

POLLEY POINTERS

A periodic newsletter dedicated to the furtherance of genealogical research on the surnames Polley, Polly, Polleys, Poley, Pauley, Pauly, Pawley, Pelley, Pooley, etc.

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Editorial

As we wind up the summer of 1995, I hope everyone had good vacations and managed to get in some good research time along the way. The Randts didn't go too far this year as we're saving it for a big winter vacation.

In this issue we begin a new feature, The Book Nook. We struck an agreement with a local genealogical publisher, Heritage Books, Inc. of Bowie, MD. We will regularly review new publications and in turn **POLLEY POINTERS** will be indexed in the Genealogical Periodical Annual Index (GPAI). We will select titles that may have interest among our readers but cannot guarantee that any Polley specific material is contained in any particular book.

Note also that with this issue we discontinue the table of active subscribers to gain additional space. All pertinent information about new subscribers will be contained in the Welcome Aboard entries. The full table will be reprinted in the June '96 edition. Any subscriber needing a current table may obtain one for an SASE.

In coming issues, we'd like to undertake a systematic look at some of the smaller Polley clans that don't seem to tie into the main ones that we all know about. Please contact me if you'd like to have your family featured in the next issue. Remember, if you don't provide yours, you'll hear about mine!

There is no Polley Profile this issue because everyone is apparently too bashful to come forth and tell us about themselves. I don't need multi-chapter autobiographies. A 400-500 word sketch about yourself, your interests, how you got into genealogy and where you hope to go with it are all we need. Think about it. You're working your family history, hopefully starting with yourself, going backward in time, one generation at a time, from the known to the unknown, just like the experts tell us it ought to be done. If you're doing it right, you should have already written enough about yourself to qualify for Polley Profile. So there, gotcha! Either there's plenty of Polley profiles out there or shame on a bunch of people who aren't doing their genealogies *by the book*.

Dick Randt

Polley Tools

Quite often in **POLLEY POINTERS** we use a shorthand notation to designate a person's Polley ancestral line such as: George¹, Samuel², Samuel³, John⁴, Joseph⁵, John⁶, Hiram⁷, Frances M.⁸. This may confuse some folks who are new to this game that we play. It's always nice to know the rules if you're going to play or simply observe the game as a spectator. So we'll take a minute to clarify this notation.

The numbers are simply an indication of the generations represented by the named persons and help to indicate the sequence in time in which they were born. In the example above, George is the earliest known direct ancestor. Among his children was a Samuel, shown as Samuel². Among the children of Samuel² is a son also named Samuel. Since he is three generations after George¹, this Samuel is labeled as Samuel³, and so on. The next ancestor in this particular direct line is John⁴. Of course, it is presumed that all the male ancestors have the same surname. In this case we are speaking of Polley of course.

Once the line gets to a female ancestor there are several ways to handle the situation. One way is to simply stop the line as we have done above with Frances M.⁸. Otherwise you would have to include all surnames, and that gets complicated. A notation intended to be a simplification would border on becoming an ahnentafel [a subject for a future Polley Tools feature].

The numbers are relative [no pun] and have no absolute meaning. If someone were to discover the father of George¹ he would simply become George² and everyone else in the line would also add one to their number. The newly discovered ancestor would be placed at the head of the list and receive the number one designation.

A shorthand way of enumerating the direct male ancestors of a single surname with the progenitor named first, that's what our notation is. It is not known if such notation has a name of its own. If anyone knows please let us know so we can share it with every one.

Sometimes a simple explanation isn't so simple! We hope this helps. rcr

Polley Periphery

With this issue we conclude the saga of John Herschel Polley, law man, now operating on his home turf. At the conclusion of this episode, there is a brief genealogical synopsis so our hero can be put into proper perspective.

THE LIFE AND ADVENTURES OF JOHN H. POLLEY

On the 2nd of July, 1870, I resigned from the Metropolitan Police, New York City, and migrated to Whitehall, where I was appointed policeman. Shortly after my appointment, a party of young men were fishing at night some 12 miles from Whitehall in the waters of Lake Champlain. Two of the boys names Charles Long and Mirt Stafford were in a rowboat together. There was a flock of geese paddling around in the marsh near lighthouse No. 13. A man, hearing the geese squawking, took his gun and started for the lake. Upon his arrival at the lake, he saw a man as he supposed trying to catch a goose. The man raised his gun aiming at the man among the geese, fired and killed Charles Long. Mirt Stafford lifted the body into the boat and started rowing for Whitehall, arriving there the next morning about 9 A.M. I was called out of bed and notified of the murder. I dressed myself and took the first train I could get down the lake about 11 A.M. I got off at Dresden Station and walked down the track to lighthouse No. 13. I visited the first house near the lake and place where Long was killed. I found a man named Deidrick in the house. On questioning him, I found out he was the man that killed Long. I arrested him and also took the gun. We walked up to the station and remained there until the D & H train for Whitehall arrived. I took my prisoner aboard. When we arrived at Whitehall a crowd had gathered and threatened to lynch the murderer. After some threats and trouble, I landed him in the lockup. After the crowd got quieted down, I brought the prisoner before Justin Smith, a Justice of the Peace, where we had a hearing, the prisoner stating one barrel of the gun was loaded with beans, the other with shot; that he pulled the wrong trigger and the shot from that barrel done the deed. Deidrick was conveyed to Salem Jail by me. When the trial was to take place, the Judge of the County Court, looking at the complaint and found that Justice Smith had entered the shooting as a mistake, and the prisoner was discharged.

One night in Whitehall there were 7 fires started by some party or parties unknown. After a few days of investigation, I came to the conclusion that Patsy Malan and Jabe Knights were the ones that had tried to burn the blocks. I procured warrants and arrested them. They were bound over to County Court by Justice LK... Barnes. I procured a team, took the prisoners to Salem jail where they remained until Court opened. They pleaded guilty and were sentenced to a term of years at Sing Sing. They served their time, were

liberated and started for the West. Shortly after, they attempted to rob a store in Michigan. Patsy Malan was shot, and Knights came back to Whitehall, reformed and was a respected citizen until he died. While I was after them, I chased them to the [undecipherable] below Whitehall. It was in the night time. They landed and started for the woods, I after them.

Only for Knights I think I would have ended my police work, for Malan had me covered with a gun. Knights hit the gun and would not let him shoot. He did not wish to commit murder.

Assault on Officer - April 5, 1880. On account of the rough elements that belonged and lived at Fair Haven, Vt., getting in a rowdy and ugly mood, the authorities began to look for a man to do police duty. Charles Knight, a hotel proprietor recommended John H. Polley of Whitehall for the position. I was notified by letter and made my appearance on the 28th day of March, 1880, at Fair Haven, and was sworn in as an officer and commenced active service patrolling the streets of the village. I had been on duty about 8 days about the 5th of April when about 11 P.M. quite a number congregated in an alleyway to the rear of the Northrop block and made arrangements to get rid of me or drive me out of town. They congregated in Liberty St. and commenced to scream and yell creating a disturbance. I made my appearance and tried to quiet them. I arrested two of them and was conveying them to the lockup. The crowd surrounded me trying to rescue the prisoners. One of the crowd, named Pat Kinsella, threw a stone that would weigh a couple of pounds at me. It hit a lamp post about a foot from my head, breaking the post off at the bottom. I drew a revolver and tried to shoot the stone thrower. The gun did not go off. I caught two of the ring leaders, but could not hold them to open lockup door; but I held them until their brother from South Main St. came to my assistance and was responsible for their appearance at Court in the morning. They made their appearance before Justice Dewey and were held or bound over to County Court. I was called before the jury gave in my evidence. I had no one to testify for me, as they all belonged to the gang or were afraid to testify on the case. There was no bill found against them. They were discharged. While I am writing this I did think and do now, that it was their intention to take my life and get me out of the town. At this writing the most of them are dead.

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION ON JOHN H. POLLEY

John Herschel Polley was a descendant of George Polly of Woburn, Massachusetts, the progenitor of a line of Polly/Polley generations that have proliferated throughout the U.S. George Polly was an English immigrant who was born ca. 1625 and married Elizabeth Winn, in Woburn in 1649. His trade was that of a carpenter. He and Elizabeth had ten children, eight of

whom lived to adulthood, five sons and three daughters. He died in Woburn in 1683.

John Herschel Polley's line of descent from his Woburn ancestor is: George¹, John², Matthew³, Jonathan⁴, Jonathan⁵, Jonathan⁶, John Herschel⁷. Among his more notable antecedents was one of his uncles, Joseph Henry⁶ Polley who left his Whitehall, NY home and went to Texas as one of Stephen F. Austin's original band of 300 settlers in 1821. He built a large home there with many materials sent from New York. His brother Jonathan traveled to Texas to assist with the design and construction of the mansion they called "Whitehall." Joseph Henry became quite prosperous and is said to have had a ranch that rivaled the famous King Ranch.

His grandfather, Jonathan⁵, was a Revolutionary War veteran who enlisted in the Connecticut Line in 1776. He served for the better part of the war and participated in many campaigns. He was at Saratoga for the surrender of Burgoyne's Army. He also served as a member of the Massachusetts Line and the Vermont Militia. He is recognized and documented as a Patriot by the NSDAR.

John Herschel Polley was one of eight children of Jonathan⁶ and Clarissa Johnson, born 4 Sep 1835 in Whitehall, NY. He had two brothers and five sisters. He married Eunice Day and they had two daughters, Caroline Frances and Carlotta Augusta. After the death of his first wife he married Louise Augustine Perrett. A third wife named Frances gave him a daughter, Mildred A. Polley, who was born ca. 1883. He is believed to have married a fourth time to a woman named Mary E. after 1899.

Virtually his whole adult life was dedicated to law enforcement. He was with the New York City force from 1857 to 1870. He then went back to his Whitehall, NY, origin taking a job there as a police officer. In 1880 he took a position as deputy sheriff in nearby Fairhaven, VT, a position he held for virtually the balance of his life. Less than two years before his death, but apparently still in good health, he had occasion to visit a daughter in New York City. While there he visited Police Headquarters to take a look at the way things were currently being run. The occasion was covered by the press and an article appeared in the New York Times of Thursday, 30 September 1926.

John H. Polley appears in a number of New York City directory listings from Trow's NY City Directory:

1860-61, p. 687, 53 Spring.

1861-62, p. 682, Third Ave n. E. 80th.

1863-64, p. 692, Third Ave n. E. 80th, listed with Jonathan (father?).

1865-66, p. 778, 165 E. 22nd.

1866-67, p. 809, 1256 Third Ave.

1868-69, p. 869, 53 Spring.

1869-70, p. 885, 412 W. 49th.

The descendant who provided the John H. Polley manuscript is a grandson of Polley's daughter, Carlotta Augusta, who was married to David Boyd Ledlie. The donor is:

Mr. Robert David Ledlie
461 N. Village
Rockville Center, NY 11570.

Editor's Note: As we stated in the March '95 issue, a copy of John H. Polley's memoir was donated by **Polley Pointers** to the Museum of the City of New York. An acknowledgment of thanks was received from the manuscript curator indicating that the item would be a useful supplement to the material already held on the NYC Police Department. rcr

Researcher Listings

Beginning with this issue we have eliminated publication of the Table of Active Researchers. The last issue to publish a complete table was June '95 (Vol. 2, No. 1). Information on new subscribers since then can be found in the Welcome Aboard feature of each issue, starting this quarter. An updated table will be published again in June '96 (Vol. 3, No. 1). The elimination was an economy measure taken to gain more space for genealogy features while staying within budget for postage expenses. Any paid up subscriber desiring a current table may obtain one at any time from your editor for an SASE.

POLLEY POINTERS Offerings

The following items are for sale to subscribers:

* All **BACK ISSUES** are still available @ \$2.50 each.

* A **PERPETUAL CALENDAR** with a history of the calendar changes that have been made over the centuries. 8½ x 11 format suitable for insertion into a research notebook. \$2.50 each. Quantity discount available for resale by clubs.

* An **INDEX** to the first four issues (Vol. 1) of **POLLEY POINTERS**. Be able to recall where you read something. The index covers all personal and place names as well as many references and organizational names. \$2.50 each.

Murder Most Foul

Moses Melancton Polley (1860-1883) Assassin's Victim

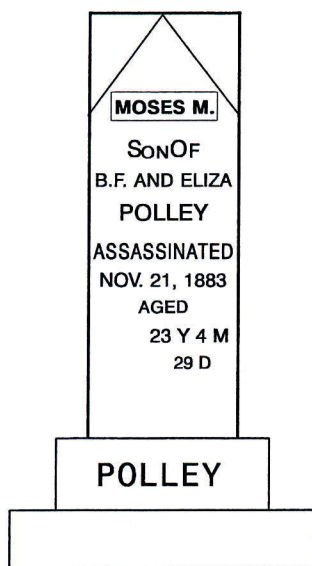
by Richard C. Randt

The so-called modern world does not have a monopoly on violent crime nor is a seeming inability to bring all perpetrators of such crime to swift, fitting and final justice a recent development. The last century had its share of violent crime and justice was not always meted out properly. The cliché scene of a saloon converted to an *ad hoc* courtroom, where a "hanging judge" swiftly dispatches a defendant to pay the ultimate price for his criminal action, is but a fantasy of TV and movie screen writers and authors of what used to be called the dime novel. More than one 19th century homicide went unsolved and many times somebody literally "got away with murder."

One such case involves an eighth generation descendant of George Polly of Woburn, MA.¹ The mortal remains of Moses Melancton Polley lie interred in the Reichart Cemetery in Pymatuning Township, Mercer County, PA. The headstone² sketched at the right tells the bare facts.

Moses was one of the eight children of Benjamin Franklin Polley (1828-1923) and Elizabeth Diefenderfer. The family had been established in Mercer County for many years. When the Polleys of Whitehall, NY, the children of Revolutionary War veteran, Jonathan Polley, began to spread out over the country, going off to seek their fortunes and build their own families, Abner Hubbard Polley as well as his brother, Benjamin A. Polley, put down roots in Pymatuning Township in Mercer County. Both had large families.

Abner and his wife, Margaret Reeher, together had six children. They named one son, as it was



SKETCH OF STONE MARKING
THE GRAVE OF MOSES
POLLEY IN THE REICHAERT
CEMETERY, PYMATUNING,
TWP., PA.

popular to do at that time, Benjamin Franklin, after the American patriot, statesman and sage who had died but a generation ago. Benjamin F. Polley and his wife had eight children, one of whom would, as a young man only 23 years old, become a victim of circumstance as well as an assassin's bullet, in a very bizarre crime committed in Jackson County, Michigan. The multiple murder in which Moses died is known locally in Michigan as the Crouch Murder Case, so named for Jacob D. Crouch, one of the victims and in whose home three other adults and probably an unborn child³ also met their Maker at the hands of a person or persons yet unknown, 112 years later.

POLLEY POINTERS became interested in the story of Moses Polley when we received from subscriber Esther McDermott some photocopies of several news clippings relative to the case. She had obtained copies of the material from subscriber Brenda Beattie-Schwartz. Of course, anyone with Woburn roots is related to Moses Polley, but these two ladies are probably the closest to him. Esther is a first cousin twice removed and Brenda is one generation closer as a great-great-grandniece of the victim. [To each other, the relationship is third cousin, twice removed.]



MURDER VICTIM, MOSES M.
POLLEY (1860-1883)

Scanned by Walt Neubauer

Your editor saw immediately from the news clippings that here was a story that would interest a large segment of the readership, not only from a genealogical point of view but from a more general human interest point of view, especially in light of the "trial of the century" currently in progress in Los Angeles. Little did we realize from the first few clippings that this was but the tip of the proverbial iceberg.

The articles we received told us that Moses had been killed while in Michigan on a cattle buying trip. One article stated that two years prior he had also come to Michigan "and bought

a herd of blooded cattle." On this trip he died by gun shot while asleep in bed at the home of one Jacob D. Crouch from whom, it is said, Polley was to purchase the stock.⁴ Crouch himself, 74, was murdered as well as his daughter, Eunice, 33 (who was eight months pregnant), and her husband, William Henry White, 31, all in the same manner. A negro hired hand, George E. Bolles, and a white servant girl, Julia Reese, recently employed by Crouch, both of whom lived in the house, were spared. Both became suspects as well as one of Crouch's sons who lived nearby and a son-in-law, Daniel S. Holcomb.

The outcome of the "whodunit" was not apparent from the articles we initially received. Also, the motive was not established and the means was not clearly understood. Although gunshot was the obvious primary cause of death, there was speculation that chloroform had been used to initially subdue the victims. Whether it was a single perpetrator or several was also not clearly established. The meager information we had before us figuratively screamed out for MORE RESEARCH! We had to know. Esther had set the hook and Brenda was reeling us in!

We opened a research effort on two fronts, Mercer Co., PA and Jackson Co., MI. First we obtained addresses for the appropriate genealogy and historical societies from Everton's annual list in the Genealogical Helper. We transcribed the news articles that we had so we could send copies to whomever we corresponded with to let them know what we already knew. The Mercer County Historical Society was very helpful and provided us with two more articles as well as the tombstone inscription. The Mercer County Genealogical Society also supplied some information relating to other Polleys who, over the years, became permanent residents of Mercer County; i.e., cemetery records. The Jackson County Genealogical Society provided us with a reference to a 1983 issue of their quarterly newsletter, Lexicon, which was devoted entirely to the Crouch Murder Case.⁵ They fortunately had one remaining copy for sale. Needless to say we bought it.

The monograph contained in the cited Lexicon issue was written by Mrs. Betty Winter Wier, now of Battle Creek, MI. She approached the case, which has been rehashed in the local papers several times over the years, in a slightly different manner. She assumed nothing and did not set out to prove that anyone in particular did it. She attempted to be as objective as possible and pointed out many errors and inconsistencies

in the news stories that reported this infamous event.

We have made contact with Mrs. Wier and she has graciously made her collection of reference material accessible to **POLLEY POINTERS**. We are deeply indebted to Betty for what we have learned about Moses Polley, his family, and the areas in which he lived his short life.

Throughout the entire investigation and ensuing inquests and trial, Moses Polley always seemed to "take a back seat," so to speak, and was generally written off as the poor unfortunate stranger from out of state. He was very much like the Ron Goldman of his day, in the wrong place at the wrong time! But how much of a stranger was he?

It turns out that Moses indeed had ties to Jackson County and the Crouch family. It seems that when he was 18 he went to Michigan, for one reason or another, and secured employment as a laborer with a man named Delatos H. Goldsmith whose farm was two miles south of Crouch's.⁶ He worked for Goldsmith for two seasons and then entered the employ of J.D. Crouch for one winter (1879-80). He then married a local girl, Minerva Altie Anson, daughter of Charles H. and Margaret (Kennedy) Anson, on 12 August 1880.⁷ The bride was known as Minnie Anson. After marriage, Moses and Minnie returned to Pennsylvania. In 1882 he came back to buy some cattle as he had in the year he met his death. News accounts differed on exactly how many times Moses had gone back to Michigan. One story said he had been back the two previous years. In either event he apparently had taken his wife with him. In 1883, however, Minnie stayed home in Transfer, PA, since she now had a young child, a daughter named Thelma, to contend with.

The relationship of Minnie Anson to the other figures in the Crouch case is somewhat confusing. One account from a Mercer Co. paper plainly states, "she [Minnie (Anson) Polley] is a relative of J.D. Crouch." Another account relates, "Moses Polley formerly lived with Mr. Crouch. Married here [Jackson Co., MI], a lady who used also to live with Crouch, Miss Minnie Anson, who now lives in Pennsylvania, and has one child." A third account⁸ authoritatively states, "... some years he [Moses] formed the acquaintance of and subsequently married an adopted daughter of Mr. Crouch..."

Much confusion occurred in presenting facts to the public. The three main papers of the area,

MI. Here we find the Crouch household listed as Dwelling #251, Family #259. In it we can see Jacob Crouch, age 71, his daughter Eunice, age 27, Minnie Anson, age 17, listed as a servant, plus four men listed as Farm Laborers, ages 18, 22, 24, and 32. In Dwelling #253, Family #262, we find Minnie's family: Charles Anson, age 56, Maggie Anson, age 42, and two young Anson boys, Charles, 8, and Edward, 5. Apparently, the Crouch and Anson families were neighbors, judging by the proximity of their respective houses.

The Ansons were not well-to-do, judging by the declared occupation for Charles Anson, that of Day Laborer. Margaret worked herself as a maid for a number of years. Also there were, at one time or another, up to nine children in the Anson family. Thus when Minnie came of age, she was undoubtedly expected to go to work to help support the family. The other objective for Minnie was probably that of finding herself a husband. What better place to find a man, the home of a supposedly rich farmer with a couple of single sons as well as a number of eligible hands, as well as the farmer's married daughter as a built-in chaperon.

The latter objective was fulfilled when Moses Polley came to work for Jacob Crouch later that same year, 1880. By 12 August Moses and Minnie were man and wife.¹⁴

At the risk of this issue of **POLLEY POINTERS** becoming a monograph on Moses Polley, we have to tie off the story here and continue in the next issue. Next time we shall explore the various articles that have appeared over the last century that continually retell the Crouch murder story and either embellish or diminish certain details with each retelling. We should by that time have sufficient material to put together a comprehensive account of the events that transpired on the night of 21-22 November 1883 and the resulting investigation.

NOTES:

1. The Polley ancestral line for Moses is: George¹, John², Matthew³, Jonathan⁴, Jonathan⁵, Abner Hubbard⁶, Benjamin Franklin⁷, Moses Melancton⁸.

2. Mercer County Cemetery Inscriptions, vol. 10, p. 165. This reference provided by the Mercer County Historical Society, 119 South Pitt St., Mercer, PA 16137. We are also indebted to Mrs. Betty Winter Wier for providing photos of the Moses Polley gravestone on which the sketch is based.

3. Although all the news stories indicated a pregnancy near full term, there is no autopsy, coroner's inquest or other official record indicating of the fate of the child. There is some speculation that Eunice (Crouch) White, daughter of Jacob Crouch, delivered just prior to the murders and that the baby was taken by a person or persons unknown, not necessarily the murderer(s).

4. Saturday Evening Star, 29 December 1883. The description of "a herd of blooded cattle" would indicate Polley was engaged in cattle breeding, raising stock for sale to market. However, nothing is found to indicate Crouch was in the cattle ranching business, at least not in Michigan. Also, a Pennsylvania paper, The Mercer Dispatch, 30 November 1883, indicates of Polley, "For some time he had been engaged in the butchering business at Transfer, and had gone West to purchase cattle." All indications are that Crouch was a "dirt farmer." Perhaps it was Polley's intent to purchase his cattle, for what ever purpose, from an unidentified party. He could have been simply visiting the Crouch household.

5. Wier, Betty Winter, "Without the Evidence," Lexicon, Vol. 6, No. 2, 1983, pub. by Jackson County [MI] Genealogical Society, c/o Jackson District Library, Jackson, MI 49201. [A monograph issue devoted to the Crouch Murder Case of 21 Nov 1883, 17 unnumbered pages plus pages 54-98.]

6. The 1880 census data for Spring Arbor, Jackson Co., MI reveals Moses Polley as a member of the household of D.H. Goldsmith, a farmer, age 28. Also listed are Nellie Goldsmith, the wife, age 25, and Minerva Goldsmith, the widowed mother, age 55. Moses Polley, age 19, is listed last as a laborer. The places of birth for Moses and his parents all say "Penn." The Goldsmiths' house is listed as Dwelling #14, Family #20. As a matter of general interest, adjacent to them, at Dwelling #15, Family #21, was another Goldsmith family, also farmers. Listed are G.L. Goldsmith, age 30, and Dollie, the wife, age 23. There are no others listed. The two Goldsmiths were more than likely related, probably brothers, as the parents of both were recorded as being native to New York State. After the murders, one of the three key Jackson County, Michigan newspapers, The Saturday Evening Star, published a picture of Moses Polley in its 29 Dec 1883 issue. They gave credit to Messrs. D.H. Goldsmith and W.H.H. Snow "for excellent photographs of Moses Polley, the drover who met his death..." Polley's relationship to Snow is uncertain at this writing, but Goldsmith apparently acquired a photo when Moses worked for him. The delay of more than a month in publishing a picture is attributed to the time it took to have the engraving done by the Associated Pictorial Company, of New York, as the cited article explains.

7. Jackson Weekly Citizen, Tuesday, 17 Aug 1880, p. 5:

MARRIED.

POLLEY-ANSON - On the 12th inst., by Rev. M.A. Johnson, D.D., Moses M. Polly and Minnie A. Anson.

8. "A Horrible Tragedy," Mercer Dispatch, Friday, 30 Nov 1883.

9. Wyatt, Ken, "Even Pinkerton couldn't solve Crouch Case," Jackson Citizen Patriot, Sunday, 12 June 1977.

10. Pinkerton's National Detective Agency was organized in 1850 by Scotch immigrant Allan Pinkerton, 1819-84. He was commissioned by Lincoln to organize the U.S. Bureau of Secret Service which he ran until the close of the Civil War. After the war his company expanded, opening offices in New York and Philadelphia. The Pinkerton detectives were involved in many far reaching and varied cases.

11. In Michigan, Vital Records in Lansing claims to hold no death record for Moses. At the county level, Jackson County has entries for William H. White, 31, Eunice White, 33, and Jacob D. Crouch, 74. All three are listed as being murdered in Spring Arbor on 21 Nov 1883. The entries are sequential and are numbered 178, 179, and 180. There is no entry apparent for Moses. It is interesting to note that all the entries on the photocopied sheets provided to us, are all in the same hand and all bear the same entry date of "June 10, 1884." Apparently the Jackson County Clerk's Office was not in the habit of posting each death record at or near the actual date of death, but rather, did batch postings. That being so, it is easy to speculate how Moses got left out. With the body being shipped out of state for burial, and the virtual hysteria over the multiple murders, administrative requirements probably received the lowest of priorities. In short, Moses probably "fell through the crack."

12. "A Horrible Tragedy," Mercer Dispatch, Friday, 30 Nov 1883.

13. The Mercer County Historical Society refers to the cemetery as the Reichart Cemetery. The location of "Rickard's Corners" is presumed to be approximately a mile south east of Gillespie's Corners at the intersection of Big Bend Road and an unnamed north-south road (on the 1873 Pymatuning Twp. map). At that location one can see dwellings belonging to Jos. Rickard, Geo. Rickerd, Chas. Rickert, and Dd. Reichard. Apparently this is a classic case of multiple spelling variants on a surname within very close proximity to each other.

14. Return of a Marriage, Jackson Co., Michigan, 12 August 1880, Moses Melancton Polley, 20, of Summit, MI, and Minnie Altie Anson, 17, of Spring Arbor, MI. M.A. Johnson, Rector of St. Paul's Church, officiating. Mrs. E.M. Hasttrass and Annie M. Gohn, both of Jackson, witnessing. Original is in the possession of Mrs. Betty Winter Wier, Battle Creek, MI, salvaged from an official hard copy records destruction effort after microfilming.

The Book Nook

The Hingham Founding Fathers of "Old Colony" New Hampshire (Exeter II - The Origin) 1623-1655 - Wayne Clark Gilman, Heritage Books, Inc., 1995, ISBN 0-7884-0164-7, Pub. Cat No. G345, c185 pp., illus., index, cloth, \$24.50.

This relatively small book is crammed with information about several different but associated subjects. The story portrays 17th century, post-Mayflower emigration from England and settlement of New England as well as chronicling the Gilman and allied families. The book also provides a snapshot of the earliest development of what would become New Hampshire. The author has managed to reach back to Hingham in Norfolkshire, England, and identify a number of his antecedents, tracking their voyage to America. They and others initially settled in Plymouth Colony in the towns of Hingham and Seekonk (Rehoboth), Massachusetts. About a third of these Norfolkshire emigrants and their families began to seek permanent residences during the period 1647 to 1655. They chose Exeter or "Old Colony" New Hampshire. Exeter had originally been settled by artisans, farmers and shopkeepers from Lincolnshire. With the settlement in Exeter of the Hinghamites, it entered a period of new growth and prosperity. One of the contributors to Exeter II, as the author calls this period, was Edward Gilman, Jr. who built two sawmills there in 1647-48. The mills made the settlement a magnet for timbermen and industry craftsmen.

The author has organized his material quite well. He skillfully relegates much material, although important, to appropriate appendices. The book is replete with seven pages of references indicative of the intense research that went into this work. The work was reviewed prior to publication by an impressive array of nine scholars, historians and genealogists from academia and several archival institutions, a testament to the author's desire for accuracy and readability.

This book is particularly useful if you have lines reaching back to Norfolkshire and Lincolnshire, England, or have roots in Norfolk County, MA or Exeter, NH. However, if you have neither, the book is still an excellent model for organizing your material if your research bridges the Atlantic during the 17th century. The book is available from the publisher at 1540-E Pointer Ridge Pl., Suite 300, Bowie, MD 20716. A catalog of other titles is also available on request. rcr

Welcome Aboard



Jean M. Brewer - Jean has set about tracing the family line of her daughter-in-law who is a Polley. The line she has developed to date begins with a Zachariah Polley b. ca. 1806 who m. Nancy _____. The line runs: Zachariah¹, James Wesley², George Wesley³, Neff⁴, Lowell⁵, Andrea⁶. See Queries. **Address: RR#3 Box 173A, Tunkhannock, PA 18657**

Stephen H. Broyles - Steve is another researcher with Polley roots in the VA/KY area. He traces his roots to a John Polly, b. 1785 in VA and m. Mrs. Mary Bryant. John ultimately migrated to Knox/Whitley Co., KY before 1820. He descends from John's daughter, Rebecca, who m. Wymer Croley. His line then goes through two generations of Croley and two of Broyles. He has an excellent collection of VA/KY Polley references. Steve also designs computer software. He is currently marketing a program, of use to genealogists, which will produce a plat map of a property from metes and bounds descriptions. **Address: 71 Neshobe Rd., Newton, MA 02168. Tel: (617) 527-9023. E-mail: steve.broyles@teradyne.com**

Janice Frost - Janice is related to the Woburn, MA Polley line. She became a subscriber late in the quarter. We hope to know more about her research and the details of her line of descent by the next issue. **Address: P.O. Box 1444, Minden, NV 89423-1444.**

James Leroy Pauley, Jr. - Jim is a retired lawyer who has been researching his Pauley heritage for many years. His earliest Pauley is John, who settled in Nicholas Co., KY ca. 1793. His proven line is John¹, Zachariah², James Layton³, Barton William⁴, James Leroy⁵, James Leroy, Jr.⁶ He has two sons, James Donald and Richard Joseph who together have given him five grandchildren. James Joseph⁸ will get to carry on the Pauley name. Jim has graciously provided an extensive write-up on his forebears from which we have extracted a feature article that appears in this issue. He is anxious to compare Pauley notes with other researchers. He is particularly interested in the geographical origins of the name. **Address: Box 310, Jefferson, IA 50129-0310.**

Lewis Neil Polley - Lewis is one of those Polleys from a "detached" branch, one that does not yet tie into any of the three or four major clans. He begins his line with his grandfather, Edgar Polley, b. 1861 in WI. Edgar's wife, Viola Welch, was b. in PA. Census data indicates Edgar's father was b. in NY. Lewis loses track of Edgar in Republic, KS in the 1910 census. **Address: P.O.**

Box 105, Irene, TX 76650. Tel: (817) 678-3524. E-mail: lepolley@delphi.com

Linda Kim (McNeil) Wilky - Linda hit the jackpot when she subscribed. She had been searching for the parents and ancestors of a 5GGM, Delight Polly who m. Robert Durkee 13 Mar 1803 in Huntington (Chittenden Co.), VT. We were able to connect Delight to her father, Amasa Polley, and take her all the way back to George of Woburn. Linda's Polley line is George¹, John², Matthew³, Matthew⁴, Amasa⁵, Delight⁶. This is followed by three generations of Durkee, two of Springstead and two of McNeil. It is interesting to note that Amasa was a Revolutionary War patriot, while his brother, Alpheas, was a Loyalist. Subscriber Phyllis Plambeck is a direct descendant of Alpheas as a third great-granddaughter. This makes Linda and Phyllis fifth cousins three times removed. **Address: 3832 E. Mountain Sky Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85044-6618. Tel: (602) 759-0035.**

Queries

THIS DEPARTMENT IS FOR SUBSCRIBERS TO PLACE SPECIFIC STATEMENTS DESCRIBING INFORMATION BEING SOUGHT. QUERIES ARE FREE TO SUBSCRIBERS. SEND YOUR QUERIES, SUCCINCTLY STATED, TO THE EDITOR. THE ADDRESS OF THE SUBSCRIBER MAY BE FOUND IN THE RESEARCHER LISTINGS FEATURE OF THE JUNE '95 ISSUE OR IN THE WELCOME ABOARD FEATURE WHERE THE SUBSCRIBER WAS FIRST INTRODUCED.

Jean M. Brewer - Need info on family of Zachariah Polley, b. ca. 1806, m. Nancy ____; their son James Wesley Polley, b. ca. 1841, m. Mary McClary; their son George Wesley Polley, b. ca. 1870, m. Florence Turpin; their son Neff Polley, b. ca. 1923, m. Frances Fuhr. The family most recently lived in Brown Co., IN.

Judith M. Hull - Seeks par. of Isaac Polley, b. ca. 1815, ME; m. Mary Hatch, b. ca. 1817, ME; both known to be res of Boston in 1850.

Evelyn G. White - Seeks mar. & ch. of Josiah Polley b. 16 Aug 1746, Dudley, MA, son of John Polley (1711-1750/1) and Mary Hatch. Also seek any info on par., mar., or ch. of a Josiah Polley who came to live with Dea. Thos. Buckminster, Framingham, MA, on 6 Jun 1781, age 11 at the time.

Esther L. Walter - Seeks anc. of William Polly, b. 1776, VA; d. 1847, Darke Co., OH; m. 1799, Greene Co., KY, Jemima Kelso (1779-1840), dau. of Robert K. Wm. & Jemima had 13 ch.

Joan Reed Miller - Seeks documentation to confirm birth & par. of Miriam (or Marian) Polley, said

to be b. Jun 1856, Dedham, MA, to Porter & Elizabeth P.

Shirley S. Gilbert - Seeks par., DOB, & POB of Hilliard Jonathan Polley, m. Sally S. Hill, 28 Sep 1876, Gonzales Co., TX.

James L. Polley, John E. Polley, and Susan M. Randt - All seeking anc. & POB of David Polley, b. 4 Sep 1786; d. ca. 1834, NYC; m. 1 Jan 1811, Hannah Purdy, b. 1 Apr 1795, VT.

Susan M. Jurban - Seeks info on James and Sally Polley (possibly Pauley) of Floyd Co., KY. He died there ca. 1816. He was possibly a bro. of David Polley (m. 1785, Pittsylvania Co., VA, to Elizabeth Justice) & Edward Polly (m. 1784 Pittsylvania Co., VA, to Mary Mullens). Both David & Edward were in Floyd Co., KY in the 1810 Census. Were James, David & Edward all sons of David Polley, d. ca. 1785, Pittsylvania Co., VA?

Jack C. Thompson - Seeks info re John Wesley Pawley, Sr. He m. Margaret Briscoe in 1785 in Nelson Co., KY. He d. 1837 in Hardin Co., KY. Need par., POB, DOB, etc.

Ruth E. Curtis - Need par., DOB, POB, POD, & DOD for Charlotte Polley of "Cobscook," who m. 15 Dec 1800 Joseph Garnett, son of Daniel Garnett, Jr. and Hannah Sherman. Mar. recorded Eastport, ME. Thirteen ch. betw. 1801 and 1823, all recorded Dennysville (Washington Co.), ME. Family res. Pembroke (Wash. Co.), ME.

E. June Alviso - Seeks par. and other particulars on John Polly, b. ca. 1830, KY; m. Mary Voris, 22 Feb 1855 in Switzerland Co., IN. They had twelve ch. John believed to be a Union vet, but no specifics to uniquely identify records in Nat. Arch.

Richard W. Switzer - Seeks par., DOB, POB, of James W. Polley who m. Sylvania _____. He d. ca. 1865. Had dau. Elizabeth, b. TN, ca. 1790, who m. Isaac Shipley, Monticello, Wayne Co., KY, 15 Jul 1809.

Alice B. Sharp - Seeks par. & POB for Lydia Polley, b. ca. 1774; d. 1 May 1851, Greene, ME; w/o John Lane (or Layne). (Prospective subscriber.) **39 Lost Trail Rd., Roswell, NM 88201-9509.**

James Albert Polley - Seeks probate info for John Polley and/or Mary Taler whose 1 Apr 1795 marr. is documented in Halifax Co., VA, as well as probate info for John Polley and/or Mary White whose 28 June 1796 marr. is documented in Shelby Co., KY. His John and Mary were both b. 1775 and d. 1849 and are believed to have d. in Breckinridge Co., KY. Attempting to link correct John and Mary to son Joseph W[ite?]

Polley, b. 27 May 1799, d. 20 Sep 1878, m. Elizabeth Huff, 10 Sep 1820.

Also seeking contact with other living descendants of James Clark Polley, Sr. whose children were: Benjamin A., Banner, James Clark, Jr., Ellender or Ellenora, and Rolla or Rolly.

Kentucky Polleys - War of 1812

The following entries are extracted from Report of the Adjutant General of the State of Kentucky, Soldiers of the War of 1812; Printed by the authority of the Legislature of Kentucky; Frankfort; E. Polk Johnson, Public Printer, 1891:

John Polly, (p. 108), Private, **15 Aug - 15 Oct 1812**, CAPT Uriel Sebree's Company, Scott's regiment of Kentucky Militia.

William Polly, (p. 76), Private, Apptd **23 Aug 1812 for six months**, CAPT John W. Shirley's Co., Barbee's regiment, Ky Militia.

Jeremiah Pauley, (p. 219), Private, **6 Mar - 6 Sep 1813**, CAPT Thomas Metcalfe's Company of Infantry of Kentucky Militia, detached, LTC William E. Boswell's regiment.

John Pauley, (p. 219), Private, **8 Mar - 8 Sep 1813**, CAPT Edward Rawling's Company of Infantry of LTC Commandants Nicholas Miller and Benjamin Wright's regiments.

Jesse Polly, (p. 192), Private, **29 Mar - 28 Sep 1813**, CAPT Armstrong Keir's detached Company of Infantry of Kentucky Militia, LTC William Dudley's regiment - **KILLED**.

Peter Polly, (p. 192), Private, enlisted at Newport **25 Aug - 8 Nov 1813**, CAPT James S. Whitaker's Company, Kentucky Mounted Volunteer Militia, LTC James Simrall's regiment.

John Polley, (p. 165), Private, enlisted at Newport **31 Aug 1813**, CAPT John Hall's Company of Kentucky Mounted Volunteer Militia, COL James Simrall's regiment.

John Polly, (p. 160), Private, enlisted at Newport **31 Aug 1813**, CAPT Philip Shirely's Company of Kentucky Mounted Volunteer Militia, COL John Calloway's regiment.

Zachariah Pauly, (p. 273), Private, **8 Feb 1814 - 8 Aug 1815**, CAPT Abraham S. Drake's Company of Kentucky Militia, LTC John Francisco's regiment.

David Polly, (p. 314) Private, **10 Sep - 9 Oct 1814**, CAPT Joseph Logan's Company of Kentucky Volunteer Militia, LTC Andrew Porter's regiment.

Joseph Polly, (p. 304), Private, **10 Nov 1814 - 10 May 1815**, CAPT Jacob Peacock's detached Company of Kentucky Militia, LTC John Davis' regiment.

Peter Polly, (p. 305), 1st Corporal, **10 Nov 1814 - 10 May 1815**, CAPT Zachariah Terrell's detached Company of Kentucky Militia, LTC John Davis' regiment.

Submitted by John E. Polley

Research Progress

In our first issue we featured the Polley research efforts of Charles A. Hesson of Canada. We indicated at the time we were trying to confirm the repository for the originals of his correspondence. In the June '95 issue we again gave him mention in our summary of the Past Polleys feature.

We now have confirmation of the source and have learned a little about the man with whom Hesson was corresponding. The originals of the Hesson papers are held by The Connecticut Historical Society, 1 Elizabeth St. at Asylum Ave., Hartford, CT 06105.

In our first issue, Hesson's correspondent was referred to as a lawyer. That was an incorrect assumption on the part of your editor based on the title of Esquire given to him by Hesson. We have since found that Esquire is a general title of courtesy.

According to Judith Ellen Johnson, Reference Librarian and Genealogist for The Connecticut Historical Society, D. William Patterson was a dentist turned professional genealogist. [Root canals to roots, a natural transition!] He was born in Union, (Broome Co.) NY, practiced in Winsted, (Litchfield Co.) CT, and moved to Newark Valley, (Tioga Co.) NY about the middle of the 19th century. He died in 1892. Shortly thereafter, the society purchased his library and manuscript collection. His manuscripts include studies of particular families, early families of East Haddam, CT, and Newark Valley, NY, and numerous bits and pieces of research possibly done for clients.

Ms. Johnson indicates there is nothing else from Hesson in the file. Also there is nothing else on Polley in the Patterson collection except a few notes on George of Woburn written in Patterson's hand. She believes that Patterson did not accept Hesson's commission to perform research for two possible reasons. Then living in Tioga Co., NY, Patterson would not have had

easy access to the records he needed. Also, knowing that Patterson died in 1892, more than likely he was old, ill, or both when Hesson initiated correspondence in 1890.

Thus it looks like this search has gone down a blind alley. However, there is still hope that Hesson left his research material with an archival institution somewhere in Ontario, Canada. Since Hesson lived in St. Catharines, Ontario, we checked initially, back in 1992, with the St. Catharines Public Library but to no avail. We have yet not checked other possible sources in Ontario. If any readers have any special knowledge of genealogical libraries or societies in Ontario that accept collections of private genealogical research material, please let us know so we might contact them. If any one would like to undertake tracking down a presumed "Hesson collection," let us know and we can provide copies of the papers we do hold.

One logistical problem occurs when attempting to do Canadian research via the mails. When enclosing the SASE [self-addressed, *stamped* envelope] as a courtesy to your correspondent, you need to affix **Canadian postage** in the proper amount for a first class letter to the United States.

You may order Canadian postage stamps from the National Philatelic Centre, Canada Post Corporation, 75 St. Ninian Street, Antigonish, NS B2G 2R8. The order can be placed by telephone. They can be reached on a toll-free from the U.S., 1-800-565-1336. They take MasterCard and Visa. This saves having to go through the drill of obtaining a negotiable instrument made out in Canadian dollars. The credit card company makes the conversion when the bill is rendered. Remember, the Canadian rate to the U.S. is 52¢ for 30 grams (approx. 1 oz.). [The U.S. postal rate to Canada, is now 46¢ for the first half-ounce and 52¢ for a full ounce. Each half-ounce thereafter is 12¢ additional.]

In conjunction with our search for any other Hesson/Polley material, we posted an "in search of" bulletin on the Prodigy® genealogy board. We received a wonderful reply from a Canadian gentleman who not only supplied information on sources and institutions we might query, but took up the Polley line that Hesson came from and began do some first rate research on it. He has supplied quite a few names and dates that we did not have. Perhaps we can convince him to do a guest article for us next time. This is a very good example of the value to genealogists of the various "on-line services." rcr

Pauley Progenitors

John Pauley (ca. 1750s - 1821)

by James Leroy Pauley, Jr.

We trace our Pauley heritage back five generations from myself. As with most lineages, the progenitor is invariably the one with the most unknowns and speculation based on circumstantial evidence. My 3G-grandfather, John Pauley, is no exception. His origin is somewhat obscure, although the structure of his own family is fairly well documented.

John Pauley and his wife Elizabeth, whom he married ca. 1774 in VA (possibly Montgomery Co.), had eight children that we have documented. They are: John, Jr., William, Sarah, Nancy, Isaac, Jeremiah, Abraham, and Zachariah. The latter was the youngest son and I am descended through him.

The exact order of birth of the children is not known for certain. Zachariah is described in his father's will as "my youngest son." Sarah was said by her nephew, James Layton Pauley, in 1904 to have been the oldest of the two daughters. Isaac and James appear from the dates we have (b. 1789) to have been twins, but this has not been verified. All the children are believed to have been born in Montgomery Co., VA, except Zachariah who was born in Nicholas Co., KY.

As to John's origin, we rely heavily on his grandson, James Layton Pauley (1825-1908), who stated in 1904: "My great-grandparents on my father's side died when my grandfather was a small boy, leaving him and a small brother as orphans. They were separated, my grandfather being moved to the then far west in Kentucky. He never knew what became of this brother who remained in Maryland or New Jersey, I do not remember which." It is difficult to substantiate all of this statement in view of the known facts. John Pauley's son, William Pauley, informed the census taker in 1850 that he was born in Virginia in 1777. Thomas Pauley and another William Pauley (1762-1838) were contemporaries of John Pauley in Montgomery Co., VA, and quite possibly his brothers. Thomas Pauley married Abigail Munsey there in 1785 and William Pauley married Margaret Munsey there in 1787.

The marriage records for both Thomas Pauley and William Pauley as mentioned above state that their father's name was Joseph Pauley, but no additional information has been found. The family records in the LDS library at SLC show a Joseph Pauley born 30 May 1729 in Plymouth

Co., MA, who married a Nancy Kirkham about 1750. We can speculate that they might have been the parents of Thomas, William, and possibly John, but no proof has been found. That John named one of his daughters, Nancy, and that the name does not appear elsewhere in the family is, perhaps, another piece of circumstantial evidence.

The two Munsey girls mentioned above, who married Pauley brothers were daughters of Skidmore Munsey. Abigail was born in 1768, married Thomas on 17 Oct 1785, and they had a son they named John born in 1811.

Margaret Munsey married William Pauley on 8 Apr 1787. He was a Rev. War veteran and his pension record #10233 shows him to be the son of Joseph Pauley, but does not further identify Joseph. The record shows that William was born in Spottsylvania Co., VA, and died in Boone Co., IN. William and Margaret had a son they named John, and a great-grandson named Joseph E. Pauley who was living in Lafayette, IN in 1899. William Pauley resided in Montgomery Co., VA until 1806 when he moved to Campbell Co., TN. In 1827 he moved to Washington Twp., Boone Co., IN, and settled 3 mi. east of Thorntown.

From the above facts it does not appear that John Pauley was geographically separated from his two supposed brothers until he went to Kentucky about 1793. By then he was approximately 40 years old. After that he and his brothers were never living in the same state, and may have lost track of each other by the time of John's death in January 1821. William Pauley was not separated from the later generations of the Pauley family since many of them were in Boone Co., IN with him after 1827.

The LDS records previously mentioned, regarding Joseph, cite The Ormsby Genealogy by Thomas Ormsby (1925), Massachusetts Vitals, Vols. 11, 14 and 15, and History and Biographical Sketches of the Early Settlers of Massachusetts, by Lund, pp. 8-20. The children of Joseph Pauley are not identified.

A Joseph Pauley married Viney Midcalf on 13 June 1785 in Pittsylvania Co., VA. Perhaps he was a son of the Joseph from Massachusetts. [Ed. Note: She was also known as Lavinia Midkiff. One published source refers to him as Joseph, Jr. However, subscriber Donald C. Pauley has him as Joseph A. Pauley (Polley). They settled in Kanawha Co., VA in 1807. See Dec '94.] If all of these loose ends could be tied together they might reveal the true father of our John Pauley. The Joseph Pauley of 1729 is said by the family archive sheets to have been the son of Daniel Pauley

(1698-1775) and the grandson of James Pauley (1666- ?).

It seems highly unlikely that our John Pauley was in Kentucky "as a small boy" as related by James Layton Pauley in 1904. There were very few white people in Kentucky prior to 1780. Daniel Boone did not move into the area until 1773, and Kentucky did not become a state until 1792. There are no Pauley entries in the "first census" of Kentucky, which was compiled from tax lists for 1790. In the "second census," compiled from tax lists for 1800, there is a John Pauley listed in Jefferson Co. that was located some 60 or 70 miles west of Nicholas Co. on the Ohio River. There are no Pauley listings in the 1810 Nicholas Co. census, but there is a John Powly who was recorded as being between 26 and 45. His age and the numbers and ages of the household members do not quite add up to support him as our John.

The 1820 census of Nicholas Co. lists four of John Pauley's sons: John, Jr., William, Jeremiah and Zachariah. It does not list John himself, but under the listing for Zachariah are shown two people over 45 years old, one male and one female, obviously his parents, John and Elizabeth. In his will, John makes mention of the fact that Zachariah had been caring for him and his wife. By 1820 John would have been in his 60s. He died in January 1821.

In the 1850 census we find that Abraham Pauley, John's next to youngest son, states that he was born in Virginia in 1792. In the same year Zachariah, the youngest son, states in the census that he was born in Kentucky in 1795. Thus it appears that John Pauley moved to Kentucky between those two dates, most likely 1793. So the information given by James Layton Pauley in 1904 would seem to be incorrect as to when his grandfather came to Kentucky.

Also indicating the time frame John Pauley appeared in Kentucky is a will executed by one Elizabeth Hobbs, on 15 Nov 1796. In it she refers to a horse "purchased from John Pauley."

Thomas Pauley (one of the supposed brothers of John Pauley) was one of the appraisers of the property of John's estate in February 1821, thus proving that Thomas was a resident of Kentucky at that time.

The will of John Pauley dated 17 Oct 1820 was admitted to probate in Nicholas Co., KY in the January 1821 term of court. His son, John, Jr. was named executor. Sons Jeremiah and William were sureties on the executor's bond.

The will made provision for support of his wife, Elizabeth, during her lifetime, and then states: "All my personal and real estate I will and bequeath to my youngest son, Zachariah as compensation for supporting his father and mother while we both live." No mention is made of the other children.

An appraisal schedule in John Pauley's estate was filed in the February 1821 term of court by the executor listing personal property items having a total value of \$85.46. It was signed by H. Roberts, Benj. Hall and Thos. Pauly. The latter was probably John's brother. When Wythe (now Giles) Co., VA was formed out of Montgomery Co. in 1790, Thomas Pauley was commissioned an ensign in the county militia. He was recommissioned there in 1797, thus indicating that he must have gone to Kentucky at a later date than John Pauley. Thus they were separated for a period of several years at this point.

The Rev. War pension records for William Pauley (1762-1838), who married Margaret Munsey, state that he was the son of Joseph Pauley as does his marriage record. There were other children in the same area at the same time that could have been siblings of William, Thomas and John. They were Joseph Pauley, Jr., James Pauley, Jonathan Pauley, Betsey Pauley who married Bartlett Gwynn, and Lydia Pauley, who married John Swinney. However, more proof is needed to confirm this speculation.

Since John Pauley was said by his grandson, James Layton Pauley, to have been an orphan, it is conceivable that if he is not the son of Joseph Pauley, he could have been a son of a brother of Joseph. Possibly he was raised by Joseph. Joseph had two contemporaries, namely: Henry Pauley (1722-) and George Pauley (1733-), who could have been his brothers. Further information on them has not been found.

We have extensive information on the descendants of John Pauley and welcome correspondence from other researchers desiring to exchange information.

Editor's Note: Mr. Pauley's piece on his 3G-grandfather is an excellent example of putting your family history together to tell a meaningful story, despite the gaps in records and the inevitable conflicting items of information. He carefully labels theory and speculation as such but leaves the reader well informed and sets up areas for future researchers to explore. We hope our other Pauley researchers will benefit from Jim's work and that they can in turn offer him some help. rcr

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POLLEY POINTERS is a genealogical newsletter dedicated to research on the surname POLLEY and all its variants.

Edited by:

Richard C. Randt

9146 Winding Way

Ellicott City, MD 21043-6446

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Polley Passings of Note

Charles Howard Polley, 82, a Baltimore grocer for many years, died Saturday, 13 May 1995 of complications of Alzheimer's disease.

Mr. Polley entered the grocery business in 1929 when he left parochial school to help support his family. He retired in 1978, when he closed Polley's Foodstore, the last of several stores he had run.

Born and raised in Northeast Baltimore, he was a lifelong communicant of St. Anthony of Padua R.C. Church and was educated in its school. He is survived by his wife of 47½ yrs., the former Estella Buettner; two sons, Bernard and James Polley; and four daughters, Elaine Rogers, Cecilia Crushniak, Regina Bauer, and Jane Jarzynski; a brother, Charles W. Polley; a sister, Anna Lantz; and 12 grandchildren.

As reported in the Baltimore Sun, 15/17 May 1995

Victor Polley, 79, former administrator of Canada's Stratford Festival, died of a heart attack, 12 July 1995, at his summer home in Midhuron Beach, near Goderich in Ontario.

Born in Stratford, Ont., Mr. Polley joined the Stratford Festival in 1954, just one year after it was started and was its administrative director for 11 of his 17 seasons there. After leaving the festival in 1970, he was general manager of Toronto's St. Lawrence Centre for the Arts until his retirement in 1981.

He is survived by his wife of 54 years, Elizabeth Polley; children David, Fred, Sue, Margaret, Nora and 10 grandchildren.

As reported in the Toronto Star, 16 July 1995.

POLLEY POINTERS is published by:

Richard C. Randt

9146 Winding Way

Ellicott City, MD 21043-6446

FIRST CLASS MAIL

TO:

The Jackson Daily Citizen, The Evening Patriot, and The Saturday Evening Star, were highly competitive to retain readership. The drive to be "first on the street" often sacrificed accuracy for speed in reporting this sensational case. One glaring instance was our Moses being erroneously referred to a number of times as William Polley and also Moses W. Polley. The basis for this error is still uncertain. It is somewhat ironic that a few years after the formal investigation ended, Moses' widow moved back to her childhood home remarrying a man named William Pollock.

Confusion also abounded in the official investigation process. A 1977 historical piece provides a good synopsis of the case, particularly regarding police procedure, preservation of the crime scene, protection of physical evidence, and relations with the press.⁹ [Editor's Note: In light of the current Simpson case, one might paraphrase Lawrence Berra of NY Yankee baseball fame— Does this sound like reverse *déjà vu* all over again?] The article relates that after Bolles spread the word about the deaths, neighbors poured into the Crouch home. Within an hour the house was filled with curiosity seekers and amateur sleuths searching for clues to the identity of the killer or killers. The crime scene had been well trampled by the time the sheriff arrived.

Evidence was withheld by would be detectives seeking to crack the case themselves. The sheriff and other officials made rash statements about the guilt or innocence of suspects. Rumors about the killings, the motive and possible perpetrators were rampant. In short, the investigation was botched from the outset. Even the famed Pinkerton detective service could not restore total order to the case and bring it to a conclusion that satisfied anyone except of course the murderer(s).¹⁰

That the investigation was mishandled and mandatory administrative procedures were either ignored or overlooked is evidenced by the lack of documentation on Moses' death. The most fundamental thing that comes to mind in the case of an unexpected death of a young man is a coroner's report and a death certificate stating time, place and cause of death as well as a proper identification of the deceased. There is no death certificate to be found for Moses Polley, neither in Michigan, nor in Pennsylvania.¹¹ Also, there apparently was no paperwork prepared for shipment of the body back to Moses' home in Pennsylvania. At least none has ever surfaced.

The best evidence we have that the out-of-town cattle buyer was Moses Polley, that he was indeed killed and that he was buried in his home state comes from an unidentified Mercer Co. newspaper clipping. The story tells us:

"On Saturday at 6:30 p.m. there arrived at the Transfer station a handsome walnut casket containing all that was mortal of Moses M. Polley. A large concourse of people had gathered, eager to know all that could be learned of the tragedy, and, if possible to get a glimpse of the once familiar face. The body was at once removed to the house of B.F. Polley, father of the deceased. Here the casket was opened. The features presented were as natural as could be expected as the body had laid dead three days.

"On Sunday hundreds of anxious friends and acquaintances came to review the remains. On Monday at 10 a.m. funeral services were held at the house, conducted by Revs. Fetzer, Pilgrim and Bull. The funeral was one of the most largely attended ever held in this county."

Although it is a virtual axiom in genealogical research that newspapers can be notoriously inaccurate, it would seem to be a reasonable assumption that anything written about Moses relative to events that occurred in Mercer Co., PA, would probably be more accurate than the stories emanating from Michigan where the press was in a frenzy.

If one can believe anything at all, this article establishes that there was a body and that it was visually identified by family as that of Moses Polley. In fact it was a large funeral, as reported in yet another article.¹² The report supplies these details: "Mr. Polley's remains were brought home on Saturday and were interred at the graveyard at Rickard's Corners¹³ on Monday. The funeral was largely attended, the whole neighborhood turning out to follow to the tomb the remains of one so suddenly and terribly removed from their midst. The afflicted parents and bereaved wife have the sympathy of the entire community."

The one critical factor missing is the detailed cause of death which could only come from the coroner's report or death certificate, neither of which have surfaced and probably will not.

Returning to the question of the status of Minnie A. (Anson) Polley and her relationship, if any, to the Crouch family— this issue can be fairly well laid to rest if one examines the 1880 census for Spring Arbor Township, Jackson Co.,