

Among Cousins

The Bland Family Newsletter



Bland

Volume 8, Number 1

January - June 1990

Dear Cousins,

February 15, 1990 came and went this year and **Among Cousins** was not near completion. Yes, I know, I have been late in the past, but never this bad. As it appears now, I will be a month late delivering **Among Cousins** to subscribers. Forgive me. This is a time of transition for me. Times will be better I am sure. For now, between teaching two courses part time, carrying out the preparation for a large conference in April, working on a book and

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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 efforts, but a gathering of many people's research, compiled and shared with many, through the newsletter.

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incidentally, doing my work, in addition to attempting to spend more good time with my children, and keeping up with the Bland family history work, I find myself mired in a quagmire of my own making. It seems as if everything struck at once. This high-pressure situation should end in April, which will give me the chance to get a better start on the next number.

Thinking About the Future

In a previous number, I indicated that I would like to expand the **TRANSITIONS** section of **Among Cousins** to include births and marriages, as well as deaths. This stems in part from a certain inclination toward newsiness, because I know **Among Cousins** is a means of communication for many of you. But there also is a genealogical motive. Let us take this example: Amanda Leigh Lillard was born August 8, 1989, the first grandchild of Jim and Gerry Lillard of Tampa Florida. Amanda is the daughter of James W. Lillard Jr. and his wife Cynthia Kay Van Winkle Lillard, who live in Tampa. After seeing Amanda's photo, I have no difficulty understanding why Jim and Gerry skipped the Mississippi Reunion to be with her.

Now, for those of you whose ancestral grandmother is Catherine Key, wife of William Bland (C1682-1744), or Elizabeth Randolph (C1685-1720) or Anne Poythress (1712-1758), (this includes most of us) imagine how thrilled you would be to discover a document that included a pencil drawing or lock of hair, or brief anecdote about either of them. It has now been some 275 years since either of these ladies walked upon the earth and we know that because the poor characteristically left no such traces and even the well to do have had them lost in time, war, fires and fits of anger by jealous relations. But you would love to find something like that, right? Imagine then, how it will be in the year 2265 for one of Amanda's Bland descendants to come across this information about her, when they check into the Church of Latter Day Saints library, where this Newsletter is on micro-fiche or whatever its on by then, and after plowing through many volumes, find her name. See what I mean? So let me have those marriage and birth notices, and birth photos (bright contrast or, rare event these days, high quality black and white, for photographic efficiency). As the Joker said, "Think about the future."

The Fifth National Bland Reunion, August 12-13, 1989 The Fifth National Bland Reunion met at Cumberland Mississippi, August 12-13, 1989. The local turn out was very good, and there was a great deal of warmth and southern hospitality in evidence. I was gratified also that the reunion fired up the enthusiasm for research among several members of the Mississippi Blands, who descend from Joseph Henry Bland (1785-1862) and Mary Ann May Rea (1793-1850), (see discussion below, p.). The sponsors were "Hop" and Angelia Alford of Meban, and their son Ken Alford. Total attendance was 111, with representation from fourteen states.

A surplus of \$575. was used as follows: (1) Placement of two copies of A Vision of Unity in libraries in Tennessee and Mississippi (see discussion below), \$120.; (2) Creation of a perpetual care fund for the Marvin Hill Cemetery near Meban and Cumberland, where many Bland descendants are buried, \$305.; and (3) reimbursement to me for postage and other expenses related to the reunion, \$150.

After departing the National Bland Reunion on August 13, I stopped for a visit to a local Bland reunion that was held at the Spring Hill Congregational Methodist Church in Toccopola, Lafayette County Mississippi, (Faulkner Country). While there, I was given a tour of the church cemetery where many Blands are buried and I got many inscriptions, to be used below (pp. 11-15).

The Projected Sixth National Bland Reunion The Sixth National Bland Reunion will be held August 10-12, 1990 at Dumfries Virginia, in Stafford-Prince William County, near Powell's Creek, which is where the Northern Virginia Bland family got its origins in the early 18th Century. The Reunion will be sponsored by Thomas Bland of Burke, Virginia, his brother William and their wives. Details will be mailed out in May.

I would like to propose that anyone who has special expertise in research issues in these Northern Virginia counties or in Washington D.C. (DAR; National Archives; Library of Congress etc.) and would like to address the group or do a workshop during the Reunion, should contact either Thomas Bland, 19586 Reeds Circle Landing, Burke Virginia 22015, or me.

A word of early warning is in order. Dumfries is within range of Washington D.C. Research opportunities are abundant and there are many historical sights to see and I would expect this reunion to be well attended, so there will be many Blands to meet. But for those of you who are travelling from out of state, remember that the proximity to Washington unavoidably drives up the lodging rates. You should expect to pay \$50. to \$55. per day for a room at the Reunion Headquarters, which will be Howard Johnson's. The rate is competitive with other motels and motor inns in the area. Having said that, I look forward to seeing you in August.

Library Donations This has been a banner year for new library donations.

Gordon and Frances Owens of Newton Square Pennsylvania donated a copy of A Vision of Unity to the Oklahoma Genealogical Society, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

As noted above, surplus funds from the Fifth National Bland Reunion were used to donate copies of A Vision of Unity to The Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson, Mississippi, and The Tennessee State Library and Archives, Nashville, Tennessee.

In May of 1989, an anonymous donor agreed to donate 10 copies of A Vision of Unity to libraries around the country, during a two year period. The first five volumes were placed in:

The Alabama Archives and History Department, Montgomery Alabama.

The Evans Memorial Library, Aberdeen Mississippi.

The Missouri State Library, Jefferson City Missouri.

The Mitchell Memorial Library, Mississippi State University, Jackson, Mississippi.

The State Library of Florida, Tallahassee, Florida.

I am grateful for these generous donations. While use of them may not be spectacular, I have had a surprising number of inquiries from persons who have come upon A Vision of Unity in a library they visited, so I think it is an effective way of generating shared research.

Your donation would be welcome. If you have a favorite library that to which you would like to donate a copy of A Vision of Unity, please feel free to write or call me. Your donation is tax deductible.

Becker's Bookshelf I would like to call to your attention a promising genealogical book rental agency called Becker's Bookshelf. For a list of publications available and rental rates, write to Charlene Becker, 1314 Prospect Avenue, Norfolk, Nebraska 68701.

Transition In addition to the birth of Amanda Leigh Lillard, noted on page one, I received word from Gordon and Frances Owens of Newton Square Pennsylvania of the birth on July 21, 1988 of their granddaughter Sarah Noel Owens, daughter of Douglas Owens. John Bland of Elizabethtown Kentucky announced the birth of his niece, Meredith Ashley Bland on May 25, 1989. Meredith is the daughter of Michael and Barbara Bland of Cooper City Florida. Howard and Sandra Bland of Tupelo Mississippi announced the birth of a granddaughter, Teresa Bland Wallace, on June 1, 1989. Mary Bland Smart of Bremond Texas, who descends through the James River line, and her husband Chester, announced birth of their granddaughter Cassandra Renee Smart on December 3, 1989. The parents are William and Samantha Smart of Bremond.

Edith Lanning of Dunnellon Florida sent me a clipping from the Grants Pass, Oregon, Daily Courier, citing the death of Herbert Bland, age 78, on September 16, 1984. Herbert was a railroad conductor who was born in Merlin, Oregon August 18, 1906 and lived in Dunsmuir California between 1924-1972. John W. Bland of Elizabethtown Kentucky informed me of the death on September 3, 1988, of Edgar U. "Sonny" Cave, husband of John's aunt Betty Akers Bland Cave of Hardin County Kentucky. I also received reports of the deaths in 1988, (dates unspecified) of George _____

Carlton Bland, brother of Richard Parks Bland of Denver Colorado and of Stephen and Worth Bland, cousins of Betty Bland Lovvorn of Coltewah Tennessee. Fredrick Bland of Pontotoc Mississippi reported to me the death of his wife Pauline Coleman Bland on April 17, 1989. John W. Bland also reported the death on April 21, 1989 of Lee Hulse Van Hoy, whose wife Adrian Van Hoy was descended from the Bland's of Hardin County Kentucky.

Daisy Smith Bland, age 86 and mother of Lenore Bland Brown of Paris Texas, died on August 12, 1989. Daisy married John Herbert Bland of Concordia Kansas on August 12, 1924. John was a member of the family of James O.D. Bland (1824-1907) who descended from James Bland of Chatham County North Carolina (1749-1799).

In a note dated September 14, 1989, I received word of the death of Lois Cramer of San Diego California, after a long illness. Lois descended from the Blands of Fauquier and Frederick Counties Virginia, through the line of Joseph Bland and Susan Bailey Johnson and their son Thomas Bland (1789-1874). Lois provided a great deal of information about this line in 1985 and subsequently sent me many post cards from Cumberland County England, Penrith, St. Andrew's Parish, which to our current thinking is a birth place of the Northern Virginia Bland family.

I received a return envelope from Blanche Blagg of Harris Missouri, dated September 18, 1989, indicating that she was deceased. This is something of a cautionary tale. I had only corresponded briefly with Blanche and cannot reasonably expect her family, short of instructions from her, to let me know more about her death.

I received word from Marilieu Bland Stanley of Dallas Texas that her husband died on November 19, 1989.

Finally, I received word from Laverne Bland of Edgerton Missouri that his step-father, Cleatis James Bland died December 16, 1989, just four days short of his eightieth birthday. Mr. Bland was also the father of Delores Sellars of Joliet Illinois, who has attended past Bland reunions. Cleatis James Bland (1909-1989), was the son of John William and Druscilla Jane Bland. Their son Vernon Virgil Bland (1915-1948) married Esther Haney and they were parents of Laverne Bland. After the death of Vernon Virgil Bland, the widow Esther Haney Bland married Vernon's brother Cleatis James Bland (AC 1-2, p. 9)

Reconstruction of Photographs for A Vision of Unity As noted in the last number of the Newsletter, my manuscript of **A Vision of Unity** was lost and I was forced to reconstruct it from a copy of the book. For the publication of the book to be published in June, and thereafter, I would like to reconstruct the photographs. If you have photographs that you think useful, please contact me by letter or phone, or send them to me for review. If I do not receive any new photographs, I will cull those previously published in the Newsletters.

Please keep in mind that this does not mean the narrative of the book will be revised. Only the photographic arrangements will be changed.

Change of Address As you may have noted, I have listed a new address because of changes in my life. I am at present uncertain where I will settle permanently though I am very sure it will be in this area. For that reason, it is best to write to PO Box 523, Williamsville New York, 14231-0523. My home phone is 716-83BLAND for your easy reference (832-5263). During this period I am teaching two courses and do a lot of computer work at my office, so most nights I am out until quite late. If, therefore, you call and I am not in, leave a number where and when you can be reached and I will get back to you within 24 hours.

Bid for Blands At Grant's Pass Oregon, date uncertain, a woman named Judy Moore bid "top dollar" for a date with 42 year old Gary Bland, director of trust investments for Boeing Aircraft. The money went to the March of Dimes. Bland said "I'm thrilled. I figure the only bad date is a woman who won't go out with you.¹ I never dreamed anyone would pay so much for an evening with me."

THE VIRGINIA FAMILIES

The James River Family

Dr. William B. Cleveland of Cleveland Ohio sent me information clarifying the line of Richard Bland (1769-1807), so of Peter Randolph Bland (1736-1781) and his wife Judith Booker. (VU. P. 163 and AC 5-1, pp. 14-17 and AC 7-1, pp. 7-9). Peter Randolph Bland and Judith Booker had four children, Richard, Peter, Edward and Ann.

Richard Bland (C1769-1807). Richard married Elizabeth Ridley Dickens, as proven by a Dickens family bible. This corrects my information that Richard married Sally Dickens. Richard and Elizabeth married in Caswell County, North Carolina, September 22, 1790, but moved back to Nottoway County Virginia, (AC 3-1, p. 15). Richard Bland and Elizabeth Ridley Dickens had four children and Mr. Cleveland provided further information about two of them:

1. Peter Randolph Bland (AC 5-1, p. 16; AC 7-1, p. 7). It is worth noting that Peter was named after his grandfather Peter Randolph Bland, and also had an uncle Peter Randolph Bland, just to keep later generations of genealogists on their toes.

¹ Gary should talk to me about that.

2. Sally Dickens Bland (1795-1861). Sally married William Brodnax (not Broadnax as earlier indicated) in 1814, and was widowed in 1824, leaving behind one child, Richard T. Brodnax. Sally and her son moved to Fayette County Tennessee about 1825 and lived with her brother Peter Randolph Bland at an estate called "Woodlawn". In 1831, Sally Dickens Bland Brodnax remarried to Jesse Browne. She is Dr. Cleveland's ancestor by virtue of this marriage and their son Peter Randolph Bland Browne. Sally survived Jesse Browne, whom she laid in his grave in Haywood County Tennessee in 1839. Sally Dickens Bland Brodnax Browne moved with her three children back to Woodlawn. According to Mr. Cleveland, all of this younger Peter Randolph Bland's children died before him (correcting my information AC 7-1, p. 8) and his farm was left to his sister Sally, who passed it to her son Richard T. Brodnax.

If a vision of Peter Randolph Bland comes to you in a dream, be sure to awaken quickly and write it all down, but don't forget to ask him which one he is.

Edward Bland. Information from an unknown source (I think Robert O. Bland of Deland Florida) sheds further light on Martha Rebecca Bland, daughter of John Archer Bland and Mary Ann Dickinson (AC 5-1, p. 22). This new information, based on a death certificate, indicates she died at age 73, March 4, 1903, so in fact had dates of (C1830-1903). In my previous writing about her, she was said to have been married to Charles W. Fitzgerald. The new information finds her in 1880 in Covington Kentucky, married to "Colonel" Ezekiel P. Jones. Robert Bland indicates that correspondence between Martha's younger brother Robert Emmet Bland (1833-1896) and his future wife Emma Walton made mention of a "Colonel Jones", leading one to the conclusion that he was referring to a brother-in-law.

Susan and Lucy Bland. The third child of Richard Bland and Anne Poythress was Lucy Bland (1754-) who reputedly married Jacob Rubsamen May 31, 1780. Merle E. Turnipseed of Washington, Iowa, descends from this line. Merle traced his family name back to its German Roots and found that it was "Ribsamen" (translated as Turnipseed). Mr. Turnipseed found that Jacob owned and operated a grist mill, in Manchester, Chesterfield County. The mill was used mostly to make gun powder during the Revolutionary War. In numerous documentary references provided by Mr. Turnipseed, perhaps the most germane is the notation of Jacob Rubsamen was born April 4, 1745, the son of Jeremias Conrad Rubsamen and Maria Steinberger of Giessen Germany. Jacob made his will on March 22, 1792 in language that indicated his days were rapidly drawing nigh. Mr. Turnipseed's information indicates (Chesterfield Court Records Marriage Bond) that on May 21, 1780, Jacob married "Susy Bland". Previous information indicates that Susan Bland (1752-) eleventh child of Richard Bland and Anne Poythress, died young

and that Jacob Rubsamen married Lucy Bland (1754-) the last child. In the 1790 census for Chesterfield County, Jacob was enumerated with 3 whites and 10 black slaves, indicating his wife and a child. Neither wife nor child were noted in the 1792 will, in which Jacob scoured a doctor who had done him wrong and left his estate to siblings back in Germany. This would indicate that Jacob was the last to die.

Mr. Turnipseed's information sheds more light on this particular child of Richard Bland and Anne Poythress than I have heretofore seen.

The Prince William County Family Richard W. Price & Associates, a genealogical firm in Salt Lake City, Utah has inquired about the ancestry of Amanda Bland (September 22, 1856 - April 1, 1938) of Prince William County Virginia, who, about 1872, married John T. Robey, born in 1849 in Washington D.C. Amanda's parents were James P. Bland (C1810-1860), and Mary Lloyd (C1808-) of Prince William County. After that, the picture becomes Opaque. The parents of James P. Bland have been shown, through tax records, to be John Bland (C1782-) and Mary Ann _____ Bland. According to Mrs. Cash, John and Mary Ann had four sons including James, Robert, Ben and Arthur. Mrs. Cash indicates that these same records suggest John was the son of Allen Bland. The only possible link-up in this geographic area is "Jackie", the son of Benjamin Bland (C1724-1771) and his wife Mary, unless we have previously erred in making Mary Benjamin's wife. Mary's will was made and probated in 1782 and she made a bequest to her son "Jackie". Benjamin was the son of James Bland (C1687-1755), son of the immigrant James Bland (1661-1708). ^a Any help would be appreciated. (See discussion below, Prince William County, pp. 49-50).

The Frederick County Family Mrs. Bland Osborn (how about that name?) from Wilmington Delaware sends an interesting bit of speculation about Richard Bland (1787-1876) of this family, who by my theory originated in Fauquier County Virginia before moving to Frederick County. In June 1989, Mrs. Osborn visited some relatives in Clarksburg West Virginia and she learned from her husband's uncle Alex (age 86) that when he was a boy his mother or grandmother told him about an ancestor who donned a red coat on the fourth of July and went downtown, where someone shot and killed him. Alex's grandmother would have been Viann Frum, daughter of Catherine Bland Frum and grand daughter of Joseph Bland, who may have been the fool hardy Tory who forgot the war wasn't over yet. Mrs. Osborn speculates that it might have been Richard Bland (1787-1876), Joseph's son, who supposedly died on July 4, 1876. This doesn't seem likely, however, since Richard

^a VU, pp. 404-405 and letter from Judith Roby Cash to Charles L. Bland, February 26, 1990.

Bland has at least three suggested dates of death (AC5-2, p. 11) and was a contemporary of Viann Frum. If it should turn out to be true, (this family seems to have a rich tradition of stories by old-timers that have survived to today), that would more or less establish Joseph's date of death, be it 1812 or 1820. Actually, if the poor man did something like that on July 4, 1812, one would have to wonder how he lived as long as he did.

The King and Queen County Family In the last issues (AC 7-2, pp. 13-15) I ventured to separate two John Blands relying upon Carol Adams of Charleston S.C. and Bland Williamson of Tulsa Oklahoma.

1. John Bland (C1759-1818).³ Bland Williamson offered a "best guess" that this John was the son of the elder William Bland (1725-1788).

In the last number, I indicated that John had a daughter Joanna Bland, who married Charles Roane. Mr. Williamson indicates that Joanna's dates were (1776-1858), and that she was married to Roane June 1, 1824 as his second wife. They had five children, whom Mr. Williamson did not note. There are obvious contradictions that suggest Joanna's birth date should be set at a later time.

2. John Bland Jr. (C1766-1846). According to Mr. Williamson, this John Bland Jr. was "possibly" the son of William Bland (1746-1788), in which case the other John would be his uncle. Bland Macgillvary of Williamsburg Virginia supplied Mr. Williamson with a tax list for 1787, showing that a Betty Bland paid the taxes on behalf of "John Jr." In a separate document, Taliaferro's tax list of 1783, William Sr. and William Jr., Thomas Bland and John Bland (1759-1818) are listed separately. William Jr. was married to a woman named Mary (VU, pp. 393-394). Betty listed on the 1787 tax rolls was almost certainly the mother or older sister of John Jr., meaning that in all likelihood, William Jr. was not the father of John Jr.

Mr. Williamson has supplied a number of other interesting leads about the King and Queen family, and promised to update me when he had more work done. ⁴ The subjects are tantalizing and I look forward to further information about this family in a future issue.

³ Bland Williamson has made a persuasive argument for changing this John's dates to 1759-1818: He was 20 years old, January 24, 1780, so almost certainly was born in 1759. His estate was listed on the personal property tax list for King and Queen County, 1819, so it is presumed that he died in 1818.

⁴ Bland Williamson to Charles Bland, September 13, 1989.

At this juncture, I should enter a long overdue retraction of previous work. In my book, (VU, p. 368, Note 5) I suggested without actually saying it outright, that the elder William Bland of King and Queen County was a brother of Thomas Bland (C1719-1788) of Fauquier County. In hindsight it appears that I was struggling too hard to achieve a Vision of Unity. I now believe the King and Queen County and the Fauquier County families (derivative of Stafford/Prince William) were separate families who bore no relation that we know of.

The Pendleton County Blands In the last issue (AC 7-2, p. 37) I noted Zane Bland and his wife Harriet residing in the household of Isaac Gorsuch in Huntingdon County Pennsylvania. This was new information about a man whose life had only been touched on before, (AC 3-2, p. 27 and 4-2, p. 14). In a letter to me, citing records in Macon County Missouri, Edith C. Lanning of Dunnellon Florida, shows that there was a Zane W. Bland, the "one child and heir" of Zane Sr. and Harriet, married to Emma F. _____ Bland in 1896-1897 Zane W. Bland laid claim to his father's share of the estate of Henry Bland (1770-1853) and Mary Dolly. Also noted in his claim were Stewart D. Bland and Virginia his wife of Todd County Kentucky (AC 4-2, p. 41). Stewart was born in 1839 and evidently died after 1902, having, according to Edith Lanning, outlived his sister Lucinda; Harvey Bland and Melissa, his wife, of Shelby County, Illinois; Henry James Bland and his wife Annot, of Santa Clara County California (AC 4-2, p. 14); and Lucinda Bland of Pendleton County, West Virginia, (AC 4-2, p. 14). Edith indicates that Lucinda was preparing to visit Stewart in Kentucky when she became ill and died. Edith Lanning was good enough to share with me a photo of Lucinda, taken, it appears before she became known as "Old Luce". I am happy to display it here.



Lucinda Bland, (1836-1902) daughter
of Henry Bland and Mary Dolly
Courtesy Edith C. Lanning

THE NORTH CAROLINA FAMILIES

The Family of Joseph Bland New acquaintances made at the National Bland Reunion in Mississippi, have made possible the refinement of much that was known about the line of Joseph Bland, (C1754-1800), from Duplin County North Carolina, son of William Bland (C1726-1775), who was the son of James Bland (C1704-1774) of New Hanover/Duplin County North Carolina, earlier of Prince William County Virginia. James was the son of William Bland (C1682-1744), eldest son of the immigrant James Bland. Earlier discussion about Joseph Bland (AC 1-1, p. 3; and 2-1, p. 6), shows that in 1788, Joseph deeded property to his children Joseph Henry and Mary. In 1800, one William Nutt was named guardian of "Henry and Polly Bland" minor children of Joseph Bland. There is substantial evidence ⁵ to show that this younger Joseph Henry Bland is the same man, (1785-1862), who moved from North Carolina to Perry County, Alabama after marrying Mary Ann Ray ⁶ of Raleigh North Carolina about February 25, 1810. Joseph Henry Bland, a minister of the gospel, last appears in the North Carolina records in November 13, 1828, when he presides over a wedding in Raleigh. By 1840, he was living in Orange County North Carolina. Between 1840 and 1850, Joseph Henry moved to Perry County Alabama. He is listed in the Perry County census of 1850 with a net worth of \$1,000. Mary Ann Ray Bland evidently died between 1850 and 1860 and Joseph Henry died in 1862 in Perry County. ⁷

⁵ I am grateful to Mrs. Clara Faye Johnston West of Denver Colorado for showing me an entry from Early New Hanover County Records, (1986) pp. 194-195 an entry showing that on May 12, 1805, Joseph Henry Bland made an indenture with "Oliver Thomas and Mary Thomas, wife of said Oliver, formerly Mary Bland. . ."

⁶ Mary Ann Ray inherited from an uncle Anthony Wayne a walking cane with a gold head, a silver ladies pipe, and a sword, said to be the gift of George Washington. These have been passed down through the generations and were displayed at the 1989 Reunion.

⁷ Clara Faye Johnson West, "Joseph Henry Bland" 2 pages. Mrs. West indicates that Joseph Henry was born October 16, 1785, in Ireland, an assertion that is contradicted by previously offered documentary evidence. This assertion of Irish birth is founded in a document called "Bland Family", a confused document that links the Mississippi Family through Joseph Henry Bland (1785-1862) to the London/York County England Family of Richard Bland(1624-1692 and Jane Lane Pott (C1624-1694). How this 17th Century Couple could be parents of a man born in 1785 does not appear. (For a more accurate view of Richard Bland and Jane Lane Pott, see VU pp. 66-

The following, based on information obtained at the 1989 Reunion from Clara Faye Johnson West of Denver, Colorado, updates previously recorded information about the children of Joseph Henry Bland and Mary Ann Ray, all born in North Carolina (AC 3-1, pp. 16-20) ^a

William Calvin Bland (MD) (September 8, 1811 - November 20, 1851). William left home under mysterious circumstances about 1832. His family feared he had fallen prey to savage indians or a slave uprising (panic about slave rebellion seared the south after the Nat Turner Rebellion in Virginia in August 1831. A deadly cholera epidemic in 1832 also created fear in people, and might have had some effect on William's decision to leave home). He attended Transylvania University College of Medicine in Lexington Kentucky and practice medicine in Lafayette County Mississippi. William married Mary Elizabeth Meadow, (C1820-October, 1879), in Pontotoc County Mississippi, June 24, 1844. ^a He settled in Lafayette County Mississippi, where he is buried. Following William's death Mary Elizabeth Meadow Bland married John Keel. William C. Bland and Mary Elizabeth Meadow had two children:

1. John Henry Bland (July 4, 1845 - April 21, 1931). He married Nancy L. ----- (May 30, 1853 - December 4, 1932).

2. James Reuben Bland (September 9, 1849 - November 4, 1908). James Reuben was killed when his cotton gin caught hold of his coat and ground him up. James Reuben married Adeline "Addie" Rebecca Mackey (August 29, 1852 - September 9, 1937) on February 26, 1873 in Desoto County Mississippi. James Reuben Bland and Adeline Mackey are buried at the Springhill Baptist Church in Lafayette County, Mississippi. Their children were:

68). Richard Bland and Jane Lane Pott had a grandson Joseph Bland whose dates were 1686-1788. Mrs. Johnson shows persuasively that Joseph Henry's wife was named Mary Ann Ray, rather than Mary Ann Rea May as previously shown. She was the daughter of Mary Ann May Ray.

^a Carolyn Miller of Vicksburg Mississippi, a descendant of this line, whose genealogical interest was ignited by the 1989 Bland Reunion, promises further research on the descendants of Joseph Henry Bland.

^a Pontotoc County Mississippi Deed Book 5, page 265. The marital contract indicates that at the time she was married, Mary Meadow owned six slaves, Keziah, age 25; Peter, 15; Margaret, 12; Francis or Frances, 6; James, 3; and Mary, six months.

A. William Calvin Bland II - (December 18, 1874 - July 2, 1952). William who married Mabel Minnie Hartsfield on March 14, 1906. They had two daughters, (1) Josephine Bland, who married Robert Crabtree; and (2) Jimmie Bland, who married Edward Vick. These daughters moved to Memphis Tennessee.

B. Edna Allen Bland - (September 4, 1877 - May 8, 1957). Edna married George W. Anderson, January 13, 1895. They moved to Hominy Oklahoma, where they are buried.

C. Robert Collier Bland (October 11, 1879 - November 3, 1967). Robert married Etta Munford Gilmer (1882-1973) on May 20, 1904. There were no children. Both are buried at Spring Hill cemetery in Lafayette County Mississippi.

D&E. Twins Virginia Louella Bland (October 3, 1882 - July 2, 1967), who married Lonnie Marshall Tallant November 22, 1903; and Eugenia Eudella Bland (October 3, 1882 - May 12, 1932), who married Arch Tallant, (brother of Marshall), June 6, 1899. Both sisters are buried at Springhill cemetery.

F. Margaret Ola Bland (August 31, 1884 - March 11, 1959) married Joe Cephus Anderson, January 11, 1900. Margaret is buried at Springhill Cemetery.

G. Sallie Catherine "Cate" Bland (May 21, 1887 - March 6, 1966), married Wade Hampton Johnson, February 18, 1904. Sallie was said by her daughter Lillian to have had "pretty blue eyes and . . . red hair." Both are buried at Coffeesville Mississippi. I was pleased to meet several of their children at the Fifth National Reunion, Clara Faye Johnson West, mentioned previously, Lillian Johnson Stebbing, Wanza Clarence Johnson and Wade Hampton Johnson.

H. Lou Ethel Bland (August 24, 1890 - June 25, 1909). She married William Henry Harrison, April 5, 1906.

I. Lucius Curtis Bland (May 14, 1893 - November 7, 1975), married Florence Lillian Harrison October 4, 1916. Both are buried in the Spring Hill Cemetery.

J. Leonidas (Lonnie) Frank Bland (June 21, 1896 - July 4, 1927). Lonnie married Gertrude Harrison.

I am happy to display photos of James Reuben Bland (1849-1904) and Adeline Rebecca Mackey Bland (1852-1937).



Courtesy:
Clara Faye
Johnson West

Joseph Henry Bland Jr. (March 29, 1813 -).

Catherine Ray (Rea) Bland (March 14, 1815 -). Catherine's date of death is uncertain. Some say she died in the 1890s in Webster County Mississippi. Lillian Johnson Stebbing of Coffeesville Mississippi, a grand niece of Catherine, believes that Catherine did not die until after she (Lillian) was born in 1906. Catherine never married. The story is told that the pipe, cane and a sword noted above (footnote 6), were entrusted to Catherine, because her brother William had left home at age 21). Catherine moved to Webster County, Mississippi with her brother Robert Galbert Bland. In the early 1870s, a stranger passing through the Mathison/Maben area informed her of a Bland Mercantile Company in what is Tocappola Mississippi. Lo, upon inquiry, Catherine discovered that the proprietor of Bland Mercantile Company was her nephew James Reuben Bland, son of her long lost brother, William Calvin Bland. Catherine then took up residence with James Reuben Bland and lived with him until she died.

Robert Galbert Bland (May 1, 1817 - August 1862). He is buried in Spring Valley, Webster County Mississippi. Galbert was derived from Galbreath. No one knows why the change. Robert evidently was a minister for the Henderson Baptist Church in Perry County Alabama, sometime after 1849. Robert's sister Catherine wrote of him, "my brother and all his children had red hair." Robert's family is discussed in (AC 3-1, pp. 17-18). In a long letter to Lillian Johnson Stebbing, Robert's son Joseph Henry Bland (1847-1941), said:

My father had deep red hare and so did I. I had ameny fight at school. My hare was so red the boys would call me a red headed peckerwood.

Of his wife, Pinkey Miller (May 1862 - April 12, 1890), Joseph Henry wrote:

I was near 30 year old before I found that sweet girl of my (unintelligible). She was born May 1862 and you can bet your socks, she was a Pink of the rarest kind and pretty, as pretty as she could be. But the half I have told she was so sweet, so lovely, so kind and tender-hearted. . . her eyes were blue and her hare was a golish coller. She was so kind, she never spoke an unkind word to no one and was a true lover of the lord. We had four girls. . . well I lost dear Pinkie. She died in 1890, the 12th of April). . . so it has been 41 years since she died and I am in my 84 years now. ¹⁰

¹⁰ Joseph Henry Bland to Lillian Johnson, 1931.