

# Among Cousins

## The Bland Family Newsletter



Volume 10, Number 2

July-December 1992

Dear Cousins,

This issue concludes the tenth year of "Among Cousins: The Bland Family Newsletter. Since publication of A Vision of Unity and the beginning of "Among Cousins" in 1982, through the Annual Bland Reunions and the continuing flow of correspondence and new contacts and information, I have been amazed at how this endeavor has prospered, even though it has existed seemingly on a edge between prosperity and famine. Nothing, however, has impressed me as much as the devotion and dedication of so many of you, whose hard work in the county libraries and court houses has made this possible, far beyond anything one person could accomplish.

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Direct Inquiries to:  
Charles L. Bland  
Editor and Publisher  
Among Cousins: The Bland  
Family Newsletter  
Box 523  
Williamsville New York, 14231-0523  
(716-636-2450 Office)  
(716-83BLAND 832-5263, Home)

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

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

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As you will see as the pages of this number of "Among Cousins" unfolds, the period of 1993-1995 shapes up as a time of transition and, I hope, continuation of the work our joint efforts have made possible.

So deeply have I been touched by the commitment from so many of you that I pledge to continue the work as long as there is a breath of life in me.

**The Eighth National Bland Reunion** Our Eighth National Bland Reunion will be held this summer in Denver Colorado, August 14-16, 1992. The Reunion is sponsored this year by Richard Parks Bland II and his family and is labeled "The Rocky Mountain Special". The Reunion will be conducted at the Christain Brothers Mullen High School and headquarters for the Reunion Group will be the Hampton Inn Southwest, which is shown on the map enclosed with this Newsletter. The Direct Phone to the Hampton Inn is 1-303-909-6900 or you may call 1-800-HAMPTON but in either case, specify that you are with the Bland Reunion and have been specified a rate of \$46.00 per night for up to four persons in a room.

Richard Parks Bland bears the namesake of his grandfather, Richard Parks Bland (1835-1899) the famous Missouri Congressman who was a Democratic candidate for President in 1896. **SILVER DICK FOR PRESIDENT 1992.** Better than Clinton, better than Perot, better than . . . what's his name. Better, let him join the GOP ticket in place of Danforth, campaign slogan, better a Silver Dick than a Silver Spoon! Anyway, this year's reunion will be dedicated to Silver Dick's ancestral family, those brave pioneers who left Virginia about 1780 and ventured out to Jefferson County Kentucky, settling around what became Washington County and set about creating a genuine Presidential Candidate, our best hope for salvation from that notorious wind'bag, William Jennings Bryan. This dedication, I hasten to add, does not suggest that anyone is excluded or not invited. The Reunion is for all those who are named Bland by birth or marriage, or descend from any branch of the Bland family, and your friends and family.

In his announcement of the Reunion, Richard Bland emphasized the attraction of Colorado as a vacation spot. Denver has fine attractions such as Water World and Elitch Gardens. There are museums, and other historical locations. As an added attraction, Ricard has arranged for those who can to attend a Dinner Theater Presentation of "Paint Your Wagon" by the Boulder Company on Sunday night the 16th. At the Reunion on Saturday August 15, there will be some special singing and some sing-alongs of old favorites like we had in Kentucky at the First Reunion. Richard also notes that air fares are a bargain this summer, so we hope to see many of you there. We are especially hopeful that this reunion will be an attraction to Western "Cousins" who never have a chance to attend the Reunions on the East Coast and Midwest.

John W. Bland of Elizabethtown Kentucky has agreed to be the designated "Cousin" who will receive a monthly computer disk or disks that contains all work done through the month. In the event of my death or disability, John has agreed to take responsibility to coordinate completion of the project with three other "Cousins" whom I have in mind but have not yet contacted. I am grateful to Richard and Jeannette Bickley Bland of Richardson Texas who have taken up the giant task of indexing the last five volumes of the Newsletter and scanning the book and earlier copies of the Newsletter onto a Word-Perfect disk for me. Jeannette has already sent me a preliminary index of names for Volumes 6-9 of *Among Cousins*, which has already proved useful in helping a correspondent find a contact.

At the Denver Reunion, there will be a drawing that includes the names of all those who pledged. First prize will be a complete set of the book. Second prize will be a single volume of the winner's choice. I will include the names of all those who pledge through August 15, 1992.

As of the time this issue went to press, the following "Cousins" who pledged have given me their permission to list their names in the Newsletter.

Angelia and Hop Alford, Masben Mississippi  
Anne Armistead, Roanoke Virginia  
Mary Bland Armistead, Roanoke Virginia  
John W. Bland, Elizabethtown Kentucky  
Robert E. Bland, Vandalia Missouri  
Robert O. and Ethel A. Bland, Deland Florida  
Reverend John W. French, late husband of Ruth Webb French,  
Ferndale Michigan  
Jean Hanson, Pocatello Idaho  
Leslie and Fran Harton, Mount Holly New Jersey  
Josephine Bland Holden, Las Cruces New Mexico  
Mildred Hunter, State College Pennsylvania  
Thomas Jones, Edwardsville Illinois  
Edith C. Lanning, Dunnelon Florida  
Sally Cox Lee, Orlando Florida  
Mr. and Mrs. James B. Lewellen, Fort Worth Texas  
Carolyn Bland Miller, Vicksburg Mississippi  
Helen G. Pearson, Sacramento California  
Mary Lou Shadduck, College Station Texas  
Susan Stanley, Chesapeake Virginia, In memory of Mrs. Dorthea  
Gilbreath  
Eloise A. Stoudenmier, Orange Texas

Others who pledged but did not return the release form I enclosed with confirmation of the pledge, are listed as anonymous donors for now, though of course I will be happy to list them in the next Newsletter. I will also note the names of those who pledge between now and the reunion or between now and the date of the next Newsletter.

"Your proposal is of interest. The volumes of information that you have accumulated need integrating attention. For me the task would be overwhelming. Without the tools now available, it would take a life-time to complete the work. It is a job that needs to be done and I admire your courage."

"I can only imagine what kind of job it will be. . . Not many family lines are as fortunate as we are to have someone as capable and committed as you are."

I also was gratified by the fact that some of those who made pledges did so in financially adverse circumstances and dug deep to find even a little to contribute to the cause. Also, for those who told me they simply could not contribute because of medical bills, educational costs, living near the edge on pensions and unemployment, and especially those former frequent callers who haven't called lately, I understand. These are very difficult, troubling and sometimes frightening times that we live in. I know that many of you who did not pledge anything, would have if you possibly could.

One lady who pledged to the project assured me in response to my my follow up letter during May that there was no "flaw in the structure of my proposal", but rather a flaw in everyone's human nature that is called procrastination. The counsel to patience reminded me of one of my own flaws, impatience.

Finally, in response to those few inevitable negative letters, I hope the work of the next few years will convince you that this effort was a worthwhile undertaking.

A Stone for Theodorick The Suffolk Chapter, Colonial Dames of the Seventeenth Century, has initiated a fund to place a bronze marker at the head of the grave of Theodorick Bland (1629-1671), the founding father for practical purposes of the James River Virginia Bland family. Theodorick is buried at Westover Plantation along the James. You will recall, (AC 8-2, pp. 5-40) that Westover was one of the pieces of property that Anna Bennett Bland, Theodorick's widow, salvaged in her titanic fight with her sister in law Sarah Giles Bland in the Seventeenth Century, an action which at least contributed to the establishment of the Bland Family in America during the Eighteenth Century. The sons of Theodorick Bland sold the property to the Byrd Family and it has changed hands many times since, but the grave of Theodorick has remained in its original place. The tombstone reads:

Jesus, Savior of the World  
The Remains of the Wise and Learned Theodorick Bland, Esq.  
who died April 23rd A.D. 1671  
Aged 41  
Whose most disconsolate widow, Anna,  
A daughter of Richard Bennett, Esq.  
Erected this tomb.

The new marker would repeat verbatim the inscription on the original head stone, which has now been worn away to near illegibility by time and weather, and would include a credit to the Suffolk Chapter. The preliminary conservative estimate is that the project would cost \$700. and the Suffolk Chapter has \$250. to contribute to the project. The remainder must come from contributions. Its a worthy project, and to contribute, make your check to "Bland Marker Fund" and send it to Mrs. Gerald Williams, 7900 North Shore Road, Norfolk Virginia, 23505.

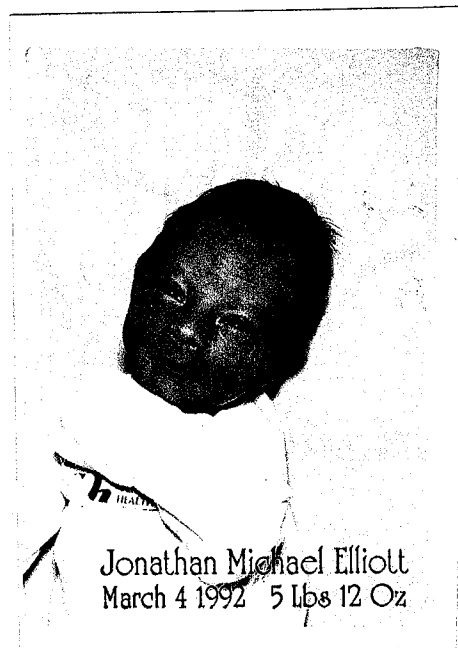
Future Issues of A Vision of Unity and Among Cousins Because of the diminution in the volume of sales of A Vision of Unity during the past two years, I will publish the book in October and then change to a once a year format, the book to be published once annually in October. This will continue in this transition period while the new book is being readied. The effort to rewrite the book will inevitably effect the publication of Among Cousins. I propose to publish the Newsletter in 1993, Volume 11. It would seem logical to suspend the Newsletter in 1994, when new information is being folded into the draft created in 1992-1993. A counter-argument for continuing the Newsletter may be that some cousins would like to have more timely information, or will not be able to buy the new book yet would like the information from the Newsletter. Your thoughts on this would be appreciated. Is it worth while to continue the Newsletter unbroken or should I suspend its publication in 1994 and begin a second series in 1995?

### Transition

Let us begin with the happy news. Jane Morse, the daughter of Jim and Betty Bland Lovvorn and wife of True Morse, gave birth to a "beautiful baby boy" John Anderson Morse in December 1991. Betty Lovvorn descends from the Bland family that migrated from Edgefield-Union County South Carolina to Rutherford County North Carolina about 1831. Laverne and Kay Bland of Edgerton Missouri informed me of the birth of their grandson Jonathan Michael Elliott, son of Laverne and Kay's daughter Patricia W. Bland and John L. Elliott. Pamela Sue Sparks Jones, a favorite cousin of mine, whom I met at the Third Reunion in Solsberry Indiana, sent me a notice that she and her husband Lonnie Wayne Jones celebrated their 25th Wedding Anniversary on March 5, 1992. We welcome John Anderson Morse and Jonathan Elliott to this mortal coil and offer sincere congratulations to Lonnie and Pam Jones. I am pleased to offer photos of Jonathan Elliott and Pam and Wayne Jones and to note that there are smiles all around.



Pamela Sue Sparks Jones and  
Lonnie Wayne Jones



Jonathan Michael Elliott  
March 4, 1992

In the last number of *Among Cousins* I announced that correspondent Ruth Webb of Ferndale Michigan had married The Reverend John French on May 8, 1991. Sadly, John French died November 1, 1991. Carolyn Bland Miller of Vicksburg Mississippi informed me recently that her brother Dennis Bland died at age 36 on June 22, 1992 of numerous complications stemming from diabetes. I'm sure my readers will join me in extending our sympathy to Ruth Webb French and Carolyn Miller.

Those who knew her as I did will surely mourn the passing of Marian Daniels on March 15, 1992 and have told a few correspondents in advance. I was notified of her death by her step-daughter. Marian was an avid genealogist to the very end and was an early and subsequently frequent correspondent of mine, offering me kindness, support and sobering criticism at times. I came to look forward to her letters and cherished the times we met at national reunions in 1985 and 1987, and I came to love her and cherish her friendship.

Clyde Ernest Bland of Pittsboro North Carolina, who with his wife Hazel Ellis Bland and their family, sponsored the Fourth National Bland Reunion in 1988, died on June 27, 1992 after a brief illness. Clyde was a veteran of World War II, an Insurance Businessman and Postal Service Employee, community leader, Methodist, good family man and a good Bland. He was a faithful Cousin who always took an interest in the history of our family. Clyde will be missed.

Richard Knight, Virginia Beach Virginia, sent me a clipping of the death of William R. Bland of Arvonnia Virginia, November 16, 1988. William was the son of Edward Bland (1851-1901) and Nannie Cooke, (AC 7-1, p. 9) Betty Lovvorn supplied a newsclipping announcing the death of James Clyde Yarber Jr. a son of James Clyde Yarber and the late Pearl Dot Bland, both of Oak Ridge Tennessee. Mr. Yarber died at age 62 on June 2, 1992.

#### THE BLAND FAMILY OF RANDOLPH COUNTY NORTH CAROILINA Later Generations

In the last issue of this Among Cousins we began a review of the known information about the first four generations of the Bland family that descended from Moses Bland (C1718-1800) and his wife Jane Wiggonton (AC 10-1, pp. 16-39). Here, I would like to complete the review by offering the three generations we know of that followed the fourth generation. It seems to be the seventh generation in this family that decisively crosses over into the Twentieth Century. Not all lines are researched of course, and much of what follows depends on the masterful compilations and analysis of Jane Midtby of Denver Colorado.

#### Descendants of Captain James Bland and Jane Johnston

I. Moses Bland (1718-1800) married Jane Wiggonton (C1735-after 1800).

II. William Bland (C1751-1801) married \_\_\_\_\_ Ward about 1771.

III. "Captain" James Bland (1773-1832) married Jane Johnston (1780-1868). The following information traces known family lines to the 20th century cross-over point for children of James Bland and Jane Johnston.

IV. (First Family) Reverend Thomas Bland (January 27, 1804 - 1892) fourth child and first son of James Bland and Jane Johnston. Thomas married his cousin Martha "Patsy" Bland (November 22, 1803 - 1891) on December 15, 1825. (This family is discussed in AC 10-1, at pp. 25-26). Thomas was born in Clarke's Grant Indiana Territory and lived in Jennings and Jefferson County Indiana. Martha was born in North Carolina. Most of their children were born and lived in Jennings County. Thomas and Martha had a family of eight children including:

1. Francis Asbury or Asberry Bland (October 1, 1826 - September 25, 1907). He married twice. Francis' first wife was Frances Ann Hall ( March 3, 1829 - June 6, 1860) whom he married April 4, 1847. (Can't you just hear them talking now? "Come here Fran honey." "Coming Fran". By Frances Hall, Francis Asberry had five children:

A. John Hall Bland (March 25, 1848 - May 7, 1924). John was born and died in Jennings County. He married Mary Catherine Hansell (April 9, 1844 - November 14, 1900 or 1901)<sup>1</sup> on January 1, 1871. This couple had seven children, though it appears only two of them lived to adulthood and those two never married: (1) Susan Effie Bland (1872-1887) died young of Typhoid Fever; (2) Thomas Hansell Bland (1874-1899) who did not marry; (3) Blanchie Bland (1875-1876); (4) Luke F. Bland (1877-1958) never married; (5) Ralph C. Bland (1879-1880); (6) Benjamin Thomas Bland (1884-1892); (7) William J. "Willie" Bland, (1881-1949) developed polio at an early age and was bound to a wheel chair for the balance of his life. He never married.

B. Thomas Eubank Bland (May 3, 1850 - October 7, 1924). Known as "Bank" Bland, Thomas lived and died in Jennings County. He married Eliza "Jennie" Adams (1848-1922) on October 29, 1877. Thomas and Eliza had one daughter (1) Daisy who married Ross Winder.

C. Benjamin Franklin Bland (February 4, 1853 - October 12, 1933). Ben out ran all the women and stayed single all his long life.

D. Martha Ellen Bland (August 23, 1855 - 1929). Martha out ran all the men and stayed single all her long life.

E. Martin Champman Bland (February 14, 1858 - February 8, 1946). Martin out ran all the women and. . . hey wait a minute. With all these kids that never married, you think maybe no one was chasing?

Second Francis Asberry Bland married Jane Ann Hansell (1833-1896) on August 28, 1862. By Jane, Francis Asbury had one child:

F. Elizabeth Bland (June 13, 1865 - October 30, 1872).

2. Benjamin Franklin Bland (January 25, 1829 - September 28, 1862). Benjamin married the widow Permilia Violet Kail (1831-1880) about 1855 and by her had two children:

A. Charles W. Bland (C1857 - died after 1880).

B. Everett Elmer Bland (C1859- died after 1880). Elmer married a Quaker woman, Rebecca Woolman (C1861- ). They had one daughter named Jennie.

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<sup>1</sup> There is some confusion in Mary Catherine's date of death, shown alternately in Jane Midtby's notes as 1900 and 1901 but that she died of pneumonia, 37 years old.



3. James Calvin Bland (January 13, 1831 - July 19, 1896) married Sarah M. Burge (November 29, 1835 - October 10, 1895) on March 29, 1855. (A photo of James and Sarah appears on page 13 below). James Calvin Bland and Sarah M. Burge had a family of twelve children.

A. Edgar Burge Dayton Bland (July 11, 1856 - 1942). Edgar married Emma E. Van Tresse (1859-1944), about 1878 and moved with her to Sullivan Illinois. (A photo of Edgar Burge Bland and Emma Van Tresse with their three daughters appears on page 13, below). They had three daughters: (1) Myrtle, (1879-1971) who married H.H. Strickler of California; (2) Gertrude, (1882-1975) who did not marry; (3) Mae, (1885-1973), who married Rufus "Kamp" Ground.

B. James Omer Bland (C1858-April 1927). James married twice. First, he married Eugenia Petrie, who died during childbirth in 1884. By this marriage there was one daughter, Inez Bland (1884-1974), who married Clarence Ray Marsh on February 21, 1906.<sup>2</sup> After Marsh died, Inez married Walter C. Lough, (1871-1962).

Secondly, James Omer Bland married Clara Idale Shepherd, (1865-1905) about 1887. Children by this second marriage included (1) Ernest Elsberry Bland (1889-1959), who married Dora Stanley (1888-1930) and had two sons by her. A photo of Ernest E. Bland appears on Page 14, below) ; (2) Charles Omer Bland (November 30, 1895 - November 15, 1985) who married Meade Love Parker McCarnon (May 5, 1900 - July 5, 1979) and by her had a son and daughter.<sup>3</sup>

C. Sarah E. (Nettie) Bland (February 7, 1861 - March 3, 1926). Sarah married William Charles Robertson (September 27, 1855 - March 22, 1938) in Jennings County Indiana February 16, 1882. Afterward they moved to Oklahoma and thence Bethany Illinois where they died. Sarah and William had a son, Charles, (1886-1964) who married Bernice and who stayed Oklahoma and a daughter Grace May (1882-1940), who married S. Frederick Williams.

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<sup>2</sup> Charles Marsh and Inez Bland had a daughter La Verne Margaret Marsh who married Wendell Lattimore Trapp Jr. Their daughter Mary Jane Trapp, married Donald Burgess Sine. Mary Jane, now of Louisville Kentucky, is my correspondent and accompanied her mother to the Seventh National Bland Reunion at North Vernon Indiana.

<sup>3</sup> The daughter was Mary Ella Bland, who married Glen William Day. This couple now live in North Vernon Indiana and co-sponsored the Seventh National Reunion at North Vernon in 1991. The son William Omer Bland and his wife Margaret Ann Kreider also attended the Reunion and drove me and Tommy around the countryside looking at old Bland graves and picking buckeyes.

D. Angie D. Bland (January 25, 1862 - August 27, 1863).

E. Charles J. Bland (December 2, 1863, - August 11, 1890) was killed in Warsaw Wisconsin. Charles never married.

F. Ada (Addie) Bland (April 4, 1866 - May 6, 1960) Married John Samuel Smith (1863-1942) on December 25, 1889. (A photo of Addie Bland and John Smith with their daughter Alice appears on page 14, below). There were two children of this marriage, (1) Mildred, who married J. Armstrong and (2) Alice, who married a Huffman.

G. Josephine (Josie) Bland (July 15, 1868 - February 6, 1941). Josephine married Franklin Sporleder (December 13, 1870 - January 9, 1930) on January 13, 1892. A photo of this couple appears in AC 3-1, at page 24.

H. Thomas Bland (April 1869 - 1870).

I. Ernest Ellsberry Bland (May 6, 1870 - November 23, 1871).

J. Louisa "Lou" Bland (August 26, 1872 - August 8, 1959). Louisa married John Coleman (1853-1947). They had no children.

K. Lucy (Emmaline) Bland (May 28, 1875 - March 11, 1910). Lucy married George Louis Schuck on March 11, 1895. (A photo of Lucy Bland and George Schuck appears on page 15, below). They had three daughters, (1) Gladys, who married Chester Hake or Hoke in 1916; (2) Alice, who married another Hoke or Hake; and (3) Ursula, who married a Yank Park but had no children by him.

L. Pearl Bland (May 11, 1879 - September 24, 1886).



Clockwise from Left: James Calvin Bland and Sarah Burge (p. 11); Thomas Johnston Bland; Edgar Burge Dayton Bland and Emma Vann Tresse with children Myrtle, Gertrude and Mae in no particular order.

