

# Among

## THE BLAND FAMILY NEWSLETTER



VOLUME ~ 2  
NUMBER ~ 1 Cousins

Volume 2, Number 1

November 1983-April 1984

Dear Cousins,

Welcome to the second year of "Among Cousins." New subscriptions, for A Vision of Unity and Newsletter have plateaued during the past six months, but I am not discouraged. A review of A Vision of Unity in the September-October 1983 issue of "The Genealogical Helper," has showed cause both to the book and newsletter to attract interest for some time to come.

### NEWS ABOUT OUR COUSINS

Since the last issue, I have had the genuine pleasure of meeting a number of you personally, and bring news of some honors, pleasant times, some unhappy events and some deep and sorrowful tragedy.

First, I regret to inform you that one of our family was killed in the Beirut massacre of October 23, 1983. He is PFC Stephen Bland of Midway Park, North Carolina. This information appeared in a Newspaper list of casualties on October 31, 1983. I have spoken to Stephen's 14 year old step-daughter and have written to his wife, Ruth Ann, expressing my own and our sympathy. The timing of Stephen's death makes it inappropriate to ask for more at this time, but after the New Year, I plan to write to Mrs. Bland again, asking for more information about Stephen. I do not know where Stephen was born or how

AMONG COUSINS - THE BLAND FAMILY  
NEWSLETTER Mailing Address:

Charles L. Bland  
Publisher and Editor  
154 Delamere Road  
Williamsville, New York 14221  
(716) 631-3193

AMONG COUSINS - THE BLAND FAMILY NEWSLETTER is an organic extension of the research that was brought together in Charles Bland's A Vision of Unity: The Bland Family in England and America (1982). Although I am the Author of A Vision of Unity, I am far from being its sole creator. Rather, the information in the book is the product of shared research by many interested persons who have continued to conduct research and to share their findings, through the Newsletter, with an ever expanding audience of readers and other researchers. It is my hope that "Among Cousins" will continue to be the vehicle that enables expansion of our collective knowledge about the Bland family, and that all subscribers will join the enterprise in this spirit.

As editor, I assume all responsibility for printing, sale and timely distribution of the Newsletter. I will publish all material received without consciously altering the contributor's intent, but I reserve the right to comment upon any information received.

AMONG COUSINS - THE BLAND FAMILY NEWSLETTER, is published bi-annually in May and November. Subscription rate is \$15.00 per year or \$7.50 for a single issue.

Charles L. Bland

he might be related to the rest of us. Midway Park may be a military address, near Camp Lejeune, North Carolina in which case Stephen could have been born anywhere. If any of you know about Stephen or are related to him, I'd like to know more.

On a more pleasant note, it was the pleasure of Mary Jane and I to host Max and Dee Kessinger of Witchita, Kansas on June 23, for several hours. It was a pleasant social visit, not entirely devoted to genealogy. During a business trip to St. Louis, Missouri, on October 22-26 I met with Charles C. Bland, a subscriber and ardent supporter of our work, his wife Ginny, his daughter Betty and her husband Tom Limmer. They treated me to a long and very pleasant lunch and showed me around St. Louis, and we did talk lots about genealogy. On October 25, following a lead provided by Charles C. Bland, I had lunch with Charles H. Bland, who is the grand nephew of Richard Parks "Silver Dick" Bland (1835-1899) and the grandson of Charles C. Bland\*, whose picture appears in VU, p. 468A. So many Charles Blands: Charles is the President of Bland Insurance Company of St. Louis, which he inherited from his father, Clark C. Bland (1889-1966), nicknamed "Pitts" from his football days. Pitts Bland was an only son and child by the second marriage of Charles C. Bland, but he had eight half-brothers and a half-sister. Charles H. Bland did not know of the whereabouts of any descendants of these siblings, but thinks his daughter may be able to identify some. Certainly, our luncheon ignited my own dormant interest in Silver Dick. A while back I received a letter from Jane Midtby (pronounced Midbee) of Denver, Colorado, who has located some descendants of George Vest bland, Silver Dick's son. I have asked for further information. Also, I have ordered a book by Harold Alanson Haswell, The Public Life of Congressman Richard Parks Bland (1951). Hopefully by next issue there will be a lot more new information about that line. There is some dramatic new information about this family in this issue (see page ). At any rate, my lunch with Charles H. Bland was most enjoyable and the two Charles made my trip to St. Louis a lot of fun. Closer to home, soon after my return from St. Louis, I spent an evening of genealogical discussion with my neighbor and our cousin Bruce F. Bland, who descends from a Canadian line that originated in 18th century Yorkshire, England and the fruits of that discussion were some superb photos and family group information which is part of this issue (see pages 13-15 and the photo pages).

Mary Jane, Christina, Tommy and I spent August 16-17 with Al and Mildred Hunter in State College, Pennsylvania, enroute to Washington, D.C. Al has been one of our most tireless correspondents and a prolific contributor to our project. He has, in fact, had a major responsibility for developing new information about the Greene County, Indiana family that was first delineated in VU, pp. 320-342, and has since been discussed in the newsletter, with fairly specific information that links it to James Bland (C1749/1754-1799) of Duplin County, N.C., son of William Bland (C1726-1775) and grandson of James Bland (C1707-1774), the New Hanover/Duplin County, N.C. settler. Al's discussion of Thomas A. Bland (1830- ), son of Thomas and grandson of the above younger James is included in this issue (pages 7-8 ). Those of you who have the opportunity of meeting Al and Mildred will find them an endlessly fascinating couple of boundless energy and insight, whom it seems God made for each other. I was troubled, then, to receive a letter from Mildred indicating that on October 17, Al had a below-the-knee amputation of his right leg, which was followed by a deficient blood supply that retarded the wound's healing. Al may be hospitalized for some time yet but his recovery is progressing. Mildred did not feel that Al would object to a forthright description of the surgery, since he felt it was part of reality. For those of you who would like to write, Al Hunter's address is The Hershey Medical Center, Hershey, Pennsylvania 17033. I'm sure that all of us wish him the speediest possible recovery.

\*Not the man I met in St. Louis. This Charles C. Bland was the brother of Richard Parks Bland.

#Just before going to press, I received from Lenore Bland Brown the News Clipping from the Fort Worth Star Telegram, October 27, 1983, which is included as attachment 14.

Jessamine James Bland has recovered from her fall last February to the point where she can use a walker, but is not yet strong enough for a cane, or to live alone. She resides with friends in Tucson. In September, I received word from Urilla Bland of Weston, West Virginia that her younger brother Theodorick (1901- ) had suffered a slight stroke and was disabled, compounding the difficulty she has experienced by her own failing eyesight.

More pleasant news: on October 11, 1983, Leota Bland Ruder took the oath of office as a Kansas "Silver Haired Legislator." Kansas is one of 17 states that followed the pioneering effort of Missouri in creating such political programs. Silver Haired Legislators run for office and are elected by citizens who are 60 and over. They act as a lobbying body for the interests of the elderly. According to a news article provided by Mrs. Ruder, the Silver Haired Legislature at its first meeting, October 11-13, 1983, considered 23 bills that affect the elderly in Kansas, including such items as health care and utility costs. Let us all congratulate Leota Bland Ruder for this honor which her fellow Kansans have bestowed upon her. Incidentally, I should say that "Silver Haired" does not accurately describe Leota's youthful appearance in a recent photograph she sent me.

#### A NEW MASTHEAD

Right off the bat you will notice a new masthead that is a monumental improvement over my doodling. My thanks to Timothy Tutt, the 15 year old nephew of Marybelle Tutt of Longview, Texas for this welcome contribution. My thanks also to Diana Gunther, daughter of Lenore Bland Brown of Fort Worth, Texas who also submitted an excellent masthead proposal. Both efforts were spontaneous, inspired no doubt by the feeling that our newsletter deserves better than my inept art work. Many thanks.

#### Beatrice Bayley "Book"

I, and you too if your name is Bland, received on October 5, 1983 a card from Beatrice Bayley, asking \$27.85 for THE BLAND FAMILY HERITAGE BOOK, which is described as a "guide to the discovery and documentation of your personal and family heritage." My advice is standard, Caveat Emptor. Those of you who are interested in the question may write me.

#### Next Printing of A Vision of Unity

I have received several orders for the next printing already, which will be in March 1984. Orders must reach me by March 1, 1984 and the book will be mailed out by March 31, 1984. My thanks to all who now have outstanding orders for your patience in the face of a labor strike in the book bindery. Price is \$64.95; \$54.95 to libraries.

Also, I want to thank those of you who pledged financial support to my now aborted project to finance 100 copies of the book. About \$1100. was pledged, reassuring but far short of the \$4,500 needed. I received several letters from individuals who indicated their inability to pledge support, in spite of their interest, and I fully understand such circumstances. I have about decided that such a big project, in addition to a computer tape index, should await the rewriting of the book several years from now. Again, however, my deepest thanks for the interest and support implied by the pledges that were made.

#### Library Placements

Since a review of A Vision of Unity appeared in the September-October 1983 issue

of The Genealogical Helper, I have received a number of inquiries requesting free placement of copies, some worthy, some perhaps not so worthy. Several of the cousins have written to me about disposition of their copy. Library placements are a way to increase awareness of the book, and for the donor is an allowable tax deduction. If you are interested in the question, I would be glad to discuss it with you further. Among the requests for placement I have had are The Allen County, Indiana Public Library; The Heart of America Genealogical Society and Library, Inc., Kansas City, Missouri; The Tennessee Genealogical Society, Memphis, Tennessee; and the Museum and Library of Maryland History. Of course, any library would graciously accept your gift. For my part, I will provide regular copies of "Among Cousins" to those libraries which either purchase a copy or have a copy donated.

### The Reunion Idea

In response to my August letter, a lot of interest in a nationwide Bland reunion was shown but there was considerable disagreement about where it should be. Northern Virginia, "where it all started" was the most popular spot noted. I sense, however, that there are many cousins on retirement incomes living from Texas westward who could never come to Virginia, so feasibility remains a quandary. I shall have to think further about the matter. Perhaps I can have some more specific information in the next Newsletter.

Enough Business!

EARLY BEGINNINGS

### The First Blands

Those of you who have wondered where the name Bland originated may be interested in noting the following. Someone, I confess I don't know who, sent me page 937 of the Oxford Classical Dictionary (second edition), which included references to two Romans, Rubellius Blandus and his son Rubellius Plautus. Since the source referred the reader to Tacitus' Annals, I decided to read a little about them. The following derives from the Oxford Dictionary and The Annals. About 18 AD, Rubellius Blandus, a Roman Consul, married Julia, granddaughter of Tiberius, daughter of one Drusus and ex-wife of the emperor Nero. Inasmuch as Julia had been married to Nero, Rome was saddened to see her lower herself to marry "into the humbler family of Rubellius Blandus." Their son Plautus was an adherent of stoicism and was perceived by Nero as a threat. Nero took it as an omen when lightning struck his dinner table, singeing the roast pig and popping the apple right out of his mouth, that something had to be done about Plautus. Nero had already murdered Julia and made it clear to the young man that he ought to repair to Asia, there to "enjoy his youth safely and quietly," in other words get out of Rome. Plautus did so, resisting entreaties to return to Rome whereby he might bravely, and briefly as it were, practice his stoic beliefs. Rather he chose to "lead a precarious and anxious life," rather like us all, whereby Nero sent an assassin who surprised our hero one day whilst he was stripped down for exercise, and "slew him." Thus ended the adventures of Rubellius Plautus, who for all we know might have been our ancestral grandfather. My wife, Mary Jane Migliore, always told me that if I dug deep enough I'd find an Italian among my ancestors.

### Early Northern Virginia

Attachments 1 and 2 of this newsletter represent a very intuitive cartographic recreation of the early purchases in Stafford/Prince William County by James Bland (C1655-1708) and his sons. These purchases are noted in VU, pp. 203, 267-275 and 401-403, inter alia, but without geographic focus. This fine cartographic reconstruction was done by Bob Bland of Boston, Massachusetts who, with his father, visited the Northern Virginia area during April 1983. Bob found that the original 600 acres purchased near Powells Creek in 1701 rose about 150 feet above the Potomac River and was

deeply cut by streams as noted in the original sale. Bob compares the land favorably with Mount Vernon, which, however, has had a better press, being owned by a somewhat better known person. The original 600 acres, Bob notes, had the singular liability that it was unsuitable for farming. This may speak to certain characteristics of James Bland, including my theory that he lived with his suitcases packed and wasn't what you'd call the settling down kind. The purchase by William Bland and James Bland (oldest son of the elder James) of 257 acres at Cock Pitt point in 1711, Bob opines, "I am guessing" was adjacent to the 1701 land and located on top of a ridge where better farming was possible. The other tracts are less definite, and Bob enters the caveat that these are educated guesses, based on information provided in the book and his own survey of the area. These factors seem to point to a geographically consistent pattern of land purchases within the family. Bob indicates he would appreciate receiving copies of the indicated deeds from anyone who has them, to help him confirm his theories. My discussion of the land transactions upon which Bob based his work, was derived from works by Urilla Bland and source information provided by Leslie Dawson. Anyone who could be of assistance to Bob in providing these deeds should write to Bob Bland, 43 Upton Street, Boston Massachusetts 02118.

#### THE NEW HANOVER-DUPLIN COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA BLANDS

##### James Thomas Bland (1810-1886)

In Among Cousins, Volume 1, No. 2, page 4, new subscriber Bob Bland of Boston supplied photos and lineage information for his ancestor, James Thomas Bland, (1810-1886) seventh child of James Bland and Esther Newton (twelfth generation). More particularly, Bob enlarged upon the life and subsequent family of John Thomas Bland (1853-1928), only son of James Thomas', by his second wife, Margaret Hendry. John Thomas was barely mentioned in the book (VU, pp. 316-317). Recently, I was pleased to welcome Wedigan Powell Bland of Goldsboro, N.C. to the circle of cousins. His father, David Hendry Bland (1883-1953), who married Lizzinia Moore, was the son of John Thomas Bland and Lorena Davis Williams.

##### The Family of James Bland and Esther Newton

The above noted James Thomas Bland (1810-1886) was the son of James Bland (C1770-1818) and Esther Newton (1779-1854). James and Esther had another son, Amariah Bland (1809-1869), who married Mary Page and had a family of eleven children including William Rufus King Bland (1852-1903), who was cited in VU, pp. 315-316, as having married once to Mary Catherine Young (1848-1893), by whom he had a family of twelve children, including six who were born between 1895-1904, an impossibly heroic feat for any woman that escaped my notice while I was writing the book. Among those twelve children was Shuler Divine Bland (1901- ) one of those rare souls who is a subject in the book yet still living. Shuler, who lives in Honolulu, called this gaffe to my attention and noted that his mother was William Rufus King Bland's second wife. This makes sense, of course, since William Rufus married his first wife in 1873 and had by her a string of six children between 1874-1886, whereupon a break in birthdates occurs until 1895. William Graham Bland, who is part of this extended family, interested himself in the matter after Shuler wrote indicating that he didn't know who his mother was. This circumstance came about because at age 2, Shuler was adopted by his uncle Gaston Amariah Wilder Bland (1857-1932) and his wife Annie Mason (VU, p. 316), as a result of William Rufus King Bland's death in 1903. Graham wrote to me on October 8, indicating that though he had no firm marriage date, about 1894, William Rufus King Bland married his second wife, Lizzie Savage (C1872- ) of Pender County, N.C. Thus, the children of William Rufus King Bland noted in VU, p. 316 as born between 1895-1904 are by Lizzie Savage. I am glad to make note of these corrections, and especially happy that Graham Bland was able to identify Shuler Bland's mother.

The Sons of William Bland (Tenth Generation, C1726-1775)

William (VU, pp. 282-284) had six sons, William (VU, pp. 293-320); James (AC, 1-1, pp. 4-6 and 1-2, pp. 5-6); Thomas, no information; Charles, no information; John, (VU, pp. 284-293) and Joseph, no information. (But for Charles & Joseph, see below.)

John's birth was estimated by his principal researcher, Castelloe Bland Denton at 1760, because he was assumed to have been a minor when his father died in 1775. Bob Bland of Massachusetts wrote me on October 21, reporting discoveries he made while researching the Pender-New Hanover, North Carolina county records "concentrating on the apparently underutilized areas of court minutes and land transactions." One small note apparently pushes John's birth date further back in time. His complaint in 1779 about a neighbor's mistreatment of an orphan apparently sets his birthdate as at least 1758, probably earlier. Bob further opens up a line of inquiry about Charles Bland. Milton Wilson, without any evidence offered, indicated that Charles married Rachel Alderman. In his researches, Bob found a proceeding of April 19, 1791 showing Mary Bland, widow of Charles Bland, deceased, named as administratrix, and on the same date, William Bland (probably Charles' brother William 1748-1816) named with two other men to divy up Charles' estate between his widow and orphans. There is no way to reconcile the conflicting information between Wilson and Bob Bland about the two women Charles "married" but it seems unlikely that a man who was married with several children in that area about 1791 would be anyone other than the son of William Bland (C1726-1775). Bob Bland found that a Mary Bland was living in Sampson County in 1800, a widow, with a daughter aged 16-26.

A further question is whether the Mary Bland listed as a head of household in a 1786 census for New Hanover County, with 4 males under 21 and four females of various ages, (AC, 1-2, p. 4), is the same person who was married to Charles Bland. I tend to doubt it since even the imprecise census information noted for the 1786 entry indicates children that could not have been the progeny of someone born after 1754, (Charles was a minor in 1775). It still seems more probable to me that the 1786 Mary was the widow of James Bland (1707-1774), the New Hanover-Duplin County Founder.

In AC, 1-1, p. 3, I responded to Al Hunter's correction of William Bland's 1775 will to include a son Joseph. Heretofore, there has been nothing to place Joseph except two service vouchers in 1783, filed for the Wilmington, N.C. district. Information discovered by Bob Bland finds Joseph witnessing a suit on July 8, 1775, indicating that he was born at least by 1754 so had attained his majority by the time his father died in 1775, creating the question why his brothers William and James were named as executors but he was not. He almost certainly was the third son of William Bland (1726-1775). According to Bob, Joseph served frequently as grand juror for the county between 1784-1793. He also engaged in land transactions, purchasing several lots in downtown Wilmington, which, Bob surmises, creates the image of a respected and successful citizen. The most germane transaction, however, is an April 10, 1788 deed of property to children Mary and Joseph Henry Bland. On March 20, 1800, William Nutt is named guardian for "Henry and Polly Bland" indicating that the two children were still minors in 1800. Some association with Fayetteville, N.C., Cumberland county, is established by two land purchases from citizens of Cumberland County. In 1790, Joseph (or a Joseph), is found in Fayetteville as head of a household consisting of one adult male, one young male, two females. This information portrays a rough sketch of Joseph as a man who married in his late twenties, probably after 1780, had two children by his unknown wife, who died soon after 1790 and may have been physically or mentally incapacitated by 1788. Joseph's dates would be C1754-1799/1800. Bob's information in opening up this new rudimentary line of inquiry is quite helpful.

A brief note of clarification. In VU, p. 294, I note that William Bland (1748-1816) eldest son of William Bland (1726-1775) had a daughter Elizabeth Bland who married Isaac Newton, according to Milton Wilson, but no date was available. Among the items sent to

The Randolph County N.C. BlandsPennsylvania Connection Again

In VU, pp. 361-367, I discussed literary notes that showed several Blands located in Pennsylvania during the 18th century, and suggested that Moses Bland, 1819-1873, who married Martha Needham of Randolph County, N.C. in 1837-1838, might have been from Pennsylvania, perhaps being cousins who were reunited in Indiana. Robert Wheeler made a convincing argument that was elaborated on in AC 1-1, pp. 7-8 that the Pennsylvania notation for Moses' place of birth was a typo and that in all likelihood he came from Indiana. Lo, Helen Daniels of Moulton, Iowa last spring submitted information to me concerning Joseph Bland of Appanoose County, Iowa (1824-1906) who was specifically born in Pennsylvania, which may reopen the issue of whether some of our early Virginia ancestors filtered west via the Keystone state.

As reported in The Biographical and Genealogical History of Appanoose and Monroe Counties, Iowa (1903), and other materials submitted by Helen Daniels, Joseph Bland was the son of a carpenter, Thomas Bland (C1790-1874) and Elizabeth Bland ( -1854). Thomas and Elizabeth must have been married about 1812-1814. both were born in Virginia and soon after their marriage moved to Pennsylvania where they lived their lives. They had 13 children, including Mary, Susan, Delilah, Amelia, Martha, -Joseph (see below), John, Kate, Elizabeth (she was born in Pennsylvania, September 22, 1827 and married John Hixenbaugh, of West Virginia, October 5, 1851, and had eight children), Thomas, Sarah, Cynthia and Ellen. After Elizabeth's death in 1854, Thomas married Sarah Sharpneck and had three children by her, Frank and William and an infant who died young.

Joseph Bland was born in Greene County, Pennsylvania, the sixth child of Thomas and Elizabeth, October 19, 1824 and died October 7, 1906 in Plano, a small town west of Centerville, Iowa in Appanoose County. He lived in Pennsylvania until 1844, when he moved to Ohio, thence to Missouri and back to Pennsylvania, where he married Elsie Church, probably about 1848. Elsie may be the "Allcey" Bland (August 29, 1825 to June 26, 1909), who is buried at Concord Cemetery in Appanoose County. After their marriage, Joseph and Elsie moved to Appanoose County and remained there for the rest of their lives. Joseph retired from work about 1883. He was a farmer, and also possibly owned a hardware store, which was sold in 1891. The children of Joseph and Elsie were Nancy, born December 15, 1851, who married Martin Davison September 1, 1866; Mary, who died young; Henry Bland (February 1856-living in 1900) married to Maria (June 1861-with a family that included Clyde, (1884- ), John (1886- ), Nancy (1891- ), and Clara (1899- ); Benton (1867-1880); Sarah, Minerva, (1860- ), who married Robert Morlan, October 1, 1882; Amelia, who died young; John, born January 1866, married to Lucy A. (1861- ) and living in Appanoose County in 1900 with Eda (1891- ), Betina (1892- ), Paul (1896- ) and John (1899- ), Ada, and Charles, who died in infancy. This information opens up a new line of inquiry not only about a possible relation of Moses Bland (1819-1873) and through his wife a connection to the Randolph County, N.C. family, but the other descendants of Thomas and Elizabeth Bland, which numbered 16, including 4 sons besides Joseph (1824-1906).

Benjamin Bland

Cousin Jane Midtby sent me a death certificate for Ruth E. Waggoner, (March 27, 1817 to April 5, 1912), who was born in Indiana and died in Moultrie County, Illinois, where she had lived for about forty years. Ruth, born in Indiana, was identified as the daughter of Benjamin Bland and Ruth Bland, born in Maryland. Jane Midtby believes this Benjamin is the same person identified in VU, p. 345 as a son of the original Moses Bland, (C1718-1799) of Prince William, Virginia and Randolph, North Carolina.

Jane believes that the information on the death certificate reconciles with the 1820 Census of Jackson County, Indiana, reasoning that the elder Ruth died before then, and that an elder sister was caring for "Baby Ruth" so she was not counted in the census. Jane indicates also that Robert Wheeler's ancestor Moses Bland "the younger" (C1775- ) had a brother-in-law Bailey Needham who married a Nancy Bland, daughter of Benjamin and Ruth Bland.

#### Margaret and Catherine Bland

Louella Bland of Brownstown, Indiana forwarded a letter to Bob Wheeler citing information filed in the Archives of Randolph County, N.C. and Raleigh, N.C. that indicates a Margaret Bland, probably a daughter of Moses Bland and Jane Wiggonton, married William Needham on October 25, 1786. further, in another letter, Bob cites Roscoe O'Byrne, Roster of Soldiers and Patriots of the American Revolution Buried in Indiana (DAR: 1938), as showing that William Lawrence, born in North Carolina, 1766, who died near New Washington, Clark County, Indiana, July 12, 1822, married Catherine Bland, who is believed to be the daughter of the elder Moses Bland.

#### Samantha Bland Powell

Cousin Bob Wheeler asked me to display the group photograph (Attachment 6) in hopes that someone will recognize the people. One clue: the elderly woman seated in the front row is Samantha Bland Powell, (1843-1904), daughter of Moses Bland (1819-1873) and Martha Needham (1808-1895), and wife of Ambrose Powell, presumably the gentleman seated by her, (VU, p. 363). Any help to Cousin Bob Wheeler would be appreciated.

#### Minor Bland

In AC 1-2, p. 19, and in VU, p. 349, I cited Minor Bland's year of birth variously as 1828 and 1818. Jane Midtby reminds me that Minor's fourth child, Mariah, was born in 1841. Thus, Minor had to be born in 1818, else he would have been 13 when his fourth child was born, and "Even a Bland couldn't be that precocious," (sez Jane).

#### William A. Bland and Moses J. Bland

Max Kessinger sent to me certification of military service for Moses Bland (1848-1925) and William A. Bland (1845-1883) both sons of William Bland and Mary Pennock, (VU, pp. 349-50). Moses enlisted in Company F, 57th Indiana Volunteers and served from November 1, 1864 to October 10, 1865, and was discharged at Victoria, Texas. He served as a substitute. He was described as 18 (a slight variant on his recorded age), 5'6½", blue eyes and dark hair. Brother William A. Bland, who was described as 5'10" with blonde hair, fair complexion and grey eyes, enlisted in Company D, 31st Indiana Volunteers on April 20, 1863 and deserted on June 16, 1865. For this, according to his brother Moses to a nephew, he was imprisoned, a development his brother spoke of with considerable bitterness. In a letter to Levi Edward Bland, October 19, 1902, Moses described an heroic action during the battle of Atlanta, when William A. Bland was suddenly confronted with three rebel soldiers. All three raised their guns to fire but one man's gun jammed and William hit the ground just as bullets from the other two whizzed over his head. William recovered and in the confusion took one of the men prisoner, but according to Moses, the action "shortened his days." It appears also that there was a woman centered between the brothers, because as Moses puts it, he had courted Leannah Burnett (1850-1870) before he went off to war in 1864. While he was gone, from Texas to Kansas, William reappeared on the scene, about the fall or winter of 1865 we may judge, a war hero, also fresh from a brief prison stint, a very mature 20, and took Leannah away from Moses. According to Moses, "your father came home and



was much better looking (Bill was tall, fair, grey eyes, mystique of a war hero and prisoner. CB) and...he too was struck by her beauty and made suit and gained her in my absence." The bitterness in Moses' loss is evidenced by his recounting his nephew's genealogy, "William Bland of Indiana married a woman by the name of Burnett." A woman! Well, lest we feel too sorry for Moses, let it be noted that he lived twice as long as William and married three times.

Much more useful than these anecdotes is genealogical information that enlarges upon information listed in VU, pp. 347-352. Moses, as I did, traced his lineage back to North Carolina, pegging it as follows: He and William B. Bland were the sons of William Bland (1813-1852) and Mary Pennock, whom he said was of French ancestry. Their grandfather was Moses Bland (C1775- ) who was born in North Carolina, and was the son of William Bland of North Carolina, who was married to a woman named Ward (new information). Here we diverge, for this William Bland of North Carolina matches my William Bland (VU, p. 345), the son of Moses Bland of Virginia (1718-1799). This is conventional wisdom, since William Bland had many business interactions with the Needham family, similar to many others in this family. Yet, in his letter, Moses Bland (1848-1925) says that this elder William Bland was from Scotland! He makes no reference to a Virginia connection, except tellingly, that William married a Virginia woman. One must remember that out in Indiana in 1902, Moses Bland was reconstructing over 150 years of history without the kind of documentary research we in later generations have done and he might have been overwhelmed by the proliferation of Williams. One thought: my grandfather, Thomas Bunyan Bland, used to tell the story that we were descended from four Scottish horse thieves. Colorful and imaginative perpsaps, but Moses might have latched onto some such legend that actually goes back to William Bland (eighth generation, C1686-1744), in which case he would have only omitted one Moses and he might have been forgiven for being muddled with all of the Williams' and Moses'.

#### Nancy Bland and Leonard Coles

Attachment 14 of AC 1-1, was a family group photo of Leonard coles and Nancy Bland, (1843-1907), daughter of Meredith Bland and Priscilla Burge, (VU, p. 358). I am pleased to feature a picture of Nancy and Leonard at about the time of their wedding in 1865, (Attachment 7) showing you all what could happen if we could turn the clock back. As Jane Midtby tells the story, Mary Bland, Nancy's sister, had worked on the wedding dress for months; but then she died December 26, 1864. Her grieving sisters were slow to finish the gown, so that when Leonard Coles came home in March 1865, looking like a dashing rake in his Ben Butler beard and military dress uniform, there was a rush job to finish the gown. Nancy was pinned into the dress because the buttonholes weren't finished. Neither picture of Leonard Coles shows any sign that all this phased him at all.

#### The Nelson County, Kentucky Blands

#### Will John Bland's Daddy Please Come Forward?

In AC 1-2, p. 7, I cited an entry from Prince William County, Virginia Bond Book, 1753-1782 page 3, which named John Bland as administrator with William Carr of the estate of John Bland. Since then I have ordered the original document from Virginia, Readers interested in this argument may recur to VU, pp. 420-25. I also ordered from Virginia a deed from John Bland to Osborne, August 5, 1776, of 100 acres in an original 312 acre tract, the only known tract similar to one purchased on November 30, 1742 by William Bland (C1686-1744), which has convinced many that William and John Bland (C1725-1795) are father and son (see VU, p. 271, N.2 and 422, N.1). Neither document that I have examined contains a "smoking gun" statement about John Bland's parentage. What

we now know is that the June 7, 1762 estate of John Bland (C1688-1762), lists his wife Patience as executor and nephews Edward Gwatkins and Benjamin Bland as bondsmen. We also know that by July 10, 1762, and in other entries, there were references to John Bland Sr. and John Bland Junior, (VU, p. 420). Finally, on November 7, 1763, John Bland with William Carr, is named administrator of John Bland's estate. Further, the 1763 will administration bonds John Bland to Cuthbert Harrison, a Justice of the Prince William Court, making it apparent because of the previous Bland-Harrison-Osborne, that the younger John Bland in the November 7, 1763 document, was the man who married Margaret Osborne, (see VU, p. 426, n.3). This should all be viewed with an eye toward new and powerful evidence that Rachel Bland of Washington County, Kentucky had a heretofore unknown husband named John. My own conclusion, based upon all of this, remains that John Bland of Nelson County, Kentucky (C1725-1795) was the son of John Bland and Patience, his wife, or the son of a wife who was antecedent to Patience. The above does not prove the facts conclusively, but the juxtaposition of Patience as executrix and John as administrator of John Bland's will, in addition to naming practices by the descendants of John Bland (1725-1795) and Margaret Osborne, convince me of the intuitive rightness of the position I have held all along.

#### Children of Osborne Bland, Jr. and Patsy Donahoo

After some intricate comparison of handwriting, Cousin Virginia Cowden has decided to accept her ancestral grandmother, wife of James Bland, (1813-still living in 1880) as Lydia Burch (see arguments in VU, p. 448, and AC, 1-1, p. 8).

#### Children of John Bland and Elizabeth Shewmate

There was a breakthrough in this line in the last issue, (AC 1-2, p. 12; VU, pp. 457-458) in which John Bland's will of December 12, 1836 was provided by Anne Hall of Roswell, New Mexico, and further information about John and Elizabeth's sons Bryant and Isaac were provided by Helen Bland Daniels. Recently, a new subscriber, Mary Virginia Manby of Louisville, Kentucky wrote to me that she descends through John and Elizabeth through their daughter Martha Ann Bland, who married Samuel P. Overstreet in Oldham County, Kentucky in 1838. Elizabeth Shewmate Bland, following the death of John Bland in 1836, also moved to Oldham County. We welcome Virginia Manby to this society of cousins.

#### Children of Samuel Bland

Also in AC 1-2, p. 13, while discussing the family of John Bland and Elizabeth Shewmate, I speculated that Anne Hall's James Bland (1793-1849) who married Mary Watt, was not the son of John and Elizabeth but probably the son of Samuel Bland (VU, pp. 455-456). Mrs. Hall then wrote to me that in going through some family papers, she had located information that Samuel Bland, Sr. (1753-1835) was the father of her James Bland (1793-1849), thus linking this line (cf VU, 262-263) to John Bland (1725-1795) and Margaret Osborne.

#### Descendants of Prudence Bland and Fleming Smith

I am pleased to welcome Jeanna Zahm of Hallowell, Kansas to our society of cousins. She enclosed me a family group sheet that traced her ancestry back to Fleming Smith (1745-1847) and Prudence Bland (1750-1815). Jeanna Zahm descends from Fleming and Prudence through their son James Smith (1777-1864) and Nancy Hughes (1786-1852).

Mrs. Zahm acknowledged that much of her information came from Merritt Page, the acknowledged authority on this line, who, in response to my section on the descendants of Fleming Smith and Prudence Bland (AC 1-2, pp. 11-12) expressed appreciation and asked

Infantry, Between May 18, 1862 and May 20, 1863, dying at Richmond that day, of wounds suffered in battle.

#### Elijah Bland of Dallas County, Alabama

Carrie Scales Evans of Shuqualak, Mississippi sent me information about the following family that could be a stem of the Edgefield County family:

The 1850 Census, Dallas County, Alabama, includes a family headed by Elijah Bland born in South Carolina in 1798, who was married to Damaris Barnes, born 1806 in South Carolina on June 5, 1842 in Dallas County, Alabama. Living with them was a son Francis M. Bland, age 8, born in South Carolina, and Elizabeth W. Bland, age 20, born in South Carolina. No further information is known about Elijah and his family. The children must have been from a prior marriage.

#### Leonard C. Bland and Alice Scoggins Photos

I am especially pleased to include as attachment 10, courtesy of my cousin, Lamar Robert Bland of Elon College, North Carolina, photographs of his grandparents, Leonard C. Bland (1858-1902) and Alice Scoggins (1865- ) whose family is described in VU, pp. 541-542. Leonard was the brother of my great-grandfather Berry Elsey Bland (1856-1917) and son of Thomas R. Bland (1829-1904) and Patsy Rollins (1828-1913). (VU, Table XXXII, p. 538B).

#### THE BLANNS\* OF DALLAS COUNTY, ALABAMA

I first assumed this family originated in Edgefield County, South Carolina but now I am not so sure.

Rather, this family appears to have its roots in North Carolina about 1780. The Dallas County, Alabama Census for 1820 and 1850 reflects two distinct families who probably were closely related: In 1820 there is a record of Silas Blann,\*\* and Stephen Blann, both married, Silas with one male and one female less than 21, and Stephen with three males and two females under 21. The 1850 census shows the following probable cluster of siblings:

Stephen Blann, B. 1782 in North Carolina  
Telitha Blann Averytt, B. 1790 in Georgia (wife of Henry Averytt)  
Silas Blann, B. 1792 in Georgia (died in 1858)  
Thomas Blann, B. 1801 in Georgia

It appears that their parents left North Carolina in the 1780's and settled in Georgia, and that the children moved on to Dallas County, Alabama after reaching their majority.

\* Spelling is consistent throughout in this group.

\*\* I was originally drawn to the idea that this family came from Edgefield, South Carolina because that group frequently used the name Silas. Oren Morton, A History of Pendleton County, Virginia (1916) indicated that there was a Silas Bland in Muskingum, Ohio Territory, in the 1790's. I have written for that book but have not yet received it. Contributors of information about the Dallas County, Alabama family include Mollie Grant of Hampton, Arkansas and Carrie Scales Evans of Shuqualak, Mississippi.

One group of these Blann's, probably children of Stephen Blann, is defined briefly by the 1850 census, which lists James M. Blann, B. 1812 in Georgia. James was a brother of Sanford Blann who married Louisa High, September 14, 1843 and died without issue about May 1846. Probate court records indicate that Sanford had siblings: James M. Blann; John Patrick Blann, who married (1) Elizabeth McElroy on April 7, 1824 and (2) Lucinda Lovejoy, March 30, 1847; Isaac N. Blann; and Julia O. Blann, who married Joseph Bassett, all of whom were residing in Dallas County. A sister, Mary Ann Blann, who married William Fancher, was living in Wilcox County, Alabama.

It should be noted that John P. Bland had issue by his two wives as follows:

By Elizabeth McElroy: Henry, Louisiana, John Randolph, Asenath, Sarah, Francis, Stephen and Catherine.

By Lucinda Lovejoy: Antonette, Beatrice.

Thomas Blann married Polly Hardin in Jasper County, Georgia, February 16, 1819, and survived Silas Blann, his brother, who is the best known of the Blann's and ancestor of both Mrs. Evans and Mrs. Grant. Silas died April 2, 1858 and was buried with his wife Elizabeth (1800-1853) in the Bill Cemetery in Dallas County. Mrs. Evans indicates that a genealogist once surmised that Elizabeth was a DeCose from South Carolina, but no one has ever been able to prove her maiden name. Mrs. Grant furnished me a family group sheet for Silas and Elizabeth, which included 11 children:

(1) Laura Bland ( -December 1855) married Benjamin Graves, November 30, 1838 and had children,

(2) William Young Henry Bland, (C.1819-September 30, 1854), married Lucinda Roark (C.1820-May 14, 1912). Both William and Lucinda were born in Dallas County and are buried in Calhoun County, Arkansas at Moore's Chapel Cemetery. They had eight children including:

A. William Henry Blann (February 14, 1840-July 31, 1912) who married Miriam Cosa (1846-1928). Children:

1. William Cartwright Blann (1862-1948), married Mary Ophelia Williams (1869-1944).
2. James Blann, died young.
3. Steven Blann, died young.
4. John Thomas Blann (1869-1919) married Emma Porter, (1871-1913).
5. Gideon J. Blann (1873-1948) married Sallie Porter, (1880-1934).
6. Nettie Blann, (1875-1968) married John Hanna.
7. Charles Elbert Blann, (1881-1953) married Eva Lena Williams, (1888-1940).
8. Garland H. Blann (1888-1940) married Addie Charlotte Sloan (1890-1973).

B. Mary Elizabeth Blann (1842-1854)