

Polk Genealogy of Maryland, North Carolina, Tennessee & Arkansas

The origin of the family begins with Fulbert, A. D. 1075. Petrius, the son of Fulbert, assumed ca 1153 a surname known as Pollok. From him was descended Sir Robert Pollok who during the time of James VI of England (who was Catholic) removed to Ulster, Ireland with a colony of Protestants. When he died, his son, Robert Bruce Pollok emigrated to America.

Robert Bruce Pollock was born 1606 in Ireland, a son of Sir Robert De Pollok. He was married to Annabel Stewart of Donegal, Ireland and settled in Somerset County Maryland in 1686.

Their old home still stands, and in it still ticks away the tall clock they brought from Londonderry; there also is an old mahogany liquor case, that contained fifteen square bottles holding two and a half gallons each. They brought from Ireland the old family Bible, containing records of births and deaths. It was stained by the weather from being hid in a tree. When it was read, one of the family would stand guard to warn the worshippers of the approach of Papists. This was after the Restoration. Robert Bruce Pollok is said to have been an elder in old Rehoboth Church, that claims to be the oldest Presbyterian church in America.A

Genealogical History By Colonel Cadwallader Jones

(1895).

They had two known children, Thomas Pollok and Robert Bruce Pollok (1640-1703).

Robert Bruce Pollok, son of Robert Bruce Pollock, began the surname use of Polk. He was born 1640 in Donegal, Ireland, and died 1703 or 1704 in Somerset County, Maryland. He was married ca 1650 in Ireland to Magdalene Taker (1637-1726), and afterwards they immigrated to Maryland, settling on a plantation which they called Whitehall. Issue:

- Robert Polk died before May of 1727.**
- David Polk, died before 1703.**
- John Polk, born 1659/60 in Donegal, Ireland, died 1707/1708 at Whitehall in Somerset County, Maryland.**
- William B. Polk, born 1662 in Donegal, Ireland, died at Whitehall, in Somerset County, Maryland 1740.**
- Ann Polk, born 1669 in Donegal, Ireland.**
- Ephraim Polk, born 1671 in Donegal, Ireland, died 1739 in Anne Arundel County, Maryland.**
- James Polk, born 1673 in Donegal, Ireland, died 1727 in Anne Arundel County, Maryland.**

- **Robert Polk, born 1675, died 5/10/1727 in Dorchester County, Maryland. He was married to Grace Gillett. Issue:**
 1. **David Polk, born a 1700 in Somerset County, Maryland.**
 2. **Thomas Polk, born 1702/1703 in Somerset County, Maryland, died 1788.**
 3. **Daniel Polk, born a 1704 in Somerset County, Maryland.**
 4. **Clement Polk, born ca 1709 in Somerset County, Maryland.**
 5. **Grace Polk, born 1716 in Somerset County, Maryland.**
- **Martha Polk, born 1679.**
- **Joseph Polk, born 1681, died 1751/1752 in Somerset County, Maryland.**

A great-great grandson, Thomas Polk, was born in Pennsylvania, and removed to Mecklenburg County, North Carolina in 1753 where in 1769 he became a member of the Provincial Assembly. He was Colonel of the North Carolina Continental Troops, ultimately General, during the Revolutionary War.

It is well known that he was prominent in rousing the people to make the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence, and that he read that famous paper from the Court House steps to the assembled multitude. A Scotch soldier is reported to have claimed that 'Auld Tam Polk declared independence lang before anybody else.'

Colonel William Polk, son of Thomas Polk, was born in Mecklenburg County on 7/9/1758 and was a resident of Raleigh. He enlisted into service at the age of sixteen and two years later in 1776 was appointed Major of the 9th Regiment, North Carolina Continental Battalion. This Revolutionary War soldier distinguished himself as an aide to Caswell at Camden, but at Eutaw Springs when his horse was killed under him, his brother also fell. During the battle of Brandywine he was shot through the shoulder in at Germantown through the mouth. Thus, he was known as the young officer who caught British bullets in his teeth. When engaged with a British cavalryman was was reported to hae said - "I parried his thrust, and with a blow of my sabre, split him like a cabbage head." In 1812, he was appointed General over the US Army. He died 1/14/1834, after representing Mecklenburg County from 1789 to 1791 and being appointed Supervisor of Internal Revenue for North Carolina, an office which he held for seventeen years. Colonel Polk was married first to Griselda, the daughter of Thomas Gilchrist and his wife, Martha (Jones) Gilchrist. They had two sons: General Thomas Gilchrist Polkk

and Dr. William Junius Polk. General Thomas Polk married Mary Trotter of Salisbury, North Carolina and had a daughter named Jane who married Dr. Bochell; and Mary, who married Hon. George Davis, US Senator.



Dr. William J. Polk, son of Colonel William Polk, was born 6/1/1793 in Charlotte, North Carolina, and married 6/1/1818, his cousin, Mary R. A. Long, born 3/10/1797, a daughter of Lunsford Long and his wife, Rebecca Edward Jones. Colonel Polk married secondly, Sarah, daughter of Philemon Hawkins and had the following issue:

- 1. Griselda Gilchrist Polk born at Mt. Gallant 3/8/1819. She was married Judge Russell Houston and resided in Louisville, Kentucky.**
- 2. Allen Jones Polk, born 3/5/1824 was aide to Bishop Polk during the War Between the States. He married first in 1846, Mary Clendening and (2) Anna C. Fitzhugh of Virginia on 6/16/1859. They were residents of Helena, Arkansas.**
- 3. Thomas G. Polk, born 12/5/1825 was aide to General Tappans during the War Between the States. He married Lavinia**

Woods of the Dancy family in North Carolina and had issue:

**Mary Polk married William Littlejohn of Decatur, Alabama.
Carry Polk married H. S. Hornor of Helena, Arkansas.
Zelda Polk married H. R. Sterling.
William J. Polk married Euola Greenleaf.**

4. **Mary Jones Polk, born 11/28/1830.**
5. **Lucius Eugene Polk, born 7/10/1833. He entered the Confederate service as a Private and rose to the rank of Brigadier General, one of the youngest to ever serve. He commanded a division of Cleburn's Corps at Chickamauga, Georgia. At Ringold Gap he repulsed with great slaughter the heroes of Lookout Mountain. At Kennesaw Mountain his leg was broken, which was the last of many wounds received during the war. Major General Pat Cleburn, in his report of Chickamauga, said: I have already called attention to the gallant conduct of General L. E. Polk, but it is due to him and the country which wishes to appreciate its faithful servants to say,**

that to the intrepidity and stern determination of purpose of himself and men I was principally indebted for the success of the charge on Sunday, which drove the enemy from the breastworks and gave us the victory. **He married Sallie M. Polk, the only child of his uncle Rufus K. Polk. Issue:**

**Rufus Polk married
Isabella Grier.
Rebecca Polk married
Scott Harlan.
Lucius E. Polk.
William Polk.
James Knox Polk.**

- 6. Cadwallader Jones Polk, born 10/10/1839 in Tennessee, farmer. During the War Between the States he rose to the rank of Colonel and was with Jackson the first year of the war; afterwards in the Western Army. At Prairie Grove he was shot and left for dead on the field. He married Carrie Lowry (born 1842 in Kentucky). They were residents of St. Francis, Phillips County, Arkansas, in 1880. Issue:**

**William J. Polk, born 1865 in
Phillips County, Arkansas,**

married Lulu Donnell.

Annie I. Polk, born 1868 in Phillips County, Arkansas, married Christopher Agee.

Walter Polk, born 1870 in Phillips County, Arkansas.

Cadwallader Polk, born 1872 in Phillips County, Arkansas.

Nina Polk, born 1875 in Phillips County, Arkansas, married William Coolidge.

Edwin Moore Polk, born 1878 in Phillips County, Arkansas, listed as Edward on 1880 Census.

- 7. Rufus Polk, born 7/30/1843 in Tennessee. He served with the Western Army during the War Between the States, and rose to the rank of Captain. He was married to Cynthia Martin, born 1848 in Tennessee. They were residents of St. Francis, Phillips County, Arkansas, in 1880. Issue:**

Lucius Eugene Polk, born 1869 in Tennessee.

Rufus J. Polk, born 1873 in Tennessee.

W, Julius Polk, born 1874 in Phillips County, Arkansas.

**Charles Martin Polk, born 1878
in Phillips County, Arkansas.**

- **Lucius Junius Polk, son of Colonel William Polk.**
- **Leonidas Polk, son of Colonel William Polk, was Bishop of Louisiana and General in the Confederate Army. He was a graduate of West Point.**
- **Mary Polk, daughter of Colonel William Polk, married Hon. George E. Badger.**
- **George W. Polk, son of Colonel William Polk, married Sallie Hilliard.**
- **Rufus K. Polk, son of Colonel William Polk, married Sarah Jackson.**
- **Alexander Hamilton Polk, son of Colonel William Polk.**
- **Andrew Jackson Polk, son of Colonel William Polk, married Rebecca Van Leer. Their daughter, Antoinette Polk, married the Marquis de Charette, a descendant of the house of Bourbon, and resided in Paris.**
- **Susan Polk, daughter of Colonel William Polk, married Hon. Kenneth Rayner.**

Ref: A Genealogical History by Colonel Cadwallader Jones

(1895); 1880 Phillips County, Arkansas Census.

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