

**Maryland Genealogical Society**  
**201 West Monument Street**  
**Baltimore, MD 21201**

August 2, 2013

Ms. Susan Bryant  
1442 Rapids Road  
Portland, TN 37148  
[report sent by email]

Dear Ms. Bryant:

**Wantland family**

James Wantland and Mary Boyse married on 16 September 1708 (All Hallows Anglican Parish Register, Anne Arundel Co., Maryland). It appears that Mary Boyse was the widow of John Boyse [or Boyce]. John Boyse and Mary Jolly married 21 August 1701 (All Hallows Anglican Parish Register, Anne Arundel Co.). John Boyce of Anne Arundel County died prior to 20 January 1706/7, when the inventory of his estate was taken (Maryland Prerogative Court Inventories and Accounts 26:168). The administration account of his estate was filed on 20 June 1707 by Mary Boyce, administratrix. No heirs were named (Maryland Prerogative Court Inventories and Accounts 27:8). John and Mary Boyce had at least one child, a daughter Mary, who was born on 7 March 1705 and baptized on 10 April 1709 (St. James Anglican Parish Register, Anne Arundel Co.). The baptismal date was the same as the baptismal date of James Wantland, son of James and Mary Wantland, so it appears that Mary Wantland's daughter Mary by her late husband John Boyce and her first child by her husband James Wantland were baptized together on the same day at St. James Church. Further evidence comes from the Anne Arundel County Court Judgment Record. At the November 1721 court, Mary Wantland, Mary Boyce and Rachel Gilbert, "one of them being a married woman and the other two under age," were ordered to appear at the next court to give evidence against Anne Tyler, the wife of John Baptist Tyler, who was indicted on 14 December 1721 for stealing a Spanish pistol worth 240 pounds of tobacco from James Wantland at St. James Parish. At the March 1721/2 court she pled not guilty, was tried by a jury and found guilty (Anne Arundel County Court Judgment Record, Nov 1720-Nov 1721, ff. 503, 535-6; and March 1721/2, ff. 233, 272-274). Mary Boyce, who would have been 16 years old in March 1721/2, was probably living with James and Mary Wantland when she was called to testify about the theft of James Wantland's pistol.

**Bosley-Bird connection**

You had suggested that Walter Bosley's wife may have been Mary Bird, although no record of their marriage has been found. There is some indirect evidence in the land records suggesting a Bosley-Bird connection. On 1 June 1686 John Bird of Baltimore County, planter, bought from Thomas Richardson the tract "Richardson's Prospect," containing 100 acres, located on the south side of the southwest branch of Gunpowder River and adjacent to the tract "Arthur's Choice" (Baltimore Co. Land Records, Liber RM#HS, f. 178). On 3 November 1696 Walter Bosley

bought one half of the tract “Arthur’s Choice,” containing 150 acres, from Lawrence Richardson (Baltimore Co. Land Records, Liber IS#IK, f, 108). The Baltimore County Rent Roll, 1658-1723, pp. 218 & 235, shows Walter Bosley as owner of 150 acres of “Arthur’s Choice” and the tract “Richardson’s Prospect,” 100 acres. Some years after the death of Walter Bosley, on 25 June 1726 his widow Mary Bosley sold to Philip Trapnall, Jr., one half of the tract “Richardson’s Prospect,” containing 50 acres, for 1,500 pounds of tobacco (Baltimore Co. Land Records, Liber IS#H, f. 253). How did Walter Bosley acquire the tract “Richardson’s Prospect”? It is possible that he purchased it, but no deed of purchase has been found either in Baltimore County land records or in the Maryland Provincial Court land records. Another possibility is that Walter Bosley came into possession of the tract by inheritance through his wife Mary, who may have been the heir of John Bird. I have not found any record identifying the heirs of John Bird or the parents of Walter Bosley’s wife Mary.

The name John Bird appears in seventeenth century records of both Anne Arundel and Baltimore counties. The evidence is not sufficient to establish with certainty that all of the records refer to the same John Bird, but that appears likely, given that John Bird’s wife Elizabeth is named in records in both counties. Henry Lewis of Anne Arundel County left a will dated 3 February 1678, proved 26 April 1679, by which he left the tract “Lewis’s Range,” 263 acres, to his wife (unnamed) and made her executrix of his estate, and left other lands to his sons William Lewis and Henry Lewis (Maryland Prerogative Court Wills 10:27). On 7 July 1679 the Maryland Land Office issued a warrant to John Bird of Anne Arundel County for 179 acres, of which 50 acres was due him for transporting himself into the Province and 129 acres was due him by virtue of his marriage to the relict and executrix of Henry Lewis (Maryland Patent Record 15:565). The administration account of the estate of Henry Lewis was filed on 25 April 1681 by John Bird of Anne Arundel County and Elizabeth his now wife, executrix, stating that John Bird had married the executrix of Henry Lewis “immediately after his death” (Maryland Prerogative Court Inventories and Accounts 7B:8).

John Bird was in Baltimore County as early as 2 August 1681 when he bought a tract of land containing 50 acres on the north side of Elk Creek, from Michael Judd (Baltimore Co. Land Records, Liber IR#AM, f. 137). On 27 April 1683 John Bird and Elizabeth his wife sold the tract to Benjamin Bennett (Baltimore Co. Land Records, Liber RM#HS, f. 44).

As mentioned above, on 1 June 1686 John Bird of Baltimore County, planter, bought the tract “Richardson’s Prospect,” containing 100 acres, located on the south side of the southwest branch of Gunpowder River and adjacent to the tract “Arthur’s Choice,” from Thomas Richardson (Baltimore Co. Land Records, Liber RM#HS, f. 178).

John Bird of Baltimore County died prior to 7 May 1691 when the inventory of his estate was taken, totaling £20.12.8 plus 1,200 pounds of tobacco (Maryland Prerogative Court Inventories and Accounts 13A:75). The administration account of his estate, filed by James Phillips, administrator, was passed in May 1694, and did not name his heirs (Maryland Prerogative Court Inventories and Accounts 12:134).

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