

Among Cousins

The Bland Family Newsletter



Bland

Volume 11, Number 1

January-June 1993

Dear Cousins,

Welcome to the tenth issue of "Among Cousins: The Bland Family Newsletter. Having passed a decade of publication, with a complete revision of A Vision of Unity in progress, it seems time to acknowledge the linkage of Bland family history to the computer, something I am sure many of you have previously done. It should go without saying that without the aid of the computer technology, I would never have been able to undertake a task as huge as rewriting the book. It only typifies the problems many of us face when dealing with the enormous volume of material a genealogical researcher not only quickly generates, but must also evaluate.

Charles L. Bland, A Vision of Unity: The Bland Family in England and America, 1555-1900, (1982), 610pp., indexed, is published twice annually, June 15 and November 15. Payment of \$74.95, (\$59.95 for libraries), must reach the publisher by October 1.

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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.

The Editor assumes responsibility for preparation, sale and distribution, and reserves editorial discretion over all material received.

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Within these mountains of material we only find a needle here and there. Lines of communication also are stretched out and many of us work in isolation from others who may be working on the same project. Computers can link us together more effectively than anything I know of and enable us to accomplish much more within the same span of time as before.

Recently, thanks to Paul Jensen, North Ogden Utah, I have been able to secure a copy of software called **Prodigy** which among other things has a genealogical network, including correspondents looking for information about the Bland family. The information also includes enormous amounts of raw genealogical material, which can be accessed easily. This requires that I enhance my current hardware capacity, so I should be on-line by the end of May. It will be interesting to see the outcome of this. This is not an advertisement for **Prodigy**. Useful as it happens to be, I think there must be many more such systems available, and certainly there is a great deal of user friendly software to aid genealogists.

David Bland, 1903 Holke Road, Independence Missouri, 64057-1405 has written to me of his contemplated establishment of a not for profit entity dedicated to Bland research. I should say before describing David's proposed work that I welcome it and do not believe it will undermine the effort of "Among Cousins" or the forthcoming new book, but will in fact enhance and complement them. David, by use of computer technology, proposes to:

A. Solicit raw data for surnames Bland, Blan, Blann. He would forward this material to me, for use in the forthcoming book revision. This would include a search for individual work that may also pass into oblivion with the author's death.

B. David will enter raw data into a computer file, without editorial comment. This differs from my approach which is, when possible, to interpret and try to work material into a family structure. David also indicates he would "perhaps" provide a database for on-line relationship searches.

C. David would provide a distribution resource of, or information about publications written about or by Bland family members. This would include further publicity for newsletters like "Among Cousins" but would also include smaller family histories written by others.

D. Assist when possible, in funding research trips, projects and the development of related material.

E. David would provide an on-line computer bulletin-board for Bland correspondents.

F. David would not use his entity to sponsor reunions but would serve as a registry/publicity vehicle and also shared information conduit for Reunions already in place.

G. David does not propose to compete with A Vision of Unity, the forthcoming publication of the new book, or "Among Cousins." he would, rather, serve as a publicity source and possible ordering point for the publications. This anticipates, how optimistically remains to be seen, a much higher demand for book and newsletter

and also so much greater awareness of what we have attempted in the past decade, that as David says, "you may have to consider an additional VU edition after this next, as a result of new data that becomes uncovered through this consciousness raising endeavor." Hmm!

H. Funds for David's entity would derive in part from marginal commissions, sale of "Bland specialty items" and memberships. ¹

To repeat, I endorse this idea of David's. I think ideas like these, which turn on the instrumentality of computer technology can have a great unifying effect on our research and open up new possibilities of method and information that will transform the work we have done in the past. I now look forward to the emergence of a specific timetable to begin this work.

Continued Publication of Among Cousins

After some deliberation and discussion with Cousins and friends at the 1992 National Reunion, I decided to continue publication of "Among Cousins" without interruption during the time the revision of A Vision of Unity is in progress. As noted below, work on the revision is on pace and my target would be to have the first copies of the new book ready to distribute personally at the 1995 Reunion. "Among Cousins" will continue in its present form through 1995, Volume 13. In 1996, "Among Cousins" will begin a second series, i.e., the Newsletter in 1996 will be identified as Volume 1, series 2. There is always the possibility that new changes and developments such as David Bland's "entity" discussed above, may reshape our thinking and format during the next four years, but we shall wait and see what happens.

National Bland Family Reunion, 1992 "The Rocky Mountain Special"

The Eighth National Bland Reunion was held at Denver Colorado on August 13-16 1992, and was sponsored by Richard Parks Bland II, his wife Dorothy and their children. The reunion was dedicated to Congressman Richard Parks Bland, that great voice of Free Silver from the days of yesteryear. Those who were apprehensive that moving the Reunion to a large city in the mountain states would inhibit attendance can rest easy. After a slow beginning, the Reunion caught fire and more than 100 attended from sixteen states. It was a good time, very successful reunion. We received congratulations and welcome to Colorado from Governor Roy Romer and State Senator Dennis Gallagher presented a proclamation recognizing:

¹ David Bland to Charles L. Bland, February 12, 1993.

. . .the contribution of the BLAND family to our nation, in particular, Richard Parks Bland, who was almost nominated for President of the United States on the Democratic Ticket in 1896.

I want to thank once again, Richard Parks Bland II, Dorothy Bland and their children, as well as the people of Colorado for their hospitality in what I think was a wonderful reunion.

The Ninth National Bland Reunion. After two years in the hinterland, this year's National Bland reunion will be held at Deland Florida, August 12-15, 1993 sponsored by Robert O. Bland, and his wife Ethel. Bob descends from the James River family and this Reunion will honor that family, giving me hope that it may stir some of the James River family whom I haven't seen in more than five years, to come to sunny Florida. Although I'm assured it will be warm enough there, the Reunion site will be air conditioned, so I'm sure it will be enjoyable. Deland is within an hour or two drive of Orlando and Disney World as well as Cape Canaveral-Kennedy, so it is a great vacation spot. Invitations will be mailed out within two or three weeks. Make your plans now. I hope to see all of you there.

At the 1991 Reunion, those present discussed the viability of the Bland Family Organization that was proposed in 1990, when the Reunion met at Virginia. Those present decided to keep the reunion informal, but to thank Tom Bland of Burke Virginia for his constructive initiative in attempting to bring about a Bland family organization.

Tom Bland called me in February, indicating that he would send some \$430. to Bob Bland of Deland Florida, constituting unused proceeds collected at the 1990 Reunion in the attempt to create the Bland family organization. The idea is that this amount is to be used as seed money for the reunion, and then replenished from funds collected as dues for the reunion come in. Bob Bland will then send at least the \$430. to the sponsor of the 1994 reunion, who will send it to the 1995 sponsor etc. We owe Tom Bland and those who pledged this money a thank you for this gesture, which will enable future reunion sponsors to get a start on organizing the reunion without having to dig quite so deep in their own pockets.

Other Family Reunion News

The 32nd Annual Bland Reunion was held on October 18, 1993 at El Dorado Springs Missouri. The Reunion represented descendants of Samuel Bland (C1806-1864). I was sent a news report of the Reunion by David Bland, Independence Missouri, who descends from the line. By my unofficial count, more than 100 were in attendance.

Congratulations to this branch of the Bland family on what looks like a very successful and long standing Reunion tradition.²

I had an interesting letter from Kathy Smith Anthenat, 10016 Crow's Nest Cove, Reminderville Ohio, not a Bland descendant, who is working on a book about family reunions, Fantastic Family Gatherings: Tried and True Ideas for Large and Small Family Reunions. Kathy writes that she has interviewed about four hundred people around the country about their reunions, and has found the practices, traditions etc., fascinating. She was very interested in the idea of National Reunions for specific family names, such as ours, and used our Reunion Special as a case example of how a reunion should be conducted and a record kept. Those of you who have held local reunions in the past, or contemplate organization of a reunion in the future, might find Kathy's book interesting.

Like the Fingers of the Hand

This project to re-write the book is well under way. I have scanned by computer all the previous issues of Among Cousins into a computer file and made second copies of them. The second copies were then broken up and rearranged into the chapters of Vision of Unity where they are now, in very rough condition, awaiting a smoothing out process that will integrate all that has been done within the past decade. This is approximately where I anticipated I would be at this time.

At the Eighth National Reunion in Denver I drew the names of Helen G. Pearson, Sacramento California, as first prize winner of a complete set of the new books when published, and John Bland Mobley, Columbia South Carolina, as runner up. John will receive a volume of his choice.

In the last issue of the Newsletter there was some confusion because I did not list everyone who pledged. I noted at that time that I was listing the names of those who gave me permission to do so. In order to give proper credit to everyone, I wrote letters again to those who did not respond earlier saying that I would list their names in this issue as donors unless I received instructions to the contrary. The following represents a complete list of those who pledged to the project to rewrite the book:

² AC 9-1, p. 13, #32; David Bland, Independence Missouri ran an inquiry about Samuel in AC 10-2, p. 32. David indicates Samuel died July 27, 1864. I have received extensive information about this line from David and from Deanna Shouse, Eldorado Springs Missouri, and plan to review the line in the next number of Among Cousins (AC 11-2).

Angelia and Hop Alford, Maben Mississippi
Anne Armistead, Roanoke Virginia
Mary Bland Armistead, Roanoke Virginia
John W. Bland, Elizabethtown Kentucky
Neil W. Bland, Lumberport West Virginia
Robert E. Bland, Vandalia Missouri
Robert O. and Ethel Bland, Deland Florida
Robert P. Bland Jr., M.D., Sumter South Carolina
Reverend John W. French, late husband of Ruth Webb French,
Ferndale Michigan
Jean Hanson, Pocatello Idaho
Leslie and Fran Harton, Mount Holly New Jersey
Nelson and Josephine Bland Holden, Los Cruces New Mexico
Mildred Hunter, State College Pennsylvania
The late Thomas Jones, Edwardsville Illinois
Thomas Jordan, Richmond Virginia
Captain Richard H. Knight (Ret) Virginia Beach Virginia
Edith C. Lanning Dunnelon Florida
Sally Bland Cox Lee, Orlando Florida
James B. and Gail Lewellen, Fort Worth Texas
Carolyn Bland Miller, Vicksburg Mississippi
John Bland Mobley, Columbia South Carolina
Mrs. Willie Lee Moseley, Statesboro Georgia
Mrs. Bland (Fay) Osborn, Wilmington Delaware
Helen G. Pearson, Sacramento California
Mary Lou Shaddock, College Station Texas
Susan Stanley, Chesapeake Virginia, in memory of her mother,
the late Dorthea Gilbreath.
Eloise A. Stoudenmier, Orange Texas
Claire Strauch, Newport Beach California

I believe this list is comprehensive. If by some chance, you pledged and your name is not listed above, please let me know.

In the event something should happen to me, I have asked John W. Bland, Elizabethtown Kentucky, to take up the task of completing work on the book. To assist him, I have sent him every single page of book, newsletters, reunion specials, letters etc. that I have retained on computer file and will update him regularly. I have also asked, with their agreement, David Bland, Independence Missouri; Bertha Dunn, Rossville Kansas; Mildred Hunter, State College Pennsylvania; Edith C. Lanning, Dunnelon Florida, and Joyce Bland McCool, Overland Park Kansas, to serve as liaisons for John in writing particular chapters, should this be necessary. Three of these liaisons were chosen at the National Reunion last August. I realize there are many other very capable researchers out there who could contribute chapters or parts of chapters to the new work. If you are interested in doing so, please contact me. These are precautions. I hasten to say that I am ok, probably in better health than last year at the same time.

Theodorick Bland Marker Fund

I was pleased to see that many of the subscribers to "Among Cousins" contributed to a fund to place a bronze marker at the grave site of Theodorick Bland, owner of Westover Plantation, until his death. The plantation was sold to the Byrd family by Theodorick's sons, a kind of a denouement of a family crisis between Theodorick's widow, Anna Bennett Bland Codd and her sister in law, Sarah Greene Bland that was previously discussed at some length, (AC 8-2, pp. 5-40). Visitors to Westover in recent years, (I was last there in 1988), would have noticed that time and weather had worn away the inscription on his grave stone so that it was barely legible. The bronze marker preserves the inscription intact:

Jesus, Savior of the World
The remains of the wise and learned Theodorick Bland Esq.
who died April 23rd, A.D. 1671
Aged 41
Whose most disconsolate widow, Anne,
A daughter of Richard Bennet, Esq.
erected this tomb

The speaker was Richard J. Alfriend, III, and the marker was unveiled by Margaret Pryor Truitt Joyal, both descendants of the James River Bland family. In addition to my own modest contribution, I was pleased to see the following subscribers to Among Cousins listed as donors in the program bulletin: Anne Armistead, Roanoke Virginia; Lineous Preston Bland III, Virginia Beach Virginia; Robert O. Bland, Deland Florida; Hazel Bouldin, Eden North Carolina; Dr. W.B. Cleveland, Cleveland Heights Ohio; Jean K. Hanson, Pocatello Idaho; Margaret Pryor Truitt Joyal, Virginia Beach Virginia; Captain Richard H. Knight, USN Retired, Virginia Beach Virginia; Sally Cox Lee, Orlando Florida; John Armistead Norris, Colesville Maryland; Dr. Holmes Ralston III, Fort Collins Colorado; Helen C. Wright, Amelia Virginia.

Richard Bland Memorial Service

I am pleased to note that The Frances Bland Randolph Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution and Richard Bland College in Petersburg Virginia, cooperated in presentation of a "Colonel Richard Bland Memorial Service" at the Bland Family Cemetery in Prince George County, Virginia, on October 25, 1992. The guest speaker was Dr. Clarence Maze Jr. President of Richard Bland College. Richard Bland (1710-1776, VU. pp. 151-166, esp. 159) was a Revolutionary War Hero, best known as a "reluctant revolutionary" whose Inquiry into the Rights of the British Colonies (1766) was a kind of intellectual precursor for his

younger and bolder student, Thomas Jefferson, whose Summary View of the Rights of British America (1774), which included the following separatist passage:

Americans possessed a right, which nature has given to all men, of departing from the country in which chance, not choice, has placed them. . .

Those who buy into the description of Richard Bland as a "reluctant revolutionary" might consider that much of this reputation was put about by Jefferson himself in his reminiscences of Richard Bland. Compare the above from Jefferson's Summary View with the following from Richard Bland's Inquiry:

. . . their engagements to the society, and their submission to the public authority of the state, do not oblige them to continue in it longer than they find it will conduce to their happiness, which they have a natural right to promote.³

It should be noted on Richard Bland's behalf that his work was published in 1766, when the idea of separation was almost unthinkable, whereas by 1774, when Jefferson published the Summary View, anger at England was so great that separation was near inevitable in many men's minds.

A contemporary portrait of Richard Bland has not survived. There is an artist's representation of him by Susan Brown which makes him look like a fattened up version of a cross between Thomas Jefferson and King George III. I would like to see an artist's conception of him that paints him as he is described in contemporary literature:

A very old experienced veteran at ye senate or ye bar-staunch and tough as whitleather--has something of ye look of musty old parchments, which he handleth and studieth much. .

Richard also was described as half farmer, half scholar and lawyer, a pleasant, well-mannered person who was somewhat untidy and sloppy in his dress. My mind's eye, reading this, conjures up a pale and thin man, somewhat unkempt and plainly dressed. I am very pleased that this good man has been so honored.

³ Garry Wills, Inventing America, (1978), p. 83.

Transition

I was pleased to hear that my correspondent, Bill Bland and his wife Dorothy of Holly Ridge North Carolina celebrated their 50th Anniversary on August 16, 1992. As always, I received a lot more notices of deaths than of births, marriages and anniversaries. This would lead one to believe that the Bland family is withering away, which I'm sure is not the case. I renew my request that you send me notices of all forms of transition, not just obituaries.

I note with especial regret, the death of Leslie Davis Dawson of Plainfield New Jersey in February 1992. Those of you who know the story of my initial attempts to write A Vision of Unity will surely know how valuable was Mr. Dawson's assistance to me and to all whom the book has helped. Mr. Dawson, a frequent correspondent by phone and mail in those days, was irreplaceable. Mr. Dawson was an attorney in New York City, and I last saw him on a visit to the Big Apple in 1984, where we had lunch and a long conversation together. Leslie's widow Mildred wrote me "Leslie was very bright and whatever he did, he did well. He had been ailing for some time and one night he went to sleep and didn't wake up." He will be sorely missed.

On behalf of Betty Bland Lovvorn of Oak Ridge Tennessee, I note with regret the passing of her husband Jim Lovvorn on August 10, 1992, after a long illness. Jim was an electrical engineer, who retired in 1985. He was an active and capable researcher and an active supporter of research on the Bland family and of the National Bland Family Reunions.

Opal Jones of Edwardsville Illinois wrote to tell me that her husband and my correspondent Thomas H. Jones, died of a cerebral stroke on August 20, 1992. Thomas was retired and an active genealogist who spent many years trying to connect his ancestor Joshua Bland (C1826-) to a further back ancestor ⁴ Tom was also a friendly and supportive correspondent and I am very sorry to hear of his death.

Curly Moore, Hopewell Virginia, sent me two notices from the Richmond Post Dispatch announcing the death on December 30, 1992, of Leroy B. Bland, a retired Gloucester County Virginia Merchant who was 99. Leroy was survived by a brother Edgar F. Bland of Saluda Virginia. ⁵ Also, Mrs. Virginia Bland Hart, age 93, widow of Robert Presley Hart of Cologne Virginia, died January 21, 1993. I am grateful to Curly Moore for these letters as well as the many friendly letters she sends me, just to tell me about the Moores of Hopewell and to inquire after my well-being.

⁴ See AC 9-1, pp. 29-30.

⁵ I believe Leroy and Edgar Bland were noted previously AC 5-2, pp. p 15 and AC 9-1, p. 35, the son of William Claiborne Bland and Virginia Adelaide Groome. Leroy's photo appears in AC 5-2, at P. 37

Bill Bland of Holly Ridge North Carolina informed me that his sister and my former correspondent Nancy Goode Bland Turner of Troy Michigan, died on September 21, 1992. Nancy was buried in Chase City Virginia. ⁶

Bland Farms

If you haven't heard of the order service from Bland Farms, Box 506, Glenville Georgia, you should give it a try. The enterprise was started by Raymond Bland about 40 years ago. I have not determined which branch of the Blands Raymond descends from, though I suspect they are from the Duplin County North Carolina family that migrated to Georgia early in the 19th century (VU, pp. 297-320). Their specialty is Vidalia Onions, but as one looks through the catalog, there are other delicacies, such as Sweet Pepperapple Relish, Squaw Bread, the Bland Sampler, (check it out), Grandma Bland's Country-Style Pecan Pie, Peach Brandy Pound Cake, Sweet Georgia Peaches, and on and on the book goes. I was included on the mailing list by a guy who keeps up with these things better than I do. If you aren't on the list, the direct order line is 1-800-VIDALIA (I-800-843-2542).

Mecklenburg County North Carolina History

I am happy to announce the publication of Howard and Ruth White's new book Mecklenburg: The Life and Times of a Proud People, which was available for purchase as of December 1992. The book is a comprehensive history of the county and may be obtained for \$32.95, including shipping and handling. To order, write Ruth Bland White 2731 New Halls Road, Greenbrier Tennessee 37073.

JAMES BLAND OF DUPLIN AND CHATHAM COUNTIES, NORTH CAROLINA

This section will comprise the main portion of the current issue of "Among Cousins" and will attempt to bring together in a coherent picture the disparate research by descendants of James Bland (C1749-1799) who died in Chatham County North Carolina.

Some of the research that follows first appeared in A Vision of Unity and subsequently in various issues of the Newsletters. Some of it, particularly that of Jack Bland, Bertha Dunn and, T.C. and Donita Hulsey was received in Fall 1992 and winter and Spring 1993 and is quite useful. ⁷ The review of the disparate research

⁶ My thanks also to Curly Moore of Hopewell Virginia for Nancy Turner's obituary notice.

⁷ In April, I sent a draft of this section to Jack Bland, Lenore Bland Brown, Bertha Dunn, Mildred Hunter, T.C. Hulsey, Leota Ruder. All responded and their information was very helpful in sharpening the picture even further.

that has unfolded over the past decade indicates several areas of profitable research, including a thorough combing of courthouse and anecdotal records in Orange County Indiana, which would shed light on a transitional passage of the children of James Bland (C1749-1799) from about 1816-1820. Similar research in Coles County Illinois would also be useful, as the information below indicates.

James was a son of William Bland (C1726-1775) of Duplin County North Carolina, from whose issue sprang an enormous progeny of descendants.⁸ Evidence of the elder William's children derives primarily from his will, formed in 1775. The will made initial mention of an eldest son William, (1748-1816) and a son James, presumably the second eldest, who was named co-executor with William. Other children listed were, Joseph Bland, (C1754-1799) John Bland (C1758-1827),⁹ a daughter Mary Parker and two minor sons, Thomas and Charles. Charles is said to have married a Rachel or Mary Alderman, but little is known of him or of his descendants. It is worthy of note that among these sons, there is evidence of Revolutionary War Service for John, James and Joseph.⁹

Some background may be useful. When I wrote my book in 1982, I omitted through error the name of Joseph Bland in his father's will. This was corrected and since publication of the Newsletters began, new historians of the James Bland (C1749-1799) branch have emerged in abundance as well as those for Joseph Bland (C1754-1799). There has been enough about these two lines to reshape them over and over. This has not been true of the descendants of William Bland (1748-1816) and John Bland (C1758-1827). Not very much new information has emerged about them. If any of you Cousins know historians who are working on these lines, please let me know. Also, of course, there are no historians I know of working on the lines of Thomas and Charles.

Inasmuch as William was the oldest son and his birth date is reliably fixed at 1748,¹⁰ it is probable that James Bland was born in 1749/1750. He first appears in the records as co-executor of

⁸ VU, pp. 282-284 and 320-342.

⁹ The families of John and Joseph are discussed in VU, pp. 284-293 and AC 1-1, p. 3; 2-1, pp. 6-7; 3-1, pp. 16-20; and 8-1, pp. 11-15. By mistake, Joseph Bland was omitted from the will noted in my book. That error was corrected in AC 1-1, p. 3. For Charles Bland and Rachel Alderman, see VU, p. 284. Cf AC 2-1, p. 6

⁹ AC 1-1, p. 3.

¹⁰ VU, pp. 293-294.

his father's will in 1775. In 1781-1782, he appears in military service vouchers for Wilmington District of North Carolina.¹¹ He next appears in the records of Chatham County North Carolina, living in close proximity with his brother John (C1758-1827). One of the more remarkable aspects of their lives, is that from evidence available, it appears that almost all of John's descendants, in the several generations after his death, remained in Chatham County and many of them live there even today. The children of James Bland, on the other hand, between 1815-1830, began to appear on the western frontier, first in Orange County Indiana and then in Greene County Indiana. The women we assume to have been James' younger daughters evidently married and moved to other parts of the country with their husbands. The men all tended to cluster together in Greene County, excepting Henry Bland, while two older daughters tended to settle in Greene County with their brothers. In Greene County, these siblings tended to cluster in Highland and Worthington, living in close proximity with Osborne Bland Jr. and Patsy Donahoo and their children, who lived in Richland and Beech Townships.¹²

1. James Bland (1749-1799)¹³

James becomes the first generation we consider. In this essay, I will review the first four generations and will follow through with the fifth generations forward in AC 11-2, until the lines safely cross over the boundary of the 20th century.

The history of the family of James Bland was evolving under the able hand of the Late Albert Hunter and his wife Mildred, when my book was published in 1982,¹⁴ At that time, the Hunters had

¹¹ AC 1-1, p. 3.

¹² VU, pp. 320-342, 441-455. A Map in VU, pp. 342A, is illustrative.

¹³ Lenore Bland Brown, Paris Texas, has asked that anyone who knows or has a clue, let her know where James Bland is buried. Lenore indicates the Daughters of the American revolution would establish a marker at his grave, with appropriate ceremony. The same also applies to James' brothers Joseph (C1754-1799) and John (C1758-1827).

¹⁴ See VU, pp. 320-342, esp. 320-324. In addition to the Hunters, I owe a huge debt also to Lenore Bland Brown, Paris Texas, Bertha Dunn, Rossville Kansas, Lloyd Cooley, Atchison Kansas, T.C. and Donita Hulsey, Napa California, Masie Medford, San Antonio Texas, Betty Miller, Juneau Alaska, Leota Bland Ruder, Concordia Kansas and Harold Shepherd, Fort Collins Colorado, for their information which over the years has fleshed out the outlines of this family.

placed James in Chatham County by 1790, when he appeared in the census near John Bland. James was enumerated with two females and five minor males under age 16, indicating that the range of birth years for his sons at least was 1775-1790.

In 1983, the Hunters found court minutes in Chatham County showing that in 1794, James was appointed road overseer, followed by a 1796 entry in which he was replaced by Upshur Robinson, who appointed Jacob Bland, a minor, as one of his hired hands. A subsequent document, an indenture order dated February 1800, bound "Thomas Bland, an orphan of James Bland decd. . . unto Simon Bright, he being now 11 years old, to learn the trade of blacksmith." ¹⁵

A clue to the children of James Bland is the reappearance of the minor son Thomas, in Chatham County Tax lists of 1815, with Henry, Francis and William. These four men as well as Jacob appeared again in the 1830 Census of Green County Indiana. ¹⁶

James children (who appear here as second generation) are listed below. The sons are noted first, followed by the daughters. This format is used because at this time, I am less certain about the dates of James' daughters.

A. Jacob Bland (C1779-1839) Jacob was born in Chatham County no later than 1779 and probably not much earlier either. He was a minor in 1796, so 1779 is a fairly firm birth year. By 1800, he was an adult head of an extended family in Chatham County, The composition of the household, one female 26-45, a male aged 10-16 and a female under 10. Inasmuch as the evidence is that Jacob did not marry until about 1801 (his first child was born in 1802), the older woman was not his wife, so she was possibly an aunt or his mother. If this woman was Jacob's mother, it makes a mystery of the identity of "Barshaby" Bland, living alongside of Jacob, who was over 45 and head of the household, living with one female 16-26, one male 10-16 and two males under 10. ¹⁷

¹⁵ AC 1-2, p. 5. This may portend that James Bland died c.1796, but I prefer the date of 1799, suggesting he died just before the apprenticeship of Thomas Bland to Simon Bright.

¹⁶ VU, pp. 325, 342B-C.

¹⁷ The will of "Barshaby", no doubt a corruption of Bathsheba, is a mystery the Hunters were never able to unravel. In addition to the close proximity between Bathsheba and Jacob, a further clue is a will by Esther Rowan in New Hanover County, North Carolina, January 2, 1788, in which she wills her property to her daughter Elizabeth Richards but stipulates that in case of her death, the whole would default to "my god daughter Bathsheba Bland," (VU, p. 324-325).

Jacob married Nancy Richardson about 1801. Nancy was recorded in 1850 and 1860 as having been born 1779, and she died sometime after 1860 in Greene County Indiana. Jacob and Nancy were enumerated in Chatham County in 1820 but by 1830 were in Green County.

Jacob Bland and Nancy Richardson had a family of eight children, born in Chatham County North Carolina. All moved with Jacob and Nancy to Greene County Indiana: ¹⁸

(1) Nancy Richardson Bland (December 5, 1802 - June 24, 1876) Nancy married Richard Pope (1801-1841) on January 25, 1825. Richard and Nancy are great grandparents of my correspondent Harold Shepherd who descends through their daughter Nancy Massara Pope. ¹⁹

(2) Permelia Bland (C1805-1883) It appears Permelia didn't marry. In the Greene County Census of 1860, she was enumerated living with her mother and her sister Zina.

(3) Mary Bland (C1807-C1847) Mary married Wiatt Miller on June or December 21, 1826, one of the first marriages in the Beech township. Mary was still living when a son was born, but she must have died about a year before Wiatt Miller remarried to Elizabeth Padget in 1848.

(4) Sarah C. Bland (January 8, 18⁰~~28~~ - April 10, 1882) Married George Wilkie, January 30, 1840. Sarah is buried at the Wilkie cemetery in Highland, Greene County. ²⁰

(5) Zina Bland (C1809-) died after 1860, when she was shown in the 1860 census living with her mother and sister Permelia.

(6) Rebecca Bland (April 11, 1813 - June 10- 1865). Rebecca married Mark Clark on June 18, 1840 in Greene County.

(7) James Jacob Bland (September 16, 1815 - September 19, 1862). James enlisted in the same military unit as his brother Robert Henry (see below) on September 9, 1861. His military papers in 1861 describe him as 5' 10", dark complexion and black hair and eyes. ²¹ It was said by Albert Hunter that both brothers contracted

¹⁸ VU, pp. 324-332

¹⁹ AC 3-2, p. 33

²⁰ Jack Baber, Early History of Greene County Indiana, p. 43. Information re Mary and Sarah Bland, (3) and (4) is found in AC 5-2, p. 25.

²¹ As one reads this essay, it is interesting to see how often this general physical description recurs among Bland men.

a disease while in service. Robert Henry survived, but John Jacob did not. He was discharged about March 1862 and died a few months later. On May 7, 1841, in Greene County, James Jacob Bland married Martha J. Monk, (October 2, 1823 - September 8, 1864).²² Martha was the daughter of Shadrach Monk and Anna Gillmore, from Chatham County North Carolina. As will be seen below, her sister Rachel married a son of Francis Bland, one of the five migrant brothers. Al Hunter told the story that Martha, in grief after James' death, lost her reason, became physically decimated and died soon after him. James Jacob Bland and Martha J. Monk had a family of six children (VU, pp. 330-332), all born in Greene County:²³

(a) Robert Henry Bland (C1845-) who married Sarah E. _____ (C1850 -) somewhere in Iowa about 1868. In the 1880s Robert Henry and Sarah were in Delhi township, Osborne County Kansas and Moreland Township, Graham County Kansas; (b) Charles Wesley Bland (November 19, 1848 - May 15, 1924). Charles married Emma Smith, (April 16, 1854 - January 6, 1839), on May 23, 1877 in Iowa. Charles and Emma were grand parents of my correspondent Masie Medford. The family also lived in Missouri, but by 1900, the family was enumerated in Crawford County Kansas. (c) Fletcher Tivis Bland (September 14, 1853 - after 1900). Fletcher lived near his brother Robert in Delhi, Osborne County Kansas in 1880. He married (1) Lucy Jane Dalton (C1856-) on December 30 1875; (d,e,f) Three children named Shady, Patten and Little Annie, died in infancy. (g) William Gillmore Bland, (March 3, 1856 - September 16, 1936). On February 8, 1879 William married Rebecca Jane Vernon (February 6, 1859 - July 13, 1936). They had ten children. In 1880, they were enumerated South Township, Madison County Iowa but by 1900 were found in Warren, Jefferson County Iowa; (h) Joseph Ellsworth Bland (October 24, 1858 to October 16, 1933) was born in Greene County and died in Juneau Alaska. Joseph married Margaret Virginia Ewing (September 24, 1869 - December 30, 1850) on September 26, 1886. They had nine children, and were the great-grandparents of my correspondent Betty Miller. (i) George Washington Bland (June 14, 1861 to October 22, 1941), born in Greene County. George married Sophia Amy Duncan (1864-1909) on May 1, 1882. They had five children. Secondly, George married Lydia _____ (October 24, 1863 - September 13, 1919) on March 4, 1919. When Lydia died, George was living in Colorado.²⁴

²² The Wall Cemetery in Highland indicates that Martha died September 8, 1861, but since she died of grief over the loss of her husband who died in 1862, it would appear that the 1864 date is correct. AC 3-2, p. 33.

²³ VU, pp. 330-332. Updated Information about the children of James Jacob Bland and Martha Monk appears in AC 3-2, pp. 33-39.

²⁴ Bertha Dunn to Charles L. Bland, April 20, 1993.

(8) Robert Henry Bland (March 17, 1817 - September 28, 1869). Robert was a soldier in the Civil War, serving in the Indiana Volunteers, 43rd Infantry, Company C. Jack Bland indicates that Robert also served as a private in Company A, 115th Indiana Volunteers with his cousins James O.D. Bland and Enoch F. Bland. According to his military papers, in 1861, Robert was from 5'9" to six feet tall, with dark complexion, hair and eyes. Robert married Chloe Hodges (August 1, 1816 - June 17, 1908) on March 6, 1837. Chloe was born in Surry County North Carolina.²⁵ According to Al Hunter, Chloe worried so much about Robert while he was on duty that she "became almost insane." Their children were: (a) Rebecca Bland (1838 -); (b) Sarah Ellen Bland (1840-) married Marion Bennett November 8, 1866; (c) Nancy Bland (1842 -), married Charles Wilkie on February 1, 1876; (d) Mary Elizabeth Bland (June 10, 1845 - May 1923) married Columbus Jefferson Hunter (1841-1901) on November 1, 1866. Columbus and Mary were grandparents of Albert Sinclair Hunter, (1908-1991); (e) Joseph Bland (October 8, 1846 -), married Amanda Shipman on October 8, 1876. Joseph and Amanda had three sons. (f) James Bland (February 17, 1849 - January 21, 1913) James died in Holton Kansas. He married Martha Glover (February 14, 1854 - October 30, 1925) in 1877 at Holton; (g) William T. Bland (1852 -); (h) Zina Bland (1855 -).

B. William Bland (C1787-after 1860)²⁶ William was in Orange County Indiana, as early as 1819, where his son Joseph was born, and he was in Greene County as early as 1824, when he assisted his brother Thomas in escorting two men indicted for the first murders in the county.²⁷ The information about Orange County Indiana further strengthens the Hunter's hypothesis that the siblings of James Bland passed through Orange County, and stayed for several years before moving on to Greene County. William married Elizabeth McBain (C1789-after 1873) on January 2, 1813, with Thomas Bland (C below) serving as bondsman. Elizabeth was buried at Mayview Cemetery, North of Beloit, Mitchell County Kansas, having traveled

²⁵ The Wall Cemetery shows Chloe's dates as August 1, 1818 to June 17, 1904. The Hunters accept the 1816-1908 dates as accurate.

²⁶ VU, pp. 336-342.

²⁷ I was pleased to receive from T.C. Hulsey, Joseph Bland's enlistment papers, Wayne County, Iowa, July 26, 1862, and an inventory of his effects July 14, 1863, both indicating his place of birth as Orange County Indiana. Jack Baber, Early History of Greene County, p. 9.

there with her son James Otis Daniel Bland. Those who know the family think that William, sometime after 1860, got an itch for a younger woman and abandoned Elizabeth. Upon reflection, I challenge this idea for the following reason: William and Elizabeth were still living together in Worthington, Smith Township, Greene County Indiana, as late as 1860. The census of that year shows that William, aged 75, was living with Elizabeth, aged 60, (who had trimmed her age by a decade).²⁸ William had certainly passed from this mortal coil by 1873, when most of his children and his widow Elizabeth migrated to Kansas. It is possible but not likely that a man aged about 73-75 in 1860 would run off with a younger woman. Age is relative. How old is "younger"? For a 75 year old, younger might mean that he "ran off" with a 12 year old girl or a 74 year old widow or someone in between. In this context the word "younger" implies resentment and anger. How fast and how far could William run? Perhaps William died of old age and, as in the case of his widow, we don't know his date of death. Perhaps he died in the Cholera year of 1866. Perhaps he became dotty and a mule kicked him in the head and killed him whilst he was trying to milk it. What, if anything, does William have to do with the year 1873 that seems to have such pregnant importance to this family? Let us see if we can resurrect this man's good name?

The 1830 census of Greene County Indiana shows six children in William and Elizabeth's household, including one female, 15-20, two females 0-5, two males 5-10 (William Jr. and James Otis Daniel) one male 10-15 (Joseph) and one male 15-20. (This may have been Aaron Bland (see below, p. 18) (VU, pp. 336-342) At least one other male child, Enoch, was born in 1833. The 1840 census also records two females born between 1830-1835. This would seem to support the notion of a family of ten, including five daughters and five sons. The daughters are unknown.

What follows is a synthesis of what many family historians have assembled about four of the known sons and my own hypothesis about the fifth son, Aaron Bland:²⁹

²⁸ Letter, Jack Bland to Charles L. Bland, October 21, 1992.

²⁹ For much of what follows I am grateful to Bertha Dunn, who transmitted to me on September 20, 1992, her history of the family of William Bland and Elizabeth McBain. I also found very useful letters from Jack Bland, October 21 and December 15, 1992 and from T.C. Hulsey, January 8, 1993.

(1) Aaron Bland (C1814-)³⁰ may have been the unaccounted for male in the 1830 Household of William Bland and Elizabeth McBain. Aaron was living in Richland Township in 1860. He was among the first school pupils to attend school in Highland.³¹ Aaron married Lavina Bryant or Hunter, born in Kentucky, on December 23, 1834 in Highland township.³² They had a son, Leroy Bland, born in 1838. To my knowledge, Aaron has no historians. Help would be appreciated.

(2) Joseph Bland (1818/1819 - July 14, 1863).³³ Joseph was born in Orange County Indiana and moved to Greene County as a child with his parents. As an adult, between 1850-1859, he moved to Coles County Illinois, probably with his brother William. When William moved to Iowa, Joseph returned to Indiana. His military papers described him as an adult being 5' 8" in height, light complexion, blue eyes and sandy hair. Joseph served as a Private in the Civil War, 23rd Iowa Regiment, Company D, along with his brother William Bland, and his son Francis W. Bland. Joseph and Francis were severely wounded at the battle at Big Black River near Vicksburg Mississippi in May 17, 1863. Joseph died July 14, 1863 of a gun shot wound in his right side and Francis on July 16, 1863 at a hospital in Memphis Tennessee.³⁴ He married Sarah Ann Milam (February 25, 1823 - January 8, 1899) on December 12, 1839, in Greene County. After Joseph's death, Sarah moved to Wayne County Iowa. Sarah is buried in the Jewell Cemetery, Jewell County Kansas. Joseph Bland and Sarah Milam had seven children, including: (a) Francis W. Bland (1842 - July 16, 1863) noted above; (b) James Thomas Bland (December 20, 1844 - September 27, 1918). By 1869, James was in Wayne County Iowa. He married Roxie Ackley (April 28, 1849-February 17, 1903) on April 10, 1869 in Wayne County. Roxie was born in Ohio. They had seven children and both are buried at

³⁰ VU, P. 342.

³¹ Baber's Early History of Greene County Indiana (1875), pp. 44-47, indicates that "Kissie" Bland, Susannah and Cynthia Hunter and others were among the first to attend school in Highland.

³² Ibid.

³³ VU, pp. 340-341.

³⁴ The story of this battle is told in Shelby Foote The Civil War II, (1963), pp. 62-63 and 377-378. Cf AC 7-1, p. 21 and AC 7-2, pp. 18-20. Joseph Bland's certificate of inventory following his death, July 14, 1863 was provided by T.C. Hulsey.

the South Lawn Cemetery in Seymour Iowa.³⁵; (c) William T. Bland (April 4, 1847 - March 30, 1924). William died in Beloit Kansas. On March 6, 1873 at Bloomfield, Davis County Iowa, William married Amelia A. Killion (C1854-), born in Indiana. In 1880, William and Amelia were living in Walton, Rooks County Kansas with two children. They had a total of five children. William filed for a divorce from Amelia on September 29, 1897, claiming she had abandoned him since November 10, 1895. By 1900, William and Amelia were divorced and William was living with his brother Worthington in Beloit in Mitchell County Kansas.³⁶ William left Beloit after 1900, and moved to Newcastle Wyoming, probably residing with his brother Joseph Asbury Bland (See (f) below). By October 20, 1909 he was back in Beloit and married Susan Kimsey.³⁷ William is the great-grandfather of Donita Hulsey, wife of my correspondent T.C. Hulsey. (d) Worthington Bland (C1850- July 3, 1921), Worthington was in Beloit Kansas by 1900; (e) Elizabeth Jane or Jenny Bland (June 8, 1854-). Elizabeth was born in Coles County Illinois. She married J.A. Reynolds in Wayne County Iowa, October 30, 1873. It would appear that poor Reynolds died soon after. In the 1880 Census for Wayne County Iowa, a Jenny Reynolds and her son Tony A. Reynolds (C1877-) were living with Joseph Asbury Bland, her brother or Sarah Bland, her mother (f below); (f) Joseph Asbury Bland (May 30, 1859 -). Joseph married Minnie Noah (C1865-) on May 30, 1886 in Mitchell County. By 1900, Joseph and Minnie were living in Weston County Wyoming.³⁸

(3) William Bland (C1821-by1895) (VU pp. 336-340) William would have been born either in Orange or Greene County Indiana and died in Beloit, Mitchell County Kansas. He is buried at the Hopewell Cemetery south of Beloit. William served with American forces and was wounded in the Mexican American war. Beginning August 23, 1862, he served as an infantryman with his brother Joseph his nephew Francis in the 23rd Iowa Regiment, Company D,

³⁵ See my divergence with Bertha Dunn, AC 1-1, pp. 4-5. Also, cf AC 1-2, p. 6.

³⁶ Further information about William T. Bland appears in AC 7-2, pp. 18-20 and AC 9-1, pp. 36-38.

³⁷ AC 7-2, p. 20.

³⁸ Re Joseph Asbury Bland and Jenny Bland, see letter T.C. Hulsey to Charles L. Bland, January 8 and April 20, 1993. Also, Bertha Dunn to Charles L. Bland, April 20, 1993.

during the civil war. ³⁹ He was wounded in the right hip and honorably discharged. He received a pension of 3.00 per month for his disability. His military papers describe him, like his brothers and nephews, as "black eyes, black hair, dark complexion, 5' 9". William married first, Jane Buckner in Greene County on August 5, 1839, and by her had a daughter (a) whose name is unknown, about 1840. ⁴⁰ Jane Buckner must have died, perhaps in child birth, but between 1840-1845. Secondly, following his tour in the Mexican American War, William married Catherine Brock, (C1828-) in Greene County November 21, 1847. William and Catherine tarried briefly in Greene County, then by 1850, moved to Coles County Illinois ⁴¹ and from there to Corydon, Wayne County Iowa, where they were enumerated in the census of 1860. Bertha Dunn notes that "sometime after 1870 and before 1875" William and his wife Catherine moved to Beloit Kansas. I wager it was 1873. Their children were: (b) Henry Berlin Bland (August 8, 1848 - February 8, 1910). About 1874, Henry married Mary E. _____ (C1851-), an Illinois girl. Henry and Mary were found in Beloit, Mitchell County Kansas in 1880, and by 1900, were in Harrison, Nemaha County Kansas; (c) Martha Elizabeth Bland (March 8, 1851 -), born in Coles County Illinois, who married David Rolf in Wayne County Iowa, December 14, 1865. ⁴² This couple moved to Mitchell County Kansas by 1880; (d) James L. Bland (C1854/1855 -1893) probably also born in Coles County was married to Marian R. _____ (C1860-) a girl from Illinois, in Beloit, Mitchell County Kansas, in 1880. James may have died in 1893 in an accident with his younger brother William G. Bland ⁴³.

³⁹ See the certificate of military service for James O.D. Bland AC 1-1, attachment 8. A notation in Greene County records showing a "Wick" Bland serving in the Mexican American War (VU, p. 342, derived from Baber, Early History of Greene County, p. 36) may have been a misprint for William, since there seems to be no other reference to Wick Bland.

⁴⁰ The 1840 Census shows William living with a female aged 20-30 and a female under 5.

⁴¹ In the 1850 Census for Coles County, William is enumerated with his wife and a son "Berlin" (Henry Berlin) and some members of his wife's family.

⁴² This information about a "Mary" Bland, was found by Bertha Dunn in a Church of Latter Day Saints record, AC 1-1, p. 5.

⁴³ In 1893, in Mitchell County Kansas, Marian Bland filed for legal guardianship of their children Louise and Charles, as well as Jed W. Bland, a minor child of William G. Bland. This information casts doubt on a possibility raised in AC 9-1, p. 38, that James Bland married Minnie Noah on May 30, 1886. Bertha Dunn believes that James L. Bland married Nannie Birdsall or Birdsel , September

(e) Noah Alexander Bland (October 9, 1856 - January 30, 1927), born in Wayne County Iowa. By 1875, Noah was in Beloit, Mitchell County Kansas. On November 15, 1876, he married at Beloit, Carrie Bailey (May 20, 1860 - February 11, 1940) a girl from Washington Maine. Noah was a minister, and he and Carrie moved frequently and retired at Holton Kansas. Later they moved to Ontario California. Noah and Carrie were the great grandparents of my correspondent Bertha Dunn;

(f) John R. Bland, (C1858 -) was born in Iowa, and was living with his parents in 1880. On October 20, 1879, John married at Mitchell County (Probably at Beloit) Kansas, Carrie Mauldin, (C1861-) born in Iowa, and by 1885 they were living in Beloit, Mitchell County Kansas. (g) Eve Ellen Bland, (May 12, 1860- May 21, 1929) born in Iowa, died in Nemaha County Kansas. She married Harvey Cooley (1855-1933) on November 3, 1875, and had by him seven children. They are buried at the Goff cemetery, Nemaha County Kansas. They were the parents of nine children including Noah Cooley, who was the father of my correspondent Lloyd N. Cooley;

(h) Sarah E. Bland (C1863-) was living with William and Catherine in 1870. She was born at Corydon, Wayne County. Bertha Dunn notes she may be the Susan C. Bland who died in childbirth at age 17, buried in the Jewell City Kansas cemetery.⁴⁴ (i) Francis Marion Bland (November 5, 1865 - January 2, 1948)⁴⁵ born at Clinton Iowa and died in Beloit, Kansas. Francis married Mary Knight (July 1871- September 18, 1950) an Illinois or Tennessee girl, June 8, 1889. Both are buried at Beloit Kansas; (j) William G. Bland (C1867-1893) was born in Iowa and died accidentally with his brother James (see (d) above). According to Bertha Dunn, William married Minnie R.

24, 1876 in Mitchell County Kansas. She notes that the simultaneous death of James L. Bland and William G. Bland and the probability that they married Birdsall or Birdsel women suggests "there is a story to be told behind all of this." Bertha Dunn to Charles L. Bland, April 20, 1993.

⁴⁴ AC 1-2, p. 6. an illegitimate grandson, Floyd George Bland, (C1880-) was living with William and Catherine in 1880 and 1885. Bertha Dunn believes he may be the son of Sarah/Susan. Bertha Dunn to Charles L. Bland, September 20, 1992, p. 15-16.

⁴⁵ Francis Marion's obituary says he was born November 5, 1865. His death certificate puts his birth in 1867. Bertha Dunn to Charles L. Bland, September 20, 1992, p. 15. Bertha Dunn to Charles Bland April 20, 1993.

Birdsel (perhaps Birdsall), (C1861-) a widow.⁴⁶ They had one child, Jed born in 1891. Inasmuch as James Bland's widow filed for guardianship of Jed, it would seem reasonable that the wife was gone by 1893.

(4) James Otis Daniel Bland (April 7 or 24, 1824 - September 2, 1908).⁴⁷ He was known more commonly as James O.D. Bland. James was born in Greene County Indiana and died in Concordia, Cloud County Kansas. James served from July 28, 1863 to February 25, 1864 in the Civil War, with Bryan's Company A, 115th Indiana Regiment, Volunteer Infantry, which was formed in Greene County. This unit was sent to Kentucky and engaged the confederates, defeating them at Blue Springs Tennessee in October 1863. James reenlisted at Terre Haute Indiana as a Private in Company C, 156th Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry and served between March 16, 1865 and August 7, 1865.⁴⁸

James married first, Sarah Elrod (- September 1859) in Greene County, September 4, 1845 and by her had six children:

(a) John Bland (1847-1864). John enlisted in the 59th Indiana and died of a fever in New Bern North Carolina. He is reported to have been on his way to join Sherman in his march through Georgia.⁴⁹

(b) Martha J. Bland (C1850-) was buried at Jewel County Kansas; (c) William F. Bland (C1852-); (d) Susan Catherine Bland (C1854-after 1944). Susan moved to Kansas with her father and was a school teacher there. She married twice to men named Dolan and Rhodes. Leota Bland Ruder wrote that she knew "Kate" Dolan when she was 90, (about 1944), a "very well read lady with a lot of charm. Susan is buried in Oklahoma;⁵⁰ (e) Margaret E. Bland (1857 -) was buried at Concordia Kansas, Pleasant Hill Cemetery; (f) Alma Bland (1859 -).

⁴⁶ A question arises whether this widow's maiden name was Birdsel or was it the name of her first husband?

⁴⁷ VU, pp. 341-342. Precise dates are provided by Leota Bland Ruder in an Obituary in the Concordia Kansan, September 10, 1908, AC 1-1, attachment 9, and by Bertha Dunn to Charles L. Bland, September 20, 1992, pp. 17-21. CF AC 1-1, pp. 4-5.

⁴⁸ For James' military service, see AC 1-1, attachment 8.

⁴⁹ AC 1-1, attachment 8.

⁵⁰ AC 1-1, attachment 7. Leota Bland Ruder to Bertha Dunn, August 10, 1982.

After Sarah Elrod's death, James O.D. Bland married April 5, 1860, Mary Gentry, (May 9, 1839 - July 6, 1911) who was born in North Carolina.⁵¹ According to Bertha Dunn, on April 18, 1873, James and Mary, with both their mothers and eight children in tow, arrived at Buffalo, Concordia Kansas. They settled on 160 acres of good flat land about four and a half miles southwest of Concordia. As a Kansan, James was a prosperous farmer, and a politician, orator and church man, contributing to construction of the courthouse and the First Presbyterian church. James represented Cloud County in the Kansas legislature of 1889. James Bland and Mary Gentry had a family of ten children including: (g) Sarah Ann Bland (October 20, 1862 - 1930). Sarah was born in Worthington, Greene County Indiana and died in Concordia Kansas. She married (1) George Biggs and (2) Jeff Eakins. Sarah Ann and Mr. Biggs are buried together at Pleasant Hill Cemetery in Concordia (h) Daniel Ervin Bland (May 9, 1866 - November 20, 1949), born in Worthington and died in Concordia. He is buried at Fairview Cemetery in Concordia. Daniel married Flora Irene Heaton (August 3, 1862 - April 23, 1936) a Michigan girl, in Concordia on March 12, 1890. Daniel and Flora went to Oklahoma about 1894, but returned to Kansas and settled in Miltonvale and Concordia. Daniel and Flora were grandparents of Leota Bland Ruder. (j) John Huse Bland (May 8, 1868 - July 20 or 28, 1856), was born at Worthington, Indiana and died in Concordia, Kansas. John was an organ maker and piano tuner. He married Lenore Shaw (May 9, 1877 - April 9, 1963) a Kansan, on May 10, 1894. They were grandparents of my correspondent Lenore Bland Brown; (k) Mary Cordelia Bland (April 1, 1872 -) born in Worthington, Greene County and died in Fairview Oklahoma. Mary married a man named Wiley. (l) Edward S. Bland (C1880-1899) was born in Concordia Kansas. He is buried near Concordia at the West Branch Cemetery. (m) Malcolm O. Bland (February 7 or July 2, 1882 - May 1967). Malcolm was born in Concordia Kansas and married Elizabeth J. Ranney. In 1908 Malcolm was living in Wray Colorado. He died in Denver or Englewood Colorado.

⁵¹ Previously, photos were displayed in AC 1-1, Attachment 11, and AC 4-2, p. 22, two distinct women, both of whom are identified as Mary Gentry. There does not seem to be agreement between the descendants about which was which, but there does seem to be agreement that one was Elizabeth McBain, James O.D. Bland's mother, while the other was his wife, Mary Gentry. After careful consideration, I conclude that the photo appearing in AC 1-1, Attachment 11, is James O.D. Bland's mother, Elizabeth McBain, while the woman in the photos in AC 4-2, p. 22, are his wife, Mary Gentry. My reasons follow: Lenore Bland Brown notes that in AC 1-1, Attachment 11, we are looking at two photos while in AC 4-2, p. 22, it is one photo, typical for a man and wife, less son for a man and his mother. Lenore also states that her father, John Herbert Bland, looked directly at the photo in AC 4-2, p. 22 and stated that she was his grandmother Bland. I have displayed the photos with reference to this note on page 24. The reader may compare.



Upper: James O.D. Bland and his mother Elizabeth McBain.

Lower: James O.D. Bland and his wife, Mary Gentry.

See discussion, note 51, page 23.

Photos courtesy of Leota Bland Ruder and Lenore Bland Brown.

(5) Enoch F. Bland (November 9, 1833- September 19, 1920) ⁵² Enoch was born in Greene County Indiana and is found there as late as the 1860 Census. A lifelong friend attested that he left Indiana for Kansas in 1873, probably along with his brother James Otis Daniel Bland. Enoch was living at Lulu in Mitchell County Kansas in 1880 and was there as late as December 1884. By 1899, he had moved to Concordia, Cloud County Kansas, where he worked with his son John as a hotel keeper. As noted below, he was a part time farmer, but his war injuries limited his physical ability to farm. By 1910, Enoch was living with John at Los Angeles California where he died. Enoch served with his brother James O.D. Bland and his cousin Robert Henry Bland in Company A, 115th Indiana Volunteer Infantry. Enoch's military papers show that he was about 5'7", fair complexion, blue eyes and red hair. While on a march from Nicholasville Kentucky to the Cumberland Gap in Tennessee, in September 1863, Enoch contracted chronic diarrhea and measles. He spent six weeks in a hospital at Tazewell Tennessee, where the kind and gentle care he received left him with a lifelong condition of chronic asthma and bronchitis. He was discharged from the Army on February 25, 1864. ⁵³ Enoch filed for a disability pension in 1887, but his war related disease hampered his ability to farm. Enoch married Catherine Ganes Gentry (C1839-July 5, 1879) on July 28, 1855 in Bloomfield, Greene County. ⁵⁴ Secondly, On April 1, 1880, he married the widow Mary E. Cooper _____ (C1851-) in Bloomfield, Greene County. ⁵⁵

⁵² Enoch's family is first discussed in AC 1-1, P. 5. AC 2-1, pp 8-9. I also received valuable new information from Jack Bland, in letters dated October 21 and December 15, 1992. The last letter contained very important information from Enoch Bland's Civil War Pension records, written out by Enoch himself in 1915. Further clarity in Enoch's family was provided by Jack Bland's letter to Charles L. Bland, April 20, 1993.

⁵³ AC 1-1, p. 5 and Attachment 8, and AC 1-2, p. 6. For Enoch's discharge, Jack Bland to Charles L. Bland, December 15, 1992.

⁵⁴ Jack Bland to Charles L. Bland, April 20, 1993. I share with Jack Bland the belief that Catherine Ganes Gentry (1839-1879) and Mary Gentry (1839-1911), second wife of James O.D. Bland, were sisters.

⁵⁵ AC 2-1, Attachment 3, is a photo of a woman named Scott or Keys. Jack Bland to Charles Bland, April 20, 1993, believes the woman is a grandmother of Catherine and thus probably Mary Gentry. Jack also believes Mary E. Cooper's maiden name was Wilkie. Bertha Dunn notes that Enoch F. Bland married Mary Wilkie on April 25, 1880. Bertha Dunn to Charles L. Bland, April 20, 1993. Jack Bland notes that Mary Wilkie may have been related to Charles Wilkie who

Enoch's children, all by Catherine Gentry, were: (a) Henry Bland (May 18, 1856 - December 10, 1935). Henry was a school teacher, photographer and an instructor in penmanship. He was born in Greene County, Smith town, and he died in Pattonsburg, Daviess County Missouri. He is buried at the Old Town Cemetery in Pattonsburg. In Micthell County Kansas on May 30, 1878, Henry married Emma Isabelle Owen (October 6, 1860 - November 11, 1924). Henry and Emma died at Pattonsburg Missouri and are buried in the Old Town Cemetery. They had twelve children.⁵⁶ (b) William Edward Bland (October 29, 1857 - November 8, 1884). William was born in Greene County. He married but no more is known of his family.⁵⁷; (c) James Shelton Bland (August 19, 1859-). James was born in Indiana. He married Ida E. Owens (C1864-), who also was born in Indiana, in Mitchell County Kansas, February 5 1884. I am pleased to display a photo of James Bland and Ida Owen on the following page; (d) Joseph Winfield Bland (February 23, 1861 -), married Maggie Owens, October 22, 1884 in Mitchell County; (e) Celia (November 10, 1862 -) Jack Bland indicates that she probably died as a child; (f) John Stephen Bland (May 17, 1867 -). John married Lillie M. _____ and they had two children. They later moved to Los Angeles California. John was close with his father. They operated a hotel business together and it is evident that after the death of his second wife, Enoch lived with John.

These are the only children listed in Enoch's Pension papers. Jack Bland concludes that the other children found in the 1880 census, L.W. a female (C1869-) and Julius (C1874-) may be children of Enoch's second wife.⁵⁸

married Nancy Bland in Greene County February 1, 1876.

⁵⁶ Ibid.

⁵⁷ I juxtapose here a record from the East Asher Cemetery in Cloud County Kansas, which shows W.E. Bland aged 27 years, 4 days. Bertha Dunn to Charles L. Bland, September 20, 1992. p. 24 and letter, Jack Bland to Charles L. Bland, December 15, 1992.

⁵⁸ If so, they must have been adopted by Enoch since they all have Bland names. Bertha Dunn to Charles L. Bland, April 20, 1993.



Photo: James Shelton Bland and Ida E. Owens
Courtesy of Jack Bland

C. Thomas Bland (C1789-1862) ⁵⁹ This man has no family historian and what little is known about him was found by Albert and Mildred Hunter and transmitted to the author. ⁶⁰ Thomas appears in Greene County as early as 1824. ⁶¹

Thomas married Sarah Thornton, (-1850) a Quaker, probably in North Carolina about 1814-1815. They left North Carolina about 1815 and by 1817 had moved into Orange County Indiana. In 1829, they bought a tract of land in Greene County near Bloomfield . . . "and built a log cabin in the thick forest." ⁶² By 1830, their household included three children, a male under 5, and a male and female, ages 10-15. Sarah died in 1850, and Thomas sold his farm and moved with his two younger children to Coles County, Central Illinois. Thomas married Dorcas Combs there on May 9, 1852. ⁶³ Of the three noted children of Thomas Bland and Sarah Thornton, we know nothing of the daughter. The older son probably was Jacob Bland (C1816-) ⁶⁴ who appears in the Greene County Indiana Census in 1850 in Richland township. ⁶⁵ He had a wife,

⁵⁹ VU, p. 335.

⁶⁰ Al and I visited the Pennsylvania State Library in August 1983 and found a book by Thomas A. Bland (1830-1908) Pioneers of Progress (1906). An introduction indicated that Thomas was the son of Thomas Bland and Sarah Thornton.

⁶¹ Jack Baber, Early History of Greene County Op. Cit. p. 9. See above, p.16, note 29.

⁶² Thomas A. Bland Pioneers in Progress, Op. Cit. Introduction.

⁶³ Ibid. The date of the second marriage of the elder Thomas is found in AC 3-1, p. 21.

⁶⁴ VU, pp. 340-341 and AC 1-1, pp. 4-6. The introduction to Thomas A. Bland's Pioneers of Progress indicates that his older brother stayed behind in Indiana as a farmer. This seems to fit Jacob perfectly.

⁶⁵ AC 1-1, p. 4

Elvira Hartley (C1819-) born in Indiana, whom he married December 22, 1836 in Greene County. ⁶⁶ They had six children, including: (a) Thornton Bland, (C1848-); (b) Mary Bland (C1850-); (c) Sarah Bland (C1852-); (d) Samuel Bland (C1854-); (e) Bersheba Bland (C1856-) ⁶⁷; (f) Rebecca Bland (C1859-). The name Thornton Bland seems to bind Thomas Bland and Sarah Thornton to Jacob Bland in a parent/child relation. ⁶⁸

The younger son was Thomas Augustus Bland, (May 21, 1830-January 3, 1908). ⁶⁹ In 1864, Thomas served a brief tour of duty as an Army surgeon for the Union. Thomas was an active Republican in his politics. He was a self educated man who after a boyhood in farming, became a physician and journalist. He founded The Indiana Farmer which was "the most popular journal in the west that is devoted to agriculture." and was co-editor of The Home Visitor. With his wife Mary, Thomas co-edited The Northwestern Farmer, from 1865-1871. On April 18, 1852, Thomas married Mary Cornelia Davis of Hitesville Illinois. ⁷⁰ She was born in Virginia and herself completed a degree in medicine. Thomas and Mary had no children and lived variously in Chicago, New York and Washington DC. ⁷¹ Although there is a sizeable list of Thomas publications, one Esau, or the Banker's Victim (1892) appears to be a thinly disguised biography of his father or brother.

A possible son of the elder Thomas Bland and Sarah Thornton is William Bland, who married Nancy Boswell in Coles County Illinois August 18, 1855. ⁷²

⁶⁶ Bertha Dunn to Charles Bland, April 20, 1993, suggest Elvira's family name was Hartley, per Greene County Marriage records.

⁶⁷ See above, under Jacob Bland (1779-1839).

⁶⁸ AC 2-1, pp. 7-8.

⁶⁹ For the date of Thomas Bland's death, see AC 2-2, pp. 33-34.

⁷⁰ Confirmation of the wedding date is found in AC 3-1, p. 21.

⁷¹ Baber, Op. Cit. p. 41

⁷² Earlier, AC 3-1, p. 21., I made the observation that this William Bland have been William Bland (C1787-), Thomas Bland's older brother. I have retracted this observation, see above, p. 17.

D. Francis Bland (C1790/1794-1833). Francis married Elizabeth Lane (C1790/1800 - 1861) from South Carolina in Orange County Indiana on January 7, 1819 (AC 1-1, pp.4,7). Francis and Elizabeth moved into Greene County Indiana, Highland township, about 1821. Francis and Elizabeth had eight children (VU, pp. 333-335), of whom information is known about only one:

(1) Simon Bland, (December 27, 1829 - October 15, 1898). By the time Goodspeed's History of Greene County was published in 1884, Simon was reckoned as one of the "substantial and prominent men in northern Greene County." He was also politically active as a Democrat.⁷³ Simon married Rachel Monk (September 29, 1829 - June 29, 1871)⁷⁴ a sister of Martha J. Monk (page 15 above) on May 18, 1851. Rachel and Simon had eight children: (a) "Muran" or Mourning Bland (C1852 -); (b) Margarette Bland (July 8, 1854 - October 5, 1890); (c) William H. Bland (November 12, 1856 - June 1, 1910); (d) Ferdinand Bland (e) Nancy Bland; (f) Granville Bland (July 11, 1863 -); (g) Mary S. Bland (1867-1869); (h) David F. Bland. The last five children were born after 1860 and of them, Ferdinand, Nancy A. Bland (March 13, 1865 -), Granville and Mary had all died by the time of Goodspeed's history in 1884. On August 3, 1873, Simon married the widow Lucinda Danely Owen, but there were no children by this marriage.

E. Henry Bland (C1791-1869) Henry's dates are gauged from the 1850 Census and the last entry found for him in Hendricks County Indiana appeared in 1869. Henry married Kesiah Tomlinson (C1798-) in Orange County Indiana, December 23, 1819. The 1850 Census for Hendricks County shows a family consisting of Henry, Kesiah, and three children. They also live adjacent to two Tomlinson households, one of whom is Jemima Tomlinson, a good candidate for Kesiah's mother. Both Henry and Kesiah show North Carolina as their birth place. By 1850, it is pretty certain that Henry and Kesiah's family making days would be over, and they showed the following children:

- (1) Kisiah Bland (C1833-).
- (2) Sarah A. Bland (C1835-).
- (3) James Bland (C1838-).

⁷³ AC 1-1, p. 7.

⁷⁴ These dates for Simon and Rachel are from the Wall Cemetery in Highland Indiana and were provided by Harold Shepherd, AC 3-2, p. 37.

This would not include older children born between 1820-1832. A clue to their identity was a James Bland (C1823-) and his wife Mary Susannah (C1826-) living nearby. James was probably a son, although surely this would mean that the younger James Bland (3) above, would be a grandson. Also living in this household was Thomas Bland, (C1829-), a son of Henry and Kesiah, and Elizabeth Bland (C1785-), possibly a sister.⁷⁵

Between 1819-1821, four Bland women were married in Orange County Indiana, a county formed in 1816 which lies just southeast of Greene County.⁷⁶ The Hunters as well as others, including me, have speculated that they may be the daughters of James Bland of Chatham County North Carolina. The fact that Thomas Bland and Sarah Thornton were in Orange County by 1817, that Joseph Bland (C1819-1863), a son of William Bland and Elizabeth McBain was born there, and that Henry and Francis, two of the five brothers, were married there during the same time span, (1819-1821) offers a powerful suggestion that the girls were in fact daughters of James Bland.⁷⁷ Other information suggests the possibility of a total of as many as seven daughters:

A. Mourning Bland (C1782-) Mourning was living with Francis Bland in 1830, suggesting that she could be his sister.⁷⁸

B. Elizabeth Bland (C1785-). This woman was found in the household of James Bland of Hendrick's County, living near Henry Bland and Kesiah Tomlinson. See above under Henry Bland, p. 30.

⁷⁵ AC 6-2, p. 7.

⁷⁶ AC 1-1, p. 7.

⁷⁷ It should be noted that if these girls were the daughters of James Bland they would have been born prior to 1799, and perhaps in at least one case prior to 1790, making her rather long in the tooth in those days in terms of marriageable women. On the other side of the ledger, it should be noted that the demand for women on the frontier, often compelled men to be less picky than when they were back east.

⁷⁸ VU, p. 333.

C. Mary Bland, who married Samuel Daughtery, November 5, 1819. What happened to Samuel and Mary is not certain. No Samuel Daughtery appears in the 1820 Census. Samuel Daughterys are found in the 1840 Census for Bartholomew and Vermillion Counties, Indiana. In the 1850 Census, a Samuel Daughtery is found in Spencer County Indiana while a Mary Daughtery is found in Huntington County Indiana.⁷⁹

D. Isabell Bland, (C1795/1804-) who married Felix Armstrong on March 29, 1820. Felix Armstong did not appear in the Indiana census for 1840. In 1860, there is an Isabella Armstrong in Boon Township, Warrick County Indiana.

E. Fanny Bland, who married Henry Leatherman, March 29, 1820. Henry Leatherman did not appear in the 1820 census. In 1840, a "widow" Leatherman was found in Marion County Indiana. No Henry or Fanny Leatherman was found.

F. Rachel Bland, who married Elisha Baldwin, March 13, 1821. Elisha Baldwin was in the 1840 Census of Greene County Indiana. By 1850 there were three separate entries in the census for Elisha and Rachel Baldwin. Mention of Elisha Baldwin is missing in the 1860 census, but Rachel Baldwin is found in the Wayne County Census.

G. Kissie Bland, probably born about 1800, was noted by one source as being among the first to attend school in Highland Township. Her position as a daughter of James Bland is speculative, since nothing is known of her except for a note in Baber's history.⁸⁰

Inasmuch as traces of sisters, Mary, Isabell, Fanny and Rachel appear in the 1850 and 1860 censuses, I would appreciate any information anyone has about the dates of birth listed, children and their dates, and place or origin.

⁷⁹ AC 6-2, p. 7, enlarges upon the information first noted in AC 1-1, p. 7, about Bland women who married in Orange County Indiana between 1819-1821.

⁸⁰ Jack Baber, Early History of Greene County Indiana, pp. 44-47.

OTHER BLAND FAMILIESEdward Bland (1786-1822) James River Blands

A new correspondent, Robert T. Werth of Bowling Green Ohio, has helped me to fit together the pieces of a little puzzle. It is about the man I believe is William Harwood Bland (1809-1889). Mr. Werth wrote me that his Bland connection was Jane Maria Bland, (1839-1887) who married Thomas Edward Clark in the late 1850s, probably in Washington D.C. Her parents were William H. Bland (1815-1889) and Margaret A. Brury (C1815-1883), both buried in the Congressional cemetery in Washington D.C. Inquiry into previous newsletters disclosed an 1850 census record for William H. Bland (C1809-) a moulder worth \$600., living with Margaret A. _____ (C1819-) in the household of James Berry (a variant of Bury or Brury) a blacksmith from Missouri. Listed among them was a daughter Jane (C1839-), Mary E. Bland, (C1841-), Anna V. Bland, (C1847-) and Charles W. Bland (C1850-). William, Margaret, and their children were all said to have been born in Washington D.C. There was another reference to William Harwood Bland (September 26, 1809 -), from Prince George County Virginia, a son of Edward Bland (1786-1822) and Delilah Walker (1791-1855). Though not much is known of this family, an old genealogical table shows that Edward may have moved to Washington D.C.⁸¹ Edward, in turn, was a son of William Bland, (1742-1803), an unlucky man of God and his third wife Ann Harwood. This Richard was the son of Richard Bland (1710-1776) of Revolutionary War fame and Ann Poythress.

The clincher to this connection is a death certificate filed in Washington D.C. for William H. Bland, in which the middle name is garbled but appears to be Howard or Harwood. The date of birth matches, (September 6, 1809 - June 2, 1889). More significantly, the death certificate states that William's father was born in Virginia and his mother in Maryland. There is a record in the 1850 census of Delilah Bland, age 50, residing in Baltimore County Maryland with a Sarah Davis, age 32. No one would fault Delilah for shaving a decade off her life when she talked to the census taker, who might have been hard of hearing anyway. Also, There is a Davis-Bland interconnection in this family, suggesting Sarah Davis may be a daughter of Delilah or perhaps even William's younger sister Sarah Bland (C1813-1888) who married, at least first, an Appleby in 1839.⁸²

⁸¹ AC 5-1, p. 21; AC 5-2, p. 9 and AC 7-2, pp. 32-33. Robert T. Werth to Charles L. Bland, March 12, 1993 and Robert T. Werth, Phone conversation with Charles L. Bland, May 3, 1993.

⁸² Ibid.

Thomas Bland of Randolph County North Carolina

In a previous number, I attempted to enlarge upon Thomas, showing that he was born between 1775/1778 and died after 1820. There are a string of traces in Randolph County North Carolina and Southern Indiana that suggest this life span for Thomas, and he was found in the records in Jackson County Indiana in 1820, with a household including himself, two males under 10; two females age 10-16 and one female under 10. No wife is mentioned. I argued previously that Thomas was a son of William Bland (C1751-1801).⁸³ Happily, a new subscriber, Phyllis Hurley, Seymour Indiana, has discovered further traces of Thomas Bland that add dimension to his life. Thomas married Ruth Huff sometime before 1829.⁸⁴

Phyllis found a census record of Thomas Bland living in Crawford County, Indiana in 1830, making it useful to compare the households of 1820, Jackson County (above) and 1830, Crawford County.

1830

1 male 50-60 (Thomas Bland)
1 female 40-50 (Ruth Huff)
1 male/1 female 20-30
2 male/1 female 15-20
1 female 10-15
1 male 5-10
2 males/1 female under 5

It seems likely that Ruth Huff would have been Thomas' second wife, since no wife was mentioned in the 1820 census. That would indicate that his first wife died before 1820 and the census of that year included children that were all his, whereas the 1830 census may have included a mixture of children belonging to Thomas and Ruth Huff (his, hers, theirs).

⁸³ AC 10-1, p. 27.

⁸⁴ Ruth Huff is identified by her maiden name in a deed discovered by Phyllis Hurley, July 31, 1829 in Crawford County Indiana. Ruth is identified as the daughter of Abraham Huff, who appears in the records of Spring Hill Township, Clark County Indiana Territory in 1809. Abraham Huff appears as a judge. Between 1809-1816, Abraham Huff is in Clark County, followed by Harrison and Jackson, both formed in part from Clark County. Information in Phyllis Hurley to Charles L. Bland, March 30, 1993.

One intriguing possibility suggested by Phyllis Hurley is that Abraham Bland, (1805-1871), a previously misplaced family member, could be a son of Thomas Bland.⁸⁵ Abraham was family number 103 in the 1850 census of Hendricks County Indiana, as opposed to Henry Bland (above, p. 30) who was family 117. Thus, Abraham showed a close living proximity with the Blands from Chatham County North Carolina. He married a cousin, Maria Bland, (1809-1869) eldest daughter of Moses Bland (C1772-1850) and Nancy Boaz of Randolph County North Carolina, in Jennings County Indiana May 21, 1831.⁸⁶ There were no Blands in the Crawford County census for 1840.

We are grateful to Phyllis Hurley for this new information. Phyllis descends from Jane Bland (March 2, 1806-February 1, 1886),⁸⁷ a daughter of Benjamin Bland (C1768-) and Ruth Blackford,⁸⁸ who was born in Randolph County North Carolina and married John Spaulding (C1808-), in Jennings County Indiana January 6, 1830. Both John and Jane Bland Spaulding were still living in March 1882.⁸⁹ They had five children: (1) James L. (C1831-); (2) Meredith (C1833-); (3) George W. (February 22, 1834-)⁹⁰; (4) John Franklin (C1840-) and Elizabeth (C1845-).

⁸⁵ AC 6-2, p. 6. The 1850 census shows Abraham Bland as a judge, like his possible grandfather Abraham Huff.

⁸⁶ AC 10-1, p. 21

⁸⁷ Phyllis Hurley followed an obituary of Jane Bland Spaulding to a cemetery in Seymour Indiana and found a tombstone in good shape which gave Jane's age as 79 years, 10 months and 29 days.

⁸⁸ Previously, Jane Midtby suggested that Ruth's name was Blackford, (AC 10-1, p. 33). A family group sheet provided by Jean Robertson, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, also identifies her as Blackford. Mr. Robertson is descended from Benjamin's daughter Martha Bland (1803-1891) who married a cousin Thomas Bland (C1804-1892), AC 10-1, p. 11.

⁸⁹ AC 10-1, pp. 35-36. Note that this source gives the marriage date as December 31, 1829. Letter, Phyllis Hurley to Charles L. Bland, March 30, 1993.

⁹⁰ George W. Spaulding is Phyllis Hurley's great grandfather. He married Barbara Elizabeth Stillinger, September 20, 1857.

James Bland (C1813-1880) and Lydia Shaver, Nelson County Kentucky and Greene County Indiana

James was the fifth child of Osborne Bland Jr. (C1774-1849) and Patsy Donahoo.⁹¹ It is known that he married Lydia Burch Shaver (C1810-1857) on December 18, 1836.⁹² I am pleased to display on the following page a photograph sent by Kenny Bland, Solsberry Indiana, which he claims is James Bland and Lydia Shaver. Pam Jones, Oaktown Indiana offers the opinion that this looks more like mother and son than husband and wife (Lydia evidently was several years older than James). If so, the woman in the photo might have been Patsy Donahoo. That would be a true find but would also place the photo at a highly questionable date of no later than 1847. The woman might also have been Osborne's second wife, Sally Kent Andrews, but in view of the circumstances surrounding Osborne's death, it seems unlikely that one of his sons would pose in a photo with old Sally. I would therefore incline to the idea that it is Lydia Shaver, absolutely worn out with child bearing and the cares of a woman's life on the frontier. I have received from Jean Engle, Sperry Oklahoma, new information about William J. Bland, James and Lydia's first child. William married Mary Skinner, (C1838-) about 1858 and had by her nine children, (marriages and births occurring in Indiana, probably Greene County:

1. Elsie V. Bland (C1859-) who married Alsaie Lyon.
2. Elvira Bland (May 1862 - 1939) Elvira is buried at Zion Cemetery, Linn Creek Missouri. She married William Stamper.
3. Anvern "Mack" Bland (C1864 -) Anvern is buried at Rose Hill Cemetery in Robinson Kansas. He married Mary Ann Hendricks.
4. Alice H. Bland (C1866-) married Bob Livingston and perhaps _____ Edwards.
5. Alvin E. Bland (C1867 - 1947) Alvin is buried at the Miller Cemetery, Everst Kansas. He married Minnie Delphine Snipe and Anna Shipman Hedrick.

⁹¹ VU, pp. 448-449 and AC 6-2, p. 15.

⁹² Pam Jones to Charles L. Bland, April 4, 1992, affirms that Lydia Burch married a Shaver before she married James Bland. After Lydia's death, James married Lydia Fuller, January 19, 1858, Greene County Marriage records, Bk F, P. 367.

6. Armeda Bland (September 5, 1868 - July 14, 1946) Armeda was born in Owen County Indiana and is buried at the Miller Cemetery, Robinson Kansas. She married Noah Frank Hedrick (September 1865 -). They had nine children including Dorothy Lillireane Hedrick (1907-1979), who married Lewis Anderson Moore and were the parents of my correspondent Jean Engle.

7. Minnie G. Bland (February 1871 -) married John Walton Jeffries.

8. Andrew M. Bland (C1874 - 1924) Andrew is buried at the Zion Cemetery in Linn Creek Missouri. He married Nancy H. _____.

9. Ira B. Bland (C1875 - 1931) Ira is buried at the Miller Cemetery, Everst Kansas.



James Bland and Lydia Burch Shaver
Courtesy Kenny Bland
See discussion on Page 35

A Story From Kentucky, Descendants of Charles Bland and Phyllis Pope

Previously, I wrote a brief essay about newly found descendants of this line, including Charles and Phyllis' grand son John Davis Bland (C1832-1887) and his son William Squire Bland (1869-1944). William Squire Bland and his wife Georgia Ann Conn had a family of four children including Nelson Duncan Bland (1903-1969).⁹³

⁹³ AC 9-2, pp. 34-35.

I came to know latter day descendants of this family by first corresponding with and then meeting Bob Cauble, Charlotte North Carolina, and subsequently Nelson Bland's daughter Patricia Bland Marsh and his widow, Evelyn Lashbrook Bland at the 1991 Reunion. After some discussion, Patricia, Evelyn and I decided that I would write the story of how Evelyn and Patricia were reunited with their son and brother Bob Cauble.¹⁰³ When he was a small boy, Bob Cauble had an imaginary friend named Charles. Why? Well, this is not a mystery story, so let us begin with clarity. On March 2, 1926, Evelyn Lashbrook Bland, who had married Nelson Bland on October 21, 1925, left an infant boy on the doorstep of Reverend Robert Boll in Louisville Kentucky. There was a note among the blankets wrapped around the baby, giving instructions on how to feed him and stating he had been left with reverend Boll because the parents wished him to be raised as a Christian. Reverend Boll, unable to keep the child, gave the baby to Wallace Cauble, another minister, and his

wife Mary. Mary Cauble had recently miscarried and was told it was unlikely she could ever have other children. Mary took the little boy to her heart. The baby was named Robert Wallace Cauble after Robert Boll and Wallace Cauble. Bob Cauble was told by his adoptive parents that he was "chosen". Although Cauble told a Charlotte North Carolina Observer writer John York that his adoptive parents were wonderful to him, like many adopted children, he wondered who his biological parents were. Time wore away, Bob went on to marry his wife Rebecca and had a family of seven children. More time, Bob and Rebecca saw their children grow to adulthood and presently they became grandparents. Only then, after years of searching and driven by his own curiosity and a desire to identify for his children their biological grandparents, did Bob discover the true story, that he was the baby left on the Boll's doorstep by Nelson and Evelyn Lashbrook Bland in March 1926.

¹⁰² AC 9-2, pp. 34-35.

¹⁰³ In writing this, I refer to two articles that appeared in The Charlotte Observer September 20, 1983 and April 15, 1992. Robert Cauble's adoptive mother died April 14, 1992, the day before the later article was published. Wallace Cauble is still living.

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Bob Cauble was told by his adoptive parents that he was "chosen". Although Cauble told a Charlotte North Carolina Observer writer John York that his adoptive parents were wonderful to him, like many adopted children, he wondered who his biological parents were. Time wore away, Bob went on to marry his wife Rebecca and had a family of seven children. More time, Bob and Rebecca saw their children grow to adulthood and presently they became grandparents. Only then, after years of searching and driven by his own curiosity and a desire to identify for his children their biological grandparents, did Bob discover the true story, that Nelson and Evelyn Lashbrook Bland were his lost parents who left him on the Boll's door step in March 1926.

In 1989, Bob Cauble returned to Louisville and a long time family friend almost casually told him he had always known Bob's biological father was Nelson Bland. Bob was stunned for he had known Nelson and Evelyn Bland since his childhood: they were among the Cauble's closest friends, Uncle Nelson and Aunt Evelyn to Bob. For the past six decades the families had stayed close, exchanging letters and greetings at Christmas, visiting and dining together.

⁹⁴ In writing this, I refer to two articles that appeared in The Charlotte Observer September 20, 1983 and April 15, 1992. Robert Cauble's adoptive mother died April 14, 1992, the day before the later article was published. Wallace Cauble is still living. I also was guided by letters from Patricia Bland Marsh, February 6, 1993 and Robert Cauble, February 13, 1993, and a phone conversation with Bob Cauble, May 4, 1993.

Bob returned to Louisville again in 1990 and talked to Evelyn Lashbrook Bland about what he had learned. Did she have any idea who his birth parents might be? "Maybe", Evelyn replied, but spoke nothing more. Bob engaged a genealogist who discovered the marriage date of Nelson and Evelyn, and that Evelyn had given birth to a son Charles Layman Bland some three and one half months later, about February 1926. The genealogist reasoned that Charles Layman Bland and Robert Cauble were the same man. On April 18, 1990, Bob Cauble and Evelyn Lashbrook Bland met at a restaurant in Louisville and Bob asked her again what she knew about his birth parents. Evelyn said "I guess I should tell you about that baby boy I wanted to keep but couldn't."

That little boy was me, right. . . And my real name is Charles Layman Bland."

Evelyn affirmed this information, assuming that Bob had known this all along. Actually, he had only just learned it after 64 years. Evelyn told Bob that she and Nelson Bland had been engaged for four years but hadn't married because of their father's bad health and because neither of them had any savings. When Evelyn knew she was pregnant, she and Nelson asked Wallace Cauble to marry them. The Caubles never realized Evelyn was pregnant and during sixty ensuing years, never knew that their adoptive son Bob was Evelyn's biological son. Subsequently Evelyn gave birth to a daughter Patricia Bland Marsh, who was a childhood playmate of Bob's as well as his unknown sister. Nelson Bland died in 1969. Evelyn has lived to see Bob enter a career, be married and she has become the grandmother to Robert's children and grandchildren. She also has lived far beyond the harsh censorship that would have befallen her had her secret been made known in 1926. Evelyn said "I've overheard women talk about people like me." So have I and to my ears she's pretty wonderful.

Bob uses the name Cauble regularly, except when he is doing Bland genealogy. Then he becomes Charles Layman Bland.

The Blands of Edgefield County South Carolina

During the past nine months I have received much interesting information about the children of Robert Bland (1732-1787) and his wife Anna _____, including Presley (1768-1839) and Elisha (1775-after 1837). Because of space limitations, I would like to hold discussion of new information on these two lines until AC 11-2 and ask the patience of those who were kind enough to submit the new information.

COUSINS IN SEARCH

There is some evidence that the Cousins actually do communicate as a result of this section of the newsletter. I would like to request that if you have information germane to the queries, you send me a copy of anything you send to the Cousin filing the inquiry.

I am still searching for the maiden name of the wife of Osborne Bland, (C1748-after 1820)? I am not convinced that she was the daughter of James Bland and Mary Buchannan.⁹⁵

Can anyone shed light on the identity of Bathsheba or "Barshaby" Bland, discussed above in the essay on Jacob Bland P. 13?

To Florida Cousins, can anyone locate Milton Wilson, The Bland Family of New Hanover and Duplin County North Carolina (Undated). Previously noted in VU, p. 201. The book is located in The Polk County Historical Library, Bartow Florida. I would like to know how large (number of pages) this book is, how much to copy if there are no hydra headed librarians guarding it and threatening the life of anyone who dares walk with it toward a copy machine.

Parents of **FREDERICK SHEPHERD (SHAVER)**, born in Virginia about 1796, died November 1865 in Greene County Indiana, Highland Township. His will was signed SHEPHERD but the undertaker had him as SHAVER and the county recorder had him as both SHEPHERD and SHAVER. He married Margaret OSBORNE about 1830. Their son Jessie Daniel SHEPHERD married Nancy Margaret POPE, daughter of Richard POPE and Nancy Richardson BLAND, grand daughter of Jacob Bland and Nancy Richardson. Any information should be sent to Harold R. Shepherd, 180 Palmer Drive, Fort Collins Colorado 80525-3714.

AMELIA KILLION BLAND (C1854-) who married William T. Bland (1847-1924) and divorced him about 1897-1900, (see above discussion). The last transaction found for her is a sale of property in Beloit, Mitchell County Kansas. T.C. Hulsey is searching for any new information about this woman.

DAVID BLAND Joyce Bland McCool, 11109 West 114th Street, Overland Park Kansas, 66210 is searching for any clues in and around Perry County Arkansas about a David Bland, which might be a reference to her Daniel Bland (C1784-1848)⁹⁶

⁹⁵ AC 6-2, p. 11

⁹⁶ AC4-1, pp. 30-32 and AC 6-2, p. 21.

DAVID LEIGH BLAND Loretta B. Oakley, 728 Brassie Club Drive, Rocky Mount North Carolina, 27804 is searching for David Leigh Bland, who received his mail at Staffordsville Virginia, and married Mary Elizabeth Sands of Giles County Virginia. David was the father of Estil Bland (April 19, 1876 -) of Whitegate, Giles County, who was the father of Charles Christopher Bland (December 9, 1901 -) Mrs. Oakley's father.⁹⁷

Betty Bland Lovvorn, 118 Caldwell Drive, Oak Ridge Tennessee, 37830, is searching for her long lost uncle, **RICHARD FURMAN BLAND** son of Noah Jonas Bland and Matilda Catherine Scoggins, (VU, pp. 532, 538A, 543). Richard was last seen by a friend who knew him in World War I. Betty would like to know what became of Richard.

And I would like to know what became of 1993. It seems just yesterday Buffalo was basking in the glow of snow and being three-peat Super Bowl Losers.

⁹⁷ AC 8-1, pp. 37-38.