

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

As promised in our first issue, the editorial section this time will be mercifully short. We had a great time launching **Polley Pointers**. Your newsletter can truly be called a product of the modern electronic age. Without the PC and laser printer for composition and production, it would not have happened. WordPerfect 5.1 and I have gotten to know each other really well! Also, without the e-mail coordination conducted via Internet between your publisher and editor, during the gestation period of **Polley Pointers**, your newsletter would still be a pipe dream.

Beside the technical aspects of producing a newsletter, the real fun part was touching base with many of my original Polley correspondents. It was good to talk to all of you. I hope we can count on your support to make **Polley Pointers** a viable, productive research tool.

As I speculate in this quarter's article on former researchers, in the Past Polleys feature, some of our predecessors would have been miles ahead if they had the tools we have at our disposal today. I'm sure they would have jumped at the chance to contribute their knowledge to a newsletter like **Polley Pointers**, had it existed in their time.

A couple of administrative notes. The **Polley Pointers** policy, as well as the general requirements for the various regular departments were stated in the initial issue. In the interest of providing as much genealogy as possible, these items will not be repeated each time. Please refer to your initial issue. If you didn't get one or have misplaced it, I'm sure that Michael Polley can send you another (just this once).

Also, if your **Polley Pointers** arrives damaged, please let us know. We can replace a badly torn up copy, and if it happens too often, we'll consider using an outer wrapper.

I'm about to break my promise, so I'll end this section and get on with some genealogy. Thanks again to everyone for all your support.

Dick Randt

Polley Profile

For Walt and Diane Neubauer, the Polley search began in the summer of 1992 when Diane's young niece, Julie Johnson, expressed interest in her ancestors. She had been reading about the impact of the Polleys during the early years of Massena, NY, where she lives. Diane and Julie are descended from the Woburn, MA, Polleys (George¹, George², Ebenezer³, Joseph⁴, Joseph⁵, Amos⁶, Hiram⁷, Ida⁸). The Polley farm in Massena, once the residence of Diane's maternal grandmother, is a fond childhood memory for her and her brother, Gary Johnson, Julie's father.

Naively thinking that anything Julie would like to know about her Polley forebears could be easily garnered from a brief visit to the historical museum in Massena, they casually started out. Diane now wishes someone could have captured the expression on her face when the local historian handed up a thick Polley file filled with names she never heard of!

Tracking down Polleys soon resulted in an avalanche of information. During a visit to the LDS Family History Center near Syracuse, NY, Walt and Diane found a message on a microfiche record to contact Richard and Susan Randt. They soon had Dick and Susan's first "book" which covered the earlier generations related to Diane.

Because of the research done by the Randts, augmenting that of John E. Polley, Diane and Walt were able to correct a variety of misinformation contained in local newspaper articles regarding the Massena Polleys. This new data was shared with family and was passed on to the Massena Historical Museum. Moreover, Walt and Diane could then give their attention to gathering information on the more recent Polley descendants and share this knowledge with Dick and Susan.

The search for Polleys and those related to them came to life, in a literal sense, when Diane began to discover "cousins" (usually the 2nd or 4th variety) that she either never knew existed or only vaguely heard of, but had no contact with.

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POLLEY POINTERS is a genealogical newsletter dedicated to research on the surname POLLEY and all its variants.

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Protect Your Work

- * If possible keep copies of all written work, computer disks, etc. at another address.
- * Work with copies of vital records documents. Avoid handling and annotating originals.
- * Put your name, address and phone number in notebooks and other material taken to libraries, archives, etc. in the event of loss.
- * Backup computer files each session and weekly.
- * Avoid storage of materials in hot attics or damp basements.
- * Plan for the disposition of your research materials. If your family is not interested, check with your local genealogy or historical society.
- * Publish your work in POLLEY POINTERS.

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17917 Rainbow
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FIRST CLASS MAIL

TO:

Polley Progenitors

George Polly was a carpenter by trade. Land was ordered laid out to him in Woburn, MA on 3 February 1648/49. He was chosen surveyor of fences in 1665. He is recorded as being taxed in Woburn in 1655 and again in 1663/64. He was taxed at the county rate 26 October 1666. His right to share in the common lands of the town was acknowledged in 1668. He gave testimony in court on 2 April 1668 and his age at the time was recorded as 43. It is this latter record on which his approximate year of birth (1625) is based. He was summoned to court with others 18 June 1670 in a debt case, giving testimony there on 21 June 1670.

Banks¹ is the only source that indicates the origins of George Polly. It says he was from Shoreditch (St. Leonard Parish), Middlesex County in England. No date or ship name are given. Shoreditch today is an area within the city of London. McArthur² asserts that George Polly was in Woburn before 1649. That would seem to be borne out by the presence of the Winn family as early as eight years before Polly.

A George Polly served in King Philip's War under Captain John Carter (or Cutler). (See Bodge's 1906 King Philip's War, p. 286 and D.H. Hurd's 1890 History of Middlesex Co., Mass., pp. 382-383. The latter quotes some of Bodge's earlier articles in the NEHGR.) Authorities disagree as to whether it was George Polly, Sr. or George Polly, Jr. who actually served. The senior Polly would have been about 49 and the son would have been about 20. Thus it could have been either. Since there is no "Junior" indicated on the rolls, many believe it to be the father. However, the oldest son John, aged about 26 at the time, also served in the war. This fact might lead one to believe that it was the case of two brothers going off to war. This is a point that may never be resolved satisfactorily.

George Polly was married in Woburn in 1649 to the daughter of Edward and Joanna Winn. Elizabeth is said to have been born in England about 1627 and came to America with her parents and at least one brother named Joseph. Joseph is documented as being in America as early as 1642. Another brother of Elizabeth, Increase Winn, is documented as being the first recorded birth in Woburn, MA, on 5 December 1641. A sister, Ann, married Moses Cleveland,

a direct ancestor of Grover Cleveland. Thus, all Pollys (or Polleys) who stem from George Polly of Woburn can properly claim, through Edward Winn, relationship to our 22nd and 24th president. Also, Elizabeth's brother, Increase, is a direct ancestor of Herbert Hoover, the 31st president.

George and Elizabeth apparently suffered the same foibles then as others do now. An interesting domestic note is found in the Woburn vital records, p. 213. "In 1658, John Cromwell a Scotchman confessed 'that he was in the house of George Polly alone with his wife, and that he kissed her once & eate some strawberries' etc. The Court ordered both Cromwell and the wife of George Polly 'severely whipt ten stripes a peece.' Cromwell died in 1662 near Chelmsford.

George Polly died in Woburn on 22 Dec 1683. His will was dated 5 June 1683 and proved on 1 April 1684. A full copy of the will of George Polly appears in "Descendants of Samuel Hills", compiled for Francis J. Hills by Winifred Lovering Holman, published in 1957 by the Rumford Press, page 87. It reads as shown in the accompanying figure.

When the will was proved 1 April 1684, the inventory (as transcribed by Winifred L. Holman) read in part as follows:

"An inventory of the Estate of George poly senr who deceased upon the twenty second daye of Janewary 1683-4," was taken, 21 Feb. 1683[-84], by "frances Kendall & James Converse," the total amount being £298-09-06. It included "one small hous and about 35 acres of upland adjoyning," some 101 additional acres in upland, swamp, meadow and woodlot; his stock, with "one mare and bridle sadle and pilion and harnes"; carpenter's tools; household effects with a "brass scilet listed; a "Swarm of bees," etc.

Note the apparent conflict between the Woburn death record date for the decease of George Polly (22 December 1683), and the date of death stated in the inventory (22 January 1683/84). The latter date is believed to be an administrative oversight.

rcr

1. Banks, Charles Edward, Topographical Dictionary of 2885 English Immigrants to New England, 1620-1650, Elijah Ellsworth Brownell, B.E.E., pub. and ed., 1937, Philadelphia, PA, p. 111.

2. McArthur, Selim Walker, McArthur-Barnes Ancestral Lines, Anthuensen Press, Portland, ME, 1964, p. 119.

While the Neubauers are novices in the area of tracking genealogical information, they had two enlightening experiences while scouring two small communities for Polley-related data.

Trying to locate some needed vital statistics in one New York State village, the Neubauers received no cooperation from the local village office. Having remembered to bring along bits of known information regarding these particular Polleys, they tracked down the funeral home used to bury several family members. Even though the home had changed hands, the burial records were intact and graciously shared by the funeral director. Not only were there death dates, but often the cause of death, birth dates, and survivors names. This tactic is only useful if the death dates are not too far in the past. In this case, the earliest death date was 1937. Diane and Walt found a living Polley ancestor from this family, one who had been assumed to have died years before. They not only had the pleasure of meeting her, but were able to verify many statistics. Sometimes there are ways to work around uncooperative public servants.

A second experience with another branch of the family in a small village in Vermont proved even more fruitful. On a recent two-day visit to the community, Walt and Diane had pretty well completed their vital statistics search, this time with the help of polite and cooperative village clerks, and were looking for a place to eat lunch. They happened upon the local diner which, by chance, was a favorite meeting spot for the town locals. Diane was not shy about starting a conversation and she soon found that two or three of these folks not only knew about the people in whom Diane and Walt were interested, but another "cousin" of Diane's had just walked out the door!

In this instance a brief encounter over lunch brought about an eventual meeting with the cousin and also with the "unofficial" town historian who provided a host of family photographs, news clippings, and much new information. In this case, the "local spot" sure beat that cold telephone book back in the motel room.

Diane and Walt assume that these experiences are typical for most researchers and hope that those who are reading this will be reminded of the "warm spots" they encountered during their own searches.

Diane and Walt are both graduates of Syracuse University and have lived in the Syracuse area most of their lives. Walt, originally from West Hempstead, NY, is a civil engineer (now

retired). Diane, originally from Massena, NY, is a geriatric social worker (recently retired).

Walt recently completed a book entitled "The Neubauer Heritage." It is a pictorial essay covering his family from the mid-1880's and also includes family trees and ancestral charts going back to the 1600s in Germany. This book has become a valued keepsake for each member of the current Neubauer family.

Diane and her family have inherited a large variety of Polley heirlooms, photographs and oil paintings. These valuable reminders, many of which currently decorate her home, have helped keep her interest alive in completing a family Polley book.

Since the start of their project, Diane and Walt have scanned over 120 Polley and related-family pictures into their computer system. So far they have drafted about 90 pages of the book tentatively entitled "The Polley Heritage." They hold memberships in the Central New York Genealogical Society and the Massena Historical Museum. They enjoy travel, antique collecting and an array of computer-related activities.

[Editor's Note: This issue's Polley Profile feature was written by Diane and Walt Neubauer.]

Polley Pilgrims

THIS FEATURE IS FOR THE PRESENTATION OF INFORMATION RELATED TO TRIPS TAKEN BY SUBSCRIBERS TO LIBRARIES, ARCHIVES AND OTHER RESEARCH FACILITIES OF PARTICULAR VALUE TO POLLEY RESEARCH. CEMETERIES, CHURCHES, OLD HOMESTEADS, ETC., THAT MIGHT PROVIDE INSIGHT INTO POLLEY HERITAGE ARE ALSO FARE FOR THIS DEPARTMENT. WE CAN INCLUDE TRIPS TO VISIT NEWLY FOUND POLLEY COUSINS, AND DETAILS ON FINDING THEM.

**Allen County Public Library (ACPL)
Genealogy Department**

900 Webster Street, Fort Wayne, IN 46801

During the week of 10 May 1994, your editor had the good fortune of being in Fort Wayne, IN, on a business trip. Needless to say, for those who know of the Allen County Public Library and its fantastic Genealogy Department, every waking moment of my free time found me in the library. On the Friday of that week, business matters completed for me, Michael Polley drove down from Michigan. There at the entrance to ACPL, the historic first time, face-to-face meeting of your editor and publisher took place. We both

- {Polley Pilgrims continued on p. 6} -

Past Polleys

In this issue we spotlight a Polley researcher of the past who can serve as an inspiration to all of us seeking that elusive ancestor. He worked hard at his avocation for over 30 years and helped untold numbers find their roots. Alvin Henry Polley, Jr., was born in Franklin, PA, 2 Oct 1913. He was the firstborn of Alvin Henry Polley, Sr., and Elsie Beatrice Lane, natives of Massachusetts, who had been married the previous November in Newport News, VA. By trade, Alvin was an insurance salesman. In later years, with the Phoenix Mutual Life Insurance Company, he would become a vice president.

Alvin's early life, before he met and married Dorothy Washburn of Westbrook, ME, is reflected in a list of residences he left behind among his papers. By the time he was 20, he had lived at some 19 different addresses throughout Massachusetts and Maine. Apparently his father's trade, as a pattern maker, forced frequent moves. Additionally, the hard economic times of the 30's undoubtedly added to the number of addresses accumulated by Alvin as he entered early adulthood.

His lifelong interest in genealogy began in Chicago after he was posted there by his company. He and his new bride "had no money and couldn't afford a lot of entertainment," as Dorothy told us in a visit to her New Hampshire home, back in 1990. So they took to visiting libraries, which were free, and began piecing together what they knew about their family histories. This new found diversion, called genealogy, soon became a passion with Alvin.

By 1957 the Polleys had accumulated well over 20 more addresses, moving about as part of Alvin's advancement in the insurance business. Each new city gave Alvin new sources to explore and more Polleys to look up in phone books and other directories. He did not limit his research to his own surname, however, but fanned out on all lines of his and Dorothy's families. His Polley line, as Alvin determined it, was from George of Woburn, the eleven generations being enumerated as: George¹, George², Ebenezer³, Joseph⁴, Peter⁵, David Luther⁶, Alvin Grimes⁷, Robert Walter⁸, Alvin Henry⁹, Alvin Henry, Jr.¹⁰

By the 1960's, Alvin's location had stabilized somewhat, being assigned to the home office in Connecticut. It was at this point in his life that his genealogical research efforts really went into high gear. He was closing in on "completing" [*a word with mixed meanings in the world of genealogy*]

his own genealogy. The culmination of this effort was his donation to the Library of Congress, in January 1968, of a copy of his work, List of Ten Generations of Antecedents of A.H. Polley, Jr. Unfortunately, this would be his only formally recognized work, as his outstanding and intensive research efforts would be ended in March of 1970 by an untimely death while on a fishing trip in Arizona.

Alvin had become an inveterate joiner as part of his genealogical exploits. He was a member of the Sons of the American Revolution, The Society of Colonial Wars, the Order of the Founders and Patriots of America, and the Society of Mayflower Descendants. He had seen genealogy as a retirement career, and had hoped to become a staff genealogist for one or more of the lineage societies. He did retire in October of 1969, but did not live long enough to fulfill his dream of doing genealogy on a full time basis.

Among his Polley endeavors was a "Dear Polley Cousin" circular letter that he wrote and mailed out in 1965 to various Polleys for the purpose of collecting information on later generations. From the responses, he was able to identify several different clans of Polleys that had no obvious connection here in America. Some excerpts from the letter are given at the end of this article.

Alvin also joined forces and had large amounts of correspondence with another Polley researcher of note, the late Gerald Polley of Scranton, PA.

[Editor's Note: Gerry Polley will be featured in the Past Polleys Department of the next issue of **Polley Pointers**.]

Between the two of them, they solved many Polley puzzles, both within their own lines and for many correspondents.

After Alvin's passing, many people missed his expertise, including his friend Gerry Polley, who wondered, in a 1973 letter, what had happened to Alvin's research work. In 1990, your editor's wife, Sue, made up her mind we would find Mrs. Polley and determine what had happened to the material. Dorothy Polley turned out to be a very gracious lady who invited us in to her home and spent the better part of an afternoon with us. The disposition of Alvin's materials are no longer a mystery. His legendary collection of genealogical reference books, was sold through a knowledgeable dealer. Some material pertaining to Alvin's and Dorothy's direct lines has been retained for their daughter's use. Other material was lost to water damage a number of years ago. The remaining peripheral material was entrusted to your editor. There were a few small

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

At the top of one page were the following records:

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

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

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

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

There are some inconsistencies in several dates in this story. For example, Clarence Holden was incorrect in reporting that Prudence and Simeon died in 1825 and 1827, respectively. The Kinner Cemetery records say they both died in the same year, 1823. Also, the date is confirmed in a letter that Jonathan Polley II wrote to

his son, Joseph Henry Polley, who was living in Mexico, now Texas. The letter reads, in part, "...uncel Johnson is not married...Father Stow died the 17th of April 1823 and my mother the 8th June after."¹²

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

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

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

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

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

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

1. Middletown, CT, Vital Records, Volume 1, p. 54.

2. Middletown, CT, Vital Records, Volume 1, p. 109.

3. List of people buried in Wood Creek (Kinner) Cemetery, Whitehall, NY, obtained from the Washington County, NY archivist, Fort Edward, NY.

nuggets among the several boxes of files, but nothing to call earth shaking. But they are preserved and will be explored as topics for discussion and as the basis for future articles here in **Polley Pointers**.

One can't help but imagine what Alvin would be like if he were doing genealogy now, in this day and age, with the assistance of an array of electronic capabilities: PC's, laser printers, scanners, e-mail, etc. He would probably have us all related somehow to the very first Polley!! By the way, when this September issue was in its early stages, Dorothy Polley celebrated her 80th birthday on 11 May. Congratulations Dot!

April 2, 1965

Dear Polley "Cousin",

...

I have a great deal on the early generations in New England most of whom are descendants of George Polley who was a "freeman" in Woburn, Massachusetts in 1649. Even then, they moved about as I find the first three generations spread into Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Connecticut, Pennsylvania and Virginia. In the fourth and fifth generations, they spread into New York, Ohio, Canada, Nova Scotia, Vermont, The Carolinas and Kentucky.

They apparently had itchy feet as they kept spreading and I have lost track of most of those born after the Revolution (1775). I do find the name in virtually every major city in the United States and know of no method of contacting them except by this form letter.

They were real pioneers as they opened up new land constantly and had men in every war from King Phillips and the Colonial Wars to World War II, Korea, and Vietnam. In the early years, virtually all of them were farmers, carpenters, lumbermen, blacksmiths or ministers. Most had little education except the 3 R's until the mid 1800's. Currently I find them in every industry and every walk of life.

...

Presumably the name Polley came from those Norman Invaders who were from the city of Poilleys in Province Orleans, France. I find records as early as 1400 in England. The name has been spelled either phonetically or by illiterate town clerks (or Polley's) Polley, Palley, Polly, Polleys, Pauley, Pauly, Pawley, Pawle, Pohle. I have found children of Polley's spelled in the above manner in the vital statistics of various cities and towns.

...

**Excerpts from Alvin H. Polley's 1965
"Dear Polley Cousin" Letter**

The Story of Simeon Stowe and Prudence DeWolph Polley Stowe

by Alma Exley

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

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

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

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

Prudence and Jonathan Polley may have had a son Joseph in the 1750's.⁶ (She would have been a teen-ager, and he would have been in his early 30s.) They had a son Jonathan II, born 26 October 1760, in Hebron, Connecticut,⁷ when Prudence was 19 years old and Jonathan was about 35. Jonathan II was born the year after Jonathan returned from six months of service in the French and Indian War (14 June 1759 to 16 December 1759) at the age of about 36.⁸

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

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

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

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

-{**Polley Pilgrims** continued from p. 2}-

had carved time out of our "real life" schedules to do some research at this wondrous genealogical facility. Fortunately we were able to overlap the one day to get to know each other a little better and to talk some **Polley Pointers** business.

As to the library itself, for those of you who may never have been there, let me be brief by saying, "It's worth the trip." The Genealogical Department of ACPL, in the local tourist literature, is billed as the "second-largest in the United States," presumably the LDS facility in Salt Lake City being the largest. There perhaps may be some contention, in terms of total numbers of accessible volumes, by the Library of Congress.

However, in terms of dedicated genealogy floor space and convenience to the user, ACPL is ahead, in my book, [no pun] by several lengths over the Library of Congress. Some quick facts and observations:

* ACPL pulls most volumes for you, although there is some limited open shelving. The return time, after you put in your call slip, is on the order of ten minutes, perhaps a bit longer during peak hours. There is continuous re-shelving, ensuring availability.

* Brittle and non-copyable volumes are virtually non-existent due to a vigorous rebinding and re-constitution program conducted by ACPL. Rare and fragile books are reproduced in photocopy form for public handling.

* An extensive microform section is available with all the censuses, including the 1920, as well as some of the more elusive mid-decade state censuses. Other records on microfilm, such as state DAR collections are also available.

* On the more practical side, there are enough microfilm readers to go around, and Gloriosky, Sandy, they all work!. Three special copying readers seemed to be adequate, providing reasonably priced copies at 20¢ a sheet. There are also three photocopy machines for book material that are also kept working and provide copies at 10¢ a page.

* There is a computer section where the catalog can be accessed [although the main card catalog is still the traditional 3x5 card style] as well as other sources. Several machines have the CD ROM capability to access such things as the Social Security death index.

* There is a unique collection of Genealogical periodicals from all over the country. They are bound in volumes and are indexed in the Periodical Source Index (PerSI), an index prepared by the ACPL staff.

In short, as the Islamic faithful must make the Hadj to Mecca, so must serious genealogists include ACPL on their "life list" of resources to visit. It's in a nice part of a very nice city, easily accessed, with fast food in abundance within blocks. Plan on working it into your next trip through Indiana. **Polley Pointers** rates ACPL □□□□ (four bookplates). rcr

Polley Tools

Surnames in the census index files are organized by the SOUNDIX Code. The SOUNDIX Code for POLLEY and variants is **P-400**.

Polley Periphery

The Climb to the Top

by Richard C. Randt

We would all like to find someone in our respective genealogies who made it to the top, who "hit the big time," who won fame and fortune, a genuine hero. Although no modern millionaire Polleys come to mind and no Polleys have ever been elected to Congress or served in a Cabinet position, there was a turn of the century Polley who took "making it to the top" literally. His profession was based on making it to the top, many times over. He was George Gibson Polley, "The Original Human Fly."

Also known as "The Tarzan of the Cities," George Gibson Polley climbed over 2000 skyscrapers in cities all over the country. At \$200 a climb, his standard fee, he made a fairly good income in this rather bizarre profession. Averaged over approximately 15 years of active climbing it appears he grossed about \$25,000 a year. He would wear his sponsor's name on the seat of his pants, visible to the onlookers below in the street. Polley also had a more conventional job. He was a rather successful automobile salesman for the now defunct Essex Motor Car Co. More often than not, however, he would find a way to combine his sales efforts with his climbing activities. He would draw a crowd and then make his pitch for Essex.

This Polley with the strange profession was written up in Yankee magazine in the March 1973 issue.¹ A condensation of the article was included in the September 1985 issue of Yankee, which featured a number of people with unusual accomplishments.² Naturally, Polley was the lead item.

Of course, when I began to read the original article, the natural curiosity of the genealogist started to kick in. Where did he come from; who were his parents; is he a Roxbury, a Woburn, or a Virginia Polley, or perhaps a descendant of some latter day immigrant Polley? These were the questions that went through my mind as I enjoyed the tales told of his exploits, like being arrested in New York City in 1920 for "climbing without a permit" as he reached the 30th story of the Woolworth Building, then the tallest building in the country. The only way police could clear the snarled traffic below was to take George into custody, making it probably the most unusual arrest by an officer of the NYPD.

I began to scan the article for those essential genealogical facts we all seek. The article was replete with photos showing "The Fly" at work. There was a credit line for the photos, G. Gibson Polley. Since, according to the article, "The Fly" had died in 1927, during an operation for a brain tumor, I surmised that the photos were from a son. Further reading confirmed that fact as he was quoted in the text of the article regarding the safety precautions his father took before every climb and the excellent state of his physical condition.

The article also yielded up the fact that George Gibson Polley served in World War I in France as a sergeant in the Observation Balloon Corps. (Of course, what else?!) After the war, Polley met and married Helen Stillman of Marblehead, MA. They had a total of three sons, G. Gibson, Jr., Herbert, who was killed in action in WW II, and Stillman Nelson Polley who is still living in Florida and who graciously contributed to my insight into the life of his famous Polley father. The other genealogical facts presented were that he was born in Richmond, VA and that he was age 12 in 1910.

With the few meager facts from the article I set out to determine whatever else there was to learn about the family of "The Fly." As is the case so many times, pure luck has a lot to do with determining genealogical success or failure. His birth in Richmond notwithstanding, I consulted Massachusetts vital records to see what would turn up. As luck would have it, Vital Records of Marblehead, Mass., Vol II, Birth Records, 1850-1976, were available and contained information on the family of "The Fly." These records, published in 1984, are unusual in that they contain such recent data. I was told by a knowledgeable librarian that this particular set of records may have been published contrary to Massachusetts law. The book gave up the relatively current information shown in the table on the next page.

Now the next source of information is going to be hard to believe. I came upon a scrap of paper, in some library or archive somewhere, perhaps before I had an interest in "The Fly," that contains virtually all the clues necessary to track down the family through the censuses and other sources. It is transcribed in the table on page 8 to show you what I had to work with.

In attempting to work my way backward, I started with the 1900 Census data shown in the table on page 9. James D. Polley fit the initials from the note and the children's names matched

POLLEY

George Gibson, s. George G. and Helen Stillman, Feb. 25, 1922

Stillman Nelson, s. George Gibson and Helen Stillman, Oct 28, 1924

George Gibson, Jr., s. George G. and Vernelle Ball, Jan. 17, 1947

Virginia Ann, d. G. Gibson and Vernelle Ball, March 1, 1951

Heather, d. George Gibson, III and Nancy Lynn Ingram, Nov. 10, 1974

up perfectly. Although James was born in North Carolina, he apparently found his wife, Catharine, in South Carolina and established his household there for about seven or eight years where his first three children were born between 1885 and 1892.

James then took his family to Virginia, establishing himself in Richmond where his last three children were born. George Gibson Polley, who would become The Tarzan of the Cities, apparently was the last child, born in May of 1897.

The 1890 Census, of course, is not available. The 1880 would have been of no help since it appeared that James was not yet married. The 1870 Census yielded neither a Hiram nor a Stephen in the Carolinas. The first available source to pick up the thread of this family was the 1860 Census.

The 1860 Census for Wilmington (New Hanover Co.), NC, provided the parents and siblings of James D. Hiram [sic] is listed as a farmer, age 42, born in Connecticut. His wife and all of his children are listed as being born in North Carolina. The age given for "Jas." fits quite well and Hiram is from the expected state.

The next logical step was to check the 1850 Census. It also contained a Hiram of Connecticut as well as an S.P. Polley from Connecticut. This latter person was probably Stephen since the description of his family matches the note. At ages 39 and 36, S.P. and his wife have but one likely, Eleanor. There is one discrepancy, Stephen was supposed to have been a banker, but S.P. in North Carolina is a coppersmith.

Neither Hiram nor Stephen appear in the 1840 Indexes for North Carolina and Connecticut. The trail appeared to go cold. However, the name Oliver is not common among Polleys. There was an Oliver Cromwell Polley from Connecticut who

had an Oliver Cromwell, Jr. The son can be found in the 1850 Census of Fulton Co., Indiana, married to an Eliza Murling of Pennsylvania.³ They were ages 28 and 25 respectively and had no children at the time. The senior Oliver Cromwell Polley, was, in fact, married twice, thus fitting the clue in the note. However his time frame appears to be one generation off from what the note says. In other words, Oliver C. Polley, Sr. is more than likely the father of Hiram and Stephen, rather than the grandfather.

Transcription of a Holographic Note on the Genealogy of George Gibson Polley.

[The source of this note (a photocopy) is unknown.]

Family of George G. Polley (The Human Fly)

His Father, J. D. Polley [was the] son of Hiram Polley. Hiram had a brother Stephen. They lived in Middletown, Conn. Stephen Polley later lived in New Haven, Conn. where he was a banker. Stephen had no children, but [an] adopted daughter, Eleanor.

Hiram & Stephen may have been grandchildren of Oliver Polley by his first marriage. Ed. Polley [and] Harry Polley (son of Ed.) lived in Richmond, Va. [and] came from Ohio. Probably grandson of Oliver Polley by the second marriage.

Children of J. D. Polley

Catharine	married R.S. Bullock
Mamie	(school teacher)
Dickson	married
Anne	married Scott
Nelson	unmarried
George	married

Connecticut Vital Records in the Barbour Collection show Oliver C. Polley, of Lebanon, CT, being married to Laura Abell of Lisbon on 17 Feb 1828, in Franklin, by Rev. Samuel Knott. This marriage, Oliver's second, is also noted in two Connecticut newspapers, the Norwich Courier and the Republican Advocate of 12 and 19 March 1828 respectively.

His first marriage, to Abigail Payne, is noted in three newspapers, the Norwich Courier, the Connecticut Mirror and the Hartford Courant on 3, 8, and 9 January 1816 respectively.

NAME	REL	AGE	POB
Hiram Polley	Head of household	32	CT
Mary J.	Fem.	32	NC
Mary C.	Fem.	9	NC
Sarah R.	Fem.	8?	NC
Stephen W.	Male	5?	NC
C.N.	Male	4?	NC
Margaret A.	Fem.	6/12	NC
Susan Carey	Fem.	21	NC
C.J. Carey	Male (teacher)	23	NC

1850 Census, Wilmington (New Hanover Co.), NC, M432, Roll 638, p. 429, Line 7, Dwelling House 7. Hiram Polley, farmer, and family. Real Estate Value listed at \$1500.

NAME	REL	DOB	AGE	POB
James D. Polley	Head of household	Apr 1858	42	NC
Catharine D.	Wife	Jan 1865	35	SC
Catharine	Dau.	Jul 1885	14	SC
Mary A.	Dau.	Sep 1887	12	SC
James D., Jr.	Son	Aug 1890	9	SC
Annie G.	Dau.	Sep 1892	7	VA
Charles N.	Son	Sep 1894	5	VA
George G.	Son	May 1897	3	VA
Lizzie Tyler	Servant	Sep 1883	17	VA

1900 Census data: Richmond, VA, Vol. 68, E.D. 79, Sheet 8, Line 86. House No. 612, North Eighth, Richmond, VA

S.P. Polley	Head of household	39	CT
Catharine A.	Fem.	36	NC
E.F.	Fem.	1	NC
T.L. Guess	Male	41	CT

1850 Census, Wilmington (New Hanover Co.), NC, M432, Roll 638, p. 413, Dwelling house 6. S.P. Polley, Copper-smith, and family. Real Estate Value listed at \$18,700. T.L. Guess, Copper-smith, shares dwelling. Real Estate listed at \$2000.

NAME	REL	AGE	POB
Hiram Polley	Head of household	42	CT
Jane	Wife	41	NC
Mary	Dau.	19	NC
Sarah	Dau.	18	NC
Steve	Son	15	NC
Chas.	Son	14	NC
Maggy	Dau.	9	NC
Edwin	Son	8	NC
Jas.	Son	1	NC
T. Devane	Male	23	NC
Margaret	Fem.	11/12	NC

1860 Census, Wilmington (New Hanover Co.), NC, M653, Roll 907, p. 791, Line 1. Hiram Polley, farmer, and family. Real Estate Value listed at \$2500 and Personal Property listed at \$5000.

Some additional source material came to light thanks to cousin John E. Polley. He had three of Gerald Polley's letters from the late 60s and early 70s in which Gerry reported having had contact with Mrs. Charles Nelson (Mildred) Polley, then the wife of the next oldest brother of "The Fly." The contact was in 1965.

George Gibson Polley III, a grandson of our hero, has told me in telephone conversation that

-{Climb continued on p. 17}-

Researcher Listings

<p align="center">TABLE OF ACTIVE POLLEY RESEARCHERS.</p> <p align="center">THIS TABLE INCLUDES THOSE SUBSCRIBERS INTRODUCED IN THE JUNE '94 <u>WELCOME ABOARD</u>. THE TABLE WILL BE EXPANDED NEXT ISSUE TO INCLUDE THIS MONTH'S NEWLY LISTED SUBSCRIBERS. NAMES WILL BE PUBLISHED IN THIS TABLE FOUR CONSECUTIVE TIMES.</p>				
NAME (Maiden)	ADDRESS	E-MAIL Address	Phone No.	Line
Exley, Mrs. Alma	131 Garfield Rd. West Hartford CT 06107	wdx@delphi.com	(203) 521-2679	Woburn
Martin, Mr. David Kendall	Mouse Hill West Chazy NY 12992	-	(518) 493-3041	Unknown
McDermott, Mrs. Esther M.A.	199 Eley Rd. Hartwood VA 22406-4724	-	(703) 752-2444	Woburn
Neubauer, Mr. & Mrs. Walter K.	7327 Highbridge Rd Fayetteville NY 13066	-	(315) 637-5553	Woburn
Polley, Mr. & Mrs. James L.	2605 Cottage Cove Drive Richmond VA 23233	cindap@aol.com	(804) 360-0659	New York City
Polley, Mr. John E.	1320 Baycliff Drive Virginia Beach VA 23454	-	(804) 481-0106	New York City
Polley, Mr. Michael J.	17917 Rainbow Fraser MI 48026-4624	mikep73678@ aol.com	(810) 293-6382	Roxbury
Randt, Mr. & Mrs. Richard C.	9146 Winding Way Ellicott City MD 21043-6446	cjtp10a@prodigy.com	(410) 995-5516	New York City

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-{Climb continued from p. 9}-

his great-aunt Mildred, now a widow, is still alive and well and probably would be a good source of information to fill in the details of this story. I intend to contact her and report the results in the next issue.

The facts that Gerry recorded are as follows: Hiram Nelson Polley, b. 18 Oct 1817, Middletown, CT; m. Mary Jane Curry. [Note the 1850 data and the presence of the Careys. Perhaps I misread the microfilm. If so, they are most likely a brother and sister to Mary Jane or a brother and his wife. Unfortunately, I did not photocopy this sheet.]

Further: James Dickson Polley was b. 22 Apr 1852 [at odds with the 1900 and 1860 data by about six years], Wilmington, NC; d. 11 Mar 1942, Charleston, SC; m. 30 Apr 1882, Wilmington, NC, to Catharine (Kate) Dalton McCotter.

If the parents of Hiram pan out as expected, it will make "The Fly" a Woburn Polley, with the line: George¹, John², Matthew³, John⁴, Joshua⁵, Oliver Cromwell⁶, Hiram⁷, James D.⁸, George Gibson I⁹. However, we're going to leave this genealogical puzzle from the Polley Periphery, as they say in school, "as an exercise for the student." Can any of our readers solve the relationship and give George Gibson Polley a complete lineage back to Woburn?

Polley Pointers will publish the first satisfactory solution that completes the line of "The Fly," by documenting the parents of Hiram Nelson Polley.

1. O'Donnell, Richard W., *Yankee*, "Who was 'The Original Human Fly?'" , March 1973, p. 70.

2. Swafford, Jan, *Yankee*, "Call Them Strange..." , September 1985, Vol. 49, No. 9, p. 156.

3. T-6, Roll 146, 1850 Census of Fulton Co., IN, p. 469, line 30.

Polley Factoid

According to a 1987 report, no Polley (or other variant of the name) has ever been executed for a crime in the United States. Source: Executions in the United States, 1608-1987, The Espy File (ICPSR 8451), by M. Watt Espy and John Ortiz Smykla. Pub. 1987 by the Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research, P.O. Box 1248, Ann Arbor, MI 48106.

Polley Patriots

As this issue is being composed, it is actually the Fourth of July. This holiday brings to mind the participation of many Polleys in our fight for American independence. Among the lesser known facts about the Revolution are that Polley men were there from start to finish, literally.

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

"Of *Medford*. Mr. William Polly."

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

Polley Previews

Next issue look for features on Gerald Polley, 1915-1980, researcher *extraordinaire*; John Herschel Polley, law man; and the strange case of the contested shotgun marriage. We also hope to have a wrap up of the genealogy of "The Fly" if we obtain the needed documentation.

Don't forget, **Polley Pointers** is your newsletter. It's what you make it. Your editor much prefers to edit rather than have to create stories from whole cloth. I'll do my best to give you the benefit of my file cabinet contents, but the readership needs some variety. We would particularly like to receive articles on those lines of Polleys that emanate from Virginia and Kentucky. Remember that a by-line will get you a year's extension of your subscription. rcr

Polley Name Variants and Lesser Known Progenitors

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

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

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

On the subject of variant spellings, a reference comes to mind, Ancestors and Kin, by Robert Walden Coggeshall, The Reprint Company, Publishers, Spartansburg, SC, 1988. In Chapter 2 on Pawley, the author begins with a George Pawley as the progenitor. Pawley, a joiner, was b. 1632, d. 26 May 1695; he arrived in Charles Town [SC] from London before 25 Feb 1695. In the chapter introduction the author cites two other authors who equate Pawley with Pauley, as a "pet form" of the personal name Paul. The Pauley spelling was recognized as the more prevalent version compared to Pawley.

A 1980 publication (available at ACPL) entitled My Family Connections, Vol I, The Pauleys, by Ruth Williams Cornell, begins with the statement that "The Polley-Pauley family is an old one in

Virginia. The name is spelled both ways and until recent years was pronounced 'Polly.' The author cites a John Pauley in Virginia in 1644 and a Samuel Pauley in Henrico Co. in 1692. She goes on to say, "Some believe that our Pauley family descended from the French families named Paulett who settled in Lunenburg County which is the parent county of Pittsylvania County. Others say the Pauleys were English or Swiss." The author begins her line with a Daniel Polley, b. ca. 1794, who obtained land in Kanawha Co. in 1816. She acknowledges several other Polleys in the area but does not relate them. Daniel and his wife Mary had three children, two daughters and a son. The son, Washington, b. 1818, married a Mary Griffith. Washington and his wife were members of a church where he was the clerk who kept records. The records for his period of service are extant and clearly show that he changed the spelling of his name from Polley to Pauley. He had one son with Mary and two sons with a second wife all of whom gave rise to many Virginia based Pauleys who were once Polleys.

Another document (available at ACPL) concerns some Paulys who emigrated from France in 1782 establishing a home in Virginia. The title is Letters to Isabelle, by Edna A. (Patrick) Thacker, pub. by Cook & McDowell Publications, Owensboro, KY, 1980. The progenitor of this group is a Louis Abraham Pauly, b. 1743 in France. His first child, Louis Pauly, Jr., was born in 1802 [his wife was 20 years younger than he]. An interesting point made in this family history is that family members were absolutely adamant about anyone attempting to spell the family name with an "e" in it as in Pauley.

An interesting group that bears the name Poley, have their origins in France. History of the Early Settlers of Sangamon County, Illinois: "Centennial Record", by John Carroll Power provides the background. Joseph Poley was born 1 Feb 1802 in Logan Co., KY. His father, Charles Poley, or Pouley, was a native of Paris, France, and was educated there with a view to becoming a Lutheran minister. When he came to America, he abandoned the ministry, married, and settled in Logan Co. to raise a family. He then moved to Muhlenburgh Co., KY, where Joseph Poley was married in 1825 to Hannah Gosset. They moved to Sangamon Co., IL, where they had four children. After Hannah's death, Joseph remarried in 1834 to a Frances Gates. They had ten children. The name Poley has propagated widely from this family.

This has been just a small sample of some of the avenues we can explore in **Polley Pointers**. It was not intended as a definitive work, but rather an indicator of future research effort required.

rcr

research in the past on his Sterritt line, producing an illustrated pamphlet on the Sterritts, reaching back well into the 19th Century in Nova Scotia. **Address: 30574 Sun Creek Drive, Evergreen, CO 80439-8744.**

Mr. George F. Polley - George is a descendant of George of Woburn, MA. His line is: George¹, John², Matthew³, Jonathan⁴, Jonathan⁵, Joseph Henry⁶, Abner Hubbard⁷, Beverley Hubbard⁸. George is one of the Texas Polleys who trace back to Joseph Henry and proudly recall that he was one of the original Austin's 300 who settled in what became the great state of Texas, having lived under the flags of Mexico, The Republic of Texas and Texas as a territory of the U.S. Although not an active researcher, George has collected some great stories about his grandfather, "Hub" Polley, who has been written up as "... pioneer Texan, Confederate Army veteran, cattleman, and Indian fighter..." The exploits of his father in Alaska and the business ventures of George and his two brothers make extremely interesting reading. Hopefully, these recollections will form the basis for future articles in **Polley Pointers**. **Address: 12112 Lochwood Blvd., Dallas, TX 75218.**

Mr. Joseph Polley Paine - Mr. Paine is a retired art professor who has been working on his particular Polley line since 1972. He is a proud Texan who also descends from Joseph Henry Polley, a member of Austin's 300. His complete line is: George¹, John², Matthew³, Jonathan⁴, Jonathan⁵, Joseph Henry⁶, Joseph Benjamin⁷, Mattie LeGette⁸. Mr. Paine's contributions to Polley genealogy, particular the lines emanating out of Whitehall, NY, are legendary. His work forms the basis for the family histories of about a half dozen of our subscribers. Although no longer actively researching, he is widely cited as an authority on the descendants of Jonathan Polley. Actually his interest in genealogy was piqued in his student days in New York City in 1938. Having been put in contact there with some distant cousins through his Aunt Josephine (author of Bailey's Light), he always remembered that meeting, and was able to repeat that visit 35 years later in 1973, early on in his research. Mr. Paine has been a correspondent of many researchers in the past, including the late Gerald Polley, John E. Polley, and your editor. Now, however, Mr. Paine would prefer to enjoy his retirement and does not solicit research correspondence. **Polley Pointers** hopes it could prevail upon Mr. Paine for a feature article that would serve to inspire current researchers.

Queries

THIS DEPARTMENT IS FOR SUBSCRIBERS TO PLACE SPECIFIC STATEMENTS DESCRIBING INFORMATION BEING SOUGHT. QUERIES ARE FREE TO SUBSCRIBERS. SEND YOUR QUERIES, SUCCINCTLY STATED, TO THE EDITOR. THE ADDRESS OF THE SUBSCRIBER MAY BE FOUND IN THE WELCOME ABOARD OR RESEARCHER LISTINGS FEATURE OF THIS ISSUE.

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.

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, age 11 at the time.

Phyllis C. Plambeck - Seeks anc. of Mary Edwards, b. 25 Mar 1659, Reading, MA, who mar. John Polly, 16 May 1681, Reading, MA.

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

Joan Reed Miller - Seeks documentation to confirm birth & par. of Miriam (or Marian) Polley, said to be b. Jun 1856, Dedham, MA, to Porter & Elizabeth P.

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

Dick T. Polley - Seeks par. of Joseph Polley, b. ca. 1815, CT; m. 14 May 1834, Julia Ann Foote, Newton, CT; d. 2 Jun 1879, Holton, KS.

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.

David K. Martin - Seeks par. of Sarah Polly, b. ca. 1750; d. 2 Dec 1825, Livonia, Livingston Co., NY. She mar., by 1774, to Asahel (Azal) Norton (ca. 1733-178_) of Madison, CT; Saratoga, NY; and Susquehanna Co., PA. Some doubt whether Polly is a surname or given name. **Address: Mouse Hill, West Chazy, NY 12992.**

Your editor corresponded with Dale Polley last Christmas time to wish her a happy 90th Christmas day birthday. **Address: 1001 McCoy, Irving, TX 75062.**

Mrs. Shirley (McElroy) Bucknum - She has been doing genealogy and related research for over 20 years. She is currently historian of the Oregon Chapter of the Society of Mayflower Descendants. Her late husband, Arthur Lee, was a Polley descendant from Revolutionary War veteran, John Polley, of Fairfield, CT and later, Delaware Co., NY. The line is: John¹, David², Lucy³. John is one of those elusive Polleys who seem to have dropped out of the sky and do not readily connect to any established line. Lucy married into the Harvey family, which is well documented in a published genealogy. Her brother Hiram married into the same family. His children (all Polleys) and many grandchildren are listed in the book. [The Harvey Book, by Oscar Jewell Harvey, A.M., originally published in 1899 in Wilkesbarre, PA. (Apparently, this book was updated sometime after 1910, since extracts provided by Mrs. Bucknum contain dates up to 1910.)] **Address: 8217 N. Foss Ave., Portland, OR 97203-3613.**

Richard C. Polley - Mr. Polley's line and research objectives are similar to Michael J. Polley's, since they are closely related; i.e., father and son! **Address: HC 57, Box 151, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783**

Mr. Joseph N. & Mrs. Barbara M. (Hebert) Cofone - Barbara is a first cousin of Sue Randt through the Quin family. Barbara's mom is the one who first put Sue on to the surname Polley. Sarah Jane Polley married William Quin and they were the parents of Barbara and Sue's grandfather Quin. Barbara and Joe met while studying criminal justice in college. Both of their analytical minds have provided a great sounding board for the many "David theories" that have been hatched over the past few years. **Address: 132 Arcola Ave., Paramus, NJ 07652.**

Mrs. Michael (Diann Polley) Higgins - Diann is a descendant of a group of Polleys whose origins are traced to Pomerania in the mid-19th Century. The area is located today in Poland. Those of this family that came to America settled on farms in Minnesota. Her line, starting with her 2GGF, is: William¹, John Freidrich², Frederick Herman Christopher³. This line sounds like it has a **Polley Pointers** feature story in it. **Address: 1304 Autry Lane, Crowley, TX 76036.**

Mr. Marvin Paule - Marvin's great-grandfather served in the Civil War under the name Polly. However, his children all spelled their name as

Paule. Marvin is looking for ancestors in the Polly/Paule line and a possible explanation of the name change. **Address: 2548 Valais Ct., Dayton, OH 45458**

Ms. Brenda Beattie-Schwartz - Detailed information on this subscriber's line, current research objectives and outstanding problems, was not available at press time. We hope to have additional input for the December issue. **Address: 221 N. Melendres, Las Cruces, NM 88005**

Mr. Larry V. Stephens - Detailed information on this subscriber's line, current research objectives and outstanding problems, was also not available at press time. We hope to have additional input for the December issue. **Address: 8303 W. Crum Rd., Bloomington, IN 47403. Computer Service: CompuServe, ID# 76247,3633. E-mail: lvs@rimgate.pop.indiana.edu**

Ms. Emilie Tolley - Emilie is a descendant of John Polley of Orange Co., NY. He is one of the isolated progenitors that have not been connected to a main stream Polley line. A number of years ago her uncle, Percy Polley, had a strong interest in his forebears and wrote to many people seeking information about the family. Most of the descendants of John have been recorded but Emilie has not moved backward in time beyond John. **Address: 245 East 72nd Street - 7F, New York, NY 10021.**

Mr. Tristram W. & Mrs. Kathryn (Dilger) Metcalfe - Mr. Metcalfe is a great-grandson of Kansas pioneer Frank B. Polley. See Corrections to Published Sources in the June '94 issue. Tris and Kathryn were discovered as relatives by Sue Randt, she being a 3rd cousin, once removed to Mr. Metcalfe. The Metcalfes are not actively engaged in genealogical research but contributed substantially to the base of knowledge about Frank Polley and his descendants. Kathryn has done family history research in the past on her own line including a chronology of the movements of a Civil War ancestor. **Address: 818 West Main Street, Plainfield, MA 01070.**

Mr. Graham Minor Polley Sterritt - Graham is a descendant of David Polley of New York City. His line is: David¹, Grahams², Minor Keith³, Elmira Cross⁴. As one can see, his name alone is a virtual recitation of his Polley genealogy! Although not actively researching the Polley surname, Graham, a second cousin, once removed to Sue Randt, contributed a wealth of family information in furtherance of the quest for David Polley. Graham's mother had been the *de facto* family historian for many years and **wrote down** names, dates and relationships, and passed this material down to her sons. Graham has done

Mr. Dick Theodore Polley - For about four years he has been researching a Polley line that stems from a Joseph Polley born in Connecticut in 1815. This Joseph married Julia Ann Foote in 1834 and they migrated to Kansas where he died in 1879. Perhaps some of our readers may have some clues to help connect Joseph to a known line. See Research Progress and Queries, this issue. **Address: 1214 Westview Drive, Fredericksburg, VA 22405.**

Mr. Warren Zahler - He is a descendant of Rebecca Polley of Whitehall, NY, who married Alanson Martin. He has researched this Polley line for about 10 years. His line is George¹, John², Matthew³, Jonathan⁴, Jonathan⁵, Rebecca⁶. He also seeks information on the DeWolf family to fill in the line of Prudence DeWolf, wife of Jonathan⁴ and grandmother of Rebecca. See Alma Exley's feature story on Prudence and Simeon, p. 4, this issue. **Address: 2302 Walther Ct., Columbia, MO 65203. E-mail: bcwarren@muccmail.missouri.com**

Mrs. Esther Louise (Hogg) Walter - She has been researching Polleys for 30 years. Her earliest known Polly ancestor is William Polly who was born in Virginia and migrated to Darke Co., Ohio where he died in 1847. Her Polly problem is like many others, Polleys who spring up in the post Revolution era with apparently no clue regarding their origins or parentage. Perhaps some of the readers will be able to help out on this one. See the Queries feature. **Address: Box 158, Allenspark, CO 80510.**

Mr. Don Bosley & Mrs. Bonnie Lee (Bond) Paulley He is a descendant of James Paulley, born in KY in 1828. He has been researching for about 10 years. Although some may disagree that Pauley and Paulley are variants of Polly/Polley, there are enough cases of relationship and other mingling of the two names to support the case for your editor. In fact, Mr. Paulley is the owner of the Polly Oil Co. of Casper, WY. We hope he will tell us the story of the choice of name for the company founded by his father in 1938. We encourage others knowledgeable about instances of Pauly and Paulley crossing paths with the more familiar versions of the surname. **Address: 2200 West Odell, Casper, WY 82604. Computer Service: Prodigy, ID# cwf62a**

Mrs. Adrienne (Polley) Reeves - She has a dual Polley line of descent. Like several other subscribers, she descends from Jonathan Polley of Whitehall, NY, the line being: George¹, John², Matthew³, Jonathan⁴, Jonathan⁵, Joseph Henry⁶, Mary Augusta⁷. Mary Augusta married a "cousin," Joseph E. Polley. Her Polley line then continues through him. However, his origins are not

well understood and his exact relationship to Mary Augusta is unknown at this time. **Address: 6942 E. 4th Street, Tucson, AZ 85710.**

Mr. George Bert Everts - His Polley line from Woburn, MA, is also: George¹, John², Matthew³, Jonathan⁴, Jonathan⁵, Joseph Henry⁶, Mary Augusta⁷. He also has a dual Polley line like Mrs. Reeves above. In fact, as best we can determine, they are first cousins, once removed! Their individual correspondence with us indicates they did not know of each other until **Polley Pointers** made this historic introduction. Although not actively researching, George has a great deal of information about the close-in generations of his family and his son, Jack, a number of years ago, did some really good documentation on the family, putting it all down on paper. **Address: 7018 Marisol, Houston, TX 77083.**

Judith Maxine (Yarger) Hull - Although not a Polley descendant herself, her four Polley children from her first marriage, and six resulting grandchildren, are from a Polley line that traces back to Maine in 1815. Isaac Polley and Mary Hatch started this line that extends forward six generations to her grandchildren. The line is Isaac¹, John Warren², George Warren³, George Warren, Jr.⁴, Malcom Emerson⁵. Malcom is her oldest. A brother, Michael, has two sons, so the Polley name continues in this line. Judith has put her information down on paper in a classic genealogical format and continues to search for the parentage of the progenitor. See Queries. **Address: 507 Melrose, Box 36, Wall Lake, IA 51466.**

Mr. David L. Hintz - He is a new Polley researcher within the past year and is a descendant of the Roxbury, MA, line. He descends from John Polley's fifth daughter (of thirteen total) Bethiah, who married Nathaniel Parker in 1677. **Address: 4116 878th Lane NE, Circle Pines, MN 55014. E-Mail: dhintz@cdc.com**

Mrs. Shirley (Schulze) Gilbert - She has been researching her Polley line for about 15 years and is a descendant of a Hilliard Jonathan Polley who m. Sally S. Hill in 1876 in Gonzales Co., TX. Her line as she knows it is: Hilliard Jonathan¹, John Oliver², Naomi³. See Queries. The Polley surname still propagates in male lines as Naomi had two brothers, Hilliard Lee and Aubrey Hamilton who both had sons. Shirley's aunt, Frances Dale (Dowdle) Polley, widow of Hilliard Lee, did research on this line about thirty years ago and had extensive correspondence with Alvin Polley. See Past Polleys, this issue. At that time there was speculation that Hilliard Jonathan Polley was one in the same person as Jonathan Polley, b. 1848, 10th child of Joseph Henry Polley. However, that connection has never been established.

When the inquiry arrived, I was amused to see a case of someone else's question supplying me an answer! Now, knowing that Mary Johnson belonged to Joseph Polley, Jr., I can supply all of Joseph, Jr.'s siblings and half-siblings, as well as five generations of direct ancestors back to George Polly of Woburn, MA.

Joseph, Sr. was the son of John Polley and Jemima Nichols of Malden, MA, who went off to Nova Scotia about 1760 after the Acadians were driven out by the British. (See Research Progress, June '94, p. 5). Joseph returned and joined the American Army in New Hampshire as a drummer, eventually drawing a veteran's pension.

Needless to say, the individual making the inquiry has been invited to become a subscriber.

Additionally, in the Bible record enclosure to the pension application, there are listed some 16 grandchildren, presumably of Joseph Polley, Sr., the Rev. War veteran. However, their parents are not identified. One of the grandchildren, b. 9 August 1814, is also a Joseph. Since this family is known to have been from the Danbury, CT, area, this latter Joseph sounds surprisingly close to the Joseph who is the subject of research for new subscriber, Mr. Dick T. Polley. Further, the Foote Family Genealogy (Abram W. Foote, Free Press Printing Co., Burlington, VT, 1932, Vol II, p. 861), comes into play. This reference lists the family of Joseph Polley III. Among his children is a Clarena Almira Polley, b. 16 Aug 1835. She was identified as a great-grandmother by the NYC correspondent. So Mr. Dick T. Polley already has found some living distant relatives who descend from "The Three Josephs of Danbury." [Sounds like a movie title!] See Welcome Aboard and Queries. Perhaps some other readers can help Dick totally "crack" his case with this information. rcr

Welcome Aboard



HERE WE PRESENT PERTINENT PARTICULARS ON NEWLY FOUND POLLEY RESEARCHERS AS THEY BECOME SUBSCRIBERS. AS OPPOSED TO THE POLLEY PROFILES FEATURE, THIS DEPARTMENT GIVES ONLY SUFFICIENT INFORMATION TO ALLOW INITIATION OF CORRESPONDENCE WITH THE PERSON. IN THIS ISSUE WE LIST THOSE ACTIVE POLLEY RESEARCHERS AND INTERESTED PARTIES WHO HAVE BECOME SUBSCRIBERS SINCE THE INITIAL ISSUE, BY NAME, ADDRESS AND E-MAIL ADDRESS WHERE APPLICABLE.

THIS FEATURE DIFFERS FROM THE RESEARCHER LISTINGS ON P. 18 IN THAT WELCOME ABOARD IS A ONE TIME LISTING TO INTRODUCE NEW SUBSCRIBERS.

ON THE OTHER HAND, RESEARCHER LISTINGS PRESENTS AN ABBREVIATED LIST OF ALL ACTIVE POLLEY RESEARCHERS WHO HAVE PREVIOUSLY BEEN WELCOMED AS SUBSCRIBERS OR WHO HAVE CORRESPONDED WITH **POLLEY POINTERS** AND HAVE REQUESTED TO BE LISTED. NAMES WILL BE LISTED THERE FOUR CONSECUTIVE TIMES.

Mr. Timothy W. Como - Mr. Como began researching his family history at a young age. His line is George¹, John², Thomas³, William⁴, William Dennis⁵, William Harvey⁶, Mary⁷. The sixth and seventh generations were raised in Herkimer Co., NY. We recently connected his line to the Woburn line at the fourth generation. Mr. Como and your editor met on a computer bulletin board. In the next issue Tim will have a feature story for us under Polley Periphery. **Address: 1190 18th Ave. NE, Hickory, NC 28601**

Mrs. Phyllis (Cramer) Plambeck - Phyllis and your editor met via the Prodigy Service. She is a descendant of the Woburn line, specifically: George¹, John², Matthew³, Matthew⁴, Alpheas⁵, Mary⁶. See the feature on Past Polleys in the June '94 issue. Phyllis seeks info on the wife of John². See Queries. **Address: 270 Fillmore Way, Reno, NV 89509. Computer Service: Prodigy, ID# pgjn62b**

Mrs. Helen Iona (Cassidy) Stewart - Mrs. Stewart has worked with Esther McDermott and Alma Exley on developing the Polley lines out of Whitehall, NY, particularly those that settled in Pennsylvania. Her Polley line is: George¹, John², Matthew³, Jonathan⁴, Jonathan⁵, Joseph Henry⁶, Abner Hubbard⁷, Emmaline⁸. **Address: 4160 Jade St. - #86, Capitola, CA 95010-3920.**

Mrs. H. Loring (Evelyn G.) White - In researching her Polley line, she encounters a very knotty problem involving a Josiah Polley. Either there is a marriage with a 29 year difference between husband and wife or there is another Josiah (perhaps a junior) who is not at all well documented. The former solution points her line toward John Polley of Roxbury. The latter solution could end up at either Woburn or Roxbury. See Queries. A possible feature for a future issue. **Address: 10422 S. 47th Street, Phoenix, AZ 85044**

Mrs. Joan Reed Miller - She has been researching her Polley roots for about five years and is seeking documentation on a great-grandmother. See the Queries feature in this issue. **Address: 56 Jean Lo Way, York, PA 17402-8710.**

By these presents be it knowne that I George Polly sen of Woburn in the Massachusetts Colony in the County of Middlesex being of sound understanding and perfect memory: Doe heerby make this writinge my last will and Testament: Renouncing all former wills by me made Committing my soule unto gd in Christ my Saviour and my body Decently to be interred in the Earth: And After my Debts are paid and my funerall expenses discharged; I Doe give my estate both personal and Reall as follows:

Imp. I give unto my beloved wife Elizabeth the use of my now dwelling house all my land which I now posses my household stuff and the use of two oxen two Cows a mare together with cart a plow and _____ during her widowhood. I do give to my son John Polly all my land and meadow belonging to my houselott lying on the south west side bounded by a white oake stump at the upper end and so by a line through the middle of Drie pole swamp to the river and one Cow; two thirds of all my woodland: paying forty Pounds as is heer after Expressed: I give unto my son George the other part of my land on the North East side of my houselott and my meadow on the south side of the river one third part of my woodland and one Cow: paying forty pounds as I heerafter appoint; but if he fails to pay the forty pounds: then I give him only his ten Acre lott he now possesseth one Cow and one quarter part of my woodlands: I Doe give unto my Daughter Elizabeth twenty pounds and one Cow as part of the twenty pounds: with that she hath already received: to my Daughter Hannah twenty pounds and my seven Acre lott on the other side [of] maple meadow river: to my son Samuel twenty pounds or my great lott and twenty shillings and my musket; to my son Edward twenty one pounds; to my Daughter Sarah twenty one pounds: I Doe Give to my Daughter Hannah one Cow as part of the twenty pounds mentioned before: I Doe appoint my sons John and George to pay my legacies to the other Children when they come to possese the lands; that is to say ten pounds yearly as it ariseth due untill the four scoure pounds be paid: only when Edward comes to Receive his legacy I Doe Appoint them to pay fiveteen pounds that year. I Doe give my son Samuel a pair of steers [___?] three year old when he is at age: I Doe give unto my beloved wife Elizabeth two cows a mare and my household stuff for her use dureing her Naturall life... After my wives decease I Doe give my household stuffe equally to be devided Among my Children: I Doe Constitute and ordaine my sons John and George joint executours to this my will: I Doe Appoint my trustie friends Mathew Edwards and John Baker overseers: unto what is above written I George Polly have put to my hand and seal the fifth day of June one thousand six hundred and Eighty three.

his mark
George X Polly

In prsence off
Sam Carter

her mark
Deborah X pierce.

Last Will and Testament of George Polly of Woburn, MA

Research Progress

THIS DEPARTMENT IS RESERVED FOR ANNOUNCING NEW ACQUISITIONS OF DATA, RESEARCH BREAKTHROUGHS, HOWEVER SMALL, OR NEW SOURCES THAT BECOME AVAILABLE. IT WILL BE PRETTY MUCH OF A MIXED BAG TYPE FEATURE, DESIGNED TO GIVE YOU A PLACE TO TALK ABOUT A PARTICULAR INDIVIDUAL, MARRIAGE, OR FAMILY THAT ISN'T QUITE READY TO "CARVE IN STONE" BUT IS AT THE STAGE WHERE YOU'D LIKE TO AIR IT FOR COMMENT, CRITICISM, ETC., SORT OF HALF WAY BETWEEN A QUERY AND A "FINAL" FAMILY GROUP SHEET.

In the middle of June, your editor received an inquiry from a person in New York City who had

seen a copy of our "book" (see Polley Profiles, June '94) at NEHGS in Boston. The inquiry concerned a Joseph Polley, b. 16 Jul 1782 (or 83), d. 19 Jan 1873, and m. 8 Sep 1804 in Danbury, CT, to Mary Johnson. The correspondent was seeking the parentage of this Joseph. I had quite a bit of information on a Joseph Polley of Danbury, CT, who was a Rev. War veteran and who d. 11 Jul 1843 in Bridgeport, CT. The pension record for my Joseph had a Bible record enclosure that gave the names of all his children, including a Joseph with the same birth date as the Joseph of the inquiry. A Mary Johnson, "wife of Joseph," was also listed. However the record was ambiguous as to which Joseph she was married, the father or the son. It had always puzzled me.