

THE FILSON CLUB HISTORY QUARTERLY

Vol. 13

LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY, JANUARY, 1939

No. 1

NOTES ON ONE OF THE EARLY BALLARD FAMILIES OF KENTUCKY, INCLUDING THE BALLARD MASSACRE

BY MARGARET MORRIS (MRS. ROY) BRIDWELL
Louisville, Kentucky

For more than sixty years Mr. R. C. Ballard Thruston has been collecting, from time to time, genealogical notes on the various branches of the Ballard family. This article is confined to the early Ballards of Kentucky and is compiled mainly from his voluminous files and from my incidental notes. Mr. Thruston's notes include, among many other items, the massacre of five Ballards by Indians in 1788. The account of the Ballard Massacre as told to Dr. Lyman C. Draper by Major Bland Williams Ballard is here retold.

Major Bland Williams Ballard is well established among the outstanding Kentucky pioneers and is properly recorded in history. In *Revolutionary War Records, Virginia*, page 562, he is referred to as "one of the early adventurers and defenders of Kentucky, a warrior of the most redoubtable courage." Very little, however, has been written about his family and family connections. The purpose of this paper is to present notes on his immediate kinsmen, some of whom also came to Kentucky in pioneer times. The descendants of these early Kentucky Ballards are numerous and many of them still live in Jefferson, Oldham and Shelby counties and various other parts of the State.

To avoid possible confusion of the various Ballards, the various generations are here indicated by superior figures. Bland Ballard is numbered 1. His descendants are numbered 11 for the first child of the first generation; and 12 for the second child of the first generation; 111 for the first child of the second generation; 112 for the second child of the second generation, etc. Thus

is shown the order of birth, when known, and the generation to which each belongs.

As far as we now know, Major Bland W. Ballard¹⁰³ and his father, Bland Ballard,¹⁰² also his cousin James Ballard,¹¹⁴ were the first Ballards to come to Kentucky. It is more than probable that Proctor Ballard, who came with them, was of this same Ballard family, but his exact relationship is now unknown.

Bland Ballard,¹ the grandfather of Major Bland W. Ballard,¹⁰³ is the first Ballard of this family of whom we have any record. He died in Spotsylvania County, Virginia, in 1791. Tradition has it that he was ninety-one years old at the time of his death, thus making the date of his birth about 1700. There are no records known that show where or when he was born. He, however, was in Spotsylvania County, Virginia, June 2, 1747, for the *Virginia County Records, Spotsylvania County, 1721-1800* (Vol. 1, page 57), show he then served as bondsman for Timothy Sisk, Administrator of William Whitehouse.

Bland Ballard¹ had six children; Benjamin;¹¹ Bland;¹² Thomas;¹³ John;¹⁴ Ann¹⁵ and Betsy.¹⁶ The name of his wife is not now known, nor is the order of the births of his six children known, but for the sake of our reference they are here given in an assumed rotation.

The will of Bland Ballard,¹ dated February 28, 1791, is recorded in Spotsylvania County, Virginia, Will Book E, page 1130. It is here copied in full:

In the Name of God—Amen:—

I, Bland Ballard, of the County of Spotsylvania, being very sick and weak but of perfect sound mind and memory, thanks be to Almighty God for the same, do make and ordain this—my last will and testament—in manner and form viz:—

Item—My will and desire is that all my just debts and funeral expenses shall be fully paid and satisfied.

Item—I give and bequeath to my son, Thomas Ballard, one negro wench named Sall and her future increase to him and his heirs forever.

Item—I give and bequeath to my son, John Ballard, one negro wench named Gin with her future increase—to him and his heirs forever.

Item—I give and bequeath to my son, Benjamin Ballard, one negro wench named Grace, with her future increase, to him and his heirs forever.

Item—I give and bequeath to my daughter, Ann Haydon, one negro girl named Frank, and her future increase, to her and her heirs forever.

Item—I give and bequeath to Betsy Tenant one bed, one sheet, one bolster, one pillow, two blankets and one counterpain to her and her heirs forever.

Item—One negro child named Keziah and all the rest of my estate of whatsoever kind it may consist of, after my decease, as stocks of any kind, household furniture, etc. shall be sold and the money thence arising to be equally divided amongst my children, that is to say—Thomas, John, Benjamin and Ann, and I do hereby appoint my son John Ballard and Benjamin Ballard my joint executors of this—my last will and testament, hereby revoking and disannulling all former and other wills by me made.

In wittness Hereof—I have hereunto set my hand and seal—this 28th day of February—One Thousand Seven Hundred and Ninety-one.

his
Bland X Ballard
mark

Signed, sealed and acknowledged in
the presence of G. Bell, William Ballard, Seuner Tennant.

Bland Ballard¹ did not mention his son Bland² in his will for seemingly evident reasons. The young Bland² died in Kentucky three years prior to the making of his father's will of February, 1791. The young Bland² had left Virginia twelve years before his father's will was written, and evidently had been provided for before that time. The existence of a son named Bland (Junior), irrespective of the acknowledgment of the relationship by that generation and succeeding generations of the family, is conclusively shown by a deed dated October 1, 1764, in which Bland Ballard¹ signed his name "Bland Ballard, Senior."^A

The first Bland Ballard's six children and notes relating to each are here given under six separate headings. The second Bland is placed last because the greater part of the notes that follow pertain to him and to his son, Bland W. Ballard, and to the Ballard Massacre.

BETSY TENNANT,¹⁶ it will be noted in the last clause of Bland Ballard's will, is not mentioned among "my children," nor does he refer to her as a daughter in any other part of this will. No

^A *Virginia County Records, Spotsylvania County, 1721-1800* (1905), Vol. 1, page 231.

descendants of Betsy Tennant have been located, so whether or not she was a daughter, housekeeper or neighbor now necessarily remains a matter of conjecture.

ANN BALLARD¹¹ married William Haydon¹² of Spotsylvania County, Virginia. They had several children, the names of all of whom are not now known, but among whom were three sons: William¹¹¹ Bland Ballard¹¹² and Benjamin.¹¹³ The Haydon family located at Harrodsburg in 1779.

*Benjamin Haydon*¹¹³ was a distinguished Revolutionary soldier and also fought in the War of 1812. He married Hannah McPike and had fourteen children. In 1828 he was a member of the House of Representatives from Owen County. Many of his descendants live in Kentucky.¹³

THOMAS BALLARD¹¹ and JOHN BALLARD¹⁴ had no descendants that I have been able to locate. However, a deed dated December 2, 1755, shows that John Ballard¹⁴ and his wife Ann sold 100 acres in St. George's Parish, Spotsylvania County, Virginia,¹⁴ in which county they then lived.

BENJAMIN BALLARD¹¹ was born about 1725 in Spotsylvania County, Virginia. On June 4, 1770, Bland Ballard¹ deeded to this Benjamin¹¹ 143 acres in St. George's Parish, Spotsylvania County, Virginia,¹⁵ where both of them then lived. Benjamin¹¹ married, first, a Miss Jones, by whom he had nine children; and, second, Elizabeth Stewart,¹⁶ by whom he had no issue. His nine children were: Charles,¹¹¹ George,¹¹² Margaret (Pegga),¹¹³ James,¹¹⁴ William,¹¹⁵ Benjamin,¹¹⁶ Mary Jane,¹¹⁷ Ann¹¹⁸ and Hannah.¹¹⁹ Benjamin¹¹ died in Spotsylvania County in 1814, leaving a will dated December 7, 1813, and proven February 14, 1814.¹⁰ Of his nine children two are numerously represented in Kentucky: James¹¹⁴ and Benjamin.¹¹⁶

James Ballard,¹¹⁴ according to a statement made by his son, Addison Montague Ballard,^{114a} "was born on the farm, on which he died, the 4th of June, 1763, in Spotsylvania County, Virginia, a few miles from Fredericksburg."^{11a} He died February 1, 1856.

¹⁴ *Virginia County Records, Spotsylvania County, 1721-1800* (1905), Vol. 1, page 47.

¹⁵ *The Register of the Kentucky State Historical Society*, Vol. 16, No. 48, September, 1918, pages 72-75.

¹⁶ *Virginia County Records, Spotsylvania County, 1721-1800* (1905), Vol. 1, page 201.

¹⁷ *Ibid.*, page 273.

¹⁸ Letter from Addison M. Ballard to John T. Ballard, dated February 29, 1856. Copy in The Ballard File 7B18, in The Filson Club.

¹⁹ Copy of the will of Benjamin Ballard in The Ballard File 1B56, in The Filson Club.

^{11a} The Ballard File 7B18, in The Filson Club. See footnote 7.

It was this James who, in 1779, together with his uncle Bland Ballard,¹¹² his cousin Major Bland W. Ballard,¹¹³ and Proctor Ballard, enlisted in a company organized in Virginia by Captain Ben Roberts and came to Kentucky with Major George Slaughter's battalion. All three aided General George Rogers Clark in the building of Fort Jefferson, below the mouth of the Ohio, and took active parts in other defenses on the Western Frontiers.¹ The following extracts pertaining to their military activities are taken from a letter dated February 29, 1856, written by Addison M. Ballard¹¹⁴ to his nephew John T. Ballard.¹¹⁵

"What I here state is principally from what he (James Ballard) has informed me himself. . . . He volunteered in George Slaughter's Company and came to Kentucky in the year 1779, and rendezvoused at the Falls of the Ohio, now Louisville. Bland W. Ballard and his father, Bland, who was killed at Tyler's Station on Tick Creek in your county, either came with him, or probably with G. R. C. [George Rogers Clark]. However they were together at the Falls. . . . He was but a few yards from his cousin, Bland W. Ballard, when he was wounded [in Clark's Expedition against the Piqua towns, July, 1780.] . . . Your grandfather and his cousin Bland W. Ballard, who died near Shelbyville, volunteered under George R. Clark against the Indians in Ohio, etc. . . . I have heard him say frequently their allowance was a pint of corn a day, and that they would cut a tree off square or level at a few feet from the ground, and belt the bark below, and then loosen and slip it up sufficiently for a mortar, and beat their corn, and boil it, when they were tired of parching it, and frequently they were without even corn, and had to depend upon game. . . . After the close of the War in 1783 he returned to Virginia and on his route he has informed me that \$100.00 in Continental paper would not pay for a meal of victuals."

After returning to Virginia in 1783 James Ballard¹¹⁴ married Isabella Montague. They had nine children, five of whom had Montague for their second name: Thomas Montague,¹¹⁴ John Montague,¹¹⁵ Belinda,¹¹⁶ Addison Montague,¹¹⁴ Camden Montague,¹¹⁶ Collatinus Montague,¹¹⁶ Mary Augusta,¹¹⁷ Flavius Josephus¹¹⁸ and Elizabeth or Sarah.¹¹⁹ Three of these nine

¹ *Revolutionary War Records, Virginia*, by G. M. Brumbaugh (1936), Vol. 1, page 562; also *Conquest of the Country Northwest of River Ohio and Life of George Rogers Clark*, by William H. English (1896), Vol. II, pages 1060-1062.

² The Ballard File 7B18, in The Filson Club. See footnote 2.

children—Thomas Montague,¹¹⁴¹ Addison Montague¹¹⁴⁴ and Camden Montague¹¹⁴⁶—settled in Oldham County, Kentucky.

*Thomas Montague Ballard*¹¹⁴¹ was born May 3, 1789, in Spotsylvania County, Virginia, and died July 8, 1865, in Oldham County, Kentucky. In 1818 he married Mrs. Mary Trigg Ballard, the widow of his uncle George Ballard.¹¹⁴¹ They had six children and many of their descendants still live in Oldham County, but are not recorded in this sketch, which is confined to the earlier generations. When on December 16, 1823, Oldham County was established by the General Assembly of Kentucky, Thomas Montague Ballard¹¹⁴¹ was appointed Justice of the Peace.

*Addison Montague Ballard*¹¹⁴⁴ was born in Spotsylvania County, Virginia, October 19, 1799, and died July 26, 1879, at LaGrange, Oldham County, Kentucky. He taught school at Westport, Kentucky, and in 1834 opened the New Castle Academy at New Castle, Kentucky. In 1843 he was appointed collecting agent for Judge Mason Brown and in the course of his collecting tour visited every county of the State of Kentucky on horseback. A portion of a Journal which he kept for many years is now in the Kentucky State Historical Society at Frankfort, Kentucky. He was never married.^k

*Camden Montague Ballard*¹¹⁴⁶ was born in Spotsylvania County, Virginia, January 17, 1802, and died February 3, 1853, in Oldham County, Kentucky. He served as a member of the Kentucky Legislature in 1838 and as a member of the State Senate in 1843, 1847, 1850 and 1851.^l On March 24, 1831, he married Lavinia Harrison Railey.^m They had four sons, two of whom lived and died in Kentucky: John Thomas^{1146a} and Addison Collatinus.^{1146b} Addison Collatinus Ballard^{1146c} married Helen Mary Verry and had ten children. Their daughter, Elizabeth A. Ballard,^{1146d-10} married Julius Morris, who are the parents of the writer of this sketch. Many of the descendants of John Thomas Ballard^{1146a} live in Shelby County, Kentucky, and some of them in Oldham County.

Benjamin Ballard,¹¹⁴⁹ son of Benjamin Ballard,¹¹ was born in Spotsylvania County, Virginia, November 25, 1768, and died in 1864, probably in Virginia. He married Ann Graham Heslopp in 1798 and had two children: Rice Carter¹¹⁶¹ and Emily A. H.¹¹⁶²

^k From obituary in *The Oldham Era*, LaGrange, Kentucky, July, 1879.

^l *History of Kentucky*, by Lewis Collins (1874), Vol. II, page 668.

^m Oldham County, Kentucky, Early Marriage Records. Copy in The Filson Club.

Descendants of this Benjamin settled in Jefferson and Barren counties, Kentucky, among them being the Triggs, Bullocks and Reads.

BLAND BALLARD,¹² son of the first Bland,¹ and father of Major Bland W. Ballard,¹²² was born about 1735 in Spotsylvania County, Virginia. He married, first, a Miss Williams and, second, a Miss Tyler. He had nine children, all of whom, with the possible exception of the two youngest, are by his first wife. His nine children were: two daughters whose names are not now known, Bland Williams,¹²³ James,¹²⁴ John,¹²⁵ Benjamin,¹²⁶ Sally,¹²⁷ Thursia¹²⁸ and Elizabeth¹²⁹

Mrs. Thomas Drake and Mrs. John H. Rush, descendants of Thursia Ballard,¹²⁸ in an interview on October 2, 1921, with Mr. R. C. Ballard Thruston, told him: "Sally¹²⁷ was full sister to Bland W.;¹²² James,¹²⁴ John¹²⁵ and Benjamin¹²⁶ . . . Thursia¹²⁸ was about three years old at the time of the massacre (of 1788) . . . name of her mother is unknown. The youngest child (Elizabeth)¹²⁹ was not Thursia's full sister. She was the only child of Bland Ballard¹² by his last wife." According to this report "his last wife" was his third wife; we, however, have no record of her name.

Major Bland W. Ballard,¹²² in a statement made in November, 1844, to Dr. Lyman C. Draper, said that he and his father, Bland,¹² came to Kentucky in 1779 and went to Harrodsburg, remained there a week or two, moved on to Boonesboro, where Bland Ballard¹² raised a crop of corn; joined Bowman's Campaign, and in the fall of that year went back to Virginia. In the following spring Bland¹² returned to Kentucky with his family and settled at Louisville.^N

Bland Ballard¹² was among those who, in 1779, drew town lots, where Louisville now stands, but the one he drew, as was shown later, was on the land claimed by John Campbell. It was recovered by Campbell and accordingly Bland Ballard's title was declared null and void.^o Early in 1783 he moved his family to Linn's Station, on Beargrass Creek, near Louisville.

In 1783 Linn's Station was attacked by Indians and a number of pioneers killed, among whom were John Williamson and his

^N Statement made by Bland W. Ballard to Lyman C. Draper, Draper Mss. 8J150 and 8J181, in State Historical Society, Madison, Wisconsin. Photostats in The Filson Club.

^o The Filson Club Publications, No. 8: *The Centenary of Louisville* (1893), by Reuben T. Durrett, pages 142, 143, 154.

eldest son, George. A younger son, John Williamson, was taken prisoner. A daughter, Elizabeth, escaped and later became the first wife of Major Bland W. Ballard.¹¹³

The following notes are taken from two letters written one hundred years later, in 1883, by G. T. Wilcox, grandson of Squire Boone, to Dr. Lyman C. Draper.^F

"My old friend John W. Williamson is dead, died the 4th of this month in the 87th year of his age. Bland (W) Ballard¹¹⁴ was his uncle, having married his father's sister. . . . Ballard was Clark's commissary at the Falls . . . His (Williamson's) grandfather's name was John; his father's name was John, and his elder brother name was George . . . the old man and George was killed by the Indians at Linns Station on the 4th of July, 1783 . . . John Williamson was taken prisoner by the Indians that day . . ."

In the fall of 1787 Bland Ballard¹¹⁵ and his family moved from Linn's Station to Tyler Station, on Tick Creek, in Shelby County, Kentucky. That station, according to statement of John T. Ballard,¹¹⁶ had been built several years before by Bland Ballard,¹¹⁷ Bland Williams Ballard,¹¹⁸ James Ballard¹¹⁹ and other pioneers.^Q There, in the spring of 1788, the Ballard Massacre took place. Five Ballards were killed. The history of that tragedy is presented in the last part of this paper.

The children of Bland Ballard¹¹⁵ who were not killed in the massacre were Bland Williams Ballard,¹¹⁸ James¹¹⁹ and Sally,¹²⁰ also two unnamed elder sisters. Bland W. Ballard said in an interview held in 1844 with Lyman C. Draper (Draper Mss. 8J150 and 8J171) that he was the third child and eldest son of Bland Ballard and was born October 16, 1759. The two elder sisters probably died in infancy, as we have no record of them other than the statement made by Bland W. Ballard. Apparently James and Sally were not present at the time of the massacre. Sally may have been married before that event. The whereabouts of James,¹¹⁹ who was then a young man of twenty-four, is not definitely known, but one of his sons, Bland Ballard,¹²¹⁻¹²² afterwards Judge of the U. S. District Court for Kentucky, wrote Dr. Lyman C. Draper on March 27, 1845, "My father . . . was at a Mr. Quinn's about three miles off attending school."^R

^F Draper Mss. 19C181-2. Photostat in The Filson Club. Letters dated February 6 and March 7, 1883.

^Q The Ballard Massacre, The Ballard Files, in The Filson Club.

^R Draper Mss., 8J184, photostat in The Filson Club.

*Major Bland Williams Ballard*¹³³ was born October 16, 1759, in Spotsylvania County, Virginia. He and his wife, Elizabeth Williamson, had seven children: namely, James,¹³⁴ Mary,¹³⁵ Dorothy or Dolly,¹³⁶ Susan,¹³⁷ Sally,¹³⁸ Martha or Patsy¹³⁹ and Nancy.¹⁴⁰ Elizabeth Williamson Ballard died January 12, 1827, and Major Bland W. Ballard¹⁴¹ married, second, on September 9, 1833, Diana Matthews. Diana Matthews Ballard died August 17, 1835, and Major Ballard married, third, October 28, 1841, Elizabeth Weaver Garrett. Elizabeth Weaver Garrett Ballard died in 1854. Major Ballard died September 5, 1853, in Shelby County, Kentucky,⁵ and was buried there. His will is recorded in Will Book 22, page 160, in Shelby County.

Bland W. Ballard took part in Wayne's Campaign and on December 21, 1794, Governor Shelby appointed him Major of the 18th Regiment.⁶ Dr. Lyman C. Draper describes Bland W. Ballard thus: "Ballard says he has killed 30 to 40 Inds—was seven years rep[resentative] of Shelby County, soon after Wayne's Campaign, commencing in '95 or '96'. Ballard [was] six feet, strong, raw boney man weighing upwards of 200; passionate and quick, and even over frank, but would speak what he thought regardless of consequences."⁷

The General Assembly of Kentucky at the 1853-5 session adopted resolutions directing the Governor to cause the remains of Major Bland W. Ballard and wife to be re-interred in the State Cemetery at Frankfort, Kentucky. When this was done, the remains of his first wife, Elizabeth Williamson, were interred with him. Descendants of Major Ballard are still living in Shelby County. It might be well to add that the present (1938) Mayor of Shelbyville, Robert F. Matthews,¹⁴² is a great-great-grandson of Major Ballard.

Collin's *History of Kentucky* (one volume, 1847), in the chapter devoted to Ballard County, gives a 2,000-word biographical sketch of Bland W. Ballard, after whom the County was named when it was formed in 1842. The same sketch is published in the second volume of the Collin's two-volume edition of 1874 and in the subsequent two-volume reprints.

James Ballard,¹⁴³ the son of Bland Ballard,¹⁴ was born August 15, 1763, in Spotsylvania County, Virginia. It will be

⁵*The Register of the Kentucky State Historical Society*, Vol. 28, No. 83, April, 1930, page 150, "Excerpts from Executive Journal of Governor Isaac Shelby."

⁷Draper Mss., 8J150-181, typed copy in The Filson Club.

noted that this James Ballard (the brother of Bland W. Ballard)¹²³ and his cousin James Ballard¹²⁴ (who came with Bland Ballard¹² and Major Bland W. Ballard¹²³ to Kentucky in 1799) were born the same year, 1763. It is probable that James Ballard¹²⁴ also came to Kentucky with his father in 1799, but we have not, as yet, found any conclusive record to that effect. His career as a soldier, however, is summed up in the following letter from the Veterans' Administration, Washington, D. C., dated March 16, 1931:

"From the papers in the Revolutionary War pension claim, R. 463, it appears that James Ballard¹²⁴ went with his father, Bland Ballard,¹² in May, 1780, to the Falls of the Ohio, Kentucky. He volunteered in June, 1780, and served as spy, hunter and ranger under Captain Jacob Piatt and General George R. Clark until the following spring; he then served as scout and spy in Captain George Owen's Company and was with Colonel [John] Floyd when his forces retreated, and [was] in several skirmishes with the Indians. In August, 1782, he marched with Captain Aquilla Whittaker to Shawnee Town on the Miami and to McKees Town on the Sciota River when these towns were destroyed and prisoners were taken, and served until December. He continued to act as a scout and spy until the fall of 1783. James Ballard¹²⁴ served as spy, hunter and scout in all General George R. Clark's Expeditions against the Indians: in 1786 under Captain Bland W. Ballard and Colonel John Hardin against the Wabash Indians; in 1788, eight months in Captain Aquilla Whitaker's Company, and in 1793 under Generals Scott and Wayne, and served until all hostilities had been settled."¹⁵

James Ballard¹²⁴ represented Shelby County in the Kentucky Legislature in 1813. On December 25, 1788, he married Mrs. Amy Leman, the widow of Samuel Leman. They had seven children: Bland¹²⁴¹ (who served as a private in the company of his uncle, Major Bland W. Ballard, in the War of 1812 and died of swamp fever a few days before the Battle of the River Raisin); Elizabeth;¹²⁴² Willis L.;¹²⁴³ Nancy;¹²⁴⁴ James;¹²⁴⁵ John;¹²⁴⁶ and Amy.¹²⁴⁷ His wife, Amy Leman Ballard, died June 7, 1803, and on August 2, 1803, James Ballard¹²⁴ married Susannah Cox. They had ten children: Elizabeth,¹²⁴⁸ Benjamin,¹²⁴⁹ Paulina,¹²⁴⁻¹⁰ Thomas,¹²⁴⁻¹¹ Sarah Piety,¹²⁴⁻¹² William Harrison,¹²⁴⁻¹³ Andrew Jackson,¹²⁴⁻¹⁴ Barnett,¹²⁴⁻¹⁵ Bland¹²⁴⁻¹⁶ and Josephus.¹²⁴⁻¹⁷ All

¹⁵The Ballard Files, 1B, in The Filson Club.

are well represented in Kentucky, but space will not permit us to go into details. We shall, however, comment briefly upon two of them:

*Andrew Jackson Ballard*¹³⁺¹⁴ was born September 22, 1815, and died August 17, 1885. He married April 27, 1848, Francis Ann Thruston and had five children: Charles Thruston,¹³⁺¹⁴⁺¹ Bland,¹³⁺¹⁴⁺² Abigail Churchill,¹³⁺¹⁴⁺³ Samuel Thruston¹³⁺¹⁴⁺⁴ and Rogers Clark.¹³⁺¹⁴⁺⁵ In 1884 Rogers Clark Ballard's name was changed, by adding the family name of his mother, to Rogers Clark Ballard Thruston. Andrew Jackson Ballard¹³⁺¹⁴ was a prominent attorney in Louisville, and in 1861 was appointed Clerk of the U. S. District Court for Kentucky by President Lincoln. Many of his descendants live in Louisville.

Bland Ballard,¹³⁺¹⁵ sixteenth child of James Ballard,¹³ was born September 4, 1819. He died July 29, 1879. In 1861 he was appointed Judge of the U. S. District Court for Kentucky by President Lincoln. He was well known for his anti-slavery activities before and during the Civil War. He married December 16, 1846, Sarah McDowell and had six children.

Sally Ballard,¹³⁺¹⁶ the seventh child of Bland Ballard,¹³ married Benjamin Pulliam and had one son, Bland Ballard Pulliam,¹³⁺¹⁷ who, it might be well to state, was born January 24, 1798, and died October 6, 1853. Because of an alleged quarrel with his father, Bland Ballard Pulliam changed his name to Fulliam, and as a result of that change the descendants of Sally Ballard Pulliam bear the name Fulliam.

Thursia Ballard,¹³⁺¹⁸ the eighth child of Bland Ballard,¹³ was, as already stated, saved by her brother, Bland W. Ballard, from the Ballard Massacre. She lived to be an old woman and bore the marks of the tomahawk or scalping knife until her death. She married Joshua West, November 23, 1814, and had seven children. Thursia Ballard West is buried in Franklin County, Kentucky, where some of her descendants are still living.^v

THE BALLARD MASSACRE has been told and retold, also distorted, by tellers of Kentucky traditions. We shall here confine our account of this tragedy chiefly to the earlier documentary records known to us.

As already stated, Bland Ballard¹³ and his family returned in 1787 from Linn's Station to Tyler Station. Presumably on ac-

^v See copy of gravestone inscriptions in The Ballard Files, The Ballard Massacre, in The Filson Club.

count of the crowded condition in the stockade, Bland Ballard¹¹ built a cabin a short distance from Tyler Station. Bland W. Ballard¹² did not move his family into his father's cabin, but remained inside the stockade. Several months later Bland Ballard¹¹ and all but one of his family who were in the cabin were massacred by Indians.

BLAND W. BALLARD'S¹² ACCOUNT OF THE BALLARD MASSACRE is probably the most accurate of the varied accounts. It is given by him in an interview with Dr. Lyman C. Draper, in November, 1844, in Shelby County, Kentucky. It is here quoted in full:

"Bland Ballard¹² settled on Tick Creek, five miles east of Shelbyville, about Christmas, 1787. On the 31st of March, 1788, as the heavy snow of that winter had just passed, a party of fifteen or twenty Delawares (the same as was supposed who killed Col. Isaac Cox) (see Spalding's *Kentucky Sketches*) made their appearance early in the morning, and killed John Ballard¹³ out at the wood pile, in his sixteenth year; the Indians then surrounded the house of Mr. Ballard, who had two loaded guns in the house. As soon as the Indians fired and killed John Ballard, Bland W. Ballard¹² (who lived together with Robert Tyler, John Kline and one Bailey, and their families, in some cabins close together, something like a hundred and fifty yards from old Mr. Ballard's) ran out to see, and soon discovered the Indians among the trees: Ballard treed in such a position so as to guard the front door of his father's house; several of the Indians commenced firing at Bland W. Ballard, while several others went to the rear of the house, knocked the chinking out of the house, and shot old Mr. Ballard; his son, Benjamin,¹⁴ in his fourteenth year, his little daughter Elizabeth¹⁵ about a year old, wounded another daughter Thersia¹⁶ about two years old, then bursted in the back door, when Mrs. Ballard broke out the front door, was overtaken and tomahawked in the yard; the Indians then got in the house (sic) was taken some distance, and probably designed taking to their town, but making some resistance probably they tomahawked him, some seventy yards off; little Elizabeth was tomahawked in the [house?] and little Thersia was there tomahawked, and they attempted to pull off its shirt, but the wristbands being sewed they drew it over its head and thus left the garment, throwing the child into a waterhole in the yard. All except the child were scalped.

"B. W. Ballard¹³ got six shots and brought (down) an Indian every time, the seventh shot was at an Indian behind the fence, and he aimed at his forehead just over the top of the upper rail and lodged the ball in the rail about an inch too low. Bland W. Ballard saw each of his six Indians tumble over.

"Tyler ran out at the first alarm, and shot a long shot—this was before B. W. Ballard got treed, some fifty yards from his house. Tyler fired no more; staid to guard his house; Bailey made no effort, and Kline was rather old and was no gun; and so B. W. Ballard had no help.

"After the Indians plundered the house hurriedly they decamped. Bland W. Ballard found his little sister Thersia with signs of life, he stitched up her wounds on the head and face, and she finally recovered and yet lives [1844]. It was evident that old Mr. Ballard¹⁴ shot off both guns, and was in the act of loading when he was himself shot—and the Indians subsequently confessed that they lost seven of their party before reaching their towns; and hence Mr. Ballard must have killed one.

"B. W. Ballard and the other men searched and found, within a distance of three miles, six dead bodies where the Indians had hurriedly buried them. Ballard had one brother, James,¹⁵ who was not at home, who was thus saved."^w

JUDGE BLAND BALLARD'S¹⁴⁻¹⁶ ACCOUNT OF THE BALLARD MASSACRE differs slightly from the account of his uncle, Bland W. Ballard,¹³ given above. Judge Ballard wrote to Draper on March 27, 1845; regarding the Massacre he said:^x

"The attack on my Grandfather's house was made about day-break. My uncle Bland slept in the fort nearby. My father, who is about two years the junior of my uncle, was at a Mr. Guinn's about three miles off attending school, and my uncles John & Benjamin the former about 16 and the latter 14 years of age together with Grandfather, Grandmother & an aunt slept in the dwelling house. My uncle Bland being aroused by the firing of guns ran out of the fort and when he had proceeded about half way to my Grandfather's house commenced firing on the Indians. He fired frequently, but as the dead and wounded were all carried off there was no means of certainly ascertaining how many he had killed. My uncle was always of the opinion that he had killed six and this impression was confirmed by the

^w See footnote T.

^x Judge Bland Ballard's account in a letter to Dr. Draper, March 27, 1845, Draper Mss., 8J184-1, photostat in The Filson Club.

report of two young men, citizens of Woodford County, Ky. who have been taken prisoner by this same party of Indians & released. These young men reported that seven Indians were killed or mortally wounded in the attack referred to. It is quite certain that John killed none. He was found dead outside and near the house and no arms of any kind near him. Benjamin I think was attempting to escape to the fort but was overtaken and killed, and there is no possibility that my Grandfather killed more than one, Grandmother or rather my step grandmother was attempting to escape towards my uncle Bland and had proceeded about forty yards from the house when she was overtaken & killed."

Judge Bland Ballard also stated in another letter to Dr. Draper (8J183-4, photostat in *The Filson Club*) that "Maj. Ballard when asked how many Indians he has killed in one day, has often replied 'I killed six one morning before breakfast, & not a very good morning for the business.'" The six Indians he referred to were, in all probability, those he had killed at Tyler Station on the morning of the Ballard Massacre.

LOCATION OF TYLER STATION AND THE BALLARD MASSACRE: Addison M. Ballard¹¹⁴⁴ in his Journal under date of Friday, February 11, 1842, recorded the following regarding the location of Tyler Station, near which the Ballard Massacre took place:

"Cloudy & rained a little last night (and) nearly all day. I went with Capt. Owen, Jas. Raley & O'Banon to Tyler's Fort or Station on Tick Creek about one mile from Threldkills, where old Bland Ballard,¹² wife, son and daughter were killed by the Indians . . . Saw where the old Fort stood & where they were buried & an old well &c . . . land is now owned by Willis Parish & (he) has cultivated the soil where the fort stood which is known now only by that spot's producing Jamestown weeds . . ."^x

In an effort to determine the site of the Bland Ballard cabin Mr. R. C. Ballard Thruston¹²⁴⁻¹⁴⁵ made two trips to Shelby County, one in 1917 and another in 1921. Upon his return from the first he wrote the following memorandum:

"On Friday, July 20th, 1917, at Shelbyville, Ky., I went with Mr. John T. Ballard,¹¹⁴³ aged 83, his son, Mr. Camden Ballard,¹¹⁴² his son, Fielding E. Ballard,¹¹⁴⁵ and Mr. Benjamin Matthews,¹²⁴¹⁴ to view the scene of the old Ballard Massacre.

^x Journal of Addison M. Ballard in archives of Kentucky State Historical Society. Photostat in *The Filson Club*.

"Five miles east of Shelbyville, on the Frankfort pike, we stopped at the old Cross Keys Tavern, where Mr. Camden W. Ballard¹¹⁴¹ remained and we were there joined by Mr. W. R. Middleton. Continuing on the road about a mile or so beyond this house, we turned to the left through a gate and over a rough rocky road about a mile to the residence of Mrs. Betty Rice. There we left the motor and walked probably a mile or a mile and a half to a boundary line fence crossing Tick Creek. Crossing this fence and to the west side of the creek we were at the upper end of a small bottom, probably varying in width from 25 to 100 yards and in length some 500 yards. On the west side was quite a little bluff, on the top of which, and near the lower or northern end of the bottom, Cousin John T. Ballard¹¹⁴² tells me, was situated an old block house, built by his grandfather, James Ballard;¹¹⁴ and my great-grandfather; Bland Ballard,¹² and his sons, etc. And in the bottom itself was the site of the log cabin where the Ballard family was massacred in March, 1788. There is nothing at present to show any location of either blockhouse or cabin.

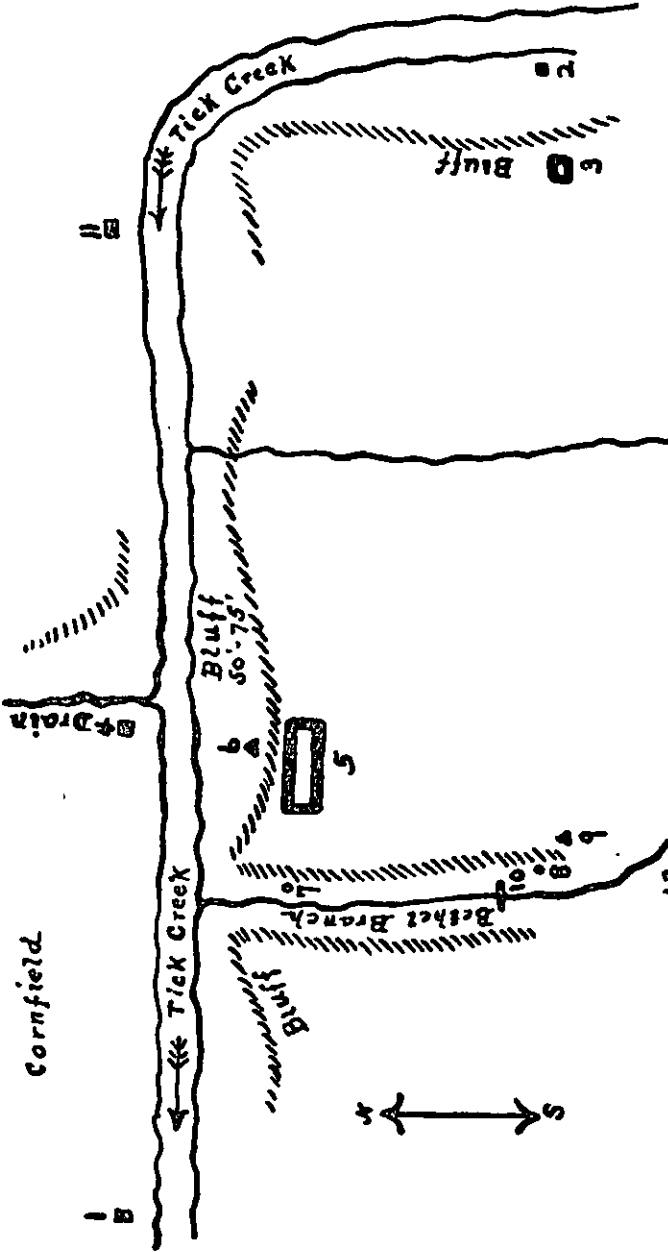
"The bottom itself, probably over flowed at high water, is rich alluvial soil, is on the land of Mr. R. B. Newton, across the creek from and a few hundred yards above his house. The cabin location is near the line of Mr. Newton's land and the corner between Mr. Steve Weakley and Mrs. Betty Rice.

"Mr. John T. Ballard tells me his authority for this was obtained from conversations with old Bland W. Ballard and my uncle, the late W. H. H. Ballard,¹¹⁴³ who had on many occasions visited it with his father, James Ballard,¹¹⁴ and had promised to take Mr. John T. Ballard to view the site, but failed to do so."

In September, 1921, Mr. Thruston and others revisited the locality of the Ballard cabin and then more definitely located the site of the log house and Station a mile or so farther downstream. His notes pertaining to that investigation pilgrimage are here quoted in full:

"Tuesday September 13, 1921. Trip to scene of Ballard Massacre on Tick Creek, about five miles east of Shelbyville, Kentucky. Our Company consisted of the following:

"Mr. J. T. Ballard, Mr. Camden Ballard, Mr. Fielding W. Ballard, Mr. Fielding E. Ballard, Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Matthews, and Mrs. J. Cunningham, Mr. W. D. Hope, Mrs. Josephine Thurman, Mr. John M. Casey, and son Joseph Casey,



SKETCH MAP OF THE SITE OF BALLARD MASSACRE OF 1788

Based on observations made by R. C. Ballard Thruston in 1917 and 1921

- 1. Lower end of bottom where Ballard cabin was long presumed to have stood.
- 2. Ballard cabin as located in 1917.
- 3. Tyler Station as located in 1917.
- 4. Tenant cabin on site of Ballard cabin and scene of the massacre as determined in 1921.
- 5. Location of Tyler Station as determined in 1921.
- 6. Sycamore tree.
- 7. Spring.
- 8. Spring.
- 9. Beach tree.
- 10. Water gap at Ballard fort line.
- 11. R. B. Newton house.
- 12. Bethel Branch, heading at Cross Keys Tavern.

and Mr. Adriel V. Weakley, all of Shelby Co., Ky., and Miss Ludie J. Kinkead and R. C. Ballard Thruston of Louisville, Ky.

"The Frankfort pike crosses Clear Creek on a bridge at the eastern edge of Shelbyville from which my measurements are made on the soil map of Shelby Co., Ky.

"We went out the old Frankfort pike now called the Benson Pike, which deflects to the north of the present Frankfort pike about one quarter of a mile east of the Clear Creek bridge and opposite the scene of the massacre, the distance between these pikes is about two miles.

"Tick Creek heads along the Harrisonville and Bagdad pike ($7\frac{3}{4}$ to 8 miles east of the Clear Creek bridge) with a watershed that includes virtually all the territory between these two Frankfort pikes, and extends westward for about $4\frac{1}{4}$ miles to where it empties into 'Guists Cr.' some $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles east of Clear Creek Bridge. The valley of Tick Creek is therefore about 4 miles long not counting its bends.

"The old Cross Keys Tavern is on the north side of the present Frankfort pike about $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles east of Clear Creek bridge. Near this old tavern heads the Bethel (sometimes called Cross Keys) Branch which flows northward for a mile or more and empties into Tick Creek from a mile to $1\frac{1}{4}$ miles from its mouth.

"Tick Creek has cut its way through the soft limestone and associated rock and now has a narrow strip of bottom land probably seldom over 75 to 100 yards wide that is covered by water during floods or freshets; on each side of this is a slope commonly called 'The bluff,' probably 50 to 75 feet high, being too steep for cultivation, is well timbered. Above it is the characteristic rolling bluegrass land. The many small branches of Tick Creek have cut lesser canyons for themselves.

"*Tyler's Station*: Just above the bluff south of Tick Creek and east of the Bethel or Cross Keys branch stood the old (Robert) Tyler Station consisting of two (possibly three) log cabins and the stockade, connecting or including them, the whole being about 150 or 200 feet long. The stockade being of the usual type of logs or puncheon boards, with one end buried about three feet in the ground and the other projecting about 10 or 12 feet above and so close fitting as to avoid one on the outside shooting through cracks at one within. Cousin John T. Ballard (aged 87 Jany., 1921) says there was a walk around the outside of the stockade. Mr. W. D. Hope said the timbers had been

cleared from the site of the Stockade and for some distance around—that being used in construction of the Station, cabins &c, because his father was, in 1849, the first to plow that site, and found neither tree nor stump in doing so, notwithstanding the statement of Addison M. Ballard in his journal under date of 'Friday Feby. 11th, 1842' that 'Willis Parish & (he) has cultivated the soil where the fort stood which is known now only by that spot's producing Jamestown weeds.'

"Springs at the foot of the Bluff: On the east side of Bethel Branch some 75 yards above its mouth and 50 yards from the western end of the Stockade there is a spring from which they obtained their water except in very dry weather when it ceases to flow. Fully 150 or 200 yards further up stream is another and never failing spring, that is now largely filled in and at which is now a dug pool of stagnant water. This spring is some 75 feet east of Bethel Branch and 40 or 50 feet west of a large Beach tree. It is here they obtained their water supply when the lower spring failed.

"Between these two springs there is a water gap in the branch where crosses a property line known as 'The Ballard fort line.'

"On the south side of Tick Creek, there is a long narrow bottom that has been cultivated and fenced but now looks as if it had been allowed to fallow for some years.

"Location of Bland Ballard Cabin: Into the north side of Tick Creek nearly opposite the upper end of the stockade and 100 yards or so above the mouth of Bethel Branch empties a small nameless drain of $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ a mile in length. Below this is a long bottom with so gradual an ascent, to the top of the hill back of it, that practically all of it is planted in corn this year. It is in this bottom near the lower end of the field that Mr. Hope says his grandfather stated the Ballard cabin stood some 200 yards northwest of Tylers Station.

"Mr. Hope, Mr. Casey and I walked to a vantage point in this field from which we viewed the landscape with the hope of being able to locate the probable site of the Ballard cabin. We thought that he would have avoided the low bottom subject to overflow and yet if that were done we saw no location where there

would likely be a pool of water near the cabin unless it were near a drain at either the upper or lower end of the field; the upper would be within or about 150 yards and therefore we concluded that the Ballard Cabin probably stood near the upper end of the field a few yards below the nameless drain near where there is now a small tenant cabin.

“From Cousin John T. Ballard’s recollections of his conversations with Bland W. Ballard 70 to 75 years ago and the family and other traditions that others of the party had it seems that there was a double sycamore tree in the low bottom land at the foot of the bluff just below the stockade and on the south side of Tick Creek. This could not have been more than 40 or 50 yards from the stockade and was but little below the tenant house above mentioned. This is the tree behind which Bland W. Ballard treed when he went to the assistance of his father’s family on the morning of the massacre (March 31, 1788) his wife standing at some point of vantage within or near the stockade directing his attention to the movements of the Indians or, at any rate, certain of them.

“This sycamore tree has long since disappeared but its location could not be far from the point indicated. From there Ballard could have done effective work with the old flint-lock rifle of that day provided his father’s cabin were situated near the present tenant cabin but had it been at the lower end of that field the distance would have been too far away.

“Mrs. Josephine Thurman had with her an original letter dated November 27, 1872, from John W. Williamson to Mr. A. Matthews (Mrs. Thurman’s father) giving his family traditions both as to Boone’s defeat in 1781 and the Ballard Massacre in 1788. In this he stated that the five members of the Ballard family who were killed were all buried in one grave.

“We saw nothing to indicate the site of such grave. Mr. Adriel Weakley stated that when his father (S. S. Weakley) bought that property, Mr. Parish pointed out the location of the old fort, cabin and grave and told him the latter must not be plowed over. He thinks its location is on the south side of Tick Creek near the extreme lower end of the bottom just above the

mouth of Bethel Branch. This would place it possibly just within the cleared land and probably 40 yards or so north of the stockade."

THE TYLER STATION MARKER: In the spring of 1927 the Isaac Shelby Chapter, D. A. R., erected a marker on the Louisville and Lexington Road, east of Shelbyville and near the site of Old Cross Keys Tavern. It is an old millstone placed on edge and securely held in a concrete foundation. On its face is a bronze tablet bearing this inscription:²

TYLER STATION, ONE HALF MILE N. E. OF TICK CREEK,
SETTLED IN 1781 BY ROBERT TYLER AND BLAND BALLARD.
ERECTED BY ISAAC SHELBY CHAPTER, DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION. 1781. 1927.

²The inscription on the Tyler Station marker appears in *The Filson Club History Quarterly*, October, 1935, Vol. 9, No. 4, page 220, under "Old Millstones of Kentucky," by William S. Webb.