

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.

Vol. 1, No. 3
ISSN 1075-5519

*

December 1994
\$2.50

Editorial

Here it is approaching Christmas already. Who would have thought a few short months ago that we would get this far with **Polley Pointers**. It was a gamble, not necessarily financially, but intellectually. Would there be enough people, seriously interested in their heritage, who would become subscribers, supporters and contributors. The answer seems to be a resounding **YES!**

As of this writing we are 52 subscribers strong and apparently still growing. Ads in Genealogical Helper and on the various computer service bulletin boards have brought in additional subscribers who were not on the original lists compiled by Michael and myself.

It is very gratifying to see that among the ranks of our subscribers are a number whose research efforts go back 20 years or more. Understandably some of the senior subscribers wish to remain in reader status only, as opposed to active correspondence with other researchers. That's OK, they've earned it, they've paid their library fines and we respect their wishes. However, we hope that the seniors can find their way clear to sharing some significant experience, theory, or other genealogical anecdote with the readership, by way of an article published here in **Polley Pointers**. Just drop me a note or give me a call. We'll work with you to get your item in print.

Dick Randt

Polley Profile

This quarter your publisher steps into the **Polley Profile** spotlight to tell his story. Michael John Polley, a computer consultant who runs his own company, is an eleventh generation descendant of John Polley of Roxbury. In a quest to piece together some basic information about his Polley origins, Michael fell victim to the same addiction many of us share. He became a genealogist and gets a rush looking at a headstone, a marriage certificate, a pedigree chart and moldy old books containing his surname! He has really

gotten into it big time since he linked up with your editor to become the publisher, subscription manager, finance officer, etc. for **Polley Pointers**.

The first person account of the steps involved in tracing one's roots that Michael has prepared for us is a classic case study in getting started. It illustrates working from known to unknown, using standard and alternative sources, and application of logic to weave seemingly unrelated or erroneous information into a seamless tapestry that paints a picture of our ancestry. In addition, his particular Polley line is an important one in that it provides a present day path back to John Polley, Jr.², who until fairly recent times had not been recognized by researchers as the only son of John of Roxbury. Because of space limitations, detailed documentation is not provided, although the presentation is essentially self-documented. Michael will gladly provide additional details to seriously interested parties. rcr

In Pursuit of Polleys

by Michael J. Polley

While playing cards with my brothers and sisters about 13 years ago, the conversation turned to family matters. We discovered that we knew very little about our Polley ancestors beyond our father. We had never met our grandfather, as he died long before we were born. My parents divorced when I was young so we knew little about my father's side of the family.

Armed with my computer and driven by curiosity, I marched off to the Detroit Public Library to look into the how and where of genealogy. My first contact was, very fortunately, a librarian who graciously gave me a tour of the Burton Historical Collection. After posing a few questions about what I already knew, she directed me to the sources that I would need. Like most neophyte family historians, I thought that a couple of trips would yield my complete family history. I would simply type it up, show it to my family and put it away until someone else asked about it. I was quite wrong.

I called my father and got an oral history. My father, Richard Charles Polley, was born in Detroit, 15 Feb 1928. His father, Ronald Wilbur Polley was born in Rochester, NY, 28 Mar 1898

and died in Detroit, 22 Mar 1947. Knowing that my grandfather died in Detroit, I guessed it would be the obvious place to look for records.

The city clerk's office produced Ronald's death certificate that confirmed he was indeed born in Rochester, NY. It also indicated his parents were George C. Polley and Minnie Baird. I went back to the library, signed up for a microfilm reader and obtained the 1900 census records for Rochester. I began the task of reading some of the most illegible handwriting I had ever seen! To my great dismay I found no George C. Polley in Rochester, NY.

I was directed to the fact that Polk's produced city directories that list the inhabitants of every major town in the U.S. The city directory for Rochester showed a George L. Polley living there the year my grandfather was born, but no George C. Polley. It had his addresses and even an entry that he had removed to Olean, NY. My first lesson in the ability of clerks and other transcribers of names to "get it wrong" began here.

I would search for the next few months for George C. Polley and not find him. I gave up and turned back to the facts at hand. I knew that my great-grandmother had remarried to a man named Cutler and that they had lived in Sheridan, MI, a small town in a small county with a small library. The local paper produced the obituary of Minnie Elizabeth Baird, the wife of Carl Cutler. I was quite surprised to see, in black and white, that she had been married to man named George Lucien Polley. George C. was George L. after all! The article mentioned that she was survived by her son Ronald W. Polley. This was obviously the right person.

The obituary of George's wife gave the next clue to George's birth place. It said she was married to George in Hickory Corners, MI. Since Hickory Corners is but a short drive from Sheridan, I visited the town. On the way in I spotted a cemetery and stopped for a closer look. There, right before my eyes, were headstones with my name on them! However, among those markers for passed-on Polleys there was no George. I photographed each and took notes for later reference.

The town had no official looking building at all, so I stopped in an antique store along the main street and browsed a bit. I would later find out that the store was originally owned by George's sister Ada and her husband. The current owner asked if I needed any help and I asked about old photographs or town histories. I was handed one of those wonderful county histories produced at

the turn of the century. It contained a biography for a Lucien Polley. The article listed his children but George was not among them. Still, perhaps there was a connection to George Lucien. They made a sale. I asked further about the name. No one recognized it.

My next trip would be to the County Office to see what I could find. Their records began in 1867. There was no birth or death record for a George Lucien Polley, but there was a marriage certificate and a deed for land. Now we had George Lucien Polley marrying Minnie Elizabeth Baird 28 Nov 1889. His age was stated as 23, so he was born in 1866, the year before the county began keeping records. The certificate did not tell me who George's parents were. However, the land record was a warranty deed showing George as the heir and child of a Charles A. Polley of Barry Township.

The book I picked up in Hickory Corners stated that Lucien Polley had a son named Charles Allen Polley, who was born 22 Apr 1838. One of the grave markers from Hickory Corners is for Charles A. Polley with the same date of birth, showing a death date of 9 Jan 1903. The book also told me that Lucien was born in Homer, New York, and that his father's name was Pliny who was from the "Old Bay State." One of the grave markers from Hickory Corners is for Lucien born 7 Dec 1812 and died 20 Feb 1898. In one fell swoop I picked up three generations. The notes and grave markers from Hickory Corners gave me birth and death dates for wives and children as well. All have been since verified with birth and death certificates. I believe it was at this point, bolstered by a rather successful and relatively quick tracing of four generations, I became "hooked" on the never ending quest for more ancestors.

The State of New York did not keep good records around 1800 and one must resort to alternative sources for information. The town of Homer is a small village in Cortland County. However, it does have an Historical Society. For an investment of a \$35 fee I was able to obtain information on Pliny Polley. He came there from Charlton, Massachusetts around 1800 and had ten children. He was a member of the Congregational Church and is buried in the town cemetery. A photograph of his grave marker clearly shows his birth date as 18 Mar 1773 at Charlton and his death date as 20 Jun 1850. A check at the library revealed Pliny to be listed in the **Vital Records of Charlton** as the son of John and Phebe with the same birth date.

There is a John Polley listed in the Charlton vital records intended to Phebe Chamberlain 11 Nov 1769. The actual marriage was 12 Apr 1770, and is a Dudley, MA, record. These are clearly Pliny's father and mother. Also among the Charlton records are Pliny's brothers and sisters. One of them was a Parthena Polley who married Joshua Ballard. The Cortland County Historical Society records show a Parthena Ballard, wife of Joshua listed in the Ballard Family Bible. Another page in the Bible shows the family of John Polley, Parthena's father. It states that John was born in Boston on 17 Feb 1743. It also shows the birth and death dates for his wife Phebe and their children, a perfect match to the Charlton vital records. The Bible record is written in first person by John. He calls Phebe "my wife."

We also have found record of a diary kept by a John Polley now owned by the Chicago Historical Society. In the front of the diary is a letter written by a John C. Polley about his family. He names each of his uncles, the same names as the Charlton vital records and Ballard Bible. He states that his grandfather was born in 1743 and that the diary was kept by him during the Revolutionary War. His grandfather's wife's name was Phebe Chamberlain who was from Dudley, MA. They lived in Union (Tolland Co.), CT during the war and then moved to Holland, MA. Both places have records of John and Phebe. In The History of Holland, by Rev. Martin Lovering, we find a short biography of John that includes the names of his children and his date of death on 1 Dec 1828.

My next task was to find a John Polley born in Boston in 1743. After years of searching I have never found an official record of his birth. There is a guardianship case for a John Polley in Worcester Co. who was the son of John Polley and Mary Hatch dated 10 Mar 1757. It states that this John was a minor aged above 14 years. This would give him a birth year around 1743. He is called the eldest son of John late of Dudley and Mary Hatch. Dudley vital records show a John and Mary having several children, but a son named John is not among them. Perhaps they were not from Dudley and had not yet moved there when their eldest son was born. The first record of activity for a John Polley in Dudley is 1744, the birth of a son named Williams [a surname from his grandmother]. The Boston vital records show a Mary Hatch marrying a John Polley from Boston in 1736. This is clearly the correct John and Mary. This John was from Boston and later moved to Dudley.

There is a John Polley born 17 Apr 1711 in Roxbury (now a district in Boston, but a separate town until the 1800s) the son of John and Sarah. The only marriage of a John Polley to a Sarah is recorded in the Roxbury vital records as John and Sarah Williams married 1 Jan 1704. Thus I was able to add another generation.

The records get better here. John who married Sarah Williams was born 18 Mar 1673. He was the son of John Polley and Hannah Cowdrey, the only son of John among 13 daughters. Probate documents and Roxbury Vital records show his death as 11 Oct 1721.

The father of John, born 1673, is also John. In our circle of Polley family historians we know him as "John Polley of Roxbury". His parents have never been discovered. (See my article in the Jun 94 issue of **Polley Pointers**)

It has been years since I traced my roots back to John of Roxbury. I have never been able to find his parents. In my attempts to do so, I have exchanged correspondence with many people doing their own research. The correspondence has yielded a wealth of information about Polleys to whom I am not related. It is all housed in a five foot filing cabinet and a stack of storage boxes. It could be better organized. The material is also recorded in several databases on computer so that I can retrieve what I need quickly. I have records for 3145 individuals that are either a Polley or related to one. With the advent of **Polley Pointers**, it looks like I will need another filing cabinet soon.

Polley Pilgrims

Polley Revolutionary War Vet Honored by Descendants

Descendants of Jonathan Polley, a veteran of the American Revolution, gathered from Texas, California, Virginia and New York to pay honor to their heritage by marking his grave in the Comstock Road Cemetery (also known as the Kinner Cemetery), south of Whitehall, NY, on Sunday, 21 Aug 1994. Descendants from Whitehall included Mr. Walter Kinner and Mrs. Sherri Longtin, as well as Mrs. Margaret Wright from nearby Fort Ann, NY.

Mrs. Edward Rabine, Regent of the Jane McCrea Chapter, NSDAR, Glenns Falls, NY, and Mrs. Donald Coggins, Vice-Regent of the San Antonio de Bexar Chapter, NSDAR, which placed

-{**Polley Pilgrims** continued on p. 11}-

Polley Periphery

Ain't Love Grand?

by Timothy W. Como

The headline in 52-point type screamed across eight full columns at the top of the page, "**Bride's Sister Attacks Story of Compulsory Wedding.**" The secondary headline also was a grabber, "**ASSERTS NO POLICEMEN ATTENDED NUPTIALS OF FEEBLE-MINDED GIRL.**" The caption on the accompanying picture further titillated the reader's curiosity, "**Odd Love Tangle Tests Judge's Wisdom.**" This is the kind of story many genealogists dread finding. Others search on and on for something half as juicy as this story.

By way of introduction, I am the great-grandson of Catherine LaFlair, daughter of Mary Polly. Mary is one of the central characters in this story, said to be the wielder of the figurative shotgun at this rather bizarre wedding.

The source of this material is an article that appeared in the now defunct Syracuse American newspaper (Syracuse, NY) on page 15 of the Sunday edition, 23 September 1928. I am indebted for the material to my third cousin, Steve Barcomb, who is the great-grandson of Mary A. LaFlair (Mrs. Samuel Boyer), another of the central characters in the story.

To give you some background, Mary Polly and her twin sister Martha were born 12 January 1846 to William Harvey Polley and Delilah Matteson. Mary was a seventh generation descendant of George Polly of Woburn, MA. Her line was: George¹, John², Thomas³, William⁴, William Denis⁵, William Harvey⁶. She married Louis Napolean LaFlair and they had four children who survived to adulthood: Joseph Frank (1868), Mary A. (1870), Catherine (1880) and Emily (1886). Mary died 17 November 1922. At the time this story took place she was living in Ogdensburg, New York. Harvey LaFlair was the nephew of Mary Polly and first cousin to her four children.

The undisputed facts of this case are that Harvey and Emily were married on 1 March 1911. On the marriage certificate, a photo of which also illustrated the story, Emily used the last name "Beique" for herself and her parents, supposedly to disguise the fact that she and her groom-to-be were cousins. Less than nine months later, their first and only child, Lawrence, was born. In 1918 Emily was committed to the

New York State Custodial Institution for Feeble Minded Women in Newark, Wayne Co., NY. According to her sister Mary, Emily had the mental age of a six-year-old child. In 1928 Harvey filed for an annulment, claiming that he had been coerced into the marriage. The formal grounds on which Harvey based his case asserted that Emily was insane and incompetent at the time of the marriage. The case was begun 11 September 1928 in Canton, St. Lawrence Co., NY, and no decision had yet been reached by the time the article appeared.

- HARVEY'S STORY -

Harvey testified that he had just returned home after being out of town for over a full year before that fateful day in 1911 when the marriage took place. He said that he had received "a sweet invitation from his aunt Mary Polly to come up to the house for supper." When he got there he met with the unexpected. The newspaper article reads:

"Without suspicion, and in his most cordial way, Harvey rapped on the door and entered, smiling to greet his mother-in-law-to-be and the rest of the family, including Emily, who was going to have a baby."

"Harvey hung up his hat and turned around. He was ushered into the living room and there a most unexpected sight greeted his eyes.

"Two gentlemen dressed in blue uniforms with brass buttons whom he recognized as policemen were there to greet him. So was a gentleman, dressed conservatively, whom he recognized as a clergyman.

"Emily's mother explained to him that she was about to become his mother-in-law and Emily was going to be his wife in a very few minutes. Emily was 30 then, and Harvey was on the verge of manhood with 21 years behind him.

"The gentlemen in the blue uniforms moved closer and things began to look bad for Harvey. So he decided that the best way out of a bad situation was to get married.

"So he did.

"Without stopping to kiss his bride, Harvey took one step and grabbed his hat. Then he took another and slammed the door behind him."

The story goes on to say that Harvey claimed he did not return to Ogdensburg for four years after that, until his pastor requested him to. He then went through the marriage ceremony again in the church and "adopted" the little boy, Lawrence LaFlair. He then lived with his wife until she was committed a few years later in 1918.

- THE OTHER SIDE OF THE STORY -

Quite a different story was told by Emily's sister Mary Boyer. Mary said that Harvey wooed her sister. Her testimony was also quoted in the article:

"Well, Harvey went to my mother and asked her if he could marry Emily. She said no at first, but Harvey threatened to do awful things if she didn't let them get married; and after we talked it over, mother consented."

"And then one night a few days later, Harvey came to my house and said, 'I'm going to get the minister and marry Emily tonight. Will you come down and be a witness?'"

Emily's sister then indicated she had replied affirmatively and then described the scene at her mother's house the night of the wedding, less any policemen. Mary went on to say that Harvey had purchased a house in Ogdensburg and went there to live with Emily and their new child.

Mary Boyer further testified that Emily's life was rather miserable after the marriage. She said that Harvey used to beat Emily, then Emily would come home to her mother, then Harvey would show up begging her to return and promising to treat her decently if she did. Finally, Mary Polly made Emily stay with her. Shortly after that Emily was committed to the institution. Mary wanted to keep the child with her, but apparently Harvey put up a big fuss and got the authorities to give the child back to him.

You may be wondering why the newspaper article didn't get a story from Mary Polly or the minister who performed the wedding. Well it seems that since the wedding Mary Polly had also been committed to an insane asylum and had passed away there in 1922. The pastor as well had been committed to the Ogdensburg Insane Asylum. Although he left after a five month stay he died during the intervening 17 years.

So who was telling the truth? Well, the newspaper article ran a picture of the whole happy family - Mary Polly, her daughter Mary Boyer, Emily, her husband Harvey AND their young child who appears to be about six months old. If Harvey left town for four years as he claimed, how was the picture taken? I have several pictures passed down within the family which also show Harvey, wife Emily, and their

young child. We don't know how the whole thing turned out - whether Harvey got his annulment as he requested. There was no follow-up story in the subsequent weeks, at least not in the Syracuse American. Next time I'm back in upstate New York I'll have to spend some research time at the courthouse and perhaps the archives of another newspaper of the time and find out. But if I were the judge, I would agree with her sister who said, "Emily may only have the mentality of a child of six years, but she's not half as crazy as Harvey is."



Harvey LaFlair, standing top right, with wife Emily "Beique" LaFlair to the left. Seated left is Mrs. Mary A. (LaFlair) Boyer holding Lawrence, the son of Harvey and Emily. Seated right is Emily's widowed mother, Mrs. Mary (Polly) LaFlair. The two girls are Mrs. Boyer's, daughters Mary Violet and Martha Mae.

[Editor's Note: This Polly related anecdote appeared in The Como Quarterly, No. 37, May 1994, p. 28, under the title "Scandal in the Polly Family." Tim is the editor of this most interesting family news publication.

Stories like these are the heart and soul of genealogy as far as your editor is concerned. They show our ancestors as real people, complete with all their foibles and peccadilloes as well as their moments of fame and triumph. **Polly Pointers** is not trying to become a supermarket tabloid, but rather, it offers a forum to talk about that relative that may have been dealt a bad hand in life and perhaps in some way vindicate them or at least explore both sides of the story.

In this issue, we are indebted to subscriber Walt Neubauer for the illustration work. The picture for this story was an uphill battle since it was made by scanning a print of a microfilm copy of a newspaper photo. Perhaps we can convince Walt to become our full time graphics editor.]

Past Polleys

In a litany of Polley researchers who have preceded us, one does not go on very long without bringing up the name of Gerald Polley (1913-1980). Gerry owned and operated a retail paint store in Scranton, PA, for many years. The rather bold letterhead for the Polley Paint Store, included the likeness of a perched parrot. As most parrots in captivity are wont to be addressed as Polly, this bit of graphic imagery telegraphed to all, Gerry's intense interest and pride in his surname as well as the history of his antecedents that bore it.

Gerry was from the Woburn line, the succession of descendants being: George¹, John², Matthew³, John⁴, Amos⁵, Amos⁶, Horace⁷, Herbert E.⁸, Harold Killam⁹, Gerald¹⁰. However, up until the mid 1960's the progenitor, for Gerry and a large number of other Polleys in northeast Pennsylvania, was generally understood to be Amos⁶ Polley, who migrated from Connecticut with his mother and step-father in 1803. Gerry became curious about his family history about the time he was discharged from the Navy [presumably at the end of WW II]. The Polleys of the area had held an annual family reunion for many years and in preparation for one of them, Gerry reviewed some writings of his grandfather, Herbert E. Polley (1866-1929), who had compiled a thumbnail sketch of the family history in 1922. It amounted to no more than 4½ double spaced typewritten pages. However, it was enough to whet Gerry's genealogical appetite. Thus, with this meager foundation, he began his research, which would continue with unbounded enthusiasm for the remainder of his life.

Before long Gerry had become a key figure in the organization and planning for the annual reunions. In 1965, the publicity proclaimed it as the 59th Annual Reunion of the Descendants of Amos Polley. That particular reunion was held on Sunday, 11 July, at Nevilles Pond, Hollisterville, PA. One hundred four persons were recorded being in attendance. This was to be a most significant reunion, in that Gerry would report on his research and his contact with Alvin Polley [see Past Polleys, Sep issue] the previous year [1964]. Alvin had assisted Gerry in working the line back to George of Woburn. Gerry proudly proclaimed the succession of newly found descendants, but of course the emphasis was put on Amos⁶, son of Amos⁵, who had made the trek by oxcart, some 200-300 miles, as a young lad of 16 to Wayne County, PA.

He enumerated Amos' various accomplishments in the area. He was the second Justice of the Peace in Salem Township and held office until 1839. Amos Polley was a carpenter by trade and the only one in the vicinity, thus many of the first buildings were erected by him, including the first school house in 1824. Amos⁶ lived to be 70 years old and with his wife, Mary Headley, had seven children, including three sons, Amos, Horton and Horace. Between them the sons had 30 children, thus explaining the large turnouts at the annual reunions.

Gerry Polley developed large files of data on all Polleys, not just his own line. He corresponded with innumerable people on the subject of Polley and genealogy. He tried desperately in the 1970s to find the ancestors of James H. Polley for subscriber John E. Polley. John ultimately had the good fortune to meet Gerry in person



Gerald Polley

(picture ca. 1960)

and vividly recalls the passionate enthusiasm Gerry had for his avocation. In this particular case however, he was not successful as David Polley and Hannah Purdy would not emerge as the parents of James H. for a dozen years after Gerry's passing in 1980.

Gerry also branched out into other lines when each of his two daughters were married, attempting to develop the genealogies of his sons-in-law. He carried on a heavy correspondence with Alvin Polley, analyzing Polley family groups of every origin imaginable, attempting to link them to well established lines where possible. Many of our senior subscribers more than likely have one or more letters in their files typed on the distinctive parrot letterhead characteristic of Gerry's correspondence.

When one thinks of the enormous amount of effort that Gerry put into research on the Polley name, one shudders at the thought of such work becoming lost to future generations. Your editor has been in contact with his widow, Mary,

Bonnie, a daughter, and his sister Dorothy. All assure me that the material will be passed on within the family through those who have an interest in the family history. **Polley Pointers** extends an invitation to Gerry's family, as well as any other family who may be in a similar situation. Please make use of our collective expertise, if required, in deciding the disposition of genealogical material, however insignificant it may seem.

rcr

Polley Tools

If you are researching a person, particularly a male, who was born in the late 19th or early 20th Century and you are stumped on parentage, birthplace, or exact date of birth, you might have success in obtaining a form SS-5 on the person from the Social Security Administration. The SS-5 is the form used when initially registering with the Social Security Administration. If the person is deceased and had registered with the SSA, a copy of the form SS-5 can be obtained by writing to:

Social Security Administration
Freedom of Information Officer
Mail Stop 4C5 Annex
6401 Security Blvd.
Baltimore, MD 21235

Of course freedom isn't free! If you have the Social Security number of the person, the fee is \$7.00. If you do not have the number, you have to state the date and place of birth, as best you know it, for the person. Parents' names, if known, will also help. The fee without a number is \$16.50. If you check the Social Security Death Index, available at many LDS Family History Centers and other libraries, you may be able to get a fix on your person's number before applying. No particular order form is necessary; just state your requirements on plain paper. Check or money order is acceptable in payment.

If you get your SS-5 it should give you the person's full name, including the sometimes elusive middle name. It also has the date of birth as stated by the person. The place of birth, names of the parents, name and address of the employer at the time, and a signature of the person are also on the form. It's a lot of information for \$7.00 if you have nothing else. Remember, the person must be deceased and must have been registered with SSA.

rcr

Polley Progenitors

The Polleys of Bowman's Station, Kentucky - A Brief Look at Their Origins

By Richard C. Randt and Wanda (Polley) Adams

The hard winter of 1779-1780 covered a wide geographic area according to Collins' History of Kentucky¹. Ice was three feet thick on the Delaware River at Philadelphia, Long Island Sound was frozen, and Chesapeake Bay was iced over so solidly that loaded sleighs could cross it. Cattle crossed the Cumberland River at Nashville on a solid sheet of ice. Ice on the Kentucky River was said to be two feet thick.

The author describes the situation in Kentucky thus: "In the interior of Kentucky, around Harrodsburg², from the middle of Nov. to the middle of Feb. snow and ice continued on the ground without a thaw, and snowstorms, accompanied with bleak, driving, and piercing winds, were wonderfully frequent. Not a drop of rain fell: the rivers, rivulets, and springs were all frozen solid, and water for drinking, cooking, and washing was obtained only by melting snow."

It was this horrendous winter and frequent attacks by the Indians that greeted the first 30 families who came to settle at the fort built two years earlier by Colonel John Bowman. Bowman's Fort, later called Bowman's Station, several miles east of Fort Harrod, was the first of a series of smaller outlying stockades or stations that were built surrounding Fort Harrod to offer protection to the influx of settlers to the western wilderness of Virginia that was to become the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

In Chinn's Kentucky, Settlement and Statehood, 1750-1800³ we find: "By spring, 1780, about thirty cabins had been built and thirty families lived on the small branch between the Dick's River and Cane Run ... Among those who made their first homes in Kentucky [then Kentucky Co., VA] at Bowman's Station were the families Foley, Aikers, Bryant, Alford, Polly, Ferrier, Marlan, Robinson, Darnall, Bowmar, Allan, Cox, Morrow, Berry, Allen, Collins, Holmes and Bowman." A contemporary account of the settlement by Elijah Foley, son of settler Richard Foley, provides the full names of the settlers. The Polly [or Polley] heads of household at Bowman's Station were Peter, James and Edward.⁴ However, their relationship to each other is not clear. Their origin is presumably Virginia,

since Bowman, Harrod and other leaders of the growing Kentucky settlements were sponsored by Virginia.⁵

The question this article addresses is where each of the three Polleys originated in Virginia. Foley states, "We started from Frederick County, VA . . ." [See box for excerpt.] However, it is highly unlikely that all 30 families had previous roots in Frederick Co. More probably, Frederick Co. was a mustering point for the start of the journey to Bowman's Station, each family responsible for making its own way there from their current Virginia home location.

Regarding James, we do have documentary evidence concerning his acquisition of land in Kentucky. An entry in Certificate Book of the Virginia Land Commission, 1779-1780⁶ reads as follows:

" ...(Cert iss for 400 pd D.D.)

James Polly this day claimed a preempt of 400 Acres of Land at the State price in the District of Kentucky on Acc't of making an Actual settlement in March 1779 lying on the South side of Kentucky about 8 Miles from Colo. Bowman and about 5 Miles above the Mouth of Dick's River in a large Bent of Kentucky to include a Spring. Satisfactory proof being made to the Court, they are of the Opinion that the s^d Polly has a right to a preempt of 400 Acres of Land to include the above Location & that a Cert. issue accordingly. ..."⁷

Little else is found among early Virginia records pertaining to a James Poll(e)y, Paul(l)ey, etc., that appears to lead logically to a James in Kentucky.

We find a Peter Polley in the Virginia Militia in Montgomery Co., VA. sworn to service in the company of Captain Joseph Cloyd, on Christmas day, December 1777.⁸ There is also an indication that he served an earlier stint starting in February 1777 under a Captain McCorkle. Here again, there is little else in the way of Virginia records regarding a Peter Polley.

Edward, on the other hand, seems to be somewhat more well documented, both in Virginia as well as Kentucky. However, there is some doubt that all the references to Edward Poll(e)ys pertain to the Edward of Bowman Station.

The name of Edward Polley appears as a signatory on a petition to the Virginia General Assembly seeking repeal of an October 1788 act of the Virginia legislature that provided for the establishment of the District of Kentucky as an independent state.⁹ However there is no indica-

Bowman's Station: We started from Frederick County, Va. and settled Bowman's Station, fall 1779, about the middle of December. My mother was the first white woman that was there for some time, and our coming was the first settling of the Station. There was nothing but a camp there, till some time in March, because it was too cold to work. As soon as we had gotten a good camp, Colonel [Abram or Abraham] Bowman brought his family from Harrodsburg, and by Spring we had 20 families that had camped in the snow and remained during that winter. ... 6. Peter Polly, 7. Edward Polly, 8. James Polly, ...

All these were heads of families and wintered there in camps. In June, by planting time, there were 31 or 32 families there. There were that many cabins; over 30. The cabins were built on each side of a hollow, in the form of a half "H". The main lines were probably 150 yards apart, to give the stock room to get in. The Run went down through the "H", and then, in about a mile, emptied into Cane-Run. The cabins were not stockaded in. The stream ran a North course and was rather between Cane-Run and Dick's River.

Excerpt from Elijah Foley Interview

tion of where that Edward lived at the time he signed the petition nor where he was from in Virginia.

The most well documented Edward of Virginia is the Revolutionary War veteran from Pittsylvania Co., VA. His records in the National Archives tell us that he was born 21 December 1758. He enlisted six weeks after the Battle of Camden, SC [16 Aug 1780] and served 18 months as a private in the companies commanded by Captains Burton and Isaac Webb of Colonel Steven's 10th Virginia Regt. [12 Nov 1776-31 Jan 1778] and Colonel Gibson's 9th Virginia Regt. [14 Sep 1778-12 Feb 1781], participating in a number of skirmishes.¹⁰

Edward married Mary (also called Agnes) Mullen (or Mullens; also Mullins) in Pittsylvania Co., VA in 1784. They had twelve children who are enumerated in the records: Sally, Andrew, Polly, Agnes, and Henry, who were all born prior to 1794, plus Raney [prob. Lorena], Joseph, Edward, Vind or Vina [prob. Levina] (b. 1803), Nancy, David (b. 1809) and Susannah (b. 1814).

He applied for his pension 17 Nov 1825 from Perry Co., KY. He died on 19 May 1845. His widow applied for her pension 7 June 1847 from Letcher Co., KY. Edward, at age 84, appears in the special 1840 census of pensioners, in Perry Co., KY, listed in the household of David, pre-

sumably his son. In this reference, the surname is given as Pally. He is also documented in 1835, at a stated age of 76, as being a pensioner residing in Pendleton Co., KY.¹¹ Thus we have a range of probable birth years, 1756, 1758, and 1759, for an Edward who is supposed to be one and the same person. However a window that narrow is reasonable for records of this vintage and geographic area.

There is however, some conflicting evidence regarding whether the Revolutionary War veteran was indeed the Bowman Station settler. Edward the soldier is documented being married in 1784, raising the question as to why he was referred to as "head of household" at Bowman Station during the winter of 1779-80, unless that simply meant "independent of the other two Polley settlers." However, given that he initially came to Bowman Station alone, there appears to be no documentary evidence of a return journey back to Virginia to marry, followed by a return to the Kentucky District.

To further compound the doubt about the identity of Edward of Bowman Station, we find in the records of Henry County, VA [created in 1776-77 from Pittsylvania Co.] a John Polley and an Edward Polley listed as tax assessors for the years 1778, 1779, and 1780.¹² It gives one cause to wonder how Edward could seemingly be in two places at once. However, one can speculate that he could have been elected or appointed for a three year term and left after the first year, perhaps on a "temporary" basis with intention to return.

The name of John Polley is also important in early Virginia/Kentucky history. He too was a Revolutionary War veteran and based on his birth year and location appears to have a close relation to Edward, quite possibly as a brother. His war records tell us that he was likewise born in Pittsylvania Co., VA in 1760. After the war he is said to have moved to Camden, SC, for twelve years. He was married there to Susan ___ and they later moved to Washington Co., NC (now in TN). In 1803 they moved again to Kentucky and remained there. In 1833 John applied for his pension from Adair Co. His widow later applied for her pension from there in 1843 at age 79. Later that same year she was located in Russell Co., KY, which is adjacent to Adair Co. In 1845 Susan Polley again made application for additional widow's benefits under the Act of 30 April 1844. This application states that John Polley died 4 Sep 1840. The affidavit was sworn to "this 12 day of March 1845 at her daughters in Adair County, Kentucky." The record states the couple had

eight children although no names are given in the claim.¹³ In the 1840 special census of pensioners, John is picked up as living in Russell Co., KY, aged 80. In the 1835 Report to the Secretary of War, he is also listed as living in Russell Co., aged 73.

The records of Pittsylvania Co., VA, also yield information on a probable family for Edward, John and others. The Federal Census of Virginia for 1790 (taken from Tax Lists of 1782 and 1785) reveals the information shown in the accompanying box. This information, coupled with an indicator of the 1785 death of David Polley, Sr.¹⁴, paint a picture of a family headed by David, Sr., with sons Edward, John, David and others. By 1785, Edward, possibly the oldest, is already off on his own. John and David are living separately. A 1785 record for David's marriage to Elizabeth Justice, 21 Mar 1785, coincides with his establishing his own household.¹⁵

Several other Polley marriages in Pittsylvania Co. in the same general time frame indicate additional siblings. Lurane [Lorena?] Polley married John Watson, 24 Oct 1782. Joseph Polley married Viney Midcalf [Levina Midkiff?], 13 June 1785. Lydia Polley married John Swinney,

p. 41 "David Polley (1782) Pittsylvania Co., 9 White souls, 0 Black"

p. 42 "John Polley (1782), Pittsylvania Co., 1 White soul, 0 Black"

p. 98 "David Polley (1785), Pittsylvania Co., 1 White soul, 1 dwelling and 1 outbuilding
" David Polley, Jr. (1785), Pittsylvania Co., 1 White soul"

Extract of 1790 Virginia Census

15 Aug 1796, and Sally Polley married James Elliott, 30 Dec 1805. Note that many of these names are identical to the children of Edward as enumerated in his pension records. Although, based on assumed ages of early 20's at the time of marriage, they appear to have all been born too early to be Edward's children.

According to another source, although undocumented, many of the Pittsylvania Co. Polleys (or Pauleys) migrated to the Coal River region of Kanawah Co., now West Virginia, during the period 1805-1820, although an Edward, Sr. is said to have been there as early as 1753.¹⁶ Again from the same source, Edward, Jr. is supposed to have bought land in 1762 and

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Editorial	1
Polley Profile	1
In Pursuit of Polleys	1
Polley Pilgrims	3
Polley Periphery	4
Ain't Love Grand?	4
Past Polleys	6
Polley Tools	7
Polley Progenitors	7
The Polleys of Bowman's Station, KY	7
Welcome Aboard	12
Queries	14
Research Progress	14
Polleys in Print	15
Researcher Listings	16

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

U.S.A. Subscription price: \$10.00 for 4 issues.

**Get Those Ancestors Under Control -
Subscribe Now to *POLLEY POINTERS*!**

Many new topics and features planned for near future issues. New genealogical products and services will be offered to help you sort out your Polleys. Free queries and ads for subscribers. Four fact packed issues for \$10. Start or extend your own subscription or subscribe for that special Polley relative. Write to Polley Pointers, Attn: Michael J. Polley, 17917 Rainbow, Fraser, MI 48026. Back issues also available at \$2.50 while supplies last.

Polley Pointers is published by:

Michael J. Polley
17917 Rainbow
Fraser, MI 48026

FIRST CLASS MAIL

TO:

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 WELCOME ABOARD OR RESEARCHER LISTINGS FEATURE OF THIS ISSUE.

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.

Phyllis C. Plambeck - Seeks anc. of Mary Edwards, b. 25 May 1659, Reading, MA, who mar. John Polley, 16 May 1681, Reading, MA.

Esther L. Walter - Seeks anc. of William Polley, 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.

Dick T. Polley - Seeks par. of Joseph Polley, b. ca. 1816-01; m. 14 May 1834, Julia Ann Foote, Newton, CT; d. 2 Jun 1879, Weston, KS.

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.

David K. Martin - Seeks par. of Sarah Polley, b. ca. 1750; d. 2 Dec 1825, Livonia, Livingston Co., NY. She mar., by 1774, to Asahel (Azel) Norton (ca. 1733-178_) of Madison, CT; Saratoga, NY; and Susquehanna Co., PA. Doubtful if Polley is a surname or given name. (Prospective subscriber.) **Address:** Mouse Hill, West Chazy, NY 12992.

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 Polley (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 Polley, 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. (Prospective subscriber.) **Address:** Box 374, Gambier, OH 43022

Research Progress

THIS DEPARTMENT IS RESERVED FOR ANNOUNCING NEW ACQUISITIONS OF DATA, RESEARCH BREAK-THROUGHS, HOWEVER SMALL, OR NEW SOURCES THAT BECOME AVAILABLE. IT WILL BE PRETTY MUCH OF A MIXED BAG TYPE FEATURE, DESIGNED TO GIVE YOU A PLACE TO TALK ABOUT A PARTICULAR INDIVIDUAL, MARRIAGE, OR FAMILY THAT ISN'T QUITE READY TO "CARVE IN STONE" BUT IS AT THE STAGE WHERE YOU'D LIKE TO AIR IT FOR COMMENT, CRITICISM, ETC., SORT OF HALF WAY BETWEEN A QUERY AND A "FINAL" FAMILY GROUP SHEET.

Your editor enjoyed stamping "SOLVED" over the queries of Phyllis Plambeck and Dick T. Polley. In Phyllis' case it was a matter of knowing where to look for the info sought. In Dick's case it involved a bit of luck, an inquiry out of the blue from another party. The way the query was posed answered a long-standing ambiguity. The parents of Dick's Joseph had been there all along, just waiting to be recognized.

There are no other cases to report on this quarter. Perhaps as data collected during this past summer's research trips gets analyzed this winter, some breakthroughs will come to light.

Welcome Aboard



HERE WE PRESENT PERTINENT PARTICULARS ON NEWLY FOUND POLLEY RESEARCHERS AS THEY BECOME SUBSCRIBERS. AS OPPOSED TO THE POLLEY PROFILES FEATURE, THIS DEPARTMENT GIVES ONLY SUFFICIENT INFORMATION TO ALLOW INITIATION OF CORRESPONDENCE WITH THE PERSON. IN THIS ISSUE WE LIST THOSE ACTIVE POLLEY RESEARCHERS AND INTERESTED PARTIES WHO HAVE BECOME SUBSCRIBERS SINCE THE INITIAL ISSUE, BY NAME, ADDRESS AND E-MAIL ADDRESS WHERE APPLICABLE.

THIS FEATURE DIFFERS FROM THE RESEARCHER LISTINGS ON P. 16 IN THAT WELCOME ABOARD IS A ONE TIME LISTING TO INTRODUCE NEW SUBSCRIBERS. ON THE OTHER HAND, RESEARCHER LISTINGS PRESENTS AN ABBREVIATED LIST OF ALL ACTIVE POLLEY RESEARCHERS WHO HAVE PREVIOUSLY BEEN WELCOMED AS SUBSCRIBERS OR WHO HAVE CORRESPONDED WITH **POLLEY POINTERS** AND HAVE REQUESTED TO BE LISTED. NAMES OF NON-SUBSCRIBERS WILL BE REMOVED AFTER FOUR CONSECUTIVE LISTINGS.

Mrs. Wanda Lee (Polley) Adams - Mrs. Adams is a descendant of Peter Polley, one of the three Polleys identified among the 30 original settlers of Bowman's Station, KY. These Polleys are believed to have originated from a Virginia progenitor. Her line is Peter¹, Peter², Henderson³, Peter Zachary⁴, William Leslie⁵, Iley Vernon⁶, Wanda Lee⁷. She is active in a newly formed lineage society, Descendants of the Settlers of Bowman's Station. **Address:** 130 Osborn Lane, Madisonville, KY 42431

Ms. E. June Alviso - June traces her Polley lineage back to Kentucky. She has been researching for about 15 years and enumerates her line as John¹, James Albert², Bert³, Pearl Mabel⁴. Her John¹ was born ca. 1830 and married Mary Voris in Switzerland Co., IN. The line then propagated into Missouri, Oklahoma, and California. She is among a growing number of subscribers who have their Polley roots in the VA/KY geographical area. Perhaps **POLLEY POINTERS** will provide enough genealogical synergism to aid these folks in bringing all their ancestors into focus.

Address: 40 North G Street, Portersville, CA 93257-3406

Ms. Ruth E. Curtis - Ruth has the ever so typical problem of getting started on her Polley line, which, for her, starts with Charlotte Polley who married Joseph Garnett on 15 Dec 1800. This marriage was recorded in Eastport, ME. Joseph was the son of Daniel Garnett, Jr. and Hannah Sherman. Charlotte and Joseph had 13 children

whose births are recorded in Dennysville, ME. The family resided in Pembroke, ME. Charlotte is said to have been "of Cobscook." We had an "unconnected Polley" in Maine the last issue. Is this the beginning of a trend? **Address:** 14802 Bothell Way N.E. #112, Seattle, WA 98155-7620

Ms. Grace Custer Ebneter - Ms. Ebneter is a Pauley descendant, her line reaching back to Virginia. She has been able to trace, from 1792 in Pittsylvania Co., VA, the line: Henry¹, Mahoney², Rebecca³. **Address:** 107 Whitfield Run, Peachtree City, GA 30269-3313

Ms. Shirley M. Eoff - Shirley has Polleys in PA, OH, and KY. She is particularly interested in Andrew Polley of York/Adams Co., PA. She is attempting to organize her material to give us a clear statement of her immediate problem. **Address:** 3143 Old Tunnel Rd., Lafayette, CA 94549-4116

Ms. Mary Lou (Polley) Featherston - Mary Lou is a descendant of Abner Hubbard Polley. "Hub" Polley was one of the colorful Texas Polleys who trace back to the Woburn, MA, line through Whitehall, NY. Her line is: George¹, John², Matthew³, Jonathan⁴, Jonathan⁵, Joseph Henry⁶, Abner Hubbard⁷, Sterling⁸. Several other subscribers also claim descent from Abner Hubbard. **Address:** 3600 Normandy #8, Port Arthur, TX 77642

Mrs. Mary Elizabeth (Webster) Glenn - Mrs. Glenn is also a descendant of Bowman's Station Settler, Peter Polley. Her Polley line is Peter¹, Peter², Henderson³, Lucy Jane⁴. Mrs. Glenn is four generations removed from Lucy Jane. **Address:** 8641 Plantation Drive, Texas City, TX 77591

Ms. Dorothy (Amburgey) Griffith - Dorothy is the editor/publisher of a genealogical periodical called Adams Addena and has been at it for 24 years. In her many years dealing with genealogical problems concerning the surname Adams, she has crossed paths with a number of Polleys, particularly those who emanated from Virginia and made their way to Kentucky and points west. She is willing to supply information to interested parties with the usual rules of protocol in effect for genealogical inquiries. **Address:** 9514 Minerva Ave., St. Louis, MO 63114-3912

Ms. Alta E. Iseler - Ms. Iseler is a descendant of John Polley of Roxbury. However, in the next generation she goes off on a female line, that of John's last daughter (of 13), and the second one to be named Sarah, who married Daniel Bacon, 27 Jun 1717. It is interesting to note that John's first wife was Susanna Bacon, daughter of George Bacon of Hingham. However, any

Peter by citing a specific swearing in date. Volume II, p. 1181:

"Revolutionary War Records of Fincastle and Montgomery Counties, 1777-1778 -

Sworn of Capt. Joseph Cloyd's Co. 1777 ... Peter Polley - 25th December 1777, ..."

9. Robertson, James Rood, Petitions of the Early Inhabitants of Kentucky, John P. Morton & Co., Louisville, KY, 1914, pp. 121-122, No. 58. The petition is not dated. However, since Kentucky became the 15th state in 1792, a four-year window is evident in which it would have been signed.

10. Revolutionary War Pension Records, National Archives, Washington, DC., File Nos. B-8873 and W9263. The dates cited for the 10th Virginia Regt. appear to not relate to Edward Polley given the date of enlistment keyed to the Battle of Camden, SC. Anomalies such as this continue to be the bane of genealogists.

11. Report of the Secretary of War, 1835, Pension Rolls at the Virginia State Library, Richmond, VA. Vol. 3, Part I, p. 56, Pendleton Co., KY:

"Edward Polley, Private, \$96.00/allowance/year, sums received - \$582.45, service in the Virginia Line. Placed on the roll 15 Feb 1828, pension commenced 10 Feb 1828, his age was 76."

12. Adams, Lela C., 1778-1780 Tax Lists of Henry Co., VA, Sherwood Forest, Bassett, VA 24055, 1975.

13. Revolutionary War Pension Records, National Archives, Washington, DC, File No. W3036

14. Torrence, Clayton, Virginia Wills and Administrations, 1607-1800, Genealogical Publishing Co., Baltimore, 1965. -

Polley, David, Pittsylvania County, 1785, Inventory."

15. Knorr, Catherine L., Marriages of Some Virginia Residents, 1607-1800, Duplicating Service, Perdue Co., Pine Bluff, AR, 1957. "David Polley married Elizabeth Justice on 21 March 1785 by Rev. David Barr, Pittsylvania County Minister's Returns."

16. Cornell, Ruth Williams, My Family Connections, Volume I, The Pauleys, self-pub., 1980

[Ed. Note: Wanda Adams is a new subscriber and is written up in Welcome Aboard in this issue. She is the family contact person for Descendants of Bowman's Station Settlers for the surname Polley. The authors are grateful for the research contribution of subscriber John E. Polley, whose Virginia and Kentucky notes aided greatly in taking this first step toward sorting out and organizing the "southern cousins."]

-{Polley Pilgrims continued from p. 3}-

the marker honoring Polley at his gravesite, conducted the dedication ceremony.

Due to a heavy downpour just as the ceremony was about to take place, everything had to be moved indoors in Whitehall. However, this did not appear to dampen the spirits of anyone in attendance.

Sandy Coggins read aloud from the Revolutionary War Record of Jonathan Polley. It told of Jonathan remembering seeing Gen. Washington during one of his many assignments.

Mrs. Wayne Douglas Tiner of Texas, whose husband is a descendant of the Patriot, commented that locating and marking her husband's Revolutionary War ancestor's grave had been a family goal for more than five years.

A number of guests from NSDAR were in attendance including the New York and Vermont State Regents and several national officers. Each of the descendants in attendance received a red silk carnation and a small American flag in honor of Jonathan Polley, as a symbol of the bloodline linking each of them to the Patriot and to each other. **Polley Pointers** subscribers Mary Lou Featherston and Esther McDermott were among the descendants present. All told, there were about 75 people in attendance. A reception followed at the Whitehall Senior Center. Descendants who had never met each other spent time getting acquainted and exchanging family history information. Many visitors went by the cemetery the next day to see the marker that had been placed earlier.

Editor's Note: Thanks are due to subscriber Mary Lou Featherston for the report and to the Whitehall Times (issue of 25 Aug 1994) from which we extracted additional material quite liberally.

Polley Previews

Next quarter our Past Polleys feature will discuss the genealogical work of the late Ray Jackson. We also hope to start a two-part series on John Herschel Polley, lawman. The latter feature was planned for this issue but turned out to be too long for the space available. It is a first-hand account of life as a New York City policeman in the mid-19th Century. We also plan additional material on Virginia and Kentucky Polleys.

administered his father's estate in 1771. However, if we believe the birth year for Edward the Revolutionary War veteran, 1758, conventional wisdom tells us he could not be the same Edward as Edward, Jr. in Kanawha Co. Perhaps the Edward Sr. of Kanawah Co. was a brother of the David Sr. recorded in Pittsylvania Co.

What appears to be emerging from intense sifting of several folders of unrefined Virginia and Kentucky data on the surname Polley (and all the variants) is a very murky picture of two or more Polley/Pauley families that co-existed in the same broad region, simultaneously. To further confound the research of future generations, it seems that the principals conspired to limit assignment of male names to Edward, David, John and Joseph!

But what of James and Peter? Without further research and the uncovering of additional documentation, it is difficult at best to even speculate on their origins and relation, if any, to Edward. In the limited time devoted to preparation of this article, armed only with incomplete raw data collected by others, one fact has been made clear. The Bowman's Station Polley settlers were the first Polleys to pioneer into the Kentucky District. Others came later, by way of the Cumberland Gap and transmontane migration, but Peter, James and Edward were the first.

The second thing to emerge from preparation of this article is an understanding of the difficulty to be encountered in attempting to pinpoint a specific progenitor within Virginia. In many cases records simply are not available, and where they are, they are more often than not ambiguous.

Within Kentucky and subsequent to its admission to statehood, Peter Polley, of the three original settlers, is probably the best documented. He has descendants who are subscribers to **Polley Pointers**. For future issues we are planning articles that trace his progeny forward in time. We also intend additional exploration of the early Virginia Polleys.

1. Collins, Lewis, Collins' historical sketches of Kentucky. History of Kentucky: by the late Lewis Collins ... rev. and enl. ... by his son, Richard H. Collins. 1874 ed. reprinted by Kentucky Historical Society, Frankfort, 1966, 2 v. : ill. Available on microfiche. 19 sheets. Lost Cause Press, Lexington, KY. [Lewis Collins lived between 1797 and 1870. Richard H. Collins lived between 1824 and 1889.]

2. First visited by a party of surveyors, under the leadership of James Harrod, in 1774, Harrodsburg was settled in June 1775. It is located in present

day Mercer Co., in the approximate center of the state. The area was accessed by way of the Kentucky River, a south-to-north flowing tributary of the Ohio River.

3. Chinn, George Morgan, Kentucky, Settlement and Statehood, 1750-1800, The Kentucky Historical Society, Frankfort, KY, 1975, p. 220. Also quoted in "Bowmars in Kentucky," by Dan M. Bowmar, Descendants of Bowman's Station Settlers Newsletter, Vol. 1, No. 2, Spring 1994, p. 14.

4. The names of the three Polley heads of household are recorded with 19 others in a transcription of an interview of Elijah Foley (of Fayette Co., KY) by Rev. John D. Shane, circa 1855. (Draper MSS. 11CC133-35). Transcribed for publication by Lucien Beckner. Published in The Filson Club History Quarterly, Vol. 11, No. 4, Oct 1937, page 255.

5. An early incursion in 1775 by Daniel Boone for the Transylvania Company, sponsored by North Carolina, established Boonesboro. However, under the leadership of George Rogers Clark, Virginia gained the upper hand in the settlement of Kentucky and the Transylvania company was declared illegal. Kentucky County was made part of Virginia.

6. The Kentucky Register, publ. by the Kentucky State Historical Society, Vol. 21, p. 257

7. Note that the date of March 1779 appears to conflict with the Elijah Foley account. One might speculate that this record might be an after-the-fact entry and the product of a faulty memory. It could also be an Old Style reckoning of the first of the year, which used to be the 25th of March, although that practice was officially discontinued in 1752. Then again, Foley, when speaking in the second person, may not have been speaking collectively about all the settlers. He may have been referring only to the Foley family. Polley may in fact have arrived there in the Spring, ahead of the rest. Your editor has seen a photocopy of the handwritten record, Land Office Treasury Warrant No. 503, and it was dated 31 Mar 1780, citing settlement in March 1779. Other similar records also bore issue dates a year or more after the cited settlement date.

8. Bales, Hattie Muncy, Early Records of Lee Co., VA and Adjacent Counties, Media, Inc., Greensboro, NC, 1977. Volume I, p. 373: "Original papers of Stephen Trigg, one of the first landowners of Montgomery Co., listing the 190 Revolutionary soldiers sworn to service by him between Sept. 5, 1777 & April 1778 -

Sworn to Capt. Jos. Cloyd's Company ... Peter Polley ..."

The same author, in her work Early Settlers of Lee Co., VA and Adjacent Counties, Media, Inc., Greensboro, NC, 1977, clarifies the first item on

Polleys in Print

Recently, while touring the "Information Highway" (better known to many computer users as the Internet), I took a detour and wound up in the catalog of the Library of Congress. One can't want for more information than that! Out of sheer curiosity, I called up authors named Polley, Polly, Pauley, Pauli, etc. I was surprised to find that there were a considerable number of published authors among the Polley ranks. There were a few who had done genealogical work, including the late Alvin H. Polley [see Past Polleys, Sep '94 issue] and Martha K. Polley [see Research Progress, Jun '94 issue]. The latter work, though, was on the Rock family, not Polley. In general, the subjects covered by Polley authors ran the gamut from architecture to zymology.

It dawned on me as I browsed, that the catalog was, in itself, a source of genealogical information. For many of the authors, the year of birth is given in the listing. The language in which the work was originally published gives a good clue as to the author's national origin. The fact that a person is a published author, especially those formally published by a big publishing house, strongly indicates the possibility of additional information being available in specialized indexes such as *Who's Who in Chemistry*. Those authors with impressive academic credentials may have left behind many papers and manuscripts at their college or university that may be accessible.

The following is a broad sample of some Polley authors I found and their works:

Polley, G. Henry (George Henry), b. 1846. Spanish architecture and ornament [microform] / Boston : G.H. Polley, 1889. 51 p. : all ill. ; 36 cm.
LC CALL NUMBER: Microfilm 69000 (N) <MicRR>

Polley, G. Henry (George Henry), b. 1846. Artistic furniture and architectural interiors [microform]/ Boston : G.H. Polley, c1892.
63 p. : all ill.
LC CALL NUMBER: Microfilm 69000 (N) <MicRR>

Polley, Howard Freeman, 1913-. Rheumatologic interviewing and physical examination of the joints / Howard F. Polley, Gene G. Hunder. 2d ed. Philadelphia : Saunders, 1978. viii, 286 p. : ill. ; 25 cm.
LC CALL NUMBER: RC932 .P64 1978

SUBJECTS:

Joints--Diseases--Diagnosis.
Rheumatism--Diagnosis.
Medical history taking.
Physical diagnosis.
Physical examination.

Polley, J. B. (Joseph Benjamin), 1840-1918.

Hood's Texas Brigade, its marches, its battles, its achievements / by J. B. Polley. Dayton, Ohio : Morningside Bookshop, 1976. 347 p., [13] leaves of plates : ports. ; 23 cm.

LC CALL NUMBER: E580.4.T4 P64 1976

SUBJECTS:

Hood, John Bell, 1831-1879.

Confederate States of America. Army. Texas Brigade.

Texas Infantry. 1st regiment, 1861-1865.

Confederate States of America. Army. Texas Infantry Regiment, 4th.

Confederate States of America. Army. Texas Infantry Regiment, 5th.

United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Regimental histories.

NOTES:

Reprint of the 1910 ed. published by Neale Pub. Co., New York.

Stories behind everyday things / [editor, Jane Polley ; contributing writers, Peter Chaitin ... et al.]. Pleasantville, N.Y. : Reader's Digest Association, c1980. 416 p. : ill. (some col.) ; 27 cm.

LC CALL NUMBER: AG5 .S853

SUBJECTS:

Encyclopedias and dictionaries.

Polley, Joseph H., 1919-. Applied real estate math / 2d ed. Reston, Va. : Reston Pub. Co., c1980. iv, 252 p. : ill. ; 24 cm.

NOT IN LC COLLECTION

Polley, Joseph H., 1919-. Applied real estate math / Reston, Va. : Reston Pub. Co., c1976. vi, 234 p. : ill. ; 24 cm.

LC CALL NUMBER: HF5695.5.R37 P64 1976

Polley, Judith, 1938-. The king's shadow / London : J. M. Dent, 1975. 173 p. ; 23 cm.

LC CALL NUMBER: PZ4.P77438 Ki

Polley, Judith, 1938-. The secret of Val Verde / London : Dent, 1974. 204 p. ; 23 cm.

LC CALL NUMBER: PZ4.P77438 Se3

Polley, Judith, 1938-. Val Verde. New York, Delacorte Press [1974] 245 p. 22 cm.

LC CALL NUMBER: PZ4.P77438 Val

-{Polleys in Print continued on p. 17}-

Researcher Listings

TABLE OF ACTIVE POLLEY RESEARCHERS

THIS TABLE INCLUDES THOSE SUBSCRIBERS INTRODUCED IN WELCOME ABOARD IN THE PREVIOUS ISSUES. THIS ISSUE'S NEWLY WELCOMED SUBSCRIBERS WILL BE INCLUDED IN RESEARCHER LISTINGS NEXT QUARTER. NAMES WILL BE PUBLISHED IN THIS TABLE AT LEAST FOUR CONSECUTIVE TIMES. PLEASE INFORM YOUR EDITOR PROMPTLY REGARDING CORRECTIONS, ADDITIONS OR DELETION OF ITEMS OF DATA.

NAME (Maiden)	ADDRESS	E-MAIL Address	Phone No.	Line
Bucknum, Mrs. Shirley (McElroy)	8217 N. Foss Ave. Portland, OR 97203-3613	-	(503) 285-4726	John of Fairfield, CT
Como, Mr. Timothy	1190 18th Ave. NE Hickory, NC 28601	-	(704) 322-7451	Woburn
Everts, Mr. George Bert	7018 Marisol Houston, TX 77083	-	(713) 879-1134	Woburn
Exley, Mrs. Alma	131 Garfield Rd. West Hartford, CT 06107	wdx@delphi.com	(203) 521-2679	Woburn
Gilbert, Mrs. Shirley S.	1001 McCoy Irving, TX	-	(214) 252-9583	Texas Polleys from GA
Hintz, Mr. David L.	4116 87th Lane NE Circle Pines, MN 55014	dhintz@cdc.com	(612) 784-2648	Roxbury
Higgins, Mrs. Michael (Diann)	1304 Autry Lane Crowley, TX 76036	-	(817) 297-2356	Prussia
Hull, Ms. Judith	507 Melrose, Box 36 Wall Lake, IA 51466	-	(712) 664-2132	Maine
Martin, Mr. David Kendall	Mouse Hill West Chazy, NY 12992	-	(518) 493-3041	Unknown
McDermott, Mrs. Esther M.A.	199 Eley Rd. Hartwood, VA 22406-4724	-	(703) 752-2444	Woburn
Miller, Ms. Joan Reed	56 Jean Lo Way York, PA 17402-8710	-	(717) 757-4523	Unknown
Neubauer, Mr. & Mrs. Walter K.	7327 Highbridge Rd Fayetteville, NY 13066	CompuServe ID: 70731,772	(315) 637-5553	Woburn
Paule, Mr. Marvin	2548 Valais Ct. Dayton, OH 45458	-	unknown	Unknown
Paulley, Mr. Don Bosley	2200 West Odell Casper, WY 82604	Prodigy ID: cwfn62a	(307) 234-5914	Kentucky
Plambeck, Mrs. Phyllis (Cramer)	270 Fillmore Way Reno, NV 89509	Prodigy ID: pgjn62b	(702) 747-1319	Woburn
Polley, Mr. Dick T.	1214 Westview Dr. Fredericksburg, VA 22405	-	(703) 373-0163	Woburn
Polley, George F.	12112 Lochwood Blvd, Dallas, TX 75218	-	(214) 341-0038	Woburn
Polley, Mr. & Mrs. James L.	2605 Cottage Cove Drive Richmond, VA 23233	cindap@aol.com	(804) 360-0659	NY City
Polley, Mr. John E.	1320 Baycliff Drive Virginia Beach, VA 23454	-	(804) 481-0106	NY City

Polley, Mr. Michael J.	17917 Rainbow Fraser, MI 48026-4624	mikep73678@aol.com	(810) 293-6382	Roxbury
Randt, Mr. & Mrs. Richard C.	9146 Winding Way Ellicott City, MD 21043-6446	cjtp10a@prodigy.com	(410) 995-5516	NY City
Reeves, Mrs. Adrienne (Polley)	6942 E. 4th St. Tucson, AZ 85710	-	(602) 296-5703	Woburn
Beattie-Schwartz, Ms. Brenda	221 N. Melendres Las Cruces, NM 88005	-	(505) 523-4481	Woburn
Stephens, Mr. Larry V.	8303 W. Crum Rd. Bloomington, IN 47403	CompuServe ID: <u>76247,3633</u> Internet: lvs@rmgate.pop.iniana.edu	(812) 825-4441	Unknown
Stewart, Mrs. Helen (Cassidy)	4160 Jade St.-#86 Capitola, CA 95010-3920	-	(408) 462-3876	Woburn
Tolley, Ms. Emelie	245 East 72nd St. New York, NY 10021	-	Unknown	Orange Co., NY
Walter, Mrs. Esther L.	Box 158 Allenspark, CO 80510-0158	-	(303) 747-2256	Ohio
White, Mrs. Evelyn G.	10422 S. 47th St. Phoenix, AZ 85044	-	(602) 893-3690	Roxbury?
Zahler, Mr. Warren	2302 Walther Ct. Columbia, MO 65203	bcwarren@muccmail.missouri.edu	(314) 445-1986	Woburn

-{Polleys in Print continued from p. 15}-

International Workshop on Variational Calculations in Quantum Field Theory (1987 : Wangerooge, Germany) Proceedings of the International Workshop on Variational Calculations in Quantum Field Theory, Wangerooge, West Germany, 1-4 September 1987 / edited by Lutz Polley, D.E.L. Pottinger. Teaneck, NJ : World Scientific Pub., 1988. p. cm.

LC CALL NUMBER: QC174.45.A1 I585 1987 *CIP
- NOT YET IN LC*

SUBJECTS:

Quantum field theory--Congresses.
Variational principles--Congresses.

ADDED ENTRIES:

Polley, L. (Lutz)
Pottinger, D. E. L. (David E. L.)

Polley, Louis E., 1919-. A history of the Mohawk Valley and early lumbering / by Louis E. Polley, assisted by Sue Bailey. Marcola, Or. : Polley Pub., c1984. ii, 146 p. : ill., maps ; 28 cm.

LC CALL NUMBER: HD9757.O6 P65 1984

SUBJECTS:

Lumber trade--Oregon--Mohawk River Valley--History.
Mohawk River Valley (Or.)--History.

Polley, Margaret S. Computer-assisted legal analysis : minimizing the risks for the consumer / by Margaret S. Polley. [Chicago] : American Bar Association, Center for Professional Responsibility, c1985. 27 p. ; 23 cm.

LC CALL NUMBER: KF242.A1 P65 1985

SUBJECTS:

Legal research--United States--Data processing.
Unauthorized practice of law--United States.

That's certainly an impressive array of disciplines! Are any subscribers related to any of these Polleys? About 15 folks should recognize Joseph Benjamin Polley as being from the Woburn, MA lineage. He was a son of Joseph Henry Polley who settled in Texas before it was Texas. But how about the others? If anyone knows the lineage of any of these Polley authors, let us know and we'll print it.

There are plenty more that we can pull out of the catalog. If readers are interested, we'll include a few with each edition. Please let us know.

rcr

relation to Daniel is unknown. It would appear that some help on the Bacon surname is in order to help Alta bring Sarah's line forward. Perhaps one of our readers can offer assistance.

Address: 4424 Huron City Rd., Port Hope, MI 48486-9732

Ms. Susan Marie (Hobbs) Jurban - Ms. Jurban descends from James Polley (or Pauley) who died in Floyd Co., KY in 1816. He was married to a Sally or Sarah and was probably born in Pittsylvania Co., VA. See Queries. She descends from James' daughter Elizabeth, who married John Thornbury in 1838 in Pike Co., KY. Susan is the fifth generation after Elizabeth. **Address:** 14844 Rivercrest Drive, Sterling Heights, MI 48312-4455

Mrs. Patricia (Wilcox) Kennedy - Mrs. Kennedy is a descendant of a Mary Pauley of Orange Co., NY, who was born ca. 1756. See Queries. She has been working on her family history for about ten years and is seeking any and all info on Mary Pauley (believed to be used interchangeably with Polley). **Address:** 2416 Edgemont Dr., Medford, OR 97504-8214

Ms. Mary June (Grober) Neumaier - Mary June has been researching her family lines since 1986. Her Polley line is George¹, George², Ebenezer³, Joseph⁴, Dorcas⁵. Dorcas Polly, daughter of Joseph, married Solomon Hartwell in 1774. It is the Hartwell line that leads to her maternal grandmother. She will probably want to exchange information with Diane Neubauer who is also a descendant of Joseph⁴. Mary June is active in a number of lineage societies including Sons and Daughters of the Pilgrims, NSDAR, Daughters of the American Colonists, and even the Associated Daughters of Early American Witches. **Address:** 1633 Wiltshire Blvd., Biloxi, MS 39531

Mr. Daryl L. Polley - Daryl is a descendant of the Virginia/Kentucky Polleys. His line as he has been able to trace it so far is: David¹, James², Francis Marion³, Orbey Chester⁴, Daryl Lee⁵. He believes that he will eventually get back to John Polley of Pittsylvania Co., VA. **Address:** 33 Newman Ave., Ft. Thomas, KY 41075-1412

Mrs. Dorothy (Washburn) Polley - Mrs. Polley, although not now an active researcher, she was quite involved in the work of her late husband Alvin, who traced Polleys for some 34 years. **Address:** 758 Kearsarge Ave., Contoocook, NH 03229

Ms. Betty (Green) Richmond - Ms. Richmond's Polley line is uncertain at this time. She has only the name of Mary Polley, a 3G grandmother, and her husband, Ebenezer Eldrege, Jr. Remembering

that we were all at this kind of a beginning point at one time or another, perhaps one of our subscribers can help Betty get started. **Address:** 1246 W. Hwy 101, Port Angeles, WA 998363-9423

Mr. John A. & Mrs. Audrey C. (Baker) Rider - Audrey's Polley line intersects the Downey family in a marriage between Sycena (Susannah?) Polly, b. 17 Mar 1796, and George W. Downey, b. ca. 1800 in KY or TN. Eleven children were born of this union. The family eventually spread from Kentucky to Indiana and Illinois. Unfortunately little else is known of Sycena. However with her unusual given name, Sycena should be easy to spot when the right records/documents are finally found. [Ed. comment: Thinking positive is key to genealogy.] **Address:** 1505 Baxter St., Johnson City, TN 37601-3307. **Computer Service:** CompuServe, ID# 73663,3612

Mr. James H. Sarvay - Mr. Sarvay descends from a Lemuel Polley whose line is unknown at this time. Perhaps a subscriber can supply a clue. **Address:** 43 West Court St., Cortland, NY 13045

Ms. Carolyn G. (McCrary) Smith - The Polley line being researched by Ms. Smith is that of her husband and originates in Kentucky in 1775. The line as proven through Mr. Smith's grandfather is: John¹, Joseph W.², Joseph Lee³, Windfield Scott⁴. Joseph W. Polley had ten children, of whom two married Jacksons. These Jacksons are of the line of the late Raymond L. Jackson who will be featured in Past Polleys in the next issue. Ray was one of the primary Polley researchers of the 1970's and had much correspondence with Gerald Polley, featured in this issue. **Address:** 10778 Westgate, Overland Park, KS 66210

Mr. Jack Carl Thompson - Jack has been researching for about five years and is our first Pawley researcher. His current objective is John Wesley Pawley, Sr. who lived in Kentucky. He descends from John's daughter, Nancy Ann, who married Joseph S. Thomas in 1820 in Hardin Co., KY. Jack is the fifth generation after Nancy. See Queries. **Address:** 3670 Scott Dr., Carlsbad, CA 92008-3625

Corrections

Mr. David Hintz - His address was incorrectly printed last issue. **Address:** 4166 87th Lane NE, Circle Pines, MN 55014

Mrs. Helen Iona (Cassidy) Stewart - Her Polley line was incorrectly stated. It should read: George¹, John², Matthew³, Jonathan⁴, Jonathan⁵, Abner Hubbard⁶, Emmaline⁷.