

CHAPTER X

THE FAMILY OF JOHN BLAND: EIGHTH GENERATIONThe Founder

The third child of James Bland (seventh generation) was John Bland (eighth generation). Distinctly, John was the third eldest son, for in his father's will he was left land amounting to 125 acres, "when he shall arrive at the age of twenty-one."¹ Since he had two brothers older than himself, who were executors to John's will, and since, unlike his older brothers, he was entrusted with no responsibilities for tuition and care of the minor children, it is apparent that he was about to reach his majority but had not yet done so, when his father died. Hence, the estimation for his birthdate of 1688, which is sufficient for working purposes. An inventory of John's estate is entered in Prince William records on June 7, 1762,² indicating that he died shortly before that time. Thus, reasonable working dates would be 1688-1762 for John Bland (eighth generation).

Unlike his brothers William and James, John does not appear to have participated in the early acquisition of family property. The rent rolls of Overwharton Parish, Stafford County in 1723, show John in possession of the same 125 acres granted him by his father in 1708.³

¹ Will of James Bland, December 22, 1708. Cf. p. 261, note 1.

² Prince William County Deed Book I, June 7, 1762, p. 291. John's will is missing.

³ King, Registers of Overwharton Parish, p. 146.

By 1738, he is shown in possession of the same land.¹ Upon the settlement of his elder brother William's estate, John may have received 100 acres of land that William had acquired in 1742;² however, as subsequent discussion of these 100 acres will show; that is a highly problematical assumption. Although John may have acquired other land, I have been unable to locate records to substantiate such acquisitions.

John served as a voter with his brothers William, James and Robert for the House of Burgesses, for Prince William County, in 1741.³ Other traces of John appear in 1743, 1749/1750, 1760 and 1761.

John married a woman named Patience, but when he married her is uncertain.⁴ The names of the children of John and Patience are uncertain. As indicated earlier, there was a Patience Bland who in 1753, according to information from one correspondent, married John Smith of Somerset County, Maryland, but later moved to Prince William County, Virginia, where a son Joshua was born in 1760.⁵ No specific evidence is available to indicate Patience's relationship to any of the four eighth generation brothers, although her probable age, if she was married in 1753, would indicate the probability that she was a daughter of one of them. Her name, given John's marriage to a woman named Patience, would suggest she was John's daughter, but that might be problematical, for Patience _____ might have been John Bland's second wife. This is

1 Dawson Notes, no citation.

2 Prince William County Deed Book T, pp. 48, 235, March 27, 1776.

3 Dawson Notes, citing Boogher.

4 John had a sister named Patience and may also have had a daughter by the same name. Cf. discussion following and p. 267, note 1.

5 Ibid.

deduced by the fact that Jesse Bland (ninth generation), the single proven child of John Bland (eighth generation) was no more than fifteen in 1767,¹ indicating that he would have had to be born about 1752, and thus was the son of a woman who was born probably no later than about 1707 and who would be about twenty years younger than John (eighth generation). Thus, there is the possibility, as with the older brothers, that John Bland married twice.

Of the son Jesse, not much is known. A Jesse Bland, born in Prince William County, Virginia, served in the American Revolution, enlisting in Greenbrier County in 1776 and serving until 1779. He is said to have died April 15, 1842.²

John Bland (Ninth Generation)

A third possible child of John Bland (eighth generation) was John Bland. Calculations of his birth, derived from the approximate times of his marriage, suggest that John was born no later than about 1725. He died in Nelson County, Kentucky, where his will was made October 5, 1795, and proved December 8, 1795. Thus, the dates of John Bland (ninth generation) are C.1725-1795.

John Bland (ninth generation) was a trooper in the Prince William County Militia in 1756 and in 1766, signed the petition of "The

¹ For information about Jesse, I have relied upon three letters: Marian Daniels to Virginia Cowden, May 21, 1981; Marian Daniels to Albert Hunter, May 30, 1981; and Marian Daniels to Charles Bland, November 19, 1981. Jesse was bound out as an apprentice to John Thorne in 1767, indicating he was a minor, no older than 15. He was bound to Robert Wickliffe before Thorne. Boys began apprenticeships usually at age 14.

² Dawson Notes, citing Johnston, West Virginia in the Revolution, p. 32.

Patriots of the Northern Neck of Virginia," drawn up by Richard Henry Lee, following enactment of the Stamp Act Crisis.¹

John Bland's parentage was no doubt clearer to him than to present-day researchers. Older writers such as Caroline Beall Price, assumed as a matter of course that he was the son of John Bland (eighth generation). The primary reason for the assumption is that many entries in the Prince William County records refer to John Bland (ninth generation) as Junior, or the younger, while John Bland (eighth generation) is referred to as Senior.² Also, one should note that the 1767 entry for Jesse Bland's apprenticeship refers to his father as John Bland "deceased."³ In fairness, however, one must note that such annotations are not conclusive, for designations of Junior and Senior often distinguished uncles from nephews, as well as fathers from sons. One must also note that an entry in the Prince William County records on July 10, 1762, at least a month after the death of John Bland (eighth generation) refers to John Bland (ninth generation) as John Bland Jr.⁴ Designations of Junior and Senior do not then have evidentiary strength to prove a father-son relationship.

As indicated earlier, some researchers have expressed the belief that John Bland (ninth generation) was the son of William Bland (eighth generation).

¹ UMB-I, citing Meade, Vol. II, p. 434, and Ruth Thayer Ravenscroft Royal and Magna Charter: The Baronial Ancestry of Colonel George Read Virginia (1959), pp. 104-105. Ravenscroft's information about John Bland is a more or less verbatim transcription from Caroline Beall Price, Ancestral Beginnings in America (1928), pp. 48-54. Cf. Dawson Notes, citing Lyningstett, Vol. 2, p. 38, and Vol. 10, p. 47.

² See Dawson Notes, citing Vestry Book for Dettingen Parish, Prince William County, 1759-1769, and The Virginia Genealogist, Vol. 21, p. 10.

³ Marian Daniels to Virginia Cowden, May 21, 1981.

⁴ Marian Daniels to Charles Bland, December 11, 1981, citing Prince William County Order Book 1761-1769, July 10, 1762, case on p. 234.

generation) and his wife Catherine Key.¹ The chief proponent of this belief is Mrs. Roy (Marian) Daniels, of San Benito, Texas, a very careful, articulate and strong-minded researcher, as well as, I might add, a delightful correspondent. In various communications to this author as well as others, Mrs. Daniels has outlined the following reasons for her belief (for she is careful to say she has no conclusive proof) that John Bland (ninth generation) was the son of William Bland (eighth generation):

1. It is unlikely that John Bland (ninth generation) would have had a brother Jesse born no later than 1752, when John was born about 1725.²
2. Neither John Bland (ninth generation) nor any of his descendants known to Mrs. Daniels named a daughter after Patience, who would have been John's mother, if he was the son of John Bland (eighth generation).
3. In the estate of John Bland (eighth generation), available records indicate that his executrix was Patience Bland, his wife, and that nephews Benjamin Bland and Edward Gwatkins served as witnesses. The absence of John Bland (ninth generation) from the administration of John Bland's (eighth generation) estate, indicates that there was no father-son relationship.

¹ Cf. p. 271, note 2, and p. 273, note 4.

² Cf. p. 419, note 1.

4. On March 27, 1776, John Bland deeded to his son Osborne 100 acres that had formerly been part of a 312 acre grant to William Bland (eighth generation) made in 1742.¹

As Mrs. Daniels freely acknowledges, these arguments do not sew up her case, and I believe there are reasonable countervailing arguments for each of her points.

First, regarding Mrs. Daniels' points one and two, her conclusions could be negated if John Bland (eighth generation) had married twice, thus making Patience _____ his second wife. John and Jesse (ninth generation) would likely have been half-brothers. One must recall that the structure of evidence points to an earlier marriage by William Bland (eighth generation) before his marriage to Catherine Key.² Information regarding the wives and children of James and John Bland

¹ Cf. p. 271, note 2, and Marian Daniels to Albert Hunter, October 1980. Since the 1776 transaction was specific about the acreage of the total grant, Mrs. Daniels searched the Northern Neck Land Grants and found only the November 30, 1742 grant to William Bland for 312 acres, which reads as follows: "Land Grants Northern Neck No. F-28: William Bland of Prince William County. On the crooked branch joyning to the land of Mansford Arrington and Morris Veale and bounded by a survey thereof made by Mr. George Byrn; Beginning at "A" a box oak standing on the west side of the road corner to the said Bland's other tract extending thence E 45 p to "B" a white oak by a branch thence S 7 deg V 140 to "C" three red oak saplings on a ridge, thence S 20 deg E 56 p to "D" a red oak near a road thence S 50 deg W 76 p to "E" a red oak near the line of Morris Veale, thence S 15 deg E 132 p to "F" a red oak and a small white oak on a ridge, thence N 67 deg W 102 p to "G" a box oak on a point, thence N 52 deg W 58 p to "H" a red oak sapling, thence N 60 deg W 94 p to "I" a white oak near a fork of a branch N 16 deg E 180 p to "K" a white oak corner to said Bland then with his line N 29 deg E 200 p to beginning. Yearly and every year on the feast day of St. Michael the Archangel, 1 shilling sterling for every 50 acres. 30 day of November 1742."

² Cf. pp. 274-275.

(eighth generation) is so sketchy that it is not possible to definitely reach a similar conclusion for them. The reader should remember that in cases such as James Bland (seventh generation) and John Bland (eighth generation), wives mentioned in their estates or wills were their wives only at the time of their death. But I hasten to add that the assumption of a prior marriage by John Bland (eighth generation) is speculative. It is possible, but not likely, that John married about 1724, at about age 36, to Patience, a woman who, if no older than 15 or 16, between 1725 and 1752 could reasonably have given birth to John and Jesse. Finally, it is germane to this discussion that although John Bland (ninth generation) named no child after a brother Jesse, John's son Osborne (tenth generation) did have a son Jesse.¹

As to Mrs. Daniels' reasoning that John or his descendants did not name a child Patience, this argument hasn't much strength. First, it might also have been logical for John to name a daughter Patience, in honor of Aunt Patience, whether he was the son of William or John Bland, but he didn't.² Also, and this to me is a more conclusive rejection of the argument, if John was the son of William, he would almost certainly have had to be a son of Catherine Key, yet he named neither of his four daughters Catherine.

The assumption that John Bland (ninth generation) was the son of William Bland because he did not witness or serve as executor in the estate of John Bland, is interesting but inconclusive. By the same reasoning, one might argue, in isolation from other facts, that Benjamin Bland and Edward Gwatkins were sons of John Bland (eight generation). In that instance, of course, contrary evidence is

¹ Betty Turpin to Charles Bland, December 30, 1981.

² Neither did John name any children after his aunts Ellen, Alice or Hannah. These speculations are made further opaque because they are layered upon a further speculation that John Bland (eighth generation) was a son of James Bland by a wife who was antecedent to Margaret. Cf. 261 262

available. The key documents in this argument, the actual wills of William and John Bland (eighth generation) are missing.

William's will might also clear up the argument about the 100 acre fraction of William Bland's 312 acre grant. This overlap of property is, according to Mrs. Daniels, "my ace card in the argument that John was the son of William and Catherine Key Bland."¹ Yet Mrs. Daniels acknowledges that this evidence itself does not prove the parent-son relationship between William and John, and other information affirms this. There is evidence, for example, that some of the property held by William, John and Robert Bland (eighth generation) passed into the hands of James Bland (eighth generation) and eventually into the hands of James' grandson David (tenth generation) who conveyed it to one Savage in 1774.² Why then, in such a mixture of land, could it not be possible that a portion of the 312 acres William acquired in 1742, was passed on to his brother John after his death? Perhaps this interpretation, which admittedly rests upon hypothetical terms of a will that has been lost, would explain a juxtaposition of entries in the Prince William Records concerning a suit between "John Bland Jr. and James Bland." One entry records the suit and is dated October 1761. The second entry dismisses the suit and is dated July 10, 1762, just after the death of John Bland (eighth generation). Undoubtedly, the two principals are John Bland (ninth generation, C.1725-1795) and James Bland (ninth generation, C.1707-1774), either half-brothers or cousins

¹ Marian Daniels to Charles Bland, November 19, 1981.

² Prince William Deed Book U, September 13, 1774, pp. 70-71.

Details of this suit are not known to this author.¹ It is known, however, that in July and August 1761, James Bland of New Hanover County, North Carolina (c.1707-1774) returned to Prince William County to divest himself of some 1,128 acres of land he must have possessed as executor to his father William Bland's estate.² Further, the only extant entry about administration of the estate of John Bland (eighth generation) was dated June 7, 1762.³ One cannot deny the strong possibility that there is a relationship between all these dates, though I am at a loss to form a conclusion.

What it all boils down to is that neither the traditionalists nor Mrs. Daniels have sufficient information or evidence to negate the beliefs of the other. In absence of such conclusive proof, I have chosen to assume that John Bland (ninth generation in either case) was the son of John Bland (eighth generation), rather than the son of William Bland and Catherine Key. I say this, acknowledging freely that Mrs. Daniels has raised some very formidable arguments against such a conclusion, in what has been one of the most interesting evidentiary questions to arise in this book.

Whatever his parentage, there is a general consensus that John Bland (ninth generation) married Margaret Osborne, a daughter of Thomas Osborne, who died in Prince William County in 1737. As stated earlier,⁴ William Bland (eighth generation) supported Thomas Osborne's bid for a contested election in Prince William County. Margaret had at least

¹ This information was supplied the author by Marian Daniels in a letter dated December 11, 1981.

² Cf. p. 279, note 2.

³ Cf. p. 417, note 2.

⁴ Cf. p. 271, note 4.

two other sisters, known to this author: Nancy Osborne, who married John Randolph (c.1720-1789),¹ and Mary Osborne who married William Hendley. Margaret married John Bland about 1746.²

The Move to Kentucky

One assumes that Margaret inherited a sizeable portion of property from her father's estate,³ for on August 1, 1780, John and Margaret sold an unspecified amount of land for 6000 pounds sterling.⁴ In 1781, it appears that John, with Margaret and their children and grandchildren joined other families for a move to then Jefferson County, Kentucky. This was the largest movement to Kentucky of the Blands that has been recorded, and also probably the earliest. In those days there were summer and winter routes from Virginia to Kentucky. The summer route was overland and it entailed a trip southwest to the valleys of the Allegheny Mountains at the southwest tip of Virginia, and then into Kentucky at the Cumberland Gap or one of the other mountain passes.

¹ Tressie Westhers to Charles Bland, November 21, 1981.

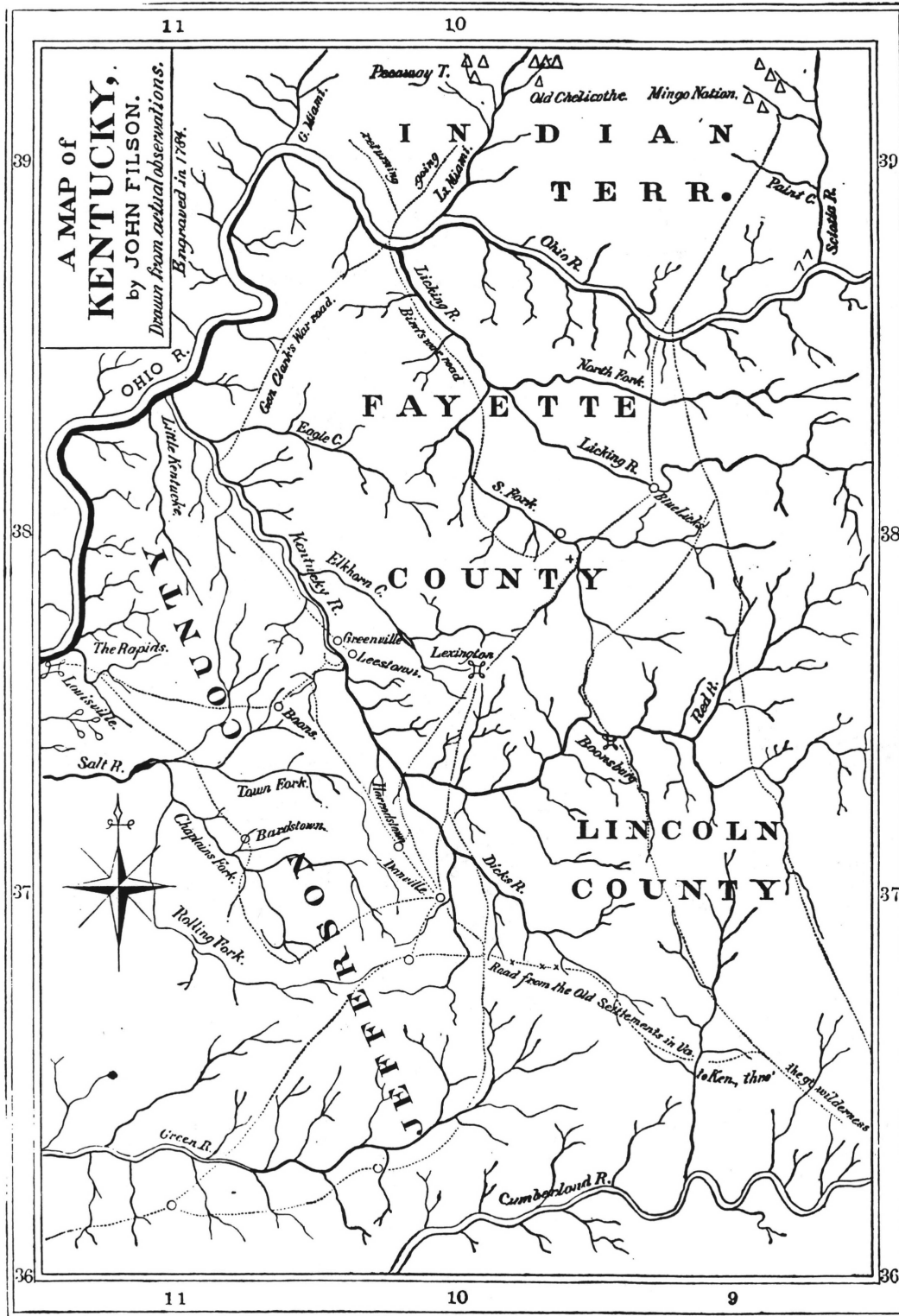
² Blanche Randolph to Charles Bland, December 10, 1981. A fourth sister, Prudence, may have died unmarried; cf. Ravenscroft, p. 107.

³ On July 23, 1751, Cuthbert Harrison, who had married the widow of Thomas Osborne, sold land in Prince William that had been deeded by Osborne to his daughter Margaret. Blanche Randolph to Charles Bland, December 10, 1981, citing Prince William Deed Book I, pp. 70-77. This was undoubtedly at least part of the source of a petition signed by many of the children of John and Margaret, presumably against the estate of Cuthbert Harrison, in Nelson County, Kentucky, November 24, 1812. Mrs. Daniels states: "It appears that the Blands were mistaking the Cuthbert Harrison, of Nelson County, Kentucky, for the son of Cuthbert Harrison of Prince William, Virginia, who married the wife of Thomas Osborne, father of their mother Margaret Osborne. There are records in Prince William County to show that the Osborne girls' stepfather paid them each for their share of their father's estate." Marian Daniels to Charles Bland, December 3, 1981.

⁴ Ravenscroft, pp. 104-107.

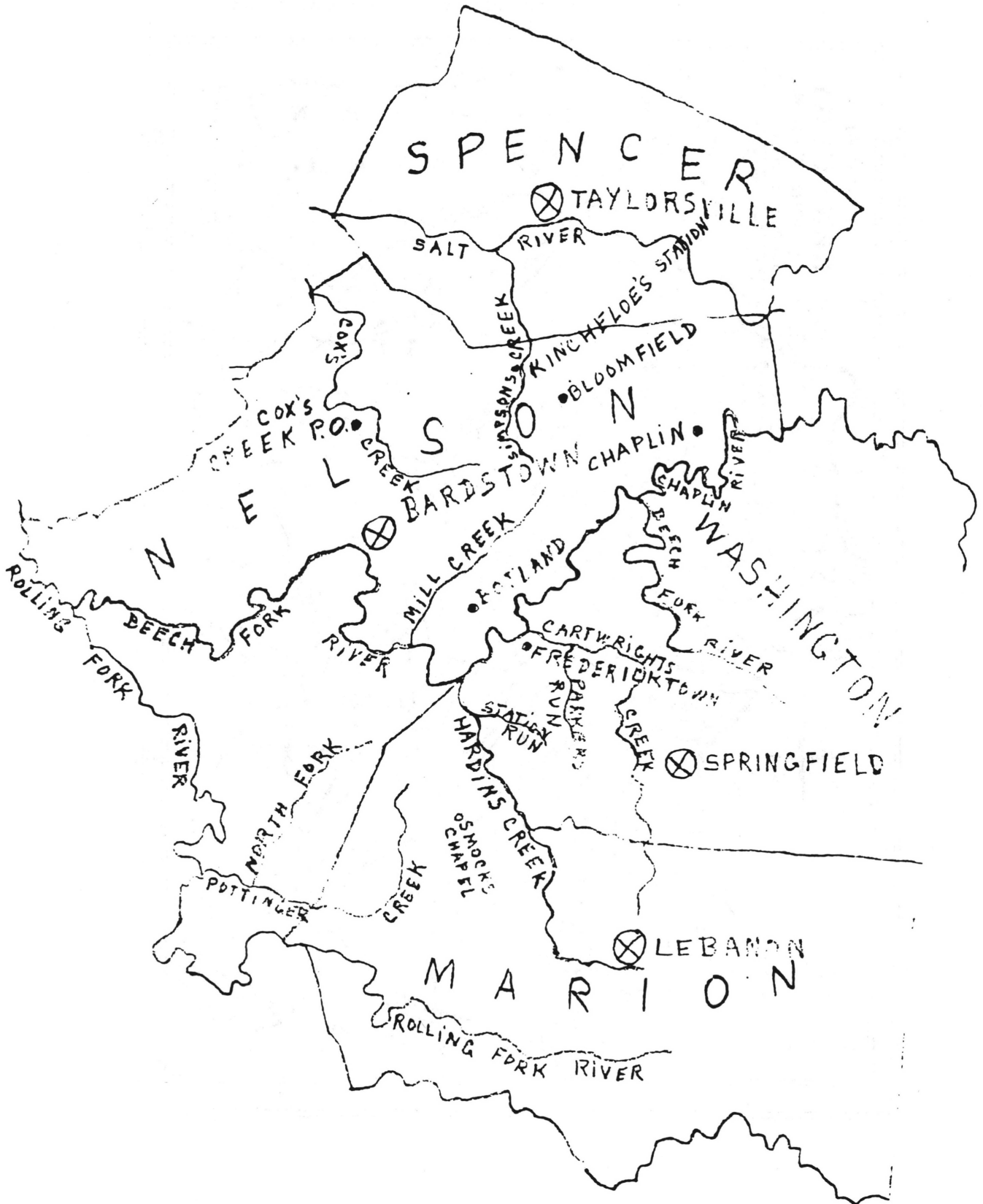
MAP XIV

JOHN FILSON'S KENTUCKY ABOUT 1784



MAP XV

AREA OF NELSON COUNTY, KENTUCKY C.1782



Courtesy: Betty Turpin,
Denver, Colorado.

From there, settlers would travel along the Wilderness Road into central and western Kentucky. By the time settlers arrived at a western location such as Jefferson County, the Wilderness Road would have narrowed into trails or foot paths that were characteristically terrible, often littered with stumps and rocks. Streams and rivers were crossed by fords and ferries for there were no bridges. The optimum time for overland travel was summer or fall. Pioneers who were foolish enough to travel overland during winter invited disaster. The winter route was usually by boat, and usually involved overland travel to what is present day Pittsburgh where the pioneers could catch a flat boat down the Ohio River.

This river route was a distance of some 1,100 miles from Virginia to Pittsburgh, and then downriver to present day Louisville, but could be made in about two weeks, depending upon one's departure point from Virginia and one's destination along the Ohio River. These trips were most often made during winter, when the river was up and the flatboats could avoid the shoals, rocks and snags that were hazards during shallow periods and the boats could float over the falls along the way with relative safety.¹ It appears from the following that the Bland family must have traveled during the winter months of 1781-1782:

...James Harrod made a clearing and put up the fort...
1/2 mile north of Gethsemane, Nelson County, Kentucky
in 1781. One of his sisters accompanied the surveying

¹ Descriptions of the Virginia-Kentucky travel routes were derived from Boynton Merrill Jr., Jefferson's Nephews (1976), pp. 97-98. Merrill described the journey of the Lewis family in 1807-1808, a quarter century after the Blands made their journey.

party to the creek, coming over the "Wilderness Road" on one of the pack horses. The remainder of the Garrison (Willets, Crafts, Millers, Blands, ect.) all came down together from the upper waters of the Ohio in a flat boat, and when it was safe, all took charge of their lands and erected the usual log cabins for dwellings.¹

It is apparent that John and Margaret Bland traveled with a large contingent of other settlers to Kentucky and brought with them children and grandchildren, some of whom did not survive the settlement year in 1781-1782.

John Bland died in 1795. Inasmuch as his will is critical in delineating his children as well as his property upon his death, critical portions of it are quoted:

In the name of God, Amen, this Fifth Day of October in the year of our Lord, One Thousand Seven Hundred and Ninety-Five, I, John Bland, of the County of Nelson and State of Kentucky, being in a weak and low state of health but of perfect mind and memory...do constitute, make and ordain this to be my last will and testament.

Item first, it is my will that Margaret, my dearly beloved wife, for her support during her natural life do inherit all my estate, both real and personal, moveable or immoveable, unless such moutys (moieties) as in this shall be hereafter mentioned to be given to my other heirs of my sd (said) estate and after her death mention to be made how to divide the same equally agreeable to my Will and pleasure.

Item secondly...that my eldest son Osburn Bland^{*} be paid twenty pounds cash out of my sd estate at the decease of my dearly beloved wife Margaret.

¹ Samuel P. Pottinger to Clara B. Beauchamp, March 4, 1906: "William (Bland) ... in 1784 ... landed with his parents at Louisville and settled near Bloomfield, Nelson Co." This agrees with another account I have which states that John Bland moved his family ... down the Ohio river to the falls and then traveled overland to Nelson Co., where he settled in 1784." Marian Daniels to Charles Bland, December 3, 1981, citing as a source, Perrin, Biographical Sketches, History of Kentucky (1887). Nelson County was formed from Jefferson in 1784.

* This "Osburn" was undoubtedly named for his mother Margaret Osborne and in the following pages I shall spell his name Osborne.

Item thirdly...that my eldest daughter, Prudence Smith, wife to Fleming Smith, be paid five pounds specia in like manner as above...

Item fourthly...that my son Samuel Bland be paid thirty pounds specia in like manner as above specified.

Item fifthly...that my son John Bland shall have a conveyance of a part of a tract of land I purchased of James Davis...

Item sixthly...that my two sons, Isaac and Elijah Bland, shall have the remaining part of the land I now hold on the waters of Simpson's Creek at the decease of my... wife Margaret, also one negroe each of them is to have of the increase of my negroe woman Lucy...

Item seventhly...that the remaining part of my moveable estate together with my real estate is to be equally divided among six children in hand, Mildred Hughes, Daniel Bland, William Bland, John Bland, Frances Hughes and Molly Randolph.

Item eighthly...that Nancy Bland, daughter to Henry Bland, is to have twenty pounds specia which is to come out of Mildred Hughes part of my estate.

Item ninthly...that my dearly beloved wife Margaret, together with Daniel and John Bland, my two sons, be my executors, whom I do constitute and appoint of this my last will and testament...in witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal the day and date first written.

Signed, Sealed and
Delivered in Presence
of Us.

John Bland

Anthony Thomson
Henry Jinkinson
Elizabeth Jinkinson

At a court held for Nelson County on Thursday, the 8th day of December, 1795...This last will and testament of John Bland dec'd was proved...¹

¹ Will of John Bland, Nelson County, Kentucky Will Book A, p. 166, October 5, 1795. Xerox of original supplied the author by Marian Daniels. True copy also supplied by Betty Turpin, Colorado Springs, Colorado, cf. letter December 10, 1981.

At a property inventory dated December 28, 1795, John Bland's estate was inventoried and shown to have an approximate value of 710 pounds sterling, including nine slaves valued at 485 pounds.¹

It appears then that John Bland (ninth generation) and Margaret Osborne had a family of at least eleven children (tenth generation). Assuming that John mentioned them in his will according to their order of birth, they were: Osborne Bland; Prudence Bland; Samuel Bland; John Bland; Isaac Bland; Elijah Bland; Mildred Bland; Daniel Bland; William Bland; Frances Bland; Mary or Molly Bland; and Henry Bland. For convenience in narrative continuity, I will discuss information available about the four daughters first, and then discuss the sons.

The Daughters of John Bland and Margaret Osborne

If John Bland named his surviving children by order of birth in his will of 1795, Prudence Bland (tenth generation) would be his eldest daughter and second child. Prudence was born in 1750 and died in 1815.² She married Fleming Smith. Although her father left her a

¹ As noted in the inventory, these slaves were named Jacob, Henry, Lucy and an unnamed child, Fanny, Thomas, Simon, Anny and Nan. An entry in the Nelson County Court Book shows that John's heirs later gave Jacob his freedom. Another entry shows that Jacob in turn bought the freedom of his daughters, America "Ary" and Fanny. Ary married David Cousins in Nelson County, January 18, 1826, and Fanny married Edmund Duncan, November 3, 1832, in Nelson County. Some researchers have mistaken this freed black, Jacob Bland, for the Jacob Bland (1779-1839, twelfth generation) who moved from Chatham County, North Carolina to Greene County, Indiana during the 1820's. Cf. pp. 323 ff. Per Marian Daniels to Charles Bland, December 11, 1981, citing Nelson County, Kentucky Order Book, September 9, 1805: "...John Hughes...(et al)...setting at liberty, negroe Jacob, who belonged to John Bland, dec'd..."

² Prudence Bland Smith's grave stone indicates that she was 65 years old when she died in 1815. Marian Daniels to Charles Bland, November 1 1981.

bequest, her descendants believe she was never in Nelson County, Kentucky, indicating that she married Smith prior to the Bland family's departure for Kentucky. One estimate is that she married Smith in 1770. Some of her descendants had moved into Cumberland County, Kentucky by the early 1800's.¹

Mildred Bland was the second daughter and seventh child of John Bland and Margaret Osborne. Her birthdate is uncertain, but she married William Hughes, Research on the family of William Hughes and Mildred Bland is extant, and William and Mildred were claimants and signatories in the 1812 action by the children of Margaret Osborne Bland against Cuthbert Harrison.²

Mildred's sister, Frances Bland, appears to have married a relation, either a brother or cousin, of William Hughes. She married John Hughes October 4, 1787. According to Marian Daniels, Frances died young.³

The tenth child and fourth daughter of John Bland and Margaret Osborne was Mary, or Molly Bland. Mary's date of birth is unknown. She married Thomas Randolph in Nelson County, Kentucky, January 4, 1791. They lived along Simpson's Creek in Washington County, Kentucky, after it was carved from Nelson County in 1792, and by 1800 they were in Muhlenberg County, Kentucky. In 1812, Thomas Randolph and Mary Bland

¹ Marian Daniels to Charles Bland, December 3, 1981; and Daniels to Albert Hunter, May 24, 1980. Cf. Genealogical Helper Query 9809, dated 1969-1970, submitted by Merritt Page, Green City, Missouri.

² Claim of Bland children against Cuthbert Harrison, November 24, 1812, published in the Nelson County Pioneer, Vol. 1, No. 2. Copy supplied the author by Betty Turpin. Cf. Marian Daniels to Charles Bland, December 3, 1981. John B. Thomas, Jr. of Silver Spring, Maryland, claims descent from William Hughes and Mildred Bland; cf. letter to Charles Bland, December 3, 1981.

³ Cf. note 2 above.

left Kentucky and moved to White County, Illinois, where they died: Thomas in 1816, and Mary in 1822. Mrs. Marian Brown Daniels, who descends from Thomas Randolph and Mary, his wife, lists two children of their marriage: Elijah Randolph, who married twice; and Prudence Bland Randolph, who married William Cross probably in Gallatin County, Illinois.¹

Osborne Bland (Tenth Generation)

Of the seven known sons of John Bland and Margaret Osborne, perhaps the best known is Osborne² Bland. Researchers in this line of the family who have examined John Bland's will of 1795 feel that Osborne, who is the first child listed, must have been the oldest child. Information previously discussed establishes the birth date of his sister Prudence, second mentioned in their father's will, at 1750, and this would make the estimated birthdate for Osborne at about 1748. Osborne was living in Monroe County, Kentucky in 1820, close to his son, Osborne Jr.³ He may have traveled with Osborne Junior to Indiana in the 1820's, but this is less certain. My guess, from examination of Kentucky and Indiana records is that he did not move to Indiana, but died in Monroe County, Kentucky during the late 1820's, in which case he would have been about eighty when he died.

¹ Jessamine James to Charles Bland, November 28, 1980; Marian Daniels to Virginia Cowden, May 21, 1981; and Marian Daniels to Charles Bland, December 3, 1981. According to Mrs. Daniels, William Cross and Prudence Randolph were the parents of Elizabeth Cross, who married Charles W. Brown. They were the parents of Charles Edmund Brown, who married Sarah Abigail Dunn. They were the parents of Marian Brown, who married Roy E. Daniels in Waco, Texas in 1950.

² Osborne's name lends itself to various spellings. I use Osborne because earlier references I have seen to Thomas Osborne spell his name that way.

³ Index of the 1820 Kentucky Census.

As indicated previously, the family of John Bland (ninth generation), with several generations in tow, settled in 1781-1782 in Jefferson County, Kentucky, on land that would, with county divisions in 1784, become Nelson County.¹ Mrs. Betty Turpin, of Colorado Springs, Colorado, who has studied closely the Jefferson-Nelson County terrain of 1781-1791, believes that Osborne and his family lived at a place called Phillips Station during 1782-1784. In 1785, a tithable list shows him living west of a place called Hardin's Creek. In 1786, Osborne lived near his father and siblings along Simpson's Creek, and by 1788 and 1790 he was living along Pottinger Creek, a considerable distance to the south of Simpson's Creek. By 1795, when his father died, he was living in Washington County, which had been cut off from Nelson in 1792, on land which became part of Marion County when it was formed from what in 1792 was Nelson-Washington County. Thus, it appears that Osborne moved around frequently during the first decade of his life in Kentucky.

Osborne Bland married Lettice _____ probably about 1769, in Virginia. Lettice is a fairly common name in 18th century Virginia and I have never seen any credible evidence of her maiden name. Perhaps

¹ Cf. discussion on pp. 427 ff. In 1792, Washington County was formed from Nelson County, and Jefferson County was fragmented further to form Shelby County. These counties were later fragmented, but during 1784-1791, they were Nelson County, place of settlement for the family of John Bland (ninth generation).

the most plausible of two speculations is that her maiden name was Peake.¹ Another speculation, my own, was that she was Osborne's cousin Lettice Bland, minor child of James Bland (ninth generation, C.1707-177 when James made his will in 1766.² Both of these speculations are only suggestive. Inasmuch as no one knows anything about Lettice before she married Osborne Bland, no one knows when she was born, but she was still living in 1812.³ Osborne and Lettice Bland had five or six children, all probably born in Virginia, and all in company with Osborne, Lettice and their grandparents and aunts and uncles during the first year in Kentucky.

The Kinchloe Station Massacre

The immediate effect of the Kentucky Land Law passed by the Virginia Legislature in 1779, was a groundswell of immigration into Kentucky by white settlers. By 1781, about the time John Bland and his extended family moved to Kentucky, the massive waves of new immigrants had begun to stir the native tribes into reaction. What began as a series of small and relatively isolated ambushes or harassing actions, by the spring of 1782 had developed into substantial hostilities. In August 1782, 500 braves from several of the northwestern tribes surprised the settlers at a place called Bryant's Station and waged an intensive battle against them until driven back. A band of white men followed the Indians in their retreat northward

¹ Marian Daniels to Virginia Cowden, May 21, 1981. Mrs. Daniels states: "I sort of lean to her having been Lettice Peake, but mainly because it was mentioned that Humphrey Peake lived on the land or near the land that Osborne received from his father. One of the other Bland boys married a Sarah Peak in Kentucky, and Robert Peake was mentioned often in the court records with Osborn Sr."

² See discussion on pp. 279-280.

³ Cf. p. 426, note 3 .

with the Indians turning at points, such as at a place called Blue Licks, to attack the white men, then retreating further north. It was during this line of retreat that some western bands of Shawnee Indians, who had been involved in the Bryant Station and Blue Lick engagements, fell upon Kinchloe Station, a cluster of six or seven white families, including the Blands, Davis', Randolphs, Harrisons and others. Kinchloe Station was located on Simpson's Creek south of the juncture of Salt River near what in time would become the border of Nelson and Spencer Counties. The Shawnees caught the settlers sleeping, burned the station (Kinchloe's later was called "Burnt Station") and killed or captured many of the inhabitants.¹

¹ Lewis Collins, Historical Sketches of Kentucky (1971), pp. 23-25, 481, 533. Thompson Randolph's recollections placed the raid as October 1, 1782. The Kinchloe Station is embedded in myth and was embroidered upon to a considerable extent over the years. The most reliable accounts came from old timers who were still living in the mid- to late 1800's and reported the story to local historians. Caroline Beall Price, in Ancestral Beginnings in America (1928), told the story as it was told her by Richard Beall, of Waxahachie, Texas, and C. M. Phillips, of Louisville, Kentucky, who descended perhaps from Osborne and Lettice's daughter Margaret, who married William Phillips. Specifics about the Blands are mentioned in Samuel Forrest Pottinger's letter to Clara B. Babb, March 4, 1906, who had an aunt "who knew everybody on the creek" and who told him of a widow Bland who lived nearby and who had a narrow escape from the Indians. Betty Turpin, in a letter to me December 30, 1981, cites particulars of the raid taken from Sarah B. Smith, Historic Nelson County (1933). Marian Daniels, in a letter to me dated December 3, 1981, calls attention to an oral account by Thompson Randolph to his son, William Bayliss, which was recorded in a booklet by Randolph's great-grandson, C. C. Coulson. Acerbic skeptic that she is, Mrs. Daniels is skeptical of all she reads: "I am sure these accounts have been passed down as family tradition and possibly started with wishful thinking." Daniels to Charles Bland, January 13, 1982. I commend Mrs. Daniels' caution to all who read this colorful story.

As the story goes, the Shawnee swarmed around the station between midnight and daybreak, broke down the gates, and forced their way into the fort's interior. The inhabitants were overpowered, killed or captured. Among them were Osborne and Lettice Bland and their children, as well as some of their relations. Thompson Randolph claimed to be fighting in a hand-to-hand situation, when his wife, who was loading his rifle with one hand while holding a baby with the other, was struck and killed, as was the baby. Randolph claimed to have retreated with another child where he eluded detection, in a hay-loft that handily escaped the Indians' torch. Osborne Bland, Thompson Randolph's cousin, killed the son of an Indian chief and after running out of ammunition, clubbed his empty rifle and bashed the Indians right and left. If the stories, as they merge, are to be believed, Osborne was with his wife and two children when the raid occurred. A baby was killed before Osborne's and Lettice's eyes, and a young son, Jesse, was said to have been captured.¹ Osborne and Lettice were captured near a box of paints that had belonged to the chief's son, whom Osborne allegedly killed. They were both condemned to be burned alive, and were taken prisoner with Osborne bound, and Lettice left to walk free.

As they began the march to the Indian village, Osborne urged Lettice to break away and leave him when she could. The opportunity came at night while the Indians were sleeping. Lettice crept away and her departure was not noticed until the Indians awakened next day.

¹ Samuel Forrest Pottinger to Clara Beauchamp Babb, March 4, 1906. Jesse was described as "quite young" at the time of capture. Pottinger wrote: "It appears he returned many years later and was identified by a scar on his body." Also, note an earlier reference to a "Mos Bland," who was captured in the Kinchloe Raid. Cf. p. 357.

Meanwhile, Lettice, who had been walking in circles, had not gone far from the band of Indians. Fearing discovery, she insinuated herself into a hollow log and concealed herself well enough that the Indians passed by her. Having shaken the Indians, Lettice tried to walk back to the fort, but again walked in circles and ended up the first day of freedom back at the hollow log where she slept until she was chased out by a bear. Lettice, having escaped Indians and bears, now subsisted in the wilderness for seventeen days, eating "sour grapes and green walnuts," until presently she made her way back to Kinchloe's station. Arriving before the station's walls, her by then gaunt and nude body gave out and she fell into a dead faint. Sharp-eyed watchmen from the tower, no doubt a bit "techy" about bare chested people (Indian braves habitually dropped down when detected), thought she was an Indian. They trained their collective rifles on her and made ready to shoot if poor Lettice pulled herself to her feet. Fortunately, before she regained consciousness, a passing huntsman, being perceptive enough to tell the difference between a hostile Indian brave and a naked woman, gathered Lettice into his arms and carried her to nearby Lynn's Station, where she was nursed back to good health.¹

Osborne, according to various accounts, was taken to Canada and later exchanged. He must have returned to Jefferson-Nelson County about a year later for as previously indicated, he was known to have lived at Phillips Station from 1782-1784. Lettice and Osborne were

¹ According to C. M. Phillips, "...on the second day, Mrs. Bland escaped. For eighteen days she wandered through the woods without seeing a human face. She lived on sour grapes and green walnuts. When she was found, she was a walking skeleton and without clothes..."

sturdy souls, and were still kicking around in 1812, by which time, as Mr. C. M. Phillips put it, they had been "...for long years an object of awe and veneration."¹

Even if one discounts the florid prose of this Victorian adventure tale, it must be noted that it has been retold too many times and by too many various persons to have been taken from whole cloth, and one must acknowledge that even in its most basic outlines, the memory of an intense life and death struggle, marked by the murder of an infant child and the death of neighbors and relatives, capture, death sentence and ultimate escape, must have left an indelible mark on the memory of Osborne and Lettice Bland, and it may have been one of those primal traumas in human life that forged their love and their lives into unbreakable bonds. One consequence might be the restless and frequent moves of Osborne and Lettice between 1782 and 1795. Also, one wonders if Lettice was rendered sterile during the raid,² for there appear to have been no children born to her after the Indian massacre, although there were five (six, if one counts the baby killed during the massacre), before the massacre.

If the children (who were eleventh generation) were born at normal intervals, the first would have been born about 1770, and the remaining five at two-year intervals. These are only calculations, but if true, the eldest child, Margaret, would have been born in 1770. She would have been followed by Sarah (1772), Osborne Jr. (1774), Elam

¹ Price, Ancestral Beginnings in America, quoted in Ravenscroft, p. 106.

² Under the circumstances, especially if Osborne killed the chief's son, it would not have been unusual for the Shawnees to have raped, tortured, beaten, and perhaps stabbed Lettice.

(1776), and Jesse (1778). The unnamed child who was killed at Kinchloe would have been born in 1780. With these approximate birthdates in mind, it is appropriate to turn to a discussion of the children of Osborne and Lettice Bland.

The Daughters of Osborne Bland

The eldest daughter and child of Osborne Bland and Lettice was Margaret Bland (eleventh generation), who must have been born about 1770. Margaret was said by C. M. Phillips to have been present at the Kinchloe raid, though that may be questionable: she would have been about twelve years old at the time and it is doubtful that rampaging Indians would have spared her to tell the tale. Her approximate date of birth is calculated by the supposition of her father's birth, discussed earlier, and the date of her marriage to William Phillips in Nelson County, Kentucky on May 28, 1786. William Phillips and Margaret Bland probably settled down in Nelson County, but their county designation changed when Hardin was formed from Nelson in 1792. Hardin County records show William was a captain in the Kentucky militia in 1813. His wife, Margaret, is on record as a member of the Hardin's Creek Baptist church as late as 1826. Their children (twelfth generation) included: (1) William Phillips, who was born about 1787 and died before 1840. He married Malinda _____ and by her had a family of seven children. (2) George Phillips, who married Eudora Kendley August 29, 1815.¹ He was born also in 1787, and died after 1850. (3) Leticia Phillips, born March 11, 1797, and died June 15, 1846, in

¹ Note an intermarriage between John Bland and Sally Kendley, p. 475.

Christian County, Kentucky. She married William M. Beall in 1814.¹
 (4) Nancy Phillips, who married Gary Head in Washington County,
 February 9, 1829. (5) Margaret Phillips, who married Hamilton Cittler
 in Washington County, August 7 or 17, 1830. (6) Felix Phillips, born
 in 1807, still living in Marion County, Kentucky in 1850. (Marion
 County was organized from Washington in 1834. As previously stated,
 Washington was formed from Nelson in 1792.) Felix married Frances
 _____.

The second child of Osborne Bland and Lettice _____ was Sarah
 Bland, who married James Willett, in Nelson County, Kentucky,
 December 20, 21 or 27, 1790. I have no further information about
 Sarah.

The Sons of Osborne Bland

Of the sons of Osborne Bland and Lettice _____ I have no inform-
 ation about Elam Bland, and little about Jesse. Jesse would have been
 born about 1778, possibly named for his great uncle Jesse. As indic-
 ated previously,² legends of the Kinchloe Indian Massacre tell the
 story of a Jesse Bland, son of Osborne and Lettice _____, who was
 quite young at the time, being captured by the Indians, but returning
 much later to be identified by living relatives by a scar. A Jesse

¹ Information about the descendants of Margaret Bland and William
 Phillips was supplied by Betty Turpin in letters to Charles Bland,
 November 17, 1981 and November 30, 1981. Mrs. Turpin descends from
 Leticia (twelfth generation) as I believe does Caroline Beall Price,
 author of Ancestral Beginnings in America (1928).

² Cf. p. 436.

TABLE XXVIII

THE ASSUMED FAMILY OF JOHN BLAND OF STAFFORD-PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY, VIRGINIA: FIVE GENERATIONS

(6) Thomas Bland (C. 1634-1700)	=	(1) _____ about 1654.
(7) James Bland (C. 1655-1708)	=	(2) Damaris Wyatt, in 1674.
(8) John Bland (C. 1688-1762)	=	(1) Margaret _____.
	=	(2) Patience _____.

(9-1)

*John Bland (C. 1725-1795)
married Margaret Osborne

(9-2)

*Jesse Bland (C. 1752-)

- (10-1) Osborne Bland (C. 1748-1828), married Lettice _____.
- (10-2) Prudence Bland (1750-1815), married Fleming Smith.
- (10-3) Samuel Bland, married Mary Ann _____.
- (10-4) John Bland, married Elizabeth Shewmate.
- (10-5) Isaac Bland.
- (10-6) Elijah Bland, married Elizabeth Duncan.
- (10-7) Mildred Bland, married William Hughes.
- (10-8) Daniel Bland, married Elizabeth Hughes.
- (10-9) William Bland (1777-1862), married Sarah Peake.
- (10-10) Frances Bland, married John Hughes.
- (10-11) Mary (Molly) Bland, married Thomas Randolph.
- (10-12) Henry Bland.

* Known children.
----- Assumed.

TABLE XXI.X

THE FAMILY OF OSBORNE BLAND OF NELSON COUNTY, KENTUCKY: SIX GENERATIONS

(7) James Bland (C. 1655-1708)	(1) Margaret _____ (2) Patience _____	(11-4) Elam Bland (C. 1776-)	(11-5) Jesse Bland (C. 1778-)*, married Nancy Kirkpatrick.
(8) John Bland (C. 1688-1762)	Margaret Osborne _____, about 1746.		
(9) John Bland (C. 1725-1795)	Lettrice _____, about 1769.		
(10) Osborne Bland (C. 1748-C. 1828)			
(11-1) Margaret Bland (C. 1770-), married William Phillips.	(11-2) Sarah Bland (C. 1772-), married James Willet.	(11-3) Osborne Bland Jr. (C. 1774-1848), married (1) Patsy Donahoo; and (2) Sally Kent Andrews.	
	(12-1) John Bland (1800-1844). (12-2) William Bland (). (12-3) Lettrice Bland (1804-). (12-4) Eli Bland (1806-). (12-5) Warren Bland (1811-1865). (12-6) Jesse Bland (1812-). (12-7) James Bland (1813-). (12-8) Moses Bland (1820-1906). (12-9) Hiram Bland (1825-1851). (12-10) Lucinda Bland (1826-).		

* Jesse Bland was captured at the Kinchloe Station Massacre. An unnamed infant child of Osborne Bland and Lettrice was killed.

----- Assumed.

Bland was in Christian County, Kentucky, in April 1811, identified as executor of the will of Joseph Mosely.¹ Most of the genealogical research of which I am aware has been focused upon Osborne Bland, who is distinguished from his father, I believe, by present-day researchers, as Osborne Junior.²

Osborne Bland Junior (Eleventh Generation)

By my rough calculations, Osborne Bland Jr. (eleventh generation), eldest son of Osborne and Lettice Bland, was born in Virginia about 1774. He moved with his parents to Kentucky in 1781-1782, and since the Kinchloe legends are silent about him, one must assume that he was safely away from the station when it was raided. Osborne Jr. married Patsy Donohoo, said by some researchers to have been a Catholic, on

¹ Virginia Cowden indicates that Jesse may have been in Cumberland County, Kentucky about 1800. Virginia Cowden to Charles Bland, October 1, 1981. Cr. Lela Adams, Bassett, Virginia, to Charles Bland (undated): "I am a descendant of James Bland and Margaret _____ thru their son William and Catherine Key Bland, their son John Bland and Margaret Osborne, their son Osborne Bland and Lettice _____ Bland, their son Jesse Bland and Nancy Kirkpatrick, their dau Malinda and Joseph Rutherford; their dau Mary Jane Rutherford and James Monroe Caldwell, their son George W. Caldwell and Theodosia Dodd; their son James Frederick Caldwell and Martha Jane Marriott; to me Lela Caldwell."

² Information about Osborne and Lettice's children is based upon a letter to the author from Betty Turpin, November 30, 1981. An abundant amount of additional information was made available to me about Osborne Jr. from Virginia Cowden, of Bloomington, Indiana, and Albert Hunter, of State College, Pennsylvania. Mrs. Turpin indicated that Donna Crowe, of Muncie, Indiana listed Osborne Jr., Sarah Willett, Margaret Phillips, Elijah, Jesse, William, Daniel and a child killed by the Indians at Kinchloe. Marriage records were available for Osborne Jr., Sarah and Margaret. An Elijah Bland married Elizabeth Duncan, daughter of John Duncan, at Nelson or Shelby County, Kentucky, January 3, 1809. Whether this was Mrs. Crowe's Elijah is unknown to the author.

January 21, 1799. Patsy's age is unknown, but she had her last child about 1826, which would suggest a birth date of about 1784, meaning that she was probably 15 or 16 when she married Osborne.

Osborne Jr. was living in Monroe County, Kentucky near his father in 1820, but neither Osborne Senior or Junior were listed in the 1830 Kentucky census. An Osborne Bland did, however, turn up in Scott County, Indiana in 1830. It is the theory of Virginia Cowden, of Bloomington, Indiana, a descendant of Osborne Junior, that Osborne and Patsy left Kentucky after Osborne Senior died in the late 1820's. They were in Scott County, Indiana, visiting Charles Donahoo, Patsy's brother, when the census taker came along.¹

It is not certain how long Osborne Junior and Patsy were in Scott County, but by 1838 they were in Greene County, Indiana, living in the Richland Township. Osborne died sometime during 1848, thus making his dates C.1774-1848. The date of Patsy Donahoo's death is uncertain, but she was dead by 1848, when just before his death, Osborne Junior married Sally Kent Andrews. Sally had previously been married to Alexander Andrews and had for years tried unsuccessfully to get a war pension based upon their marriage. Sally evidently was too much for old Osborne, who died within a week after their marriage. Sally dropped her Bland name, apparently thinking that a week-long marriage to a man in his seventies wasn't worth a pension. She reapplied for the pension

¹ Virginia Cowden to Charles Bland, October 1, 1981.

based upon her marriage to Andrews and got it, but when the pension board discovered her deception, it was revoked. Sally lived to almost one hundred, and according to Albert Hunter, tried repeatedly to regain her pension, but never succeeded.¹ So Sally Kent Andrews (reluctantly) Bland was only an interesting diversion in Osborne Junior's life. His family was made by his marriage to Patsy Donahoo, and of this union there were ten known children (twelfth generation).²

The first child of Osborne Bland Junior and Patsy Donahoo was John Bland, who was born about 1800. The date of his death is unknown. John was in Scott County, Indiana with his parents in 1830. He died before 1844, when his wife, "Jincy" or Mary Jane _____ remarried William Warren. Jincy was born about 1807 and was still living in Vigo County, Indiana in 1880. John Bland and Jincy _____ had six children (thirteenth generation) including: (1) Mary, who was born in 1827 in Kentucky, and married John Herrington, June 15, 1845, in Greene County, Indiana.³ (2) Martha Bland, who was born July 1, 1830, and died March 19, 1922. She married Hubbard Boys November 28, 1847 in Greene County, Indiana. She was living in Vigo County in 1880, and by the time of her

¹ Albert Hunter to William Graham Bland, March 21, 1981; and Hunter to Doris Bland Melia, November 3, 1979. According to Hunter, Sally Kent's first husband, Alexander Andrews, was the brother of Hunter's great, great grandmother, Ann Andrews, who was born in 1778 in North Carolina and died in Greene County, Indiana. Alexander Andrews married Sally Kent in 1814 and later in the year fought alongside Andy Jackson at the Battle of New Orleans. Andrews and Sally moved to Greene County, Indiana about 1825, and Andrews died there in 1840.

² Information about the children of Osborne Bland Junior and Patsy Donahoo is taken from family group sheets and annotations supplied the author by Virginia Cowden.

³ They lived in Richland Township; cf. p. 453, note 1.

death had moved to Marshall in Clarke County, Indiana. (3) Elizabeth Bland was born in 1834. Nothing more is known to this writer about Elizabeth. (4) James Bland was born in 1836. The date of his death is uncertain; however, he married Lydia Fuller on January 19, 1858, in Greene County, Indiana. (5) John Bland was born in 1838, probably in Greene County, Indiana, but the date of his death is uncertain. He married Louisa Beasley October 3, 1861, in Greene County, Indiana. (6) Moses Bland was born in 1840. Nothing further is known of him.

The second known child of Osborne Bland and Patsy Donahoo was William Bland. William's movements were somewhat erratic. The skeletal outline of information available about him suggests that he was born in Kentucky, but probably went to Indiana with his parents. He married Martha Fisher,¹ who was born in Virginia or Kentucky about 1814. Martha's birthdate would suggest that she and William did not get married until after the move to Indiana. In 1850, William was enumerated in the census for Shelby County, Illinois, but in 1860 was back in Greene County, Indiana. At that time, Martha Fisher was not enumerated and is assumed to have been dead. Only the four younger children were living with William. In all, William Bland and Martha Fisher had a family of seven known children (thirteenth generation) including: (1) Mary or Polly, who was born in 1836; (2) James, who was born in 1838; (3) Lucy or Lucinda Bland, who was born in 1839; (4) Austin (enumerated as Augustine in 1860) who was born in 1843 in Indiana. He was still living in Shelby County, Illinois in 1880. He married Mary A. Langford in Greene County

¹ Mrs. Cowden's information about William and his descendants is supplemented by Mr. Laverne Bland, of Sandoval, Illinois. Laverne Bland to Charles Bland, November 16, 1981.

Indiana, March 14, 1865. (5) Moses Bland, who was born in 1845, was still living in Shelby County, Illinois in 1880. Moses married Elizabeth Langford in Greene County, Indiana July 28, 1866.¹ (6) Elizabeth Bland born in 1847; and (7) Eli Bland born in 1849.

The third child of Osborne Bland Junior and Patsy Donahoo was Lettice, or Letitia, who was born about 1804. Lettice was still living as late as 1851, when she made testimony germane to the trial of her younger brother, to be discussed later. On June 10, 1836, Lettice married William Walker, who was born about 1815 and was killed by his brother-in-law, Hiram Bland, in 1850. William Walker and Lettice had the following children (thirteenth generation): (1) Mary or Polly, born in 1838; (2) John Westley Bland, born in 1840; (3) Jeremiah Bland, born in 1841; (4) Hardin Bland, born in 1845. Hardin married Elizabeth McHutchens January 17, 1867; (5) William Bland, born in 1848.

The fourth known child of Osborne Bland Junior and Patsy Donahoo was Eli Bland, about whom very little is known. Eli was in Greene County, Indiana in 1838. He was born about 1806, but was living in Shelby County, Illinois in 1850. He married Sarah _____ who was born about 1811 in Kentucky. They had four known children (thirteenth generation) including: (1) Warren Bland, born in 1835; (2) Jane Bland, born in 1838; (3) Lucinda Bland, born in 1840; and (4) Sarah Bland, born in 1847.

¹ Ibid. According to Laverne Bland, an unbroken male line runs from John Bland (ninth generation) to Osborne (10); Osborne Junior (11); William (12); Moses (13); John William Bland (14), born in 1873, who married Priscilla Jane Bland; Vernon Virgil Bland (15), born in 1915, who married Esther Jewel Haney; Laverne Bland (16) born in 1942, who married Kay Scarborough; to Laverne Bland II (17), born in 1970.

The fifth child of Osborne Bland and Patsy Donahoo was Warren Bland, who was born in 1811 and died February 19, 1865.¹ Warren was enumerated in 1860 in Greene County as aged 49, from Kentucky. According to Mrs. Cowden, Warren was the administrator of his father's estate. He married twice, first to Cynthia Bunch (1825-C.1856), possibly a sister of Lydia Bunch Shaver Bland, wife of James Bland, in Greene County, on July 12, 1840, and after her death, to Susan Carpenter on September 16, 1858. Whether Susan's maiden name was Carpenter is unknown.² She is enumerated with Warren in 1860, with a notation that she was born in Kentucky, and was aged 35.

By his marriage to Cynthia Bunch, Warren had seven children (thirteenth generation) including: (1) Jesse P. Bland, who was born January 1843. He married Sarah Jane Boys on June 16, 1866. (2) Ella Bland, who was not enumerated in the 1860 census, was born in 1844. (3) Evan Bland who was born in 1847, died January 6, 1912. He married Nancy J. Fox on October 10, 1867 in Greene County. (4) George W. Bland, born in 1848 married Harriet Walls. (5) James Bland was born in 1852. Nothing further is known about him. (6) Warren Bland was born in 1854. He married Martha Wilson in Greene County, Indiana on February 8, 1887. (7) John Bland was born in 1856. Nothing further is known about him.

¹ For Warren Bland, Mrs. Cowden appears to have relied upon information from Pam Jones, of Freelandville, Indiana. Although I often have heard of Mrs. Jones, I have never had the opportunity of communicating with her.

² A Malin Carpenter, possibly Susan's son, or a younger brother, was living in the household of Warren Bland in 1860.

The sixth child of Osborne Bland Junior and Patsy Donahoo was Jesse Bland, who was born about 1812 and died sometime after 1880. He married Mary "Polly" Lawrence (1825-), in Greene County on January 24, 1841, and in 1860 was enumerated in the Richland township. By 1880, he was in Shelby County, Illinois. Jesse Bland and Mary "Polly" Lawrence had a family of twelve children (thirteenth generation) including: (1) James Wesley Bland, born in 1841 and possibly still living in Iowa in 1900. James Wesley married twice. The name of his first wife is unknown, as well as any children. Secondly, he married Nancy Todd on October 2, 1875. In the 1900 census of Fabens, Davis County, Iowa, there was listed a James W. Bland, who indicated he was born in October 1838 in Indiana. Living with him was a son, Mark F. Bland, born March 1876. Whether these two James W. Blands are the same is not known.¹ (2) Hiram Bland, born in 1843, married Sarah _____. He was living in Shelby County, Illinois in 1880. (3) Warren Bland was born June 1846 in Greene County. On February 8, 1887, he married Martha S. Watson. (4) Eliza Bland was born in 1848 in Greene County. Nothing more is known about her. (5) Mary A. Bland was born in 1852. Nothing more is known of her. (6) Osborn Bland was born in 1853 and was in Shelby County, Illinois in 1880. He married Sarah _____ and nothing more is known of him. (7 and 8) The 1860 census shows daughters Elizabeth, age 5, and Milly, age 2. Mrs. Cowden does not list them on her family group sheet for Jesse Bland, and nothing more is known of them. (9-12) Mrs. Cowden lists four children born to Jesse Bland and Mary Lawrence after the 1860 census who were: Jesse, born in 1861;

¹ Information about the James W. Bland of Iowa is found in Soundex Film 446924, Blands in Iowa, 1880-1900, Church of Latter Day Saints. Information supplied to the author by Albert Hunter.

Sarah, born in 1864; Priscilla, born in 1866; and Almidia,¹ born in 1871. Nothing further is known about these four children.

The seventh child of Osborne Bland Junior and Patsy Donahoo was James Bland, who was born in 1813. He was still living in 1880. James' date of death is unknown. Virginia Cowden reports the frustrating experience of visiting land that she knows was formerly owned by Osborne Bland Junior and finding it now converted into a cow pasture. The present owner indicated to her that some old houses on the property, possibly homes of Osborne and his children, had been torn down. In exploring the property, Mrs. Cowden found one tombstone fragment for James Bland, and believes it belonged to her twelfth generation ancestor but it offered no clues about the date of his death. James married several times apparently during the 1870's, but the wife who bore him his children, Mrs. Cowden believes, was Lydia Bunch or Burch, widowed by a Shaver before she married James Bland. Lydia and James Bland were married December 18, 1836 in Greene County. In the 1860 census, James and Lydia (spelled Lidda by the census taker) were enumerated in Highland Township, Greene County. Lydia was listed as being born in North Carolina, and Mrs. Cowden indicates that the Bunch and Shaver families, along with the Walkers, came from North Carolina to Greene County, Indiana by way of Tennessee. James Bland and Lydia Bunch Shaver had a family of eleven children (thirteenth generation), including:

(1) William Bland, born in 1838, in Greene County, Indiana. By 1860, William was no longer in his parents' household. (2) Christopher Bland, who was born in 1840. In the 1860 census he was living with his

¹ Spelling of this name is uncertain.

parents and enumerated as a farm laborer. He married Martha A. Boys in Greene County, Indiana on August 5, 1864, and later moved to Terre Haute, Indiana. (3) James W. Bland was born May 8, 1844, and died April 19, 1906. He lived his entire life in Greene County, Indiana. He married on January 1, 1872, Anna Nation. (4) Asa J. Bland was born in 1845, and later went to Little Rock, Arkansas. He married on March 8, 1866, Nancy Sullivan in Greene County, Indiana. (5) Lydia (enumerated in 1860 as Lidda M., aged 12) was born about 1846. Nothing further is known to this writer about her. (6) Martin Bland was born in 1848 in Greene County, Indiana. He married Laura McCutchen on June 7, 1883. This marriage was short-lived for Martin remarried October 24, 1886, although the name of his second wife was not listed by Mrs. Cowden. (7) Vina Bland, born probably in 1850 or 1851 (Mrs. Cowden says she was born July 25, 1855) in Greene County, Indiana. She died September 28, 1894, and married on January 17, 1874, Alexander J. Boys. (8) Sarah E. Bland, enumerated in 1860 as aged 7, was born in 1853 (Mrs. Cowden says she was born about 1857) in Greene County, Indiana. She was still living in 1900 in Clay County, Indiana. She married Abraham Bingham on May 5, 1879. She survived Bingham, and on January 3, 1890, married Nelson Anderson. (9) Joseph Bland, born in 1855 according to the 1860 census, is not noted by Mrs. Cowden. Nothing further is known of Joseph Bland. (10) Roland Bland (listed as Lolan in the 1860 census) was born in 1856 according to Mrs. Cowden. He died in Greene County, Indiana on September 6, 1930. On February 5, 1880, he married Elizabeth Bingham in Greene County. (11) Allen Bland was born January 1858 and died September 6, 1930.¹ He married Dora Kimbell in Greene County on December 5, 1880.

¹ Assuming the accuracy of Mrs. Cowden's information, Roland and Allen Bland must have died at the same time and place.

The eighth child of Osborne Bland and Patsy Donahoo was Moses Bland who, according to the 1900 census for Greene County, Indiana, was born January 1820, and died May 12, 1906, in Greene County. As a young man, Moses appears to have gone to Shelby County, Illinois where he married Milly Laurence on May 30, 1849. In 1850, however, he was enumerated in Richland township of Greene County, Indiana.¹ Milly Laurence died before January 22, 1856, when Moses Bland married Jane Boys, who was born November 1, 1833 and died December 23, 1915. The only child of Moses Bland and Jane Boys on record is Nancy Anna (thirteenth generation), who was born November 18, 1866 and died February 19, 1916. She married Amos W. Flake² on January 28, 1882, in Greene County.

The ninth child of Osborne Bland and Patsy Donahoo was Hiram Bland, who was born in 1825 and was hung on June 13, 1851, after being sentenced for murder in the death of his brother-in-law, William Walker. Hiram Bland, whose age is adduced by census records, may have been born somewhat earlier. He married Rachel Boys on January 17, 1841. During the short term of their marriage, Hiram Bland and Rachel Boys had four children (thirteenth generation) including: (1) Elizabeth Bland, born about 1843, who married Andrew J. Burch, or Bunch, June 6, 1861, in Greene County; (2) Jackson Bland, born in 1845; (3) Nancy Bland, born in 1847, who on January 16, 1871 in Greene County, Indiana married James Bingham; (4) James, born in 1849.

The tenth and final child of Osborne Bland Junior and Patsy Donahoo was Lucinda Bland, who was born about 1826. On July 13, 1845, Lucinda married David Shaver. The 1850 census for Greene County

¹ Information about the 1850 Greene County Census indicates Moses, Richland Township, on both pp. 642 and 643.

² Spelling uncertain.

indicated two children (thirteenth generation), including Frederick, born in 1847, and Osburn (Osborne) born in 1849. Whether this is the extent of children by Lucinda Bland and David Shaver is unknown. Mrs. Cowden noted in a margin that they might have moved to Kansas.

"My Grandpappy was Hung in Bloomfield"

Many correspondents have commented upon the fact that Osborne Bland Junior and his wife Patsy Donahoo and their children lived in close proximity to the Blands who moved to Greene County, Indiana from Chatham County, North Carolina.¹ Indeed, this close proximity is borne out by various census records which show these Blands and their in-laws living side by side for about ten households.² Map XIII, p. 342B-C, showing the position of Blands in Highland, Richland, Center and Jefferson Townships, also demonstrates how closely together these families lived, and is a marvelous commentary on extended family communications in those days. As proximity breeds warmth and solidarity, however, so also it breeds family conflict, which in the case of Osborne Bland Junior's children, ultimately brought tragedy.

It is rare that one is afforded a glimpse into the character and physical description of one's ancestors, but such a gem is found in Baber's history of Greene County. In discussing the execution of Hiram Bland, youngest son of Osborne Bland Junior and Patsy Donahoo, Baber wrote:

One thing that no doubt contributed largely towards bringing about the death penalty in this case, was the turbulent character of the accused. He and several brothers were powerful men physically, and

¹ Cf. pp. 320-342.

² Cf. p. 453 , note 1 .

and when drinking were very quarrelsome and dangerous. When not under the influence of liquor, as a rule, they were peaceable.¹

Several of the Blands who were in the Civil War passed down a physical type for Osborne Junior's sons: big, dark complexioned men with black eyes and hair.² The hostile nature of these brothers may be evidenced by Indiana Court records for 1838-1841,³ which records a fighting incident involving Eli and Warren Bland against a fellow named Brennan. It seems that Warren and Eli ganged up on Brennan, spoiling for a fight with him, and in legal parlance, incited a riot at Bloomfield, Indiana on February 28, 1838.⁴ In the trial that ensued, Osborne Bland Junior stood bond for his sons, who were each assessed small fines for their misconduct.

All of this foreshadowed the family tragedy that resulted in the death of William Walker in 1850, and the death by hanging of Hiram Bland on June 13, 1851.

Albert Hunter supplied the following from the Bloomington-Bedford Herald Times, January 25, 1970:⁵

"MY GRANDPAPPY WAS HUNG IN BLOOMFIELD"

Bloomfield - Arthur Bennie stopped his automobile at the Ozarks Crossroads store. A lounge with a grey beard that reached almost to his belt buckle and which was amber colored around his mouth opening, ambled over and said, "Indiana, huh?"

1 Uncle Jack Baber, Early History of Greene County, Indiana (Worthington: (1938), p. 40.

2 Letter, Virginia Cowden to Charles Bland, October 1, 1981.

3 Greene County Indiana Final Court Records, 1838-1841, pp. 52, 77. Cited in a letter from Albert Hunter to Doris Bland Melia, November 3, 1979.

4 Ibid.

5 Ibid. The incident described in the article about Bennie and the old greybeard happened in 1925, or thereabouts.

That was very evident because Bennie's 1913 Model T 3-door Ford had Indiana license plates, front and back.

"Where from in Indiana?" said the old greybeard.

"Linton," answered Bennie, "I'm from Linton."

"That anywhere near to Bloomfield?"

"About 12 miles," answered Bennie.

"Waal now," the amber stains in the grey beard parted, "my grandpappy was hung in Bloomfield..."

Greybeard said that his name was Bland, and that his grandpappy's name was Hiram.

As noted previously, Hiram Bland was the youngest son of Osborne Bland Junior and Patsy Donahoo. In 1850, he was living in Richland Township, Greene County, Indiana, where he was married to Rachel Boys, from Virginia. Hiram was listed as an illiterate farmer by the census taker in 1850. He and Rachel were parents of four small children.

Living nearby¹ was William Walker with his wife, Lettice Bland, and their family of five children.

Hiram Bland killed William Walker early in 1850 in what the court defined as murder. There were two views about the slaying. Both agree that Hiram was drunk as a coot. One version, however, had Hiram drawing a knife while arguing with Walker and stabbing him. The other version contended that Walker was chasing Hiram with a stick, when Hiram turned and stabbed him. In April 1851, according to Mrs. Cowden, who has read the trial minutes, Walker's wife (Hiram's older sister Lettice) changed her story and told the court that her husband had

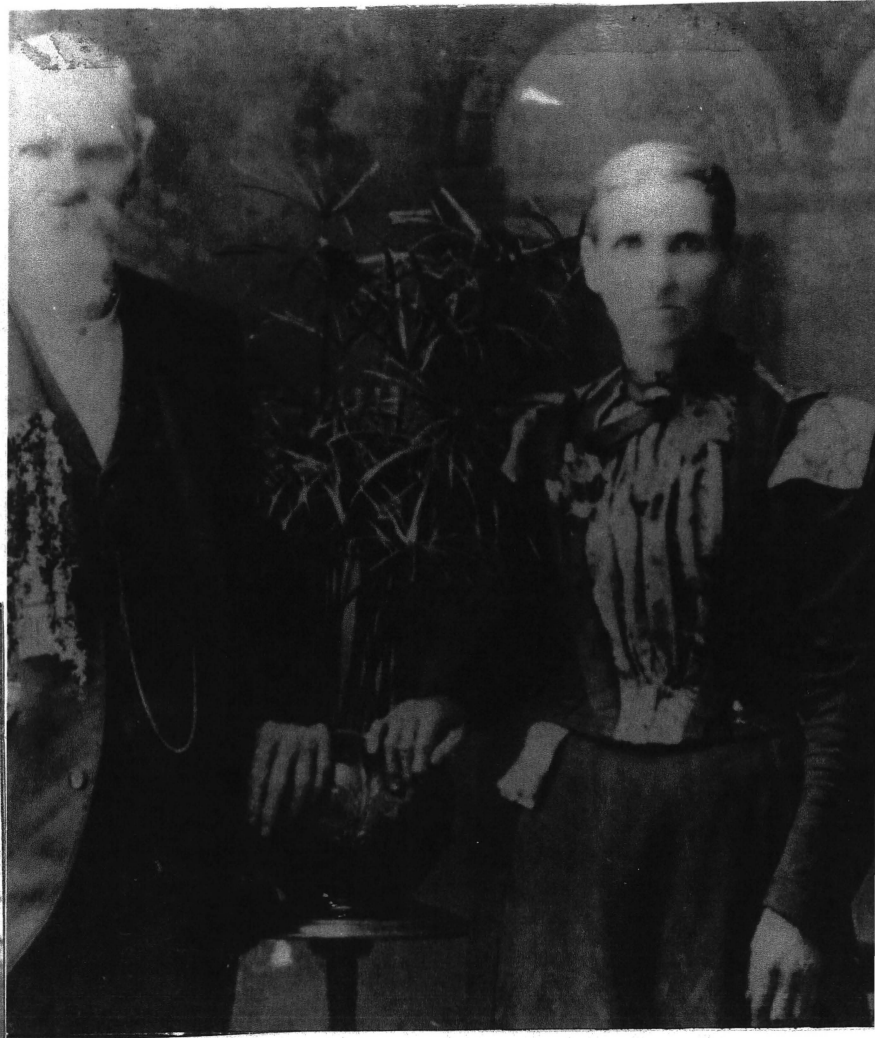
¹ Warren Bland lived in house 602 in Richland Township in 1850. Hiram Bland was in house 603; Moses Bland in house 604; James Bland in house 605; William Walker lived in house 606. John Herrington and his wife, Mary Bland, daughter of John Bland and granddaughter of Osborne Junior, lived in 607. William Walker, aged 78, a farmer from Virginia, lived in 608, and Thomas M. Walker lived in 609. All very clannish.

brandished a stick at Hiram.¹ Records indicate that revenge was a motive, and that the killing took place during daylight. Hiram was found guilty of murder and sentenced to be hanged on November 15, 1850, but a few weeks before his death, he escaped and returned to his home where he eluded capture until January 1851. He had dug a tunnel from his house to a corn crib and when a visitor came to his house, he simply would creep into the tunnel until the coast was clear. After he was caught, he was brought before a judge in April 1851 and was sentenced to be hanged on April 25. Gentlemen and ladies from several counties gathered in the woods where the scaffold had been erected, to see Hiram off on his trip to eternity. According to a later account of the hanging, "about a third of the men were 'half shot' and the women were bubbling over with anxiety and excitement." Things got pretty close for Hiram. He was placed over the trap and a black hood was placed over his head, at which moment an old man came up to the scaffold and roared, "Hiram, you're a goner or I'll be damned." The old man had no sooner spoken these words than he had to eat them, for the exceedingly slow turning wheels of justice spared Hiram, who was taken off the scaffold and jailed, while the Supreme Court of Indiana reviewed his case. Hiram was finally hanged on June 13, 1851. It was said that another crowd gathered to see Hiram die (he had become the chief source of daytime entertainment in the area) and the sheriff who conducted the execution was said to have conducted himself in an exemplary manner.² Hiram's opinion about all this is not a matter of record!

¹ Virginia Cowden to Charles Bland, October 1, 1981.

² Cf. p. 452, note 3, Hunter to Melia.

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Above: Moses Bland, (1844-1907), grandson of Osborne Bland and Patsy Donahoo, and his wife Elizabeth Lankford, (1850-1914, P. 445 and Among Cousins 1-2, p. 10; Below: Osborn Bland, (1853-1923) Grandson of Osborne Bland and Patsy Donahoo, (p. 447 and Among Cousins, 1-2, P. 9).
Courtesy: Laverne Bland

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Clockwise: Andrew J. Burch and Elizabeth Bland (1843-), grand daughter of Osborne Bland and Patsy Donahoo, (p. 450 and Among Cousins 6-2, p. 16); Roland Wallace Bland (1859-1930), grandson of Osborne Bland and Patsy Donahoo, and his wife Elizabeth Bingham, (1863-1934, p. 449 and Among Cousins 6-2, p. 15). Children are L/R Ralph, Minnie, Harvey, Eva, Jewy and Dewy; Lucinda Bland, (1869-1957), great grand daughter of Osborne Bland and Patsy Donahoo, with her husband John Sparks and child Howard Sparks. (p. 446 and Among Cousins, 6-2, p. 15).



The Younger Sons of John Bland (Ninth Generation)

In addition to Osborne Bland, his eldest son, John Bland (ninth generation) mentioned six other sons in his will of 1795. Five of these were living at the time of John's will. One son, Henry, appears to have been dead when John made his will, for John left a small bequest to Nancy, "daughter to Henry Bland."¹ This Nancy Bland married Robert Webb in Nelson County on March 30, 1807.

Little is known by this author about most of the sons living in 1795, except for Osborne, whose descendants have already been discussed. In the claim against Cuthbert Harrison in 1812, Samuel Bland is named with a wife Mary Ann. Samuel himself was probably born in the 1750's. He was enumerated in Nelson County, Kentucky in 1810 as over 45. I have been unable to find any Kentucky record of Samuel's marriage, suggesting that he was married in Virginia, and perhaps had some of his family there before moving to Kentucky. Samuel's date of death is likewise unknown. No Samuel Bland was found in the 1850 Kentucky census, so perhaps he had died before that time. The shape of Samuel and Mary Ann Bland's family is equally difficult to determine, but there appear to have been at least three sons and four daughters. Two sons, Samuel and John, left wills that were on record in Nelson County, and provided, along with marriage records, some outline of the family of Samuel Bland (tenth generation).

Samuel Bland (eleventh generation) made his will in Nelson County October 15, 1830, and it was probated November 8, 1830. There is no

¹ Will of John Bland, October 5, 1795, p. 430, and letter from Betty Turpin to Charles Bland, December 10, 1981.

clue to Samuel's age when he died. He named in his will brothers James and John, as well as sisters Milly Glass, Nelly Glass (Nelly was the Eleanor in the next paragraph), Prudence Bland and Nancy Bland. The executor of the will was a cousin, Isaac Bland.

John Bland, brother to Samuel, made his will March 11, 1835 and it was proved April 13, 1835. As his brother had, John mentioned possession of lands in Lewis County, Missouri. He mentioned sisters Nancy Bland, then married to John Bird, and sisters Eleanor and Milly Glass. His executor was an in-law, James Glass.

These two wills, in combination with marriage records in Nelson County, lead to the conclusion that these were the children of Samuel Bland (tenth generation). Among the daughters, Eleanor Bland (called Nelly by her brother Samuel) married David Glass on January 3 or August 10, 1810. They had at least one son, James Glass. Mildred Bland married James Glass on May 25, 1818. That marriage was witnessed by her siblings, James and Prudence Bland, and consent was given by James, suggesting that Mildred was still a minor in 1818. Nancy Bland may have married a cousin, David Bland, on September 24, 1823, thus retaining her maiden name as it appeared in her brother Samuel's will of 1830. By the time of her brother John's will, however, Nancy had married to John Bird.¹

This configuration of Children of Samuel Bland (tenth generation) calls to mind another daughter of Samuel Bland, Peggy, or Margaret Bland, who married Moses Bland of Randolph County,² North Carolina. The reader will recall, from a previous discussion of this marriage,

¹ I could find no record of the marriage between Nancy Bland and John Bird.

² Cf. p. 348.

that Moses and Peggy Bland had a daughter Elizabeth, and that Peggy died some time before 1807, when Moses Bland remarried. On December 1, 1828, the daughter, Elizabeth Bland, married Ambrose Knott. In standing bond for the marriage, Samuel Bland (who I believe was Samuel Bland, eleventh generation) indicated that he was the brother of Elizabeth's father, Moses Bland. The above information would indicate that Samuel Bland and Moses Bland, husband of Samuel's deceased sister Peggy, were in fact brothers-in-law. So the eleventh generation offspring of Samuel and Mary Ann Bland that emerges from this combination of documents consists of three sons, Samuel, John and James, and five daughters, Peggy or Margaret, Eleanor, Mildred, Nancy and Prudence, who appears to have married a cousin, James Bland, on September 28, 1825.

Little is known of John Bland (tenth generation), fourth mentioned in his father's will of 1795. It is probable that he married Elizabeth Shewmate or Shewmake on August 9, 1792.¹ The names of John and Elizabeth do not appear on the claim against Cuthbert Harrison in 1812, indicating that they were both dead by then, or had moved away. Marriage records for Nelson County suggest the following eleventh generation children for John Bland: John Bland, who married Hannah Lewellen on November 13, 1795. A father-son relationship between these two Johns is problematical, but several of the daughters of John Bland and Hannah Lewellen did have a John Bland stand bond as witness to their marriages, all of which occurred after 1812 when John Bland (tenth generation) appears to have been dead. This John (eleventh generation) could have been a son by a prior marriage.

¹ Ibid. The marriage was witnessed by William Hughes, a brother-in-law of John's.

Two sons of John Bland and Elizabeth Bland appear to have been James Bland, who may have been the cousin who married Prudence Bland, daughter of Samuel Bland, on September 28, 1825. Also, a Bryant Bland witnessed the marriages of several of John Bland's daughters and could have been a third eleventh generation son. A fourth son may have been Isaac Bland.

On July 11, 1826, Catherine Bland, daughter of John Bland, married Samuel Bland. Possibly, these two could have been cousins, Samuel being the eleventh generation son of Samuel Bland. The marriage occurred in Hardin County. On January 18, 1828, Eleanor Bland, daughter of John Bland, married William McMackin in Nelson County. The marriage was witnessed by Isaac Bland, who also stood bond. Three other marriages in Nelson County could have involved daughters of John Bland and Elizabeth Shewmate, or John Bland and Hannah Lewellen. They are: Lucinda Bland, daughter of John Bland, who married John Kenyon in Nelson County on May 14, 1834, with Bryant Bland standing bond. On February 8, 1836, Bryant Bland stood bond for Mildred Bland, daughter of John Bland, who married Joseph Bridewell in Nelson County. Finally, James Bland was bondsman for the marriage of Fanny Bland, daughter of John Bland, to James Glass. Other relationships between the Glass and Bland families would tend to confirm that these series of marriages involved persons one or two generations removed from John Bland and Elizabeth Thewmate.

Of Isaac Bland (tenth generation), nothing is known except that he appeared in the 1812 claim against Harrison, as a signatory, but

not in the document itself.¹ Elijah Bland (tenth generation) is named in the 1812 claim, and it appears that he married Elizabeth Duncan in Nelson County, Kentucky, on January 3, 1809. This must have been a second marriage for by 1809, Elijah would likely have been in his forties or fifties.

Little is known of Daniel Bland (tenth generation), eighth named child in John Bland's will of 1795. Daniel participated in the 1812 claim against Harrison. Daniel married Elizabeth Hughes on January 14, 1796. Their son John H. Bland (c.1801-1870), who was eleventh generation, married Mary Ann Creager (1805-1870) on January 4, 1820, in Hardin County. Mildred Bland, daughter of Daniel Bland, married David Stark in Hardin County on July 20, 1828. John H. Bland and Mary Creager had two daughters (twelfth generation): Elizabeth Bland, who married Nathan Van Meter in Hardin County, February 21, 1838; and Mary Ellen Bland, who married Henton Briscoe Van Meter on August 3, 1852.²

More extended information is known about William Bland (tenth generation) named ninth in John Bland's will. William was said to have been born in 1777 in Prince William County, Virginia.³ In the early 1780's he moved to Kentucky with his parents and lived in Nelson County until 1831, when he moved to Hardin County and settled.

¹ The Nelson County Pioneer, Vol. I, No. 2. Note that Isaac may not have been in the document because he was dead. The signatory may have been his or another brother's son. I have speculated above that John Bland (tenth generation) had a son Isaac, who may have signed as witness to the claim for his deceased parent.

² Marshall Van Meter to Charles Bland, January 26, 1982.

³ Marian Daniels to Charles Bland, December 3, 1981, citing Perrin, Battle and Kniffin, Ed., Biographical Sketches, History of Kentucky (1887). Cf. UMB-I, p. 48A. Urilla Bland based her information on a copy of an article in the Louisville Courier Journal from many years back that was sent to Anna Thomas Donigan by Mrs. J. Morgan Smith, and sent by Mrs. Donigan to Robert Linn Bland.

on Nolin Creek. He died there in 1862, at age 85. William married Sarah Peake who was from Frankfort, Virginia, about 1800. I can find no other William Bland in the Nelson-Hardin records that match the description of William's age, and thus conclude that he had the following daughters:

Nancy Bland, who married Samuel Wilkinson in Nelson County, December 31, 1823. Mahalia Bland married John A. Raine in Hardin County on December 15, 1824. Mahalia Bland must have died sometime before August 21, 1841 when, in one of those cases where a man finds the Bland women entirely to his liking, or exercises limited imagination, John A. Raine married Mahalia's sister, Sarah A. Bland. Susannah Bland, daughter of William Bland, was married to Lewis Walker in Nelson County, March 8, 1825.

On February 9, 1831, Mildred Bland, daughter of William Bland, married Hayden Yates. On October 24, 1831, Lydia Bland, daughter of William Bland, married Leland Bland, possibly a cousin,¹ in Nelson County. Following William Bland's movement to Hardin County, the following marriages occurred: Katherine Bland married William Mount on January 14, 1833; Augustian Bland married Thomas C. Bland, February 8, 1834. Emily Bland married John Upton, January 23, 1837.

The only identifiable son of William Bland and Sarah Peak was Elijah H. Bland (eleventh generation), who was born December 15, 1814, in Nelson County. Elijah was said to have been the eleventh of fourteen children, so there were four children at least who remain unidentified.

Elijah was reared a farmer and "received a plain English education. At age 23, he was said to have gone to Louisville, Kentucky, but returned

¹ Leland Bland was the son of Thomas Morton Bland, to be discussed presently; cf. pp. 475 ff. The marriage between Leland and Lydia would indicate a cousin relationship but the parentage of Thomas Morton Bland has not been discovered.

to Hardin County, where he served as county sheriff for many years, and also married Cornelia Williet on October 29, 1841. Elijah and Cornelia had eight children (twelfth generation) and biographical sources listed four: Belle, who married C. W. Rush; Annie, who married V. B. Stiles; Mattie, who married Joseph Farnsworth; and Joseph E. Bland, a Louisville physician, who was still living in Larus County, Kentucky in 1896.¹

This concludes discussion of the known descendants of John Bland (C.1725-1795), ninth generation son of either William Bland or John Bland, who moved to Jefferson-Nelson County, Kentucky in 1781-1782. These are so-called Irish Blands, an appellation perhaps attributed to John Bland's marriage to Margaret Osborne, and Osborne Bland Junior's marriage to Patsy Donahoo. To this writer, their experience up to about 1850 is the most interesting of the several lines that descend through these several sons of James Bland (seventh generation).

A number of unlinked but fairly coherent Kentucky lines remain. I am convinced that a thorough research and analysis of the primary documents in Kentucky would yield a wealth of information that would answer, among other things, whether John Bland (ninth generation) had siblings who went with him to Kentucky, and who John's father was. It could easily shed valuable light upon the structure of the Northern Virginia Bland family during the 18th century, for I believe Kentucky was, after 1781,

¹ One eleventh generation grandson of John Bland, whose parentage is uncertain to this author, might be Samuel Bland (1780-1848) who married Rachel _____ (1784-1847). They were the parents of Allen Bland, who was born in Hardin County January 16, 1811. Allen died in Macomb County, Illinois. He married on May 3, 1837 in Hardin County, Elizabeth Elliott (September 12, 1812-October 24, 1893). They were the parents of five children, including: William Thomas Bland, born in Wanketa, Oklahoma and married (1) Laura Barlow, and (2) Cora Morrow; Samuel James Bland, born February 5, 1839 and died in Macomb, Illinois October 20, 1927, married Mary Leticia Simmons on January 7, 1860. They had ten children whose lives extended into the 20th century: Rachel Bland, who married _____ Simpson; Mary Bland, who married Jack Humberd and Samuel Smith; and Hettie Bland, who married _____ Sharpe. James, Bland Family Court and Bible Records, p. 60.

the vortex of migration, a kind of clearinghouse through which most of the various branches of the family traveled prior to their dispersal to points further west.

No such analysis of the Blands in Kentucky has been done, to my knowledge. In the few pages that follow, I would like to discuss a few of the coherent families that lived in Kentucky from about 1800-1850, but have not been connected to the extended family of John Bland (ninth generation).

Kentucky Missing Links

James Bland of Warren County, Missouri

James Bland, whose parentage is uncertain, was born in Nelson County Kentucky February 23, 1793, and died January 6, 1849 in Warren County, Missouri. He married, on October 22, 1818, Mary Wyatt, in Nelson County Missouri. Mary was the daughter of Rebecca Anderson and probably the step-daughter of Hedgeman Anderson, who consented to Mary's marriage. Mary Wyatt was born May 28, 1799 and died December 20, 1877, in Paris, Texas, where she was visiting her sons. At the time of her death, her residence was Liberty, Clay County, Missouri.

James Bland and Mary Wyatt had a family of eight children, including Serena Bland, Perry T. Bland, John S. Bland, Hodge A. Bland,¹ Rebecca E. Bland who married W. G. Gordon of Clay County, Missouri, Emmaline Bland who married Adam Frey, Emily Jane Bland who married William Whipple Adams on June 6, 1842. Adams died in 1844 and Emily Jane remarried T. C. Gordon of Clay County, and their oldest child, William Wyatt Bland, who was born

¹ John S. Bland and Hodge A. Bland moved to Paris, Texas.

August 10, 1819 and died sometime after 1880. William was trained in medicine in the late 1830's and moved to Maryville, Missouri in 1840. Between 1850-1853 he was in California, but returned to Clay County, Missouri, and later moved to Clinton County. In 1880, William Wyatt Bland was elected to the Missouri State Senate, representing a district composed of Clay, Platte and Clinton Counties. William married Annie E. Payne, of Clinton, Missouri, and by her had seven children: Mary B. Bland; Serena E. Bland, who married J. C. Atchison; James A. Bland, who married Cora Fry. They were the parents of William Abram Bland, who married Linnie Fields, of Clinton County, Missouri.¹ Henry F. Bland; Luella Bland; Annie Lee Bland; and Louis L. Bland.

The parentage of James Bland (1793-1849), progenitor of this line, is uncertain, but inasmuch as he was born in Nelson County, Kentucky, I suspect he was related to John Bland (ninth generation) and Margaret Osborne, possibly as a grandchild and son of one of their tenth generation children. This possibility, and the close geographic proximity that is barely masked by the changing county jurisdictions of Lincoln, Nelson and Washington Counties in Kentucky, suggests further inter-relationships, with at least one and possibly two families in the Washington County area, including a man who became a candidate for President of the United States.

The Man Who Would Be President: Richard Parks Bland, His Ancestry and Descendants

William Vincent Byars, biographer of Richard Parks Bland, wrote that his ancestors were among the earliest settlers in Kentucky, which

¹ James, Court and Bible Records, pp. 51-52.

was true, and also that he "mostly" was descended from Colonel Theodorick Bland, the seventh generation soldier, physician and statesman of the James River Bland family,¹ which was not true.

Richard Parks Bland was descended from a family that reached back into Virginia but moved to Kentucky, probably after the Revolution. The first trace of this family began to appear in the Lincoln and Washington County, Kentucky records during the early 1780's, much like John Bland (ninth generation).

A man named "Rolly" (probably a variation of Roland) Bland, did service in the American Revolution in Virginia.² The parentage of this Rolly or Roland Bland is unknown, but he was probably the progenitor of the family that grew in Washington County during the next half-century. I do not know of anyone who has carefully researched this family during the critical period of, say, 1784, and about 1835.³ In the absence of such research, I would like to suggest the possibility that Roland Bland, the Revolutionary soldier, moved to Kentucky in the early 1780's,

¹ William Vincent Byars, An American Commoner: The Life and Times of Richard Parks Bland, A Study of the Last Quarter of the Nineteenth Century (1900), p. 35, hereafter referred to in notes as Byars. Cf. discussion of Theodorick Bland (seventh generation), who had no children, pp. 170-181.

² Dawson notes, citing Brumbaugh, Hoyt, Gwathney, p. 69, Saffels List and McAllister. A younger Rolly Bland who died in 1825, named a post-humously born child Thomas Roland Bland. Alternately, John Bland married Mary Roley in Washington County, January 13, 1800, suggesting the possibility that Rolly is a variant of Roley, a family that might have lived near the Rolly Bland family in Virginia and moved with them to Kentucky.

³ Some research on this family was done by Dr. Curtis Bland, of Vincennes, Indiana, but I have never been able to locate it. James, Court and Bible Records makes some use of Dr. Bland's work.

like John Bland of Nelson County (ninth generation), and that Roland came to Kentucky with a wife Rachel. Alternately, Roland might have died early after arriving in Kentucky, or in Virginia, so that his wife Rachel migrated to Kentucky as a head of household.

Rachel Bland was in Lincoln County, Kentucky by 1784, and later in Washington County. That she was a widow by 1784 is attested by a number of instances in which she consented to marriages by her daughters. The first of these was on January 3, 1784, when Rachel Bland married Michael Fagen in Lincoln County. This Rachel was the daughter of the elder Rachel Bland. Another daughter of the widow Rachel Bland was Prudence Bland, who married George Watts in Lincoln County on March 20, 1786. Thirdly, the widow Rachel Bland signed her consent on November 10, 1789, for the marriage of her daughter Susannah Bland to James Arbuckle in Nelson County.¹

Rachel Bland's name appears on the tax rolls of Washington County in 1794, 1795 and 1797. Two deeds in Washington County contribute to understanding further the assumed children of Roland Bland and his widow Rachel. On June 15, 1799, Rachel deeded to her son Charles Bland all her personal property and the 125 acres of land upon which "I now live" (suggesting, among other things, that Rachel died soon after). This land is subsequently listed as at "Rolling Fork."² On September 8, 1799, George Watt and his wife, Prudence Bland, deeded 97 acres of land on the Waters of the Pleasant Run to Thomas Bland.³

¹ James, Bland Family Court and Bible Records, pp. 53-58, 61-63, passim.

² Ibid., citing Washington County Deed Book B, p. 246, June 15, 1799.

³ By 1820, a William Bland also owned land on Pleasant Run.

An interconnectedness of documents creates a plausible number of sons, in addition to the three daughters of the assumed marriage of Roland and Rachel Bland. The first document to examine is the will of Charles Bland, who received property from his mother Rachel in 1799.

In the name of God, Amen, I, Charles Bland, of Washington County and State of Kentucky, do constitute ...this my last will and testament...money arising from the sale of my estate...to be divided equally between my beloved wife Ann Bland, my beloved daughter Nancy Bland, and my beloved daughter Julian Bland, and my beloved daughter Scarber Bland, and my beloved son Staughton Bland, and my beloved son Fielding Bland, and my beloved son Franklin Bland, and my beloved daughter Mary Eliza Bland, and my beloved son William Bland, and I give and bequeath to my son Warrington Bland one dollar and no more, and I also will and bequeath unto my beloved wife Ann Bland, all the estate both real and personal which she had before I mared her...given from under my hand and seal this 12th day of April, 1819.

Charles Bland must have died shortly before July 12, 1819, when his executors made a bond for \$4,000 in settlement of his estate. His will certainly provides ample documentation of his family, but does not tell the full story. Charles married Nancy (Ann) Knott¹ on November 1817, but she was his second wife. His first wife, and the source of names for several of his children, was Catherine Staughton*, daughter of Scarborough Staughton, whom Charles married on September 28, 1795. Catherine was the mother of Charles' children. It should be noted that two of these sons, Warrington T. Bland and Staughton Edward Bland appeared as creditors in the estate settlement of Rolly Bland, who made his will on June 24, 1825. Rolly's estate was settled December 27, 1830

¹ James, Court and Family Bible Records, p. 61. Note also the marriage of Elizabeth Bland to Ambrose Knott in Nelson County in 1828. Cf. pp. 347-348.

* This name is repeatedly misspelled in documents. I think it should probably be Staughton.

² Ibid., p. 57, citing Washington County Deed Book D, pp. 110, 151.

TABLE XXX

THE ASSUMED FAMILY OF ROLLY (ROLAND) BLAND OF VIRGINIA AND WASHINGTON COUNTY, KENTUCKY

Rolly (Roland) Bland = Rachel _____.*

Rachel Bland married Michael Fagan in 1784.	Prudence Bland married George Watt in 1786.	Susannah Bland married James Arbuckle in 1789.	Thomas Morton Bland married Ann Lawrence.
Roland (Rolly) Bland married Delsey Shekles- worth in 1799, and Sarah Thomas in 1824.	John Bland married Mary Roley in 1800.	Samuel Bland married Jenny Sheklesworth in 1800.	Charles Bland (-1819) married Catherine Staughton in 1795, and Ann Knott in 1817.
			Staughton Edward Bland (1807-1842) married Margaret Nall in 1834.
			Richard Parks Bland (1835-1899) married Virginia Elizabeth Mitchell in 1873.

* Evidence in Kentucky records validates a parent-child relationship between Rachel Bland and the identified children. Her marriage to Rolly (Roland) Bland is assumed.

Rolly, who appears interchangeably in the Washington County records as Roland, also owned land on Rolling Fork, from 1799 to 1809, and on a place called Carney Creek from 1800-1816. He again is listed with land on Rolling Fork from 1821-1825. Roland must have been born in the 1770's, and was probably granted the land in Washington County when his mother died about 1799. Rolly married twice, first to Delsey Sheklesworth on October 2, 1799 in Washington County, and second, to Sarah ("Sally") Thomas on October 30, 1824. In his will, Thomas left bequests to his children: John Bland; Allen Bland; Susan Daughtery; Jane Bland; Prudence Bland; Samuel Bland; and five younger children, Green, Fanny, William, Rachel and Malinda Bland, A son by Sarah Thomas named Thomas Roland Bland was born on June 28, 1825, just four days after Roland Bland made his will.

Thus a fair construction is possible of the assumed family of Rolly Bland of Virginia, and Rachel, his wife. They were probably married in the mid-1760's, for their daughters began to marry in the 1780's, and in each case, Rachel's consent was necessary. Additionally, from deeds already noted, it is likely that there were three sons: Rolly, Charles and Thomas. Additionally, there may have been at least two additional sons: John Bland, who married Mary Roley on January 13, 1800; and Samuel Bland, who married Jenny Sheklesworth on February 5, 1800.

There is then the possibility that the family of Rolly Bland, of Virginia, and his widow, Rachel Bland, would look something like this:

Rachel Bland (), who married Michael Fagan in 1784.
 Prudence Bland (), who married George Watt in 1786.¹
 Susannah Bland (), who married James Arbuckle in 1789.
 Charles Bland (-1819) who married (1) Catherine Staton
 in 1795, and (2) Ann Knott in 1817.
 Rolly (Roland) Bland (-1825) who married (1) Delsey
 Sheklesworth in 1799, and (2) Sarah Thomas in 1824.
 John Bland () who married Mary Roley in 1800.
 Samuel Bland () who married Jenny Sheklesworth in
 1800.

Thomas Bland, of whom more later.

Charles Bland, in his will of 1819, mentioned ten children born to his first wife, Catherine Staughton. Of these, specific information is known only about two sons: Warrington Bland, who apparently was in his father's disfavor, married Letitia Curtsinger on October 6, 1828.

The other son of Charles Bland and Catherine Staughton of whom further information is known is Staughton Edward Bland, who was born July 4, 1807 and died June 5, 1842. He was a beneficiary of a good formal education, and was trained for the Presbyterian ministry, but in 1838 he established a post office at a place called "Bland's Mill" in Ohio county, and became postmaster. He married Margaret Parks Nall in Washington County on October 9, 1834. Margaret was born June 4, 1816 at Hartford, Ohio County, Kentucky, and died December 20, 1849,

¹ If the names Watt and Wyatt were interchangeable, it might be possible to ascertain that James Bland, who married Mary Wyatt in Nelson County, was a son of one of these brothers. The William Bland mentioned above was probably too young to have been a son of Rolly and Rachel Bland. He may have been the same person who married Maria Nelson in Washington County on August 28, 1818, and the son of one of the above brothers, most likely of Charles Bland.

at which time she was married to Francis Black whom she married in 1844.¹ Staughton Edward Bland and Margaret Nall had a family of four children, of whom information is available about three, including Charles C. Bland, who later moved to Arcadia, Missouri, and became a Judge of the St. Louis Court of Appeals. Elizabeth Bland, who married _____ Tetley, and Richard Parks Bland, who was born August 19, 1835 at Hartford in Ohio County, Kentucky, and died June 15, 1899.

Following his father's death, Richard Parks Bland lived with his mother until her death in 1849. Afterward, he lived at the home of Isaiah Craig, working summers and attending school during the winter months. When he finished his schooling, about 1854, Richard went to Wayne County, Missouri, to live with an aunt. He taught school there for a few months, but in 1855 he accompanied his aunt and uncle on a trip to New York and California.

Richard's aunt and uncle died soon after their arrival in California and he took custody of their three small children. Remaining in California until 1867, Richard dabbled unprofitably at mining, teaching, and served briefly as Treasurer for the Utah Territory. He returned to Rolla, Missouri, and practiced law there until 1869, when he opened up a practice in Lebanon, Laclede County. In 1872, he was elected as a Democrat to the United States Congress, after which he never practiced law again.

¹ Information about Staughton Edward Bland and his wife, Margaret Nall, as well as their son, Richard Parks Bland and his siblings, is found in Byars, pp. 35, 264-285. Another useful and briefer source is W. R. Hollister and H. Norman, Five Famous Missourians (1900), pp. 95-172.

From his district in the Ozarks, as well as his California experience in mining, Richard Bland was intimately familiar with the problems of the silver miners and frontier farmers who composed the Free Silver constituency. The issue that propelled Bland to national prominence was the demonetization of silver as a mode of exchange in 1873. The net effect was to leave gold as the exclusive monetary standard in the United States, and Silverites labeled this law "the crime of '73." For the next five years, greatly abetted by shifting international markets which improved the value of silver, Richard Bland waged a tireless battle on behalf of silver as a standard of exchange, or in other words, to reinstitute a bimetallic standard. The Free Silver party remained a powerful force, particularly within the Democratic Party, for the next quarter century, reaching its apotheosis in the 1896 Democratic Convention in Chicago, when William Jennings Bryan, the first Silver man to become a presidential candidate for a major party (he defeated Richard Parks Bland), thundered to his opposition: "You shall not press down upon the brow of labor this crown of thorns; you shall not crucify mankind on a cross of gold."

Richard Bland guided a bill for the free coinage of silver through the House in his first term, but it was reversed in the Senate. In 1876-1877, fortunes for the Silverites began to turn, however, and Bland became the chief sponsor for the Bland-Allison Act of 1878 that remonetized silver and provided for limited silver coinage.¹ President Hay vetoed the bill but it was enacted over his veto. The Democratic Part

¹ Free Silver, like most economic issues, is vastly opaque. The best short course on the issue of silver monetization and the Bland-Allison Act is Irwin Unger, The Greenback Era: A Social and Political History of American Finance, 1865-1879 (1964), pp. 328-373, passim.

was in power in Washington between 1885-1889 and 1893-1897, when Grover Cleveland was President, but Cleveland was really another version of Eastern interests, and with his election in 1892, the Western Silver Party men, who were Democrats, began to chafe. Richard Bland made a famous "Parting of the Ways" speech in 1893, in which he served notice that western Democrats would place the silver issue above party loyalty. This intra-party dissent, as well as Cleveland's unpopular second administration, contributed to Richard Parks Bland's defeat by 70 votes in 1894.

Out of power for two years, Bland took to the lecture circuit, where he preached the silver issue and became the logical candidate of the Democratic Party for President which, in 1896, was controlled by the silver faction.

Bland was, however, a bit too old¹ and his logical mind and well reasoned thoughts emerged from his mouth in the most stolid and uninspiring way. At the nominating convention in Chicago, Bland led for the first three ballots, but had to yield eventually to the man everyone wanted, the young, eloquent, charismatic and long-winded William Jennings Bryan, 35-year-old prodigy from Nebraska, who proceeded to electrify the crowd with his Cross of Gold speech, and then went on to lose to William McKinley in a landslide. In the 1896 election, however, Richard Bland was reelected to his district seat in the House of Representatives and held it until he died. He was said to have lived his life very simply, and probably died poorer than when he

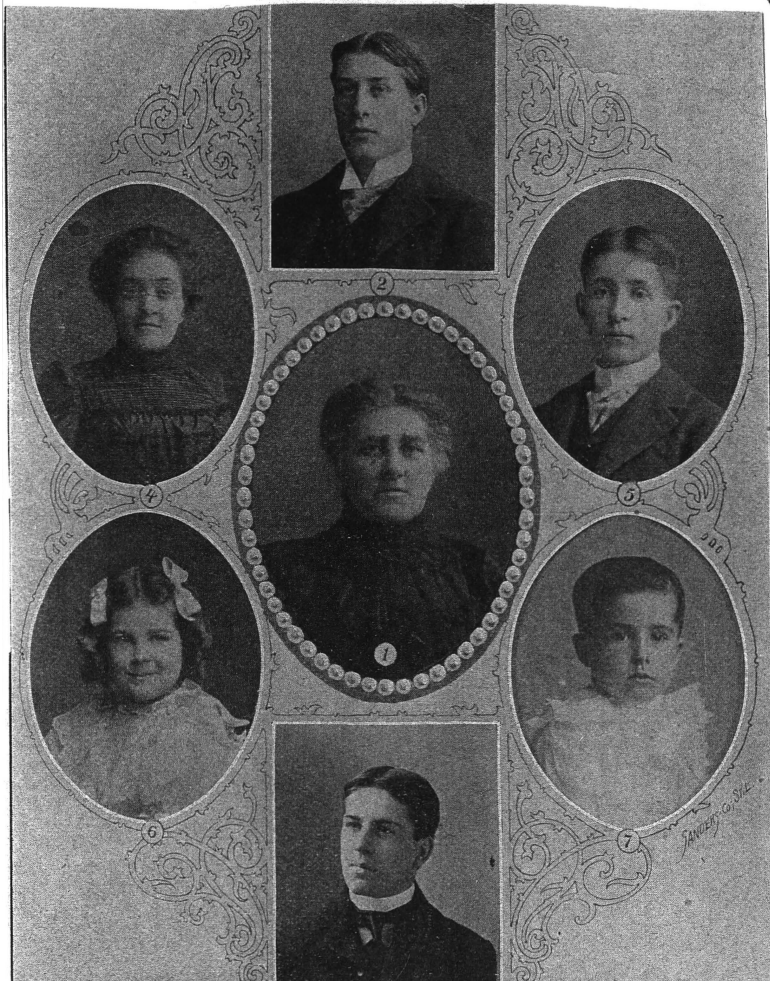
¹ In 1896, Richard Parks Bland was too old to be President, sixteen years before Ronald Reagan became a twinkle in his father's eye.

entered public office. He was reckoned a very logical and clear-headed though zealous speaker, and in a time of unusually corrupt politics, he was an honest man, withdrawing from law practice after his election to the House, refusing to take a salary increase which was voted by Congress, and refusing various lucre offered him by lobbies who attempted to curry his favor.

Richard Parks Bland married Virginia Elizabeth Mitchell on December 17, 1873, daughter of General E. Y. Mitchell, of Rolla, Missouri. Virginia was born in 1854, and the date of her death was uncertain. Richard Bland and Elizabeth Mitchell had the following children: Virgie (Virginia) born January 18, 1875 and died April 3, 1876; Fanny, born June 4, 1876 in Washington, D.C.; Theodorick, born November 25, 1877 in Lebanon, Missouri;¹ Ewing Charles, born May 17, 1882 in Washington, D.C.; George Vest, born February 10, 1884 in Washington, D.C.; Hattie, born in Lebanon, Missouri November 5, 1885 and died March 3, 1887; Margaret Nall, born December 1, 1887 and died September 11, 1892; John Lilburn, born July 28, 1889; Virginia M. Bland, born in Washington, D.C., December 19, 1892.

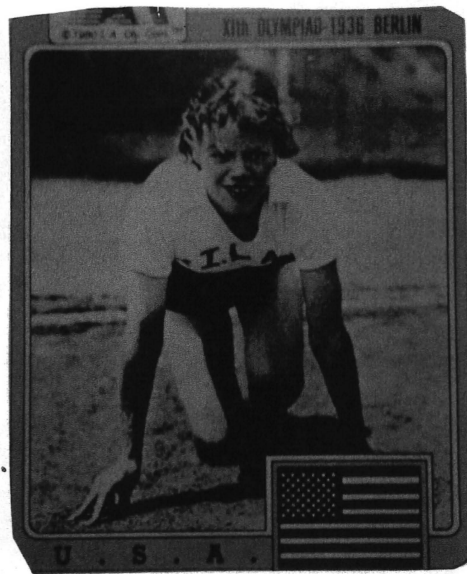
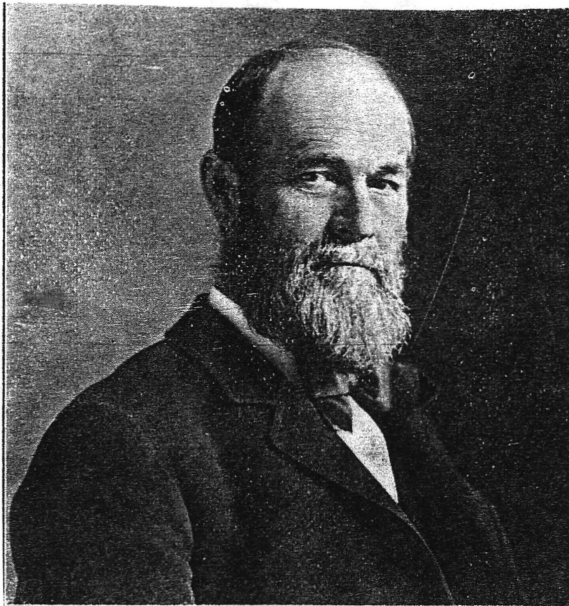
The second son of Rolly Bland, of Virginia, and his wife Rachel, was Rolly or Roland Bland. By his first wife Delsey Sheklesworth, Rolly had eleven children, named in his will and previously listed. Of these, it is known that his son, Allen Bland, married Hetty Hardin on March 8, 1824, in Washington County. Rolly's daughter Susan married John Daughtery on March 30, 1821, and Jane Bland married Anthony

¹ Perhaps this was an indication that Richard didn't know much about his ancestry. His brother, Charles C. Bland, stated to Byars, "I know so little about our father that I am unable to tell you the names of his parents or brothers or sisters." Byars, p. 267.



Richard Parks Bland (1835-1899) and his wife Virginia Elizabeth Mitchell (1854-) at the time of their wedding in 1873; their children clockwise: Theodore Richard (1877-); George Vest (1884-); John Lilburn, (1889-); Ewing Charles, (1882-); Virginia Mary (1875-); Frances A. (1876-). Mrs. Bland's photo is in the center. (p. 472). Source, William Byars, An American Commoner.

Children of Staughton Edward Bland and Margaret Parks Nall; Clockwise: Charles Clelland Bland, brother of Richard Parks Bland; Harriet Claiborne Bland Green, 1936 Olympics Champion and grand daughter of Charles C. Bland; Amanda Black Goody-Koontz, half-sister; Elizabeth Bland Tetley; Mrs. Mary Steinmetz, niece and adopted daughter of Richard Parks Bland; Richard Parks Bland. Source, William Byars An American Commoner; photo of Harriet Bland Green courtesy of Ruth Bland White.



Sandusky on August 28, 1826. The son, Thomas Roland, born just after his father's death on June 28, 1825, married Sarah Robinson in Hardin County on November 7, 1845. Sarah was born December 7, 1824. Their children were: Amelia Bland, born April 27, 1846; Betty Bland, born November 26, 1848; Willaim B. Bland, born January 6, 1850; John Bland, born December 26, 1851; Susan Bland, born April 7, 1853; Mattie Bland, born February 9, 1855; Isabelle Bland, born February 26, 1860; Watt Bland, born August 24, 1861; Samuel A. Bland, born August 4, 1863; Anna Bland, born July 24, 1866; Thomas Bland, born September 19, 1868.¹

Thomas Roland Bland and Sarah Robinson lived near Hadginville, Kentucky, while their children were young.

The only son of Rolly Bland, of Virginia, and Rachel, for whom information remains was Thomas Bland, whom I believe was the Thomas Morton Bland who lived in Washington County, Kentucky early in the 1800's. The key researcher of the family of Thomas Morton Bland is Richard Smith, of DeKalb, Illinois. In a communication to this author, Mr. Smith quoted the following statement from an old compilation of information on Kentucky families:

Samuel K(endley) Bland was born March 3, 1823 in Washington County, Kentucky (now Marion). He is the fifth of three sons and three daughters (two now living) born to John and Sally Kendley Bland, who were reared in Marion and Mercer Counties respectively. John Bland was an extensive farmer and died in 1865, aged seventy years. He had moved to Simpson County in 1833, and settled near South Union, where he owned 320 acres. He was the son of Thomas Bland, who was one of the early pioneers of Kentucky, moved to Simpson County, and lived with his children until his death. Thomas came

¹ James, Bland Family Court and Bible Records, p. 63.

from Virginia to Kentucky and was of Scotch-Irish descent...Samuel K. Bland married September 10, 1844, Elizabeth D. Viers of Simpson County, a daughter of Polly (Darnell) Viers, who was born and reared in Maryland. Four children blessed this union: John F.; Mary E. Cox; Euclid V. (deceased); and King S. Mrs. Bland died in December 1882, aged 57.¹

From this single paragraph, certainly a juicy genealogical plum, Mr. Smith has been able to flesh out a fair representation of Thomas Morton Bland, whom Samuel K. Bland called his grandfather. Thomas Morton Bland, as stated above, came to Kentucky from Virginia. He must have been a relatively young man when he came to Kentucky, for at least one of his sons was born in 1795, suggesting perhaps that Thomas Morton Bland married Anne Lawrence in the 1790's. The 1810 census shows Thomas Morton Bland with nine children (six girls and three boys) which Mr. Smith believes was the extent of his family. Mr. Smith has identified the three sons,² and five of the six daughters of Thomas Morton Bland and Anne Lawrence:

Among the five identified daughters, Mr. Smith lists Adaline Bland, Polly (Mary) Bland, Elizabeth Bland, Lydia Bland and Lucinda Bland. Judging from the dates of their marriages, Elizabeth and Polly were older daughters. Polly married Thomas Pearce in Washington County, March 20, 1816. Elizabeth married, probably, Anthony Wilson, December 1818. Elizabeth died of pneumonia March 15, 1833, and it appears that her husband migrated to Kansas.³ Lucinda Bland married Samuel Potting

¹ Quoted in a letter, Richard Smith to Charles Bland, November 1, 1882.

² In earlier communications, Mr. Smith indicated that one of the sons was Thomas Bland, who married Elizabeth Duncan November 27, 1819. The Thomas Bland, who married Elizabeth Duncan, however, was the eleventh generation son of Charles Bland, of Garrard County, Kentucky. In his communication to me, Mr. Smith made no reference to this marriage.

³ Note by Mrs. Melvin Dunn indicates that Wilson was found in a volume called "Kansas Pioneers," with reference to his marriage to Elizabeth Bland, and her death by pneumonia. There was a marriage by Elizabeth Bland, daughter of Nancy Bland (Nancy was a variant of Anne) to Danie Purdy in Washington County, November 29, 1824.

Phillips on September 22 or 23, 1828. A tombstone at the Cox Creek Baptist Church, Nelson County, recording other information about this family, indicates that Lucinda was born December 13, 1807, and died September 15, 1843.¹ Adaline Bland married Gregory Glasscock, in Washington County, April 11, 1829. Bondsman at that wedding was Green Duncan.²

Mr. Smith lists a daughter, Lydia Bland, but I have been unable to find additional information about her.

Thomas Morton Bland and Anne Lawrence had three known sons: Leland, John, and Samuel Lawrence Bland. Of these, Leland is perhaps the youngest. He married Lydia Bland, a daughter of William Bland, Nelson and Hardin Counties, who was the tenth generation son of John Bland (ninth generation).³ John Bland would have been the eldest son, and the description provided by his son, Samuel Kendley Bland, indicates that he lived from 1795-1865. He married Sally Kendley February 27, 1815⁴ in Washington County. As the above description by his son indicated, John Bland had a family of six children. Samuel L. Bland, the third son of Thomas Morton Bland and Anne Lawrence, was born March 29, 1802, and died April 1, 1839.⁵ Samuel Lawrence Bland married Harriet Phillips, daughter of James Phillips, in Nelson County, January 12, 1829.⁶

1 Jessamine James to Charles Bland, November 28, 1980.

2 Rolly Bland had a son, Green Bland; cf. p. 467.

3 Cf. discussion of William, pp. 459-461, esp. p. 460.

4 Cf. p. 439, note 1.

5 Jessamine James to Charles Bland, November 28, 1980, citing Register of the Kentucky State Historical Society, Vol. 30, pp. 187, 192. Samuel's will was made in Nelson County, March 30, 1839, and probated April 8, 1839.

6 The Bland-Phillips connection may weave back to the intermarriages of Margaret Bland (eleventh generation), daughter of Osborne and Lettice Bland, to William Phillips in 1786. One of Margaret's sons, George Phillips, married a Kendley on August 29, 1815, as did Samuel Lawrence Bland's brother, John. Harriet Phillips was born January 7, 1808 and died August 16, 1856.

The names of children of Samuel Lawrence Bland and Harriet Phillips are not altogether certain. Samuel did not live long enough to have a very large family. Perhaps two of their children were Samuel P. (Phillips or Pottinger) Bland, who was born April 2, 1835 and died May 3, 1856, and Elizabeth Bland, who was born June 5, 1837 and died April 2, 1855.¹ Certainly one child in the ancestral line of Richard Smith was James Bemis Bland, born September 12, 1831 in Washington County, and died September 9, 1910 in Paris, Missouri. James Bemis Bland married Margaret Hill, and by her had three sons: Benjamin, who went to Texas; James A. Bland, who died in Wisconsin in 1925; and Samuel Bland, who died in New Mexico in 1886. James Bemis Bland and Margaret Hill also had a daughter, Elizabeth Bland, who was born September 17, 1861 in Paris, Missouri, and died January 5, 1936 in Brookings, South Dakota. Elizabeth married Joseph Catlett.²

In pursuit of Thomas Morton Bland's parentage, Mr. Smith has looked to England and found that Thomas Bland and two William Blands were sentenced to be transported to the American Colonies in Middlesex County in October 1770, and were transported December 1770 aboard the ship *Justitia*.³ Mr. Smith's further research indicates that the *Justitia* arrived in Virginia at Leedstown in March 1771. Also on the manifest of the *Justitia* were Lawrences and Mortons.

The relationship of the two Williams to Thomas Bland on the good ship *Justitia* is not certain. Whether a Roland Bland was among the

¹ Lucinda Bland, a daughter of Samuel Lawrence Bland and Harriet Phillips, was born October 27, 1839, and died January 21, 1850.

² Joseph Catlett and Elizabeth Bland had a daughter, Marguerite, who married Homer Smith, and they were the parents of Richard Smith.

³ Smith to Charles Bland, November 1, 1981, citing Peter Coldham, English Convicts in Colonial America (1976).

migrants is likewise uncertain. What remains is a possibility that Roland Bland and his family came to the American Colonies from Middlesex County in England, a county that in today's parlance would be considered a bedroom community of London. Arriving in Virginia aboard a convict ship, during a period of revolutionary fervor, Rolly would have volunteered for service. His sons were too young to serve in the Revolutionary War, but the family made its way out to Kentucky with the waves of other white people who went there following the Revolution. They settled amazingly close, in the Nelson-Washington County area, to the location of John Bland (ninth generation), and although it may be accidental, one of Thomas Morton's sons married a granddaughter of John Bland (ninth generation). Living in the same county was Rolly Bland, apparently about the same age as Thomas, along with siblings John, Charles and Samuel.

It is virtually impossible to calculate linkages between Rolly Bland and his wife Rachel, and John Bland (ninth generation), or his children. One intriguing lead, however, would be to trace and strengthen the hypothesis of Mr. Smith that Thomas Morton Bland came here from England, Middlesex County, on a convict ship. If confirmed by research in the appropriate original records, one might conclude that the Rolly Bland family represents one of the several branches who did not descend from the two major branches of the Bland family. Alternately, however, one might take the Middlesex County possibility as a starting point for information about the parentage of James Bland (seventh generation).

The Children of Susan Bland, Hardin County, Kentucky

The 1850 census index for Kentucky shows Henry, Jesse, Lydia, Susar and William living together in very close proximity. Henry Bland's household was enumerated as follows:

	<u>Age</u>
Henry Bland	42
Alice Bland	41
Elmira	18
Maria	14
Strothers	13
Marina	11
James	7
Evarts	5

Living in close proximity to Henry Bland was William Bland, aged 31 and Susan Bland, aged 60. Susan may have been the widowed mother of Henry and William Bland and, if the names of Henry's children are any indication, her maiden name might have been Strothers or Evarts, or some variation of either. Susan witnessed and signed consent for a number of marriages between 1829-1839 in which she was declared the mother of: Henry Bland, who married Mariah English, and Jane Bland, who married Leonard Farmer, both on August 3, 1829 (note that if Henry was born in 1808 or thereabouts, he could have still been technically not of age and therefore requiring consent for this marriage in 1829). Henry's daughter Elmira, who was 18 in 1850, would have undoubtedly been from this earlier marriage. When Mariah English died is uncertain, but Henry remarried, to Alice V. Harding, on April 21, 1835. The younger children, beginning with Maria, aged 14 in 1850, would have been children of the later marriage. Susan Bland also signed consents for the marriages of daughters Susan to William Mather on July 11, 1831; Mary to John English on January 18, 1836; and Marina Bland to William Abell on November 12, 1836. The two intermarriages between Blands and Englishes would tend to confi

that the William Bland who married Adline English on May 11, 1835, was the same man who was 37 in 1850. All of the above would indicate that Susan Bland, born about 1790, would have been married by 1807, and would have been mother of at least two sons and four daughters. The Kentucky marriage records I have seen shed no light on a marriage by a Bland to Susan _____ about 1807, thus leaving uncertain Susan's maiden name, the name of her husband and his parentage.

Reuben Bland, of Pulaski County

Pulaski County, formed in 1798 and named after Count Pulaski, the Revolutionary hero, lies far to the south of the Nelson-Washington area, sandwiched between Wayne, Casey and Lincoln Counties (see Map XIV, p. 426A). Pulaski County was the home of Reuben Bland, who was born sometime in the 1780's and died during the 1840's.¹ Where Reuben was born is unknown; however, on February 1, 1814, he married Dicey West, daughter of Zerimea West, in Wayne County. In the 1850 census, Dicey is shown to be aged 60, from North Carolina. She and Reuben Bland settled in Pulaski County, where Reuben purchased a small plot of 80 acres in 1818, on Forbus Watercourse. By Dicey West, Reuben was the father of sons: William, born in 1815; Joshua, born 1818; Walker, born about 1827. His daughters were: Dicey, born in 1823; Esther, born in 1825; Margaret, born in 1831; and Polly A. Bland, born in 1838; and possibly, Polly's twin, Neptha. Reuben and Dicey also had a daughter, Anny or Nancy, who married Stephen Whitaker in Pulaski County May 4, 1841. The possibilities are suggested by the configuration of Reuben's family in 1850, by which time he was

¹ The chief researcher, indeed the only one I know of, for Reuben Bland and his descendants is Pansy Lea (Howard) Wilburn, of San Modesto, California.

dead and his wife and younger children were living in Casey County within another household. Among the older children, William was in Pulaski County with his own family, and the same was true of Joshua, who was in Casey County. The son, Walker, eluded detection by census records, but was in Pulaski County in 1854. Among Reuben's children, in addition to the aforementioned marriage of Anny or Nancy Bland, William Bland married a woman named _____ Phearsby, sometime in the 1840's. Joshua married twice. The name of his first wife was unknown. His second wife was Malvina Richardson whom he married April 22, 1854, in Casey County. Dicey Bland married William W. Dalton, and Margaret Bland married Jesse Soman in Casey County on February 18, 1855. Walker Bland married Louisa Raybourn on July 2 or 28, 1848.

As indicated, Walker Bland was born about 1827 and he died after 1870. Walker had a knack of being away whenever the census taker came round, so facts about him are scarce, but it is known that he was a shoe cobbler, and the location of his children indicates that he and Louisa remained in the Casey-Pulaski area until the late 60's when Walker migrated to Wright County, Missouri. Why Walker moved to Missouri is uncertain, but two causes are suggested by the record. First, his wife Louisa died about 1863 of smallpox. Second, Kentucky was a difficult state politically during the Civil War. Walker Bland was an abolitionist which on the scale of political sympathies would place him in a less desirable light amount southerners than a staunch defender of Abraham Lincoln. Whatever the reasons, oral tradition has it that he remarried to a woman who may have been named Pointer or Poyner, a marriage that was said to have been an unhappy one. The children of Walker and Louisa Raybourn Bland were: John; Reuben; Edward; Joshua Bell Daniel, who died young; Thomas; Jane; and Margaret. Edward was born about 1856, and he

married Margaret Hollaway about 1879. The key child in Mrs. Willburn's delineation of the family was Joshua Bell Bland, who was born May 15, 1854, at Trace Fork, Kentucky, and died April 27, 1931, at Fort Smith, Arkansas.

Joshua witnessed a great deal of family hardship during his early life, including the death of his mother, the deaths of two brothers, and some political hardship because of his father's pro-abolitionist views. Joshua was educated, and later became a minister and circuit rider. He was known by one of his daughters as a fine public speaker, though a bit slow on the drawl. He was a short man, slight of build, with black hair, light complexion, and brown eyes. Joshua was a prolific and avid reader and in politics, as would befit a Bland, a free silver advocate who jumped on the bandwagon of Silver Dick Bland. He was quick-tempered, easy to anger, and easy to calm down, a trait that almost got him physically in trouble when, while haranguing a crowd from a wagon, he agitated local anti-silverites, and was about ready to engage the crowd in some hand-to-hand combat when his sister-in-law grabbed him by the scruff of his neck and made him go home.

Joshua Bell Bland married Nancy Elizabeth Casey in Wright County, Missouri on July 26, 1874. All of his eleven children were born in Wright County. They were: (1) Sarah Triphena, born June 11, 1875, who died as an infant; (2) Mary Rosetta Bland, born June 4, 1877, who died in 1899. She married James Gamble in 1893. (3) Melviney Jane, born June 20, 1880, and died in 1887; (4) Noah Alonzo Bland, born March 20, 1882. He married in 1907, Druscilla Blevins. (5) Omah N. Bland, born September 2, 1884, and died in his infancy; (6) Emma Ann Bland, born June 29, 1886, and married in Arkansas on August 4, 1904, Charles Samuel Scott; (7) Ida May Bland, born April 30, 1889, and still living in 1981,

being the source of information about Joshua Bell Bland and his father, Walker. Ida May married Benjamin Howard in Leflore, Oklahoma, on May 26, 1917.¹ (8) Mattie Pearl Bland, born December 20, 1892, and married James Butler; (9) Henry Elmer Bland, born April 30, 1895, and married Dolly McNeese in 1916; (10) Emmett Newton Bland, born March 27, 1897, married Bertha Mitchell at Leflore, Oklahoma in 1919; (11) the final child of Joshua Bell Bland and Nancy Elizabeth Casey was Verba Magdalene, who was born February 17, 1901, and died about ten days later.²

There is nothing in Mrs. Willburn's essays about Reuben, Walker and Joshua Bell Bland to suggest a positive link with the family of John Bland (ninth generation). Some clues that would lead to that end would be the fact that Dicey West, Reuben's wife, was born in North Carolina. Like many families, Reuben gave family names to his son. What was the origin of Walker Bland's name? One may recall that Lettice Bland (twelfth generation) married a William Walker, who was a little older than Walker Bland. The children of Osborne Bland Junior and Patsy Donahoo in fact lived side by side in Greene County, Indiana with families of Walkers,³ some from Virginia and some from North Carolina. Also, grandchildren of John Bland (ninth generation) held land in Missouri, as did Walker Bland; for example, Samuel Bland and John Bland (eleventh generation sons of Samuel Bland) held land in Lewis County, Missouri.

¹ Ida May Bland and Benjamin Howard were the parents of Pansy Lea (Howard) Willburn, my correspondent.

² Information about Reuben, Walker and Joshua Bell Bland was supplied the author by Mrs. Pansy Lea Willburn, November 23, 1981.

³ Cf. p. 451, note 1, and p. 460, marriage of Susannah Bland, daughter of William Bland (tenth generation) to Lewis Walker.

None of this creates more than the barest semblance of a relationship and leaves one with the conclusion that as of now, Reuben Bland's parentage or a linkage of him to the Northern Virginia Bland family is undiscovered.

This concludes discussion about the family and descendants of John Bland (ninth generation), his parentage, and possible connecting links to other clusters of Blands in Kentucky during the first half of the 19th century. The chapter that follows will be devoted to Robert Bland, youngest son of James Bland, of Stafford Count (seventh generation).