

# Tell Us Your Polley Story!



The Polley Association is working to collect family histories from the various families descended from Joseph Henry Polley and Mary Bailey Polley. Without first and second-hand accounts, it is very difficult to puzzle together what life was like for our Polley ancestors. We hope to make that work easier for future generations by taking the time now to record the memories and experiences of our living Polley descendants.

This is not a strict school assignment. It is meant to be a fun way to catalog your experiences and memories to share with siblings and cousins. You can record your own information, or you can gather with family to go over some of the prompting questions together. Please do not answer any questions where you feel uncomfortable sharing the information with us, and do not feel that you have to answer all questions. The following list contains prompts to get you thinking about what you would like to share, but, again, this should be an enjoyable process, not a chore.

There are several methods for recording your answers to these questions, and we encourage you to follow the method that is most comfortable for the person telling their story. You can use a tape recorder or video camera to record the subject answering the questions verbally, or you can type or write the answers to the questions. You may answer these questions for yourself, and about your immediate family, or you can use these questions to help 'interview' a family member and record their answers.

Your submitted information and stories will be collected and held by The Polley Association, and we will not share any of the contents without your permission. This collection will allow us to better understand the Polley family legacy and organize events to highlight Polley family history and memories.

You can submit all recorded stories to The Polley Association through either regular mail or email. Don't let partial or unfinished stories keep you from submitting! We would love to hear any and all memories about your branch of the Polley family that you care to share with us!

Email us at: [PolleyAssociation@gmail.com](mailto:PolleyAssociation@gmail.com)

Or mail to: The Polley Association  
3335 Colonel Court Drive  
Richmond, TX 77406

Please remember to keep a copy of your submission for yourself.

# Family Information Page

Please fill out this page and return it with any Polley Family Story submissions.

Who is filling out this form? \_\_\_\_\_  
(First Name) (Middle Name) (Last Name) (Maiden Name, if applicable)

Present Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Your relationship to the person described below:  Self  Family Member  Family Friend

Please describe your relationship to the person (if not 'Self'): \_\_\_\_\_

Please fill out the form as completely as you are able to since it will help us record the history of Descendants of Joseph Henry and Mary Bailey Polley. The information gathered in these forms will not be made public or used without permission. The information will be collected and securely stored by The Polley Association with the purpose of maintaining the legacy of all Polley family descendants.

Name of Polley Descendant \_\_\_\_\_  
(First Name) (Middle Name) (Last Name) (Maiden Name, if applicable)

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Place of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation/s \_\_\_\_\_

Marital Status \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Marriage(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Spouse \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation/s of Spouse \_\_\_\_\_

Names of Children \_\_\_\_\_

\* \* \* \* \*

Mother's Name \_\_\_\_\_  
(First Name) (Middle Name) (Last Name) (Maiden Name)

Mother's Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Mother's Place of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Mother's Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

Father's Name \_\_\_\_\_  
(First Name) (Middle Name) (Last Name)

Father's Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Father's Place of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Father's Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

Names of Brothers and Sisters \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# Family Story Prompts

Feel free to answer as many or as few of these questions as you wish. If you can provide dates for events (or approximate years), that would be very helpful. If you have any topics or memories you would like to share that are not listed below, please feel free to share.

*Many of these prompts were adapted from Genealogy.com.*

## **Polley Family History**

Which Polley ancestors are you descended from?

What memories of Joseph H. and Mary Polley, or their children, were handed down through your family?

Do you have any memories of The Polley Mansion/Whitehall?

What do you remember hearing about the Polley family as a child?

What is your impression of the status or reputation of the Polley Family based on stories you heard?

## **Childhood:**

What do you recall about your childhood?

Where did you live and go to school?

What do you remember best about your parents?

What did you and your siblings do in your spare time?

Were you an obedient child or a mischievous child?

## **Family Traditions:**

Did your family have any special traditions, such as things that they did on holidays or birthdays?

Did you family take vacations? And if so, where did you travel?

Describe any favorite activities of your family (growing up, or in your own family as an adult).

What about family heirlooms?

Is there anything that's been handed down from generation to generation?

## **Family Characteristics:**

What physical characteristics do people in your family share?

Do they all have the same hair color or eye color?

Whom in the family do you resemble?

What family personalities or character traits are strong in your family?

## **Previous Generations:**

Did you know your grandparents or great-grandparents?

What were their names?

Where did they live?

What stories can you tell about them and their lives?

## **Hometown:**

What was the name of the place where you grew up?

Was it a big city or a small town?

Were there any special activities or festivals at different times during the year (that you participated in)?

# Family Story Prompts (Page 2)

## **Growing Up:**

When did you leave home?

Why did you leave and where did you go?

How did your life change?

## **Education:**

What is the highest level of school you completed?

What schools did you attend?

What activities were you involved in at school?

## **Military Service:**

Did you serve in the military?

What branch did you serve under?

Where did your military service take you?

Are there any stories that you care to share about your service?

## **Occupation:**

What did your parents do for a living when you were growing up?

Did you ever help them out?

Was your family financially comfortable?

What was your first job?

How old were you at the time?

How did you get your job?

What different jobs have you had during your life?

## **Religion:**

What part did religion play in your family?

Were you very religious?

Did you go to religious services on a regular basis?

## **Historical Events:**

Which significant historical events have taken place during your lifetime?

Were there wars, natural disasters, or political changes?

How did these events affect you?