

# 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.

Vol. 3, No. 4  
ISSN 1075-5519

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March 1997  
\$2.50 (US)

## Editorial

No one claimed the returned issue that we announced last quarter. Maybe we have a phantom subscriber!

A request to all subscribers: **Please let us know if there are any changes to your address, phone number (particularly your area code), E-mail ID or anything else important to people being able to contact you.** The June issue will provide an updated listing. If you want your data correctly listed, contact me well in advance— like right away, before you forget.

This quarter we have another feature article on yet another John Polley. This John Polley is from Orange County, NY and is the great-great-grandfather of subscriber Emelie Tolley. There is also a Polley Profile on Emelie. We hope this piece will inspire others to take a second look at any of their data that has been written off as insufficient or inadequate on which to base conclusions. Use that data to at least hypothesize intelligently.

The Readers Write feature has an anecdote that illustrates one of the ways **POLLEY POINTERS** does its job in bringing people with mutual interests together. It's the kind of thing editors like to hear.

Several new subscribers are added to the readership this quarter. One in particular should be of special interest to those researching the Virginia/Kentucky Poll(e)ys. Robert E. Polley is written up in Welcome Aboard and his **book** is reviewed in The Book Nook. Yes, you read that right. Robert has published a most unusual Polley Family History (that's also the title) in which many of our VA/KY researchers are virtually certain to find some distant cousins.

Another new subscriber, Frank E. Reeher, although relatively new to genealogy, brings to our pages a sample of his other avocation, poetry. He regales us with a poem describing his immersion into our hobby.

There are at least three other subscribers with Polley books ready to publish. We hope to have the privilege of reviewing them soon.

*Dick Randall*

## Research Progress

In last quarter's article, "John Polley, Patriot and Pioneer," p. 5, col 2, I made a big deal out of the fact that John and his family were not found in the census for Worcester Co., MA in 1790, attempting to support the notion that he was in Vermont before 1791 as indicated in his pension records. I suggested that the Hampshire Co., MA entry for a John Polley, in 1790, might have been a "snapshot" of the family on the move toward Vermont. Well, that suggestion is just that, a suggestion, an unproved speculation and is not crucial to my thesis. We showed our John Polley to be in Vermont through the record of his Freeman's Oath, in 1789. Someone may say, "But there IS a 1790 entry for John Polly of Windsor Co., VT, p. 59, showing two males 16 or over and a total of four females." Apparently I overlooked discussing the data for the "no 'E'" spelling for both 1790 and 1800. The 1790 data, however, would not bolster my thesis of John Polley's pre-1791 Vermont residency. The first Vermont census was actually taken in 1791, the year Vermont became a state.

The numbers are interesting though, in that there appears to be an extra male, since the first son, John, Jr., was not born until 1793. Also, there might have been an extra female depending on whether we count the "first daughter" who apparently died young.

The data for 1800 (also under POLLY) for the town of Chester, VT shows one male under ten, two males between 26 and 45, one female under ten, two females between ten and 26, and one female between 26 and 45. By the known family in 1800, there were no sons 26 or older. John, Jr. was seven and Martin probably had not yet been born. Thus there still appears to be an extra male. Among the females, Abigail is 37 and Sally and Hannah are 15 and 13 respectively. Thus there appear to be two extra females, one between 16 and 26 and one under ten. If the older extra female were 26 that would have made her 17 in the 1790 census [realizing that the 1790 Vermont data is actually for 1791], assuming that it was the same couple. One could speculate that John and Abigail shared their house with another couple, perhaps a farm hand and his young wife, during their stay in Vermont.



So you ask, "what is the point of this discussion?" It is simply to illustrate that no matter how thorough your research and documentation, there is always something else that pertains. Look at everything several times, especially the obvious. In this case something as fundamental as census data was overlooked. Fortunately the outcome of the research was not altered.

===== oo =====

In previous issues subscriber Janice Frost had a query seeking the "correct spelling" of the middle name of James B. "Brit" Bailey, father-in-law of Joseph Henry Polley, pioneer settler of Texas. The name in question has been rendered as Brittain, Britton, Britten, etc. in various writings. We all know that orthography [spelling standards for a given language and alphabet] continually changes with time. [Ed. Note: Actually the Greek prefix ortho- makes this word self-contradictory. However there are thousands of words like this and we deal with them.] Short of an authenticated Bailey autograph and documentary evidence that he was literate, we have no way of knowing how he intended his middle name to be spelled.

Maybe Bailey didn't like his actual middle name and didn't care how it was spelled. If people called him Brit Bailey, it is probably because he introduced himself as Brit Bailey. [Was my father's first name Fredrick or Frederick (it's used both ways)? He didn't care because he couldn't stand either one. He used Fred his whole life!] Without an official vital statistics type document to point to or some other writing that provides an example of Bailey's full name, we are left with a variety of examples and are forever condemned to either pick one or try to go with the consensus. Another solution is to find an authoritative body or institution that has an interest and adopt their rendering of the name.

It is the latter approach that we recommend in this case. While "surfing" the Internet, we came upon a marvelous web site established by the Brazoria County [TX] Historical Museum. The URL for it is—

<http://www.tgn.net/~bchm/>

The site is titled *Where Texas Began* and presents the story of Moses Austin and the original 300 settlers. It is an excellent presentation and well illustrated. As an adjunct feature a genealogy database is provided. In that database Brit Bailey is listed as **James Briton Bailey**. This is probably the best we are going to find unless someone wants to track down where the museum got the name and question the source.

We realize that what we just said is a direct lift of the old tongue-in-cheek saying "If it's in the newspaper it must be true." However, when stated in these terms: "If a learned institution uses it that way, it must be correct," the thought at least has some plausible basis. A learned

institution has a mandate to be correct. We wrap garbage in yesterday's newspaper. Academic and archival institutions are supposed to be preservers of truth. So, until the day someone proves otherwise, James Briton Bailey it is for me. If it is ever proven different I would expect Brazoria County Historical Museum to change their database. rcr

### Polley Tools



Subscriber Daryl Polley (daryl@juno.com) provided information on a new mail server set up by Larry Stephens at Indiana Univ. for discussion of POLLEY related genealogical and family history subject matter. For those who are not familiar with the operation of a mail server, it's a rather simple concept. You first become a subscriber to the mail server (a one-time action). Then when you send an E-mail message to the mail server, all the other subscribers receive it. You may choose to be very active (send messages all day long telling everyone about your Polley Ancestors) or be very passive (simply "lurk" around and read all the mail that people send). Most folks start in the latter mode and progress toward the former.

The first step is to subscribe. To do this, send an E-mail to:

**MAISER@rmgate.pop.indiana.edu**

In the body of the message put the following two words: **SUB POLLEY**

The subject line is immaterial. Once the mail server recognizes you as a new subscriber you will get back a message with some information on the operation of the mail server.

Once you become a recognized subscriber you may then send messages related to POLLEY Genealogy. To do this you address your messages to:

**POLLEY@rmgate.pop.indiana.edu**

This is something that mail server users tend to sometimes forget. E-mail postings related to the subject are sent to one address and messages related to your status as a subscriber or requests for administrative help, etc. are sent to another address. Have fun.

===== oo =====

A couple of web sites worth "checking out." Both involve Monroe Co., IN—

<http://www.kiva.net:80/~markh/hacker.html>

details descendants of a Catherine Polley who married William Presley Hacker on 6 Jul 1874.

<http://www.lainet.com:80/~helaman/JACKSON/d0.htm>

presents the family researched by the late Ray Jackson [see Mar '95 issue, pp. 3-5]. rcr



## Polley Progenitors

### The Polleys of Orange Co., NY

by Richard C. Randt

**WARNING!** *The report that follows contains a large amount of speculation. Professional certified genealogists have determined that such speculation may be hazardous to your family tree, resulting in falling leaves, withered limbs, and in the extreme, rotted roots. This report is intended as a think piece, an exercise in how to construct a plausible straw man, a theoretical model to be proven or disproved. When desired data is ostensibly non-existent, a plausible theory will serve to guide your research to places that would otherwise never have occurred to you to look in. Such a straw man or model will give you a series of goals and intermediate objectives as opposed to hunting in the dark, shooting at random targets.* rcr

In our effort to focus on the various clans of Polleys that are relatively small and seemingly detached from the main 17th century Polley progenitors, we look this quarter at Orange County, New York. Orange County is one of the original New York counties, formed in 1683. The county is rich in history, its name being derived from King William III of England, 1650-1702, who was a Prince of the House of Orange. The earliest carbon dated human settlement in North America, over 12,500 years old, may be found in the county. In 1609 Henry Hudson sailed up the river named for him and anchored the "Half Moon" in Cornwall Bay. Washington established his longest residency during the Revolutionary War in Newburgh. It was here he founded the Order of the Purple Heart. Of course, the United States Military Academy at West Point has produced many military leaders of great renown.<sup>1</sup>

From the view of the genealogist seeking documentation on individuals, the earliest deed recorded in Orange county is from 1703. Several of our subscribers have interests there. The largest group of Polley ancestors emanating from Orange Co. belong to Emelie Tolley. Her mother was born Myra Mary Ann Polley who married Albert Edward Tolley in 1923 in a union of rhyming surnames. Emelie's Orange County progenitor, her great-great-grandfather, is John Polley (1798-1861).

Emelie's genealogical interests go back about 20 years. Before her efforts, her first cousin, once removed, Percy M. Polley (1890-1984), collected data on the family heritage and Emelie became interested through his work. Since his death, she has become the *de facto* family

**pro-gen-i-tor** (prō jen' ə tər), *n.* 1 **a** : an ancestor in the direct line : FOREFATHER **b** : a biologically ancestral form 2 : ORIGINATOR, PRECURSOR [Middle English *progenitour*, from Old French *progeniteur*, from Latin *prōgēnitor -ōris*, *m.* the founder of a family; *prōgigno -gignere*, to engender, bring forth.]—

(A composite definition from several dictionaries.)

**POLLEY POINTERS** uses the term *progenitor* in the strict Latin sense (the founder of a family) to indicate the first identified ancestor in a direct line of descent. rcr

historian.

Contact was first made with Emelie by my wife's fourth cousin, John E. Polley, back in 1979. At the time, John was searching Orange Co. records looking for the relationship, if there was one, of his great-grandfather, James H. Polley, Jr., to the other Polleys of the region. What prompted John's search was an obscure reference in an Orange Co. history<sup>2</sup> to a James H. Polley who enlisted in the naval service from the town of Warwick for duty during the Civil War. The article in the county history details how the town raised the funds to offer a bounty for volunteers to fill the town's quota. The accompanying list enumerating the volunteers thus secured includes the simple entry, "James H. Polley, naval service."

Although John's James H. Polley, Jr. was known to be a resident of Washington, DC at the time, and enlistment from Orange Co., NY did not seem to make sense on the surface, it did if certain facts were considered. First, James H.'s father was born in New York City. [The September '96 issue, pp. 8-12 provides details on the father.] Secondly, there were still close family members, an aunt, an uncle and several cousins still residing in the New York City/Brooklyn area at the time of the enlistment. Lastly, there were other, more contemporary, Polley people recorded as New York and Brooklyn residents found during cousin John's research that were easily traceable to Orange County. Thus the obvious conclusion was that our Polleys had ties to Orange County as well. However, that has never been proven. We still view the situation as two separate Polley clans, overlaid, one upon the other, in the New York City area. Whether they knew of each other, or for that matter cared from a genealogical perspective, is unknown. The enlistment of James H. Polley, Jr. from Orange Co. has been attributed, lacking evidence to the contrary, to his simply taking advantage of the bounty being offered, which apparently had no residency requirements.

Emelie's 1979 reply to cousin John indicated she knew little of the family history prior to her progenitor John from Orange Co., NY. The



### Emelie Tolley - Herbs and Roots

Born in Brooklyn and raised in Garden City, NY, subscriber Emelie Tolley now splits her time between New York City and Southampton, NY. After graduating from Garden City High School she attended Wellesley College and The New York School of Interior Design.

Tolley originally pursued a career in fashion, first as an editor at Seventeen Magazine and later as Fashion Director of a major textile producer, but she was always interested in food and gardening. Fashion led to advertising where she became a Vice-President and Account Supervisor at Benton & Bowles.

Her passion for food and gardening was undiminished, however, and while working in advertising she was also a co-founder of a gourmet cookware shop. Later, she co-authored *Kitchen Detail* with Herbert H. Wise and contributed recipes to another of his books, *Picnics and Barbecues*.

Emelie's love for gardens began with her mother and grandmother, both enthusiastic gardeners. In the late 70's Tolley sensed that people were becoming more interested in herbs and founded *Living With Herbs*, a newsletter with subscribers across the United States and in Canada and Europe, which she edited for six years.

The newsletter led to her present career as a successful author and a respected authority on the subject of herbs. In collaboration with photographer Chris Mead, Tolley has written six highly successful books. Their first, *HERBS: GARDENS, DECORATIONS AND RECIPES*, was the original full-color life-style book on the subject and has now become a classic. Sensing the interest and need for more information on all aspects of herbs, Tolley and Mead went on to write the award-winning *COOKING WITH HERBS*.

These and four subsequent works still sell actively with a combined total of half a million in print. In addition, Workman Publishing has issued an *HERBS* calendar based on the books every year since 1987. Another, the twelfth, is in preparation for 1998, testimony to the calendar's success.

Currently Emelie is a contributing editor to *Victoria Magazine* where her column, *From An Herb Lover's Garden*, is seen monthly by approximately one million people. She also lectures frequently and has taught cooking at The Silo and Macy's De Gustibus courses and has demonstrated cooking, the decorative aspects of herbs, and the basics of gardening on television. Articles about her have been seen in *House Beautiful*, *People Magazine*, *Home*, *Family Circle*, and other popular periodicals.

Emelie became interested in her family history observing the efforts of her first cousin, once removed, Percy M. Polley. She has, since his death, been the family historian and genealogist to whom the other members turn with questions of relationship, origin, etc. Our thanks go out to Emelie, who has taken time from her busy schedule to work with your editor to produce the Orange Co., NY feature for this issue.

rcr

names and birth dates of his wife, Mahala Horton, and their eight children, come from what appears to be a copy of a Bible record, listing births, marriages and deaths. However, in subsequent correspondence and conversation with your editor it became quite apparent that Emelie had the great majority of six generations of descendants accounted for and well organized. The list as we currently know it may be found on page 5.

The family history, as far as Emelie has taken it, is a classic example of what one can do with newspaper articles. Fortunate to have the family situated in the New York metropolitan area, Emelie had many news clippings to supplement the family data. Beside the usual data gleaned from obituaries and wedding announcements, she documents a NYC policeman who retired after 20 years on the force and who enjoyed a two month vacation in Europe, a career teacher and school principal, and a World War I hero who was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross. Her grandfather, Edward S. Polley had extensive coverage as he was president and general manager of a rather large milk delivery company in Brooklyn.

Amongst her earlier Polleys, one Civil War soldier has been identified, Sidney Polley, a brother of her great-grandfather, Britton Polley. Sidney was born in Sussex Co., NJ in 1843. [Sussex Co., NJ is just across the New York/New Jersey state line, immediately south of Orange Co., NY.] He married Amanda Robbins in 1862 at Troy in Bradford Co., PA. He enlisted the following year in Company M, 1st New Jersey Cavalry at Moorestown, NJ. According to the data contained in his application for an invalid pension in 1880, his occupation at the time of enlistment was that of carpenter.

Sidney's war record is certainly not spectacular. He was neither wounded by the enemy nor decorated and he did not attain high rank. However, he exemplifies the typical Civil War soldier, Union or Confederate, inasmuch as his greatest enemy was lack of proper sanitation. While located at Brandy Station, VA, he was taken ill with chronic diarrhea and received treatment at three different hospitals. He was finally mustered out in 1865 at Washington, DC.<sup>3</sup> Sidney appears to have recovered fully from the malady that plagued him during his service years. He died on 29 May 1905 at Slate Hill in Orange County. His grave is at Philipsburgh in the same county.

-{Orange Co., NY continued on p. 6}-

Left: POLLEY PROFILE - Emelie Tolley

Right: Table of Descendants - John Polley (1798-1861)



0 1 2 3 4 5 6  
 John Polley (1798-1861)  
 +Mahala Horton (1797-1858)  
 : Armina Polley (1818-dec.)  
 : +Doland  
 : . Mary Doland (1852-1927)  
 : Emily Polley (1819-dec.)  
 : +Bill Luckey  
 : . Edith Luckey  
 : . +Pond  
 : . Emma Luckey  
 : . +Merriot  
 : Alva Polley (1822-dec.)  
 : +Abey Jane McPeck  
 : . Richard F. Polley  
 : . William Polley  
 : . John Polley (1864-1867)  
 : +(?)  
 : Lewis Polley (1825-dec.)  
 : +Hannah Havens  
 : Martha Elizabeth Polley (1827-dec.)  
 : +Pinkney  
 : Sidney Polley (1831-1905)  
 : +Amanda Robbins (?-1912)  
 : . Ophelia Polley (1863-dec.)  
 : . +Quick  
 : . Alice Polley (1870-dec.)  
 : . Myrtie E. Polley (1872-dec.)  
 : . +Ketcham  
 : Phebe Polley (1833-dec.)  
 : +Dunn  
 : . Celia Dunn  
 : . +Baldwin  
 : Britton Polley (1837-1918)  
 : +Mary Ann Mackerley (1843-1922)  
 : . John Mackerley Polley (1863-1929)  
 : . +Etta Albertina Hanford (1866-1916)  
 : . . Albertina Polley (1884-dec.)  
 : . . +Ira Croel Struble (1891-1962)  
 : . . Harvey Clinton Polley (1887-1947)  
 : . . +Amelia Weissman (?-1939)  
 : . . Percy M. Polley (1890-1984)  
 : . . +Hazel Inez Elston (1893-1952)  
 : . . . Robert Elston Polley (1912-1972)  
 : . . . +Beatrice Haneman (1913-dec.)  
 : . . . . Barbara Marie Polley (1933- )  
 : . . . . +James Sheeran (1927- )  
 : . . . . : Cathleen Sheeran (1953- )  
 : . . . . : James Richard Sheeran (1954- )  
 : . . . . : Polley Ann Sheeran (1966- )  
 : . . . . Susan Gail Polley (1943- )  
 : . . . . +Robert Graham Leary (1939- )  
 : . . . . : Robert Leary (1961- )  
 : . . . . : Tara Leary (1962- )  
 : . . . . Dorothy Winifred Polley (1914-dec.)  
 : . . . . +Edward Adrian Taylor (1913-dec.)  
 : . . . . Judith Ann Taylor (1942- )  
 : . . . . Jill Helen Taylor (1945-1945)  
 : . . . . Bruce Wayne Taylor (1948- )  
 : . . . . Beatrice Eleanor Polley (1916-dec.)  
 : . . . . +Arthur Anguelo Alborano (1913-dec.)  
 : . . . . James Arthur Alborano (1947- )

0 1 2 3 4 5 6

0 1 2 3 4 5 6  
 : . . John Kenneth Polley (1905-1963)  
 : . . Laura Ann Polley (1865-1937)  
 : . . +Chauncey Mulock (1862-1911)  
 : . . Jacob Wainwright Elsworth Polley (1867-dec.)  
 : . . +Mary Flynn (1869-dec.)  
 : . . . Britton Polley (1891-dec.)  
 : . . . +Katherine Corolan  
 : . . . Wainwright Polley (1893-1943)  
 : . . . Ralph Polley  
 : . . . +Mamie  
 : . . . . Jean Polley  
 : . . . . Carol Polley  
 : . . Charles M. Polley (1872-1926)  
 : . . +Nellie Shaw (?-1936)  
 : . . . Henry S. Polley (1891-1962)  
 : . . . +Frances X. Hogan (1891-1960)  
 : . . Edward Stiles Polley (1875-1933)  
 : . . +Irene Borgé Hauwaert (1881-1932)  
 : . . . Edward Clinton Polley (1902-1943)  
 : . . . +Grace Doty (1906-1960)  
 : . . . . Edward Doty Polley (1932-1989)  
 : . . . . David Polley (1936-1980)  
 : . . . Myra Mary Ann Polley (1904-1972)  
 : . . . +Albert Edward Tolley (1900-1977)  
 : . . . . Emelie Alice Tolley (1928- )  
 : . . . . Myra Ann Tolley (1932- )  
 : . . . . +Peter Boone Oram (1932- )  
 : . . . . Susan Emelie Oram (1957- )  
 : . . . . +John L. Crispin  
 : . . . . : Christopher Oram Crispin  
 : . . . . (1983-1983)  
 : . . . . : Sarah Emelie Crispin (1985- )  
 : . . . . : Andrew John Crispin (1987- )  
 : . . . . : Toby Ann Crispin (1990- )  
 : . . . . Myra Ann Oram (1959-dec.)  
 : . . . . +James Ernest Saffery  
 : . . . . +Raymond F. Kiltbau (1880-1968)  
 : . . . . Raymond John Polley (1907-1981)  
 : . . . . +Mabel Marie Forster (1907-1986)  
 : . . . . Raymond John Polley (1935- )  
 : . . . . +Kathleen Baxter (1936- )  
 : . . . . Raymond John Polley (1959- )  
 : . . . . Pamela Polley (1961- )  
 : . . . . +Arthur Anderson Huber Jr.  
 : . . . . Devin Polley (1963- )  
 : . . . . +Nicole Lauren Mills  
 : . . . . Kathleen Polley (1965- )  
 : . . . . Irene Elizabeth Polley (1939- )  
 : . . . . +David Eugene Lord (1936- )  
 : . . . . Caroline Lord (1967- )  
 : . . . . David Lord (1969- )  
 : . . . . Kathleen Lord (1971- )  
 : . . . . Emelie Alice Polley (1910-1927)  
 : . . Virgil Eugene Polley (1881-1951)  
 : . . +Annie Baker (1879-1947)  
 : . . Virgil Polley  
 : . . +Virginia Coquelard  
 : . . . Suzanne Polley (1948- )  
 : . . . Joan Christine Polley (1950- )  
 : . . . Virginia Beth Polley (1951- )  
 : . . . Jennifer Polley (1955- )  
 : +Catherine Drake

0 1 2 3 4 5 6



Census Year	Name	Place	Census Page	Town & Data
1790	Moses Polly	Orange Co., NY	p. 139	Goshen Town 01 00 03 00
1790	Samuel Polly	Orange Co., NY	p. 143	Minisink 01 02 03 00
1790	John Pawly	Ulster Co., NY	p. 185	Walkill 01 02 00
1800	John Pawly	Orange Co., NY	p. 306	Montgomery 00010-00010-00
1800	John Pawly	Orange Co., NY	p. 320	Minisink 00101-20200-00
1800	Moses Pawly	Orange Co., NY	p. 319	Minisink 10001-21010-00
1800	Samuel Pawly	Orange Co., NY	p. 317	Minisink 10010-22010-00
1800	William Polley	Orange Co., NY	p. 207A	
1810	William Polly	Orange Co., NY	p. 420	Minisink 30010-30010-00
1810	John Polly	Orange Co., NY	p. 420	Minisink 00001-00001-00
1810	John Polly	Orange Co., NY	p. 436	Goshen 11080-40010-00
1820	Elizabeth Polly	Orange Co., NY	p. 232	Minisink 000000-10010
1820	William Polley	Orange Co., NY	p. 233	Minisink 300010-10010
1820	John Polley	Orange Co., NY	p. 245	Minisink 000101-00101
1820	John Polley	Orange Co., NY	p. 235	Minisink 000100-20100
1830	John Polly	Orange Co., NY	p. 259	Minisink 2100010000000- 1100010000000
1830	John Polley	Sussex Co., NJ	p. 283	Hardiston Twp.
1840	John Polley	Orange Co., NJ	p. 200	Minisink
1840	John Polly	Sussex Co., NJ	p. 37	Hardiston Twp.
1850	John Polley	Sussex Co., NJ	p. 155	Hardiston Twp.

## KEY:

1790: 01 02 03 01 00 MALES 16 & UP, MALES UNDER 16, FREE FEMALES, ALL OTHERS, SLAVES

1800-1810: 54213-34521-00 MALES UNDER 10, MALES 10-16, MALES 16-26, MALES 26-45, MALES 45 & OVER FREE WHITE FEMALES (FWF) UNDER 10, FWF 10-16, FWF 16-26, FWF 26-45, FWF 45 & OLDER, ALL OTHERS, SLAVES

1820: 542313-34521 MALES UNDER 10, MALES 10-16, MALES 16-18, MALES 16-26, MALES 26-45, MALES 45 & OVER FREE WHITE FEMALES (FWF) UNDER 10, FWF 10-16, FWF 16-26, FWF 26-45, FWF 45 & OLDER

1830: 1020301000000-0101201000000 FWM & FWM UNDER 5, 5-10, 10-15, 15-20, 20-30, 30-40, 40-50, 50-60, 60-70, 70-80, 80-90, 90-100, OVER 100

## -{Orange Co., NY continued from p. 4}-

Emelie related in her letter that "family gossip has it that they came here from Ireland in the late 1700s." She also told John, "I know the name was sometimes Paulley— sometimes Polley— but my mother's father spelled it Polley although he

had a shaving mug with Paulley on it."

The main task at hand is to find the origin of this clan of Polleys. However, we do not have an abundance of data to go on. We have a John Polley in a specific place (Orange Co., NY) at a specific time (1798) plus two rather nebulous references indicating a possible origin and the variability of the surname spelling. The first logical action is to get an overall view of the area to see what people were there who possibly caused records to be generated. This is best done through censuses and directories. Since the Orange Co. area was rather rural, directories are not feasible. Thus we explore the census data available to us at the time of this writing. [See the accompanying table at the left.]

It appears that the John Polley, identified as the progenitor of Emelie Tolley's family is the John listed in 1820 (p. 235) with two young females, under 16. The descendant chart indicates John had only two daughters, Arminda and Emily, by 1820. So that bit of information fits. Since the family is known to have lived in Hardiston Township, Sussex Co., NJ, it is logical to assume that the John Poll(e)ys shown highlighted in the table of census data are all one and the same. Who then is/are the other John Pawlys/ Poll(e)ys listed for 1800 (two of them), 1810 (two of them), 1820, 1830, and 1840?

It would seem safe to assume that the 1810 Johns are NOT Emelie's progenitor since he would have been only twelve years old. The same applies to the 1800 John Pawlys. The progenitor would have been but two in 1800. Who then are they? Considering the John on p. 420 in 1810 who appears to be relatively old with an older woman and no young children, he perhaps could be identified as the father of the John and William listed near him in the

same year. The other John of 1810, p. 436, with the large household (some of whom might be hired hands) is probably the one who shows up on p. 245 in 1820. Here (1820, p. 245) the picture is either an older (45 or over) head of household with a marriageable son and daughter



still at home or a younger couple (26-45) who have taken in a set of older parents.

The data for 1810 show only one male in the age category 10-16 (Emelie's John would have been 12). Also, in the next decade (1820), the only John that fits the data is the one with two females under ten and whose own age and that of his wife also fit the data. Thus a guess may be made that the father of Emelie's John is the John of 1810, p. 436, with the large household.

It would appear that the latter John (1810, p. 436) who is one of 8, aged 26-45, and his wife (also aged 26-45) transfer into 1820, both in the age bracket 45 & older. What though of the male and female of age bracket 16-26; where do they come from? They have to come from 1810 out of an age category spanning 6-16. John of 1810, p. 436 has a male under 10 [a 9-year old could have moved to the 16-26 bracket in 1820]. Also, he has four females under 10 in 1810. If they were, for instance just-turned-6, 7, 8, and almost-10, the 6-year-old would fall to the 16-26 bracket in 1820. The other three could be married off and no longer part of the household. Perhaps one or two in the middle became ill and died, or perhaps were not really daughters but cousins or others living in 1810 as part of the household but no longer there in 1820. The point is that there are lots of plausible scenarios to explain the head count transition between 1810 and 1820 for this particular John. Thus the census data and a little logic point strongly to John of 1810, p. 436 and John of 1820, p. 245 being the same person and the great-great-great-grandfather of Emelie Tolley.

The John of 1810, p. 420 is more than likely the previous generation and who probably died before the census of 1820. This latter John is probably one of the John Pawlys of 1800. The other John Pawly probably goes back another generation. Although one can speculate on generations, we hesitate to postulate exact relationships beyond one generation removed from the progenitor. There are too many possible siblings and we cannot be certain that we will stay on the direct line going back from the progenitor.

The preceding "genealogical gymnastics" did not address the John Poll(e)ys of Orange Co. who appear in 1830 and 1840. The data for 1830 show what would appear to be a household with five children and parents in the 30-40 age bracket. One might jump at the fact that

**Polley, Samuel** - New York, Certificate No. 14, 202. Born the 19th of May 1760 in Ireland. Enlisted in 1775 under Capt. Thomas Moffate, Colonel Isaac Nichols, General James Clinton, as a drummer at the age of sixteen. At this time he resided in the town of Goshen, Orange Co., NY. He remained stationed at West Point on the west shore of the Hudson River for three months. He then served five months (commencing in May) in 1776 stationed at New York City under Capt. Joshua Brown as a drummer. During his first two terms the only action he was involved in was a skirmish at White Plains. He also served six months stationed at Newburgh, Orange Co., NY in the year 1777 under, first, Capt. Thomas Moffate, then, Capt. Joshua Brown. He left the service some time in April 1778. After his service, he resided in Orange Co. until 1810 when he moved to the town of Ovid, Seneca Co., NY, where he resided until 1828 when he removed to the town of Starkey, Yates Co., NY. He filed his claim at Starkey, Yates Co., NY, on 29 September 1832, aged 72.

#### Pension Record Extract (synopsis) - Samuel Polley

Emelie's progenitor had five children by 1830 and that the age bracket for the parents was right. However, the known ages of the children do not fit well at all. Besides, it would have to be a case of a person being picked up twice in one census, since the progenitor is already recorded in Sussex Co., NJ in 1830. More than likely this 1830 John Polly is of the same generation as the progenitor, perhaps a cousin of some degree. With five children, on average he had to be married almost ten years. However, both Johns of 1820 are accounted for. He may not yet have been on his own as a head of household in 1820. What family then, might he have come from?

There appears to be no logical family for him in 1820 [barring brothers with the same name]. In 1800 both Samuel and Moses Pawly have young boys that could be the 1830 Orange Co. John. Also one of the three boys with William of 1810 (perhaps almost 10) could be the 1830 John. Where our 1830 John was in 1820 is left to the reader as an exercise. The 1840 John of Orange Co. is more than likely the same person as the 1830 John.

What of Samuel and Moses? Samuel offers some intriguing possibilities. We start with a brief reference from the New York Genealogical & Biographical Record, Vol. 96, p. 234. We read of Samuel Polly, apprentice, age 19, runaway from the transport ship "Duke of Cumberland," Thomas Hurry, Master, in New York City on 18 May 1758.

In the Revolutionary War Pension Records on file at the National Archives in Washington, DC, we read of another [based on his stated age] Samuel Polley. [A synopsis of his pension record is provided above.]



We see a youth, 15 or 16 years old enlisting in the Army of the Revolution from a home in Goshen, NY. Clearly, there must have been a home, a household, where he lived. Unfortunately, the census records do not go back far enough to track him or, perhaps, his father. Samuel's pension record tells us he stayed a resident of Orange Co. until 1810. He is probably the Samuel Pawly of 1800.

In the 1810 census, there is a Samuel Polly who appears in Seneca Co., p. 154, with a household head count of 00101-22001. The pension record has Samuel born in 1760. Therefore he would be 50 in 1810. The head count data shows one male and one female 45 & over. So that checks. He has one male 16-26 and two females under 10 and two more 10-16.

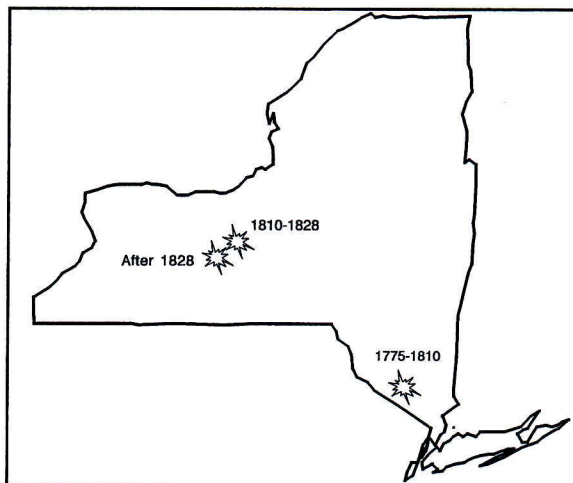
In 1820 there is still a Samuel in Seneca Co., in the town of Covert, p. 55. The head count is not available at this writing.

In 1830, a Samuel Polley appears in Starkey, Yates Co., NY, p. 261, as predicted by the pension record. We know that Samuel the veteran lived at least until 1833. There is a record of his being paid his pension, in Yates Co., for the amount \$49.33, on 6 May 1833, at age 73. There is no Poll(e)y shown in Seneca Co. in 1830. However, another Samuel appears in Ulster Co., in Saugerties, NY, p. 99, in 1830. Ulster Co. is the county adjacent to Orange Co., just to the north. This latter Samuel could conceivably be a son or nephew of Samuel the Revolutionary War veteran, being listed as a head of household for the first time. A sketch map of the movements of Samuel the Rev. War veteran is shown at the right.

With regard to Moses Polly, there is little else in the way of records to tie him to anyone else. He appears in the 1790 census in Goshen with three females. In 1800 a Moses Pawly is recorded. Assuming that it is the same person, who might he be? Perhaps he is the brother of Samuel of the Rev. War. If so, who then might the father be? Samuel, who jumped ship in 1758 in New York City, comes to mind. The ages are right. However there is a problem reconciling dates and places of birth.

The younger Samuel (Rev. War vet.) claimed to be born in Ireland in 1760. It would be a real stretch to postulate a scenario by which the two Samuels we have been discussing could be father and son. The junior could not be born in Ireland two years after his father jumped ship in New York City unless the senior went back to Ireland and that is highly unlikely. In the absence of corroborating data or data that disputes it, a

possible scenario is that Moses was a brother of the senior Samuel and came to America with a wife and child (the younger Samuel) shortly after receiving word of his brother's rash action.



Travels of Samuel Polley, Rev. War Veteran.

Superimposed on top of all the Johns, the Samuels and Williams, and Moses, there is one more Poll(e)y who never gets picked up in any of the censuses, Hugh Poll(e)y. He is a Revolutionary War veteran with multiple references to his service from Orange Co. He was finally issued land warrants (BLWT 7639) for his service as a private in Colonel Jonathan Hasbrouch's regiment of New York Militia. The warrants, issued 15 Sept 1790 for 100 acres were signed over to a William Bell. The latter was a well known buyer of such land warrants in upstate New York, the equivalent of a modern day developer. The only other significant record on Hugh Poll(e)y is one found in *Early Records of the 1st Presbyterian Church at Goshen, Orange Co., New York from 1767-1885*, compiled by Charles C. Coleman: Goshen, 1934. On page 16 is found an entry:

"... May 14, 1786 Hugh Polley m. Jane Polley ..."

This latter record is quite intriguing as Polley/Polley marriages are not common. Who Jane Polley was, is unknown. Hugh Polley certainly sounds Irish enough, perhaps a brother to Samuel the Rev. War vet?

Readers may recall, in previous issues, discussion of the work of Canadian researcher Charles A. Hesson in determining his personal genealogy. In his papers he enumerated a number of Polley families, on which he had some data, for purposes of telling potential sources that he knew of them and was not related. The first five families enumerated are transcribed in the chart provided at the right. As a date reference, remember that



this work was set to paper in 1890; otherwise Hesson does not date his material very well.

Note that the name Hugh appears five times in this listing and each one is in some way associated with Ireland. This list probably has nothing at all to do with the Hugh Polley of Orange Co., NY, but it is offered as a demonstration that Hugh Polley is more than likely an Irish name, which lends additional support to Emelie Tolley's family tradition that her Polleys were Irish.

We began this piece by saying that there were several readers with interests in Orange Co., NY. Subscriber Pat Kennedy also has interests there. Her ancestor, Hugh McConnell (1762-1829) was a Rev. War soldier, said to be a drummer or a fifer. He married a Mary Pauley in 1783 in Minisink. Both Hugh and Mary are buried in the Manning Cemetery in Greenville, Orange Co., NY. Their marriage record is indexed under Pauley/Polly/Pauly so apparently there was some ambivalence regarding the name spelling. In the same cemetery there are several Pauleys. There is Frances E. Pauley, b. 3 Oct 1824, wife of Coe Manning, d. 11 Apr 1909. Also, we find John Pauley (d. 27 Jul 1854, age 51 y 7 m 3 d) and his wife Elizabeth (d. 22 Jun 1874, age 75 y 2 m 9 d). Thus we bolster the notion that the Polley name in Orange Co. had the spelling flexibility to have some members who carried it as Pauley, Paulley, Pauly, or Pawly. Also, for the early census records, the spellings we find in the originals and the various indexes are not necessarily consistent. [See sidebar, *The Census and Its Quirks*, p. 16.]

Among her family history documents, Pat Kennedy also has statements from a great-grandmother and others that they believed the family, including Mary Pauley, had Irish origins.

It is quite apparent that the Polley research in Orange Co., NY is not yet complete. Obviously

lacking is complete 1850, and possibly 1860 and 1870, census data that should put names on some of the people we have been discussing. More importantly, these latter three censuses ask for a birthplace. If the question was properly answered by the respondents, these records could help us turn guesswork into acceptable genealogical evidence.

Cornwall Polleys		
Polley Wm. Jacob d.1867		Came from Mass. or
" Edson	Cornwall, Ont	N.H. about time of
" Alvin	Toronto	American War (so says his son Edson)
N. Brunswick family -		
Polley Babbin		Babbin's g father came from West
" Thomas (son)		England to Ireland & his father
" James P. (g.son)		was born in Belfast, having not
" Robert P. (gg son)		known family came to N.B. about
" Jas P. (ggg son)		65 years ago and now live at St. Stephens N.B.
Amherst Isle family -		
Polley Hugh		South of England to Ireland. Had a
" John		brother in U.S.A. Jno born about 1796.
" Hugh		Came to Canada 1840.
" Thomas Capt		Lived Huron Co. Ontario
" John		" Slater, Amherst Isle
" Alex		" Chatham, Ont
" Samuel		" Kingston "
" Hugh		" Chicago, Ill
		lived in England
Castleton Ont. family		
Polley William		of English descent, in Ireland
" Margaret Skillen		
1. Robert		Rob't came from Belfast in 1815.
" William		living at Castleton
" Hugh		
" James		West Indies
" John		
Belfast family		
Hugh Polley		from SE England to Ireland
Dempster "		went to Glasgow Scotland
Jno Polley		" " " "
James "		" " " "
David "		" " " "
Alex "		" " " "
Jno L. "		" " " "
		} sons of James in Canada, probably Halifax, NS
		>Hugh David in N. York
		Alex in N. Zealand
		Jno in Belfast Ireland

Transcription of a portion of the research work of Charles A. Hesson.

*As I warned at the beginning, this article is laced with speculation. It may be good, it may be awful. But lacking hard evidence with which to start formal research, one must take an educated guess to steer the search process in the right direction initially. That educated guess is facilitated by building a plausible scenario for the comings and goings of the key players among*



*your ancestors. Hopefully the minor players will fall out as you begin to uncover and formally document the major ones.*

Notes:

1. *The History of Orange County*, Orange County Tourism Internet web site, <http://www.orangetourism.org/History.html>
2. *History of Orange County, New York, with Illustrations and Biographical Sketches of Many of Its Pioneers and Prominent Men*, compiled by E.M. Ruttenber and L.H. Clark, et al., Philadelphia, Everts & Peck, 1881. Reprinted 1981 by Heart of the Lakes Publishing, Interlaken, NY 14847, 2 vols. (Call No. F127 O8 R91 1980 v.1/2), pp. 599-603.
3. National Archives, Civil War records— POLLEY, Sidney, Company M, 1st New Jersey Cavalry, Widow's Certificate No. 601,080.

Welcome Aboard



**Nancy Clay Hampton** - Nancy is a cousin of subscriber Barbara Adams Knox whose Polley line emanates from the Virginia Polleys. We hope to hear more about Nancy's research efforts very soon. **Address: P.O. Box 663, Barbourville, KY 40906. Tel.: 606.546.3292**

**Frank E. Reeher** - Frank is a relation of subscribers Helen Stewart, Esther McDermott and others. His Polley line is: George<sup>1</sup>, John<sup>2</sup>, Matthew<sup>3</sup>, Jonathan<sup>4</sup>, Jonathan, Jr.<sup>5</sup>, Abner Hubbard<sup>6</sup>, Benjamin Franklin<sup>7</sup>, Stephen Sylvester<sup>8</sup>, Frank Lamont<sup>9</sup>, Elizabeth Grace<sup>10</sup>. Frank's mother, Elizabeth Grace<sup>10</sup>, married John Thomas Reeher. There is also another Polley/Reeher connection in that Abner Hubbard<sup>6</sup> married Margaret Reeher, a half-sister of Frank's 3GGF in the direct Reeher male line. Frank has been researching but a relatively short time and has compiled a large amount of data. He was drawn into our hobby through inquiries from his distant cousins. Frank is a life long resident of Mercer Co., PA. He is a veteran of WWII and Korea and an active VFW member. He is retired and a widower after 47 years of marriage. Frank is very active in church and community affairs. He is well known for his poetry, mostly of a religious nature. A sample of his work appears on p. 14. **Address: 560 East Beaver St., Mercer, PA 16137-1408. Tel.: 412.662.3195**

**Robert E. Polley** - Bob was located by your editor via Internet correspondence with a Purdy researcher who had been alert to our Polley interest. And what a contact indeed! Robert E. Polley is a native of Columbus, OH and has an

ancestry that, by his own description, is very strong in "hillbillies." [Ed. Note: A good dictionary word, and as best we can tell, not declared *verboten* by the PC Police.] His Polley line stems from the progenitor David in Virginia who begot Edward the Revolutionary War veteran. The line is: David<sup>1</sup>, Edward<sup>2</sup>, David<sup>3</sup>, Randolph<sup>4</sup>, Edward "Ned"<sup>5</sup>, Arthur J.<sup>6</sup>, Robert E.<sup>7</sup>. Bob is now retired from a successful career in education. He has taught at all levels from elementary through college. After stints at a number of colleges, Bob developed a specialty in anthropology. In the late 1960s, while doing research for a course he was developing on Appalachian Culture, the large number of Polleys in Letcher Co., KY caught his fancy. From there it was but a simple step to cross over to genealogy and become one of us! He has put his findings to date between two covers and offers his book to interested readers. [See *The Book Nook*.] Bob hopes to complete his research in the next few years to coincide with the dawn of the new century. **Address: 258 David Avenue, Lehigh Acres, FL 33936. Tel.: 941.369.7543. E-mail: REPolley@aol.com**

- Corrections -

**Terry & Isabel Defenbaugh** - The Defenbaughs have a completely new address: **Co. A 54th Engr. Bn, Unit 27560 - Box 989, APO AE 09139.**

**David Freeman** - David has changed his Internet provider. His new online E-mail address is: **freeman@iniaccess.net.au**

**Patricia Kennedy** - Pat has been assigned a new area code. Her phone number is now: **541.779.6090**

**Marian J. Bryson McGowen** - Marian has changed her Internet provider. Her new online E-mail address is: **jmcgowen@brightok.net**

**Marvin W. Paule** - Marvin has been assigned a new area code. His phone number is now: **330.434.4643**

**Phyllis Plambeck** - Phyllis has modified her Internet service. Prodigy subscribers may still reach her at ID **PGJN62B**. E-mail via other providers should be sent to: **RenoGen@prodigy.net**

**Daryl L. Polley** - Daryl has changed his Internet provider. His new online E-mail address is: **daryl@juno.com**

**Lisa M. Polley** - Lisa has changed her address, phone number and Internet provider. **Address: 10681 Hamilton Plaza #408, Omaha, NE 68114. Tel.: 402.445.4830. E-mail: Impolle@aol.com**

**Ray E. Polley** - Ray's ZIP code requires changing. The complete address should read: **4308 West 175th Place, Country Club Hills, IL 60478.**



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**Researcher Listings**


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

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**Queries**


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

**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?

**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.

**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].

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

**Evelyn G. White** - Seeks mar. & ch. of Josiah Polley b. 16 Aug 1746, Dudley, MA, son of John Polley (1711-1750/1) and Mary Hatch. Also seek any info on par., mar., or ch. of a Josiah Polley who came to live with Dea. Thos. Buckminster, Framingham, MA, on 6 Jun 1781, at age 11.

**James L. Polley, John E. Polley, and Susan M. Randt** - All seeking anc. & POB of David Polley, b. 4 Sep 1786; d. ca. 1834, NYC; m. 1 Jan 1811, Hannah Purdy, b. 1 Apr 1795, VT.

**Jean M. Brewer** - Need info on family of Zachariah Polley, b. ca. 1806, m. Nancy \_\_\_\_; their son



James Wesley Polley, b. ca. 1841, m. Mary McClary; their son George Wesley Polley b. ca. 1870, m. Frances Turpin; their son Neff Polley, b. ca. 1923, m. Frances Fuhr. They last lived in Brown Co., IN.

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

**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.

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

### Readers Write

Marian McGowen sends the following E-mail: "I have 'met' some more Paul-eyes through **POLLEY POINTERS**, one being Mr. James L. Pauley, Jr. He contacted me because he saw my full name, Marian BRYSON McGowen, written out. He also has a BRYSON line. I told my aunt about him, for she is the one who works that line, and they contacted each other. As a result, it appears we have a connection there in a John Bryson, Sr. born in the 1690s. Thanks to **POLLEY POINTERS** for this connection!! You just never know . . ."

*Aw, shucks Marian, 'tweren't nothin'.*

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\* 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 June 97] \$2.50 each.

\* **NEW!** A comprehensive compilation of the Woburn Polleys. *The Descendants of George Polly 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.

### Polleys in the Kitchen

We have been toying with an idea, suggested by my wife Susan, for a recurring feature that would present and discuss the way Polleys have prepared food for themselves and their families. If there turned out to be enough material, a Polley Cookbook might emerge. It would be nice if we could collect family recipes that have documented connections to a Polley somewhere. By that definition any Polley descendant who ever put together ingredients in any slightly unusual way would qualify. Beyond recipes though, any anecdote involving food preparation, or the role of food in the life of your Polley ancestor would be of interest.

By way of example consider the following extracts from the 1870 letters of Frank B. Polley, Kansas pioneer who had taken advantage of the Homestead Act. Twice a widower with a young daughter back in New York under the care of a sister-in-law, Frank writes to daughter Carrie and to his sister Catharine Heynen:

Sunday May 15 1870

Dear Carrie,

. . . Farming is hard work, but an independent life as you can do as you please, and that is what I like. Freedom above all things. I am going to take a ride this

afternoon to look around, as I have not done so since being on the farm. You properly will want to know how I get along at cooking. I think first rate as last week I got some corn starch and milk and made some pudding without eggs and it was first best. I first let some milk warm then put in the corn starch and sugar then it got quite thick then put it into the oven and bake it. I thought it was first best. Sometimes I have griddle cakes made out [of] flour water and a little sugar. I have had beans all the week as I cooked so many that I had to cook them over again on account of smeling old.

I cook some apples in an iron kettle one day and had to throw them all away as they were all black. I found out that tin is the article wanted. My pots are all new and want to have grease boil in them. Today I boiled part of a ham in one.

My dinner will be light as I am to lazy to go after milk and it will consist only of boiled ham, bread molasses and coffee. Sometimes I feed much better but I must not drink so much coffee as it makes me so nervous that I cannot sleep - . . .

Father

Saturday, June 4th 1870

My Dear Sister,

. . . I do my own cooking and washing and am getting quite expert at the business. Cook only once a day, then enough for 3 meals. My food consists of Bacon or Ham Beans, Bread, Corn Starch, Potatoes &c, and can get milk by going after it about ¼ mile but at times go without it, than go for it. This would be a splended place for Bill Polley to come out here and start a store, as they are starting a town one mile south of me, and he can get a lot to build for nothing if he will build a store or a house upon it, and in a year or so will make money fast. . . .

Polley

Not exactly gourmet fare, but to Frank it was the sustenance necessary for him to work his 160 Acres, build his house, and to make ready for the eventual arrival of Carrie and his wife-to-be, Emily Comstock.

Food is a large part of our lives. Many family stories and traditions revolve around food, particularly during holidays, at religious events and other festive times. Think about your particular family and their traditions. Can you come up with a page long (or even a half page) story that centers on food. It would be even better if it had a recipe or so in it, but that's not necessary.

By the way, has anyone ever had a case of finding family data inscribed in a cookbook? I am told that cookbooks are sometimes used in lieu of a Bible for this purpose. A discussion of such a find would probably be of interest in the food feature.

So, can we make this a regular feature? We await your mail. rcr



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**Polley Poetry**


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New subscriber, Frank E. Reeher, besides being involved in genealogical research, is also an accomplished poet. Many of his works have been published in the National Library of Poetry Anthologies. He is a member of the International Poetry Hall of Fame. Two of his poems currently appear on the web site pages of the latter group. The URL is—

<http://www.poets.com/FrankReeher.html>

**POLLEY POINTERS** has been privileged to receive one of Frank's poems for publication. It expresses his thoughts on the thrilling experience we have all felt when learning of our heritage through discovery of ancestors from ages past. For those readers unfamiliar with Frank's line of Polleys, the lady mentioned in the first stanza is reader Helen Stewart, Frank's fourth cousin, who got him started with a few simple questions. We hope you enjoy it. rcr

**My Wonder**  
by Frank E. Reeher

It all started one bright winter day,  
When I got a call from out California way.  
The lady who was on the telephone line,  
Said she may be a relative of mine.

We had a very pleasant little chat,  
She asked, where my grandpa was at.  
Asking also about my mother so dear,  
I replied, they are no longer here.  
I gave her my mother's maiden name,  
Her grandmother's name, it was the same.

The answers to her questions, I could not tell,  
For my relatives, I did not know that well.  
I suddenly knew deep in my heart,  
Questions suppressed, had a new start.

I had oft times wondered, who came before me,  
So I began to search my family tree.  
Beginning with my dad, and then on back,  
I slowly traced my ancestral track.

As I searched each family, who was before me,  
I wondered if they knew what life would be,  
As a new world, they came to see.  
Were they born here, or in an old world place?  
Surprise was in store, as I began to trace.

Each family and members, one at a time,  
The ancestors slowly fell into line.  
And as I delved into names and places,  
I could almost see the people's faces.  
It seemed as if they were smiling at me,  
Because I was searching my family tree.

©1997, Frank E. Reeher

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**The Book Nook**


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***Biographies of Franklin, Jefferson, Washington, Crawford, and Gasconade Counties, Missouri***, originally published in 1888 by the Goodspeed Publishing Co., has been reprinted by Heritage Books, Inc. The volume, ISBN 0-7884-0187-4, Pub. Cat. No. G555, is paper bound with 480 pages and sells for \$33.00 plus \$4.00 S&H. Heritage accepts Visa, MC, checks, and M.O.

The reprinted volume consists of Part III of the original text: biographical sketches of the residents of these five Missouri counties at the end of the nineteenth century. [Part II, history of the same counties is also available from Heritage, Cat. No. G554, at \$37.50 + \$4 S&H.]

The more than one thousand sketches presented in this book are arranged alphabetically by county. Biographical information, although compiled by the editors, was wholly furnished by the persons profiled. Written in a readable, engaging manner, sketches detail everything from ancestry to occupation to family data to religious and social affiliations in the subjects' lives. Occasionally, poems and other personal writings are included. Subjects are for the most part male, but an occasional (widowed) female is also presented.

In addition, the text contains portraits of several individuals and a new surname index provides easy access to the many names found in the text.

If you have interests in these counties of Missouri, this volume and its companion may be a must for your personal collection. Available direct from the publisher at 1540-E Pointer Ridge Pl., Suite 300, Bowie, MD 20716. Catalog of other titles available on request.

***The Diary of Court House Square: Warrenton, Virginia, USA, From Early Times Through 1986, With 1987-1995 Reflections***, revised edition, by Lee Moffett. This book, an original work first published in 1988, has been updated and now contains a whole new section on the intervening years through 1995. The revision, published in 1996 by Heritage Books, Inc., ISBN 0-7884-0544-6, Pub. Cat. No. M522, is paper bound with 364 pages and sells for \$23.00 plus \$4.00 S&H. Heritage accepts Visa, MC, checks, and M.O.

The history set forth in this valuable text begins in the 1600s, with the region's native



inhabitants and European settlers, and chronicles events through recent years— a gold mine of information about Court House Square in Warrenton, Virginia.

Personal archives, deed books, newspapers, town council and other public records, and numerous other sources have all been tapped to produce this chronological history, given flavor by the narrator's storytelling style. Packed with names and events, the passages prove as entertaining as they are informative. The courthouse, the jail, the theater, the library, the surrounding stores: each has its own distinctive story to tell. Also in these pages can be found tales of the people: everyday life, carnivals and parades, concerts, sermons, leisurely strolls, other social and business events.

Sources are well documented; a section toward the book's end includes a partial list of Court House Square properties and their uses, from the late 18th century through the 1990s. A 1921 map of Warrenton, deed book maps, and many photos and illustrations of buildings on Court House Square further enrich the text. The everyname index plus subject index make data searches easy.

"What has happened to the many, many people who walked along Court House Square or lived and worked in its neighborhoods? How many ghosts walk the streets on dark nights? How have all the different businesses changed the face of the Square and Main Street? And, how is it still changing?" These are just some of the questions posed and answered by this comprehensive work.

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

***Polley Family History***, by Robert E. Polley, was self-published in 1996 by the author. The volume is paper bound, contains 130 pages and is profusely illustrated with family pictures. It sells for \$10.00, post paid.

The Polleys of Virginia and Kentucky are an extremely difficult family to research. Although they are an integral part of the history of both commonwealths and go back to the earliest days of colonial Virginia and the very beginnings of Kentucky as westward expansion began, for one reason or another, the official paper trail they

left, that aspect of genealogy we call documentation, often times goes cold. In such situations researchers must rely heavily on oral histories, Bible records and many non-traditional sources.

The author has done just that, putting together a remarkable, albeit non-traditional, family history that paints a portrait of a line of Polleys reaching back to pre-Revolution times in Pittsylvania Co., VA. He begins with a focus on Edward Polley, a veteran of the Revolution, his wife Mary Agnes Mullins, and their children. In a unique narrative style, the author takes the reader through six generations, introducing his ancestors as well as himself, describing their varied lifestyles including foibles that are normally omitted in works like this. This "warts and all" style is what makes this work attention grabbing and does much to give the reader confidence in the genealogical data that is woven into the narrative. However, the author freely admits to a few possible flaws in his research and solicits appropriate inputs and corrections. He envisions a future revision.

The book is definitely not a classic genealogical register report in the standardized style of NGS or NEHGS. It contains nary a footnote, endnote or bibliographic reference. It is the story of Robert E. Polley's ancestors, Polleys as well as many other Appalachian families, as told by Robert E. Polley. It reads as if it were a transcription of an oral history recording. The flow of information is well organized and transitions quite well between major families. Some of the surnames covered include: Adams, Boggs, Collins, Griffith, Hensley, Kitchen, Lester, Roseberry, Steele, Thompson and Williams. The transitions between anecdotal information and genealogical information is sometimes a bit abrupt, but this is actually useful to keep the reader oriented.

Throughout the work, the author makes the various intricate, sometimes obscure, relationships that are characteristic of the Appalachian region quite clear, spelling them out in detail with reference to himself.

If you are a Polley descendant with roots in Virginia and/or Kentucky, you will probably enjoy reading this snapshot of regional Americana simply for background, particularly if you were not raised there. Additionally, the odds are pretty good that you will find a distant cousin or two in its pages. This book is definitely worth the modest price. Available direct from the author at 258 David Ave., Lehigh Acres, FL 33972.



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**POLLEY POINTERS** is a genealogical newsletter dedicated to research on the surname POLLEY and all its variants. \*\* Edited & Published by:  
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9146 Winding Way  
Ellicott City, MD 21043-6446  
U.S.A. Subscription price: \$10.00 for 4 issues.  
International Subscr. price: \$14.00 (US funds).

**The Census and Its Quirks**

Census index name spellings are influenced by two main factors. The first is how the enumerator wrote down what he heard. Even if he asked, "How do you spell that?", all too often it was found that the respondent was illiterate and thus it was up to the enumerator to "invent" a spelling. If the enumerator was not as literate as he should have been, his interpretation of what he heard may not have been close to reality.

The second factor is how the preparers of modern indexes interpret the handwriting of the enumerators as found on microfilms of the originals, microfilms that may or may not be very clear with good contrast and focus.

Your editor has a personal case in point. An open bubble and a short loop on the letter "d" turns Purdy into Purcey in an important 1810 census reference. Inspection of the microfilm and multiple entries revealed the consistency of the handwriting in the original, confirming Purdy. An isolated view of the one entry was indeed ambiguous. It is a small wonder that any census data can ever be considered 100% reliable. rcr

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