

# 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

My wife Susan and I had been chasing her Polley ancestors since about 1986. About a year after we started we came upon another Polley researcher who had been doing genealogy since he was 17. He turned out to be Susan's 4th cousin, John E. Polley. He had amassed an enormous amount of Polley data while attempting to discover the next generation beyond his great-great-grandfather. He had had much correspondence during the 1970's with other Polley researchers, but most of those folks had either passed on or were getting on in years and no longer active in genealogy. Over the past five years we have attempted to build a base of additional current Polley researchers and maintain a dialog with them for the purpose of sharing information.

A while ago I sat down and made a list and was amazed to find that we are currently in contact with more than 15 people researching Polleys. It dawned on me that although it was nice to have access to all these fine folk who graciously share their findings, I have gradually become a *de facto* focal point and central clearing house for Polley material. I have literally found myself opening up an envelope from one person, copying the contents and sending the material off to someone else to whom it directly applies. While I don't mind doing that sort of thing, it's just not a very efficient way of sharing data. So much more could get done and information be more readily shared if all the current researchers got to know each other, their particular Polley interests, and their research and publishing objectives. If a researcher could work directly with another researcher who has a fairly close common ancestral line, the likelihood of them having data to share is much greater than a "shot in the dark" to some Polley researcher like myself who's not even a Polley!

Thus was born the idea of a newsletter that provided identification of current Polley researchers, lines of descent, research objectives, dead ends, etc. Such a newsletter, envisioned in 8½ x 11 format, 10 pages maximum (to require

only one postage stamp), could also include a variety of departments with coverage of many different subjects, as long as they were Polley related. The big question to be answered was who would write and publish such a newsletter? As a former Army officer and now a federal government civilian employee, I knew the answer to that one! If you have an idea and the boss likes it, you always get to implement it! However, this time I had a choice, to do it or not. I didn't want to undertake something I couldn't follow through on, and didn't want to waste time on a shoddy product.

For about a year I had been contemplating launching **Polley Pointers**, soliciting comment from my various correspondents. Most were encouraging and willing to participate. However, it wasn't until I captured the imagination of one Michael J. Polley of Fraser, MI, that I felt we could pull this off. Michael is a descendant of John Polley of Roxbury, MA.

For those researchers not familiar with the Roxbury Polleys, John went through four wives and produced 13 daughters and but one son. The one son had but two sons of his own. Thus the Roxbury Polleys got off to a slow start in proliferating themselves, as opposed to the line of George Polly of Woburn, MA, where sons were more predominant. This probably means that Michael is a natural born survivor, able to overcome many obstacles.

Michael and I have teamed up to produce **Polley Pointers**. Based on an e-mail handshake, Michael has agreed to be the publisher, subscription department, advertising and publicity department, as well as finance manager. He will also be a regular contributor of data concerning the Roxbury line. I will be the editorial department and compile and compose each quarterly issue, presuming that we get an enthusiastic response from the readership. Without support, **Polley Pointers** will undoubtedly wither after this issue. We must have help gathering material to include.

A budding author? Always wanted to sound off about your Polley research, see your name in print, tell fellow researchers about a new re-



source? Here's your chance. Send your manuscripts today.

Of course we'll need financial support as well for paper, postage and other expenses. Postage is 29¢ (soon to be 32¢), duplication for small quantities is no less than a nickel a side (another 50¢), for a bare minimum cost of 79¢. Cost of staples, computer disks, ribbon/toner, trial paper and other miscellaneous could easily round out the per copy production and mailing cost to a dollar or more. However there is another factor to consider, that of complimentary issues.

One of the benefits of having a publication like this is that it affords an opportunity for you to have bits and pieces of your research published, archived and indexed for future genealogists to build upon. All that work you've done could go to waste if you never get around to publishing your book. Two summers ago on a visit to the Allen County Public Library in Ft. Wayne, IN, I was most impressed by their collection of genealogical newsletters. More importantly the library staff regularly indexes those publications in what they call the PerSI or Periodical Source Index. These publications from all over the country are hard bound in convenient year groups by the library and are easily accessible by library patrons. If **Polley Pointers** gets off the ground, Michael and I intend to put a number of key libraries (somewhere between five and ten) on the mailing list in hopes that our work will be preserved for others.

Thus in calculating the per copy price, the cost of complimentary issues is a critical consideration. So Michael has run out the numbers and we're starting at \$2.50 as the per copy price (\$10.00 per year). However, if you sign on for two years as a Charter Subscriber, you can have **Polley Pointers** for \$15.00.

If we can't get at least ten people to go in on this venture with us as subscribers and contributors we'll probably give it up for a bad idea and refund any subscriptions received. If we get more subscribers than expected, we can either extend the number of issues per subscription, increase the library distribution, lower the price, or take some appropriate combination of actions to keep this as a break even enterprise. It is not our intention to make a profit from **Polley Pointers**. On the other hand, we don't intend to spend the grocery money on it either!

With reference to the name of this fledgling publication, **Polley Pointers**, it was chosen with a particular connotation in mind. It's not "pointers"

so much in the sense of "hints and tips", but rather in the sense used by computer programmers. A pointer is simply an address of a location in memory where a particular piece of information is stored. One references the information by using the pointer, or address. We **Polley** researchers are collectively like the memory of a computer. All the information is in there somewhere. Individually, we each have our own special area of interest and are the expert in that area. When someone else needs something that overlaps your area they need your address, your pointer. Thus the name. Corny perhaps, but definitely *à propos*.

If you like the concept please let us know by sending in your subscription today if you haven't done so already. Use the convenient form printed on the inside of the back cover. More importantly send some input that you think others would have an interest in. We'll try our best to make **Polley Pointers** a quarterly publication, but it will depend on the amount of material people send us. This initial issue is on the house. Your paid subscription will start with the next issue. However, don't wait to subscribe. I've got to start now putting the next issue together. Without subscribers, it won't happen.

One last comment. Future issues will feature a very **short** editorial section, if any at all. **Polley Pointers** is not going to be my newsletter. It's going to be a subscribers' newsletter, where the large majority of the published material comes from the readership. I made use of the editorial this time only to explain the idea.

*Dick Randt*

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## Policy

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**Polley Pointers** is published for the furtherance and advancement of genealogical research on the surname POLLEY and all related variants thereof, including, but not limited to: POLLEYS, POLLY, PAULEY, PAULY, PAWLEY, POLEY, POOLEY, PELLEY, etc. Female lines are of interest and research on surnames that intersect with a Polley line is solicited. Contributors are responsible for documenting their sources and for respecting copyrighted material. All articles published herein with a by-line should be presumed copyrighted by the particular author and should be used or quoted under conditions prescribed by that author. All other material published herein may be used with appropriate citation regarding the source; viz., **Polley Pointers**. Queries related to Polley and associated kin are welcome. Although **Polley Pointers** is intended as an organ for genea-



Rollin Hesson and Margaret Polley. Margaret, born 13 March 1831, is a seventh generation descendant of George Polly of Woburn, MA. Her line is George<sup>1</sup>, John<sup>2</sup>, Matthew<sup>3</sup>, Matthew<sup>4</sup>, Alpheas<sup>5</sup>, John<sup>6</sup>, Margaret<sup>7</sup>.

We have in our possession, copies of two letters written in 1890 by Hesson from St. Catharines in Ontario. The letters were to a lawyer by the name of D. William Patterson, in Newark Valley (Tioga County), NY. Hesson was soliciting assistance in finding his roots beyond Alpheas (also spelled Alpheus). What special resources Patterson had are unknown. In his second letter Hesson outlined what he knew about the family and provided a diagram of his known family back to Alpheas. He also included what he currently knew about other Polley families that he was certain were not related.

One glimmer of hope for the Randts came to light in Hesson's letters. He mentions a Hugh Polley who went from southeastern England to Ireland. He had four sons, James, David, Alex., and John L. There is a notation regarding the location of each of the sons. For David it says "David in N. York." Thus another "David theory" was hatched. Unfortunately the information on Hugh Polley and his sons is not set in a time context. However many of the other families mentioned by Hesson are post-American Revolution immigrants from Ireland and England.

The source of the copies of Hesson's material is currently unknown but we are trying to reconstruct what repository it came from. Apparently Hesson got into genealogy in a big way and became known as the Polley guru of his time. We have copies of three other letters (presumably drafts) written in 1895 to Hesson by one Delilah Polley Glen, of Massena (St. Lawrence Co.), NY. Delilah fancied herself as the family historian for the Massena Polleys and made many notes on various and sundry bits and scraps of paper but never put together anything resembling a genealogy. However, her notes are preserved at the Historical Society Museum in Massena, NY. Unfortunately Hesson's replies have not been found.

A transcription of Hesson's letters and the enclosures have been prepared. Anyone interested may have a copy for \$2.00 to cover copying costs, postage and mailer. Write to Dick Randt and ask for the Hesson letters.

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## Polley Periphery

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IN THIS FEATURE WE INTEND TO DISCUSS NOTABLE (SOMETIMES NOT SO NOTEWORTHY) PEOPLE WHO EITHER CROSS GENEALOGICAL PATHS WITH A POLLEY LINE OR WHO WERE SOMEHOW ASSOCIATED WITH A POLLEY IN LIFE. THIS IS THE DEPARTMENT TO DISCUSS POLLEYS WHO WERE PERHAPS ASSOCIATES IN BUSINESS WITH SOMEONE NOTABLE, OR THE PARTICULAR CROWD OF PEOPLE IN WHOSE COMPANY YOUR POLLEY WAS FREQUENTLY SEEN. DID YOUR POLLEY EVER WRITE A BOOK, MAKE THE PAPERS IN A SPECTACULAR STORY, OR GET HIS/HER PORTRAIT PAINTED BY A FAMOUS ARTIST? THIS IS THE PLACE TO TELL THE STORY. THIS IS ALSO THE PERFECT DEPARTMENT TO EXPOSE THAT HORSE THIEF, DESERTER, OR OTHER BLACK SHEEP POLLEY, IF YOU ARE SO INCLINED. MOST OF US HAVE AT LEAST ONE. IN FACT, SOME GENEALOGISTS MAINTAIN THEY ARE THE MOST FUN OF ALL RESEARCH SUBJECTS SINCE THEY LEAVE AN EXCELLENT PAPER TRAIL.

Some topics for future issues:

A famous family Polley neighbor.

Polley profligate jailed by sister!

A Polley who earned his living as a Human Fly!

Picture this! - A Polley portrait by renowned artist.

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## Research Progress

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THIS DEPARTMENT IS RESERVED FOR ANNOUNCING NEW ACQUISITIONS OF DATA, RESEARCH BREAKTHROUGHS, 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.

In the past year or so there have been at least three significant pieces of outstanding POLLEY research that really demand detailed articles. Perhaps we can prevail upon the folks who made the finds to share them with us. In capsule summary the research efforts are as follows:



By Mr. DeWayne Perry

Mr. Perry has found the correct wife for his John Polley of Connecticut. There was a Zerviah Loomis and a Zerviah Loomer in the same area, both of whom were married to Polley men. DeWayne has proven through diligent research that the correct wife was Zerviah Loomer for whom the Polley marriage was her second. Her maiden name was Johnson. One of the sons of this marriage, Joshua, had no apparent record of a family of his own until Mr. Perry found him a wife and then proceeded to link in a large number of Polleys who were documented in a Bible record and some family documents.

By Alma Exley

Alma has done considerable work on the maternal lines of Abner Hubbard Polley, including the Hubbard, Stow, and Johnson lines. In the fall of 1992, Alma made a significant discovery in Whitehall, NY. In an early 1900's local history piece for the Whitehall newspaper, Clarence Holden (a known historian of the area) mentioned Simeon Stow and his wife Prudence DeWolf (widow of Jonathan Polley), giving their respective dates of death. In the next sentence he says, "Their daughter Susan [Susanna] married Aaron Osgood in 1782, at which time she was in her 15th year." That one sentence places five pages of Bible records obtained from the Vermont Historical Society Library in perspective. To this point, we were not aware that Simeon and Prudence had children together. Knowing that fact and that one of the daughters was Susanna makes sense out of the Bible record. This record makes reference to an apparent brother of Jonathan Polley named Joseph who needs to be researched.

By Lee and Martha Polley

Lee and Martha were interested in the line of John Polley and Jemima Nichols of Malden, MA. The Massachusetts records show a few children and then this family seems to disappear. It turns out that these Polleys were among those solicited by the British government in 1760 to go to Nova Scotia to help repopulate it after the Acadians were ejected. Lee and Martha did on-site research in Nova Scotia and managed to pick up the threads of this family. They successfully traced the reentry of one of the sons, Joseph Polley, who fought for the Americans in the Revolution. He gave rise to a family that spread itself over New York State, Connecticut, Ohio, and finally Iowa. The key to this complex migration pattern is a few sentences in a Clinton Co.,

IA, history, typical of the county histories published at the end of the 19th Century.

[Editor's Note: Mr. Lee Ernest Polley passed away from this life after a battle with cancer on 6 March 1993. Lee and Martha had recently celebrated their golden wedding anniversary with many friends and family members in attendance. Martha informs me of her continued interest in the Polley genealogy.]

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### Corrections to Published Sources

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LIBRARY SHELVES ABOUND WITH BEAUTIFUL LOOKING, HARD BOUND GENEALOGIES. THE SAD PART IS THAT MANY OF THEM CONTAIN FACTUAL ERRORS THAT CONTINUE TO GET PROPAGATED IN NEW GENEALOGICAL WORKS ALL THE TIME. IN THE STYLE OF THE NEHGS AND THEIR NEXUS FEATURE, "CORRECTIONS TO GENEALOGIES IN PRINT," WE WILL PRESENT CORRECTIONS TO PRINTED POLLEY MATERIAL. THE REQUIREMENT IS THAT SUCH INCORRECT MATERIAL MUST BE IN A PUBLISHED FORM. SUBMITTERS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR ACCURATELY CITING ERRONEOUS MATERIAL AND FOR PROVIDING SUBSTANTIVE DOCUMENTATION OR FIRST HAND PERSONAL KNOWLEDGE TO SUPPORT THE CORRECTION.

### COMSTOCK

Comstock, John Adams, A History and Genealogy of the Comstock Family in America, The Commonwealth Press, Inc., Los Angeles, CA, 1949. On page 162 there are two entries for daughters of Amos Comstock (Family No. 647) that married (in turn) Frank B. Polly [sic]. (Francis Belman Polley)

The first, No. 3961, is Ellen Lafevre Comstock. The marriage is given simply by year, 1857. The actual marriage date was 18 November 1857. The date is documented in the vital records of the NYC Archives and confirmed in an entry in the N.Y. Herald, p. 5., 22 Nov 1857. Frank was a machinist who had developed his skills working at the distillery owned by his brother in Brooklyn, NY. Frank, Ellen, and their young daughter Carrie, moved to Cuba in 1860 where Frank was in charge of the machinery on a sugar plantation. There are letters extant from Ellen back to Frank's sister in New York that describe life in Cuba. Ellen became ill the following year and went back to Brooklyn to die, as noted in the genealogy, on 24 Jul 1861. She is interred in Cypress Hills Cemetery in Brooklyn with her husband and child. There was only one child of this marriage, Caroline Comstock Polley, b. 28 Aug 1858, d. 8 Aug 1939, m. 1880, John A. Taylor. The Taylors had three children, two girls and a boy. Only one girl, Frances Taylor,



logical research, anyone with a general interest in the Polley surname and its variants is more than welcome to become a subscriber as well as a contributor. However, material submitted for publication should have an historical, genealogical, or biographical theme intended to help others put together more comprehensive works on their particular Polley origins and ancestral accomplishments.

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### Events

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21 August 1994 (Sunday, 1:00 P.M.): Whitehall, Washington Co., NY. A ceremony at the Kinner Family Cemetery will honor Jonathan Polley (1759-1840) as a Revolutionary War soldier. DAR is the sponsor. Jonathan Polley is of the line: George<sup>1</sup>, John<sup>2</sup>, Matthew<sup>3</sup>, Jonathan<sup>4</sup>, Jonathan, Jr.<sup>5</sup>, and is an ancestor of several of the researchers listed in this issue.

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### Polley Profile

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THIS DEPARTMENT IS DEVOTED TO HIGHLIGHTING THE BACKGROUND ON A PARTICULAR POLLEY RESEARCHER, OR RESEARCHERS IN THE CASE OF COUPLES WHO SHARE POLLEY GENEALOGY AS A PASTIME. WE WILL PRESENT A SHORT BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH THAT GOES A BIT BEYOND THE USUAL GENEALOGICAL FACTS TO INCLUDE OTHER UNIQUE SKILLS, HOBBIES, PROFESSION, ETC. HOW ONE ULTIMATELY GOT "HOOKED" ON GENEALOGY IS ALWAYS OF INTEREST. ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN THE HOBBY, PUBLICATIONS, MEMBERSHIPS, SIGNIFICANT RESEARCH TRIPS, AND OTHER GENEALOGICAL EXPLOITS WILL ALSO BE HIGHLIGHTED.

Susan and Dick Randt have been working on their family history since 1985, shortly after Dick's dad died and they found documents that indicated the family name had been changed by Dick's grandfather in 1921 when he was finally naturalized. The whole family had believed they were of German origin, when in fact they were Polish. The family name had been Szwedrowski. After about a year, Susan became interested in this new pastime of her husband and was soon up to her elbows in relatives of her own.

Susan's Polley line came to light when asking questions of one of her aunts. Up to that point she had never heard the name. After a bit of research they worked the line back to Grahams Polley and Mary Wright of Brooklyn, NY. But they have been stuck for some time on the next generation back, David Polley (1786-1834) and Hannah Purdy (1795-1842).

While attending classes in the local community college, one semester, Susan found herself sitting next to a young man named Peter Polley. Armed with knowledge of the name and having developed the sense of inquisitiveness required by genealogists, she asked the young man some pertinent questions. After checking with his father, and comparing notes they eventually found they were fourth cousins. The thing that really came out of this chance meeting was a lead to a second cousin of Peter who had been doing genealogy on the Polley line for over twenty years. It was Commander John E. Polley, USN, who provided Sue and Dick with their initial database, which has since been expanded considerably. It turned out that John and Susan were also fourth cousins, and now they're both stuck on David Polley and Hannah Purdy.

Dick and Sue put together a very limited edition book on the New England origins of the Polley families of Massena (St. Lawrence Co.), NY. This was done while pursuing one of their many "David theories." They hope to organize current Polley researcher efforts and some day in the not too distant future put together the definitive source book for POLLEY in the U.S.

Dick is 57 and employed by the Department of Defense as a Computer Scientist. Susan is 45 and is nurturing a growing business in floral design and gift baskets. They have one daughter, Justine, who is thirteen. Fortunately for her, she likes libraries! They have owned their own home in Ellicott City, MD, since 1977, after moving there from New Jersey, where they met and married in 1975. Both belong to their local genealogy society and have given talks related to their research. They have also appeared on local cable TV in two different segments of a genealogy series produced by the Howard County Genealogical Society.

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### Past Polleys

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THIS FEATURE WILL HIGHLIGHT POLLEY RESEARCHERS OF THE PAST WHO HAVE SINCE PASSED ON TO "THE GREAT ARCHIVE." THEIR PARTICULAR LINE WILL BE HIGHLIGHTED AS WELL AS THEIR RESEARCH EFFORTS. DISPOSITION OF THEIR RESEARCH MATERIAL WILL BE DISCUSSED WHERE SOMETHING IS KNOWN ABOUT IT.

This issue's Polley researcher of the past is probably the oldest documented person known to have inquired into the Polley family history. He is Charles A. Hesson, a Canadian, born 28 March 1860. He was one of six children of Samuel



married. She married a Metcalfe and has living descendants yet.

Frank Polley married a second time to a Cornelia Richardson in December of 1866. She died the following year on 9 Oct 1867, apparently in childbirth. She and her unnamed child are also buried with Frank in Cypress Hills Cemetery in Brooklyn, NY. Leaving his daughter Carrie in the care of Frances Augusta Comstock, a sister of his first wife (No. 3959 in the Comstock genealogy), Frank traveled to Kansas in April or May of 1870 to stake a claim to 160 acres under the Homestead Act. There are letters extant from him in Kansas to his sister and his daughter telling of his hardships and expectations. One of his expectations was that a third Comstock sister, Emily Abbott Comstock (No. 3960 in the Comstock genealogy), would come out to Kansas for the purpose of marriage as well as to bring Carrie out.

The entry on Emily cites a marriage date of 1871. This date is clearly in error. Frank, Emily, and Carrie were enumerated as a family in the 1870 Census in Fawn Creek, Montgomery County, Kansas, in July. Although a marriage record has not yet been located, more than likely Frank and Emily were married as soon as she arrived, probably at the town or city where she got off the train. By October of 1870, Frank was dead. No formal death record has been found but there is a telegram from Emily to Frank's sister announcing Frank's death on 8 October 1870. The body was returned to Brooklyn for interment in Cypress Hills Cemetery. He was buried there on 31 Oct 1870. Emily ultimately took title to the land in Kansas and her name appears on a plat dated 1883. An heirs document from Cypress Hills Cemetery indicates there was a child of the third marriage. Francis B. Polley, Jr., is listed as a resident of Newport, RI, in 1893, but has not as yet been located to determine if there are descendants. The entry on Emily concludes with the statement, referring to Frank Polley, "His name was changed to Bellman". This statement is totally unsubstantiated and is more than likely a misinterpretation of some documentation to which this submitter has not been privy. The statement in context is ambiguous as to whether it refers to his first name or surname. Neither makes sense. He was buried as Frank Polley, the Kansas land was registered to Emily Polly [sic], and the apparent offspring of his last marriage was Frank Polley, Jr. According to family records, Frank's middle name was Belman (with one "L"). Its source is unknown and there is no

evidence that he ever used it in lieu of Francis or Frank or in any other manner.

Francis B. Polley was the youngest child of David Polley and Hannah Purdy and was born in New York City on 11 March 1830. His father died in 1834 and his mother in 1842. He was subsequently raised by his oldest living brother, Grahams Polley and his wife, Mary Wright, of Brooklyn, appearing with them in the 1850 census.

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### Polley Progenitors

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#### **The Origins of John Polley of Roxbury, Massachusetts, the Known and the Unknown**

By Michael J. Polley

There are, in the United States, 1,665 telephone listings for the surname POLLEY. There are 723 for POLLY. With twelve years of research behind me, I can safely say that most of these are descendants of George Polly of Woburn, Massachusetts. My line is descended from John Polley of Roxbury, Massachusetts. Savage's Dictionary states that these two men were "probably brothers."<sup>1</sup> I have seen this statement repeated as if it were a fact. However, no one has ever produced any document that shows me that they even knew each other.

We have the proven wills of both men, land records and church documents. Yet we have nothing that mentions their parents or their birthplace. From court documents we know that John was born about 1618 and George about 1625. It is generally accepted that they were both from England. Charles E. Banks states that George was from the parish of St. Leonard in Shoreditch, Middlesex, and further, that he came on the Mayflower.<sup>2</sup> Presumably his voyage would have been subsequent to the one that brought the first Separatist Puritans to Plymouth Colony in 1620. However, on 17th century passenger lists that survive for the period 1620-1650, there is neither a George nor a John Polley mentioned. It is not clear where the eminent Mr. Banks got his information.

The town of Roxbury, Massachusetts, was established in 1630 by William Pynchon and a small band of settlers from the Winthrop Fleet. The town is only three miles from the center of



Boston, but was very independent. It is interesting to note that almost every early resident of the town was from Essex, and primarily from the town of Nazeing. William Woods in his book, New England Prospects, published in London in 1639, says, in reference to Roxbury, "... the inhabitants of it being all very rich." John Polley's land was in close proximity to the more influential men of the town. This fact would suggest that he was also a prominent citizen. We do not find much on John's activities. He apparently could neither read nor write since documents bearing his name are signed with a mark. He refused to take the Freeman's oath until 1673, but this was not unusual as many settlers did the same to avoid public service. He was a member of the First Church of Roxbury, but is rarely mentioned in their records. His children attended school in Roxbury. John's name is on a document establishing the school and contracting the services of the school master. His name also appears on a 1672 document censuring the students of Harvard College for "their long haire."<sup>3</sup> So, he participated in at least some public affairs. Of his fourteen children, thirteen were daughters. His only son, John, Jr., and the heir to his estate was sixteen when the senior Polley died, but did not come into his inheritance until he was twenty-one. He then bought land in Woodstock, Connecticut.

The Polley home in Roxbury was "framed in England," also suggesting that the senior Polley had been a man of means. Not many settlers could afford to have homes shipped from England. The house was used as General Nathaniel Greene's headquarters during the Revolution and part of the building still exists as the parsonage of a church. It must have been of good workmanship to stand for over 350 years and is obviously not some poor settler's shack. John's occupation is not known, but since his son and a grandson were both housewrights, it is not unlikely that this was his profession as well.

There are four records in England that may be of my John. The first is a baptism recorded at St. Botolph Church, Colchester, Essex, for a John Polley dated 5 July 1618. The father is listed as Robert. The second is also a baptism for a John Polly at Borden, Kent, on 15 February 1618, the parentage not recorded. The third record is a birth in Finchingfield, Essex, in 1617, no parents listed. Lastly, there is a birth in Hingham, Suffolk, in 1618, also without parents listed. I currently favor the Essex baptism based on the affinity of Essex immigrants for Roxbury, and the correlation of the year 1618 with a court record.

I am now pursuing that course of investigation. No other information has come to light regarding the families of these individuals as yet.

The day some concrete evidence is found indicating the origin of John Polley of Roxbury will indeed cause excitement among my fellow Roxbury researchers. Until then, any reasonable lead is worth following.

1. Savage, James, Genealogical Dictionary of the First Settlers of New England, Vol. III.
2. Banks, Charles Edward, Topographical Dictionary of 2885 English Immigrants to New England, 1620-1650, Elijah Ellsworth Brownell, B.E.E., pub. and ed., 1937, Philadelphia, PA, p. 111.
3. NEHGR, Vol. 35, pp. 122-123.

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### Welcome Aboard

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HERE WE INTEND TO PRESENT PERTINENT PARTICULARS ON NEW POLLEY RESEARCHERS AS THEY ARE LOCATED. AS OPPOSED TO THE **POLLEY PROFILES** FEATURE, THIS DEPARTMENT WILL GIVE ONLY SUFFICIENT INFORMATION TO ALLOW INITIATION OF CORRESPONDENCE WITH THE PERSON. FOR THIS INITIAL ISSUE WE LIST BUT A FEW OF THE KNOWN ACTIVE POLLEY RESEARCHERS. [SEE THE ENCLOSED SUBSCRIPTION APPLICATION AND LET US KNOW YOUR DESIRES REGARDING USE OF YOUR NAME, ADDRESS AND PHONE NUMBER.] BEGINNING WITH THE NEXT ISSUE WE WILL IDENTIFY ALL RESEARCHERS WHO WISH TO ENTER INTO CORRESPONDENCE AND/OR TELEPHONE INQUIRIES.

READERS ARE REMINDED OF THE TRADITIONAL COURTESY TO BE PRACTICED, AT LEAST ON A FIRST TIME CONTACT WITH OTHER SUBSCRIBERS. PLEASE SUPPLY A SELF-ADDRESSED, STAMPED ENVELOPE (SASE) TO YOUR CORRESPONDENT. ALSO, PLEASE OFFER TO PAY FOR COPIES OF MATERIAL RECEIVED UNLESS THERE IS AN EXCHANGE IN KIND. AND OF COURSE, NO COLLECT PHONE CALLS! BE WARY OF TIME DIFFERENCES WHEN CALLING. ASK IF IT IS A CONVENIENT TIME AND OFFER TO CALL BACK LATER IF IT IS NOT. WHERE KNOWN, RESEARCHERS' IDS ARE GIVEN IF THEY ARE MEMBERS OF A COMPUTER NETWORK SUCH AS PRODIGY OR COMPUSEVE.

**Mrs. Alma Exley** - Mrs. Exley's line is George<sup>1</sup>, John<sup>2</sup>, Matthew<sup>3</sup>, Jonathan<sup>4</sup>, Jonathan, Jr.<sup>5</sup>, Abner Hubbard<sup>6</sup>, Emeline<sup>7</sup>. We met Mrs. Exley through Esther McDermott. They are distant cousins. Alma has made a significant discovery that is detailed in Research Progress. **Address:** 131 Garfield Rd., W. Hartford, CT 06107-2909.



Mrs. Esther M. (Clark) McDermott - Mrs. McDermott is from the same Polley line as Alma Exley, George<sup>1</sup>, John<sup>2</sup>, Matthew<sup>3</sup>, Jonathan<sup>4</sup>, Jonathan, Jr.<sup>5</sup>, Abner Hubbard<sup>6</sup>, Emeline<sup>7</sup>, differing only in the seventh generation. She has extensive information on the DeWolf line that intermarried with Polley. **Address: 199 Eley Rd., Hartwood, VA 22406**

Mr. Walter & Mrs. Diane Neubauer - Walt and Diane contacted your editor based on a long forgotten query on file with the LDS Family History Centers (FHC). It turned out that Diane's Polley line went back to the Massena (St. Lawrence Co.), NY group about whom we had done our "book" in 1988. The "book" focused on the migration of John Polley of Chester, VT, his children and many of his nephews to Massena and environs. The Neubauers are relatively new to genealogy and really experienced beginner's luck when they discovered that 95% of their Polleys were already done and all but formally published. However, not to detract from their efforts, they have done some fine on-site research, verifying and clarifying many details that we were not able to do back in Maryland. Diane's Polley line is George<sup>1</sup>, George<sup>2</sup>, Ebenezer<sup>3</sup>, Joseph<sup>4</sup>, Joseph<sup>5</sup>, Amos<sup>6</sup>, Hiram E.<sup>7</sup>, Ida Maria<sup>8</sup>. **Address: 7327 Highbridge Rd., Fayetteville, NY 13066.**

Mr. James L. & Mrs. Cinda L. (Hunter) Polley - James is Sue Randt's 4th cousin, as is John E. Polley below. James and John are 2nd cousins to each other. We recently linked up with James after he contacted Michael Polley through an America Online connection. Michael brokered the contact between us. After trading information with James, he has moved backed a quantum leap of three generations. Now there are three of them looking for David and Hannah! James is assisted by his wife Cinda who is also researching her own family history. His Polley line is David<sup>1</sup>, James Hatch<sup>2</sup>, James H., Jr.<sup>3</sup>, Richard Hatch<sup>4</sup>, James Francis<sup>5</sup>, James Leighton<sup>6</sup>. **Address: 2605 Cottage Cove Dr., Richmond, VA 23233. E-mail: cindap@aol.com**

CDR John E. Polley - John worked for years looking for the parents of his great-great-grandfather, James H. Polley. After he met the Randts, together they turned up a family letter that linked Susan Randt's Grahams Polley and John's James Hatch Polley as brothers. His Polley line is David<sup>1</sup>, James Hatch<sup>2</sup>, James H., Jr.<sup>3</sup>, John Francis<sup>4</sup>, John Theodore<sup>5</sup>, John Edward<sup>6</sup>. **Address: 1320 Baycliff Dr., Virginia Beach, VA 23454.**

Mr. Michael J. Polley - Michael made contact with your editor through a reference to our so-called "book". He is of the line of John Polley of Roxbury. His specific line of descent is John<sup>1</sup>, John<sup>2</sup>, John<sup>3</sup>, John<sup>4</sup>, Pliny<sup>5</sup>, Lucien<sup>6</sup>, Charles A.<sup>7</sup>, George Lucien<sup>8</sup>, Ronald Wilbur<sup>9</sup>, Richard Charles<sup>10</sup>, Michael John<sup>11</sup>. Michael was already working on a Polley book when we met. We've decided to join forces and hope to publish the definitive work on Polley. **Polley Pointers** will serve as a vehicle for collection, exchange and review of material, which could ultimately end up in a published work. Michael has agreed to act as publisher and manager of **Polley Pointers** allowing more time for the editor to concentrate on content. **Address: 17917 Rainbow, Fraser, MI 48026. E-mail: mikep73678@aol.com**

Mr. Richard C. & Mrs. Susan M. (Quin) Randt - Susan's line is David<sup>1</sup> (1786-1834), Grahams<sup>2</sup> (1815-1860), Sarah Jane<sup>3</sup> (1857-1941). So far, all of Susan's Polley ancestors have been found in the New York City and Brooklyn area, although there are descendants all over the country. Having run into the proverbial brick wall with David, as well as his wife, Hannah Purdy (1795-1842), the Randts have taken to "reverse genealogy" contrary to the accepted genealogical practice of working backward from yourself. In examining any and all Polley families in search of an attachment point for David, they have amassed enough material for a book, which they hope to publish together with Michael Polley. **Address: 9146 Winding Way, Ellicott City, MD 21043-6446. E-mail: cjtp10a@prodigy.com**

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### Polley Previews

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Next issue look for the start of several new feature departments: **Queries** (dare I call it Polley Posers), **Ads** (here's a place to peddle your genealogical masterpiece), and **Polley Pilgrims** (subscriber writeups on visits to libraries, archives and other research facilities of particular value to Polley research). The last feature could also include accounts of trips to visit newly found Polley cousins, and details on finding them.

A bit more into the future, we might look forward to a feature called **Polley Pix** where you could get that old tintype of great-great-grandfather Polley scanned into a file, cleaned up a bit, and published for all the world to see.



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

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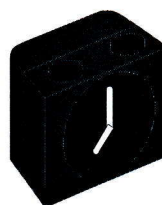
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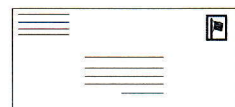
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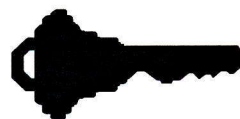
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