

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.

Here at **Polley Pointers** we hold in high esteem the heritage of the surname Polley and all its associated spellings as indicated in the masthead. From time to time we speak of the "other" spellings as variants. We wish to make it clear that such references are not meant to be in any way derogatory or demeaning. It is used simply as a shorthand way of expressing the notion that there are a variety of spellings of this venerable old family name. Unless specifically noted to the contrary, general statements such as "the rich Polley history ..." or "Polley involvement in the Revolution ..." should always be interpreted to include all the "variant" spellings.

Also, we may tend to concentrate on the lines that emanate from Woburn or Roxbury, MA. The only reason for this situation is simply that more is known of these Polleys. This does not mean that others are not important. It may very well be that one of these "lesser known lines" will some day yield the key to the first Polley back in Europe somewhere. In the case of your editor, his wife's Polleys ostensibly begin in 1819 in New York City. Commingled in Brooklyn with these Polleys is another well-defined, well-documented family of Polleys that seem to begin "out of thin air" in Orange Co., NY, in 1798. As far as can be determined at present these two families never really had any interaction.

We will do our best in coming issues to publish articles dealing with ancestral lines that use some of the variant spellings and will address some of the isolated enclaves of Polleys whose apparent progenitor seems to materialize out of nowhere right after the Revolution. In politically correct terms, we will strive for geographic and orthographic diversity! Subscribers familiar with any of these lines are encouraged to contribute to our collective base of knowledge.

Polley Factoid

According to a 1987 report, no Polley (or other variant of the name) has ever been executed for a crime in the United States. Source: Executions in the United States, 1608-1987, The Espy File (ICPSR 8451), by M. Watt Espy and John Ortiz Smykla. Pub. 1987 by the Inter-

university Consortium for Political and Social Research, P.O. Box 1248, Ann Arbor, MI 48106.

Events

IN THIS FEATURE WE PRESENT ADVANCE NOTICE, WHEN WE HAVE IT, OF ACTIVITIES OF PARTICULAR INTEREST TO POLLEY RESEARCHERS. GENEALOGY CONFERENCES, SEMINARS, CLUB/SOCIETY MEETINGS, REUNIONS, DEDICATIONS, ETC. ARE ALL FARE GAME FOR THIS DEPARTMENT. READERS WHO KNOW OF SUCH UPCOMING EVENTS ARE URGED TO SEND DETAILS (DATE, TIME, PLACE, COST, ETC.) TO THE EDITOR AS SOON AS POSSIBLE FOR TIMELY INCLUSION.

An event announced here, for the summer of 1994, was a gravesite dedication ceremony for Revolutionary War veteran Jonathan Polley (1759-1840). The ceremony was sponsored by NSDAR and conducted at the Kinner Family Cemetery in Whitehall, NY. **Polley Pointers** later reported on the activities of 21 August that were attended by several of our subscribers from diverse areas of the country.

Polley Profile

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 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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COMPLIMENTARY ISSUE

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Editorial

Polley Pointers has been going for about a year now and we are some 60 or more subscribers strong. It has been truly gratifying to find so many POLLEY researchers interested in sharing their family history information with others on the pages of a newsletter devoted to their surname. Our fundamental purpose is to help you the reader find other readers with similar interests. Anything you may pick up in the way of new information from the feature stories in **Polley Pointers** is really incidental. The value of this newsletter to our subscribers lies in the regular departments we label as Welcome Aboard and Researcher Listings. In the former we introduce new subscribers, giving a capsule summary of their genealogical line plus the person's current problem (where they're stuck - and aren't we all?) as well as a statement of their general research and publishing objectives. In the latter feature, each quarter we present a table of active researchers on your surname and give address, telephone number (if we have your permission) and e-mail address when one is available.

A budding author? Always wanted to sound off about your Polley research, see your name in print, tell fellow researchers about a new resource? Here's your chance. Send your manuscripts today.

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. **Polley Pointers** is sent regularly to well over a dozen top notch genealogical libraries, historical societies and other repositories. All that work you've done could go to waste if you never get around to publishing your book.

With reference to the name of this 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. Subscription rate and publisher's address are in the box on page 10, lower left. More importantly send some input that you think others would have an interest in. We'll try our best to make **Polley Pointers** a useful publication, but it will depend to a large degree on amount of material people send us. This special issue is free. Your paid subscription will start with the next scheduled issue.

Dick Randt

Policy

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 genealogical 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

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 another student 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 Sue and Peter 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 John E. Polley, then an officer with the Navy, 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." The "book" has generated several inquiries and contacts, including one that ultimately led to the launching of **Polley Pointers**.

Dick is employed by the Federal Government as a Computer Scientist. Susan is nurturing a growing business in floral design and gift baskets. They have one daughter in high school, Justine. 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.

Past Polleys

THIS FEATURE HIGHLIGHTS POLLEY RESEARCHERS OF THE PAST WHO HAVE SINCE PASSED ON TO "THE GREAT ARCHIVE." THEIR PARTICULAR LINE IS DISCUSSED AS WELL AS THEIR RESEARCH EFFORTS. DISPOSITION OF THEIR RESEARCH MATERIAL IS EXAMINED 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 Rollin Hesson and Margaret Polley. Margaret, born 13 March 1831, is a seventh generation descendant of George Polly of Woburn, MA. Her line is George¹, John², Matthew³, Matthew⁴, Alpheas⁵, John⁶, Margaret⁷.

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.

Polley Periphery

IN THIS FEATURE WE 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. A SAMPLE FROM THE SEP '94 ISSUE:

The Story of Simeon Stowe and Prudence DeWolph Polley Stowe

by Alma Exley

In preparing this article for *Polley Pointers*, I discovered a love story that lasted over a half century and ended only when the lovers died in their eighties within two months of each other. My research was briefly mentioned in the first issue of *Polley Pointers*. Here in more detail is the story of my search.

The story is about Simeon Stowe and Prudence DeWolph of Connecticut. Simeon was born about 24 November 1736 in Middletown, CT, the son of son of Jeremiah and Sarah Stowe.¹ Prudence was born 24 October 1739 in Middletown, CT, the daughter of Joseph and Tabitha DeWolph.²

Simeon and Prudence lived together for well over 50 years and are buried next to each other in Whitehall, New York.³ Their tombstones identify them as husband and wife, but I have found no marriage record.

The Polley connection is that Prudence was previously married to Jonathan Polley, who was born 28 September 1723, in Norwich, Connecticut,⁴ and later owned land in Tolland, Connecticut.⁵

Prudence and Jonathan Polley may have had a son Joseph in the 1750's.⁶ (She would have been a teen-ager, and he would have been in his early 30s.) They had a son Jonathan II, born 26 October 1760, in Hebron, Connecticut,⁷ when Prudence was 19 years old and Jonathan was

about 35. Jonathan II was born the year after Jonathan returned from six months of service in the French and Indian War (14 June 1759 to 16 December 1759) at the age of about 36.⁸

When I began my research, I assumed that Prudence and Jonathan Polley remained married until Jonathan died about 1776 at about the age of 53. But I found Connecticut probate records showing that Simeon Stowe was named guardian of Jonathan Polley II following the death of his father.⁹ A custom of the day gives a clue that Jonathan's mother, Prudence, had already married Simeon Stowe by that time.

Subsequent research indicates that Prudence may have had a child with Simeon Stowe twelve years before her first husband, Jonathan, died. That child was Rebecah Stowe, born 12 April 1764.¹⁰ We know that Prudence and Simeon had a daughter in 1766 or 1767, nine or ten years before Jonathan Polley died.

I learned about this possibility after receiving some Polley/DeWolph records from the editor of *Polley Pointers*. They were pages from the Aaron Osgood, Jr. Bible, which primarily contains records of Osgoods. It also contains records of the related families of Stowe and DeWolph as well as a couple of Polleys.

At the top of one page were the following records:

Joseph Polley, b. October 31, 175_ (year unreadable);
Jonathan Polley, b. October 26, 1760;
Rebecah Stow, b. April 12, 1764;
Susanna Stow, b. October 16, 176_ (year unreadable).

Also listed is a marriage record for Susannah Stowe and Aaron Osgood, followed by the births of their children. Then comes a record of Susanna's death following childbirth in 1797. For a long time, I had no idea what this page had to do with my family history.

Then, in the fall of 1992 my husband, Woody, and I traveled to Whitehall, New York, to do some research. We found a copy of an article written for the Whitehall, NY, newspaper by Clarence Holden in the early 1900's.¹¹ The article reported, in part, "Simeon [Stowe] d. April 17, 1827 ae 86 and his wife Prudence died June 8, 1825 ae 83. They are both buried in the Kinner Cemetery. Their daughter Susan married Aaron Osgood in 1782, at which time she was in her 15th year."

That's when I remembered the Osgood Bible. I realized that the names listed at the top of the

page were probably Prudence DeWolph's children, Joseph and Jonathan fathered by Jonathan Polley, and Rebecah and Susanna fathered by Simeon Stowe. If this is a list of Prudence's children, it indicates she was with Jonathan Polley from her teen years until her early 20s and then with Simeon Stowe until her death at 83. As with the presumed marriage to Simeon, there has been no record found of a presumed divorce for Prudence from Jonathan. Perhaps the Hebron, CT, fire that destroyed many vital records accounts for the lack of documentation.

There are some inconsistencies in several dates in this story. For example, Clarence Holden was incorrect in reporting that Prudence and Simeon died in 1825 and 1827, respectively. The Kinner Cemetery records say they both died in the same year, 1823. Also, the date is confirmed in a letter that Jonathan Polley II wrote to his son, Joseph Henry Polley, who was living in Mexico, now Texas. The letter reads, in part, "...uncel Johnson is not married...Father Stow died the 17th of April 1823 and my mother the 8th June after."¹²

The Osgood Bible carries the story to the next generation, when Simeon and Prudence became grandparents.

Susannah Stowe, daughter of Simeon and Prudence, married Aaron Osgood on July 2, 1782, when she "was in Her Sixteenth year," according to the Bible. Depending on how "in Her Sixteenth year" is interpreted, Susanna's birth year is 1766 or 1767.

Susannah Stowe and Aaron Osgood provided Simeon and Prudence with eight grandchildren in fairly rapid succession, according to the Osgood Bible. They were:

Simeon Osgood, January 20, 1784;
 Aaron Osgood Jr., January 9, 1786;
 Prudence Osgood, February 9, 1788;
 Susanna Osgood, January, 1790;
 Stephen Osgood, November 24, 1791;
 Daniel Osgood, November 15, 1793;
 Jeremiah Osgood, October 27, 1795;
 Jesse Osgood, August 1, 1797.

Simeon and Prudence's daughter Susannah died shortly after Jesse's birth. The Bible reports "Susannah Osgood died August 9, 1797 in the thirty first year offen adge [of her age]" and that Jesse "departed this (unreadable) the twenty fifth of the same month."

Prudence's son Jonathan II had nine children: Prudence, Rachel, Roxanna, Emeline, Jonathan Jr., Benjamin, Abner Hubbard, Joseph Henry, and

Rebecca.¹³ It is interesting to note the relationships between the children of Jonathan II and the Osgood children listed above. Since they are products of half-siblings, presumably they would be called half-cousins, sharing but a single grandparent, namely Prudence DeWolph. Also, since Jonathan II's wife, Rachel Hubbard, was a first cousin to Susannah Stowe [Rachel's mother, Mary (Stowe) Hubbard, was Simeon's sister], Jonathan II's children are full second cousins to the Osgood children.

1. Middletown, CT, Vital Records, Volume 1, p. 54.
2. Middletown, CT, Vital Records, Volume 1, p. 109.
3. List of people buried in Wood Creek (Kinner) Cemetery, Whitehall, NY, obtained from the Washington County, NY archivist, Fort Edward, NY.
4. Norwich, CT, Vital Records, Volume 1, p. 23.
5. Tolland Land Records, Vol. VI, pp. 272-273.
6. Aaron Osgood Jr. Bible, Vermont NSDAR Bible and Family Records, pp. 57-61, Volume 25, 1955. In 1954 the Bible was in possession of Mrs. Evelyn Ann LeMay, Whitehall, NY.
7. Micro Copy #M804, Roll #1947, Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty Land Warrant File - 5199-NY, pp. 0167-0188. National Archives, Washington, DC.
8. Rolls of Connecticut Men in the French and Indian War, 1758-62, Collections of the Connecticut Historical Society, Vol. II, pp. 121-122.
9. Probate Record, Estate of Jonathan Polley, Town of Tolland, CT, 1776. File No. 1725. Connecticut State Library, Hartford, CT.
10. Aaron Osgood Jr. Bible, Vermont NSDAR Bible and Family Records, pp. 57-61, Volume 25, 1955.
11. Clarence Holden Columns, Local History Sketches, Typewritten Books in the New York State Library in Albany, Column XXXV, p. 37.
12. Joseph Henry Polley Papers, Volume I, Item 1, University of Texas Archives, Austin, TX.
13. Jonathan Polley II's will, Salem, Washington County, NY.

[Editor's note: This story illustrates well the efficacy of a data exchange network among researchers, which is precisely what **Polley Pointers** is attempting to engender. Without Holden's article discovered by Alma, the Osgood Bible record could have remained an inexplicable curiosity regarding the Polley entries. Instead, it has come alive. With a little imagination one can now speculate intelligently on what happened (or didn't happen) between Prudence and Jonathan. The Joseph Polley listed in the Bible record, more than likely the same one enumerated in the 1790 [1791] Census of Castleton, VT, becomes a viable research objective. His family, whatever it turns out to be could provide the answers to a number of disconnected Polleys. Also, of the nine children of Jonathan II, at least six of them are currently under active research by **Polley Pointers** subscribers. For each of these researchers, the new insight Alma has given us on Prudence Polley Stowe, is directly applicable to their family histories.]

Polley Progenitors

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

By Richard C. Randt and Wanda (Polley) Adams

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Bowman's Station: We started from Frederick County, Va. and settled Bowman's Station, fall 1779, about the middle of December. My mother was the first white woman that was there for some time; and our coming was the first settling of the Station. There was nothing but a camp there, till some time in March, because it was too cold to work. As soon as we had gotten a good camp, Colonel [Abram or Abraham] Bowman brought his family from Harrodsburg, and by Spring we had 20 families that had camped in the snow and remained during that winter: ... 6. Peter Polly, 7. Edward Polly, 8. James Polly, ... All these were heads of families and wintered there in camps. In June, by planting time, there were 31 or 32 families there. There were that many cabins; over 30. The cabins were built on each side of a hollow, in the form of a half "H". The main lines were probably 150 yards apart, to give the stock room to get in. The Run went down through the "H", and then, in about a mile, emptied into Cane-Run. The cabins were not stockaded in. The stream ran a North course and was rather between Cane-Run and Dick's River.

Excerpt from Elijah Foley Interview

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

" David Polley, Jr. (1785), Pittsylvania Co., 1 White soul"

Extract of 1790 Virginia Census

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

[Ed. Note: Wanda Adams is a new subscriber and is written up in Welcome Aboard for Dec '94. She is the family contact person for Descendants of Bowman's Station Settlers for the surname Polley. The authors are grateful for the research contribution of subscriber John E. Polley, whose Virginia and Kentucky notes aided greatly in taking this first step toward sorting out and organizing the "southern cousins."

Polley Patriots

While writing for the September issue, it happened to be the Fourth of July. The holiday brought to mind the participation of many Polleys in our fight for American independence. Among the lesser known facts about the Revolution are that Polley men were there from start to finish, literally.

At the Battle of Lexington and Concord, traditionally pointed to as the opening foray of the Revolution, William Polly, born 2 Feb 1757, son of Jacob Polly and Hannah Scolly, was wounded on 19 Apr 1775. He later died as a result of his wounds on 25 Apr 1775. His line is believed to be George¹, Samuel², Jonathan³, Jacob⁴. A broadside [a printed public announcement] listing the casualties was published after the battle. It lists among the wounded,

"Of Medford. Mr. William Polly."

At the other end of the spectrum, ten months after the surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown, 19 Oct 1781, the British, aided by the Indians, were still continuing to conduct skirmishes in the westernmost outposts of the Colonies. In Kentucky in the vicinity of what is now Carlisle in Nicholas Co., near the Licking River, took place the Battle of Blue Licks, 19 Aug 1782. That historic fight, in which about 70 brave Kentuckians lost their lives in defeat, is billed as "the last battle of the American Revolution." Among the documented casualties was a son of Daniel Boone and one Drury Polley. A monument to the memory of these men and this historic battle was dedicated on Sunday, 19 August 1928. As with many Kentucky Polleys, the ancestry of Drury Polley is unclear.

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Polley Previews

In coming issues look for features on Polleys and the Law, a series of stories illustrating involvement of your Polley ancestors with the legal system of the U.S., from several points of view. The series begins with a first hand account of John Herschel Polley, a New York City policeman during the 1857-1870 time frame, of his adventures and exploits in suppressing crime in the big city.

Next Graham Minor Polley, Babylon, L.I., movie theater proprietor, is taken to court over showing of the controversial film of 1913, Traffic in Souls. Although not a landmark case, the incident is probably one of the earliest involving movie censorship.

Graham Polley, Jr. [uncle of Graham Minor], treasurer of the elegant turn-of-the century Hoffman House Hotel in New York City is sued by owner Ned Stokes, one time errand boy of Robber Baron, Big Jim Fiske. Polley declares bankruptcy and gets caught hiding assets. He's put in jail in 1900 by his own sister for absconding with her inheritance.

In 1971, the home of Long Island banker, George W. Polley [son of Graham Minor] is illegally entered, for no apparent purpose, by a drunken, off-duty, New York City policeman. After ejecting the intruder at gunpoint, Polley, 61, suffers a heart attack and dies.