



## Message from the President

Katherine Goldberg

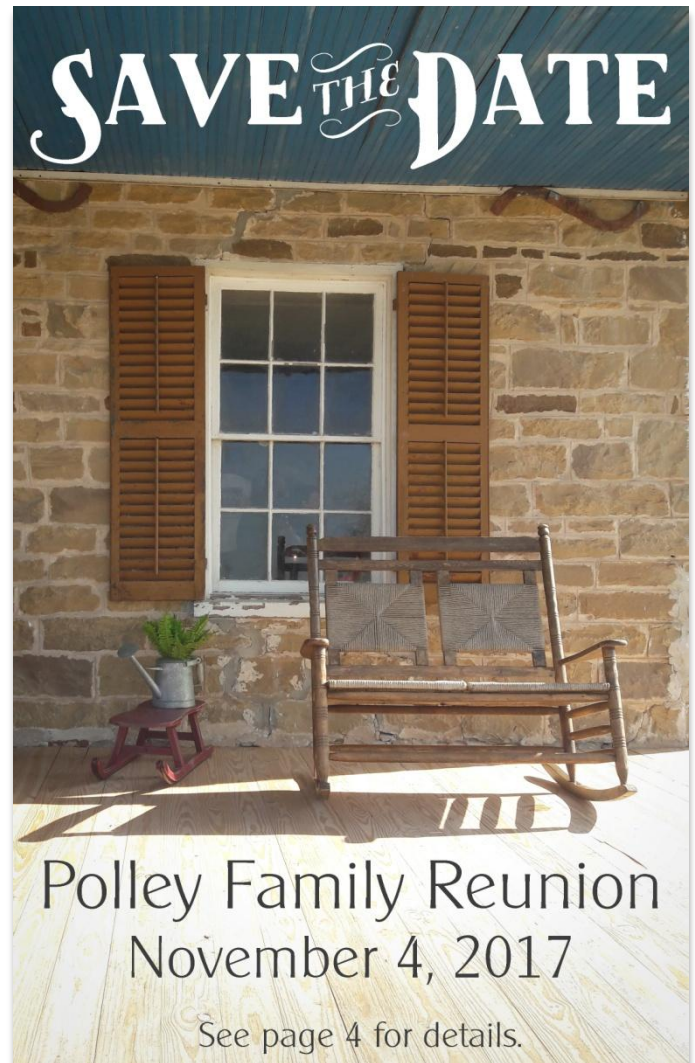
I am happy to report that 2017 is looking to be a good year for the Polley Association and the Polley Mansion!

On January 21, 2017, Keith and Robin Muschalek were presented with the Wilson County Beautification Society Award for their work cleaning up the Polley Mansion (Page 3). After the award was presented, nearly 300 people took advantage of the opportunity to view the home. The weather was beautiful as light came streaming in through the windows, children were playing and swinging in the yard, and joyful voices told stories of fond memories at Whitehall.

Later this year the Polley Association will have the honor of reviving the home's tradition of hosting great gatherings as we get together for the Polley family reunion, set for November 4, 2017!

At the Beautification Award event, I was asked how my interest in our family's history was sparked. I undoubtedly smiled as I remembered that it all began with my father, who passed away this last year. My dad and grandfather brought me to see the Polley Mansion when I was about 12 years old. I was enchanted by the stories of the Polley family and the thought that I was somehow part of it. My dad and I loved to share each new fact that we found in our research about the family or Whitehall. We bonded over our shared family history that was so tangible when standing in front of the Polley Mansion where so many of the stories took place.

I think that is why the Polley Mansion is so valuable to all of us. It brings us together. It bonds us to one another. It gives us a sense of place and belonging. We can chart our spot in the great timeline of Texas history. And even after the people are gone, whether it be my dad, Duncan Hall, or even Joseph H. Polley, himself, we can still connect to them through the stories and the places that our family called home.



Keith and Robin Muschalek have worked so hard on Whitehall, and we want to support them in their efforts to restore the family home that grounds us and gives us hope that our family history will live on, not just through our memories, but also through the very tangible structure that is Whitehall. See the donation insert, for details on how you may be able to support their efforts.

I look forward to meeting everyone this November, and hearing the stories that connect you to Whitehall and the Polley family.

All the Best,  
Katherine Goldberg

## 2017-2018 Membership

Your membership is important to us and your dues help the association to preserve the legacy of Joseph H. Polley and his family. Association dues remain at \$25.00 for the year, and we would appreciate payment by May 31st. You can do this by credit card online by going to [www.PolleyAssociation.org/get-involved](http://www.PolleyAssociation.org/get-involved), or you can mail your checks to:

Shirley Grammer  
P.O. Box 234  
La Vernia, Texas 78121

If you know anyone who might be interested in the Polley family history, now is the time to invite them to join the Polley Association! We have exciting things planned on the horizon and it is a great time to be a part of this group.



*Polley Family Cemetery – January 2017  
Flying the American, Texas Republic, and Mexican 1824 Flag  
for the Beautification Award ceremony.*

### WE'RE ONLINE!

We are excited to announce that the Polley Association website is up and running! The website contains:

- Polley Family History & Biographies
- Whitehall History
- Membership Sign Up & Renewal

Check it out at:

[www.PolleyAssociation.org](http://www.PolleyAssociation.org)

We are also collecting email addresses so that we can more easily communicate Polley news and updates.



Send your email address to  
[PolleyAssociation@gmail.com](mailto:PolleyAssociation@gmail.com)

## Thank you for your support!

We received a wonderful donation of \$250 from Melissa and Chris Lingwall, of Cedar Hill, Texas. They requested the money be directed to the area of greatest need, and the Officers agreed that the money would go toward the restoration at Whitehall.

We have also received the generous offer from Todd and DoraLea Polley, currently of San Antonio, Texas, to fund the restoration of the headstones of Joseph Egbert Polley, Jr., and Juliett Grayson Polley in the Sutherland Springs Cemetery.

### Officers

President - Katherine Goldberg  
Vice President - Melinda Kilian  
Secretary - Pam O'Connor  
Treasurer - Shirley Grammer



## In Memoriam

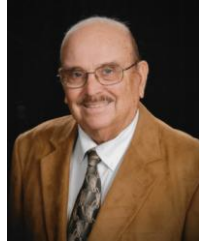
We remember those who we have lost in the last year; the people we loved, the people who shaped and inspired us...we will miss you.



Margaret "Peggy"  
Everts



Duncan W. Hall



Robert Muschalek

## Cemetery Update

The Polley Cemetery on FM 539 in Wilson County is still under the care of the Polley Association. Shirley Grammer had several duplicate stones (with incorrect dates on them) removed, so that all the stones are accurate and in fairly good shape. Lupe Campos mows the cemetery regularly and keeps the grounds looking nice.

For a list of who is buried in the Polley Cemetery, visit [www.PolleyAssociation.org/polley-family-cemetery](http://www.PolleyAssociation.org/polley-family-cemetery)

## Wilson County Beautification Award

On January 21, 2017, Keith and Robin Muschalek, the owners of the Polley Mansion, were awarded the Wilson County Beautification Society Award for their efforts to clean up Whitehall (Polley Mansion). The event was attended by nearly 300 people who gathered on a beautiful day for the award ceremony and a walk-through open house of Whitehall. It was the first time that a large group has been able to see the inside of the mansion since the clean up and restoration began.

Keith and Robin, along with the help of friends and family, have really done a great job of cleaning up the property and the mansion, which was in a terrible state of disrepair and filled with junk. The next phase of restoration will include repairing and replacing windows, rebuilding porches, and much more. Congratulations to the Muschalek's on the beautification award, and thank you for all of your hard work in restoring Whitehall!



*Wilson County Beautification Ceremony at Whitehall  
January 21, 2017*



*Photo of attendees at the Beautification Ceremony  
January 21, 2017  
(Photo Credit to Harry Grover)*



Keith & Robin Muschalek  
with Polley Descendents  
Polley Mansion | January 21, 2017



Polley Mansion Cook House

## Polley Family Reunion

Come celebrate the history and legacy of the Polley family!

Saturday, November 4, 2017

We will gather to hear the story of the Polley family in Texas, meet with fellow Polley descendents, learn more about the events the Polley's lived through, and visit the area cemeteries that serve as the final resting place for Joseph Henry and Mary Bailey Polley and their family.

Keith and Robin Muschalek have graciously offered to host the reunion at the Polley Mansion, and we are thrilled to reconnect with all of our Polley friends and family in the old family home!

Invitations will be coming as we get closer to the event, including details about where to stay and local information for your trip to Wilson County.

**We need your help!** We want to include as many Polley descendents as would like to attend, but we need updated contact information to send them an invitation. So please pass along word of the reunion to your family members, and encourage them to sign up with the Polley Association!



Polley Mansion Fireplace



Polley Mansion Front