

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

It has been very gratifying to see the subscription renewals coming in as they have been. The rate is beyond my expectations. It is a true measure of the enthusiasm and support of the readership. Our profound thanks to all our subscribers. Each has contributed in some way to making this undertaking as enjoyable as possible for me despite some of the more mundane drudge work that goes along with it.

This quarter we had the opportunity to do original research on another branch of the Polley clan, those folks who append an "S" and sign themselves as POLLEYS. There were pieces of information in various folders in the file cabinet pertaining to the family of William H. Polleys, lumberman. The material had been there for some time, some of it unrecognized as pertinent. Cousin John E. Polley suggested the POLLEYS as a feature story and we took up the challenge.

In working the POLLEYS problem I discovered or reconfirmed several things about genealogy and genealogists. First, modern genealogy has become so heavily dependent on computers and the communications between them, that it boggles the mind to imagine how the job was done without them. (See Polley Tools.)

Secondly, hold every scrap of genealogical paper that comes your way. Not only *might* it be useful, it definitely *will be* useful, someday. I proved that with the remnants of Alvin Polley's files that were given to us by his widow Dorothy several years ago. After sorting the material and integrating most of it into my own files, I had put the miscellaneous crumbs into a box under the desk. It was a paper from that box that linked Edgar H. Polleys to his own company in Montana and to an uncle and a cousin back in Maine.

Lastly, I reconfirmed that genealogists love to help each other, especially when they get turned on to a particular subject. Through the able assistance of subscriber Phyllis Plambeck, working with me by way of E-mail, much of the connective material in the POLLEYS story was obtained. If we took out her contribution, there wouldn't be a story!

Dick Randt

Polley Tools



We've all heard how useful computers can be. They're all around us, in every facet of our lives, banking and finance, medical research and treatment, the grocery store checkout— you name it, there's a computer involved. You would have to live on a desert island to get away from them.

Many have attempted to understand the computer and capitalize on its utility by obtaining a home Personal Computer (PC). They quickly find that it's a great replacement for the typewriter. The PC has done to the typewriter what the hand held calculator did to the slide rule, made it a museum piece. In addition to word processing [techno-speak for typing], people with various hobbies or special interests find that there is a whole host of specialized application programs [more techno-speak for "things you can do on a computer"] to help them do it better.

For genealogy record keeping and report writing there are at least a half dozen really good programs to choose from plus many others that are not as strong in certain features. Selection of such a program is best done by reading reviews of software [techno-speak for programs] in the various computer magazines. Many newspapers carry a regular column on computers that feature such reviews. Also, talking to people who already have some experience in using the various programs is a good way of finding which one might be best for you.

Although one can own a computer and become relatively proficient in performing various genealogical tasks, the full power and utility of the PC is not realized until you take the big step and **go online**. Our techno-speak dictionary defines this as connecting your PC to the telephone line, by use of a device called a modem, enabling you to connect to other, larger computer systems for the purpose of obtaining information that would otherwise be inaccessible to you. A good, high speed modem can be added to the modern PC for well under \$100.

Many folks have their first online experience by subscribing to one of the commercial computer information services such as Prodigy®, America Online®, CompuServe®, Delphi®, Genie®, etc. Most of these services provide various general

interest features including newspaper type articles about current events, the weather, movie and book reviews, etc.; bulletin boards of various types catering to various special interests, including genealogy; and E-mail service.

The latter is jargon for electronic mail where you can communicate one-on-one with other subscribers to the service, perhaps someone you meet on a bulletin board discussing a common family line. A bulletin board is a place where you can post a message, perhaps seeking information on a surname in a certain geographic area. Such postings are public and can be read by everyone. However, as soon as a productive contact is made, the "conversation" can shift over to E-mail, which is private.

Once you have mastered (and it really doesn't take long) the computer service of your choice, it's then time to take the biggest step of all and enter the Internet. The Internet is the so-called "information highway" that much is being written about today and has advocates from the White House on down. The Internet is really nothing more than the interconnection of thousands of computers, all over the globe, with the ability for the average person to access them from the comfort of their home using a PC and a modem.

Two questions should immediately come to mind. How does one gain access to the Internet and what can I expect to find when I get there? The first answer is rather simple. If you subscribe to one of the commercial online services such as Prodigy®, access to the Internet is part of the deal. You pay for your usage according to the payment schedule established by your service. If you're lucky enough to be part of a company, school, government agency or other entity that has blanket access to the Internet, you may be eligible to have an account in their name and use the Internet for free. Other so-called "on ramp" services are also available at a somewhat lower cost than the general computer information services.

The answer to the second question can be either simple or complex depending on your point of view. The simple answer is that you can find just about everything (including things you'd probably not want to find) when "surfing the net" [more techno-speak for "browsing available resources on the Internet"].

The complex answer is that it takes a little experimentation to learn the specific procedures required to get you the most direct path to the information you seek. A procedure used by many people is to subscribe to a List Server dedicated to a particular topic. In this sense the word "subscribe" means "to register with" and does not connote payment of a fee. A List

Server is best described as an application program on a large central computer that processes formatted queries from subscribers and returns information it has stored. Such information may be a family pedigree chart that intersects yours submitted by a person you never met. A similar application is called a Mail Server where E-mail messages are submitted by individual subscribers and reflected out to all other subscribers.

Other features available on the Internet include News Groups [the Internet name for Bulletin Boards]. There are several groups dedicated to genealogy. E-mail is also available on Internet as it is on any of the commercial services. When writing messages via Internet you can contact any subscriber from any commercial service, regardless of which one you might be on.

Finally, there is the World Wide Web. All you need here are a couple of URLs [Universal Resource Lists or simply file names] dealing with genealogy and you're off and running.

The computer screen you see with a web presentation is very readable, almost magazine-like in many instances. Many genealogical societies are sponsoring web sites or web pages [the jargon has not yet stabilized here]. Some people have even established their own personal web page and present their family tree, research and publishing objectives, and generally introduce themselves to others interested in genealogy.

If you own a modern PC and are not yet online, consider expanding your horizons and see what's available out there. Many of the commercial services offer free trial periods.

One of our subscribers, Larry Stephens, is on staff at Indiana University, where he runs a genealogy Mail Server. To find out what a Mail Server can do for you, address an E-mail message to MAISER@rmgate.pop.indiana.edu. Use any subject and the following three-line message:

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SEND LIST.TXT
SEND STATES.TXT.
HELP
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Fun Stuff

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Polleys Progenitors



One of the recognized spelling variants for which **POLLEY POINTERS** does not currently have subscriber representation is **POLLEYS**. However, at least one group of **POLLEYS** is traceable to the Woburn, MA clan. So, in that sense, many of our subscribers are indeed related to people named **POLLEYS**. The group that descends from Woburn, for some inexplicable reason, in the fifth generation, decided to append the letter "S" to their surname. After George¹, Samuel², Samuel³, and Nathaniel⁴, William Polleys, b. 29 May 1762 in Medford, MA¹, decided he would be different, adopting the pluralized version. Perhaps the spelling resulted from a possessive use, as in "Polley's house." Whatever the cause or motivation, the spelling has endured.

William married Else Moody on 17 Nov 1787 in Newbury, MA². They had four daughters and four sons. Among the sons was William, Jr., b. 27 Sep 1790 in Newbury who became a sea captain. He migrated to Portland, ME. He and his wife, Mary Woodbury³, had two sons, Woodbury Hugh, b. 1817, and William Zebedee, b. 1823, both in Portland, ME. The latter also became a sea captain. The line of William Z. Polleys has been extended to the present day to a Eugene Hardwick Polleys, who is the City Attorney for Columbus, GA. Eugene worked very closely with Alvin Polley some 30 years ago in researching his line of descent.

Another interesting group of **POLLEYS** spans the entire country in all directions, from Maine to Oregon and from Wisconsin to Georgia. This group was in the lumbering business. Although the family has not been traced back very far, it appears to offer a very fertile field for additional research. The progenitor here is a William H. Polleys who was born 18 May 1824 in Halifax, Colchester Co., Nova Scotia. He came to the state of Maine at age 17 and gained work in the lumbering business. He headed west to Wisconsin in 1849, it having gained statehood the previous year. He located for the winter at St. Anthony Falls, now Minneapolis, and returned to Maine in 1850. He returned to Wisconsin in 1851 and again went back to Maine in 1852. In 1857, having earlier married (ca. 1850) Dorothy A. Woodcock (also called Dora) of Maine (b. 1829, d. June 1887) and starting a family there, he returned with family in tow and set up permanent residence in Melrose (Jackson Co.), WI.

He built a dam on the nearby creek and in 1859, established a furniture factory. When, in 1866, a flood washed out the dam, Polleys closed the factory and built a sawmill on French Island in La Crosse. His lumbering operations grew and eventually extended from the headwaters of the Black River to St. Louis. As much as 13 million feet of logs went through the mill annually. Polleys employed 200 men in the winter and 75 in the summer. Polleys also owned 11,000 acres of land, with 1000 acres under cultivation divided over four separate farms.

Polleys would not accept a public office, claiming that anyone with a considerable business could not afford to do so. He was, however, interested in public affairs and devoted much time and effort to the furtherance of good government. He was noted for his liberality, contributing to every worthy local cause and helping the needy and unfortunate. Many of his benefactors were not made known until after his death.

After the first windmill was built in the community for pumping water in 1875, Polleys laid the first water pipes underground in 1876. Polleys was of an inventive turn of mind and was granted patents on his inventions. One such invention was the graduated level, now widely used by carpenters and mechanics. Old papers still in existence [1948] show that the patent was issued during the Civil War in the early sixties.

His four sons, William Ernest, Edgar Hovey, Abner Dexter, and Frank Oscar were taken into the business as soon as they finished school. William E. was born in Baring (Washington Co.), ME on 4 May 1851. Edgar H. was born in 1854 in Maine. Abner D. was born 3 May 1856, also at Baring, ME. The youngest son, Frank, was born in Melrose, WI in 1858.⁴

In 1858, in Melrose, Polleys completed work on a home for his family that was to stand to the present day. Today it is considered an historic showplace in Jackson County and is operated as a Bed & Breakfast by Kimberly and Rick Kinser. The inn now bears a commercial name, Polley's Place, but the owners have not lost sight of the history behind it. Their brochure presents a detailed description of the Polleys family residence. If you're ever in the area, the phone number is (608) 488-2018. A photo of the 22-room mansion appears on the next page.

The mansion passed to Abner D. and then to his daughter Abbie May (Mrs. Lloyd Milbright) and finally to his grandson, Royce Milbright. After Royce died in 1986, the mansion was sold

in commercial work. Upon finishing his schooling, Abner entered the lumbering industry with his father.

Early in life his qualities as a community leader became recognized. In 1888 he was elected town clerk by unanimous vote, and after serving five years in that capacity, he was chosen town chairman for ten consecutive terms, serving four years of that time as Chairman of the Jackson County board. He held many other public offices including supervisor of assessment for Jackson County and county highway commissioner.

He was married on 18 April 1893 to Miss Minnie James, of Richland Center. Their children surviving him at the time of his death, 20 Dec 1942, were James Polleys, of Merrimac; Mrs. Lloyd (May) Milbright, North Bend postmistress; and Mrs. Wendell (Dorothy) Barlow, of Monticello. He was interred at the Melrose cemetery across the highway from the home, a part of which was a portion of the original Polleys homestead.

Abner Polleys was one of the founders of the Jackson County Historical Society. For years he had gathered historical materials and preserved them. He had compiled much of the material in articles that were widely published in the La Crosse, Trempealeau, Monroe and Jackson county papers. Writing with care, his articles were of lasting interest. Among the publications in which his articles appeared were the La Crosse Tribune, the Galesville Republican, the Melrose Chronicle and the Banner-Journal.

Upon insistence of his friends Mr. Polleys consented to the compilation of his collection of over one hundred individual sketches and essays, related to the history of southern Jackson County, in book form. Apparently he never lived to see the final product of his labors, as the book, Stories of Pioneer Days in the Black River Valley, was published by his widow six years after his death.¹⁰

Little is known of Frank O. Polleys other than he is said to have married in Glendale, California. He and his wife were childless.¹¹

There is a genealogical clue as to the parentage and ancestral line of William H. Polleys that appears in one of the Wisconsin county histories. In a biographical article on Abner D. Polleys, it goes off on a tangent speaking at length about William H. Polleys and says, "His father Abner Polleys, was born at Bridge Hill, Massachusetts, in the year 1786, and subsequently came to Dodge County [WI], where he died at the age of sixty-six years."¹² Bridge Hill, MA is not found in any gazetteers or historical atlases. A thought

that it might be in Maine, as Maine was a part of Massachusetts until 1820, did not yield a town either. However, a summit called Bridge Hill was found in Sagadahoc Co., ME. Sagadahoc Co. is on the coast of Maine, about half way between Portland and Rockland, ME. It sounds like the family of Abner Polleys may have had loyalist leanings and left the country as the new nation was forming, returning to the same general area years afterward.

Perhaps some Polley researcher will recognize something in this story that may have a bearing on his or her line, complete the research, and report back their findings in a future issue. Remember the flexibility this surname has in its spelling. The final "S" could have been dropped at any time as easily as it was put on.

There are a few, as yet unconnected, facts regarding the Polleys family that tend to reinforce the notion that the Maine and Wisconsin Polleys had very strong ties for many years. From the Maine Historical and Genealogical Recorder, Volume III (1886), p. 30, we find a marriage on 7 Nov 1839 between John Pollys [sic] of Baring and Elizabeth Pratt of North Yarmouth. On p. 34 we find a marriage on 7 Oct 1827, in Portland, between Samuel Polleys and Sarah B. Deane.

From the Brackett Genealogy, by Herbert I. Brackett, published by the author in Washington, DC, 1907:

p. 236— Ellen Brackett (dau. Daniel Brackett & Mary Connel) b. 18 Sep 1854; m. 19 Mar 1875 to James Polley, b. 9 May 1853, son of James and wife, Jane Robertson, of St. Stevens, New Brunswick, ME; resides in Albertville (Chippewa Co.), WI. Mr. Polley is a lumberman. Issue:

1. George A., b. 2 May 1877; m. 16 Jun 1904 to Abbie H. Hurlburt; resides in Winona, MN.
2. Vera G., b. 15 Feb 1884
3. Manford J., b. 31 Oct 1885

page 241— Susan (dau. Samuel Brackett & Polly Gove) b. 8 Jul 1832; m. 1852 to David Polleys, who d. Dec 1899. Settled in Juneau (Dodge Co.), WI in 1854; moved to La Crosse, WI in 1856, where she d. 27 Dec 1898. Issue:

1. Ida, b. 1859
2. Harry, deceased

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[Editors Note: Ref. 4. below, Stories of Pioneer Days in Black River Valley, by Abner D. Polleys, is available for \$8.50 + \$1.00 S&H from: Melrose Chronicle, P.O. Box 8, Melrose, WI 54642. An all name index to the book is available for \$3.00 + \$1.50 S&H from: Mrs.

Sue E. Eddy, W11770 Cty Rd P, Black River Falls, WI 54615-5926.]

1. Vital records of Medford, Mass. to the year 1850, NEHGS, Boston, MA, 1907, pp. 111-2.
2. Vital Records of Newbury, Mass. to 1849, Vol II, Marriages and Deaths, The Essex Institute, Salem, 1911, p. 405.
3. Maine Historical and Genealogical Recorder, Vol IV (1887), p. 173, "Marriages copied from the private record of the Rev. Caleb Bradley of Westbrook, "... October 17, 1816 William Polleys and Mary Woodbury ..."
4. Stories of Pioneer Days in Black River Valley, Abner Dexter Polleys, 1948, Black River Falls, WI, pp. 75, 89.
5. "Mansion seen as money maker," by Connie Norris, La Crosse Tribune, 28 Sep 1986, p. 10.
6. Obituary, Abbie May Milbright, Melrose Chronicle, 22 February 1995.
7. Chapin, Earl, "Mansion Built in 1858 Is Historic Showplace," unidentified newspaper clipping, presumably from a Jackson County, WI paper, apparently published after Abner Polleys' death [1942].
8. Biographical History of La Crosse, Monroe and Juneau Counties, Wisconsin, Lewis Publishing Co., Chicago, 1892, pp. 266-67.
9. The note is a photocopy and was found in the collection of Polley genealogical material compiled by Alvin H. Polley, Jr., 1913-1970. (See **POLLEY POINTERS**, Sep '94)
10. Polleys, A.D., op. cit., p. 89.
11. "Great-Grandson Restoring Old William H. Polleys Residence At Melrose," Susan M. McCabe, Ed., The La Crosse Sunday Tribune, 7 Nov 1954, Section Two (Woman's Page), pp. 9-10.
12. Biographical History of Clark and Jackson Counties, Wisconsin, Lewis Publishing Co., Chicago, 1891, p. 214.

Polley Books Reprinted

Two books authored by the grandfather of subscriber Joseph Polley Paine have been reprinted and are once again available. Joseph Benjamin Polley's works, A Soldier's Letters to Charming Nellie, 350 pp. [R-1984] #1519, and Hood's Texas Brigade, 347 pp. [R-1995] #1520, both cloth bound are available at \$32.50 and \$30.00 respectively plus shipping and tax if applicable. Available from: **Morningside Bookshop, P.O. Box 1087, Dayton, OH 45401. Shop Location: 260 Oak St., Dayton, OH 45410. Tel.: 1-800-648-9710 or (513) 461-6736.** Call for details and stock before ordering.

submitted by Janice Frost

The Book Nook



South-West Virginia and The Valley, originally published in 1892 by A.D. Smith & Co., Roanoke, VA. Reprinted by Heritage Books, Inc., 1995, ISBN 1-55613-083-X, Pub. Cat No. S538, 527 pp., illus., index, paper, \$32.00.

If your area of research in Virginia is Lynchburg, Staunton, Roanoke, Salem, or Front Royal or the counties of Augusta, Halifax, Shenandoah, Rockbridge, Washington, Pulaski or Smyth and environs, this book is for you. Written in the style of the familiar gazetteer/"mug book" that proliferated on library shelves at the turn of the century, this book was the first of its kind written about Virginia. It is divided into 34 chapters generally along county and major city lines. Each contains essays on the history, topography, geology and natural resources of the area as well as detailed facts relative to contemporary industries and enterprises. Each chapter also contains mini-biographies of prominent area citizens.

As an example of the level of detail one can find in this book, we learn that the Bertha Zinc Works of Pulaski, VA had an annual output of 4½ million pounds at a value of \$350,000. We also find that in 1887 the payroll for its 675 employees averaged \$20,000 per month.

In the biographical information, the reader learns of the company's founder, Capt. Thomas Jones, born 24 June 1840 in Bristol, England, the son of David Jones, Esq., a boiler contractor and machinist. Thomas was educated at Brown's College, Swansea, Wales, entering the smelting business and holding successive positions in Wales, Germany and Austria. He then came to the United States and initially settled at Providence, RI where he was employed for ten years by the Rumford Chemical Works. He finally struck out on his own to Virginia founding the Bertha Zinc Works, which became the largest in the country, supplying the United States government with all of the zinc used in its coinage. Jones had married Miss Mary A. James of Swansea, Wales, in 1861. They had seven children and were members of the Methodist church.

The book is illustrated with portraits and facsimile signatures of several of the biographical subjects. It is also well indexed, as the reprint incorporates a brand new name and place index to supplement the original index.

If this area of Virginia is key to your research, this fact-packed book belongs in your personal collection of reference works. Available direct from the publisher at 1540-E Pointer Ridge Pl., Suite 300, Bowie, MD 20716. Catalog of other titles also available on request. rcr

Polleys and the Law


**Grahams Minor Polley,
Entertainer and Entrepreneur**

by Richard C. Randt

Motion pictures had their beginnings in the not so distant past, when measured in time units used by genealogists, namely generations. Early ideas and experimentation, establishing the basis for modern movie technology, is traceable back to Philadelphia engineer Coleman Sellers, who patented his Kinematoscope in 1861. Inevitable improvements came over the next 30 years (perhaps a bit more than one generation) when in 1891, Edison patented his Kinetoscope and his Kinetographic camera in the United States. His failure to secure worldwide patents permitted the French and others to enter the fledgling industry.

At first, movies were relegated to coin operated "peep show" machines. However, the concept of the movie projected onto a screen for a large audience was soon born. The first "Electric Theater" was opened in Los Angeles in 1902. The year 1905 is generally credited as the birth of the modern movie industry when *The Great Train Robbery* was shown to audiences in theaters springing up all over the country. For many of us, 1905 is but two, perhaps three, generations back.

For first cousin subscribers Graham Sterritt and Florence Brown, their uncle, Grahams Minor Polley, played a small, but perhaps an historic role in the developing industry. Polley, the firstborn of Minor Keith Polley and Barbara Ida Kohart, came into this world on 18 Oct 1879. Although named for his late grandfather, with the middle name of his father, he was often times referred to as Graham (without the "S") as many documents and news articles indicate. In fact, he is buried in Cypress Hills Cemetery in Brooklyn, NY, as Graham M. Polley.

As a young man he fancied himself an actor. He performed in a number of small productions and did some vaudeville work, all under the stage name of Pete Parley. The name Pete stuck with him, solving his identity problem, but the career

did not flourish. However, his experiences with theaters and audiences led him naturally into the developing industry of motion pictures.

By 1914 Polley was the proprietor of a "moving-picture house" in Babylon, Suffolk Co., NY. In March of that year, Polley "made the papers" for daring to screen *Traffic in Souls*, a melodrama dealing with the subject of white slavery. The film generated a great amount of controversy and became a landmark in the establishment of movie censorship guidelines by lawmakers and by industry policy makers.

The movie was reportedly inspired by contemporary investigations into white slavery and vice.¹ The plot concerns the adventures of two sisters, Mary and Lorna Barton. After Lorna is kidnapped by the white-slave gang, Mary, as a telephone operator in the office of wealthy social reformer, William Trubus, who in reality is the leader of the white-slave ring, learns of her sister's whereabouts. With Mary's help, the gang and its leader are arrested.²

Although *Traffic in Souls* has developed somewhat of a reputation as the film by which American cinema discovered sex, it is completely unwarranted. There are no scenes of an explicit sexual nature. Although nothing is seen in the film that anyone would think twice about today, the premise of the film was considered rather lurid and was probably the primary cause of the controversy.

POLLEY GETS JURY TRIAL
**Arrested on Charge of Showing
"Traffic in Souls" Movies.**

Babylon, L.I., March 4—A preliminary hearing in the case of Graham Polley, the moving-picture house proprietor, who was arrested on Monday for showing "The Traffic in Souls" before an audience of critics, resulted in a demand by the defendant for a jury trial and a consequent adjournment until this afternoon. The hearing was held before Justice James B. Cooper, who received a complaint from Village President Alley. Lawyer A.D. Haff appeared for president Alley and the village. Yesterday afternoon Polley engaged George H. Furman of Patchogue to represent him at today's trial.

Brooklyn Daily Eagle
March 4, 1914

Artistically speaking, noted modern critics consider it a bad film.³ Contemporary reviews were somewhat mixed. The critic for *Variety* said, "Offered frankly as a melodrama, the production fairly meets the expectations its title arouses. It shows in moving picture reproduction approximations of what newspapers print from day to day of the barter of women," seemingly treating the film more as a documentary than anything else.⁴

What of Polley's involvement in all of this? The clipping above from the *Brooklyn Daily Eagle* of 4 March 1914 tells the initial story.⁵ The next day, 5 March, a trial ensued before a jury of six men. Apparently the prosecution was ill-prepared and Polley had selected the best defense lawyer available, one whose family had done legal work for the Polley family going back to Polley's namesake grandfather, Grahams

Polley (1815-1860) [see the Mar '95 issue]. Polley and his lawyer, George H. Furman, had the charges dismissed when the prosecution could not prove jurisdiction and could not produce the film. Viewer descriptions of the film were excluded as hearsay.

The Eagle reported, "Probably one of the largest crowds that have attended a trial in this village for years wedged into every available inch of space of the courtroom. It was a mixed crowd, doctors, lawyers and ministers being well represented, in addition to the ordinary contingent of curiosity seekers." After the trial was ended by the judges's dismissal of all charges, Village President Edward S. Alley invoked his authority and denied Polley a license to operate his theater, seemingly losing a big battle but administratively winning the war.⁶

However, Polley would not accept Alley's action and ordered his lawyers to institute a \$10,000 suit for false arrest and defamation of character. The Brooklyn Daily Eagle of 17 March 1914, detailing Polley's suit provides a little more insight into the case.⁷ The story provided background information and summarized the complaint saying, "... that Polley was arrested without any good cause, and that the reputation of the complainant was injured by the arrest. On 2 March Polley gave a performance of the picture for the benefit of the village president and the clergy. Later, Polley was haled before the local justice, and two days following was given a jury trial, the outcome of which was the dismissal of the case on a technicality." The article goes on to say, "The case has attracted widespread attention all over the country, as the show was one of the 'moral uplift' exhibitions of which Alley alleged that, while pretending to point a good moral, were indecent in suggestion."

What is not discussed in any of the Eagle articles is Polley's intentions and motives. The showing of the film at issue was apparently not for public viewing. The performance in question was a special one given by Polley to which he invited the village president, the trustees, and a number of clergymen. This is certainly not the behavior of an individual trying to profit on

sensationalism who flouts the law and common decency. He apparently knew that the film was controversial and was seeking to allay unfounded fears of the village elders. Whether or not a rational, meaningful dialogue ensued between Polley and the elders and a compromise reached, is unknown [at least it is not apparent from the research materials gathered to date]. It would appear that the village president acted a bit prematurely in attempting to arrest Polley and charge him with anything. If the elders came to the theater, in response to an invitation, knowing beforehand what they were going to see, it is your editor's opinion that no court or jury would have convicted Polley had the trial proceeded. Had he shown the film to a general audience, that would have been another story.



Photo: Geo. Sterritt Family.

Scanned by Walt Neubauer.

Grahams M. Polley

in vaudevillian costume as Pete Parley.

Polley's suit against the village president was more prolonged than his own abortive trial. The defamation suit was ended in November when Mr. Alley sought an out of court settlement. The settlement was for the sum of \$150 paid to Polley for his legal expenses incurred at the first trial and in retaining counsel for the damage suit. [Ed. Note: Lawyers worked cheaply 80 years ago!] In the news article that reported the settlement, it notes that the settlement was at the personal expense of Mr. Alley and that he intended to submit a claim to the village board for reimbursement. The reason stated by Mr. Alley for the settlement was that "...he did not wish to drag into the courts the clergymen who witnessed

the trial performance... ."⁸

Again, what the newspapers did not say was whether or not Polley ever obtained a license for his theater. How long he had operated before the incident over *Traffic in Souls*, presumably without a license, was never brought out in the coverage provided by the Eagle. The 5 March story alludes to "new ordinances" but never explains what they required or when they had come into effect. If this case received as much country-wide attention as the Eagle claimed it did, surely other newspapers covered it (hopefully in more detail). This is research left for the interested reader. **POLLEY POINTERS** welcomes any follow up research on this case.

Exactly what this case did to shape the future of the film industry cannot be stated with certainty. However, it was undoubtedly one of the earliest cases of many to come where a certain segment of the population was morally outraged over the content of a film, justifiably or not, and attempted to impose their standards on the balance of the population. Polley was one of the first members of the industry to recognize that not all films were suitable for all audiences and that some discretion would be required in screening the various offerings. That Polley called in the village elders to preview *Traffic in Souls* is evidence of his concern. That he was arrested and humiliated is unfortunate. That he fought for and sustained his rights is commendable.

Grahams Minor Polley was a descendant of David Polley and Hannah Purdy of New York City, his line being David¹, Grahams², Minor Keith³, Grahams Minor⁴. He married Laura Faith Pipe, daughter of George W. Pipe and Alice L. Cunningham, on 9 Dec 1908. They had one son, George Weston Polley, born 5 Feb 1910. The senior Polley died relatively young, in his 47th year. Although he never knew them, the one son gave him two grandsons. At last count there were four great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren.⁹

The son, George Weston Polley, became a banker in New York City, a vice president and director of Roosevelt and Sons on Wall Street. He met an untimely death in his Long Island home at age 61 on 31 October 1971. He died as a direct result of a rather bizarre incident. While relaxing at home on a Sunday evening, a drunken off-duty policeman came bursting through the door with no apparent motive, but was carrying a weapon. Polley drove him from the house with his own shotgun, called the police and then suffered a fatal heart attack. rcr

[Editors Note: As an example of the utility of being online (See [Polley Tools](#)), as this story was being prepared, we received an E-mail message from Georgia L. Evans of Port Townsend, WA, a descendant of Alice L. Cunningham and George W. Pipe. She had been searching for Polleys for some time in hopes of finding information on her great-aunt Laura F. (Pipe) Polley whom she knew to be married to a "Pete" Polley. We gave her data on the family and she has since contacted a second cousin Polley in Florida. These contacts all resulted from a Polley query posted to a genealogy News Group on Internet.]

1. The Rockefeller White Slavery Report and the New York District Attorney investigation into vice.
2. The Magill Movie Guide, Prodigy® Interactive Personal Service.
3. The Magill Movie Guide, Prodigy® Interactive Personal Service.

4. *Variety*, 28 November 1913.

5. Although the *Brooklyn Daily Eagle* has been defunct for a number of years now, its "morgue" of clippings has been preserved at the Brooklyn Public Library, Grand Army Plaza, Brooklyn, NY 11238. The Eagle articles cited in this feature were obtained with the assistance of the Local History Librarian there.

6. "Legal Point Halts Fight to Stop Films," *Brooklyn Daily Eagle*, 5 March 1914, p. 4.

7. "Asks \$10,000 for Ban on 'Vice' Pictures," *Brooklyn Daily Eagle*, 17 March 1914.

8. "Ends Suit to Spare Feelings of Clergy," *Brooklyn Daily Eagle*, 7 November 1914, p. 4.

9. Private correspondence (20 Aug 1989) with Geo. W. Polley's widow, the former Evelyn Rae Tuttle, who married Polley 2 May 1936.

Polleys From Ireland



Last quarter we used the space on the back cover to present two obituaries of recently deceased Polleys. One of them was a Canadian, Victor Polley, who had been the administrative director of the Stratford Shakespearean Festival and general manager of the St. Lawrence Centre for the Arts. He had worked for the two organizations 17 years and 10 years respectively. He was 79.¹

In 1965 Alvin Polley attempted to contact Victor Polley at Stratford seeking information on his family. The letter apparently went unanswered. A current correspondent in Canada and fellow Prodigy® subscriber, Bill Jackson, graciously spent some of his research time for us seeing what additional information he could find on Victor Polley and his origins. He found quite a lot.

Born in Stratford, Polley attended Shakespeare and Anne Hathaway schools, Stratford Collegiate Vocational Institute and Stratford Teachers' College. He had taught public school prior to working at the R.M. Ballantyne Co. Ltd. for 17 years and was plant superintendent when the business closed. In 1941 he enlisted with the Canadian Army and served in Europe. From 1954-56 and again in 1959 he served as a Stratford alderman.

Polley was a member of the Lions Club, the Royal Canadian Legion and the Stratford Country Club. He was a recipient of the Queen's Jubilee Medal.²

Victor's father was Francis Patrick Polley who was born 27 January 1892 in Newry, Ireland, a son of Mr. and Mrs. David John Polley. He came to Canada and settled in Stratford in 1911. He was a machinist with the Canadian National

Railways until his retirement in 1957. He then worked for the Perth Mutual Fire Insurance Co.

Francis P. Polley was best known for his efforts in leading and directing various children's choirs, winning many honors and accolades.

He was first married to Flora Patterson who was born in London in 1893. They had two children, Victor and Reta. Flora Polley was active with her husband in his work with children's choirs. She died rather young in London, on New Year's Day, 1935. She had been an invalid for about 12 years. She was the daughter of Alexander and Elizabeth Patterson.³

Mr. Polley remarried in 1937 to Florette Rae Kerr. He died at age 70, 28 October 1962, in Stratford. His obituary stated that he was the last surviving member of his family, being predeceased by his parents, eight brothers and two sisters.⁴

1. "Victor Polley, 79, found joy in arts," Toronto Star, 16 July 1995, p. A 10.

2. "Was Festival administrator director, Vic Polley dies," Stratford Beacon Herald, 13 July 1995.

3. "Mrs. F.P. Polley" (Obit.), Stratford Beacon Herald, 1 Jan 1935, p. 7.

4. "City Loses Noted Choir Director," Stratford Beacon Herald, 29 Oct 1962, p. 2.

Polleys of Canada



We have often mentioned early Polley Researcher, Charles A. Hesson. We have been tracking him for several years in hopes of finding the remains of his research materials. We mentioned in the September '95 issue that the two Hesson letters and his family tree diagram were finally traced to the Connecticut Historical Society in Hartford. However, it became apparent that further information on Hesson and his mother, Margaret Polley, would have to come from Canada.

We were fortunate to have made contact on the Prodigy service with Mr. Bill Jackson of Simcoe, Norfolk County, Ontario. Bill is retired and serves as a volunteer at the Norfolk Historical Society. He is also researching his own genealogy. He became interested in a bulletin we had posted seeking information on Charles A. Hesson. Before long Bill had a steady stream of information coming our way and finally discovered some significant facts about Hesson and his family.

The following is taken verbatim [lack of paragraphing and all] from Prominent Men of Canada, published in 1892, pp. 221-222:

CHARLES A. HESSON, St. Catharines, Ont.

CHARLES ASHTON HESSON, Collector of Inland Revenue at the Port of St. Catharines, belongs to a well-known family in Western Ontario, some of its members having been pioneers of that region for upwards of sixty years. In 1830 the Hesson family emigrated to Canada from County Antrim, Ireland, and at Kilrae, Londonderry, near the site of the old homestead, a representative of the family still resides at the advanced age of ninety years. On reaching this country the Hesson family first settled at Dundas, where they remained some years, and there the head of the house, John Hesson, died, leaving a widow and seven children, the youngest of whom, Samuel Rollin Hesson, was well known in the Dominion Parliament. When Samuel was about fourteen, the family removed to what was known as the Queen's Bush, a region of almost unbroken forest in the western part of the province. There they took up land about four miles from Stratford, then called Little Thames, with the design of making a home for themselves. In this they finally succeeded despite the hardships which they, in common with other settlers, had then to endure. When Samuel grew up he removed to Stratford, and after remaining there for a time he opened a general store in the village of Sebringville, Perth County, where he also kept the post office. He was also engaged in farming, and acted frequently on the bench as justice of the peace. While at Stratford he married Margaret Polley, and on March 28, 1860, the subject of our sketch was born at Sebringville. Miss Polley was of Welsh descent; her great grandfather, Matthew Polley, who had come from the old country to America about the middle of the last century, was a mill-owner and ship builder in the region around Norwich and Lebanon, Connecticut, and at the latter place his son, Alpheus Polley, was born in 1745 [sic], who, when the Revolutionary War broke out, remaining loyal to the Crown, with other U.E. [United Empire] loyalists, left his home at the close of the great struggle in 1783, and proceeded to New Brunswick, where Mrs. Hesson's father, John Polley, was born. In 1808 the family removed westward to Upper Canada, and after reaching this province they settled in Toronto, where they remained some years, and during their stay there Margaret Polley was born, the family afterward settling at Simcoe, County Norfolk. The Polleys were also related to the Coltmans, prominent people in Lower Canada many years ago, Margaret's grandfather having married Mrs. Coltman, a daughter of Captain John Young, who fought in the Royal American regiment under General Wolfe in his final campaign. In the War of 1812, Charles Hesson's grandfather (Polley) took part on the side of the British, and was present at the battles of Chrysler's Farm, Lundy's Lane, and other engagements; and again in 1837 he was among the

volunteers who turned out to quell the McKenzie rebellion. In 1865, Samuel Hesson moved with his family to Stratford, and there he established a general store. Charles attended the public and high schools, where he received a thorough practical education, and after completing his scholastic course he entered upon the study of law. But to this he only gave his attention for about three years, when he desired to abandon a profession which he saw already overcrowded. Shortly after this he removed to Manitoba, where, for a while, he was in the Hudson Bay Company's service, and for a time had charge of the freighting of Indian and North-West Mounted Police department supplies. He was afterwards engaged in the real estate business in Brandon, but left that western town in 1882 and returned to Stratford. In January of the following year he entered the Inland Revenue department of the government service, an office he still holds, and in which he has proved himself a thoroughly efficient and painstaking public servant. He was stationed successively at Brantford, Woodstock, Ingersoll and Windsor, and finally in December, 1886, he was appointed Deputy Collector at St. Catharines. A year later, owing to the death of his predecessor, the late Mr. Seymour, he was promoted to the Collectorship, a position which he has since filled to the satisfaction of both the department and the public. In politics, Mr. Hesson has always been a Liberal-Conservative, his father, Samuel R. Hesson, having continuously represented North Perth in the House of Commons for a period of thirteen years, namely, from 1878 to 1891. Since accepting a government position Mr. C.A. Hesson has, of course, taken no part in political contests. In religion, he belongs to the Church of England, and is a member of the congregation of St. George's church. In 1887, Mr. Hesson married Agnes, youngest daughter of the late Dr. J.L. Lizars, of Toronto, a member of an old Edinburgh family, and in his day one of the most famous surgeons in Canada. As an issue of this marriage, there are two children. In his official relations with the business public, Mr. Hesson is much esteemed, and in private life he is held in high regard by a large circle of friends.

Charles Hesson's obituary provides additional insight into his life and genealogical roots and is reproduced in the next column.

Regarding Hesson's Polley ancestry, it appears that he did not get much further back than his letters to Patterson (the dentist/genealogist) indicate. One can reasonably speculate that perhaps his whole motive in researching his ancestry was for the purpose of composing a favorable biographical sketch such as the one from 1892 reprinted here. This sketch may well represent the final product of Hesson's research.

DEATH SUMMONS CHAS. A. HESSON

Native of Stratford Passed Away Today At Port Dal- housie; Aged 75

Charles Ashton Hesson, a native of Stratford and a well known horticulturist and retired civil servant, died today in Port Dalhousie. He was 75 years of age. Mr. Hesson, son of the late S. R. Hesson, who represented South Perth at Ottawa during the regime of Sir John A. Macdonald, had not lived in Stratford for some years, leaving here when a young man to enter the government service at Walkerville. Advancement soon came his way and in 1885 he was transferred to St. Catharines as collector of inland customs. He remained in this position until the amalgamation of the Inland Revenue and Customs Department in 1921. He was one of the founders of the St. Catharines horticultural Society, member of the Ontario Society, executive member of the Ontario Historical Society, honorary president of the Lincoln Historical Society and for several terms warden of St. George's Church. His wife and three children survive, Mrs. Mona Sanderson, Mrs. Fred Conrad, and Lionel Hesson; also three sisters, Mrs. H. Symons, Toronto; Mrs. G. E. Morgan, Stratford; and Miss F. S. Hesson, 111 Church street, Stratford.

*From the Stratford Beacon Herald,
Friday, 16 Oct 1936, p. 8.*

One of the tell-tale signs that Hesson apparently accepted a lot on faith without hard documentation is the reference to his mother, Margaret, being of Welsh descent. He apparently borrowed this unfounded assertion from the 1881 book, *History of the Town of Gilsum, New Hampshire, 1752-1879*, by Sylvanus Hayward.

On p. 377 of this reference the author writes about the family of Jacob Polley, a 6th generation descendant of George Polly of Woburn, MA [George¹, George², Ebenezer³, Joseph⁴, Peter⁵, Jacob⁶]. In a prefacing statement to the piece on Jacob he speaks of Jacob's father saying, "*Peter Polley* was of Welsh origin and rem. from Ashburnham, Mass. to Acworth, 1816; m. Desire Flint. His father died in Charlestown No. 4 of wounds received from the Indians."

Hayward offers no proof or other explanation regarding the Polley geographical origin. Regarding the demise of Jacob's grandfather, Joseph

Polley, there is documentary evidence that Joseph Polley, grandfather of Jacob, lived to serve in the Revolution and died in late 1776. Although, it was in fact another Joseph, son of John Polley and Jemima Nichols, b. 20 Aug 1756, in Medford, MA, who saw revolutionary service at Charlestown No. 4 in NH. However, he did not die there as a result of any wounds. This Joseph died in Bridgeport, CT on 11 Jul 1843. The author, Hayward, apparently had his Josephs and related facts badly mixed up. Thus his credibility leaves much doubt with regard to Polley origins. Therefore, by extension, Hesson's assertion is not to be accepted at face value either.

Hesson's biographical sketch also provides an erroneous date for the birth [1745] of Alpheus (or Alpheas) Polley, the Loyalist who went to New Brunswick in 1783 to begin this line of Canadian Polleys. The Barbour Collection of Connecticut Vital Records for Middletown, Vol. 2, p. 19, gives the date 18 August 1755 as the birth date for Alpheas, s. of Matthew & Martha. The CT Church Records Index, Vol. 2, p. 494, shows Alpheus Polley, s. Matthew, Bp. Sept. 12, 1756, Berlin, Kensington Cong. Ch.

Likewise the alleged "immigration" of Alpheus' father, Matthew, is suspect. Matthew's line from Woburn is now well known as: George¹, John², Matthew³, Matthew⁴. Apparently the ancestry of Matthew⁴ was obscured during the 19th century until active records preservation actions were undertaken.

By this point the reader is probably wondering if Charles Hesson produced any worthwhile Polley material at all! The answer is definitely yes. Simply by his interest he has caught our interest and the interest of others, and eventually by our collective diligence the truth comes to light. Along the line, in developing the Hesson story, Bill Jackson has uncovered a hoard of Canadian Polley material that will serve as grist for the **POLLEY POINTERS** mill for some time to come. rcr

Virginia and Kentucky Polleys

In our Dec '94 issue we had a lengthy discussion on the Polley settlers of Bowman's Station, KY. The three Polleys were Peter, Edward and James. The conclusions one could draw were: 1) more than likely they had origins in Pittsylvania Co., VA; 2) Edward is the most well documented [if it's the right Edward]; 3) Peter's descendants are the most well known and documented; 4) Edward and Peter were probably brothers; and 5) information about James is very obscure relative to his parentage.



These conclusions are borne out in recent research and published information. The Society of the Descendants of Bowman's Station Settler's (SDBSS), in their latest newsletter, Vol. 3, No. 1, Fall-Winter 1995, states that none of their membership have yet claimed Edward or James as a direct ancestor. However one associate member is researching an Edward (b. 21 Dec 1758, d. 19 May 1845, Rev. War vet, m. Mary Agnes Mullins, 1784), but has not yet placed him at Bowman's Station.

Among our subscribers Susan Jurban, Gwen Boyer Bjorkman, Daryl Polley, and others are researching Pittsylvania Co., Virginia Polleys who migrated to Kentucky. Susan has compiled an extensive list of Polley references for Pittsylvania, Montgomery, Wythe, Giles and other counties of VA on which she bases her findings.

The first places Edward, Sr. in Lunenburg Co., VA in 1753 through land records. Then a 1754 court action in Halifax Co. indicates a son, David. Gwen, who found the latter record, notes that Edward and David were recorded as Pauleys. Halifax Co. voting records of 1764 confirm the continued presence of Edward and David. Edward, Sr. died in 1770 and the estate settlement of Mar 1771, in Pittsylvania Co., reveals a son, Edward, Jr. as well as a daughter, Margaret. [Ed. Note: One must maintain awareness of the genealogy of the counties as one was formed from another to appreciate the chain of events relative to the subject being traced.]

The son David married Agnes Adkins and remained in Pittsylvania Co. until his death in 1785. She was the administrator. Their children were probably: Edward m. 1784 Mary Agnes Mullins (Rev. War, settled in KY); David m. 1785 Elizabeth Justice (settled in Pike Co., KY); and John m. Susan (moved to Adair Co., KY via SC and TN).

Susan Jurban believes that Edward, Jr., son of Edward Polley who died in 1770, may have had brothers Joseph, Peter, and Jesse, and that Peter and Edward, Jr. were two of the Bowman's Station Polley trio. At this time she can only speculate that James was either a son or a grandson of Edward, Sr. Susan believes that Edward, Jr. later returned to Kanawha Co., VA [now WV]. This would certainly explain lack of descendants in KY for Edward, Jr. It also would answer questions regarding the identity of the Edward in Kanawha Co. [not the Rev. War vet as incorrectly asserted by Cornell. See Dec '94].

In March, Susan Jurban will present her research on her ancestor James Polley, b. ca. 1785 VA, d. ca. 1816 Floyd Co., KY. She has not yet determined his parentage but feels strongly that he will eventually tie to the Pittsylvania Co. Polleys. rcr



Mr. Archie W. and Florence D. (Polley) Brown - The Browns have been avidly following the development of their family history ever since the Randts paid them a visit several years ago. At that time they also met Florence's sister Priscilla and her mother Dorothy. A number of family stories were exchanged as well as names and addresses of other Polley relatives. The Browns have three daughters and, at last count, six grandchildren. They are now retired to Southold, Long Island in New York and practice "armchair genealogy." Florence, a first cousin of subscriber Graham Sterritt, enumerates her Polley ancestry as follows: David¹, Grahams², Minor Keith³, Francis Kohart⁴, Florence Dorothea⁵.

Mr. James W. Howell - Jim met your editor via the ubiquitous "electronic media," when he regurgitated a large amount of our Polley data in response to our query on an Internet News Group. The material contained unpublished information thought to be held only by us. It was a tribute to Jim's information collecting abilities, his dedication to Polley genealogy, and his willingness to help others. The episode also demonstrated the power of the "information highway."

Jim traces his ancestry back to John Polley of Roxbury, MA, and his wife Susanna Bacon. This line develops through their daughter Mary who married John Perrin, Jr., son of John and Anna Perrin. He then follows the Perrin line through John³, Samuel⁴, John⁵, Elijah⁶, John⁷, Emily⁸. Emily, b. 1814, a 3GGM, married James Peter Howell, b. 1812. A formidable job, reaching back eleven generations to become a Polley descendant! Contending with five John Perrins is no easy task either. **Address: 3828 Proctor Lane, Baltimore, MD 21236. Tel: (410) 529-7546. E-mail: 71324.1526@compuserve.com, jhowell@msn.com, or jhowell@fdic.gov**

Mrs. William J. (Mary Jeanne) Wilk - Mary Jeanne came to us based on the listing of family newsletters in Everton's Genealogical Helper. She is researching her Polleys in the Kentucky area seeking to make a likely connection with the Polleys of Pittsylvania Co., VA. She begins working backward with her grandmother Lena Polley, b. 24 Nov 1882 in Maysville, KY. She is currently working on James Polley, b. 1810, who m. Diana Carey, b. 1812, and their children. See Queries. **Address: 6942 Bluebird Drive, Cincinnati, Ohio 45248-2002.**

Janice (Parker) Frost - Janice is a Woburn descendant by way of Whitehall, NY and Texas. Her Polley line is George¹, John², Matthew³, Jonathan⁴, Jonathan, Jr.⁵, Joseph Henry⁶, Mary Augusta⁷. This line of descent then continues from Mary Augusta and her second husband with Lucy Katherine Baylor⁸, Katherine (Hooks) Park-

er⁹, and Janice (Parker) Frost¹⁰. Janice is a retired elementary school teacher, 37 years with the Los Angeles schools. She and husband Cal moved to Nevada near their daughter and grandchildren. Janice has co-authored two books and is involved with a third on the Parkers. **Address: P.O. Box 1444, Minden, NV 89423-1444.**

- NEW ADDRESSES AND PHONES -

E. June Alviso - 285 W. Willow #9, Porterville, CA 93257-3439. Tel: (209) 784-5756

George B. Everts - 1633 W. Sam Houston Pkwy, Houston, TX 77042. Tel: (713) 974-7727

Mary Lou Featherston - 3550 Hillcrest Dr. #120, Waco, TX 76708. Tel: (817) 753-2882

Ruth E. Curtis - Tel: (206) 367-6396

Queries

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.

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.

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 - Seeking post-1880 locations of descendants of John Polley (b. ca. 1833 Pike Co., KY; d. prior to 1870); m. 24 Mar 1853 Pike Co., KY to Elizabeth Epling (b. ca. 1836 Pike Co., KY; d. after 1880), d/o Isaac & Morning Ally (Taylor) Epling. John was s/o David & Anna (Thornbury) Polley of Pike Co., KY. John & Elizabeth were in the 1860 Pike Co., KY census w/ch: Mary J., age 4 & James A., age 2. In the 1870 Pike Co., KY census, Elizabeth is listed as hh with Mary A., age 14; James A., age 10; Miles McColeman, age 5; & George E. Polley, age 1. In the 1880 Pike Co., KY census: s. James M. Polley, age 20; w. Nancy V., age 20; s. Wm., age 1; mother Elizabeth, 45; brother, George E., 10; & sister Lucina, age 4.

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.

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.

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. Address: Box 374, Gambier, OH 43022

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[hite?] 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.

Mary Jeanne Wilk - Seeking any info on James Polley, b. 1810, m. Diana (or Diannah) Carey, b. 1812. Ch.: David, b. 1842; Fairchild, b. 1844; George, b. 1850; Marion, b. 1854; James Buchanan, b. 1856; Austin Deatley, b. 1859. The family lived in Lewis Co., KY, possibly Tollesboro. Info sought on children and descendants as well.

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.

Research Progress

First, those who may have been looking forward to the conclusion of the "whodunit," involving Moses Polley that ran in the September issue, will have to wait until a future issue. Too many other items popped up this quarter that demanded immediate attention and before we knew it all the pages were filled. A publisher's biggest concern is cost and therefore we try desperately to stay within a two-ounce limit for postage. That, in turn limits availability of space and accounts for our high information density (translates to: small type and crowded line spacing). Some day we may reach the point where we have to raise our subscription rate. Most likely that will be with the next postal increase.

Martha Polley reports on a 10-day trip she and her daughter made through Watertown, Herkimer, and Troy, NY, Pittstown, MA and Danbury, CT back in May of this year. The object of her quest was the correct John Polley and Lucy Parmelee, parents of Hiram Polley. It was the latter who took the Polley line westward to Iowa.

Martha found a John Polley, age 65, with a wife Lucy, age 62, in the 1850 census of Jefferson Co., NY, in the town of Brownsville. She was later able to find them listed as age 69 and 66 respectively in the 1855 NY State census, confirming them as the same people. However, their ages relative to each other did not agree with what Martha knew of a Lucy Parmelee born in MA to Asa Parmelee, initially believed to be the spouse of John. Further investigation on this trip turned up a Lucinda Parmelee b. in Killingworth, CT to Amos and Elizabeth (Lord) Parmelee. Her age fits the census information more accurately. There is a presumption that Lucinda was familiarly called Lucy. The next objective is to find a marriage record for John and Lucinda, ca. 1807, probably in Newton, CT, near Danbury.

Watch the TV listings for the 1996 PBS season. A new ten-part genealogy series produced by KBYU-TV, *ANCESTORS*, will be aired.

Walt and Diane Neubauer have written an amazing account of Diane's Polley line. Their 227 page tome is replete with illustrations of people, maps, artifacts, clippings, etc. It takes her Polleys all the way back to Woburn, MA, spanning 370 years. The book is now in the last stages of revision and a publisher is being sought. When it's available, *POLLEY POINTERS* will certainly carry the announcement as well as the necessary details regarding its purchase. A sneak preview by your editor indicates this work will be worth owning even if Woburn isn't your line. It's a fantastic model on how to present a family history with some life in it. rcr

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Notes on the Inventory of George Polly, p. 15

1. Transcribed by Walter and Diane Neubauer, Fayetteville, NY. Formatted by Richard C. Randt.
2. The date of death stated here in the inventory is off by one month from the Woburn Vital Records, which state date of death as 22 Dec 1683 [page 149 (deaths) vol. 2]. Apparently a clerical oversight.
3. There is no figure discernible here and may have been obliterated by a fold in the original paper. The rest of the items being clearly readable, if their total is taken it amounts to £270-4/-6d, a difference of £22-5/-. Based on the price of meadowland used in the second item, £6 per acre, 3½ acres would come to £21. Therefore it is presumed that the missing value is £22-5/-, making the total sum correctly add up to £298-09/-06d.
4. The name of Deborah Polly was apparently written in error as there is no such person documented at the time in the vicinity. More than likely it should have been written as Elizabeth Polly, the widow. The name was probably confused with that of Deborah Pierce who had been a witness to George Polly's will. This line of reasoning is shared by Winifred Lovering Holman, S.B., who did genealogical research for a client named Francis Joseph Hills in the 1958-1960 time frame. The notes for The Polly Lineage, prepared for Hills, presumably remain unpublished.
5. This note is written vertically along the left margin of the paper.

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FIRST CLASS MAIL



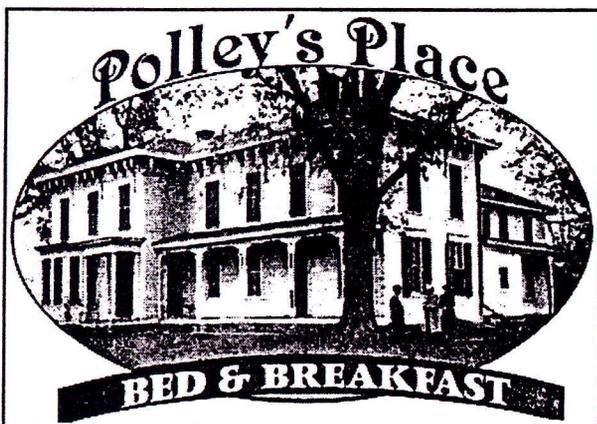
TO:

Christmas is Near

*For that hard-to-shop-for Polley relative, consider a gift subscription to **POLLEY POINTERS**. Order today. Subscription starts with this issue. Gift card sent in your name if desired.*

to Marion and Chester Brown who opened it as an antiques, crafts and collectibles showplace and store. Royce's widowed mother, then 88, resided with the Browns for a short time⁵ before retiring in 1987 to a nursing home in Black River Falls. She died there 15 Feb 1995 at age 96.⁶

Built of selected walnut, black walnut and butternut woods, the house was elegantly decorated and fully furnished when William H. Polleys presented it to his wife. A story about the Polleys mansion, from a local newspaper, published some time ago, described in great detail all the furnishings treasured by the Polleys. It told of receiving a square Steinway piano, costing then about \$1000, that had been shipped by steamboat up the Mississippi.



Scanned by Walt Neubauer

William Polleys was a staunch supporter of the Baptist Church. On one occasion he told the members that if they prayed for good logging weather until March 15 he would buy them an organ. Good weather followed and the organ was promptly delivered. He carried a mortgage on the church for several years without payment. Then during a Christmas program, the congregation found the cancelled mortgage hanging on the Christmas tree.⁷

The oldest son, William E. was educated at Galesville, WI, and at the La Crosse Business College, graduating from the latter in 1871. He became bookkeeper for his father and continued in that capacity for six years, when he and his brother Edgar H. succeeded their father at the La Crosse site in the lumber business, the firm name being Polleys Bros.

The Polleys mill at French Island closed in 1884 when the supply of timber on the Black River became exhausted. The Polleys moved their lumbering operations to Bainbridge, GA, but fire destroyed the Georgia mill within the year, considerably depleting the family fortune.

William E. Polleys was elected Clerk of La Crosse in 1887, and was reelected in 1889, serving two full terms. He was united in marriage, 4 Sep 1878, to Miss Emma L. Edwards, a daughter of George Edwards. They had one child, Irene E. Polleys. Mrs. Polleys died at the age of 37 on 11 Jun 1891.⁸

In a memorial article for Abner D. Polleys published in 1948, a mention is made of his surviving brother Edgar, who was said to have settled in Portland, OR and was 88 at the time of Abner's death [1942]. He had married a relative of his mother, Edna G. Woodcock, believed to be a first cousin. They had four children: Evelyn, Josephine, Hovey, and Edgar Polleys, Jr.

A copy of a hand written note, signed E.H. Polleys, dated "7/14-34" [undoubtedly 1934], indicates that Edgar eventually started his own lumber company. The note is on stationery of The Polleys Lumber Co., Missoula, Montana. Among the company officers listed on the stationery are E.H. Polleys, President and E.G. Polleys, Sec. and Treas. The note is addressed to Mr. John L. Polleys, Houlton, Maine and reads:

My Dear Cousin,

Was ever so glad to have your birthday greeting. Also rec'd one from Charley and your Sister from Rockland Maine. Congratulate you on your long and firm accord with the gov't. Was my father born at same place as Uncle John? Wish you would give me as much of the family history as you can for I know only little of it. Never met your father, as when Ernest and I were on our visit there he was away at the mill someplace. Am keeping very well and active for my years. Hope you may live as long. Please remember [me] to all the other cousins as you can.

Sincerely yours,

s/ E.H. Polleys

P.S. Paper under separate cover.

The note is significant in that it shows the entire Polleys clan did not go westward. There were some who chose to stay in Maine. It names a brother (presumably) of William H., named John, who had at least one son, John L., and at least one daughter. It shows that a line of communications was maintained between the two halves of the Polleys family.⁹

Abner D. Polleys started his education at the age of four in the first school house in Jackson Co., WI, located north of Melrose. In 1875 he entered Black River Falls high school, specializing