

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

The years seem to fly by so quickly any more. Here we are with the December issue again. It seems like it was just a few days ago we had put a wrap on the previous December issue. I guess that *time compression* is not just an overworked science fiction concept, but one that takes on some degree of reality once you celebrate the big six-oh!

Attention!

We had one envelope carrying the September '96 issue come back from the Post Office without its mailing label. We suspect that it was accidentally ripped off in the cancelling process. So far we have not been able to track down the subscriber to whom it was originally addressed. Please check your holdings and notify me if you're missing the September '96 issue. We'll send it right out to you. Our apologies for any inconvenience.

We have a feature story this quarter on a John Polley, of the Woburn line. As you probably realize, the name John seems to be the most popular for Polley males and it's a constant struggle to keep them straight if you have one or more in your line. The particular John Polley featured in this issue has extra significance to Susan and me since he was the first one we chased seeking the father of her David Polley. It turned out that David didn't really fit in among the known children of John Polley, once we had found them all. However, in researching this Polley figure we amassed a lot of information that shouldn't be wasted, so we've put it together in a hopefully coherent narrative.

Sign of the Times

Some may note with curiosity our new format for telephone numbers. We are attempting to stay ahead of the phone companies who are converting to area codes that will be required even for intra-area dialing. Eventually the area code will become a necessary part of your phone number. We will no longer offset the area code in parentheses as an option, (410) 995-5516, but instead will adopt the European style of phone number presentation: 410.995.5516. Small point but editors worry about this stuff!

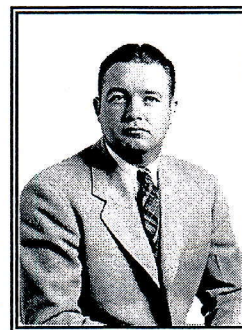
Dick Randall



Wesley Polley Passes On

Wesley Egbert Polley, father of subscribers Adrienne Reeves and Alan K. Polley died at his home in Bisbee, AZ on 3 September 1996. He was 84.

Polley was born in Bisbee on 2 March 1912 to Joseph Egbert Polley, III and Sarah Olive Bean. His father was a rancher and law enforcement officer. During summers when Wes was out of school, he would work as part of the roundup crew. His father, knowing that it was hard work for a young lad, took the opportunity to convince Wes that a professional person's life (banker, lawyer, etc.) would probably be more to his liking. Even though Wes ultimately went into law and eventually became Cochise County Attorney, one skill he learned well and practiced often was the art of roping. He roped competitively, participating in rodeos throughout Arizona. He was an avid horseman and helped establish the Mule Mountain Horsemen Association. He organized and led trail rides in Cochise County mountains.



**Wesley Egbert
Polley**

Photo (ca. 1948) courtesy
Adrienne Reeves.

Wes Polley worked at a number of jobs as a young man. Early on he worked as a miner for Phelps Dodge and later found employment in California for a short time as an accountant. After being advised to think about a career in law, he returned to Arizona, where he worked as a prison guard. During this time he "read law" on his own, using a set of used law books, since he could not afford to attend law school. In 1936, after passing the bar exam, he was sworn in as an Assistant State Attorney General. He left the post during WW II to serve in Europe with the Army Air Corps. He returned to Cochise County to open a law practice and later served as the County Attorney, a position he held from 1948 to 1956.

19. Chester, VT land records, Book D, p. 7.
20. Tunis, Edwin, *Colonial Craftsmen and the Beginnings of American Industry*, The World Publishing Company, New York, p. 35.
21. Chester, VT land records, Book ??, p. 106.
22. The specific dates of birth for John, Jr. and Martin Polley have not been determined. Only the years have been passed down.
23. Chester, VT land records, Book E, pp. 238-239.
24. Chester, VT land records, Book F, pp. 49-51. The handwriting in the recorded deeds is quite distinct. There are two different names involved, Elisha and Elijah Walker. What the relation between the two may have been, if any, is presently unknown and open to continued research.
25. Chester, VT land records, Book F, p. 260.
26. A death record for Abigail has not been found. The marriage to Sally Stone is recorded in Chester, VT town records, Book C, p. 79.

"State of Vermont. Windsor ss Be it known that at Chester in s^d County on the 11th Day of August 1801 — Mr. John Polley & Miss Salley Stone both of s^d Chester in s^d County were duly joined in Marriage by Aaron Leland Minister."
27. From a letter in the pension file dated 19 Dec 1914, from a Flosse I. Polley of Madison, WI, seeking information in support of an application for NSDAR membership.
28. Chester, VT land records, Book F, p. 278.
29. Chester, VT land records, Book F, pp. 392-394. At the end of the notarization the notation, "Recorded and examined by Aaron Leland Regt," appears although a specific date is not stated. Presumably it was the same date as notarization.
30. Chester, VT land records, Book F, p. 282.
31. Chester, VT land records, Book F, p. 282.
32. Hutchins, Jack Randolph, *Genealogy of Thomas Hutchins of Salem, Massachusetts*, Gateway Press, Inc., Baltimore, 1984, pp. 115-116. The author quotes a pamphlet entitled, "The Massena Story," by Leonard H. Prince, Nick J. Podgurski and Richard V. Peer, published in 1958. The authors of the pamphlet summarize some of the information on early families in the Massena area as mentioned in Hough's history of St. Lawrence Co. [Hough, Franklin B., *A History of St. Lawrence and Franklin Counties, New York*, reprinted by the Regional Publ. Co., Balto., 1970]. The families they say were in Massena by 1802 include a Joseph, William and John Polley. A thorough reading of Hough as well as reference to a latter day index to it revealed no Joseph. Hough does mention two different John Polleys, an Eben Polley, as well as a William Polley and an Ira Polly. He does not link a John Polley to arrival in 1802.
33. Allen, Mrs. Mary Snaith, "Old Massena Homes," *The Massena Observer*, 8 Nov 1938. [One of a series of articles by Mrs. Allen, upon which many of the more recent histories of Massena are based. The articles contain much Polley history.] This particular article is the most definitive regarding John Polley's initial years in Massena and is quoted in part as follows:

"John [Polley], Sr. came to Massena in 1802, and was elected one of the overseers of the highway, April 1803. Mar. 7, 1804 he was elected supervisor, and on Jan. 1, 1805, a town meeting was held at his home. ...

"John Polley Sr. purchased 150 acres of land on a contract about 1802 from Melanton Smith and John Bleeker; when the deed was given Apr. 13, 1815, it was from Daniel Robinson and wife to John Polley Jr., Daniel Robinson having purchased Smith and Bleeker's interest in Tract B."
34. *The Story of Massena, 1802-1952*, publ. 1952, pp. 11-12. [Not to be confused with "The Massena Story," Prince, et al.] This pamphlet again regurgitates the information from Hough and adds the name of Royal Polley as a settler "known to have come here [Massena] before 1803." What the author(s) of this pamphlet failed to tell the reader is that Royal Polley undoubtedly came to Massena in the arms of Sally (Stone) Polley, his mother, who had given birth to him in Chester, VT on 10 April 1802.
35. Chester, VT land records, Book F, pp. 392-394.
36. The date of 10 Apr 1802 is from a death notice clipping from an unidentified newspaper from the Massena, NY area. However, the article incorrectly states place of birth as Massena instead of Chester. Other Massena historical pieces indicate Royal came to Massena with the family.
37. *The Story of Massena, 1802-1952*, op. cit., p. 12
38. Dumas, Eleanor L. and Nina E, *History of Massena the Orphan Town*, local publication, Printed by Massena Printing, 1977, pp. 182-188, provides a list of early Massena settlers and their origins. By far the greatest portion came from various communities in Vermont.
39. Allen, Mrs. Mary Snaith, op. cit.
40. St. Lawrence Co., NY land records, 1802-1882, Book 4, pp. 122-123. Grantor is Daniel Robinson and wife Esther. Grantee is John Polley, Junior. Transaction: 150 acres for \$412.50. Date of sale: 13 April 1815. Recorded: 15 May 1815.
41. Hough, Franklin B., A.M., M.D., *A History of St. Lawrence and Franklin Counties, NY*, orig. pub. Little & Co., Albany, 1853; facsimile edition, pub. Regional Publishing Company, Baltimore, 1970, pp. 524-25.
42. Hutchins, op. cit., pp. 187-194.
43. Death date taken from a letter in the pension file dated 19 Dec 1914, from a Flosse I. Polley of Madison WI, seeking information in support of an application for NSDAR membership.
44. Ibid.

Polley was the last Arizona attorney to pass the bar without having gone through formal law school. Always a tough competitor, he once argued a case before the U.S. Supreme Court while recovering from a severe back injury. He was lying flat on his back in a stretcher propped up against a desk. In 1986, Polley was honored for 50 years of law practice in the state by his fellow attorneys in the Cochise County Bar Association.

Wes became a subscriber to **POLLEY POINTERS** in June 1995 and was written up in Welcome Aboard where his ancestral line was discussed in detail.

He is survived by his wife Essie and his children, Rev. Gerald Polley, Adrienne (Mrs. William Reeves), Alan Polley, and Cindy (Mrs. John Taylor) and a step-daughter, Mary Ann (Mrs. Lawrence Sipe). He had 16 grandchildren and 33 great-grandchildren.

A memorial service was held at the Bisbee Elks Lodge on Saturday morning, 7 September 1996. His son Alan made appropriate remarks and presented a synopsis of Wes' life. Burial followed at the Evergreen Cemetery in Bisbee.

rcr

Research Progress



Take That Hill

Subscriber Dick T. Polley has been with us since Sep '94 [See Welcome Aboard]. A former Marine, Dick knows the value of persistence. Because of his persistence, he is about to secure another genealogical objective in pursuit of his ancestors.

In the same issue, under Research Progress, we reported the receipt of a letter, *out of the blue*, from a researcher in New York City who had seen a copy of our Polley "book" at NEHGS in Boston. [See Polley Profiles, Jun '94, for details of the "book."] The correspondent's question revolved around Revolutionary War Veteran, Joseph Polley, who died in Danbury, CT in 1843. From the questions asked by the correspondent (identified only by initials K.W. and the surname Bentley), it was clear that the writer of the letter was a descendant of the line: George¹, John², Samuel³, John⁴, Joseph⁵, Joseph⁶, Joseph⁷. The writer cited Clarena A. Polley as his great-grandmother and her grandparents as Joseph Polley (1783-1873) and Mary Johnson.

It was the mention of Mary Johnson in proper context that pulled the family together and made

everything clear. I had her name in a Bible record for the family of Joseph⁵. However, it was ambiguous as to which Joseph she married, Joseph⁵ (as a second wife) or Joseph⁶. The letter answered that question as well as tying in a family of seven children in Kansas. An extract of the Foote family genealogy showed a Joseph Polley (1815-1879) married to Julia Ann Foote (1810-1859) on 14 May 1834. Their firstborn was Clarena Almira, b. 16 Aug 1835, d. 11 Nov 1915. The second child was William Harris Polley, b. 2 Dec 1838. He was Dick Polley's grandfather.

Thus, Dick Polley and the mysterious writer of the letter from New York appeared to be second cousins, once removed, with Joseph⁷ as their common Polley ancestor. Additionally, it appeared that neither of them knew much about the previous six generations, to include a Revolutionary War veteran (Joseph⁵) and a settler of vacated Acadian lands in Nova Scotia (John⁴). Your editor was in the position of holding all the edge pieces to a large jig saw puzzle watching two people struggle to get started!

I sent copies of all the information I had to Dick Polley, including the letter from K.W. Bentley. I also replied to K.W. that I had a lot of the missing pieces and invited further correspondence as well as extending an opportunity to subscribe to **POLLEY POINTERS**. I thought that from there on out, putting this major Polley family line together would be like falling off a log. However, that was not to be, for about two years. It seemed like K.W. Bentley had dropped out of sight. Mail went unanswered and information inquiries to the telephone company revealed no such person. However, the tenacity of a former Marine prevailed. Dick Polley was determined to take his objective.

Making use of some new location/directory software, he cleverly entered only the address that had been used by Bentley. To his surprise he got a *hit* on it. However, the associated name was not that of Bentley, but rather the address belonged to a lady. Dick wrote to the address seeking information on Bentley. Before long he (and shortly thereafter, your editor) was talking on the telephone to Mr. Kimberly Wycliff Bentley, better known as K.W. or "Wyc" to close associates. It seems that the long period of suspense occurred at the same time Mr. Bentley, a relatively new newlywed, was, changing households, and having twins with his new bride. [One might say he was doing active genealogy in creating descendants instead of passive genealogy where most people are content to find dead ancestors!] It is quite understandable that a hobby must sometimes be put on the shelf. If Mr. Bentley

Welcome Aboard



K. W. Bentley - Mr. Bentley is a descendant of George Polly of Woburn, the Polley line being: George¹, John², Samuel³, John⁴, Joseph⁵, Joseph⁶, Joseph⁷, Clarena Almira⁸. He is three more generations removed from Clarena Almira⁸, being a descendant of her and her second husband, Oliver Proctor Barritt, Sr. The details of his early Polley line and how he came to learn of us and become a subscriber may be found in Research Progress in this issue. Representative of modern mobile America, K.W. was born in Kentucky, met his future bride at college in Oregon, and now lives in New York City. He is employed as a Public Library Assistant in Connecticut. **Address: 329 East 13th Street, Apt. C, New York, NY 10003. Tel.: 212.677.6933**

Virgil W. Huntley - Mr. Huntley is not a Polley descendant but has an interest in them through the DeWolfe family. Balthazar DeWolph [the original spelling] of Lyme, CT is the progenitor of this line. Virgil descends from Susanna, a daughter of Balthazar. He notes the connection with the Polleys through Prudence DeWolph who married Rev. War veteran Jonathan Polley [see the Sep '94 issue for her story]. Virgil is the Membership Secretary and Treasurer of the Huntley National Association and has held that office since 1972. Mr. Huntley has been pursuing genealogical research for 50 years. **Address: 27 Pearl Street, Mystic, CT 06355-2513. Tel.: 800.536.8702**

Patricia A. Jennes - Patricia initially saw our listing in *Everton's Genealogical Helper* for family and surname publications, and sought us out to become a subscriber. Ironically, we were simultaneously looking for Patricia, having seen her name and an old address on some family group sheets that had come from cousin John E. Polley. We were seeking Patricia since the family group sheets were for a family being researched by subscriber Jack Carl Thompson. Now that Patricia is aboard, we have made the appropriate introductions and are awaiting a report after Jack and Patricia have a chance to compare notes. **Address: R.R. #1, Box 165, Birchwood, WI 54817. Tel.: 715.354.7305**

Dixie M. Jordan - Dixie is relatively new to genealogy and is currently researching her daughter's paternal line that includes a Polley who migrated to California. P.P. Polley married Maria Keenan in 1870 in Marysville (Yuba Co.), CA. They had at least four children. A daughter, Annie, married

S.J. Delaney. Their son, Wes Delaney, was the paternal grandfather of Dixie's daughter. P.P. Polley (names are currently unknown) is shown in the census as being born ca. 1833 in Massachusetts. He died sometime after 1880. Dixie is a publisher, associated with Parent's Press of Berkley, CA. **Address: 6356 Broadway Terrace, Oakland, CA 94618. Tel.: 510.653.2642. E-mail: Rusty6356@aol.com**

Bonnie Patricia (Powell) Lindstrom - Bonnie is also a descendant of George Polly of Woburn, MA. Her Polley line is: George¹, John², Matthew³, Lucy⁴. She descends from Lucy⁴ and her second husband, Elisha Blackman, who were married 23 Mar 1753. Bonnie is five generations removed from Lucy⁴, running through two more Elisha Blackmans and the surnames Hurlbut, Rollins, Spangle, Harden, and Powell. **Address: 1104 11th Ave. N. Ext., Nampa, ID 83687-6705. Tel.: 208.466.8366**

Earl R. Pauley - Earl has Pauley roots in Kentucky, Virginia and West Virginia. He has recognized the close association with the Polley surname in this region and has subscribed to be able to compare notes with those readers in a similar situation. Perhaps we can offer him some help. **Address: 3820 N. County Road 950 E, Brownsburg, IN 46112-8925. Tel.: 317.852.2905. E-mail: pauley@iquest.net**

- Corrections -

Daryl L. Polley - Daryl is now online. His E-mail address: **DarylP@FreeMark.com**

Lisa M. Polley - Lisa's line of descent was incorrectly stated in September's Welcome Aboard. It should read: Ira¹, Daniel², Ford³, Dean Virgil⁴, Lisa⁵. We regret the error.

Lynne Russell - Lynne has a new E-mail address, **birdlady@awwwsome.com**

Brenda Beattie-Schwartz - Brenda now has E-mail. Her Internet address is: **bsbeattie@aol.com**

Carolyn G. Smith - Carolyn's correct E-mail address is **CarolySm@aol.com** and should be noted in the researcher list. We regret the error.

Richard L. Switzer - Rich has a new address: **P.O. Box 221, Gambier, OH 43022-0221.**

Researcher Listings

IMPORTANT!
PLEASE RETAIN FOR
FUTURE REFERENCE.

Each paid subscriber receives an updated listing of all subscribers actively pursuing research with their first issue. They also receive an

update with the June issue. Pertinent data to facilitate communication is listed. Please keep this listing as it will not be republished until June '97. We suggest you keep the list current with pen and ink changes based on the corrections published from time to time. An updated list can be obtained by any subscriber for a large SASE. Library patrons and others desiring to contact a subscriber, whose address cannot be located, may do so through **POLLEY POINTERS**. Please provide forwarding postage. rcr

Queries

*Time to update your query?
Rewrite with a fresh angle?*

Charles W. Poley - Seeking parents of Jesse Poley, b. 27 Apr 1833, Phila., PA. Need names, DOB, POB, etc. Jesse m. Jane Bailey, dau. of John and Mary Bailey, both b. England 1800. Jesse and Jane m. Phila., 17 Jun 1857. They had four ch., Abraham, b. & d. 1858 Phila.; James Hollowell, b. 15 Jan 1860 Phila., d. 7 Mar 1930 Atlantic City, NJ; William Hollowell, b. 1 Jan 1862 Phila., d. Jul 1932 Phila.; John L., b. 1867 Phila., d. 13 Sep 1917, Pleasantville, NJ. Jesse served the Union forces 1863-1865 as a Private in Co. F, 52nd Pennsylvania Infantry Regt. In 1890 Jesse and his wife bought a house in Pleasantville, NJ and lived out their lives there. He died 21 Nov 1909. Jane died 22 Dec 1913.

Janice Frost - Seeking authoritative spelling of the middle name of the father of Mary Bailey Polley, wife of Texas pioneer Joseph Henry Polley. She has seen James B. Bailey's middle name as Brittain, Britton, and Britten. Can anyone researching this family provide the proper spelling for the "Brit" in Brit Bailey's name?

Gwen Boyer Bjorkman - Sarah Polly m. Eligah Baker 1826, Perry Co., KY. They are next to Edward Polly in 1830 Perry Co. census and Eligah signs an affidavit in Edward's Rev. War pension file. Sarah is probably granddaughter of Edward. Among the ch. of Edward, she is possibly daughter of Sarah Polly before she m. Daniel Stout in 1806, or of Andrew Polly. Seeking any and all records of Andrew Polly to determine parentage of Sarah (Polly) Baker.

Patricia Zagata - Seeks record/documentation of 1st marr. of Marshall L. Polley, s. of James Madison & Queen Lillian (Farmer) P. He was b. 14 Aug 1909, possib. Webster Co. KY. SSAN was 405-01-7555. Second marriage believed to be with Mildred Polley.

Betty G. Richmond - Seeking parents of Mary (?Polly?) Eldridge, b. PA, ca. 1790. She m. Ebenezer Eldridge ca. 1813-14, prob. NY or PA as his 2nd wife. They had children: Ebenezer, Jr., Mary and Zoeth. All available documentation & census entries ambiguous as to name Polly. Cannot determine if it is maiden surname or diminutive of Mary. Ebenezer, Sr.'s 1st wife, Chloe Orcutt, d. 1813 in Washington Co., NY (no issue). Ebenezer, Sr. lived in Washington Co., NY in the 1800 census, as well as a Thomas Polley in the same town, Salem. Polley was listed with 1 female, 10-16, possibly Mary. Eldridges lived in Erie Co., PA in 1820 census. Ebenezer, Sr. d. in 1830s and Mary moved with her adult children to Sauk Co., WI by 1844-45 and lived with son-in-law Hiram Bailey. Later moved to Los Angeles, CA in 1872 with Zoeth and his family.

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, at age 11.

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.

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

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

had only asked, I could have told him that twins run in this Polley line. Joseph⁵ was a twin.

It looks like we're back on track now. Mr. Bentley has been provided with his line back to George¹, is in active correspondence with Dick Polley, and is a new subscriber to **POLLEY POINTERS**. [See Welcome Aboard, this issue.] Nice job Marine. Semper Fi!

===== oo =====

Another case of delayed reaction response happened to Evelyn White recently. About three years ago she was passing through Sioux Falls, SD, and as many of us are wont to do, checked for Polleys in the local phone book. She found an Esther Polley and sent her a note but unfortunately received no reply. However, the recipient kept the note and last summer gave it to her daughter, Lisa Polley (also a subscriber). Lisa contacted Evelyn and was able to locate for her the burial place of a Josiah Polley in Nebraska. Evelyn had been looking for him everywhere, except in Nebraska. The gravesite was near Lisa's home.

===== oo =====

Not really in the category of progress, but more along the lines of "things that ought to be done," we have two ideas to toss out to the readership and perhaps get some feedback on how we ought to proceed.

The first comes from a delightful telephone conversation we had several weeks ago with subscriber Joseph Polley Paine. Mr. Paine opined as how it would be a useful tool to genealogists if one could have, for any desired time period, an idea of the economic state of the nation, as well as the world, and some indicator of the relative value of money.

In other words, it would be nice if we could use a handbook, a table, a formula, or some combination thereof to determine if a particular ancestor was rich, poor or middle class. Of course the result would have to be based on whatever data was available for the ancestors in question, such as how much land they owned, the annual income, number of head of livestock, etc. Are there any economists or business majors among the readership that would like to comment on the feasibility of doing this?

The second idea for a useful project is a compilation of Polley documents that serve as primary records. It could cut across clan lines and include Bible records, significant land records, wills, family letters. There are at least a half dozen key Bible records that we have seen that should be published and preserved. Undoubtedly there are others. Any takers? rcr

Polley Tools

Last December we ran a Polley Tools article on the utility of the computer in doing genealogy. One of the features we discussed was the ability to access the World Wide Web [WWW or simply, the Web]. Such access is available if you have a modem [a device to connect your computer to the telephone network] and if you subscribe to [loosely translated as *pay for*] the services of an Internet provider [aka: an Internet On-Ramp].

POLLEY POINTERS has taken its own advice and has established itself on the Web. Our URL [Uniform Resource Locator] is:

<http://pages.prodigy.com/CJTP10A/polley.htm>

Remember that URLs are case sensitive, so watch your uppers and lowers as you type in the URL of the **Polley Home Page**. Once you arrive at the web site [an imprecise term either synonymous with home page or as a collective term to include home page and linked sub-pages] you will find several sub-pages linked to the home page [the top or primary page from which several others, usually by the same author, on the same subject, radiate]. There is a listing on one page of past **POLLEY POINTERS** issues and the key stories they contained. Another page contains names and E-mail addresses of our subscribers who are currently online. Their area of research is also listed in the table. As time permits I will be adding additional Polley information and features. I envision at least one page for each spelling variant and major progenitor.

For researchers of Pauley, Poley, Pawley, etc., the home page has been indexed by several search engines [special programs on the Web designed to find web sites by subject], such as AltaVista™. Each of the many surname variants has been embedded in the HTML [HyperText Markup Language] text that forms the basis of the home page. Thus someone searching on "Pooley family history," "Pawley genealogy," or simply "Paulley" will be directed to our site.

I would like to have your ideas on what should and shouldn't be, put on the web site. Ideas or suggested copy are always welcome.

For those folks who don't own a computer, and perhaps don't even want to entertain the thought of having one, let me assure you that our newsletter will continue, for the foreseeable future, to be published in hard copy media [on paper]. We'll try not to clutter it up with too many computer articles such as this one and will endeavor to separate the two enterprises. rcr

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

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

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

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

Richard L. 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.

James Albert Polley - Seeks probate info for John Polley and/or Mary Taler whose 1 Apr 1795 marr. is documented in Halifax Co., VA, as well as probate info for John Polley and/or Mary White whose 28 June 1796 marr. is documented in Shelby Co., KY. His John and Mary were both b. 1775 and d. 1849 and are believed to have d. in Breckinridge Co., KY. Attempting to link correct John and Mary to son Joseph W[HITE?] Polley, b. 27 May 1799, d. 20 Sep 1878, m. Elizabeth Huff, 10 Sep 1820.

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

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

Joan Reed Miller - Seeks documentation to confirm birth & par. of Miriam (or Marian) Polley, said to be b. 10 Jun 1856, Lawrence, MA, to Alfred & Elizabeth (Kellogg) Polly.

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

Readers Write

Dorothy Manley, sister of the late Gerald Polley, writes:

"I am enclosing the obits (from the Hamlin, PA papers) of Cora Polley, my father's cousin's wife.



Cora Polley Was Born in Hamlin

Cora A. Polley, of DeBary, FL, a member of the Order of the Eastern Star and Centenary United Methodist Church, died Aug. 28, 1995. She was 106 years old. She was the widow of Frederick G. Polley.

Born in Hamlin on Jan. 28, 1889, she was the daughter of the late William and Lura Lawrence Alt, pioneer families in the Madisonville, Lake Ariel and Hamlin [PA] areas.

Surviving is a stepdaughter, Margaret. She was preceded in death by a sister, Elba Mae Alt and a brother Lawrence Alt.

Funeral services were held in September with the Rev. David McGriffic. Cremation took place in Florida. Interment, Hamlin Cemetery.

Obituary for Cora A. Polley, 106

(a composite of three obits)

"They lived in and around Lake Ariel and Hamlin most of their lives until they shared their retirement years between Hamlin, PA and DeBary, FL up to the point where they could no longer travel.

"Frederick, better known as "Scoop" Polley, died about age 93. After a few years Cora moved to a nursing home.

"I can well remember visiting their pleasant, sunny old homestead in Hamlin (over 100 years old). This had been her parents' home and she grew up there. We'd sit while she reminisced how they traveled from New England to the Pennsylvania countryside by wagon, carrying all their belongings.

"As a child she had a heart condition and had to go to a private school as she was so frail that she needed extra care. But she fooled us all by living to 106 years of age."

The Frederick G. Polley of whom Dorothy speaks was the son of Florence E. Polley and Louella Killam. Dorothy is a second cousin, once removed, to him. They share Amos Polley and Mary Headley as common ancestors. Frederick's

first store in Fitchburg in 1772. Ephraim was a deacon of the church and served as an ensign in the militia.¹³

John and Abigail soon began their family in Fitchburg. *The Old Records of the Town of Fitchburg*, p. 319, record the birth of "Sally Polley second Daughter to John Polley & Abigail his wife Born at fitchburg April ye 25 1785" Although there is no documentation regarding a "first daughter," the wording of this record would lead one to believe that Abigail perhaps lost a previous baby girl, either at birth or shortly thereafter. The time frame established by the marriage and the birth of Sally certainly supports such speculation.

Sally Polley would accompany her parents in their move to Chester, Vermont and eventually marry there. She married Cornelius Barnes on 17 February 1803, Daniel Heald, Justice of the Peace, presiding.¹⁴ The Barneses accompanied John Polley to Massena, NY that same year. Sally and Cornelius had at least one son named Chandler who married a Maria Smith. They had at least four sons: Cornelius, Thaddeus Smith, George and Frank.¹⁵

The next child of John and Abigail was another daughter named Hannah, presumably born in Fitchburg, MA, although no vital records have been found regarding her birth. The information on her comes from the holographic notes of Delilah Polley Glenn, an eventual granddaughter of John Polley who would become the *de facto* Polley family historian of her era. Hannah was born 12 December 1787 and married Lemuel Haskell in Massena, NY in 1807. Lemuel was most likely also from Fitchburg. A William and a Lemuel Haskell are documented, along with Joseph Polley, as charter members of the First Baptist Society in Fitchburg in December 1783. Although Hannah's husband is said to have been born 22 September 1788, the one in Fitchburg may well have been his father; his positive identification is left as an objective for future research.

The Revolutionary War pension records of John Polley indicate when he may have migrated from Fitchburg, MA to Chester, VT. That documentation indicates simply "1791."¹⁶ However the facts as presented in the pension record clearly are not correct in three other vital statistics:

- 1) John Polley's birth date— "29 December 1761" vice 30 December 1760 as noted in the Leominster vital records,
- 2) his marriage date to Abigail Kimball— "4 November 1782" vice 28 October 1782

as recorded in the town records of Fitchburg, and,

- 3) his marriage date, in Chester, VT, to Sally Stone— "11 September 1801" vice 11 August 1801 as recorded in the vital records of Chester, VT.

Clearly, the pension applications (the soldier's and the widow's) were filled out, in 1832 and 1854 respectively¹⁷, totally from fading memories rather than reliance on documentation. Thus credibility for strict accuracy in other aspects is also questionable.

In support of an earlier date for movement to Vermont, it is noted that there is no Worcester Co., MA entry in the 1790 Federal census for a John Polley. However, an entry for a John Polly in Hampshire Co, Town of Goshen, suggests John and his family on the move westward. The numbers shown for household members, 1, _, 4, _, _ , are consistent with the known family at the time, John and four females, Abigail, Hannah, Sally, and the unknown daughter who did not survive to adulthood. However, positive identification of this Hampshire Co. John has not been possible to date.

If the land and town records for Windsor Co., VT are examined, it becomes quite clear that John Polley was in Vermont as early as 1789. The town records of Cavendish, VT show him as having taken the Freeman's Oath on 10 March 1789. An extract of the Cavendish records, where John Polley's oath is noted, is illustrated on the following page. It was necessary to have taken the Freeman's Oath in order to be able to own land. Apparently this action was in preparation for doing so.

In the land records of Chester, VT, it is seen that John Polley made a purchase of $\frac{3}{4}$ of an acre from Elijah Parker on 22 May 1790, the deed being recorded on 1 Nov 1790.¹⁸ On 12 August of 1790, he negotiated a right-of-way, just north of the $\frac{3}{4}$ acre, with Thomas Chandler. This transaction was also recorded on 1 Nov 1790.¹⁹ The deed for the $\frac{3}{4}$ acre refers to John Polley as being a "clothier" of Cavendish. Thus it appears that Polley initially established himself in Cavendish and then came south a few miles to finally settle in Chester. The 12 August transaction with Thomas Chandler granted Polley the right to erect a fulling mill on Chandler's farm and build a dam across the nearby creek to power it. Additionally, the agreement granted access rights to the mill.

In the terminology of the day, a clothier was one who made or sold cloth. The process of fulling (the occupation being fuller) first involved

It is interesting to note that one of the men from whom John Polley bought the two large parcels of land in 1799, Elisha Walker, subsequently entered into an agreement with Polley. This agreement, formally recorded as a bond in the Chester town records, dated 11 June 1799, provided that Walker and his wife Thankful would be permitted to live on the land for the rest of their days and would be provided their necessities, food, clothing, health care, and a home by Polley. In return Walker was to continue farming the land for Polley's benefit. Walker paid Polley \$100 to enter into this agreement, essentially leasing back his own farm.³⁰

A little over a year later, on 18 August 1800, Polley and Walker mutually agreed to annul their previous agreement.³¹ Apparently this was the first step by Polley to cut his ties to Vermont. It would almost appear, when considering all the events in John Polley's life, that his decision to leave Vermont was strongly influenced by the death of Abigail. On the other hand, perhaps it was Sally Stone who, when she agreed to be John's new wife and care for his children, suggested they would all be better off in a new environment. One can only speculate. However, whatever his motivation, John Polley seemed to have put big plans in motion and within three years reversed them totally.

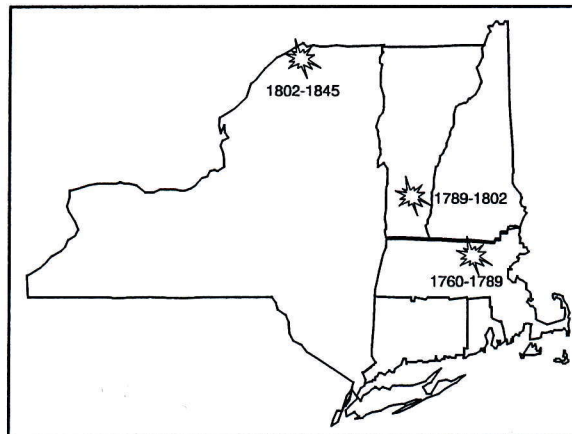
Exactly when John Polley departed Chester, VT to establish his family in Massena, NY is somewhat obscured. Some historians of St. Lawrence Co., NY say that John Polley was there as early as 1802, the year the Township of Massena was legally organized. However, there is no hard documentation such as a land transaction to back up this assertion.³² There is evidence that John Polley was elected to a minor town position in 1803 and then to town supervisor in 1804. These latter two dates were stated by a well respected local historian who wrote historical columns for the local paper in Massena. She explains away why there is no deed among the Massena land records showing John Polley ever buying or selling land, even though the extant records go back to the beginning in 1802.³³ A complete list of the Massena town supervisors, as well as other village officials was published in a sesquicentennial pamphlet in

1952. The first supervisor elected in 1802 was Matthew Perkins. In 1804 John Polley became Massena's second supervisor.³⁴

Thus John Polley appears to have established himself in Massena, NY at least by April 1803. Whether he was permanently established in Massena by 1802 appears speculative since there were events happening in Chester that would seem to have demanded John's presence there. He was selling his last parcel of land in August 1802.³⁵ His new wife Sally gave birth to their first child, a son named Royal, on 10 April 1802.³⁶ John's daughter Sally was married to Cornelius Barnes on 17 Feb 1803. These factors weigh heavily against Polley having totally "pulled up stakes" in Vermont during 1802.

More than likely John Polley did the same as many of those who migrated from New England to Western New York. He probably first went alone in late 1802 to purchase his 150 acres

from Melanton Smith and John Bleeker. He perhaps cleared some land and planned the house he was soon to build. More than likely he returned to Chester in time for the wedding of his daughter Sally to Cornelius Barnes on 17 February 1803. Perhaps shortly thereafter the Polleys, as well as the newly wed Barneses, set about the journey to their adopted home in Massena in time for spring planting and the start of construction



The travels of John Polley, during his lifetime, 1760-1845.

tion on the Polley home which would be completed in 1804 at what was to become known as Polley's Bay. That home was to be the official town meeting site in 1804-05 while John Polley, Sr. was Town Supervisor.

The journey to Massena, NY from Chester, VT was undoubtedly arduous. Measurements on a modern map, using straight line paths by way of Ticonderoga, NY, indicate a distance of 175-200 miles. This distance was probably somewhat longer depending on how far out of the way one had to go to avoid the more treacherous mountain paths in the Adirondacks. Using 200 to 250 miles as a range, with an estimated 15 to 25 miles per day as a speed (depending on the means of transportation), the time of the trip is calculated as anywhere between 8 and 17 days. One could undoubtedly travel much faster alone on horseback than with a team and a wagon hauling tools, furnishings and other household

goods. Unpredictability of weather was probably another factor in the time taken to travel the path to Massena. Some days there may have been no travel at all. Looking at the calculated range of travel time as pessimistically as possible, it is probably safe to say John Polley required between ten days and three weeks for a one way journey.

In "The Story of Massena, 1802-1952," the travels of one Daniel Robinson, between Massena and Vermont, are related. He was a close acquaintance of John Polley and their names are often seen together in Massena local history articles. The article relates how Robinson first traveled to Massena from Vermont on horseback in 1802. His purpose was to find and secure suitable land. His purchase of 1400 acres at \$3 an acre was consummated in Utica, NY. In 1803 he returned to Massena with two men and two ox teams. This time he cleared some land and built a log cabin. He returned to Vermont to marry Esther Kilburn on 21 February 1804. Returning to Massena, presumably permanently, he brought his new wife, two men, two horses, and two slaves.³⁷

The account of Daniel Robinson's travels illustrates that "back and forth" travel between Vermont and Massena was entirely feasible and is probably representative of what John Polley and other Vermont residents did during this time period.³⁸ In the case of Robinson, however, it appears he was a man of more than average means. In addition to securing land for himself, he probably acted somewhat in the capacity of a land broker.

It appears from Mrs. Mary Snaith Allen's account of John Polley's arrival in Massena, that his 150 acre parcel of land was actually purchased from Daniel Robinson.³⁹ Polley probably leased the land or occupied it on a "handshake deal." Ultimately the 150 acres were legally deeded to John Polley, Jr. in 1815.⁴⁰

In Massena, once settled, John and Sally's family began to increase. A son, Foster Polley, was born in 1804. A daughter, Lucy, is recorded being born 25 January 1813. Another daughter, Betsy, came along in 1815. The last child, a son named Ira, was born 2 December 1817.

John Polley, Sr. was appointed as a Justice of the Peace and became known as Squire John Polley. He is said to have performed the marriages of his daughter Hannah as well as that of his namesake son, John Jr. A Royal Arch Chapter of the Masons, St. Lawrence Chapter No. 24, was formed at Massena 9 February 1809. John

Polley served as an officer along with his friends Elisha Dennison and Daniel Robinson.⁴¹

Well settled in Massena, having served his country and his village, John Polley lived out his life primarily as a simple farmer. However, he and his wife Sally served as a beacon, so to speak, for other Polley family members. John's brother Joseph died relatively young in Massachusetts in 1806. Joseph's wife Eunice and several of her children made their way to Massena to establish permanent homes.

The Polleys saw their son, John, Jr. and nephews, Captain John Polley and Sergeant Ebenezer Polley serve in the War of 1812. Both of the latter received wounds during their service.

Captain John Polley is probably the best known Polley in the Massena area and is many times mistaken in historical works for either his uncle or his cousin. His claim to fame is that in 1822, in Massena Springs, he built the first public accommodations to enable people to come and use the supposed curative powers of the saline and sulphurous natural springs that existed there. Known today as the Smith House, the building still stands.

In addition to the many Polleys that came to Massena, Sally had a number of blood relatives of her own that established themselves in the area. At least two brothers have been noted in various sources. A Colonel John Stone, Jr. came to Massena from Mt. Holly, VT in 1803. He was married to a Charlotte Green. Her father is said to have been Joseph Green of Mt. Holly, VT. He had five children including a set of twins named Carilus and Carolus Stone. Several of them ultimately settled in Wisconsin as did the last Polley son, Ira.⁴²

The other brother of Sally is recorded in the holographic notes of Delilah Polley Glenn. He is Earl Stone, born 9 April 1786. He married Maria Crowley, born 5 January 1794. They had approximately eleven children together who apparently did not move very far from the Massena area. Maria died in childbirth 23 February 1838. Earl remarried to a Lydia Wilcox who produced an additional son.

After John Polley died on 11 October 1845,⁴³ Sally went to live with her son Royal. By this time, Royal had married the widow of his brother Foster. Royal and his wife raised Foster's son as well as the daughter of his brother Ira by his first wife. Sally lived out her remaining years with her son's family, dying in April of 1861.⁴⁴

Delilah Polley, Ira's daughter, had originally gone to live with Foster when Ira went off to

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- CORRECTION -

The following correction has been submitted by Gwen Boyer Bjorkman to her article, Pollys of Virginia, that appeared in the March '96 issue. Page 9, top of column 2, entry 12 should read as follows:

Sarah (Sally), born 1785 in Pittsylvania Co., VA, died aft 1870 in Lee Co., VA. She married Daniel Stout, son of Godfrey Daniel Stout, ca. 1806 in Carter Co., TN. He was born 9 Aug 1781 in Shenandoah Co., VA; died 25 Dec 1861, Woodway, Lee Co., VA. Sarah Polly Stout was a widow on the 1870 Lee Co., VA census [p. 301], age 84, born Halifax Co., VA.

*Sarah Polly did not marry first a "Potter." She was confused with a Sarah Potter, b. 1796 who married Daniel Stout, son of George Peter Stout, 8 April 1819 in Carter Co., TN. This Sarah Potter Stout died after 1878 in Carter Co., TN per deeds in Carter Co. She was the daughter of John Potter II and wife Molly Stout. For reference see: Jerry Ann Kinnear Stout, **Stout Family: Descendants of Daniel Stout of Frederick & Shenandoah Cos., Virginia**, (1351 N. Denene St., Wichita, KS 67212-4352) publ. 1995.*

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line of descent from Woburn, MA is: George¹, John², Matthew³, John⁴, Amos⁵, Amos⁶, Horton W.⁷, Florence E.⁸, Frederick G.⁹. Dorothy's line picks up at Amos⁶ and continues: Horace M.⁷, Herbert Earl⁸, Harold Killam⁹, Dorothy¹⁰.

If one can draw any conclusions about longevity and how to attain it, I'd recommend waterfront property at Lake Ariel!

POLLEY POINTERS Offerings

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The Book Nook



Virginia/West Virginia Husbands and Wives, Volume 2, by Patrick G. Wardell. This work is the latest in a series of five previous books of compiled data for the region by this author. Published by Heritage Books, Inc., the book, ISBN 0-7884-0501-2, Pub. Cat. No. W070, is hard bound with 466 pages and sells for \$43.00 plus \$4.00 S&H. Heritage accepts Visa, MC, checks, and M.O.

Intended for amateur and professional researchers alike who are interested in Virginia/West Virginia genealogy, this second volume of husbands and wives, like the first one, contains data on some 17,000 couples. The information was gathered from out-of-print state histories, from Revolutionary War pension records in the National Archives, from client research records of the compiler, and from the compiler's personal family records.

Although some of these couples married in one of the title states, others have more tenuous links to the area. For instance, many of these couple were not married in VA/WV but were married before or after they lived there; some of the marriages listed are of the parents of people who later lived in VA/WV, although those parents never lived in either of the two states; and some of the marriages are of the children of VA/WV parents even though those children were born after the couples left the area.

The records are arranged alphabetically by the name of the groom. However, the index assists when trying to find a record by the bride's name. The author also thoughtfully indexes alternate spellings of surnames. When available the date and place of marriage is given; when unknown, the compiler has listed approximate dates and the most likely place of marriage; i.e., the birthplace of the bride or secondarily, the birthplace or residence of the groom. These estimates of dates and places provide a good starting point for researchers to start looking.

If you have interests in the Virginia/West Virginia region, this volume may be for your personal collection. Available direct from the publisher at 1540-E Pointer Ridge Pl., Suite 300, Bowie, MD 20716. Catalog of other titles available on request.

rcr

Polley Pioneers - Kansas

Some time ago, subscriber Dick T. Polley sent us copies of some interesting research materials that document his Polley line backward in time from Kansas in the latter part of the 19th century to their origins in New England, particularly Connecticut. We thought we would share those materials as they represent almost a textbook exercise in genealogical puzzle solving.

When he started, Dick knew very little before his grandfather, William Harris Polley, who had lived and died in Kansas. Making use of Federal Censuses, newspaper items, published genealogies, vital records, and other basic research tools, as well as networking with other Polley researchers, Dick has managed to get back to George of Woburn [see Research Progress, this issue].

The 1850 census for Fairfield Co., CT, village of Newton, pg. 18, gives the family of Joseph Polley [spelled Polly by the enumerator]:

Name	Age	Sex
Joseph Polly	35	M
Julia A. "	40	F
Clarena A. "	15	"
William H. "	11	M
Andrew S. "	9	"
Elsie "	7	F
Sarah M. Polly	4	F
David C. "	1	M

Family of Joseph Polley and Julia Ann Foote
1850 Census, Fairfield Co., CT

Joseph is listed with the occupation of *Comb Maker*. The place of birth for each family member is given as Connecticut.

A genealogy, first published in 1907 and subsequently reprinted in 1974 and 1984, provides information on the wife's family as well as the children's spouses and their offspring. ***Foote Family, Comprising the Genealogy and History of Nathaniel Foote of Wethersfield, Conn. and His Descendants***, by Abram W. Foote, lists all the children from the 1850 census plus one additional, Martha Ann, born in 1852.

Of course, published genealogies are not considered a primary source. They are only as good as the sources used by the compiler. In this case the basic marriage is backed up by a Newton, CT record. The Barbour collection for Newton, Vol. 3, p. 67 shows a marriage for

Joseph Polley of Danbury and Julia Ann Foot [sic] of Newton, 14 May 1834, by Rev. N. H. Ormston. This is the date given in the genealogy. Her date of birth is given as 25 February 1810 [this fits the 1850 census data] and states "she died Aug. 25, 1859." The death date appears to have a minor discrepancy. A news clipping from the New Haven [CT] Palladium, 12 Aug 1859, indicates Mrs. Julia A. Polley died 25 July 1859 at age 49 yr, 5 mos. This clipping is from a compilation of Connecticut Newspaper Death Notices, p. 863. [Ed. Note: This appears to be a case of someone miscounting months on their fingers, since the paper obviously could not publish news of the death before it occurred.]

The genealogy entry on Joseph, the husband, indicates he died 2 June 1879 in Wakefield, KS and tacks on the information, "killed in cyclone," with no further detail or elaboration. A search of Kansas newspapers of the area finally confirmed the entry.

...
Mr. Joseph Polley, one of the oldest residents of this county, was killed at Wakefield in the storm of two weeks ago. He came to Saline county in 1865, and was well-known in the northern portion of the county. His sons heard it rumored that Mr. Polley was injured, and, in going to Wakefield, they arrived after their father was buried.

...
Saline County Journal
12 June 1879

Although all born in Connecticut, the genealogy indicates that most of the children resided in Kansas at one time or another. Since the newspaper article establishes arrival in Kansas in 1865 and Julia was dead by 1859, one could conclude that Joseph, as a widower, moved from Connecticut to Kansas with all his children. However, new subscriber K. W. Bentley filled in the fact that Joseph and Julia together took the family from Connecticut to Wisconsin. His great-grandmother, Clarena, was married there. He also tells us that Julia died in Belmont, WI.

Thus, Joseph and some of the children undoubtedly pulled up stakes and went to Kansas ca. 1865. The 1870 Federal census for Saline Co., KS shows Joseph Polley, now 55, as a farmer, living in the same dwelling with his youngest son David C., 20, also a farmer, and his youngest daughter, Martha A., 18, who is "keeping house." If Joseph ever intended to remarry, he apparently did not follow through.

Civil War references indicate that William H. and Andrew S. served the Union from Wisconsin units. National Archives pension files show Andrew married there, had two children, then moved to California, and later to Oregon. He died in 1924.

the washing of the cloth in hot soapy water to remove dirt and some of the natural grease. The cleaning was followed by mechanically beating the cloth in a trough filled with fuller's earth, a naturally absorbent clay. After a final cleaning to remove the clay residue, the cloth was dried on a stretcher to maintain its width and rid it of wrinkles. When dried, the nap of the woolen cloth was raised using the fuller's teasel (a bunch of natural, dried seed pods covered with hooked spines). Long-bladed fuller's shears were used to trim the nap to a uniform height, making the cloth desirable for use in clothing.

A large mechanical wheel and system of hammers was used in that part of the fulling process that beat the cloth in the fuller's earth, thus the need for a mill that harnessed water power. The alternative of stamping the cloth with the feet was not very effective. The first fulling mill in America was set up in 1643 by John Pearson at Rowley, MA and ran until 1809.²⁰

John Polley undoubtedly had observed one or more fulling mills in Massachusetts, perhaps working at one for a period of time. In Vermont, he apparently attempted to establish himself in this "middleman" industry, adding value to a manufactured product. Where he obtained the cloth he processed, whether it was imported or woven locally, is unknown.

The other question of where he learned the fuller's trade is also unanswered. The only indication, and a remote one to say the least, that the cloth goods trade may have been "in the family" was Samuel Polly of Woburn, MA. History records Samuel, a second generation Polly born ca. 1667 (almost a century before John Polley), as a weaver. However, there is no evidence to show that any other Polley followed Samuel in the trade.

In a transaction dated 20 March 1792, John Polley sold 50 acres of land in Cavendish to one Stephen Dutton.²¹ The implication here is that

he must have previously purchased those 50 acres. However, to date a record of that transaction has not been uncovered. It may well be that the purchase was made from an absentee owner thus causing the deed to be recorded in an otherwise unrelated town. To find the initial 50 acre transaction remains a research objective.

John's family continued to grow. His first son, John, Jr. was born in Chester in 1793. He was followed in 1800 by Martin F. Polley.²²

Perhaps after producing two sons, John felt that a change in the way he earned a living for his family was in order. In 1798 Polley sold his $\frac{3}{4}$ acre and his fulling mill, as well as his right-of-way, to Joel Stone.²³ He then set about acquiring a larger amount of land, apparently to engage in farming. He acquired two parcels of 43½ and 46 acres from Elisha and Elijah Walker²⁴ respectively and a third parcel of 8½ acres from Anthony Atwood²⁵.

John's life as a farmer in Vermont was short lived, however. Somewhere between the birth of his son Martin in 1800 and his second marriage to Sally Stone on 11 August 1801, in Chester, VT, John lost his wife Abigail.²⁶ Sally was about 17 years junior to John. Her birth date has been recorded as 25 January 1777.²⁷ Although her birthplace is still unknown, she was more than likely a resident of Vermont when she met John Polley. Her brother, John Stone, Jr., has been documented as living in Mt. Holly (Rutland Co.), VT.

Shortly before his second marriage, John Polley began to sell off his real estate holdings, apparently in preparation for his departure to Massena, NY. On 5 June 1801 he sold the 46 acre tract to one Hezekiah Johnson, the deed being recorded the same day.²⁸ On 28 Aug 1802, Polley sold a combined parcel of 52 acres to Ebenezer Fish. This deed was notarized the following day but the date of recordation is not stated.²⁹

July 5th 1788
 Personally appeared before
 Hon^{ble} Sachman Town Clerk &
 took the Freeman's Oath
 Cap^t Jason Parker
 Isaac Parker
 Jeremiah Reddett
 Daniel Peck
 March 4th 1789 ←
 Levi Humball
 Abel Baldwin
 James Gordon
 Heuben Chapman
 Isaac Pail
 John Park
 John Polley ←
 Edmond Tarbell Jun^r
 William Swift
 Whitcomb Tarbell
 Moses Smith

Extract of Cavendish, Vermont Town Records showing John Polley having taken the Freeman's Oath, 10 March 1789.

Scanned by Walt Neubauer

Polley Pioneers

John Polley, Patriot and Pioneer
by
Richard C. Randt

The four score and five years of John Polley's life covered a time when America sought and won its independence, expanded to uncharted lands westward, reaffirmed its sovereignty in a second war with England, and began to build its infrastructure that would support the new nation's entry into the industrial age. He is representative of the many patriots and pioneers who built America. In that sense he was quite an average man. On the other hand, he was an extraordinary man, his extremely long life span being one of the factors that set him apart for the times in which he lived.

John was the sixth of eight children of Joseph Polley and Dorcas Coburn.¹ He was born 30 December 1760 in Leominster, Massachusetts,² as were his siblings.³ John belonged to the fifth generation of Massachusetts Polleys that began in the town of Woburn when George Polly married Elizabeth Winn there in 1649.⁴

George was born in England ca. 1625 and is said to have come from Shoreditch, Parish of St. Leonard, Middlesex Co.⁵ Elizabeth was also born in England ca. 1627 and had come to the Massachusetts Bay Colony with her parents, Edward and Joanna Winn. Counted among Edward Winn's descendants, by way of other children, are U.S. presidents Cleveland and Hoover.

John Polley's line of descent from the Polley progenitor is George¹, George², Ebenezer³, Joseph⁴, John⁵. The family name evolved over these generations from Polly (and several other variants) to Polley. The latter is the more common usage today, although the former spelling still persists.

Little is known of John's boyhood while growing up in Leominster. Except for his birth record, he does not appear in the town's official records again until his Revolutionary War service. Some time prior to the Revolution, John's father Joseph moved his family a short distance northward to the newly formed town of Fitchburg.⁶ It was from the town of Fitchburg that John's father, his brothers, Ebenezer and Joseph, Jr., and he would enlist in the Colonial cause.

Joseph, Sr., Ebenezer, and Joseph, Jr. are recorded as marching on the alarm of 19 April 1775 toward Cambridge. Records of their actual military actions are somewhat vague. There is no

record of service in 1776 for the Polley men of Fitchburg and indications are that Joseph, Sr. died that year.

John first saw service before he was 17 years old, initially serving in Capt. Joseph Sargeant's company, Colonel Josiah Whitney's regiment, in Rhode Island for 67½ days between 5 May and 12 July 1777.

He then saw service at "the Northward"⁷ between 7 Sept 1777 and 29 Nov 1777, for three months and four days (11 days travel allowed), in the companies of Capt. Sargeant and Capt. Nathaniel Carter, Col. Job Cushing's Worcester Co. Regt.

He again had service in Rhode Island for one month and 15 days, between 30 July 1778 and 13 Sept 1778, in Capt. William Thurlo's company, Col. Josiah Whitney's Regt. During this particular tour of service, John was with his brothers, Ebenezer and Joseph, Jr., who were members of the same company.

His final stint of service was in the company of Capt. Thomas Cowdin, Col. Samuel Denny's Regt., at Claverack, NY,⁸ for one month and two days, between 1-23 Nov 1779 (9 days travel allowed). The latter regiment had been raised to reinforce the Continental Army in the State of New York for three months. During this service, John's brother Ebenezer remained with him in the same company.⁹

After his final service, John returned to Fitchburg and married Abigail Kimball on 28 October 1782. The Reverend Payson, pastor of the First Church of Fitchburg, performed the ceremony.¹⁰ John Polley's intention to marry Abigail had previously been published on 12 October 1782.¹¹ Both the intention and the marriage were duly recorded by Thomas Cowdin, the Town Clerk of Fitchburg, his last commanding officer during military service.

Abigail Kimball was born 23 April 1763. She was the eighth of eleven children of Ephraim Kimball and Mary Wetherbee. Ephraim Kimball's genealogy is well-documented and his Kimball line reaches back to Richard Kimball who came from England aboard the ship Elizabeth in 1634 and initially settled in Watertown, MA.¹² Ephraim's line is Richard¹, Thomas², Thomas³, Ephraim⁴, Ephraim⁵.

Abigail's father came to the area of Fitchburg (then Lunenburg) from Bradford in 1749. He served as the town treasurer in 1765, and was recorded as the third highest taxpayer in Fitchburg in 1771. With his cousin Amos Kimball he built a grist and saw mill. He also established the

Wisconsin with his second wife and son. Thus Delilah Polley, who ultimately married Daniel Glenn of Massena, was raised knowing three different fathers. This granddaughter of John Polley, who would be childless herself, became the *de facto* family historian for the extended Polley family of St. Lawrence Co., NY and their beginnings in New England. [See Past Polleys, **POLLEY POINTERS**, June '95.]

Although not highly educated, Delilah managed to write down many bits of vital data such as dates of birth, marriage and death that one would ordinarily find in a family Bible. Many of her writings on various odd-sized pieces of paper and commercial forms are preserved today in the Massena Museum, our only link to this once flourishing family.

Although the Polley surname continues to propagate and male descendants of John Polley are undoubtedly extant, there are no longer any Polleys in Massena. John Polley's house stands no longer, a victim of the St. Lawrence Seaway project. John and Sally Polley rest in unmarked graves in the Massena Center Cemetery. John Polley — patriot and pioneer.

NOTES AND REFERENCES

1. Leominster, MA, Vital Records (Marriages), p. 246, Joseph Polly and Dorcas Coburn, 1 March 1748/49.
2. Leominster, MA, Vital Record (Births), p. 115, John Polley, s. Joseph and Darcas [sic], Dec. 30, 1760.
3. Leominster, MA, Vital Records (Births), p. 115; Ebenezer, 1749; Mary, 1752; Darcas [sic], 1754; Joseph, 1756; Bettey, 1759; John, 1760; Peter, 1763; and Elnathan, 1766.
4. Woburn, MA, Vital Records (Marriages), p. 213, George Polly and Elizabeth Winn, May 21, 1649.
5. *Topographical Dictionary of 2885 English Immigrants to New England, 1620-1650*, by Banks; Southern Book Company, Baltimore, 1957, p. 111.
6. *History of Worcester County, Massachusetts*, Compiled by D. Hamilton Hurd, J.W. Lewis & Co., Philadelphia, 1889. Fitchburg was formed out of the town of Lunenburg, 3 Feb 1764.
7. The location of this tour of service is as stated in *Massachusetts Soldiers & Sailors in the War of the Revolution*, compiled by the Secretary of the Commonwealth, publ. Boston, 1904. Wright & Potter Printing Co. Relation to a known geographical location has not been determined.
8. Claverack is located in Columbia Co., NY, adjacent to the east bank of the Hudson, about 55 miles north of Newburgh.
9. The Revolutionary War service of John Polley of Fitchburg, MA was compiled from four sources: 1) Revolutionary War participants from Massachusetts, as cataloged at the U.S. National Archives; 2) Pensioner Files of Revolutionary War soldiers as cataloged at the U.S. National Archives; 3) Pensioner Files for widows of Revolutionary War soldiers, U.S. National Archives; and 4) an account of service compiled by the Secretary of the Massachusetts Commonwealth and published in 1904, *Massachusetts Soldiers & Sailors in the War of the Revolution*. There are minor variations from one source to the other, probably through faulty recollection many years after the fact. However, there seems to be consistency in the various versions, each stating four distinct periods of service. This paper presents the four periods as a merge of the four sources, tempered by other sources to include the service records of the brothers and other facts not related to service or pension records.
10. *The Old Records of the Town of Fitchburg, Massachusetts*, p. 228.
11. *Ibid.*, p. 227
12. *History of the Kimball Family in America from 1634-1897*, Leonard A. Morrison and Stephen P. Sharples, Charles E. Tuttle Co., Publ., Rutland, VT, 1971, pp. 27-29.
13. *History of Worcester County, Massachusetts*, C.F. Jewett and Co., Boston, 1879, pp. 448-450.
14. Chester, VT town records, Book C, p. 149.
15. Recorded in the holographic notes of Delilah Polley Glenn. The four sons produced at least nine offspring among them. Cornelius is credited with three children, Thaddeus S. with two, and Frank with four. The sexes of the nameless Barnes grandchildren are not noted. There is an indication that George Barnes died leaving only a widow.
16. Revolutionary War Pensioners from Massachusetts, U.S. National Archives, John Polley - Massachusetts, Sally, W6873, BLWT 19603-160-55. Pension applied for from Massena, St. Lawrence Co., NY, 24 Sep 1832. Widow's pension applied for 11 Jul 1854.
17. A law was enacted 7 June 1832 liberalizing benefits for Revolutionary War veterans making John Polley eligible for the first time to receive some compensation. His certificate was issued to him on 8 May 1833, signed by Lewis Cass, Secretary of War. It stated he was eligible to receive \$25.00 annually, for life, commencing retroactively to 4 March 1831. These dates and amount are recorded in *The Pension Roles of 1835*, reprinted by the Genealogical Publishing Co., Balto., 1968, p. 409. His widow, Sally Polley, began to receive \$25.00 annually based on a law enacted 3 February 1853. Her certificate, dated 6 November 1854, is signed by Robert McClelland, the Secretary of the Interior. It provided for annual payment, commencing 3 February 1853, for life unless the widow were to remarry. It is interesting to note that both certificates are made out with the surname spelling of POLLY.
18. Chester, VT land records, Book D, p. 8.