

William “The Taylor” Poole Biography

William Poole was born, most likely, in England on 22 June 1739 and died 13 October 1816. He was buried on property north of [Lawson’s Fork Creek](#), Spartanburg County, South Carolina in the “grave yard” mentioned in a deed recorded 3 June 1836, Spartanburg Deed Book W, pages 4-6. William was called "Taylor" because he was a tailor by trade. This identifying name was used in county records to tell him apart from William Poole, "Iron Master", who recorded land in local deeds during the same decades.

In 1785 South Carolina lawmakers created 5 new counties out of the backcountry district Ninty-Six. One of these counties was Spartan, later known as Spartanburgh/Spartanburg. Once county officials were appointed, court services began on the third Monday in June, 1785. This first court meeting convened at a mill on Tyger River. A permanent courthouse location was not selected until 1787. William Poole was a member of the first jury. Spartanburg County court records name William Poole (tailor) as a juror in a number of early court sessions from 1785 to 1795.

William Poole owned a large amount of land on both sides of the [Pacolet River](#). While his home was in a rural location, it was not isolated. Mills’ Atlas, 1825, Spartanburg District, South Carolina shows an area called Pacolet Mineral Springs just north of the Poole home, where wife Elizabeth Poole still lived in 1825. Pacolet Mineral Springs was a stagecoach stop in 1790, according to old stagecoach time tables. The property on which William Poole’s home stood contained springs that were referred to in some

deeds as “healing springs”. His home was a block house built for defense, a common style of eighteenth century construction in remote areas. A picture of William Poole’s house is on page 271 of *Stovall Connections* by Rolo P. Stovall. Today, Poole’s Spring Road lies where Pacolet Mineral Springs was marked on the 1825 Mills’ Atlas. This land, which included not only William Poole’s home but also son Benjamin Poole’s property, later became known as Poole’s Bend. (See map of [location of Poole’s Bend](#).) The designation describes the curve that the [Pacolet River](#) takes north of its confluence with [Lawson’s Fork Creek](#). Existing cement footings that once supported an old road crossing Lawson’s Fork Creek are marked “Poole’s Bend.”

William Poole married Elizabeth Stovall (daughter of John Bartholomew Stovall and Dorcas) on 15 Dec 1760 in Granville County, North Carolina. Elizabeth Stovall was born on 10 Feb 1739 in Goochland County, Virginia. She died about 1827 in Spartanburg County, South Carolina and was buried there, most likely next to her husband.

Their children were: James Poole Sr., Mary Ann Poole, George Poole, Stovall Poole, Judith Poole, Elizabeth Poole, William Abijah Poole, Dorcus Abigail Poole, Morgan Poole, John Poole, Sarah Poole, Susan Poole, and Benjamin Poole.

The Family of Bartholomew Stovall (Eight Generations of Stovalls in England and America) by Neil D. Thompson (published by The Stovall Family Association in 1993) states on page 123 that William Poole's parents

are unknown. It is possible that William Poole first came to the colonies in about 1754 as a young apprentice or indentured servant.

William Poole received a grant of 354 acres in North Carolina from Lord Granville on 22 July 1761. The land granted was in Johnson County, on the Neuse River, and included “Pools improvement.” Originally surveyed 8 December 1760, record of the grant is in Granville District Patent Book 14, No. 3295, page 241.

Early North Carolina state records include a document containing the names of men who made an oath of allegiance to the American cause at the time of the Revolution. Among the names on this list are William Poole, Thomas Stovall (Elizabeth’s father), John Stovall (Elizabeth’s brother), and other Stovall family members.

On 12 October 1772, William Poole received a plat of 250 acres on Beaverdam Creek, waters of Fairforest, Craven County. The land was actually in Ninty-Six District. A grant was issued for the property 9 September, 1774. The South Carolina Department of Archives and History, Columbia, South Carolina maintains the Colonial Plat, Grant, and Memorial records for the state. Sale of the 250 acres, 26 December 1778, is recorded in Union County Deed Book C, pages 144-145.

Spartanburg County Deed Book A, page 220, records William Poole’s purchase, from Laurens Reddy, of 150 acres north of the [Pacolet River](#) on 5 December 1786. Included in the purchase was an area along the [Pacolet](#) called “[Troft Shoals and portions of an old mill seat](#)”. Since he served as

a Spartanburg County juror in 1785, William Poole and family must have been living in the area by that date. William Poole was granted a state plat of 777 acres on the north side of the “[Pacolet River](#) and branches of Thickety Creek, Spartanburg County” on 25 September 1801. He generously gave several of his children portions of this land “for love and affection.” This limestone upland between the [Pacolet](#) and Broad Rivers was also where future in-law families, including the Pettits and Lipscombs, lived.

[Goucher Baptist Church](#) is located along Goucher Creek, north-east of William Poole’s 777 acres on the [Pacolet River](#) and “branches of Thickety Creek”. The [Goucher community](#) is one of Spartanburg County’s earliest settlement areas. Occupation of this area began prior to the Revolution. (Goucher was the location of [Fort Thicketty](#), the scene of a skirmish in the Revolutionary War.) Today, Goucher Creek and Thickety Creek are in Cherokee County. Until 1897, the land along these creeks was part of Spartanburg County. Existing minutes for [Goucher Baptist Church](#), dating from 1795 to 1800, refer to William Poole as a church clerk and later a church elder. First members of the church included the Pettit, the Mathis, and the Brown families, whose children married Poole siblings. The minute record dated 1816-1819 documents William Poole’s death date.

Sources:

Colonial and State records for William Poole in North and South Carolina.

<http://pacoletmemories.com/churches.html>

Ivey, Miriam. *Upon This Rock, The History of Goucher Baptist Church 1770-2010*. Gaffney, SC: Goucher Baptist Church, 2010.

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Stovall, Rollo P. *Stovall Connections*. Decorah, Iowa: The Anundsen Publishing Co., 1986.

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