

Glossary of Terms

8/22/01

At the request of those attending the Summer 2001 Workshop, the following was prepared to provide all with definitions of terms frequently used in historical references to the Popham Colony and on Hunt's Map of that colony. It is not a comprehensive glossary of all terms that might be found when researching developments in the early 17th century, however, it can be expanded as users request.

GLOSSARY

Admiral: 1. The Admiral was second in command to the President at both Jamestown (Bartholomew Gosnold) and Popham (Raleigh Gilbert), with primary responsibility for exploration and trade on both land and sea. 2. The commanding and, typically, the largest ship in a convoy of two or more vessels was referred to as the Admiral, the second in command, the Vice Admiral, and third, the Rear Admiral.

Buttery: This is a building or rooms in which liquors, wines, beer, ale, cider, etc. were kept safe from pilferage.(1) On the Hunt Plan, it was located next to the Corporal's House.

Cape Merchant: Elected by the Colony Council, this individual, also called a Treasurer, was in charge of the care and distribution of all goods entering or leaving the colony site. He was to be elected each year, and, unlike the President, could be re-elected. (2) We don't know who Popham's Cape Merchant was.

Captain (at sea): His charge is to command all, and tell the Master where to head. He has full command in a sea battle. (3) George Popham and Raleigh Gilbert both served as Captains on the voyage to Sagadahoc, while Robert Davies and John Elliott served as Captains on the Mary & John and Gift of God when they returned to England.

Captain of the Fort: The officer in charge of manning and defending the fort, especially Fort St. George's heavily armed and elevated "Citadel" overlooking the river entrance. James Davies held this

position at Popham, and would later assume similar, but greater, responsibilities at Jamestown.(4)

Chaplain: The Church of England played a vital part in the lives of the colonists, as directed by their charter, and also as part of their instructions charging them to introduce and convert the Maine Indians to Christianity. (5) Although not yet ordained, Richard Seymour was Chaplain and religious leader of the colony.

Clerks: Two individuals, unnamed, charged, respectively, with keeping the books of account for all goods and material (1) entering and (2) leaving the colony. So far, no Popham records have come to light. The Clerks were elected by the President and Council to five year terms, and could be re-elected. (6)

Cooper: The artisan responsible for assembling, repairing, and disassembling barrels. While on the way to Sagadahoc Lancelot Booker was hired as a cooper off a passing vessel, but returned to England on the Gift of God in December, 1607. (7)

Corporal: "The Corporal is to see the setting and relieving the watch [guard], and see all the soldiers and sailors keep their arms clean, neat and ---- and teach them their use." (8) Hunt's plan shows a Corporals House, but we don't know who he was.

Draftsman/Surveyor: John Hunt provided a "draught of St. Georges fort," but he probably had the advanced skills of a surveyor as well. The "birds-eye" three-dimensional picture-picture drawn to scale was common in that period.

Marshall: "The Marshall (Ellis Best) is to punish offenders, and to see justice executed according to directions." (9) The Provost's House on Hunt's plan may well have provided housing for Mr. Best and cells for offenders as well.

Master (at Sea): The Master is responsible to the Captain, but has the duty of running his ship properly. Even very small ships of this period normally carried a Captain and Master. John Havercome and Christopher Fortescue are listed as ship Masters.

Master of Ordinance: An individual (Edward Harlow) in charge of all ordinance and related supplies. At Popham this would include from

nine to twelve cannon of various sizes, the crews to man them, and maintenance of a separate building (Hunt's Munition House) storing their gunpowder. Harlow probably lived in Hunt's Munition Masters House.

Master's Mate (at Sea): He commands all sailors for steering, trimming and sailing the ship. (10) Peter Grisling is listed as the Master's Mate of the returning Gift of God.

Meridi (Hunt's Plan): Latin meaning midday, noon, SOUTH.

Occidental (Hunt's Plan): Latin meaning quarter of the setting sun, WEST.

Oriental (Hunt's Plan): Latin meaning daybreak, dawn, orient, EAST.

Pars (Hunt's Plan): Latin meaning direction, or side.

Physician: "The Chirurgion...[must] attend to the sick and cure the wounded...also that his chest be well furnished both for Physicke [medications]and Chirurgery..." (11) Master Turner tended to the sick and hurt individuals until he boarded the Mary & John to return to England for more supplies in early October. We do not know if he returned later.

President: This individual, George Popham, was chosen by the King's Council of Virginia to have the over-all on-site responsibility for the organization and management of Virginia's Northern Colony. He was guided in this effort by an on-site thirteen man council who were empowered to remove him from office by a majority vote, if they so chose. The President's term of office was for one year, beginning when the colony's charter and list of officers was read upon the site selected for their fort. Surprisingly, the incumbent President could not be re-elected. (12)

Quartermaster (at Sea): A petty officer in charge of the hold for storing, coiling cable and trimming the ship.(13)

Searcher: This man was in charge of looking for and mining the valuable minerals and ore they were so certain of finding. Gold and silver was at the top of the list, followed by copper. The king was to receive 20% of the gold and silver, and 15% of the copper. (14)

Popham's Searcher was Gome (sometimes Gawen) Carew (sometimes Carey).

Secretary: There is no description of duties for this position, but we can assume that he kept the records of the Colony's Council. Richard Seymour, their Chaplain, probably held this position, but, thanks to a questionable listing by Captain John Smith and coincidental phonetics, a Robert Seaman has found his way into the record.

Septentriones (Hunt's Plan): Latin for Great Bear, little bear, northern regions, NORTH.

Sergeant-Major: This appointment would be the highest ranking military person of "non-gentle" social status, who would directly assist either the President or the Admiral. Robert Davies, to whom the invaluable journal "Relation of a Voyage unto New England" is attributed, held this position at Popham.

Shipwright: A man became a shipwright after what was often a long apprenticeship learning how to build ships. Training included time at sea, and, in the case of some particularly capable men, the opportunity to work building ships in other countries. The Popham Colony's Digby of London, trained in the traditions of the Thames, would probably have found their small ship, the "pretty Pinnacle" Virginia, relatively easy to build.

Glossary Footnotes

1. Stein, Jess, Ed. in Chief The Random House Dictionary of the English Language. New York 1966
2. Brown, Alexander. The Genesis of the United States; Houghton-Mifflin, 1890 p.71-72
3. Barbour, Philip L. The Complete Works of Captain John Smith. U. of N. Carolina, 1986. From "A Sea Grammar" Vol. 3 p.82
4. Bradford, John "The Pinnacle Virginia in Context" Paper prepared for Maine's First Ship, 1999 p.5

5. Brown, A. Op.Cit. p.53 & p.74
6. Brown, A. Ibid. p.72
7. Banks, Charles E. "New Documents Relating to the Popham Expedition, 1607" Article in vol. 39 Part 2, Proceedings of the American Antiquarian Society, October 16, 1929. p 320
8. Barbour, P.L. Op.Cit. Vol. 3 p.83
9. Barbour, P.L. Ibid. Vol. 3 p. 83.
10. Barbour, P.L. Ibid. Vol. 3 p.82
11. Barbour, P.L. Ibid. Vol. 3 pp 82–83
12. Brown, A. Op Cit. p. 67
13. Kemp, Peter Editor. The Oxford Companion to Ships and the Sea. New York, 1988. p.679
14. Brown, A. Op.Cit. p.58