead Creek empties into the Enoree River³. Laurens County shares a land border with Greenville County, and the Enoree River forms the border with Spartanburg and Union counties. All of these counties show a significant Pettypool settlement in this time period. Nearby Greenville was settled by another closely related branch of the Pettypool family, probably the descendants of Seth Pettypool (1732-1789), Seth Petty's uncle⁴.

3 The Mills Atlas of South Carolina, 1825, shows the nearest Post Office in Laurens County to be the Scuffletown Hunter P. O. When the township system was implemented, this area became Scuffletown. The author's branch of the family remained in Scuffletown until 1943, when the last resident descendant, Martin Milton Poole (1885- 1943), died.

4 See In Search of a Grave: The Story of the Pool Family of Greenville, SC by Mary Poole Cunningham for one genealogical study of that family. This book is similar to the Lamb and Ezell book so heavily referenced herein. It is available in the Hughes

Spartanburg and Union counties also have a significant number of Pettypool's, some with documented connections to the family of Seth Petty. None of these locations is far from the Buckhead Creek area even by the travel standards of the day, so it is not inconceivable that some of the references in this document to Seth, John, William, Nancy, etc. might actually be persons in these other families.

Given the physical proximity of separate families and the historical development of the County and Court systems in South Carolina, ambiguity is inevitable. South Carolina did not establish a completely functional Court system in the Upstate region until the early 1800's⁵, so records of earlier court cases, land transfers, etc. are sketchy. In addition, in Seth Petty's early years this part of SC was a frontier region with few churches- "there were in the back country in 1759 only five or six fully organized churches — the Waxhaw and Fishing Creek Presbyterian Churches, the Baptist Churches on Lynches River, Broad River and Fairforest Creek, and probably the German church on Crims Creek".⁶ So another common source of birth, marriage and death records is mostly absent for the Laurens county area⁷

Origins

At the outset, it must be said that there are two different versions of Seth Petty Pool's parentage and two different accounts of how he came to be in South Carolina. One account is contained in the Hartsough document referenced earlier, as published in *The Virginia Genealogist*. In this version, Seth Petty is the son of Peter and Elizabeth Journey Pettypool of Virginia. They joined the quite extensive southward migration of the 1760's, ending up in what was to become Laurens County, South Carolina. This event is discussed in more detail later.

The second account is contained in the book *A Genealogical History of the Poole, Langston, Mason Families and Kindred Lines of Upper South Carolina* (Lamb & Ezell) referenced earlier. In this account, Bessie Poole Lamb and Mary Mack Poole Ezell pass on family lore in which Seth, William, John, Elizabeth and another unnamed sister migrated from Westmoreland County

Main Library, 25 Heritage Green Place, Greenville, SC 29601.

5 For SC Court Jurisdictions, see *South Carolina Court Records, an Introduction for Genealogists*, by Alexia J. Helsey and Michael E. Stauffer, South Carolina Department of Archives and History, ISBN 18880067-18-8.

6 *The Expansion of South Carolina 1729- 1765*, Robert Meriweather, Southern Publishers, Inc., Kingsport, TN, 1940, p. 180.

7 The English Parish system requiring churches to perform vital record keeping was in place in coastal South Carolina in the Colonial period, but not in the Backcountry. When the Parishes were abolished after the Revolution, the State legal system did not take on the keeping of birth, marriage, and death records until early in the 20th Century.

in England about 1784. After some time spent in Virginia, Seth, John and Elizabeth moved to SC. While there is evidence of a John Pool in the 1790 and 1800 Census records who could be the person referred to by Lamb and Ezell, there is insufficient evidence to say specifically who he is. As is all too often the case, Lamb and Ezell give no source for this account, but the implication of the text is that it came from (Dr.) John Terry Pool (1836-1909) and Phil Woodruff, who claimed descent from Elizabeth.

This story is somewhat at odds with the account given in 1892 in Dr. John T. Pool's biographical entry in Cyclopedia of Eminent and Representative Men of the Carolinas of the Nineteenth Century⁸. Presumably this information came from John Terry Pool himself, and he reports that his grandfather Seth Pool was "... a native of Virginia... who removed from his native state to Laurens County, in 1767."

In this paper, I have chosen the Hartsough version, despite the fact that Lamb and Ezell have been proven correct for substantially every other fact about the Laurens County Poole family. The Hartsough account is supported by modern Pettypool family research in Virginia and North Carolina, as well as that of related families such as the Journey family. It fits in well with known historical migration patterns to the Colonial South.

Peter and Elizabeth Journey Pettypool

"...Especially if you get among any of the Virginian crackers...(they) think they have a right because they are American born to do as they please and what they please and say what they please to any Body...I never met with such fellows in my Life. They are so Impudent that let what be said of our Country folks (who God knows are impudent enough) they don't come up to half the height of one of these Blusterers. And theres not one of our Old Women that can match them for scolding..."⁹

No account exists to confirm if Seth Petty Pool's parents, Peter Pettypool and Elizabeth Journey fit this somewhat unflattering sketch of Virginia born South Carolinians from the pen of the Reverend Charles Woodmason¹⁰.

⁸ Cyclopedia of Eminent and Representative Men of the Carolinas of the Nineteenth Century, Madison, Wis.: Brant & Fuller, 1892, p. 320.

⁹ The Carolina Backcountry on the Eve of the Revolution, Charles Woodmason, edited by Richard J. Hooker, University of North Carolina Press, 1953, p. 154.

¹⁰ In the early years, Woodmason's Journal is peppered with phrases such as "low, lazy, sluttish, heathenish, hellish", "rude, ignorant, and void of things", "lowest, vilest, Scum of Mankind, etc". An England-born Charles Town Anglican "yuppie" who volunteered for service in the Backcountry of South Carolina, he seems to have perceived little distinction between thieves, Presbyterians, drunks, New Light Baptists, ruffians, and women with form fitting bodices in the list of trials he had to endure. But as time passed he became a strong advocate for the backcountry people, producing many letters and public documents supporting the Regulator cause to Charles Town politicians.

The Move to South Carolina

It is not completely clear when Peter or his son Seth arrived in South Carolina. As noted above, Seth Petty's grandson, Dr. John Terry Poole, records in 1892 that his grandfather was "... a native of Virginia ... who removed from his native state to Laurens County, in 1767"¹¹. A 1763 Virginia Court case with Peter as defendant seems somewhat consistent with this account, since Peter could not be found: when "the Sheriff having made return that the Defendant is no inhabitant, this suit abates"¹². The September, 1774 Will of Catherine Journey¹³ of Lunenburg County, VA documents the family of Peter Pettypool with the curious exception of Peter himself. The fact that she appoints her grandson Seth as co-executor of her estate suggests that Seth Petty may still be a resident of Virginia.

Peter is documented in South Carolina by several items. A 1772 land indenture¹⁴ was recorded in Tryon, NC, which at that time claimed much of northwestern South Carolina. In addition, a 1778 jury list¹⁵ includes his name. And finally, the list of Loyalists in the Spartan District of SC, drawn up by Robert Brandon¹⁶ in 1783, includes Peter Pettypool.

The land indenture implies that Peter Pettypool was in South Carolina when his mother-in-law died in 1774, but the lack of mention in her will, and the selection of son Seth Petty Pool as co- executor, may indicate that the family was separated. So, the exact time and nature of the transition from Virginia to South Carolina remains speculative.

Property in South Carolina

It is difficult to locate Peter's property in South Carolina. The indenture mentioned above, John Howell to Peter Pettypool, has no adjacent

11 Cyclopedia of Eminent and Representative Men of the Carolinas of the Nineteenth Century, Madison, Wis.: Brant & Fuller, 1892, p. 320.

12 Lunenburg Co. Order Book 9, p. 281. November, 1763 Court. Thomas Tunks, Plaintiff, v. Peter Pettipool, Defendant. Quoted from Journey Family Website http://homepages.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~evekinn/Journey_1.html.

13 Quoted from: Lunenburg County, Virginia - Will Book 2, extract archived at <http://www.rootsweb.com/~usgenweb>: Journey, Cathrine 9-8-1774; 3-9-1775; W.B. 2/415; Mentions: Son: John Journey; Daughter: Elizabeth Petty Poole; Grandsons: William Journey, Seth Petty Poole; Granddaughter: Cathrine Petty Poole; Executors: John Journey, Seth Petty Poole (grandson); Witnesses: Richard (his X mark) Crews, Ann (her X mark) Crews, John Stokes.

14 April term, 1772- Tryon County Minutes of the Court, abstracted in Tryon County North Carolina Minutes of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions 1769- 1779, by Brent Holcomb.

15 The Jury Lists of South Carolina 1778-1779, Ge Lee Corley Hendrix, Morn McKoy Lindsay, Genealogical Publishing Com, 2010, p. 102.

16 Unfortunately, the original of Brandon's list has been lost; all that remains is a typescript transcription. The transcript is archived at the South Carolina Department of Archives and History, Columbia, SC.

landowners mentioned, and it references no geographical landmarks. However, the general description: "...on Black Walnut Creek otherwise called Mitchels Creek being branch of Fair Forest..."¹⁷ seems to place the property in present day Union County, South Carolina.

To add to the ambiguity, a 5 May 1773 survey of a plantation "laid out unto Joel Farmer" includes an adjacent property described as "claimed by Seth Petty Poole":

"...I have admeasured and laid out unto Joel Farmer a plantation or tract of land in Ninetysix district containing two hundred acres Situate Lying and being on a Small Branch of fair forest called rocky creek bounded North Eastwardly by Hillary Guys Land and Northward by land Claimed by Seth Petty Poole..."

The term "claimed by" means that, although Seth Petty Pool had asserted claim to the property, he had not yet had it surveyed, the initial step to establishing legal ownership in SC¹⁸.

These two documents taken together imply that Peter and Seth may have initially attempted to settle in Union County, SC, but the lack of continuity of the land claims taken together with Seth Petty Pool's later actions indicate that the settlement was not permanent.

However and whenever he arrived in South Carolina, by June 1785 Seth Petty Pool is beginning to put down roots in the Warrior Creek area of Laurens County: "Berry, George to Pool, Seth Petty; land on Warriors Creek..." from: *Laurens County RMC (Deeds): District Index to Deeds 1774- 1903*.

Seth's descendants were to remain within a few miles of this property for over 150 years.

17 Tryon County North Carolina Deed Book 1769- 1779, p. 596-597. Located at the North Carolina Archives.

18 I am indebted to Judy Russell, *The Legal Genealogist*, for researching colonial land ownership in SC and explaining the terminology used in the various documents. Please see her 26 November 2012 blog post *The Claim Game*.

Upstate SC in the late Colonial Years

Prior to the 1760's, the upper region of South Carolina was a sparsely settled remote frontier, with a European population consisting mostly of Indian traders and cattle herdsman¹⁹. Ramsey's 1808 History estimates "that in the beginning of 1756, the whole number of families scarcely exceeded twenty."²⁰

Events to the north were to have a profound effect on the population, however. "In that year (1755) Braddock was defeated; and the frontiers of Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Virginia, were exposed to so much danger from the French at Fort Duquesne in Ohio, and the Indians attached to them, that their inhabitants were strongly inclined to move southwardly. In the same year Governor Glen made a treaty with the Cherokee Indians, by which much of what is now called the upper country was ceded to the King of Great Britain. Both events allured settlers to the western parts of South Carolina".²¹

Many of these early settlers found the area between the Tyger and Enoree Rivers to be especially attractive. "The Enoree and the Tyger, for some miles above the points at which they empty themselves into Broad River, have narrow and steep valleys, but at six or seven miles distance one comes to Kings Creek on the Enoree, the first in a series of tributaries. Early settlers evidently found this network of small valleys with their clear streams and fertile cane-covered bottoms inviting".²² (See map, below.)

Unfortunately, the peaceful condition of South Carolina did not hold. Hostility with the Cherokee broke out in 1759, and peace did not return until "the peace of Paris in 1763, and from that period... (t)he influx of inhabitants was greater than ever".²³

The Pettypool family may have arrived in South Carolina after the worst of the Cherokee War, but they would have still found a tumultuous region. The recent Cherokee warfare had sent most settlers into forts for the duration, with the result that society had broken down. Lawlessness, particularly horse theft, was rampant, and organized criminal gangs roamed the countryside. Any attempt to restore order was hampered by the existing judicial system, since the only functioning courts were in Charleston, and the

19 This description of the early Upstate is taken largely from Ramsey's History of South Carolina: from its First Settlement in 1670 to the Year 1808 by David Ramsy, M. D. Being published in 1808, it gives a very early view of the events in Upstate South Carolina prior to Independence.

20 Ramsey, p. 119.

21 Ramsey, pp. 118-119.

22 The Expansion of South Carolina 1729- 1765, Robert Meriweather, 1940, p. 149.

23 Ramsey, p. 119.

few Justices of the Peace in the upcountry were authorized by the Governor in Charleston. Arranging an arrest and transportation to Charleston for trial was an arduous and expensive process.

In about 1764, a vigilante group called the Regulators formed to enforce order. While the initial action of the Regulators against the criminal gangs was well received, when they turned their attention to those they deemed to be idle, immoral, or unproductive- " Vagrants- Idlers- Gamblers, and the outcasts of Virginia and North Carolina",to use Woodmason's phrase- opposition arose. Their harsh methods provoked a backlash from many residents who felt that, however ineffective thus far, reliance on the British authority centered in Charles Town was preferable to vigilante action."The cruelty of outlaws who burned and tortured their victims was matched by the sadism of honest and respectable Regulators who shredded the flesh of miscreants at orgiastic flogging sessions while fiddles played."²⁴

Attempts to present grievances to the Charleston political establishment were repeatedly rebuffed or ineffective. "The South Carolina tidewater was one of the best governed units in the British empire, but its leaders were at present absorbed in their own politics and in the unprecedented; the immediate problems and the future significance of the back country made little impression upon them".²⁵

By 1768, the backcountry Regulators were insisting that they had the right to ignore any law or decree from the Colonial Government in Charles Town (an idea that was to have a very long history in South Carolina politics). Inevitably, this provoked a reaction from the Charles Town political establishment, and in 1769 civil war in the State was narrowly averted. Eventually some of the Regulator's demands were acted upon by the Royal Government, one of which was the formation in 1769 of several court districts in the backcountry, including the Ninety Six District, a portion of which would eventually become Laurens County. After this, most Regulators disbanded and a relative calm ensued for a time.

As the American Revolution approached, these two opposing political viewpoints from the Regulator era evolved into a Whig and Loyalist political split in the Upcountry. Some historians have determined that "the section between the Broad and Saluda was predominately Tory"²⁶, and, as noted earlier, evidence has been found indicating that Peter favored the Tories, Nothing definitive has been found concerning Seth's allegiance in either

²⁴ The South Carolina Regulators, Richard Maxwell Brown, 1976, p. 135.

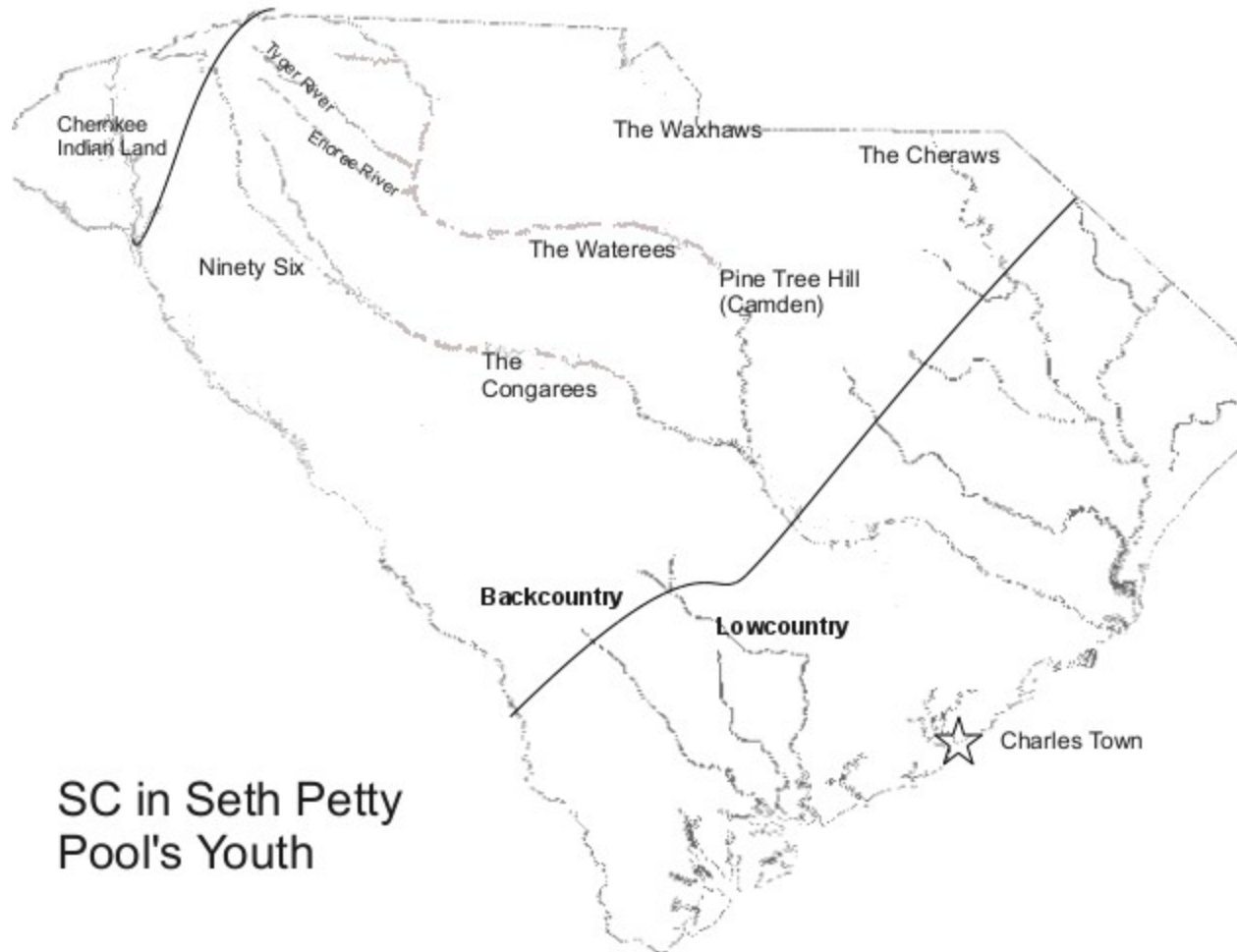
²⁵ The Expansion of South Carolina 1729- 1765, Robert Meriweather, 1940, p. 182.

²⁶ The South Carolina Regulators, Richard Maxwell Brown, 1976, p. 124. He also notes that "although the area between the Broad and Saluda seems to have been an active Regulator section, the names of only thirteen Regulators from that locality have survived", footnote 36, p. 213.

military records, war pension records, or listings of Loyalist families.

After hostilities ended, another period of heightened lawlessness descended on the backcountry, as it had at the end of the Cherokee war. In addition, there was violence associated with former Loyalists who tried to recover or retain their confiscated property. And the political strife with Charleston resumed as in the Regulator era.

Eventually, the establishment of a stronger Court system, increased representation of Backcountry people in the South Carolina legislature, and the move of the State Capitol from Charleston to Columbia in 1789 all helped to quell the unrest. In addition, an Evangelical Revival religious movement swept through the upstate region about 1802, dramatically increasing the number of churches and their influence on behavior.



Estimated Year of Birth

Using the Federal Census records, it appears that a reasonable year of birth for Seth Petty Pool is circa 1754. See **Appendix- Estimate Seth Petty Pool's Year of Birth** for the details on how this was derived.

Comparison With Other Sources

Lamb and Ezell include no age or year of birth for Seth Petty. Using the estimate just derived, Seth would have been approximately 83 at his death. Lamb and Ezell state only that "...Seth's youngest son Martin.. married Elizabeth Martindale... they made their home with the parents, as Seth, who was very old, needed them."²⁷ This neither supports or refutes the age estimate, but it does perhaps explain the preferential treatment Martin received in Seth Petty's Will.²⁸

Dr. Carolyn Hartsough²⁹ gives no dates for Seth Petty, but does include an age range for Seth's father, Peter Pettypool:

Date of Birth: 17 May, 1727 Date of Death: after 1778.

Comparing with the circa 1754 estimate for Seth, Peter would have been 27 at Seth's birth, which is reasonable.

On September 8, 1774 the Will of Catherine Journey of Lunenburg County, Virginia named her grandson Seth Petty Pool to be one of the executors. It can be assumed that Seth Petty would be an adult to fill such a role, and he would be 20 or older using this estimated birth year.

The Family

As noted earlier, Lamb & Ezell state that "...Seth Poole married Elizabeth Berry of Orange County, Virginia...and his wife... died March 7, 1837".³⁰ No will or Probate Court record has been found for Elizabeth Berry Pool.

27 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, p. 14.

28 Seth Petty specified that "I bequeath to my son Martin Pool as much out of my estate as will be sufficient to pay all his lawful debts at this present time." After that payment, Martin was to share in the estate division with the other children as well. Laurens County Probate Court, "Laurens County Ordinary/Probate Judge Index to Estate Papers 1800-1939" Box 58 Pkg 4.

29 "The William Pettypool Family of Southside Virginia: Lineage Reconstruction Based on Current Review of Evidence", Carolyn S. Hartsough, Ph. D., *The Virginia Genealogist*, Vol. 4, No. 1 (January-March, 2003) p 74.

30 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, p. 6.

The 1806 Laurens County Probate of the estate of George Berry³¹ lists persons receiving a division of the estate: *Wm Tucker, Peter Brooks, Seth Petty Poole, Thos Berry, [...] Bobo, Howard Smith, Leonard [...]*. A reasonable understanding of this list is that it enumerates the male children and the sons- in- law of George Berry.

In addition, Seth Petty Pool purchased a chair for 50 cents from the estate of William Berry³² in 1804. He was named as the administrator of the estate of William Berry in 1806³³.

A discussion of Seth Petty Pool's children is in the section **Finding Children in Public Records**, below.

Census Records

Seth Petty Pool appears in the Federal Census from 1790 through 1830.

Year	Name	Family	Reference
1790	Seth Paul ³⁴	4 M <16, 1 M >16, 2 F, 1 slave	Year: 1790; Census Place: , Laurens, South Carolina; Roll: M637_11; Page: 446; Image: 266; Family History Library Film: 0568151.
1800	Seth P Pool	3 M <10, 2 M 10-15, 1M 16-25, 1 M >45, 3 F <10, 1 F >45, 5 slaves	Year: 1800; Census Place: , Laurens District, South Carolina; Roll: 50; Page: 16; Image: 35; Family History Library Film: 181425.
1810	Seth Pool	3 M <10, 5 M 16-25, 1 M >45, 3 F <10, 1 F >45, 7 slaves	Year: 1810; Census Place: , Laurens, South Carolina; Roll: 61; Page: 265; Family History Number: 0181420; Image: 00105.
1820	Seth Pool	2 M 10-15, 2 M 16-25, 1M >45, 1 F 10-15, 1 F 16-25, 1 F >45, 11 slaves	1820 U S Census: , Laurens, South Carolina, Page: 29; NARA Roll: M33_121; Image: 66.
1830	Symethe Pool ³⁵	1 M 20-29, 1 M 60-69, 1 F 50-59, 11 Slaves	1830 U S Census: , Laurens, South Carolina, Page: 277; NARA Roll: M19-169; Family History Film: 0022503.

Seth Petty Pool's Land

At the appraisal of Seth Petty's estate in 1837, the following tracts of land were itemized:

- 1 Tract of land 15[8] Acres more or less -(name & buyer illegible at sale) for \$244
- 1 Tract Do 50 Acres " " " - called the Tally tract when sold to Anna Cottrell for \$205

31 Laurens County Probate Court, "Laurens County Ordinary/Probate Judge Index to Estate Papers 1800-1939" Box 8, Package 12 1806.

32 Laurens County Probate Court, "Laurens County Ordinary/Probate Judge Index to Estate Papers 1800-1939" Box 10, Pkg. 10, 1804.

33 Laurens County Probate Court, "Laurens County Ordinary/Probate Judge Index to Estate Papers 1800-1939" Box 10, Pkg. 13, 1806.

34 It is interesting to note that Seth Petty's putative daughter-in-law, Mary Blackstock Pool and her family were also transcribed as "Paul" in the 1850 Census.

35 The census taker seems to have written "Seputh", which was later transcribed to "Symethe".

1 Tract Do 200 Acres Do " - called House tract when sold to Peter Pool for \$920
 1 Tract Do 138 Acres Do " - called the [Glen] tract when sold to Berry Pool for \$1575
 1 Tract Do 100 Acres Do " 250³⁶.

The "*Attaway tract of Land 130*" acres more or less was sold to Robert Patterson for \$650, so the initial appraisal and the actual sales diverge somewhat.

The following table summarizes land transfers involving Seth Petty Pool, his father, and his children from 1772 to 1843.

	<u>Year</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Grantor</u>	<u>Grantee Description</u>	<u>Acres Book</u>	<u>Value Page</u>	<u>Citation</u>
1	1772	Mar 2	Howell, John	Pettypool, Peter ³⁷ Black Walnut Cr.	202 -	L70 -	3
2	1785	June 14	Berry, George	Pool, Seth Petty Warriors Creek	100 B	L100 388	1
3	1788	Sept 16	Waldrop, John	Pool, Seth On Enoree R.	100 B	10S 399	1
4	1788	July 19	Waldrop, John	Pool, Seth On Enoree R.	100 B	100L 400	1
5	1788	July 18	Waldrop, John & Elizabeth	Pool, Seth Petty Enoree R.	100 B	L100 399	1
6	1803	July 16	Taylor, William & Marthew	Pool, Seth Petty Buckhead Cr.	200 H	200 8	1
7	1804	Feb 1	Taylor, William & Marthew	Poole, Seth Petty On Buckhead Creek	200 H	260 8	1
8	1810	Aug 10	SC Secretary of State	Pool, Robert ³⁸ On Inoree R.	35 Vol. 45	- 217	2
9	1816	Nov 7	SC Secretary of State	Pool, George waters of Raibourns Cr.	20 Vol. 44	- 202	2
10	1818	Feb 11	Long, Ware	Pool, Peter waters of Raborn's Cr.	100 K	250 204	1
11	1819	Feb 28	SC Secretary of State	Pool, Berry P. Enoree R.	38 Vol. 46	- 6	2
12	1834	Feb 7	Pool, Seth P	Pool, Peter C. On Enoree R.	50 N	- 38	1
13	1834	Apr 3	Pool, Peter	Pool, Elihu On Enoree R.	115 ½ 0	300 66	1
14	1843	Aug 7	Pool, John P. & Peter Exet	Sloan, James On Warrior C.	150 O	825.5 120	1

Citation Key: **1.** Laurens County RMC (Deeds): District Index to Deeds 1774- 1903. **2.** South Carolina State Plats: Columbia Series 1784-1860, ST 0590 (AD625) SCDAH. **3.** Tryon County NC Minutes of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions 1769-1779³⁹.

36 Laurens County Probate Court, "Laurens County Ordinary/Probate Judge Index to Estate Papers 1800-1939" Box 58 Pkg 4, 1837; transcribed and annotated by the author.

37 This property was originally granted to John Howell 26 March 1755. See Anson County Microfilm No. S108.399, Warrents, Surveys and Related Documents 1- 909, Secretary of State, Land Grant Office, North Carolina State Archives, Raleigh, NC.

38 Plat is shown in Land Grant Maps, Union County Historical Association, 1976, Second Printing 1995, Map 14.

39 See Tryon County NC Minutes of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions 1769- 1779, abstracted by Brent Holcomb, ISBN 0-913363-4, as well as North Carolina Land Grants in South Carolina, Brent Holcomb, ISBN: 0806311649.

Locating Seth Petty's Property

The following land transfers include adjacency information referencing Seth Petty Pool.

May 5th, 1773 "...I have admeasured and laid out unto Joel Farmer a plantation or tract of land in Ninetysix district containing two hundred acres Situate Lying and being on a Small Branch of fair forest called rocky creek bounded North Eastwardly by Hillary Guys Land and Northward by land Claimed by Seth Petty poole and Northwestwardly ... land claimed by Thomas Summerall and south westwardly by James Mitchells land and Southwardly by part on John Lyles's land and part by vacant land" .⁴⁰

This plat is interesting, if the Seth Petty Poole named is indeed our subject and not a relative. As noted earlier, Seth had not completed the process to claim full title to this property. Seth Petty could have been only in his 20's by 1773, so this is indeed an early record, if it is him.

The property is "*on a Small Branch of fair forest called rocky creek* " which is on the north side of the Enoree River in present day Union County, and all other known references to Seth Petty Pool's land are on the south side of the Enoree in Laurens County. Land belonging to John Lyles is shown on a plat in Land Grant Maps⁴¹ as being located in Union County, very close to the Newberry County border. The description of the location is somewhat similar to that of Peter Pettypool's property- "*on Black Walnut Creek, otherwise Mitchells Creek, a branch of Fair Forest*" so perhaps this is a family holding, but it is odd that Peter would have registered his land in 1772 in the Tryon County courts, while Seth was noted as an owner just one year later in the South Carolina courts. This property does not appear in any later surviving records of Seth Petty's property, and no grant or registered plat to Seth Petty Pool has been found in Union County.

6 May 1800 "*George Rose & W. Tamer to Herman Waldrop for \$260, 100 A. on S. side of Enoree R. parts of grs. to Luke Waldrop & Wm. Williamson, B. on Seth Petty Pool...*" .⁴²

20 September 1814 "*John Fowler to John McClintock for [...], 199 A. part of 535 A. orig gr to Thos. Fare 1774 on Enoree R. & Warrior Cr., b. on Wm Word, Seth Pool...*" .⁴³

12 August 1815 "*Abraham Waldrop w. Mary to Moses Couch for \$235, 76 A. on Enoree R., b. on Soloman Waldrop, Wm. Higgins, Seth Pool...*" .⁴⁴

40 Memorials of Seventeenth and Eighteenth Century South Carolina Land Titles, 1731-1775 S111001 ST0094, S213184 0015 00083 03.

41 Land Grant Maps , Union County Historical Association, 1976, Map 2.

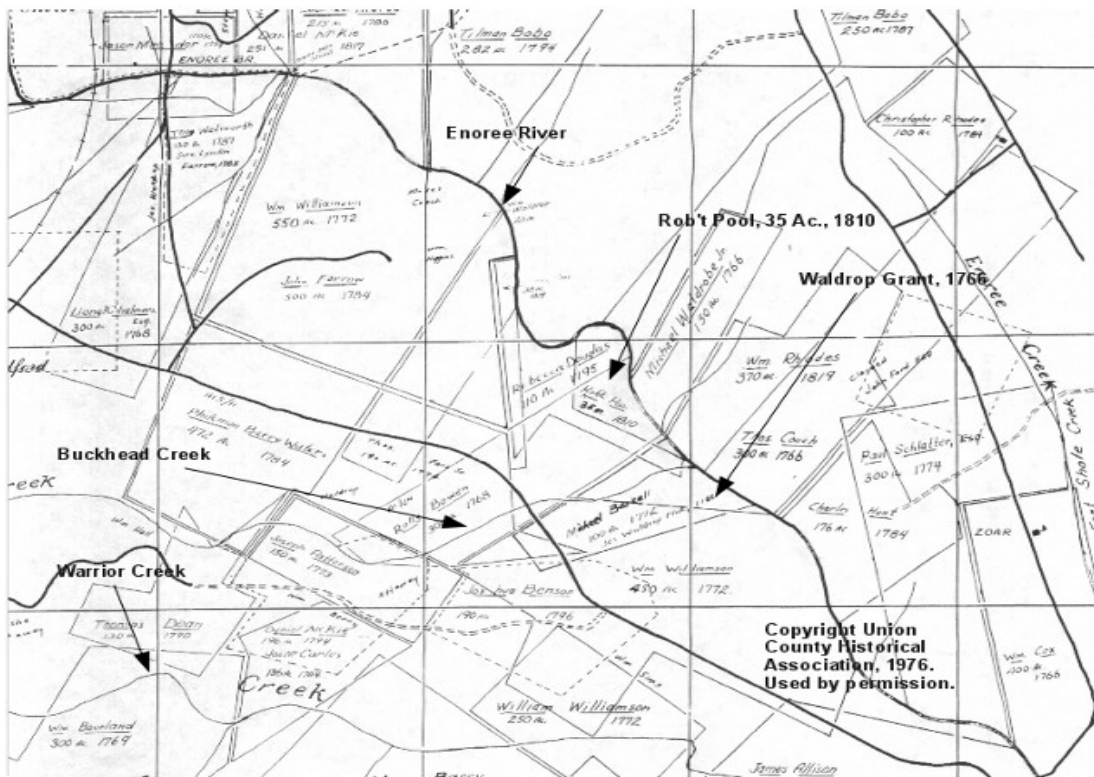
42 Abstracts of Early Records of Laurens County, SC 1785- 1820 with Name Index and Revolutionary War Service, Sara M. Nash, 1982., abstract of Deed Book G, Page 260.

43 Abstracts of Early Records of Laurens County, SC 1785- 1820 with Name Index and Revolutionary War Service, Sara M. Nash, 1982., abstract of Deed Book K, Page 301.

44 Abstracts of Early Records of Laurens County, SC 1785- 1820 with Name Index and Revolutionary War Service, Sara M. Nash, 1982., abstract of Deed Book K, Page 124.

"...Thirty five acres surveyed for him{Robert Pool} 10th Aug't 1810 situate in Laurens District on the South Side of Inoree River bounded by a line [...] on Seth Peter Pool land South East on Herman Waldrops land [...] on the Inoree River".⁴⁵

This Robert Pool grant allows us to pinpoint the location of one tract of Seth Petty's land on the Enoree. A number of the original land grants along the Enoree River were platted in 1976 by the Union County Historical Association. The location of Robert's grant, and the original 1768 Waldrop property grant are shown below.⁴⁶



⁴⁵ South Carolina State Plats: Columbia Series 1784-1860, Vol. 55, Page 312 (Indexed as page 522)

⁴⁶ Land Grant Maps , Union County Historical Association, 1976, Map 14.

Legal Troubles

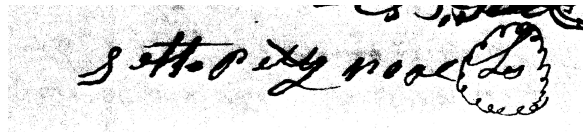
"But should you be obliged to take out a Warrant or Writ- first give Notice of Your Intentions and warn Him of the Consequences . And should You come before the Magistrate, don't abuse the Shentleman as some of these Virginian Rogues will."⁴⁷

How Seth Petty behaved in Court is unrecorded, but come to Court he did.

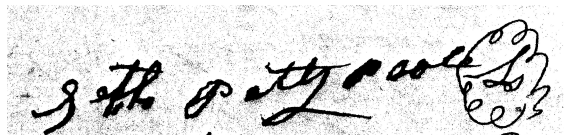
On 22 October, 1818, Seth Petty Pool posted a Recognizance Bond for Thomas P. Pool, on a Bill of Indictment "to be preferred against him by Ruthe Pilgrim for perjury...". He also posted a Bond for William Pool for the same indictment.⁴⁸

On 28 January, 1819, Seth Petty Pool posted a Recognizance Bond for Thomas P. Pool, on a Bill of Indictment "to be Exhibited by Henry Meredith against him for Forcible Entry and Detainour...". On the same Indictment, John Terry posted a Bond for Seth Petty Pool.⁴⁹ This document raises the possibility that both Seth Petty Sr. and Seth Petty Jr. are involved in this legal action.

The signature on Seth Petty's bond for Thomas:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Seth Petty Pool". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

The signature on John Terry's Bond for Seth:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Terry". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

In 1825, in Seth P. Pool vs. Harmon Waldrop, a suit for slander in the Court of Common Pleas,

"Seth P. Pool was attached to answer to Harmon Waldrop ... for that the said Harmon Waldrop now is a good true honest just & faithful citizen of this State & as such has always behaved & conducted himself, and until the committing of the several grievances by the said Seth P. Pool as hereafter mentioned was always respected [...] & accepted by &

⁴⁷ The Carolina Backcountry on the Eve of the Revolution, Charles Woodmason, edited by Richard J. Hooker, University of North Carolina Press, 1953, p. 156.

⁴⁸ Indictment in Miscellaneous Papers held by South Carolina Department of Archives and History. L30149, Box 30.

⁴⁹ Indictment in Miscellaneous Papers held by South Carolina Department of Archives and History. L30149, Box 31.

amongst all his neighbors and other good & worthy citizens of this State to whom he was in any wise known ...

And which also before the committing of the said several grievances by the Said Seth P. as herein after mentioned a certain indictment was pending in the Court of [L...] for Laurens District against the said Seth P. for a nuisance, wherein the said Harmon as [...] had deposed on oath before William Cowan Esq. who whereupon directed and ordered the said Seth P. to be apprehended bound over to appear [at] trial at Laurens Court House.

Yet the said Seth P. well knowing the premises, but equally Enjoying the happy State & condition of the Said Harmon and contriving & [...] & maliciously intending to injure the said Harmon in his said good name... that him the said Harmon had been [...] guilty of perjury ... in the presence & hearing of divers good & worthy citizens of this State... maliciously & defamatory words following that is to say" "You (meaning the said Harmon Waldrop) swore a lie." ...

"We the arbitrators chosen by Harmon Waldrop plaintiff & Seth P. Pool Deft. to settle a suit of slander are of the opinion that the said Seth P. Pool shall pay all [t..] costs that have accrued in said suit. Given [and] our hands the 11th Feb'y 1826." ⁵⁰

Total costs billed to Seth was \$34.82.

This case shows the all too common ambiguity in the records of this family. Is this a seventy-something Seth Petty, or a much younger Seth Petty Jr.? I have not been able to identify the "*certain indictment ... pending in the Court*"⁵¹ which seemed to precipitate this dispute. It may be the 1821 warrant for Forcible Entry, declared Nolle Prosequi, discussed below in **Seth Petty Jr.**, or another case entirely.

On 7 May, 1836, Seth Petty Pool posted a Recognizance Bond for Berry Pool Sen^r , "*to answer to a bill of Indictment to be preferred against him the said Berry Pool Sen^r for an Assault on the person of Sam^l Meredith...*".⁵²

Seth and the Church

Lamb and Ezell recount a significant role for Seth Petty Pool in the Methodist Church. They describe a church, built by Seth, originally located near

⁵⁰ Laurens Court of Common Pleas, 1825, Seth P. Poole, #2157. Held by South Carolina Department of Archives and History.

⁵¹ I'm not even sure which Court. This clerk had a scrawl-like handwriting that became even more pronounced as he hurried through the rather lengthy document.

⁵² Laurens County Court of General Sessions Indictments, #608, held by South Carolina Department of Archives and History.

Buckhead Creek, and trace it through a move to Pearfield Church at Cross Anchor, SC and on to Trinity Church "in old Belmont circuit."⁵³

A Methodist Steward's Book of the Laurens Circuit from the early 19th century survives, and does list in the "Monies Received" account a "Pools" meeting place. The first record in this book, November 18, 1826, contains the entry "Pools 1.31½", and similar Pools entries continue through the March 17, 1832 record.⁵⁴

A possible additional clue to his church association is contained in the Probate records for Seth Petty, where a "Citation to hear the Will of Seth Pool proven" contains the following:

I do certify that [I] read the within citation to day in the presence of the congre[gation] [a...] at [S....asho.l] m[eeeting] house, Oct 22nd 1837.

Unfortunately, the original document is quite deteriorated in this area, and I have not been able to decipher the name of the meeting house, or trace it to a known location. I have tentatively transcribed the name as "Sedashoal meeting house", a phonetic spelling of Cedar Shoal. Cedar Shoals Creek is near Cross Anchor, SC, a location that does fit with the Lamb account.

The earliest surviving Methodist records almost exclusively concern matters of money, licensing of ministers, and church discipline⁵⁵, and therefore do not provide any specific information about the meeting places listed. So it is not possible to positively trace the "Pools" meeting place to Seth Petty Pool, nor can it be precisely located.

In the Name of God Amen

Seth Petty Pool's Will is dated 27 September 1837. *"Seth Poole died Sept. 29, 1837 and his wife, Elizabeth Berry Poole, died March 7, 1837. The dates were found in the family Bible of (2) John Poole."*⁵⁶ Affidavit in his Probate papers states only that *"...Seth P Poole of the district aforesaid departed this life sometime in the year 1837 having first executed a will & named your*

53 Lamb and Ezell, pp 3- 4. The Pearfield Church mentioned in their account seems to derive from a March 30, 1833 entry in the *Minutes of Enoree Circuit SC Conf. M. E. Church from 1805- 1843*: "The following Bretheren were appointed a building Committee to build a house of Worship as Pairfield viz W. Farrow and I. Potter." So far as I can determine, the presumed link between Pools meeting house, and the Pearfield and Trinity churches in the Lamb book is the presence of Rev. Potter.

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

55 At a meeting at Lebanon campground, September 7th and 8th, 1832, it was determined that attendance at "publick barbecues" was contrary to Church discipline, and was therefore prohibited.

56 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, p.6.

Petitioners Executors to carry the same into effect...".⁵⁷

The text of Seth Petty's Will contains the only unambiguous listing of family members:

In the name of God amen. I Seth Pool of the district of Laurens & State of South Carolina being sick in body & weke but being of a Sound Disposing mind & memory & taking in mind the unsertiney of human Life and being Disposd to Dispose of all worely Effects of it hath pleased God to Bless me with Do make and ordain this my Last will & testement (vz)

first I bequeth to my Son Martin Pool as much out of my Estate as will be Sufficent to pay all his Lawfull Debts at this present time. (Second) my will is that all my estate real and personal Shall Be Sold and the proceds to be equiely Divided between the said Martin Pool my Son and all the Ballance of my Childrin or there Legal Representatiefs. I leave my sone John Pool, my son Peter Pool my executors to See this my Last will Executed and I revoke all formar will or wills in witness whereunto I have Set my hand and Seal this 27th of September 1837.

Seth P Pool

Test

Wm Gowan

Lucy Pool

Emily Pool

Seth Petty's Estate

"They are very idle extravagant People alway fidling and dancing- And if they can but get a cow or two to give them some Milk, and make a pound of butter and raise a Hog or two with a little Indian Corn and a Patch of Potatoes they are as happy as Princes- They care not to if they make any thing for Market..."⁵⁸

Comparing the estate of Seth Petty Pool and the above description for Reverend Woodmason shows that we would be wise to not always take the Reverend seriously. Examining the estate inventory and sale accounts, a picture emerges of the life of a prosperous Backcountry farmer in the early

⁵⁷ Laurens County Probate Court, "Laurens County Ordinary/Probate Judge Index to Estate Papers 1800-1939" Box 58 Pkg 4.

⁵⁸ The Carolina Backcountry on the Eve of the Revolution, Charles Woodmason, edited by Richard J. Hooker, University of North Carolina Press, 1953, p. 155.

1800's⁵⁹, someone engaged in much more than "fidling and dancing". Seth was a man with substantial property, and his subsistence agricultural base was supplemented with various agricultural and market ventures. His estate was valued at Probate sale at \$14,700, which by one measure⁶⁰ is equivalent to \$340,000 today.

Domestic items included:

Loom & apparatus 5.50
Lot of Pewter, Pails, and Tin Ware & Table 7.00
Lot of chairs 2.00
Cupboard & [...] 20.00
Sideboard, Clock, Bureau & Dresser 50.00
Lot of Bed clothes, cloth & thread 20--
2 Trunks, Deer Skins, Umbrellas & Steelyards & Bellows 5--
2 Beds Bedsteads & Furniture 50--
Lot of Books Looking glass & Fire Dogs .50
Pea fowl feathers .25
Lot of Bee Wax & Tallow 12 1/2 per Lb.

Agricultural and business items inventoried included:

2 Millstones & [...] 1.00
Lot of Wheat \$1.00 pr. Bush'l
Lot of Wool & 2 old saddles 1.00
Lot of Rawhides 4--
Lot of Bee Hives 5--
Corn per. Bush'l \$.50 cts
Lot of shucks 5.00
Fodder per. cwt. \$.50 cts --
Oats per. Doz. \$12 1/2 --
Cotton per. cwt. \$2.00
Cotton in the field
Lot of cattle 35.00
Waggon & gear 30--
Gray horse 25--
Blind horse 12--
Lot of stock Hogs 56--
Lot of sheep 14--
Lot of sweet potatoes \$.25 cts per. bush'l --
Brandy per. Gal. \$.75 --
Still & Cask⁶¹ 10--

Items such as "lot of farming tools", "sythe blade", "lot of Barrels", "lot of tools (augers & saws etc.)", "3 baskets" and so forth give evidence of a

59 All of these extracts are from the *Appraisal Bill of the Goods and Chattels of Seth P. Pool dec'd taken December 1st, 1837*, in Laurens County Probate Court, Box 58, Pkg. No. 4.

60 The Measuring Worth website, at www.measuringworth.com.

61 Distilling was to figure prominently in the life of Seth Petty's grandson, George B. Pool, 1838-1900.

working farm. The presence of millstones tends to support the assertion by Lamb & Ezell that Seth Petty was involved in commercial milling of wheat and corn⁶². The listing of a steelyard⁶³ and "cotton in the field" shows that King Cotton was firmly established in the Upstate of South Carolina by 1837.

Cotton in the Upcountry

"By nice calculation it appears that in good seasons, from good lands and with the usual good prices, the clear profits on an acre of land planted in cotton are from ten to thirteen dollars, and in a relative proportion under less favorable circumstances. This surplus, after all expenses are paid or taken into account, will purchase the fee simple of the land, for such is its low price compared with the high value of the commodities raised upon it, that, with few exceptions, one good crop will sell for as much as the ground on which it is raised. The clear profits on other articles of culture are less than on cotton. On wheat they are about \$6 to the acre, on corn from \$8 to \$10. As the same force of hands can cultivate more acres in wheat or corn than in cotton, the profits on each may be made to approach nearer to equality; but the advantage is decidedly in favor of cotton. This is so much the case that provisions are comparatively neglected. This neglect equalizes the profits still more, for while so many cultivate cotton, the few who plant provisions obtain a better price for what they raise. The cotton planter not only benefits himself but his neighbor, who directs his industry to other objects of culture. This reciprocal dependence and communication of benefits cements the union of all the members of the great family of Carolina."⁶⁴

Slaves

Along with cotton, another major element of the old South is in evidence-slavery. The Census shows Seth Petty's increasing acquisition of slaves: 1790-1 slave, 1800- 5 slaves, 1810- 7 slaves, 1820- 11 slaves.

The 1830 Census for Seth Petty lists 11 slaves. There were 2 males under age 10, 1 between 10 and 24, 2 age 24- 36, and 1 between 36 and 55. There were 3 females between 10 and 24, and one over 55 years of age. The Probate accounts allow us to know the names of some of them:

William Terry Sen'r 1 Negro Woman Chancy & 2 children

62 Lamb and Ezell, pp. 1-2.

63 A steelyard is a balance beam weighing device, used for agricultural commodities such as cotton.

64 Ramsey's History of South Carolina: from its First Settlement in 1670 to the Year 1808 by David Ramsy, M. D, 1858, p. 305.

James Alexander	1 Negro Woman Phillis
Sam'el Meredith	1 Negro Woman Nance
William Stowe	1 Negro Woman Pat & 2 children
Dr. Peter Wallis	1 Negro boy Randall
Stephen Terry	1 Negro Girl Celia
Bartlett Coleman	2 Negroes, Man & [Jane]
John Pool	1 Negro Sam
Peter Pool	2 Negroes Jo & Beck
Martin Pool	1 Negro Man Mecury
Berry Pool	1 Negro Man Ned

The extent to which slavery had become a part of the economy for even small scale farmers like Seth Petty is evident in his estate sale: about 55% of the money raised was from slave sales.⁶⁵

Debts

One of the chronic problems in rural South Carolina, particularly after the end of the Revolutionary War, was poor access to money and loans. There was no banking system, and considerable political hostility to banks and bankers existed throughout the period. One of the many solutions to the credit crisis was personal loans, and the estate records of Seth Petty Pool show evidence of this activity.

Seth Petty had cash on hand of \$75.93^{3/4} at the time of his death. Notes due him were as follows:

	<i>James Compton</i>	<i>Note due 25th Dec.1837</i>	<i>\$195.00</i>
	James Compton	Note due 25th Dec. 1838	\$200.00
Doubtful	Shadrach Waldrip	Note due Dec'r 26th 1834	\$ 2.43 ^{3/4}
	William Robinson	Note due 12th Aprl 1836	\$ 50.00
Doubtful	William Pearson	Note duue 1st Feb'y 1835	\$ 9.00 ⁶⁶

A later summary of the payments received shows the existence of another note with Elihu Pool⁶⁷ for \$10.00, due 1839. The records indicate payments were received from Elihu, Compton and Robinson.

In 1841 John and Peter Pool, as executors of their father's Estate, were forced to bring a lawsuit to the Court of Common Pleas in Laurens. They sued Robert D. Coleman, Bartley Coleman, and Martin Pool for \$1522.93^{1/4} which they claimed was owed the Estate. The jury found for John and Peter, awarding the Estate \$1376.53 with interest from 20 November 1839.⁶⁸

⁶⁵ Calculation by the author, using the Probate sales receipts.

⁶⁶ Transcription by the author of papers in Probate Box 56, Package 4, Seth Petty Pool, Laurens, 1837.

⁶⁷ Elihu Pool was Peter Pool's son.

⁶⁸ Laurens County Court of Common Pleas, Judgment Roll 4084.

The Children of Seth Petty Pool

"Records show the following names (1) Berry and (2) Terry (Berry was born in 1792 and died in 1847), (3) William (died 1842), (4) I., (5) Seth, Jr., (6) Caroline, (7) Peter, (8) Martha, died in 1855, (9) Nancy, (10) George, died in 1835, (11) Betsy, (12) Anna, (13) Robert, (14) Susan, (15) John, (1797-1868), and (16) Martin.⁶⁹" (The generation numbers of the original have been replaced with sequential numbers.)

The extract above from Lamb & Ezell has become the accepted list of Seth Petty's children. Several other lists exist in print and websites, but all appear to be copies of this Lamb & Ezell list.⁷⁰

There is no source given in Lamb & Ezell. It can be inferred from the text that it came from the same family bible mentioned in the discussion of Elizabeth Berry above, but that is not certain. There is a suspicion that, whatever the source, it was not compiled contemporaneously by Seth Petty, Elizabeth or a close relative, but from later recollections. It seems doubtful that anyone with direct knowledge would list a child as only "T". Of course it is possible that Lamb & Ezell could not decipher the entry and instead of following the modern practice of using ellipses to indicate illegibility, simply copied the only letter that they could read.

And, as will be discussed later, Lamb & Ezell imply the existence of other children not recorded above, so clearly they were uncertain of the accuracy. What follows is an attempt to confirm this list with existing primary documentation, at least to the extent of showing that a person with that name existed.

Estimate Number of Children from Census

Using Seth's family as enumerated in the 1790 Census and assuming that the Male>45 is Seth and the one Female is Elizabeth, and further assuming that all other non-slaves enumerated are children of Seth and Elizabeth, the family appears to consist of 4 male children and 1 female child. For the female, there is no way to estimate her age from the Census, and there is no female child age 10- 15 or older in the 1800 Census. As noted elsewhere, the 1850 Census gives Martha's birth year as 1790, but the 1790 female

⁶⁹ 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, p. 6.

⁷⁰ The list on the LDS FamilySearch.org site is taken from Lamb & Ezell, as confirmed to the author by email from the person submitting to the FamilySearch site. The list on the Pettypool information aggregation site, George's Genealogy Research Filing Cabinet, maintained by G. Baumbach, is attributed to Lamb & Ezell.

child seems unlikely to be her, since the child disappears from the Census of 1800. It can be inferred that if she is a child she did not survive until the next Census. So for an initial family estimate, use only the 4 males under 10 years of age.

The 1800 Census would be expected have 4 males >10, but there are only three, two age 10-15 and one 16- 25. There are three males under 10, and three females under 10, so assume six more children. This leads to an estimate of nine children surviving by 1800.

By the time of the 1810 Census, the children enumerated in the 1790 census are old enough to have left home, so it is only possible from 1810 and each Census thereafter to assume that every child aged less than 10 years represents a new birth. So by 1810 there are an assumed three more male children and three new female children. This assumption brings the estimated total to 15 surviving children, 9 males and 6 females.

Probate- Division to Children

Seth Petty Pool's will specified that "*(Second) my will is that all my Estate Real and personal Shall Be Sold and the proceeds to be equily Divided between the Said Martin Pool my Son and all the Ballance of my Children or there Legal Representatiefs.*"⁷¹ Unfortunately, he only identified three of his children by name- "*...Martin Pool my Son...*", "*...my sone John Pool, my son Peter Pool my executors...*".

When the estate was settled there were twelve shares made.

Settlement on the estate of Seth P. Pool dec'd by his

Executors agreeable to the will- with the legatees

Amount of sale bill Due 1 July 1839

\$14,700.61

deduct commission 2.5 %

-\$367.56

\$14,333.05

Add amount received on debts due [legator]

\$521.85

deduct commission 2.5%

-\$13.07

\$508.78

\$14,841.83

deduct debts of [legator]

-\$541.97

add commission

-\$13.53

-\$555.50

\$14,286.33

Deduct amount of debts paid for Martin Pool agreeable to the will

\$1,986.5

7

add commission 2.5%

-\$49.66

-\$2,036.23

⁷¹ Laurens County Probate Court, "Laurens County Ordinary/Probate Judge Index to Estate Papers 1800-1939" Box 58 Pkg 4

		\$12,250.10
Deduct note & dist due by legator to Jno. Pool Exr.		<u>-\$7.40</u>
		\$12,242.70
Deduct for Ordinary [...]	-\$3.00	
[...] return	-\$1.00	
Atty- attendance two day before Ordinary	<u>-\$10.00</u>	
		\$12,228.70
Divide into 12 shares due each legatee with interest from 1 July 1839		\$1,019.06
deduct commission paying out each share 2.5%	<u>-\$25.48</u>	
		\$993.58
Interest 1 July 1839 – 16 July 1840		<u>\$72.44</u>
		\$1,066.02

" ... I find that agreeable to the will that an amount of one thousand sixty six dollars & 2 cents due to Each legatee Viz. twelve in number on the 15th day of Jan'yry 1840 . It is therefore ordered...".⁷²

Assuming that the Probate accounted for "... all the Ballance of my Childrin or there Legal Representatiefs", then is is concluded that Seth Petty Pool had 12 children that either were alive themselves in 1837, or who had produced heirs- "Representatiefs"- before their death.

Other Distributions

In the final Settlement Statement of the Seth Petty Probate, the following entry occurs:

amt in [...] hand [...] to pay	
first to [...] to wit	
<i>the children of Cottrell</i>	\$219.94
<i>Washington Wilson's children</i>	<u>137.00</u>
	\$356.94

Neither the disbursement nor the account is dated, but from context it occurs late in the settlement, about 1840.

The distribution to the "children of Cottrell" and the "Washington Wilson's children" entry will be discussed later in the section **Finding Children in Public Records**, following.

Finding Children in Public Records

Using the Probate papers and contemporary legal records, six of the children

⁷² Transcription by the author of a portion of the estate papers of Seth P. Pool- Laurens County Probate Court, "Laurens County Ordinary/Probate Judge Index to Estate Papers 1800-1939" Box 58 Pkg 4.

of Seth Petty Pool can be positively identified. Seth names three in his will: John, Peter, and Martin. Clerical notes in the Probate papers identify two more: Anna and Margaret. Contemporary legal documents and other accounts identify Berry as a child. Hence we have a known list of six children, and a set of potential candidates from Lamb & Ezell. Both the known children and those listed by Lamb & Ezell are described in the following sections.

The Known Six

Berry

Berry is the putative ancestor of the author. Unfortunately, the only existing documentation positively linking him to Seth Petty is the Lamb & Ezell book and the entry for his son Dr. John Terry Pool in the 1892 Cyclopedia of Eminent and Representative Men of the Carolinas of the Nineteenth Century⁷³. Despite much searching, no confirming primary confirmation has been found.

Using the age bracket given in the 1840 Census, Berry was born between 1791 and 1800. Lamb & Ezell give his birth year as 1792⁷⁴, and his tombstone at the family cemetery records his death as occurring "in the 55th year of his age".

Berry is well documented in the Census from 1820 through 1840.

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

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

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

Berry makes several appearances on the docket of the Laurens County Court of General Sessions, as well as the Laurens County Court of Common Pleas.⁷⁵

Berry owned land adjacent to Seth Petty Pool, as shown by a 1834 case in the Laurens Court of Common Pleas:

73 Madison, Wis.: Brant & Fuller, 1892. 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".

74 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, p.16.

75 Laurens County Office: Clerk of Court (General Sessions) General Sessions Journal 1800-1810 1810-1824 1825-1840, and Court of Common Pleas: Index to Judgment Rolls 1800-1913, both housed in the South Carolina Department of Archives and History.

*"South Carolina Laurens District To wit Henry Meredith and Daniel Meredith the Defts were attached to answer to Berry Pool the [...] of a plea why with [...] & [...] 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 P Pool the said Henry Meredith the said Berry Pool containing five hundred acres did ..."*⁷⁶

See the description under **Anna**, below, for more on Berry.

Berry's Will and Probate records are Box 104, package 19, Laurens County Probate Court, 1848.

Peter

Peter is one of the three children named in his father's will: he was co-executor. He is also documented in the Census.

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

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: 154B; Image: 313; Family History Library Film: 553000.

It is interesting to note that in 1870, Peter Pool, 88 year old farmer, is living in the household of Amanda Pool, a 27 year old black female. Also resident are John, 12, Canady, 10, Calline, 6, Franklin, 4, and 8 month old Heneretta.

Using the estimated age from the 1850 Census, Peter was born about 1785.

Peter Pool also makes several appearances on the docket of the Laurens County Court of General Session from 1831 to 1842.⁷⁷

⁷⁶ Laurens Court of Common Pleas Judgment # 3179, 1834; archived South Carolina Department of Archives and History

⁷⁷ Perhaps the most colorful of the Court appearances is Peter Pool vs. Allen Gentry & Wife, 1831, Court of Common Pleas, Judgment 2962. Allen Gentry and his wife Polly sued Peter for defamation, alleging that he publicly called Polly Gentry "a whorish bitch" and " a mulatto strumpet". Peter lost, and was required to pay \$43.37½ damages and costs. (The very circumspect Bessie Lamb does characterize Peter as "an outstanding character, somewhat eccentric".) See also Laurens County Office: Clerk of Court (General Sessions) General Sessions Journal 1800-1810 1810-1824 1825-1840, housed in the South Carolina Department of Archives and History and the Laurens County Court of Common Pleas: Index to Judgment Rolls, 1800- 1813 and Indexes to Summary Process Rolls, 1839- 1869.

John

John is one of the three named in his father's will: he was co-executor. The 1850 Census puts his year of birth as 1797, and Lamb & Ezell give a date of birth of 17 August, 1797⁷⁸.

1830 U S Census: , *Laurens, South Carolina*, Page: 239; NARA Roll: *M19-169*; Family History Film: *0022503*.

Year: *1840*; Census Place: *,Laurens,South Carolina*; Roll: *40*; Page: *513*; Image: *84*; Family History Library Film: *0022510*.

Year: 1850; Census Place: *Laurens, Laurens, South Carolina*; Roll: *M432_855*; Page: *223A*; Image: *46*.

Year: 1860; Census Place: , *Laurens, South Carolina*; Roll: *M653_1222*; Page: *343*; Image: *252*; Family History Library Film: *805222*.

John P. Pool, along with Robert Patterson and William S, Stone, certified the Will of Berry Pool, 10th November, 1847.

John and Susanna Brooks are cited in a Union County deed, recorded 7 March 1824⁷⁹:

"Know all men by these presents that we Magnes Brooks of the State of Georgia and John Pool in right of his wife Susanna, legatees of the estate of Thomas Brooks, late of Union District, dec'd, of the State of South Carolina and district of Laurens...".

Martin

Martin is one of the three named in his father's will, as noted earlier. There is a male age 20-29 enumerated in the 1830 Census living with Seth and Elizabeth, who may be Martin. In 1840, Martin appears to be in Spartanburg.

Year: *1840*; Census Place: *,Spartanburg,South Carolina*; Roll: *93*; Page: *515*; Image: *193*; Family History Library Film: *0022511*.

Year: *1850*; Census Place: *, Spartanburg, South Carolina*; Roll: *M432_858*; Page: *268A*; Image: *541*.

Using the 1850 Census age, Martin was born about 1808. Lamb & Ezell give a birth year of 1805⁸⁰.

Anna Pool Cottrell

Lamb & Ezell state that Anna's married name was Cottrell. Anna Cottrell

78 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, p. 13.

79 Union County South Carolina Deed Book S, pp. 38-39.

80 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, p. 14.

bought various items at Seth Petty's estate sale in 1837. However, both the estate settlement and a Trustee account⁸¹ ordered by the Laurens Probate Court indicate that she died shortly after her father. Berry Pool was the Trustee, and filed returns with the Probate Court for the years 1839- 1851.

Among the expenditures listed is the following entry:

"1 months attendance on [...] in her last illness and Board of her four children- 16.00."

Another report includes the following entry: *"16th January 1840 Rec'd of Peter Pool Ex'or of Seth Pool dec'd Eight hundred & forty six Dollars sixty seven cents"*. Taken together with the entry from Seth Petty's Probate: *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 Probate.

'The trustee purchased a tract of land for [this] [c...e] trust for which he paid four Hundred dollars- the land lies in Spartanburgh District...'

This trust account apparently confirms that Anna Cottrell was indeed a daughter of Seth Petty Pool, and the presence of Berry Pool as the Trustee is a strong implication that he was her relative.

A phrase from the Court Case: *"... & not liable in any manner to the debts of Richard Cottrell or the said Anna Cottrell"* implies that Anna's husband may have been Richard Cottrell.

Margaret Pool Talley

There is evidence that Margaret Pool is a child of Seth Petty Pool. The Claim of Widow for Service Pension for Stephen Talley, submitted by Eliza Brown Talley, states that "she has never been married but the one time, but that her husband had married Polly Pool who died in Laurens District in South Carolina in August 1829⁸²". On a second application dated 26 July, 1880, the citations is: "She has been married but once, but Stephen Talley had been married before to Margaret Pool, died August 7th, 1829."

Margaret Pool purchased "1 Bed & furniture" at Seth Petty Pool's estate sale.

⁸¹ 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), Tr17.

⁸² Claim of Widow for Service Pension, Under the provisions of Sections 4736 to 4740 (inclusive,) Revised Statutes, and the Act of March 9th, 1878, State of Texas, County of Milan, 18 August, 1879, application of Mrs. Eliza Talley. I am grateful to V. Napier for supplying me with this document.

Given that Seth's estate sale occurred April 11, 1838, this does not fit with the Talley family death date of 1829 for Margaret Pool Talley, so there may be two Margaret Pools active in Laurens at this time.

The Lamb & Ezell List of Children

Terry

No record of Terry has been found, and there is no secondary evidence of his existence apart from the Lamb & Ezell book.

William Petty

No Census records have been found that can be positively identified as being William.

Lamb & Ezell state that "... *William married a Terry, his first cousin. He died Oct. 15, 1842.*"⁸³ However, the 1822 Probate papers for William Petty Pool in the Laurens Probate Court⁸⁴ appear to be those of William. He died intestate, and Elizabeth Pool was appointed his administratrix.

Examining the accounts of those purchasing items at the estate sale, the following Pool names appear:

Nancy Pool one Negro Hannah	401
Seth Pool Sr one Mare	60
Peter Pool one cow and calf	14 62 1/2
Berry Pool Wauful Irons	1 62 1/2
John Pool one Clock	31
Rebeca Pool Lot of half rounds	12 18 3/4
Seth Pool one Candle Stand	2 37 1/2
Martin Pool one Saddle	4 06 1/4.

This probate is interesting, in that the accounts make a distinction between the two Seth Petty Pool's who are making purchases at the estate sale. This is possibly a primary citation of Seth Petty, Jr. It implies, but does not prove, a father- son relationship⁸⁵. This estate, along with the estate of Robert Pool n 1819 (see below), provide the most certain evidence of both a younger and older Seth Pool in Laurens.

83 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, p. 6.

84 Bundle 56, Package 9.

85 At this time, the Jr./ Sr. distinction could be applied to any two males with the same name, regardless of actual paternity. Seth's son Berry Sr. (1792- 1847) and William's son Berry P. Jr. (1812- 1897) providing an example from the Pool family.

From Elizabeth's Probate⁸⁶, we know that among William and Elizabeth's children were daughters Rebecca and Nancy, and a son Berry. The 1850 census indicates that the younger Berry was born in 1814, rather young to be buying estate items in 1822. The implication is that this may be Berry, Seth's son, who would have been in his 20's.

Nancy made a costly purchase, so this may be Seth's daughter Nancy instead of William's younger daughter Nancy. The record is ambiguous.

Among the items inventoried in this estate is "one lot shoemakers tools", "a parcel of leather" and "2 raw cow hides". So perhaps either William or one of the slaves was a shoemaker. There was also a "cooper jointer⁸⁷" and a "flax wheel". Flax was a crop that had been grown in Upstate SC in early colonial times, but for various reasons did not prove successful.

George

George has been found in only one Census record:

1830 U S Census:, Laurens, South Carolina, Page: 277; NARA Roll: M19-169; Family History Film: 0022503.

Using the age bracket from the Census, George was born between 1791 and 1800.

On June 3rd, 1816, a Land Grant to George Pool was registered with the South Carolina Secretary of State. The plat description was: "*...twenty acres surveyed for him the 7th of November 1816 Situate in Laurens District on the waters of Raiborns Creek.*"⁸⁸ If this George is indeed a son of Seth Petty Pool, then he settled somewhat apart from Seth Petty's land. Rabun Creek is in the south western quadrant of present day Laurens County and empties into the Reedy River, quite a distance from the Buckhead Creek-Enoree River land held by Seth Petty.

George appeared on the docket of the Laurens County General Sessions Court in the Spring Term, 1834⁸⁹.

86 Laurens County Probate Court: Bundle 110, Package 15, 1850. Berry P. Pool, executor.

87 A cooper jointer was a tool used in forming barrel staves. It was essentially a very large wooden joiner's plane, held upside down, with the wood part moved by hand over the tool, opposite to the usage of the joiner's plane.

88 Secretary of State Recorded Instruments Land Grants (Columbia Office) Index 1784-1821, Volume 60, Page 487.

89 Laurens County Office: Clerk of Court (General Sessions) General Sessions Journal 1800-1810 1810-1824 1825-1840, housed in the South Carolina Department of Archives and History.

Lamb and Ezell record that George died 24 November, 1835.

Robert

Robert has not been found in any Census.

On 3 September, 1810, a land grant for Robert Pool was registered with the South Carolina Secretary of State: The plat description was: *"...Thirty five acres surveyed for him 10th Aug't 1810 situate in Laurens District on the South Side of Inoree River bounded by a line [...] on Seth Peter Pool land South East on Herman Waldrops land [...] on the Inoree River."*⁹⁰

A Robert Pool appears first on the jurors list for the Laurens County General Sessions Court in 1812⁹¹. His last appearance on the jurors list is November term, 1815.

Lamb & Ezell state that Robert died in 1819⁹² His estate is documented in Laurens County Probate Court, Estate Bundle 56, Package 12, 1819. This probate is interesting, in that the accounts make a distinction between the two Seth Petty Pool's who are making purchases at the estate sale. This is possibly a primary confirmation of Seth Petty, Jr. It implies, but does not prove, a father- son relationship⁹³.

Among the sale account entries:

"William Pool for Seth Pool one set of silversmith tools	1.00"
"Peter Pool do three hoes	0.50"
"Seth Pool Jnr one [...] Chain	2.00"
"Seth Pool Snr Double Trees & Single Trees	2.00"
"John Pool one lot horse Shoes	1.00"
"Betsy Pool one Bell	00.50"
"George Pool one Sithe & Cradle	2.00"
"Thom's Pool one lot of Bacon	12 9 3/4"

Among the items at the sale:

"1 (lot) Carpentry Tools, one Grind Stone	10.50"
"1 (lot) Plank & Scantling	1.50 52.50"
"1 Loom & Rigging	7"
"1 Threshing Machine	35"
"1 Lot Books	1.75"

90 Secretary of State Recorded Instruments Land Grants (Columbia Office) Index 1784-1821, Volume 55, P. 312. Although this record is indexed as Page 552, it is actually on Page 312. This grant has been platted in Land Grant Maps, Union County Historical Foundation, 1976, on map 14, as discussed earlier.

91 Laurens County Office: Clerk of Court General Sessions Journal 1800--1810 1810-1824 1825-1840.

92 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, p. 12.

93 See the discussion above under William Petty Pool.

The sale of a set of silversmith tools is an indication of the varied skills and trade sophistication in the South Carolina backcountry in colonial times. Carpentry tools, planks and scantlings⁹⁴ indicate that someone on the Robert Pool homestead was an accomplished carpenter. The presence of a Threshing Machine is also significant, since they were a somewhat recent invention in 1819.

And finally, there is a "lot of books". This item shows up in numerous of Probates from this era, including Seth Petty's, casting doubt on Reverend Woodmason's broad characterization of the people as only interested in "fidling and dancing".

Seth Petty Jr.

The most likely citation for Seth Jr. is contained in the Probate accounts for Robert Pool and William P. Pool, as described above.

A possible citation for Seth Jr. is the 1820 Census.

1820 U S Census: *Spartanburg, Spartanburg, South Carolina*, Page: 273; NARA Roll: M33_120; Image: 339.

The Census has a male 26-44, a female 16-25, and 3 females under 10 in the household.

There is a Probate for Seth Pool in Spartanburg in 1830⁹⁵. The majority of items were purchased by Elizabeth Pool. No other Pool's are listed.

Another possible citation is contained in the journal of the Laurens Court of General Sessions, where on 19 February, 1821, in the case *The State vs. Seth P. Poole*⁹⁶, a warrant for Forcible Entry was declared *Nolle Prosequi*. Seth Sr. would have been about 67, not too old to be charged with such a crime, but it seems possible that a younger Seth Jr. would be involved.

Martha

Lamb & Ezell state that "*(s)he married William Terry (1762-1866) probably a cousin. They lived in Forsythe county, Ga.*"⁹⁷. Using that description, the following 1850 Census entry from the 31st District of Forsyth County Georgia may enumerate Martha's family.

94 Scantling is an obsolete term for small dimension lengths of rough lumber, somewhat similar to the 1 X 2 pine furring strips you might find in a big box home center today.

95 Spartanburg County Probate Court, Probate 1647, 1830.

96 Laurens County Office: Clerk of Court (General Sessions) General Sessions Journal 1800-1810, 1810-1824, 1825-1840.

97 *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, pp. 12-13.

1850	William Terry	96 M	Terry	2000	20		
	Martha	60 F			10		
	Matilda	30 F			10		
	Serena	26 F			10		
1860	William Terry	96 M	Terry				

Using this Census, Martha's year of birth is about 1790.

The 1860 Census shows only a 94 year old W^m Terry, Matilda, and Serena in this household, so Martha must have died between 1850- 1860.⁹⁸

Year: 1850; Census Place: District 31, Forsyth, Georgia; Roll: M432_69; Page: 221B; Image: 449.

Nancy

Nancy is listed in the Lamb & Ezell list only. No definitive record has been found for Nancy, although she may be the Nancy making purchases at the 1822 estate sale for William Pool, as noted above.

Caroline

Susan is listed in the Lamb & Ezell list only. No record has been found for Caroline.

Susan

Susan is listed in the Lamb & Ezell list only. No record has been found for Susan.

Betsy

Betsy Pool made purchases at the estate sale for Robert Pool, but given the number of purchases and the items, it seems more likely that "Betsy" is the Elizabeth listed as one administrator of the estate, and by implication Robert's wife.

A "Betsy Pool" purchased "one lot Bed Clothes" at Seth Petty Pool's estate sale.

T.

Lamb & Ezell do not report on whether this child is male or female, and give no hint as to the identity. A very speculative possibility arises from two

⁹⁸ Year: 1860; Census Place: , Forsyth, Georgia; Roll: M653_121; Page: 526; Image: 526; Family History Library Film: 803121. Matilda and Serena's ages are not consistent between the two Census.

Laurens Court of Common Pleas indictments, one from 1818⁹⁹ and one from 1819¹⁰⁰. Both were resolved as Nolle Prosequi in the Fall term of the Court, so nothing survives except the Recognizance Bonds and Witness Bonds¹⁰¹.

In the 1818 case, Recognizance Bonds for both Thomas and William Pool were posted by Seth Petty Pool. In the 1819 case, Seth Petty posted a Recognizance Bond for Thomas Pool¹⁰². In both bonds, Thomas P. Pool is said to be a resident of Laurens District.

The 1830 Census enumerates a Thos Pool of Laurens:

1830 U S Census: , *Laurens, South Carolina*, Page: 262; NARA Roll: *M19-169*; Family History Film: *0022503*.

The family is 1 male 20-29, 1 Female 20-29, 1 male under 5, 2 males 5-9, and 1 female 5-9. This would imply that Thomas was born between 1801 and 1810. It is believed that Seth Petty Pool's final child Martin was born about 1805 (see earlier discussion), so this Thomas was born within the probable child bearing range of Seth Petty. The 1810 Census for Seth Petty enumerates 3 males under age 10.

The 1840 Census has a Thos Poole in Spartanburg who could be the same individual:

Year: *1840*; Census Place: *Spartanburg, South Carolina*; Roll: *151*; Page: *515*; Image: *313*; Family History Library Film: *0022511*.

The oldest male is 30-39 as expected, but the oldest female is still 20-29. There is one male child 5-9, 3 females under 5, and one female 5-9.

There is a probate file for a Thomas Pool in the Spartanburg Probate Court¹⁰³, with a Will dated 6 June, 1838. However, this person does not appear to be related to Seth Petty Pool.

Other Citations

Seth Petty Pool's will was witnessed by Wm. Cowan, Lucy Pool, and Emily Pool. Lucy Pool is most likely Lucy Terry¹⁰⁴, the wife of Elihu Pool¹⁰⁵, the

99 Indictment, Thomas P. Pool, William Pool for Perjury, Fall Term 1820; South Carolina Department of Archives and History, L30149, Box 30.

100 Indictment, Seth P. Pool, Thomas P. Pool, George P. Pool for Forcible Entry, Fall Term, 1820; South Carolina Department of Archives and History, L30149, Box 31.

101 Only a fraction of the Laurens indictments from the 19th century survive. Some have been laminated and cataloged, but many, including the two referenced, are in poor condition and are randomly boxed as miscellaneous papers.

102 Bond for Seth Petty Pool was posted by John Terry of Spartanburg District. Bond for George Pool was posted by Stephen Tally of Laurens District.

103 Estate Number 2372, Spartanburg County Probate Court.

104 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, p. 9.

105 Year: 1850, Census Place: Laurens, South Carolina: Roll: M432_155; Page: 208A;

eldest son of Peter Pool. No records have been found that identify Emily Pool.

Lamb and Ezell state that "(t)here were five other children (grown) whose names we do not have.... Uncle (Dr.) John T. Poole knew of relations but we have no definite record."¹⁰⁶ They name two possible candidates: James Pool and William (Acy) Pool.

James Pool of Laurens is relatively well documented, since his will¹⁰⁷ enumerates his family. There is no indication that he was related to Seth Petty, and from his Revolutionary War Pension application¹⁰⁸ it appears that he was roughly the same age as Seth. His presence in Laurens does considerably complicate the study of Seth Petty's family however, in that he too had sons named John and William.

William (Acy) Pool is not documented, but given the plethora of "William's" active in the Pettypool family in this time frame (with James Pool's family adding additional uncertainty), it is entirely possible that he did exist and is unrecorded, or that he could be confused with the William discussed herein.

Conclusion

The exact composition of Seth Petty Pool's family may never be determined. Apart from his Will, there is no other primary source yet uncovered. As a cautionary note to those who try to use the Census to infer the relationships- as I did- consider this passage from the Journal of the Reverend Charles Woodmason, describing households in the Backcountry of South Carolina in 1768:

"—There's not a Cabbin but has 10 or 12 Young Children in it—When the Boys are 18 and Girls 14 they marry—so that in many Cabbins You will see 10 or 15 Children. Children and Grand Children of one Size—and the mother looking as Young as the Daughter. ¹⁰⁹"

Woodmason's circuit took him from the High Hills of Santee on the Wateree River through the Congarees to the Waxhaws on the North Carolina border.

Image: 16

106 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, p. 16.

"Uncle (Dr.) John T. Poole" is John Terry Poole (1836- 1909), son of Berry Pool and Mary Blackstock. His brother, George Berry Poole (1838- 1900) is the author's great grandfather.

107 Laurens County Probate Court, Bundle 60, Package 4.

108 South Carolinians in the Revolution, Sara Sullivan Ervin, p. 42.

109 The Carolina Backcountry on the Eve of the Revolution, Charles Woodmason, edited by Richard J. Hooker, University of North Carolina Press, 1953, p. 39.

He was not an unbiased observer by any means, but however disdainful his commentary may be at times, there is no reason to believe that he falsely reported what he saw. Considering how a Census taker of 1790- 1830 would record such a family unit soon makes it clear that, without additional documentation, Census records are an imprecise indication.

With no records but his Will and Probate to guide us, the exact composition of Seth Petty Pool's family must remain a matter for speculation. No one knows whether Seth Petty's family resembled those Woodmason described, or the single family unit assumed by Lamb & Ezell in their reconstruction of the family. I believe that the surviving primary sources confirm that John, Peter, Martin, Margaret and Anna are children of Seth Petty. The presence of Berry Pool as Trustee for Anna's children is reasonably strong evidence that he is also a child. And the distinction of Seth Petty Sr./Jr. on Probate Estate sales implies that Seth Jr. may be a child, although the Jr./Sr. distinction is not conclusive in this era. As for the remaining potential children, until some hitherto unknown document surfaces either confirming or correcting their account, it is impossible to make a certain identification.

By the time of his death in 1837, Seth Petty Pool was living in a very different South Carolina than the one he saw at his arrival. Depending upon the exact time of his arrival, he perhaps had witnessed the Cherokee Wars, the lawlessness of the bandit gangs, and the Regulator turmoil, the American Revolution, and the ensuing Constitutional controversies, all of which sometimes divided families and neighbors, occasionally tragically. In his lifetime, the Backcountry region of South Carolina transformed from an often lawless frontier into a completely integrated part of the state and the nation, with a fully functioning, albeit patriarchal, legal and political system. Born when King George ruled the colonies, he died in the last year of Andrew Jackson's Presidency. During his lifetime, three threads that were to be woven throughout the South Carolina upcountry for many decades to come were put in place: cotton, slavery, and Evangelical Christianity. The presence of the first two of these is readily seen in the surviving papers of Seth Petty.

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.

Ramsey's History of South Carolina: From it's First Settlements to the Year 1808 is available in the Lexington County Public Library, 5440 Augusta Road, Lexington, SC 29072.

The Laurens Circuit Record Book and the Minutes of Enoree Circuit SC, Conf. M. E. Church from 1805- 1843 are housed at the Sandor Teszler Library, Wofford College, 429 North Church Street, Spartanburg, SC 29303-3663.

Some References

- Contemporary accounts of the South Carolina Backcountry can be found in
 - The Carolina Backcountry on the Eve of the Revolution, by Charles Woodmason, edited by Richard Hooker, University of North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill, 1953, ISBN 0-8078-4035-1,
 - Ramsey's History of South Carolina: from its First Settlement in 1670 to the Year 1808 by David Ramsy, M. D. and in
 - Diary, 1805- 1808, by Edward Hooker, extracts compiled by J. Franklin Jameson, Library of Congress Reprint.
- Colonial and Revolutionary History of Upper South Carolina, Dr. J. B. O. Landrum, Shannon & Co., Printers and Binders, Greenville, S. C. 1897 (reprinted).
- The Evolution of the Southern Backcountry A Case Study of Lunenburg County Virginia 1746- 1832, Richard R. Beeman, University of Pennsylvania Press, 1984, ISBN 0-8122-3.
- Origins of Southern Radicalism, The South Carolina Upcountry 1800-1860, by Lacy K. Ford, Jr., Oxford University Press, 1988.
- Unification of a Slave State, The Rise of the Planter Class in the South Carolina Backcountry, 1760- 1808, by Rachel N. Klein, University of North Carolina Press, 1990, ISBN 0-80078-1899-2.
- The Great Wagon Road from Philadelphia to the South: How Scotch-Irish and Germanics Settled the Uplands, Parke Rouse, Jr. The Dietz Press, reprinted 2008, ISBN0-87517-065-X.
- The South Carolina Regulators, The Story of the First American Vigilante Movement , by Richard Maxwell Brown, The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, Cambridge, Mass., 1963.
- An Anxious Pursuit, Agricultural Innovation & Modernity in the Lower South, 1730- 1815 , by Joyce E. Chaplin, University of North Carolina Press, 1993, ISBN 0-8078-4613-9.
- The Expansion of South Carolina 1729- 1765, Robert Meriweather, Publishers, Inc., Kingsport, TN, 1940.
- Land Grant Maps is available from the Union County Museum, P. O. Box 220, Union, SC 29379.
- 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.
- A detailed account of the current research into the Pettypool family in America is *The William Pettypool Family of Southside Virginia: Lineage Reconstruction Based on Current Review of Evidence* by Carolyn S. Hartsough, Ph. D, published in The Virginia Genealogist, Vol. 4, No. 1 (January-March, 2003).

Appendix- Estimate Seth Petty Pool's Year of Birth

Using the Census records to estimate Seth Petty Pool's birth year requires the assumption that Seth is the oldest male recorded in the household. An estimation of his wife's age serves as a check on the results.

Census	Year of birth estimate- Seth Petty	Year of birth estimate- Spouse
1790	>16. so 1773 or earlier	none
1800	>45. so 1754 or earlier	same as Seth
1810	>45. so 1764 or earlier	same as Seth
1820	>45. so 1774 or earlier	same as Seth
1830	60- 69. so 1761 - 1770	50- 59. so 1771 -1780

The results are inconclusive, with the 1800 Census estimate of 1754 seeming most likely, when considered in relation to what is known of Seth Petty's activities as recorded in other records.

Appendix- Using the Age of the Children to Infer Seth Petty's Year of Birth

Using the Census counts of juveniles in Seth Petty's household, a possible year of birth for the presumed father can be derived. In the 1790 census, there are four males age less than 16 in the household, and one possible female child of indeterminate age. Assuming that the males are Seth's children, that would imply that one could have been born as early as 1775.

The 1850 Census record for Martha implies that she was born about 1790, so she could be the female listed in 1790, but there are some problems with that assumption, as discussed elsewhere. So for practical purposes, the presence of the female in 1790 is not useful for estimation purposes. Since the children are age bracketed as <16, use two ages to derive Seth Petty's age. Assume the firstborn male is 15 in 1790, then assume that he is 5 in 1790. This produces a child birth range of 1775 to 1785. Using that range, the following estimates of Seth Petty's age at the birth are derived:

Census Year	1800	1830	1810	1830	1790	1820
Birth year (or Earlier)	1754	1761	1764	1770	1773	1774

Seth Petty Age at Birth of First Male Child:

Assume Firstborn is:

Age 15	21	14	11	5	2	1
Age 5	31	24	21	15	12	11

The estimates from Census years 1800, 1810 (earliest), and 1830 (earliest) are the most reasonable. Considered together with the 1800 Census estimate above, it seems reasonable to estimate that Seth was born about 1754.

From the 1830 Census, it appears that the female presumed as spouse may have been as much as 10 years younger than Seth Petty. Use the assumption of 10 years younger and derive an age of the spouse at the birth of the first male child:

Census Year	1800	1830	1810	1830	1790	1820
Spouse Birth Year (or Earlier)	1764	1771	1774	1780	1783	1784

Spouse Age at Birth of First Male Child:

Assume Firstborn is:

Age 15	11	4	1			
Age 5	21	14	11	5	2	1

The spouse estimate from 1800 is most reasonable for a full 10 year difference in age. Assuming less age difference- five years for example- will make the 1830 and 1810 estimates reasonable for the spouse, if the children are assumed younger.