

Bland, Robert: Coroner's Inquisition, Prince
George County

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Title: Bland, Robert: Coroner's Inquisition, Prince George County

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County of Prince George to-wit;

An inquisition taken at the Court House in the County of Prince George on the 23rd day of November 1889, before R. R. Barney a Justice of the Peace (and acting Coroner) of the said County upon the view of the body of Robert Bland then lying dead.

Henry King keeper of the Jail being sworn, deposed as follows
On the night of the 22nd inst, between the hours of 11 & 12 o'clock he was awakened by loud knocking at his door accompanied by the request to open the door, that a prisoner was to be put in jail, and another said why do you not tell what we want? we want the keys to the jail. I then went upon the steps and hollered three times they then fired their pistols, one ball striking near my face, they then burst open the door and rushed in and seized Jeffrey King who said he was not the man, they then came up the steps and seized me and pulled me down the steps, and dragged

1

County of Prince George to wit:
An inquisition taken at the Court
House in the County of Prince George
on the 23rd day of November 1889,
before R. R. Ramey a Justice of the
Peace (and acting Coroner) of
the said county upon the recovery of
the body of Robert Bland there
lying dead.

Henry King keeper of the jail being
sworn, deposed as follows

On the night of the 22nd inst. between
the hours of 11 & 12 o'clock he was
awakened by a loud knocking at
his door accompanied by the request
to open the door, that a prisoner was
to be put in jail, and another said
why do you not tell what we
want? we want the keys to the
jail. I then went up on the steps and
hollered three times they then fired
their pistols, one ball striking near
my face, they then burst open the
door and rushed in and seized
Jeffrie King who said he was not
the man, they then came up the steps
and seized me and pulled me
down the steps, and dragged

me towards the jail demanding the keys to the jail after choking me with a rope around my neck and getting me near the jail, they discovered the keys were in my pocket which they took and proceeded to the jail went in covering my face with their hands and striking a match when they opened the cell and pushed me in saying "down it go in there" when they locked the door and left me. - I did not see them take the Prisoner's Roll Blank as I was blind folded. The men were masked and appeared to be about 24 or 25 ~~men~~.

Jeffie King sworn suspect -
About 11 or 12 o'clock I was awaked by a loud knocking saying a friend Henry I want to see you, Henry started towards the door but stopped and said who is that, they said a friend, we have a prisoner to put in jail, Henry asked who is the prisoner? they said Sam Jones, - Henry asked who is Sam Jones? The next thing they told Henry to put that down meaning

2

me towards the jail demanding the keys to the jail after choking me with a rope around my neck, and getting me near the jail, they discovered the keys were in my pocket, which they took and proceeded to the jail went in covering my face with their hands and striking a match when they opened the cell and pushed me in saying "damn it go in there" when they locked the door and left me, - I did not see them take the Prisoner Robt Bland as I was blind folded. The men were masked and appeared to be about 21 or 25 men

Jeffrie King Sworn deposed- about 11 or 12 oclock I was awakened by a loud knocking saying a friend Henry I want to see you, Henry started towards the door but stopped and said who is that, they said a friend, we have a prisoner to put in jail; Henry asked who is the prisoner? They said Sam Jones, - Henry asked who is Sam Jones? The next thing they told Henry to put that down, meaning

a revolver, we do not want to
shoot you, Henry then called me
to come down stairs, I came down
they asked him was he coming out
he said he did not know whether
he was or not, they then said
how long he was knowing we
will give you five minutes to come
out or ~~we~~ would burst the door open
one then spoke up, and said don't
be fooling any longer we want the
jail keys we will give you five
minutes to get them or kill
everything in the house

They waited about five minutes
and then burst open the door, I
was standing facing the door,
when this said give me the keys, give
me the keys or he will blow you
brains out, I said I want the
man, they then ran
up the steps where Henry had
gone and seized him and
dragged him towards the
jail. I stuck with Henry's
wife and did not go to the
jail.

3

a revolver, we do not want to hurt you, Henry then called me to come down stairs, I came down they asked him was he coming out he said he did not know whether he was or not, they then said twas time he was knowing. We will give you five minutes to come out or we would burst the door open one then spoke up, and said dont be fooling any longer- we want the jail keys we will give you five minutes to get them or kill everything in the house They waited about five minutes and then burst open the door, I was standing facing the door, when they said give me the keys, give me the keys or we will blow your brains out, I said I wont the man. They then rushed up the steps where Henry had gone, and seized him and dragged him towards the jail. I stood with Henrys wife and did not go to the jail,

Yuba Steverson being sworn upon
On the night of 22nd I was awakened
by a noise like someone knocking
against a door, or wagon wheel
on the ground - ^{I stepped to the door} soon after that I
heard a pistol fire and could see
the light from it, in the direction
of Henry Kings House, his wife
was hollering and there seemed to
be about 20 or 30 men around
his house, they then came off
from his house and went towards
the jail - Every one in awhile I
could hear the voice saying if you
holler I will blow your brains
out, when they struck the steps
to the Court yard I could hear
a voice which I took to be Henry's
saying O Lordy - and the reply
If you dont hush we will
knock your damn brains out,
I heard them go in jail and heard
them go out but could not recognize
any one - after they left the jail
I heard some shouting about 4 or
8 transports, I then came over to the jail
and saw Jeffery King who was looking
for Henry, when ^{he} went to the jail and
found the keys in the door and on going
in found Henry locked up in a cell

4

Juba Steward being sworn, deposed
On the night of 22nd I was awakened
by a noise like someone knocking
against a house, or wagon rumbling
on the ground - ^ I [stepte?] to the door soon after that I
heard a pistol fire and could see
the light from it, in the direction
of Henry Kings house, his wife
was hollering and there seemed to
be about 20 or 30 men around
his house, They then came off
from his house and went towards
the jail- Every once in awhile I
could hear a voice saying if you
holler I will blow your brains
out, When they struck the steps
to the Court yard I could hear
a voice whom I took as he Henrys
saying O Lordy - and the reply
If you don't hush we will
knock your damn brains out,
I heard them go in jail and heard
them go out but could not recognize
anyone, - after they left the jail
I heard some shooting about 7 or
8 [reports?]. I then came over to the jail
and saw Jeffry King who was looking
for Henry, when ^we went to the jail and
found the keys in the door and on going
in found Henry locked up in a cell

John J. Burchett being sworn deposed -
On the night of 22nd ^{between} ~~about~~ 11th 1862
O'clock I heard some men cross
the Streets opposite the C. H. about
20 minutes afterwards I heard some
pistol shots in the direction of
Henry Kings house - soon after
about 10 or 15 minutes I heard
some one say O Lord on the steps
^{near} Mr. Wagners house they then
seemed to go in the direction of
the Jail, in a few minutes I
heard them come across the
Court yard and cross the steps
opposite Temples & Bross, then from
thence they went towards the ^{South} East
Corner of the Court yard where
Bland was afterwards found
hanging, and from that di-
rection I heard a voice saying
please, O Lord & I then heard
6 or 7 pistol shots,
M. D. Temple being sworn deposed
On the evening of Nov 22 as near as
my memory will run - between
sunset and dark Mr. Joseph Heath
Deputy Sheriff brought a Colored boy
said to be named Robert Blount to the

John J. Birchett being sworn deposed-
 On the night of 22nd between 11 & 12
 o'clock I heard some men cross
 the street opposite the C, H, [Court House] about
 20 minutes afterwards I heard some
 pistol shots in the direction of
 Henry Kings house- soon after
 about 10 or 15 minutes, I heard
 someone say O, Lord on the steps
 near the Waymacks house , they then
 seemed to go in the direction of
 the jail, in a few minutes I
 heard them come across the
 Court yard and cross the steps
 opposite [Templer?] and Bros. store, from
 there they went towards the ^south east
 Corner of the Court yard, where
 Bland was afterwards found
 hanging, and from that direction
 I heard a voice saying
 please, O lord; I then heard
 6 or 7 pistols shots.

W. D. Temple being sworn deposed
 On the evening of Nov. 22 as near as
 my memory will [illegible] - between
 sunset and dusk Mr Joseph Heath
 deputy sheriff brought a colored boy
 said to be named Robt Bland to the

part and turned him over to Henry
King. The next morning about
sunrise when I got down to my
place of business I saw a dead
body lying near the road
side and I heard it was the
body of Scott Island that was
put in jail the night before,
H.C. Britton being sworn deposed
~~that~~ on the night of 22nd I was
awakened by the noise of several
men crying out Oppen the door
accompanied by several pistol
shots, when Rena King wife of
Henry King came to my house saying
Please come here Mr. Britton they
will kill Henry. I told her not
to trouble herself that they would
not hurt him, I could not see
any one but from the sound of
voices I supposed there were some
15 or 20 men around the house
The sound seemed to move to-
wards the Court House and in
about 20 or 30 minutes I heard
several more pistol shots, when
everything quieted off and no more
sounds were heard.

6

jail and turned him over to Henry King. The next morning about sunrise when I got down to my place of business I saw a dead body hanging near the roadside and I heard it was the body of Robt Bland that was put in jail the night before. H.C. Britton being sworn deposed [struck] That [struck] On the night of the 22nd I was awakened by the noise of several men crying out Open the door accompanied by several pistol shots, when Rena King wife of Henry King came to my house saying please come here Mr. Britton they will kill Henry, I told her not to trouble herself that they would not hurt him, I could not see any one but from the sound of voices supposed there were some 15 or 20 men around the house. The sound seemed to move towards The Court House and in about 20 or 30 minutes I heard several more pistol shots, when everything quieted off and no more sounds were heard.

The Jurors sworn to enquire when, how
and by what means the said Robt
Blond came to his death upon their
oaths do say;

That from the testimony above adduced
they are of opinion that the said Robt,
Blond came to his death violently
at the hands of some person or
persons to whom entrance having
been forcibly taken from the
County Jail when he had been
committed for the crime of at-
tempted rape after overpowering
the guard and getting possession
of the keys and taking to a
neighboring tree and being
by the neck and shot, until
he was dead

Given under hands this 29 day
of Nov. 1889

So R. Reamy J. P. & Actg. Coroner
Frank ^{his} Epper Juror
J. B. Kewell " "
W. O. Perkins " "
Braxton ^{his} Mason " "
D. A. Finney " "
J. J. Spivey " "

The Jurors sworn to enquire when, how
and by what means the said Robert
Bland came to his death upon their
oaths do say:

That from the testimony above deduced
they are of opinion that the said Robt.
Bland came to his death violently
at the hands of some person or
persons to them unknown, having
been forcibly taken from the
County Jail, where he had been
committed for the crime of attempted
rape, after overpowering
the Jailor and getting possession
of the keys and take to a
neighboring tree, and hung
by the neck and shot, until
he was dead

Given under hands this 23 day
of Novr. 1889

Ro R Ramey, J.P. & acting Corner

Frank x(his mark) Eppes Juror

T.M. Newell

W.O. Perkins

Braxton x (his mark) Mason

P.A. Tinney

J.T. Spain

This is to certify that the deceased
R. M. Brown had no estate out of which
any part of the costs could be
made

Ro R. Rainey J. P. & Co.

8

This is to certify that the deceased
Robt Bland had no estate out of which
any part of the costs could be
made.

Ro R Ramey J.P. [justice of the peace] & actg cor [acting coroner]

Commonwealth of Va

J. R. Ramey J. P. & Acty, Coroner

"	on Inquisition of body of Robt Island		
	Nov 23 1889		3,00
"	P. A. Emery Juror on De. day		1,00
"	J. M. Newell " " "		1,00
"	J. F. Spawin " " "		1,00
"	W. O. Perkins " " "		1,00
"	Frank Eppes " " "		1,00
"	Braxton Mason " " "		1,00
"	^{R. S. Stevens Contractor} Henry King Witness		1,50
"	Jeppie King " " "		50
"	Julia Stewart " " "		50
"	John J. Brackett " " "		50
"	Dr A Temple " " "		50
"	H C Button " " "		50
"	Frank Eppes & Braxton Mason making lid to Coffin 50 cents and burying body 1,50		2,00

I R. R. Ramey J. P. hereby certify
that the above Jurors and Witness
were in the above case and that
they are entitled to their allowance
in the same

R. R. Ramey J. P.

Sworn to before me this 23 day of Nov
1889

A. S. [Signature]

9

Commonwealth of Va
To R. R Ramey J.P. & acting coroner
on Inquisition of body of Robert Bland
Nov 23 1889 3.00
P.A. Tinney Juror on Do. [ditto] day 1.00
T.M. Newell 1.00
J.T. Spain 1.00
W.O. Perkins 1.00
Frank Eppes 1.00
Braxton Mason 1.00
R.L. Stevens Constable 1.50
Henry King Witness .50
Jeffrie King 50
Juba Stewart 50
John J. Birchett 50
W D Temple 50
H C Britton 50
Frank Eppes & Braxton Mason
making lid to coffin 50 cents
and burying body 1.50 2.00
I R.R. Ramey J.P. hereby certify
that the above Jurors and witness
acted in the above case and that
they are entitled to their allowance
in this case
Ro R Ramey J.P.
Sworn to before me this 23 day of Novr
1889
H.C. Britton Clk [Clerk]

Coroner Inquest
of the County of Monroe
Nov 22 1884
Holt Island
1884 Dec 21 6 AM
H. W. ...
Appendix 9 continued

10

Coroners Inquest
& deposition of witnesses
Nov 23 1889
Robt Bland
1889 Dec 21 filed
H.C Britton Clk.
approved & entered

THE COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

or any Constable

To the Sheriff of the County of Prince George--Greeting.

We command you to summon ~~Six~~ ^{Six} Jurors of the County of Prince George to attend before me R.R. ~~Magistrate of the County of Prince George~~ ^{Magistrate of the County of Prince George} at the Court-house, on the 23rd day of Nov^r 1889, to ~~settle and the truth to say in behalf of~~ the view of the body of Robert Bland ~~their being a~~ ⁱⁿ matter of controversy in said Court pending and undetermined, between ~~dead~~ ^{dead}, when how and by what means he ~~Priniff~~ ^{Priniff} and came to his death ~~of fact~~, and this

~~you~~ shall in no wise omit under the penalty of \$100. And have then these this writ. Given under my hand ~~Wm. Johnston Clerk of said Court~~ this 23rd day of Nov^r A. D. 1889, in the 114th year of the Commonwealth.

~~R. R. Ramsey~~ ^{R. R. Ramsey} City Clerk

THE COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

To the sheriff ^ or any constable of the County of Prince George = = Greeting.

We command you to summon six jurors of the county
of Prince George to attend before me R.R.

Ramey J.P. & acting coroner of the county of Prince
George, at the Courthouse, on the 23 day of Novr 1889,

to the view of the body of

Robert Bland there being

dead, when how and

by what means he came to his

death, and this

you shall in no wise omit under the penalty of £100.

And have then these this writ. Given under my hand

this 23rd day of

Novr A.D. 1889, in the 114 year of the Commonwealth.

Ro R Ramey, J.P. & Actg Coroner

Commonwealth of Va

Commonwealth

Executed by Murray,
for following persons, to-wit:
J. S. Paine - W. C. Keeling
John Newell, Frank Eppes
& Benjamin Mason, Esq.
Thomas L. Dixon, Clerk

17th day of May

12

Commonwealth of Va
[illegible]
Executed by [illegible]
the following Jurors to wit,
J.T. Spain, W.O. Perkins,
T.M. Newell, Frank Eppes
& Braxton Mason, P.A.
Turney, R.L. Stevens, const[able]
1 Witness H. King

Contributions Message

Kelly Crook, Bill, LVA, The Library of Virginia and Gianluca De Fazio