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# Upstream

Upper Pemigewasset Historical Society

Newsletter

Winter 2012



## The Pollards

- Who were they?**
- Where did they come from**
- What did they do here?**

We see the Pollard name around - Pollard Road, Pollard Brook etc.- but we do not often hear about the Pollard Family anymore.

### Some Little Details...

Tom Pollard was the twelfth child of Able Pollard and Abigail Hills, born on 25 June 1818 in southern New Hampshire. He married Mary A. Elliott, daughter of William and Rebecca Elliott, on 22 April 1841 in Nashua. After relocating to Lincoln, Tom and Mary Pollard raised a family and lived out their lives there. Mary died 9 April 1898, Tom died 3 February 1903, and they

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**Upper Pemi Historical Society  
Will Hold its Annual**

## **Spaghetti Dinner**

**Tuesday, March 27**

Get your tickets at the  
Lincoln Library

Choose to dine at:

5:00 p.m.

Or

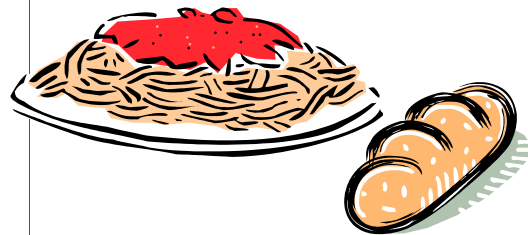
6:15 p.m.

Or

Order Take Out!

What could be better than a tasty spaghetti dinner with family and friends? Plan to attend this important fundraiser held at Elvio's Pizza. Bring your friends!

**Tickets only \$8.00**



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 26 Maple Street  
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 Lincoln, NH 03251

## Old Woodstock Yearbooks?

The UPHS is looking for old high school year books to add to its collection. Check your bookshelves, basement and attic, and if you can part with them, consider giving them a permanent home at the museum.

**We especially need year books from Woodstock, prior to 1933, or 1941, 1942, 1944 through 1953.**

Thank you



## Thank You!

Recently UPHS Museum has received some wonderful donations:

- Woodstock Town Report for the year ending February 15, 1894, given by Helen Kallum Gilman.
- Case and instruments from barbers in the area, given by Charlie Harrington.
- Birthday invitation for Mrs. Henry, given by Ray and Maree Lagasse.
- Fifty-nine lead pencils from Franconia Paper Co., given by Ernie Duffy.
- Large picture of the Maguire family, given by Helene O'Rourke.
- Building plans for the Beard Opera House in North Woodstock, given by the Everett LaPointe Family.
- Ceremonial bottle, with presentation box, used when Irma Avery Royce christened the Woodstock Victory Ship in 1944, given by the Avery Family.
- Booklet on House Care for the Camp Foremen, given by the Henry Waldo Family.
- American flag 1896-1908, with 45 stars, given by Martha Patterson.
- Picture of baseball team, given by Murdoch Mayhew.
- Picture of Number 1 Dam, given by Edmund Gionet.

The following items were given by those unknown:

- Tensiometer instrument with carrying case.
- LW Cheerleading sweater.
- Lincoln baseball uniform

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were buried at the Parker Ledge Cemetery in Woodstock.

### **Words from Someone Who Knew Him...**

In 1896, Elmer E. Woodbury, the Woodstock correspondent to the newspaper, The Plymouth Record, wrote an article about the Pollards. As in most of his writings about Woodstock, he used the penname Justus Conrad. The following is a transcription of this article which appeared in the August 1, 1896 issue of the Plymouth Record.

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#### **Pollard**

Of late it has been the lot of the writer to be up in Lincoln and in the immediate vicinity of where lived a man that is known more extensively perhaps than any other person that mingles with our common people. A man that has gained his notoriety not by any official position in public life but by force of circumstances that surround him.

Fifty-seven years ago Thomas C. Pollard then of Nashua became acquainted with Mary Ann Elliott of Hudson. This acquaintance kindled the fire of love in the hearts of this young couple, which led up to their marriage one year later.

Immediately after, they set their faces toward the north and sought a home in the wilds of Lincoln then an obscure town that had but a very few scattering settlers. The journey taken by young Pollard and his good wife was one that would cause the young people of today to get discouraged. The railroad then only came to Nashua and consequently

they had to ride by carriage or go on foot. A brother of Mrs. Pollard accompanied her with a team while young Pollard came by the old reliable way "Shank's mare." What would a young married couple of these times think, should they be obliged to make their wedding tour in this way. It was not in a shower of rice that Thomas C. Pollard and wife left Nashua for Lincoln. It was not in a Pullman car that this couple rode in. They were not surrounded by costly presents for they had not issued any gilt edged wedding cards. No, they were only surrounded by the bond of true love that for over one-half century has made a happy and peaceful home.

Under these circumstances the bride was content to ride to her new home in Lincoln in a common wagon while the groom felt happy in counting the mile posts and reading the guide boards as he tramped over 100 miles. He made the "home stretch" from Bristol a distance of 38 miles in one day. The home they found waiting for them was not a "stone front," that had been presented by a father and furnished by a mother. It was not an elegant structure that had been presented by some rich aunt or uncle. It was quite the reverse. The house that greeted young Pollard and wife was an old rickety building that admitted both snow and rain, and which today would not be considered fit to keep a horse in. With courage and brave hearts this young couple entered this house surrounded as it was by a howling wilderness and then and there began life. Living as they did at the terminus of the road no travelers passed the house to cheer them and all the company they had was the singing of the

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*The frame house built by the Pollards to replace their original log house.*

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birds by day and the howling of the wolf at night accompanied by the hooting of the “Frigidus Apis’s” owl-ets as they “sassed” each other across the valley.

The first year was one of discouragement for in that time they never saw a dollar in money. One day when both were having the “blues” a man came and purchased 50 bushels of apples for which he paid them \$5. As Mr. Pollard has often told me this \$5 made him feel rich and gave them both courage anew.

Thus we have briefly mentioned the circumstances under which Uncle Tom Pollard and his good wife commenced life in Lincoln. Time progressed and two sons and one

daughter came to cheer the home. A new house and other buildings were erected. Between the busy seasons of farming Uncle Tom used to go about the country with two tin trunks peddling “Yankee notions” such as jack knives, pins, needles, handkerchiefs, harmonicas, jews-harps etc.

He has sold bushels of jack knives to the small boys of the valley in years gone by. For years he was the sole agent for Leavitt’s Almanac and no month of December was complete unless Pollard had made his rounds and distributed the almanac. In this line he did a thriving business, for a farmer that tried to succeed without one of Leavitt’s Almanac in the house was considered a person that had a “wheel loose in his head.” Winters

saw Pollard journeying to Concord and other cities where he went to sell spruce gum. No man in the state had dickered in gum any more than Tom Pollard. He has sold gum to all the drug stores in the Merrimack valley and many in Massachusetts and druggists are rare that have been in the business many years that do not know Pollard the gum dealer. He told me that the highest price he had ever received for gum was \$1.50 per lb. While the lowest was 25c.

The one principle reason why the name of Pollard is so common is for the reason that his home is at the entrance of the great east branch valley where hundreds of hunters and fishermen from all parts of the country have made their headquarters for years. No one that ever visited this locality could go away forgetting uncle Tom Pollard for he was always a royal entertainer and one that tried to please his guests.

Fifty-six years ago when he came to live in Lincoln there was not a railroad within one hundred miles. To-day a railroad passes by his door. The "Pullman" of New Hampshire is within a few rods.

E. Henry, the lumber king of the "north country," has within a few years opened up the great east branch valley and the products of the forests are being shipped into the markets of the world. Fifty-six years ago it required three days for Tom Pollard to walk from Nashua to Lincoln. To-day he can board the cars in the morning and be in Nashua at noon or in season to get his dinner. Thus we see the progress of time and the advancement of civilization.

Uncle Tom has always been a firm believer in Christian principles

and is what they term a "hard shell" Baptist. When he came to Lincoln, Elder Ropes preached in the Baptist church in Woodstock, where there were 100 [communicants]. Pollard used to attend regularly and always carried his dinner for in those days there were two services every Sabbath. The edifice would be crowded with people that came from miles around to hear the word of God proclaimed from the pulpit. The noon hour was devoted to Sabbath school and dinner. Uncle Tom says that there was always a "horse shed" class that did not participate in the regular Sunday school. He also says that when the churches of this country abandoned the practice of having two services they deeded one-half of the church to the "devil." He believed that the Sabbath day should be devoted wholly to God; not one-half of it to Him and the other half to pleasure.

In politics Mr. Pollard was a Jackson democrat until the close of Pierce administration. Since then he has had no use for the Democrats and places his hopes with the Republican party.

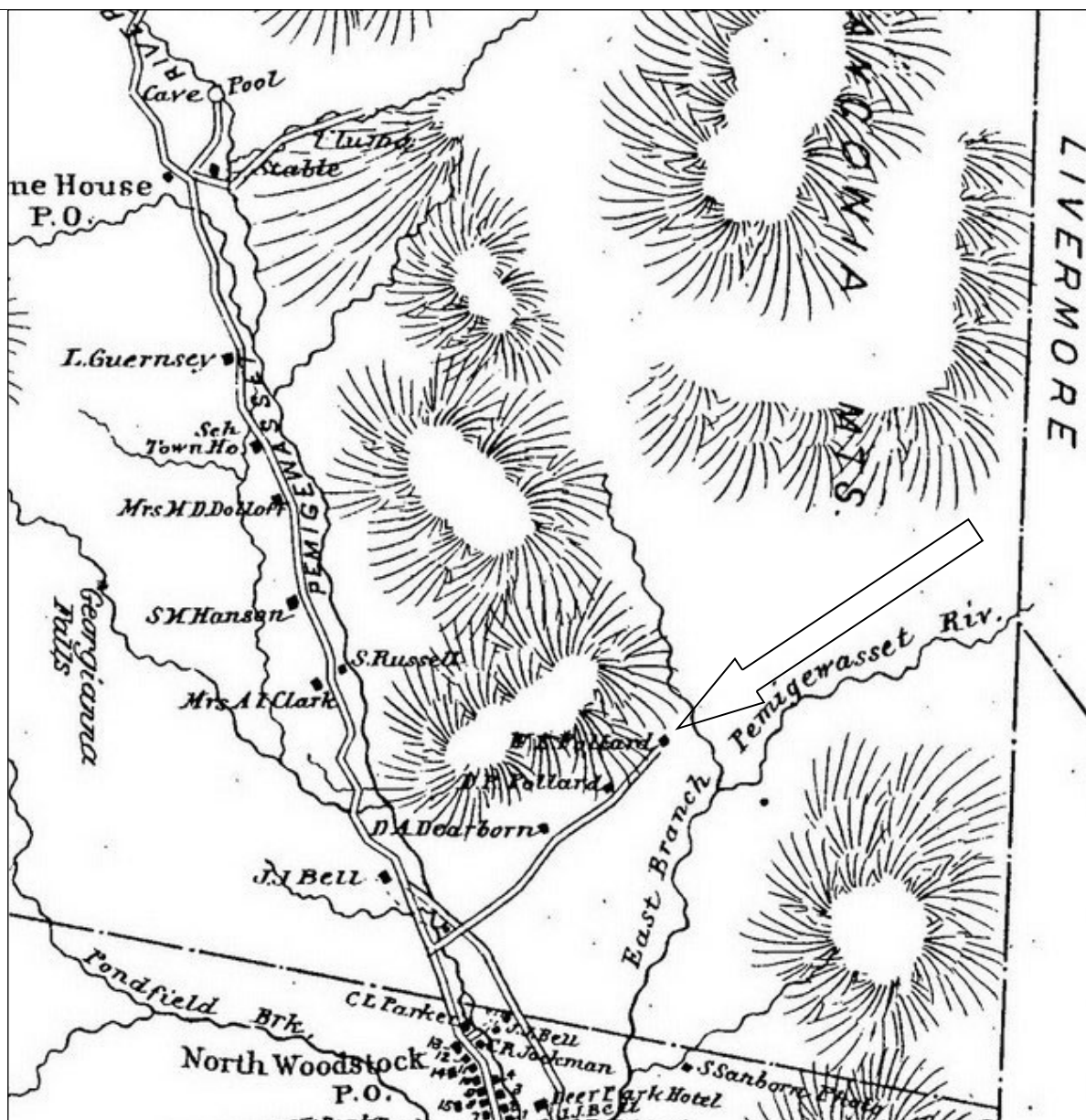
He says that he has no objection to ones riding a "bike," but when asked what he thought of the "bloomer girl" he looked sad and shook his head.

Uncle Tom Pollard is now seventy-seven years old and quite smart. His good wife still remains to cheer and comfort him and they are both well cared for by their son William. He has lived an active and useful life that would furnish a pattern for us all to live by.

JUSTUS CONRAD  
Plymouth Record, August 1, 1896

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A Portion of the 1892 Grafton County Map

Road would be dramatic as Lincoln rapidly grew as a major logging area. This growth would continue as the mills were built. The population in Lincoln in 1850 was 57, by 1880 it had only increased to 65, but by 1900 the populations had grown to 541.

The site of the building now is on the north side of Pollard Road by the intersec-

tion of Route 112, where the Common Man Restaurant is located. The original building, while being used as the restaurant, burned in July of 2000. When the restaurant was rebuilt after the fire, it was built around the original chimney and fireplace.

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### And What Did They Do There?...

In all census records, Tom Pollard and sons William and Dura simply list “farmer” as occupation. In Mr. Woodbury’s article we note that Tom did that and a little bit of everything else to eke out a living. Tom and his sons made the most of their location at the edge of the wilderness by providing board and guide service to hunters and fishermen. Dura Pollard was often mentioned, along with Levi Guernsey, as one of the best guides of the area.

By the 1880’s and 1890’s the White Mountain area was drawing more vacationers with needs other than those of the serious hunter or fisherman. In 1880 *The White Mountains: a handbook for travelers*, published by James R. Osgood, described Pollard’s as follows:

**Pollard’s** is a little over 1 M. from the Pemigewasset-Valley highway, and is reached by a good road which diverges to the E., N. of N. Woodstock and about ½ M. S. of Tuttle’s, crossing the river and approaching the mountains. This is the last outpost of civilization on the boarders of the vast forest of the Pemigewasset, and beyond it no road nor trail goes. Mr. Pollard has room for about 20 guests, his rates being \$1 a day. This is a good objective point for sportsmen; but the rude furniture and uncarpeted floors render it less attractive for families. The house is on a pretty interval of the E. Branch, and has a broad view of the mountains, the

chief of which are Moosilauke and Kinsman in the W., the Coolidge Mts. on the N., and the nameless peaks of the Pemigewasset on the E. Mr. Prime has written of this place, somewhat enthusiastically: ‘Nowhere in our Northern Alps is a more beautiful view than is spread out in every direction from Pollard’s house.

*Mountain Summers: Tales of hiking and exploration in the White Mountains from 1787 to 1886 as seen through the eyes of women*, edited by Peter Rowan and June Hammond Rowan, is a compilation of many letters exchanged by a group of women totally enchanted by hiking in the mountains. They wrote of staying at Pollard’s and of Dura’s services as guide during the early 1880’s. The letters make for wonderful reading and show that the Pollard’s certainly did what they could to adjust to the changing time (this book is available at your local libraries).

However, in the 1890’s even more drastic changes were to come with the arrival of J. E. Henry & Sons logging operations. Dura sold his home to the Henry’s and moved to Bridgewater, New Hampshire. William, by now owner of the original Pollard property, not only farms but runs a boarding house, no longer for hunters, fishermen or tourists, but for workers in the growing logging enterprises and mills in Lincoln.

### What Happened to The Pollards?

Mr. Woodbury mentioned that the Pollards had two sons and a daughter. They also had a daughter, Mary Augusta, who died

at the age of twenty, in 1864. She is buried in Parker Cemetery in Woodstock along with her parents. The 1850 census also shows another child, Malinda age 8, who never appears on later census reports. Since the 1850 census does not give us relationships to the head of household we do not know if she was their child who died or left home before 1860, or if she was a child just living for a time with the Pollard's.

The following information on the Pollard descendants only goes through the first few decades of the 1900's. Though there were few to carry on the Pollard name, there were many to carry on the Pollard blood line.

Tom and Mary Pollard's daughter, Roann, born 19 November 1845, married Civil War Veteran George Henry Brown of Woodstock on 24 November 1865. They lived in North Woodstock then Thornton Gore, and raised twelve children. George died in 1896 and Roann in 1926. George and Roann Brown and many of their children are buried in Woodstock Cemetery. Their children are:

- George Sidney Brown, born in 1866.
- Henry Seldon Brown, born in 1868, married Cora Sawyer. They lived in Woodstock and had two children. Florence married Justin Stiles. Fred and his wife Ethel lived on Route 3 in Woodstock for many years.
- Anna M., born in 1869, married Fred F. Sargent, an engineer with the railroad.
- Fanny B., born in 1872, died in 1891
- Cyrus, born in 1873, married Ruby

Percival. They had four children, three surviving to adulthood, Percival, Alice and Phyllis.

- Lily M., born in 1875, married Albert Ruhl.
- Wellman was born in 1877.
- Nelson Brown, born in 1879, and his wife Isa lived in Thornton.
- Leon Nicholas Brown, born in 1881, married Dora C. Downing. They lived in Thornton and raised two children, Beatrice and Merlin.
- Jennie Maria Brown, born in 1883, died in 1972.
- Bessie A. Brown, born in 1884, married Avery L. Rand.
- Pauline A. Brown, born in 1888, married Vincent T. Sawyer. They had three children surviving to adulthood: Lloyd, who married Margaret Durgin; Helen, who married Robert Ricker; and Ethel, who married Malcolm Downing.

Tom and Mary Pollard's son, Dura, born 21 June 1847, married Addie Russell and they settled on Pollard Road a bit west of the Pollard homestead. In 1893 Dura sold his house to the Henry family and relocated his family to Bridgewater, New Hampshire where he died on 4 January 1915. Addie died in 1948. They are buried at the Woodstock Cemetery. They had four children:

- Carrie M., born in 1874 and died in 1965, unmarried, is buried at Woodstock Cemetery in the family lot.

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- Truman D., born in 1876, married Sadie Burt in 1898. Truman worked as superintendant at lumber mills, first in the Concord area, then in Easton, Massachusetts. They had sons Truman and Russell.
- Herman, born in 1879 and died in 1882, is buried at the Woodstock Cemetery in the family lot.
- Edith, born in 1893, married first, William West, then Charles York. They had a daughter Thelma.

Tom and Mary's son, William, born 23 February 1849, married Ada Venott Dorey from Nova Scotia on 6 July 1889. Ada was the widow of Stephen Dorey. They settled at the family homestead in Lincoln where they raised their children. Ada died in 1926 and William in 1935 and they are buried in Parker Cemetery in Woodstock. They had four daughters:

- Mary Ann born in 1891, married George Edward Strickland in 1908. He worked at the paper mill in Lincoln and they raised at least eight children: William Henry, born about 1909; Bertha A., born about 1910, married William H, Hurcombe; Margaret M. born about 1913, married Thomas Doran; Henry Edward born about 1915; Christine born about 1918, married James Patrick Donahue; George born about 1921; Stella born about 1926; and Evelyn Elizabeth born about 1927, married Ralph Lewis Conn.
- Lucretia Elizabeth born in 1892, married Fred Dunlap in 1910. Of their

children: James born in 1910, married Evelyn Fowler; Shirley born about 1912, married William O'Haier; Hazel born about 1919, married Arthur Burt; and Fred born about 1921 married Helen Louise Allen.

- Stella, born in 1893, married Archie Strickland in 1910. Of their children, Florence, born about 1911, married Frank Corrigan; Wallace, born about 1913, married Shirley Horne; Elsie May, born about 1914, married Arcade Savoy; Madeline born in 1915 died in infancy. Archie, Stella, baby Madeline and Elsie and Arcade Savoy are buried at Parker Cemetery in Woodstock
- Elsie M., born in 1895, died in 1898. She is buried at Parker Cemetery in Woodstock..

### **From your Editor:**

I have enjoyed learning about the Polards and their family down through the years. I apologize for errors and omissions made along the way as I tried to trace family lines and connections.

In the next issue I hope to get back to more information about Pig's Ear. I have heard more thoughts about how the area got that name and will report on that then.

Please let me know if you have any thoughts about the articles written, or ideas for future articles. Your thoughts are always welcome.

Barbara Avery  
bdavery@roadrunner.com  
745-8845

## Our Facility



The building at 26 Church Street in Lincoln has had a long and varied history and for many years has been home to the UPHS. Over the past several years many improvements have been made. It is now apparent that the siding and roof needs to be replaced. This project will probably cost about \$75,000.

We would welcome any donations toward this capital project. Thank you for your consideration.

## Membership Appeal

### Did You Remember to Send in Your Dues?

#### If not, it is not too late!

Individual—\$20 Family—\$35 Business and Professional—\$50 Life Member—\$200

Make check payable to the Upper Pemigewasset Historical Society and mail to:

UPHS, PO Box 863, Lincoln, NH 03251

The Upper Pemigewasset Historical Society presently has a fascinating publication for sale.




Now Available!:

- *The Pycolog*, the most complete record of life in the Lincoln-Woodstock area during the early and mid-20th century.
- *The Pycolog* was published monthly by The Parker Young Company, and later by The Marcalus Paper Company from 1919-29 and 1941-48.
- We offer a nearly complete run of this publication on a set of three DVDs. Together, there are over 1,500 pages of history on these discs, and hundreds of photographs. Included, along with the activities in the Mills and the lumbering operations, are details on nearly every aspect of life in the towns. The discs are fully searchable.
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