

**Evidence for Pt. Pleasant Service.** In Email # 10, I identified 20 companies known to have been at the Battle of Point Pleasant. How is service in one of these companies to be proven? In some rare cases, there is direct evidence. A man, especially an officer, may have been identified in an eyewitness account as killed or wounded, or he may have petitioned Virginia for a stipend for having been wounded. A few applied for a federal pension, which was denied. I am now in the process of reviewing indirect evidence, and those of you who wish to contribute to the analysis are welcome to do so.

First, there are 8 muster rolls published by Thwaites and Kellogg in *Documentary History of Dunmore's War* for companies known to have been at the battle, all in Fleming's Boutetourt regiment. Three of these rolls were dated 10 September 1774, when regiment was at Camp Union prior to marching on to the Elk and then Point Pleasant. These rolls certainly provide strong evidence that the men on the rolls were at Point Pleasant one month later. Thwaites and Kellogg state that from the context, they judge the rolls of the other Botetourt companies also to be for 10 September as well. Their judgment on this matter is entitled to credit.

Second, a pay ledger at the Library of Virginia records the disbursements to 18 of the 20 companies, but dates of service are not provided for any. In the Library of Virginia on-line catalogue, click on Dunmore's War under the Images & Indexes tab or go to:

[http://lva1.hosted.exlibrisgroup.com/F/RU9S7Y35CXDM8JH2YSF9UQ887HS3E9TYLAD8M94DVFHLDVDMCP-43624?func=file&file\\_name=find-b-clas36&local\\_base=CLAS36](http://lva1.hosted.exlibrisgroup.com/F/RU9S7Y35CXDM8JH2YSF9UQ887HS3E9TYLAD8M94DVFHLDVDMCP-43624?func=file&file_name=find-b-clas36&local_base=CLAS36)

For several companies there are two or three payrolls, some for short tours of duty that were not of sufficient duration for men to march to Pt. Pleasant, complete their service, and return home. Most of the army marched in the middle or latter part of August and was marching home in November. I believe that pay for the long tours of duty for the 18 companies that were at the battle do indeed provide evidence that the soldier was at the battle.

Overall, documentation for the 20 companies known to be at the Battle of Point Pleasant, with page numbers referring to Thwaites and Kellogg, is:

Botetourt Regiment (with additional companies assigned), Col. William Fleming  
Capt. Philip Love (10 Sept. 1774 roll, p. 407; ledger)1, 2, 3, 4  
Capt. Thomas Buford (undated roll, p. 409; ledger)1, 2, 3, 4 (from Bedford County)  
Capt. Matthew Arbuckle (ledger)1, 2, 4  
Capt. John Lewis (10 Sept. 1774 roll, pp. 408-409; ledger)1, 2, 3, 4  
Capt. John Murray (10 Sept. 1774 roll, p. 406; ledger)1, 2, 3, 4  
Capt. John Stewart (undated roll, p. 410; ledger)1, 2, 4  
Capt. Robert McClanahan (undated roll, pp. 410-411; ledger)1, 2, 4  
Capt. Henry Pauling (undated roll, p. 411; ledger) 1, 2, 4  
Capt. William Russell1, 2, 3, 4 (ledger) (from Fincastle)  
Col. John Field1, 2, 4 (from Culpeper; Field commanded the one Culpeper company)  
Capt. Evan Shelby (undated roll, p. 412; ledger)1, 2, 3, 4 (from Fincastle)  
Capt. James Ward3, 4 (Ward was killed in action. Only 9 men were in the company on a return dated 27 Sep. 1774, which probably explains why Ward's command is not listed as a company on the returns of 7 and 9 Oct.)  
Augusta Regiment, Col. Charles Lewis  
Capt. John Dickenson (ledger)3, 4  
Capt. Benjamin Harrison (ledger)3, 4  
Capt. John Skidmore (ledger)3, 4  
Capt. George Matthews (ledger)3, 4  
Capt. Samuel McDowell (ledger)3, 4  
Capt. Samuel Willson (ledger)3, 4  
Capt. Andrew Lockridge (ledger)4  
Capt. Alexander McClanahan3 (ledger)

Sources placing the company at the Battle of Point Pleasant (all in Thwaites and Kellogg):

1. Return of 7 October 1774, Col. William Fleming's Regt.
2. Return of 9 October 1774, Col. William Fleming's Regt.
3. Col. Fleming's Orderly Book, entry for 10 Oct. 1774.
4. Letter from Lt. Isaac Shelby to John Shelby, 16 Oct. 1774.

Poffenbarger presents her list in *The Battle of Point Pleasant* as "the names, yet preserved, of the men who participated in the Battle of Point Pleasant...." (p. 20). Muster rolls that had been published previously by Thwaites and Kellogg establish that many of the men listed by Poffenbarger were in companies guarding the frontier and not close to Point Pleasant. For example, men under Capt. Daniel Smith who are listed by Poffenbarger were in fact stationed at Elk Garden Fort, Glade Hollow Fort, Maiden Spring Station, and Upper Station (Thwaites and Kellogg, pp. 401-404). Furthermore, some on Poffenbarger's list were noted as "went away without leave" (George Dougherty, Michael Graves, Isaiah Hambleton, among others). Capt. Robert Doack, whom Poffenbarger lists as a participant in the battle, was reported as deceased in a letter from Col. William Preston to Major Arthur Campbell dated 13 August 1774 (p. 145) and his company was guarding the frontier, not on the expedition to Point Pleasant. Poffenbarger's compilation is not of names of men who participated in the battle, but a broader list.

If an SAR or DAR application is cited for evidence of service and relies on this book, I have asked staff to request that the service (except for the well-known field officers) be validated against one of the eight rolls cited above or the pay ledger.