

# Among

## THE BLAND FAMILY NEWSLETTER

# Cousins



Volume 2, Number 2

May 1984-November 1984

Dear Cousins:

This is the fourth number of "Among Cousins." As usual, genealogically this issue will introduce significant new information, answer some questions and raise others. I should first explain why the Newsletter is approximately one month late. The most significant cause of delay for me was the sudden death of my father on March 17, 1984, which left me indisposed for awhile. Also, I had to confront some demanding pressure from my work that delayed work on this issue. I hope you all will understand.

STEPHEN BOYD (TEX) BLAND, 1960-1983

All of us who have done research on our ancestors have surely found some who died in military combat. The National Archives are full of Blands who died on one or another war. We also know of instances in which we are unable to place any flesh and bones life upon these individuals. With that in mind, I have pursued the story of Stephen Bland since last October when I learned that he had been killed in action. Yet I could not have written the story without the contributions made by Rose Virginia

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

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

Charles L. Bland

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Watkins Bland, Stephen's mother and the unsparing efforts of Lenore Bland Brown of Fort Worth, Texas, who spoke to Mrs. Bland, collected much of the story that follows and sent me key newspaper clippings, including the story in the October 27, 1983 Fort Worth Star-Telegram that appeared as Attachment 14 (AC 2-1). I am also grateful to Marjorie Hartis of Lancaster, Texas for the news clippings she sent me, and especially to Lenora Brown of Eden, New York who by a dint of luck somewhat complicated to explain, retrieved the notes on Stephen's story that I had lost and returned them to me through Mrs. Brown of Fort Worth, Texas.

Stephen Boyd Bland was born in Denton, Texas on February 6, 1960, the son of Johnny James Bland (1918-1975) and Rosa Virginia Watkins Bland (1917- ), who moved to Texas in 1951 after living in Oktibbera and Webster County, Mississippi. Johnny James Bland was the son of Frank Martin Bland and Maude Frances Crowley of Mississippi and the grandson of John and Elizabeth Bland of Pheba, Mississippi. I have been unable to find the connecting link between this eldest John Bland and any of the family for which we have research. In Mississippi, Johnny James Bland had been a farmer. When the family moved to Denton, Texas he became a plumber. The family moved to Arlington, Texas in 1964 and Stephen attended Nichols Junior High there. During Stephen's high school years, the family moved to Mathison, Mississippi and Stephen graduated from the Mathison High School, where he lettered in football and baseball.

Following his graduation from high school, Stephen enrolled at Clarke College, Mississippi, where he played baseball. Little is said about Stephen's time at Clarke College. Following his death, the college granted Stephen an honorary degree in the humanities. The record as I have it is silent regarding the years 1979-1981. In January 1981, Stephen joined the National Guard. Unable to find work, he enlisted in the U.S. Marines in March 1981, where he seemed to find his niche. During his Marine career, Stephen, who came to be known as "Tex" earned the rank of Lance Corporal. His mother commented that "he went into the Marines a boy and came out of Basic Training a man. He was a Marine through and through." His Congressman, Tom Vandergriff, (D., Texas), similarly called Stephen a "Marine's Marine." Here I must interject that although I do not subscribe to the notion of a family physical resemblances, "Tex" is, in both pictures I have seen of him, the twin image of my first cousin Carl Thomas Bland (1932-1964), also a marine. Stephen was assigned to the 24th MAU, Detachment M; Battalion 1/8 WBNS Company, 81st Platoon. Although information is not clear, Stephen apparently was stationed at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, where he met Ruthanne Hamilton and married her on January 15, 1983.



STEPHEN BLAND

Stephen was a big husky man, over six feet tall, who, so they say, liked to pick up the front end of Plymouth Dusters (I once had a Duster that I would gladly have had Tex pick up and throw in the river). He was a meat and potatoes man who disliked liver, quiche and Jello (too quivery and shaky, I'll bet). His wife described him as only a woman can, as a man who swung open a bar door one night and strolled in wearing cowboy hat and boots and walked away with her breath, her heart and the whole damned ball of wax. His wife described him as somewhat romantically jealous, overprotective. Long range plans were that after Stephen's discharge the family, including two children of Ruthanne's by a former marriage, would move to some far back rural southern spot, "so far back the mailman wouldn't be able to find us." But the marriage was brief, for in

May, 1983 Stephen Bland shipped out to Lebanon, where he was killed Sunday morning, October 23, 1983 in a terrorist bombing of a marine barracks. For his service and his patriotic sacrifice, Stephen "Tex" Bland was awarded posthumously the Purple Heart, Marine Corps. Expeditionary Medal for Lebanon, the Good Conduct Medal for service between May 1982 and October 1983 and the Sea Service Deployment Ribbon. Stephen's life and service were memorialized by the Mississippi House of Representatives concurrent resolution #26, February 13, 1984. Stephen's mother spoke the universal lament of all parents who have to bury a child: "You don't ever get over losing a child," but took heart from her son's determination. "He always wanted to be the best...He wanted to be patriotic." On October 23, 1983, "Tex" Bland gave his patriotic best.

#### BRUCE STEVEN BLAND, 1922-1984

My father, Bruce Steven Bland, was born June 27, 1922 at Cliffside in Rutherford County, North Carolina. On March 17, 1984, aged 61, he suffered a massive heart attack at his home in Wilson, North Carolina and died before the day was out.

As I made the soulful journey back to North Carolina for Dad's burial, I remembered a very special week during a very special summer, 1979, that I spent alone with Dad. He and I travelled the entire Eastern side of North Carolina that week, from his home in Wilson to Charlotte, to Wilmington and back to Wilson. We visited old relatives, and talked endlessly about our past lives and memories. It was at about this time when the idea of writing what became A Vision of Unity had begun to incubate in my mind. It had occurred to me that many in Dad's generation were dying and taking to the grave with them many precious memories of older generations. It was imperative for me to develop an oral history file of their lives and memories. Much of that week was devoted to taping the thoughts of older relatives and during the process I spent many hours in taping Dad's recollections of his past life. Free from the tempering influence of nearby listeners, Dad was unusually frank and deliberate in what he said. As the sessions wound down, I told Dad that as part of a big historical project I was going to write his biography one day, that I would try to write it honestly and compassionately, striving to avoid false or simplistic impressions, trying never to pass judgement upon a man who had lacked the advantage of hindsight as he lived his life. It was my goal to elicit from the information he had given me the passions, trials, failures, triumphs, growth of a life being lived.

In North Carolina last March there was scant opportunity for such an undertaking, which was inappropriate for the moment anyway. I was immersed in an emotional maelstrom of relatives who for the most part, far from seeking to understand Dad, were determined to enshrine him as a Christian saint. Now Dad was admittedly a Baptist all his life, though a fairly modest Christian. He was widely travelled, had seen a lot of the world and had developed a tolerant, cosmopolitan style. He recognized that Christian piety and the best values of Christianity were not the sole monopoly of the Baptist faith and realized, I think, that the well-fed faces who appeared at church on Sunday morning in their sartorial splendor were not the only adherents to piety and good works. Certainly,

1. In many ways, the impetus to write A Vision of Unity derived from Dad, who was anxious for me to take up the work his brother Berry had begun. Dad was always a fervent supporter of the project, giving both his emotional and financial support.
2. Cf, VU, pp. 563-585, esp. 579-581. The first printing of VU (March 1982) contained a lengthy final chapter about the descendants of my great grandparents, Berry Elsey Bland and Martha Greene Bland. This chapter was truncated for all later editions.

he never forgot Christ's admonition in Matthew 6: 5-7. Luckily, in all this emotional melee - undoubtedly I was a participant - I found a calm and rational person, an engaging young Baptist minister who sat down with me, with the family, to gather anecdotes about Dad. He seemed to realize that sainthood did not suit Dad very well, and in his eulogy that followed, he wove the information given him into a very forthright and generous eulogy. Yet eulogy it was. The minister purposed to inter Dad, not to understand him. So I shall try my hand at this, the story of my father, Bruce Bland, as he lived his life.

Bruce Bland was the youngest of ten children born to Thomas Bunyan Bland and Margaret Delena Kirby. By the time Dad was born, his parents were middle aged, which turned out to be both a liability and a benefit to Dad. All of his children speak of Bunyan with love tinged by fearful respect. A product of his culture, Bunyan could be harsh in his ways. True to his values, Bunyan believed in mutual obligations between parents and children in which the strength and endurance of the family was paramount. These values, enforced by a younger, physically stronger man, laid a different set of imperatives before Bunyan's older children than for Dad. By the time of Dad's halcyon days, he was a Golden Gloves Boxer, aged sixteen or seventeen, young, lean and hard and with a mean streak in him.<sup>3</sup> Bunyan on the other hand, had become stooped with age, had cataracts in his eyes and was hard of hearing. He was physically unable to control Dad as he had the older children. Dad rebelled against what he called Bunyan's "dictatorship." He loved to regale listeners with the story of how when he traded Bunyan's mule for a shotgun, the old man started to whip him. Dad, as he avows, calmly and in a clear voice predicated by an expression of love, told his father that no one was going to take a stick



Bruce Steven Bland, age 16, 1938

3. Dad once saved my life by giving me a direct blood transfusion in a doctor's office. He had just told the doctor that if I died, he would kill the doctor. The old doctor, doing his professional best, saved me in spite of Dad's threat.

to him unless he was a better man. Startled, Bunyan backed down. In other ways also, Dad rebelled, most significantly by marrying my mother.

Then there was education. Some of Dad's older siblings broke away from Bunyan's iron hand by marriage, others by more or less successful attempts at education. Bunyan's daughters in particular were deeply influenced in their educational values by their grandmother, Martha Greene Bland (1849-1935). By the time Dad reached adolescence however, Martha was dead, so my father learned no lessons from his wise grandmother. Significantly, he had no meaningful memories of her. At best, his parents were indifferent to the value of education, and at worst were cruelly hostile to it. This negative attitude must have influenced Dad. He could remember only one teacher that he identified with. Then too, when he was thirteen, Dad's brother John Carroll Bland (1916-1935) died. Carroll's death, emotionally draining, also severed a valuable transportation link between Dad and the school he attended which was about five miles away, because Carroll drove the school bus. At about the same time, Dad had to take on the responsibility of driving Bunyan to and from work because of Bunyan's weakened hearing and eyesight. So there were many negatives that discouraged Dad from seeking further education, and only one positive that, had it been properly nourished, might have turned his life around:

In his own words, Dad had an "insane, unmanageable desire" to fly airplanes. His father took him to an air show near Charlotte, North Carolina when he was a small boy<sup>4</sup> and Dad dates his love of aircraft from that point. Dad spoke wistfully of long ago hot summer days when he could stand in the yard of his farm home and watch an airplane slowly approach, glide overhead, disappear against the far horizon, and dreamed that one day he would fly an airplane. He told Bunyan that he wanted to be a pilot when he grew up. Drolly, Bunyan told Dad that if he'd work hard until he was sixteen, Bunyan would give him the money to learn to fly, a promise that was never kept. Rather, Dad took odd jobs at the small airports in Charlotte and Gastonia when he was 15 or 16. An old pilot took him up for flights around the county and Dad learned to fly that way. He was young and had tasted the wild blue yonder. Intermittently, he worked for one of the New Deal's Alphabet Soup agencies, the CCC, and he was passionately in love with a beautiful young woman, Frances Faires.

It was a critical juncture for Dad and the decisions he made set in train developments over the next decade that haunted him in some ways for the rest of his life. Dad must have reckoned upon the value of an education for as desperately in love as he was with my mother, they had discussed marriage in terms of waiting until they were twenty-one and their educations were complete.<sup>5</sup> At this point, Dad might have drifted away from Mom, and opted for education. But he didn't. Smitten by love, surely not the first, he married my mother on July 8, 1939. I arrived a year later and to support his new family, Dad drifted from the bare wages of the CCC into the local cotton mill, taking a job as a tying machine operator for \$11 per week take home pay. His wings were clipped. He was earthbound! Among his parents and siblings, however, there was always a strong ambivalence about the life of a mill hand. It was well-founded for the numbers

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4. My mother told me that one of my first sentences was "Daddy 'fy' airplane in Texas." Though there was no conscious encouragement to emulation, nothing pleases Dad's grandson, Thomas Eliot Bland, than to go to Buffalo International Airport and watch the jetliners take off and land. Ironically, Tommy's first flight of which he has a memory, was March 18, the day we flew to North Carolina for Dad's funeral.

5. The implications for me are admittedly metaphysical.

of burned out old men and women, lint-haired and mortally afflicted with brown-lung disease, their entire lives consumed by the company, was legend. Dad was determined that it wasn't going to happen to him. At an older brother's insistence, early in 1941 he went to Jackson, Tennessee to learn a carpenter's trade, came home after a few months to work in the mill again, and in June 1942, joined the U.S. Army Aviation Cadets. What slight advantage he had in knowing the rudiments of flying a small aircraft were swept away by the technological expertise that was demanded of combat pilots. Dad simply could not compete. During the next three years he moved from the Cadets into the Army Glider Corps and became a trained aircraft mechanic, receiving an honorable discharge in December 1945 with the rank of Staff Sergeant. To the frustrations borne of these failures were added the strains caused by long separations from my mother. Though my parents lived together until early 1950, the seeds of dissolution were sewn during the war years and were irreparable. These pressures were funneled into the transient nature of wartime Army life, which embodied a fatalistic kind of hedonistic living. It should not be surprising that during this period, Dad began to drink heavily. The drinking continued for thirty years, compounded by his own somewhat cavalier treatment of the problem, the particular work culture of the automobile business world to which he belonged in the 1950s and 1960s and his ceaseless, unmitigated failure to find peace and happiness in this world. By the 1960s certainly, Dad had become an extremely difficult person to abide and at times he was obnoxious and unpleasant, though these dark threads were always interwoven with a bright thread of being in which he was very charming, understanding and solicitous.

Dad and my mother were divorced July 28, 1952 and on October 19, 1952 Dad married Mary Bolick Downs (1926- ), a young woman who had been raised in bucolic Pender County, North Carolina. Mary persisted with Dad until the end and it should be said of her, as of my mother, that she gave much of her life to a man who was not uniformly easy to live with.

Dad liked to say that he had done well for an old country boy, and he said it in that down home spirit of having started poor as Job's Turkey and made it. Indeed he did, and it was about this time, 1950-1954, that his career star began to rise. Between 1946-1949 Dad had worked as an aircraft mechanic in Charlotte and for pleasure and modest profit he flew small aircraft, including a Steerman Bi-Plane which was the vehicle of my maiden flight. If I am not mistaken, Dad's last flight involved an emergency night landing on a highway near Hickory, North Carolina. Chastened perhaps, Dad gave up flying and started work as a salesman for an automobile parts concern. Between 1952-1954 Dad worked for then Nash Motors as a company representative, travelling the width and breadth of North Carolina. At age 32, Dad was laid off because of the company's reorganization into what is now American Motors. Within the year, he began work as a "District Manager" for The Oldsmobile Division of General Motors. In this capacity he was a company representative to individual dealers, monitoring orders and sales, advising and guiding dealers. Here he found his niche. He worked with Oldsmobile from about 1955-1970 and his success was affirmed by his superiors, who named him "Man of the Year" in 1965, though my tape is unclear regarding the scope of his competition. Economically and materially Dad prospered during these years, but the work, which entailed constant travel, took its toll of him physically and emotionally. He once complained bitterly to me that his life was a series

6. Characteristically, Dad never gave up anything entirely. He kept a commercial pilots license all his life and surprised his son Steven one weekend by taking him for a brief spin in a rented aircraft.

of comings and goings from motels.<sup>7</sup> In 1969-1970 and again in 1975 Dad attempted to break the cycle by going into partnerships for a private automobile dealership, but in both cases he failed. In the first instance, Oldsmobile restored him to his job, but at length Dad got a more lucrative position with Toyota, living in Raleigh, North Carolina and Tampa, Florida. Ultimately, his long experience paid off with a position in the then fledgling company, Subaru Atlantic. In 1976, Subaru examined Dad's credentials and found that his 25 plus years' experience in the automobile business, specifically in North Carolina, with intimate ites to and knowledge of dealerships and personalities in the state, and a reputation for reliability and excellent work, made him just the man for a job. Subaru hired Dad, assigned him North Carolina, and Dad remained on the job for the rest of his life. Dad's experience and work was a key factor in the company's expanded volume in North Carolina. I was indeed pleased to see not only his manager and colleagues from Subaru but friends and associates from all walks of the automobile industry in attendance at his funeral.

Dad's life turned around for twelve bright and shining years, 1971-1983, for him and for those he loved and who loved him. It happened when he acknowledged he was an alcoholic and he stopped drinking.<sup>8</sup> Dad became a much happier, more coherent and purposeful man. It is arguable, for instance, that an unreliable fifty-four year old alcoholic could not have made the new start with Subaru that Dad accomplished in 1976. During this twelve year interlude, 1971-1983, many sweet rewards came Dad's way. His mastery of the bottle transformed him. Had he done nothing else, this triumph of personal growth entitled him on March 17, 1984 to march, in the words of Yeats' poem, "Proud, open-eyed, laughing to the tomb."

Certainly Dad remained difficult at times, perhaps more so for those who lived with him. But, in these years he reclaimed his naturally jocular and laughing good humor,<sup>9</sup> he was understanding, empathetic, conciliatory, gentle, generous and positively outreaching. My younger brother Tom remarked to me that during these years he became acquainted with a friend in Dad that he had never known before. I agree.

I was somewhat truculently slow to grasp Dad's outstretched hand of friendship. I had known too much past pain. He seemed unreceptive, even hostile to my adult experiences which I felt were incomprehensible to him. Two people nudged me toward the realization that Dad wanted to be my friend, to honestly know me better. The first was my good friend and cousin C.B. "Hap" Bland (1909-1981) with whom Dad had reached an uneasy reconciliation in the early 1970s. Most important, however, was my wife Mary Jane Migliore,<sup>10</sup> who saw in my father and impressed upon me his bright qualities, qualities that too often were overlooked by others close to him, including myself.

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7. With characteristic humor, tinged with irony, Dad recalled that during his service years he had bootlegged liquor and cigarettes from a motel. God, he laughed, must have punished him by sentencing him to the life of a traveling salesman. Because of Dad, I have gained an extra measure of Willy Lowman's despair in Arthur Miller's Death of a Salesman.

8. Those close to Dad hold varying opinions about why he gave up alcohol. Perhaps all our opinions contain a particle of the whole truth, which Dad took with him to the grave.

9. Dad was fond of telling outlandish and hilariously distorted stories. His initials were B.S.

10. On my wedding day, my brother Steve said, "You aren't going to back out are you?" Dad, who had seen me slip through other knots, chuckled and growled, "If he does, I'll kick his ass between his shoulders." I was not one to cross a former Golden Gloves man.

In these last years, Dad and I became good friends. He was, in fact, one of the best I ever had. Through my marriage, Dad was blessed with two grandchildren, Christina Louise (1978- ) and Thomas Eliot (1981- ).<sup>11</sup> As these two beautiful children brought stability and continuity to my life, so too they cemented my friendship with Dad. He enjoyed his grandchildren immensely, with a protean vitality that I never fully comprehended. In these last years, Dad helped me through sometimes unsolicited but always friendly and useful advice, to become a better father and husband and to show more patience and understanding for those I love. During five years, between 1978 and 1982, Dad always spent Christmas with his grandchildren.

Dad's truce with the bottle was fragile at best and in the fall of 1983 he lapsed back into his old habits.<sup>12</sup> Jane and I did not hear from him for months, then only to hear he would not spend Christmas with us. After the New Year, there was another long period of puzzling silence that was broken only by his wife's call on March 17.

Thus did my father live the sixty-one years that was his allotment. As the pall bearers closed his casket and wheeled it away, I found my mind drifting back to a night long ago when I awoke screaming from a nightmare and Dad rushed into my bedroom to cradle me in his strong arms until I stopped trembling. Knowing I would never again feel his strong embrace, I was like the singer in the old folk ballad, I could not hide my sorrow when they carried my Daddy away. Yet I rejoice for him. Dad's sister Sarah said to me that all through his life Dad had never found peace. Rest in peace Dad.

#### Library Placements

This has been a banner period for contributions to key libraries by our cousins. Special note should be made of two contributions of A Vision of Unity by John Bland Mobley to the D.A. Tompkins Memorial Library, Edgefield, South Carolina and to The South Caroliniana Library, University of South Carolina, Columbia, South Carolina.

Marjorie Bland Sayles of Abilene, Texas donated a copy of A Vision of Unity to The Scarborough Genealogical Library, which is part of the Jay-Rollins Library of McMurry College in Abilene. Marjorie Bland Sayles is the current president of the John Hudnall Chapter of the Daughters of 1812. She will place a chapter bookplate in the Scarborough library's copy of A Vision of Unity upon which will be inscribed, "Presented to the Scarborough Genealogical Library by Marjorie Bland Sayles in loving memory of her father and grandfather, Robert Lafayette Bland (30 July 1879-15 August 1960) and John William Carroll Bland (16 January 1858-1 December 1946)."

Marian Daniels of San Benito, Texas donated a copy of the book to The Illinois State Library, Springfield, Illinois.

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11. See attachment I.

12. Those close to Dad hold varying opinions about why he lapsed back into drinking. Perhaps all of our opinions contain a particle of the whole truth which Dad carried with him to the grave.



Bruce S. Bland, my Father, (1922-1984) with Christina Louise Eland and Thomas Eliot Eland (Inset).



Lina Burnett Moore of Pittsboro, North Carolina donated a copy of the book to The Pittsboro Memorial Library. Such contributions are extremely useful and I'm sure I speak for everyone in expressing gratitude for the generosity of the donors. Remember, a library donation is tax deductible. Also, copies of the book were purchased by the Wisconsin State Historical Society, Madison, Wisconsin and The John Grant Crabbe Memorial Library, Eastern Kentucky University, Richmond, Kentucky. Finally, a copy of the book was purchased for use by the Virginia Book Company, Stuart Brown, Jr., President, 114 South Church Street, Berryville, Virginia 22611. Note is made here of Virginia Genealogies, 2 volumes, a valuable genealogical compendium published by the Virginia Book Company. For more information write to Mr. Brown.

#### Next Printing of A Vision of Unity and Among Cousins

I will fill the next batch of outstanding orders for A Vision of Unity by October 31. Payment of \$64.95 for personal copies or \$54.95 for copies to be placed within libraries should reach me by October 1. When copies of the book are placed within libraries, I will furnish copies of "Among Cousins" to that library, gratis.

The next issue of "Among Cousins" Volume 3, Number 1, will be out by November 30, 1984. Presently there are 96 subscribers to Volume II. Some are active researchers, others interested in reading the Newsletter for its own sake (though plowing through all those names surely can't be that thrilling) and some are simply passive supporters of the group's work. Either way, I hope the present 96 will continue and that others also will join. I will send out notices in September and October. Some have already subscribed to Volume III and obviously it would be appreciated if many of you would honor this as your first reminder to renew.

An Index, At Long Last Thank God, we are blessed by having a new and energetic researcher, Edith Lanning of Ocala, Florida, who has volunteered to develop an index of Vision of Unity and Among Cousins for us. It will be one of the most positive strides forward the group has made since the project began. Bless you Edith.

Move Over Beatrice Bayley Courtesy of Edith Lanning of Ocala, Florida I have received a sample of a mailing that is making the rounds: "Finally, after months of work, my new book, 'The Complete Registry of the (Your name) in America' is ready for printing and you are in it!" The letter is headed Halberts, Inc., 3699 Ira Road, Bath, Ohio 44210. It is signed by Sharon Taylor. Wow! Mover over Beatrice Bayley, send Tchaikovsky the news! Caveat Emptor!

#### ODDS AND ENDS

Peregrine Bland Peregrine, the mysterious loner of 17th Century Virginia, flashed across our pages (VU, pp. 240-243), the better to explain his irrelevancy to our quest. I noted that Peregrine died in 1650 by drowning. Well, courtesy of Mr. L.P. Bland of Wakefield, Virginia, I have a copy of an inquest into Peregrine's death which is cited in the Lower Norfolk Order Book, 1646-1651, Folio 41. It says that

Peregrine died in his sleep on June 11, 1647. Although details are not clear, it seems unlikely that he would have drowned in his sleep. Rather, he seems to have died underneath a tree, as the members of the inquest noted:

...he was not sensible of death when it came upon him...we are rather induced to this opinion because that as he was sleeping soe he was found dead with his eyes and his mouth closed and other parts of his body lying after the same manner as they were when he was sleeping, and a grinne of satisfaction marked his countenance.

Yea, verily, I have it: Peregrine was a Puritan who had just discovered the rapture and joy that flowed to Puritans when they attained God's grace. Either that or he had just passed the night in the arms of a beautiful woman and was recuperating. What do you think?

### Reuben, Reuben

There was a man named Reuben Bland who lived in a shoe and had so many children he didn't know what to do. Courtesy of Vera Bland from Pasadena, Texas, I have received an article in the Literary Digest, February 12, 1921, which tells of Reuben Bland of Robersonville, North Carolina who was the father of thirty-four, yeah, 34 children. Before you women run for the smelling salts you may take some consolation that two wives produced this brood, 15 by the first one and 19 by the second. Reuben was born in 1856 and his second wife, to her misfortune, was 19 years his junior. By the time of the interview in 1921, Reuben had a sense of humor just slightly better than Herbert Hoover's. A spinster wrote to him subtly hinting that if his wife died, Reuben would know where to look. Reuben, perhaps sensing that another 15 to 20 children could lay waiting behind this proposition, told the woman she was nuts. Still another man complained bitterly to Reuben about his wife's apoplexy. It seems that when he found the story of Reuben's achievement in a Des Moines newspaper, he read it aloud to his wife and seven children. That night the children prayed fervently for 34 brothers and sisters to play with. The man's wife, who believed in the power of prayer, fell into a dead faint on the spot. The writer complained to Reuben "My wife won't hardly speak to me, altho, goodness knows what I've done." That was the lady's point. I bet she knew what he wasn't going to do.

### The Bland Family Groups

The Title of my book A Vision of Unity remains more a "vision" than a reality, for as of this number of the Newsletter, there are no less than 24 identifiable family groups. these include the two basic and still major families of Blands and others, possibly connected to them, but for whom no concrete evidentiary connection has been made. The family groups appear below, and the index of subscribers which appears following page is keyed to these groups:

1. Theodorick Bland of Charles City County Virginia, (1629-1671) (VU, pp. 68-69, 91-190).
2. James Bland of Stafford County, Virginia (1655-1708), (VU, pp. 198-204, 155-166).
  - A. William Bland (1682-1774), (VU, pp. 267-275)
    - (1) James Bland (1704-1774), (VU, pp. 275-342; AC 1-1, pp. 3-6; 1-2, pp. 4-6; 2-1, pp. 5-8)

- (2) Moses Bland (1718-1799/1800), (VU, pp. 342-363; AC 1-1, pp. 7-8; 1-2, p. 18; 2-1, pp. 9-11)
- (3) Thomas Bland (C1719-1788), (VU, pp. 367-390)
- B. James Bland (C1687-1756), (VU, pp. 401-403)
- (1) Benjamin Bland (C1724-1771), (VU, pp. 403-415; AC, 1-2, p. 22)
- (2) Arthur Bland (C1725-1763), (VU, pp. 415-416)
- C. John Bland (C1688-1762), (VU, pp. 417-426)
- X. (Parents unknown but evidentiary ties to 2):
- (1) Robert Bland (1708-1760), (VU, pp. 484-524; AC 1-1, pp. 10-13; 1-2, pp. 20-21; and 2-1, p. 15)
- (2) John Bland (C1725-1795), (VU, pp. 420-463; AC 1-1, pp. 8-9; 1-2, pp. 7-13; 2-1, pp. 11-13)
- (3) John Bland (Washington, Ky.), (VU, pp. 463-477; AC 1-1, pp. 6-7; 1-2, pp. 13-18; 2-1, pp. 13-15)

### Other Families

- \*3. Allen Bland ( ), (VU, p. 415; AC 1-2, p. 25)
4. Elijah Bland of Dallas County, Alabama (1798- ), (Ac 2-1, pp. 16-19)
5. George Bland (C1772) of Edgefield County, S.C. (VU, p. 494 N. 2)
6. George Bland (C1737-1797) of Pitt County, N.C. (AC 1-1, p. 15; 2-1, pp. 22-24)
7. Harrison Bland of Quitman County, Georgia (1819-?), (AC 1-2, p. 22)
8. Hiram Dow Bland of Saline County, Arkansas (VU, pp. 350-352; AC 1-1, p. 14; 1-2, pp. 24-25)
9. John Bland of Toronto Gore, Ontario Canada (1791-1878), (AC 1-2, p. 26; 2-1, pp. 24-25)
10. John Bland of Greenwood County, Kansas (1833-?), (VU, p. viii, N. 1)
11. Lewis Bland (C1799-?) of Shelby County, Ohio (AC 1-2, pp. 3, 25)
12. Reuben Bland of Wayne-Pulaski County, Kentucky (VU, pp. 479-483; AC 1-1, p. 9; 1-2, p. 26; 2-1, p. 24)
13. Richard Percival Bland (C1700-1737) of St. Helena, S.C., (VU, p. 494, N. 2)
14. Richard Bland (C1730-?) of Prince William County, Virginia (VU, pp. 396-398)
15. Samuel Bland (1700-?) of Mecklenburg County, Virginia (VU, pp. 586-590 - 1st issue; pp. 547-552 - 2nd issue; AC 1-1, p. 15; 2-1, p. 24)
16. James Bland (1780-1829) of Hardin County, Kentucky (VU, pp. 478-479)
17. Talton Bland (C1795/1800-1880), (AC 1-1, p. 13)

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\* Several Allens have popped up so this may be several family groups.

18. Thomas Bland of Pendleton County, Virginia (C1740-1826), (VU, pp. 398-399)
19. Thomas Bland (C1772) of Martin County, N.C. (AC 1-2, p. 27)
20. William Bland of King and Queen County, Virginia (C1725-1783), (VU, pp. 393-396; AC 1-2, pp. 26-27; 2-1, pp. 19-22)
21. William Bland of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (??-1804), (VU, pp. 365-366; AC 1-1, p. 8; 1-2, pp. 25-26)

#### MISSING LINKS

Readers of the above will immediately be struck by two significant revisions in major family relationships having to do with Robert Bland (C1708-1760) and John Bland (C1725-1795) (Cf Par. 2X (1 e 2)). Heretofore, I have lodged these two men within specific assumed family lines without having final proof for it. Arguments continue against my construction and final answers have not been discovered. Both of these men have strong evidentiary ties to the Northern Virginia Family but final proof of their parentage has not been discovered.

#### John Bland (1725-1795)

John's marriage to Margaret Osborne, his death in Nelson County, Kentucky in 1795 and his strong ties to the Virginia family is discussed in VU, pp. 419-430. In the last issue of AC 2-1, pp. 11-12, I discussed a new document that turned up naming John Bland administrator of the estate of John Bland, deceased, on November 7, 1763. This document made a compelling argument for traditionalists who believe that John who died in Nelson County, Kentucky in 1795, moving there from Virginia about 1781, was the son of John Bland (C1688-1762).

The initial excitement with this discovery did not long survive, however, because in the same issue new information turned up that there was a John Bland, husband of Rachel Bland of Washington County, Kentucky, the widow who went to Kentucky about the same time as John of Nelson, and for whom there were close geographic and blood ties between Kentucky-Virginia.

Marian Daniels of San Benito, Texas made a compelling argument to me that John Bland, newly discovered husband of Rachel Bland, is the self same person who was appointed administrator of John Bland's (1688-1762) estate November 7, 1763. Marian's argument was not given sufficient credit in the last number of the Newsletter. Briefly, she argues that on June 7, 1762, when the elder John's widow Patience Bland and nephew Edward G. Watkin were named executors and bondsmen of his estate, the younger John was a minor. He would not have been legally able to participate in the earlier transaction but if he were born about 1742, could have been named administrator in the 1763 transaction. Marian further reasons that to have had a son Rolly who fought in the Revolution (there was a Rolly who fought in the Revolution) and a daughter Prudence who was born in 1767 (AC 2-1, pp. 13-14), John (C1742-?) and Rachel (?-1799) would have married about 1763-1764. Marian believes that John Bland of Nelson County,

Kentucky is the son of William Bland (C1682-1744),<sup>1</sup> the strongest evidence to support such a conclusion is that John passed on to his son Osborne Bland in 1776, 100 acres of land that was part of a 312 acre tract purchased in 1742 by William Bland (C1682-1744, cf VU, p. 271, N. 2 and 422, N. 1). I have repeatedly stated why I am not convinced by Marian's arguments and have stated my own opinions regarding the traditionalist position. In the final analysis, however, neither Marian nor I can prove our beliefs. Thus in the above family construction I have listed him as one of the X factor persons.

#### Robert Bland (C1708-1760)

In VU, pp. 484-489, I made the argument that Robert Bland of Loudon County, Virginia who died in 1760, was the son of James Bland (C1655-1708) and posed Robert's approximate dates at C1703-1760. This was a risky undertaking, grounded on the overwhelming evidence that there was a Robert Bland who was an adult in the Prince-William County area by 1735, who had a significant number of interchanges with persons close to the Prince William family. Yet my assumption also flew in the face of compelling legal evidence, specifically a land transaction by David Bland in 1774 in which he stated in language quite specific to James Bland's will of 1708 that James' son Robert died without issue. After long soul searching and deliberation, I have concluded that I must reconstitute this particular line and iterate that among the four sons of James Bland (C1655-1708), only three married and had descendants. They were William (C1682-1744), James (C1687-1756) and John (C1688-1762). There were possibly two adult Robert's in Prince William County by 1735, the son of the elder James and the Robert who died in Loudon County, Virginia in 1760. Or possibly, the son of James died before 1735 and all the legal references from 1735 onward are to Robert of Loudon County. Robert of Loudon County had a son Edward born C1730, so in fixing his dates, one must assume that he had reached age 21 and married about 1729; thus it seems plausible for working purposes to set his dates at about 1708-1760. Robert's father certainly was one of the sons of the elder James Bland. Given the latest possible birth year for Robert Bland of Loudon County (1708), I am forced to conclude, at least tentatively, that he was the son of William Bland (C1682-1744) by William's first marriage to an unknown woman. One must note of the elder James' other sons, John was simply too young to be married and have a son by 1708 and there is no evidence to support an assertion that either he or James Bland (C1687-1756) had wives antecedent to their known marriages. William Bland (C1682-1744) was conclusively married at least once before he married Catherine Key in 1717.<sup>2</sup> This means that Robert was most likely the brother of James Bland (1704-1774) who moved to New Hanover County, N.C. (VU, pp. 275-282) and the half-brother of Moses Bland (C1718-1799/1800) who moved to Randolph County, N.C. and Thomas Bland (C1719-1788), who died in Fauquier County, Virginia (VU, pp. 367-388). One final piece of information which suggests a parent-son connection between William Bland (1682-1744) and Robert Bland (C1708-1760) is Robert's choice of William as the name of a son William who was still a minor in 1764, so was born about the time of the elder William's death

1. See below, N. 2 my arguments for changing the approximate birthdate for William.

2. William must have been born before 1686, because the date of birth for his eldest son James is pegged at 1707, meaning that James had to be married by 1725, which is not in keeping with contemporary custom, whereby young men usually married at age 21 or older. For working purposes then, I propose to establish William's approximate birth year at 1682, and that of his eldest son James at 1704. Future issues of "Among Cousins" will refer to them as William (C1682-1744) and son James as (C1704-1774). I'm sure Will and Jimmy will appreciate the bonus years.

(VU, p. 493). Therefore, I believe but cannot conclusively prove at this time that Robert Bland (C1708-1760) of Loudon County, Virginia was the son of William Bland (C1682-1744) of Prince William County. This would make Robert Ninth Generation among the Blands. Aside from adding a generation, this change does not affect the later family constructions, including those whose descend from Robert's son Robert (C1732-1787) of Edgefield County, South Carolina.

#### THE PENDLETON COUNTY, VIRGINIA/WEST VIRGINIA BLANDS

I wish to welcome a seasoned researcher of the Blands who has just joined the circle of cousins, Edith Conant Lanning of Ocala, Florida. Edith has published a very useful family genealogy, Thomas Bland of Pendleton County, West Virginia (1983), which provides extensive information about the Pendleton County Blands that were barely mentioned in my book (VU, pp. 398-399), and significantly hones and revises information provided by Oren F. Morton in his History of Pendleton County, West Virginia (1910).

This family group was founded by one Thomas Bland who died in Pendleton County March 14, 1826. He was quite old by the time he died. Various assumptions push Thomas' age back to the late 1730s or early 1740s and for working purposes, it seems safe to leave him where Edith has him, 1740-1826. Thomas had a son John, born about 1764, so the birth year estimate seems about right.

Some erroneous misperceptions have to be cleared up. First, this Thomas is too old to be the same Thomas Bland, son of William Bland of Duplin County, North Carolina (1726-1775, VU, pp. 282-284). Second, the evidence is strained to make him a son of or somehow related to Thomas Bland of Fauquier County, Virginia (VU, pp. 367-388). This is a question that had plagued Urilla Bland, perhaps needlessly. There is the possibility that Thomas of Pendleton County was the son of Thomas of Fauquier (C1719-1788), but that is only suggested because of their respective ages, and the fact that migratory patterns of their two families were somewhat the same. Also, if one buys this assumption, it would be necessary to accept that the elder Thomas had two sons named Thomas, possibly by two marriages, conceivable but against the grain of contemporary naming practices.

I think a somewhat more promising line of inquiry would be to consider the possibility that the Pendleton County Thomas was a son of the above mentioned Robert Bland of Loudon County, Virginia. I cannot prove this, but do note the following from A History of Monroe County, West Virginia:

A number of Bland families of the Loudon County area migrated to the part of Greenbrier County (West Virginia) that is now Monroe County, West Virginia, where they owned land in the southeastern corner of the county on Turkey Creek and Second Creek. There is also this information: "Robert Bland died 1795 seems to have been the father of Robert (Anna) of Peters Mounty Valley whose own son Robert was born here in 1784. Children: Robert, 1784-1857; Ester E. (M. James McKinley, 1813); James (M. India Dawson 1813); Joshua (M. Polly Shires 1807);<sup>2</sup> Joshua, probably a brother had Robert (M. Elizabeth Hand 1808).

1. Tombstone inscription.

2. Letter, Homer Jones to Nel Ford, March 4, 1958, Cf VU, p. 399, N. 2.

It should be noted that there are some useful correlations here, in names deriving from the Robert Bland of Loudon family. In the Kentucky migrations there was a "summer route" that entailed travel through southwest Virginia and into Kentucky via the Cumberland Gap. Movement from the Loudon-Fairfax area of Virginia to what was the general broad area of Rockingham/Augusta Virginia and Pendleton would make sense. Further, there is a semblance of logic in timing. Robert died in 1760 and by 1764, his sons Edward and Robert were dividing his property. The older Robert evidently did not leave much, and since Thomas of Pendleton, a younger brother but still adult, would have been left the "Hind Tit" by standard law, he might well have left the Loudon area for greener pastures. First mention of Thomas in Pendleton County occurs in 1769.

An alternate to this might be to use the logic of county divisions which would take Thomas back to some origin in the King and Queen County family begun by William Bland (C1725-1783), in which case William would likely be a bit older. Neither case has been proven, and until it has, Thomas of Pendleton County will stand as head of a distinct family group.

According to Mrs. Lanning, Thomas had two wives. First was Margaret \_\_\_\_\_ by whom he had four children, John (1764-1839), Henry (1770-1853), Margaret and George. Secondly, he married about 1797 Rachel Shoulders by whom he had Enoch, Elizabeth, Rachel and Job. Morton listed a female, Susannah Bland, born about 1800, who married George Raines (1794-1856) in 1820. Susan would fit as a child of Thomas Bland and Rachel Shoulders and Mrs. Lanning has developed the line of descent through her marriage to George Raines.

#### John Bland (1764-1839)

John married Nancy Cunningham, a sister of John Cunningham who married Margaret Bland, daughter of Thomas Bland (1740-1826). John Bland is noted in History of Muskingum, Ohio as "one of the original pioneers...coming from Virginia," and settling on the Muskingum River near Zanesville in 1798. John and Nancy had a large family of thirteen children including Thomas; William and Henry, born evidently before the family moved to Ohio. Silas Bland, the fourth child, was born in Zanesville in a sugar camp, about 1799-1800. He was one of the first "white children" born in Muskingum. The fifth child was Joel and the sixth, Ebenezer (1912- ). Mrs. Lanning has found that in 1850, Ebenezer was married to Harriet (1819- ) and that they had married about 1840 and had the following children: Jerome (1841); Belemear (1843); Horatio (1845); Howard (1848); and Mary Jane (1848). Other children were John Bland; Annie Bland; Polly Bland; Sidney Bland (1804- ); Margaret Bland; Ellen Bland and Martha Bland (1814-1884), who married John Lane October 27, 1834.

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1. The above citation might give some clue to a query by Thomas Jones about the origins of his Joshua Bland born in 1826 or 1827 somewhere in Tennessee who married Mary Ann Scott in Caldwell County, Kentucky on November 18, 1847. This Monroe County family, in proximity with the Pendleton County group, is the only one I have seen with antecedent names of Joshua. By the time of the 1870 Census, Joshua and Mary had a family that included James (1849); Alexander (1851); Frances (1854); David (1860); Mary E. (1862) and Albert (1864). Anyone with a clue to the parentage of this Joshua Bland should write to Thomas E. Jones, Route 6, Box 101, Edwardsville, Illinois 62025.



Henry Bland (1770-1853)

The second child of Thomas Bland by his first marriage was Henry Bland, born April 25, 1770 and died March 27, 1853. Henry married twice, to Margaret Weirich and to Mary Dolly, maybe Daley. Henry, in the course of two marriages, had a prodigious offspring of twenty-four children. The children of Henry Bland and Margaret Weirich were:

1. John Bland (C1794-1864) who married Nancy Bland April 19, 1814 (see page 23).
2. Thomas Bland (C1796-1865) (see page 22)
3. Saul or Solomon Bland (May 23, 1800-February 18, 1877) died at Milford, Ohio. Married Abigail Phares on February 19, 1823.<sup>1</sup> Saul and Abigail had a family of 10 children, including:
  - A. Peter Bland (1824-1870) who married (1) Elizabeth \_\_\_\_\_ and (2) Martha E. Morse. By his first marriage Peter had Niles Bland (1849- ) who married Anna Jane Turpin December 3, 1874; William Bland (1851- ); John Bland (1853); Abigail Bland (1855- ) who married a Kimball. By his second marriage, Peter Bland had Eliza Bland who married a McClintock and Eva Bland who married a Black.
  - B. John Bland (1825-1900) died in Waldo, Ohio. He married (1) Margaret Kennedy in 1848 and (2) Electra Jones. John had nine children: Mary Anna Bland (1849-1866); Robert Kennedy Bland (1851-1905) who married Adeline F. \_\_\_\_\_ and they had a child Harry (Henry) Bland; John Lewis Bland (1852-1889) who married (1) Nancy McDowell, October 7, 1873, in Mayville, Ohio and had a child Anna Lulu Bland. John Lewis Bland married (2) Orra Boal Coe September 28, 1876 and had Etha D. Bland (1881- ), Richard Coe Bland (1883-1942) and John Lewis Bland, Jr. (1887- ). These families ended up in Anaho, Minnesota.
  - C. Jane Bland who married a Mitchell.
  - D. Mary Ann Bland, who married a Cranston.
  - E. Evangeline Bland, who married a Cranston.
  - F. Emily Bland (1834- ) who married a Bronson.
  - G. Chise Bland
  - H. Susannah Bland (1842- ) married a Whittier.
  - I. Huldah Bland (1844- ) who married Elias Hathway.
  - J. George Washington Bland (1847- ) who married Mercy \_\_\_\_\_. George and Mercy had a child Clarence who died young and Harold Bland born in 1875.

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1. I have received a communication from Jeanette Bickley Bland, 1436 North Cheyenne Drive, Richardson, TEXAS 75080 whose husband descends from Saul and Abigail.

4. Silas Bland about whom naught is known.
5. Eli Bland (1797-1860/1870) married Annie Haigler (1806-after 1870) on December 3, 1824. Eli and Annie had a family of nine sons and two daughters:

A. Miles H. Bland (1828-living 1860) who married Mary A. Bible (1828-living 1860). They had four children: Mary Elizabeth Bland (1850- ) who married Frank Klontz of Jamestown, Ohio; Ann Rebecca Bland (1853- ) who married Ike Roush; Martha V. Bland (1858- ) who married Saul Stuthard; and William Bland (C1860- ) who married Anna Cockerill.

B. William Bland (1829-1920) who married a cousin, Mary Teter (1840-1884), daughter of Johnson and Rachel Teter on January 1, 1861. William Bland and Mary Teter had five children including: Harriet



Seated Front: John Will Biby and Harriet Bland Biby.

(1861-1939) who married John Will Biby (1851-1922) and moved to Oklahoma with him. It is through this line that Edith Conant Lanning descends; Clara Bland (1865-1950) who married John Harper (C1862-before 1900) January 15, 1885; Almeda Bland (1869-1964) married Jacob Kenny Judy (1860-1932) on January 6, 1895; Strite Bland (1872-1945) moved to California and had two sons James and Kenneth; Austin Bland (1879-1968) died in Tampa, Florida. Austin married (1) Grace Nelson, (2) Leah Robins, and (3) Nora Judy.

C. Amos Bland (1832-living 1900) married Mary M. Hevener (1836-living 1900). They had at least three children: Halleck (1862- ); Ella M. Bland (1875- ); and Walter Bland (1878- ). There may have been three additional children: J. William, Alice and Julia. This family lived in Champaign County, Illinois.

D. Lucinda Bland (1834-1911) married John Wesley Dolly (1823-1894) about 1852.

E. George Washington Bland (1836- ) married Jennie Whitecotton (1845- ) about 1869 and lived in McClean County, Illinois. Their children were James Bland (1869- ); Frank B. Bland (1870- ); Mary and John Bland; Albert Bland (1873- ).

F. Mary Bland (1840- ) married Andrew Jack Simpson, September 1, 1859.

G. John W. Bland (C1840- ) did not marry.

H. Eli Bland (1842- ).

I. Perry Bland (1843-1862) served in Confederate forces. Killed March 1, 1862.

J. James S. Bland (1845- ) served in Confederate Army, captured in 1864. Ended up at McClean County, Illinois. Married Elizabeth Hemlick, July 23, 1871.

K. Benjamin Franklin Bland (1848- ) moved to Champaign County, Brown Township, Illinois. He married Sara Agnes Caton August 19, 1870.

6. Mary A. Bland (C1802- ) married Solomon Teter July 19, 1826.

7. Sidney Bland (1809-1861) married Philip Teter June 27, 1826.<sup>1</sup>

8. Sabel Bland (1822- ) married Davie Florin.

9. Adam Bland, birthdate uncertain. In Monroe County, Virginia, the 1850 census shows an Adam Bland, Methodist preacher, age 30, married to Ellen \_\_\_\_\_ age 19. Adam of Pendleton County was a Methodist minister who later went to California.

10. William Bland

11-12. Infants who died young.

These are the children of Henry Bland (1770-1853) and his first wife Margaret Weirich. Don't be faint of heart now, we still have twelve children by Henry's second wife, Mary Dolly:<sup>2</sup>

1. Phoebe Bland (1814-living in 1900) married Zebedee Warner (1807-1891) on June 4, 1835.

2. George Washington Bland (1818-1889) married Caroline Woods (1828-1849) on August 9, 1847 and Margaret Skidmore (C1832- ) March 3, 1849. By his first marriage George Washington Bland had:

A. James Bland (1849- ) died young (Caroline may have died at James' birth).

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1. Mrs. Lanning's book includes extensive family information about descendants through Mary and Sidney Bland Teter.

2. Since the first child by Mary Dolly is shown as Phoebe, born 1814, it may be more logical that Henry married Mary Dolly about 1813, in which case at least Adam and Isabel noted as children 8 and 9 above would also be children of Mary Dolly.

By his second marriage, George Washington Bland had nine children:

- B. Mary Elizabeth Bland (1851-living 1900) who married Solomon Huffman (1844-1924) in 1870.
  - C. Martha Ellen Bland (1853-1934) married John K. Huffman (1853-1924) in 1874.
  - D. Jane W. Bland (C1857-died young).
  - E. Anna C. Bland (1858-1895) married Miles Day.
  - F. Martha Bland (1859- ), nothing further known.
  - G. Alice Bland (1862-1933) married Simeon Harper (1855-1923) in 1879.
  - H. Arabella Bland (1866-1915) married George Butcher (1866- ) in 1892.
  - I. Clara Bland (1868- ) married Henry Harper April 3, 1888.
  - J. Stewart L. Bland (1872-1946). Hooray, a boy. Even a blind squirrel finds a nut sometimes! Stewart married Delvina Sites (1867-1944) August 1, 1892. Their children were Byron Bland (1895-1958); Gae Bland; Eva Bland (1892- ); Val Bland; Delmer Bland (1906-1936); Sampson Bland (1908-1969); Zella Mae Bland.
3. Henry James Bland (dates unknown) a Methodist preacher who went to California, married Annot Lyle Steel about 1857.
  4. Zane Bland, a Methodist preacher (dates unknown) died in Cumberland, Maryland.
  5. Duane Bland - Morton says he died young, but the Seneca, Ohio Census for 1850 lists a Duane Bland, age 33, married to July Anne \_\_\_\_\_ with children Nancy (1843- ); Mary A. (1845- ); Caleb (1847- ) and Julian (1850- ).
  6. Jessie Bland (1825- ) did not marry.
  7. Harvey Bland (1827- ) married Melissa Stokley (1831- ). Both are buried at Shelbyville, Illinois. Their children are Silas Zane Bland (1852- ); Hannah Annis Bland (1854- ) married David Henry Pawley May 29, 1873.
  8. Annis Bland (C1830-1860).
  9. Asa P. Bland (1832- ) married Ellen Kitchen and moved to Grant, Kansas. No such couple turns up in the 1880 or 1900 Kansas Census, indicating Asa and Ellen were dead or had moved on.
  10. Lucinda Bland (1836-1902) known as "Old Luce" died single.
  11. Stewart Bland (1839- ) married Virginia Harper August 22, 1865.

12. James H. Bland (1838/1848- ) Morton says he was a preacher in Ohio.

These are the 24 children of Henry Bland (1770-1853). Whew!

Further children of Thomas Bland (C1740-1826) and Margaret \_\_\_\_\_.

Margaret Bland, dates unknown. Married John Cunningham, brother of Nancy Cunningham who married Margaret's brother John (see above).

George Bland (1776- ) died young.

By his wife Rachel Shoulders (1775- ), Thomas Bland (C1740-1826) had the following children:

Enoch Bland (1804-1882). Enoch was born January 9, 1804 and died October 27, 1882. Enoch married two women, (1) Annie or Naomi Teter on December 5, 1826 and (2) Mary Ann Harper on June 23, 1836. By his first wife Enoch had:

1. Johnson Bland (1829-1897) who married Sarah Lawrence (1829-1914). Johnson and Sarah had:

A. Isaac J. Bland (1852-1896) who married Susan Headrick (1858-1925) on September 25, 1877. Their children were Olen Bland (1877-1946); Walter J. Bland (1880-1958); Rolla Bland (1881-1966); Fannie Bland (1883- ); Cora J. Bland (1887-1899); Bessie Bland (1889-1907); Sallie Bland (1892- ); Birdie Bland (1895-1897).

B. Susan Bland (C1854/1855- ) married Martin Bennett, February 2, 1884.

C. Christina Bland (1855-1875) died unmarried.

D. Enoch Bland Jr. (1862- ) married Carrie Shirk September 1, 1889.

E. Mary Bland (1864- ) married Martin Huffman.

F. Lee Bland (1863-1916) married Lucy F. Bennett January 25, 1885.

G. Jane Bland (1866- ) had a son Virgil Bland (1886-1894). A Sarah Jane Bland (1866-1949) married Henry Burns (1866-1955) about 1897.

H. Seymour Bland (1870- ) married Laura Burns (1877- ) on February 1, 1896.

I. Grant Bland (1871- ) married Charlotte Harper September 4, 1899.

J. Jasper Bland (1875- ) died single.

K. D. Newton Bland (probably 1876-died 1876) may have had a twin, S. Newton (1876- ).

2. Jane Bland (1830- ) married Jesse Wybright (1817-1864).
  3. James H. Bland (C1834- ) married Susan Lawrence November 15, 1855, and had by her:
    - A. James Albert Bland (1856- ) married Sarah Nelson April 3, 1877.
    - B. Mary E. Bland (1858- ).
    - C. Margaret Bland (1860- ).
  4. John A. Bland (1835-1904) who married Mary Caton (1850-1901) on December 18, 1869. Their children were:
    - A. Charles P. Bland (1871-1950) who married Salinda Sponaugle (1873- ) December 27, 1894.
    - B. Anna V. Bland (1877- ) who married Howard Mauzy March 22, 1903.
- By his second wife, Mary Ann Harper, Enoch Bland had the following children:
5. Pleasant D. Bland (1838-1914) who married Mary J. Calhoun (1848- ) on November 24, 1866. Their children were:
    - A. Delzerena Bland (1867-1957) who married Watson Raines (1863-1939) on April 19, 1885.
    - B. Lettie C. Bland (1870-1944) married John Wilson Warner November 5, 1891.
    - C. Martha P. Bland (1872- ) married Patrick Teter, September 28, 1888.
    - D. Mary Etta Bland (1882-1980) married Clyde Sponaugle August 17, 1903.
  6. Isaac Newton Bland (1841- ) married a cousin Annis Susan Warner. Their children were:
    - A. Elizabeth (1871- )
    - B. America (1872- )
    - C. Fannie (1873- )
    - D. Celie E. (1876- )
    - E. Silas (1877-1881)
    - F. Oceola (1878- )
    - G. Effie (1881-1926)
    - H. Tyre (1882- )
    - I. Isaac (1883- )
    - J. Bettie (1885- )
    - K. Peachie (1888)
    - L. Nameless (1890- )
    - M. Fred (1891- )
    - N. Dewitt (1893- )
    - O. Nameless (1897- )
    - P. Charles (1898- )

7. Phoebe Bland (1844- ) married David W. Lough on January 7, 1875.
8. Elizabeth Bland (1846- ) married William A. Nelson, November 17, 1870.
9. Ellen Bland (1849-1929) married John W. Warner April 1, 1870.
10. Mary Bland (1851- ) married Ambrose Smith May 19, 1874.
11. Enoch Dice Bland (1855-1929) married Martha Caton July 21, 1877. Their children were:
  - A. Isom Bland (1875?-1933) who married Effie Harper (1889-1965) on March 7, 1926.
  - B. Nora Bland (1879-1903) married Adam Jay Bennett (1879-1959) on October 22, 1900.
  - C. Sallie Agnes Bland (1881-1924) married William Jackson Raines.
  - D. Bertha Britton Bland (1883-1971) married William Edward Phares (1885-1975) on July 3, 1907.
  - E. Frank E. Bland (1885-1888).
  - F. Edward Clarence Bland (1888-1957) married Flora Morral, (1896-1958) on November 14, 1915.
  - G. Robert E. "Boss" Bland (1893-1931) married Nora Nelson, November 27, 1920.

Elizabeth Bland (1807- ). Elizabeth, second child of Thomas Bland and Rachel Shoulders was born in 1807. On December 3, 1827 she married Jesse Davis (1807-1884).

Rachel Bland (1811-1873). Rachel married Johnson Teter on December 31, 1829.

Job Bland (1812-1854). Job Bland, the last known child of Thomas Bland and Rachel Shoulders, was born June 11, 1812 and he died at Jane Lew in Lewis County, Virginia on December 28, 1854. Job married Margaret Cunningham about 1843 and had by her a family of six children, including:

1. Virginia Bland (1844- )
2. Nancy Bland (1845- )
3. Rachel Bland (1847- )
4. Henry Bland (1849- )
5. Mary Ann Bland (1853- )
6. John Bland (1855- )

Mrs. Lanning identifies a Thomas Bland, veteran of the War of 1812. Thomas married Patsy Cunningham August 14, 1819. That would put his age at about 1795-1798. His wife Martha Cunningham Bland in 1879 claimed to have married Thomas October 1, 1820. Martha (1799-1893) could not find her marriage certificate so may have guessed at their marriage date. This Thomas, who died October 6, 1865, served in Captain Jessie Hinkle's company of the Virginia Militia July-October 1814. He and Martha were married by Hinkle.

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1. Thomas was described as a farmer, 6'6", fair skin, black hair, blue eyes. Typical Bland male. Gorgeous, right?

There is another Pension application for John Bland who also served in Hinkle's Company July-October 1814. His widow Mary who married John February 8, 1855 in Sandusky, Ohio, died April 11, 1897. John died November 25, 1864. By 1850, he had been living in Seneca County, Ohio. A reasonable construction is that this is John Bland, eldest son of Henry Bland (1770-1853) who married a Nancy Bland in 1814. It is reasonable that Nancy died sometime before 1855, when John married Mary, who had forgotten her maiden name but was the widow Pancoast. The most likely possibility then is that these two militiamen in the War of 1812 were Thomas and John Bland, sons of Henry Bland (1770-1853).

#### THE WASHINGTON COUNTY, KENTUCKY BLANDS

##### Who Was John Bland?

No sooner did I announce the finding of Panzy Willburn (AC, 2-1, pp. 13-14) Rachel Bland of the Washington County, Kentucky family was the wife of a John Bland, than Richard Smith of DeKalb, Illinois confirmed it, transmitting to me a notation from the Kentucky Historical Society:

John and Rachel Bland of Ky. A daughter married James Arbuckle and later moved to Rush County, Indiana.

Following this, I received a letter from Sue Kruse of Gilroy, California whose ancestor is Susan Bland who married James Arbuckle. She indicated that John Bland stood bond for this marriage, which occurred in Washington County, Kentucky in 1789, which I confirmed by reference to Jessamine James, Bland Family Court and Bible Records. Rachel was not a witness to that marriage, as she was for marriages of Susan's sisters in 1784 and 1786. Thus, it appears that John did make the trip from Virginia to Kentucky and was there at least as late as 1789. Now there is another puzzle: Marian Daniels sent to me two pages from a History of Grayson County Kentucky, which identified John as the father of Prudence Bland Watts (C1767-1852), stating that Prudence was the youngest in a family of five children, that her father died in Virginia, April 22, 1807. It leaves me wondering whether John didn't travel back and forth between Kentucky and Virginia, staying there after 1799 when Rachel died, all his children by then being married.

If the above is accurate, and following the line of reasoning suggested by Marian Daniels above about John's approximate date of birth (see above, pp.12-13) it would appear that John's dates are approximately 1742-1807. Subsequent to all this, I received a letter from Richard Smith who holds that all the Kentucky Blands derive from James Bland (8th Generation, C1687-1756). Richard builds his theory on similarities in naming patterns and the presence of a James Bland in Isle of Wight, Virginia in 1738, with a wife Elizabeth, whom he supposes was a first wife, antecedent to Mary Gwatkins. Richard wrote, "I guess I will throw/the theory/out and duck." OK Richard, duck! First, I never believed the James noted was James (1687-1756). I don't know who this James is for there is no recognition of him in Boddie's History of Isle of Wight. Second, Isle of Wight was one of the original Virginia shires clustered around the James River, and while one of the Northern Virginia Bland's might turn up there, it would be unusual. Third, Garrard and Mason Counties, Kentucky where the verified descendants of James Bland (1687-1756) settled are geographically

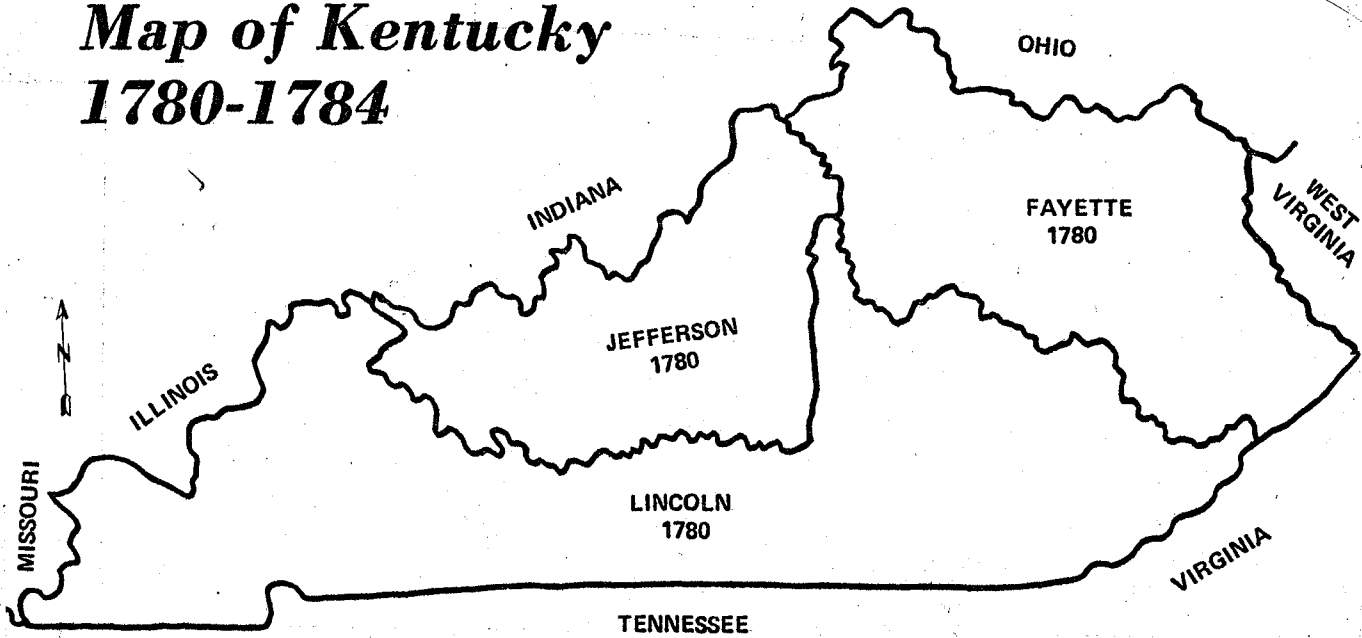


distinct from the original nine jurisdictional arrangements that bind the Jefferson/Nelson-Hardin-Washington County family close, and there are no inter-marriages that I know of between the Nelson-Hardin-Washington group and the Garrard-Mason group. Fourth, the names cited are of such common usage that they in themselves contribute no pattern. I tend to believe that the John Bland-Margaret Osborne/John Bland-Rachel \_\_\_\_\_ stems are represented by most of the later families that are found in the area noted by the map of Nelson County with Derivative counties shown on the following page.

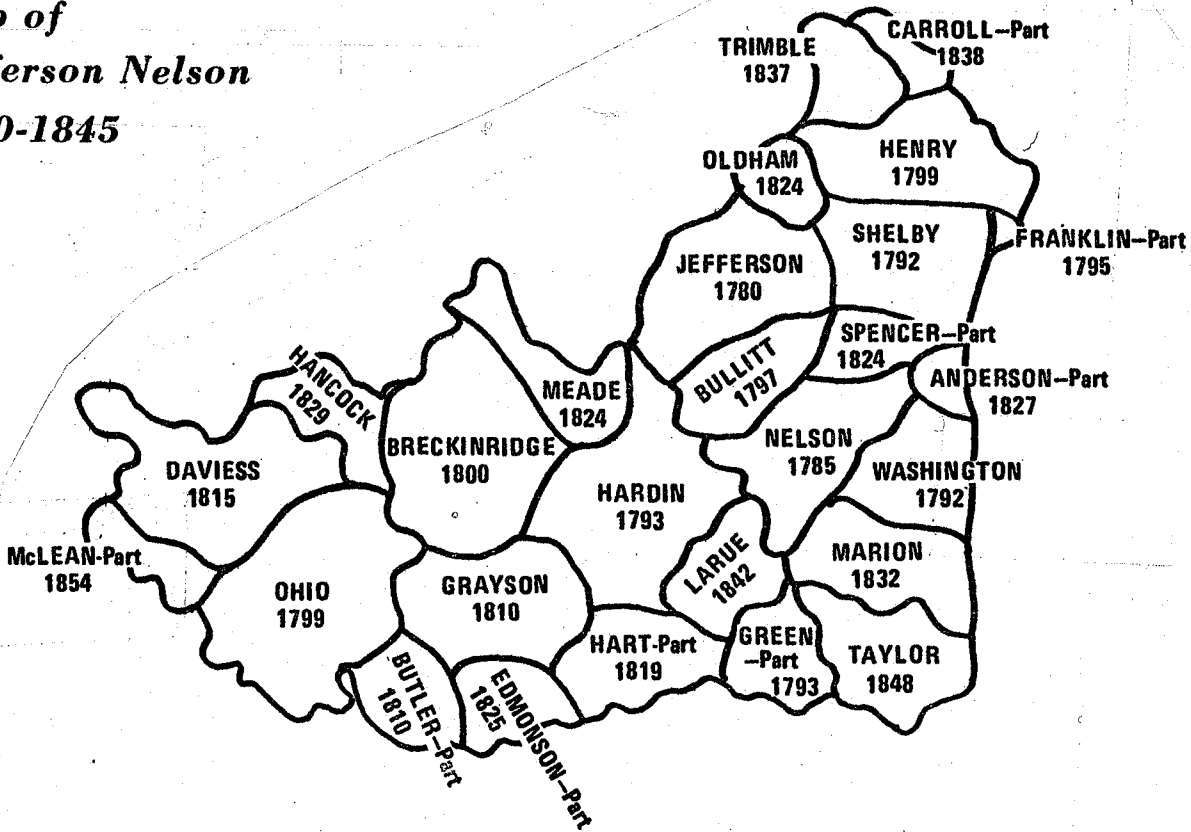
Then there are the inevitable attempts to link John and Rachel to the James River Bland family. I have seen a claim that a "John Randolph Bland" (1739-1793) married Margaret Osborne, and most interestingly, a claim that a John Bland born in 1739 married Rachel Reed, thus John and Rachel. Both claims are based on the assumption that John Bland, born October 19, 1739 in Prince George County, Virginia, son of Richard Bland and Anne Pothyress, lived to adulthood. Partially, this is true. Certainly, in tracking down the source of these claims, I must revise an assertion I made earlier (VU, p. 163) that John Bland (1739- ) son of Richard (1710-1776) died in his infancy. That was erroneous. Hunter's Familiae Minorum Gentium (p. 425) states that John was in Bristol, England in 1758. Richard Smith sent me two notations from The Virginia Gazette, one dated September 8, 1777, directing John Bland and others to return to their military station in Williamsburg; the other dated April 18, 1777, announcing the death of John Bland in Amelia County, derivative from Prince George County, Virginia. There were two John Bland's who lived among the James River family in mid-18th Century. There was Richard's son mentioned above, and also a John Bland (1741- ), son of John Bland (1712-1787) and Anne Buck (1718-1770) who was born in England and moved to the plantation formerly owned by his grandfather Richard Bland (1665-1720) (VU, p. 135). How they figure in the above information is uncertain. I don't believe either of them married a Rachel and there is no evidence that they are in any way antecedents to the Washington County, Kentucky family.

On April 9, I received the second of a series of letters from the Reverend Lineous Preston Bland of Wakefield, Virginia, a retired Methodist Minister, who traces his ancestry back to a Zacharia Bland of Virginia, son of a John Bland, born about 1765, who in a family group sheet prepared by William T. Ewell, Jr., deceased, a Mormon of Satnaquin, Utah, is noted as the son of John Bland (C1739- ) and Rachel Reed (C1743- ) and this John Bland is reckoned the son of Richard Bland and Anne Pothyress. Two lines of inquiry are suggestive to L.P. Bland: First, within the James River family (VU, pp. 161-162) there is a line that runs 6-Richard Bland (1710-1776); 7-Richard Bland (1730-1766); 8-Richard Bland (1762-1806) and 9-John Bland (1798-1863) whose second wife was Rachel Reed (1816-1841). Intrigued by this, I tracked down the descendants of William T. Ewell, Jr., who indicated that their uncle sometimes was kind of loose with his information. Thus Mr. Ewell apparently had his generations confused. Warming to his task, Mr. L.P. Bland on April 19, sent me a letter that had enclosed a platt map of 1714 acres in Prince George County, Virginia that included a division of property dated May 4, 1815 that constituted "the estate of Richard Bland, de'cd...where he resided, called 'Jordons'." It is evident that this was a division among his children, Richard Bland (1762-1806, 8th Generation). This is further verified by the presence of Peter woodlief, Richard's brother-in-law among the "Commissioners" of the division. The property was divided as follows: Sally Bland, 500 acres; Sally Bland Bott (sister of John, 1798-1863), 17 acres; Theodorick Bland, 125 acres; Richard Bland, 230 acres; John bland (1798-1863), 150 acres; Mary Bland, 300 acres; and Peter bland, 392 acres. The first five of these children are

# Map of Kentucky 1780-1784



# Map of Jefferson Nelson 1780-1845



Reprinted courtesy of Sarah B. Smith, *Historic Nelson County* (Gateway Press, Bardstown Kentucky: 1971/1973), pp. 38-39."

those of Richard Bland (1762-1806) and Susannah Pothyress. The last, Peter, may be the son of Peter Bland (7 Generation, 1736-1781). This platt map, interesting though it is, does not, as L.P. Bland had hoped, constitute a connection for his ancestor John Bland (C1765- ).<sup>1</sup>

Mr. L.P. Bland's most promising pursuit, it would seem, would be the King and Queen County, Virginia family where a Bland-Didlake connection has already been established (AC 1-1, p. 14). Mr. Bland has traced his line back to John Bland (born C1765- ) and Sarah Elizabeth Lee, daughter of Purmit Lee, all of whose children were born in Prince George County.<sup>2</sup>

One should note that William Bland Sr. of King and Queen County, Virginia had a son John for whom a birthdate of about 1765 would fit, (VU, pp. 392-396, and AC 2-1, pp. 19-22).

John Bland and Sarah Lee had a family of 8 children: Abraham Bland, born about 1803, who married Hannah Randles; Purmit Bland (C1805- ) who married Elizabeth Randles; Zachariah Bland (C1807- ) whose son Linnius Payne Bland was the father of Lineous Preston Bland (1901- ). Zachariah married Delilah Didlake,<sup>3</sup> daughter of Royston Didlake, of King and Queen County, Virginia. Zachariah and Delilah, according to the 1860 Census had a family that included: Priscilla Bland; James Royston Bland, who was killed while serving in the confederate army in 1863; William Claiborne Bland; Mary Bland; Joshua Thomas Bland and Linius Payne Bland. A final child, Ann Bland who married \_\_\_\_\_ Wood, was born after the 1860 Census.

The remaining children of John Bland and Sarah E. Lee were James Bland (1809-1811); Hannah Bland (C1811- ); Elizabeth Bland (C1813- ) and Rachel Bland (C1815- ). The final child was Mary Lee Bland (C1817-1898) who was born in Virginia and married William Fletcher Ewell (C1815-1848), a physician and a Mormon. This couple's story is told in a paper that was sent to me by Emma Ewell of Santaquin, Utah, a niece of William T. Ewell.

According to the story, Mary's father, John Bland, had promised her in marriage to a man she despised. With the help of her slave woman "Old Mammy Chloe," Mary dodged the doomed suitor and while doing so one night was thrown from her horse injuring her back and ankle. She tarried on the ground for awhile, unable to move, when a princely young man appeared on the scene and introduced himself as William Fletcher Ewell, a medical student who, a Mormon, was vacationing in Virginia for the summer. He lifted Mary in his arms and carried her home. This was about 1834-1835. Young William was welcomed into Mary Lee's home and by and by they fell in love. But old John, not what you would call an original thinker, "went to town" and heard from his neighbors that Mormonism was "very unpopular." These neighbors let John know that if he harbored this Mormon any longer, he wouldn't be welcome to drink Mint Juleps

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1. John Bland's daughter Mary Lee Bland claimed she was descended from Henry Lee, and was a cousin of Robert E. Lee, through her mother Sarah Lee, not through her father. Since Mary Lee Bland's father was obviously prominent, and since Mary Lee Bland was the sister of L.P. Bland's ancestor Zachariah Bland, L.P. Bland could probably claim descent from the James river Blands through Richard Bland (1665-1720) and his daughter Mary Bland Lee (1704-1764).

2. Mr. Bland thinks that John Bland and Sarah Elizabeth Lee's last child, Mary Lee Bland (1815-1898) was born in Cumberland, Kentucky but her personal statement, which follows, clearly places her in Virginia.

3. William Ewell, Jr. shows Zachariah marrying Keziah Ogle, perhaps a first wife.

with the better sort of folk. John first tried to reason with young William and failing to do so, did what any self-respecting father with a reputation to uphold would do. He kicked him out. Mary Lee and her mother, however, had taken a hankering to both Ewell and the Mormonism he professed. That was a sure sign that John's life would never again have a moment of peace. Mary Lee, pining for her ejected lover, "felt my heart would break," when lo, Mammy Chloe thrust into her hands a note from William begging her (Mary Lee, not Mammy Chloe) to fly to him, be his wife, be with the Saints by God, or Joseph Smith anyway. Well, off she went, with Mammy Chloe by her side.<sup>1</sup> Mary Lee, Southern Victorian Belle to the core, climbed down the rose trellis, her pockets filled with money her mother had taken out of old John's pockets while he snored away, leaving a farewell letter "to mama with Zacery, my brother, who was in sympathy with me." (One chuckles: it seems like excepting only old John the whole damned countryside was in sympathy with her.)

Mary Lee and Mammy Chloe met Sir William at the appointed place. Imagine Mary Lee as she spies William's shadowy figure in the distance, one hand on his hip, the other holding the reins of his horse, she racing toward him, her riding bonnet falling over her neck as thick dark curls cascade around her shoulders and she rushes into her lover's embrace. They rode all night so they could get as far away from her father as possible (Old John is reputed to have slept through everything). By the next day (the horse must have been exhausted, not to speak of Mammy Chloe), the couple were in Kentucky and found a minister to marry them.

William entered medical school (1835) and during the following year, William and Mary Lee moved to Missouri where they had their first three children. By now it was about 1840 or 1841. Sarah Lee Bland, back in Virginia, (no piker herself when it came to behaving like a Southern Victorian woman, she was sick when Mary Lee left in 1835 and she was still sick in 1841) was about to die. Finally, her doctor told Old John (notice how he's the heavy in this story) that if he didn't relent and let his daughter and son-in-law come back, Sarah would die. The old man, seeing reason and having no one else to cook his meals since Mammy Chloe took off, relented. Old John, however, much as he liked his grandchildren, was still unreconstructed on this question of Mormonism. He offered William a large plot of land and to set him up in medical practice, but William would have to give up "that abominable religion." Off went William and Mary Lee with their children, Sarah Lee Bland died soon after, and as Zachariah wrote to Mary Lee, her portrait was thrown in the attic and her name taken from the family bible. She had been, as they say, written off. Ewell volunteered to serve in the expeditionary forces to Mexico in 1846, and he died in 1848. Mary and Mammy Chloe lived out the rest of their lives in Salt Lake City, Utah. Mammy Chloe had left her family behind in Virginia to be with Mary Lee, who later taught her to read. Mammy Chloe often remarked words to the effect "I'd be willin' honey to be skinned alive if I could jus' go in dat temple." Mary Lee does not say whether that ever happened. Mary Lee remained alienated from her family, but "I hope that some of my posterity will go down South and rescue the portrait of little Mary Lee Bland." Well, kiss my grits honey!

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1. Dear Mammy Chloe left behind a family to travel with this little twerp!

Additional Sons of Thomas Morton Bland and Anne Lawrence

There now seems to be fair agreement among researchers of this family that the children of John Bland and Rachel \_\_\_\_\_ Bland of Washington County include three daughters, Rachel; Prudence (C1767-1852); and Susannah and four sons: Thomas Morton Bland; Roland or Rolly Bland ( -1825); John ( -1819); Samuel; and Charles ( -1819).

Discussion about the family of Thomas Morton Bland and Anne Lawrence (VU, pp. 473-477) spoke of five daughters and three sons, John, Leland and Samuel Lawrence Bland. Important information received during the past few months from Jane Dyer Arnold of Franklin, Kentucky and Edith Lanning of Ocala, Florida, conclusively adds to this number two sons, Milton and William, and a daughter Rachel. Mrs. Arnold describes the family of Milton Bland, son of Thomas Morton Bland and Anne Lawrence, who was born July 10, 1806 and died November 25, 1863. Milton who is buried in Simpson County, Kentucky, married Almira Kenley (see photo on the following page) in Mercer County, Kentucky on February 7, 1832. Almira was born January 7, 1808 and died February 28, 1883. Milton and Almira had three children, Sara Eliza, Lucinda and James Milton Bland. Sara Eliza, ancestor of Mrs. Arnold, was born February 25, 1833 and died November 24, 1913 in Simpson County, Kentucky. She married Phillip Kennerly Arnold (1818-1879) on December 3, 1853. They had five children, including Milton Bland Arnold (1854-1933) who married Lydia Emma Turner May 27, 1896, and had by her two sons, including James Phillip Arnold, who married my correspondent, Jane Elizabeth Dyer in 1936.

The second child of Milton Bland and Almira Kendley was Lucinda Bland born July 19, 1834 and died September 29, 1901. She married Eli Harris August 10, 1852 and had three children by him.

The third child of Milton Bland and Almira Kendley was James Milton Bland born November 22, 1842 and died April 13, 1902, who on January 18, 1866 married Garbriella Susan Barker (1846- ). James and Garbriella had three children including Sarah Nancy Bland (1866-1947) and twins James Emmette Bland (1869-1893) and Louella Bland (1869- ).

Mrs. Arnold also offers tombstone evidence that John Bland, son of Thomas Morton, was born November 8, 1793 and died March 30, 1861. He married Sally Kenley (not Kendley) in Washington County, Kentucky on March 2, 1815. John and Sally had a family of seven children including (1) James Thomas Bland (1815-1818); (2) Harriet Hewall Bland (January 18, 1819- ) who married James Ruley (Roley); (3) Marian Wallace Bland (February 19, 1821-August 11, 1884) who married (1) Thomas Bland (from whose family?) and (2) Jackson Thurmond; (4) Samuel Knight Bland (not Kendley as indicated in VU, p. 473) (March 2, 1823-to 1913) married (1) Elizabeth Viers, August 10, 1844 and (2) Annie L. \_\_\_\_\_. Samuel Knight Bland had four children including John F.; Mary Ellen; Dr. Euclid V; King S.; (5) Newton Chapman (1825-1826); (6) Sarah Ann (1830-1841); (7) Louisa Frances Bland (1836- ) who married Leland Pearce.

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1. One exception to this consensus is Juanita Max who argues that John and Thomas Morton Bland descend from the Randolph County family. I cannot buy this argument (AC 2-1, pp. 14-15) because of countervailing evidence that the Thomas Bland who witnessed the will of Old Moses Bland in 1799/1800 migrated to Clark and Jackson County, Indiana by 1812-1820 (see below, p. 35 ).

Left: Almira Kenley, (1808-1883)  
wife of Milton Bland (1806-1863)  
See discussion on preceding page.



Right: Sara Eliza Bland  
(1833-1913), daughter of  
Milton Bland and Almira  
Kenley, who married  
Phillip Kennerly Arnold.

Photos Courtesy of  
Jane Dyer Arnold



In addition to the above from Mrs. Arnold, Edith Lanning of Ocala, Florida sent me information from a chapter of a book called "House of Wilson" compiled by one Lloyd R. Bland of Argonia, Kansas who claims to have been born in Kentucky in 1859. He outlined the family of an ancestral grandparent, Josiah Wilson, father of, among others, Anthony Wilson who we already know married Elizabeth Bland, daughter of Thomas Morton Bland, December 21, 1818 (VU, p. 474). This gives the critical clue that the family of Bland's under discussion in the following descend from Thomas Morton. First, Lloyd Bland made note of Josiah Wilson's son William E. Wilson, who married Rachel Bland "dau of Thomas." Most important, however, was the marriage of Mariah, daughter of Josiah Wilson, born April 22, 1802, died at age 96 in 1897 or 1898, to William I. Bland "son of Thomas." William I. Bland was born December 21, 1794 in Washington County, Kentucky and died at age 81 in 1875. He was married to Mariah Wilson on August 22, 1818. William I. Bland and Mariah Wilson had a family of six children including:

1. Thomas Milton Bland (1827-1897), who died in Sumner County, Kansas. He married Susan June Ray ( -1865) and by her had a family of five children: Lloyd R. Bland (1859- ) who had three sons and one daughter. He married Lucy Jane Arnett in 1884 and moved to Kansas; Ezra Bland; Ruby Bland, married Harry Tabor of Dennison, Texas; William Alonzo Bland (1861-1935) who married Lucretia Jane Oldridge, September 9, 1885 and had two sons and a daughter.
2. Josiah Wilson Bland (1820-C1890/1895), "married Berry Carter's daughter," Berry Carter having married Harriet Wilson, sister of the above Mariah Wilson. Figure that one out. This family lived in Hart County, Kentucky. Josiah and \_\_\_\_\_ Carter had six children.
3. Sarah Elizabeth Bland (1831- ), married D. F. Marvin.
4. Harriet Bland (1836- ), married Coleman Brown about 1855.
5. Anne Maria Bland (1851- ), married J. C. Vance.
6. Mary C. Bland (1855- ), married M. E. Arnett. I must say I have my doubts about this last one, because it means Mariah Wilson Bland would have borne her at age 52 or 53, a very dubious proposition.

To recap, this information shows at least eleven children of Thomas Morton Bland. Assuming daughters were approximately age 17 when married, in absence of more specific information, the family is as follows:

Children of Thomas Morton Bland and Anne Lawrence:

1. John Bland (1793-1864) married Sally Kenley in 1815.
2. William I. Bland (1794-1875) married Mariah Wilson in 1818.
3. Polly Bland (C1799- ) married Thomas Pearce in 1816.
4. Elizabeth Bland (C1801-1833) married Anthony Wilsin in 1818.
5. Samuel Lawrence Bland (1802-1839) married Harriet Philips in 1829.
6. Milton Bland (1806-1863) married Almira Kenley in 1832.
7. Lucinda Bland (1807-1843) married Samuel Pottinger Philips in 1828.
8. Adaline Bland (C1812- ) married Gregory Glasscock in 1828.
9. Rachel Bland, married William Wilson
- 10 & 11. Leland and Lydia. Nothing known.

## THE NELSON COUNTY, KENTUCKY BLANDS

Land Records

With a fairly steady pulse, information about this family has enabled us to expand the limited fund of knowledge about the younger sons of John Bland and Margaret Osborne at the time the book was published (VU, pp. 455-459). During this period, I have further fleshed out information about John and Margaret's sons John and Daniel, but have also found interesting additional information about land acquisitions by John Bland. In a book by Sarah B. Smith, Historic Nelson County, there appears on pp. 46-47 a "Book of Processioners...By virtue of a warrant for services performed for Military Service in Revolutionary War and other claims" a grant of 1500 acres of land in Nelson County to John Bland in 1780. The land is located at Beech Fork. This may not be a grant, but rather a purchase, which dovetails nicely, at least from a chronological viewpoint, with a sale of land in Virginia by John and Margaret for 6,000 pounds of Sterling on August 1, 1780. Further, Mr. John Bland Jr. of Elizabethtown, Kentucky, a new subscriber, sent to me Joan E. Brookes-Smith, Comp. Master Index of Virginia Surveys and Grants, 1774-1791 (Kentucky Historical Society), which is a condensation of Land Laws germane to early Kentucky. It includes the following land grants to John Bland:

Survey 2382 450 acres Jefferson co./Coxes Creek, Surveyed July 2, 1784, granted December 2, 1785.

Survey 2386 540 acres Jefferson Co./Simpson Creek, Surveyed July 19, 1784, granted December 2, 1785.

Survey 8414 350 acres Nelson Co./Simpson Creek, Surveyed February 2, 1787, granted February 9, 1791.

The specific information details 1340 acres granted between 1785-1791 which may be a refinement of the 1780 entry (this is speculative). My understanding of contemporary Kentucky land practices is that it was not uncommon for absentee proprietors to purchase land, go to Kentucky to claim it and encounter conflicting claims, often having their purchase usurped. Since the Beech Fork River flows through both Nelson and later Washington County, Kentucky and the Coxes/Simpson Creek area is near Kinchloe Station where we already know the John Bland/Margaret Osborne family settled, it would appear that John Bland who engaged in these land transactions was the husband of Margaret Osborne.

Samuel Bland (C1753-1835)

Cousin Anne Hall of Roswell, New Mexico has confirmed the parent-child relationship between Samuel Bland (C1753-1835) and James Bland (1793-1849) by handwriting analysis. In comparing James' signatures on his marriage bond, his will, and his bond for sister Mildred, Anne found the same characteristic upsweep in the D in Bland, like a cat with its tail held high, which solidifies her conclusion that Samuel and James were father and son.

John Bland (C1752 or 1766-1836)

Beginning with sketchy information noted in VU, pp. 457-458, in the second number of the Newsletter (AC 1-2; pp. 12-13), I was able to build a fair representation of John and his family. The foundation of this effort was the discovery of John's will of 1836 in Nelson County by Anne Hall.



Correspondence with Mr. & Mrs. Earl Grandstaff of Columbia, Missouri and Mary Virginia Manby of Louisville, Kentucky (AC 2-1, p. 12) has enabled me to flesh out the picture somewhat. Also, in what follows, I have used Jessamine Bland James' Bland Family Court and Bible Records and Mary Stancliffe's Nelson Kentucky Marriage Bonds: 1785-1832.

John Bland married Elizabeth Shewmate on August 9, 1792 in Nelson County. If one assumes age of 21 for males and 17 for females as marriage ages where not specifically given, one would have to assume that Elizabeth was born 1775 and she continued to bear children to 1821. So far so good. But it is obvious that John was married before. The Grandstaffs, citing information from Mr. & Mrs. S. H. Purvines from Canton, Missouri, indicate that John Bland, who married Hannah Lewellyn in Nelson County, November 13, 1795 was the oldest son of John Bland. If so, John, who married Hannah, would have been born about 1774, meaning his father, John, who married Elizabeth Shewmate, would have been born 1752-1753. This is possible, of course, but it would tend to press four siblings, Osborne, Prudence, Samuel and John very close together in a span that ranges from about 1748-1753. For this reason, I tend to doubt that John Bland, who died in 1836, was the father of John Bland who married Hannah Lewellyn in 1795.

The Grandstaffs have provided information about Isaac Bland (1788-1840, cf. AC 1-2, p. 13) that indelibly links him to John Bland but not Elizabeth Shewmate. From a tombstone inscription in Lewis County, Missouri where Isaac ended his life, his dates are given as September 27, 1788 and October 30, 1840. This means he could not have been the son of Elizabeth Shewmate. By 1830, John <sup>ISAAC</sup> was in Lewis County, Missouri. He married Nancy Floyd (February 13, 1813-May 26, 1846) in Lewis County in 1832. Isaac and Nancy had three sons and two daughters. The daughters were Joanna, (1835- ) who married F. Y. Cowgill and Elizabeth (1840-1877) who married Collin Duncan. Two of the sons died before marrying, one whose name is unknown and another, Thomas H. Benton Bland (1837-1857). One son, Josephus Henry Bland (1833-1917) as indicated earlier, married Mary Duncan in 1855. Josephus was the ancestor of the Grandstaffs (AC 1-2, p. 13).

The children of John Bland and Elizabeth Shewmate follow, in order of hypothetical birthdates based upon marriage information.

✓ \*Bryant Bland (1800-1841) married Margaret Bridewell in Spencer County, Kentucky, August 8, 1834. Bryant may have previously married Patsy Wells in Spencer County, April 13, 1827.

✓ \*James Bland (1804- ) married Prudence Bland, daughter of Samuel Bland (1753-1835), a cousin, September 28, 1825 in Nelson County. Samuel Bland was bondsman.

✓ Catherine Bland (1809- ) married Samuel Bland, July 11, 1826 in Hardin County.

✓ \*Eleanor "Nelly" Bland (1811- ) married William McMackin, January 18, 1828 in Nelson County. Isaac Bland consented and was bondsman.

\*Mary Bland (1814- ) married William Russell, June 18, 1831, county uncertain, Bryant Bland was bondsman.

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\*Mentioned in Will of John Bland, 1836.

Lucinda Bland (C1817- ) married John Kenyon, May 14, 1834, Bryant Bland was bondsman.

\*Mildred "Milly" Bland (C1819- ) married Joseph Bridewell, February 8, 1836 in Nelson County. Bryant Bland was bondsman.

\*Frances "Fanny" Bland (C1820- ) married James Glass, June 6, 1836 in Nelson County. James Bland was bondsman.

\*Martha Ann Bland (1821- ) married Samuel Overstreet in Oldham County in 1838 (per Mary Virginia Manby).

Daniel Bland (C1758- ): Scant information was available in VU, pp. 458-459 about Daniel Bland, who married Elizabeth Hughes in Washington County, January 14, 1796. According to records handed down to John W. Bland, Daniel's ancestor, they were married by "Tulchtomplen." Heretofore, we have known only that Daniel and Elizabeth had a daughter Mildred, born 1810 or 1811, who married David Stark in Hardin County, July 30, 1828, and a son John H. Bland (1801-1870) who married Mary Creager in Hardin, January 14, 1820.

Mr. John W. Bland descends through Daniel's son Jesse Henry Bland, born October 7, 1805 and died August 21, 1862, who married June 4, 1827, Elizabeth Spurrier (July 26, 1805-August 30, 1884). Jesse and Elizabeth were parents of John Daniel Bland (1828-1876) of Sonora, Kentucky who married Mary Angeline Lampton (1835-1919) on February 24, 1853.

John Daniel Bland and Mary Lampton were parents of William Henry Bland (1854-1919) of Sonora, Kentucky who married Elizabeth Akers (1859-1920) on October 31, 1877. William Henry and Mary Elizabeth Akers Bland were parents of three daughters, Maud Bland, who married D. W. Mason; Louise Bland who married J. F. Glasscox and Gertrude Bland who married R. L. Mason. Their son, Charles Lorenzo Bland (1878-1954) married Edna Jean Pritchard (1887-1982) on April 11, 1907. Both died in Sonora. Their son, John William Bland (1920-1975) married Myrtle Elizabeth Wheeler (1925- ) and they were the parents of John Wesley Bland (1945- ) of Elizabethtown, Kentucky, my correspondent.

Thus, it would appear that by Elizabeth Hughes, Daniel Bland has John H. Bland (1801-1870); Jesse Henry Bland (1805-1862); and Mildred Bland (C1810- ). Of much greater delight to me, I must confess, was the information John W. Bland sent to me regarding James Bland of Hardin County, who made out his will on May 3, 1828 in Hardin County. It unraveled a puzzle I had been grappling with for some time: who was the husband of Susannah Bland (C1790- , VU, pp. 478-479) and where did she fit in the Nelson County Bland family, for I was always certain she did so. But let me backtrack for a moment:

Jane Dyer Arnold sent me a letter dated March 10, which I did not receive until the day of my father's death. In the letter, Jane cited information from Kentucky Cemetery records showing James Bland (December 18, 1780 to February 2, 1829) buried close to Henry Bland (1810-1880) who was married to Alice, and William Bland (September 10, 1818-February 1891). I re-read this letter after a phone conversation with John W. Bland on June 2. This tombstone information, in addition to the will of 1828 are gems. In the will, James lists Elizabeth Bland married to Richard Richards and minors Henry Bland, Jane Bland, William Bland, Susannah Bland, Mary Ann Bland, Malinda Bland and Lucretia Bland. His wife Susannah and his son Henry are named co-executors, with clear speci-

fications for Henry to take over those responsibilities on his 21st birthday. Significantly, the will was witnessed by Hubbard Van Meter. The only Bland-Van Meter connection I know of occurs within the Daniel Bland family (VU, p. 459). Thus, I am assuming until proven otherwise, that James Bland was a son of Daniel Bland by an earlier marriage. In order to have been married and have a son born in 1780, Daniel would have had to be born by about 1758.

Thus, the following family unfolds for James Bland (1780-1829) and assumed son of Daniel Bland, and his wife Susan (1790- ); whom he probably married about 1808.

Elizabeth Bland (C1808- ) married Richard Richards in Hardin County, July 19, 1825.

\*Henry Bland (1810-1880) married (1) Mariah English, August 3, 1829 and (2) Alice Harding, April 21, 1835, both in Hardin County.

\*Jane Bland (C1812- ) married Leonard Farmer, April 3, 1829.

\*Susannah Bland (C1814- ) married William Mather, July 12, 1831.

\*William Bland (1813 or 1818-1891) married Adaline English, May 14, 1835.

\*Mary Ann Bland (C1819- ) married John English, January 19, 1836.

\*Malinda Bland (C1822- ) married William Abel, November 12, 1839.

Lucretia Bland (C1824- ) married Elijah Hansborough, January 17, 1841.

John W. Bland also sent me some family group information about one Thomas Osborne Bland, who died in 1898, about whom nothing else is known. Thomas Osborne married Emily Ann Lampton and had by her ten children, including Loretta; Jesse Henry; Lenora; Price; Charles Robert; Mary Ellen; James Hagan; Virgil Thomas; W. H. Bland and J. D. Bland.

Given the precision of James Bland's will of 1828 it is not likely that Thomas Osborne is his son. It should be noted, however, that a Thomas O. Bland of Hardin County married Augustian Bland, February 8, 1834. That would suggest Thomas O. was born about 1813, making it possible that he could have been the son of Daniel Bland and Elizabeth Hughes, a possibility enhanced in my opinion by a Bland-Lampton connection in Hardin County through a proven descendant of Daniel. This last, however, remains speculative.

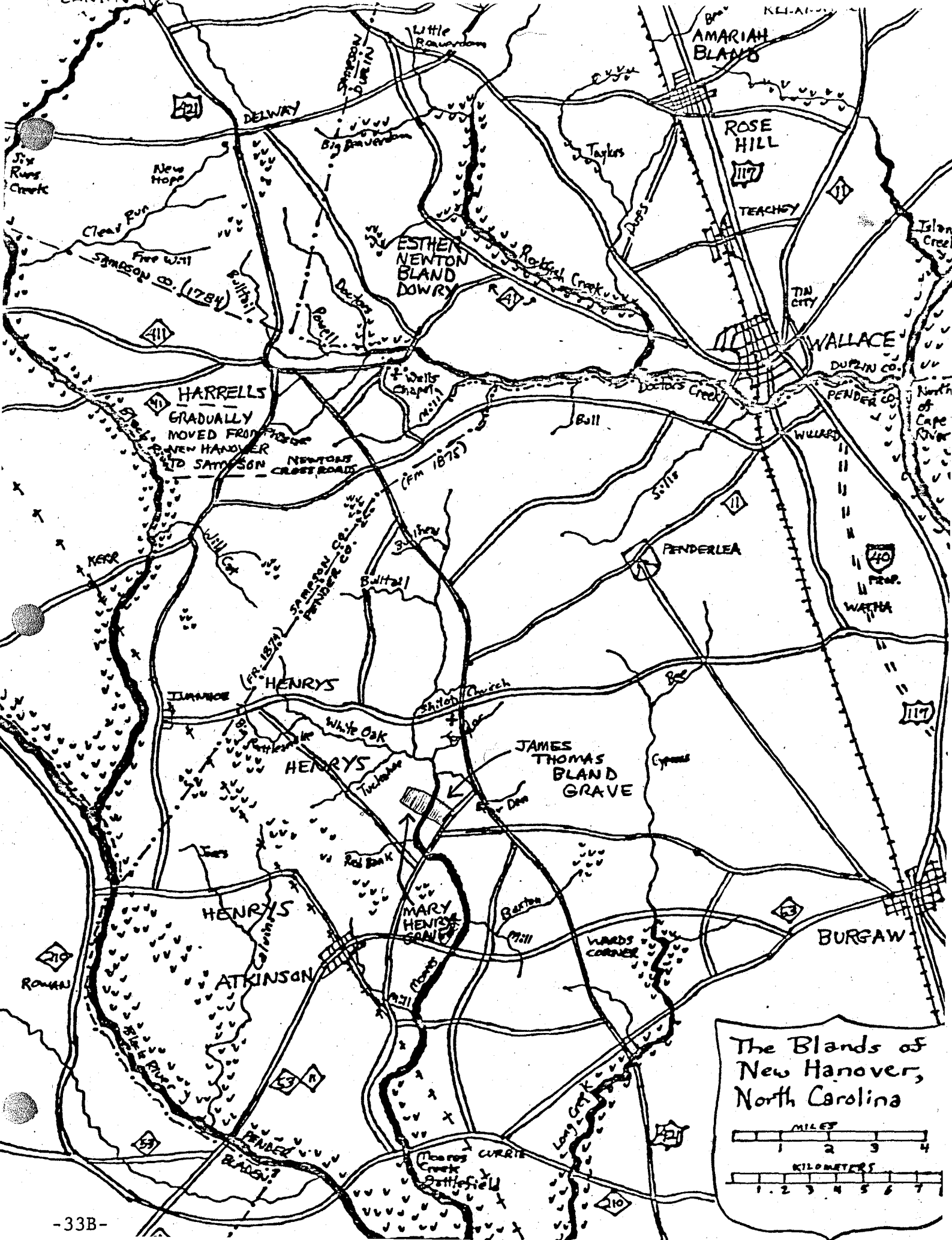
#### Allen Bland, Allen Bland, Allen Bland, Allen Bland

As noted above, (page 11 ) I have found a proliferation of Allens about the turn of the 19th century. One is located securely within the Washington County, Kentucky family as the son of Rolly Bland and Delsey Sheklesworth, (AC 1-2, p. 16). Another appears to be associated with David Bland of Dumfries,

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\*dates and children previously noted (VU, pp. 478-479).

1. There is also a Hardin County marriage between Daniel H. (Hughes?) Bland and Milly Hart, July 15, 1843. Again suggesting an additional son of Daniel Bland and Elizabeth Hughes.



The Blands of  
New Hanover,  
North Carolina

MILES  
0 1 2 3 4

KILOMETERS  
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7

Sons of Moses Bland (C1718-1799/1800) and William Bland (C1752- )

This information received from Jane Midtby of Denver, Colorado and Vera Bland of Pasadena, Texas: Jane supplied from Clark County, Indiana Marriage Book a marriage record for John Bland to Mary bland, October 9, 1811. These are the parents of Osborne Bland (C1812-1882) and Meredith Bland (C1813-1880) (VU, pp. 357-359). It would place John's likely date of birth as about 1790. Further, a Clark County Estray Book, 1801-1817, shows John, Abel, Thomas, James and William Bland all in Clark County between 1810-1812.<sup>1</sup> They are all listed as Blan, similar to the name shown for Moses Bland who married Martha Needham in 1837 and went to Oregon (VU, pp. 362-365). This would tend to reaffirm Abel, James, Thomas (VU, p. 346) as sons of William who moved to Indiana together (VU, pp. 347-350 discusses Moses, who went to kentucky) and John who married Mary, as the unknown son enumerated in William's Randolph County, North Carolina Household in 1790. But what of William, the eldest son of the elder Moses? He is last seen in North Carolina records in 1801. Since his sons moved out to Indiana in the early 1800's, this cluster might demonstrate that the elder William moved with them and died sometime after 1812. Kinsmen Abel, Benjamin, James, John, Moses and Thomas, but not William, were living in Jackson County, Indiana in 1820.

Among these was Abel Bland, born in 1788, still living in Ouachita County, Arkansas, Harrison Township as of 1850. Abel, in 1850, was married to a woman named Ann \_\_\_\_\_ (C1791- ) and had an 18-year-old son George W. Bland living with him. He lived next door to John W. Bland, possibly a son who was 29, and had been born in Indiana (about 1820-1821). John Bland was married to Sarah \_\_\_\_\_ (1827- ) and they had four children James (1843- ); Elizabeth (C1845- ); John W. (1847- ) and Benjamin (C1849- ).

Another child of Abel Bland was Benjamin Bland (C1815-1859) who was born in Henry County, Kentucky and died at Stamps, Lafayette County, Arkansas. He married Martha Reid (1815-1883) who was born in Indiana and died in Hubbard, Texas about 1838. Benjamin and Martha had a family of 7 children, including:

John Wesley Bland born in Red River, TEXAS in 1839 and died in the Civil War, May 15, 1862.

George James Bland (January 31, 1841 to February 8, 1905) born in Texas, married Mary C. Norwood, November 29, 1871.

Margaret Bland (January 9, 1843 to January 8, 1828) born in Arkansas, meaning Benjamin and Martha moved to Arkansas about 1842, married George William Kinard, September 16, 1866.

Joseph Abel Bland (February 24, 1845 to May 25, 1917) born in Arkansas, married Eugenia Fort, October 15, 1866.

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1. After this page was typed, I received from Kay Monroe, 715 North Section Street, Sullivan, Indiana, an inquiry for further information about her great, great grandmother Jane Bland who married William Wilkey in 1786. If these dates are true, the only person who could have had a daughter old enough to marry in 1786 was the elder Moses. Further, Mrs. Monroe indicates that Wilkey died in Clark County, Indiana in 1818 and that William and Abel Bland stood bond or witnessed the will.

Mary Jane Bland (1847- ), born in Arkansas married Peter F. Jarnigan.

Henry Robert Bland (1851-1867) and Lucinda Adeline Bland (1853-1866).

### Talton Bland

Although a connection with the Randolph County Blands is not proven, and I consider Talton the head of a distinct family group (see above p. 11), his principal researcher, Terese Bland Bueker (AC 1-1, p. 13 and 1-2, p. 21) has found at least one clue that may be promising in linking him to a distinct family group. Terese's research took her back to North Carolina, where in Anson County she found a pre-1800 nexus between Blands and Taltons. Talton Bland (c1800- ) was born in Edgefield County, South Carolina and later migrated to Chattahoochie, Georgia, a pattern that seemed to make him a member of the group of Blands that moved to Edgefield from Loudon, Virginia. Yet he has stubbornly resisted any connection with this group. Perhaps this assumption was misleading.

Terese found Taltons listed as heads of household in the Newbern District, Wayne and Johnston Counties. Then in a book compiled by May W. McBee, Anson County North Carolina: Abstracts of Early Records (1950; 1978), Terese found the following:

p. 93 - William and Moses Bland working with Daniel Hicks, overseer, from Little River to the county line,

pp. 78, 105 - Deeds from Thomas Ward and James Mode to William and Moses Bland.

pp. 136-140 - Taltons discussed inter alia.

In addition, Terese found marriage records indicating Taltons and Blands living in close proximity in Orange, Caswell and Johnston County which are interrelated in origins, but no smoking gun, no direct marriage about 1790-1800 between a Bland and Talton that would give the clue to parents for her Talton. I would say at least that I do not recall any North Carolina family other than the one from Randolph County in which the names William and Moses are frequently intertwined.

By way of consolation, I am pleased to offer on the following pages, Terese Bland Bueker herself, who fulfilled her life-long dream to be a cover girl in the December 1983 issue of her company journal Terra-Sol. Now don't you agree she has a classic nose? How could Playboy have passed her up? The two men on the page following Terese are John Lafayette Bland (1878-1915), Terese Bland's grandfather and his father William Wesley Bland (1855-1923) (AC 1-1, p. 13).

I must confess that during this last period I received a lot of information about the Randolph Blands, not only from Jane Mitdby and Vera Bland but from Elva Reitz and others, and have not been able to fully digest it. Perhaps that can be a goal for the next Newsletter.

**GENEALOGY**  
A detective  
story that's  
never solved



Terese Bland Bueker, from a photo reprinted from Terra Sol,  
published by Mitchell Energy and Development Corporation.



William Wesley Bland  
(1855-1923)

Son of Calvin Bland (1820-1891)

(See discussion, AC 1-1, p. 13)



John Lafayette Bland  
(1878-1915) son of William  
Wesley Bland, (1855-1923)



THE MECKLENBURG, VIRGINIA BLANDSOld Fayette, Yeah

In the last issue, Kathy Bland (AC 2-1, p. 24) sent me a Civil War photograph of her ancestral grandfather Marion Marcus de Lafayette Bland (1829-1910) looking irresistably handsome. Well, Marjorie Sayles sent me another picture, including "Old Fayette" when he was somewhat closer, let us say, to 1910 than to 1829. By now a gray beard, dignity and a slightly disillusioned look has settled upon his countenance, perhaps he's worried about what Ona Faye might do if the photographer doesn't get on with it. (Photo on following page)

MISCELLANEOUSLewis, John, Daniel and Peter Bland

Previously I heard from Alda Clayton Vitz (AC 1-2, pp. 3-4) regarding a Lewis Bland who married Martha LeMasters, October 11, 1820 in Shelby County, Ohio. In April, I received two letters from Tina G. Jones, 190 Centennial Avenue #1, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601 and from Janet Lucas, Rte. 3, Box 147-L, Moberly, Missouri, in quest of the same individuals.

In addition to Lewis, Mrs. Vitz mentioned a John Bland who married Rebecca Johnston, June 14, 1822 and Peter Bland who married Elizabeth Reed, September 17, 1846 in Champaign County, Illinois. Janet Lucas indicates John was born December 5, 1792 in Virginia and died July 25, 1861 in Cedar County, Missouri. He was in Captain Griggs' Company of the Virginia Militia during the War of 1812. His name was John Daniel Bland. Tina Jones indicates her great-great grandfather, John D. Bland, was of Shelby County, Kentucky and was buried at the Indian Fork Cemetery there. Her great grandfather was Willis Leland Bland (suggesting a connection with the Washington County, Kentucky family) and her grandfather Lewis Burton Bland. The names are all similar but they may well not belong together. Although I cannot put my hand on the document, L. P. Bland sent me an old item indicating that Peter Bland, who received a grant of 392 acres in 1815 (see p. 24 above), moved to Missouri in later years.

Richard Bland of Prince William County, Virginia

I received from Vera Bland and Edith Lanning some information about this line that illuminates VU, pp. 396-397 and ties together some very interesting information. Richard Bland (C1730- ) had a son Joseph (C1752- ) who married Susan Bailey Johnson. Joseph and Susan settled near Winchester, Virginia and later in the Monongalia, Wetzel, Harrison County, Virginia/West Virginia and Green County, Pennsylvania area. They had three sons, Richard, David and Thomas.

Richard's approximate dates (1789-1883) and family by Mary Jobes were provided earlier. Information provided by Edith Lanning shows that Richard married Sarah Harper in Harrison County, January 27, 1859. Richard was then 70 (he claimed to be 65 to impress Sarah with his youth) and she was a mere child at age 46.



John Bland Family about 1903, Photo Courtesy of Marjorie Bland Sayles

Back Row: Vera Ecta Bland; Roscoe Ireland Bland; Joseph Merritt Bland; Robert Lafayette Bland; Eula May Diltz Bland;

Second Row: James Alva Bland; Ora Bland;

Front Row: Arthur Cleveland Bland; John William Carroll Bland; Marion Lafayette "Fayte" Bland holding Ona Fay Bland; Locky Tennessee Craddock Bland, and Dimmitt Bland.

Robert Lafayette Bland (1879-1960) and Eula May Diltz were husband and wife and the parents of Marjorie Bland Sayles.

See discussion in VU, pp. 589-590 (1); and VU, pp 551-552 (2).

Information in the book about Thomas Bland indicated only that he went to Greene County, Pennsylvania. Voila! A line is pushed back three generations in one fell swoop! In AC 2-1, p. 9 I was stumped at Thomas Bland, a carpenter (1790-1874) who was born in Virginia and moved to Pennsylvania. Here is the connection! While browsing at the branch library of the local Latter Day Saints Library last winter, I came across a Greene County, Pennsylvania marriage between Thomas Bland and Elizabeth McCullough in 1812. They had a family of 13 children and their son Joseph (1824-1906), who migrated to Appanoose County, Iowa, was detailed in the last number of the Newsletter. The other children of Thomas and Elizabeth were Mary (1813- ); Susan (July 19, 1816- ); Delilah (1817- ); Aemlia (1819- ); John (September 10, 1822- ); Martha (1823- ); Joseph; Elizabeth (September 22, 1827- ); Thomas (1830- ) married Sarah Devall and had Francis (June 28, 1855- ) and Hugh (1859- ); Cynthia (1833- ); Sarah (1835- ) and Eleanor (1837- ).

The third son, David Bland, according to information provided by Edith Lanning and Vera Bland was born about 1792. He married Elizabeth Church and moved with her to Ohio, where they had a son Joseph Bland (1824- ) who married Rebecca Church (C1832- ) about 1847. Their children were:

1. Henry Bland (1848- ) born in Wetzel County, married Margaret Hixenbaugh.
2. Samuel Bland (July 7, 1851-May 12, 1919) married Celestia Francis Carpenter, December 25, 1880.
3. John Thomas Bland (February 20, 1852 to July 31, 1933) married Susan Amanda Laflin on December 24, 1871 or 1872. According to information furnished Vera Bland by Lorenzo Vernetta Bland of Twin Falls, Idaho, their children were John Morgan Bland, William Henry Bland, Lorenzo Orlando Bland and George Thomas Bland, all born in New Martinsville, Wetzel County.
4. Jackson Bland (1856- ) married Emma Davis, October 16, 1876.
5. Nancy Bland (1858- ) married Henry Balvantz, December 25, 1877.
6. Jemima Bland (1860- ) married David Wade.
7. Selvy Bland (1864- ) married Adeline Martin, February 13, 1888.
8. Elizabeth Bland (1867- ) married August Hartwig, July 23, 1885.
9. Mark Bland (October 11, 1871- ) married Zora Morgan.

Thus, we have been able to add considerable detail to the line of Richard Bland of Prince William County, Virginia. The much more important question is: how does Richard tie back into the Stafford/Prince William family?

#### The Blands of Pitt County, North Carolina

In the last issue I provided the outline information from Gottschalk's The Bland Family of Pitt County North Carolina (Ac 2-1, pp. 22-23).

On January 17, 1984 I received a letter from Don Gurley of Walnut Creek, California who provided a group sheet for the family of Barnes Bland (C1805-1887)

the son of John Bland (C1763-1823) and grandson of George Bland (C1736-1797) the Pitt County founder. Barnes married Catherine Elizabeth "Rhoda" Brooks (C1810- ). They had 11 children, all born in Ayden, Pitt County:

1. Margaret Ann Susan Bland (September 7, 1826 to November 11, 1837).
2. Sarah Bland (September 5, 1818- ) married James Edwards.
3. William Augustus Bland (January 23, 1830- ).
4. Catherine Bland (March 17, 1832- ) married Peter E. Braswell.
5. Martha Jane Bland (March 28, 1834- ) married W. T. Braswell.
6. Joseph John Bland (November 10, 1835-November 14, 1863).
7. Richard Bland (August 22, 1837-October 28, 1841).
8. Susan Ann Bland (February 15, 1839-November 11, 1913) married Benjamin Smith.
9. Elsey Bland (September 14, 1840- ) married Jane S. Hines.
10. Alley Elizabeth Bland (July 15, 1843- ).
11. Christopher Columbus Bland (July 17, 1846-October 19, 1917) married Cecilia Elizabeth Boyd.

A second son of John Bland (1763-1823) was Theophilus Bland (August 20, 1821 to November 1, 1902), who married Mary Cannon Smith (May 10, 1830 to January 27, 1903) on June 16, 1847. This couple had a family of 13 children:

1. John Cannon Bland (1848-1926) married Elizabeth Cannon.
2. Theophilus Bland Jr. (1850-1896) married Nancy Jane Cox.
3. Martha Adelaide Bland (1851-1905).
4. William Barnes Bland (1853-1888) married Carrie Louisa Smith.
5. Sarah Elizabeth Bland (1854-1944).
6. Edward Augustus Bland (1855-1901).
7. James Lanier Bland (1858-1938) married (1) Julia C. Dizon, December 24, 1879; (2) Martha Ann Hudnell and (3) Roxy Hardy.
8. Richard Ervin Bland (1860-1949) married Louisa Faulkner.
9. Mary Josephine Bland (1861-1889).
10. Christopher Adrian Bland (1863-1900).
11. Elsie Ann Pamela Bland (1866-1949).
12. Ida Victoria Bland (1868-1956) married J. Herbert Albritton.
13. Claudius Franklin Bland (1871-1936) married Minnie Coral Gabriel.

### Walks in Graveyards

Lloyd N. Cooley of Atchison, Kansas found in the Robinson, Kansas Cemetery a stone that read: Flora B. Bland, mother, May 4, 1902 (no death date) and Anvern B. Bland, May 2, 1896 - D. November 1, 1968. At a separate stone, Mary Bland, died 1926. According to old timers Mr. Cooley talked to, these Blands came from Linn Creek, Missouri.

In the Miller cemetery at Everest, Kansas, Mr. Cooley found:

On the same stone: Clara F. Bland (1889-1966) and Ira B. Bland (1875-1931).  
 On three separate stones: Alvin E. Bland, Father, 1867-1947  
                                   L. Clyde Bland                                  1892-1915  
                                   Lola Young Bland                                  1902-1976

In the Alexander Cemetery in Platte County, Missouri:

Benjamin Bland, December 13, 1857 to November 8, 1860  
M. M. Bland, December 5, 1816 to July 27, 1879  
Prillie E. Bland, February 19, 1860 to September 19, 1860  
Sarah E. Bland, October 27, 1847 to October 3, 1848

In the Mount Bethel Cemetery, Northwest of Weston, Missouri:

Harvey Lee Bland, December 9, 1891 to November 2, 1894  
John M. Bland, October 12, 1854 to January 29, 1934  
Joseph Martin Bland, October 22, 1888 to February 3, 1891  
Sam Bland, Only one date, 1934  
Sophronia Bland, April 12, 1859 to October 4, 1934

After exploring the Platte County Cemetery, Mr. Cooley got a book, Annals of Platte County and found the following: Martin M. Bland (see above tombstone "M. M." 1816-1879) was the son of Eli Bland and Sarah Anderson, born in Kentucky. He married Mary Turner, born in Mays Lick, Kentucky, July 7, 1825, on July 25, 1845. Their children were:

1. Mary Bland (1848- ) married James Baker in 1867
2. Annie Bland, married Jacob Brenner
3. John Bland (see above, 1854-1934) married Sophronia Bozarth (1859-1934)
4. Tillie Bland (1858- ) married William Brown on June 1, 1882
5. Ellen J. Bland (1861- ) married Jeff Turner in 1882
6. Robert L. Bland (1870- )

Mahala Bland (June 17, 1821- ) was a sister of Martin M. Bland. She married A. Kirkpatrick on August 19, 1839 in Tennessee and they arrived at Platte County near Bean's Lake about 1841.

#### Elizabeth Bland and son James

While browsing in the SUNY at Buffalo library one day, I came upon K. Coleman and M. Ready, Colonial Records of the State of Georgia, Volume 20, University of Georgia Press (1982), p. 393. It includes a letter from Elizabeth Bland, a widow, who came to Georgia at the Trustees expense, with a minor son named James. Her letter to Oglethorpe is dated June 14, 1735 and in it she lays him out for the discomforts of her journey. It would be interesting to know what ever happened to little James.

### INQUIRIES

#### Gladwin Bland

Roger Gladwin Bland, 1492 West Bluegrass Road, Mount Pleasant, Michigan 48858, wrote to me for information about his ancestor Gladwin Bland (1876-1932) from Ireland. Gladwin married Maria Candida Rodrigo from Vera Cruz, Mexico (1882-1977) and had by her Arthur Forrester Bland (1910- ), father of Roger Gladwin Bland. Anyone with information should contact Roger.

Susan Bland

Ella Leigh of 13665 Independence Drive, Manassas, Virginia 22111, is searching for information about Susan Bland, born August 1799 and died February 23, 1880 in Chicamuxen Cemetery, Charles County, Maryland. Susan married Matthew Milstead (C1787-1850). Anyone with clues should contact Ella Leigh.

Francis and Nancy Bland

Margie Hartis of Lancaster, Texas (see address list) is searching for clues to Francis Bland, a hostler of Bradford, York County, England, whose father was William Bland, a shoemaker. Francis Bland married Nancy Hill on March 30, 1872. He and Nancy had a family of five including Alice Leah Bland, Lucy, Lilly, Anna, and Florence. Alice Leah Bland (February 24, 1873 to December 31, 1905) married Benjamin Wilson Whitley, December 23, 1890. Alice Leah Bland Whitley was Margie Frances Whitley Hartis' grandmother. Margie was not precise about where Alice Leah Bland was born, or where and when William set down in this country. I have searched Carlisle and the Latter Day Saints Microfiche of English Records for York County and find nothing. Perhaps someone else can help.

A Reprieve?

I hope you all won't be too disappointed if Volume 3, Number 1 isn't quite this long. This one was a real bear.

Laugh Now

I heard a genealogical joke by Buddy Hackett, which I'll pass on, but I have to clean it up a bit:

Seems there was this young couple in love who could find no place to, what shall we say, express themselves, except a historical graveyard. After the first month of their affair, the lady developed back trouble and had to go to a chiropractor.

"Will you please disrobe?" asked the doctor and directed the lady to lie face down on the examining table.

"How old are you?" he asked the lady, after she was face down.

"36."

"Funny," he said, looking at her, ahem, her derriere. "Says here you were born in 1797."

Mary Jane, Christina, Tommy and I wish all of you a very happy and rewarding summer.

Post-Script

News About Our Cousins - I have spoken recently with four of the five individuals who corresponded with me back in the lonely days of 1979 and 1980 when I was just getting the Bland research underway. I was unable to contact William Graham Bland, but learned from Edith Lanning that he was in good health.

Nel Ford of Columbus Mississippi recently had eye surgery but sees well and is otherwise in good health. Jessamine James, at 85, has made tremendous progress in recovering from a broken hip suffered over a year ago. The address for Mrs. James noted in the subscriber list has been changed to 2315 Greenlee Road, Tucson Arizona 85719. This is the residence of two close friends, Peter and Eunice Williamson, who have been principally responsible for helping Mrs. James regain her good health. It was my good fortune to have lunch with Leslie Dawson during a trip to New York on April 30 and May 1. Mr. Dawson, who is 81, described his very productive and colorful life to me (I was interested to know that we had both been in North Africa at various times), he feels fine, looks tremendous and still works in his law firm. He claims to come from a line of long-lived people and expects to have no trouble making 90.

Things are not so well with Urilla Bland. She and her younger brother Bob are grieved by the loss of their brother Theodorick Bland (1901-1984, VU p. 389) who died April 2. I did not learn of Theodorick's death until June 24 when I called Urilla. Miss Bland reports that a congestive heart problem which has always given her difficulty has become much more acute, as was obvious while I spoke with her. This, in addition to her bad eyes, have kept her from doing any further work on genealogy to speak of.

One new subscriber is Kenneth Bland of Somerville New Jersey who suffered a heart attack several months ago. While in New York on April 30-May 1, I found that my conference was adjacent to that of The Boy Scouts of America, for whom Kenneth Bland is an executive officer. I paid a call, hoping to find Kenneth. He was not in attendance but was well known among other representatives who welcomed me and gave me the good news that as of April 30, Ken was back on his feet and expected to go back to work soon. Ken descends from the Mecklenburg County Virginia group (P. 11, number 15).

Reunions

I have had numerous invitations to various family reunions. I am both gratified that so many Bland reunions take place and that their sponsors think to invite me. Unfortunately, since these are usually far away and I work for a wage, any attempt to attend them would quickly lead to my financial ruin. Having said that I will make the following offer. If I am reasonably close to a reunion locale, I will travel there and make a talk on that particular family group without any charge. Within a 500 mile radius, which would reach into Virginia, Ohio, Indiana and West Virginia, probably Kentucky as well, I would do the same for automobile mileage at a rate of .20 per mile. For a further distance I would do the same for the lowest cost air fare. In either case, I would ask that some family member allow me to sleep overnight in their home. I would ask for no fee above these basic legitimate expenses. Anyone interested should feel free to contact me.

ATTACHMENT I  
SUBSCRIBER LIST

All subscribers are listed below. To the left of the subscriber's name, the appropriate family group is noted (see page 10-12).

- 2X(3) Arnold, Jane, 338 West Cedar St. Franklin Ky., 42134
- 2X(2) Adams, Lela C. Route 5, Box 49, Bassett Virginia 24055
- 20 Adams, Carol, 5309 Helene Drive, Charleston S.C. 29405
- 2A(1) Allic, Linda B. 7201 Post Oak Road, Fort Worth Texas, 76180
- 2X(1) Alexander, Juanita Peveto, Rt. 11, Box 575, Orange Texas 77630
- 2A(1) Awerdick, Grace, Box 672, Apex North Carolina, 27502
- 19 Banks Myron, 2801 Rothgeb Drive, Raliegh North Carolina 27609
- 8 Barfells, Louise, Box 508, Hampton Arkansas, 71744
- 2X(1) Bland, Benjamin F. Box 324, Edinburg Texas, 78540
- 2X(1) Bland, Beverly, 1804 Village Lane, North Wantagh, Long Island NY 11793.
- 2X(1) Bland, Tommie, CO Bland Family Reunion, Box 276, Mebane N.C. 27302
- 9 Bland, Bruce F. 123 Cadman Drive, Williamsville N.Y. 14221
- 2X(1) Bland, Bruce S. (Deceased), 2218 Somerset Drive, Wilson N.C. 27893
- 2X(1) Bland, Charles C. 11767 Round Hill Drive, St. Louis Mo. 63128
- 2X(1) Bland, Charles L. 154 Delamere Road, Williamsville N.Y. 14221
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