

Among Cousins The Bland Family Newsletter



Volume 11, Number 2

July-December 1993

Dear Cousins,

Welcome to the concluding number of the eleventh issue of **Among Cousins: The Bland Family Newsletter**. I think this is a particularly interesting issue, that includes some striking new information about the descendants of Robert and Ann Bland of Edgefield County South Carolina and John Bland and Margaret Osborne of Nelson County Kentucky, as well as the conclusion of the inquiry opened in Volume 11-1, about the descendants of James Bland of Duplin and Chatham Counties North Carolina.

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Among Cousins: The Bland Family Newsletter, is conceived as an organic extension of **A Vision of Unity: The Bland Family In England and America**. These works do not represent one person's research or viewpoint but a collective effort by many people, shared with many others, through the Newsletter.

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1993 NATIONAL BLAND REUNION

The Ninth National Bland family reunion will be held at Deland Florida, August 13-15. The Reunion is being sponsored by Robert and Ethel Bland of Deland and is dedicated the James River Blands, the branch of the Bland family to whom Bob and Ethel belong. Having said that, I must note that present reservations indicate only a very few of the James River Family will be in attendance. I hope to see more of you there as well as other cousins. Bugaboos we have encountered in the past continue to plague Reunion planning.

First, if I say a particular reunion is dedicated to a particular branch of the family, that does not mean others are not welcome. Each year I pay a special genealogical tribute to that branch of the Bland family from which the sponsor descends.

Second, even though reunion sponsors attempt to get your reservations in by dates that will enable them to do an orderly business with service providers who need to have attendance estimates, those who have raised procrastination to a high art form, may still attend. Simply mail in your reservation to Robert O. Bland, 2528 Park Lake Drive, Deland Florida, 32724, or call Bob and Ethel at 1-904-734-5197 or call me at 1-716-832-5263.

The reunion site is the First Christian Church of Deland. Reunion headquarters will be the Holiday Inn of Deland, which has offered rates of \$46. plus 10% tax per night for a double room. The Holiday Inn Number is 1-800-826-3233 or 1-904-734-7552. Bob recommends that if you plan to fly, schedule your flight to terminate at the Daytona Florida Airport.

Bob and Ethel Bland, and the other faithful hope to see you in Deland Florida.

PROGRESS ON THE NEW BOOK

I would like to begin with special thanks to Francis H. Bland, Paragould Arkansas, for his pledge which includes a library placement of the completed work.

The book is approximately where it should be at this time. The appropriate sections of the past eleven volumes of **Among Cousins** have been integrated into the appropriate chapters of **A Vision of Unity**. The next year will be devoted to "smoothing the chapters out" so to speak, and integrating information from correspondence and documents systematically into the narrative of the volumes as well as integrating new information..

I plan to spend the month of September sorting out the documents to be used and learning to use Word Perfect more efficiently for things like end-noting and indexing. I will also be purchasing an additional file cabinet into which the reams of material I already have can be stored and perhaps restored to some sense of order.

I have provided John W. Bland of Elizabethtown Kentucky with a complete set of all theses reintegrated chapters and shall attempt to keep him updated at regular intervals. John has agreed to take responsibility to carry through the project if something happens to me. I don't mean to sound morbid, just mortal. I look forward to seeing the finished project.

CALL FOR IDEAS AND INFORMATION

I confess that after looking at it for awhile, the title Like the Fingers of the Hand hasn't won my eternal admiration. I would be glad to hear from any of you who have ideas what the title of the new work should be.

Also, this is my call to each of you to check Volume 9-1, pp. 7-13, and check out the sections of the book and newsletter that pertains to your particular family group. If you have done further research that refines or updates what has been written, please forward it to me. I note as an example, that except for one major update of the James River Family (AC 5-1, pp. 8-25), and some more historical than genealogical research that I did on Giles Bland (AC 8-2, pp. 5-40), not much that is new has been done on that branch. This is only one example. There are undoubtedly others.

Library Donations

This is a sad story of a placement that didn't work out, and perhaps there is someone there who can help. After, I think, two or three years in a bureaucratic wilderness, I received a letter on May 12, 1993, from the State of Alabama Department of Archives and History, declining a donated copy of A Vision of Unity because "it does not fit within our collecting guidelines." This is the second instance of an Alabama agency returning a donation, which leads me to believe that perhaps Alabama is not a very friendly place to deposit a donation. This particular donation was from an anonymous source who wanted his donation placed somewhere in Alabama. Does anyone have a suggestion.

Roll Over Beatrice

This Spring, I received from two cousins, copies of a letter distributed from Nance Granter, Phoenix Arizona, announcing his forthcoming publication, Who's Who of the Blands in America. On page two of his letter, Granter assures the recipient that "we're not one of those companies that publish books which have nothing but a lot of 'filler' and then, a simple listing of people with a common name." What they ask for is a kind of mini-history about you, "our book will contain thousands of facts about people named Bland." Granter recurs to his frustration with finding so few Blands in the telephone book, thus betraying the fact that his is a name gathering enterprize which will have little genealogical use. If you are looking for genealogy, caveat emptor.

Beware of the Buffalo Sharks

Not a professional football team, alas. Simply because I know there are many elderly persons who subscribe to **Among Cousins** I want to inform you that Buffalo New York has within the last year become a haven for telemarketing sharks, who pinpoint and prey on the elderly across the country. They not only call but persist and even threaten those who refuse to do business with them.

A word of advice: If someone calls you and tells you might have already won a big prize, but insists that to qualify, you must lay out large sums of money to buy items you could get much more inexpensively elsewhere, hang-up. If they persist call the phone company for advice, and consider a change to an unlisted number. The Buffalo News ran a week long series on "Telemarketing Sharks" that documented how many elderly across the country had lost their life savings to these telemarketers.

BUYER BEWARE!

TRANSITIONS I was very sorry to hear from Evelyn Porter, Redding California, that her brother Gwynn Bland passed away on May 29, 1993, at age 80. Gwynn descended from the family of Joseph Bland and Susan Bailey (AC 9-2, pp. 6-28). He was born January 22, 1913 in Norton Kansas and moved to Shasta County California in 1953. Gwynn was an instructor and administrator at Shasta College in Redding.

I received no other notices of transition during this period.

**DESCENDANTS OF JAMES BLAND OF DUPLIN AND CHATHAM COUNTIES
NORTH CAROLINA (CONTINUED)**

In the last issue, (AC 11-1, pp. 10-32) I featured the descendants of James Bland (C1749-1799) of Duplin and Chatham County North Carolina. James was the son of William Bland (C1726-1775), grandson of James Bland (1704/7-1767/1774); great grandson of William Bland (C1686-1744) and great, great grandson of the immigrant James Bland (1661-1709).

In the last issue, I carried these lines through four generations, beginning with James. In this issue, I would like to use the available evidence to carry the various branches of this family across the 19th/20th Century boundary, something that is not possible for all families or has already been done. In the pages that follow I will concentrate the descendants William Bland (C1787-1860) one of the sons of James Bland (C1749-1799).

William Bland ¹ married Elizabeth McBain and had by her five sons, including:

1. Joseph Bland (1818/1819 - July 14, 1863). ² Joseph married Sarah Ann Milam (February 25, 1823 - January 8, 1899). They had seven children including particularly:

B. William T. Bland (1847-1924). William married Amelia A. Killion (C1854 -) a marriage that eventually ended in divorce. Their children were:

(1) Otto C. Bland (January 28, 1875 - January 3, 1904). Otto died falling from a telephone pole. He married Minnie _____ on December 25, 1900.

(2) Orin Pearl Bland (May 20, 1878 - September 14, 1920). Orin served in the Spanish American War as a corporal in Company D, 44th Infantry. He committed suicide in Seattle Washington. Orin Married Nettie Trumbull, November 16, 1904. Their children were previously enumerated. ³

(3) Ida Bland (March 1880 - after 1924) Ida married Clyde Novis. They had three children. ⁴

(4) C.J. Bland (C1883 -).

(5) Frank R. Bland, (May 30, 1887 - October 29, 1923). T.C. Hulsey says that Frank R. Bland "got around a lot" and was married, but no one knows to whom. ⁵

¹ AC 11-1, pp. 16-29.

² AC 11-1, pp. 18-19.

³ AC 7-2, p. 18-19.

⁴ Letter, T.C. Hulsey to Charles Bland, January 8, 1993.

⁵ Ibid.

2. William Bland (C1821-1895).⁶ William married first, Jane Buckner and second, Catherine Brock (C1828 -). Their children were:

A. Henry Berlin Bland (August 8, 1848 - February 8, 1910) who married Mary E. _____ (C1851 -) about 1874.

B. Martha Elizabeth Bland (March 8, 1851 -), who married David Rolf on December 14, 1865.

C. James L. Bland (C1854-1893), James married Marian R. _____. James and Marian had two children, Louise and Charles.

D. Noah Alexander Bland (October 9, 1856 - January 30, 1927) who married Carrie Bailey (1860-1940). Noah and Carrie had a family of four children including:

(1) Abner Edgar Bland (December 5, 1879 - March 28, 1948). Abner was born in Beloit Kansas and died at Santiago California. He married Mary White (1851 -).

(2) Laura Bland , dates uncertain, died at age 2.

(3) Lillie Myrtle Bland (September 20, 1884 - April 26, 1939). Lillie was born in Lecompton, Douglas County Kansas and died at Jackson County Kansas. Lillie married Alfred Ray Keller (1884-1944) on March 30, 1909. Lillie and Alfred are the grandparents of my correspondent Bertha Jean Kovar Dunn.

(4) Arthur B. Bland (December 19, 1885 - February 3, 1951). Arthur was born in Kansas and died at Oklahoma City Oklahoma. He married Louise Ennis (1884-1951) on March 28, 1905 at Oklahoma City.

(5) Harry William Bland (January 22, 1894 - March 21, 1957), was born in Lawrence Kansas and died in Beaumont California.

E. John R. Bland (C1858 -). John married Carrie Mauldin, (C1861 -) On October 20, 1879. They had a daughter Minnie (C1883-).

F. Eve Ellen Bland (May 12, 1860 - May 21, 1929). Eve married Harvey Cooley (1855-1933) on November 3, 1875.

G. Sarah E. Bland (C1863 - C1880)

⁶ AC 11-1, pp. 19-22.

H. Francis Marion Bland (November 5, 1865 - January 2, 1948). Francis was born in Iowa married Mary Knight (1871-1950) on June 8, 1889. Their children were:

(1) Rea O. Bland, (March 1890 -) Rea married Lewis A. Hicks June 12, 1907.

(2) Fern Bland (1895-1896).

(3) Burlin/Berlin Burton or Bruin Bland (C1908 - March 13, 1942).

I. William G. Bland (C1867 - 1893) married Minnie R. Birdsel or Birdsall (C1861 -). William and Minnie had a son named Jed Bland.

3. Enoch Bland (November 9, 1833 - September 19, 1920). ⁷ Enoch married first, Catherine Gaines Gentry (C1839 - July 5, 1879) on July 28, 1855. Secondly, Enoch married Mary E. Cooper (April 15, 1851 -) on April 1, 1880. Enoch's children, all by Catherine gentry, were:

(A) Henry Bland (May 18, 1856 - December 10, 1935). Henry married Emma Isabelle Owen (October 6, 1860 - November 11, 1924) on May 30, 1878 in Mitchell County Kansas. Henry and Emma had twelve children:

(1) Roy O. Bland (March, 1879-1936) was born in Kansas and is buried at the Old Town Cemetery in Pattonsburg Missouri.

(2) Frank Bland (1880 -).

(3) Ray Arthur Bland (June 1, 1883 -).

(4) Bertha May Bland (April 29, 1886 - February 23, 1945), a twin of Bert, (3 below) was born in Norton County Kansas and died in St. Josephs Missouri. Bertha married twice to _____ Hecter and _____ Maxfield.

(5) Bert B. Bland (April 29, 1886 - 1927) died at Pattonsburg Missouri. Bert married Effie E. Cain (1885-1964).

The above children were born in Mitchell County Kansas.

(6) Lura Ethel Bland (August 29, 1889 - September 8, 1962) was born at Dennison, Crawford County Iowa and died at Pattonsburg. She married Raliegth L. Chadwick, (C1887-1914).

⁷ AC 11-1, PP. 25-29.

The remaining children were born at Pattonsburg Missouri.

(7) Benjamin O. Bland (1892 - 1930) buried at Pattonsburg Missouri.

(8 and 9) Earl Bland and Pearl Bland (January 10, 1895 -) Pearl died one month after her birth.

(10) Richard Bland (date unknown)

(11 and 12) R. L. C. Bland and P. B. Bland (twins)

I am pleased to display photos of six of the sons of Henry Bland and Emma Isabelle Owen on page 34.

(B) William Edward Bland (October 29, 1857 - November 8, 1884), married but nothing more is known of his family.

(C) James Shelton Bland (August 19, 1859 -) married Ida E. Owens (C1864 -) on February 5, 1884.

(D) Joseph Winfield Bland (February 23, 1861 -) who married Maggie Owens, October 22, 1884.

(E) Celia Bland (November 10, 1862 -), probably died as a child.

(F) John Stephen Bland (May 17, 1867 -). John married Lillie M. _____ and they had two children:

**DESCENDANTS OF ROBERT AND ANN BLAND
OF EDGEFIELD COUNTY SOUTH CAROLINA**

Presley Bland (1768-1839)

Presley Bland (1768-1839),⁸ a member of the Edgefield County South Carolina Family, colorful in his ways and well off in his time, was the fifth child of Robert Bland (C1732-1787) and his wife Ann, (C1740-after 1808). Presley married to two women and genealogical controversy has always seemed to turn on the question of how to assign the nine known children whom Presley Bland fathered.

⁸ This material is derived from a review of VU, pp. 501-508, AC 6-1, pp. 13-18 and AC 10-2, pp. 26-29 as well as information supplied by John Bland Mobley, Columbia South Carolina and Bland Goodwin, Augusta Georgia. Bland Goodwin supplied a copy of a deed of 500 acres to Presley Bland that I recorded in an inventory of Land Transactions in Edgefield County up to 1830, but failed to note at AC 6-1, p. 13, while summarizing Presley's wealth. The deed is recorded April 1, 1796 and refers to 500 acres near the Edgefield County Courthouse granted to Presley on March 19, 1796.