

Among Cousins

The Bland Family Newsletter



Bland

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Dear Cousins,

Welcome to the tenth issue of "Among Cousins: The Bland Family Newsletter. It hardly seems possible that this project has survived for a decade, with an addition of approximately 900 additional pages of information about the Bland family. This issue will have three major points of genealogical focus: (1) A Review of the parentage of James Bland (1661-1709) who died in Stafford County Virginia; (2) a review of some major points in the Edgefield County South Carolina Family, with emphasis on the parentage of Robert Bland (1708-1760), founder of the line, and one of his grandsons, Peyton Bland (1780-1815); (3) a review of the line founded by Moses

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

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Bland (1718-1800), highlighting some new research turned in by Jane Midtby of Denver Colorado. Information about the Randolph County North Carolina is so voluminous that even with much economy of space, it will be necessary to cover it in two issues of "Among Cousins". In addition I will feature some queries I received last fall as a result of an offer I made to subscribers.

Project to Rewrite A Vision of Unity

I enclose a separate letter that describes the dimensions of a project that I propose to undertake: rewriting A Vision of Unity. After completion of ten years of Newsletters seems an appropriate place to stop and consolidate what we have learned, adding new material as well. I discussed this project with about a dozen cousins, chosen from the different family groups, combinations of those who have been enthusiastic supporters over the years and those who have attended all or most of the National Reunions, sometimes both rolled up in one person. All agree it is a worthwhile undertaking that will benefit future generations as well as ourselves.

This project will have five major elements:

1. The new book will frankly reflect in its title, two themes: (A) How we as a research group have matured over the past ten years and the great diversity we have found within the origins of the eight major and thirty one lesser branches of the family. The Vision of Unity that I confidently saw in 1982, when the book was published, does not reflect the reality I see today. (B) As the cover pages of "Among Cousins" have always noted, this work is in every sense a joint venture between me and those of you who have labored in musty old court houses and put up with cranky librarians overbearing and protective public servants and over-priced copy machines, to gather and supply the information for the work that has accumulated over the last decade under the covers of A Vision of Unity and Among Cousins. I regard myself as a chronicler only, who would have had very little to tell if not for all of you. To put it bluntly, the work of the past ten years has been a work of many fingers. Thus, in recognition of these themes the projected new title will be Like the Fingers of the Hand: The Bland Family in England and America.

2. It will be a five volume work. The works will be discreetly indexed and divided according to major groups: The James River Family; the Northern Virginia Family (2 Volumes); Lines like the King and Queen County Virginia family and the Pendleton County Virginia/West Virginia family; and a composite index. One could purchase the individual volume or volumes of greatest interest or the entire set. The total work will be 2,000-2,500 pages in length.

A complete set would sell at retail at about \$300. with a 25% mark-up. Each volume would cost \$55.-\$65. based on current methods of production. Before publication of the new book, I will thoroughly explore ways to reduce costs without compromising quality.

3. It will take approximately three years to complete, July 1992 - June 1995. The first year will be writing and integrating the draft primarily by integrating the information in Volumes 1-11 of **Among Cousins** into the narrative of the book, adding information from my now enormous files and adding any new information that comes to me. This task is made possible by availability of computer technology which allows for accelerated adjustments, shifts etc., that previously would have been unthinkable in such a brief time. The second year and a half, refining the draft into a finished narrative, checking facts and hypotheses with contributors, adding new material received and found. The final six months in sending notices and gaining subscriptions, printing binding and mailing. Target date, June 30, 1995.

4. I want to undertake this work, but during the first year I will need financial support to offset the loss from part-time teaching income that I will forfeit in order to have time to rewrite the draft of the book. For that, I appeal to all of you for contributions, according to what you can give. I have attempted to work out a plan whereby those who give will get something in return, when the book is published. Details are found in the enclosed letter.

5. In anticipation of the ever present possibility that I may not live to see the project through, I will designate one of our "Cousins" as a monthly recipient (on computer disk) of all that I have done thus far in the project. Should I die, that designated person would send copies to three other designated Cousins who have agreed they would see the project through. I hasten to assure you that I am presently in good physical health, and at age 51, barring presently unforeseen developments, think I can see this through. These are only precautions to ascertain that a work of love does not perish.

Thus far I have been greatly assisted in this work by Richard and Jeanette B. Bland of Richardson Texas who have scanned my entire book onto a Word Perfect 5.1 disk and have indexed Volumes 6-9 (with 10 to be completed) of "Among Cousins". This has been of enormous help, and as noted above, without computer technology I could not so confidently set out on this undertaking.

We are limited by the facts of time, the demands of everyday life and that genealogy is not a vocation but a labor of love that we do when we have a chance and in what way we can. I think this effort will give us a chance to pool our resources in a gigantic effort to leave an invaluable guide to future researchers.

The 1991 Reunion

The Seventh National Bland Reunion was held at North Vernon Indiana, August 9-11, 1991. The Seventh Reunion was jointly sponsored by David and Lois Taylor of Shelbyville Indiana and Glen and Mary Ella Bland Day of North Vernon. The Reunion was attended by 82 cousins from fifteen states. I am especially grateful to the co-sponsors for their efforts in making this reunion a truly warm and memorable one. One of the residual benefits of the Reunion was that I had a chance to meet for an extended time with Jane Midtby of Denver Colorado, who could be called the synthesist for research on the Bland family that began with Moses Bland and Jane Wiggonton of Randolph County North Carolina. Jane introduced me to some of her research that has been so prodigious that I decided to give major space to it in Volume 10 of "Among Cousins". Another was an opportunity to visit at length with David and Lois Taylor, which included a unique chance for a day long visit to the Allen County Indiana Public Library at Fort Wayne, an event that was exciting for me as well as my companion for the day, Lois Taylor. One of the most interesting aspects of the Reunion was the appearance of new faces that had not attended a Reunion before, not just the local Blands of Jennings County Indiana, but several at least who traveled long distances to attend and were keenly interested in Genealogy.

After the Reunion, a number of interested persons joined a task force committee that was formed in Summer of 1990 to discuss the idea of forming a Bland Family Organization. The consensus was that we should keep the Bland reunion informal, but should thank John Bland of Burke Virginia for his efforts to bring about a Bland organization.

The 1992 National Bland Reunion

The Eighth National Bland Family Reunion will be held in Denver Colorado August 14-16, 1992. This is something of a departure from previous years in that it is located in a major city and is much further west than at any prior time. The Reunion will be sponsored by Richard Parks Bland and his family. Dick is a descendant of the Washington County Kentucky family and a grandson and name sake of the famous Missouri Congressman and presidential candidate, Richard Parks "Silver Dick" Bland. The Reunion will be dedicated to this family group.

Denver is a wonderful vacation site. Richard Bland's daughter Roxanne sent at least a partial list of what Denver has to offer:

We have ten major shopping malls, two amusement parks and a water world. There is a host of museums including the Denver Art Museum and the Museum of Natural History which houses Gates Planetarium and the I-Max Theater and is next to the Denver Zoo. Not far away is the beautiful Botanic Gardens. Downtown, we have the Denver Mint and the Capital Building. We have two dinner theaters and of course, there are restaurants, bars and movie theaters galore. I might add that it will be pro-football's pre-season and if you're lucky, you might even catch the mighty Denver Broncos, winners of the AFC West division (defeated in the AFC championship by, ahem, the Buffalo Bills. Neither Denver or Buffalo talks much about their Super Bowl performances over the years).

In other words, when you grow weary of genealogy, there's much else to do in Denver. Roxanne is working up a comprehensive list which we will distribute when invitations are sent out for the Reunion. I am heartened that at least several Cousins living in the west who couldn't make it to previous reunions because of distance, have indicated they will make it to this one. Notices will go out by about May 15. I hope you will all plan to attend the Eighth National Bland Reunion.

The 1993 Reunion

I would truly like to move the 1993 Reunion back to a site in the east. To me, Virginia is our home, but West Virginia, Maryland, North and South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Florida, Tennessee etc. would also be excellent sites. I hope those of you who live in the east will think about this and help me find a site for 1993.

Library Placements

The past nine months has been a good period for new library placements of A Vision of Unity: The Bland Family in England and America, which include:

From an anonymous donor:

The Alabama Archives and History Department, Montgomery
Alabama 36104.

The Arkansas Genealogical Society, Hot Springs
Arkansas, 71902-0908

The Arizona Public Library, Phoenix Arizona, 85007

The Georgia Department of Archives and History, Atlanta
Georgia, 30334.

Earl Brown and Lenore Bland Brown of Paris Texas donated a copy of A Vision of Unity to The Daughters of the American Revolution Library, Aikin Regional Archives, Paris Texas 75460.

The Seventh National Bland Family Reunion donated a copy of the A Vision of Unity to the Jennings County Indiana Public Library, North Vernon Indiana, 47265.

Carroll Kim Shackelford of Woodberry Forest Virginia donated a copy of the book to the Virginia State Library in Richmond Virginia, 23219, the second copy for that library.

Edith Lanning and Pearl Harbor

As the news report said, young Edith Conant could not believe her eyes when she looked out her bedroom window on December 7, 1941 and saw fighter planes with big red suns on their sides flying over Pearl Harbor. Edith lived with her father and mother in the Phillipines and Hawaii between 1936-1942, including her father's tour of duty at Pearl Harbor. Edith's father, Mr. Arnold Conant celebrated his 90th birthday in February, 1992. On that day, Edith watched a Japanese plane drop a bomb into the waters of the bay, she saw oil tanks destroyed and debris from exploding airplanes ripping up from the ground at Hickam Field. The day was filled with fear that Japanese troops had landed and would surround Oahu.¹ Thus did the young woman we have come to know as Edith Conant Lanning, one of the principal historians of the Bland family, come to witness a true watershed day in history.

Where were you that same day? My memory is not clear because I was an 18 month old toddler. Fifty years later, Tommy and I watched "Tora, Tora, Tora," an educational attempt on my part that Tommy took to heart. Later in the day I watched "From Here to Eternity" with a friend. A Japanese acquaintance spoke to me and I didn't realize until after the conversation that neither of us had thought of the significance of the date. That week, I drove in my 1988 Mazda to a class on Ethnicity and Race, I showed a recent movie "Come See The Paradise" which is a Japanese-American love story that takes place against the back-drop of World War II and the internment of Japanese-Americans. I impressed on my students that while we should rightly recognize the grave injustice we did to Japanese-Americans, we should also remember the natural fear and anger we felt when Japan, seeming so mighty and invincible, struck at us without warning at Pearl Harbor. It is easy for us now to recognize that it was a desperate strike by a nation that surely knew it could not sustain a long war against the United States and its allies, but on December 7, 1941, there was no such assurance. There was only the fear and confusion Edith Conant Lanning remembered of bombs falling, and panicked human beings fleeing for shelter. I am grateful to Edith for sharing this experience.

¹ Frances DeVore, "Excitement Turned to Fear as Japan Attacked" Ocala Star Banner, December 7, 1991.

Transitions

In a column that is usually given over to obituaries, I am happy to note that Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Bland celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary December 9, 1991 with a family dinner. Those of you who attended the 1987 and 1991 Reunions met Ralph and his wife, the former Elizabeth May Trowbridge, and their children Kenny Bland of Solsberry Indiana, who co-hosted the 1987 Reunion and Linda Bland Bippen of Indianapolis. Congratulations to Ralph and May.

Jane Midtby wrote to tell me of the birth of Patrick Wilson Bland in North Vernon Indiana on February 20, 1992. Congratulations and welcome to the Bland clan Patrick. The new boy is the son of Scott Wilson Bland, a nephew of Mary Ella Bland Day, and his wife Candy Watermeir Bland of Jennings county Indiana. Scott descends from Captain James Bland and his wife Jane Johnston, who were pioneers in Indiana and whose line is discussed below (pp. 24ff).

I am happy to announce that my long time correspondent and subscriber Cousin Ruth Bland Webb, of Ferndale Michigan married John W. French, May 8, 1991. Betty Lovvorn of Ooltewah Tennessee told me that her cousin David Parker Bland married the daughter of Malta's Prime Minister, now teaching at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. Eunice Hubert, Sidney Illinois, sent me a photo and wedding announcement of Steven James Bland and Stacie Jo Smith, Champaign Illinois, August 25, 1991. Eunice notes "not related to us". I do not know Steven Bland, but he is still our cousin and we congratulate him.

I am very sorry to note the passing of one of the true heroines of the Bland family, Olympic Gold Medalist Harriet Clayborne Bland Green, (1915-1991) who died November 6, 1991. Subscribers will recall from a former issue (AC 7-2, pp. 4-8) that Harriet Bland in 1936 was on the United States 100 meter and 400 meter relay team that included Annette Kelly, Helen Stephens and Betty Robinson. Helen Stephens at the time was known as the fastest woman in the world. In her life after the 1936 Olympics, Harriet Bland married William Green. She earned her bachelor's degree in interior design from Washington University in Missouri and worked between 1940-1976 as an Interior Designer in St. Louis. She also was a volunteer director of the St. Louis public playgrounds.

Thomas H. Bland of Burke Virginia has informed me of the death on December 17, 1991 of his uncle John T. Bland III of Arlington Virginia. Tommy and I always will remember the graciousness of John and his wife, Elaine Spencer Bland, who welcomed me and my then infant son Tommy into their home back in October 1984 after a long and tiring drive from North Carolina enroute to Buffalo. John is the brother of William A. Bland of Holly Ridge North Carolina and the uncle of Thomas H. and William G. Bland, the twin brothers who sponsored the 1990 Reunion. This entire family has always been very supportive of the work done for the Bland family history and we note with sadness John T. Bland's passing from this world.

Eunice Hubert of Sidney Illinois provided me with several obituary notices from the past few years. Grace Alda Hubert,

daughter of Ashby Bland and Florence Belle Dever (AC 4-2, p. 12) died on December 14, 1988. She was the mother of Russell Hubert, who married my correspondent Eunice Hubert. Mrs. Hubert was survived by two brothers, James S. Bland (1910-1989), of Mahomet Illinois, who died December 3, 1989, and Miles Perry Bland (1915-1991) of Danville Illinois, who died July 9, 1991. A cousin in this family, Mae Vernice Bland Glenn, (1907-1990), daughter of Walter and Mae Wilson Bland, died February 14, 1990.

In her obituaries, Mrs. Hubert also included a notice of the death of James R. Bland of Chicago, Illinois, on April 19, 1989. The Chicago Tribune notice indicated James was the son of Med and Evelyn Bland

I wish to note the passing of two close relatives from my maternal family. My aunt Rachel Jean Faries Finch (1940-1991) passed away after a long illness on November 9, 1991. Rachel was my same age and my childhood companion and trained herself in classical music. About 1960, she went off to college and I went off to military service and during the years that followed, we never got together again except for brief visits that were more incidental than anything. My aunt Nelda Faries Rushing died suddenly on January 20, 1992. In her last years she was a close and constant companion to my mother. Those of us who survive Rachel and Nelda will surely miss them.

JAMES BLAND OF CUMBERLAND COUNTY ENGLAND, EAST JERSEY, ST. MARY'S COUNTY MARYLAND AND STAFFORD COUNTY VIRGINIA

Several times during the past year, I have seen instances of family histories in county records where the parentage of James Bland, whose will was made on December 22, 1708 and probated in Stafford County Virginia on March 9, 1708,² has been shown as Thomas Bland of Maryland, as outlined by me in VU, pp. 191-240. I think this is unfortunate because it is wrong. Those of you who have attended the family reunions in which I discuss the origins of the major branches of the family, have heard me lament the hypothesis that I set forth. Those who read the chapter referenced may or should note how tenuously the hypothesis was put when A Vision of Unity was published in 1982. The theory that James Bland descends from the James River Bland's London origins derives from a letter written to Robert Linn Bland by a researcher Christopher Johnston, on December 14, 1905. Johnston was attempting to validate hypotheses made by Mr. Bland that his descent through James Bland, linked him to Thomas Bland, a notorious and fraudulent

² Up until 1752, the New Year began March 25, thus a will proved on January 9, 1708 in our reckoning would have followed the filing of the will by about three weeks and would have occurred in 1709. Thus, James Bland died late in 1708 or early in 1709 according to our calendar.

lawyer who lived in Maryland for a time during the late 17th Century. Mr. Johnston said "There would be a certain semblance of a connection between Thomas and James Bland," but hedged his assertion by adding, "on the other hand, we must bear in mind that the evidence is by no means clear, and that after all these may be no more than an accidental coincidence." What Johnston referred to was that Thomas and James Bland lived in the same proximity at one point and that there were common signatories by men who evidently knew the two men, on documents that appeared at the same time (VU, pp 221-223). There is not any evidence that concretely links Thomas Bland of Maryland to the London stem family of the James River Blands or that links Thomas Bland to James Bland. In other words, Thomas Bland of Maryland had no significant and known family linkages in the New World. Thomas Bland went back to London about 1700 because in Maryland he was only one step ahead of the law. One notes that when he filed his will in November 1700, he called himself a merchant, feeling perhaps that his lawyer's masquerade would not stand up among his relatives. In his will, he betrayed no trace of a relationship with any of the London family that descended from Adam Bland and he was completely silent about James Bland. Although in my book, I subscribed to Robert Linn Bland's hypothesis about James Bland (VU p. 254), which certainly has encouraged others to accept it, one should note that earlier (page 240), I wrote that I thought further research would confirm that Thomas Bland-James Bland linkage, but "one should not accept these conclusions at the expense of what appear to be other alternatives to the parentage of James Bland."

One of these alternatives was reviewed in the same chapter (VU, 249-254), when I identified a potential source of James' stem family in St. Andrews Parish, Penrith township, Cumberland County England, now part of Cumbria (VU, p. 14A). In all documents I saw about James, his birth year was given as C1655, but no substantiation of the date was given. James did not appear in the Virginia records until 1687, but when I began writing the book, Mr. Leslie Dawson of Plainfield New Jersey showed that a "James Blann" witnessed a will's probaton in St. Mary's County Maryland on February 14, 1683/1684. So James would logically have had to be born no later than 1662 (VU, pp. 198-202). In tracking down as many James Bland's in England as I could, one possibility that seemed to fit was James Bland of Cumberland County, who was the son of George Bland (C1636-after 1675) who married Grace _____ (C1640-1691) about 1658 (their first child was born in 1659). George in turn was the eighth child of James Bland (C1600-1652) and Susan Cooke (C1602-1653), who were married December 16, 1620. James was in turn the son of a James Bland, who was born probably in the last quarter

of the 16th Century and Alice or Ellis Pattison or Patterson, whom he married June 4, 1599.³

George and Grace Bland had six children registered in St. Andrews Parish Registers, including James Bland, born October 31, 1661.

This development would appear to have located the birth place of James Bland, especially when linked to a further find of my own in a secondary source that showed a James Bland of St. Andrews Parish, Penrith, Cumberland County, age 22, shipping out from London to East Jersey on March 17, 1685.

Much of the evidence seemed to fit smoothly. James, born in Cumberland County in 1661, as a young man migrated to London and from there at age 22, shipped out to East Jersey in 1685. By 1687, he was in Virginia and he shuttled back and forth between Virginia and Maryland between 1687-1701 when he purchased 600 acres of land in Stafford County Virginia, where he settled down and died early in 1709. Thus James Bland, (1661-1709).⁴

There were two obstacles to this theory:

1. The Cumberland County Records showed a James Bland marrying an Isabel Lowther on October 18, 1691, in Cumberland County. Our James Bland, when he died was married to a woman named Margaret, whom he must have married about 1681, for his eldest son was born no later than 1682. How could James have managed this and at the same time married Isabel Lowther back in England. Nelle and Conrad Mang answered this question with their research when they showed that both James Bland and Isabel Lowther came to Penrith from Westmoreland County to be married, so they were not of Penrith. Thus, one obstacle was eliminated.

³ Subsequent research in England by Conrad and Nell Mang, Robert and Ethel Bland and the late Lois Cramer clarified some points. The Mang's in particular found parish records for the deaths of many of these Blands which helped to clarify the span of their lives. These later findings are reviewed in AC 3-1, pp. 8-9 and AC 6-1, pp. 5-8.

⁴ In this scenario, James almost certainly would have found a better life for himself. Cumberland, lying north of Yorkshire and Westmoreland counties, near the Scottish border, was surely an outpost of the realm, and neglected by the British government. Like most of the far northern English territories, Cumberland was subject to droughts and plagues, and populated by sheep farmers and a struggling wool industry. The terrible toll of these conditions is suggested by the fact that among eight children of James Bland and Susan Cooke, only three lived to adulthood. Any young man or woman with gumption would want to leave and find a better life.

2. There is the problem of James Blann, witness to a will in St. Mary's County Maryland February 14, 1683/1684, probated in Old Rappahanock County Virginia May 28, 1684. James Bland of Cumberland England was certainly old enough to sign as a witness, but how could he have been in Maryland in 1684 if he didn't ship out from London until 1685? This is an obstacle that has not been satisfactorily answered. Several possibilities come to mind. One is that the 1685 voyage to East Jersey from England was not James Bland's first trip to the new world. It is the only one we have record of. Second, Loretta Heyen of Ellettsville Indiana has suggested, based on her research into the records of Colonial New Jersey, that transactions made by John and Margaret Carrington, bound like James Bland, to William Dockwra did not appear until as many as four years later. The implication is that the date of March 17, 1685 was only the date of entry into the Lord Mayor's Waiting Book, when actually the departure for East Jersey occurred much earlier. Finally, perhaps James Blann who witnessed the 1684 will and James Bland who left for East Jersey in 1685 were not the same man. One should note, however, that "our" James Bland, who died in 1709, was found repeatedly in records of St. Mary's County Maryland between 1692-1698. Thus, logic compels me to think that the person who signed these later documents was the same man who witnessed the will in 1684.

Absent this contradiction, the English line would go like this:

1st (earliest known) generation - James Bland, (C1575-) who married Alice Patterson or Pettison in 1599.

2nd generation - James Bland (1600-1652) who married Susan Cook (1602-1653) in 1620.

3rd generation - George Bland (1636-after 1675) who married Grace _____ (C1640-1691) about 1658.

4th generation - James Bland (1661-1709) who married Margaret _____ and possibly an unknown woman before her. James migrated to East Jersey sometime in 1683-1684 and ended his life in Stafford County Virginia.

I believe this contradiction could be resolved by a careful search in the records of old East Jersey, if they still exist. I would be grateful if anyone in proximity to the New Jersey State Library in Trenton or any other reliable New Jersey archival source which is likely to have this information, would do this work. Failing this, if funding permits under my proposal to rewrite the book, I would like to plan a trip to New Jersey to search further into this matter.

THE BLAND FAMILY OF EDGEFIELD COUNTY NORTH CAROLINA

In this section, I hope to accomplish two objectives. First is to attempt to address a disparity I have seen in several recent instances of local family histories of this family, which repeat my error in my book, VU, pp. 484-486 of claiming that Robert Bland, (1708-1760) the founder of this family group, was the son of James Bland (1661-1709) of Stafford County Virginia. This was another unfortunate assertion made in 1982 by me, when I published A Vision of Unity. It flies in the face of a clear statement of indenture by David Bland in 1774, which states without any ambiguity that Robert Bland, son of James, "died without issue." As I have noted previously (AC 6-1, p. 9), my confusion came from failing to recognize that there were two Robert Bland's in Prince William Virginia, both minors in 1723. One of them was the son of James Bland, listed as a minor child in his will of December 22, 1708. The other was the father of Robert Bland (1732-1787), founder of the Bland family in Edgefield County South Carolina. The elder Robert could have been born no later than about 1708, and he was certainly a member of the large Prince William Virginia family, as shown in official transactions. The only one of James' sons who was old enough to have been Robert's father was William Bland (1686-1744). For these reasons, I now feel certain that Robert was the son of William Bland and the grandson of James Bland. Robert Bland married Jane _____ about 1729 and had by her, Edward Bland (C1730-1797/1800), Robert Bland (1732-1787) and William Bland, born after 1743. Thus the line goes like this:

4th generation - James Bland (1661-1709)

5th generation - William Bland (C1682-1744) and an unknown woman about 1703.

6th generation - Robert Bland (C1708-1760) who married Jane _____ about 1729.

7th generation - Edward Bland (C1730-1800)
Robert Bland (1732-1787)
William Bland (C1744-)

The seventh generation son of most interest in this issue is Robert Bland, (1732-1787) who married Anne _____ on April 10, 1757. In what follows, we shall concentrate on Robert and Anne's son Peyton Bland (1780-1815).⁵

⁵ Most of what follows was furnished by Conrad Mang in a long letter dated August 19, 1991 and his attached "The Bland Clan Revisited." Mr. Mang's letter responded to my query in the last issue of "Among Cousins". Conrad was also good enough to respond to a draft of this article, Conrad Mang to Charles L. Bland, March 27,

Peyton Bland was born January 1, 1780 in Loudon County Virginia and died shortly after his discharge from service March 13, 1815 at St. Martins, Vermillion Parish Louisiana. ⁶ Peyton married Elizabeth Smith, daughter of Jesse Smith and Susan Wordein, probably of Darlington County South Carolina, in 1809. ⁷ Elizabeth was born about 1794 and died about 1856. ⁸ Peyton and Elizabeth were married in Louisiana and were part of a party of migrants to St. Martin Louisiana. Peyton was in Louisiana by February 4, 1808, when he bought land there. ⁹ On January 3, 1815, Peyton was mustered into service at Attakapas Louisiana and served in Bakers Regiment. The unit was stationed at St. Mary's parish to guard a river entrance and they never went to the Battle of New Orleans. Peace with England had already been declared on December 1814, but the treaty was ratified by Congress only on February 15, 1815 and word of it reached New Orleans February 17, 1815.

1992. A Bible Record of this family deposited at the Tennessee State Library by Dero Darwin, provides the dates of Robert's birth, his marriage to Anne _____ and the dates of birth of their children. In the bible record, Peyton Bland's (undoubtedly named after the Payton family in Virginia) given name is spelled by his parents Payton. As an adult, however, Payton spelled the name Peyton, and applied the spelling to his son's name. Other Bland men in this family who were given the name, spell it with an e. In my work, (AC 6-1, p. 24) I followed the spelling he apparently preferred and shall do so here. The French officials in Louisiana converted his name to Jean Peton Blanc (John Peyton Bland), leading some early historians of the family to name him John, but the census of Attakapas Parish, or St. Martin, in 1810 called him Peyton.

⁶ In response to a "tall tale" that Peyton disappeared and went to Chicago, Conrad Mang reminds us that in 1815 there was no Chicago.

⁷ Conrad Mang, "The Bland Clan Revisited" p. 1, citing St. Martin Parish Court House, #106, Folio 35.

⁸ The Jefferson County Texas census of 1850 shows Elizabeth Johnson, age 56, living with Robert Johnson, age 63. In 1857 in Orange County Texas, John Bland, her son, is noted as administrator of Elizabeth Johnson's property.

⁹ The St. Martin Parish records that record the birth and baptism of their children indicates that Peyton and Elizabeth were Catholics.

