

Here is my 'slightly comical' version of the Town's history that was deleted from Chapter 1. The history was meant as a allegory for the plot of the book- that nothing was as it appeared in Pope's Mills.

As Sam left the restaurant he walked towards the bronze statue in the middle of the square of Pope's Mills. Thaddeus Pope is the original owner of the parcel of land in which the Town is situated. Pope is dressed as a Confederate infantryman holding a rifle in one hand and the other hand outstretched in the air. As a prank someone had put a bourbon bottle in the empty hand of the statue. His father taught him to respect history, and Sam found himself going over to the statue to remove the bottle. The statue, erected as part of the centennial celebration of the Town in 1965, is a fixture that people usually ignore. Sam always found it remarkable that Pope's Mills can trace its origin to the Civil War, even though the nearest battle was fought over two hundred miles to the east at Perryville. Kentucky was neutral during the Civil War, but certain areas of the state had more confederate influence than other parts, and it is not out of place to see a tribute to a confederate soldier.

The official history of the Town, written in the pamphlets in the municipal building, states that Pope was a confederate soldier originally from Tennessee, coming from one of the more prosperous families in Nashville. Thad served valiantly under the command of General Bragg at Perryville, Kentucky and while repelling a union attack Pope was wounded in the leg and honorably discharged from the Army. Pope was traveling back to his home state when he camped by the Kendall River one evening. Attracted by the scenic beauty of the river, Thad

decided to set up camp for a year hunting and trapping. During Reconstruction, Pope was able to acquire a thousand-acre tract of land. The land was very fertile and was leased to newly freed slaves. Pope made most of his fortune constructing a small dam and building a grain mill which hired the slaves. The mill served the needs of the area but was destroyed by flooding in 1892. It was rebuilt, but was destined to fail in the 1920's as a result of competition from the larger milling operation in the adjacent town of Blencove.

Sam went to high school with many descendants of Pope and the oral history of Pope's Mills is more interesting than the written history. Thaddeus Pope was born to a family of wealthy fabric merchants, not from Tennessee, but from Columbus, Ohio. A slow student, Thad did not excel at schoolwork, and was left out of the family business. Pope saw a book on Schooners and left home to pursue his fortune in the seaport of Richmond. After Pope set out on his journey the Civil War broke out. Pope never considered the logistics of the trip that he would be traveling through West Virginia, which was then a confederate state. On his trip he met a traveling companion from Tennessee who told him about family life in the south. Pope was quite an actor and found that he could easily imitate his companion's accent. On a path to the east of Charlestown, Pope used his acting ability to save his life when he met up with a battalion of Confederate troops. It was a choice of being shot as spy or becoming a southerner from Tennessee and being conscripted into the Confederate Army. Pope took the choice that did not involve getting shot.

Army life with the discipline it entailed did not agree with Thad. He took opportunities when they presented themselves to be a good scavenger of supplies, which included corn and

sugar. Thad had some entrepreneurial skills and started brewing sour mash bourbon for various troops of the regiment. On the eve of the battle of Perryville, Pope was fairly intoxicated and shot himself in the leg with his own rifle. It was quite a surprise when he awoke in a military hospital the next day with one his legs amputated below his knee. With any ambitions of working on a schooner gone, Pope started to walk back to Ohio, but only was physically able to make it to the Kendall River. After the war there were great sympathies towards the confederacy in Kentucky. During his time in Kentucky Pope got to be friendly with the local politicians presenting himself to the land board as a confederate veteran who had served honorably in the war. Actually many land records were destroyed during the war making it much easier for Pope to get a deal in which he was sold the parcels at a percentage of their original value in return for crops to be given at no cost to some members of the board. Knowing that he needed people to work the fields, Thad became friendly with newly freed slaves. Thad used his education to convince the slaves that they were being given their own homes when in reality they were living on a meager income in shacks that they rented from him. Pope became entrenched in Kentucky society becoming a successful businessman marrying a daughter of a politician and having four children. The marriage was a front to give the appearance of propriety when Thad never believed in monogamous relationships. Pope had several extramarital affairs with slaves, fathering ten children out of his marriage. Part of Pope's legacy was his long curly hair that was not shown on the statue but could be seen in the many of the black descendants. Sam would see many of these people working the machinery of the paper factory.

About one year ago the statue developed a crack in the lower half of the leg. There was concern from many people that the statue would loose the lower part of its leg, and the Town Commissioners commissioned a sculptor to have it repaired. It particularly galled Sam that the commissioners would spend five thousand dollars on a bronze statue, but were going to terminate after school sports programs for lack of funding. It was the one of the few times Sam lost his temper in public. At a town meeting he yelled at the commissioners for trying to maintain appearances at the expense of the children in the Town. Sam drew laughter from the crowd at the meeting when he observed that Pope was an amputee and loosing part of its leg would make the statue 'historically accurate'. The commissioners reinstated the after school programs, making up the difference by cutting the funding from the Sheriff's office budget.

Sam stood by the foot of the statue looking at the bottle of bourbon wondering if it was similar to anything that Pope would have brewed. Placing the bottle back in the open hand, Sam trod back to the police car to start his rounds.