

Among Cousins

The Bland Family Newsletter



Bland

Volume 11, Number 1

January-June 1993

Dear Cousins,

Welcome to the tenth issue of "Among Cousins: The Bland Family Newsletter. Having passed a decade of publication, with a complete revision of A Vision of Unity in progress, it seems time to acknowledge the linkage of Bland family history to the computer, something I am sure many of you have previously done. It should go without saying that without the aid of the computer technology, I would never have been able to undertake a task as huge as rewriting the book. It only typifies the problems many of us face when dealing with the enormous volume of material a genealogical researcher not only quickly generates, but must also evaluate.

Charles L. Bland, A Vision of Unity: The Bland Family in England and America, 1555-1900, (1982), 610pp., indexed, is published twice annually, June 15 and November 15. Payment of \$74.95, (\$59.95 for libraries), must reach the publisher by October 1.

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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.

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

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Within these mountains of material we only find a needle here and there. Lines of communication also are stretched out and many of us work in isolation from others who may be working on the same project. Computers can link us together more effectively than anything I know of and enable us to accomplish much more within the same span of time as before.

Recently, thanks to Paul Jensen, North Ogden Utah, I have been able to secure a copy of software called **Prodigy** which among other things has a genealogical network, including correspondents looking for information about the Bland family. The information also includes enormous amounts of raw genealogical material, which can be accessed easily. This requires that I enhance my current hardware capacity, so I should be on-line by the end of May. It will be interesting to see the outcome of this. This is not an advertisement for **Prodigy**. Useful as it happens to be, I think there must be many more such systems available, and certainly there is a great deal of user friendly software to aid genealogists.

David Bland, 1903 Holke Road, Independence Missouri, 64057-1405 has written to me of his contemplated establishment of a not for profit entity dedicated to Bland research. I should say before describing David's proposed work that I welcome it and do not believe it will undermine the effort of "Among Cousins" or the forthcoming new book, but will in fact enhance and complement them. David, by use of computer technology, proposes to:

A. Solicit raw data for surnames Bland, Blan, Blann. He would forward this material to me, for use in the forthcoming book revision. This would include a search for individual work that may also pass into oblivion with the author's death.

B. David will enter raw data into a computer file, without editorial comment. This differs from my approach which is, when possible, to interpret and try to work material into a family structure. David also indicates he would "perhaps" provide a database for on-line relationship searches.

C. David would provide a distribution resource of, or information about publications written about or by Bland family members. This would include further publicity for newsletters like "Among Cousins" but would also include smaller family histories written by others.

D. Assist when possible, in funding research trips, projects and the development of related material.

E. David would provide an on-line computer bulletin-board for Bland correspondents.

F. David would not use his entity to sponsor reunions but would serve as a registry/publicity vehicle and also shared information conduit for Reunions already in place.

G. David does not propose to compete with A Vision of Unity, the forthcoming publication of the new book, or "Among Cousins." he would, rather, serve as a publicity source and possible ordering point for the publications. This anticipates, how optimistically remains to be seen, a much higher demand for book and newsletter

and also so much greater awareness of what we have attempted in the past decade, that as David says, "you may have to consider an additional VU edition after this next, as a result of new data that becomes uncovered through this consciousness raising endeavor." Hmm!

H. Funds for David's entity would derive in part from marginal commissions, sale of "Bland specialty items" and memberships. ¹

To repeat, I endorse this idea of David's. I think ideas like these, which turn on the instrumentality of computer technology can have a great unifying effect on our research and open up new possibilities of method and information that will transform the work we have done in the past. I now look forward to the emergence of a specific timetable to begin this work.

Continued Publication of Among Cousins

After some deliberation and discussion with Cousins and friends at the 1992 National Reunion, I decided to continue publication of "Among Cousins" without interruption during the time the revision of A Vision of Unity is in progress. As noted below, work on the revision is on pace and my target would be to have the first copies of the new book ready to distribute personally at the 1995 Reunion. "Among Cousins" will continue in its present form through 1995, Volume 13. In 1996, "Among Cousins" will begin a second series, i.e., the Newsletter in 1996 will be identified as Volume 1, series 2. There is always the possibility that new changes and developments such as David Bland's "entity" discussed above, may reshape our thinking and format during the next four years, but we shall wait and see what happens.

National Bland Family Reunion, 1992 "The Rocky Mountain Special"

The Eighth National Bland Reunion was held at Denver Colorado on August 13-16 1992, and was sponsored by Richard Parks Bland II, his wife Dorothy and their children. The reunion was dedicated to Congressman Richard Parks Bland, that great voice of Free Silver from the days of yesteryear. Those who were apprehensive that moving the Reunion to a large city in the mountain states would inhibit attendance can rest easy. After a slow beginning, the Reunion caught fire and more than 100 attended from sixteen states. It was a good time, very successful reunion. We received congratulations and welcome to Colorado from Governor Roy Romer and State Senator Dennis Gallagher presented a proclamation recognizing:

¹ David Bland to Charles L. Bland, February 12, 1993.

. . .the contribution of the BLAND family to our nation, in particular, Richard Parks Bland, who was almost nominated for President of the United States on the Democratic Ticket in 1896.

I want to thank once again, Richard Parks Bland II, Dorothy Bland and their children, as well as the people of Colorado for their hospitality in what I think was a wonderful reunion.

The Ninth National Bland Reunion. After two years in the hinterland, this year's National Bland reunion will be held at Deland Florida, August 12-15, 1993 sponsored by Robert O. Bland, and his wife Ethel. Bob descends from the James River family and this Reunion will honor that family, giving me hope that it may stir some of the James River family whom I haven't seen in more than five years, to come to sunny Florida. Although I'm assured it will be warm enough there, the Reunion site will be air conditioned, so I'm sure it will be enjoyable. Deland is within an hour or two drive of Orlando and Disney World as well as Cape Canaveral-Kennedy, so it is a great vacation spot. Invitations will be mailed out within two or three weeks. Make your plans now. I hope to see all of you there.

At the 1991 Reunion, those present discussed the viability of the Bland Family Organization that was proposed in 1990, when the Reunion met at Virginia. Those present decided to keep the reunion informal, but to thank Tom Bland of Burke Virginia for his constructive initiative in attempting to bring about a Bland family organization.

Tom Bland called me in February, indicating that he would send some \$430. to Bob Bland of Deland Florida, constituting unused proceeds collected at the 1990 Reunion in the attempt to create the Bland family organization. The idea is that this amount is to be used as seed money for the reunion, and then replenished from funds collected as dues for the reunion come in. Bob Bland will then send at least the \$430. to the sponsor of the 1994 reunion, who will send it to the 1995 sponsor etc. We owe Tom Bland and those who pledged this money a thank you for this gesture, which will enable future reunion sponsors to get a start on organizing the reunion without having to dig quite so deep in their own pockets.

Other Family Reunion News

The 32nd Annual Bland Reunion was held on October 18, 1993 at El Dorado Springs Missouri. The Reunion represented descendants of Samuel Bland (C1806-1864). I was sent a news report of the Reunion by David Bland, Independence Missouri, who descends from the line. By my unofficial count, more than 100 were in attendance.

Congratulations to this branch of the Bland family on what looks like a very successful and long standing Reunion tradition.²

I had an interesting letter from Kathy Smith Anthenat, 10016 Crow's Nest Cove, Reminderville Ohio, not a Bland descendant, who is working on a book about family reunions, Fantastic Family Gatherings: Tried and True Ideas for Large and Small Family Reunions. Kathy writes that she has interviewed about four hundred people around the country about their reunions, and has found the practices, traditions etc., fascinating. She was very interested in the idea of National Reunions for specific family names, such as ours, and used our Reunion Special as a case example of how a reunion should be conducted and a record kept. Those of you who have held local reunions in the past, or contemplate organization of a reunion in the future, might find Kathy's book interesting.

Like the Fingers of the Hand

This project to re-write the book is well under way. I have scanned by computer all the previous issues of Among Cousins into a computer file and made second copies of them. The second copies were then broken up and rearranged into the chapters of Vision of Unity where they are now, in very rough condition, awaiting a smoothing out process that will integrate all that has been done within the past decade. This is approximately where I anticipated I would be at this time.

At the Eighth National Reunion in Denver I drew the names of Helen G. Pearson, Sacramento California, as first prize winner of a complete set of the new books when published, and John Bland Mobley, Columbia South Carolina, as runner up. John will receive a volume of his choice.

In the last issue of the Newsletter there was some confusion because I did not list everyone who pledged. I noted at that time that I was listing the names of those who gave me permission to do so. In order to give proper credit to everyone, I wrote letters again to those who did not respond earlier saying that I would list their names in this issue as donors unless I received instructions to the contrary. The following represents a complete list of those who pledged to the project to rewrite the book:

² AC 9-1, p. 13, #32; David Bland, Independence Missouri ran an inquiry about Samuel in AC 10-2, p. 32. David indicates Samuel died July 27, 1864. I have received extensive information about this line from David and from Deanna Shouse, Eldorado Springs Missouri, and plan to review the line in the next number of Among Cousins (AC 11-2).

Angelia and Hop Alford, Maben Mississippi
Anne Armistead, Roanoke Virginia
Mary Bland Armistead, Roanoke Virginia
John W. Bland, Elizabethtown Kentucky
Neil W. Bland, Lumberport West Virginia
Robert E. Bland, Vandalia Missouri
Robert O. and Ethel Bland, Deland Florida
Robert P. Bland Jr., M.D., Sumter South Carolina
Reverend John W. French, late husband of Ruth Webb French,
Ferndale Michigan
Jean Hanson, Pocatello Idaho
Leslie and Fran Harton, Mount Holly New Jersey
Nelson and Josephine Bland Holden, Los Cruces New Mexico
Mildred Hunter, State College Pennsylvania
The late Thomas Jones, Edwardsville Illinois
Thomas Jordan, Richmond Virginia
Captain Richard H. Knight (Ret) Virginia Beach Virginia
Edith C. Lanning Dunnelon Florida
Sally Bland Cox Lee, Orlando Florida
James B. and Gail Lewellen, Fort Worth Texas
Carolyn Bland Miller, Vicksburg Mississippi
John Bland Mobley, Columbia South Carolina
Mrs. Willie Lee Moseley, Statesboro Georgia
Mrs. Bland (Fay) Osborn, Wilmington Delaware
Helen G. Pearson, Sacramento California
Mary Lou Shadduck, College Station Texas
Susan Stanley, Chesapeake Virginia, in memory of her mother,
the late Dorthea Gilbreath.
Eloise A. Stoudenmier, Orange Texas
Claire Strauch, Newport Beach California

I believe this list is comprehensive. If by some chance, you pledged and your name is not listed above, please let me know.

In the event something should happen to me, I have asked John W. Bland, Elizabethtown Kentucky, to take up the task of completing work on the book. To assist him, I have sent him every single page of book, newsletters, reunion specials, letters etc. that I have retained on computer file and will update him regularly. I have also asked, with their agreement, David Bland, Independence Missouri; Bertha Dunn, Rossville Kansas; Mildred Hunter, State College Pennsylvania; Edith C. Lanning, Dunnelon Florida, and Joyce Bland McCool, Overland Park Kansas, to serve as liaisons for John in writing particular chapters, should this be necessary. Three of these liaisons were chosen at the National Reunion last August. I realize there are many other very capable researchers out there who could contribute chapters or parts of chapters to the new work. If you are interested in doing so, please contact me. These are precautions. I hasten to say that I am ok, probably in better health than last year at the same time.

Theodorick Bland Marker Fund

I was pleased to see that many of the subscribers to "Among Cousins" contributed to a fund to place a bronze marker at the grave site of Theodorick Bland, owner of Westover Plantation, until his death. The plantation was sold to the Byrd family by Theodorick's sons, a kind of a denouement of a family crisis between Theodorick's widow, Anna Bennett Bland Codd and her sister in law, Sarah Greene Bland that was previously discussed at some length, (AC 8-2, pp. 5-40). Visitors to Westover in recent years, (I was last there in 1988), would have noticed that time and weather had worn away the inscription on his grave stone so that it was barely legible. The bronze marker preserves the inscription intact:

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, Anne,
A daughter of Richard Bennet, Esq.
erected this tomb

The speaker was Richard J. Alfriend, III, and the marker was unveiled by Margaret Pryor Truitt Joyal, both descendants of the James River Bland family. In addition to my own modest contribution, I was pleased to see the following subscribers to Among Cousins listed as donors in the program bulletin: Anne Armistead, Roanoke Virginia; Lineous Preston Bland III, Virginia Beach Virginia; Robert O. Bland, Deland Florida; Hazel Bouldin, Eden North Carolina; Dr. W.B. Cleveland, Cleveland Heights Ohio; Jean K. Hanson, Pocatello Idaho; Margaret Pryor Truitt Joyal, Virginia Beach Virginia; Captain Richard H. Knight, USN Retired, Virginia Beach Virginia; Sally Cox Lee, Orlando Florida; John Armistead Norris, Colesville Maryland; Dr. Holmes Ralston III, Fort Collins Colorado; Helen C. Wright, Amelia Virginia.

Richard Bland Memorial Service

I am pleased to note that The Frances Bland Randolph Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution and Richard Bland College in Petersburg Virginia, cooperated in presentation of a "Colonel Richard Bland Memorial Service" at the Bland Family Cemetery in Prince George County, Virginia, on October 25, 1992. The guest speaker was Dr. Clarence Maze Jr. President of Richard Bland College. Richard Bland (1710-1776, VU. pp. 151-166, esp. 159) was a Revolutionary War Hero, best known as a "reluctant revolutionary" whose Inquiry into the Rights of the British Colonies (1766) was a kind of intellectual precursor for his

younger and bolder student, Thomas Jefferson, whose Summary View of the Rights of British America (1774), which included the following separatist passage:

Americans possessed a right, which nature has given to all men, of departing from the country in which chance, not choice, has placed them. . .

Those who buy into the description of Richard Bland as a "reluctant revolutionary" might consider that much of this reputation was put about by Jefferson himself in his reminiscences of Richard Bland. Compare the above from Jefferson's Summary View with the following from Richard Bland's Inquiry:

. . . their engagements to the society, and their submission to the public authority of the state, do not oblige them to continue in it longer than they find it will conduce to their happiness, which they have a natural right to promote.³

It should be noted on Richard Bland's behalf that his work was published in 1766, when the idea of separation was almost unthinkable, whereas by 1774, when Jefferson published the Summary View, anger at England was so great that separation was near inevitable in many men's minds.

A contemporary portrait of Richard Bland has not survived. There is an artist's representation of him by Susan Brown which makes him look like a fattened up version of a cross between Thomas Jefferson and King George III. I would like to see an artist's conception of him that paints him as he is described in contemporary literature:

A very old experienced veteran at ye senate or ye bar-staunch and tough as whitleather--has something of ye look of musty old parchments, which he handleth and studieth much. .

Richard also was described as half farmer, half scholar and lawyer, a pleasant, well-mannered person who was somewhat untidy and sloppy in his dress. My mind's eye, reading this, conjures up a pale and thin man, somewhat unkempt and plainly dressed. I am very pleased that this good man has been so honored.

³ Garry Wills, Inventing America, (1978), p. 83.

Transition

I was pleased to hear that my correspondent, Bill Bland and his wife Dorothy of Holly Ridge North Carolina celebrated their 50th Anniversary on August 16, 1992. As always, I received a lot more notices of deaths than of births, marriages and anniversaries. This would lead one to believe that the Bland family is withering away, which I'm sure is not the case. I renew my request that you send me notices of all forms of transition, not just obituaries.

I note with especial regret, the death of Leslie Davis Dawson of Plainfield New Jersey in February 1992. Those of you who know the story of my initial attempts to write A Vision of Unity will surely know how valuable was Mr. Dawson's assistance to me and to all whom the book has helped. Mr. Dawson, a frequent correspondent by phone and mail in those days, was irreplaceable. Mr. Dawson was an attorney in New York City, and I last saw him on a visit to the Big Apple in 1984, where we had lunch and a long conversation together. Leslie's widow Mildred wrote me "Leslie was very bright and whatever he did, he did well. He had been ailing for some time and one night he went to sleep and didn't wake up." He will be sorely missed.

On behalf of Betty Bland Lovvorn of Oak Ridge Tennessee, I note with regret the passing of her husband Jim Lovvorn on August 10, 1992, after a long illness. Jim was an electrical engineer, who retired in 1985. He was an active and capable researcher and an active supporter of research on the Bland family and of the National Bland Family Reunions.

Opal Jones of Edwardsville Illinois wrote to tell me that her husband and my correspondent Thomas H. Jones, died of a cerebral stroke on August 20, 1992. Thomas was retired and an active genealogist who spent many years trying to connect his ancestor Joshua Bland (C1826-) to a further back ancestor ⁴ Tom was also a friendly and supportive correspondent and I am very sorry to hear of his death.

Curly Moore, Hopewell Virginia, sent me two notices from the Richmond Post Dispatch announcing the death on December 30, 1992, of Leroy B. Bland, a retired Gloucester County Virginia Merchant who was 99. Leroy was survived by a brother Edgar F. Bland of Saluda Virginia. ⁵ Also, Mrs. Virginia Bland Hart, age 93, widow of Robert Presley Hart of Cologne Virginia, died January 21, 1993. I am grateful to Curly Moore for these letters as well as the many friendly letters she sends me, just to tell me about the Moores of Hopewell and to inquire after my well-being.

⁴ See AC 9-1, pp. 29-30.

⁵ I believe Leroy and Edgar Bland were noted previously AC 5-2, pp. p 15 and AC 9-1, p. 35, the son of William Claiborne Bland and Virginia Adelaide Groome. Leroy's photo appears in AC 5-2, at P. 37

Bill Bland of Holly Ridge North Carolina informed me that his sister and my former correspondent Nancy Goode Bland Turner of Troy Michigan, died on September 21, 1992. Nancy was buried in Chase City Virginia. ⁶

Bland Farms

If you haven't heard of the order service from Bland Farms, Box 506, Glenville Georgia, you should give it a try. The enterprise was started by Raymond Bland about 40 years ago. I have not determined which branch of the Blands Raymond descends from, though I suspect they are from the Duplin County North Carolina family that migrated to Georgia early in the 19th century (VU, pp. 297-320). Their specialty is Vidalia Onions, but as one looks through the catalog, there are other delicacies, such as Sweet Pepperapple Relish, Squaw Bread, the Bland Sampler, (check it out), Grandma Bland's Country-Style Pecan Pie, Peach Brandy Pound Cake, Sweet Georgia Peaches, and on and on the book goes. I was included on the mailing list by a guy who keeps up with these things better than I do. If you aren't on the list, the direct order line is 1-800-VIDALIA (I-800-843-2542).

Mecklenburg County North Carolina History

I am happy to announce the publication of Howard and Ruth White's new book Mecklenburg: The Life and Times of a Proud People, which was available for purchase as of December 1992. The book is a comprehensive history of the county and may be obtained for \$32.95, including shipping and handling. To order, write Ruth Bland White 2731 New Halls Road, Greenbrier Tennessee 37073.

JAMES BLAND OF DUPLIN AND CHATHAM COUNTIES, NORTH CAROLINA

This section will comprise the main portion of the current issue of "Among Cousins" and will attempt to bring together in a coherent picture the disparate research by descendants of James Bland (C1749-1799) who died in Chatham County North Carolina.

Some of the research that follows first appeared in A Vision of Unity and subsequently in various issues of the Newsletters. Some of it, particularly that of Jack Bland, Bertha Dunn and, T.C. and Donita Hulsey was received in Fall 1992 and winter and Spring 1993 and is quite useful. ⁷ The review of the disparate research

⁶ My thanks also to Curly Moore of Hopewell Virginia for Nancy Turner's obituary notice.

⁷ In April, I sent a draft of this section to Jack Bland, Lenore Bland Brown, Bertha Dunn, Mildred Hunter, T.C. Hulsey, Leota Ruder. All responded and their information was very helpful in sharpening the picture even further.

that has unfolded over the past decade indicates several areas of profitable research, including a thorough combing of courthouse and anecdotal records in Orange County Indiana, which would shed light on a transitional passage of the children of James Bland (C1749-1799) from about 1816-1820. Similar research in Coles County Illinois would also be useful, as the information below indicates.

James was a son of William Bland (C1726-1775) of Duplin County North Carolina, from whose issue sprang an enormous progeny of descendants.⁸ Evidence of the elder William's children derives primarily from his will, formed in 1775. The will made initial mention of an eldest son William, (1748-1816) and a son James, presumably the second eldest, who was named co-executor with William. Other children listed were, Joseph Bland, (C1754-1799) John Bland (C1758-1827),⁹ a daughter Mary Parker and two minor sons, Thomas and Charles. Charles is said to have married a Rachel or Mary Alderman, but little is known of him or of his descendants. It is worthy of note that among these sons, there is evidence of Revolutionary War Service for John, James and Joseph.⁹

Some background may be useful. When I wrote my book in 1982, I omitted through error the name of Joseph Bland in his father's will. This was corrected and since publication of the Newsletters began, new historians of the James Bland (C1749-1799) branch have emerged in abundance as well as those for Joseph Bland (C1754-1799). There has been enough about these two lines to reshape them over and over. This has not been true of the descendants of William Bland (1748-1816) and John Bland (C1758-1827). Not very much new information has emerged about them. If any of you Cousins know historians who are working on these lines, please let me know. Also, of course, there are no historians I know of working on the lines of Thomas and Charles.

Inasmuch as William was the oldest son and his birth date is reliably fixed at 1748,¹⁰ it is probable that James Bland was born in 1749/1750. He first appears in the records as co-executor of

⁸ VU, pp. 282-284 and 320-342.

⁹ The families of John and Joseph are discussed in VU, pp. 284-293 and AC 1-1, p. 3; 2-1, pp. 6-7; 3-1, pp. 16-20; and 8-1, pp. 11-15. By mistake, Joseph Bland was omitted from the will noted in my book. That error was corrected in AC 1-1, p. 3. For Charles Bland and Rachel Alderman, see VU, p. 284. Cf AC 2-1, p. 6

⁹ AC 1-1, p. 3.

¹⁰ VU, pp. 293-294.

his father's will in 1775. In 1781-1782, he appears in military service vouchers for Wilmington District of North Carolina.¹¹ He next appears in the records of Chatham County North Carolina, living in close proximity with his brother John (C1758-1827). One of the more remarkable aspects of their lives, is that from evidence available, it appears that almost all of John's descendants, in the several generations after his death, remained in Chatham County and many of them live there even today. The children of James Bland, on the other hand, between 1815-1830, began to appear on the western frontier, first in Orange County Indiana and then in Greene County Indiana. The women we assume to have been James' younger daughters evidently married and moved to other parts of the country with their husbands. The men all tended to cluster together in Greene County, excepting Henry Bland, while two older daughters tended to settle in Greene County with their brothers. In Greene County, these siblings tended to cluster in Highland and Worthington, living in close proximity with Osborne Bland Jr. and Patsy Donahoo and their children, who lived in Richland and Beech Townships.¹²

1. James Bland (1749-1799)¹³

James becomes the first generation we consider. In this essay, I will review the first four generations and will follow through with the fifth generations forward in AC 11-2, until the lines safely cross over the boundary of the 20th century.

The history of the family of James Bland was evolving under the able hand of the Late Albert Hunter and his wife Mildred, when my book was published in 1982,¹⁴ At that time, the Hunters had

¹¹ AC 1-1, p. 3.

¹² VU, pp. 320-342, 441-455. A Map in VU, pp. 342A, is illustrative.

¹³ Lenore Bland Brown, Paris Texas, has asked that anyone who knows or has a clue, let her know where James Bland is buried. Lenore indicates the Daughters of the American revolution would establish a marker at his grave, with appropriate ceremony. The same also applies to James' brothers Joseph (C1754-1799) and John (C1758-1827).

¹⁴ See VU, pp. 320-342, esp. 320-324. In addition to the Hunters, I owe a huge debt also to Lenore Bland Brown, Paris Texas, Bertha Dunn, Rossville Kansas, Lloyd Cooley, Atchison Kansas, T.C. and Donita Hulsey, Napa California, Masie Medford, San Antonio Texas, Betty Miller, Juneau Alaska, Leota Bland Ruder, Concordia Kansas and Harold Shepherd, Fort Collins Colorado, for their information which over the years has fleshed out the outlines of this family.

placed James in Chatham County by 1790, when he appeared in the census near John Bland. James was enumerated with two females and five minor males under age 16, indicating that the range of birth years for his sons at least was 1775-1790.

In 1983, the Hunters found court minutes in Chatham County showing that in 1794, James was appointed road overseer, followed by a 1796 entry in which he was replaced by Upshur Robinson, who appointed Jacob Bland, a minor, as one of his hired hands. A subsequent document, an indenture order dated February 1800, bound "Thomas Bland, an orphan of James Bland decd. . . unto Simon Bright, he being now 11 years old, to learn the trade of blacksmith." ¹⁵

A clue to the children of James Bland is the reappearance of the minor son Thomas, in Chatham County Tax lists of 1815, with Henry, Francis and William. These four men as well as Jacob appeared again in the 1830 Census of Green County Indiana. ¹⁶

James children (who appear here as second generation) are listed below. The sons are noted first, followed by the daughters. This format is used because at this time, I am less certain about the dates of James' daughters.

A. Jacob Bland (C1779-1839) Jacob was born in Chatham County no later than 1779 and probably not much earlier either. He was a minor in 1796, so 1779 is a fairly firm birth year. By 1800, he was an adult head of an extended family in Chatham County, The composition of the household, one female 26-45, a male aged 10-16 and a female under 10. Inasmuch as the evidence is that Jacob did not marry until about 1801 (his first child was born in 1802), the older woman was not his wife, so she was possibly an aunt or his mother. If this woman was Jacob's mother, it makes a mystery of the identity of "Barshaby" Bland, living alongside of Jacob, who was over 45 and head of the household, living with one female 16-26, one male 10-16 and two males under 10. ¹⁷

¹⁵ AC 1-2, p. 5. This may portend that James Bland died c.1796, but I prefer the date of 1799, suggesting he died just before the apprenticeship of Thomas Bland to Simon Bright.

¹⁶ VU, pp. 325, 342B-C.

¹⁷ The will of "Barshaby", no doubt a corruption of Bathsheba, is a mystery the Hunters were never able to unravel. In addition to the close proximity between Bathsheba and Jacob, a further clue is a will by Esther Rowan in New Hanover County, North Carolina, January 2, 1788, in which she wills her property to her daughter Elizabeth Richards but stipulates that in case of her death, the whole would default to "my god daughter Bathsheba Bland," (VU, p. 324-325).

Jacob married Nancy Richardson about 1801. Nancy was recorded in 1850 and 1860 as having been born 1779, and she died sometime after 1860 in Greene County Indiana. Jacob and Nancy were enumerated in Chatham County in 1820 but by 1830 were in Green County.

Jacob Bland and Nancy Richardson had a family of eight children, born in Chatham County North Carolina. All moved with Jacob and Nancy to Greene County Indiana: ¹⁸

(1) Nancy Richardson Bland (December 5, 1802 - June 24, 1876) Nancy married Richard Pope (1801-1841) on January 25, 1825. Richard and Nancy are great grandparents of my correspondent Harold Shepherd who descends through their daughter Nancy Massara Pope. ¹⁹

(2) Permelia Bland (C1805-1883) It appears Permelia didn't marry. In the Greene County Census of 1860, she was enumerated living with her mother and her sister Zina.

(3) Mary Bland (C1807-C1847) Mary married Wiatt Miller on June or December 21, 1826, one of the first marriages in the Beech township. Mary was still living when a son was born, but she must have died about a year before Wiatt Miller remarried to Elizabeth Padget in 1848.

(4) Sarah C. Bland (January 8, 18⁰~~28~~ - April 10, 1882) Married George Wilkie, January 30, 1840. Sarah is buried at the Wilkie cemetery in Highland, Greene County. ²⁰

(5) Zina Bland (C1809-) died after 1860, when she was shown in the 1860 census living with her mother and sister Permelia.

(6) Rebecca Bland (April 11, 1813 - June 10- 1865). Rebecca married Mark Clark on June 18, 1840 in Greene County.

(7) James Jacob Bland (September 16, 1815 - September 19, 1862). James enlisted in the same military unit as his brother Robert Henry (see below) on September 9, 1861. His military papers in 1861 describe him as 5' 10", dark complexion and black hair and eyes. ²¹ It was said by Albert Hunter that both brothers contracted

¹⁸ VU, pp. 324-332

¹⁹ AC 3-2, p. 33

²⁰ Jack Baber, Early History of Greene County Indiana, p. 43. Information re Mary and Sarah Bland, (3) and (4) is found in AC 5-2, p. 25.

²¹ As one reads this essay, it is interesting to see how often this general physical description recurs among Bland men.

