

JOHN M. BLOSS FAMILY HISTORY

Including the memories of
Larry Frank Bloss
George William Bloss
and
Jean Bloss Weld

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PREFACE

At the CanalFest/RailFest event in Cumberland, MD, October 2009, Larry Frank Bloss spoke about his ancestors being lock tenders at Lock 75 on the C & O Canal. Naturally, I was interested and we met to talk about documenting some of his family history for the benefit of C & O Canal Association volunteers who interpret at Lockhouse 75 on weekends during the summer. He also agreed to research the family history locally and we have collaborated ever since. The following work incorporates everything we have been able to find to date.

Tables of vital statistics are provided at the end of this story. The tables were initially built from census data. Then Larry Bloss provided data from a family Bible and the table was revised. When obituaries, newspaper accounts, Draft Registration cards or other solid data were found, the table was again refined. Thus the data in the table is believed to be the most accurate. Larry Frank Bloss' name is highlighted in blue in the table of vital statistics at the end of this story.

All photographs were provided from the Larry Frank Bloss Collection, unless otherwise footnoted. The use of [brackets] indicates that text has been inserted to clarify the content or fill in after a person's initial with their full name, derived subsequently.

In November 2014, George William Bloss, 94, great-grandson of locktender John M. Bloss, provided an account of his memories of growing up on the Bloss farm at North Branch to his daughter, Jean Bloss Weld. Those memories are incorporated into this revised draft of the John M. Bloss Family History.

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It appears that John M. Bloss, age 21, occupation workman, born in Bavaria, departed Bremen, Germany on board the *Robert Patton* and arrived in New York, NY on Sep. 15, 1848.¹ On May 15, 1852 John M. Bloss and Elisabethe Usinger married in St. Luke's Lutheran Church, Cumberland, Md.²

The first record we have found of John Bloss involved an Equity Case in Allegany County, MD wherein on Sept. 29, 1856 the Court ordered a certain tract of land called "The Brothers" in the Town of Cumberland to be sold to pay estate debts of the late James Hook. John Bloss was one of the claimants and subsequently bought the tract of land at public sale. He paid the purchase money and the deed was recorded on Sep. 14, 1858 in his name.³ The adjacent studio portrait, undated, of John M. Bloss shows him as a young man, possibly in this time frame.



The deed does not indicate if there were any appurtenances or other improvements to the purchased lot, located between a Catholic Church and a Methodist Episcopal Church. Then on April 7, 1866, John M. Bloss and Margaret E. Bloss, his wife, sold the tract of land for a consideration of \$2,000 to the Most Rev. Martin Spaulding, Archbishop of Baltimore.⁴ While there are many churches in Cumberland today, there is probably only one Catholic Church adjacent to a Methodist Episcopal Church with a parking lot in between. The two lot boundary stones, one marked "B" and the other marked "H" may still be in place.

Note that John M. Bloss was registered to vote in District No. 6.⁵

The next report found was in the 1860 census confirming that John was a resident of Allegany County, MD.⁶ John M. Bloss [*sic* Bloss] was reported as 34 years of age, born in Germany, and he was a laborer with real estate valued at \$1,800 and a personal estate valued at \$200. Living with him were his wife, Elizabeth, age 32, also born in Germany; daughter Ann E., age 10 born in Pennsylvania; daughter Mary, age 9 born in Maryland; son Charles, age 8 born in Maryland; son Stephen, age 6 born in Maryland; son George, age 3 born in Maryland; and son John H., age 1 also born in Maryland. Because children Ann E. Bloss, Stephen Bloss and John H. Bloss were not mentioned in the subsequent 1870 census we suspect they died in the interim. We will look for obituaries.

¹ New York Passenger Lists, 1820 - 1897,

² *Marriage Records of St. Luke's Lutheran Church of Cumberland, Maryland, 1847-1901*, p. 8.

³ Allegany County Courthouse, Cumberland, MD, Deed Book 17, p.345, recorded on 9/14/1858.

⁴ Allegany County Courthouse, Cumberland, MD, Deed Book 24, p.298, recorded on 4/17/1866.

⁵ Allegany County Courthouse, Cumberland, MD, Deed Book 25, p. 154, registered 11/6/1866,

Ibid., Deed Book 29, p. 93, registered 11/17/1868 and *Ibid.*, Deed Book 32, p. 17, registered 11/17/1869.

⁶ 1860 Census, Maryland, Allegany County, City of Cumberland, enumerated on 7/14/1860.

During the period 1859 to 1866 three children were born to John M. & Elisabeth (Usinger) Bloss as listed in the table of vital statistics at the end of this report.⁷ Birth records for their other children have not been found.

We don't have the date that John M. Bloss took over his duties at Lockhouse 75; however, the National Park Service list of canal workers shows John as locktender for Lockhouse 75 in 1860. We know that John M. Bloss was in the Cumberland area by this time due to the previously described records, and because, on June 5, 1869, he purchased a black stallion, three head of hogs and the corn crop growing seven miles south of Cumberland on an island owned by W. H. Pollock.⁸ Then on Aug. 16, 1869 he bought another crop of corn then growing seven miles south of Cumberland on a farm belonging to Mr. Pollock. The Pollock family still owns that farm which lies between Lock 75 and the Potomac River.

Civil War records are unclear as to any role that John M. Bloss may have played during the war years. A John Bloss, laborer from Bavaria is shown as subject to military service in the Civil War Draft Registration Records of Allegheny Co., PA.⁹ The State Draft for Allegany County, MD, published in *The Alleganian* on July 13, 1864, shows John Bloss as drafted from the Sixth District to help "fill the quota of Allegany County in the 2000 militia" for one day's service. It may be that John's duties as locktender for the C&O Canal were directed, in part, to the war effort, in keeping the canal open for access by Union forces and preventing sabotage by the Confederate forces.

The next report found was in the 1870 census.¹⁰ John Bloss was reported as 45 years of age, born in Hesse-Kassel, Germany and his occupation was Lock Keeper [Lock 75]. Living in census dwelling 713 with him were his wife, Margaret, age 42, also born in Hesse-Kassel, Germany, keeping house, and their seven children, by age: Mary, 19; Charles, 18; Stephen, 17; George, 11; William, 8; Catherine, 6; and Maggie, 4. Living in census dwelling 714 was Peter Burke, a 34 year old Lock Tender [Lock 74]. And living in census dwelling 715 was James Terrell, a 55 year old married Lock Tender [Lock 73]; with his wife, Nancy age 52; and their daughter Alice, age 6; and three unrelated persons two of whom possibly helped with the lock tending duties.

In the fall of that same year John M. Bloss bought a brown mare about nine years old and blind in the left eye, plus one white hog from Howard Twigg.¹¹ He also declared himself a candidate for the office of Sheriff of Allegany County at the election in 1871, subject to the action of the Democratic Conservative nominating Convention.¹² The next year he bought a bay mare, a gray mare and one two-horse wagon from John R. Jenkins.¹³

⁷ *Birth Records from St. Luke's Lutheran Church of Cumberland, Maryland, 1836-1900.*

⁸ Allegany County Courthouse, Cumberland, MD, Deed Book 29, p.569, recorded on 7/3/1869.

⁹ NARA, Consolidated Lists of Civil War Draft Registration Records, Record Group 110, Records of the Provost Marshal General's Bureau (1863-1865).

¹⁰ 1870 Census, Maryland, Allegany County, District No. 6, enumerated on 7/16/1870, p. 106.

¹¹ Allegany County Courthouse, Cumberland, MD, Deed Book 32, p.619, recorded on 9/17/1870.

¹² *The Alleganian*, Cumberland, MD, newspaper, 12/7/1870, p. 2.

¹³ Allegany County Courthouse, Cumberland, MD, Deed Book 33, p.131, recorded on 1/22/1871.

In September of 1871, after failing to be nominated at the Democratic Convention as their candidate for the Sheriffalty, John M. Bloss pursued the office as an Independent Candidate starting with the following announcement:

"THE PEOPLE'S CANDIDATE.

"Feeling confident that the action of the late Democratic Convention with the nomination of a candidate for Sheriffalty, does not represent the party sentiment, I hereby announce myself as an INDEPENDENT CANDIDATE FOR SHERIFF, and respectfully solicit the support of my friends throughout the county.

"I have always been a Democrat, as my lifelong and faithful services to the party will attest, and only because I firmly believe that the Candidate of the Democratic *Convention* is *not* the *candidate* of the *great mass of the party* do I oppose the nominee. If elected, I pledge myself to an honest and faithful performance of the duties of the position.

JOHN M. BLOSS."¹⁴

The above announcement first appeared on Sept. 27, and continued, daily until Oct. 18, at least. Mr. Hanson Willison was the Democrat nominee; Mr. Gross was the Republican nominee and Mr. John M. Bloss was the Independent nominee for Sheriff. The best candidate for the office was hotly contested. Mr. Willison had served as Sheriff twice before and was reluctantly recalled to service without a pledge or promise from any man [for financial support]. He too had an announcement in the newspaper asking the voters for their support. With respect to Mr. Bloss, he said:

"As to my opponents I have nothing to say. So far as Mr. Gross is concerned, he is a gentlemanly young man, and if I desired to say anything discreditable of him I could not. And as for Mr. Bloss. Of a man that announced himself subject to a convention, submitted his claims to the convention, and after not getting a district in the county, to come out, forfeit his announcement and run independent, I wish to say nothing."¹⁵

The newspaper editorial was against him. Nevertheless, Mr. Bloss said the following:

"A CARD

"To my friends and the citizens of Allegany county generally:

In his card to the voters of Allegany county Mr. Hanson Willison says: 'And as for Mr. Bloss. Of a man that announced himself subject to a convention, submitted his claims to the convention, and after not getting a district in the county, to come out, forfeit his announcement and run independent, I wish to say nothing.'

"This will not prevent my saying a few words in reference to Mr. Willison. He says: 'Now fellow citizens, the facts in relation to all the county offices that myself or any of my relatives have had for fifteen years are, that I was Sheriff and one of my uncles was "County Collector." Does Mr. Hanson Willison, candidate for the Sheriffalty for the third time, pretend to deny that his brother was also County Collector for two terms? And is not the brother-in-law of that brother the present Steward of the Alms-House? Did not the same individual occupy the same position some years ago? And finally have not the Willisons and their connections - directly and indirectly, in payment of fees for lime and other commodities - received *more money* from the tax payers of this county *than any other family in the county* limits?'

"Mr. Willison claims that he received the nomination without pledge or promise. As far as he is individually concerned this may be correct; but have not promises been made for him, by a kind of power of attorney, and does he not feel bound to carry them out? The past of his family political history proves that *somebody* is to profit for being

¹⁴ *The Alleganian*, Cumberland, MD, newspaper, Wednesday, 9/27/1871, p. 2.

¹⁵ *The Alleganian*, Cumberland, MD, newspaper, Wednesday, 10/18 & 25/1871, p. 2.

instrumental in his nomination to the Sheriffalty for the third time; and had such promises not been made he would not be the Democratic nominee today.

"I do not expect to receive the support of the Willison family - Democrats. To all who think that it is right that Allegany should be a bountiful provider for the Willison wants and necessities, I say I do not want your votes. Vote for Willison the *third* time! But to all true and honest Democrats who are disgusted with the spectacle of seeing a great party run as a machine for the benefit of one family, large and respectable though it may be, and to all who believe in rotation in office, I offer myself as a candidate for the Sheriffalty.

"To my German fellow-citizens, of whom there are upwards of fifteen hundred in this county, I appeal particularly, and ask them whether they will say by their votes that the election of Mr. Willison will fulfill the requirements of what they think is *true* Democracy. If not, I ask them and all others opposed to the centralization of power in one family, to remember me on the 7th day of November, and to cast their votes for

JOHN M. BLOSS"¹⁶

The Alleganian newspaper was published on Wednesday, November 8, 1871 but the votes were not all counted and so they only reported the returns as far as received. The following week the returns had all been counted, with the following results for Sheriff: Willison, 2,073; Gross, 2,710; and Bloss, 494.¹⁷ That looks like it was a resounding defeat, and so Mr. Bloss could resume his lock tending duties, with his two sons, Charles and Stephen.

Having two persons available to help with lock tending duties possibly gave John Bloss the time to scout for property in West Virginia. On February 5, 1872 John M. Bloss bought a 108 acre tract of land for \$485.¹⁸ Then on February 8, 1872 he bought an additional, adjacent 3¾ acre tract lying on the county road leading from Levels Church to Bright's Hollow Road.¹⁹ The Hampshire County Road Map²⁰ index identifies Bright's Hollow road, 5/5, as going northeast from Levels. There is a church symbol where the pavement ends; however, Bright's Hollow was not found.

We have payroll records from the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Company, A. P. Gorman, Paymaster, from October 1873 through July 1874. Throughout that period of time, John M. Bloss was the Way Bill Lock Keeper No. 75; Peter Burke was the Lock Keeper No. 74; and James Terrell was the Lock Keeper No. 73. All were located there at North Branch. John M. Bloss or his wife signed for their monthly payment. Peter Burke and James Terrell made their mark for their monthly payment. One of the job requirements for tending Lock No. 75 was keeping the register of boats ascending and descending past the lock. Each boat had to be registered, and the data required to be listed was: Way Bill number.; date of passage; hour; name of boat; point of departure; destination; cargo; toll on cargo; toll on boat; and total tolls. There was a Toll Collector and an Assistant Toll Collector in Cumberland who were paid \$125/month and \$100/month respectively. John M. Bloss was paid \$60/month, for keeping the register, while all the other lock tenders in the Cumberland Division were paid \$50/month. No tolls were collected at Lock No. 75, but the lock tender had to be able to read the way bills and write the data in the register in

¹⁶ *The Alleganian*, Cumberland, MD, newspaper, Wednesday, 11/1/71, p. 2.

¹⁷ *The Alleganian*, Cumberland, MD, newspaper, Wednesday, 11/15/1871, p. 2.

¹⁸ Hampshire County Courthouse, Romney, WV, Deed Book 56, p. 125, recorded 3/25/1872.

¹⁹ Hampshire County Courthouse, Romney, WV, Deed Book 56, p. 120, recorded 3/25/1872

²⁰ General Highway Map, Hampshire County, West Virginia, WV D. of T., 2004

a legible handwriting. If the boat Captain had no way bill, he was not allowed to pass until obtaining one, even though that meant returning to Cumberland, by boat or afoot. The fact that John, a native-born German, became sufficiently literate in English to maintain this written information and to track the mathematics of the tolls required, combined with his assertively written (though unsuccessful) run for sheriff, demonstrated his willingness and drive to become fully assimilated into his new culture in the United States. So, between the 1870 census and the 1874 Canal payroll records, we can be certain that John Bloss was the Lock 75 lock tender from 7/17/1870 through 7/1874. We will keep looking for additional records.

In August, 1874 *The Daily Alleganian and Times* reported:

"An Assault Case.

"On Monday, John M. Bloss, the lock-keeper at North Branch, and his sons, George and Stephen, were arraigned before Justice Gonder on the charge of assaulting on the 18th of last July John Byroads, Mary his wife, and Samuel their son, parties who run the boat *Okonoko*. In passing through the lock on the day mentioned, the tow line of the *Okonoko* tore off part of the railing of the lock. This mishap led to an altercation between the young men Byroads and Bloss, in which Byroads was struck over the head with a club by Bloss. The latter then hurried to the house, procured a pistol and returned to the boat with it, where he in turn was struck over the head with a club by Mrs. Byroads. By this time all the Byroads and Blosses were pretty well mixed up in the quarrel. In the meanwhile young Bloss returned to the house again, obtained a loaded shotgun, and pointing it at Mrs. Byroads attempted to discharge it, but the cap snapped twice without going off.

"George Bloss was held for the October Court in the sum of \$200; the other cases were *non-prossed*."²¹

A search of that newspaper through the rest of 1874 for the results of the October Court was unsuccessful.

Sometime after July 1874, John M. Bloss and some of the family moved out of the lockhouse. The 108 acre tract previously purchased had been the Jeremiah Bonham farm, presumably having a rustic farm house for the Bloss family; although he began construction of a new house and the newspaper reported:

"Important Discovery

"Mr. John M. Bloss - a former resident of this county, but recently removed to Hampshire County, W. Va., on the South Branch, about four miles above its juncture with the Potomac - while digging for a foundation for a house which he proposed erecting on his farm, discovered three dark veins each about one inch thick and ten inches wide, running almost parallel, and tending toward each other, growing thicker as they penetrate the earth. He examined the matter, and concluded it was coal. He brought several parcels to this city on Tuesday, and submitted them to the inspection of Prof. Andrews, who is familiar with the strata in that locality. The Professor informs us that it is the Cambrian system of strata, the same as that in the Pennsylvania anthracite region and the cannel coal region of West Virginia. Being the outcrop of the veins the coal is heavily mixed with sulphuret of iron, which prevents its ready combustion; but that the sulphuret will mostly disappear when more covering is reached. We have specimens in this office, and there is no question that it is coal, appearing more like the Lykens Valley coal than any other we know of. Whether it will prove a paying business future prospecting will demonstrate; but the rock formation would indicate that it is no "pocket"

²¹ *The Daily Alleganian and Times*, Cumberland, Md., newspaper, Wednesday, Aug. 12, 1874, p. 3

but a true vein. If these veins run together and thicken in depth, the deposit will prove valuable; but if it maintains its present dimensions, of course it will be valueless."²²

On November 17, 1874 John M. Bloss purchased an additional 66 acres adjacent to the previous two parcels for \$150, subject to the dower of the widow of Richard Deever.²³ We suspect that John Bloss had visions of a large coal vein because the local paper reported later that year:

"Fine Coal Prospects

"Perhaps it is not generally known that evidence of a rich deposit of coal have been recently discovered at Level's Cross-roads, in Hampshire County, W. Va., not far from this city, and situated about four miles from the line of the Baltimore and Ohio railroad. The indications of coal were first observed on the land of Mr. Thos. Dickens, and subsequently deposits were found on the adjoining farms of Messrs. D. M. Dickens and John Bloss, formerly lock-tender on the Chesapeake and Ohio canal. Two men are now prospecting on the land of Mr. Thos. Dickens, and from the specimen that has been left in our hands we should think that there is good coal to be found in that locality. The supposition is that there is a ten foot vein close at hand. The coal when found will be easily mined, and its contiguity to the railroad and canal is a matter of the first importance."²⁴

In 1875, the newspaper reported that John's son, Stephen A. Bloss, was a newly registered voter in District No. 4 of Allegany county.²⁵

In June of 1876, *The Daily Alleganian and Times* newspaper carried an article:

"Piscatorial Thieves.

"On Saturday last between the hours of [illegible] the morning, a party of young men from Cumberland visited the North Branch on a fishing expedition. When they arrived there, they found a barrel, placed in the canal by George Bloss, for the purpose of keeping fish alive, when caught. They captured the barrel, containing about 70 bass, two fall fish and one eel - a nice haul for an evening's fishing. The owner of the fish suggests that some overtures from the parties are now in order, as they are known to him."²⁶

On March 7, 1879, for \$200 purchase money, Margaret M. Bloss purchased Lot No. 2 in the Town of Frostburg, MD, in her name alone.²⁷ The rich veins of coal envisioned by John Bloss and his neighbors at Level's Crossroads never materialized, and the West Virginia farm did not flourish. Things were not going well as evidenced by the June 2, 1879 sale by John M. Bloss of all his livestock (3 milk cows, 5 head of young cattle, 2 mares, 2 shoats and 1 sow heavy with pigs) plus his two-horse wagon, his spring wagon, and all his farming utensils and about 30,000 feet of lumber, household furniture, etc, for \$600 to Stephen Usinger, his father-in-law.²⁸ As we will see from the 1880 census, Stephen and his wife Catherine Usinger, John's father- and mother-in-law, were living with them, and so the items probably never left the farm.²⁹ Yet it appears that John was ready to move on to another enterprise.

²² *The Daily Alleganian and Times*, Cumberland, Md., newspaper, Thursday, Oct. 17, 1878, p. 3.

²³ Hampshire County Courthouse, Romney, WV, Deed Book 57, p. 142, recorded 11/19/1874.

²⁴ *The Daily Alleganian and Times*, Cumberland, Md., newspaper, Thursday, Dec. 10, 1874, p. 3.

²⁵ *The Cumberland Times*, Cumberland, Md., newspaper, Monday, Nov. 1, 1875, p. 4.

²⁶ *The Daily Alleganian and Times*, Cumberland, Md., newspaper, Saturday, June 10, 1876, p. 4.

²⁷ Allegany County Courthouse, Cumberland, MD, Deed Book 52, p.601, recorded on 3/7/1879.

²⁸ Hampshire County Courthouse, Romney, WV, Deed Book 59, p. 149, recorded 6/21/1879.

²⁹ 1880 Census, Maryland, Allegany County, District No. 4, enumerated on 6/19/1880, p. 58.

Continuing with the Hampshire County, WV land records we discovered a definite OOPS! It seems that on Jan. 1, 1868 Margaret E. Bloss had given her husband \$300 out of her separate estate to buy land in her name alone. Then on Jan. 1, 1870 she had given him an additional \$500 with the same stipulation. But John M. Bloss had bought the three parcels in his name alone. So, on June 9, 1879 John M. Bloss conveyed the three parcels of land to his and Margaret's son, George W. Bloss, Trustee as the sole & separate property of Margaret E. Bloss.³⁰ In 1870 West Virginia, married women could not legally buy property from in-state landowners, separate and apart from their husbands. We know from other resources that widows could retain their husband's property and daughters (married or single) could own property inherited from their father or mother. John & Margaret Bloss did have a son, named George W. Bloss, who would be the logical trustee to hold land on behalf of his mother. Our records indicate that George was born in 1857, which would mean he was 22 years old in 1879, thus able to hold title to land.

On March 5, 1878 Margaret E. Bloss, in consideration of \$30, bought a ½ acre parcel of land in the Levels, WV area from John T. & Delilah Boar of Allegany County, Md.³¹ It may be that she was able to make this purchase because the sellers were from out of state.

On Nov. 26, 1879 John M. & Margaret E. Bloss, and Geo. W. Bloss as Trustee put up the three tracts of WV land as collateral on a debt of \$190 to Robert W. Daily, Trustee for Frederick Mertens.³² The reason for the debt is not known. The mortgage was released on October 24, 1883 by Frederick Mertens.

Lock tending duties were apparently turned over to John M. Bloss' son, Stephen. We determine that from the 1880 census which reported that Steven Bloss, age 26, was a Lock Tender.³³ Living with him in census dwelling 531 was his wife, Elizabeth, age 27, and their two sons: Henry age 2; and Albert age 4/12 [born Feb. 1880]. To confirm that Stephen took over his father's duties at Lock 75, we notice in the same census that Peter Burke, age 44 was living in census dwelling 530 and was a Lock Tender; and James Terrell, age 66 was living in census dwelling 529 and was a Lock Tender. So there was continuity in the lock tenders at North Branch.

John M. and Margaret E. Bloss were still living in Hampshire County in 1880.³⁴ He was reported as a 57 year old farmer and she was reported as a 53 year old housewife. Living with them in census dwelling 89 were their son, G. William, age 18; daughter C. Hannah, age 16; and daughter Margaret A, age 13; father-in-law Stephen Usinger, age 84; and mother-in-law Catherine A. Usinger, age 91, both also born in Hessen, Germany. Thus we determine Margaret's maiden name as Usinger.

³⁰ Hampshire County Courthouse, Romney, WV, Deed Book 59, p. 131, recorded 6/9/1879.

³¹ Hampshire County Courthouse, Romney, WV, Deed Book 60, p. 364, recorded 7/25/1881.

³² Hampshire County Courthouse, Romney, WV, Deed Book 59, p. 263, recorded 12/6/1879.

³³ 1880 Census, Maryland, Allegany County, District No. 4, enumerated on 6/19/1880, p. 58.

³⁴ 1880 Census, West Virginia, Hampshire County, Springfield Twp, enumerated on 6/9/1880, p. 14.

Living next door in census dwelling 90 was their son, Charles F. Bloss, age 28, working as a Farm Laborer.³⁵ Living with him were his wife, Mary, age 21 and their son, John M., age 4. Charles' wife Mary Bloss was reportedly born in Hessen, Germany.

On May 12, 1883, for \$85, Stephen A. Bloss purchased a lot adjacent to the house of George Bloss from Adam and Margaret E. Seibert.³⁶ On the same date, May 12, 1883, in consideration of \$85, George Bloss bought a different lot, also for \$85 and adjacent to his house, from Adam and Margaret E. Seibert.³⁷ Now if we can just find the deed for the George Bloss property in Allegany County.

John M. and Margaret E. Bloss were still living in Hampshire County in 1883 as based on the fact that on August 28, 1883 they used their 1884 wheat crop as collateral for a 1883 purchase of \$68 worth of fertilizer and phosphate.³⁸ Economic conditions did not improve, and on Oct. 18, 1883 John M. & Margaret E. Bloss and George W. Bloss trustee signed a Deed of Trust to secure the repayment of a \$600 loan from J. Wilson Humbird, Trustee to Jacob Humbird, Esq.³⁹ The collateral for the Deed of Trust was the previously mentioned three tracts of land.

1885 must have been a difficult year as several citizens indebted to Benjamin M. Millison paid their debt with livestock. George W. Bloss owed \$150 and sold one bay horse, 12 or 13 years old, and one gray horse 6 years old to Mr. Millison to settle the debt.⁴⁰ In this time frame, George W. Bloss became lock tender at Lock 74, not Lock 75, as we shall see in just a moment.

On April 15, 1887 Margaret E. and John M. Bloss, in consideration of \$40, sold the ½ acre parcel of land in Levels, WV to John W. Philips.⁴¹ The transaction took place in Cumberland, Md. and then recorded in Hampshire County, WV.

³⁵

Ibid.

³⁶ Allegany County Courthouse, Cumberland, MD, Deed Book 59, p. 673, recorded on 5/19/1883.

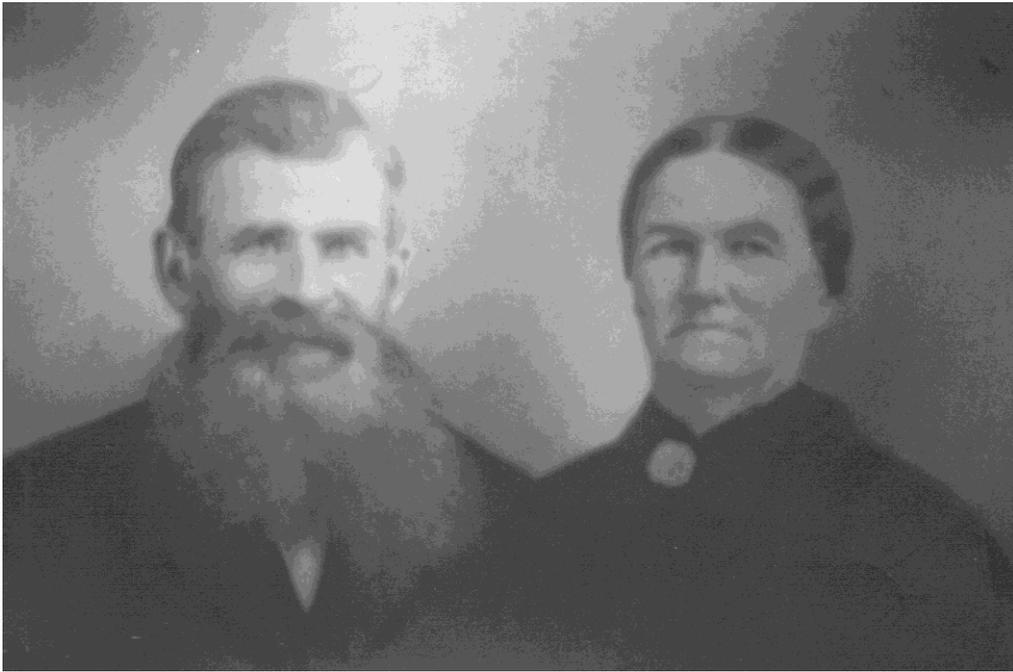
³⁷ Allegany County Courthouse, Cumberland, MD, Deed Book 64, p. 712, recorded on 2/15/1888.

³⁸ Hampshire County Courthouse, Romney, WV, Deed Book 62, p. 296, recorded 9/18/1883.

³⁹ Hampshire County Courthouse, Romney, WV, Deed Book 62, p. 392, recorded 12/28/1883.

⁴⁰ Allegany County Courthouse, Cumberland, MD, Mortgage Book 2, p.589, recorded 4/7/1885.

⁴¹ Hampshire County Courthouse, Romney, WV, Deed Book 64, p. 472, recorded 4/27/1887.



The above portrait of John M. and Margaret E. Bloss was taken at the T. L. Darnell studio, Cumberland, Md., in 1887.

In the summer of 1888 a local newspaper reported:

"DEATH OF JOS. W. H. POLLOCK. -

"Another Old Citizen Gone - Funeral Tomorrow - His Life.

"At his beautiful farm, on the Potomac, one mile this side of North Branch station on the Baltimore and Ohio railroad, Jos. W. H. Pollock, this morning at 3 o'clock, died in the 74th year of his age, after a lingering illness of softening of the brain. He was one of the best known, most highly esteemed and universally beloved men in the county. He never held public office though it often sought him. Once only was his name before the people and then without his consent. It was four years ago when his friends ran him for judge of the Orphans' Court.

"Mr. Pollock was born in Liganore Valley, Pa., in 1814. His father was a large land owner in that section and gave his son a good education. After graduating at law Mr. Pollock practiced in Woodstock, Va. From there he went to Old Fields, Hardy county, Va., where he taught school. There he married Miss Hanah C. Vanmeter, daughter of Garrett Vanmeter. She owned half-interest in the farm where she died. Mr. Pollock bought out the other heirs and in 1840 moved there and has since made it his home.

"Mrs. Vanmeter, who survives the deceased, is a first cousin of Mrs. Capt. McNeil, of Confederate cavalry fame. Four children survive him - James D. and Robert S.; Mrs. Sallie High, wife of Daniel High, of this city and Mrs. Bettie Everett, wife of William Everett, who lives on an adjoining farm. In 1883 Edward L., another son, died. The deceased has two brothers - one, Abraham, a Presbyterian minister at Warrenton, Va., the other a merchant of Platsmouth, Nebraska.

"The funeral takes place from the residence tomorrow at eleven o'clock, with the following pall bearers: Messrs. Alex King, George Rawlings, Michael Long, Addison

Martin, Isaac Vanmeter and John Lynn, Sr. Rev. Mr. Moffatt, of the Presbyterian church will officiate."⁴²

The Pollock family were neighbors to the Bloss family, owning land along the Canal adjacent to the parcel that would eventually become the George W. Bloss farm. The lives of the members of the Pollock and Bloss families became intertwined over the years, as we have already seen.

On Aug. 1, 1888 John M. & Margaret E. Bloss sold their livestock (2 mares, 1 white & brown cow, 2 red cows, 1 red & white cow, 1 black & white spotted steer, 1 spotted dun steer, 1 red steer & 1 roan steer), 1 wheat fan, 1 cutting box, 1 two-horse wagon, 1 two-horse harrow, 4 plows, 2 sets of harness and 1 man's saddle & bridle, etc. to Adam H. Long for \$250 and posted an individual bond for the balance of a debt to Long.⁴³ We surmise that they were getting ready to move to Springfield, Sangamon County, Illinois.

A horrific stretch of rain in June 1889 wrecked havoc on the Canal and its employees, "The same rains that caused the historic Johnstown Flood of June 1889 left the canal a total wreck."⁴⁴ The devastation was so severe that the Directors of the C. & O. Canal Co. ordered that all employees should be dismissed as of June 30th 1889. These included George W. Bloss, as Keeper of Lock No. 74, who received such a letter dated June 24, 1889. The letter clearly indicates that George W. was keeper of Lock 74.⁴⁵

The 1890 City Directory for Cumberland listed the sons of John M. Bloss as follows: Charles F. Bloss, farmer, Patterson Depot, W. Va.; Stephen A. Bloss, laborer, Patterson Depot, W. Va.; William Bloss, farmer, Cumberland; and George W. Bloss, lock tender, Patterson Depot, W. Va.⁴⁶ Patterson Depot must have been where they picked up their mail although they lived in Allegany County, Md. where Lock 74 was located.

By June 15, 1890 John M. & Margaret E. Bloss had moved to Sangamon County, IL, where they obtained a mortgage for \$1,533.82 using the previously mentioned three parcels of land in WV, which were also subject to the \$600 mortgage given to J. Wilson Humbird, trustee.⁴⁷ Mr. C. J. Keiser of Maconfein County, IL took the mortgage. On August 3, 1893 John and Margaret sold the Frostburg, Md., Lot No. 2, for \$400 to their son George W. Bloss.⁴⁸

It would appear that sometime between 1890 and 1891, John's son William G. Bloss (also known as Gottlieb Wilhelm) also moved to Springfield, Illinois. The 1891 Springfield City Directory listed: John M. Bloss as owning a bakery at 215 N. 5th St. with a residence at 563 N. 3rd St.⁴⁹ Maggie A. Bloss was a clerk for J. M. Bloss and boarding at 563 N. 3rd St.; Maggie was likely John's youngest daughter, Anna Margaratha. Son,

⁴² *The Cumberland daily Times*, Cumberland, MD, newspaper, Thursday, 6/7/1888, p. 1.

⁴³ Hampshire County Courthouse, Romney, WV, Deed Book 65, p. 415, recorded 9/23/1888.

⁴⁴ Hahn, Thomas F., *THE C. & O. CANAL BOATMEN ·1892-1924*, 1980, p. 9.

⁴⁵ E. Mulvany to Geo. W. Bloss, June 24, 1889, ltr. C&O Co.

⁴⁶ *Cumberland, Maryland City Directory*, R. L. Polk & Co., 1890, p. 235.

⁴⁷ Hampshire County Courthouse, Romney, WV, Deed Book 67, p. 150, recorded 8/13/1890.

⁴⁸ Allegany County Courthouse, Cumberland, MD, Deed Book 74, p. 313, recorded on 8/23/1893.

⁴⁹ *Springfield, Illinois City Directory*, R. L. Polk & Co., 1891, p. 135.

William G. Bloss was a baker at F. W. Stoppelwerth and also resided at 565 N. 3rd Street; which would have been the house adjacent to John M. Bloss.

During the period Oct. through Nov. 25, 1891, George W. Bloss ran a tab with Joseph L. Crabtree as shown in Appendix A. The record is interesting both in the prices and in the descriptions of everyday items bought. Apparently the Lottery in those days was called "Help your Neighbor" and games or cards were 5¢ each.

Unfortunately, John & Margaret Bloss could not make their mortgage payments, and in September 1891 the Circuit Court of Hampshire County ordered the sale of the Bloss WV real estate to pay their first mortgage to J. Wilson Humbird, trustee. The sale was held on Feb. 6, 1892 and the three parcels were sold to C. J. Keisen for \$1,350.⁵⁰

Stephen A. Bloss also moved to Springfield, and by 1892 Stephen A. and William G. Bloss, doing business as **Stephen A. Bloss & Bro.**, owned a bakery at 215 N. 5th St., Springfield, Il.⁵¹ The Springfield City Directory showed John M. Bloss as a baker living at 563 N. 3rd St., and his son Stephen also living at that address. William G. Bloss was shown as a baker and still working there also and residing at 563 N 3rd St. Maggie A. Bloss was not listed.

On Sept. 29th 1894, in consideration of \$312, Charles F. and Mary Bloss bought a 0.3 acre lot on the South side of Raphann's Lane (near North Branch) which had been a part of the J. W. H. Pollock estate.⁵² The 0.3 acre lot was purchased from Adam and Margaret E. Seibert and included a covenant that Charles Bloss would build a substantial rail and post fence at least 4½ feet high around the lot. If Charles Bloss was slow to build the fence or keep it in good repair, Mr. Seibert reserved the right to enter the premises and build, rebuild or otherwise maintain the fence, costs to be borne by Charles Bloss. Apparently Charles made the expected improvements to the property.

In 1894 the Springfield City Directory listed John M. Bloss as living at 215 N 5th St.; which was the same address as the S. A. Bloss & Bro. bakery in 1892.⁵³ William G. Bloss was working at Columbia Bakery, 819 E. Washington St., and Stephen A. Bloss was not listed.

In 1895 the Cumberland City Directory listed: Charles F. Bloss, farmer, Cumberland; Stephen A. Bloss, farmer, Cumberland; and George W. Bloss, farmer, Cumberland.⁵⁴ So we suspect Stephen A. Bloss gave up the bakery business in Springfield, Il. and returned to farming near Cumberland, Md.

During the summer of 1895 the newspaper reported:

"Picnic by the Cadets

The Cadets of Temperance are holding a picnic at the Bloss Grove, near North Branch, today, and judging from the number of young people seen going that way with

⁵⁰ Hampshire County Courthouse, Romney, WV, Deed Book 68, p. 233, recorded 3/18/1892.

⁵¹ *Springfield, Illinois City Directory*, R. L. Polk & Co., 1892, p. 93

⁵² Allegany County Courthouse, Cumberland, MD, Deed Book 77, p. 583, recorded 10/23/1895.

⁵³ *Springfield, Illinois City Directory*, R. L. Polk & Co., 1894, p. 497.

⁵⁴ *Cumberland, Maryland City Directory*, R. L. Polk & Co., 1895, p. 362.

lunch baskets there will be an attendance not to be sneezed at. The Cadets went down in the boat *Louise*, and will not return until late this evening."⁵⁵

The Stephen Bloss family was active in the local church affairs, as indicated in a news article captioned: "**CHILDREN'S DAY.**" This piece reported that: ". . .the annual Children's Day exercises were held yesterday in several churches. At Humbird's chapel at North Branch the occasion was celebrated in a highly becoming manner, and lasted all day. The services were held from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m."⁵⁶ After lunch a children's program was rendered wherein several children gave recitations, sang as groups, etc. Of note were the two recitations: "Baby Over the Way" and "Bijah Story" by Annie Bloss, the 11 year old daughter of Stephen and Elizabeth Bloss. We need to find more information on "Humbird's chapel." Was it a Baptist mission, or what? Was it on the "Mexico Farm" tract or more near the Pollock Farm?

Apparently the Bloss family had at least some political involvement. Under a column heading: "**Registration of Voters**" Allegany county voters were notified that Registrars would meet from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Sept. 15, 22&23, 29&30, and Oct 6&7 for the purpose of registering voters. For District No. 16 - North Branch the Registrar was Stephen A. Bloss who would conduct the business at his residence.⁵⁷

On July 6th 1897, John's son, George W. Bloss, bought parcel Number 2 of the "Mexico Farm" tract for \$1,650.⁵⁸ The parcel contained 54 acres, more or less, including buildings and improvements, and an interest in the private road leading from Long's Ferry "over the Mexico Farm" to the county road running between Cumberland to Oldtown.

The below and the next several photographs show the Bloss farm house, the barn, outbuildings and appurtenances. The house had a side porch, shown below, and the barn was originally built of logs and then covered with German siding, also known as board and batten siding. Note that the logs were notched at the corner with the same style notch as at Lockhouse 75.



⁵⁵ *The Evening Times*, Cumberland, Md., newspaper, Wednesday, August 7, 1895, p. 8.

⁵⁶ *The Evening Times*, Cumberland, Md., newspaper, Jun. 22, 1896, p. 1.

⁵⁷ *The Evening Times*, Cumberland, Md., newspaper, Sept. 2, 1896, p. 3.

⁵⁸ Allegany County Courthouse, Cumberland, MD, Deed Book 81, p. 436, recorded on 7/6/1897.



The barn corner notches are a bit more evident in the following photographs, as is the barn extension.



The photograph above on the right shows the smokehouse, which originally was just the wooden structure. Some years later, when concrete blocks became available for construction, the wooden portion was raised atop the new first floor. It was somewhat safer to build the smoke fire in a concrete block structure rather than a wooden structure. The additional space provided storage for smoked meats; and with George W. Bloss' family growing to six children the extra space was beneficial. The building on the right, was used for storing miscellaneous farm tools and supplies.



The following year, under a heading "**THE PULP MILL CASE**" the newspaper summarized: "For a number of years the Potomac River has been almost useless as a source of water supply for domestic purposes for the city of Cumberland, in consequence, it is alleged of the pollution of the stream by the Piedmont Pulp and Paper Company, of Luke, Md. The October grand jury indicted the company and the trial was moved to Frederick City and is now in progress." There followed a list of witnesses for the State who boarded the train for Frederick City that morning, and one of the witnesses was listed as George Bloss.⁵⁹

On Dec. 27th 1898, George W. Bloss signed a promissory note in the amount of \$50 payable to James D. Pollock in four months after date (April 27, 1899).⁶⁰ This note bore a 2¢ documentary stamp from the First National Bank, Cumberland, MD, also dated Dec. 27, 1898. We don't know the purpose of the loan.

The Bloss farm seemed to prosper, and one successful crop consisted of the red astrakhan apple trees which typically bloomed four buds rather than the usual one bud variety, thus giving a higher yield.⁶¹ The Bloss grove, near North Branch, remained a popular destination for groups such as the Grace M. E. Sunday School, which arrived by canal boat and held a picnic on the grounds on August 2nd, they came by canal boat.⁶²

Later in the year we read that Mr. Stephen Bloss had purchased the house lately occupied by Daniel Hutson and Mr. Robert Pollock was building a new residence on his farm.⁶³

Meanwhile we learn from the 1900 census that John M. Bloss age 77 and married 47 years was living on West Carpenter Street, Springfield, IL.⁶⁴ Living with him was his wife, Margaret E., age 72, married 47 years and she had 7 children all of whom were then still living; their son William G. [Gottlieb Wilhelm], age 39 and his wife Emma, age 24, married to William for 7 years with one child (Stephen, age 2) also lived at this address. Both Emma and Stephen were reported as being born in Illinois, suggesting that William had met Emma after arriving in Springfield with his parents.

The 1900 census further listed Stephen A. Bloss, age 46, married 23 years, was working as a foreman for a railroad.⁶⁵ Living with him were: Elizabeth, age 47, wife; William H., age 21, son, working as a laborer for a railroad; Adam H., age 20, son, working as a blacksmith for a railroad; Lewis W., age 18, son, also working as a laborer for a railroad; and Annie M., age 15, daughter.

The same census reported, in the adjacent house lived Charles F. Bloss, age 50, married 25 years, working as a Canal man.⁶⁶ Living with him were: Mary L., age 52, married 25 years with 5 children all of whom were then still living; John M., age 23, son, working as a laborer for a railroad; Henry W., age 18, son, also working as a laborer for a railroad;

⁵⁹ *The Evening Times*, Cumberland, Md., newspaper, Dec. 16, 1897, p.6.

⁶⁰ Personal files from Larry Bloss Collection, copied 1/7/2010.

⁶¹ *Cumberland Alleganian*, Cumberland, Md., newspaper, Monday, July 31, 1899, p. 2.

⁶² *Ibid.*, p. 3.

⁶³ *Cumberland Alleganian*, Cumberland, Md., newspaper, Monday, Dec. 11, 1899, p. 2.

⁶⁴ 1900 Census, Illinois, Sangamon County, Springfield City, enumerated on 6/11/1900, p. 12.

⁶⁵ 1900 Census, Maryland, Allegany County, North Branch, enumerated on 6/2/1900, p. 1B.

⁶⁶ *Ibid.*

Carl F., age 15, son; Lydia, age 11, daughter; Wilbert, age 4, son; Christinia Hover, age 68, Mother-in-law; and James Cunningham, age 25, boarder, also working as a laborer for a railroad.

In the same census, some 83 houses later, lived George W. Bloss, age 43, married 15 years, and working as a farmer.⁶⁷ Living with him were: Rachel, age 39, wife, married 15 years with 5 children only 4 of whom were then still living; which included Claude R., age 11, son; James P., age 9, son; Michael L., age 6, son; and Frank, age 2, son. The absence of Richard R. Bloss suggests that was the child which had already died.

In early 1902 construction of a new railroad bridge was started. The snow and cold weather (for example it was 0° F on a particular Monday) interrupted its construction from time to time. The local paper reported that Mr. William Bloss and wife returned from Springfield, W. Va. [*sic* IL.], on Monday, where they were visiting relatives.⁶⁸ Later that month another gang of men arrived at North Branch to work on the new bridge. And Miss Anna Bloss went to Cumberland to spend a few days with friends.⁶⁹ By the end of February the weather had abated and work was proceeding on the new railroad bridge. However, in February 1902, while Track Foremen Stephen Bloss and Cheshire were on their way to work, quite a serious accident occurred near Evitts Creek Bridge, which seriously injured Bloss. Cheshire's car was in the rear and was running at an uncontrollable speed which caused it to collide with the front car, nearly demolishing it. Stephen A. Bloss was thrown between the levers of the car and was fortunate to not have died. Mr. D. R. Hudson was appointed track foreman in Mr. S. A. Bloss' place until he recovers. The paper also reported that the first piece of new bridge was placed that week, Tuesday. And Miss Anna Bloss returned home from visiting friends and relatives in Cumberland.⁷⁰

Work on the new bridge continued even though a man fell about thirty feet from the bridge, and he received some painful bruises about the head and shoulders. The Potomac River high water swept away about two hundred barrels of corn and nearly fifty tons of hay from the James D. Pollock farm; the loss will reach hundreds of dollars. The paper reported that Mr. S. A. Bloss, who was so seriously hurt, last Thursday by the collision of two hand cars, was improving.⁷¹ The B. & O. Railroad had a number of men employed placing switches at their new bridge. One switch was placed at each end of the bridge. Because the construction required one side to be built at a time, the trains had to be switched onto the single track.⁷²

Later that month the wood trestle which had recently been placed under the old bridge was somewhat damaged by high water, presenting another drawback to the bridge workers. It was necessary to lay three men off, who unfortunately for the Bloss family included: Messrs. William Bloss, Charles Bloss and John Reed.⁷³

⁶⁷

Ibid.

⁶⁸ *Cumberland Alleganian*, Cumberland, Md., newspaper, Thursday, February 6, 1902, p. 5.

⁶⁹ *Cumberland Alleganian*, Cumberland, Md., newspaper, Thursday, February 20, 1902, p. 5.

⁷⁰ *Cumberland Alleganian*, Cumberland, Md., newspaper, Thursday, February 27, 1902, p. 5.

⁷¹ *Cumberland Alleganian*, Cumberland, Md., newspaper, Thursday, March 6, 1902, p. 5.

⁷² *Cumberland Alleganian*, Cumberland, Md., newspaper, Thursday, March 13, 1902, p. 5.

⁷³ *Cumberland Alleganian*, Cumberland, Md., newspaper, Thursday, March 20, 1902, p. 5.

Spring arrived in April 1902 and Mr. and Mrs. Moore, Mrs. D. R. Huston, Mrs. Buchanan, Mr. Owen Zimmerly and Miss Anna Bloss went to observe the new railroad bridge spanning Patterson Creek on the new connection known as the cut-off.⁷⁴ Later that month the newspaper reported:

"Death of Mrs. Bloss.

"Mrs. Eliza Bloss, wife of Wm. J. Bloss, of North Branch, died yesterday after a short illness, aged 27 years. She was united in marriage only about eighteen months ago. She is survived by her husband and one child only four days old. Mr. Bloss is an employee of the B. & O., and has many friends in South Cumberland who sympathize with him in his bereavement. The remains will be taken to Springfield, W. Va., tomorrow for interment."⁷⁵

The period 1903 through 1905 was a busy time as several Bloss sons married. On Dec. 16, 1903, John Michael Bloss, a 26 year old railroad foreman, married Maud E. Twigg, who was 19 years old at the time.⁷⁶ On June 6, 1904, Adam H. Bloss, a 24 year old bar tender, married May Davis, who was 18 years old at the time.⁷⁷ The newspaper reported:

"Married Last Night

"Miss Mary Davis and Mr. Adam H. Bloss were married last evening at the Trinity M. E. church parsonage. The pastor of the church, Rev. C. H. Cannon, officiated. Both young people have been residents of the vicinity of North Branch. After the marriage ceremony they took apartments in the Union Hotel, South Cumberland, and will temporarily reside there.

"Mr. Bloss is employed at the Union Hotel as a clerk."⁷⁸

Later that month, on June 20, 1904, Lewis Wellington Bloss, a 22 year old brakeman, married Laura Virginia Steckman, who was 22 years old.⁷⁹ And on Sept. 6, 1904, Henry William Bloss, a 23 year old pipe fitter, married Nettie Palmer Seowden, who was 25 years old at the time.⁸⁰

In September 1904, a devastating collision resulted in the deaths of several railroad employees and the destruction of several homes, including the residences of several of the Bloss family. The event was of such magnitude that it was reported in *The Washington Post* newspaper on September 24, 1904:

"RAN INTO DYNAMITE

"Train Struck Wagon Loaded with the Explosive

"TWO KILLED; EIGHT INJURED

"Many Buildings at North Branch, Md., Wrecked by Explosion

⁷⁴ *Cumberland Alleganian*, Cumberland, Md., newspaper, Thursday, April 3, 1902, p. 5.
⁷⁵ *Cumberland Alleganian*, Cumberland, Md., newspaper, Thursday, April 24, 1902, p. 2.
⁷⁶ Allegany County Courthouse, Cumberland, MD, Register of Marriages, No. 9, p. 20.
⁷⁷ Allegany County Courthouse, Cumberland, MD, Register of Marriages, No. 10, p. 20.
⁷⁸ *Cumberland Alleganian*, Cumberland, Md., newspaper, June 9, 1904, p. 2.
⁷⁹ Allegany County Courthouse, Cumberland, MD, Register of Marriages, No. 10, p. 20.
⁸⁰ Allegany County Courthouse, Cumberland, MD, Register of Marriages, No. 10, p. 20.

**"Driver, Terrified, Jumped from Wagon When He Saw Train Coming --
"Horses Hurlled Fifty Yards, but Are Uninjured--
"Engineer Pinned Under Wreck in Cloud of Scalding Steam --
"Force of Explosion Felt Half a Mile Away.**

"Special to The Washington Post

"Cumberland, Md., Sept 23. -- Two men were killed and eight persons were injured at North Branch, Md., four miles west (*sic.* east) of Cumberland, at 1:30 o'clock this afternoon by an explosion of 750 pounds of dynamite, caused by a Baltimore and Ohio fast freight train running into a wagon loaded with the explosive. Many buildings in the town were wrecked by the concussion.

"The dead:

"**C. WALTER WHITEHAIR**, front brakeman, of Brunswick, formerly of Terra Alta, W. Va.

"**NELSON PIKE**, of Martinsburg, engineer; scalded all over and internally injured; he lived two hours.

"The injured:

"A. R. Sanders, fireman, North Mountain, W. Va.; arm broken, scalded on face, body and hands.

"Charles Hamilton, Baltimore and Ohio operator and postmaster at North Branch; cut on face and body.

"Scott Hamilton, of Little Orleans, Md.; fifty cuts on face and body.

"James Ashkettle, of Little Orleans; cut to face.

"Mary Twigg, of Oldtown, niece of Charles Hamilton; cut in face.

"Raymond, aged three, son of Charles Hammond; cut in face.

"Maude Seibert, daughter of William Seibert; cut in face.

"James Laing, aged twenty one, driver of dynamite wagon; cut on leg and ear drum fractured.

"Havoc of Explosion

"The Baltimore and Ohio tower was wrecked, as were the residences of Adam Seibert, Charles Hamilton, Charles Bloss, J. Lewis Seibert, Stephen A. Bloss, and John Coleman.

"The commissary of Mike Elmore, Wabash subcontractor, and the Wabash temporary hospital, with other small buildings, were demolished. The windows of the schoolhouse and of the residence of C. A. Zimmerly, on the mountain a half mile away, were all broken out.

"The dynamite was being hauled for Mike Elmore, a contractor for the Wabash construction work in progress near by. There were fifteen cases on the wagon, aggregating 750 pounds. Laing was crossing the track with the load, when he saw the train coming. He became terrified when his wagon stopped on the track, and, according to the statement of eye-witnesses in the tower, he deserted the team and ran. The train struck the tail end of the wagon, which had but three feet to clear the track, but the engine continued some fifty feet before the terrific explosion occurred.

"Grant Hamilton and James Ashkettle were in the tower with the former's brother. They dropped down and the tower caved in on the three men. Grant Hamilton says that had Laing kept on with the wagon the accident would not have occurred, as he had plenty of time to clear the track. The men are covered with cuts from glass and splinters.

"The engine was stripped of its trimmings and turned over a total wreck; while seven freight cars following, loaded with high-grade merchandise, were smashed up. The track was torn and twisted in all directions. It was given a serpentine shape. The concussion snapped all telegraph wires in the vicinity. Laing and his horses had a remarkable escape. Laing was some feet away and down in a ditch before the engine struck the wagon. When he revived he found himself against a telegraph pole. The horses were hardly scratched, although hurled fifty yards into a field. All three tracks were blocked with the debris.

"Gripped to the Throttle

"Seven doctors were taken to the scene from Cumberland.

"It required the strength of four or five men to get Engineer Pike out of the wreckage. He lay on top of the over-turned boiler, in a cloud of scalding steam, his hands gripped tightly to the throttle.

"The house of Charles Hamilton was torn inside out, the furniture was wrecked, and all the china and crockery broken.

"The scene is one of perfect destruction. Parts of the engine were hurled many yards, and pickles and whiskey, with which several of the cars were loaded, were scattered in all directions.

"One of the hind tires of the dynamite wagon was hurled on top of a telegraph pole, where it hung fast. The explosion emptied pillows at several houses. An oak tree near the explosion was entirely denuded of leaves. The bodies of Whitehair and Pike are being held at Butler's morgue until an inquest tomorrow morning.

"Hunter Bowen, weighting about 225 pounds, timekeeper for Mike Elmore, was reclining on a bed back of the commissary room when the explosion occurred. He was lifted from the bed to the rafters, making a hole in the roof, and then fell to the floor.

"H. A. Hardin, brother-in-law of Mr. Elmore, who is in charge of the commissary, was at work at his deck, which suddenly left him, and he found himself sprawling on the floor. The cylinder head of the engine was thrown 200 yards. Witnesses say that the engine was lifted fifteen feet."⁸¹

The following three photographs were reprinted in 2003 from original photographs owned by Mr. Hamilton. The photographs were loaned to Frank Leo Bloss when he was friends with Mr. Jess Hamilton's daughter. The reprints are now in the Larry Frank Bloss Collection.



The above photograph was a view looking east with the Hamilton house on the left, B & O tower with the pointed roof and then the Western Maryland Railroad bridge in the background.

⁸¹ *The Washington Post*, Washington, D.C., newspaper, Saturday, Sept. 24, 1904, p. 1.



The above photograph was looking west with the B&O North Branch tower on the right and the Hamilton house further down the track. The crossing was there between the tower and the Hamilton house, the train was headed west, and that was engine and boxcar debris to the far side of the Hamilton house, perhaps better shown in the previous photograph.

The photograph to the right shows a close-up of the Hamilton house, looking west. The house was a total loss.



The following year, on Oct. 2, 1905, Carl Frederick [Walter] Bloss, North Branch, Md. applied for a marriage license to wed Nettie Virginia Grove, same place.⁸² He was 21 years old at the time and worked as a laborer; she was 18 years old. They actually married Oct. 4, 1905.⁸³

In 1905, Stephen Bloss' oldest son, William G. Bloss, followed his father, politically at least. He became the District No. 16 - North Branch, Registrar for Democrats.⁸⁴ He remained Registrar for the next year.⁸⁵

⁸² *The Evening Times*, Cumberland, Md., newspaper, Monday, October 2, 1905, p. 8.
⁸³ Allegany County Courthouse, Cumberland, MD, Register of Marriages, No. 10, p. 20.
⁸⁴ *The Evening Times*, Cumberland, Md., newspaper, July 21, 1905.
⁸⁵ *The Evening Times*, Cumberland, Md., newspaper, Friday, July 27, 1906

In 1907, Geo. W. Bloss was one of three delegates from Election District No. 16 - North Branch to the county convention [Democrat Party] to be held in Cumberland.⁸⁶ In 1908 Wm. G. Bloss was elected Registrar for the Democrat party.⁸⁷

When George W. Bloss visited Cumberland, he would occasionally stop by the newspaper offices of *The Cumberland Times* to visit. As a result, a number of the Bloss family comings and goings were reported in the paper. For example, under the heading: "**PERSONAL AND SOCIAL**" it was reported in September 1907 that: "Mr. Geo. W. Bloss, of North Branch, was a pleasant caller at this office today. Says it is too cold for corn to leave the sack - better there than on the ground,"⁸⁸ "Mr. George W. Bloss, of North Branch, was here this morning on business."⁸⁹ "Mr. George Bloss, of North Branch, was here today."⁹⁰ On June 8, 1907, R. C. Willison signed a promissory note to the order of George W. Bloss for \$250.⁹¹

The following year included funeral duty for a neighbor. The newspaper reported:

"Taps for Robert Pollock

"The funeral of Mr. Robert S. Pollock, the well known ex-Confederate soldier and prominent farmer living below this city, who died at his home at Westbend,



Wednesday afternoon, took place this morning at 11 o'clock. Rev. James E. Moffatt, of the First Presbyterian Church, officiated and interment was made in the burial ground on the family place. In addition a number of friends of the deceased from this city, the interment was attended by hundreds of residents of the lower end of the county, who came to pay their respects to the dead veteran and good citizen. The following gentlemen acted as pallbearers: Messrs. Ernest Taschenberger, Albert Rephorn, Amos Lichliter, Alex. Cunningham, Geo. Bloss, James Kreitz. The floral tokens were very profuse and beautiful."⁹²

Back on June 15, 1906 John M. Bloss died in Springfield, Il. We have not yet found his obituary. The adjacent photograph was taken while they were still living in Springfield; the date is uncertain. Family lore has it that Margaret E. Bloss moved back to North Branch and subsequently died in 1914. We need to find her obituary also.

Newspaper accounts for 1908 reveal that there were four public schools at North Branch. We determine that from an account of School Board Trustees for the Public Schools,

⁸⁶ *The Evening Times*, Cumberland, Md., newspaper, Monday, Sept. 23, 1907, p. 1.

⁸⁷ *The Evening Times*, Cumberland, Md., newspaper, Thursday, July 30, 1908, p. 5.

⁸⁸ *The Evening Times*, Cumberland, Md., newspaper, Thursday, May 10, 1906, p. 8.

⁸⁹ *The Evening Times*, Cumberland, Md., newspaper, Friday, June 15, 1906, p. 8.

⁹⁰ *The Evening Times*, Cumberland, Md., newspaper, Wednesday, Nov. 27, 1907, p. 9.

⁹¹ Personal files in the Larry Bloss Collection, copied 1/7/2010.

⁹² *The Evening Times*, Cumberland, Md., newspaper, Friday, Mar. 13, 1908, p. 1.

District No. 16, School No. 1, North Branch - J. L. Siebert, George W. Valentine; School No. 2, Spring Gap - H. H. Little, C. L. Daniels, Wm. Taschenberger; School No. 4, Pollock - Geo. W. Bloss; and School No. 5, Rohrer - Sanford Rice, Chas Robinette, Jerry Bucy.⁹³ There was no School No. 3 listed.



At about that time, 1908, George W. and Rachel G. Bloss had the above studio portrait taken. Starting from the left they are identified as: James D., George W., Michael L., Claude R. Rachel G., and Della as the babe on her mother's knee. The female child in the front is unidentified and the absence of Richard R. and Frank C. Bloss in this family portrait remains unexplained.

Later year *The Evening Times* published:

"Report of North Branch School.

"North Branch, Sept. 30 - The following is a report of the North Branch school for the month ending Sept. 30: Pupils enrolled, boys 12, girls 13, Total 25. Average number of pupils, boys 10.23, girls 10.93. Total average, 21.16.

"Those who attended every day during the month were: Russell Valentine, Wilbert Bloss, Rupert Berry, Jesse and Raymond Hamilton and Earl Irons. Nellie Davis, Virgie Wilson, Addie and Mildred Hamilton, Rosella Finan and Marion Rephann. Rose Berry and Ralph Knippenberg each missed one day.

Maggie M. Twigg, Teacher."⁹⁴

A report for the other three schools has not been found. Notice also the consistency over time of certain family names.

⁹³ *The Evening Times*, Cumberland, Md., newspaper, Friday, May 22, 1908, p. 1.

⁹⁴ *The Evening Times*, Cumberland, Md., newspaper, Friday, October 9, 1908, p. 8.

The following year the newspaper reported on a Surprise Party given in honor of Mr. John Siebert, at the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. John L. Siebert, at North Branch, on Wednesday evening, May 5, 1909.⁹⁵ Among the attendees was Miss Elizabeth Bloss; perhaps the 24 year old daughter of Charles and Mary Bloss? Earlier we read "Miss Lizzie Bloss contemplates going to Cumberland next week, where she will spend several weeks."⁹⁶ The next month, under "**Siebert Items** - Report of North Branch school for month ending Feb. 26, is as follows: Pupils enrolled, boys 17, girls 17, total 34; average attendance, boys 14, girls 14.5, total average attendance, 28.5. The following pupils attended every day; . . . Wilbert Bloss. M. M. Twigg, teacher."⁹⁷ Wilbert Bloss was the younger brother, 10 years younger than Elizabeth Bloss *Ibid* we read: "Miss Lizzie Bloss, who is staying in Cumberland, spent from Saturday till Monday with her parents here. Mr. W. Bloss made a business trip to Berkeley Springs last week."

Later that summer we read: "**Big Turtle Upsets Boat.** - The C. & O. canal is noted for its giant turtles, but George Bloss, at North Branch, is confident he had a struggle with the largest Saturday, when fishing for them in a flat-bottomed boat, both he and his son were pulled from the boat, and their vessel upset, by a monster turtle, who walked away with their line, after towing them down the canal for fifty yards or more. Mr. Bloss says the turtle was an immense one, and nearly as big as his boat."⁹⁸

The 1910 census reported Charles F. Bloss, age 58, married for 31 years was working as a laborer in a stone quarry.⁹⁹ Living with him in census dwelling 31 were: Mary L., age 50, wife, married 31 years, she had 5 children all of whom were then still living; Elizabeth C., age 21, daughter; and Wilbert D., age 16, son.

By 1910 several Bloss families were living along the Oldtown Road in North Branch, Md.¹⁰⁰ Stephen and Elizabeth Bloss were living in census dwelling 26; he was 56 years old with his own income and she was 57 with no income. They had been married 32 years. Their son, William G. Bloss, 32 years old and widowed was living with them. Their granddaughter, Pauline M. Bloss, 6 years old was also living with them; she was probably William G. Bloss' daughter although that remains to be verified.

Just down the street in census dwelling 29 lived John M. & Maud E. Bloss; he was 33 years old and working as a laborer on the railroad, she was 25 years old with no income.¹⁰¹ They had been married 6 years and had 3 children, all of whom were then still living. They were: Estella M. age 5; Clara O. age 4; and Carl J. age 2. In census dwelling 30, lived Margaret Siebert, 65 years old, widowed, 8 children, 6 then still living, and she also had her own income; she had a boarder. In census dwelling 31, lived Charles F. Bloss, age 58, married 31 years, working as a laborer in a stone quarry. Living with him were: Mary L., age 50, married with 5 children all of whom were then still living; Elizabeth C., age 21, daughter; and Wilbert D., age 16, son.

⁹⁵ *The Evening Times*, Cumberland, Md., newspaper, Friday, May 7, 1909, p. 16.

⁹⁶ *Cumberland Alleganian*, Cumberland, Md., newspaper, Thursday, February 11, 1909, p. 5.

⁹⁷ *Cumberland Alleganian*, Cumberland, Md., newspaper, Thursday, March 4, 1909, p. 5.

⁹⁸ *Cumberland Alleganian*, Cumberland, Md., newspaper, Thursday, July 22, 1909, p. 3.

⁹⁹ 1910 Census, Maryland, Allegany County, District No. 16, enumerated on 4/18/1910, p. 3A.

¹⁰⁰ 1910 Census, Maryland, Allegany County, District No. 16, enumerated on 4/18/1910, p. 3A.

¹⁰¹ *Ibid.*

Meanwhile Carl W. and Virginia N. Bloss were living in Morgan County, W. Va.¹⁰² He was 26 years old and she was 22 years old, they had been married 5 years. He was working in a sand mine; both could read and write.

The 1910 census reported Owen W. Zimmerly, age 30, married seven years, was working as a clerk in a railroad office.¹⁰³ Living with him were: Anna M. [Bloss], age 25, wife, married seven years, she had two children both of whom were then still living; Gladys C., age 5, daughter; and Ethel M., age 2, daughter.

By 1911 Charles F. Bloss' son, John M. Bloss was listed as living at 94 Elder St. and his occupation was listed as engineer, probably for the railroad,¹⁰⁴ The next son, Henry W. Bloss was living at 30 Beall St. and working as a pipe fitter. Stephen Bloss' son, Adam H. Bloss was living at 1½ Elder St. and working as a brakeman, and Lewis W. Bloss was living at 5 Springdale St. and working as a brakeman also.

In August of 1911 we read that Mr. H. W. Bloss of Cumberland, and Miss Jessie Horn, of Braddock, Pa., were visiting in Siebert, Md.¹⁰⁵

By 1913 the family was moving about Cumberland, we found that Adam H. Bloss was still a brakeman but he then lived at 121 Seymour St.; Claude Bloss was a carpenter who also lived at 121 Seymour St.; Henry W. Bloss was still a pipefitter and remained living at 30 Beall St.; John M. Bloss was still an engineer but he had moved to 442 Race St., and Louis W. Bloss was then a conductor and moved to 205 E 5th St., Cumberland.¹⁰⁶

During March 1914 a gale with heavy snow was reported in the Cumberland - Frostburg area. Eighteen inches of snow were reported at Davis, Thomas and Elkins, W. Va. In



Canal Scene Of 50 Years Ago
William T. Hoover of 1218 Virginia Avenue found this picture of about 50 years ago at the
reception the other day. This picture was taken on the canal on July 4, 1864, at River's Cove.
Mr. Hoover and his wife and baby are pictured standing on the bank of the canal. Other
people on the bank are Mrs. John Hoover, Charles Hoover, Sam Rankin, Ella Smith, Clara Brown, Ella
Hendrix, Charles Mahoney, Chris Brown and Della Hoover. He was surprised to see in the old
photograph what he heard that WJLA-TV in Washington will have a dramatic reconstruction
on the canal called "The Manpower Ditch." Wednesday at 7:30 p. m.
MORNING PAPER, Jan 13-66

Cumberland, the properties of John Zink, Henry W. Bloss and Charles S. Keller were reported as damaged by the winter storm.¹⁰⁷

Wilbert Bloss died on Nov. 26, 1915 and was buried in Davis Memorial Cemetery, Cumberland. His mother, Mary E. Bloss, died in 1932 and was buried in the same cemetery. His father, Charles F. Bloss, died in 1934 and was also buried in the same cemetery, probably a family plot. Their obituaries remain to be found.

Apparently Stephen Adam Bloss died during 1916 and was buried at Davis Memorial Cemetery, Cumberland, Md. An obituary remains to be found.

¹⁰² 1910 Census, West Virginia, Morgan County, Bath District, enumerated on 4/17/1910, p. 5B.

¹⁰³ 1910 Census, Maryland, Allegany County, District No. 4, enumerated on 4/23/1910, p. 11A

¹⁰⁴ *Cumberland, Maryland City Directory*, R. L. Polk & Co., 1911, p. 79.

¹⁰⁵ *Cumberland Alleganian*, Cumberland, Md., newspaper, Thursday, Aug. 10, 1911, p. 9.

¹⁰⁶ 1913 City Directory, Cumberland, Md., R. L. Polk & Co.'s. p. 67.

¹⁰⁷ *Sun*, Baltimore, MD, newspaper, Tuesday, 3/3/1914, p. 9.

On Jan. 3, 1966 a newspaper reprinted the previous photograph, which is of a pleasure boat passing along The Bloss Grove circa 1916. According to George W. Bloss, The Bloss Grove was a widened flat area along the farm owned by George W. Bloss, adjacent to the Pollock farm.

The period 1917 through 1920 saw the next generation of Bloss' sons getting married and registering for the World War I draft. On Oct. 31, 1917, James Dixon Bloss, a 26 year old farmer, married Mary Ethel Monnett, who was 17 years old at the time.¹⁰⁸

On June 5, 1918 **James Dixon Bloss** registered for the draft, he was 26 years of age, single [*sic*], living in Siebert, Md., working as a farmer for his father; James was tall in height, slender build, with blue eyes and dark brown hair.¹⁰⁹

On Sept. 11, 1918, **Lewis Wellington Bloss**, 36 years old, signed his draft registration card; he was medium in height, medium in build with blue eyes and brown hair; one arm was slightly disfigured and he was a brakeman on the B & O Railroad.¹¹⁰ He lived with his wife, Laura Bloss, in Siebert, MD.

On Sept. 12, 1918, **John Michael Bloss**, 41 years old, signed his draft registration card; he was a laborer for Westinghouse Industries, Cumberland.¹¹¹ He listed his nearest relative as his father, living in Siebert, Md. which suggests that by 1918 his wife, Maud Twigg Bloss, had already died.

On Sept. 6, 1918, **Henry William Bloss**, 37 years old, signed his draft registration card; he was tall in height, medium in build with brown eyes, brown hair and was a pipe fitter for the B. & O. R.R., Cumberland.¹¹² Nellie P. Bloss was listed as his nearest relative.

Over in Berkeley Springs, W. Va., **Carl Walter Bloss** signed his draft registration card; he was a carpenter for Berkeley Sand Co.¹¹³ He lived with his wife, Nettie Virginia Bloss, he was tall in height and of medium build.

On Sept. 12, 1918, **Adam Henry Bloss**, 38 years old, signed his draft registration card; he was medium in height, medium in build, blue eyes, light colored hair and was a yard brakeman for the B&O Railroad.¹¹⁴ He lived with his wife, Arzeltha May Bloss in Cumberland, MD.

On June 6, 1918, **James D. Bloss**, 26 years old, signed his draft registration card; he was tall in height, slender in build, with blue eyes, dark brown hair and not bald.¹¹⁵ He was a farmer working for his father, G. W. Bloss, North Branch, Md. He was single.

On Sept. 12, 1918, **Frank Conway Bloss**, 20 years old, signed his draft registration card; he was tall in height, slender in build with gray eyes, light colored hair and farmed for his father, George W. Bloss, in North Branch/Siebert, Md.¹¹⁶

A year later, on Oct. 15, 1919, Frank Conway Bloss, 21 years old, married Nora May Baldwin, who was 20 years old.¹¹⁷ And then on June 3, 1920, Claude Raymond Bloss, 29 years old, married Viola Rice, who was 27 years old.¹¹⁸

¹⁰⁸ Allegany County Courthouse, Cumberland, MD, Register of Marriages, No. 13, p. 29.

¹⁰⁹ WW I Draft Registration Card 1860, issued 9/5/1918.

¹¹⁰ WW I Draft Registration Card 1064, issued 9/11/1918.

¹¹¹ WW I Draft Registration Card 1028, issued 9/12/1918.

¹¹² WW I Draft Registration Card 2535, issued 9/6/1918.

¹¹³ WW I Draft Registration Card 194, issued 9/12/1918

¹¹⁴ WW I Draft Registration Card 2580, issued 9/12/1918.

¹¹⁵ WW I Draft Registration Card 1869, issued 6/6/1918.

¹¹⁶ WW I Draft Registration Card 3321, issued 9/12/1918.

The 1920 census reported that the Bloss families still lived in North Branch, Md. The widow Elizabeth S. Bloss, age 67, was living in census dwelling 31.¹¹⁹ Living with her was Pauline M. Bloss, age 17, her granddaughter. Neither women reported an occupation.

Charles F. and Mary L. Bloss were living in census dwelling 123.¹²⁰ Charles was 69 years old and workings as a laborer at odd jobs; Mary was 63 years old and had been granted citizenship in 1866. They owned their home free of any mortgage. Living with them were their son, John W. 43 years old and widowed; granddaughters, Estella age 15; and Rosa E. age 13; as well as grandsons, Carl W., age 12; and Lester H., age 8. We surmise that sometime between 1912 and 1920, Maud E. Bloss had died and her husband, Charles, and the four children had moved back in with his parents.



In 1920, George W. and Rachel Bloss lived in North Branch, census dwelling 126, shown in following photograph, which they owned free of any mortgage. He was 62 years old and a farmer; she was 58 years old with no income; she had been granted citizenship in 1867. Living with them was their daughter, Alice D[ella] who was 18 years old.

Living in census dwelling 127 was their son, Frank C. and his wife Nora M. Bloss. He was a 21 year old farmer and she was 20 year old.

Living in census dwelling 128 was their son, James D. and his wife Mary E. Bloss. He was a 26 year old farmer and she was 20 years old. Their son, James H. Bloss, age 1-4/12 years old, was living with them.

Henry W. and Nellie Bloss were living on N. Beall St., Cumberland, Md. in 1920.¹²¹ He was 38 years old and she was 40 years old, their daughter Evelyn, 10 years old, was living with them. He was working as a plumber.

Meanwhile, out in California, William G. Bloss, age 59, married, was working as a baker in a Bakery, continuing his occupation from Springfield, Il.¹²² Living with him were: Emma M., age 48, his wife; Stephen, age 22, son, working as a metal worker in a factory; and two boarders.

The 1925 City Directory listed Adam H. Bloss living at 225 Elder St. and still working as a brakeman for the B. & O. Railroad.¹²³ Claude R. and Viola C. Bloss were living at 318

¹¹⁷ Allegany County Courthouse, Cumberland, MD, Register of Marriages, No. 14, p. 26.

¹¹⁸ Allegany County Courthouse, Cumberland, MD, Register of Marriages, No. 14, p. 27.

¹¹⁹ 1920 Census, Maryland, Allegany Cty., North Branch Dist. 39, enumerated on 3/4/1920, p. 2B.

¹²⁰ 1920 Census, Maryland, Allegany Cty., North Branch Dist. 16, enumerated on 4/5/1920, p. 6A.

¹²¹ 1920 Census, Maryland, Allegany County, Cumberland, enumerated on 2/2/1920, p. 15B.

¹²² 1920 Census, California, Los Angles, District 73, enumerated on 1/10/1920, p. 15A.

¹²³ *Cumberland, Maryland, City Directory*, R. L. Polk & Co., 1925, pp. 168 & 169.

E. Laing Ave. and he was a carpenter. Henry W. and Nellie P. Bloss were living at 301 Beall St. and he was still working as a pipefitter. John M. Bloss was living in Siebert, Md. and worked in car repair for the B. & O. Railroad. Louis W. Bloss was not listed.

Sometime in 1926 Pauline M. Bloss married William A. Sowers in Philadelphia, Pa. and subsequently lived in that state. Confirmation is requested.

The 1927 Cumberland City Directory listed Adam H. and Arzetha M. Bloss as living at 246 Humbird St. and he was still working as a brakeman for the B. & O. R. R.¹²⁴ Claude R. and Viola C. Bloss were living at 318 Laing Ave. and he was a carpenter. Henry W. and Nellie P. Bloss were living at 301 Beall St. and he was a foreman at B. & O. R. R. Their daughter, Evelyn P., was a student and living with them. John M. Bloss was living in Seibert, Md. and he was working on car repairs for B. & O. R. R. Lewis B. Bloss was also living in Seibert, Md. and working as a brakeman for B. & O. R. R. Carl W. and Nettie Bloss were living at 679 Fayette St. and he was a rubber worker at Kelly Springfield Tire Co. Pauline Bloss resided at North Branch and was an employee at Crystal Laundry Co.



In circa 1927, Frank C. Bloss placed Order No. 49, for a Knife No. 11 with agent Wesley Kinsley. Frank Bloss was identified by the "X" on his hand in the adjacent photograph.

By 1929 Carl W. (Virgie) Bloss was still a carpenter but he had moved to 679 Fayette St.; Claude R. (Cora) Bloss was then a carpenter contractor and living at 318 E. Laing Ave.; Evelyn P. Bloss was an assistant librarian Cumberland Free Public Library and lived at 301 Beall St., presumably with her parents; Henry W. (Nellie P.) Bloss was still a pipefitter for the B&ORR and they lived at 301 Beall St.; and John W. Bloss was a car man for the B&ORR living in Siebert, Md.¹²⁵ For the 1929 City Directory, the wife's name was included in parenthesis.

The grandson of George Washington Bloss, George William Bloss (b. 1920, son of James D. and Mary Ethel Bloss) remembers his youthful years during the 1920's when the farm flourished with the growing economy of Cumberland. The Blosses grew acres of wheat which was ground into flour with the family's own grist mill and sold to Cumberland bakeries. The family raised over 20 head of Hereford cattle, which were fattened, butchered in the farm's slaughtering shop, and then sold. George Wm. Bloss recalls riding with his cousin, Frank "Leo" Bloss, as one of their fathers, Frank C. or James D., made the meat deliveries. The family also bred chickens and sold the eggs. They

¹²⁴ *Cumberland, Maryland, City Directory*, R. L. Polk & Co., 1927, p. 152.

¹²⁵ *Cumberland, Maryland, City Directory*, R. L. Polk & Co., 1929, p. 143.

maintained a dairy cow, which was milked by his Grandmother Rachel, who smoked a pipe, drank a lot of coffee and always wore a kerchief. Rachel often made “smearcase”, the German variety of homemade cottage cheese. George Wm. Bloss remembers that during the 1920’s and 1930’s, donkeys and mules still pulled barges along the canal, although the frequency certainly dwindled.

George William Bloss remembers that the area “Mexico Farms” got its name from the number of Mexican laborers who came to the region to work on the railroad. Their camps were set up on many of the farms in North Branch, including the Bloss farm. The family had its own machine shop in a barn where they often did repair to B&O railroad ties. The Bloss family also cut ice from the Potomac River during the winter months for sale to folks in Cumberland.

George William Bloss also recalls that his grandparents would speak in German to each other when they did not want the grandchildren to understand what they were saying. It was a strict household with more work than play. Yet, he does remember ice skating during the winters along a long, smooth stretch of the canal behind Lock #75. He also describes a large reservoir which had been made off of the main canal which they called the “wide water.” This area was used to drain water off the canal and hold an overflow barge or two until the boat traffic had cleared sufficiently for them to proceed along the canal. The men often hunted rabbits and other game critters in their little spare time.

By the 1930 census, most of the Bloss families were no longer living at North Branch. Frank C. and Nora Bloss were still living there.¹²⁶ He was 32 years old working as a tire molder at a tire factory and she was 31 years old. He had married at 21 years of age and she had married at 20 years of age. They owned their own home which was valued at \$2,500 and they also owned a radio set. Living with them were their five children: Frances, age 10; Margaret, age 9; Marie, age 8; Leo, age 3; and Robert, age 1.

In the same census it was reported that Claude R. age 40, and Cora B. Bloss age 38, were living on East Laing Avenue, Cumberland.¹²⁷ They owned their own home which was valued at \$4,500 but they did not own a radio set. He had married at 30 years of age and she had married at 28 years of age. Living with them were their two children: Anna F. age 8 and Walter E. age 6. Claude was working as a carpenter in the house construction business.

In 1930 Carl W. and Nettie P. Bloss were living on Fayette Street, Cumberland, Md.¹²⁸ He was 46 years old and she was 41 years old; he was working as a carpenter at odd jobs. Living with them were Curtis J. their son age 16, and Alberta V. their daughter age 14 years. Curtis was working as a cutter in a silk mill; all in the family could read and write.

By 1931 James Bloss owned a portable sawmill, which he hired out, based on the following written contract:

¹²⁶ 1930 Census, Maryland, Allegany County, North Branch Dist 16, enumerated on 4/2/1930, p. 1B.

¹²⁷ 1930 Census, Maryland, Allegany County, Cumberland Dist. no. 4, enumerated on 4/30/1930, p. 37B.

¹²⁸ 1930 Census, Maryland, Allegany County, Cumberland City, enumerated on 4/5/1930, p. 6A.

January 27, 1931

This agreement made between James Bloss the first part and Frank Beegle the second party. He agrees to hire this engine on his own risk and return said engine when done sawing at this set, in same shape.

Party of the second agrees to pay seventy five cents a thousand and pay at the end of every two weeks.

James Bloss¹²⁹

In 1933 Carl W. (Nettie V.) Bloss were living at 679 Fayette Street, Cumberland, Md.¹³⁰ He was working as a silk worker. Living with them were Curtis J. (C. Virginia), also a silk worker. Henry W. (Nellie P.) a pipe fitter for B&O RR was living at 301 Beall St. Living with them was Evelyn P. Bloss, their daughter, who as an assistant librarian Cumberland Free Public Library.

In 1935 Carl W. (N. Virginia) Bloss were living at 679 Fayette Street, Cumberland, Md.¹³¹ He was still a silk worker. Living with them were Curtis J. (C. Virginia), now a lab worker. Henry W. (Nellie P.) a pipe fitter was living at 301 Beall St. Their daughter, Evelyn was not listed suggesting she had gotten married in the intervening years.

Apparently Elizabeth (Nippenberg) Bloss died in 1939 and was buried beside her husband, Stephen A. Bloss, in Davis Memorial Cemetery, Cumberland, Md. An obituary remains to be found.

By 1939 we read that Carl W. (Nellie V.) Bloss was an acetate worker at Continental Can of America still living at 679 Fayette St.; Curtis J. (C. Virginia) Bloss was a spinner at Continental Can of America and they also lived at 679 Fayette St.; Henry W. (Nellie P.) Bloss was then a steamfitter for B&ORR, still living at 301 Beall St.; while John C. (Margaret L.) Bloss was a machine helper with the Western Maryland Railway living on Jones St., near Williams St., in Ridgeley, W. Va.¹³²

The 1940 census reported that Henry W. and Nellie P. Bloss were living on Beall Street, Cumberland.¹³³ He was 58 years old and she was 60 years old; he was working as a steam fitter for a steam railroad.

By 1940, out in California, George W. Bloss had died and his widow, Emma M. Bloss, age 69, was living at 7012 N. Figueroa St. Living with her was her widowed sister, Bertha E. Wiland, age 52, who was working as a practical nurse for a private family.

George Washington Bloss died in March 1941, and, as shown previously, many of the Bloss men had already gone to work with the B&O Railroad. Eventually, portions of the nearly 150 acre farm were sold off, including some to a local man, Bogus Johnson, and to a neighbor, John Kready. Frank C. Bloss took over the operation of the farm, but once nearly all of the sons enlisted to serve in WW II, the farm could not flourish.

¹²⁹ Contract found in Larry Bloss Collection, 1/7/2010.

¹³⁰ 1933 City Directory, Cumberland, Md., R. L. Polk & Co.'s. pp. 93 & 94.

¹³¹ 1935 City Directory, Cumberland, Md., R. L. Polk & Co.'s. p. 102.

¹³² 1939 City Directory, Cumberland, Md., R. L. Polk & Co.'s. p. 68.

¹³³ 1940 Census, Maryland, Allegany County, Dist. No. 6, enumerated on 4/10/1940, p. 2A.

World War II came along and in April 1942 several of the Bloss men signed up for the draft:

James Dixon Bloss, was 50 years old and working in the blacksmith shop, B & O Railroad, Cumberland, Md.; he was 6'-1" tall, weighed 186 pounds, had blue eyes, black hair and a light brown complexion.¹³⁴ He still lived with his wife, Mary Ethel Bloss, in Siebert, Md.

Lewis Wellington Bloss was 59 years old and working as a Conductor for the B & O Railroad; he was 5'-11" tall, weighed 222 pounds, blue eyes, gray hair, and light complexion.¹³⁵

Adam Henry Bloss was 62 years old and still working for the B & O Railroad; he was 5'-10³/₄" tall, weighed 198 pounds, had blue eyes, blonde hair and a light complexion.¹³⁶ He still lived with his wife, Arzeltha M. Bloss, in Cumberland, Md.

Claude R. Bloss was 53 years old working for a contractor; he was 5'-8¹/₂" tall, weighed 172 pounds, blue eyes, gray hair and ruddy complexion; he was totally blind in his left eye and partially blind in his right eye.¹³⁷ He lived with his wife, Cora Viola Bloss at Mexico Farms, Md. The adjacent photograph of their daughter, Anna F. Bloss, was taken circa 1942.

Henry William Bloss was 60 years old working in the B & O Shops, Cumberland, Md.; he was 5'-10¹/₂" tall, weighed 170 pounds, had brown eyes, black/gray hair, and a dark complexion.¹³⁸ He gave the name of George Zink, his next door neighbor, as a person who would always know his address which suggests his wife, Nellie Bloss, had already died.

Carl Walter Bloss was 58 years old and working for Celenese Corp. of America, Cumberland; he was 5'-9" tall, weighed 150 pounds, had blue eyes, blonde hair and a light complexion.¹³⁹ He was still living with his wife, Nettie V. Bloss, in Cumberland, Md.



After the war, the Pittsburgh Paint & Glass Company eventually purchased the remaining acreage and built a plant in 1951. Now the old Bloss farm is occupied by a medium security federal prison, a Bureau of Prisons Training Center and a FEMA Logistics Center.

Della Bloss lived at the farm until after her father died, and she married her high school sweetheart, Jeremiah Frank Monnett, in 1946. Both Della and her mother, Rachel Greenbach Bloss, lived to be 95. Homer Earl Bloss graduated from the University of Maryland and went on to a successful career as a plant pathology professor at the University of Arizona, publishing numerous professional papers and obtaining several patents for inventions relating to cactus hybridization. Phyllis June Bloss also attended

¹³⁴ WW II Draft Registration Card 1777, issued 4/26/1942.

¹³⁵ WW II Draft Registration Card 1392.

¹³⁶ WW II Draft Registration Card 2022, issued 4/26/1942.

¹³⁷ WW II Draft Registration Card 1369, issued 4/25/1942.

¹³⁸ WW II Draft Registration Card, U1452, issued 4/26/1942.

¹³⁹ WW II Draft Registration Card 589, issued 4/27/1942.

the University of Maryland, studying art history. She married physicist John Warren, and together they moved to Espanola, New Mexico, where John worked at Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory. After serving in the U.S. Army Air Corps during WW II, George William Bloss obtained work as a supervisory mechanical engineer at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD.

From the 1950 City Directory we read that James Bloss' wife, Beatrice P. Bloss, was a saleswoman at Martin's Inc, and lived on RD 4; Curtis J. (Virginia C.) Bloss was an assistant foreman at Continental Can of America and lived at 672 Fayette St.; Henry W. Bloss was still a steam fitter and lived at 301 Beall St.; John C. (Margaret L.) Bloss was living at 610 Virginia Ave.; John M. Bloss was living at 722 Sylvan Ave.; Nettie (widow of Carl W.) Bloss was living at 679 Fayette St.; and Robert R. Bloss was a warehouseman for Sears, living at 71 S. Prospect; all in Cumberland, Md.¹⁴⁰



The adjacent family photograph was taken circa 1954. They are identified, left to right, as: Earl Bloss, Avalon (Abby) Osborne Bloss, Larry Frank Bloss, Roger Osborne Bloss, and Frank C. (Papap) Bloss holding Valerie Jean Bloss.

The photograph below was taken circa 1954, and shows Frank Conway Bloss and two children, identified as Larry Frank & Valerie Jean Bloss.

After WW II, many of the Bloss descendants moved away from Western Maryland to pursue chosen professions that took them elsewhere. Yet, many remain in the area and have flourished with growing families and contributions to their communities.



¹⁴⁰ 1950 City Directory, Cumberland, Md., R. L. Polk & Co.'s. p. 244.

VITAL STATISTICS OF JOHN M. BLOSS FAMILY¹⁴¹

Name	Rel.	Born	Married	Died	Pl. of Birth
John M. Bloss	hus	5/1823	5/15/1852	6/15/1906	Germany
Margaret Elizabethe Usinger	wife	11/13/1827		1914	Germany
Anne E. Bloss	dau.	1850			Pennsylvania
Mary Bloss	dau.	1851			Maryland
Charles F. Bloss	son	7/26/1852	1875	1934	Maryland
Stephen Adam Bloss	son	1/1854			Maryland
George Washington Bloss	son	3/1857	4/25/1885	3/9/1941	Maryland
Johann Heinrich Bloss	son	5/26/1859			Maryland
Gottlieb Wilhelm Bloss	son	8/21/1862	1893		Pennsylvania
Catherine Hannah Bloss	dau.	1864			Maryland
Anna Margaratha Bloss	dau.	7/8/1866			Maryland
End of 1st Generation					
Charles F. Bloss	hus	7/26/1852	1875	1934	Maryland
Mary L. Hover	wife	11/1859		1932	Germany
John Michael Bloss	son	1/15/1877	12/16/1903	11/1964	West Virginia
Henry William Bloss	son	8/6/1881	9/6/1904		West Virginia
Walter Carl Bloss	son	3/30/1883	10/4/1905	5/11/1945	Maryland
Elizabeth C. [Lydia] Bloss	dau.	6/1885			Maryland
Wilbert D. Bloss	son	12/16/1895		11/26/1915	Maryland
Stephen Adam Bloss	hus	1/1854	1877	1916	Maryland
Elizabeth Nippenberg	wife	10/1852		1939	Germany
William G. [Henry] Bloss	son	10/1878			Maryland
Adam Henry Bloss	son	2/16/1880	6/6/1904		Maryland
Lewis Stephen Bloss	son	7/4/1882	6/20/1904	4/14/1963	Maryland
Annie M. Bloss (Zimmerly)	dau.	8/1885			Maryland
Pauline M. Bloss (Sowers)	Gdau.	1903	1926	3/12/1996	Maryland
George Washington Bloss	hus	3/1857	4/25/1885 ¹⁴²	3/9/1941	Maryland
Rachel Greenbauch	wife	5/5/1860		8/17/1956	Germany
Richard Rolley Bloss	son				
Claude Raymond Bloss	son	12/18/1888	6/3/1920	1/8/1974	Maryland
James Dixon Bloss	son	5/10/1891	10/31/1917		Maryland
Michael L. Bloss	son	5/11/1893		2/8/1918	Maryland
Frank Conway Bloss	son	7/31/1898	10/15/1919	6/1974	Maryland
Alice Della Bloss (Monnett)	dau.	5/24/1902		4/16/1988	Maryland
William G. (Gottlieb Wilhelm) Bloss	hus	8/21/1862	9/18/1890		Maryland
Emma M. Stopplesworth	wife	5/1876			Illinois
Stephen Bloss	son	9/8/1897		6/1974	Illinois
End of 2nd Generation					

¹⁴¹ The year data, highlighted in yellow, was read from the respective tombstones at the Davis Memorial Cemetery, North Branch, MD. The names highlighted in blue have contributed to this report.

¹⁴² Allegany County Courthouse, Cumberland, MD, Register of Marriages, No. 4, p. 15.

Name	Rel.	Born	Married	Died	Pl. of Birth
John Michael Bloss	hus.	1/15/1877	12/16/1903 ¹⁴³	11/1964	West Virginia
Maud Estella Twigg	wife	1885		-1920	Pennsylvania
<i>Estella M. Bloss</i>	dau.	10/4/1904		1984	Maryland
<i>Clara E. Bloss</i>	dau.	4/29/1906		8/28/1989	Maryland
<i>John Carl Bloss</i>	son	2/10/1908		9/29/1967	Maryland
<i>Lester H. Bloss</i>	son	1912			Maryland
Henry William Bloss	hus	8/6/1881 ¹⁴⁴	9/6/1904 ¹⁴⁵		West Virginia
Nellie Palmer Seowden	wife	1879			Maryland
<i>Evelyn P. Bloss</i>	dau.	1909			
Walter Carl Bloss	hus	3/30/1883 ¹⁴⁶	10/4/1905 ¹⁴⁷	5/11/1945	Maryland
Nettie Virginia Grove	wife	1887			West Virginia
<i>Curtis J. Bloss</i>	son	5/28/1913	6/4/1932	9/5/1986	West Virginia
<i>Alberta V. Bloss</i>	dau.	2/23/1916		6/28/1992	West Virginia
Adam Henry Bloss	hus	2/16/1880 ¹⁴⁸	6/6/1904 ¹⁴⁹	1962	Maryland
Arzeltha May Davis	wife	1886		12/1/1972	Maryland
Lewis Wellington Bloss	hus	7/4/1882 ¹⁵⁰	6/20/1904 ¹⁵¹	4/14/1963 ¹⁵²	Maryland
Laura Virginia Steckman	wife	1886		1952	
<i>Paul Lewis Bloss</i>	son	1905		6/21/1977 ¹⁵³	Maryland
<i>Marion Bloss</i> (Lohr)	dau.	1906		1984	
Owen W. Zimmerly	hus	1880			Maryland
Annie M. Bloss	wife	8/1885			Maryland
<i>Gladys H. Zimmerly</i>	dau.	8/30/1908		6/6/1988	Maryland
<i>Ethel M. Zimmerly</i>	dau.	1910			Maryland
Claude Raymond Bloss	hus	12/18/1888 ¹⁵⁴	6/3/1920 ¹⁵⁵	1/8/1974	Maryland
Viola Cora Rice	wife	1892			Maryland
<i>Anna F. Bloss</i> (Zambower)	dau.	1922			Maryland
<i>Walter E. Bloss</i>	son	1924			Maryland

¹⁴³ Allegany County Courthouse, Cumberland, MD, Register of Marriages, No. 9, p. 20.

¹⁴⁴ WW II Draft Registration Card 1452, Baltimore, MD, issued 4/26/1942.

¹⁴⁵ Allegany County Courthouse, Cumberland, MD, Register of Marriages, No. 10, p. 20.

¹⁴⁶ WW I Draft Registration Card 194, Berkeley Springs, W. Va., issued 9/12/1918. See also WW II Draft Registration Card 589, Cumberland, MD, issued 4/27/1942.

¹⁴⁷ Allegany County Courthouse, Cumberland, MD, Register of Marriages, No. 10, p. 20.

¹⁴⁸ WW I Draft Registration Card 2580, Cumberland, MD, issued 9/12/1918. See also WW II Draft Registration Card 2022, Montgomery County, MD, issued 4/26/1942.

¹⁴⁹ Allegany County Courthouse, Cumberland, MD, Register of Marriages, No. 10, p. 20.

¹⁵⁰ WW I Draft Registration Card 1064, issued 9/11/1918. See also WW II Draft Registration Card 1392, Baltimore, MD.

¹⁵¹ Allegany County Courthouse, Cumberland, MD, Register of Marriages, No. 10, p. 20.

¹⁵² *Evening Times*, Cumberland, MD, newspaper, Mon. April 15, 1963, p. 16.

¹⁵³ *Cumberland Evening Times*, Cumberland, MD, newspaper, June 22, 1977, p. 22.

¹⁵⁴ WW II Draft Registration Card, Baltimore County, MD, issued 4/25/1942.

¹⁵⁵ Allegany County Courthouse, Cumberland, MD, Register of Marriages, No. 4, p. 27.

Name	Rel.	Born	Married	Died	Pl. of Birth
James Dixon Bloss	hus	5/10/1891 ¹⁵⁶	10/31/1917 ¹⁵⁷	5/10/1947	Maryland
Mary Ethel Monnett	wife	1900		1988	West Virginia
<i>James Harrison Bloss</i>	son	8/30/1918		11/6/2006	Maryland
<i>George William Bloss</i>	son	6/9/1920	6/5/1945		Maryland
<i>Frank Ellsworth Bloss</i>	son	1/15/1922	never	1947	Maryland
<i>Charles Franklin Bloss</i>	son	1/15/1922	never	8/21/2000	Maryland
<i>Anna R. Louise Bloss</i> (Rankin)	dau	12/14/1924		3/4/2002	Maryland
<i>Elma Retha Bloss</i> (Lloyd)	dau	12/15/1927		6/11/2002	Maryland
<i>Ethel Mae Bloss</i> (Richardson)	dau	1931		10/10/1968	Maryland
<i>Mary Elizabeth Bloss</i> (Hackley)	dau	10/21/1935			Maryland
Frank Conway Bloss	hus.	7/31/1898 ¹⁵⁸	10/15/1919 ¹⁵⁹	5/10/1974	Maryland
Nora Mae Baldwin	wife	1899		1949	West Virginia
<i>Frances M. Bloss</i> (Twigg)	dau.	8/11/1920		6/29/2006	Maryland
<i>Margaret A. Bloss</i> (Boggs)	dau.	9/9/1921		10/1/1994	Maryland
<i>Freda Marie Bloss</i> (Twigg)	dau	12/18/1922		8/16/2002	Maryland
<i>Frank "Leo" Bloss</i>	son	6/21/1926		8/29/2003	Maryland
<i>Robert R. Bloss</i>	son	7/21/1928		11/23/1994	Maryland
<i>Homer Earl Bloss</i>	son	12/3/1934		12/31/1996	Maryland
<i>June B. Bloss</i> (Warren)	dau.	1939		12/13/2011	Maryland
Frank Conway Bloss	hus	7/30/1898		1974	Maryland
Glady Kerns	wife				
End of 3rd Generation					
James Harrison Bloss	hus	8/30/1918		11/6/2006	Maryland
Beatrice Pauline Whetsel	wife				
Carol Anne Bloss					
Jacob William Rankin	hus	6/8/1921	11/14/1924	12/17/2010	
Anna Rachel Louise Bloss	wife	12/14/1924		3/4/2002	Maryland
<i>Larry Rankin</i>	son				
<i>Susan Rankin</i> (Gaumer)	dau	1951			
<i>Diane Rankin</i>	dau				
<i>Tina Rankin</i> (Labutka)	dau				
Harold Anthony Lloyd, Sr.	hus	8/4/1925		11/1/2003	
Elma Retha Bloss	wife	12/15/1927		6/11/2002	Maryland
<i>Harold Anthony Lloyd, Jr.</i>	son	5/31/1947		9/29/2009	Illinois
<i>Harry S. Lloyd</i>	son	1950			
<i>Jeffrey Lloyd</i>	son				
<i>Linda Darlene Lloyd</i>	dau	1959			

¹⁵⁶ WW II Draft Registration Card 1777, Cumberland, MD, issued 4/26/1942.

¹⁵⁷ Allegany County Courthouse, Cumberland, MD, Register of Marriages, No. 13, p. 29.

¹⁵⁸ WW I Draft Registration Card 3321, issued 9/12/1918

¹⁵⁹ Allegany County Courthouse, Cumberland, MD, Register of Marriages, No. 14, p. 26.

Name	Rel.	Born	Married	Died	Pl. of Birth
James Harrison Richardson	hus	1/21/1922		5/10/1981	
Ethel Mae Bloss	wife	1931		10/10/1968	Maryland
<i>James</i> Richardson	son				
<i>Thomas</i> Richardson	son				
<i>John</i> Richardson	son				
George William Bloss	hus	1920	1945		Maryland
Beatrice Pauline Hare	wife	1926			
<i>Jean Lorain</i> Bloss (Weld)	dau	1951			Maryland
<i>Gary William</i> Bloss	son	1954			Maryland
<i>Steven Wayne</i> Bloss	son	1954			Maryland
<i>Linda Marlene</i> Bloss (Odell)	dau	1960			Maryland
Ralph Hackley	hus				
Mary Elizabeth Bloss	wife	1935			Maryland
<i>Brenda</i> Hackley	dau	1960			
<i>Lisa</i> Hackley (Snider)	dau				
Frank Leo Bloss	hus.	6/21/1926		8/29/2003	Maryland
Avalon V. Osborne	wife	9/26/1926		6/5/1982	Maryland
<i>Larry Frank</i> Bloss	son	1947	2001		Maryland
<i>Roger Osborne</i> Bloss	son	1950			Maryland
<i>Valerie Jean</i> Bloss (Aaron)	dau.	1952			
<i>David Lee</i> Bloss	son	1961			
End of 4 th Generation					
Roger O. Bloss, Sr.	hus	1950			Maryland
Deborah Jane Crippen	wife				
<i>Roger O.</i> Bloss, Jr.	son	1970			
<i>Timothy Crippen</i> Bloss	son	1976			
<i>Sarah Jane</i> Bloss	dau.	1985			
<i>Amy L.</i> Bloss (Gomer)	dau.				
Aaron (2 nd)	hus				
Valerie Jean Bloss	wife	1952			
<i>Amy Lynn</i> Aaron (Price)	dau.	1974			
David Lee Bloss	hus	1961			Maryland
Brenda Bridges	wife				
<i>Jennifer A.</i> Bloss (McKenzie)	dau.	1984			
<i>Julie Ann</i> Bloss	dau.	1989			
John Breslin Weld	hus				
Jean Lorain Bloss	wife	1951			
<i>John Randolph</i> Weld	son	1982			Virginia
<i>Aran Shannon</i> Weld (Briscoe)	dau.	1986			Virginia
Gary William Bloss	hus	1954			Maryland
Donna	wife				
<i>Gary William</i> Bloss, Jr.	son	1988			

Name	Rel.	Born	Married	Died	Pl. of Birth
James Odell	hus	1960			
Linda Marlene Bloss	wife	1960			
<i>Derek Christopher</i> Odell	son	1981			
<i>Kevin Curtis</i> Odell	son	1986			

APPENDIX A

1891	George W. Bloss	Dr.	
Oct.	24	to Bal. on Change	.60
"	24	to 1 pare socks	.10
"	26	to 2 box matches	.04
"	"	to 2 lbs gr sugar @/5½	.11
"	"	to 2 lbs nails	.08
"	"	to 2 plugs Tobacco @/10	.20
"	"	to Cash Loaned	2.00
"	28	to 1 Doz. Close pins	.05
"	29	to 7 lbs Br. sugar @/5	.35
"	29	to 1 lb Lion coffee	.25
"	30	to 2 lbs. nails	.08
"	31	to 3 stogies	.05
"	"	to 1 Broom	.25
"	"	to ¼ lb. Lozengers	.05
"	"	to 6 oz. Chees	.05
"	"	to ½ lb. Crackers	.05
"	"	to 1 Can East powders	.10
"	"	to 7 stogies	.10
Nov.	2	to ¼ lb. gun powder	.10
"	2	to ½ lb. shot	.05
"	3	to 1 Bar soap	.05
"	3	to 3 stogies	.05
"	5	to tobacco & Balona	.05
"	7	to 1 lb. Lion Coffee	.25
"	7	to ¼ gal. oil	.04
"	7	to 1 lb. Chees	.12
"	7	to 1 lb. Crackers	.10
"	7	to ½ lb. ginger snaps	.05
"	9	to paper & Envelope	.01
"	10	62 By 1½ Bu. potatoes	.90
"	10	to 1 stogie & 1 stamp	.03
"	13	to 2 lbs gr sugar @/5½	.11
"	"	to 1 spool cotton	.05
"	"	to 1 lb. shot	.10
"	14	to ¼ gal. Oil	.04
"	16	to 1 sack Mail Pouch	.05
"	19	to 2 games help your Neigh.	.10
"	19	to 1 spool cotton	.05
"	20	to 4 Chickens @/20	.80
"	21	to 1 lb L. B. sugar @/5	.05
"	21	to helping your Neighbor	.10
"	23	to ¼ gal. Oil	.04
			\$6.90
		Bal. Due	\$6.00
"	25	Rec. payment in full to date Joseph L. Crabtree	

Allegany County Courthouse, Cumberland, MD Deed Book 17, p.345, recorded 9/14/1858

At the request of John Bloss this Deed was recorded Sept. 14th 1858

This Deed made this 10th day of May eighteen hundred and fifty eight by George A. Pearre Trustee; Witnesseth, whereas by a decree of the Circuit Court of Allegany County acting as a Court of Equity, passed on the twenty ninth day of September in the year of our Lord eighteen hundred and fifty six, in the case of _____ Kramer and _____ Kham vs. John Bloss, Henry Beckman, Lewis Beckman and Stephen Eskart Beckman, the said George A. Pearre was appointed Trustee to sell the land decreed to be sold, and has sold the same to John Bloss, who has fully paid the purchase money therefore. - Now therefore, in consideration of the premises, the said George A. Pearre doth grant unto John Bloss all the right and title of all the parties to the aforesaid cause, in and to all that part of a tract of land called "The Brothers," situate on the south side of the Baltimore and Ohio Rail Road and in Hooks Addition to the Town of Cumberland, and the same piece of land was awarded to the said John L. Hook and Isaac L. Hook by the commissioners appointed to make division of the land belonging to the Estate of the late James Hook; said piece or parcel of land, beginning at a stone planted in the ground and marked "B" at the North Corner of the Catholic Church Lot, which is also at a corner of the Methodist Episcopal Church Lot, and running thence with an old line of fence South thirty five degrees East ninety and two third feet to a stone marked "H," South fifty eight and three fourth degrees East eighteen feet, South eighty nine degrees East one hundred and thirty one feet, South eighty two and a half degrees, East eighty two feet to the Baltimore and Ohio Rail Road and with it, North fifty nine and a half degrees West three hundred and four feet, West twenty nine feet to intersect a line drawn North twelve and a half degrees West from the beginning, then South twelve and a half degrees East sixty one feet to the beginning.

Witness my hand & Seal

George A. Pearre {Seal}
Trustee

State of Maryland, Allegany County, to wit:

I hereby certify that on this 10th day of May, eighteen hundred & fifty eight, before the subscriber, a Justice of the Peace in and for Allegany County, personally appeared George A. Pearre and acknowledged the foregoing deed to be his act.

O. H. W. Stull, J.P.

Allegany County Courthouse, Cumberland, MD Deed Book 24, p.298, recorded 4/17/1866

At the request of Martin J. Spaulding this deed was recorded April 17th 1866.

This Deed made on this seventh of April in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty six (1866) by us John M. Bloss and Margaret E. Bloss his wife of Allegany County in the State of Maryland, Witnesseth that in consideration of the sum of two thousand (\$2,000.00) paid us by Most Rev. Martin J. Spaulding, Archbishop of Baltimore, State of Maryland, we the said John M. Bloss and Margaret E. Bloss his wife do grant unto the said Most Rev. Martin J. Spaulding, Archbishop of Baltimore, all that part of a lot or tract of land called "The Brothers," situate on the South side of the Baltimore and Ohio Rail Road and in Hooks Addition to the town of Cumberland. Beginning at a stone planted in the ground and marked "B" at the North corner of the Catholic Church lot which is also at a corner of the Methodist Episcopal Church lot and running thence with an old line of fence South thirty five degrees East ninety and two thirds feet ($90\frac{2}{3}$ ft) to a stone marked "H" South fifty eight and three fourths degrees ($58\frac{3}{4}$ °) East eighteen feet (18 ft.) South eighty nine degrees (89 °) East one hundred and thirty one feet (131 ft.) South eighty two and one half degrees ($82\frac{1}{2}$ °) East eight two feet (82 ft.) to the Baltimore and Ohio Rail Road and with it North fifty nine and one half degrees ($59\frac{1}{2}$ °) West three hundred and four feet (304 ft.) West twenty nine feet (29 ft.) to intersect at a line drawn North twelve and one half degrees ($12\frac{1}{2}$ °) West from the Beginning then South twelve and one half degrees ($12\frac{1}{2}$ °) East sixty one feet (61 ft.) to the Beginning. In fee simple, Being the same tract or lot of land which was conveyed to the said John M. Bloss by George A. Pearre Trustee by deed bearing date on the tenth day of May in the year one thousand eight hundred and fifty eight (1858) and recorded in Liber H. R. No. 17, folio 345 one of the land records of Allegany County and the said John M. Bloss and Margaret E. Bloss his wife do covenant to and with the said Most Rev. Martin J. Spaulding, Archbishop of Baltimore, that they will warrant specially the property herein conveyed and clear of all encumbrances. Witness our hands and seals.

Test
Andrew Gonder

John M. Bloss {Seal}
Margaret E. Bloss {Seal}

State of Maryland, Allegany County, to wit:

On this seventh day of April, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty six personally appeared before me the subscriber, a Justice of the Peace of Maryland in and for Allegany County, John M. Bloss and Margaret E. Bloss his wife and severally acknowledged the foregoing deed to be their respective act. In testimony whereof I have subscribed my name.

Andrew Gonder, J.P.

Allegany County Courthouse, Cumberland, MD Deed Book 29, p.569, recorded 7/3/1869

At the request of John M. Bloss this deed was recorded July 3rd 1869.

This Agreement and Bill of Sale made and entered unto by and between John M. Bloss of the one part and Fayette Franklin and William E. Murrey of the other part. Witnesseth that the said John M. Bloss has already furnished to the said Franklin and Murray with the amount of fifteen dollars and has agreed to furnish them the further amount of one hundred and twenty five dollars in such manner as the said Franklin and Murrey may need them and in order to secure the said John M. Bloss, the said Fayette Franklin and William E. Murrey have agreed to make and execute this Bill of Sale and we do in consideration thereof bargain and sell to the said John M. Bloss the following property: one black stallion, three head of hogs and all the growing crops consisting of corn now planted on small island about seven miles south of the City of Cumberland, which we now have and hold as tenants in common with other land in Mineral County, West Va. but said island is lying in Allegany County and owned by W. H. Pollock. Witness our hands and seals this 5th day of June 1869.

Test: Andrew Gonder

Fayette Franklin {Seal}
Wm. E. Murrey {Seal}

State of Maryland, Allegany County, to wit: On this fifth day of June in the year of our Lord 1869 personally appeared before me the subscriber a Justice of the Peace of the State of Maryland in and for Allegany County, Fayette Franklin and William E. Murrey and acknowledged the above bill of sale or instrument of writing to be their respective acts and at the same time also appeared before me John M. Bloss, and made oath in due form of law that the consideration set forth in the said bill of sale is true and bona fide as therein set forth.

Andrew Gonder, J.P.

I hereby release the within Bill of Sale. Witness my hand and seal this 8th day of Sept. 1871.

{Seal}

Allegany County Courthouse, Cumberland, MD Deed Book 29, p.700, recorded 8/16/1869

At the request of John M. Bloss this Bill of Sale was recorded August 16th 1869.

We, James Workman and John Cairy of Allegany County in the State of Maryland being now indebted to John M. Bloss of said County and State in the sum of seventy dollars and said John M. Bloss agrees to furnish us goods to the amount of eighty dollars, we the said James Workman and John Cairy do hereby bargain and sell to the said John M. Bloss all our growing crop of corn that we now have and own on shares on the farm we are now cutting about seven miles south of the City of Cumberland and belonging to Mr. Pollock. Witness our hands and seals this 7th day of August in the year 1869.

Test: Andrew Gonder

James Workman {Seal}
his
John X Cairy {Seal}
mark

State of Maryland, Allegany County, to wit: On this 7th day of August in the year of our Lord 1869 personally appeared before me the subscriber a Justice of the Peace of the State of Maryland in and for Allegany County, James Workman and John Cairy and each acknowledged the foregoing Bill of Sale to be their respective act and at the same time before me also appeared John M. Bloss and made oath that the consideration set forth in the said Bill of Sale is true and bona fide as therein set forth. In testimony whereof I have subscribed my name.

Andrew Gonder, J.P.

Allegany County Courthouse, Cumberland, MD Deed Book 32, p.610, recorded 9/17/1870.

At the request of John M. Bloss this Bill of Sale was recorded Sept 17th 1870.

I Howard Twigg of Allegany County in the State of Maryland, in consideration of the sum of one hundred and twenty three dollars and twenty five cents paid me by John M. Bloss of Allegany County and State of Maryland, do hereby bargain and sell to the said John M. Bloss the following property: one brown mare about nine years old and blind in left eye, and one white hog now in my pen to fatten, weighting about two hundred and fifty pounds. Witness my hand and seal this seventeenth day of September in the year one thousand eight hundred and seventy.

Test: Andrew Gonder
his
Howard X Twigg {Seal}
mark

State of Maryland, Allegany County, to wit: On this 17th day of September in the year of our Lord 1870, personally appeared before me the subscriber a Justice of the Peace of the State of Maryland in and for Allegany County, Howard Twigg and acknowledged the foregoing bill of sale to be his act. And at the same time also appeared before me John M. Bloss & made oath in due form of law that the consideration set forth in the said foregoing mortgage is true & bone fide as therein set forth. In testimony whereof I have subscribed my name.

Andrew Gonder, J.P.

Allegany County Courthouse, Cumberland, MD Deed Book 33, p.131, recorded 1/22/1871

At the request of John M. Bloss the following Bill of Sale was recorded January 22nd 1871.

I, John R. Jenkins of Allegany County in the State of Maryland in consideration of the sum of forty three dollars and seventy five cents paid me by John M. Bloss of said County and State. I, the said John T. Jenkins do hereby bargain and sell to the said John M. Bloss the following property: one bay mare, one gray mare and one two-horse wagon. Witness my hand and seal this 19th day of January 1871.

Test: Andrew Gonder

John R. Jenkins {Seal}

State of Maryland, Allegany County, to wit: On this 19th day of January in the year of our Lord 1871 personally appeared before me the subscriber a Justice of the Peace of the State of Maryland in and for Allegany County, John R. Jenkins and acknowledged the above Bill of Sale to be his act. And at the same time also appeared before me John M. Bloss and made oath in due form of law that the consideration set forth in the said above Bill of Sale is true and bona fide as therein set forth. In testimony whereof I have subscribed my name.

Andrew Gonder, J.P.

Hampshire County Courthouse, Romney, WV, Deed Book 56, p. 120, recorded 3/25/1872.

This Deed made this 8th day of February 1872 between Henry C. Swisher of the first part and John M. Bloss of the second part. Witnesseth that the said Henry C. Swisher of the first part doth grant, bargain and sell unto the said John M. Bloss a certain piece or parcel of land lying on the south side of the county road leading from the Levels Church to Bright's Hollow road in Hampshire County, State of West Virginia, being a part or piece of the farm now belonging to Henry C. Swisher adjoining John M. Bloss land. Beginning at Bloss corner No. 1, thence with his east line reversed S 44° W 29¾ poles to two pines, N 45° W 40 poles to his corner & Swisher's corner, S 80¼° E 13 poles, N 89° E 12 poles, South 85° E 18 poles, S 64½° E 6 poles to the beginning, containing three and three-fourths acres, more or less, to have and to hold the piece or parcel of land hereby described to the said John M. Bloss and his heirs forever. Witness the following signatures and seals.

Henry C. Swisher {Seal}
Elizabeth E. Swisher {Seal}

State of West Virginia
Springfield Township

Hampshire County, to wit: I H. W. Stump a Justice of the Peace for Springfield Township & County aforesaid certify that Henry C. Swisher whose name is signed to the writing above bearing date 8th day of February 1872 acknowledged the same before me in my Township and County aforesaid. Given unto my hand the 9th Feb. 1872

H. W. Stump, Justice of the Peace.

State of West Virginia

Hampshire County, to wit: I H. W. Stump a Justice of Springfield Township & County aforesaid, State of West Virginia, do hereby certify that Elizabeth E. Swisher the wife of Henry C. Swisher, whose names are signed to the writing above bearing date 8th day of Feb. 1872 personally appeared before me in my Township and County aforesaid and being examined privily and apart from her husband and having the writing aforesaid fully explained to her, she the said Elizabeth E. Swisher acknowledged the [writing above] to be her act and deed and declared that she had willingly executed the same and does not wish to retract it. Given under my hand the 9th day of Feb. 1872.

H. W. Stump, Justice.

Hampshire County, to wit: be it remembered that on March 25th 1872 this deed, stamped with a 50¢ U. S. I. R. stamp, was presented in the Recorder's Office & with the certificate thereto annexed admitted to record.

Teste: James Parson, R., H. C.

Hampshire County Courthouse, Romney, WV, Deed Book 56, p. 125, recorded 3/25/1872.

This Deed made this 5th day of February 1872 between G. Johnson administrator *de bonis non* with the will annexed of Jeremiah Bonham dec'd of the first part and John M. Bloss of the second part. Witnesseth that whereas the said Jeremiah Bonham dec'd by his last will & testament devised that certain lands mentioned therein were to be sold by his executor and wherein the said G. Johnson administrator as aforesaid has sold to the said John M. Bloss the following described tract of land, under & by virtue of the power vested in him by said will for the sum of four hundred & eighty five dollars; Therefore this deed Witnesseth that for and in consideration of the sum of four hundred & eighty five dollars in hand paid the receipt whereby is hereby acknowledged the said G. Johnson administrator aforesaid doth grant & convey unto the said John M. Bloss the following described tract of land, to wit: Beginning at a pine clump at the end of a fence on the North side of the road about 12 or 15 feet north of a large marked pine, thence running with a lane S 33° E 80 poles to three small white oaks on the road side, thence S 66° E 10 poles to a small forked white oak, in a drain corner to G. H. Moreland, thence with his line S 42° W 112½ poles to a planted stone corner to said Moreland & the Richard Deever tract, thence with lines of the latter N 69¼° W 44 poles to a small black oak, thence S 88° W 75 poles to a pine (now down) on the side of the bank a few yards east of the run from where a planted stone bears S 28½° W 8 poles, thence with the west line of Ivan Miller's N 34° E 173½ poles to a planted stone on the west bank of the run corner with H. C. Swisher, thence with Swisher line S 45° E 40 poles to 2 pines on the side of a ridge, thence 44° E 29¾ poles to the Beginning, containing 108 acres, more or less; the same bounded as by survey made in 1872 it being the same tract of land that was conveyed to Henry Deever by Deever's heir about the year 1825; to have and to hold the real estate unto the said John M. Bloss his heirs & assigns. Witness the following signature:

G. Johnson, administrator *de bonis non* {Seal}

Hampshire County

Township of Springfield, to wit: I H. W. Stump a Justice for the township aforesaid in the county of Hampshire & State of West Virginia certify that G. Johnson whose name is signed to the writing above bearing date on the 5th day of Feb. 1872 acknowledged the same before me in my township aforesaid. Given under my hand this 7th day of February 1872.

H. W. Stump, Justice.

Hampshire County, to wit:

Be it remembered that on March 25 1872 this deed stamped with a 50¢ U.S. I.R.S. Stamp was presented in the Recorder's Office & with the certificate thereto annexed admitted to record.

Teste: James Parsons R. H. C.

Hampshire County Courthouse, Romney, WV, Deed Book 57, p. 142, recorded 11/19/1874.

This Deed made this 17th day of November 1874 between Samuel L. Flournoy, Special Commissioner acting under the authority hereinafter recited of the first part and John M. Bloss of the second part. Witnesseth the said Special Commissioner, in pursuance of the authority vested in him by a decree of the Circuit Court of Hampshire County, W. Va., made on the day of October 1873 in a suit in chancery therein pending¹⁶⁰ wherein the said John M. Bloss was Plaintiff and Richard Deever Administrator and heirs as Defendants, did sell the real estate hereinafter mentioned and conveyed according to the terms & conditions required by said decree, subject to the dower of the said Deever as assigned to her therein at which date the said John M. Bloss became purchaser for the sum of one hundred & fifty dollars. And the said Court having by a subsequent decree made in this case confirmed the said sale and directed a deed for said real estate to be made to the said John M. Bloss by the Special Commissioner. Now therefore this deed Witnesseth: that the said Samuel L. Flournoy, Special Commissioner as aforesaid for and in consideration of the premises has this day granted & conveyed unto the said John M. Bloss the following real estate, subject to the dower of said Deever, the widow of said Richard Deever dec'd as assigned to her therein by metes and bounds situate in the County of Hampshire, West Va., on the lands adjoining the lands of Bloss, Shelly, Miller & George H. Moreland & known as the Deever Land and containing sixty six acres more or less to have and to hold the said real estate & premises with all the right, title & interest of the said Richard Deever unto the said John M. Bloss his heirs and assigns forever. Witness the following signature & seal.

Samuel L. Flournoy {Seal}
Special Commissioner

Hampshire County, to wit:

Be it remembered that on the 21st day of Nov. 1874 this deed bearing date the 17th day of November 1874 was presented in the Clerk's Office of the County Court of said county, acknowledged by Samuel L. Flournoy whose name is signed thereto and admitted to record.

Teste: C. S. White, Clerk.

¹⁶⁰ Hampshire County Circuit Court, Romney, WV, file box 196.

Hampshire County Courthouse, Romney, WV, Deed Book 59, p. 131, recorded 6/9/1879.

This Deed made this 9th day of June 1879 between John M. Bloss of the first part and Geo. W. Bloss Trustee of the second part & Margaret E. Bloss of the third part. Whereas some years since the said John M. Bloss received of Margaret E. Bloss his wife the sum of Five Hundred Dollars & the sum of \$300 theretofore received of her with which to purchase the lands hereinafter mentioned & conveyed and whereas the said lands were purchased by the said John M. Bloss & the conveyances therefore taken to him in his own name instead of the said Margaret E. Bloss by whom the said purchase money was furnished out of her separate estate as aforesaid and whereas the said John M. Bloss is desirous that the said lands as was originally intended should be conveyed to said Trustee for the use of said Margaret E. Bloss now therefore this Deed Witnesseth that the said John M. Bloss for & in consideration of the premises & in pursuance of said original arrangement & intention & of the further sum of one dollar to him paid, grants & conveys to the said Geo. W. Bloss Trustee the following tracts or parcels of land lying & being in the County of Hampshire, West Virginia on the Levels, to wit: 1st a tract of land containing 66 acres more or less conveyed to the said John M. Bloss by S. L. Flournoy, Special Commissioner, by deed dated 17th November 1874 & of record in Book No. 57, page 142; 2nd a tract of land containing 3³/₄ acres more or less conveyed to the said John M. Bloss by Henry C. Swisher & wife by deed dated 8th Feb. 1872 & recorded in Book 56, page 120; and 3rd a tract of land containing 108 acres more or less conveyed to the said John M. Bloss by G. Johnson Administrator d.c.n. c.t.a. of Jeremiah Bonham dec'd by deed dated 5th Feb. 1872 & recorded in Book 56, page 125 to which conveyances as recorded in said deed Books in the Clerk's Office of the County Court of said Count reference is had for a more particular description of said lands.

In trust nevertheless for the sole & separate use of the said Margaret E. Bloss & to be held by the said Geo. W. Bloss as the sole & separate property of the said Margaret E. Bloss, & not to be subject to the disposal of her husband nor liable for his debts, and if for any reason this conveyance should not be effective to convey said lands to the said Trustee for the sole & separate use of the said Margaret E. Bloss as her sole and separate property - as aforesaid, then said lands shall be held in trust to the said Geo. W. Bloss to secure to the said Margaret E. Bloss the payment of the said sums of \$300 with interest thereon from the 1st day of January 1868 & of \$500, with interest thereon from the 1st day of January 1870, and then & in that event this deed shall be controlled & executed in accordance with the provisions of the statute law of the State of West Virginia for such cases made & provided.

Witness the following signature and seal.

John M. Bloss {Seal}

Hampshire County, to wit: Be it remembered that on the 9th day of June 1879 this deed bearing date on the 9th day of June 1879 was presented in the Clerk's Office of the County Court of said County, acknowledged by John M. Bloss whose name is signed thereto & admitted to record.

Teste: C. S. White, Clerk, Cty. C., H. Cty.

Hampshire County Courthouse, Romney, WV, Deed Book 59, p. 149, recorded 6/21/1879.

I John M. Bloss of Hampshire County in the State of West Virginia in consideration of the sum of six hundred dollars paid me by Stephen Usinger of said County and State, I the said John M. Bloss do hereby bargain and sell unto the said Stephen Ursinger the following property: three milch cows; five young cattle, three yearlings and two two [year old] yearlings; one black mare and one bay mare; one two horse wagon and one spring wagon and all my other farming utensils such as ploughs, harrows etc. two shoats eight or nine months old and one sow heavy with pigs & also a lot of lumber about thirty thousand feet and all my household furniture, dutch bells, belting, chairs, bureaus, etc. Witness my hand and seal this second day of June 1879.

John M. Bloss {Seal}

State of West Virginia

Hampshire County, to wit: On this [second] day of June in the year of our Lord 1879 personally appeared before me the subscriber a Justice of the Peace of the State of West Virginia in and for Hampshire County, John M. Bloss and acknowledged the above Bill of Sale to be his act and deed at the same time also appeared before me Stephen Ursinger and made oath in due form of law that the consideration set forth in the above bill of sale is true and bona fide as therein set forth. In testimony whereof I have subscribed my name.

John Martin, Justice

Hampshire County, to wit: Be it remembered that on the 21st day of June 1879 this Bill of Sale was presented in the Clerk's Office of the County Court of said County, acknowledged by John M. Bloss whose name is signed thereto [and] was admitted to Record.

Teste: C. S. White, Clk. Cty. Ct. - H. C.

Allegany County Courthouse, Cumberland, MD Deed Book 52, p.601, recorded 3/7/1879

At the request of Margaret E. Bloss this deed was recorded March 7th 1879.

This Deed made on this 7th of March in the year 1879 by us Stephen Usinger and Anna Catherine Usinger his wife. Witnesseth that in consideration of Two hundred Dollars, we the said Stephen Usinger and Anna Catherine Usinger his wife do grant unto Margaret E. Bloss, all that lot of ground in the Town of Frostburg, Allegany County and State of Maryland, which is described as follows, that is to say: Beginning for the said lot at the end of the first line of Lot number "Two," on the plat of said Frostburg, and running North 28° deg West sixty feet, North 36° deg East 165 feet, South 28° deg East 66 feet, then by a straight line to the beginning. Being the same lot deeded to Stephen Usinger by the Frostburg Coal Company, chartered by the State of Maryland, by deed bearing date the 20th day of April 1853 and recorded in Liber H. B. No. 9, folios 473 & 474, one of the Land Records of Allegany County.

Witness our hands and seals.

his

Witness
John C. Weis

Stephen x Usinger {Seal}
mark her
Anna Catherine x Usinger {Seal}
mark

Maryland, Allegany County, S.S.:

On this 7th day of March 1879, personally appeared Stephen Usinger and Anna Catherine Usinger his wife before the subscriber, a Justice of the Peace of the State of Maryland in and for Allegany County, and did each acknowledge the foregoing deed to be their act.

John C. Weis, J.P.

Hampshire County Courthouse, Romney, WV, Deed Book 59, p. 263, recorded 12/6/1879.

This Deed made this 26th day of November 1879 between John M. Bloss, Margaret E. Bloss his wife and George W. Bloss trustee for the said Margaret E. Bloss of the one part and Robert W. Dailey, Jr., trustee of the other part. Witnesseth that the said parties of the first part do hereby grant and convey unto the said party of the second part, all their right, title and interest in and to the following tracts or parcels of land lying and being in the County of Hampshire, West Va., on the Levels, to wit: first a tract of land containing 66 acres more or less conveyed to the said John M. Bloss by S. L. Flournoy Special Commissioner. by deed dated 17th day of November 1874 & of record in Book No 57, page 142; second a tract or parcel of land containing 3¾ acres more or less conveyed to the said John M. Bloss by Henry C. Swisher & wife by deed dated 8th day of Feb. 1872 & recorded in Book No 56, page 125; & third a tract containing 108 acres more or less conveyed to the said John M. Bloss by G. Johnson administrator by deed dated 5th day of February 1872 & of record in Deed Book 56 page 125 to which deeds as recorded in the books aforesaid in the Clerk's Office of the County Court of the County aforesaid reference is had for a full description of said land, and they are the same tracts or parcels of land conveyed by the said John M. Bloss to Geo. W. Bloss trustee for the use and benefit of the said Margaret E. Bloss or to secure to her the payment of certain sums of money therein mentioned, that is as mentioned in said deed which is dated 9th day of June 1879, and of record in Book 59 page 131 in the County Clerk's Office of the County of Hampshire, in trust nevertheless to secure the payment of a writing obligatory executed by the said John M. Bloss & Margaret E. Bloss to Frederick Mertens

for the sum of one hundred and ninety dollars payable ninety days after date with interest from same and bears even date with this deed and it is the intention of the said parties of the first part to grant, convey and assign all their right, title and interest in and to the land aforesaid as is vested in them by any or all of the deeds aforesaid & the said Margaret E. Bloss especially conveys & assigns any and all right, title & interest as is vested in her by the last mentioned deed to any and all of the lands aforesaid as well as in and to any sum or sums of money secured to her by same; to secure the payment of the writing obligation hereinbefore mentioned, and she hereby requests her said trustee Geo. W. Bloss to join in this deed for the same purpose which he accordingly does - The said Robert W. Dailey, Jr., trustee shall after said writing obligatory becomes due as aforesaid & if it remains unpaid, when requested by said Frederick Mertens shall make sale of the real estate herein conveyed to him or as much thereof as may be necessary to pay said writing obligatory, & the interest due thereon & costs of sale and to also having advertised the time, terms & place of sale for such length of time as he may deem proper, the sale may be made public or privately as the trustee may deem best for all parties interested, & upon such terms as in his judgment shall deem right.

Witness the following signatures & seals:

Witness to Geo. W. Bloss
D. Blocker

John M. Bloss {Seal}
Margaret E. Bloss {Seal}
Geo. W. Bloss, trustee {Seal}

State of Maryland

Alleghany County, to wit: I Daniel Blocker a Justice in and for the county and state aforesaid do certify that George W. Bloss whose name is signed to the writing above bearing date 26th day of November 1879, this day personally appeared before me in my said county, and acknowledged the same to be his act and deed. Given under my hand this 29th day of Nov. 1879

D. Blocker, J. P.

State of West Virginia

Hampshire County, to wit: I Abraham Hass a Justice in and for the County of Hampshire and State aforesaid do certify that John M. Bloss whose name is signed to the writing above bearing date 27th day of November 1879, this day acknowledged the same before me in my said County.

Abm. Hass, Justice.

State of West Virginia

Hampshire County, to wit: I Abraham Hass a Justice in and for the County of Hampshire & State aforesaid do certify that Margaret E. Bloss wife of John M. Bloss whose names are signed to the above bearing date the 26th day of November 1879, personally appeared before me in the County aforesaid and being examined by me privily and apart from her husband and having the said writing fully explained to her she the said Margaret E. Bloss acknowledged the said writing to be her act and declared that she had willingly executed the same and does not wish to retract it. Given under my hand this 27th day of November 1879.

Abm. Hass, Justice.

Hampshire County, to wit: Be it remembered that on the 6th day of December 1879 this deed was presented in the Clerk's Office of the County Court of said County & with the certificates annexed thereto admitted to Record.

Teste: C. S. White, Clk. Cty. C., H. C.

Cumberland, Md. October 24th 1883 - I hereby release the foregoing mortgage.
Witness my hand and seal.

Frederick Mertens {Seal}

Hampshire County Courthouse, Romney, WV, Deed Book 60, p. 364, recorded 7/25/1881.

This Deed made this 5th day of March 1878, between John T. Boar and Delilah Boar his wife of Allegany County and State of Maryland and Margaret E. Bloss of Hampshire County, West Virginia. Witnesseth, that for and in consideration of the sum of Thirty Dollars to she in hand paid, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, the said John T Boar and Delilah Boar his wife, do grant and convey to the said Margaret E. Bloss all the right, title, interest and claim in and to a certain lot or parcel of land, situate, lying and being in the County of Hampshire on the east side of the Potomac Turnpike road and on the S. E. side of the road leading from said Pike to a point on the B&O Railroad called Okonoko, adjoining a lot now known as Boar Cross Roads and bounded as follows, to wit: Beginning at a stone east edge of said Turnpike , and in the middle of the road to Okonoko, and running thence N 55° E 12 poles to a stone, thence S 35° E 4" six poles to a stone, thence S 55° West 75 poles to a stone at said Pike, thence N 35° West 6" six poles to the beginning, containing one half (1/2) acres to have and to hold the same lot or parcel of land with its appurtenances, to the only purpose, use and behoof of her the said Margaret E. Bloss, her heirs and assigns, forever. The said John T. Boar and Delilah Boar his wife covenant that they will warrant generally the property hereby conveyed.

Witness our hands and seals.

John T. Boar {Seal}
her

Witness:
D. Blocher

Delilah X Boar {Seal}
mark

State of Maryland
Allegany County.

I Jacob B. Humbird a Notary Public of the State of Maryland do hereby certify that John T. Boar and Delilah Boar his wife whose names are signed to the writing herewith annexed, bearing date on the 5th day of March 1878, personally appeared before me at my office in the City of Cumberland, Maryland and so acknowledged the same to be their acts and the said Delilah Boar the wife of the said John T. being examined by me privily and apart from her said husband, and having the writing aforesaid fully explained to her, she the said Delilah Boar, acknowledged the same to be her act and declared that she had willingly executed the same and does not wish to retract it. Given under my hand and Notary seal this 5th day of March 1878.

J. B. Humbird, Notary Public.

Hampshire County, to wit: Be it remembered that on the 25th day of July 1881, this deed was presented to the Clerk's Office of the County Court of said County and with the certificates thereto annexed admitted to Record.

Teste: C. S. White, Clerk, Cty. Ct. H. C.

Allegany County Courthouse, Cumberland, MD Deed Book 59, p.673, recorded 5/19/1883.

At the request of Steven A. Bloss this deed was recorded May 19th 1883 @ 2:35 P.M.

This Deed made on this 12th day of May in the year eighteen hundred and eighty three by Adam Seibert and Margaret E. Seibert his wife of Allegany County, Maryland. Witnesseth that in consideration of eighty five dollars, the said Adam Seibert and Margaret E. Seibert do grant unto Steven A. Bloss of Allegany County, Maryland, all that lot or parcel of ground lying and being in said County and State, which is described as follows, to wit: Beginning at a post standing in a fence about 8½ feet from the Southwest corner of George Bloss' house and running thence South 19½ degrees East 114 feet to a lane and with it North 37 degrees East 90¾ feet, thence North 19½ degrees West 75 feet to the end of the 3rd line of George Bloss' lot, & with the 4th line thereof South 70½ degrees West 75 feet to the beginning. And the said Adam Seibert covenants that he will warrant specially the property hereby conveyed.

Witness our hands and seals.

Witness
Andrew Gonder

Adam Siebert {Seal}
her
Margaret E. X Siebert {Seal}
mark

State of Maryland, Allegany County, to wit:

I hereby certify that on this 12th day of May in the year eighteen hundred and eighty three before me the subscriber, a Justice of the Peace of the State of Maryland in and for Allegany County personally appeared Adam Seibert and Margaret E. Seibert his wife and did each acknowledge the foregoing deed to be their respective act.

Andrew Gonder, J.P.

Hampshire County Courthouse, Romney, WV, Deed Book 62, p. 296. recorded 9/18/1883.

This Deed made this 28th day of August 1883 between John M. Bloss, Margaret E. Bloss his wife, William G. Bloss and Adam H. Long of the county of Hampshire, State of West Virginia, parties of the first part and Thomas Kuykendall trustee of the same County and State aforesaid of the second part, Witnesseth that whereas W. N. Guthrie of said County has furnished unto the parties of the first part Fertilizer & Phosphate to the amount of Sixty Eight Dollars and for the above consideration the said John M., Margaret E. and William G. Bloss and Adam H. Long doth grant unto the said Thomas Kuykendall the trustee all their right, title & interest & claim of, in and to all the crop of wheat that will be made by the parties of the first part for the year 1884 interest to secure the said W. N. Guthrie the payment of a debt duly bond for the sum of Sixty Eight dollars with interest from date and bearing dated the 28th day of August 1883 and payable on the 15th day of September 1884.

Witness the following signatures and seals:

John M. Bloss {Seal}
M. E. Bloss {Seal}
Adam H. Long {Seal}
Wm. G. Bloss {Seal}

West Virginia

County of Hampshire, to wit: I John W. Philips, Notary Public within and for said county and State aforesaid do hereby certify that John M. Bloss, William G. Bloss and Adam H. Long whose names are signed to the writing above bearing date on the 28th day of August 1883 this day personally appeared before me in my said county and each of them acknowledged the same, and I also further certify that Margaret E. Bloss wife of John M. Bloss whose names are signed to the writing above bearing date on the 28th day of August 1883 personally appeared before me in the county aforesaid and being by me examined separately and apart from her husband and having the said writing fully explained to her, she the said Margaret E. Bloss acknowledged the said writing to be her act and declared that she had willingly executed the same and does not wish to retract it.

Witness my hand this 28th day of August 1883.

John W. Philips, Notary Public

Hampshire County, to wit: Be it remembered that on the 18th day of September 1883 this deed was presented in the Clerk's Office of the County Court of said County and with the certificate thereto annexed admitted to record.

Teste: C. S. White, Clerk C. C. H. C.

Hampshire County Courthouse, Romney, WV, Deed Book 62, p. 392, recorded 12/28/1883.

This mortgage made this eighteenth day of October in the year one thousand eight hundred and eighty three by and between John M. Bloss, Margaret E. Bloss his wife and George W. Bloss trustee, of Hampshire County, West Virginia of the first part and J. Wilson Humbird trustee of Allegany County, Maryland of the second part; Witnesseth whereas the said parties of the first part now justly and bona fide indebted unto the said party of the second part, as trustee under this Deed of Trust of Jacob Humbird of the City of Cumberland, Md. in the full and just sum of six hundred dollars (\$600), current money to secure the payment of which said sum of money with interest thereon as hereinafter provided this Deed of Trust is made.

Now this mortgage witnesseth that in consideration of the premises and of the sum of one dollar, the said John M. Bloss, Margaret E. Bloss and George W. Bloss trustee do grant and convey unto the said J. Wilson Humbird trustee as aforesaid in fee simple all the following tracts or parcels of land lying and being in Hampshire County, W. Va., on the "Levels," to wit: 1st one tract containing about sixty six acres (66); 2nd one tract containing about three and three fourths acres ($3\frac{3}{4}$); [3rd] one tract containing about one hundred and eight (108) acres; all of which said tracts of land were conveyed to the said John M. Bloss by deeds dated respectively the 17th day of November 1874; the 8th day of Feb. 1872 and the 5th day of Feb. 1872, and recorded respectively in Books 57 page 142; & 56, p. 120; and 56, p. 125 among the Land Records of Hampshire County, W. Va. to which reference is hereby made for further description of said property, which being also the same lot or parcel of property which was conveyed by the said John M. Bloss to the said George W. Bloss Trustee by deed dated the 9th day of June 1879, and recorded in Book 59, page 131 one of the Land Records of Hampshire County, together with all the improvements, rights, ways, privileges, appurtenances thereunto belonging or in any way appertaining, in Trust to secure the payment of the aforesaid sum of six hundred dollars (\$600) with interest thereon as hereinafter provided to the said Jacob Humbird, Esq., his heirs, representatives or assigns through him the said J. Wilson Humbird, Trustee, provided that if the said parties of the first part their heirs, executors, administrators or assigns, shall punctually pay to the said J. Wilson Humbird, Trustee the aforesaid sum of six hundred dollars with interest thereon annually according to the tenor of the promissory note of the said John M. and Margaret E. Bloss of even date herewith on or before the 18th day of October in the year eight hundred and eighty six (1886) and shall perform all the covenants herein on their part to be performed, then this mortgage shall be void. And it is agreed that until default is made in the premises, the said parties of the first part may hold and possess the aforesaid property paying in the meantime all taxes, assessments and public liens legally levied on said property, and on the mortgage debt and interest hereby intended to be secured all which taxes, mortgage debt and interest thereon, the said John M. Bloss, Margaret E. Bloss and Geo. W. Bloss Trustee hereby covenant to pay when legally demandable, but in case of default being made in payment of the mortgage debt aforesaid or of the interest thereon, in whole or in part, or in any agreement, covenant or condition of this mortgage, then the entire mortgage debt intended to be hereby secured shall at once become due and demandable, and these presents are now hereby declared to be made in trust, and the said J. Wilson Humbird, Trustee is hereby authorized and empowered at any time thereafter, to sell the property hereby mortgaged, or as much thereof as may be necessary, and to grant and convey the same to the purchaser or purchasers thereof, or to his heirs or their heirs or assigns; which sale shall be made in the manner following by giving at least twenty days notice of the time and place, manner, and terms of sale in some newspaper published in the Town of Romney, Hampshire County, W. Va. and such other notice as by law is required and the proceeds arising from such sale to apply first to the payment of the sale expenses incidental to such sales,

secondly the payment of all moneys owing under this mortgage, whether the same shall have then matured or not; and as to the balance, to pay it over to the said Margaret E. Bloss, her heirs or assigns, and the said parties of the first part, further covenant to insure forthwith, and pending the existence of this mortgage, to keep insured by some insurance company or companies acceptable to the Mortgagee or his assigns, the improvements on the hereby mortgaged land, to the amount of at least six hundred dollars and to cause the Policy or Policies issued therefore to be so framed and endorsed as in case of fire, to insure to the benefit of the Mortgagee, his heirs or assigns, to the extent of his or their lien or claim hereunder, and to place such Policy or Policies forthwith in the possession of the Mortgagee.

Witness the hand and seal of the Mortgagors:

Teste:

J. W. Thomas

F. M. Offutt

John M. Bloss {Seal}

Margaret E. Bloss {Seal}

Geo. W. Bloss {Seal}

State of Maryland

Allegheny County, to wit: I hereby certify that on this 18th day of October in the year 1883, before me the subscriber a Notary Public of the said State in and for the County aforesaid, duly commissioned and qualified, personally appeared in my office in the City of Cumberland, John M. Bloss and George W. Bloss whose names are signed to the Deed of Trust hereto annexed bearing date the 18th day of October 1883 and did each acknowledge the said instrument of writing to be their respective act and deed, And I do further certify, that on the day and year aforesaid, personally appeared before me also in my said office, Margaret E. Bloss wife of the said J. M. Bloss, whose name is also signed to the said writing hereto annexed, who being by me examined privily and apart from her husband, and having the writing aforesaid fully read and explained to her, she the said Margaret E. Bloss did acknowledge the same to be her act and deed and declared that she had willingly executed the same and does not wish to retract it. In testimony whereof, I hereunto set my hand and affix my official seal this 18th day of October in the year eighteen hundred and eighty three.

{ Official
Seal }

Francis M. Offutt
Notary Public

Hampshire County, to wit: Be it remembered that on the 28th day of December 1883 this Mortgage was presented in the Clerk's Office of the County Court of said County and with the certificates thereto annexed admitted to record.

C. S. White, Clerk, Co. Ct. H. C.

Hampshire County Courthouse, Romney, WV, Deed Book 64, p. 472, recorded 4/27/1887.

This deed made this 15th day of April 1887 between Margaret E. Bloss and John M. Bloss of the County of Hampshire and State of West Virginia parties of the first part and John W. Philips of the same County and State as aforesaid party of the second part; Witnesseth that for and in consideration of the sum of Forty dollars in hand paid the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, the said Margaret E. & said John M. Bloss doth grant unto the said John W. Philips all the right, title, interest and claim of, in and to a certain parcel of land lying & being in that part of Hampshire County known as the "Levels Cross Roads" and being the same parcel or lot of land which was conveyed by John T. Boar and wife unto the said Margaret E. Bloss by deed bearing date on the 5th day of March 1878 and upon record in Deed Book 60 on page 364 in the Clerk's Office of the County Court of Hampshire County, said lot of land is lying on the east side of the Potomac Turnpike road & on the Southeast of the road leading from said Pike to Okonoko and is adjoining H. C. Swisher, E. B. Wolford, Adam Thomas & said Philips and is bounded as follows, to wit: Beginning at a stone in the East edge of said turnpike road & in the middle of said road leading to Okonoko, running thence N 55° E 13 poles to a stone, thence S 35°E 6 poles to a stone, thence S 55°W 111.75 poles to a stone at said pike, thence N 10°35" W 6.6 poles to the beginning containing one half acre of land more or less, and the said Margaret E. & John M. Bloss covenant with the said John M. Philips that they have the right to convey the above described lot or parcel of land with it appurtenances thereunto belonging, with general warranty title unto him the said John W. Philips and his heirs forever.

Witness the following signatures & seals.

Witness

J. Wm. Jones

Margaret E. Bloss {Seal}

John M. Bloss {Seal}

State of Maryland

Allegheny County, to wit: I J. Wm. Jones a Justice of the Peace of the State of Maryland in and for Allegheny County do hereby certify that John M. Bloss and Margaret E. Bloss his wife whose names are signed to the writing hereunto annexed dated the 15th day of April 1887 personally appeared before me at my office in the City of Cumberland, Md. and acknowledged the same to be their act, and the said Margaret E. Bloss wife of the said John M. Bloss being examined by me privily and apart from her husband and having the writing aforesaid fully explained to her, she the said Margaret E. Bloss acknowledged the same to be her act and declared that she had willingly executed the same and does not wish to retract it. Given under my hand this 20th day of April 1887.

J. Wm. Jones {Seal}

Justice of the Peace

State of Maryland, Allegheny County, S.S.

I Theo. Luman, Clerk of the Circuit Court for Allegheny County the same being a Court of Law and Record, do hereby certify that J. Wm. Jones, Esq.; before whom the foregoing acknowledgement was made and whose genuine signature thereto appears, was at the time thereof and still is Justice of the Peace of the State of Maryland in and for Allegheny County, duly commissioned and sworn and authorized by law to administer oaths and take acknowledgements. In testimony whereof I hereunto set my hand and affix the seal of the said Circuit Court for Allegheny County at Cumberland, this 22nd day of April 1887.

Theo Luman, Clerk

Hampshire County, to wit: Be it remembered that on the 27th day of April 1887 this deed was presented in the Clerk's Office of the County Court of said County, with the certificates thereto annexed admitted to record.

Teste: C. S. White, Clerk Cty C., H. C.

Allegany County Courthouse, Cumberland, MD Deed Book 64, p.712, recorded 2/15/1888.

Deed filed and recorded February 15th 1888 @ 2:46 P.M.

This Deed made this 12th day of May in the year eighteen hundred and eighty three by Adam Seibert and Margaret E. Seibert his wife of Allegany County Maryland. Witnesseth that in consideration of eighty five dollars the said Adam Seibert and Margaret E. Seibert do grant unto George Bloss of Allegany County Maryland, all that lot or parcel of ground lying in and being in said Allegany County, Maryland which is described as follows, to wit: Beginning at a post standing in a fence about 8½ feet from the South West corner of the said George Bloss' house and running thence North 19½ degrees of West 5 feet, North of 0½ degrees East of 5 feet, South 19½ degrees East of 5 feet, South of 0½ degrees West of 5 feet to the beginning.

And the said Adam Seibert covenants that he will warrant specially the property hereby conveyed. Witness our hands and seals.

Adam Siebert {Seal}

her

Margaret E. x Siebert {Seal}

mark

Witness: Andrew Gonder

State of Maryland

Allegany County, to wit: I hereby certify that on this 12th day of May in the year eighteen hundred and eighty three, before me the subscriber, a Justice of the Peace of the State of Maryland in and for Allegany County, personally appeared Adam Seibert and Margaret E. Seibert his wife and did each acknowledge the foregoing deed to be their respective act.

Andrew Gonder, J.P.

Hampshire County Courthouse, Romney, WV, Deed Book 65, p. 415, recorded 9/23/1888.

We the undersigned John M. Bloss and M. E. Bloss do hereby certify that on the first day of August 1888 that we sold to Adam H. Long the following property, to wit: 1 dark bay mare 13 years old; 1 dark bay, 1 white & brown cow 3 years old; 2 red cows 3 years old; and 1 red & white cow 8 years old; 1 two year old steer black & white spotted; 1 two year old spotted dun steer, 1 year old red steer; & 1 roan steer one year old; 1 wheat fan; 1 cutting box; 1 two horse road wagon; 1 two hoarse harrow; 1 iron Barshine plow; 1 hill side plow; 1 double shovel plow; & 2 shingle shovel plows; 1 set of running harness; 1 set of plow harness; 1 man's saddle & bridle; and the said Adam H. Long has satisfied us for the value of the above property by a payment in cash for the same of two hundred & fifty dollars & also by his individual bond for the balance in full for said property.

Witness the following signatures & seals this second day of August 1888.

John M. Bloss {Seal}

M. E. Bloss {Seal}

State of West Virginia

County of Hampshire, to wit: I John W. Philips Notary Public within and for said county and State aforesaid hereby certify that John M. Bloss whose name is signed to the above writing bearing date on the first day of August 1888, this day personally appeared before me in my said County and acknowledged the same. Given under my hand this 2nd day of August 1888.

John W. Philips

Notary Public

State of West Virginia

County of Hampshire, to wit: I John W. Philips Notary Public within and for said County and State aforesaid do hereby certify that M. E. Bloss wife of John M. Bloss whose name is signed to the within writing bearing date on the first day of August 1888, this day personally appeared before me in my said County aforesaid and being examined by me privily and apart from her said husband and having the said writing fully explained to her she the said M. E. Bloss acknowledged said writing to be her act and declared that she had willingly executed the same and does not wish to retract it. Given under my hand this second day of August 1882.

John W. Philips

Notary Public

Hampshire County, to wit: Be it remembered that on the 23rd day of September 1888 this writing was presented in the Clerk's Office of the County Court of said County & with the certificates thereto annexed admitted to record.

Teste: C. S. White, Clerk, H. Cty. C. C.

Hampshire County Courthouse, Romney, WV, Deed Book 67, p. 150, recorded 8/13/1890.

The Mortgagor John M. Bloss & M. E. Bloss of the County of Sangamon and State of Illinois Mortgage and warrant to C. J. Keiser of the County of Maconfein and State of Illinois to secure the payment of Fifteen Hundred & thirty three & 82/100 dollars according to the terms of one note of even date hereof drawing seven percent interest from date and due, the following described real estate; first a tract of land on the "Levels" in Hampshire County, West Virginia containing about 66 acres; 2nd a tract in said County containing about 3¾ acres; 3rd a tract containing about 108 acres, all these lands are situated in said County & State & lie on what is known as the "Levels," subject to a Mortgage given to J. Wilson Humbird of Cumberland, Md. for the sum of \$600.00 dated October 18th A.D. 1883 of record Deed Book No. 62, page 392, situated in the County of Hampshire in the State of West Virginia, in hereby releasing and waiving all rights under and by virtue of the Homestead Exemption Laws of this State.

Dated this fifteenth day of June 1890.

Signed sealed and delivered in presence of:

John M. Bloss {Seal}

M. E. Bloss {Seal}

State of Illinois

County of Sangamon, S.S. Before me the undersigned Wm. L. Gardner a Notary Public in and for the County aforesaid came J. M. Bloss and M. E. Bloss his wife who are personally known to me as the real persons by whom and in whose names the foregoing conveyance was executed, and by whom and in whose names the same is proposed to be acknowledged, and who then severally acknowledged their signatures thereto to be their voluntary act and deed for the purpose of waiving and releasing all right, title and interest in and to said land by virtue of the Homestead Exemption laws of said State and for all other purposes therein expressed; and the said M. E. Bloss wife of J. M. Bloss being by me first examined separate and apart from her said husband, and the contents of said conveyance first made known to her acknowledged that freely and voluntarily without any compulsion or coercion from her said husband she executed the same and forever released and waived all right, interest or title to said real estate by virtue of the Homestead Exemption laws of said State, relinquished all right to claim of dower in and to the lands and tenements, in said conveyance described and sold, transferred and conveyed all her title in fee simple or right by inheritance in and to the real estate aforesaid, and that she does not wish to retract it. Given under my hand and Notarial seal this 15th day of June A.D. 1890 at Springfield, Illinois.

Wm. L. Gardner

Notary Public

State of West Virginia

Hampshire County, to wit: Be it remembered that on the 13th day of August 1890 this deed was presented in the Clerk's Office of the County Court of said County with the certificate thereto annexed and admitted to Record.

Teste: C. S. White, Clerk, Cty. Ct., H. C.

Hampshire County Courthouse, Romney, WV, Deed Book 68, p. 233, recorded 3/18/1892

This Deed made this 18th day of March 1892 between H. Bilsilkeson, Special Commissioner of the first part and C. J. Keisen of the State of Illinois of the second part. Witnesseth that whereas by a decree of the Circuit Court of Hampshire County, W. Va. rendered on the 18th day of September 1891 in the Chancery Cause of Humbird Trustee vs. Bloss & R. W. Daily,¹⁶¹ Jr. & H. Bilsilkeson were appointed Special Commissioners to make sale of the real estate in the bill mentioned thereby conveyed; whereas said Special Commissioners on the 6th day of Feb. 1892 sold said real estate to said C. J. Keisen at the price of \$1350.00 which said sale was confirmed by said Court by decree of Feb. 1892, whereas by said case named decree it was ordered that when said Keisen shall pay enough of his said purchase money to pay the balance of the Humbird Trustee debts & covers after applying the cash payments thereto, H. Bilsilkeson who is hereby appointed a Special Commissioner for the purpose, shall by deed properly executed for recordation convey the real estate to the purchaser, C. J. Keisen. Now, therefore the said H. Bilsilkeson Special Commissioner, as aforesaid, doth hereby grant & convey unto the said C. J. Keisen those three tracts of land in Hampshire County, W. Va. in the Bill in said Cause mentioned consisting of 66 acres, 3³/₄ acres & 108 acres respectively, it being the same that was conveyed by John M. Bloss and wife & George W. Bloss, Trustee to J. Wilson Humbird Trustee, by deed dated Oct. 18th 1883. To have and to hold the said three tracts of land, together with all the appurtenances thereunto belonging unto him the said C. J. Keisen his heirs and assigns forever.

Witness the following signature and seal:

H. Bilsilkeson {Seal}
Special Commissioner

State of West Virginia

County of Hampshire, to wit: I C. S. White a Notary Public of said County do hereby certify that H. Bilsilkeson whose name is signed as Special Commissioner to the writing above bearing date on the 18th day of March 1892 has this day acknowledged the same before me in my said County. Given under my hand this 18th day of March 1892.

C. S. White, Clk. Cty. C., H. C.

Hampshire County, to wit: Be it remembered that on the 18th day of March 1892 this deed was presented in the Clerk's Office of the County Court of said County & with the certificates thereto annexed admitted to record.

Teste: C. S. White, Clk. Cty. C., H. C.

¹⁶¹ Hampshire County Circuit Court, Romney, WV, file box 255.

Allegany County Courthouse, Cumberland, MD Deed Book 74, p.313, recorded 8/23/1893.

Deed filed and recorded August 23rd 1893 @ 3:15 P.M..

This Indenture Witnesseth, that the Grantors, Margaret E. Bloss and John M. Bloss her husband of Springfield in the County of Sangamon and State of Illinois for and in consideration of the sum of Four hundred dollars in hand paid, convey and warrant to George W. Bloss of County of Allegany and State of Maryland the following described real estate, to wit:

All that lot of ground in the Town of Frostburg in Allegany County and State of Maryland which is described as follows, That is to say: Beginning for the said lot at the end of the first line of lot Number Two on the plat of said Frostburg and running North twenty eight degrees West sixty feet, North thirty six degrees East one hundred and sixty five feet, South twenty eight degrees East sixty six feet, then by a straight line to the beginning. It being the same ground and premises heretofore conveyed to the said Margaret Bloss by Stephen Usinger and wife by deed dated March 7th 1879 and recorded in book J. B. [52] folio 601 of the land records of said Allegany County to which deed reference is hereby made, situated in County of Allegany in the State of Maryland hereby releasing and waiving all rights under and by virtue of the Homestead Exemption Laws of this State.

Dated this third day of August A.D. 1893.

Witnessed by
S. W. Murray
E. D, Mathessy

Margaret E. Bloss {Seal}
John H. Bloss {Seal]

State of Illinois

County of Sangamon S.S.: I, E. D. Chapin a Notary Public in and for said County in the State aforesaid do hereby certify that Margaret E. Bloss and John M. Bloss her husband personally known to me to be the same persons whose name are subscribed to the foregoing instrument, appeared before me this day in person and acknowledged that they signed, sealed and delivered the said instrument as their free and voluntary act for the uses and purposes therein set forth, including the release and waiver of the right of homestead.

Given under my hand and Notarial seal this fourth day of August A. D. 1893.

E. D. Chapin
Notary Public

Deed Filed and Recorded Oct. 22nd 1895 @ 8:45 A.M.

This Deed made this twenty ninth day of September in the year one thousand eight hundred and ninety four between Adam Seibert and Margaret E. Seibert his wife parties of the first part and Charles F. Bloss and Mary Bloss his wife parties of the second part and all of Allegany County in the State of Maryland.

Witnesseth that the said parties of the first part for and in consideration of the sum of Three hundred and Twelve (\$312.00) lawful money of the United States of America, well and truly paid by the said parties of the second part to the said parties of the first part the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, have granted, bargained and sold and by these presents do grant, bargain, sell and convey unto the said parties of the second part, their heirs and assigns.

All of that certain lot or parcel of ground lying and being in Allegany County, Maryland, and beginning for the same at a planted stone standing on the South side of Raphann's Lane (near North Branch) and running thence South Eighteen degrees and fifty minutes East one hundred and seventy five feet to a planted stone, North seventy one degrees and ten minutes East seventy five feet, North Eighteen degrees and fifty minutes West one hundred and eighty feet to the said Lane and with it, South sixty six and one fourth degree West seventy five and one half feet to the beginning. And being part of a tract of land which was conveyed by J. W. H. Pollock and wife to Adam Seibert by deed dated April 13th 1884 and recorded in Liber J. L. No. 63, folio 623 etc one of the Land Records of Allegany County, Maryland.

This conveyance is made subject to the following covenants and conditions which are assented to by the said Charles F. Bloss and Mary Bloss [his] wife as is further evidenced by the acceptance of this deed and filing the same for record, to wit: That the said Grantees will forthwith erect and maintain in good repair and condition a substantial rail and post fence at least four and one half feet high around the lot of ground hereby conveyed and in the event of the failure of the said grantees their heirs or assigns to erect said fence and keep the same in good repair and condition from time to time, after the service of a notice of twenty days, in writing by the said grantors their heirs or assigns to build such fence or make such necessary repairs thereto, it shall be lawful for the said grantors their heirs or assigns to enter in and upon the premises hereby conveyed and to build or rebuild said fence or make the necessary repairs thereto and the costs and expenses attending the same shall be borne by the said grantees their heirs or assigns and upon failure to pay the same, shall collected the same as ordinary debts are collectable.

Together with the buildings and improvements thereon and the rights, roads, ways, waters, privileges and appurtenances thereunto belonging or in any wise appertaining. To have and to hold the above granted property with all and singular the appurtenances unto the said Charles F. Bloss and Mary Bloss his wife their heirs and assigns forever in fee simple. And the said Adam Seibert and Margaret E. Seibert his wife do hereby covenant that they will warrant specially the property hereby conveyed and that they will execute such further assurances of said land as may be requisite.

Witness our hands and seals the day and year first above written.

Test:
F. B. Beall

Adam Siebert {Seal}
her
Margaret E. x Siebert {Seal}
mark

State of Maryland, Allegany County, to wit: I hereby certify that on this twenty ninth day of [Sept] in the year one thousand eight hundred and ninety four before the subscriber, a Notary Public of the State of Maryland, in and for Allegany County, personally appeared Adam Seibert and Mary E. Seibert his wife and each acknowledged the foregoing deed to be their act. In testimony whereof I have hereunto subscribed my name and affixed my official seal the day and year first above written.

{Notarial Seal}

F. B. Beall
Notary Public

Comment: Written in the left hand margin of page 583 was the text: Compared and mailed to Chas. F. Bloss, Patterson's Creek, W. Va., Nov. 9th 1895. So, Charles F. and Mary Bloss were of Allegany County, MD on Sept. 29th 1894 but by Nov. 9th 1895 they were living in Patterson's Creek, W. Va. Maybe they had a farm on each side of the Potomac River?

Allegany County Courthouse, Cumberland, MD Deed Book 81, p.436, recorded 7/6/1897.

Deed Filed and Recorded July 6th 1897 @ 4:45 P.M.

This Deed made this Sixth day of July in the year one thousand eight hundred and ninety seven by and between Nicholas Lidinger and Margaret Lidinger of Allegany County in the State of Maryland, parties of the first part, and George W. Bloss of Allegany County in the State of Maryland party of the second part. Witnesseth that for and in consideration of the sum of Sixteen hundred and fifty Dollars (\$1650) lawful money of the United States of America, well and truly paid by the said party of the second part to the said parties of the first part the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, the said parties of the first part have granted, bargained and sold and by these presents do grant, bargain, sell and convey unto the said party of the second part his heirs and assigns All our right, title and interest in and to that piece or parcel of land situate, lying and being in Allegany County, State of Maryland and shown as Number 2 on the plot of the whole tract shown as the "Mexico Farm" which piece or parcel of land was conveyed to George H. Herpich, Harry Rephaun and Nicholas Lidinger in common by Margaret S. Duncan of Baltimore County in the State of Maryland.

Beginning at a stone at the end of fifty seven (57) perches on the third line of the tract of land conveyed to the said parties by deed dated the 22nd of December in the year 1866 and recorded in Liber H. R. No. 25, folio 385, one of the Land Records of Allegany County, and running thence with said 3rd line North seventy nine and one half (79½) degrees West seventy one perches, then North sixty one and one half (61½) degrees West sixty nine and one half (69½) perches, then North fifteen (15) degrees West one hundred and thirty four (134) perches to intersect a line drawn North forty three (43) degrees West from the beginning and with said line sever sect, South forty three (43) degrees East two hundred and forty perches (240) to the beginning, containing fifty four (54) acres, more or less.

Also all the right, title and interest in and to that part of the private road leading from Long's Ferry "over the Mexico Farm" to the county Road leading from Cumberland to Oldtown and which part of said road is described as follows, to wit: Beginning at the beginning of that part of the "Mexico Farm" conveyed to the said Nicholas Lidinger by Geo. H. Herpich & others by deed bearing date the 2nd day of April 1870 and recorded in Liber H. R. No. 32, folio 138, one of the Land Records of Allegany County, and securing therewith the 1st, 2nd and 3rd lines thereof to the end of said third line, the deed of said part of said road being recorded in book No. 63, pages 375 etc. one of the Land Records of Allegany County, State of Maryland.

Together with the buildings and improvements thereon and the rights, roads, ways, waters, privileges and appurtenances thereunto belonging or in any wise appertaining. To have and to hold the above granted property with all and singular the appurtenances thereto unto the said George W. Bloss his heirs and assigns forever in fee simple.

Witness our hands and seals the day and year first above written.

	his
Witness:	Nicholas x Lidinger {Seal}
J. Monroe Luricer	mark her
	Margaret x Lidinger {Seal}
	mark

State of Maryland, Allegany County, to wit: I hereby certify that on this sixth day of July in the year one thousand eight hundred and ninety seven before me the subscriber a Justice of the Peace of the State of Maryland in and for Allegany County personally appeared Nicholas Lidinger and

Margaret Lidinger his wife and did acknowledge the foregoing deed to the their respective deed.

J. Monroe Luricer
Justice of the Peace.

Comment: Written in the left hand margin of page 437 was the following: Compared and delivered to the Grantee July 15th 1897.