

Dear Robert - You doubtless read the
article to which I refer - - if he
(Mr. Daniels) writes anything else
about Squire William Pope please
let me know or send me a clipping -
I tried not to say anything I could
not prove - You probably had this
in mind when you told ^{me} on the phone
about "mix-ups" Best to you & love - Eleanor

Copy for Robert & Co.

P. O. Box 442
Tybee Island, Ga. 31328
October 3, 1981

Mr. Jonathan Daniels
SoJourneyer's Scrapbook
The Island Packet
Hilton Head Island, S.C.

Dear Mr. Daniels:

My friend, Ceil Edwards, sent me a few days ago a copy of an article written by you for the Island Packet- the date was not shown, but Ceil said it came out several weeks ago. I am sorry that I did not know of it sooner. The article, which was about William Pope (1788-1862), concludes with the following request:

"If he performed any good service, North or South, the Sojourner would like to know about it; as it is, he was just a man who owned land...."etc.

You may have already received the information you wanted, and another article may have been printed since the one to which I refer - but I would not know this as I do not subscribe to the Island Packet.. Therefore I will reply.

I am a great, great granddaughter of William Pope (1788-1862). He was always called "Squire Pope". I have spent about fifteen years researching my Pope and Green lines of Hilton Head, as well as other lines, and I perhaps have more information than anyone else on these lines. therefore I feel I should give you some of the information I have, showing that Squire William Pope was more than "just a man who owned land".

He is entitled to be remembered for what he was and did, rather than for the land he owned. He was a kind and gentle man and deeply religious and his good works were many.

An insight into his character which is told in family records and verified by Mr. Walter Hartridge, prominent Savannah historian, is as follows:

When the Civil War erupted some of the planters sold their slaves and invested the profits elsewhere. One of Pope's friends urged him to do likewise, but he refused, saying that to do so would separate families and that he had not the heart to do. Mr. Hartridge knew well a descendant of the friend mentioned, who confirmed the above information.

Eleanor K. Graham

see
"A"
attached

Squire Pope gave the land for the Chapel of the Cross near Bluffton, forerunner of the Church of the Cross. He was a Vestryman.

His son-in-law, the Rev. Alsop Park Vail Woodward, was Rector (1842-1853) and also served Zion Chapel of Ease on Hilton Head Island, and helped raise funds for the building of the Church of the Cross, Bluffton. The present Church of the Cross, Bluffton, was built on the May River, directly across the road from the summer home of Squire Pope, which home was destroyed during the war.

The Rev. A.P.V. Woodward married in February 1841, Elizabeth Catherine Pope, the daughter of Squire Pope and his 2nd wife, Sarah Lavinia Pope (nee Pope)

I am attaching a few xeroxed pages from the booklet entitled "Historical sermon of the Rt. Rev. Albert Sidney Thomas, LLD, DD, S.T.D., Retired Bishop of South Carolina."-- P.7 states:

"A lot was given by William Pope, Esq., and the building was erected...It was consecrated with the name Chapel of the Cross, by Bishop Gadsden, on July 28, 1842."

.....

see
"B"
attached

Squire Pope was a well educated man and keenly interested in education in his State. He and his friends John McNish and James Kirk founded the first MAY RIVER ACADEMY in Bluffton in 1822 and were the Trustees - long before the present May River Academy was thought of. I discovered this while doing research on Squire Pope, in 1966, at the Savannah Public Library. I sent a copy of the information I obtained to the May River Academy when I first heard of its being built. (I have forgotten the name of the person to whom I addressed my letter. They happily used the information I sent, but never bothered to acknowledge my letter.

I am attaching hereto a copy of the information referred to - giving the references and quoting from the newspapers.

The "Georgian", a Savannah newspaper of Dec. 28, 1829, had a long article about RICHLAND SCHOOL, for the "classical, scientific, and practical education", and the Hon. William J. Pope of Hilton Head is listed among "friends or patrons of the school" who permitted their names to be used for reference, along with the Hon. C.J. Colcock; Grimke, et al The school was at Rice Creek Springs between Camden and Columbia, S.C.

.....

He was prominent politically and served his State of South Carolina well, having served in the House of Representatives and also in the S.C. Senate - St. Lukes - and held numerous offices.

E.K. Strain

See
"C"
attached

I am attaching a xerox copy of two pages from the Directory of the Senate of South Carolina, sent to me by Dr. Chalmers Davidson when I was corresponding with him about Popes while he was writing his book "The Last Foray," a Sociological Study of the South Carolina Planters of 1860. In his book Dr. Davidson mentions -

"The fine library found in the Pope plantation house when Hilton Head was occupied in Nov. of 1861. There were, besides the books, complete files of old papers, some dating back as far as 1812" All destroyed.

All of the foregoing proves that Squire Pope did not win honor simply by being a large landowner, but that he gave of himself and his talents to many good causes and was justly honored and respected by all who knew him. Yet he lost everything and died at age 74 - of a broken heart it was said - in Sandersville, Ga. where he and his family had refueged.

There is some confusion in your article as to the location of Pope's COTTON HOPE PLANTATION.

It is true that he purchased Point Comfort from John Davant, and there was a house on the plantation, but Squire Pope did not "operate a plantation on Point Comfort called "Cotton Hope". Cotton Hope was his plantation up on Skuli Creek and a road called Pope Road leads to it shortly after you cross the bridge from the mainland. The tabby ruins of the fine old plantation home are doubtless still standing. My nephew and I went there in 1964, climbed over the fence, and took pictures from the inside. Only the tabby walls of the first floor remained and it was open to the sky and used as a retreat for cows. I have been there twice since and looked at it from outside the fence.

His main residence on the Island was COGGINS POINT FOR WHICH HE AND HIS FAMILY HAD A GREAT AFFECTION. They spent the summers at his home on May River, Bluffton, across the road from the Church of the Cross.. I have heard that the road behind the church was called Pope Road, but I am not sure of this.

Your article refers to " A Northern General John Pope" I know of no connection to my family.

Your article also states: "Little is known how he got his military title of Colonel" - referring to Squire Pope. Well, he did not, and I have never heard of his being called by that title. He never fought in any war, he was born in 1788 and died in 1862 at age 74. He was called Squire Pope.

EK Strain

His father, William Pope (1760-1823) was known as Capt. Pope. Records state that he was one of Marion's Men in the Revolution. He was only 16 years of age when it began, so I assume the title "Captain" was a courtesy title acquired when he was older.

about 1784/5

Capt. Pope married Sarah, the daughter of Samuel Green and his wife Sarah (Norton) Green (the widow of Thomas Tucker.) It was his first marriage, her second. Samuel Green was the owner of FISH HALL and COGGINS Plantations on Hilton Head Island, both of which were inherited by his daughter, Sarah who married Capt. William Pope about 1784/5.

Capt. Pope and his wife, Sarah (Norton) Green had two sons:

William Pope, b. 1788, d. 1862
and John Edward Pope, b. 1791, d. 1823.

I think that my friends, Ceil and Wayne Edwards did a superb job in duplicating Pope's Coggins Point home, which stands about where the old home stood, and I know it would please my ancestor could he know that the home which he and his family loved best of all has been re-created by these two fine people, who love it and its traditions.

I hope the information I am sending you will be of help in straightening out this bit of history. If you write another article following up your first one, I would appreciate it if you would send me a copy, and if you have any other questions and I can help you I will be glad to do so.

Sincerely,

Eleanor K. Strain
(Mrs. Milo B. Strain)

Attached:

Exhibit "A" - Church of the Cross
" " "B" - May River Academy
" " "C" - Directory of Senate
" " "D" - 1860 map of Hilton Head
" " "E" - Article Bricks at Inn
and re Pt. Comfort.

✓ Cy: to Rev. Dr. Robt. Peeples & Mrs. Cora Peeples

Cy. to- Mrs. Ceil Edwards