

Richard Parks Bland (1835-1899)

By Jerry Long



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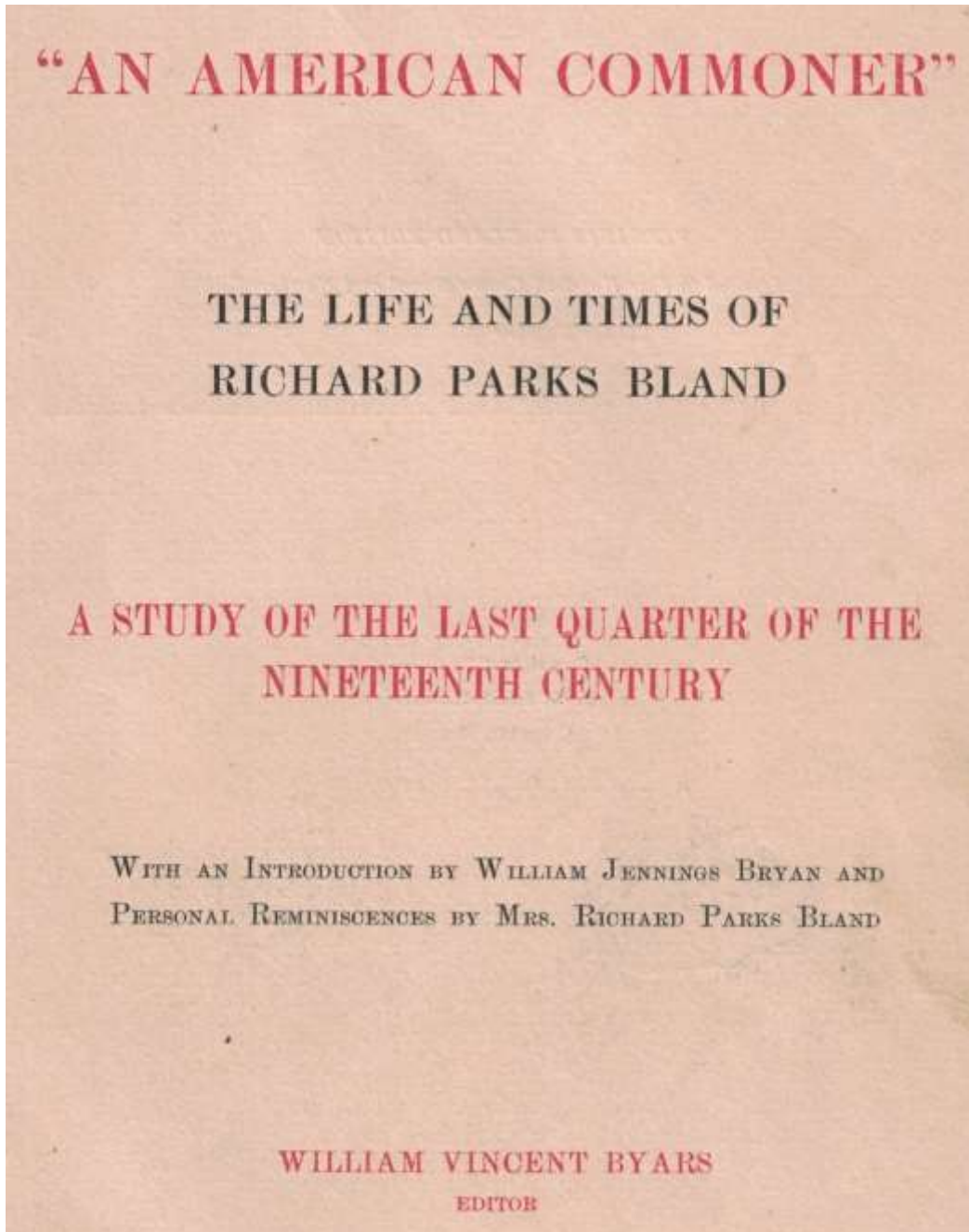


Biographical Directory of the United States Congress, 1774-2005
Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 2005:

Richard Parks Bland

A Representative from Missouri; born near Hartford, Ohio County, Ky., August 19, 1835; received an academic education; moved to Missouri in 1855, thence to California, and later to that portion of Utah which is now the State of Nevada; taught school for several years; studied law; was admitted to the bar and commenced practice in Virginia City; also interested in mining; treasurer of Carson County from 1860 until the organization of the State government of Nevada; returned to Missouri in 1865 and continued the practice of law in Rolla; moved to Lebanon, Laclede County, in August 1869; elected as a Democrat to the Forty-third and to the ten succeeding Congresses (March 4, 1873-March 3, 1895); chairman, Committee on Mines and Mining (Forty-fourth Congress), Committee on Coinage, Weights, and Measures (Forty-eighth through Fiftieth Congresses and Fifty-second and Fifty-third Congresses); sponsor of the Bland-Allison silver

purchase act of 1878; unsuccessful candidate for reelection in 1894 to the Fifty-fourth Congress; elected to the Fifty-fifth and Fifty-sixth Congresses and served from March 4, 1897, until his death; in 1896 was a prominent candidate for the Democratic nomination for President, receiving two hundred and ninety votes; died in Lebanon, Mo., June 15, 1899; interment in Lebanon Cemetery. Bibliography: Haswell, Harold A., Jr. "The Public Life of Congressman Richard Parks Bland." Ph.D. diss., University of Missouri-Columbia, 1951.



E. W. Stephens, Publisher, Columbia, Missouri, 1900; 404 pages.



MR. BRYAN'S INTRODUCTION.

RICHARD P. BLAND combined, in a rare degree, those qualities which are essential in the successful public servant. He was in fact, an ideal representative of the people. He was honest with himself and with his fellows; he was industrious and devoted conscientiously to his work; his habits, his tastes and his ambitions were such as to protect him from the temptations which hover about those who are conspicuous in public life; he had convictions deep and controlling; his ideas were high and pure; he had the ability to present his views with clearness and force—his eloquence being the eloquence of one who knew what he was talking about and meant what he said; and he had the courage to express his opinion and stand by it, regardless of the consequences which might follow to himself.

Measuring all questions by the fundamental principles which underlie our government, his career was remarkably free from the inconsistencies which have so often marred the lives of great men. He was reared among the plain people and was their faithful friend and champion; he never partook of the lotus fruit which makes the recipient of a public trust forgetful of those who confer it.

He was democratic in the broadest sense of the term, he had implicit confidence in the capacity of the people for self government and an abiding faith that they would, in the end, solve aright every social and political problem.

He was a pioneer in the great struggle for the restoration of bimetallism for two decades led the silver fight in the House of Representatives. That he was correct in the position he took on the money question is evident from the fact that for twenty years after he gave his name to the coinage law of 1878 all political parties in the United States continued to promise the restoration of bimetallism, differing only as to the means of securing the desired result; and when the gold standard was openly espoused by the republican party, it was defended, not upon the ground that the original demonetization of silver was wise, but upon the ground that new conditions had arisen.

Mr. Bland was with his party on every public question and was prominent in the fight within the party which resulted in the adoption of the Chicago platform. If the nomination had been given merely as a reward for public service he would have had no competitor for the honor. Whether his nomination would have brought victory to the party in 1896 is a question which cannot now be determined, but certain it is that no aspirant for a public office ever manifested less disappointment over the result or gave to his successful rival more earnest and sincere support.

Mr. Bland's life was a success. He did not amass a fortune. But he measures life by a low standard who estimates success by the dollars either received or saved. Many, without possessing real merit, have secured great wealth by inheritance or by accident; while many have saved by dwarfing themselves, stinting those dependent upon them, and withholding from society that contribution which is due from the more favored to the less fortunate.

He left his impress upon the age in which he lived and gave back to society full compensation for all the honors he received. To the members of his party his life was an inspiration; to his immediate family it is an inheritance more valuable and more permanent than lands or bonds.

"A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches; and loving favor rather than silver and gold."

WM. J. BRYAN.



Left – Photograph of Mr. Bland taken in Virginia City, Nevada prior to 1865. Right – The Bland residence near Lebanon, MO

Pages: 264-276 of book, An American Commoner:

CHAPTER XXX.

Mr. Bland's Early Home in Kentucky.—The Stock From Which He Sprang.—His Life as an Orphan Boy on a Farm.—At the Plow in Summer and at School in Winter.—He Emigrates to Missouri and to California.—His Life in the Mines.—Cooking and Washing for Orphan Children.—He Studies Law and Returns to Missouri.—His Characteristics as a Lawyer.—His Work Before Election Boards Under the Drake Constitution.—Judge C. C. Bland's Reminiscences of His Mother.

By Judge Charles C. Bland*

[*Judge Charles C. Bland – Mr. Bland's brother presiding judge St. Louis court of appeals. Judge Bland says in transmitting his reminiscences to the editor. "After my tenth year my brother and I were separated for many years and I never saw him until he came to Rolla in 1867. I will add one thing here, that is, that while we practiced together, I never discovered that he was in error as to the law of a case—his Judgment on a law point seemed to be unerring at all times."]

RICHARD P. BLAND'S father, Stouten Edward Bland, was born July 14, 1807. He was reared near Lebanon, Ky., on a farm which is now owned by Proctor Knott. His ancestors emigrated from Virginia to Kentucky at a very early day. His wife, Margaret Parks Nall, eldest daughter of Richards Parks Nall and Polly Nall (nee Berryman), was born at Hartford, Ohio county, Ky., June 4, 1816. S. E. Bland and Margaret P Nall were married at Hartford, Ky., October 9, 1834.

Richard Parks Bland, the eldest child of this union was born August 19, 1835, at Hartford S. E. Bland moved from Hartford to Bland's Mills, ten miles above Hartford, on the Hartford river, in the year 1838. Here he procured the establishment of "Bland's Mills" as a postoffice, and he himself was appointed postmaster by Amos Kendall, who was then postmaster general in General Jackson's cabinet. Early in 1841 Stouten Bland gave up the management of his mill business, because of ill health, and moved his residence to a farm, about midway between the mill and Hartford. He continued to live on this farm until his death, which occurred June 5, 1842. After his death his widow with four children remained on the farm for a year, when she removed to the home of her mother who was then a widow. In 1844 she married Francis Black, a farmer in the neighborhood, and her son, Richard, went with her to the home of Mr. Black, where he remained until the death of his mother, December 20, 1849. After the death of his mother he worked as a farm hand for wages during the spring and summer and went to school during the fall and winter. Mr. Craig—I wish I could recall his given name* —who resided near Beaver Dam, was his fast and valuable friend during this period, helping him to attend school, and giving him a home at his house, whenever he chose to make it there.

[* Craig, who was still alive during the campaign of 1896. Mr. Bland heard from him as a result of correspondence growing out of an invitation to visit his old home in Kentucky, among the signatures to which appeared the name "Isaiah Craig;" supposing this to be the son of his old friend, Mr. Bland wrote:

"That I had many trials you all know, for as an orphan boy I was thrown on my own resources to work my way through life as best I could. Yet I had many sympathizing friends, who gave me. helping hand, Isaiah Craig was one. I am informed he has gone to the unknown land beyond the dark waters and if the good and kind are rewarded there for their acts here, then Isaiah Craig is blessed. I take it for granted that the 'Isaiah Craig' who signs this letter is the son of the greatest benefactor of my youth."

On learning that the signature was that of his old friend in person, Mr. Bland opened correspondence with mm and sent him money.]

Richard finished his scholastic education at the age of nineteen by graduating from the Hartford Academy, then the best school in that section of the state. After leaving school, he emigrated to Missouri and went to Wayne county, to the home of Robert Fulton, who had married Mariah Nall, the youngest sister of his mother. He taught school for three months in Wayne county, making his home with his aunt. In 1855, Mr. Fulton sold his property in Wayne county, and emigrated to California with his family, by way of New York and the isthmus. Richard accompanied them. After reaching California they engaged in mining, but Mr. Fulton soon sickened and died. His wife followed him in a short time, leaving three small children to be cared for by Richard. He continued mining and took care of the children, doing cooking and washing for them and himself, until arrangements were made to return them to Missouri. They embarked on a steamer for New York with an uncle (Fulton). When the vessel was about three miles from shore, it took fire and was burned to the water's edge. The uncle and three boys jumped overboard, and undertook to swim ashore, but the uncle and two of the boys were drowned. George (about nine years old) swam or floated ashore and was sent back to Missouri. [he now resides in Philadelphia]

Mining in California not proving profitable, Richard went to Nevada, studied law, was admitted to practice, and served as treasurer of Carson county. In 1867 he returned to Missouri and formed a partnership with his brother C. C. Bland who had opened a law office at Rolla, Missouri. This partnership continued until 1869 when Richard went to Lebanon, Mo., and opened an office there. He continued to practice law in Laclede county and counties adjacent to it, until his first election to Congress in 1872. After that date, he was not actively engaged in the practice of his profession.

When a boy, Richard was very active and fond of athletic sports. He was ambitious, determined and unfaltering in his purposes. His youth was spent on a farm, with an occasional three months term of school in the winter. He was devoted to his mother, and to his brothers and sisters. Their needs and their welfare were always his first thoughts. His own came afterwards if at all. He was studious, learned rapidly at school, and after he was fifteen years of age never lost a moment's opportunity to improve his mind by reading and study. He was fond of debating societies, joining them whenever he could do so. He never failed to take an active part in their debates. In debate and in every other way, he was fearless. If the element of fear was in his nature, it was never perceptible, but he was not quarrelsome.

With his active mind and body he could not be lazy or indolent, and it was the universal opinion of his elders, who knew him well that he would distinguish himself, if he should live to become a man.

As a lawyer, he was a formidable antagonist at any bar. He was well grounded in the principles and doctrines of the common law. Always reasoning out his conclusions from common law maxims and doctrines, it rarely happened that he failed to reach a correct conclusion as to the law of his case. He tolerated no wrong to his client. Making the client's case his own, he was more deeply concerned for the success of right principles in important cases than were his clients themselves. Nor would he submit to unfairness from the opposite counsel or from the judge on the bench.

He first attracted general notice and won his first popularity with democrats in southwest Missouri by defending rejected voters, before boards of revision, operated under the Drake Constitution. He was remarkably fearless but always courteous before these boards and seldom failed to have his client's name put on the list of qualified voters. For these services he would take no fee, declaring that his work against political proscription was a public duty, done for the good of the state.

I know so little about our father that I am unable to give the names of his parents or brothers and sisters. From a neighbor, who was his intimate friend, I learned when a child, that father was a well educated man for his period, was a school teacher when he married mother, that he was a man of great personal courage, and very religious. I have his Bible, which shows by marginal notes and references, which I believe were made by him, that he studied the book with great care. Both parents were members of the Methodist church, and I have been told that father preached occasionally in the little log church near our home. Of mother, I have very vivid memories—so much so, that were I an artist I believe I could reproduce her exact likeness on canvas. She was a patient woman, full of kindness, and in answer to calls for help in sickness, doing more volunteer nursing than any other woman in the neighborhood. When one of her brothers or sisters were sick, no one could nurse them but "Margaret." When a neighbor was sick if it were possible her services were secured. In 1849 an epidemic of typhoid fever prevailed in the neighborhood, and she continued nursing its victims until she was stricken with the disease. The fever proved fatal in her case, as it did generally in the country at that time. She was a most devoted mother, and a very sensible woman. Her life was one of toil, but one of service spent in doing good, and in making those around her happy. To my recollection she had the kindest face and the most sympathetic eyes ever I looked into, and if I could paint her, I would put a halo of glory around her head, and rays of divine light in her eyes. "Dick" had a heart like his mother's. I could pay him no higher compliment.

CHAPTER XXXI.

Mr. Bland's Boyhood in Kentucky.—Mrs. Bland Investigates and Interviews His Kinsfolk and Old Neighbors.—Shorthand Report of an Interview Between Mrs. Bland and Mr. Bland's Uncle, Mr. Frank Nall, of Ohio County, Kentucky.—How Mr. Bland Got His Characteristics.—His Truthfulness as a Boy.—The Fights He Was Forced Into.—He is Tempted to Become a Preacher.—Stops Driving Oxen and Decides to use His Intellect.—The Use of Beech Limbs by His School-Master.—The Questions He Debated as a Boy.—His First Speech and the Reputation It Made Him.—Life on No Creek in the Days of Henry Clay.

In collecting material for this volume, Mrs. Bland spent several weeks of the spring of 1900 in Ohio county, Kentucky, visiting the house in which Mr. Bland was born, the scenes of his childhood and of his youthful struggles, and gathering carefully from surviving relatives and friends who had known him in youth, such reminiscences of him as best illustrate his character. In that country of contentment and good neighborliness, where they speak the English of Addison's time and have not wholly lost the spirit of Queen Anne's reign, they live still in the "story and a half" houses of the colonial era, and know the names of their grandfathers and great-grandfathers as well as they do the pedigrees of their horses.

Out of houses of hewn logs, built when Clay and Jackson were rivals for the leadership of North America, . Bland might easily have secured authentic pedigrees of the Bland, the Nall and the Parks families, enough in themselves to make a volume larger than this, but instead of doing so, she took a stenographer with her and "interviewed" Mr. Bland's old neighbors and his kinsfolk—asking leading questions with the pertinacity of a veteran interviewer, the stenographer taking down both question and answer in. These interviews were intended only for the editor's information, but that of Mrs. Bland with Mr. Frank Nall, brother of Mr. Bland's mother, is too interesting in itself, and too valuable as documentary evidence, to be omitted—especially as Mrs. Bland's questions are often not less informing than the answers themselves. Mr. Nall is now over

seventy-six years of age.

MRS. BLAND INTERVIEWS MR. BLAND'S KENTUCKY UNCLE.

"Mr. Nall," said Mrs. Bland in opening. "I wish to learn where Mr. Bland got his characteristics. I have an idea that he took his firmness from his father and his goodness from his mother."

"He did—as far as I am capable of judging," replied Mr. Nall. Mr. Bland's father was a school teacher and I went to school to him. At the time of his death I was about ten years old. We lived close together and I was often at his house. I had a chance to know him as well as any person of my age could have done. He was a man of more than ordinary intelligence, and had a high education for that day. That is, he had a good English education. You didn't find men in those days as well educated as they are now. A man with a good English education at that time was considered a well-educated man."

"You say he was firm?" Yes, he was a man of firmness. His word was just as solid as a rock. He was a man everybody had the utmost confidence in."

"Do you think he possessed the quality Mr. Bland had of looking into a question and making up his mind, and sticking to it?" "Yes he was true to his convictions."

"Now, about his mother. Was she a firm woman?" "Yes. You know how Methodist people were raised—very strictly. She was raised by a pious mother, and she would regard a falsehood, or anything wrong with as much disfavor as we would a calamity."

"I see uncle J. C. Berryman, of Caledonia, made the statement in the papers that Mr. Bland never told a lie. Mr. Bland laughed at that. But I suppose he was a truthful boy?" "Yes, he was so regarded. The people of Ohio county had the utmost confidence in his father, and in him. They knew his father, and knew that Dick was of the same quality. Because of his natural intelligence and honesty he never lacked a friend. I can remember when I first saw him. He was a little baby playing on the carpet on the floor, and my mother used to let me go over to Mr. Bland's. It was about a mile. I was very much attached to him I loved to play with him. It was a great enjoyment to me, always, to see him laugh and enjoy himself. It might have been that I was prejudiced towards him because he was close kin, but others seemed to think as I did. As he grew and got older, he grew more attractive. He had more natural intelligence about him than was common to most children. He was quick to catch anything, and quick to learn anything, and he never forgot anything he got hold of"

"It is said he had fights when he was a boy?" "Yes, that got out in this way, I suppose. He had been tried by the boys. You know it is common when boys get together that some of them always want to get up a fight between others, and don't want to get into it themselves. They always tried to ring him in. They had a way there of trying boys' pluck. I think they tried him once or twice to their sorrow. While he never, sought a fight, he would undoubtedly fight."

"I have a general impression that Mr. Bland was a great hand at debate?" "Yes, he used to attend those debating societies. They would take up some theory, and debate it. Dick was a great favorite among the debating societies, and he had the reputation of being hard to turn down. He had a great deal more than ordinary intelligence in that line. He was a natural debater"

"Did Mr. Bland have his hearty laugh as a boy?" "Yes, he had always retained that from the time I first saw him. I never saw him after he left here in his nineteenth year. Up to that time he was always full of laughter and merry. He never seemed to take trouble at all, but was always in a good humor—full of laughter and fun."

"Do you remember any incidents or have any reminiscences about him Mr. Nall? Mrs. Perkins told me about his driving oxen and plowing and sitting on the fence. Do you remember the remark he made on that occasion?" "I don't suppose there was any work to be done on a farm by a boy that he had not done—driving oxen, hoeing, plowing, etc. I think he was some ten or twelve years old when his mother died. He had not gone to school any except what he got through the winter when he lived at Black's. After his mother died, he tried Dr. Downard's a while. He offered him a satiation, and he went there to live, but he hired out to Mr. Craig by the month and not to Mr. Downard. Mr. Craig, you know, was, a farmer, and as a general rule they rise very early and get their work through before the heat of the day. He would work there through the spring and summer and go to school in the winter, and attend those debating societies, and study at night. Mr. Craig was a very good scholar and he took great pains in tutoring Dick, and he did not require Dick to pay turn for anything he could do for him. He seemed willing to help him in any way he could, and did.

"Mr. Bland sent him some money, in his last days did he not?" "Yes, a check for \$50. That was a present in remembrance of his kindness to him."

"Mrs. Mitchell told me that he was plowing one day, and that he stopped after he had made one or two rows, and sat down on the fence to rest, and took up a stick and began to whittle on it, and remarked that he could do better than that, and that he did not intend to drive oxen, all his life." "Yes, he always said that he never expected to get a living by hard labor—that he was not built that way. That is the reason he applied himself to study. I remember that when he lived at Mr. Craig's and attended school there in the neighborhood, the teacher who taught there was only the ordinary country school teacher. I think Dick got to believe that he could teach the teacher, and I expect he could in some things. I don't think he had gone to school there. I believe he was about sixteen then when he himself began teaching in that neighborhood. It was an old log house, which stood upon a hill—the White Oak schoolhouse. It is on the waters of No Creek, No Creek schoolhouse being further down in a different neighborhood.....I remember that Mr. Ellis lived near me when Dick was living at Craig's. Our farms joined—Craig's, Ellis's, and mine. Craig married Ellis's oldest daughter. Old man Ellis and wife thought there was no one like Dick. Ed Ellis and Dick used to run together. They thought the world and all of each other. He would come up there sometimes, and spend Saturday night and Sunday with Ellis, and sometimes a whole week when he wasn't busy. Dick was very fond of a gun and hunting."

"He used to tell me that there was somebody there that had hounds," said Mrs. Bland "He said he would go hunting for opossum and 'coon, and that that was the way he made his Christmas money?" "Yes, the boys use to make pocket change selling the hides of 'coons, mink, etc, and at the same time they had their fun. One of the Ellis boys lives up on No Creek now—Alex Ellis, half brother to Ed. I expect Dick was the older."

"Did not Mr. Ellis and Mr. Craig think they would make a preacher of Mr. Bland once?" "Yes, he had some notion of it once. You see they were what we called Campbellites, but they are called Christians here now. You know there is a good deal of rivalry between churches. Dick was raised a Methodist. They would read the scriptures to Dick and explain them to him. I will tell you an incident: While he lived at Craig's he asked my opinion if I thought he was calculated for a preacher. I said I believed he was not. I remember he laughed, and said it was his opinion, and that Mr. Ellis and Mr. Craig had been trying to persuade him to go into the ministry. I asked him what kind of a preacher he would be. He said 'I will be a Campbellite of course.' I said 'you were raised a Methodist.' He said 'Yes, but I have been studying the Bible, and I believe the Campbellites are right.' He said that he would not argue scripture with me at all, and for me to just do as I pleased...."

"Was he inclined to argue very much?" "Yes he was fond of argument, but I don't think he was any hand to argue for argument's sake. If he had an idea and was upholding the right, he would contend for his position to the last."

"Had he any of idea of what he would be when he left Kentucky?" "No, I saw him a short time before he left, and he told me he was going to Missouri, and go to school. Charlie (Judge C. C. Bland) was out there at Arcadia, going to school, and I supposed they had got Dick to come. I don't know how long he went to school. I think he taught school, and went, too; but I think he acquired most of his education by chance. There are some people naturally smart you know, and I always thought Dick was one of them. He had not many educational advantages."

"Mrs. Mitchell tells me that his mother was a very good woman?" "Yes, she was my sister, and everyone thinks his own kind are everything they should be. I have seen her tried, and I think she was as good a woman as ever lived She was perfectly calm, and never took any trouble."

"Do you remember where Mr. Bland was born?" "Yes The place is about a mile above the mill. Mr. Armendt lives there now. There were three little places there My father owned all of them. You know we had no frame or brick houses then. This was a neat log house, and my recollection is that it had one room, twenty feet square. What we would call a nice hewed-log house. It had a white ash floor, and then there was a little porch between that and what was called the kitchen. It had a loft room above. That was the size of the house. After Mr. Bland moved away from there I think a man by the name of Mason became the purchaser, and he lived in the same house, for a good many years When he died the place fell into the hands of Mr. Armendt."

When asked to give his reminiscences of the school he attended with Mr. Bland, Mr. James F. Carson, of Hartford, KY, said:

"The teacher was Mr. John F. Park who was educated in Pennsylvania. The school was at No Creek. One of the modes of punishment in Kentucky schools then was to use beech limbs as long as room would admit of. Teachers would whip the boys on the legs about half way between the knees and feet. As boys went bare-footed in the summer time the soles of their feet would get quite tough and would generally be used as a fender to ward off the blows. The punishment would cause them to stand first on one foot and then on the other. The girls he would whip on their backs. I have seen them gather pennyroyal and stuff down their backs as a protection. Another mode was to make the convict stand in the corner behind the teacher's chair. That was the funniest mode of all, for when he would be busy I, or the others, would pull one hair of his head at a time to see him scratch. This often caused a laugh and caused us to get the 'rod,' as he called it. The seats were made of slabs with auger holes bored in them with beech limbs inserted for legs, or sometimes they split timber out with an axe, very rudely done, —what might be called 'rustic work' The tops of seats were at different levels, some low, some high. The high ones were the dunce blocks."

Mr. John S. Thomas, of Hartford, another of Mr. Bland's schoolmates, recalls that boys who were being trained for future masters of America were sometimes lifted bodily from the floor by the ear as a means of disciplining them. In spite of this, the schools were a means of stimulating intellect. Their debating societies made every Kentucky boy a possible statesman, waiting his opportunity to show his talents. Of such debates, Mr. J. S. Fitzhugh said to Mrs. Bland:

"During our schoolboy days we would frequently have debates in the neighborhood, and among the questions brought up for discussion I remember one of them that was stated something like this 'Who deserves the greater praise, Columbus for discovering America, or Washington for defending human liberty?'"

"One I remember," said a neighbor present, "was: 'Which is the more attractive to the eye, the works of nature or the works of man?'"

"Another," continued Mr. Fitzhugh, "was: 'Which furnishes the greatest pleasure, pursuit or possession?'"

To this, Mr. James A Sullenger, of Hartford, Ky., adds:

"Mr. Bland and I went to school together. It was about the second school I ever went to, I think. I heard him make the first speech he ever made. There were about fifteen of us boys, and he made the best and only speech that was made by any of us. The balance of us were all scared, except Dick, and he was not scared one bit. I remember feeling ashamed of myself, I did not have the pluck that Mr. Bland had. I remember my uncle who was teacher saying that he did not see why the balance of us boys could not talk as Mr. Bland did. The school was taught after his father's death at what was called the Bland house."



The White Oak School near No Creek in Ohio County, KY, where Richard Parks Bland taught. Located on the south side of Woodward's Mill Road, a few hundred yards from the intersection of that road with the Hartford-Owensboro Road and about a mile west of Beda. On the left is John Ward, of No Creek, and on the right, James F. Carson, of Hartford, KY. The school was still standing in 1953. Picture from book, History of No Creek, Ohio County, Kentucky, by Harry D. Tinsley, Roberts Printing Company, Frankfort, KY, 1953, p.70.



Hartford Herald, Hartford, KY, Wednesday, 21 June 1899, p.2:

**DEATH OF RICHARD
PARKS BLAND.**
—
**PASSED AWAY AT HIS HOME IN
MISSOURI THURSDAY.**
—
**A Native of Ohio County, and One of
the Most Noted Characters
in Public Life.**
—
A BRIEF SKETCH OF HIS CAREER.
—

Hon Richard Parks Bland died at his home new Lebanon, Mo., last Thursday morning at 4:30 o'clock. Mr. Bland had been ailing for quite awhile, but it was, not until the last few weeks that his condition was considered serious.

Mr. Bland returned home when Congress adjourned in March and soon suffered a relapse from an attack of grip. For two months he had been confined to his home and his health gradually declined.

On the 2rd of this month Mr. Bland suddenly grew worse and his sons, who were in school, were summoned home and for the first time the public was informed of his critical condition.

From time to time since then I the patient showed signs of improvement, but the physicians in charge would offer very little hope to his family, and friends. He continued to lose his vigor and grew weaker.

The end was painless. Breathing stopped gradually; there were a few, heart beats after respiration had apparently ceased and all was over. Those present at his bedside were Mrs. Bland; Theodore, George and Ewing, their sons, and Virginia, their daughter; Judge C. C. Bland, of the St. Louis Court of Appeals, brother, of the deceased, and Gen. and Mrs. E. Y. Mitchell, parents of Mrs. Bland

Mr. Bland was a native of Ohio County, Ky., having been born near Hartford on August 19 1835 and was consequently nearly 64 years old at the time of his death. Mr. Bland lived in this county until he was 20 years old, and taught several terms of school. Many of our old citizens remember him well, some of them having been his pupils or schoolmates The old school house in which he taught was dismantled several years ago, but the spot – about six miles north of Hartford – is still familiar. Mr. Bland attended school here in Hartford at the old brick academy, now occupied by Mr. Louis Guenther and family as a residence. He had a hard struggle for a livelihood when he was young, having been made an orphan at an early age. He was compelled to earn his own living but received some assistance from sympathizing acquaintances. He worked on a farm in summer for his board and \$6 or \$8 a month, and out of this money he saved enough to attend school in the winter. At the age of 18 he took a teacher's course for one year and obtained a teacher's certificate. Then he taught two terms of school in this county, and afterwards one term in Wayne

County, Missouri. It was in the year 1855 that he moved to Missouri. He then went to California, and to that portion of Utah which is now Nevada, locating at Virginia City as a practicing attorney-at-law. He was interested in mining operations in California and Nevada, and was county treasurer of Carson City Utah territory, from 1860 until the organization of the State government of Nevada. In 1865 he returned to Missouri and located at Rolla. Here he practiced law with his brother, C. C. Bland, until he removed to Lebanon in August 1869.

Mr. Bland devoted himself to his profession until he was chosen to represent his district in the Forty-third Congress. He was re-elected to the Forty-fourth, Forty-fifth, Forty-sixth, Forty-seventh, Forty-eighth, Forty-ninth, Fiftieth Fifty-first, Fifty-second, and Fifty-third Congresses. He failed of reelection to the Fifty-fourth Congress but was again elected in 1896 by a majority of over 3,000 votes over T. D. Hubbard, Republican and J. H. Steincipher, Populist. Last fall Mr. Bland was again re-elected to represent the Eighth district, his majority being about 2,500.

He introduced in the Forty-Fourth Congress his well known silver bill, which became a law, providing for the coinage of not less than two million dollars of 412 ½ grains every month and making such coins a legal tender. This was afterward modified by the Sherman silver purchasing act which was repealed at the special session of Congress in 1893. Mr. Bland was a recognized authority on currency matters and for several sessions was chairman of the committee on coinage, weights and measures. In the Democratic convention of 1896 he was the leading candidate for the Presidential nomination until the famous speech of William Jennings Bryan caught the attention not only of the delegates, but of the world, and placed him at the head of the Democratic ticket. Before the final ballot, Mr. Bland authorized the withdrawal of his name from before the convention.

Mr. Bland married in 1873 Miss Virginia Elizabeth Mitchell, daughter of Gen. E. Y. Mitchell, of Rolla Mo. She was a Catholic, and, though Mr. Bland was himself a Methodist, his two oldest children were brought up in the Catholic faith.

Mrs. Bland is still young, though she has been the mother 10 children, four of whom are dead.

Before the Chicago convention no man was named oftener as a Presidential possibility than the Lebanon statesman. He was considered the logical candidate on a free silver platform, but steadfastly refused to push his claims, holding that the cause was too great to be imperiled by personal ambition. When Bryan was nominated, nobody was more ardent in his support than "Silver Dick".

Bland never accepted a railroad pass or any other pre sent for his political work. He was honest in his views, and thoroughly incorruptible. He was a statesman, a patriot and a Christian, and when he advocated a cause it was because he thought it was right. By his simple directness and plain, kindly manners, Mr. Bland won a warm place in the hearts of his constituents and colleagues.

MR. BLAND'S FUNERAL LEBANON, MO., JUNE 17

Congressman Richard P. Bland was laid to rest here today with honors befitting his illustrious career. The town was crowded with thousands of his friends, who came to honor his memory. Only a small part of the crowd gained admittance to the hall, the capacity of which was about 1,000. The funeral services were participated in by the ministers of all denominations which are represented in Lebanon.

After the Knights of Templars had been seated in a body in the hall and the distinguished guests on the stage, Mrs. Bland and family entered, Mrs. Bland leaning on the arm of Sergeant-at-Arms B. R. Russell, of the National House of Representatives, with her -son Theodoric at her side.

The discourse was delivered by Rev. Mr. W. K. Collins, of the M.E. Church, and was followed by the Ritual of the Templars and Masonic fraternities.

Hon. Wm. J. Bryan had a seat on the stage; but delivered no eulogy owing to Mrs. Bland's request that only ministers take part in the services.



Hartford Herald, Hartford, KY, 22 November 1899 p.3:

We learn from Judge Jas. F. Carson that Mrs. R. P. Bland, of Lebanon Missouri, will be in Hartford in December, to gather the early history of her late husband who was born and reared one and one-half miles north of this place. Mrs. Bland is now engaged in getting up the life history of her late husband, who was one of the most prominent Democrats of his age. Any one who can give her any information on this line would confer a favor by calling on her and imparting same when she comes to Hartford.



**Ohio County News, Hartford, KY,
"Rough River Ripples" column by McDowell A. Fogle,
11 April 1941, 18 April 1941, 25 April 1941 and 17 May 1941:**

**How An Ohio County Boy
Almost Became President**
(By McDowell A. Fogle)

Did you know that a native of Ohio County was once almost the Democratic nominee for the presidency?

Perhaps Ohio County's most distinguished souls, apparently, one of the least known to the present generation of countians and even many of the older people, whose fathers and mothers were his contemporaries and, in some instances his acquaintances or companions, really have very indefinite knowledge of the details of his life. To many the name, "Silver Dick" Bland is

meaningless; to others it suggests only the reflected glory of a more Or less fabulous and hazy personage, whose fame they have always heard extolled, but for just what reason they are not sure.

But it is not the purpose of this article to cover the life and public service of Richard Parks Bland in the national arena. These details, if not already known to its readers are available in the archives and histories of the nation. Suffice it to say that he was a member of the United States house of representatives from the fifth Missouri district, his home being near Lebanon He served continuously in that office from 1872 until his death on June 15, 1899 with the exception of one term.

Early in his congressional career he began championing the cause of the great middle class, being himself described as "a great commoner". To the end of serving what he regarded as the best interests of his constituents and their like the country over, he supported the proposal for the free coinage of silver. He was the author of a bill providing for the free coinage of silver which passed the house in 1877. Amended in the senate, by striking out the free coinage part but providing for the monthly purchase of silver vullion and its coinage into silver dollars, it was passed in 1878 by both houses, over President Hayes' veto, being known as the "Bland Allison act".

When an effort was made in the 49th congress to repeal the free coinage act and suspend the Bland-Allison act, Mr. Bland was a leader of the successful opposition. Thus becoming the recognized leader of the silver wing of the Democratic party, his "Parting of the Ways" speech in 1893 was decisive in shaping the issues of the 1896 Presidential campaign.

His name was presented to the national convention in Chicago after the body had adopted a platform which embodied the issues as they had been outlined by Mr. Bland in speeches and interviews. His nomination for the Presidency was generally considered a foregone conclusion and he led on the first three ballots, but it soon became apparent that the prestige of William Jennings Bryan, due to the profound impression made upon the delegate by the latter's "Cross of Gold" speech, had started a surge of Bryan sentiment which could not be stemmed.

The first ballot gave Bland 235 votes, Bryan 137, no other candidate receiving 100 votes. The second ballot showed the leaders as follows: Bland 281, Bryan 197 and Pattison 100. On the third ballot Bland continued to lead with 291 to Bryan's 219. The fourth ballot resulted in 241 for Bland and 280 for Bryan.

At the beginning of the fifth ballot, a Missouri delegate read a letter from Mr. Bland, authorizing the withdrawal of his name, if the free coinage delegates deemed another candidate more acceptable. Mr. Bland's name was then withdrawn, Missouri's vote was cast for Bryan and the way paved for the nomination of the "Peerless Leader".

In the face of such a distinguished record of public service by a native Ohio countian, it is only natural that the descendants of his own people, the present-day folks of the land of Richard Parks Bland's nativity should have a keen interest in his parentage, birthplace and early years in Ohio County before he went west at the age of 20 to seek his fortune, first in Missouri, then in California, Nevada, Colorado, and Utah, again returning to Missouri where he continued to practice law, married and began his congressional career.

In 1900 an authorized biography of Mr. Bland was published, entitled " 'An American Commoner' - The Life and Times of Richard Parks Bland". It was edited by William Vincent Byars, with an introduction by William Jennings Bryan and personal reminiscences by Virginia E. Bland (Mrs. Richard Parks Bland). It was called the Virginia E. Bland edition and was limited to 500 copies, signed and numbered by Mrs. Bland herself.

In the preparation of the book Mrs. Bland spent several weeks of the spring of 1900 in Ohio County, interviewing old friends, neighbors and associates of her husband. Among others visited

was the late Alexander C. Ellis, father of Stephen H. Ellis and B. Howard Ellis, of this city, and Sam H. Ellis, who lives at the old Ellis homestead in the Alexander community near here. The elder Mr. Ellis had Mrs. Bland as a guest in his home and accompanied and assisted the widow of his boyhood companion in her search for material for Mr. Bland's life history.

When the biography was published, Mrs. Bland sent an autographed copy to Mr. Ellis, which is now in possession of his son, Sam H. and from which the following extracts with reference to Mr. Bland's boyhood in Ohio County are taken.

A chapter in the biography by Congressman Bland's brother, Judge Charles C. Bland, of the St. Louis, Missouri, court of appeals, gives the following account of his and his brother's parentage:

"Richard P. Bland's father, Stouten Edward Bland, was born.... "

[note by Jerry Long – the remainder of Fogle's columns of 11 April 1941 and 18 April 1941 are direct quotes from the book, An American Commoner, already reproduced on pages 5-10 of this article. The copy of the book, An American Commoner, that above was in 1941 in the possession of Sam H. Ellis, subsequently was given to the late Ohio County historian, Harry D. Tinsley (1923-2020). This writer, Jerry Long, purchased the edition at Mr. Tinsley's estate sale.]

Ohio County News, Hartford, KY,
“Rough River Ripples” column by McDowell A. Fogle
25 April 1941:

Like Homer "Silver Dick" Bland 's fame has led to rival claims as to just where he was born. There is, of course, no question that he was born in the vicinity of Hartford but there have been different neighborhoods and houses pointed out as his birthplace The three leading contestants for the honor are the Henry Armendt house; named as the place where his distinguished nephew first saw the light of day by the venerable Frank Nall in Bland 's biography, quoted in last weeks installment of this article; the farm on which Stouten Bland Dick's father, died in the Victory community, favored by Frank Black, hereinafter mentioned whose grandfather was the Missouri-congressman's stepfather, and lastly, the old Judge A. B. Baird homestead now owned by W. C. Logan near the north end of Union Street, Hartford.

I have heard it said that Bland 's widow, when in Hart ford in 1900 getting material for his biography, had the Baird place photographed as a possible site of her late husband's birth, but she seems, to have decided against it, as it is not even mentioned in the biography. The best evidence obtainable at this late date, however, indicates in my opinion, that Richard Parks Bland's birthplace was a part of the residence now owned and occupied by Golden Stalsworth, about a mile northeast of the site of the old mill at the north end of Union Street Hartford for many years known as the Henry Armendt place.

Thomas Francis (Frank) Black, of Hartford, says that the Francis Black who married Bland's widowed mother was his grandfather and that most of Dick's boyhood, until the death of his mother when he was in his 15th year, was spent in what is known as the Victory neighborhood, both the farm of Dick's father, Stouten Bland, and that of his stepfather, Francis Black, being in the same community, which is some four miles northeast of Hartford, as the crow flies. The old Bland place is on the old Leitchfield road and is now owned by Rousseau Burton, the dwelling being no longer standing. Dick's father and mother seem to have lived in the Victory neighborhood from 1841, when his father's health failed and he retired from the mill business and located on the farm, until his death June 5, 1842. His widow and children continued to live on this farm a year, stayed a year with her widowed mother and then she married Mr. Black. Thus the first three years

of Bland's life were spent at the birthplace, the next three at his father's mill on Rough River and the remainder of his youth, until he went "on his own", in the Victory community.

The first school Bland attended was near his father's farm in the Victory community, but the school was then called Beech Point. White Oak schoolhouse, where Bland taught school was according to Alvis S. Bennett's article thereon, prepared for the Ohio County Historical Society, located on the south side of Woodward's Mill Road, a few hundred yards from the intersection of that road with the Hartford and Owensboro road (now highway 71) and about a mile west of the little village of Beda. Mr. Bennett says old White Oak schoolhouse was erected about 1851 and ceased to be used for school purposes probably about the year 1879. Bland must have taught there about 1854-56 (two terms), just after he had completed a teacher's course of one year at the Hartford Academy, which, by the way, was the same brick building now owned and occupied as a residence by Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Watterson, near the east end of Center Street, I am told.

Of interest from the local angle is the fact that Mrs. Henry Leach and A. Iva Nall, of Hartford, are second cousins of Richard P. Bland. A touch of human interest attaches to the fact that, according to Mr. Bland's widow, she was not his first love, she recounting: "Mr. Bland had had his romance. before he met me - when he was 19 years old and when I had just begun my existence in this world. He was in love with a Miss Moore and she with him, but as she had a suitor who was well-to-do in this world's goods, her parents wanted her to marry this man. They had no objections to Mr. Bland except that he was poor. He started for the far west with his uncle and aunt, asking the young lady to write to him. He never received a letter from her. He told me he believed her parents intercepted her letters to him. She married .a year later and died within a ,year after her marriage. His love for her was very great. She used to wear a calico dress, white apron and white sunbonnett and he always liked to see a woman dressed thus, saying they looked prettier so than in any other dress". The chronology of Mr. Bland's youth would indicate that this first love of his must have been an Ohio County girl. Mrs. Bland also mentioned an incident interesting to Ohio Countians, that when she and Mr. Bland were married he wore a dress coat. "I think", she said, "his best man', Mr. Estell McHenry, was responsible for it, as Mr. Bland himself had no special fondness for them and they were seldom worn in rural Missouri towns of that time."

Note: I have had the writing of this article on my mind for a long time. I have been interested in Richard P. Bland ever since my father used to tell me as a child about him and that he was the logical Democratic candidate of the Free Silver Democrats in 1896, but lost the Presidential nomination to a convention stamped by Bryan's oratory. Through the years I have been astounded at the lack of knowledge among most Ohio Countians with regard to Bland's early life in this county and especially the haziness as to just where he was born. I have tried herein to piece together the available facts, but my conclusions may be wrong. There are perhaps other persons still living who know other vital facts about Bland's birthplace and early years. I hope they will read this article and write me their opinion and corrections, if any. I will appreciate this cooperation, as I would like to get in print, and thus preserved in permanent form, the real truth about the birthplace and life in the county of Ohio County's most famous son.

(To be continued)

**Ohio County News, Hartford, KY,
"Rough River Ripples" column by McDowell A. Fogle
17 May 1941:**

Another appreciated letter, reproduced below, is from Mrs. Mabel Easterday Ross of Centertown, whose ancestry is identified therein. Many thanks, Mrs. Ross, for your valuable addition to Bland lore.

Writes the granddaughter of Bland's boyhood benefactor: "I saw you mentioned my grandfather (Mother's father) Isaiah Craig. I've often heard my grandparents and my mother speak of "Dick Bland as he used to live at our old home on No Creek and they all liked him very much. He came there I guess when Mother was a small girl — she was born in 1856. He \ had his only belongings tied up in a large colored handkerchief. Our home was a refuge for the needy, both kin and strangers. I don't know how long he worked for grandfather and taught school at Old White Oak where Mother attended school. It was about one and one half miles from our home. Nor do I know whether Mr. Bland and my grandfather wrote each other often. I only know he visited us after my grandparents were both crippled and old. When he returned home he sent my grandparents \$50, which certainly was bread cast upon the waters. My sister now has a cream pitcher bought with part of the money. I also noticed in his history mention of good advice given him by my grandfather. My grandparents encouraged the orphaned "Dick" Bland in many ways as they saw he was willing and eager to work and learn. I wish I had asked more questions about him. I've forgotten most they said but remember very vividly the above."



Ohio County News, Harford, KY, 26 December 1974, pp.6C & 7C:

Biography of Richard Parks "Silver Dick" Bland
By Ricky Z. Ashby

A review of the histories of Indiana, Illinois, Missouri and some of the West Coast States reveals that many of the leaders of those states were born in Kentucky. Some examples are, Abraham Lincoln, Clairborne Jackson, Governor of Missouri and Missouri Congressman Richard Parks "Silver Dick" Bland. In the late 18th and early 19th century Kentucky and Tennessee were the recipients of large waves of immigrants from the coastal states, primarily Virginia and the Carolinas. Many of these same immigrants later moved to Indiana, Illinois, Missouri and the west Coast This migration might involve the same family or its offshoots. In Illinois and Indiana they were called "Uplanders" and were the dominant in Illinois until the 1830s.

Richard Parks Bland was born August 19, 1835 at Hartford, Ohio County Kentucky. The son of a school teacher and mill operator Bland was born in a 20-foot square hewn log cabin. Like Abraham Lincoln he would lose one parent at an early age and the other before adulthood. Unlike his fellow statesman Bland was to spend more years in Kentucky and draw heavily from his experiences there.

Richard Bland's family had its origin in Virginia. He was the grandson of Colonel Theodric Bland the supposed grandson of Jane Rolfe who was the daughter of Pocahontas' only son. Theodric Bland led a group of angry citizens to Lord Dunmore's home to retrieve munitions that he had confiscated from the colony's arsenal. After the munitions incident a series of letters appeared denouncing Lord Dunmore and were signed "Cassius". It was later disclosed that Theodric Bland authored the "Cassius" letters. During the Revolutionary war he served in Congress and as a Virginia delegate to ratify the Constitution.

The Bland family of Virginia were aristocratic land owners. John Randolph's mother was a direct descendant of Colonel Theodric Bland. In the early 19th century the non-feudal philosophy

in Virginia left many of the post-revolution's second generation without land. Therefore many of them migrated to Kentucky. This branch of the Bland family settled in Nelson County and one family in Washington County where Richard Bland's father, Stoughen Bland was born. Stoughen Bland was reared according to Presbyterian principles and was educated at Centre College at Danville. Due to poor health Stoughen Bland gave up the ministry and moved to Hartford in Ohio County where he taught school. While at Hartford he met and married Margaret Parks Nall, Miss Nall was of a family of French Huguenots which had emigrated from Louisiana to Kentucky near the end of the 18th century. Her middle name "Parks" was the surname of the Nall family's best friends. The Parks family supposedly emigrated to Kentucky with the Hanks family, whose descendant, Nancy Hanks, mothered Abraham Lincoln.

S. Bland taught school

Stoughen Bland taught in a one-room school in Hartford for approximately three years. Acting on his doctor's advice he bought a farm near Hartford on Rough Creek where Richard would be born. Here he built a grist mill that would be known as "Bland's Mill." Stoughen Bland operated his mill until he died of consumption in 1842. Richard Bland was only seven years old when his father died. After their father's death the children were divided among relatives with Richard going to his mother's parents. By 1849 Margaret Bland had remarried but in that year she and her mother died of typhoid fever.

After his father's death, although only seven years old, Richard assumed some of the farm work for his widowed mother. He worked on other farms during the summer months and attended school in the winter. One of his farm assignments was for a man named Craig. Craig was also a scholar and tutored young Bland. He did this voluntarily and asked no pay but late in the life he received a check from Richard Bland for \$50.

At a very early age, Richard Bland began teaching school at a one-room log school on No Creek in Ohio County. He attended Hartford Academy for one year, a school that his father founded. Eventually he received a teaching diploma from that institution and taught briefly at the academy.

Upon encouragement from his mother's sister, who had earlier moved to Missouri, Richard Bland moved to that state in the early 1850s. In addition to his Aunt and Uncle. Richard's brother, Charles and sister, Elizabeth lived in Arcadia, Iron County, Missouri. For several months, he resumed his teaching career at a school in Wayne County, Missouri.

While in Missouri, Richard Bland fell in love with a girl whose last name was Moore. Her parents objected to Richard, because he was poor. When he left for California, he asked her to write him but he never received a letter from her. Late in life, Bland stated that he felt that her parents intercepted the letters.

In 1856 Richard's aunt and his Uncle Robert Fulton encouraged him to accompany them to California. Bland agreed partly from his affection for his aunt and a desire to become wealthy. They traveled to New Orleans where they boarded a boat for California via the Nicaragua route.

After a short prospecting period in California, Mr. and Mrs. Fulton died and Richard was left with his three young cousins. Since his mining success had been nominal Richard sought transportation funds from another Missouri uncle to send the youngsters back to that state. He secured passage for them on a steamboat but tragedy struck again when a storm wrecked the ship and only young George Fulton escaped drowning.

Richard then drifted from place to place working as a miner. He went to southern California and finally to Virginia City, Nevada. Here he staked a claim about one hundred yards from the yet to be discovered Comstock Lode. Bland became disheartened with his mediocre mining success

and deserted the claim. This marked the end not only of his pursuit of gold and silver but wealth in general.

In Virginia City, Bland studied in the office of R. B. Mayes. While pursuing his law studies, he turned once again to his first profession of teaching. In 1860, he was admitted to the Bar and became County Treasurer for Carson County Utah (now in Nevada) and held the office until Nevada became a state in 1864.

Richard Bland joined the Nevada militia during the Piute Uprising of 1860. The highlights of the uprising up to that point, had been the virtual massacre of a company of militia at Pyramid Lake. Bland entered a volunteer company that accompanied a detachment of California regulars from Ft. Churchill at Virginia City to Pyramid Lake. After several days of minor skirmishes, in which Bland, was wounded just below the right knee, cap, the Piutes consented to a treaty.

During his years in the West, Bland became acquainted with Mark Twain whose stories he recalled affectionately. These years affected Bland's character in several ways. His deflated desire for wealth has already been established. Due to his strong isolation from the sectional controversy and the Civil War he did not form strong prejudicial, moralist judgments which would later help him lead the Democratic party away from sectional issues in the 1870s. His mining career gave him first hand knowledge of the philosophy of metallic value and coinage which helped him when he became chairman of the House Committee on Mines and Mining. Bland's western experience combined with his rural background in Kentucky and Missouri would give him an allegiance for the depressed class in both sections.

In 1866, Richard Bland returned to Missouri to enter into law practice with his brother C. C. Bland at Rolla, Missouri This partnership was extremely fruitful, especially in civil suits. Their reputation spread until they were recognized as the best lawyers in that part of the country. Richard however, gained most of his notoriety from a murder case. He was the key defender "The State Versus Morgan". The judge, the jury and most of the courtroom spectators were strongly anti-defendant.

When Bland rose to give his closing remarks it appeared that his client would surely be convicted. Although never note for his oratory Bland gave strong speech that not only gained acquittal for his client but gave those present a preview of the style that would make Silver Dick Bland a congressional crusader.

The notoriety that Bland obtained was purely unintentional. Throughout his life he shunned all fanfare. In later years, Mrs. Bland said "I do not know why Mr. Bland seemed to shun notoriety. Perhaps it was because he was left early without a father and mother and no one to confide in or bring him out."

Although somewhat inhibited in relation to notoriety, Bland cannot be regarded as passive. His humor can be demonstrated by an act during his days in California. When his trouser seat needed repairing Bland sewed a patch on them from flour sack with the print "Self Rising" still visible. His temper was seldom stirred except when his honesty was questioned. His wife related that he was once restrained in court from attacking a lawyer with a chair after he questioned Bland's veracity.

In 1869, Richard Bland ended his partnership with his brother and moved to Lebanon, Missouri, the county seat of Laclede County. It was here that the congressional career of Richard Parks Bland was born. Bland bought a farm near Lebanon and threw himself into the mastery of the legal profession. His reputation reached Its non-political peak, although he maintained a very small circle of friends who sought him out primarily for his political beliefs.

Bland a Democrat

Richard Bland became a Democrat because he could not support a party that he felt was seeking to deprive any citizen of their rights. His animosity toward the Radical Republicans is evident in his correspondence with his wife.

Richard Bland's congressional nomination was perpetrated by a local Irish Democratic leader named Harrison Attaway. While Bland and the local newspaper editor were in Dallas, Texas, Attaway persuaded the editor's youthful assistant to print an editorial nominating Bland. Bland had already expressed a desire not to run and continued in this reluctance but Attaway's masterful essay had tremendous impact. Bland tried to persuade his brother to run, feeling that he was not widely known throughout the district but his brother refused. The Democrats, were such an under dog in the district that there would have been no interest in the nomination except that support from liberal Democrats was required to defeat the regular Republican nominee.

The Democratic convention became deadlocked over a proxy vote. Bland held support of two counties whose vote was held by a proxy that was not a resident of either county. Bland refused these votes although they were vital to his success. Despite this set-back Bland so startled the convention with this display for forthrightness that he gained the support of the remaining counties of the district. He won the general election by defeating the Republican candidate Colonel A. J. Seay.

In 1873, Richard Bland married Virginia Elizabeth Mitchell, daughter of E. Y. Mitchell, of Rolla, Missouri. During this same year the 43 year old Bland entered service in the 43rd Congress. This earmarked a career that would last until 1899 with only one, two-year interruption.

The first session of the 43rd congress produced a bill increasing the circulation of Greenbacks from 375 to 400 million dollars. The measure was voted by President Grant. Bland made several speeches advocating the measure and denouncing the national banking system. From these early speeches by Bland, we can trace congressional consideration of monetary and banking issues.

The debate, that would earn Bland the nicknames "Silver Dick" and Silver Dollar" began with a debate between Senator Bogey of Missouri and Senator John Sherman of New York. A few weeks later Bland would bring the debate to the House by proposing a bill that called for the utilization of gold and silver. Although he had a majority support a minority filibuster stalled the issue until the election between Hayes and Tilden took precedence and Congress adjourned without taking action.

1876 Campaign

The campaign of 1876 marked the end of sectional politics as new issues were injected into the campaigns. In the Western and mid-Western states, sentiment was running high for the remonitization of silver. Bland brought the issue to Missouri crippled the tariff had it passed. Bland's amendment proposal would have allowed for free duties on all foreign duties obtained by the exportation of American farm products. This proposal placed the McKinley measure in greater danger than it had been throughout the debate. The Republicans rallied to defeat the measure but by a very narrow margin.

In his political career, Bland supported improvements of Western Waterways opposed Civil Service laws and the Force Bill. His opposition to the Civil Service Laws was based on the premise that they were undemocratic.

he Bland-Allison act did not end the silver coinage controversy. The 49th Congress demonstrated more opposition but, when it appeared that Bland had adequate support Senator Sherman of New York issued a bill repealing the 1878 law. The Sherman Law provided for the issuance of silver

certificates based on purchased bullion Grover Cleveland's platform in 1892 called for the repeal of the Sherman Law.

In 1893 Bland introduced a bill to repeal the purchase clause of the Sherman law. A debate ensued in which Bland gave his famous "Parting of the Ways Speech." Bland was angered by the compromising stand taken by his colleagues from Missouri and other states. His intentions were to unify the fragmented Democratic party. In 1894, however, a Republican landslide swept Richard Bland and several other Democrats from office.

Lecturer

During the next two years Bland occupied his time with a series of lectures in Colorado. His speeches netted him \$3500 His biggest engagement was the Brown Palace Hotel in Denver where he was paid \$700. At the Brown Palace he was presented with a silver platter which he turned down with the thought that he should not profit in any way from his stand on the silver issue.

In 1896 Bland was the leading candidate for the Democratic nomination for president. Bland had all the support but privately he denied that he really wanted the nomination. When asked by his personal physician if he felt that he would be nominated he replied "Yes. I am sure of it, I do not want it but it seems to be coming my way." William Jennings Bryan's biographer Paolo E. Coletta, states that Bland was the most deserving but could not have conducted the type of campaign that was needed to win.

Bryan strategically requested to address the convention last in hopes that his superior oratory would sway the delegates. Bland took the first three ballots but on the fourth Bryan made some gains but by the fifth it turned into a Bryan landslide. Just prior to Bryan's nomination, but when it was evident, a note was read to the convention. The note said:

"If it should at any time appear that my candidacy is an obstruction of any candidate who is acceptable to the free coinage delegation, or one more acceptable than myself, I wish my name once withdrawn from further consideration."

The note was written by Richard Bland prior to the convention and its reading sealed forever the presidential aspirations of Richard Parks Bland.

Bland was re-elected to congress in 1896 although it is believed that he could have easily obtained the Democratic nomination for Governor of Missouri. Some site his reluctance to actively seek the presidential nomination and the gubernatorial nod in Missouri as examples of his unselfish character.

Bland's later years in Congress were those in which he commanded the greatest respect, although he refrained from positions of congressional leadership. Many politicians burn out on one issue and then face into obscurity but this was not the case with Richard Bland. He opposed the annexing of Cuba, after the Spanish American War, without the permission of the Cuban people. In a speech on the house floor Bland espoused his sentiments:

Our war resolutions explicitly stated that we entered on no war for conquest, and that we would not annex the island of Cuba, but would give free government to her people.

Bland's opposition to the annexation of Cuba was his last political stand. The people of his district gave him another term in 1899 but he never served his new term for June 15, 1899 at the age of 64 "Silver Dick" Bland was dead.

As an advocate of free silver Richard Bland was a champion of the debtor class. In a sense he was a Populist but his political affiliation remained with the Democratic party. On the money issue Bland was somewhat liberal as the Populist but was somewhat conservative in his approach to other reform measures such as Civil Service laws. Bland's political philosophy stood

somewhere between the old line conservatism and the new hard line progressivism. This middle of the road philosophy is evident in 'Bland's interpretation of Laissez Faire.

The 'Laissez Faire' Bland stood for, did not mean letting such men alone. It meant with him, and it still means, opposing them in all their attempts to impose on society, as its laws, the intellectual and moral diseases by which, if left to themselves they will destroy themselves and the government they control.

Richard Bland died knowing that silver would not be remonetized, that national banks would control currency and England would continue, to have some influence in American finance. His political career was not in vain however. Bland's leadership in the post Civil War era helped give rise to non-sectional politics and subscribed needed leadership in the Democratic Party. Bland's influence was such that many of his ideas were readily accepted as the philosophy of the Democratic party.

In the Spring of 1900 Mrs. Richard Parks Bland spent several weeks in Ohio County, Kentucky visiting the first home of her late husband. This trip resulted in interviews with several characters in Bland's life that have been preserved in William Vincent Byars' book, *An American Commoner: The Life and Times of Richard Parks Bland*. These oral accounts provide insight into the education and the childhood behavior of Bland.

[The main source for this article is the book, Five Famous Missourians: Authenticated Biographical Sketches of Samuel L. Clemens, Richard P. Bland, Champ Clark, James M. Greenwood and Joseph O. Shelby, Wilfred R. Hollister & Harry Norman, Hudson-Kimberly Publishing Co., Kansas City, MO, 1900, pp.89-172]



Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, 9 June 1996, p.1G:

The man who would be president but wasn't
By Keith Lawrence

As the nation ho-hums its way through another political summer, waiting for yet another round of political conventions with forgone conclusions, it's fun to look back to a time when politics was less cut-and-dried.

Back to a time when the unexpected was still possible.

Back to the summer of '96, when Ohio County was the birthplace of the next president.

What? You don't remember almost-President Richard Parks Bland? Well, here's why.

In July 1896, when Democrats gathered in Chicago for their national convention - as they will again this summer - there seemed little doubt that Bland would be their nominee.

On the first ballot, he had 223 delegates.

On the second, he had 281.

He picked up 10 more on the third ballot.

It was just a matter of roll calls until the man who had been born a mile east of Hartford on Aug. 19, 1835, would be nominated.

Back in Ohio County, Dick Bland's old friends were telling reporters all about the boy they remembered. Just as old friends in small towns do today.

The next president's father, they said, was Stouten Edward Bland, a pioneer teacher in Ohio County.

But he died in 1841, leaving four children. Dick, almost 6, was the oldest.

Mrs. Bland remarried. But she, too, died three years later.

Dick spent the next few years moving from farm to farm, working for his keep, until he finally settled in with Isaiah Craig at No Creek.

By the time he turned 16, Bland already was teaching - at King's Hill, about five miles north of Hartford.

After a year or two, he drifted west - to teach in Missouri. Then to the California gold fields, becoming an attorney in Virginia City, Nev., acquiring mining interests in California and Nevada and serving for a time as county treasurer at Carson City, Utah.

After the Civil War, Bland returned to Missouri and won election to Congress, where he eventually would serve 26 years.

As home folks will, the people of Hartford told reporters about one of Bland's youthful indiscretions.

It seems that Ohio County teens in the late 1840s liked to sneak off and inhale ether. It was thought that under the influence of ether, a person would reveal the uppermost thoughts on his mind.

And yes, they said, the future president did inhale.

And what did he do under ether's influence, reporters asked? "Preached the finest Campbellite sermon I ever heard," an old friend reported.

Back in Chicago, Bland was riding the tide of the "Free Silver" movement of 1896. He would be nominated on the next ballot.

Then, a delegate from Nebraska - William Jennings Bryan by name - rose to speak.

"You shall not," he roared, "press down upon the brow of labor this crown of thorns. You shall not crucify mankind on a cross of gold." He had put the complex "free silver" issue in terms the common man could relate to.

And Bland clearly saw the future. He sent down word to remove his name from the ballot. And Bryan was nominated on the next roll call.

In November, Republican William McKinley won the White House. And three years later, serving his 13th term in the House, Dick Bland died.

And that's why Ohio County has no national shrine for a former president today.



Family of Richard Parks Bland

By Jerry Long

Richard Parks Bland, possibly the most illustrious native son of Ohio County, was born in the county on 19 August 1835. He was the son of Stoughton Edward Bland & Margaret Parks Nall and grandson of Charles Bland & Catherine Stoughton and Richard Parks Nalle & Margaret Berryman. His father's name appears under several spelling variations (including Stouten). In his final will it was spelled as Stoughton E. Bland. Stoughton before arriving in Ohio County, KY, had resided in Washington County, KY, where his parents, Charles Bland & Catherine Stoughton were married on 28 September 1795. Charles is listed in the 1810 census of Washington County, KY.

Stoughton E. Bland was born 14 July 1807 Washington County, KY. He is first found in the Ohio County records in the 1833 tax list. He married Margaret Parks Nall in Ohio County, KY on 9 October 1834. They were married by William Hart, a Methodist minister.

I solemnized the marriage authorized
by the within license on the 9th Oct 1834
609 (Stoughton E. Bland & Margaret P. Nall)
Wm Hart
A Copy List Ch Henderson clerk
See paper 00455

Ohio County, KY Marriage Book A, page 109

The birth site of Richard Parks Bland was referenced in the book, An American Commoner: The Life and Times of Richard Parks Bland, by William Vincent Byars (St. Louis, C. Simpson, Publisher, 1900). On page 274 of this book is the following paragraph (part of an interview with Bland's uncle, Frank Nall, of Ohio County, KY, in the spring of 1900, by Mrs. R. P. Bland):

"Do you remember where Mr. Bland was born?" "Yes. The place is about a mile above the mill. Mr. Armendt lives there now. There were three little places there. My father owned all of them. You know we had no frame or brick houses then. This was a neat log house, and my recollection is that it had one room, twenty feet square. What we would call a nice hewed-log house. It had a white ash floor, and then there was a little porch between that and what was called the kitchen. It had a loft room above. That was the size of the house. After Mr. Bland moved away from there I think a man by the name of Mason became the purchaser, and he lived in the same house, for a good many years. When he died the place fell into the hands of Mr. Armendt."

The mill mentioned was the Bland's Mill that was in the Iron Mountain community about one mile northeast of Hartford. The Mason referred to is John Henderson Mason (1784-1863), who married Elizabeth Jackson in Ohio County on 26 September 1808. The house had been owned by Richard P. Bland's grandfather, Richard P. Nall. On 14 August 1838 Richard P. Nall & his wife Margaret sold to Elizabeth Mason [wife of John H. Mason] 70 acres for \$450 (Ohio County, KY deed book H, p.54). The Masons resided in the home for the next 22 years. John H. Mason & his wife Elizabeth on 28 August 1860 sold the same 70 acres for \$600 to Henry F. Armendt (Ohio County, KY deed book R, p.491). In 1941 the family of Mary Stalsworth were living in the former Bland-Mason-Armendt house. The late Harry D. Tinsley (1923-2020), who was an encyclopedia of Ohio County history, said that the house on the Stalsworth farm, where Richard P. Bland was born, was torn down by Mr. Tinsley's brother.

In the 1840 federal census of Ohio County Stouton E. Bland was listed as a household head. In his home were – 1 male, 30-40, 1 female 20-30, 2 males under 5, 1 female under 5 and 4 slaves.

Stoughton E. Bland died on 5 June 1842 in Ohio County, KY. He had drafted a final will on 2 April 1842 and it was recorded in Ohio County will book C, p.23 on 8 August 1842. He appointed Francis R. Black, Joseph Smith & Fielding Samuel his executors. He directed that they

were to pay his just debts and if there should be a remainder, the same was to be applied to the use and benefit of his family. In Ohio County guardian bond book 1 (p.88) it was recorded that Joseph Smith was appointed guardian of Richard Bland, Charles Bland and Elizabeth Bland, infant orphans of Staughton E. Bland, deceased on 1 December 1851; Larkin Nall was the surety on the bond. On page 117 of the same book is the bond whereby Isaiah Craig on 5 September 1853 was appointed guardian of Richard Bland, Charles Bland and Bettie Bland, infant orphans of S. E. Bland, deceased; sureties on the bond were Joel Ellis & Milton Taylor.

After the death of her husband, Margaret Nall Bland, married Francis R. Black (1808-1877) in Ohio County on 5 May 1846. Francis Black resided in the vicinity of the Hamlin Chapel Road and the Milton Taylor Cemetery. Margaret was born in Nelson County, KY on 14 June 1816 and died in Ohio County on 20 December 1849. The book, Nall Families of America, reported that Margaret & Francis R. Black had a daughter, Amanda, who died in childhood.

Richard Parks Bland son of Stoughton & Margaret, is listed in the 1850 census of Ohio County. He was reported to be age 15, born KY, and was a resident of the household of Milton Taylor. Milton Taylor (1808-1889) lived on the farm where the Milton Taylor Cemetery is at the intersection of Highway 69 and the Hamlin Chapel Road. A near neighbor to Taylor was Joel Ellis, whose son-in-law, Isaiah Craig, was a guardian of Richard Parks Bland.

Stoughton E. Bland & Margaret P. Nall had four children: Richard Parks (born 19 August 1835), Charles Clelland (born 9 February 1837), Elizabeth Jane (born 17 November 1837) and Ella, who died in childhood. The latter is named as a child in the biography of Charles C. Bland in the book, History of Laclede, Camden, Dallas, Webster, Wright, Texas, Pulaski, Phelps and Dent counties, Missouri, 1889. Chicago: Goodspeed, p.978.

Charles C. Bland, son of Stoughton E. & Margaret, at the age of 14 made Missouri his home. He is listed as C. C. Bland in the 1860 census of Salem, Dent County, Missouri. He was a resident in the household of P. C. Duckworth and was reported to be a lawyer, age 23, born KY. He was a Union veteran of the Civil War and served as a judge. He died on 5 March 1918 in St. Louis, MO and was interred in the Rolla Cemetery at Rolla, Phelps County, MO.

Elizabeth Jane Bland, 'Bettie, daughter of Stoughton E. & Margaret, is listed in the 1860 census of Iron County, MO. She was living with the family of Josiah & Corella (Harris) Chinn, who had been married in Ohio County, KY in 1849. In Iron County, MO on 15 November 1860 Elizabeth Bland married Frederick Ingman Tetley. Elizabeth died in St. Francois County, MO on 5 January 1917. She was buried in the Bonne Terre Cemetery in St. Francois County, MO.

Richard Parks Bland was enumerated in the 1870 and 1880 censuses of Lebanon, Laclede County, MO. He married Virginia Elizabeth Mitchell (1854-1923) in Hillsboro, Jefferson County, MO on 17 December 1873. She was the daughter of Ewing Young Mitchell & Amanda Corrine Medley. The 1900 census recorded that Virginia was the mother of ten children, four of whom were then deceased. Richard P. Bland died in Lebanon, MO on 15 June 1899. He and Virginia were buried in the Calvary Catholic Cemetery in Lebanon, MO.

Children of Richard Parks Bland & Virginia Elizabeth Mitchell were: Virgie (18 January 1875 – 3 April 1876), Frances A. ('Fannie', 4 June 1876 – 3 March 1902, single), Theodorich Richard ('Ted', 25 November 1877 – 30 September 1970, married Winifred M. Vickery), Ewing Charles (17 May 1882 – 2 June 1949, married Faye V. Esley), George Vest (10 February 1884 – 1 May 1965, married Alice Charlotte Cartain), Hattie (5 November 1885 – 1 March 1887), Margaret (1 December 1887 – 11 September 1892), John Lilburn (27 July 1889 – 25 February 1964, married Willow Heckart & Marie Russell), Virginia Elizabeth (19 December 1892 – died during 1920/1923, and one other child died in infancy.

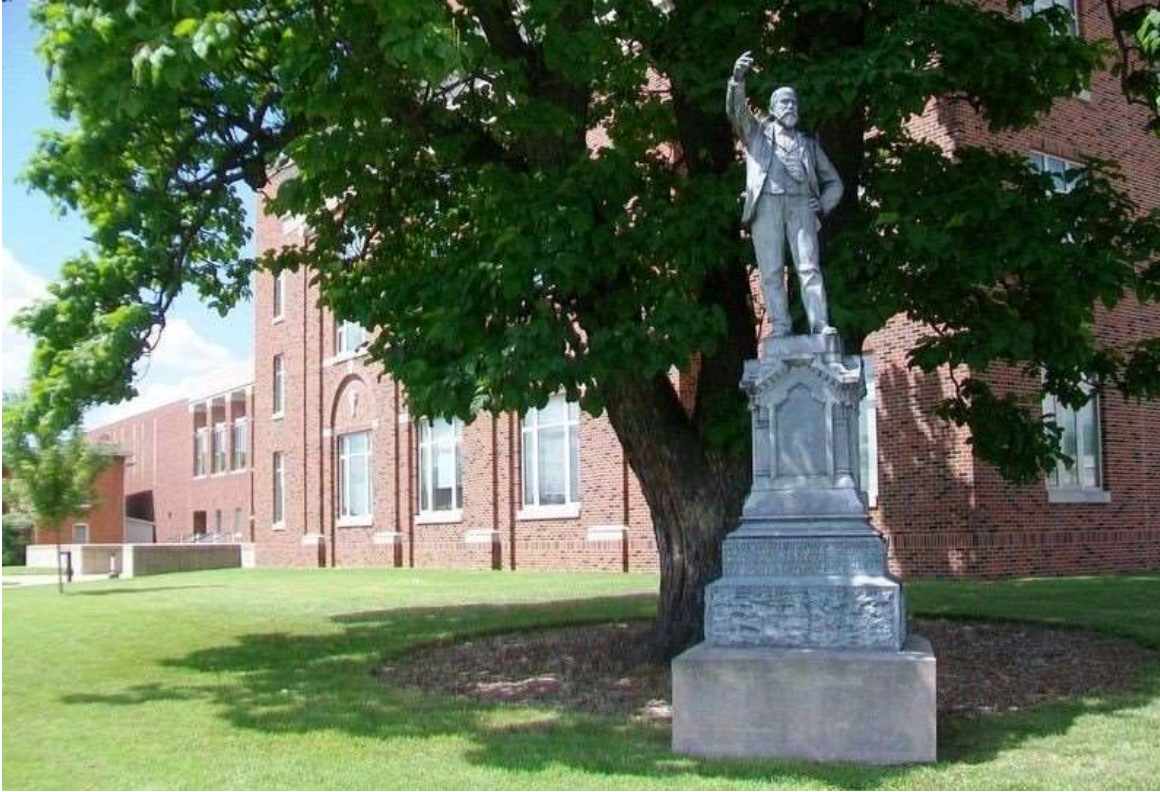


Calvary Catholic Cemetery, Lebanon, Laclede County, MO



Kentucky Highway Historical marker erected in 1989 by the Kentucky Historical Society and Kentucky Department of Highways. (Marker Number 1858). Marker is in Hartford, Kentucky, in Ohio County. Marker is just south of West Washington Street, on the right when traveling south. Marker is behind the Ohio County Historical Society Museum. Marker is at or near this postal address: 415 Mulberry Street, Hartford KY 42347.





Statue is in Lebanon, Laclede County, Missouri at the intersection of Adams Avenue and 2nd Street, on the right when traveling north on Adams Avenue. Monument is on the south grounds of the Laclede County Courthouse. Marker is at or near this postal address: 200 North Adams Avenue, Lebanon MO 65536. Inscription: Richard Parks Bland - "I do speak for the Great Masses of the Mississippi Valley, when I say that we will not submit to the domination of any political party, however much we may love it, that lays the sacrificing hand upon silver and will demonetize it." William Jennings Bryan first suggested the monument honoring Bland. The statue was unveiled on 18 June 1902.



**Articles about Richard Parks Bland
in Hartford and Owensboro, KY Newspapers:**

- Owensboro Tri-Weekly Messenger, Owensboro, KY – 1886: 4 February p.2 (serving in Congress since 1875, he is now chairman of the House committee on Coinage, Weights & Measures, has become famous on account of the passage of the bill by which the government is compelled to coin 2,000,000 standard silver dollars a month)
- Owensboro Inquirer, Owensboro, KY – 1890: 1 September p.3 (grandfather was a delegate to the Continental Congress, his great-grandfather, Theodoric Bland, an uncle to John Randolph, was a member of the First Congress & his correspondence with prominent men was published in 1843 as "The Bland Papers")
- Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY – 1892: 1 May p.6 (US Congressman)

- Hartford Herald, Hartford, KY – 1896: 24 June p.1 (“Silver’s Apostle: Life Story of Richard Parks Bland”)
- Owensboro Twice A Week Messenger, Owensboro, KY – 1896: 27 June p.3 (“Silver’s Apostle: Life Story of Richard Parks Bland”)
- Owensboro Inquirer, Owensboro, KY – 1899: 6 June p.1 (suffering from nervous prostration); 1899: 15 June p.1 (he worked out the theory of the free coinage of silver, his chief aim was the restoration of silver to equal privileges with gold in the mints of the country)
- Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY – 1899: 16 June p.1 & 4 (‘Silver Dick Bland’; noted lawyer & Democrat leader; elected to 13 terms to represent his district in US Congress; in the 44th Congress he introduced a well known silver bill which was passed; came close to be nominated for the presidency in 1896; Mason; born near Hartford; mother, Parks (Nall) Bland was related to President Lincoln through the Hanks family; father, Stoughton Edward Bland, a grandson of Theodric Bland, a Colonel on George Washington’s staff in the Revolution; moved to Missouri in 1855, moved to Lebanon in Aug 1869, lived on farm near Lebanon); Owensboro Messenger, 1899: 6 June p.4; 9 June p.1; 10 June p.1; 13 June p.2; 16 June p.1; 15 June p.1; 17 June p.2 (detailed biography & family history) & p.8; 18 June p.5; 20 June p.2; 2 September p.4
- Hartford Herald, Hartford, KY – 1899: 21 June p.2 (“Death of Richard Parks Bland”) & p.3 (resolutions by Ohio County Democrats)
- Hartford Republican, Hartford, KY – 1899: 23 June pp.1 & 3 (“Richard P. Bland”)
- Hartford Herald, Hartford, KY – 1899: 6 September p.1 (Mrs. Bland is collecting material for the life of her husband)
- Hartford Herald, Hartford, KY – 1899: 22 November p.3 (Mrs. R. P. Bland will be in Ohio County in December to collect material on the early history of her husband)
- Owensboro Inquirer, Owensboro, KY – 1899: 23 November p.4 (Mrs. R. P. Bland gathering material on her late husband at Hartford and the vicinity); 1900: 19 April p.2 (wife is in Ohio County gathering data on her husband); 23 April p.1 (in Ohio County she met a number of older citizens, who knew her husband in his youth and she secured a picture of the old Bland homestead); 24 April p.4 (Mrs. Bland returns home)
- Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY – 1899: 24 November p.3 (wife to visit Hartford to collect information on early life of her husband)
- Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY – 1899: 16 December p.5 (book on his life, "An American Commoner", by his widow & William Vincent Byars to be published, about 500 pages)
- Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY – 1900: 20 April p.5 (wife collecting information for a book on husband); 1900: 25 April p.8; 29 April p.1
- Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY – 1902: 19 June p.4 (monument erected at Lebanon, MO)
- Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY – 1934: 1 April p.4A (“Silver Dick” Bland)
- Ohio County News, Hartford, KY – (“How An Ohio County Boy Almost Became President”, by McDowell A. Fogle, 1941: 11 April, 18 April, 25 April and 17 May)
- Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY – 1945: 8 July p.12 (“News and Views”, by W. E. Daniel)

- Owensboro Messenger & Inquirer, Owensboro, KY – 1973: 23 July p.1B (“Hartford Seminary is historic landmark”, by Mary Hancock)
- Ohio County News, Hartford, KY – 1974: 26 December pp.6C & 7C (“Biography of Richard Parks ‘Silver Dick’ Bland”, by Ricky Z. Ashby)
- Owensboro Messenger & Inquirer, Owensboro, KY – 1976: 10 February p.1A (“President Bland? Ohio Countian nearly won 1896 nomination”, by Keith Lawrence)
- Owensboro Messenger & Inquirer, Owensboro, KY – 1984: 18 August p.1D (“Bland for present: Former Ohio Countian might have led nation”, by Keith Lawrence)
- Owensboro Messenger & Inquirer, Owensboro, KY – 1996: 9 June p.1G (“The man who would be president but wasn't”, by Keith Lawrence)

See also:

- “An American Commoner”: The Life and Times of Richard Parks Bland, William Vincent Byars, editor, E. W. Stephens, Publisher, Columbia, Missouri, 1900; 404 pages.
- Five Famous Missourians: Authenticated Biographical Sketches of Samuel L. Clemens, Richard P. Bland, Champ Clark, James M. Greenwood and Joseph O. Shelby, Wilfred R. Hollister & Harry Norman, Hudson-Kimberly Publishing Co., Kansas City, MO, 1900, pp.89-172 (includes a history of the Bland family).
- Dictionary of American Biography, Vol. II, Allen Johnson, editor, Charles Scribner’s Sons, New York, 1929, pp.355-356.
- “Richard Parks Bland: His Early History and the Record of His Public Life, St. Louis Post-Dispatch, St. Louis, MO, 15 June 1899, p.1.
- History of Laclede, Camden, Dallas, Webster, Wright, Texas, Pulaski, Phelps and Dent counties, Missouri, 1889. Chicago: Goodspeed, pp.694-695 (Laclede County - biography of Richard P. Bland) and pp.977-978 (Phelps County - biography of Charles C. Bland).
- Nall Families of America, Sally Nall Dolphin & Charles Fuller Nall, Century Publishing Co., Coeur d’Alene, Idaho, 1978, pp.130 & 199.
- The History of the Bench and Bar of Missouri, A. J. D. Stewart, editor, The Legal Publishing Co., St. Louis, MO, 1898, pp.149-151
- Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia, Internet, entry for Richard Parks Bland

