

Theodorick Bland

(21 Mar 1742 - 1 Jun 1790)

Biographical Directory of the United States Congress 1774-1989

A Delegate and a Representative from Virginia; born at Cawsans, on the Appomattox River, near Petersburg, Prince George County, Va., March 21, 1742; was sent to England to be educated; studied medicine in Edinburgh and was admitted to practice; returned to his home in 1759 and engaged in extensive practice; took an active part in the Revolutionary War; entered the Continental Army as captain of the First Troop of Virginia Cavalry; Member of the Continental Congress 1780-1783; appointed by Governor Henry as lieutenant of Prince George County Militia in 1785; member of the Virginia convention of 1788 on the adoption of the Federal Constitution and was one of the minority which opposed its ratification; elected to the First Congress and served from March 4, 1789, until his death in New York City June 1, 1790; interment in Trinity Churchyard; reinterred in the Congressional Cemetery, August 31, 1828. (Nephew of Richard Bland)

The National Intelligencer, July 2, 1858, p. 2

The Remains of the Late Col. Theodorick Bland

Beltsville, June 25th, 1858

Editor of the Star:

The removal of the remains of Colonel Monroe from New York, reminds me of another Virginian, whose remains are now in the city of New York. Colonel Theodorick Bland, a distinguished cavalry officer in the revolutionary war, died in New York whilst attending, as a Member of Congress from Virginia; and his remains were deposited in a vault in that city. His widow, in her will, appropriated money which she directed her executor to use in the removal of the remains of Colonel Bland to Cawsans, near City Point, in Virginia, and there to be deposited under a weeping willow tree, and a monument erected on that spot to the memory of Col. Bland. The executor faithless to his duty, appropriated the money to other use, and the late John Randolph, of Roanoke, to whom Cawsans was bequeathed, made no effort to comply with what most men would have held as a sacred duty. Mr. Randolph devised it to his half-brother, the late Henry St. George Tucker, who sold it.

"The mother may forget her child
Wha' smiles sae sweetly on her knee;
But I'll remember thee, Glencairn,
And all that thou hast done for me."

[Burns]

The late "J.R., of R." professed great love for his native State. "God bless her." In his will he devised the "Records of the Virginia Company" to the University of Oxford, 'Old England.' The remains of his mother's brother, Col. Bland, and the faithlessness of his wife's executor in not removing them to Cawsans, were not "remembered" by Mr. Randolph.

"Its not in titles nor in rank,
Its not in wealth like Lon'on bank
To purchase peace and rest."--Burns