

Information Regarding Benjamin Franklin Pulliam, former Sheriff of Culpeper, Virginia provided by E. L. Pulliam, great grandson of Benjamin Franklin Pulliam.

From the Culpeper Exponent:

The late B.F. Pulliam, who died on the 24th day of April, 1889, was born near Sperryville, Rappahannock County on the 24th day of December, 1819, and was reared there. At an early age he was clerk in the store of Edward Burgess in Sperryville. In October, 1846, he was married to Caroline (Coleman) Willis of Culpeper and removed with her to Page County, where he had on the first of the previous January accepted the position of Superintendent of the Shannondoah Iron Works, then owned by Mr. Farrer. He retained that position until January 1, 1851, when he returned to Culpeper and for the remainder of his life, resided in the County.

In 1851, he was engaged in mercantile pursuits with the late George Ficklen, and was Secretary and Treasurer of the Hazel River Navigation Company. He taught school for awhile and as the war approached he became connected with office of the Sheriff as Deputy. During the war he was Deputy and also Agent appointed by the Court of obtaining and distributing supplies of food for families who had been made destitute by the war. When the state was reconstructed after the war, he was elected Sheriff and continued to hold the office by successive elections until his death. He was a candidate, we believe, 7 or 8 times and never failed of election but once and that was in his contest with Fayette Browning. Browning defeated him but failed to qualify and Pulliam was appointed to fill the office by the Court. He was Sheriff for nearly 20 years and was connected with the office for 8 or 9 years previously as a Deputy.

No man without sterling qualities and head and heart could have succeeded and maintained himself for so long a time in spite of frequently strong opposition. The duties of Sheriff are often exceedingly unpleasant for they involve the ruin of people by the forced sale, under execution, of their goods and chattels. Many unfortunate people whose property was subject to levy, remember the patience, the forbearance, the leniency, with which these duties were discharged by Mr. Pulliam, and as long as they live, will retain a grateful recollection of his kindness.

As a private citizen, he led a blameless life, setting a good example to all who knew him as a model husband, father and friend.

From The Lillard Genealogy by Jacques E. Stout Lillard, Library of Congress, Washington, D. C. April 21, 1928:

Benjamin Franklin Pulliam b. 12/24/1819 m. 10/29/1846 to Caroline Coleman Willis (b. 4/18/1823, d. 1/6/1895). He was but ten years old when his father, Ransom Pulliam died. He was reared by his

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widowed mother, Rhoda Lillard Pulliam, and received most of his education from a Reverend Mr. Fox, a Baptist minister. After the war he served continuously either as Deputy or High Sheriff of Culpeper County for a period of 28 years and at his death "willed" (as one of his friends said) the position of Sheriff to his eldest son, Alfred Welch Pulliam who was continued in this office by the voters for nineteen additional years. B. F. Pulliam was a man of education and culture and continued to read his Tacitus in the original to the end of his days. He died 4/24/1889.

Note:

According to genealogical information willed to me by Stanley Pulliam Shugart, a grandson of B. F. Pulliam, and information obtained on the Internet, Mr. Pulliam was a direct descendant of Edward Pulliam who immigrated to Virginia in 1625 from Wales, England.