

2j. Thomas Kelland

This file has not been updated since 2000 and there is a great deal of information still to be input.

Thomas was born on July 15th 1854 at Lees Houses, Droylsden, Manchester. It is his birth and the death of his brother which gave me the approximate period of when George and Mary brought their children to the North of England from Bristol.

Thomas is on the 1861 census for Droylsden with his mother, two sisters and eldest brother George. He is next found in Fenton, Michigan in the 1870 census where he is shown as working as a factory hand.

It is thirty years later before he is found again on the 1900 census, living at 240 Kirby Ave, City of Detroit. He was working as a commercial traveller and had been married for 24 years. His wife Margaret was born December 1859 in New York. They have one child a son Clarence B. who was born in July 1881 in Michigan and who was a law student at that time.

The 1910 census shows Thomas and his wife still living at Kirby Ave and his occupation at that time was a travelling salesman – confectionary. The 1920 census would appear to include a couple of discrepancies in as much as it shows a Thomas Kelland at 240 Kirby Ave but shows him as emigrating in 1891? and also shows him as a retiring soldier?

Thomas and Margaret were on a photograph taken at John Bland and Florence Pulfer's wedding in 1912 together with Thomas' sister Eliza. (John Bland is the son of Mary Ann Kelland Bland.)

A press cutting from the Detroit Free Press in 1936 was sent to my mother (Mary Bland Latham) by Mary Bland Terry (Mary Ann Kelland Bland's daughter). This shows Thomas and his wife Margaret, still living on W. Kirby Ave. celebrating their diamond wedding. The article describes them as modest and retiring, shunning publicity.

They were actually married for 65 years before Thomas died in 1941. Margaret passed away in 1943.

Thomas had one son Clarence Budington Kelland who as well as being a lawyer became a famous author writing many articles and books of which nine were made into films. One of Clarence's articles was written about his father's early life in England and then in America. What is fascinating is the reference to the same gentleman in Robert Kelland's story, a friend of the family who quoted Shakespeare.

Clarence had two sons Thomas and Horace, and Thomas had two sons Thomas and Michael, with both of whom I am in contact, but theirs is another story for another time. Just one interesting point, I am at present reading a book 'An almost perfect Gent' written by Clarence's son Horace K. Kelland and kindly sent to me by Tom Kelland, Clarence's grandson. Horace has certainly inherited his father's literary talent. I believe this is Horace's first novel which was published in 1999 when he was 86 years old! I certainly could do with some help from Horace or some of his talent to aid me with my tale.



School photo C. B. Kelland. Which one is he?

This just about brings me to the end of my first attempt to write about My Kelland Family. I really do find it fascinating how the American and English Branches of the Kelland family kept in contact with each other for over fifty years from the 1850's to the 1910's. Then with the next generation, Mary Ann Kelland Bland's children emigrated, so contact was maintained until the 1940 – 1950's. It also answers the question I have pondered for most of my life 'Why did three of Mary Ann's children emigrate to Detroit?' My interest in genealogy and family history means I have now re-established contact with the descendants of the various Kellands and Blands who emigrated from 100 to 150 years ago.