

Among Cousins

The Bland Family Newsletter



Bland

Volume 9, Number 2

July-December 1991

Dear Cousins,

As a lead off to this issue, I want to make a plea for some understanding and also ask for your help.

Several weeks ago, I had a phone conversation with a correspondent with whom I always enjoy talking. In the course of the conversation, I asked her about an old correspondent who, several years ago, simply stopped writing and remained silent to several inquiries about the reasons why. My friend, who knows the person, said that it was because she came from an allied name, a Bland through matrilineal descent. I had never developed the

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

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matrilineal line beyond the point where it first intersected with a Bland paternal line. My friend went on to say that there were many descendants who felt the same way, that over the years I had given preferential treatment to Blands by name, without recognizing that many of my correspondents who descend from matrilineal lines are just as proud of their Bland descent, which seldom goes noticed.

This reminds me of the two worlds I live in. Much as I love genealogy, its paternalism seems quaint in a modern society that is rightly affirming the essential human equality of both sexes. Nevertheless, when I write genealogy, I must confront a central reality: "Among Cousins" is a Bland Newsletter. When there is a special significance in a maternal name, which must be decided subjectively, I have discussed it and carried it forward at least for one or two generations. Usually, however, I am compelled to halt a maternal line at the point where it joins with a Bland male line. The example is shown below with Mary Bland, (1783-1856) who was a daughter of Joseph Bland and Susan Bailey Johnson of Winchester, Frederick County Virginia. In the summary below, (p. 10), I have listed Mary's marriage to Jonah Baldwin and the names of their children. If I traced the lines of descent for each of their children, even if it were known, down to the turn of the Twentieth Century and repeated that process for each matrilineal line, it would become an impossible process. So we are left with the information that Mary was the daughter of Joseph Bland and Susan Bailey Johnson. That is the point of contact with the Bland family that any researcher would look for in tracking the children of Mary Bland and Jonah Baldwin. If someone inquired about their line, having discovered a Bland connection, this is where it would be, and this is where I could be of most help. With all the good will in the world, I cannot do more. It is beyond my capacity in terms of time and energy. As an example, in the next Newsletter (Volume 10-1), I plan to trace the descendants of Thomas Bland of Pendleton County Virginia. My guess is that it will entail some 25-35 pages, if the male lines are documented. Edith Lanning, the principle historian of this branch of the family, has sent me a book which does trace all likes, male and female, as far as possible and her book is 311 pp., plus index. This should provide some idea of the impossibility of the task. I am always grateful for contributions from anyone, and feel saddened when people stop writing, particularly when it is done in anger and most particularly when the correspondents refuses to tell me why and leaves me wondering what I did wrong.

I have begun to sense, maybe intuitively, that interest in "Among Cousins" is beginning to ebb. The volume of new information seems to have peaked. Although the Newsletter has added an enormous amount of information to what we knew before, we are still struggling with some of the same genealogical issues that vexed us when "Among Cousins" began nine years ago. During the past two or three years, the number of new correspondents with more than a passing curiosity about the family seems to have diminished.

I would like to see the Newsletter continue into the 1990s, perhaps ending as a first series in 1993 or 1994, at which time I will begin re-writing the Book. If the Newsletter resumed after the books projected publication date of 1995, it would be a second series.

I am soliciting any thoughtful ideas you may have about how to take new approaches in content, format and layout, advertising and publicity, anything that could be of appeal to a new generation of Bland researchers as well as the faithful who presently subscribe. I would be glad to hear from any of you who have ideas to share with me.

A Bland Family Quilt

At the 1988 National Reunion in Pittsboro North Carolina, Phyllis Michael of Bristol Virginia offered the suggestion that we begin a Bland Family Quilt that could be passed along to Reunion Sponsors or sold as part of a fund raising endeavor or given as a prize in a research contest. It is one of my faults that I tend to let things like this drop by the wayside. I think it is a wonderful idea that I would like to revive. "What a memory for a child," Phyllis wrote, "sleeping under a family quilt." I am not certain how logistics would work. Either the quilt in progress would be shipped from place to place for additions, or perhaps more safely for the quilt, kept at one location, where one quilt maker would take responsibility for sewing patches received. Patches presumably would be identified by donor, with perhaps names and family lines represented stitched in. If this is of interest to anyone, please write to me or to Phyllis Michael, 434 Huron Road, Bristol Virginia, 24201. Maybe we can make it a reality.

The Seventh National Bland Reunion

I am pleased to announce that the Seventh National Bland Reunion will be held at North Vernon Indiana, August 9-11, 1991. The Reunion this year will be co-sponsored by David and Lois Taylor of Shelbyville Indiana, Earl and Mary Bland and Glenn and Mary Ella Day of North Vernon Indiana. Reunion headquarters will be at the Day's Inn, Seymour Indiana (812-522-3678).

The Reunion is dedicated to Captain James Bland (1773-1832) and his wife Jane Johnston (C1780-1868) who migrated from Randolph County NC to the Clark and Jefferson County areas Indiana, between 1799 and 1814. They are the ancestors of the reunion sponsors. I hope everyone understands that this dedication follows past practices at National Reunion and in no way excludes any one who is Bland or descended from Bland by whatever means, or even if you'd just like to attend. All are welcome.

We hope to see you August 9-11. The Reunion proper will begin the morning of August 10, but for those of you who arrive the night before, we will have fun and fellowship on August 9 at the

Ponderosa Steak House in Seymour and at the conference room provided by Days Inn.

If you have not received an invitation or would like further information, please feel free to write or call one of the following:

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Bland Family Organization

One of the major items to be discussed and perhaps decided at the 1991 National Reunion will be the shape of a Bland Family Organization. I received a proposed set of By-Laws from Bob Bland of Deland Florida, one of the members of the ad-hoc committee appointed last summer to develop by-laws for presentation at the 1991 Reunion. I developed my own proposals, building on Bob's ideas and revising them somewhat, and circulated them to the ad-hoc committee on May 1, 1991. On June 18, I received Bob's critique of my proposed by-laws, which are helpful because he is much more familiar than I with the traps and pitfalls that befall the unwary in these matters. I am enclosing Bob's comments in this mailing of the Newsletter.

The National Reunion in 1992

I find myself in an unusual position. For the past several years by this date, I know where the next National Reunion will be, but not this year.

I would welcome any volunteers to conduct the 1992 National Reunion. In past years we have alternated between East Coast States in Even Number Years (Virginia 1986, 1990 and North Carolina 1988) and Mid-West States in Odd Years (Kentucky 1985, Indiana 1987, 1991 and Mississippi, 1991). Under normal circumstances, 1992 would call for an East Coast state, but if no offers are forthcoming, another site would do.

Ideally, but the ideal should not exclude other ideas, we have held the reunion in small towns where some major family of Blands has begun or developed. The small town has been accessible to air

and other transportation routes and highways connecting it with a big city. The Reunion is not effortless, but after seven years there is shared experience and advice from which the sponsor may draw, the burdens are not enormous and the rewards are great.

Again, if you would like to take on this work for 1992, please contact me:

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Library Placements

I am grateful to Carroll Kem Shackelford, Woodberry Forest Virginia who has placed a second copy of A Vision of Unity at the Virginia State Library, Richmond Virginia.

If you have a favorite library into which you would like to place a copy of the book, or would like it placed at a strategic research location around the country, please let me know. Gifts to libraries are tax deductible.

Transition

Mr. and Mrs. Harry E. (Phyllis) Michael, of Bristol Virginia, announce the marriage of their daughter Melissa Katherine Michael to Juan Jose Roberto Martinez (Family name Viellela) on November 5, 1990. This couple now resides in Monterrey Mexico.

Carolyn Miller of Vicksburg Mississippi notified me of the death of Nonnie Modener Bland Bush, the last surviving child of Allen J. Bland and Mary Ellen Langston (discussed below pp. 30-31) on April 28, 1991.

Dorothea Elizabeth Kennedy Gilbreath (1917-1990)

In the last issue I noted the death of Dorothea Gilbert on October 29, 1990. Dorothea's daughter Susan Gilbert Stanley sent me the following brief biography: Dorothea was descended from the Blands of Washington County Kentucky, through Elizabeth Bland Tetley, daughter of Staughton Edward Bland (1807-1842) and Margaret Parks Nall (1814-1849). Dorothea was Born July 31, 1917 at Flat River Missouri. She was a beautician for 55 years of her life and had written and published several small articles on the profession. Her mother was Mabel Alice Green Kennedy, and her great grandmother was Elizabeth Bland Tetley. Dorothea married Bennie Gilbreath on August 19, 1939 and had two daughters, Susan and Nancy Gilbreath Harmon. Dorothea was an avid genealogist of the Bland family, an enthusiasm that rubbed off onto her daughter Susan, who plans to continue Dorothea's genealogical work.

Reuben Reuben I Been Thinking

Here is an interesting item for a search by some local person who could get access to back records of The Norfolk Virginian Pilot, (Hint! Hint!). Reuben Bland, who was born in 1856 and still living in 1921 when an article about him appeared in The Literary Digest,¹ He was written up for the first time in the Norfolk Virginia Pilot, about 1920.

Reuben was married twice and between his two wives, had 34 children, twenty four of whom were still living when the stories appeared. The Literary Digest article gives no clue to Reuben's genealogy. If anyone knows, I'd like to have it.

It is said that one couple, after reading the article about Reuben and his children, had this conversation:

Man: There's a man who ought to have a medal.

Woman: There's a man who ought to be hung.

Another man wrote that when his wife, herself a mother of eight children, found one of them praying for 34 little brothers to play with, "my wife had a narrow escape from apoplexy when she heard them. She's a great believer in prayer and she cried almost half the night.. . My wife won't hardly speak to me, though goodness knows what I've done."

Then of course there is that old favorite song with a new feminist twist: "Reuben, Reuben, I've been thinking, what a grand world this would be, if the men were all transported far beyond the northern seas."

THE BLAND FAMILY OF FREDERICK COUNTY VIRGINIA

This is one of the seven major and distinct family groups that have emerged during the past ten years, which has never been definitively linked to one of the two major Bland families and has been written about in the Newsletter inter-alia, but never synthesized. This will be the second such effort to bring together all the diverse writings about such families.

This line begins, I believe, with Joseph Bland, whose dates are (C1752-1812/1820). While previously and even now some researchers begin this line with a man named Richard Bland, I have argued that no such person ever existed, simply because there has been no concrete historical or genealogical evidence to document his existence.² Tradition has it that Joseph Bland was a Tory

¹ The Literary Digest, (February 12, 1921), p. 44.

² See VU, p. 396. The belief that Richard was the founder of this family rests on two letters, George Clark to Ernestine Lewis, November 16, 1933, and Donald F. Black to Robert Linn Bland, Parkersburg West Virginia, November 18, 1947. Ernestine Lewis is

during the revolution, even that he sustained a knee wound at the Battle of Yorktown. A letter from Joseph's great grand daughter, Blanchie Bland, in 1927, suggested a somewhat more complicated picture, that Joseph was an American sympathizer who was forced to serve in the colonies after he drafted into the British Army. As soon as he could, he defected to General Washington's Army. In 1936, George W. Bland of Clarksburg West Virginia, one of the major historians of the family, rendered a different story, that Joseph wanted to go back to England with the defeated British Army, but was unable to do so because of his wounded knee. In other ways, Blanchie and George Bland's stories converge, but George Bland, even though he asserts that Joseph was the son of Richard Bland of Prince William County Virginia, adds "This Richard has not been identified."³ As a probable Tory, Joseph might have fled to Frederick County, settling in Winchester, in the early 1780's. His apparent marriage to Susan Bailey Johnson about 1782, would point to his discharge or departure from military service in 1781, after the Battle of York Town. Joseph's place of settlement has led me

now Ernestine L. Schwing of Aurora Colorado. A false lead is J. Estelle Stewart King Abstracts of Wills, Inventories, and Administrations Accounts of Frederick County Virginia (1961), p. 10. King's published work showed a Hugh Parrell naming two sons John and Joseph Bland in 1748. On May 28, 1991, enroute to Buffalo New York with my son Tommy, I stopped at the Virginia State Library and read Parrell's actual will, only to find that the two sons named were John and Joseph Parrell. Subsequent to publication of my book in 1982, when information about this family was scant, further information and detail has been supplied by Mrs. Schwing's daughter Sandra Kirk of San Jose California; Marcia F. Benson of Morgantown West Virginia; Neil W. Bland of Lumberport West Virginia; William O. Bland of New Martinsville West Virginia; Margie V. Garey of Takoma Park Maryland; Josephine Bland Holden of Las Cruces New Mexico; Patricia Johnston of Wayne Michigan; Louis H. Martin of Martinez California; Phyllis Michael of Bristol Virginia; Mrs. Bland (Fay) Osborn, Wilmington Delaware; Evelyn Porter, Redding California; Mary Jane Sine of Louisville Kentucky. It is the research of these Cousins who makes consolidation of all this material possible. In 1985 I spoke to Frank Bland of Lawndale California and his sister Vivian Bland Hansen of Las Vegas Nevada, children of Lorenzo Vernetta Bland, who wrote a complete book about this family. Both expressed interest in the work, but I never received information from them. Whether this purported book would shed light on the origins of the family remains a mystery.

³ VU. pp. 396-397. Blanchie Bland to Webster Glenn Bland, October 26, 1927. Both letters are printed in AC 7-1, p. 15. See also the account of Mrs. Bland Osborn, AC 8-1, pp.8-9

to suggest that he is a son of Thomas Bland (C1719-1788) of Faquier County Virginia. Another Bland, who is documented to have traveled to Winchester County about 1792 en route to Weston, was Thomas Bland (1765-1792), whose sad story of reckoning has been previously told. Briefly, while tarrying with some relatives at Winchester, Thomas developed a burning fever and doused himself with ice water, whereupon he died. Thomas, with his wife Sarah Byrne Bland and sons John Buckner Bland and Samuel Bland, was enroute to the home of his wife's brother in law in Monongalia Glades Virginia. Thomas' widow returned to her father in Prince William County, Virginia, where she gave birth to a third son, Thomas Bland (1793-1867). After Thomas' birth, Sarah returned to the Monongalia area where she married Jacob Zinn, whose family had long lived in the area. Later, they migrated to the Weston, Lewis County, Virginia area, where Thomas Bland (C1793-1867) became one of the founders of the town. ⁴ Thomas' older brother John Buckner Bland, (1787-1868), though he died in Louisville Kentucky, worked as a copper and silver smith in Morgantown. The close proximity of Lewis County Harrison, Monongalia, Marian and Wetzel counties, and its derivation from Harrison, it is difficult to disbelieve some connection. ⁵ Joseph married Susan Bailey, a widow of _____ Johnson,

⁴ VU pp. 373-375. A similar story is told by Neil Bland of Lumberport West Virginia (Neil Bland to Charles L. Bland, May 18, 1991). It has to do with the settlement of Bridgeport, West Virginia by the Johnson family in 1800. Family tradition has it that Mrs. Johnson, a Revolutionary War Widow, and her children, set out from New York State in 1799 headed west. They stayed the winter in Winchester Virginia with a Bland family. The following spring, both families, Bland and Johnson, set out west, separating near the Pennsylvania Border, with the Blands going further west and the Johnsons settling at Bridgeport. Mrs. Bland Osborn of Wilmington Delaware, in concert with George Linn Bland of Weston West Virginia, has attempted without success to prove this connection between her own line, the Osborns of Harrison-Monongalia Counties and the Blands of Lewis County West Virginia, "although they have called themselves 'cousin' for several generations." (Letter to Charles L. Bland, June 26, 1991.

⁵ Urilla Moore Bland, Additional Collections for the Ancient Family of Bland, (1986), pp. 54-55.

about 1782.⁶ Until at least 1798, Joseph and Susan lived in Winchester, thence moving to Blackville in what is present day Monongalia West Virginia.⁷ Susan Bailey Johnson died in 1798. In 1802, Joseph married Eleanor Benton (Born before 1775 -) who appears in the Monongalia records as late as 1830.⁸ There is a

⁶ A Susannah Bailey, in Hopewell, Frederick County, witnessed a marriage between William Adams and Lydia Malin, July 18, 1771. If she is our Susannah, it would place her birth year at about 1750, suggesting a somewhat older age for Joseph. This would also suggest that Susannah was a Quaker. Source: Joint Committee of Hopewell Friends, Hopewell Friends History: 1734-1934, Frederick County Virginia (1975), p. 254.

⁷ In a compilation sent to me by Sandra Schwing Kirk and her mother Ernestine Lewis Schwing, January 18, 1989, Joseph appears in the records of Winchester, Frederick County between 1787-1798. He appears in the Monongalia between 1805-1812. Joseph acquired 400 acres on Dunker's Creek, evidently at a place called Kellum's Run or Fork, on May 28, 1805. On May 20, 1809, Joseph recorded ownership of 200 acres at Kellum's Fork and on December 20-21, 1812, recorded 425 acres of land. Along with Eleanor Bland's appearance as head of household in the 1820 census, this gives rise to the opinion that Joseph died between 1812/1820. Marcia Frum Benson, in a letter to Isabel Willetts, January 17, 1986, questioned whether Joseph was in Frederick County Virginia or Maryland. The father of Mrs. Benson, s great, great, great grandfather Samuel Samson Frum, (who married Catherine Bland, Joseph Bland's daughter), was from Frederick County Maryland. Mrs. Bland Osborn calls attention to Joseph Bland Sr. and Jr. appearing in a 1776 census for Maryland, and they reappear in the 1790 census as heads of family in Caroline County Maryland, Letter to Charles L. Bland, June 26, 1991. The fact that Joseph Jr. persists into 1810 in Caroline County Maryland, would seem to disprove any identity confusion with Joseph Bland (C1752-1812/20). Just for the record, the LDS records show a Gilbert Bland marrying Mary Ayton, at Frederick County Maryland, June 8, 1778. (M504.181, Input Source 975.287/F1 V26W V.1 0883763).

⁸ The 1820 Census for Monongalia County 26144, Pt. 14, shows Eleanor Bland, over 45 with seven males and 4 females at home. Sims Index to West Virginia Land Grants Shows Eleanor in Monongalia County with 58 acres of land on a place called Kellums Run. She evidently sold this land on May 22, 1830. (840,576 Grantor's Deeds, Monongalia County West Virginia, Vol 10, p. 508) Isabel Willetts believes this might have marked her departure for Green County Pennsylvania to live with her step-son Thomas Bland. In 1830, Eleanor is listed in Monongalia County as head of a household, aged 50-60, with one male 20-30 (John Bland); One Female 10-15 and I female 15-20 (Young Eleanor Bland).

daughter named Eleanor by this latter marriage, who may have married Vincent Glover on April 8, 1841 in Harrison County. Also, a son John was born of this second marriage.⁹ Eleanor must have been a good step-mother to Joseph's children for we see his children naming their own children such names as Eleanor and Benton Bland. Joseph Bland and Susan Bailey Johnson had the following family:¹⁰

1. Mary Bland (August 19, 1783 - October 16, 1856). Mary died in Fayette City Ohio. She married Jonah Baldwin, (C1773-1850) on March 17, 1803 in Greene County Pennsylvania. They had eight children, Hannah, John, Margaret, Jackomeyer, Joseph, Susannah and Nancy. This family was in Monongalia County Virginia in 1810 and by 1830 were enumerated in Blacksville.¹¹

2. Catherine Bland (1785/6-1872)¹² Catherine was born either at Winchester, Frederick County Virginia (which corresponds to what we know about Joseph's location at the time of her birth) or at Weston, then in Monongalia County, Virginia (Weston is the county

⁹ John's name appears in the records of George W. Bland (1866-1941). If he was 20-30 years old in 1830, thus born no earlier than 1800, he would have to be the son of Joseph Bland and Eleanor Benton.

¹⁰ Mrs. Bland Osborn has suggested that we accept that all children of Joseph and Susan were born at Winchester in Frederick County Virginia. That makes sense since the children were born between 1783-1798, which corresponds to Susan's death and they time she and Joseph lived in Winchester.

¹¹ See Discussion, AC 4-2, p. 8. Research by George W. Bland, (1866-1941) a noted historian of this family, indicates that Mary Bland married Henry Church. George W. Bland was descendant of Richard Bland (1787-1876) and their lives overlapped. George might have been able to talk with the old man about recollections of his past life. I rely upon information supplied to me by Patricia Johnston of Wayne Michigan in a letter dated June 13, 1986.

¹² Per Mrs. Bland Osborn, letter, June 9, 1986, Catherine Bland and her husband Samuel Sampson Frum, appear on the census of Monongalia County Virginia in 1850, as aged 64 years. Catherine is listed as 75 in 1860. She died at Morgantown, Monongalia County West Virginia in 1872, shown on a fiduciary order January 20, 1872, Mrs. Osborn to Charles L. Bland, June 26, 1991.

seat of Lewis, derived from Harrison, which is in turn derived from Monongalia county).¹³ Catherine married Samuel Sampson Frum about 1809.¹⁴ Their children were daughters Viann (Ancestor of Mrs. Bland Osborn), Christina, and Levina, a twin of George, and other sons Josephus, William and Samuel.

3. Richard Bland (April 25, 1787- July 4, 1876).¹⁵ In 1812, Richard married Mary Jobes (January 25, 1795 - January 21, 1851), daughter of William Jobes.¹⁶ On January 27, 1859, Richard married Sarah Harper (1813-) but there were no children by this second marriage. Until at least 1820, when they were enumerated in the census, Richard Bland and Mary Jobes lived in Monongalia County. The Jobes family lived near Blackville on the north side of the Pennsylvania line. Richard was said to be a large, physically powerful man, attested perhaps by his longevity. He was a Democrat but he voted for William Henry Harrison for President, because, it is said, they were second cousins. Richard and Mary had a family of six children:

A. William Jobes Bland, (August 10, 1813 - February 25, 1881). William was born near Blackville, in Monongalia County and died at

¹³ One correspondent, Marcia Benson Frum, indicates that Catherine Bland was born in 1792 in Berkeley County, derived in 1786 from Frederick.

¹⁴ The first child of Samuel Sampson Frum and Catherine Bland was Samson Bland Frum (C1822-) who married Elinor Neff. They were the great, great, great grandparents of my correspondent Marcia Benson Frum.

¹⁵ Richard's birth year has often been given as 1789. I have pushed it back to 1787 for two reasons: (1) the birth year of his brother Thomas is 1789 and they cannot be twins. (2) The 1850 census shows Richard born in 1787, for he is 63 in that year. See discussion AC 4-1, p. 21, AC 5-2, p. 11 and discussion below, p. Note. Also cf Isabel Willetts to Charles L. Bland, December 13, 1985. Information supplied by Evelyn Porter, August 5, 1988, indicates that A DAR application by Russell Bland Cincinnati shows Richard was born at Rockingham County Virginia. Dates of Richard's death are variously given as 1876 and 1883 with dates of April 15, July 4 and September 15. Richard had a son Richard J. (Possibly Johnson) Jr. Could it be then that he was Richard Johnson Bland.

¹⁶ It should be noted that Mary's brother was named John Minor Jobes. There is only one case that I know of when a Bland was named Minor, that of Minor Bland (C1818-1879) son of Moses Bland and Nancy Boaz, AC 4-1, 6-11.

"meat house fork" near present day Blandville in Doddridge County Virginia. After 1836, William and his family lived at Doddridge County Virginia. William married first, about 1833, Sarah Jane Stiles (June 18, 1812 - February 18, 1850) and had by her a family of nine children:¹⁷

(1) Drusilla Bland, (August 5, 1834 - December 9, 1913) who married Samuel Todd Sherwood, (1828-1900) a gun smith. They had five children.

(2) John G. Bland, (April 5, 1836 - September 4, 1910). John was born near Blackville and died at Blandville. John married Elizabeth M. Cowan (May 19, 1842 - July 25, 1903). John and Elizabeth had seven children, two of whom died as infants. The remaining five were: (a) Arthur Cowan Bland (October 16, 1863 - February 17, 1945) who married Julia Ellen Sutton, (June 5, 1873 - June 8, 1963). Arthur and Julia had four children, including Edna Bland, who was the mother of Ernestine Lewis, who married Mack Schwing and grandmother of Sandra Schwing Kirk.¹⁸; (b) George William Bland, (December 31, 1866 - June 13, 1941), the family historian and a lawyer, who served as State Senator from Doddridge County. On April 14, 1895, George married Lucia Lenore Charter (February 28, 1873 - September 3, 1957). George and Lucia had four children, previously noted. George died in Rochester Minnesota.¹⁹; (c) Mary C. Bland, (August 24, 1869 - December 19, 1960) married D.B. Janes. Mary died at Portsmouth Ohio; (d) Joanna Bland (October 14, 1871 - September 5, 1890); (e) Robert Bland (March 1, 1878 - November 1, 1964) who in October 1905 married Bertha White, (1880-1957) at Logan West Virginia.

(3) Priscilla Bland (C1838-)²⁰

(4) Ruhama or Reuhama Bland, (1840 - April, 1910) who married _____ Hickman. (Question: Where did this name come from?)

¹⁷ A story told by Evelyn Porter has it that when the nine sons of William Jobs Bland, by his two wives, got together, they would get on a scale and weighed in at a ton, meaning I suppose that on average, each weighed more than 200 pounds, big guys.

¹⁸ AC 5-2, p. 11. Photographs of Arthur Cowan Bland and his family appear on the picture pages of AC 5-2.

¹⁹ See discussion about George W. Bland, AC 5-2, pp. 11-12.

²⁰ Cf AC 7-1, p. 16. This information was supplied by Evelyn Porter of Redding California. It makes sense, plugging a long hiatus between 1836-1842 in a normally prolific child producing couple.

(5) Mary Bland, (1841 or 1842-1931) who married U.D. McClain, (1836-1898) on January 2, 1862.

(6) Simon Bland, (July 14, 1845 - January 21, 1913) who married Clara Greathouse, (December 19, 1852 - February 2, 1930). Clara's father was born in Germany. Their only child was a daughter Blanch Bland (- 1934), who married George Griswold.

(7) Ann Bland, who married _____ Burton.

(8) Sarah Jane Bland, (December 11, 1847 - January 14, 1902) who married Thomas E. Holliday or Halliday.

(9) Richard C. Bland, ((December 22, 1848 - August 23, 1926) who married Perdilla Ann Lowther, (October 5, 1846 - July 21, 1917) on January 28, 1867. Their children were: (a) Harvey L. Bland (August 1, 1867 - March 29, 1896); (b) Sarah E. Bland (May 18, 1869 - 1947); (c) Clarence T. Bland, (June 9, 1871 - June 12, 1911), who married Maggie Romine Bland, widow of his half-uncle Lloyd Bland (see 13 below); (d) William S. Bland (June 8, 1873 -); (e) Silas H. Bland (November 10, 1875 -); (f) Okey Bland (August 17, 1877 -); (g) Iva Bland (September 18, 1879 -) who married Boyd Coplin; (h) Myrtle Bland (August 4, 1881 -); (i) Delia Bland (June 28, 1883 - 1885); (j) Mollie Bland (1885-1885); (k) Clay J. Bland (October 13, 1887 -); (l) Clyde Bland (April 30, 1889 - November 9, 1967); (m) Ray Bland (1892-1892).

These were the children of William J. Bland by his first wife Sarah Stiles. On March 3, 1852, William married Druscilla Lowther, (C1828 -) by whom he had six more children:

(10) Silas Wesley Bland (November 28, 1852 -) who married Sarah Wilson. They had five children: (a) Cora; (b) Annie; (c) Odell; (d) Etta; and (e) Gertrude.

(11) William Thompson Bland (January 20, 1855 or April 1856 -), who married Nancy Sheets.

(12) Charles L. Bland (May 11, 1857 - December 30, 1932) who married Nettie Priest, by whom he had two daughters: (a) Nellie Bland ; and (b) Sally Bland.

(13) Floyd Bland (May 18, 1859 - February 21, 1911). When his father died in 1881, Floyd went to McDonough County Illinois, where he met his future wife Malinda Belle Rorer (- 1912), whom he

married in Norton Kansas in 1885. Floyd was a minister and he and his wife worked the land. Their children were: (a) Harry Grady Bland (1887-1963), who married Clara May White (1890-1972) on January 8, 1908. They died in Santa Ana California.²¹; (b) Helen Ruth Bland; (c) Webster Glenn Bland.

(14) Lloyd Bland (February 13, 1861 - March 15, 1896) who married Margaret Romine on July 10, 1887, (See above, 9C). They had four children: (a) Cliff Bland (1889-); (b) Gale Lloyd Bland (December 12, 1891 - March 20, 1970), who married Georgia Savilla Martin (1895-1982). Gale and Georgia were the parents of correspondent Neil Bland. (c) Dora Bland and (d) Mamie Bland (1897-) who married Clyde Ford.

(15) Lot Bland (December 10, 1864 - February 25, 1932). Lot married Etta Romine. Their children were (a) Stewart; (b) Goldie; (c) Loshia and (d) Roy.

B. Alicy or Elsa Bland (December 31, 1818 - May 18, 1900) was the second child of Richard Bland and Mary Jobes. She was born in Blackville and married Abraham Noble on March 17, 1839. They had four children.

C. Joseph Bland (July 14, 1821 -). Joseph was born near Blacksville Virginia. He married Cassandra _____ and lived in Wetzel County Virginia until 1850, when he is said to have gone west. Children of the marriage between Joseph and Cassandra were:

(1) Thornton Bland (1843-).

(2) Rachel Bland (1845-).

(3) Mary Bland (1849-).

D. Richard J. Bland Jr. (March 4 or 9, 1824 - November 26, 1896). Richard was born near Blackville and died of tuberculosis in Blandville in Doddridge County. He married Mary Jane Starkey (October 6, 1828 - December 20 or 26, 1891) in Tyler County, November 6, 1845. A gap in child births between 1861-1865, suggests that Richard served in the Civil War. Children of Richard J. Bland and Mary Jane Starkey were:

(1) Alsind (Per the 1850 Census) or Alaina Bland (1847-1885), who married Edgar M. Davisson and had two children by him. Josephine Holden calls her interchangeably, Alcinda or Aliza M Bland and dates her birth year as 1857.

²¹ Harry and Clara are the parents of my correspondent Evelyn Porter.

