

Joseph G. Pollard

Who Was That Masked Man?

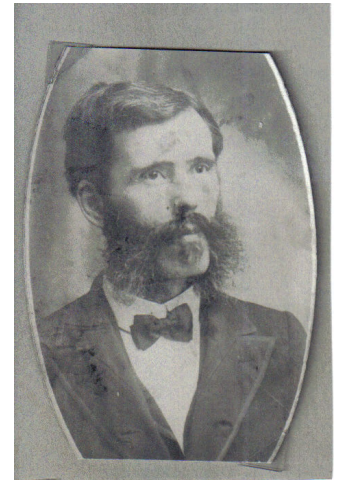
Written by: Timothy A. Duffie
December 31, 2008

If our latest generation were to someday decide to trace the Pollard lineage back, as I have attempted, they would ultimately run into our ancestral "Lone Ranger", a man who keeps popping up in reports...nobody is quite sure what his name was...and he mysteriously disappeared.

Rootsweb databases (<http://www.rootsweb.com>) have been my best source of information regarding our ancestors. A rootsweb database is saved as a "GEDCOM" file, and, with the proper software, I can import it into my computer and merge it with my existing family data.

With a little bit of luck I can find someone else's research that overlaps our family. That worked with Don Collins when we combined to identify Armina Collins Duffy's mother, Lucinda Martin, wife of Israel Collins. Combining his data with mine, we added several generations of Collins ancestors.

Unfortunately, that has not worked with the husband of Mary Gilstrap Pollard, the father of Isaac G. Pollard (right). In fact, there are dozens of "Pollard" rootsweb databases, and few of them can even agree as to his real name.



Some claim he was Joseph G. Pollard, and some claim he was Hugh Pollard. There is also some debate over his birthplace. The census reports I have state that his birthplace was Virginia. Another rootsweb database I found stated that he was born in Massachusetts. Isaac G. Pollard doesn't help any; on the 1900 U.S. Federal Census he stated that his father was born in Missouri, which we are virtually positive is not true.

The most reliable I have located is the file of Bob Zimmerman. Bob's database shows:

Bob Zimmerman RootsWeb Tree

Entries: 99721 Updated: 2004-12-02 13:11:36 UTC (Thu) Contact: Bob Zimmerman roots@1z.com

Reunion for the descendants of James Gray Click and Elizabeth Gorman Joseph Taylor Holman and Harriet Francis Lynch August 20 & 21, 2005 <http://www.1z.com/Reunion/index.htm> Looking for pictures !!!! Primary Surnames - Zimmerman, Click, Gilstrap, Blake, Martin, Glover, Holman, Owen, Kuykendall, Thompson, Adams, Reavis, Gorman, Lynch, Bryan

[Index](#) | [Descendancy](#) | [Register](#) | [Download GEDCOM](#) | [Add Post-em](#)

- ID: I46059
- Name: Joseph G. POLLARD
- Nickname: Hugh
- Sex: M
- Birth: 1818
- IDNO: 640+241+
- Change Date: 29 APR 2004 at 14:52:28

Suggested Next Step:

Search OneWorldTree for:
[Pollard, Joseph G.](#)

Search 

Included with this search:

Bob Zimmerman's report also provided a birth date for Joseph G. Pollard of 1818. Others have stated he was born in 1821. I have no documentation proving either date.

One of the more confusing reports is this one...

Hugh Pollard

1841 POLLARD, HUGH [s] Yates Publishing C. / Hugh G. Pollard Married, Mary Gilstrap June 20, 1841 Daughter of Isaac Gilstrap & Lockey [Davis } Gilstrap, Mary Born 1823 in Tenn. / *Their Children* / Lockey [b] 1842 in Missouri / Moses B. [b] 1844 in Missouri / Mary E. [b] 1846 in Missouri / Isaac [b] 1848 in Missouri / Cordella [b] 1850 in Missouri / Jesse [b] 1858 in [not stated] Sources listed / Washington Co.[1850] & Crawford Co.[1860] Arkansas Census .

This report only adds to the confusion because it shows "Jesse [b] 1858" under the "***Their Children***" category for "Hugh & Mary Gilstrap Pollard".

Joseph Pollard died in 1850, and Mary Gilstrap Pollard married Herod C. Johnson. Their first child was Jessie Columbus Johnson. However, in the Crawford County 1860 census, the census used for

[U.S. and International Marriage Records, 1560-1900](#)
[All Records > Birth, Marriage, & Death > U.S. and International Marri](#)

the above report, Jesse C. Johnson is listed as Jesse C. Pollard.

Personal Information

Name:	Hugh G. Pollard
Gender:	male
Spouse Name:	Mary Gilstrap
Spouse Birth Place:	TN
Spouse Birth Year:	1822
Marriage Year:	1841
Marriage State:	MO
Number Pages:	1

Some historical items, like the one to the left, are difficult to explain. Someone gathered this information from an official report. This claims to have come from "U.S. and International Marriage Records, 1560-1900".

I think the answer lies in the fact that people tended to use a variety of names. On our Duffie side, our paternal Great Grandmother Mary Elizabeth McCall Beach sometimes listed herself as Mary and sometimes as Elizabeth. It became increasingly difficult to follow when I discovered her daughter Elizabeth Mary Beach did the same thing.

It would seem the best source of information would be Mary Gilstrap Pollard Johnson herself.

However, as indicated above, she may have been living under false pretenses. Some time ago I began to receive information from Rick, a descendant of Herod C. & Mary Gilstrap Pollard Johnson who prefers to remain anonymous. He is the great grandson of Jessie Columbus Johnson.

Because Mary Gilstrap Pollard Johnson died as a Johnson, any documentation she may have had regarding her life is with the Johnsons. They were able to write for records we did not know existed.

Rick has shared that information with me as it pertains to the Pollards. One report references Mary Gilstrap Pollard's efforts to obtain the Civil War Pension she felt she deserved as a result of her son, Moses G. Pollard (Isaac G. Pollard's brother), dying of Typhoid Fever during the war.

Of interest is the fact that she petitioned for the pension well into the 1860s, and we know that she had at least one child with Herod C. Johnson as of 1858, Jessie Columbus Johnson. She makes a statement in the following petition that may not be true.

Note: Source *Pension Papers and Civil War Record, State of Arkansas, County of Washington*

On this 13th day of June A.D. 1864 personally came before the George W.M. Reid, Clerk of the Circuit Court within and for the County and State, aforesaid, Mary Pollard a resident of Washington Co in the State of Arkansas aged 41 years, who being first duly sworn according to law, both on her oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefits of the provisions made by the Act of Congress approved July 14th 1862: that she is the widow of Joseph G. Pollard and mother of Moses G. Pollard who was a Private in Company A commanded by Captain Joshua Dudley in the 1st Regiment of Ark Vol Cav in the war of 1861 who died at Springfield in the State of Missouri on the 18th day of October 1862 from the effects of Typhoid Fever received in the service of the United States.

She further declares that her said son, upon whom she was wholly or in part dependent for support, having left no widow or minor child under sixteen years of age surviving, declarant makes this application for a pension under the above mentioned act, and refers to the evidence filed herewith, and that in the proper department to establish her claim.

Her name was Mary Gilstrap. She also declares that she was married to the said Joseph G. Pollard, deceased, on the 17th day of June A.D., 1843, at Putnam County in the state of Missouri by William Cook, a Justice of the Peace; that there is no public or private record of said marriage, that she cannot procure the evidence of said witnesses, but herewith forwards the best evidence of said marriage which she is now able to procure.

She also declares that she has not in any way been engaged in, or aided or abetted the rebellion in the United States; that she is not in the receipt of a pension under the 2d Section of the Act, nor has she again married since the death of her son, the said Moses G. Pollard and that her post office address is Fayetteville, Washington Co Arkansas.

Mary her X Pollard.

So, to answer the question, **“Who Was That Masked Man?”**...he was Joseph G. Pollard, and I accept the premise of Bob Zimmerman that his nickname was “Hugh”.

Joseph G. & Mary Gilstrap Pollard are our grandparents through Isaac Haven & Catherine Howe Pollard and Evalyn Pollard Leshner. The children of Joseph G. & Mary Gilstrap Pollard were apparently named by a formula quite popular at the time:

- The oldest daughter was named after the mother’s mother: Lockey F. Pollard/Lockey Gilstrap
- The oldest son was named after the father’s father: Moses G. Pollard
- Second daughter was named after her mother: Mary Elizabeth Pollard/Mary Gilstrap Pollard,
- The second son was named after the mother’s father: Isaac G. Pollard/Isaac Gilstrap.
- Youngest daughter Cordellia Carrie Pollard: not sure who she would be named after.

It is possible therefore that Joseph G. Pollard named his first son "Moses G." after his father.

Since Isaac G. Pollard stated in the 1900 census that his father was from Virginia, it is likely that to go any further back in our Pollard history we must find a "Moses (G.) Pollard" in Virginia. There is a Moses G. Pollard listed in the 1820 Montgomery County, Virginia census, but I have not found any further data about him.

Prior to that, I have located a “Joseph Pollard” who, in his 1789 will, left a portion of his wealth to his son, Moses Pollard.

Will of Joseph Pollard, 1789

Amelia County, Will Book 4, Page 162.

In the Name of God, Amen. I, Joseph Pollard of Amelia County being weak in Body but of a sound and perfect memory do make and ordain this my last Will and Testament, principally and first of all Item I lend to my beloved wife Leah Pollard all of my whole Estate of every kind and denomination whatsoever during her Natural Life Item I give to my loving sons by name five pounds each to be received out of my Estate Zachariah Pollard, Thomas Pollard, Hendrick (sp?) Pollard, Moses Pollard, John Pollard and Robert Pollard to them and their heirs forever. Item I give to my daughter Mary Pollard one Negro Girl slave Nann to she and her Heirs for ever. Item I give to my son Robert Pollard my land whereon I now live containing one hundred and forty three acres be the same more or less and if he should Depart this Life before he comes to the age of Twenty one years then the next youngest son to take the said Land and if he should depart this life in like manner then to the next youngest and so to continue on. Item I give to my daughter Hannah James one shilling and three pence. Item I give all my whole estate that I have not yet mentioned to be equally divided among my children that I shall hereafter name Isaac Pollard George Pollard William Pollard Francis Pollard Zachariah Pollard Thomas Pollard Henikind (?) Pollard Moses Pollard John Pollard Robert Pollard Betty Pollard Ovensen (?) Pollard and Nancy Pollard to them and their heirs forever. My sons Isaac Pollard, George Pollard and Zachariah Pollard I do ordain to be Executors to this my Last Will and Testament in witness whereunto I have set my hand and seal this 2nd day of August 1789.

his

Sealed and Pronounced Joseph XX Pollard (seal)
In the presence of us mark
Joh Chapman
Geroge Pollard Foster
William Crowder

At a court held for Amelia Court on the 22nd day of October 1789
this Will was exhibited into
Court and Proved by two witnesses thereto and ordered to be recorded.