

CHAPTER IX

THE FAMILY OF JAMES BLAND: EIGHTH GENERATIONThe Founder

The second son of James Bland (seventh generation) when he formed his will in 1708, was James Bland (eighth generation). The exact age of James is unknown, but it is assumed that he was born in 1687. This is because he and his elder brother William obviously were the only two children of James Bland (seventh generation) who were adult when his will was formed in 1708. Williams' birthdate is generally considered to have been 1686, and for James to have been the second eldest child and an adult in 1708, he would have had to be born in 1687. The date of his death is somewhat more certain. His will has been lost, but indirect evidence indicates that it was made by James on February 16, 1755, and probated March 22, 1756.¹ So it is safe to place James' life in the parameters of 1687-1755.

I have earlier stated that evidence indicates James was especially close to his older brother William, and in discussing William's acquisition of property, I showed how James shared in many of these acquisitions. Among other things, it may have been this frustration at being long excluded from control of family finances which was exercised by these two older brothers that ultimately drove William's oldest son James (ninth generation) to New Hanover County, North Carolina.

¹ Bond of Mary Bland and Benjamin Bland as executors of James Bland, March 22, 1756, Prince William Deed Book I, p. 5. Cf. Prince William Deed Book Y, p. 664, March 25, 1796.

By his father's will dated December 22, 1708, James Bland received a bequest of 125 acres of land near Powell's Creek on the Occoquan River. On August 29, 1710, James consummated a three-way acquisition with his brother and Francis Stone for 354 acres on the Occoquan.¹ To this was at some time added 360 acres, which in total was divided equally between the three principals in 1718. James then, in 1727, sold his one-third share, about 120 acres, to one Linton.²

In 1711 or 1712, James Bland, along with his brother William and Francis Stone again purchased 257 acres (James' one-third share, about 86 acres) at Cock Pitt Point, between Powell's Creek and the Quantico River.³

In 1723, James was assessed taxes for 320 acres of land in Stafford County,⁴ a quantity that squares closely with the acquisitions he had made since the death of his father (125 acres in 1708; 118 in 1710; and 86 in 1711-1712). He appears to have acquired an additional 165 acres sometime between 1726-1729,⁵ and on November 27, 1742, acquired 271 acres in Prince William County.⁶

¹ UMB-1, pp. 59, 61, citing Stafford Deed Book 4, p. 48; Stafford Deed Book I, 1722-1728, p. 404, and P.W. County Deed Book X, June 1, 1789, p. 237. Cf. Dawson Notes, citing Virginia Genealogical Society Publications, Vol. 10, p. 98.

² Ibid. James Bland, of New Hanover County, N.C. (ninth generation) later claimed William Bland's 120 acres in this transaction. See Book F, p. 120, Northern Neck Land Grants, cited in UMB-I, p. 61, no date cited.

³ Stafford County Book No. 4, p. 50, cited in UMB-1, p. 50.

⁴ King, Stafford County Records, Overwharton Parish, 1723-1758, p. 14

⁵ Dawson Notes, citing Stafford Book B, p. 112.

⁶ Virginia Calendar of State Papers, Vol. I, p. 237. One may recall that in 1730, James purchased jointly with William, 570 acres on the Occoquan, but in 1739, James gave his half of the property to William, and in turn, William's son James Bland (ninth generation) of New Hanover County, N.C., sold the 570 acres to James Ingo Dozier in 1761. Prince William Deed Book I, p. 86.

TABLE XXVII

THE FAMILY OF JAMES BLAND OF STAFFORD-PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY, VIRGINIA: SIX GENERATIONS

(6) Thomas Bland (C. 1634-1700)	(1) _____, about 1654. (2) Damaris Wyatt, in 1674.
(7) James Bland (C. 1655-1708)	(1) _____ (2) Margaret _____
(8) James Bland (C. 1687-1755)	Mary _____ Gwatkins, about 1723.
(9-1)	
Benjamin Bland (1724-1771), married Mary _____.	Arthur Bland (C. 1725-1763), married Mary _____.
(9-2)	
(10-1)	(10-1) (10-2) (10-3)
James Bland (-1802), married Margaret _____.	David Bland () Allen Bland (C. 1764-1814) married John Currie.
(10-2)	(10-1) (10-2) (10-3)
Charles Bland (1765-1842), married Phyllis Pope (1773-1818).	David Bland () Allen Bland (C. 1764-1814) married John Currie.
(11-1) John Bland (-1811)	(11-1) Thomas Bland (1791-C. 1844).
(11-2) Benjamin Bland (1786- 1825).	(11-2) Nancy Bland (1793-)
(11-3) Charles Bland.	(11-3) Sarah Bland (1794-1822)
(11-4) Calvin Bland (1794- 1880).	(11-4) Mildred Bland (1796-)
	(11-5) Prudence Bland (1797-)
	(11-6) Benjamin Bland (1799-)
	(11-7) Mary Bland (1800-1884)
	(11-8) Elizabeth Bland (1802-1882)
	(11-9) John Bland (1803-1858)
	(11-10) Keziah Bland (1805-1860)
	(11-11) James Bland (1806-1867)
	(11-12) Julia Ann Bland (1810-1848)
	(11-13) Charles Josiah Bland (1812-1892)
	(11-14) Hiram Bland (1813-1858)
	(11-15) Alemander Bland (1817-1897)

----- Assumed.

Thus, James acquired known property of about 647 acres between 1708 and 1742, about one-third the amount acquired by William. This was enough to qualify him as a voter for the House of Burgesses for Prince William in 1741, and in 1732 James joined his brother William in a copper mining consortium.¹

James married Mary Gwatkins about 1723. In their marriage, James Bland and Mary _____ Gwatkins had at least two children, both ninth generation, Benjamin and Arthur.²

Benjamin Bland (Ninth Generation)

Benjamin Bland (ninth generation) was born about 1724 in Stafford County and died intestate (without a will) in Fauquier County in 1771.³

¹ See discussion on p. 272.

² Mary Gwatkins was a widow, so Gwatkins was not her maiden name. Benjamin Bland, the eldest son by James Bland and Mary _____ Gwatkins, filed a deposition in 1764 in which he (Benjamin) characterized himself as about 40, and stated that his father (James Bland) married the mother of Edward Gwatkins who, according to a Gwatkins Bible record Benjamin had seen, was born in January 1722. Cf. UMB-1, p. 46. It is possible that James Bland (eighth generation) was married before he married Mary Gwatkins. Tylers Genealogical and Historical Quarterly, Vol. 9, p. 121, records a birthdate of July 26, 1738 for James Bland, son of James Bland and his wife Elizabeth, in Isle of Wight County, Virginia. Other records have James Bland and his wife Elizabeth and daughter Sarah in 1756 making an indenture in Prince William County. WMQ 2, Col. 21 (1941), pp. 183-184. This would suggest that James and Elizabeth had at least an adult daughter Sarah in 1756, and a son James born in 1738, and would place their own birthdates at no later than about 1714. Mr. Dawson's notes record a string of traces in PW between 1760 and 1791 for a James Bland, who could be the James born in 1738 and who might be the "Jas. Born Bland" who signed the Petition of Protest by Occoquan Baptists, along with Thomas Bland (1719-1788) on May 11, 1776. VMHB, Vol. 18 (1910), p. 39. Whether James Bland, married to Elizabeth, was the son of James Bland (eighth generation) by a previous marriage is uncertain. Another alternative is that he could have been a son of James' brother John (eighth generation), or could have been an emigrant from England. He could not have been a son of William Bland (eighth generation) by either of his marriages.

³ Benjamin's estate was inventoried August 26, 1771. Fauquier Will Book I, p. 184. Cf. Torrence, Wills, and UMB-1, p. 45.

In the overall history of this family it is important to note that there is no extant evidence to indicate that Benjamin ever accumulated a great deal of land. The only trace of land ownership is in a deed James Bland, Benjamin's father, made in 1746 to Benjamin and his wife Mary for 160 acres, to go to their heirs upon their death, and if there be no heirs, the land to go to Benjamin's brother, Arthur Bland and his heirs.¹ It is interesting to note that at least two D.A.R. members have traced their lineage to James Bland (seventh generation) through Benjamin Bland,² and both claim that Benjamin married a woman named Mary _____ who died in 1782, although by 1774, when Benjamin had been dead for three years, this parcel of land had passed to the hands of one of Arthur's heirs.³

Benjamin Bland (ninth generation) married Mary _____. The date of their marriage is unknown, but upon the death of Mary _____ Bland, who died between August 3, 1782, when her will was made, and October 28 1782, when it was proved, eight living children (tenth generation), including five daughters and three sons, were listed.⁴

¹ Prince William Deed Book I, April 28, 1746, p. 63.

² Mrs. Sallie Thompson Wilson claimed her descent from Benjamin (9) as follows: (10) Charles Bland (1765-1842) married Phyllis Pope (1773-1818); (11) Thomas Bland (1791-C.1844) married Elizabeth Duncan; (12) Thomas Pope Bland (1831-1914) married Levice Harris (1845-1926); (13) Mattie Elizabeth Bland (1861-1926) married Walter Leslie Thompson; (14) Sallie Thompson married Byron Buford Wilson (Daughters of American Colonists Lineage Book, Vol. VIII (1949), p. 112). The other descendant was Jessamine Bland James, who married Roland James. Mrs. James has transcribed to me a tremendous amount of her research on the family of Charles Bland (son of Benjamin) which I shall discuss presently.

³ Prince William Deed Book U, September 13, 1774, pp. 70-71.

⁴ The Will of Mary Bland is abstracted in June E. King, Wills, Administrations and Marriages, Fauquier County, Virginia (1939), p. 32, and John K. Gott, Abstracts of Fauquier County, Virginia: Wills, Inventories and Accounts, 1759-1800 (1972), p. 130. Cf. James, Court and Bible Records, p. 10.

Mary Bland made a small bequest in her will to her eldest daughters, Esther Bland, Peggy McAboy, Chloe Pilcher, Amelia Brady, and her youngest daughter, Betty Bland. She also left a bequest to her youngest son "Jackey" (John Bland), who may have married Hannah Randall in Fauquier County on December 1, 1788.¹

James Bland of Fauquier County, Virginia (Tenth Generation)

The eldest son of Benjamin Bland and Mary _____, his wife, was James Bland, who was named as his mother's executor in 1782. He was, then, born no later than 1761, and probably well before. James died about 1802.² The administratrix of James' estate was a woman named Margaret, his wife. By 1806, she was in Mason County, Kentucky, where many family members moved following the death of James. The best evidence available is that James and Margaret had seven children (eleventh generation).

The Children (Eleventh Generation) of James and Margaret Bland, of Fauquier County, Virginia

The daughters of James and Margaret Bland (tenth generation) were Esme Bland, who married Nathan Heath in Mason County, Kentucky, on April 26, 1811; Ann Margaret Bland, who married Calvin Moore, in Mason County Kentucky, on March 31, 1815; and Mary Bland, who married on March 24, 1806 to John Purcell, in Mason County, Kentucky.

¹ Jessamine James, Bland Court and Bible Records, p. 11.

² Ibid., citing Fauquier Will Book 3, p. 402. James' estate settlement was appraised September 1802, and recorded October 25, 1802.

The eldest son of James and Margaret Bland (tenth generation) was John Bland. He died in Mason County, Kentucky, in 1811. His younger brothers were Benjamin, Charles and Calvin Bland.

Benjamin Bland, according to a Bible record in possession of Jessami Bland James, was born in Fauquier County, Virginia on July 20, 1786, and died October 3, 1825 in Mason County, Kentucky. He married on November 2 1813 Mary Rolf, who came to Mason County from Essex County, New Jersey. Mary was born December 23, 1795 and died March 1857. There were five children of this marriage:

The eldest child of Benjamin Bland (eleventh generation) and Mary Rolf, was James Bland (twelfth generation), who was born November 2, 1814 and died October 11, 1878. He married Hannah Martin on November 16, 1837 Hannah was born October 2, 1817 and died July 25, 1906.

The second child of Benjamin Bland (eleventh generation) and Mary Rolf was Caroline Bland. She was born April 26, 1816. Dates of her death and marriage were unknown, but she married Francis W. Cleneay. The third child of Benjamin Bland and Mary Rolf was Nathan Bland, who was born December 26, 1817 and died in New Orleans, Louisiana, unmarried, on April 3, 1848.

The fourth child of Benjamin Bland and Mary Rolf was Charles H. Bland who was born September 2, 1819. He married Elizabeth Stith, but the date of his marriage or death is unknown. Benjamin Bland Jr., the fifth child of Benjamin Bland (eleventh generation) and Mary Rolf was born November 2 1821. He married Juliana Marshall.

Nothing is known of Charles Bland (eleventh generation), son of James and Margaret Bland. Their remaining son was Calvin Bland (twelfth generation) who was born in 1794 and died July 30, 1880. Calvin married in

Mason County, Kentucky, Ruth Dye, on December 9, 1818. Ruth Dye, according to the 1850 census, was born about 1793. The date of her death is not known. In 1850, Calvin Bland's household was enumerated in Mason County, indicating Calvin and Ruth, James Bland, aged 30, and John B. Bland, aged 20. A girl, Frances Dye, was also in the household. Another son of Calvin Bland and Ruth Dye was Charles Bland, who was born in 1825. In the 1850 census of Mason County, he was enumerated with his wife, Elizabeth Ann Piles, then 22, whom he had married on August 14, 1846. Also enumerated in the household with Charles and Elizabeth were James Bland, their child, aged 2, Richard C. Bland, aged 13, and Mary E. Allison, aged 16.¹

Charles Bland of Garrard County, Kentucky
(Tenth Generation)

Of all the eight sons and daughters of Benjamin Bland and Mary, his wife, most is known about Charles Bland (tenth generation). This is chiefly due to the research of Jessamine Bland James, of Tucson, Arizona, who is Benjamin Bland's descendant through Charles. Charles later moved to Kentucky and is linked to Virginia origins by a Power of Attorney on August 9, 1800, to Owen Sullivan, of Fauquier County, Virginia, to sell "one hundred and eighteen acres lying in said county

¹ Information about the descendants of James and Margaret Bland (tenth generation) is taken from James, Court and Bible Records, pp. 11-14, passim.

of Fauquier and being the tract that was formerly purchased of William Pickett by Mary Bland..."¹ In addition, Charles Bland's well kept family Bible with birth, marriage and death dates of Charles, his wife and children, was found and the information copied and recorded for the June 1937 issue of the DAR Magazine by Mrs. James.² From the Bible record, as well as from other sources, the following portrait of Charles Bland (tenth generation) emerges.

He was born in Fauquier County on December 2, 1765. Charles made his will May 19, 1842, and it was probated October 1842 at Garrard County Kentucky.³ Charles served in the War of 1812. He had a sweetheart, Phyllis Pope, daughter of Thomas Pope and Ann Duncan. Thomas Pope moved his family to Lincoln County, Kentucky. Charles Bland followed them, and married Phyllis on January 17, 1791. Phyllis Pope was born May 26, 1773, in Fauquier County, Virginia, and died October 26, 1818, in Garrard County, Kentucky. Garrard County was formed in 1796 from Madison, Mercer and Lincoln.⁴ When he married Phyllis Pope, Charles Bland built a brick house which still stands in present-day Lancaster, Kentucky. Charles Bland and Phyllis Pope had fifteen children. Following the death of Phyllis Pope, Charles Bland remarried in 1821 to Phebe Campbell. Phebe's birthdate is not available, but she died February 22, 1840.⁵

¹ Garrard County, Kentucky, Deed Book B, p. 80, August 9, 1800. Quoted by Jessamine James in letter to Charles Bland, November 7, 1980. This deed was received by Mary Bland from William Pickett, Fauquier Deed Book 7, p. 36, May 22, 1779. It was left to Charles in Mary's will of 1782. Cf. Court and Bible Records, pp. 9-12.

² DAR Magazine, June 1937, p. 559. According to Mrs. James, the Bible itself was in the possession of Ellen Perrin, of Lancaster, Kentucky, and following her death (sometime later) was lost by her relatives. A similar Bible record was found for the family of Robert Bland (ninth generation 1733-1787) and will be discussed in Chapter XI. Cf. pp. 496 ff.

³ Garrard County, Kentucky, Will Book K, May 19, 1842, p. 526.

⁴ Jessamine James Bland, Court and Bible Records, pp. 14-16, 22 ff.

⁵ Ibid.

The Children (Eleventh Generation) of Charles Bland and Phyllis Pope

The eldest child and first son of Charles Bland and Phyllis Pope was Thomas Bland (eleventh generation), who was born December 10, 1791 in Lincoln County, Kentucky, and died sometime before June 1844, in Pike County, Missouri. On November 27, 1819, Thomas married in Garrard County, Kentucky, Elizabeth Duncan. Elizabeth was dead by 1843. Thomas Bland and Elizabeth Duncan had eight children (twelfth generation) as listed by Mrs. James. They included: (1) a daughter, unnamed, who married James Moseley, of Bowling Green in Kentucky, and was dead by 1855 when Moseley brought Thomas Bland and Elizabeth Duncan's children to Kentucky; (2) John D. Bland, about whom Mrs. James lists nothing but his name; (3) Mary S. Bland, who married Henry Jameson, of Shelby County, Kentucky. Mary and Henry were named custodians of her younger brother, William Henry, whom Mrs. James says was born about 1842 and brought to Kentucky in 1844, following the death of his father, Thomas Bland. Evidently original custody went to Thomas Bland's brother, Charles Josiah, but by 1856, William Henry wanted to be under custody of his older sister.¹

The remaining children of Thomas Bland and Elizabeth Duncan were: (4) Sarah Prudence Bland, who married George Warner, in Garrard County, Kentucky; (5) Dalzell L. S. Bland, who became an M.D. and married Sallie C____ and lived in Valdalia, Missouri; (6) Elizabeth, who was born in 1833, and died January 8, 1856; and (7) William Henry, born in 1842, noted earlier. The remaining child of Thomas Bland and Elizabeth Duncan whose descent has been traced, was (8) Thomas Pope Bland, who was born October 12, 1831 and died February 3, 1914 in Shelby County, Kentucky. On January 3, 1861, he married Levicy Jane Harris, who was born

¹ Ibid.

April 3, 1845 and died in February 1925. Thomas Pope Bland (twelfth generation) and Levicy Harris had eight children (thirteenth generation) including:

(1) Mattie Elizabeth Bland, who was born December 8, 1861 and died in 1926. On May 24, 1881, Mattie married Walter Leslie Thompson (1856-1939). Mattie and Walter Thompson had eight children (fourteenth generation), including Sallie Ruth Thompson (1890-1968), who was formerly mentioned, and who married Byron Buford Wilson. The remaining children of Thomas Pope Bland and Levicy Harris were: (2) William Leland Bland, born on March 15, 1863. He married Amanda Ritchey on September 25, 1889. (3) Thomas Eugene Bland, born July 13, 1864. Thomas became a physician. He married Matilda Nichols in 1906. (4) Luellen Bland, who married W. T. Sledd. (Jessamine Bland James indicated that she was in college with the children of Mattie Elizabeth Bland and Walter Leslie Thompson, as well as the children of Luellen Bland and W. T. Sledd.) (5) Sallie Prudence Bland, married J. Jewell Sandford, but they had no children. (6) John Henry Bland lived from 1871 to 1890, and never married. (7) Mary Beatrice Bland was born February 2, 1872, and died June 26, 1910. She married George Nathan Busey on December 29, 1899. (8) Harvey Erwin Bland was born February 15, 1885, and died January 18, 1894.

The second child of Charles Bland (tenth generation) and Phyllis Pope was Nanney (Nancy) who was born on June 4, 1793. It is not certain how long she lived, but she died before her father.

The third child of Charles Bland and Phyllis Pope was Sally (Sarah Bland (eleventh generation) who was born October 11, 1794, and died November 5, 1822. She married Erasmus Wilmot in Garrard County, Kentucky on September 23, 1811.

The fourth child of Charles Bland and Phyllis Pope was Mildred Bland, who was born on May 1, 1796, and married Thomas Austin in Garrard County, Kentucky on January 2, 1825.

The fifth child of Charles Bland and Phyllis Pope was Prudence, or Prudentia Bland (eleventh generation) who was born October 1, 1797, and married Robert Austin of Garrard County, Kentucky, on October 12, 1818. Robert Austin was the grandfather of William Austin (thirteenth generation), who in 1882 murdered his Aunt Betsy Bland, as will be shown presently.

The sixth child of Charles Bland (tenth generation) and Phyllis Pope was Benjamin Bland, who was born March 7, 1799 and died sometime before his father. Mrs. James does not indicate he ever married.

The seventh child of Charles Bland and Phyllis Pope was Mary, or Polly Bland (eleventh generation) who was born September 10, 1800 and died August 26, 1884. She married James S. Alderson on July 27, 1823.

The eighth child of Charles Bland (tenth generation) and Phyllis Pope was Elizabeth Bland, known as "Aunt Betsy," who was born February 20, 1802 and died violently on January 20, 1882. She was murdered by her nephew Will Austin, who as noted earlier, was the grandson of Elizabeth's sister, Prudence Bland and Robert Austin. Will was born in 1857, was described as handsome, about 5'11" and 150 pounds, with blue eyes and pale brown hair, clean shaven except for a neat mustache, and he may have had a family; on the other hand, he may not have! In his last hour he spoke with remorse about the "girls he was leaving behind,"¹ but given Will's general character, he might have been talking about the girls at the local saloon.

¹ Louisville Commercial, October 14, 1882, reprinted March 16, 1961.

At any rate, Betsy Bland was a quiet, unpretentious, pious woman who never married and was living in the home left her by her father, Charles Bland, in 1882, when she was murdered. She had been living there with her brother Josiah, known as "Uncle Joe," who had been left a widower many years past and whose children had already grown to adulthood and left home. During the Fall of 1881, Will Austin's father ran him out of his house and Will took up with Aunt Betsy and Uncle Joe, who delighted in idling away his time with the boys in town. January 20, 1882 was such a day. Uncle Joe was in town with the boys and Aunt Betsy was at home preparing dinner when Will, drunk and infuriated about something that had nothing to do with Aunt Betsy, came home, grabbed an ax from the woodshed and split her head open.¹ Will was about as imaginative at covering up his crime as he was in committing it, and was soon apprehended, jailed, tried and convicted. He was hanged on October 13, 1882, and it turned out to be a gala event, with residents whose homes had a view of the gallows scalping tickets at prices higher than the official tickets sold by the local sheriff. It was a scene somewhat similar to the one that unfolded in Greene County, Indiana, in 1851, when Hiram Bland was hanged for the murder of his brother-in-law.²

Will Austin was suspected of having committed two other murders and of various thefts and smaller criminal acts. In his last hour, he confessed to the murder of his Aunt Betsy Bland, but denied all other criminal acts of which he was suspected. It is clear also that he

¹ The original newspaper article of the case went into the anatomical damage in great detail, but I will spare the reader.

² Cf. Chapter X, pp. 451-454.

only confessed his aunt's murder when he realized that no one believed his innocence and that he was doomed. As the sheriff slipped the noose around his neck, Will complained, ironically, "You are choking me."¹

The ninth child of Charles Bland and Phyllis Pope (tenth generation) was John Bland, who was born July 21, 1803 or 1804, and died February 28, 1858. John married Cynthia Ann Cox on February 6, 1845. Cynthia was born in 1815 and according to census records, was still living in 1870. John Bland and Cynthia Cox had three children (twelfth generation): Jeremiah, born in 1846; James H. Bland, born in 1848, who married Sarah _____ about 1869; and Martha E. Bland, born 1849. John may have had a double wedding with his sister Keziah, who was born January 1, 1805 or 1806, and died February 19, 1860. She married James Brown on February 6, 1845. Keziah was the tenth child of Charles Bland and Phyllis Pope. The eleventh child of Charles Bland and Phyllis Pope was James Bland, born June 12, 1806 or 1808, and died October 17, 1867. Their twelfth child was Julia Ann Bland, born on January 10, 1810 and died April 8, 1848, who married in Garrard County, Kentucky, on November 17, 1834, Mr. Thomas Pope. The thirteenth child of Charles Bland and Phyllis Pope was Charles Josiah, born March 5, 1812 and died July 1, 1892. He married a Miss Huffman and was the man who was ordered to surrender custody of his nephew William Henry to his sister, Mary Bland Jameson. He also was the "Uncle Joe Bland" who lived with Elizabeth "Aunt Betsy" Bland when she was murdered in 1882. The fourteenth child of Charles Bland and Phyllis Pope was Hiram, or Hiram, who was born February 9, 1813 and died February 18, 1858.

¹ Louisville Commercial, October 14, 1882.

The fifteenth and final child of Charles Bland and Phyllis Pope was Alemander Bland who was born on October 21, 1817 and died December 4, 1897. He married on July 30, 1840, Margaret Bourne who was herself born on August 31, 1819. Alemander and Margaret appear by census records quoted by Mrs. James to have had three sons (twelfth generation): Charles, born September 30, 1841; John, born March 23, 1845; and Alexander, born in 1842 or 1843. John died young. Charles was killed in the Civil War, unmarried. Alexander was Jessamine James' grandfather. Alexander served in the Civil War, enlisting September 3, 1861 at Garrard County, Kentucky, and mustered into service October 28, 1861 at Camp Dick Robinson, Kentucky, as a private of Company R, 1st Kentucky Cavalry. He was discharged at Louisville, still a private, on March 24, 1865, about a month before hostilities between north and south ended.

Alexander went straight home and married 19-year old Mary Alford on May 29, 1865. On his marriage certificate, Alexander was identified by occupation as a farmer. The census of 1870 shows Alexander and Mary as having two (thirteenth generation) children: James William, aged 4; and Alice, aged 2.

James William Bland was born May 8, 1866 and died October 7, 1940. He married, on December 12, 1893, in Fayette County, Kentucky, Lexington Cora Weston Curd, who was born August 20, 1877 and died May 27, 1951. James William Bland and his wife moved to Tucson, Arizona, where both died. They are buried at Inglewood, California. They were the parents of two daughters (fourteenth generation) including Eunice Cora Bland (1897-1963) and May Jessamine Bland (July 5, 1899-still living) who

married Roland James. Eunice Bland did not marry, and Jessamine Bland James and her husband had no children.¹

This concludes information known to this author about the descendants of James Bland (eighth generation) through his son Benjamin Bland, and his grandson Charles Bland, who married Phyllis Pope.

Arthur Bland: Ninth Generation

The second known son of James Bland (eighth generation) and his wife Mary _____ Gwatkins was Arthur Bland² (ninth generation). Very little is known of Arthur or of his family. It is certain, by the wording of his father's deed of April 28, 1746, that Arthur was the youngest son, and the same deed would make it appear reasonably certain that Arthur was already married and had children by 1746. If so, he must have been born soon after his older brother Benjamin, perhaps in 1725 or 1726. The last recorded trace of Arthur was in 1763.³ Arthur married Mary _____ but nothing is known of her parentage. Further, Arthur had a son David Bland,⁴ who by 1774 held a substantial amount of property originally deeded by James Bland (seventh generation) in his will of 1708. David would have been tenth generation, and was not an

¹ Jessamine Bland James to Charles L. Bland, November 28, 1980 and August 23, 1981. Cf. James, Court and Bible Records, pp. 38-41.

² The source of Arthur's name is uncertain but it has already been noted that there was an Arthur Bland in St. Mary's County, Maryland in 1710. Cf. p. 252.

³ Dawson Notes, citing Fauquier Order Book 1756-1815.

⁴ Arthur Bland's parentage of David Bland is proved by an entry in the Prince William County Order Book, 1759-1761, page 153, June 26, 1760, in which Arthur is appointed David's guardian.

adult in 1760.¹ Arthur Bland also had a daughter Sithie, who married John Currie, and possibly a son Allen (C.1764-1814) who married Susan

_____.²

¹ Dawson Notes, citing the Virginia Genealogist, Vol. 20, p. 285.

² Prince William Deed Book T, May 3, 1779, p. 534. Another transaction, Prince William Deed Book Y, March 25, 1796, involves David Bland and is witnessed by Allen Bland, who may have been a son of Arthur (ninth generation). One source shows Allen Bland, born about 1764 in Prince William County, Virginia, who died in 1814. His wife Susan _____ was still living in 1820. It is possible that they had children, John, born in 1782, and Hannah, born in 1796. Source, Genealogical Helper, Query 9809, date uncertain, about 1969-70.