

Among Cousins The Bland Family Newsletter



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Dear Cousins,

The Sixth National Bland Reunion will be held in Prince William County Virginia, August 10-12, 1990. The Reunion Site will be the Northern Virginia Community College, located, as it were on the banks of Powell's Creek and just South of the Occoquan River. This is a special treat for those of you who know Bland genealogy well, for the largest known branch of the Bland family descends from James Bland (1661-1708) who settled in 1701 in this area, so

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Direct Inquiries to:
Charles L. Bland
Editor and Publisher
Among Cousins: The Bland Family Newsletter
Box 523
Williamsville New York, 14231-0523
(716-636-2450 office)
(716-83BLAND Home)

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it is truly the major seat of the Bland family. The sponsors for this year's reunion are twin brother's Thomas H. Bland of Burke Virginia and William G. Bland of Woodbridge Virginia and their wives Diana and Diane Bland.

The reunion will be an exiting day. August 11 will be declared Bland Day in Prince William County. Genealogist Larry Blann will speak about the trials and tribulations of doing genealogical research. Don Curtis, a Prince William County historian and a Bland descendant, will discuss the history of the county. The luncheon promises to be delicious and it will be catered at Leesylvania State Park along Powell's Creek. Also contemplated is a tour of the site where James Bland first settled.

In addition to this, there are a host of wonderful research opportunities at the Virginia State Library in Richmond, as well as the Virginia Historical Society. In Washington D.C., there are opportunities at the National Archives, the Library of Congress and the Daughters of the American Revolution headquarter, among a few that come to mind. Of course, Herbert Francis Bland of Paragould Arkansas, (or is it Francis Herbert?), will be there serving humor, baloney and Dr. Pepper, a rare opportunity for the uninitiated, not to be missed.

The Reunion is being expanded to three days in keeping with a practice that has evolved during the past few years wherein the faithful out-of-towners congregate the night before the formal reunion for a sort of party. After all this is a once a year time when we can all see each other again, especially Herb (or Fran). But also it is not a closed event and those of you who live nearby or have never before been to a reunion will be welcome to attend Friday night at Reunion Headquarters, the Best Western Motel on Highway 50, just off I-95.

I'm looking forward to this Reunion and hope to see many of you in Virginia.

Other Reunions

I received invitations to attend two annual Bland Reunions. One was held at Jacksonville Georgia, June 10, 1990. This reunion represents the branch of the family that originated in Northern Virginia, but migrated to Duplin County N.C. Descendants of the North Carolina family migrated to Bulloch County Georgia, and these celebrants are their descendants. The other reunion was held at Merkel Texas, June 24, 1990. This family descends from Samuel Bland and Martha Merritt of Mecklenburg County Virginia. I was unable to attend either of these reunions but know that some of my correspondents did, and trust that all had a good time.

Dora Tarrant Foster of Lehigh Acres Florida has informed me that there will be a Bland Reunion at Langford Creek State Park in Fort Lawn South Carolina, August 11, 1990, which coincides with our National Reunion. The Bland celebrants are new to my knowledge, and are discussed below, pp. 42-43.

Transition

Mary Jane and I were divorced in March 1990. I hope that those of you who knew Jane and enjoyed her company will still count her your friend. Although it has not been easy for Jane and me, I'm sure we will be alright. If you pray, however, remember our two children Christina and Tommy in your prayers and keep them in your heart.

Ruth Bland White of Greenbrier Tennessee wrote to me that her mother, Mary Ruth Jackson Bland died January 13, 1990. Ruth's father, Thomas Allen Bland had died January 2, 1988. Dorothea Gilbreath of St. Louis Missouri wrote to me that her mother Mabel Greene Kennedy died at age 93, on February 13, 1990. Mabel was the daughter grand daughter of Elizabeth Bland Tetley, sister of Richard Parks "Silver Dick" Bland, (VU. pp. 468A and 469, and AC 8-1, pp. 29-30). I received word from Mary Smart of Bremond Texas, a descendant from the James River Bland Family, that her son Bill, not yet 20, died in a work accident on March 28, 1990. Bill Smart was buried at Walnut Cemetery, five miles east of Bremond. Angelia Bland Alford of Maben Mississippi, called to tell me that her niece Corrine White Walker died after a long illness. Corrine White Walker was the daughter of Pinkie Bland White of Maben.

Book and Photo Reconstruction

I have made no progress regarding the photo reconstruction project and now think the work will not be done until the June 1991 publication date. So there is plenty of time for you to make an input if you wish. If I do not have any contributions, I will find photos from old copies of the Newsletter. These will have to be treated, so that they are preserved longer. Thus, if you have photos that fit in the narrative of the book and would like to contribute them to this project, please let me know.

I have a more ambitious project in mind. Several correspondents in the last few years have pointed out that the Newsletters have out-dated A Vision of Unity. Although I do not believe the book is out-dated, I think it is incomplete and needs to be redone. Actually, what we have now is not just one book but at least two, maybe three volumes, with an index as a fourth volume. I have also lost my grip on the indexing question, having failed to find time to index volumes 6-8 of the Newsletter, which makes tracing down answers much more difficult. The task is staggering and time, more than anything is my enemy.

This is my proposal for a long term project that would take five years, as an initial target. During the next year, I would

like to ask for a volunteer to index Volumes 6-9 of the Newsletter. Also for volunteers to type on a compatible computer disk, the chapters of A Vision of Unity, verbatim. These disks I could transfer to my hard disk. I use Word Perfect 5.0. My employee, the State University of New York, Buffalo, has conversion capability for many major word processing software to WP 5.0. From this base, I could incorporate the data contained in the Newsletters, while continuing to turn out Newsletters, and then organize the resulting work into whatever format seems best at the time. In a project like this the objective would be to create free standing volumes so that those who could not afford a multi-volume set could at least afford the volume that discusses their particular line. Inasmuch as completion is some five years down the road, there will be plenty of time to research the most economic costs for production, once the project is finished.

I will volunteer in 1991 to transcribe Chapters 1-4 and 11 of the book (about 200 pages). That means seven volunteers would need to volunteer to transcribe the other six chapters of the book and to index Volumes 6-9. When I say volunteer, I mean it. Time is not my only enemy. Money is also, and there simply isn't enough from the proceeds of sales of the books and newsletters to have the book privately typed or the Newsletter Indexed (besides, indexing requires someone with a feeling for the family's history). Thus, I could trade with a few of you in free subscriptions to the Newsletter, perhaps on a multiple year basis, and/or free copies of the eventual final product but that is about all.

The objective them would be, by the end of 1995, to have consolidated all that we have done through that date into book form. The shorter term objective is two-fold:

1. The Original manuscript of A Vision of Unity was misplaced in the Spring of 1989. Before it was lost, my printer, whose judgement I trust, had impressed upon me that the quality of the photos in the book were wearing out and the photos needed to be treated in order to preserve them. That point was muted when the manuscript was lost. The issue now is to place new photos in the manuscript, pre-treated, so that good quality copies of the book can still be turned out. I would like to have these photos in place, by your contributions or buy culling the Newsletters, by June 1991.

2. By the end of 1991, volumes 6-9 of Among Cousins needs to be indexed.

Anyone interested should contact me. 716-83BLAND.

**"THE UNDESERVED MISFORTUNES OF OUR UNHAPPY FAMILIES":
BEING A STORY ABOUT HOW GILES BLAND GOT HANGED AND
WHY THE JAMES RIVER BLANDS SETTLED IN AMERICA**

Prologue

This is a different kind of story than usually appears on these pages. It is a saga that unfolded in England and Virginia over 150 years, leading to the endurance in this country of the James River Bland family, the first to set down roots in the new world. It was not inevitable that the London Bland antecedents to this family would settle in Virginia. Indeed, there was a strong chance that this branch could have died out altogether, save for the outcome of a dramatic trans-Atlantic confrontation that involved deep and violent family passions and political fortune.

The story you are about to read, my dear subscribers, is true. It is the kind of story that could only be told by a genealogist, for it requires someone who possesses the right admixture of, monkish devotion, ego and audacity to imagine there is an audience interested in reading it. And a mad determination to force truth to emerge from fragmentary evidence. For the task, I humbly propose myself.

March 27, 1677

Giles Bland, Customs Collector in Virginia for His Majesty King Charles II, was hanged near Jamestown on March 27, 1677. Giles was a leader probably second in command, of the rebel forces in a sorry little event that history records as Bacon's Rebellion. ¹ Giles' paid for his disloyalty with his life, yet the chain of events and causes that led to Giles death were not entirely dependent on his affiliation with Bacon. Rather, his role in Bacon's Rebellion and his subsequent execution were the product of a complex matrix of inter-family conflicts that reached back to the Sixteenth Century. ² Bacon's Rebellion,

¹ William Waller Hening The Statutes at Large: Being a Collection of All the Laws of Virginia, 1619-1792, II, p. 550. Hereafter referred to as Hening; Calendar of State Papers, Colonial Office, Charles II, X (1677-1680), pp. 14, 42-43, 165, 189. Hereafter Calendar of State Papers, Colonial and Domestic Series, will be referred to as CSPC and CSPD respectively. The background of Giles Bland's trial is found in Stephen Saunders Webb, 1676, (New York: 1984), pp. 128-154, esp. 151-154, hereafter referred to as Webb, 1676.

² Ralph Thoresby, Ducatus Leodensis, (Leeds: 1715), pp. 91, 94, 206-209 and 577-589, esp. 583-589. Hereafter referred to as Thoresby.

which resembled nothing so much as a gang of greedy pirates squabbling over rights to their ill gotten spoils, is not a sufficient legacy for Giles Bland. Indirectly, however, his misfortune led to the first foot hold in the New World for the James River Blands, for which we owe this obnoxious fellow a debt of gratitude and it couldn't have happened to a nicer guy. Had Giles' role been played by a smoother man, the Bland wealth in the New World might have been liquidated, with this branch of the family removing from Virginia to London. The Blands, like many English families, faced the challenge of mastering the personal and pragmatic qualities that were necessary to peacefully perpetuate family wealth in the New World. It is our good fortune that Giles Bland or his father John Bland didn't have a clue about how to achieve this balance. The conflicts within the family came to a head about 1674-1677, just in time to spill over into the cesspool of Virginia politics. Giles Bland paid for this old inter-generational rivalry with his life. In order to understand the conflict as it existed in the 1670s, one must go way back to the middle of the previous century and begin with the career of a remarkable young man who was Giles' Great Grandfather.

Adam Bland "The Ambitious"

Adam Bland (C1528-1594) was an ambitious young man from the provinces, who migrated to London about 1542, and secured an apprenticeship with a member of the Skinner's Company of London. Adam was born in Orton Parish, Westmoreland County England, just across the border from Sedberg in Yorkshire, and also, incidentally, not far from Penrith, Cumberland County, where another major branch of the family originated. ³ Adam must have been a very ambitious and intelligent young man, for by 1559 he had risen to membership in the Livery, or the managerial inner circle, of the Skinner's Company. This honor was capped by his appointment as Skinner to Queen Elizabeth in 1560. ⁴ The title of

³ Adam completed his apprenticeship in 1549. Apprenticeships were usually completed between a boys 14th and 21st years, thus it is reasonable to assume Adam was born about 1528, (VU, pp. 7-14). Adam was replaced by his eldest son Peter as Skinner to Queen Elizabeth in 1594, CSPD, Elizabeth I, III (1591-1594), p. 502.

⁴ A.W. Rowse, The Elizabethan Renaissance: Life of the Society, (New York: 1971, p. 47; J.W. Cross, Beadle of the Skinner's Company of London to Charles L. Bland, October 27, 1980; Prof. Elspeth Veale to Charles L. Bland, September 15, 1980; Nicholas Carlisle, Collections for A History of the Ancient Family of Bland, (London: 1826), p. 123, hereafter referred to as Carlisle.

Skinner to the Queen, though it demanded more service than monetary reward, certainly placed Adam in a position of high leadership in one of the most prominent of the Twelve Great Liveries of London and also positioned him to amass a considerable fortune. Along the way, Adam had married Joan or Jane Atkyns of London and they had a family of thirteen children. In the custom of his time, Adam passed on his fortune and position to his eldest son.

Peter Bland "The Mad"

Upon his death, Adam's post as Skinner to the Queen passed to his eldest son Peter Bland, (C1557-1627). Peter entered the Skinner's Guild by patrimony.⁵ He attained the pinnacle of success in the Company, Master Skinner, in 1618, but in 1611, he relinquished the title of Skinner to The Crown to a son-in-law. When he made out his will in 1615, Peter's annual earnings had a rateable value of 240 pounds sterling and he possessed a "grate personall estate worth \$10,000 pounds."⁶

All of Peter's sons died young and his wife died in 1614. In his will, which he made out in 1615, Peter "divided all his faid eftate, real and personall (some small legacies excepted) among his faid daughters and their children."⁷ Peter's clearly

⁵ Going in by patrimony meant that papa used his influence to get the young man in, probably when Peter was 21. Adam Bland and his wife Joan Atkyns had a family of 13 children, discussed in VU, pp. 15-75. Peter is discussed in VU pp. 23-33. After VU was published, Conrad and Nelle Mang of Houston Texas, discovered that Peter married Susan Mason of All Hallows Church, Lombard Street, London, August 12, 1583, (AC 3-1, p. 6).

⁶ "An Abstract of a Case in Chancerie, Wherein Sir Arnold Knight and others, are Plaintifes againft Lawrence Lownes of London, Scrivner, and other Defendants." (London, 1632), Public Record Office, (PRO) S.P. 16/102 003101, Hereafter referred to as An Abstract of a Case. Reference to this case is also found in John Rushworth, Historical Collections, II, (London: 1703) pp. 151-152 and; Carlisle, pp. 130-133; The case is briefly discussed in CSPD, Charles I, II, (1627-1628) p. 550 and V, (1631-1633), p. 233; CSPD, Elizabeth I, III, (1591-1594), p. 502 and CSPD, James I, IX (1611-1618), p. 76. Peter's service to the Skinner's Company is noted in Cross and Veale, Op. Cit. and in John James Lambert, Ed. Records of the Skinner's Company of London, (London: 1934), pp. 281, 286 and James Foster Wadmore, Some Account of the Worshipful Company of Skinners, (London: 1912), p. 192. Cf, William Herbert, The History of the Twelve Great Livery Companys of London, II, (London: 1837), pp. 299-382, hereafter referred to as Herbert.

⁷ "An Abstract of a Case" Ibid.

intended to pass his fortune on to his daughters is clear, but was complicated by the McAwber like presence of two surviving brothers, most significantly the youngest, John Bland (1572-1632), and by the appearance within the family of one Lawrence Lownes, a Scrivener, (a copyist or writer) who married Peter's niece in 1617.

Peter was so taken with Lownes, an artful, cunning and charming young man, that he bestowed upon him a wedding gift of 150 pounds and employed him as manager of his estate. ⁸ In 1621, Peter estated all his lands upon his brother John Bland and Lawrence Lownes, making them joint executors of his will and enjoining them to sell all his land and divide the resulting proceeds among his children and grand-children. By this time, however, Peter was aging and had become "weake in his memorie and underftanding." Peter would greet visitors by saying "Yea, I am a poore man and the King hath all my eftate." Peter could not remember the faces or names of old friends, and when they came to visit he would admonish them to bring their own food. ⁹ He must also have become paranoid, for in 1622 he made a further legal move which proved to be his undoing. Peter made up a new codicil to his will, adding a trusted old friend named Baldwin to the list of co-executors. He placed the will in a strong-box with three locks and gave one key each to the three executors. By whatever means, Lownes got the keys from the other two executors and burned the will. Lownes and Peter's corrupt man-servant Hoskins, removed the poor old feeble Peter from his home in London to Lownes' country residence, where they euchred him into revising his will, cutting out Baldwin and John Bland and "tending exceedingly to the prejudice of his children and grand-children and to the fole benefit of Lownes, fo as Lownes thereby compaffed to himfelf," what we today would call the whole pile. Outraged, Peter's family, led by Sir Arnold Herbert, a son in-law, brought charges against Lownes in a case that was resolved in 1632, which resulted in the jailing of Lownes, his attorney and Hoskins. ¹⁰

John Bland "The Grosser"

The posture of Peter's brother John in this matter remains a mystery. Was he a legitimate executor, cut out of the proceedings by his unscrupulous nephew Lownes, or was he an accomplice who

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ Ibid

somehow profited from the scheme? ¹¹ Whatever the answer, the trouble with Peter's estate seems to have created a family crisis that would take a century and generations to heal. Peter died about 1627, and one of his brother's Gregory Bland (1567-???) fled to Ireland soon after his death. ¹² John Bland hastened to make up his own will in 1627 and its language left no doubt about his displeasure with Gregory Bland and Lawrence Lownes:

I give to my god children twenty shillings apiece, except Lawrence Lownes daughter and Gregory Bland's son or daughter, for Lownes played the knave with me, and Gregory Bland deceived me likewise, so neither they nor theirs shall have one penny of mine . . . Judith Lownes not to have anything, the wife of Lawrence Lownes. ¹³

When Peter died, the sole male heir of Adam Bland and Joan Atkyns was their youngest son John Bland. John's huge family was instrumental to the settlement of the Bland family in Virginia. By 1627, John was a successful international merchant. Also, John was appointed receiver of the King's rents in Yorkshire in 1628 and was an active member of the Grocer's company, having bought his way into the Guild in 1626 and attaining the rank of Company Warden in 1629. ¹⁴ John also was an active member of the Virginia Company of London. From 1618-1624, John held 400 acres in Virginia and was invested in Martin's Hundred. He was also a participant in a shipping consortium that conducted trade with Virginia. ¹⁵ Because of his connection with the Grocer's Company

¹¹ John was by 1622 a successful businessman with a sharp acumen for the bottom line. It seems doubtful that Lownes could have "played the knave" with him so completely about such a sensitive matter for so long.

¹² Thoresby, p. 208.

¹³ Henry Waters, Genealogical Gleanings (London: 1901), pp. 813-814. Hereafter referred to as Waters.

¹⁴ CSPD, Charles I, III (1628-1629), pp. 209, 331, 508-509. Joseph Aubrey Rees, The Worshipful Company of Grocers, an Historical Retrospect, (London: 1923), app. 1, p. 189; W.W. Grantham, List of the Wardens of the Grocer's Company from 1345 to 1907 (London: 1907), p. 25; CF Herbert I, pp. 297-388.

¹⁵ Susan Myra Kingsbury, Ed. Records of the Virginia Company of London, (London: 1906-1924), I, pp. 275-276, 386, 391-392, 410, 413, 467; II, p. 420; III, pp. 59, 66, 81, 466, 592-593; Bernard Bailyn, "Politics and Social Structure in Virginia," in James K. Martin, Ed. Interpreting Colonial America, (New York: 1975) pp. 187-204, Hereafter referred to as Bailyn.

(actually, very prominent merchants or "grossers" who dealt in large volume merchandise), John is known to family genealogists as "John the Grocer."¹⁶

Whether John Bland made his fortune on his own or got a boost from the estate of his brother Peter is not certain. When he died suddenly in 1632, however, John Bland was a wealthy man. The extent of John's wealth is suggested by a petition to the King by his widow Susan, who in 1633 begged protection from creditors, claiming already to have satisfied claims exceeding 15,000 pounds sterling.¹⁷ John's accumulated wealth and the breadth of his business ventures, suggests that by the time of his death, he had reached the upper strata of the London Merchant class and aspired to a position within the landed gentry.

On September 30, 1606, John married a Huguenot girl, Susan DeBlere, (1590-1664/1665) in Stade, Germany. Susan bore John sixteen children, including twelve, eight sons and four daughters, who survived to adulthood.¹⁸ The marriages of these children left John and Susan's family well connected in London society. In 1626, their eldest daughter Mary married Emmanuel Proby, whose father, an active member of the Grocer's Company, was also Lord Mayor of London. Daughters Susannah and Anne married merchants and daughter Elizabeth married a minister of the gospel.¹⁹ Similarly, John's eight sons were groomed to succeed him. The eldest, Thomas Bland, (1610-1678) was trained at the Inner Temple and with his brother John (1612-1680), was appointed receiver of the King's Rents in Yorkshire, possibly simply having them passed on from their father. Robert Bland (1617-1669) was trained in the ministry at Cambridge and was Rector of the Wigboro Magna Church in Essex. Robert's daughter Elizabeth married a half-brother or in-law to Sir Joseph Williamson, the junior secretary of state for the Privy Council,

¹⁶ Joseph Hunter, Familiae Minorium Gentium, (London: 1895), pp. 421-427.

¹⁷ Richard Smith, Obituaries: 1623-1674, 44, (London: Camden Society Publications); On Susan Deblere's petition to the King, CSPD, Charles I, VI, (1633-1634), p. 44.

¹⁸ AC 3-1, p. 6 and VU, pp. 52-69. Susan was the daughter of Marie DeBlere. Her father's name is unknown. One possibility is Theodorick, a name given John and Susan's youngest son, that had not theretofore appeared in the Bland family. The Huguenots were French Protestants, persecuted terribly before the rule of King Henry Navarre, himself a Protestant who had to adopt the Catholic faith to claim the throne of France.

¹⁹ VU, pp. 55-56 and 64-65.

called "the northern secretary", a high government official that Giles Bland communicated with during Bacon's Rebellion in Virginia. Richard Bland, (1624-1692) moved to Leeds and was called "Lord of Beeston Manor."²⁰

The remaining sons were merchants, including most importantly Edward Bland (1613-1652), Adam Bland, (1616-1647), William Bland (1622-1658) and Theodorick Bland (1629-1671). These sons became the spearheads of settlement of the Bland family in Virginia.²¹ From 1640-1671, the brothers managed the family's affairs somewhat as follows:

Thomas, with the assistance of John, acted as Receiver of the King's Rents at Yorkshire until 1648 and after the accession of Charles II in 1660. Apparently, the family was stripped of the position during the Puritan interregnum. John directed merchant affairs from London and later Tangier, supervising the family business in Malaga, Spain and Virginia. The younger brothers, Edward, Adam, William and Theodorick acted as on scene agents in Spain and Virginia.

As noted before, the family's Virginia connection dated back to John the Grosser's participation in the Virginia Company. The elder John never set foot in Virginia but ship passenger lists show his sons John and Edward shuttling back and forth between Virginia and London from 1635-1645. By the mid 1640s, Adam and William were acting as family agents in Virginia. Adam died at sea in 1647, probably enroute to Virginia in the company of a contingent of 26 settlers, including his older brother Edward and his family, a sister and a nephew.²² Edward took over affairs about 1647. William and Theodorick went to Spain, where William died about 1658.²³

²⁰ W.G. Cooke, Students Admitted to the Inner Temple, 1547-1660, (London: 1877), p. 25; John Venn and John Venn, Comp. Alumni Cantabrigenses (1) Part 1, (Cambridge: 1922), p. 165; Thoresby, pp. 91, 94, and 587. CF VU, pp. 64, 110, 115.

²¹ As did three daughters. Mary Bland Proby's children and her sisters Susan and Elizabeth migrated to Virginia. Descendants of Susan Bland Pearson still live in the United States.

²² VU, pp. 81-91.

²³ VU, pp. 65, 68-69. It is probable that a cousin, George Bland (1630-1658) also died in service to John Bland at or about the same time and place as William, VU pp. 46-47.

Edward Bland "The Fair"

Edward Bland was a formidable man, educated at Westminster and fluent in Spanish, Dutch and Latin. He was a Spanish merchant in 1643, just before moving to Virginia. Soon after his arrival in Virginia, Edward ceased calling himself a "London Merchant" and simply called himself a merchant. By the time he died in 1652, he had built a house in Virginia. ²⁴ Edward had also brought his immediate and extended family with him to Virginia, suggesting, in conjunction with these other attributes, that he intended to settle down.

Edward was principally engaged in land acquisition. In 1646 and 1647, through head rights and direct purchase, he gained 3,300 acres in Charles City and Surry Counties. In 1649, he gained an additional 3,000 acres and at about the same time, purchased an 8,000 acre tract called Kymages, originally a part of Berkeley Hundred. ²⁵

Thus, soon after his arrival in Virginia, Edward had acquired some 14,300 acres. His brother Theodorick would later add to these holdings, especially a 2,000 acre tract called Westover, and another large property named Jordans, so that by 1678, John Bland could boast of extensive family ownership of land in Virginia, including:

Bartletts, Kimechys, Herring Creek, Jordanes, Westover, Upper Chippoakes, Sunken Marsh, Basses Choice, Jamestown Lott, Lawnes Creek and all other lands. ²⁶

Edward is best remembered for The Discovery of New Brittain which recounts his travels with three Englishmen and a native guide south from Fort Henry to upper North Carolina. Convinced that the area would yield a rich tobacco and sugar crop, Edward wrote the pamphlet, circulated it in London and petitioned the

²⁴ VU, pp. 87-91.

²⁵ Ibid. and Nell Marion Nugent, Cavaliers and Pioneers, I, (Richmond: 1934) pp. 160, 171, hereafter referred to in notes as Nugent; Hening, VI, pp. 303-306.

²⁶ William and Mary Quarterly (2), IV (1924) pp. 202-203, hereafter referred to as WMQ. Edward Bland lived at Kymages, though he was known as Edward Bland of Lawnes Creek, Thoresby, p. 586.

Virginia Council for permission to settle the territory. The council granted the petition, but Edward died in 1652 and the project with him. ²⁷

Edward Bland represents the prototype of the younger English son sent to Virginia to draw together the rudimentary elements of a settlement in order to replicate the style of the English landed class in the entirely unpredictable social, legal and physical environment of the new world. ²⁸ Edward's death undoubtedly disrupted this family striving, and his death must have given pause to John Bland while he considered his next move. By now Virginia had claimed the lives of two brothers. The prospect of sending more of his family's blood there might not have been inviting to John. On the other hand, John had little choice, for the huge family land holdings as well as John's lucrative shipping interests in far away Virginia were vulnerable to encroachment. Coupled with set-backs John had experienced with the Cromwell Government and the precarious nature of trade with Spain, ²⁹ the Virginia situation demanded the on-scene coordination of a highly trustworthy person to manage family affairs. For this task, John turned to his youngest brother.

Theodorick Bland "The Virginian"

Theodorick Bland (1629-1671) was a providential choice. Before going to Virginia, he had been working with his brother William in St. Lucar, Spain. It is doubly the Bland family's good fortune that Theodorick went to Virginia, thus avoiding the fate that befell his brother William and cousin George a few years later in Spain. Also, Theodorick was a young man when he arrived in Virginia about 1654. He was perhaps the first thoroughbred Virginian. For seventeen years Theodorick managed and built up the family's estate in Virginia in what appears to have been an atmosphere of calm harmony and reconciliation. Quickly, he became a model citizen, donating land for the erection of a church, a court-house and country prison and becoming active in Virginia

²⁷ Edward Bland. The Discoverie of New Brittain, (London: 1651). Edward's exploration is discussed in Allan Briceland, "The Search for Edward Bland's New Brittain," Virginia Magazine of History and Biography, 87, (1979), pp. 131-157, hereafter referred to as VMHB.

²⁸ Bailyn, p. 192.

²⁹ Neville Williams, "The Tribulations of John Bland, Merchant, London, Seville, Jamestown, Tangier, 1643-1680," VMHB, LXXII, (1964), pp. 19-41, esp. 23-24. Hereafter referred to as Williams. This article clearly establishes John Bland's relationship with Samuel Pepys and identifies John and the London Merchant and Mayor of Tangier by the same name.

politics, serving as speaker of the House of Burgesses from 1659-1661, Justice of Charles City County, 1665-1666 and as a member of the governor's council, 1665-1671.³⁰ Perhaps Theodorick's most enduring achievement, however, was his well placed marriage and the family he left behind. He married in 1660, Anna Bennett, (1639-1688), daughter of Richard Bennett, a former Puritan governor of Virginia. Part of Anna's dowry was her father's home in Jamestown. Theodorick and Anna had three sons, Theodorick (1663-1700), Richard (1665-1720) and John (1668-1746).³¹ Richard and John had descendants who contributed significantly to political life in Virginia and Maryland during the Eighteenth and Nineteenth centuries.

Theodorick's death in 1671 lay bare some underlying and intergenerational problems that he had apparently handled through graceful inter-personal skills. Part of the problem lay in the widow of the elder Edward Bland. She was a first cousin, Jane Bland, daughter of Gregory Bland, despised brother of Edward's father. It is not clear whether the older animosities carried over to the next generation - certainly it didn't in the case of Edward and Jane - but the question of land ownership had to be ambiguous. Upon his death, title to Edward's property in Virginia, though it was purchased with family money and, John

³⁰ Observations about Theodorick's positive work in Colonial Virginia Government should be tempered by Carole Shammas' comment that "Colonists sought offices primarily to protect their interests." Shammas, "English Born and Creole Elites in Turn-of-The Century Virginia," in Thad Tate and David Ammerman, Ed., The Chesapeake in the Seventeenth Century, (New York: 1979), p. 279. Hereafter referred to as Shammas. Also worthy of note is Edmund Morgan's brief but excellent analysis of the interests of the various parties in Bacon's Rebellion, in American Slavery, American Freedom, (New York: 1975), pp. 250-270, hereafter referred to as Morgan. Morgan, as well as Webb, 1676, makes it clear that the Virginia Council was composed of a gang of thieves and hoodlums that would make the Godfather blush and fear for his good name. Whether Theodorick could stand amid this nest of vipers while remaining unblemished is a secret history has not yielded. Theodorick was buried at Westover, and his grave may be found at the Westover estate today, with the heart felt inscription of his widow on the tomb stone. Theodorick is a beautiful and musical name that was replicated down through the generations and is still used today, even in families not directly related to the James River Blands.

³¹ Theodorick's activities are discussed in VU, pp. 91-94. The lines of his sons comprise VU, Chapter 5, pp. 127-190 and AC 5-1, pp. 7-25.

