



THE MASONIC HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF N.S.W.

PAPER NO:- 7

PREPARED & DELIVERED BY:- A. Astin.

DATE:- Monday, 28th September, 1992.

---

BRO. DR. WILLIAM BLAND 1789 - 1869

Tonight I will deal very briefly with Bro.Dr.William Bland M.L.A. who was a most important character in the growth & development of Australia's (N.S.W. in particular), medical & political systems.

Having spent over forty-seven years in the aviation industry, it was in the 1970's that the mention of Bland's 'invention' during the 1840's of aerial vessel which was intended to travel from England to Australia in five weeks which really brought the name Bro.Doctor William Bland to my attention. Unfortunately his invention never flew and was never actually constructed in anything other than model form. Dr.Bland's dirigible design, which was in effect a hydrogen filled balloon (helium being used in today's airships). The aircraft was approximately ninety feet long with an attached gondola and weighed, when loaded with full fuel, about three & a half tons, the total lift of the aircraft was estimated at approximately five and a half tons.

Note: Bland's design was over fifty years in advance of the first flight by Zeppelin's dirigibles and some think that he gained useful design ideas from Bland's work of the 1840/50's.

Bland is a difficult character to deal with as he was involved in so many different & important areas of Australian and New South Wales history. Indeed so many of the features of his life occurred concurrently, that I will address a subject and deal with it chronologically, and then attempt somehow to loosely bring them together. Again, Bro.Dr.William Bland, although a very important character in the Colony's history, does not seem to rate a mention in many of the history books dealing with that period, if one reads through the index of the various books on 'Colonial' times and you will find in those alphabetical listings such names as Blair, Blaxcell, etc, but a notable omission tends to be William Bland.

Forthright speaking was the forte of Dr.William Bland as long ago as 1857 he might well have been described as having earned the title of being a 'whingeing Pommy' - except that he was the colony's leading doctor colony and the real pioneer of medical hygiene in N.S.W. One of his complaints was about the stench which drifted from what were then described as "manure grounds", where human excreta was dumped. (The suburbs in question were Rose Bay & Double Bay. He was also aghast at the enormous infestation by rats of most of Sydney and in particular the "Rocks" area, pollution of the city's harbour by the 'contents of our drains', and 'the offal from our abattoirs' being either left to rot in the back streets behind the slaughter houses or just thrown into the drains - such as there were. His concern on this occasion was in respect of the repeated outbreaks of diseases such as cholera, bubonic plague, etc, to which Sydney as a city, was periodically subjected to until as late as 1905.

A further comment by Dr.Bland on the Sydney of the 1850's was the shocking state of Sydney's health & hygiene standards at that time.was that:-

"...offensive volumes of smoke, which at present not only pollute the air of the city - deface the beauty of its buildings..... but operate to the great discomfort of its inhabitants, - and to the serious injury of their health."

Whilst Bland's criticisms were certainly fully justified - even understated if one cares to read about the conditions existing in those days. It certainly does seem somewhat familiar to today's citizens of the City of Sydney - and none of today's "Greenies" or environmentalists could have stated it better than he did one hundred & fifty years ago. It is perhaps worthy of note, that no mention of an environmental levy was ever made by him!

Who, then was this man who arrived in the Colony of New South Wales as a convict and became one of the founders of the Australian medical profession, a prolific writer of books & articles on medical matters & other subjects and an inventor (some developments of his medical instruments are still in use today). In addition to the foregoing he was also a driving force in the foundation of the Australian political system and to a lesser extent an inventor in the areas of the transport of wool by shipping, aviation, etc. Although he tends to be almost forgotten by most, he is still remembered by having had, in the state of Victoria - a mountain and a plains area, a N.S.W. electorate named after him in the West Wyalong/Temora area, plus several streets in Sydney & the Illawarra areas.

### The Bland Family

William Bland was born in London on the 5th November 1789, the youngest son of Dr. Robert Bland, a leading London obstetrician. The Bland family was, to quote from A.M. McIntosh, "an entirely English family, of great antiquity, and distinguished for its record of public service." After being educated at the famous school of "Merchant Taylors", William Bland followed was trained by his father as a medical doctor & surgeon. In 1809, he qualified by examination, at the Royal College of Surgeons as a surgeon's mate (5th Class) for duty in the Royal Navy.

At this period in his life he appears to have been quite an energetic young man, possessed of strict principles & strong convictions. Unfortunately, Bland, was also of an argumentative nature, which throughout his long and distinguished life was to lead him into confrontation with all types of persons on many & varied issues. He was, at that time, considered rather conservative in outlook, being well liked by his commanding officers. Bland's efficiency was such that in 1812 he had been promoted to surgeon.

### Bland's duel and transportation to New South Wales

The promise of a distinguished naval career was to be dashed only one year later, when he was serving on board H.M.S. "Hesper" in the Persian Gulf. His life-long friend, Lt. Fulton was involved in a dispute with a Robert Case (purser of the ship's wardroom). who challenged first Bland and then Fulton respectively, to pistol duels on the 7th. of April 1813. This duel resulted in Case being wounded in the lower abdomen and he died from the wound within a few hours. The duel taking place in India, resulted in Bland & Fulton being tried for "wilful murder" in Bombay where they were found guilty with a strong plea for leniency. Bland received the minimum sentence for such a crime and was sentenced to be transported to New South Wales for seven years. (Lt. Fulton, his friend, who had acted as Bland's second for the duel, as well as being the other officer challenged, was sentenced to eight years in N.S.W. (William Fulton died in Bland's house on Pitt Street, Sydney in 1822.)

Bland spent seven months in a Bombay prison for ship to the colony, he was not shipped as a common criminal for the voyage to N.S.W. but given preferential treatment and dined at the officers table. He was aged 24 years when he arrived in Hobart in the January of 1814 on board the ship "Denmark Hill", and later was transferred to Sydney, arriving on board the ship "Frederick" Sydney on the 14 July 1814.

The arrival of a qualified and experienced doctor in the colony was a god-send to Governor MacQuarie with disease rampant running through-out the colony. MacQuarie at once sent Dr. Bland to Castle Hill Lunatic Asylum and he then devoted himself, as appears to have been his usual manner, energetically & efficiently to his task. For his conscientious & invaluable work, he received a full pardon from Governor, Colonel Lachlan MacQuarie on the 27th. October 1815, or a period of some fifteen months after arriving in Sydney.

He developed a booming medical practice, becoming quite wealthy and famous for his flamboyant lifestyle. Bland became was a reasonably large landowner in the colony and census of 1828 records him as owning 2,000 acres with holdings at Abbotsford, Gerringong, Hunters Hill, Prospect and other locations. In addition, it was further recorded William Bland as owning four horses and sixty horned cattle

In 1849, Governor Fitzroy had granted some land in Macquarie Street, on the other side of, and nearly opposite to, where the State (or Mitchell Library) now stands this block was soon bought by Doctor Bland and on that site he had large gentleman's townhouse, constructed of sandstone erected there which still stands to this day. He took up residence there during 1853. This house, situated at what is now 133 Macquarie Street, later it became known as Wickham House. Since 1970 it has been the headquarters of the Royal Australian Historical Society and has acquired the title of "History House."

Whether from his liking for horse racing (he was a member at one time of the Turf Club (and later when it was founded, the Australian Racing Club) or some other cause(s), he was declared bankrupt in 1861.

#### **William Bland's medical career in New South Wales and the general health situation in the Colony.**

In 1816 Bland applied for, and was offered, an appointment as the Medical Superintendent of Port Dalrymple, (situated downstream from Launceston, on the Taymar River). However, he did take up the position as it was conditional upon him submitting himself, to an examination as to his medical knowledge and prowess. The examination was to be carried out by a medical qualifications board comprised of Doctors William Redfern (the first to receive an Australian medical qualification), D'Arcy Wentworth and West. The strong willed Bland would not allow himself to be submitted to the examination, as he thought himself better qualified than those set to examine him. Further, he did not consider any those appointed to assess him either competent or experienced enough to do so. Bland then returned to his private practice in Castle Hill, becoming the leading doctor in Sydney (in effect, the whole of the colony)

[In the same year (1816) as he had applied for the position at Port Dalrymple, Bland also sent a petition to the Lords of the British Admiralty in London in which he sought the restoration of his naval rank and its attendant privileges, the appeal was unsuccessful.]

It might be interesting to look at the medical situation in Sydney at that time. One early form of 'health insurance' scheme in which Bland was involved was the Sydney Dispensary, opened on the 1st December 1827, which was situated close to the Australian Subscription Library (located on Eastern side of Pitt Street between Hunter & Martin Place) for whose 'services' those able to afford paid one pound per year. The doctor (not William Bland) could not have been too highly paid for in addition to diagnosing the illnesses, prescribing and mixing all the medicines during the morning session, in the afternoon he would adjourn to the library from 1p.m. until 4p.m. and act as librarian issuing the books. In addition to this, the doctor also conducted a thriving firewood business during the wintertime!

By 1836, the Sydney Dispensary (then situated on MacQuarie Street) was treating in excess of 500 serious cases per year, the more serious ones included in alphabetical order the following: dropsy (17), bronchitis (19), diarrhoea (20), dysentery (22), erysipelas (9), eye disease (38), influenza (27), liver disease (7), palsy (9), severe rheumatism (39), tuberculosis (9), ulcers (22), various skin diseases (14), worms (12), plus the odd cases of bubonic plague, cancer, cholera, gangrene, necrosis, and scurvy. By far the largest number of treatments given were for venereal disease - mainly syphilis which topped the list with 46 cases. With such a shortage of qualified & competent doctors not only in Sydney but in the whole of the colony, the medical quacks had a field day.

The hospitals were a last resort for the sick & injured, having a terrible ratio of deaths to admittances and with the Sydney Hospital, being no worse than any other during that period, recording the following death rates: tuberculosis 50%, dropsy 40%, erysipelas 15%, and pneumonia 14%.

It is therefore no wonder that the skillful Doctor Bland was in great demand as he treated practically anyone who came to him, whether they had money or not, such was his philanthropic nature.

Sydney University owes a great debt to William Bland for its foundation, but his efforts although now recognised by historians, were played down in his own time due to him being an ex-convict and he did not receive the place in the University's inaugural Senate he so richly deserved. Bland was also closely associated with the foundation and operation of the Benevolent Society, Australia's oldest charity, throughout his life was one of the society's principal benefactors.

#### **Bland's surgical operations & operating instrument inventions.**

Returning to Bland's medical career, his ability as a surgeon will be better appreciated when some of his accomplishments are assessed some one hundred and fifty years later. In taking into account these achievements it must be also be remembered that this were in an era before the discovery and general acceptance of anaesthetics. Bearing in mind this, the fortitude of his patients must also be taken into consideration! It must be further considered that, the need for proper hygiene & antiseptic conditions were also not generally accepted by the medical profession of that era.



Bland must have been outstanding among his medical contemporaries and is recorded as having carried out operations for the removal of cataracts from the eyes, the removal of stones from the bladder, etc. In the March of 1832 he performed an operation (only the sixth known of its kind in the world at that time, and for which he had to improvise/invent a suitable instrument) for an aneurysm of the sub-clavian artery and another outstanding operation by tying the innominate artery - only the fourth operation of its kind at that time. Some of the instruments ascribed to Dr. Bland were in use for many years and with modifications some are, I understand, still in use today.

William Bland also wrote articles on medical matters which were published in both Britain and in Australasia typical subjects were 'Dislocations' and 'Bites of Venomous Snakes in Australia'. He was at one time the President of the Australian Medical Subscription Library and in 1859 became the first President of the Australian Medical Association. (The A.M.A. building in Macquarie Street is named "Bland House" after him.)

#### **Bland - Inventor & Innovator.**

Bland did not limit himself in his writings to only medical and socio-political matters. He also published papers on many topics in addition to his airship invention, e.g. a booklet in March 1843 in which he proposed the circulation of carbonic acid gas through the holds of ships, the document was entitled "*The Suppression of Spontaneous Combustion in Wool Ships*".

#### **Bland - Marriage & Women.**

Let us go back to 1817, the by then very successful young ex-convict doctor was twenty-eight years old and married a Miss Sarah Henry on the 17 April of that year. She was younger than Bland, being only twenty years of age, and one of the daughters of the Rev. Henry, a Congregationalist preacher who had settled in the Kissing Point area. For a short while the marriage seemed to be quite happy, although Sarah objected to his pre-occupation with his medical practice and his many other interests. These other interests took up so much of his time that his wife, within eighteen months of the wedding, after meeting a Richard Drake, an officer of the East India Company, became his lover. It was proved that she had committed adultery with Drake. Bland then instituted civil action against Drake for a sum of three thousand pounds on the grounds of alienation of his wife's affections and won the case. Dr. Bland was awarded a sum of two thousand pounds but received no money - as Drake fled from the Colony before paying Bland and left Sarah behind. Bland and his first wife were never divorced, Sarah left her husband and at first adopted a low profile when the affair became to the general knowledge of the public. She left the colony soon after Bland's court case was completed. However, on quitting the colony, his wife left behind a statement which was widely published in the Sydney by his political opponents, in which she asserted, to use her own words - that "at last she would be sleeping with a man."

Dr. Bland did not remarry for twenty-seven years, that is until four years after Sarah, his first wife had died (c.1842). His second marriage, in February 1846, was to a widow named Mrs. Eliza Smeathman - little is recorded of this lady. Following his second marriage the

Bland family's home was for a number of years at the South - Eastern corner of Pitt Street and Bent Street.

### The Macquarie 'Pipes' lead to a change in the colony's legal system.

Shortly after the break-up of his marriage the now, very successful young ex-convict doctor was involved in the well known Macquarie 'pipes' affair. Currently, there is no suitable definition in either the Macquarie dictionary for 'pipes' in the sense in which it is related to Dr. Bland, the nearest alternate wording would be lampoon or simple satirical verses critical of a person or society, etc.

During this period, Governor Macquarie had alienated many of the more conservative elements in the colony, this situation stemmed to a large extent from his emancipationist policies and the relative success of some of the emancipated convicts whom they viewed as social inferiors. Macquarie must have been under enormous pressure from these influential groups in the community who did not hesitate to criticise him in their correspondence with the United Kingdom.

Governor Macquarie, began to wilt under these pressures - feeling isolated and persecuted, viewing disagreement with any of his policies as disobedience & destructive to his schemes.

In British society at that time, it was, and even until lately, the custom on any major formal or social occasion, for an ode to be presented by anyone who fancied themselves as a poet. The position of the Poet Laureate for royal occasions, is a good example of this. Macquarie had his own poet, a former convict, Michael Massey Robinson - a convicted blackmailer who was the Governor's personal bard and later became the chief clerk in the Secretary's office. (Keeping in favour with Macquarie by composing flattering odes about Lachlan Macquarie and his activities apparently doing the trick for the crooked bard!)

The verse or 'pipe' of 11th. April 1818 (of Bland's) to which Macquarie objected, formed part of a manuscript book reputed of two poems and two letters highly critical of the governor. (William Bland at that time (1818) was very bitter about his wife's infidelity, and it is thought that his outlook, led him into his indiscretion.)

This book, reported as having been found on Parramatta Road, was brought to Macquarie's attention by one of his friends, The verse which was the subject of the criminal libel charge of May 1818, was as follows and related to the habit Macquarie had developed of having his name prominently included in any inscription, tablet, etc., on any new building or monument :-

*"Stript of its idle veil hypocrisy,  
Thy puerile, weak ambition there I see,  
That prompted thee to mark thy name in stone,  
And bids thee sigh and languish to be known;  
Like some rude younker, that with charcoal scrawls,  
And marks his name upon the school-room walls:  
Though better far for thee that name to die,  
Than live our scoff and lasting mockery!"*

Bland stood trial on the 24/25 September 1818 and was found guilty.

However, let us remember that there were no trials by jury in the colony at that time. During the trial Bland had conducted his own defence and it was at that time reported as being brilliant. However, Bland was sentenced to one year's imprisonment, fined fifty pounds and had to find two others who would stand surety for him against any further breach of the peace. Bland was not the sort of man to take this sort of treatment 'lying down' and Macquarie had made a bitter and implacable foe out of Bland who, after he had completed his sentence, then started correspondence with influential friends in Britain criticising Macquarie's administration. He was an ally, albeit an involuntary one, in getting the enquiry under Commissioner Bigge and the eventual removal of Governor Macquarie.

Aided by his long term political associate, W.C.Wentworth, he managed, after successful lobbying through in English sources in having the system of trial by jury introduced into the colony.

### Australian Patriotic Society with Bro.W.C.Wentworth

Following his unfortunate brush with the autocratic system of justice under Governor Macquarie, coupled with the lack of representative government existing in the colony, Bland had sent letters critical of Macquarie's administration to Lord Bathurst, Secretary of State for the Colonies. The political situation existing in Australia, and New South Wales in particular at that time was not well understood in Britain. However, during the September of 1834 an influential M.P.- Sir Edward Lytton- Bulmer, wrote and suggested the formation of some form of association and that it should appoint a political agent in London. Arising from Bulmer's letter, Bland & William Charles Wentworth, were instrumental in the formation of the Australian Patriotic Association in 1835, with Bland taking on the important roll of chairman of the 'Committee of Correspondence'.

As early as January of 1827, Bland had been openly advocating the necessity for a system of representative government to be instituted in the colony. From then on, in 1830 & 1831, he is recorded as being prominent in similar demands at political meetings ie. Australian Landowners Association, etc. Bland is credited with the drawing up of the two proposed Bills which were presented to the British Parliament in 1839.

Their efforts were rewarded in 1842 when the British Parliament passed an act to setting up a system of representative government in the colony whereby a single chamber would be established comprising - twelve nominees and twenty-four elected representatives. Again, it should be remembered that at that point in time New South Wales then included Queensland, Tasmania and Victoria. The first election was held in 1843 and resulted in Bros.Dr.Bland and W.C.Wentworth being the elected as the first Members of the Legislative Assembly for the two seats of Sydney by a vote of 1287 to O'Connell's 750.

On the day for the nomination of candidates, over 500 supporters of Maurice O'Connell, the main Independent opposition to Bland & Wentworth, tried to prevent Bland & Wentworth registering their nominations by forming a solid mass before the office. Violence erupted, and even an attempt was made to strangle Dr.Bland who was unconscious when he finally was carried into the office for registering his nomination.

Bland served many years as a M.L.A. and losing only one election (to Robert Lowe, a newly arrived English lawyer - who was later made Lord Sherbrooke) Bland is considered to have lost mainly because he supported the re-introduction of transportation, a seemingly contradictory stance, he being a former transportee himself. His argument against sponsored immigration being that, it resulted in an outflow of capital from the colony which the colony could not afford

Bland finally retired from politics when he was declared bankrupt in 1861.

#### **Involvement with foundation of University - senate problems**

The bitterness between Lowe and Bland finally erupted when Bland, who had done the majority of the work for the establishment of the Sydney University was called a convicted murderer and unfit to be on the list for the Senate by Lowe (published in the local press), shortly before the Senate of the new university was announced. Bland's name was on the original draft, but did not appear in the final list of appointments.

#### **Exploration - Hume & Hovell - association.**

With such an important character as Doctor Bland it is only right that some Australian geographical locations are named after him. In Bland's case these are, in Sydney and the Illawarra areas, limited to street names (refer to Appendix 7), however there are two sites in Victoria, the Bland Plains and Mount Bland which bring another achievement of William Bland's into consideration. This involves the historic expedition of Hamilton Hume and William Hilton Hovell to Port Philip Bay in the period October 1824 to January 1825.

Little action was taken in regards to disseminating the information gained by the expedition was made by the explorers. Doctor Bland was one who was ever keen to further the cause of the Colony took the matter in hand. He personally wrote down, consolidated the explorers account of the expedition and arranged its publication. This is another of Bland's important but lesser known achievements.

#### **Dr. William Bland and Freemasonry**

The late Rt. Wor. Bro. John Danks frequently stated that Bland had been initiated in 1825 into Lodge 260 I.C. The history of Lodge Antiquity No.1, published in 1920, deals with many Masonic happenings in Colonial times, it contains no mention whatsoever of such a famous character as Dr. William Bland in the late Wor. Bro. W. Henley's book. neither does Lodge Antiquity's documentation held by the Grand Lodge Library shed any light on his (Bland's) membership. Lodge Antiquity No.1's current Secretary (Wor. Bro. Len Kearns) very kindly loaned me the transcript of the minutes of that period (1820 - 1830). The actual minutes were in reality somewhat meagre in the recording of events, persons and business as conducted in the old lodge. (Refer to Appendix 3 of full paper). Through the transcripts I have been was able to confirm that:

Bro. Dr. William Bland was initiated into "The Australian Social Lodge" I.C. No.260 at a meeting held at the "Three Tuns Tavern" in Hyde Park. General details of Bland's Craft degrees follow:



Initiated on the 1st. June 1822, Passed on the 16th. September 1822  
and Raised " " 4th. November 1822

Bland may, from the records existing, be may therefore be adjudged as being only a 'lightweight' Mason. He did not take any of the other Irish Constitution degrees which his "Mother" lodge was at that point in time conferring ie. Mark Master Mason, Royal Arch Mason, Ark Mariner.

#### The closing years.

In the July of 1856, William Bland at the height of his popularity following the various reforms he had been active in pioneering, and, to celebrate the grant of a new Constitution by the British Government for the colony, a State banquet was held at which Bland presided. Two years later, in November, 1858, he received a sum of money and a candelabra as a testimonial for his services to the community. Political jealousy prevented the passing of a Bill (which would have granted him an annuity) in the N.S.W. Legislative Assembly during 1861 - the year he was made bankrupt.

It would appear that the high esteem in which Dr. William Bland was held in his lifetime rapidly faded after his death, this was foreshadowed by his friend, fellow Freemason & ally, W.C. Wentworth, in a speech reported during the 1848 election when he said:-

"I had learned from the unerring story of the past that, whilst the misdeeds of public men are graven on brass, the records of their virtues and services are traced on sand."

Such appears to apply in the case of Bro. Dr. William Bland.

To those present tonight for this address, by now you must have gained an impression, as I did during my research, that our subject Bro. Dr. William Bland M.L.C., (who has been virtually overlooked by the majority of writers of Australia's history), was an extremely complex character to attempt to adequately examine in the short time available. He was born into a highly respected British family, well educated, an ex-convict, a brilliant doctor and innovator in a society, in a society when medical standards and hygiene were primitive, inventor in several fields, author, pamphleteer, philanthropist, social reformer, politician and many other things which we do not have time to delve into tonight. Surely to the men present, who are Freemasons, he exemplifies the symbolism of the First Working Tools ie: knowledge, grounded on accuracy, aided by labour, and sustained by perseverance, will in the end overcome all difficulties, raise ignorance from despair and promote happiness in the paths of science.

Perhaps not quite, for in Bland's case he was, as you are aware, declared bankrupt in 1861 and in fact died intestate. The cause of his death was pneumonia, whilst still actively working as a doctor during an outbreak of influenza in Sydney. He died on the 21st. July 1869 at the age of 79 years and was accorded a state funeral for the service he had rendered to the community as a whole. An imposing monument raised to his memory in the Rookwood cemetery. Unfortunately, there were no children to carry on the name of Bland from either of his two marriages.

Bibliography:

- A History of Australia. Vol.3 (The beginning of an Australian Civilisation) by Prof.C.Manning Clark 1973 (1985 ed.)
- Account of the duel between William Bland & Robert Case. by G.Mackaness 1942
- Australian Colonial Medicine by Jennifer Jagger 1979
- Australian Dictionary of Biography. Period 1788 - 1850 Article by John Copley-pages 112 / 115 1968
- Australian Encyclopaedia (Grolier)
- A History of the United Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of New South Wales. Vol. 1. by K.R.Kramp & G.Mackaness 1938
- Australia in the Victorian Age. Vol.1. (Who's Master? Who's Man?) by Michael Cannon 1971 (1988 ed.)
- Australia in the Victorian Age. Vol.3. (Life in the Cities) by Michael Cannon 1971 (1988 ed.)
- Australians in the Air by Greg Copley
- Caroline Chisholm by Margaret Kiddle 1950 (1969 ed.)
- Flypast (Australian Civil Aviation Authority Bicentennial Book) 1988 by Neville Parnell & Trevor Broughton
- History of Lodge Australian Social Mother No.1 by Wor.Bro. W.Henley. 1920
- James MacArthur - Colonial Conservative 1798-1867 by John Manning Ward 1981
- Lachlan MacQuarie - A Biography by John Ritchie 1986 (1988 ed.)
- Minutes of Lodge Antiquity No.1 1820-1830 (Transcribed) by V.Wor.Bro. H.Ferris) 1988
- Serenade to Sydney (Historical Landmarks) by Frank Clune 1967
- The Age of MacQuarie by James Broadbent & Joy Hughes 1992
- The Atmotic Ship (a private publication) by William Bland M.L.C. 1857
- The Exploration of Australia (Readers Digest) by Michael Cannon 1988
- The life and times of William Bland (Annual Post Graduate Oration) by A.M.McIntosh 1954
- The Making of Australians by Michael Page & Robert Ingphen 1987