

December 28, 1963

Dudley Pope, Esq.,  
Porto Santo Stefano,  
Grosseto, Italy.

Dear Mr. Pope,

I have just finished your splendid account of HMS Hermione, "The Black Ship", and want to tell you how much I have enjoyed it.

I notice that on page 91 you mention that one of the Hermione's company before the mutiny was a Nova Scotian. I wonder if this was Boatswain Thomas Harrington.

I have done much research here on the activities of Nova Scotia privateers operating in the Caribbean in the period 1798-1805. Seven came from this small port where I live, and amongst the men who took them south and back again were at least three named Harrington.

For example Ebenezer Harrington was Gunner, and Ludovick Harrington was a lieutenant and prize-master in the brig "Rover", which had a remarkable adventure off Puerto Cabello in September 1800. (There is an account of it in The Naval Chronicle, Vol.5, page 176.)

In poking about amongst the old records here I noticed the name of Thomas Harrington, and the fact that he was pressed out of a Nova Scotia ship by HMS Unite (date not given) and spent several years in the naval service before his return to Liverpool, N.S. He was born about ~~1770~~ 1770, and died here in 1840. He was a capable and active man, but somewhat unruly, especially when in drink, and he seems to have spent the latter part of his life as a carpenter in shipyards here.

You mention that Boatswain Thomas Harrington of "Hermione" went on to a post as second master of the "Thunderer" 74, and after that he vanishes from the record.

Was he the Nova Scotian mentioned on page 91? If so, have you any further note of his career?

With apologies for this intrusion on your time and patience,

Yours sincerely,

21st January 1964.

Yacht Golden Dragon, ~~Poste Restante~~  
c/o Mr. W.A. Fowler,  
128, Bridge Road,  
Oulton Broad,  
Suffolk.

Thomas Raddall Esq.,  
Liverpool,  
Nova Scotia.

Dear Mr Raddall,

Many apologies for the delay in replying to your letter of December 28, but we returned to England in November, and your letter has only just been forwarded to me.

I was glad to hear that you enjoyed The Black Ship. I have just been going through my notes and am afraid that I am not going to be able to help you very much over Boatswain Thomas Harrington.

First of all, I will give you the information I have, which is taken from the Hermione muster list for 7th April 1797 - 7th July 1797 (Public Record Office, Adm. 36/12011). This simply records that on 11th October 1796 Thomas Harrington, Boatswain, was first mentioned in the muster list. In the final column, which records the departure of the person from the ship, it simply says "Broke by order of court martial 17 June 1797".

However, when Harrington was court martialled on 17 June 1797 he produced at the trial a certificate of good behaviour "from Captain Watkinson, late captain of the Hermione from September 1796 to February 1797 of his good behaviour."

From that, the wording is not quite clear whether Watkinson was captain for that period or whether Harrington was on board for the period. I think probably the latter because the entry in the muster book dated October 11 could have been made several days after Harrington actually joined the ship.

The reference to him being the second master of the Thunderer came in one of the court martial, later on, of one of the mutineers, when it merely said that Harrington was the Thunderer's second master.

However, I shall be visiting the Public Record Office in London within the next two or three months, and I will look up the muster book of the Thunderer to see where he went from there. It may prove possible, working from muster book to muster book, to find out where and when he left the Navy, and that would give us a clue to the possibility of him being one of your Harringtons.

Because he was a warrant officer, and therefore appointed to the ship by warrant, the muster book does not say what ship he came from. This was, of course, <sup>usual</sup> practice and makes it so difficult to trace the careers of commission and warrant officers.

Harrington was not the Nova Scotian I mentioned on page 91. This man was Benjamin Mansfield, an able seaman, who is first mentioned in the Hermione's muster book as having joined the ship on 19th November 1796, and paid a bounty of £5, and being rated an A.B. In the "where from" column, there is simply written "Nova Scotia".

Incidentally the next entry, for November 21, was of William Marsh, an Ordinary Seaman, and in the "where from" column says "Leviathan". This indicates that both men must have joined while the ship was in the West Indies.

There is one man who might have been a Nova Scotian, though I was not certain. This is Andrew McDonald, the Master at Arms. Incidentally I referred to him on page 94 as "Archibald" McDonald, although Andrew is the correct christian name and the one given in the index. The actual entry in the muster book says that he joined the ship on 10th February 1797 as Master at Arms, and in the "where from" column it simply says "Halifax, America". I should think this should have been Halifax, Nova Scotia, but it seemed an odd mistake for a Nova Scotian to make, although of course the purser or captain's clerk entering the name in the muster list might well have added "America" to McDonald's simple reference to Halifax, detecting he had an "American" accent.

Incidentally, Benjamin Mansfield is not marked down as having been discharged in the muster ending 7th July 1797, which is the last one to have survived, so one presumes he was still on board at the time of the mutiny. He certainly played no active role in the mutiny, since he was never mentioned by any of the mutineers or loyal men.

Incidentally, I would be interested to hear from you if you ever come across a mention of the Pope family in Nova Scotia. I do not have the family tree and notes here on board, but from memory my great grandfather John Pope went to Bedeque, Nova Scotia, in about 1800 and set up a business as shipbuilder, shipowner and owner of a general store. He was joined later by two of his brothers, George and Thomas. <sup>They</sup> There were very devout Wesleyans and it was there my grandfather George Uglow Pope was born. His father John Pope returned to Plymouth, England and continued in business as a shipowner. His brothers remained in Nova Scotia and eventually ended up in Prince Edward Island where one of their sons was the Joseph Pope, one of the Fathers of Federation and Prime Minister of Prince Edward Island. It was from that side of the family that my Uncle, Sir Joseph Pope, who died a few years ago, after being a Minister in the Canadian Government, was descended, and his son is Lt. General Maurice Pope, whose

Feb. 9, 1964

Dudley Pope Esq.,  
c/o Mr. W.A. Fowler,  
128 Bridge Road,  
Culton Broad, Suffolk.

Dear Mr. Pope,

It was very good of you to write regarding Boatswain Thomas Harrington of "Hermione" and "Thunderer". Please don't go to a lot of trouble, but if you find out something of his origin or final discharge I'll be most interested.

I'm about a hundred miles by road from the Public Archives at Halifax, and travel is uncertain at this wintry time of year; however I may be there in the latter part of March and will make enquiries about ships built by John Pope. There is a village called Baddeck on Cape Breton Island in Nova Scotia, and another called Bedeque in Prince Edward Island. Both names have a common origin in a Micmac Indian word meaning "a sultry place", and they are often confused one with another.

Meanwhile I note this in an article in the Atlantic Advocate:-

"William Henry Pope, the eldest son of Hon. Joseph Pope, was born at Bedeque (P.E.I.) May 29 1825. His father, being a man of considerable means, sent the boy to England to be educated, arranged for him to read law in the office of the rising Edward Palmer in Charlottetown, and finally sent him to complete his studies at the Inner Temple, London, in 1847. In 1851 W.H. Pope married Helen, a grand-daughter of the Rev. Theophilus DesBrisay, who had come to Charlottetown in 1775 as rector, and had been a temporary captive of the American Privateers who raided the town. The Popes had eight children. Joseph, the eldest, entered politics and became Under-Secretary of State for Canada.

It was in the field of journalism that Mr. Pope made his greatest contribution, and as editor of "The Islander" he wrote vigorously on important questions of his day. In association with his brother James C. Pope he was a leading shipbuilder of the colony. In 1873 he was appointed Judge of the Prince County Court, which office he held until his death in Summerside P.E.I. October 7, 1879. He was buried in St. Eleanor's cemetery, where a large stone stands to his memory."

Sincerely,

DUDLEY POPE

9th March 1964.

Yacht Golden Dragon, ~~Poste Restante~~  
c/o Mr. W.A. Fowler,  
128, Bridge Road,  
Oulton Broad,  
Suffolk.

Thomas H. Raddall Esq.,  
Liverpool,  
Nova Scotia.

Dear Mr Raddall,

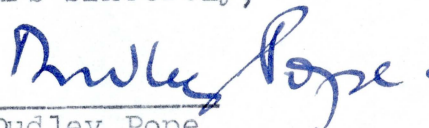
It was very kind of you to send me a note on William Henry Pope. He is an ancestor of Lt. General Maurice Pope and his father, Sir Joseph Pope. I have delayed replying because I wanted to get some family papers from my mother's house. Apparently my great grandfather, John Pope, and two brothers, went to Bedeque, P.E.I., at the end of the Napoleonic War and set up business as ship builders and merchants. By 1818 one of the brothers, Joseph, was a member of the House of Assembly.

My great grandfather was a staunch Wesleyan and in 1820 was sent to Shelbourn Bay and six years later ~~was sent~~ to the West Indies, and finally returned to England (where he settled down in Plymouth as a ship builder, served on the town council and became Chairman of the Board of Guardians). His two brothers stayed in Canada and from them descend the Canadian branch of the family.

I shall be going to London very shortly and will have a go at finding out something about Boatswain Harrington, and if I have any success, I will write to you again.

In the meantime, thank you very much for your notes on  
William Pope.

Yours sincerely,

  
Dudley Pope.