

## RICHARD PERCIVAL BLAND: ENGLAND, BARBADOS, SOUTH CAROLINA

By

Charles L. Bland and Ray Bland <sup>1</sup>

The earliest record of this family is the 1715 census in Barbados. DNA samples suggest that this family is a discrete line with no relation to other identified Bland Groups (See this site DNA, links Current results and YDNA Results, group 18). This family originated with Richard Percival Bland (c1680-1737) who was an emigrant from England to Barbados before coming to South Carolina. <sup>2</sup> Before becoming a Royal English Colony in 1723, South Carolina had received many settlers from Barbados, an English Colony devoted almost entirely to sugar production, which had overgrown its geographic area. Barbados had grown as an English colony from 1629-1640, at the same time English Puritans migrated to New England, part refuge and part land of opportunity. <sup>3</sup> Later generations, sons of planters in Barbados, made their way to among other places, the geographic entity called South Carolina, in the latter part of the 17<sup>th</sup> century. <sup>4</sup> Later generations of the family migrated from South Carolina to Rapides and Caddo

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<sup>1</sup> The authors also acknowledge the very useful contribution of Marshall Lockhart Vitullo of Catonsville Maryland, May 25, 2000 (see note 13) .

<sup>2</sup>— This line was previously discussed in VU p. 494 and AC 21-23, pp. 195-198 but in the intervening years, Ray Bland of Woodlands Texas, has contributed significant new information which warrants the enlargement of the text, The name Percival should be used with caution. It was introduced in the Lebey-Bland-Courtenay Genealogy information noted in VU p. 494, but no documentation for the name is included. Ray Bland to Charles L. Bland, June 22, 1011. Worth noting: the evidence presented by Ray Bland suggests that these Blands in Barbados were well off. Like their James River Cousins of the Virginia Tidewater (Our Group 1) these Barbados Blands were likely sympathetic to the Royal Cause during the English Civil War 1649-1660 and were loyal to the Stuart rulers during The Restoration (1660-1685). Colin Woodard, American Nations: The Eleven Regional Rival Cultures of North America (2011), p. 85, notes that the Barbadian Aristocracy displayed its loyalty to the crown by displays such as “genetic association with English knights and nobles,” which included coats of arms and could well have included adoptive names like Percival and Lancelot. E-Mails, Ray Bland to Charles L. Bland, November 15, 2004 and July 9, 2005 and June 27, 2011, show a record in Barbados for Richard Bland, made in 1715 in which Richard is 35 and unmarried. The Lebey-Bland-Courtenay Genealogy (1943), the original source for information about this family cited in VU at p. 494, lists an impossible birth year of 1627 for Richard Percival, who would have had his children while over 100 years old, better than Abraham. The date of burial for Richard Percival Bland was provided by the South Carolina Historical Magazine, Vol. 33.

<sup>3</sup>— David Hackett Fischer, Albion’s Seed: Four British Folkways in America ((1989) p. 16.

<sup>4</sup>— This family originated in England and traveled to South Carolina by way of Barbados. Excellent brief references to the Barbados colony are Peter Wood, Black Majority, Negroes in Colonial South Carolina from 1670 to the Stono Rebellion (1974, pp. 14-20 and Woodard, American Nations, pp 82-91. / Marshall Vitullo provides information about Charles Theodore Bland (C1819-1907) (1A3i) below, from James b. Sill, Historical Sketches –

Parishes Louisiana, Savannah Georgia, Charlotte, Mecklenburg County North Carolina, and Jasper and Nacogdoches County Texas.

1. **RICHARD PERCIVAL BLAND** (C1680 – June 15, 1737) of England and Barbados was born about 1680. On June 4, 1735, Richard purchased 604 acres in Granville District South Carolina on Chuley Finna Creek, modern day Tullifinny River, a tributary of the Coosawhatchie River which ultimately pours into the Port Royal Sound.<sup>5</sup> Richard married Elizabeth Gwin in Barbados April 13, 1722. Richard was in Barbados when he made out his will in 1734.<sup>6</sup> After Richard's death, Elizabeth Gwin Bland remarried quickly to Richard Ricketts on September 26, 1737. During their marriage Richard Percival Bland and Elizabeth Gwin had four children from 1723-1733.<sup>7</sup>

A. **LANCELOT BLAND** (May 1723 – December 15, 1777) was born in Barbados and died at Hilton Head Island South Carolina. In 1765, Lancelot transmitted two tracts of land containing

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Diocese of Western North Carolina (1955) states that Charles' "father's father /came/ from England with George Oglethorpe in founding the Georgia Colony." There is no source given for this information and it seems unlikely. Per E-Mails from Ray Bland, July 5 and 9, 2005, Records in Barbados show the presence of numbers of Blands, including William Bland, with a wife "Eddey" who made his will January 3, 1654/1655. There also was a birth on July 16, 1655 for Ann Bland, Daughter of John Bland and Phoebe, his wife. It appears that Phoebe remarried to Thomas Chapton August 14, 1657, which would signal the death of her John Bland. This leaves two couples, Matthew Bland who married Margaret Jones on December 22, 1672 and John Bland who married Millisant Sanders June 17, 1677. If Richard Percival Bland was born in England however, these would be possible relatives, but not parents. Richard's 1737 burial notice states "born England."

<sup>5</sup>— Previous references to Granville County are in error. There was no Granville County, but Granville District, superseding Cateret District in 1700.

<sup>6</sup>— Marriage records supplied in e-mail Ray Bland to Charles L. Bland April 24, 2015. Ray Bland to Charles Bland June 27, 2011, shows Richard made his will in Barbados though he was "of South Carolina" on June 27, 1734 and it was probated February 21, 1737/1738 in Barbados. In an E-mail Ray Bland to Charles Bland, June 27, 2011, Ray lays out a hypothetical case that Richard Percival Bland was the son of either Henry Bland or Lancelot Bland of a family in Orton Parish, Westmoreland County England, C1640-1650. He may have accompanied Robert Lowther to Barbados about 1711. Lowther, Lord of Maulds Meaburn, served as Governor of Barbados with one interruption, from 1711-1720. Other information reveals a birth of Betty, a negro child, who belongs to Richard Bland in 1729.

<sup>7</sup>— VU P. 494. Also, Ray Bland, Descendants of Richard Percival Bland, E-Mail to Charles L. Bland, June 24, 2005. Ray Bland has discovered in HeritageQuest online the name Jonathan Lancelot Bland Gwin (1771-1840), *History of the Gwin Family*, by Jesse Blaine Gwin, 1951, p 21. He also calls attention to entries in the will of Richard Percival's son George Bland, which was witnessed by "John Guim" and another notation of a sale by George Bland to his daughter Elizabeth, witnessed by "John Guinn". Ray believes this John Guim/Guinn was actually John Gwin, George Bland's uncle and Richard Percival's son in-law. Ray Bland to Charles L. Bland June 29, 2011.

1,000 acres to Mary Martinangele. Lancelot left his estate to nephews and nieces, suggesting that he did not marry.<sup>8</sup>

B. RICHARD BLAND (December 29, 1727 – October 26, 1775)<sup>9</sup> Richard was presumably born in Barbados, though no record of his birth has been found. He moved to and died at Hilton Head Island South Carolina. He married (1<sup>st</sup>) Mary Hogg (March 31, 1741 – April 10, 1762) in 1758. They were parents of:

(1) John Bland (July 17, 1759 – February 28, 1781).

Richard married (2<sup>nd</sup>) Elizabeth Fendin (October 28, 1754 – May 26, 1812) on March 6 1769 in Granville District South Carolina. They lived in Saint Luke's Parish at the time of their marriage. Both Richard and Elizabeth died at Hilton Head, Beaufort County South Carolina.<sup>10</sup> Richard sealed this marriage with 1600 pounds currency and six slaves, Peter, Gummer, Providence, Hannah, Sancho and Mary, to Elizabeth in trust. The children of Richard Bland and Elizabeth Fendin were:

(2) Elizabeth Bland (February 2, 1772 - )

(3) Richard Bland (July 26, 1773 – March 10, 1836) Richard, owner of the May River Plantation near Bluffton South Carolina, was born in Beaufort County South Carolina and died in Augusta Georgia. According to an advertisement for the property in the late 1820s, May River was a 450 acre estate.<sup>11</sup> He married (1<sup>st</sup>) Claudia Harriet Capers (1776 – October 19, 1795) in St. Helena South Carolina. There were no children.

Richard married (2<sup>nd</sup>) Susan Mary Ann Sealy Cook (November 18, 1780 – October 15, 1830),

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<sup>8</sup>– Ray Bland to Charles L. Bland, E-Mail July 5, 2005, cites Christ Church Parish Records in Barbados, with birth records for Lancelot and George Bland.

<sup>9</sup>– Richard's will was probated May 10, 1776.

<sup>10</sup>– Elizabeth remarried to (2<sup>nd</sup>) Charles Davant ( - October 22, 1781) on November 21, 1776 and (3<sup>rd</sup>) Christopher P. Rankin (July 25, 1756 – October 4, 1798).

<sup>11</sup>– Advertisement, "Bland Plantation for Rent," August 1827 to February 1828. Attachment to e-mail, Ray Bland to Charles Bland June 22, 2011. See also, Ray Bland to Charles Bland re Caroline Bland article, June 22, 2011.

<sup>12</sup>a native of St. Luke's Parish, on January 17, 1797. Richard and Susan moved to Augusta Georgia by 1829 and are buried at Augusta's Magnolia Cemetery. Children were:

(a) Harriet Elizabeth Bland (C1798-1831) Harriet married Thomas Green Cheney (C1790 – after 1850) in 1818. Harriet died at Cheneyville, Rapides Parish Louisiana. Harriet Bland and Thomas Cheney had three children. <sup>13</sup>

1. Malvina M. Cheney 1821-after 1850
2. John George Cheney 1828- after 1850
3. Harriet C. Cheney 1831 after 1850

(b) Harriet Phillis Bland (C1799 -) married James Pope possibly near Bluffton South Carolina in the 1820s but Lebey says they moved to Augusta Georgia about 1828. Harriet Bland and James Pope had one child.

1. Philis Pope

(c) Susan Mary Ann Sealy Bland (C1801 - 1824)

(d) Claudia Ann Bland (C1804 – living in 1860) died in Jacksonville Florida. She married David Villard (- December 13, 1855) in 1850. Upon her father's death, Claudia inherited a slave named Daniel.

(e) Caroline Rosina Maria Bland (1806-1898). Upon her father's death, Caroline received two slaves, Jacob and Susan. She married (1<sup>st</sup>) Edward Thomas Courtenay (October 23, 1799 - March 14, 1835) on February 12, 1824. Caroline and John had four children.

1. Julia Ann Courtenay 1825-1864
2. Valmore Dickerson Courtenay 1827-1892
3. Edward Neufvile Courtenay 1830-1830-1835
4. Rosina I Courtenay 1833-1895

Julia and Rosina married Lebey brothers, William and Christian, and Valmore married their sister, Catherine, thus the basis for the Lebey-Bland-Courtenay Genealogy cited in footnote 1. There are numerous Lebey and Courtenay descendants today in Savannah, GA.

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<sup>12</sup>– An entry provided by Ray Bland to Charles Bland, June 27, 2011, shows Susan Cook aged 48 at the time of her death, but all other information points to a 1780 birth year.

<sup>13</sup>– Ray Bland furnished anecdotal information about the siblings of his Demetrius Bland in his e-mail to Charles Bland, June 22, 2011.

Caroline married (2<sup>nd</sup>) Stephen Hayne Smith in 1842. They had one child.

5. Mary Alethia Ippolita Roth Smith 1843-1928. Mary married 1863 John Hill Hewitt, noted American poet and composer. There are numerous descendants of this union today in Baltimore, MD.

(f) Beulah Isabelle Bland (C1809-1812)

(g) Isabelle Seraphina Augusta Bland (C1814-1837) Married Andrew F. Allen on November 17, 1836. They had one child.

(h) Richard Mortimer Bland (C1816-1837). Richard died in Augusta Georgia.

(i) Charles Theodore Bland (C1819 – April 25, 1907) <sup>14</sup> upon his father's death, Charles inherited three slaves, Oriends, Charlotte and Venus. Charles was born in Beaufort South Carolina and later was an Episcopal minister in Lincolnton, Marion, Rutherfordton and Shelby North Carolina from 1855-1862. He retired from his work in 1890 and is buried in Lincolnton, Lincoln County North Carolina, at St. Luke's Churchyard. <sup>15</sup> He married (1<sup>st</sup>) Harriet Aletha Sandiford ( - 1845) in 1842 in Savannah Georgia. Charles and Harriet had:

1. Mortimer Alberto Bland (C1842 - 1922) born in Beaufort South Carolina. Mortimer, a dentist by trade, married (1<sup>st</sup>) Jane B. Hammond (September 4, 1843 – September 4, 1882) in 1869 and (2<sup>nd</sup>) Margaret Clarkson (July 8 – 1867 - 1941) on December 24, 1887 in Eastover South Carolina. Mortimer's son Charles Alberto Bland (1872-1947) also a dentist graduated from the Baltimore School of Dental Surgery, as did his dad. Charles Alberto Bland married Lucy McAden (1874-1929) on June 12, 1901, in a time when marrying into the McAden family was something folks talked about. Charles went on to become Mayor of Charlotte North Carolina from 1911-1915. Lucy McAden was the daughter of Rufus Yancey McAden an important politician and businessman and founder of the cotton mills in nearby Gaston County North

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<sup>14</sup>– Information about Charles Theodore Bland was furnished in a letter to Charles L. Bland from Marshall Lockhart Vitullo of Catonsville Maryland, May 25, 2000. Cousin Marshall descends from Charles Theodore Bland through his second wife, Lucy McAden, previously called Stewart. Additional clarification provide by Ray Bland, e-mail to Charles I. Bland, April 26, 2015

<sup>15</sup>– Charles was in Rutherford County North Carolina at the same time as my great great great grandfather William Bland (C1792-1868) and his children, VU. Pp 522-544. There is no information linking the two families but it certainly raises an interesting coincidence. The information sent me by Marshall Vitullo notes that Charles organized a congregation for “the colored” in Lincolnton.

Carolina. <sup>16</sup>

Charles Theodore Bland married (2<sup>nd</sup>) Frances Anna Stewart (C1830 - 1864) in 1853. Frances was born in Charleston South Carolina and is buried at the Eastview Cemetery in Wadesboro North Carolina. Charles and Frances had four children:

- 2, Rosa Martha Bland (1853-1854)
3. Jessie Mary Bland (C1855 - )
4. Charles Theodore Bland Jr. (C1861 – March 5, 1861)
5. Robert Herbert Bland (1862-1862)

Charles Theodore Bland married (3<sup>rd</sup>) Lillie Edna Caisson (- 1932) in 1875. Charles and Lillie had the following children:

6. Alice Jessup Bland (C1879- 1967)
7. Virginia Atkinson Bland (C1882- 1976)

j. Demetrius Augustus Bland (March 14, 1821 – November 29, 1903). Upon his father's death, Demetrius inherited four slaves, Phillis, Sarah, James and Margaret. Demetrius, born in South Carolina, was a schoolteacher who died in Shreveport Louisiana. <sup>17</sup> He married Lucy Elizabeth Glaze (September 15, 1836 – March 25, 1915) in Avoyelles Parish Louisiana, on September 5, 1854. Demetrius appeared in the 1850 census for Madison County Mississippi. In February 1846, Demetrius is listed as trustee of the Black Hawk Male and Female Academies, near Madison County Mississippi. By the late 1850s, Demetrius had become a professor at Marksville High School in Louisiana and the editor of a weekly newspaper, Le Pelican. In 1860, he was the Principal of Lake Charles Louisiana Seminary but left with the onset of the Civil War. By 1863, Demetrius had moved to Jasper Texas. He lived at various locations in Texas and in the 1880 census of Davilla, Milam County Texas, Demetrius was still a school teacher. He returned to the newly

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<sup>16</sup>— Personal disclosure, I grew up in Cramerton in Gaston County, a neighboring burg to McAdenville, no doubt named for Lucy's old man, both cotton mill towns. As an adult, I read two major accounts of labor, management and religion in the area, the Marxist interpretation of Liston Pope's Mill hands and Preachers, and the more exciting, Gastonia, 1929: Story of the Loray Mill Strike, by John A. Salmon.

<sup>17</sup>— E-mail, Ray Bland to Charles L. Bland, June 26, 2005, states that Demetrius's daughter Rosa's obituary credited Demetrius with being a teacher "at the one room Midway School." The same e-mail provides information about several of Demetrius' children.

opened Lake Charles High School in Louisiana in 1895.<sup>18</sup> Late in his life, Demetrius moved to Shreveport Louisiana, where he is buried in the Greenwood Cemetery along with Lucy Glaze. Demetrius Bland and Lucy Glaze had seven children.<sup>19</sup>

1. Jessie Lena Bland (March 5, 1856 - June 6, 1876) born in Marksville Louisiana.

2. Marian Middleton Bland (November 25, 1858 – May 21, 1876) born in Marksville Louisiana.

3. William Ernest Bland (December 6, 1863 – October 17, 1899) was born in Jasper Texas. He was educated at the Danville, Montgomery County, Texas Masonic Institute and after graduation taught school, about 1881-1885. William died of Malaria in 1899 at Parkland Hospital in Dallas Texas. He is buried at the Greenwood Cemetery at Shreveport Louisiana. William was in Davilla Texas about 1880-1881, and after moved to Melrose Texas, followed by a move to Nacogdoches, Texas to become a carpenter about 1885. In 1888 he moved to Shreveport as a contractor and builder and in 1894 moved to Lake Charles, Louisiana where he had a notable reputation as a carpenter.<sup>20</sup> By 1898, William was a traveling salesman for a building and loan association.<sup>21</sup> William Ernest Bland married Clara Ann Matthews (February 22, 1866 – July 24, 1941) in Melrose, Nacogdoches County Texas on October 7, 1883.<sup>22</sup> Clara was a Texas girl, born in Melrose. She and her family moved to Shreveport in the late 1890s. She is buried at the Greenwood Cemetery in Shreveport Louisiana. William E. Bland and Clara Ann Matthews had five children, including Charles Ernest Demetrius Bland (C1895-1966) Charles was born Ernest Demetrius Bland but Charles was added after his uncle Charles Mortimer Bland (1874-1895, see 7

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<sup>18</sup>– Ray Bland to Charles Bland, July 13, 2010. Ray notes that Demetrius was in St. Augustine Texas in 1884.

<sup>19</sup>– E-Mail, Ray Bland to Charles L. Bland, July 15-16, 2003. AC 4-1, pp. 34-35. The late Helen Bourge would have been pleased. She sent me a photo of William Ernest Bland back in 1985 and said she was trying to find out more about him.

<sup>20</sup>– Lake Charles Louisiana Daily Press Special 1895 edition and “Early newspaper Collection December 29, 1894” provided by Ray Bland, E-Mail to Charles L. Bland, February 25, 2015.

<sup>21</sup>– Ray Bland to Charles Bland, July 13, 2010.

<sup>22</sup> Marriage License provided by e-mail Ray Bland to Charles L. Bland, April 24, 2015

below) died several days after he was born. <sup>23</sup>

4. Rosa May Bland (May 1, 1866 – February 3, 1945) was born in Zavallo Texas and died in Forbing, Caddo Parish Louisiana. She married George Madison Snell (June 17, 1852 – December 27, 1937) at Nacogdoches County on August 19, 1882. Both are buried at the Greenwood Cemetery in Shreveport Louisiana.

5. Edgar Demetrius Bland (March 6, 1869 – February 25, 1957) married Margaratha Lindholm (May 19, 1874 – March 5, 1939) in 1896. Both are buried at the Jewella Cemetery in Shreveport Louisiana.

6. Cecil Legare Bland (September 12, 1871 -- September 20, 1950) was born in Oakland, Grimes County Texas. He married Clifford Madding (1881-1971) in Shreveport, Louisiana. Both are buried in Forest Park Cemetery in Shreveport, Louisiana.

7. Charles Mortimer Bland (January 27, 1874 – November 16, 1895) born at Lexington, Lee County Texas. Charles seems to have been an “active and nimble” fellow, who volunteered to skinny up a pole, which fell with him and killed him, thus the brevity of his existence. Charles is buried in Shreveport Louisiana at the Greenwood Cemetery.

A family portrait of Demetrius Bland with Lucy Elizabeth Glaze and their children, as well as a separate photo of their son William E. Bland, courtesy of Ray Bland, are displayed at the end of this essay

C. GEORGE BLAND (1729/1730 – August 26, 1775) was born in Barbados and died in Beaufort South Carolina. George was a shoemaker. George married (1<sup>st</sup>) Mary Douglas on January 27, 1752. George had one child with Mary Douglas:

(1) Elizabeth Bland (March 17, 1755 – August 17, 1800). She married (1<sup>st</sup>) James Read; he died before 1778. She married (2<sup>nd</sup>) John Hammond on March 15, 1787. John Hammond (C1849- June 16, 1800) died of an assassin’s bullet. <sup>24</sup> John Hammond and Elizabeth Bland had one child:

(a) Mary Douglass Hammond (1790 - ) who married John B. Barnes in 1806.

George married (2<sup>nd</sup>) Mary Bowman on July 2, 1761. With Mary Bowman, George Bland had:

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<sup>23</sup> Charles Ernest Demetrius Bland married (???) and they were the parents of my correspondent Ray Bland, Woodlands Texas.

<sup>24</sup>— Ancestor Hunt, “Hammond Family Bible” forwarded to Charles Bland by Ray Bland, June 22, 11. These include several news articles. See also, Ray Bland to Charles Bland October 29, 2008 and June 23, 2011.



(2) William Bowman Bland (1762 – after 1802).

George and Mary must have had a falling out for, as he lay dying, as Faulkner would have put it, George wrote this about her in his will: "I Give my Wife Mary Bland for her Incontinency (sic) and leaving my Bed and Board for a Number of Years, the sum of one Shilling Sterling Money of Great Britain the same being in full of an in Lieu of her Dower, right and Title of Dower which she has no right to have out of my Estate and which I Will and order my Executors not to allow her." <sup>25</sup> Ah, marital bliss. Thus does poor Mary pass into memory!

D. ELIZABETH BLAND (January 6, 1733/1734 – April 18, 1756) Elizabeth married William Moses on May 3, 1750. <sup>26</sup>

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<sup>25</sup>– George Bland's will is cited in Ray Bland to Charles Bland, June 23, 2011.

<sup>26</sup>– Elizabeth's will was filed April 18, 1756.



Courtesy of Ray Bland: Date of Photo early 1890s. Left to right seated Cecil Bland , Demetrius, Bland Lucy Glaze Bland. Standing Charles Bland, Rosa Bland Snell, William Ernest Bland and Edgar Bland. (See pp 6-8 above) Charles Bland was killed in 1895 at age 21. Reference above paragraph B (3) (J)



William Ernest Bland (1863-1899).

Courtesy of Ray Bland, William's Grandson.