



The Kentuckian

Journal of the First Families of Kentucky

Volume 12 No. 2

Fall 2018



Greetings from the Governor General

I hope that each and every one of you have had a pleasant summer. It was a pleasure seeing a number of you at the Annual Banquet in June. Those of you who attended know that our plans to begin at 5:30 p.m. were somewhat thwarted by road construction on I-64. We did begin the meeting after six with a number of attendees still on the road. At 6:30 dinner was served and as members continued to arrive they were served. My gratitude goes out to the staff



of the Pendennis Club for serving the meals hot and timely as our members arrived. The highlight of the evening was our guest speaker, Dr. Randell Jones. His topic was "*Daniel Boone Before and*

After Kentucky: a Wife, a Daughter, a Granddaughter". It was an interesting program and Dr. Jones offered a number of the books he has written for sale after the banquet. This past spring, past Governor General William C. Schrader presented a Certificate of Recognition to an Air Force R.O.T.C. cadet at the University of Louisville from the First Families of Kentucky.

I continue to urge the membership to please send in articles regarding their Kentucky ancestry. These articles make up a good portion of our Newsletter and are most interesting to

First Families of Kentucky

Luncheon

Saturday, the 27th of October

Two thousand and eighteen

Spindletop Hall

3414 Iron Works Pike

Lexington, Kentucky

Social hour eleven-thirty

Luncheon at twelve noon

\$30.00 per person

Speaker: Joan Mayer

"Of Family and Place"

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our readers. Submission of these articles can be sent to Frieda Wheatley at this email address jmurelwheatley@yahoo.com.

The Fall Luncheon will be held in Lexington at Spindletop Hall on Saturday, October 27, 2018 at 11:30 a.m. The speaker at this meeting will be Joan Mayer, author of "Of Family and Place". She will be sharing some of the stories in her book. Her book will be for sale after the meeting. Please enjoy the rest of the summer and I am looking forward to seeing you in October.

Kindest Regards,
Governor General Arthur Dietz, Jr.

Spindletop Hall Menu

Baby Wedge Salad
with blue cheese, applewood bacon, and grape tomatoes
Grilled Lemon-Rosemary Chicken
roast fingerling potatoes, haricot vert and parsley pesto (gf)
Lemon chess pie
Rolls
Tea/Coffee/Soft Drinks



Edmund N. Myles of Shelbyville, husband of past Governor General Mary David Myles, passed away July 19, 2018. He was a veteran of WW II, a member of the First Families of Kentucky, and many other historical organizations.

First Families of Kentucky Banquet



Speaker Randell Jones



Arthur H. Dietz, Jr.



Donna B. Hughes



John Parsley, Myrna Parsley, Bettie Miesner



Jerry Ford, Faye Charpentier-Ford



First Families of Kentucky Banquet June 9, 2018



Kay Thomas, Jack J. Early



William A. Buckaway, Jr.



Sharon Withers, Dennis Withers



Jeanette Wortham



Jane Dietz



Susan Smith, Rev. Paul Smith



William C. Schrader, III



Betty Rose



Stephanie Griffen, Steve Griffen



William Swinford



Randell Jones, Art Dietz



Joan Mayer



Don Shaw from SAR, Paula Shaw



Donna Durbin, Susan Combs



Doug Harper, Katherine Ratliff



Julia Slayton, Pascal Bailey, Jane Bailey, Jana Bailey, Linda Tanner, Gary Tanner



Donna Hughes, Sharon Withers



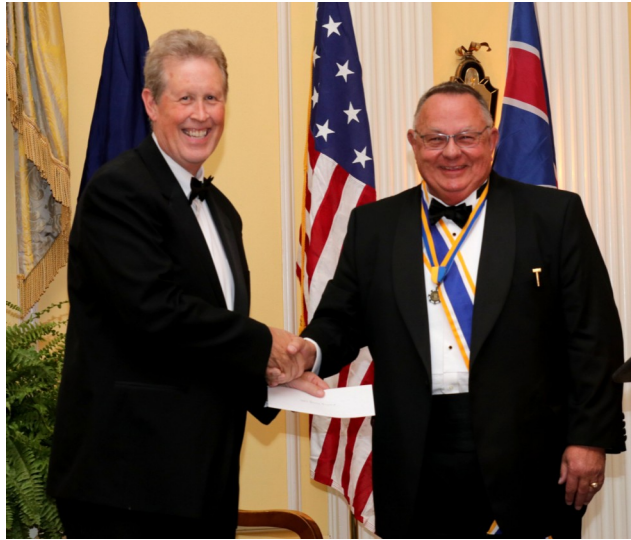
Terrell Black



Jack Early, June Farris



First Families of Kentucky



Don Shaw, Art Dietz



Robert Richardson



Singing 'My Old Kentucky Home'

Ballard

The family of Bland Ballard, mentioned in the Spring issue of *The Kentuckian*, had more than one member who is worthy of remembrance, although Bland is perhaps the most colorful. Let us examine the origins of this family in America. The earliest uncontested ancestor of the Ballards of Kentucky is Col. Thomas Ballard (1630-1689). There is circumstantial but inconclusive evidence that he was a son of Henry Ballard, who is attested in Virginia in 1636, and who arrived on the ship "James" the previous year. Thomas Ballard was most likely born in 1630 at Inkberrow in Worcestershire, England. In 1650 Thomas married Anne Thomas, his first wife, who lived until 1678. He was a resident of York County at the time of the wedding. On 16 July 1655 Thomas patented 1,000 acres in Gloucester County, in an area later part of Kent County, by right of having imported twenty persons to the colony.

In 1663 Thomas and Anne took up residence in James City County, and he was chosen to represent that county in the House of Burgesses in 1666. Later that year, he served with representatives of Maryland and Carolina on a joint committee to discuss tobacco prices, and was the only member to dissent from the committee's decisions. The agreement was voided anyway, so the Governor seems to have agreed with him. Thomas was made a member of the Council by Governor Sir William Berkeley. In 1668 he made his home at Middle Plantation, which later became Williamsburg. There he purchased from Thomas Ludwell a large tract of land which included all the grounds of the later William and Mary College.

In 1676 there was a major uprising in Virginia led by Nathaniel Bacon. Bacon and his army of frontiersmen lay siege to Governor Berkeley in Jamestown. As a weapon of war, Bacon's men rounded up the wives of the members of the Council, including Anne Ballard, and stationed them

on the palisade they had constructed as their protection during the siege. This effectively prevented the government troops from utilizing their weapons, and so the Governor had to abandon the capital for a time.

Thomas Ballard also served as a member of the militia, in which capacity he gained the title of colonel. He was also a vestryman of Bruton Parish in Jamestown. He died on 24 March 1689 at Middle Plantation, and was buried at Bruton there.

The eldest son of Thomas and Anne was also named Thomas (1653-1711). He was married first to Elizabeth Bland, then to Katherine Hubbard, and inherited the land at Middle Plantation, among other assets, from his father. In 1690 a committee was formed to plan for the establishment of a university in Virginia, which would be the second oldest in the English colonies. In 1693 the younger Thomas sold his inheritance at Middle Plantation to the committee, which became the campus of William and Mary College, founded that year and named for King William III and Queen Mary II. In 1699 the capital of Virginia was moved here and renamed Williamsburg, also for King William.

A descendant of the younger Thomas Ballard was Bland Williams Ballard, who was born on 16 October 1761 in Spotsylvania County, the son of Bland Ballard and Elizabeth Williams. As a young man, he came to Kentucky with his father and family in 1779, and immediately joined the militia of what was then Kentucky County. He served under Col. John Bowman against the British and their Indian allies, and accompanied George Rogers Clark in the campaign against the Piqua towns in present day Hamilton County, Ohio, in 1780. He was involved in the Long Run Massacre on 14 September 1781, in which a party of Indians attacked a group of settlers attempting to flee from Squire Boone's settlement of Painted Stone Station to stronger defenses in Jefferson County.

Even after the conclusion of the Revolutionary

War, the conflict with the Indians continued. In 1786 Bland Ballard served as Clark's "spy", i.e., scout and intelligence gatherer, in the expedition on the Wabash against Kickapoo and Miami warriors who had seized Vincennes. Then, in 1788, came the Tick Creek Massacre. The senior Bland Ballard's family had moved to an exposed position on Tick Creek, near Tyler Station, in what is now Shelby County. There, on 31 March 1788, the family was surprised by a band of Delaware Indians. The father and his second wife, along with two sons, Benjamin and John, and a small daughter, Elizabeth, lost their lives. Bland Williams Ballard said he killed six Indians in the fray. After that, he served with General Anthony Wayne at the Battle of Fallen Timbers on 20 August 1794, and was present for the Battle of Tippecanoe on 7 November 1811. When the War of 1812 broke out, Ballard served under Governor William Henry Harrison against the Indians at the Battle of the River Raisin on 22 January 1813, at which he was wounded and taken prisoner. He was one of the fortunate ones who was sent to Fort George, and thus escaped the subsequent massacre of prisoners. Bland Williams Ballard was released at the conclusion of the war in 1815. He stated that in his lifetime he had killed about thirty or forty Indians.

In addition to his role as Indian fighter, Bland Ballard also served as the representative of Shelby County in the Kentucky General Assembly in 1795, 1800, 1803, 1805, and 1811. The 1795 tax list shows him as owner of four properties on the Jefferson/Shelby County line amounting in all to 1,350 acres. He also surveyed the road from Shelbyville to the Falls of the Ohio which later became US Highway 60.

Bland Williams Ballard died at his home in Shelby County on 5 September 1853, and was buried there, but his remains were later moved to Lexington.

But Bland Williams Ballard was by far not the last significant member of his family. On 6 November 1858, Rogers Clark Ballard was born in

Louisville, the son of Andrew Jackson Ballard and Frances Thruston. He later added the name Thruston at his mother's request. He was a graduate of Yale and an engineer and geologist. His collection of photographs is a major asset at the Filson Historical society. R. C. Ballard Thruston served in many capacities, as a director of Ballard & Ballard Flour Mills, as chairman of the Louisville Chapter of the American Red Cross from 1917-18, as director of the Speed Museum in Louisville and of Liberty Hall in Frankfort. He joined the Sons of the American Revolution in 1890, serving as President of the Kentucky Society 1911-13, and as President General of the National Society two terms, from 1913 to 1915. In this capacity he organized the re-enactment of General Washington's journey from Philadelphia to Boston where he took command of the continental troops. He was President of the Filson Club from 1923, and almost single-handedly preserved it from an early demise. He acquired a major collection related to the signers of the Declaration of Independence, which is now at the Filson. Ballard died on 30 December 1946, and is buried in Cave Hill Cemetery.

William C. Schrader, III

Choctaw Academy

The Choctaw Indians, who spoke the Muskogean language, originally lived in the territory which is now included in Georgia, Alabama, and southern Mississippi. The Choctaw farmed the fertile land of the Mississippi River Valley until the white settlers began to covet their land. Continually pressured by settlers and the government, the Choctaw of Mississippi agreed to swap their eastern lands for new holdings in the West between the years of 1816 and 1820. In 1817 the Federal Government began sending large Indian populations to Oklahoma. In 1834 the region became the Indian Territory.

A letter to Charles Jouett, Indian Agent, from the office of Indian Trade, dated December 29, 1817, relates that the Kentucky Baptist Society is anxious to start the valuable work of educating the younger members of Indian families between the ages of five and eighteen. The place selected for the education of both male and female is in Scott County, Kentucky, at a place called Great Crossings. The school, name unknown according to the *Encyclopedia of Southern Baptist*, opened in the spring of 1819 with eight boys, but closed in 1821 for lack of funds.

In 1825 Richard M. Johnson, a United States Senator from Kentucky, received a request from the Choctaw leaders that another school be started. The leaders wanted part of the money they received as a result of the treaties with the government in 1820 and 1825 to fund the new school. The Choctaw Nation of Indians expressed a wish for the sum of \$6,000 per annum for a period of twenty years to be used for the school called *Choctaw Academy*. The money was to be used for room and board. The Johnson family owned a vast amount of land in the area of Great Crossings, established in 1784 as the Great Buffalo Crossing Station. (Col. Richard M. Johnson, credited with killing Indian Chief Tecumseh, was a U. S. Representative, a senator, and vice-president of the United States.) Johnson decided to place the new school on his farm in Scott County, Kentucky, called *Blue Spring*, located near Great Crossings and named for the fresh water spring, so deep it looked blue. Rev. Thomas Henderson was appointed tutor for the school by the Baptist Board of Missions, which had been approved by the War Department and the President of the United States. The curriculum was to consist of reading, writing, and arithmetic, along with geography, grammar, surveying, astronomy, and vocal music. The Academy consisted of five buildings; four stone buildings and one frame building built near Johnson's home.

On November 9, 1825, the *Louisville Public Advertiser* carried the story that twenty-one Indian children from the Choctaw Nation had arrived by horseback in Georgetown, Kentucky, at Col. Richard M. Johnson's residence for the purpose of receiving an education. The boys had traveled almost a month to reach their destination. Later, boys from other tribes and white boys from prestigious families in the neighborhood attended the Academy. Over time approximately two to three hundred Indian students attended the Academy.

Seventeen boys joined the nearby Great Crossings Baptist Church in 1828. Some students, lonesome or unhappy, ran away from the school and returned home. The only mode of travel for the runaways was by foot over hundreds of miles. When the boys finally reached home their unkempt appearance and the tales they told did not reflect well on the Academy.

In the beginning the Academy was very popular among the Indians, but in the autumn of 1828 a complaint made by Peter P. Pitchlynn contained charges of poor food, soiled table linens, poor sleeping accommodations, insufficiency of proper clothing, and bad service in general.

In May of 1830 Congress passed the Indian Removal Bill, a federal law authorizing the president to remove all Indians from the southeast, and the enforced movements were carried out over several years. The Choctaw, having approximately twenty-three million acres of land, was the first tribe to be affected. The removal of the Choctaw to Oklahoma had a detrimental effect on the school in Kentucky as student enrollment declined. In 1831 the Choctaw Academy was moved from the *Blue Spring* farm to nearby *Oakland* farm. A number of new buildings were built for agriculture, a blacksmith shop, shoe and boot maker shop, tailor, wheelwright, and cabinet maker shops. But many of the Indian Chiefs did not think their children should take up a trade.

From the War Department Office of Indian

Affairs on March 13, 1841, Mr. Henderson was notified that his services were no longer required and that Col. Peter P. Pitchlynn was appointed to succeed him. Pitchlynn accepted the post of superintendent of the Choctaw Academy in 1841. Many Choctaw leaders had been unhappy with the boarding school for some time and wanted it closed. Pitchlynn was able to convince the government to close the Academy and apply the annuity funds to schools within the Nation. It is ironic that Peter Perkins Pitchlynn, a member of the Choctaw National Council was instrumental in bringing the Academy into existence in 1825, and as superintendant was the one who brought the Academy to a close in 1843. Pitchlynn, elected chief in 1864-1866, spent the remainder of his life in Washington D.C., working to secure the funds the government owed the Choctaw tribe for their Mississippi land. He died in 1881 and is buried in the Congressional Cemetery in Washington.

(Information: Filson Historical Society private letters)

Choctaw Academy was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1972. The one remaining building of the school is to be restored.

Frieda Curtis-Wheatley

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