

Individual Report for James B "Jacob" Pool by Wm T Pool (2013)

Individual Summary: James B "Jacob" Pool

Sex: Male

Father: Alexander Poole Jr

Mother:

Individual Facts:

Residence: Bet. 1756–1782 in Mecklenburg County, VA
Residence: 1756 in Brunswick VA; James Pool says, in sworn testimony that he was born in Brunswick VA
Birth: 05 Apr 1756 in Brunswick Co, VA; see Rev Pension Application
Residence: 1761 in Brunswick VA; we know Alexander and wife Susanna were in Brunswick, so also James and Alexander Jr
Occupation: 1770 in Bound out to Benjamin Ragsdale; im 1770 & again in 1776, Ch'ward bound out James Pool to Benjamin Ragsdale
Arrival: Bet. 1783–1784 in Laurens, SC; migration from Mecklenburg, VA
Occupation: Bet. 1784–1839 in Laurens, South Carolina, USA; Cotton Farmer
Residence: 1800 in Laurens District, South Carolina
Residence: 1830 in Laurens, South Carolina, United States
Burial: 1839 in Greenville, South Carolina, USA; Traynham family cemetery (near Greenville and Laurens County line)
Death: 29 Jul 1839 in Laurens Co, SC; Age at Death: 83

Called "Jacob" by friends and Family.

Jacob (not his middle name, but a Biblical variant of his first name James. Family records indicate middle initial is B. Handwritten so transcription error is possible, Most records show name only as James.

"Jacob" , nickname

Also Known As:

Shared Facts: Ursula Hudson

Marriage: 11 Jul 1782 in Mecklenburg County, VA
Children: Rebecca Pool
C (illegible) Pool
William Hudson Pool
Sarah Pool
Mary "Polly" Pool
Gabriel Pool
Elizabeth (Betsy) Pool
John C Pool
James B "Jacob" Pool Jr.

Notes:

Person Notes: -James Pool despite being orphaned at a early age and lack of formal education, became a prosperous cotton farmer in South Carolina. He was able to set each of his children up with a property, a home, and working capital. The Pool cotton business and land holdings in the Laurens SC were extensive and successful.

locations of birth was taken from Rev War Pension Files. these files give

two birth years (1746 and 1756), the 1756 date appears to be the more likely.

"This _____ states that he was born in Brunswick County VA about the year 1746. The record of his age was burned in his uncles house in this state". >>> Does this mean that Benjamin Ragsdale was an uncle to James Pool or that there was another relative in VA ??

According to a handwritten document -- Publication number M804, Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty-Land Warrant application files, James and Ursula moved to Laurens county SC in 1784 or early 1785. A confirming testimony from James Riley in 1848 states that James and Ursula were already in Laurens when he moved into the neighborhood in December 1788. Also confirming the earlier date is a November 6, 1784

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Notes:

Deed where James Pool bought 40 acres on sw side of Reedy river from Jonathan Downs Esq. for 15 pounds.

from Mecklenburg Church Records

James Poole, orphan of Alexander Pool, bound out to Benjamin Ragsdale, 1770; to be bound out again 1776 by Ch'ward [Churchwardens]

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several points on this brief entry - and related matters according to VA law, indentured children were to be released from their contracts when they turned 21 - this seems to support the 1756 birth year of James Pool (1746 and 1756 are given in the Rev War Pension files, the Pool Family Bible has 1756).

this is also consistent with father Alexander Pool, Sr. dying intestate in about 1765 --

according to VA law, the master was required to educate the indentured child -- but James Pool was illiterate

since James served in the Rev War, at least in part, in lieu of other men, it is likely that he inherited little money

since James was able to become a highly successful cotton farmer, he must have acquired at least enough wealth to buy tracks of land, slaves, and equipment -- the initial land being purchased before father in law William Hudson gave land in NC and SC to his daughters and sons in laws. extensive review of Mecklenburg records by Harris/Hudson researcher Belva Cauthen strongly supports Alexander Sr. as the father of James B Pool.

James Poole, orphan of Alexander Pool, bound out to Benjamin Ragsdale, 1770; to be bound out again 1776 by Ch'ward

this information seems to help confirm the likely birth year as being 1756 (not 1746) and is consistent with Alexander Pool Sr. as James's father.

Pension file summary states: James Pool was born in the year of our lord 1756 in April the 5th and departed this life July the 29th 1839. Ursula Pool was born in the year of 1762 in January the 1 and was married in the year of 1782 in the month ____ James Pool
From Abstracts of rev War Pension Files, Page 1725

Pension File Abstract:

James, Ursula, VA Line W9233, sol was b 5 Apr 1756 or 1746 ((both dates were given) in Brunswick Co VA & he m Ursula (--) 11 July 1782 in Mecklenburg Co VA & she was b 1 Jan 1762, sol lived in Mecklenburg VA at enl & after the Rev he moved to Craven Co SC which was later Laurens Dist SC where he apl. 15 Oct 1832 having lived there some 48 years & was then referred to a Jacob Pool, Sr., sol d 29 July 1839 in Laurens Dist SC & his wid. appl there 22 Feb 1845, children were; Rebekah {alternative spelling of Rebecca} b 22 Apr 1783, C--?-- b 18 Jan 1785, William b 21 Feb 1787, Salley b 9 mar 1789, Polley b 23 Jun 1791, Gabrill b 9 Nov 1793, Betsey b 6 Nov 1796, John b 16 Jul 1799, & James, Jr. b 15 Mar 1804.

James Pool was called "Jacob" by family and friends. The name James and Jacob come from the same Hebrew name -- which means "heel" (Genesis tells the story of Jacob born grasping Esau's heel and later bought his birthright. Cognates of this name in most European languages so it does

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not appear to be a strong indicator of James' origin.

Served in the Rev War. Pension (Pension Record W 9233). Served a total of 12 months on the Virginia Line as a private soldier. Had three periods of service. The most notable was the infamous battle of "Gates Defeat" (now called the Battle of Camden) in which General Stephen Gates, facing British forces led by Lt General Lord Cornwallis; fled in terror from the battle field and reportedly rode directly home in record time, leaving his subordinate officers and troops to fend for themselves. This battle, which reportedly lasted only an hour or so, took place on August 16, 1780 about 6 miles north of Camden SC. Some weeks later after the battle James remained with the remnants of the defeated General Green took command of the Southern Army and James received his formal discharge from service.

from South Carolinians in the Revolution: with service Records
and Miscellaneous by Sara Sullivan Ervin
James Pool, sen {Sr.) private annual allowance \$ 40 Sums received \$
120
when placed on roll Feb. 20,
description of service Virginia 1833
commencement of pension same age 87
note- back calculation of this reference would give a birth year of 1746

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although I have not pieced it together, there seems to be a lot of interfamily connections that began in VA and continued to SC. Exactly how we connect to the Ragsdale's, Harris, Hudson group of families is not clear to me, but here is another example from Belva Cauthen:
James Harris/ Martha who witnessed this deed re mark Moore to Thomas Spain was a son also of our William Harris/ Judith Hudson and brother of my/ our William Harris, Sr./ Frances Goode.

mark Moore, along with our William Harris, Sr./ Frances Goode and his brother, Reuben Harris, were the executors of our William Harris/ Judith Hudson's 1778 Mecklenburg Co, VA will and-----

mark Moore married Rachel Ragsdale, daughter of Benjamin Ragsdale, and moved with his brother-in-law, peter Ragsdale/ Sarah Charlton, also to Laurens co, sc and their son, Elijah Ragsdale/ Mary Kennedy also moved to Paulding co, GA and, again, were still involved with my/ our Harris family there.

A Brief Bio of James Pool

James Pool was born in Brunswick VA in 1756 (two dates are given in the Rev War Pension records, but the 1756 is the more likely date). We know little of his early life, except that his education must have been very limited, he made his mark rather than signing documents.

The best available evidence is that James' father was Alexander Poole, Jr., from the line of Elizabeth City VA line of Poole Pool. This line are descended from a French Huguenot, David Poole, who immigrated in about 1620. We believe that Alexander Pool, III was his brother and it is likely that John Pool (shown by descendants as born in Edgefield County SC) was a close cousin (DNA of both lines is virtually identical).

Records from his father, Alexander Pool, Sr. in Brunswick VA indicate that his mother's given name was Susanna. We do not know her maiden name, but Ragsdale and Mitchell are speculative candidates.

After Alexander Pool, Sr. died intestate in Mecklenburg in c 1767, the Churchwardens sold Alexander Sr.'s property and "bound" Alexander's two sons each to a different Ragsdale man (James was bound to Benjamin, either Jr. or Sr.). We speculate, but do not know, that the Ragsdale's were relatives.

We know that James fought in the Revolutionary War as a private soldier. He principally fought on the VA MD line. It was also noted that he fought in the infamous battle in SC known as "Gates Defeat" in which the Revolutionary War General Gates was among the very first to flee the field. It is reported that Gates made it back to his plantation in VA in a record 60 hours. The Continental Congress considered trying him for cowardice.

James, called "Jacob" married Ursula Hudson in July of 1782. His father in law William Hudson gave Ursula and James land in SC and NC. According to the Rev. War Pension Records, he lived in SC for 48 years. This would mean that he and Ursula moved to SC in about 1791 (between 1784 and 1791)

Assuming the 1791 date correct, Rebecca, William Hudson, Sarah, and possibly Mary "Polly" Pool were all born in VA. The other children, Gabriel, Elizabeth (Betsy) Pool, John C Pool, and James B Pool, Jr. were all born in Laurens District SC

According to family lore, which is also repeated in the Traynham family (Rebecca Pool married William Traynham), James and Ursula became wealthy – giving each child a house and farm and about \$ 500 in cash (a considerable sum in those days when a widow's pension was about \$ 40 / year).

Also according to family oral tradition, the Pool family avoided the worst abuses of the slavery system. We were told that they were never called slaves but "servants" and were treated kindly and with respect (however, of course they were enslaved, and even under the best of circumstances,

this was a terrible way to live). This story of mutual respect has been told back to us from descendants of those slaves – several of whom carry the Pool name. Among acts of kindness not typical for that time was giving the servants materials and land on which to build a church. That church continues today in the same general location as the New Prospect Baptist Church near Princeton SC.

James and Ursula were buried in the nearby Traynham family cemetery. We believe it likely that they were cared for in old age by their daughter Rebecca Pool Traynham. (James Pool's tombstone has an error – it reads James J Pool, but all records confirm actual name was James B Pool, the middle "J" probably refers to his nickname "Jacob").

We know more about James Pool because of his will, and an extensive household inventory taken after he died. It is somewhat surprising that of the limited inventory of even a fairly wealthy family. Items included (random selection of items):

- 6 plows
- 10 Shovels
- 4 axes
- Various saws and other hand tools (chisels, joiners, etc)
- 1 churn
- 2 spinning wheels
- Grinding stones (indicating that there was some sort of mill on the farm)
- Various sheets, table cloths, pillows, slips, blankets, etc
- Various kitchen items like waffle iron, oven, etc
- Various building items like compass and square
- 1 barrel of cider
- 1 jug of brandy
- 1 jug of vinegar
- 1 clock
- Books was listed as a category, also a Bible and Hymnal
- Various horses, cows, pigs, and other livestock
- "negroes" were listed undistinguished from other types of property
 - (Included were Martha, Goliath, who were sold at James' death--- possibly house servants?)

This will also provides an indication of some commodity prices at the time. For example a 30 lb bag of cotton was valued @ 10 ¼ cents per pound or \$ 3.12 ½ A 40 lb bushel of wheat was valued at \$ 40.40

A listing of the names of the marked tombs in the Pool Family Cemetery is included in the references to this report.. In general, the information from the Pool family Bible (Pool, Traynham, Senn Family Bible), the 1944 Bolt transcriptions, and the transcriptions we did in 2010 are consistent. So that the names will not be lost, Edward Pool and I added granite markers to all of the graves in the Pool Family Cemetery in Princeton SC. Transcriptions were placed on the "auxiliary" grave markers

Additional notes:

Time line for James and Alexander Pool Time Line for Alexander Pool III and James Pool

wtp note on where Alexander Pool and brother James Pool lived

1. Best estimate for Alexander birth is 1750, James, in sworn testimony says he was born in Brunswick in 1756.. We know their father Alexander Pool was in Brunswick VA by 1751 so likely Alexander was born in Brunswick.
2. Father Alexander is shown in documents to be living in Brunswick between 1754 and 1762. Likely the actual time there went from 1750 through 1762. I speculate that Alexander may have moved there, married, and had two sons before his wife, Susanna, died.
3. Both boys were living in Mecklenburg in c 1767 when their father died.
4. Both boys continued to live in Mecklenburg until after they married. James in 1782 and Alexander in 1790.
5. By 1784 James had migrated to SC
6. By 1800 Alexander has migrated to NC.
7. Alexander died in Rutherford NC in 1820
8. James died in Princeton SC in 1839



from the US Gov't Records

Senior.

James Pool married July 11, 1782 in Mecklenburg County, Virginia, Ursula. She was born January 1, 1762, place not stated, nor are the names of her parents shown.

The soldier, James Pool, died July 29, 1839 in Laurens District, South Carolina. His widow, Ursula Pool, was allowed pension on her application executed February 22, 1845, then a resident of Laurens District, South Carolina.

The following family data are furnished you, as found in the claim:

Rebekah Pool	born April	22, 1783
O(illegible)	" January	16, 1785
William Pool	" February	21, 1787
Salley Pool	" March	9, 1789
Polley Pool	" June	23, 1791
Gabriel Pool	" November	9, 1793
Betsy Pool	" November	6, 1796
John Pool	" July	16, 1799
James Pool, Jr.	" March	15, 1804.

Very truly yours

A. D. MILLER
Assistant to Administrator

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