

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

This quarter we introduce a new designation for the four quarterly issues. Instead of calling them the September, December, March, and June issues, we will henceforth refer to them as the Fall, Winter, Spring, and Summer issues. You may ask, "To what end?" The new designation will give your editor a little more latitude on the delivery schedule. There should be absolutely no change in content, number of pages, or any other aspect from the viewpoint of the reader. From my viewpoint, instead of having to get the issues out to reach the readers by the first of the designated month, I will now get about a three-week window to have the issue arrive before the designated season actually begins. Maybe I worry too much, but the new arrangement will make me feel better.

Thanks to all who contributed articles or helped with verification of data, proofreading, etc., enabling me to pull together an issue in the face of extreme adversity; i.e., the computer/genealogy room, home of **POLLEY POINTERS**, has been torn up for renovations.

Readership is up. As of late August we had 96 subscribers. Six readers were recently re-solicited to renew their subscriptions, having not responded to the notice they received with the last issue. If the past is any indication, the majority of the six will renew.

To minimize costs, **POLLEY POINTERS** does not solicit renewals months in advance. We give notice with the last issue of the current subscription. We feel that three months is enough time to send payment for renewal from anywhere. We would appreciate prompt response to the renewal notice when you receive yours to avoid the need for re-solicitation.

The index for Vol. 3 is still in preparation. I would ask those who have already paid for it to be a bit more patient. It will get done right after this issue.

Dick Randall

A Prolonged Polley Problem

A Plethora of Josiah Polleys

by Evelyn G. White and Richard C. Randt

This quarter we take a look at another long standing Polley problem, that of subscriber Evelyn White's several Josiahs. Evelyn first corresponded with us back in 1990, before **POLLEY POINTERS** was even an idea. The correspondence was begun based on two separate situations. We wrote to Evelyn in response to an ad in her name that we found in *Yankee* magazine. Evelyn wrote to us, almost simultaneously, based on the "book" we had written about Polleys, a copy of which she had found at NEHGS while on a research trip to Boston.

We have been bouncing ideas off each other ever since that first exchange, attempting to find the right Josiah Polley. Evelyn has meticulously built a substantial, yet largely circumstantial, case for one particular Josiah, while your editor has been playing devil's advocate attempting to "sell" Evelyn another. She has finally convinced us that her Josiah theory has a lot of merit. Thus, we provide a media platform for her to expose this knotty problem to the Polley research community at large. Hopefully it will generate some discussion, a fresh idea or two, or perhaps a genuine breakthrough.

In the following discussion the numerical generational references [review Polley Tools, Sep '95] are with respect to the progenitor of the Polley family that emanated out of Roxbury, MA; i.e., John Polley (1618-1689). [The June '97 issue has a synoptic article about John Polley, his four wives, and 15 children.] John¹ is designated as the first generation, simply because he is the first one of the line that we know something about. His only son, John², who married Sarah Williams, and who died in 1721, is the second generation. The third generation brought two sons, John³, b. 1711 and Joseph³, b. 1714. Little else is known of Joseph³. However, John³ is well documented. He was married to Mary Hatch on 4 Nov 1736, the Rev. Samuel Checkley presiding. This marriage is documented in the Hanover, MA town records, p. 119.

Mary Hatch bore John³ four children before he died. She then remarried to Joshua Vinton. The Polley children were all sons: John⁴, b. ca. 1743 (also known as John of Charlton), Williams⁴ (named for his grandmother), b. 4 Sep 1744; Josiah⁴, b. 16 Aug 1746; and Joseph⁴, b. 11 Oct 1748. The latter three births are recorded in the Dudley, MA vital records, p. 94. John⁴ is linked as a sibling through other records [see the Dec '94 issue, pp. 1-3]. It is around Josiah⁴ and a presumed son, Josiah⁵, that Evelyn White's research effort revolves. The possibility has not been discounted that Josiah⁵ might have been not the son but a nephew of Josiah⁴. That little is known of his siblings, Williams⁴ or Joseph⁴, supports keeping the nephew possibility open. The latter scenario would at least keep the name Josiah in the same family line.

Evelyn's research problem is a classic case of being forced to play "both ends toward the middle" rather than being able to methodically work backward, one generation at a time, due primarily to the lack of traditional genealogical evidence. One sometimes has to postulate a plausible scenario and see how well it fits into the known facts, hard documentation and other available evidence. If it's a good fit, you can at least preface any unproven statement with, "All indications are that ..." or "We are reasonably confident that additional research will show ..." or something along those lines. That is where Evelyn's research stands at the moment. With some plausible assumptions, her husband's Polley line falls into place all the way back to John¹. The Roxbury line is strongly supported by the name Josiah itself. After long years of research on Polleys, the name Josiah has never been linked to the Woburn line¹. Without the assumptions Evelyn has made, the line going back hits a dead end at Josiah⁵. An outline of her problem follows below.

The Polley line Evelyn has been researching is that of her husband, Loring. His first Polley, working backward in time, is his paternal grandmother, Helen Jane (Polley) White. She was born on 14 Nov 1870 in Winnebago Township, Houston Co., MN. She was one of eleven children of John Cutter Polley and Amanda Korn. Their first four children were born in Indiana and then the family set off in 1858 to find better farm land, finally settling at the Minnesota location.

John Cutter Polley was born 16 Feb 1826. Although no vital record has been found for his birth, the date is taken from a Bible record and the place is deduced from the fact that the family is found in Youngstown Twp., Trumbull Co, OH

in the 1820 and 1830 censuses, before and after his birth. According to the Polley Family Bible², from which many of the dates we have were taken, he married Amanda Korn on 16 Feb 1852 (his birthday). Census records indicate they were probably married in either Tippecanoe or White County, IN, but no record has been located. Amanda was born in the former county on 5 June 1831.

John Cutter Polley was the son of Josiah⁶ Polley and Jane Cleland. From a Cutter family genealogy³ and a detailed obituary⁴ of Josiah⁶, we know that he was born 7 Oct 1799⁵ in Medford, MA, and that he married Jane Cleland. A Trumbull Co., OH marriage record gives the date as 15 Apr 1823. Although no record has been found, it appears that Jane Cleland died ca. 1837-38. Josiah⁶ married a second time to, Phebe A. Arnold, on 22 May 1838. The latter wife was still living in 1864. There were four children of the first marriage and three from the second. Josiah⁶ Polley was a physician by profession. Note that his 1799 birth year fits perfectly into the Medford data shown below. His burial place was located in Nebraska by subscriber Lisa Polley while looking for her own Polley information. See photo at right.

In identifying the parentage of Josiah⁶, still working backwards, the only records we have found are the Malden and Medford, MA vital records cited below:

Vital records of Malden, MA show a marriage between a Josiah Polley and Elizabeth Cutter, both of Medford, being performed by Rev. A. Green on 7 March 1797. A notation indicates the data is based on records kept by pastors of the First Church of Malden.

The vital records of Medford, MA indicate that a Josiah Polley and Elizabeth Cutter settled there to raise their family. The pertinent entries are:

p. 111, Births (under POLLEY)

Josiah, s. Josiah and Elizabeth, Aug. 22, 1797.

Josiah, s. Josiah and Eliz[abe]th, _____.

_____, ch. Josiah and w., ___, 1800. P.R. 42.

_____, ch. Josiah and w., Oct 15, 1806. P.R. 42.

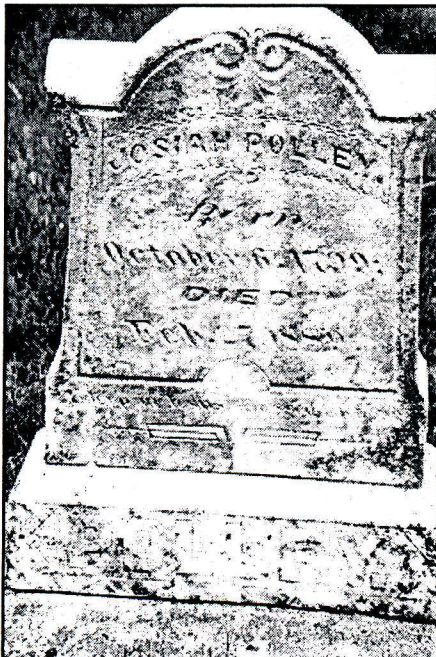
_____, ch. Josiah and w., _____. P.R. 42.

p. 417, Deaths (under POLLY)

_____, only ch. Josiah, canker, [buried] Aug. 20, 1798, a. 1. C.R.1.] [Polley, d. Aug. 20, P.R. 3.]

[Ed. Note: P.R. is a private record, C.R. is a church record.]

These Medford records, although vague regarding the last three children born to Josiah and Elizabeth, quite plainly show that there were two Josiahs born to the couple. The first one died at age one year (the record notes a. 1) and was at the time, as noted in the death entry, "the only child of Josiah Polley." Although the second Josiah does not have a date entered for his birth, another source, a detailed obituary (cited above), gives a date of birth as 7 October 1799. This fits fairly well with the birth of the third unnamed child born in 1800. Elizabeth Cutter, we learn from the Cutter genealogy, was one of ten children born to John Cutter and Rebecca Hill on 26 Mar 1775.



Headstone of Josiah Polley. Born October 6, 1799 - Died Feb. 27, 1889 Columbus Cemetery, Columbus, NE
Photo by Lisa M. Polley - April 1994

A dilemma arises when attempting to identify the Josiah who married Elizabeth Cutter. If it was in fact a first marriage for both parties, conventional wisdom would have it that Josiah would be in his twenties, perhaps three to five years older than Elizabeth who was 22. That would

have a researcher looking for the birth of a Josiah somewhere in the period 1770-1772. It is tempting to label Josiah⁴, b. 16 Aug 1746, as the husband of Elizabeth, as no other wife or marriage has been identified for him. However, his age is a stretch of the imagination. He would have been about 51 years old, and would therefore be 29 years older than his bride, fathering several children. Although biologically and socially possible, such a situation, during the time period in question, would have been highly unlikely. The Cutter genealogy tells us that Elizabeth's Josiah died in Massillon, OH on 2 Dec 1845 at age 78. These figures would have him

born ca. 1767. This latter date is more in line with our speculative date range of 1770-1772 than is 1746. We have called Elizabeth's husband Josiah⁵ and have been attempting to prove that he is the next generation after Josiah⁴ of the Roxbury line, either a son or perhaps a nephew. The son of Josiah⁵ and Elizabeth who survived to marry Jane Cleland, we have labeled as Josiah⁶.

If we back up and examine the records it might help us bridge the gap between Josiah⁴ and Josiah⁵. There is only one definite fact known about Josiah⁴ and that is the date of his birth in the Dudley, MA, vital records. Although we have been able to locate information on the brothers of Josiah⁴, no record has ever been located on his marriage, names of children or date of his death.

We believe he was still in Massachusetts in 1800, based on the Federal Census data for that year. The *1800 Federal Census, MA Index* lists a Josiah Polley as follows:

POLLEY, Josiah, Middlesex County, pg. 101

One male under the age of 10 [born after 1790]

One male between the ages of 10-16 [born between 1784 & 1790]

One male between the age of 26 and 45 [born between 1755 & 1774]

One male over the age of 45 [born 1755 or before] [This last line would cover the age of Josiah⁴, b. 1746.]

One female between the ages of 16 and 26 [born between 1774 & 1784]

Close examination of the data prompts several questions. Which of the two older males is the head of household? Is this a household without a wife and mother? If the female is a wife, whose wife is she; i.e., which of the two oldest males? For the female to be the wife of the oldest male is plausible but not probable. There would have to be an age difference of at least 20 years. More probable is that she is the wife of the male between 26 and 45. The data seems to paint the picture of a widowed Josiah⁴ sharing his home with his son and daughter-in-law, Josiah⁵ and Elizabeth Cutter. The male child under age 10 would more than likely be their son, Josiah⁶, b. 7 Oct 1799, Medford, MA. We have no record to show the identity of the male, aged between 10 and 16, as these early censuses do not list the individual member's names; he could possibly have been a servant living with the family.

Family tradition has it that Josiah⁴ served in the Revolutionary War but we have never located any proof of his service. [Ed. Note: His brother John is known to have served. See story, March '96 issue, pp. 4-6.] The following ad was located in the *Boston Evening Transcript* dated 31 May 1932:

(3794) POLLEY, CLELAND. Can either E.I. or M.A.D., or anyone else give the parentage of Josiah Polley who lived at Youngstown, O., in February, 1826? His father, _____ Polley, was in Washington's Army at Valley Forge, and there became acquainted with his wife _____ Cleland, who brought food and other supplies to her father and brothers, also in Washington's Army. S.C.P.P.

Perhaps this inquiry was the source of family tradition that Josiah⁴ had served in the Revolution, since Josiah Polley, b. 1746, would have been the correct age to serve. However, because so many facts in the inquiry are incorrect—the Josiah Polley that married Jane Cleland was born in 1799, AFTER the Revolution—we tend to discount this inquiry. We have never found any answer to the newspaper inquiry and suspect that it might have been written by Judge Samuel Cleland Polley, son of John Cutter Polley, a resident of South Dakota.⁶ Among other accomplishments Judge Polley served four years as the South Dakota Secretary of State and served on the South Dakota Supreme Court from 1912 to 1947. He is known to have done some tracing of the family lines but all of his papers were reportedly lost in a flood.

We have found one reference to a Josiah Polley that could possibly be Josiah⁵, which might hold the key to why we know so little about Josiah⁴. In the local history work, *A History of Framingham, Mass. - early known as Danforth's Farms, 1640-1880*, by J.H. Temple, published by the Town of Framingham, 1887, pg. 672 (Genealogical Register), we find the entry:

"Polly, Josiah, ae. 11, came to live with dea. Thos. Buckminster, June 6, 1781."

This book tells us that Deacon Buckminster had a well known tavern. This date would show that this Josiah was born ca. 1770. Other Polleys (with the "e") are mentioned in the same area of the book. They are known to be descendants of George¹ of Woburn. The two entries appear to be unrelated. There is no elaboration on the entry for Josiah. Why he came to Framingham to live with the Buckminsters is speculative. Perhaps he was looking for a job. Perhaps his mother had died and Josiah⁴ had to disperse the children. Perhaps Josiah⁵ was the result of an indiscretion on the part of Josiah⁴.

We obviously have not solved the Josiah problem. However, the path to a solution usually begins with discussion, as we have had in the preceding pages. A successful advertising attorney in the Baltimore area uses the slogan, "Come on in and let's talk about it." Such was the objective here, to present the key players and an outline of the basic problem and to put in focus the essential elements of information on hand as well as those still required. We hope some researcher, somewhere, sometime in the not too distant future, will recall the need for data on Josiah Polley and help bring closure to this particular Polley problem.

When we started this feature, realizing that Josiah is not a common name among Polleys, we looked it up in a name book. The book told us that Josiah (also Josias) is a Hebrew name that is freely interchangeable [in meaning] with Joshua. The meaning: "Jehovah saves" or "Jehovah supports." Your editor's free translation: "God helps." Perhaps now is the time that the Good Lord will help Josiah⁴ and Josiah⁵ to take their rightful places in history by inspiring some reader to come up with the answer. Amen.

Notes and References:

1. The name Josiah Polleys appears in a record of 15 Sep 1794 found in the Public Archives of Canada (Record Group 4, B45). It documents four men, including Josiah and John Polleys, as well as George Beaufort Lane and Conway Lane who claimed to be Americans on their way from New York State to Montreal seeking employment. These men could not be found in the 1790 Census records of New York.
2. The Bible containing records pertinent to the descendants of John Cutter Polley was reportedly kept by Amanda Korn Polley, his wife, until her death in August 1896. It was then taken by her daughter, Jessie Maria Polley, known as Aunt Kit by her nieces. It appears that a series of additional entries in a different hand were added by her ca., 1909. After Jessie's death, the Bible passed to her brother, Samuel Cleland Polley, who died in 1949. The Bible is now owned by John Stevenson of Tulsa, OK, grandson of Samuel Cleland Polley.
3. A History of the Cutter Family of New England, comp. by Dr. Benjamin Cutter, 1871, p. 240.
4. Obituary, *Columbus Democrat*, Columbus, NE, 1 Mar 1889.
5. The date of birth inscribed on the headstone for Josiah⁶ (Columbus Cemetery, Columbus, NE) is 6 Oct 1799. The discrepancy with the obituary remains unexplained.
6. *History of South Dakota*, by G.W. Kingsbury, S.J. Clarke Publishing Co., Chicago, 1915, Vol. IV, p. 223.

Collecting Polley Cousins

Lost Treasure Found

by Esther M. McDermott

Around 1985, I went to Mercer County, PA to do research on my dad's family. Since my mom's family (Eriksson) came from Sweden, there wasn't much more I could do in the way of research on her line involving original records, so it was time to tackle my dad's ancestors. After several hours of looking, I had found nothing and was somewhat "down in the dumps." So I sat down on the floor of the deed room to collect my thoughts. There I picked up a book. It was not indexed and had no name on the front. I started idly flipping through it. A power of attorney paper suddenly jumped out at me. It had my grandmother's signature (Clara Mae Schell, also called Clare). (My grandmother died when my dad was two years old and he died when I was eleven.) This paper began to make her more real to me. The paper was to protect her and her brothers' and sisters' interest in their grandmother Margaret Polley's estate. This was the first time I had documentary evidence that the Polley name ran in the family. People had always referred to my great-grandmother as Emeline Polly Schell and I always assumed she had simply used two names. It seemed someone was guiding me to this paper that day.

The next day I went to Meadville Historical Society in Crawford Co., the next county north of Mercer. I didn't find anything. However, the lady there said there was a man named Polley who owned a gas station going out of town. No way was I going looking for some gas station! While leaving town, right in front of me was the gas station. Something told me I had better stop. The man was Larry Polley. He was very friendly and gave me his sister's address in Arizona. It turned out that Larry and his sister were related to me as third cousins, once removed.

I came back to Virginia and wrote the sister. She sent me a paper that her grandmother had written up. There was my grandmother's name, Clara Schell. My grandmother must have wanted me to find her and her family. This is how I began to discover my Polley ancestors. Little did I realize that this would also begin a period where other Polley descendants would begin to discover me.

One night in January, 1991, I received a phone call from a lady. I told her I would call back, because I was talking to my son Joey who was stationed at the time in the Persian Gulf. I called her and found out her great-grandmother, Margaret Schell, and my grandmother, Clara Mae

Schell, were sisters. Also this lady knew my dad when she was a small child. This wonderful woman turned out to be my cousin, Helen Stewart, who lived in California. We were able to meet in person in New York for the dedication of Jonathan Polley's grave. [Jonathan, a Rev. War veteran, was honored by the N.S.D.A.R. in August 1994. See Dec '94 issue, p. 3.]

A year before we left for New York I received a call from a lady in New Mexico, named Brenda Beattie-Schwartz. She was told by a man in Mercer Co., PA to get in touch with Helen in California about the Polleys. Helen told her to call me about her Polley line. I had the information she needed. It was what I had gathered during my 1985 trip to Pennsylvania. So now there were three lost cousins back together.

Brenda sent off for her ancestor (3GGF) Benjamin Franklin Polley's death certificate. We had been told that his mother's maiden name (Margaret Polley) was Mattox. Well, Brenda's death certificate indicated it was Reiger. She called me and I called Helen. At that point detective Helen took out her Mercer Co. phone book. She looked up Reiger with any spelling she could think of. She called a man named Reeher. She talked to him in her researching mode and found out his mother was a Polley and his father was a Reeher. This man was another lost cousin waiting to be found, named Frank E. Reeher who is doubly related to us.

Frank's mother was a descendant of Benjamin Franklin Polley and his father a descendant of John Reiger. Helen and I share Emeline Polley as a common ancestor. Emeline was a sister to Benjamin Polley. Their mother was Margaret Reeher Polley, who was a half-sister to John Reiger. He was a 3GGF to Frank Reeher. [There are spelling variants of the surname among Frank's paternal ancestors.]

So now there are four of us together. It's about time for a new cousin to come into the picture. The four of us stay in touch, by talking to one another on the phone or relaying messages between each other via E-mail. All three have been there for me in the good times and during the bad times. We might have been spread all over these United States, from California to New Mexico, to Pennsylvania, then back to Virginia, but now the four cousins are back together, united by a common interest in their family's history. Hi Helen, Frank and Brenda. emm

Editor's Note: Esther's newfound cousins, Helen, Brenda and Frank are all **POLLEY POINTERS** subscribers. Helen (Cassidy) Stewart is a second cousin, once removed (2C1R). Brenda Beattie-Schwartz is her third cousin, twice removed (3C2R), and Frank Reeher is a third cousin, once removed (3C1R). rcr

VA/KY Polley Records

One of the key figures encountered in any Polley research effort that crosses Virginia and Kentucky is Revolutionary War veteran, Edward Polly [also recorded in various records as Polley and Pauley]. He is a prominent figure for several reasons, one of which is his documented Rev. War veteran status. He is a recognized patriot used by many seeking membership in the N.S.D.A.R. His related documentation includes not only his and his widow's pension, but a number of Virginia and Kentucky county records. Lastly, he had a number of children who, in turn, propagated many Polley lines. We present below extracts of Edward's Revolutionary War pension file records, as found at the National Archives, as well as those entries generated when his widow, Mary Agnes Mullins, applied for her entitlement after Edward's death.

Polly, Edward W 9236
Mary Va.

In Perry County Kentucky, on November 17, 1825, Edward Polly, resident of said County, aged 67 on the 21st of December next, made oath in court: That he enlisted as private for 18 months about 6 weeks after the Defeat of General Horatio Gates, near Camden South Carolina, in Pittsylvania county Virginia in the company commanded by Captain Burton, and in about 2 weeks his captain marched him to his company and joined the regiment which he understood his company belonged to when he enlisted, commanded by Colonel Gibson in the Virginia line of the Continental establishment. That he continued to serve in said corps till the expiration of his term of service when he was discharged from the service in Halifax or Brunswick County, Virginia. He received a discharge. That his occupation is that of a farmer, but because of old age and loss of part of his strength in his left thigh, he is unable to work. His wife, Polly, is about 49 years of age and is of weak constitution. His son, David Polly about 13 years of age, is able to support himself; his daughter, Susanna, about 11 years of age, is of good health. He lives 40 miles from the court house.

Anthony Hall states that he knows of Edward Polly performing a tour of 18 months in the regular army. That this deponent was a regular in the army and knew the soldier previous to his enlistment, and during his own term of service.

Joshua Mullins, aged 70 years, on the 10th of May, 1826, made oath that: he enlisted in Captain

Burton's Company at the same time with Edward Polly for the same term of service and served together in the army as described by said Polly and they both were discharged by Captain Webb on the same day.

On May 26, 1829, before Wm. Tackett, Justice of the Peace, in Pike County, Anthony Hall, Henry Polly, Elijah Baker, and James Honocker made affidavits of their acquaintance with Edward Polly and to their belief in his statements.

Edward Polly of Perry County, was inscribed on the roll of Kentucky to commence on the 10th of February, 1828.

In Whitesburgh, Letcher County, Kentucky, on the 7th of June, 1847, Mary Polly, resident of Letcher County, aged about 70 years, appeared and made oath: That she was married to Edward Polly before his services expired in the army. That they were married in Pittsylvania County, Virginia. Her husband, the above Edward Polly died 2 years ago on the 19th of May last.

On the 4th of May 1850, before Justice of the Peace, James Collins, in Letcher County, Kentucky, Mary Polly appeared and made oath on further declaration: That her maiden name was Mary Mullen. That she was married to said Edward Polly in Pittsylvania County, Virginia in 1784. That the ceremony was performed by a Baptist minister named Bailey. That her said husband owned land in Pittsylvania, which he deeded to Daniel Witcher in 1787. That she and her said husband lived in Pittsylvania County about 8 years after their marriage. That about 1792, she, with her said husband, came to reside in Tennessee, where they continued to live for 30 years. At the end of that time they came to reside in Letcher where she now resides.

Moses Adams made oath in Letcher county, on June 8, 1847, stating that he has been acquainted with Edward Polly and Mary Polly, his wife, upwards of 40 years and to his belief in their statements.

David Polly, aged 42, made oath in Letcher County that he is the son of Edward Polly and his wife Mary or Agnes Polly. That his parents, Edward Polly and his wife Mary Polly had 12 children whose names are Sally, Andrew, Polly, Agnes, Henry, Raney, Joseph, Edward, Vina, Nancy, Susannah and David.

Thomas Cassaday made affidavit to the identification of David Polly.

Mary Polly was inscribed on the roll of Kentucky to commence on the 4th of March, 1844. Certificate of the pension was issued 4th of December, 1851.

Research Progress



Jonathan Polley, 1759-1840, Revolutionary War Veteran and father of nine children, left a rich Polley history for his many descendants that is constantly being researched and explored by genealogists. Something new about this family is always being uncovered.

This quarter we explore one of the more interesting occupations among Polleys that we have found, that of "canawler," that is, one who plied the trade of canalboat operator. Jonathan Polley, during his second marriage to Mehitabel Metcalf, in the late 1830's, owned two canalboats named J. Polley and M. Polley.

Before railroads were constructed and travel by rail had become commonplace, the people of New York state made extensive use of the canal system promoted by Governor DeWitt Clinton and others. The boats made the approximate 360 mile trip along the Erie Canal, from Buffalo to Albany, New York, at the dazzling speed of 1½ m.p.h., towed by horses or mules that walked along a towpath running parallel to the canal. The animals' owners provided the towing service to the boat operators for a fee. They would tow for a fixed distance and be spelled with fresh animals to continue the journey. Larger freight boats and barges that appeared in later years, after enlargement of the canal, carried two teams on board in a bow stable. Periodically, on board teams were exchanged when the towing animals needed food and rest.

Polley's boats plied not only the Erie Canal but also the Champlain Canal. The latter system ran north from Albany, beginning with the otherwise unnavigable northern portion of the Hudson River. The Champlain Canal then joined a man-made system at Fort Edward that ran northeast to Fort Ann and Whitehall. At Whitehall the canal ran into the southern extension of Lake Champlain, leading to the historic sites of Fort Ticonderoga and Crown Point and into Lake Champlain proper.¹

How we came upon this information is a story unto itself. A gentleman from California named Charlie Metcalf placed a query on the Polley mail server, POLLEY-L@rootsweb.com, seeking information about Mehitabel Metcalf, who married Jonathan Polley as his second wife in 1823. It seems Mehitabel was a sister of Charlie's great-great-grandfather, Nathaniel Metcalf. Since he was stuck on Nathaniel and did not have parents for him, his approach was to seek information on known siblings, an accepted genealogical strategy. He wanted to know if anyone knew Mehitabel's

parents or if she and Jonathan had any children together. Presumably, children would lead to a Family Bible or other cache of information.²

Based on Jonathan Polley's will³, executed in 1830, it was apparent that he had no children with Mehitabel. Everything was left to the children begat with first wife, Rachel Hubbard, and the resulting grandchildren. Mehitabel received only "support and maintenance" as long as she remained Jonathan's widow; i.e, did not remarry. No children by Mehitabel were mentioned and a rough calculation showed that their respective ages [he was 71 and she was 56] made it implausible that they had any children in the intervening ten years between making the will and Jonathan's demise in 1840.

Although Mr. Metcalf "struck out" on the questions he asked, he did find another Metcalf by way of Polley research material. A number of years ago a substantial amount of Polley family letters and other historical documentation were donated by family members to The University of Texas Archives. The bulk of it pertained to the family of Joseph Henry Polley, a son of Jonathan Polley, early Texas Pioneer, and one of the original Austin's 300 who settled in Texas when it was part of Mexico. Extracts from this archival material, copied by subscriber Joseph Polley Paine (a great-grandson of Joseph Henry) when he was actively researching, have been residing in our files since we acquired copies of them from cousin John E. Polley about ten years ago. The extracts contained comments from the various Polley children regarding Mehitabel and a man named Calvin Metcalf.

Mr. Metcalf has about a dozen letters between Metcalf family members during the time period 1838-1840 that make references to Jonathan and Mehitabel and other relatives, friends and neighbors who were part of their lives. One such repeated reference is to a Calvin and his wife Mary. However, he is never identified by surname or relationship. The Polley letters, on the other hand, clearly identify his surname.

In a letter from Jonathan, Jr. from Whitehall, dated 30 Dec 1848, he says, "... our stepmother is making us trouble - her brother was the cause, one suit in the supreme court in ejectment claiming dower in the old homestead, also at the landing, the guard lock place, the place on the gravel, making four places in which she claims one third. ... You recollect she went to live with Calvin Metcalf with whom we bargained for her support." The letter goes on to say that although Jonathan, Jr. had previously obtained a release of dower from the "old lady" he failed to extract

a consideration. Based on that fact, a judge allowed a trial to proceed. Calvin and his wife testified that Jonathan, Jr. had gotten Mehitabel to sign the release without her knowing what she had signed. The suit was settled in Mehitabel's favor. She was awarded \$2333.90 plus \$150 per year for the rest of her life. It is not entirely clear from the context of the Polley letters what relationship there was between Mehitabel and Calvin. [Subsequent research by Charlie Metcalf showed that Calvin was a nephew of Mehitabel.]

In trading information with Mr. Metcalf, he provided transcriptions of some Metcalf family letters that produced insight regarding the canalboat business. Nathaniel Metcalf, a widower of three years, and his six children had gone to live in Worcester, Illinois. In October of 1838 he decided to come back east with his two daughters, Rosina and Abigail and the youngest son, Upham. He made the trip via Cleveland, a steamboat trip on Lake Erie to Buffalo, and a canalboat trip from Buffalo to Fort Ann, NY via the Erie and Champlain Canals.

Nathaniel wrote back to his son Chauncey from Newfane (Niagra Co.), NY on 29 October: "... we have got along a very good journey till we pas Columbus one days journey when my lone horse was taken sick. I lay by part of two days then resumed my journey and got to Cleveland the 26th

day of October. Took passage on the steamboat Bunker Hill. In nineteen hours landed in Buffalo. There found the M. Polley and put the two girls and the chief of my things for Whitehall the same day I landed. Then Upham and myself and team came to Newfane where I am now writing to you. ..." The gist of the remainder of the letter is that Nathaniel and his son were going to make their way back east later, while the girls were leaving immediately via the canal. Perhaps Nathaniel had to sell or otherwise dispose of his team or conduct other business in the Buffalo area before returning east.

A letter dated 15 January 1839 from Rosina at Fort Ann to her brother Chauncey sheds more light on their journey and their involvement with Jonathan and Mehitabel: "We received your letter dated Dec. 16th the 8th of Jan, and was glad to hear that you were all well. I believe Father

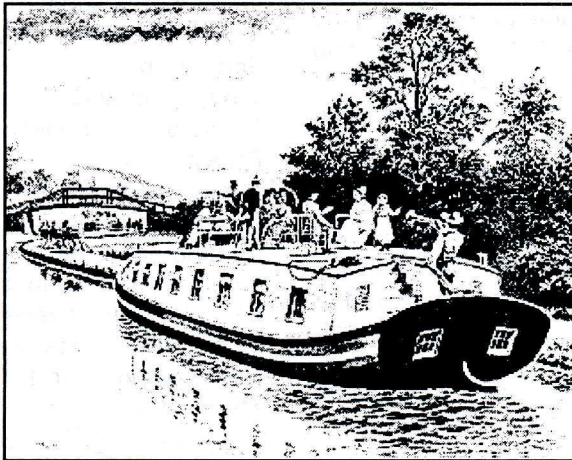
wrote you an account of our journey, it was more comfortable than I expected. At Cleaveland we put on board the Bunker Hill for Buffaloe, fare \$12 dollars. We had a quick passage: At Buffaloe Abigail and myself went on board of Uncle's boat, had a pleasant journey. The 12th of November we arrived safe and in good health at Uncle Polley's.

"At present our situation is quite comfortable. We reside in the house where P. Kinner lived. Father has been to work ... chopping wood... Upham and Abigail go to school about a mile from where we live. I do the housework and take in sewing. ... We have not fully made up our minds how we shall proceed next summer, Uncle Polley says that he shall depend on Father for a captain of the J. Polley, I think some of going cook, but do not know certain, if I do not I think that Abigail and I shall stay here and take in washing. Charles Higgins is going captain of the M. Polley. Uncle has not hired but one hand on the JP. Aunt thinks if you can get work to advantage you had better stay where you are. ...

"We have heard from Marlboro [NH] Calvin and Mary have been down on a visit, our relation were all well,"

In a letter from Fort Ann, written by Rosina to her brother Loren, dated 2 June 1839, she says:

"... I am now living to Uncle Polley's. I begun my summer work the 7th of May. ... Aunt's health is poor, the most frail of the time. One week ago tonight the J. Polley arrived here from Buffaloe. All were expecting and looking for P. Kinner and family as he wrote he should come as soon as navigation opened. But they looked in vain, he did not come. The next morning Uncle rode up to Father's, and persuaded him to take command of the boat, as Father and Upham had got all the planting done, he thought perhaps it might be best to go. Two days ago he started from Whitehall, had about 30 passangers, and considerable other loading. Mrs. Manning goes chief cook. Abigail goes mate. Harmon [Parson] is Bowsman. Upham is to work here for Uncle. Calvin and Mary live in one of the rooms where Mrs. Kinner did and William Manning and family in the other. ..."



Typical passenger canalboat of the type operated by Jonathan Polley on the Erie and Champlain Canals.

A letter to Chauncey in Illinois from Rosina and her father at Fort Ann, dated 27 Oct 1840, is quite revealing. Jonathan Polley is now dead. Rosina writes: "... When we wrote to you last we was calculating to go to Ill. but Aunt did not come down and bring the money as we expected and we gave it up, but we finally concluded to start and go as far as Fort Ann and get the money and continue on to Illinois. Father had got a team of horses and all things ready. And we had almost finished packing our goods when Father was taken sick and we gave up going. ... Aunt Mehetable is quite well better than she has been since Uncle died. Calvin and Mary live with her. Peter Kinner and his family have gone back to Pennsylvania."

Nathaniel writes in the same letter: "... We are in Fort Ann, where we shall be another year I know not. I had calculated now to be in Illinois but having a very sick time, and not getting the money from your uncles estate. I could not leave this fall and being so feeble I need to start another year without some of you boys. ..."

Rosina continues: "... Uncle Polleys estate is not settled yet. Aunt has said if Father goes to Illinois she shall go with him. ..."

To this observer, 157 years after the fact, it appears that there was ample reason for Mehitabel to NOT be the Polley children's favorite person, as some of the Polley letters indicate. She married Jonathan, perhaps not for his money *per se*, but she seems to have put the Metcalfs ahead of the Polleys in catering to their needs and wants. In turn, the other Metcalfs seemed to know that Aunt Mehitabel had a good thing going and made no bones about wanting a piece of the action. This is a case where blood definitely ran thicker than canal water! rcr

Notes and References:

1. Readers who would like to pursue additional research on the New York Canal System and possibly uncover records of Jonathan Polley's involvement may start by writing to:

Persijs Kolberg, Ph.D., Director
Erie Canal Museum
318 Erie Boulevard East
Syracuse, NY 13202
Phone: 315.471.0593 FAX: 315.471.7220
URL: <http://www.syracuse.ny.us/Activities/Features/eriemus.html>

2. Subsequent research by Mr. Metcalf has now revealed the parents of Mehitabel and Nathaniel as Asa Metcalf and Mehitabel Upham who married in 1770. Charlie Metcalf has a web site at <http://www.netcom/~metcalf/charlie.htm> for those who

would like to know more about him or send E-mail. Those readers not online may contact your editor for an address.

3. Surrogate's Court, Washington Co., NY, Book of Wills Vol B-1, page 467. Admitted to probate 4 Sep 1840.

POLLEY POINTERS Offerings

The following items are offered for sale, **postpaid**:

* All **BACK ISSUES** are still available @ \$2.50 each. With each complete volume, four issues, an index will be provided **free**, a \$12.50 value for \$10.00.

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* An **INDEX** to the first four issues (Vol. 1) of **POLLEY POINTERS**. Be able to recall where you read something. The index covers all personal and place names as well as many references and organizational names. \$2.50 each.

* An **INDEX** to the second year (Vol. 2) of **POLLEY POINTERS**. The index covers all personal and place names as well as many references and organizational names. \$2.50 each.

* An **INDEX** to the third year (Vol. 3) of **POLLEY POINTERS**. The index covers all personal and place names as well as many references and organizational names. [Available Fall '97] \$2.50 each.

* A comprehensive compilation of the Woburn Polleys. *The Descendants of George Polley and Elizabeth Winn of Woburn, Massachusetts* has been compiled after ten years of research and collecting Polley data. Beginning with the Winn family, this report is based on more than 3300 subjects and 1100 marriages, spread over 14 generations, contained in a ROOTS III™ database. Over 1600 related Polley descendants are linked together in this report. Published in standard register format, this 212 page work is fully indexed for maximum utility. Although not guaranteed as complete or error free, this work represents the most accurate, comprehensive source of information on the Woburn Polleys available anywhere. Sources are documented in more than 50 pages of notes and references. Two-sided print, unbound, suitable for loose-leaf punching. \$20.00 each. Allow 4-6 weeks for delivery.

Welcome Aboard



Jay A. Cary - Jay is a descendant of John Polley of Roxbury, MA. His Polley roots stem from the marriage of John Polley and Susanna Bacon. Their daughter Sarah married Benjamin Sabin. Benjamin Sabin, Jr. married Elizabeth Davis. Their daughter, Mary Sabin, married Josiah Converse. Jay's line then goes through four generations of Converse and two of Cary before himself, making him the tenth generation after the Roxbury Polley progenitor. **Address: P.O. Box 38, Norwich, VT 05055-0038.**

Tel: 603.643.2927

E-mail: Jay.A.Cary@Dartmouth.Edu

Lisa Suzanne Gorrell - Lisa has been into genealogy for about three years and is working on her family as well as her husband's. Her Polly line begins for her (going backwards in time), in Texas with the 1855 birth of 3GGM, Martha J. Polly. She married George Warren Lancaster 25 Oct 1871 in Kaufman Co., TX. Her parents were Nathan H.O. Polly (1820-1902) and Lydda M. ?. Census records indicate Nathan was born in KY and his parents in VA and TN. Lydda was born in KY. There are some indications that Nathan was a Minister of the Gospel. Lisa's current problem is to find Lydda's maiden name and parents as well as the parents of Nathan. Perhaps Lisa can get some input from other subscribers to help her make the connections she seeks. **Address: 781 Wilson Avenue, Martinez, CA 94553-3401. E-mail: SNRYLisa@aol.com**

Chandler C. Henley - Mr. Henley, or "Bud" as he is known to most of his acquaintances, is a descendant of George Polly of Woburn, MA, from the same basic line as the late Alvin H. Polley, Jr., the renown Polley researcher. He is recently retired after 40 years in the publishing business. He is a native of RI and a WWII vet, having served with the 20th Air Force in the Pacific Theater. He flew 35 combat missions in B-29s. Bud has been actively engaged in genealogy for 20 years and is a member of several genealogical organizations. His Polley line is unique in that it contains a documented example of a Woburn Polley descendant who changed the spelling of the surname to Pauley. The Polley/Pauley line is George¹, George², Ebenezer³, Joseph⁴, Peter⁵, David Luther⁶, Alvin Grimes⁷, George Wallace⁸, Esther Marion⁹. The generations up through and including Alvin Grimes⁷ are Polleys. One of Alvin Grimes's sons, George Wallace⁸, 1868-1964, decided he would be different by spelling his surname as Pauley. There were enough sons

who had sons, etc., to keep the change alive and carry it forward. Some descendants have had to make the change legally since George W. did it informally. **Address: 595 A Sioux Lane, Stratford, CT 06497-8235 Tel.: 203.377.5545 E-mail: budhen@snet.net**

Stephen M. Pauley, M.D. - Doctor Pauley is a retired physician living in Sun Valley, ID. He traces his Pauley line from Edward the Rev. War veteran. [See *VA/KY Polley Records*, p. 6, this issue.] His line is Edward¹, David², Joseph³, Samuel⁴, Squire⁵, Calvin⁶, Elbert⁷, Edwin W.⁸, Stephen M.⁹. Dr. Steve is relatively new to the hobby, but is aggressively pursuing his family history, making maximum use of the resources of the Internet and the instant communications capabilities of E-mail. **Address: P.O. Box 3759, Ketchum, ID 83340-3759. E-mail: spauley@micron.net**

Gail B. Peyton - Gail's subscription arrived too late to get substantive information about her genealogical research. We hope to have more details in the Winter issue. She discovered our newsletter through a mention in *The Filson Club History Quarterly*. **Address: 3361 Old Hill Rd., Floyds Knobs, IN 47119-9711. Telephone: 812.944.1582**

Beverly M. Reynolds - Beverly is a descendant of Philemon Waters Polly. He is from a small group of Pollys that have not been connected to one of the larger clans. Beverly knows the family came out of Kentucky and at one time or another were in Missouri, Montana, Oregon and Idaho. Philemon's parents, P.W. and Harriet (Bailey) Polly were born in 1822 in Hardin Co., KY. He was born in Caldwell Co, MO in 1862. He was an osteopathic physician, practicing at Emmett, ID until the 1930's. He was also the probate judge of Gem Co., ID. The name Philemon Waters is said to have origins before the Rev. War and the Waters part of it is attributed to Edward Waters who was part of the London company that settled Jamestown. We were able to provide Beverly, from our "miscellaneous" file, a reference to a history of Idaho, as well as a transcription of one of the entries that contained some new information for her about Philemon. Perhaps some other researchers have some stray data gathered during their research that might fit into Beverly's family tree. **Address: 2568 Rose Blossom Dr. N., Springfield, OR 97477-1564. Tel.: 541.746.0295. E-mail: BevMarie@aol.com**

Merrie Ellen Tilton - Merrie Ellen has been researching for about ten years. She caught the bug when a cousin gave her a report on another branch of her family. She has only been pursuing

this side of her family, which includes Polleys, for the past two years. She has two small children and that puts research on the back burner at times. She is researching in the Kentucky area and her Polley line identified to date is: John¹, Joseph³, John A.³, John William⁴, Leighman Logan⁵, Ida Mabel Rayburn⁶ (her grandmother). She is searching for the forebears of John¹, data on collateral families, as well as any stories or details about their individual lives. The latter aspect is what makes her ancestors seem "real" to Merrie Ellen. She finds one of the side benefits of her genealogy quest is the meeting of lots of new cousins and friends. **Address: 427 Sunset Dr., RD #2, Belle Vernon, PA 15012. Tel.: 412.872.7557. E-mail: willowpa@juno.com**

- Corrections -

Virgil W. Huntley - Virgil has come online.
E-mail: virgil.huntley@snet.net

James Howell - Jim now has only two E-mail addresses, one of which has been changed: **howell@compuserve.com** [home] and **jhowell@fdic.gov** [work].

Lynne Russell - In the researcher supplement of last quarter, Lynne's line was incorrectly identified as to the area of research. The entry should read, **KY, MS, VA, Ireland**. We regret the error.

Warren Zahler - Warren has a new area code.
Tel: 573.445.1986

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 Summer issue. Pertinent data to facilitate communication is listed. Please keep this listing as it will not be republished until Summer '98. 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?*

Marian Bryson McGowen - Seeking info on family of Joseph (Joe) Pauley who m. Ann Carrisco.

One known son was Robert Wenten Pauley, b. 1851 in VA. He m., ca. 1874, Elizabeth Ellen Johnson. Need Robert's POB and any info on siblings. Pauley line of descent: Joseph¹, Robert Wenten², Dolphus Gipson³, Ruby Jean⁴.

Robert Gieber - Seeking info on parents of GGM Harriet Josephine Pauley, b. IN, 12 Jun 1861, d. Topeka, KS, 21 Jan 1944. She m. Marcellus Abrams 14 Feb 1876 in St. George, KS. Parents are known as Allen Pauley and Sarah Adaline Tibbets. Harriet's siblings: Eunice, b. IN, ca. 1864; James, b. IN, ca. 1866; William, b. KS, ca. 1870; Nancy E., b. KS, 1873. Allen Pauley d. betw. 1873 & 1878, St. George, KS. Looking to confirm or disprove that Allen Pauley is the same person as Allen Polley living in Hancock Co., IN in 1860 census in the household of William R. and Phoebe Jacobs. His age is given as 29 and there is a George Polley, age 6, living with him. Speculate that Allen Pauley/Polley may have been previously married (bef. Sarah Tibbets) and that his parents may be Andrew Polley, b. VA, ca. 1771 and Sarah ___, b. KY, ca. 1806.

Dixie M. Jordan - Seeking parents, POB/DOB, POD/DOD for P. P. Polley. Subject b. ca. 1833, probably in MA. First or Middle name may be Peter, POB may be Boston (based on dim family memories). Facts: P. P. was a constable in Marysville, CA from mid-1860s through at least 1880. He m. Maria Keenan (b. NY) in 1870. They had at least four children.

Daryl L. Polley - Researching David Polly (ca. 1778-1847) and Nancy Polly (ca. 1787-ca. 1862) of Lewis Co., KY and their descendants. Believe David to be related to Polly families in Adair Co., KY, Floyd Co., KY, Darke Co., OH, and Pittsylvania Co., VA. Desire contact and info exchange with researchers with similar interests.

Emelie Tolley - Looking for parents of John Polley (b. 8 Dec 1798, Orange Co., NY; d. 14 Nov 1861, Sussex Co., NJ) and Mahala/Mahalia Horton (b. 2 Oct 1817, Orange Co., NY; d. 4 Jul 1858, Sussex Co., NJ).

Shirley M. Eoff - Seeking info on Andrew Pauley of Gettysburg, Adams Co., PA. (Adams Co. formed from York Co. 1800.) Strayer's Lutheran Church of York Co. records: Andreas Palli, b. 1748, Bapt. 24 Feb 1768, s. of Andreas Palli and Christina. Andreas Palli (Jr.) m. Catharine Berckheimer 29 Aug 1768. In 1800 and after, through 1850, an Andrew Polley, or Polly, is on the census for Adams Co., PA. Are Andrew and Andreas the same person with surname variously recorded as Palli, Polley, Polly and Pauley?

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 [maiden name uncertain].

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.

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 - According to Lawrence, MA records, Miriam E. Polly was b. 15 Jun 1854. Her father was Porter Polly, b. Leominster, MA, a blacksmith by trade. He m. Elizabeth Kellogg. Seeks ancestors of Porter Polly.

Janice Frost - Seeking descendants of Benjamin and Eleanor (Hutchinson) Polley who may have knowledge of photographs of Egbert Polley and Adelia Polley. The photos were sent in 1869 by the children's mother, Mary Augusta Polley, to her uncle Benjamin and aunt Eleanor, who were living in either PA or NY at the time.

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


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.

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.

Virgil W. Huntley - Seeking parents and other particulars on a man from Lyme, CT identified in records as "goodman Polley." Lyme, CT records, 1667-1730, p. 117 reveal: At a town meeting 27 April 1708 it was voted that Captain William Ely was empowered to go to the next Court of Assistance to be held at Hartford in May to obtain some relief concerning goodman Polley who has been a town charge for some years.

Anne K. Jacobs Maruhn [prospective subscriber]- Searching for parents and location of birth of John Robert Pulley, b. ca. 1785, VA; m.(1) Mary Ann Wall, m.(2) Ellen Brush, possibly dau. of John S. Brush, ca. 1835, New Orleans, LA. John R. Pulley d. 21 Nov 1849, City of Lafayette, Jefferson Parish, LA, now New Orleans, Orleans, LA. By his first wife he had Josephine and Elizabeth Pulley. By his second wife he had Ellen, John Robert, and Charles Henry Brush Pulley. **Address: 1016 Meeker Drive, P.O. Box 507, Kalama, WA 98625-0507.**

Readers Write

Subscriber Adrienne Reeves  wrote and said that she and her husband Bill took a ten-day Hawaii vacation in June. The trip was a 40th anniversary gift from their four children. In late July they also went on a nine-day educational tour of Ireland, representing the University of Arizona Alumni Association.

Sounds like it was a great summer for the Reeves. Congratulations on the four decades!

Esther McDermott writes that her only daughter was married on 14 June in Fredericksburg, VA. Margaret "Heather" McDermott and Christopher Coby Cannon were married at Christ Lutheran Church. Subscriber Dick T. Polley and his wife were in attendance as guests.

Heather has one more year at college where she is pursuing a master's degree. Chris is in the Marine Corps and works on the presidential helicopter. He is from New Mexico, the same town as Brenda Beattie-Schwartz is from. Brenda's daughter knows Chris's sister. Also, when Chris went to Okinawa from New Mexico, he roomed with a boy named Danny from Stafford Co., VA. Chris came here to Quantico and Danny went to Cherry Point. Chris saw Danny and told him about Heather. Danny said, "I've known Heather since fifth grade." Danny also told him that his uncle is a friend of Esther's.

All together now! ... It's a small world isn't it? Our best to the bride and groom.

oo

James L. Pauley, Jr. writes regarding the material on pp. 12-13 of the June '97 issue about the family of William and Serena (Todd) Pauley. William's parents are given as John and Mary (Henderson) Pauley. James says, regarding John and Mary, "It begins with a man I call **John Pauley, Jr.** (ca. 1775-1845) who married **Mary Henderson** (ca. 1784-1866).

"I can add the information that John's father was **John Pauley** (ca. 1750s-1821) who was probably born in Maryland or possibly New Jersey. He is thought to have been an orphan. His wife's first name was **Elizabeth** but I have never been able to determine her maiden name. They resided for a time in Montgomery County, Virginia, but moved to Nicholas County, Kentucky about 1793. They had eight children of whom **John Pauley, Jr.** was the oldest.

"The elder **John Pauley** was my 4GGF, but has always been somewhat of an enigma to me as I have never been able to determine any of his ancestry. Perhaps one of your readers can help. He died in Nicholas County, KY and his estate was probated there. His will names only his youngest child, **Zachariah Pauley** (1795-1868), who was my 3GGF."

Thanks James for the extra info.

oo

Patricia Jennes writes telling us of her thrill in seeing the entry in last quarter's Welcome Aboard feature about Dr. Fredrick Boling. She says, "I have been working on my Boling/Bolen/Bolling/Bowling line since 1980. I've only been able to get back to Henry W. Boling, etc. who married Ruth Pauley in Vermillion Co., IN in September 1845. He was supposedly b. in NC and shows up next in Washington Co., IN. He is next found in Vermilion Co., IL, and Edgar Co., IL. I've always suspected there was a relationship between Redding and Henry Boling. I have a land record showing Henry selling land to Redding.

"I have contacted Dr. Boling and we are working on this line together. Maybe we finally have a breakthrough."

Synergy at work! Out of a mutual interest in Pauley they find Boling.

oo

Last quarter we reported that a correspondent from Troy, OH had sent data on her French

ancestors who carried the surname **Poly**. In follow up correspondence she tells us a bit more of their origin. She writes:

"The information that was given to me on my Poly line originally came from *The Poly Family History*, written and published in 1989 by Juanita Baltes Gerling. She is a great-great-granddaughter of George Chrysostome Poly. I believe she lives in Versailles (Darke Co.), OH.

"This Poly family originated in Frahier in the northeast part of France, which is very close to Germany and Switzerland.

"Jean Poly and his wife, Catherine Sautier, were born in Frahier in 1642. She died there 2 Aug 1733. Their great-great-grandson, George Chrysostome Poly and his wife and their nine children came to America in 1846."

She further relates that the family bought 163.84 Acres of land in Wayne Township, Darke Co., OH on 18 Sep 1846.

If anyone thinks they tie into this family, we have additional names and dates associated with the various generations after the named progenitor.

rcr

The Book Nook



My Ancestors, Our Ancestors, Your Ancestors, by Robert E. Polley, was published by the author in July 1997. The book is 240 pages of text plus 24 unnumbered pages of photographs. This work is an update and revision of the author's previous genealogical work, ***Polley Family History***. [See review, March '97 issue.] However, according to the author, it is more than just a correction of errors and the addition of new material. He tells us on page 1 that " ... this is substantially a new book with a changed organization as well as corrections and additions."

It appears that more non-Polley material has been added than direct Polley data. However, that is understandable based on the way family structures are built. The further back one goes with their research across all ancestral lines, they are bound to uncover more names than they do on a single surname line. The non-Polley material is quite interesting in that it provides quite a bit of the flavor of the Kentucky geographical area. The historical value of references to such personages as the Presidents Harrison and their ancestor Benjamin, who signed the Declaration of Independence, as well as to Daniel Boone and his family, provide much color for anyone researching in this area and time frame.

For those researchers interested in strictly Polley data, the first chapter of the book provides the bulk of the material they seek. It begins with Edward Polley and a nameless wife who begat David, Joseph, Edward, Margaret, Peter, James, and Jesse. Some of these children are well known and well documented. Others, although well documented regarding their own descendants, are somewhat speculative as offspring of Edward. It is safe to say that conventional wisdom and logic make it pretty obvious that they rightly belong in the list. However, the documentation is just not there. These comments are not meant to detract from Bob Polley's monumental work. Simply stated, the reader should use this book as a guide, and the serious researcher will dutifully set to work proving the relationships he or she needs.

Once the reader gets by some of the earliest progenitors of various lines of descent, the latter-day family groups are invaluable to researchers trying to piece together their particular families. The data has been gathered for them by the author from his own personal knowledge, his own extensive research, and input received from many other researchers. Names are generally the common nicknames or call names that stuck with people from childhood. Formal names as recorded on a birth or baptismal certificate are apparently used when known, but such documentation is not cited. This book is best treated the same way one would view a taped oral history given by someone sitting in a rocking chair on the front porch. They recite all the names and dates with great facility, and you as the interviewer just know that the interviewee really and truly has all this data down cold and that it's as good as gold. However, the question that gnaws at you is "How does he know all this stuff?"

Such is the case here. As with every genealogical work, when employed as a reference in support another work, it must be used with caution, particularly because of the paucity of hard documentation. Another thing that would make it more useful would be the addition of an index.

So, cutting to the bottom line, is this book worth buying? If you're part of the Polley clan emanating out of Virginia and Kentucky, the answer is a very positive YES. Even if you're of a different clan or not even a Polley, the book is definitely interesting and informative. This work may be ordered directly from the author at: 258 David Avenue, Lehigh Acres, FL 33972-5286. The cost is \$20.00, postpaid.

rcr

Roxbury Records

LAST QUARTER WE PUBLISHED AN ADAPTATION OF THE LATE DR. CLAUDE BARLOW'S ARTICLE ON JOHN POLLEY OF ROXBURY, MA, AND HIS THIRTEEN DAUGHTERS. A LOT OF THE CONCLUSIONS BY BARLOW WERE BASED ON JOHN POLLEY'S WILL. IT IS MENTIONED SEVERAL TIMES. WE FELT THAT A TRANSCRIPT OF THE WILL WOULD BE IN ORDER THIS QUARTER TO ROUND OUT THE ROXBURY DOCUMENTATION.

John died in Roxbury on April 2, 1689 at age seventy-one. He left a will which was probated in 1691 case No. 1824 which can be found in the Suffolk County, Massachusetts Probate records. A transcription follows:

The last will and testament of John Pooley of Roxbury in the county of Suffolk in New England the seventeenth of December one thousand six hundred and eighty eight, as followeth, having my perfect understanding and memory by the Blessing of my Merciful father into whose hands I commit my soule, I dispose of my worldly estate. In the first place my will is that all my just debts and funeral charges be paid and discharged by my executors hereafter named with all convenient speed after my interment.

Item - I will and construct and appoint my only son and heir John Pooley executor to whom I give all my housen and lands that I shall dye possessed of namely when my son and heir John shall come to age of 21 years. In the meantime I will constitute and appoint my son in law John Peelom of Rehoboth to be Executor in trust for to take care and to act for my son John Pooley whom I make heir of all my housen and lands.

Item - If my son John Peelom of Rehoboth shall no accept to be executor in trust to act for and in behalf of my son and heir John Pooley in his non age then I constitute and appoint my son-in-law John Lion of Roxbury, executor in his roome and stand for the defraying of funeral charges and other just debts out of the income of the lands or moveables as the said John Pelom may do so if exception or John Lion if John Pelom do not accept of Executorship.

Item - My will is that my beloved wife Jane shall have all and every part of that covenant and contract made with me John Pooley before marriage fulfilled and for my seven dafters which I had by my first wife Susannah, they received £20 apiece as their full portions except my Daughter Sabon but £15 my will is that if I do not pay the

£5 to my son Benjamin Sabon before my decease than my Executor shall pay the same to said Benjamin.

Item - My will is that my 6 daughters that I had by my 3rd wife Hannah shall have £20 apiece for their portions if not paid by me before my decease then to be paid by my executors out of the moveables and incomes of my lands within the terms of 7 years after my son and Heir John comes to age.

Item - If any of these 6 younger daughters should dye before marriage, namely Rebekah, Johannah, Roode, Patience, Sarah and then my son John Pooley to have a double part of the portion or portions of the deceased and the remainder equally divided amongst the survivor sisters, and the foure motherless children of my daughter Sabon to have their mothers part.

Item - If that my son and heir John Pooley should dye before he come onto age of 21 years then the houses and lands to be equally divided amongst my 13 children and six score £ being first discharged and paid to my six younger daughters.

Item - My will is that my eldest daughter of thirteen shall have a double part of all lands and moveables in case John Pooley dies before age so the word equally is to be understood Mary Pelom a double part and the twelve a single part. Moreover my will is that my executor in trust neither the one nor the other shall cutt or sell any wood but for fencing my lands and for their own firen during the time before that the heir comes to age.

Item - My will is that all the moveables and incomes of my lands and housen be carefully improved by my executors an trust as farr as may be towards the payment of the six score £ before John comes to age.

Item - My will is in case the heir decease under age than my son-in-law John Peelom or Mary his wife or her heirs to have the whole estate first tendered them they paying the six score £ and all the childrens parts and portions according unto will.

Signed and sealed in presence of us:

John Polly X

[mark] (Seal)

Nathaniel Brewer, Senr.

Nathaniel Brewer, Junr.

Samuel Peren

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Editorial	1
A Prolonged Polley Problem	1
A Plethora of Josiah Polleys	1
Collecting Polley Cousins	5
Lost Treasure Found	5
VA/KY Polley Records	6
Research Progress	7
POLLEY POINTERS Offerings	9
Welcome Aboard	10
Researcher Listings	11
Queries	11
Readers Write	13
The Book Nook	14
Roxbury Records	15

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Library Subscriptions

POLLEY POINTERS is currently distributed to fourteen libraries and archival institutions in the U.S. plus one in Canada. Our financial health at the moment, while not exactly outstanding, has improved substantially over the last few quarters due to increasing readership. We are now in a position to expand our complimentary subscriptions to replace two libraries [New York Public Library and Detroit Public Library] that claimed they had too many other problems to continue collecting our newsletter and were thus dropped from the list, which was published in June '95, p. 15. We are looking for suggestions regarding an archival institution, library, museum, etc., that will collect and catalog our publication, as well as make it available to researchers. There are currently none designated in the southwest nor in Virginia or Kentucky and those appear to be areas that would benefit. The institutions should be near known pockets of previous Polley residence that would tend to attract Polley researchers or they should be well known genealogical centers. Please send your nominations. Two will be chosen. rcr

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