



# Col. James Ballard

August 15, 1763 - March 26, 1849

Interred: Section E, Lot/Row 94, Space 1



The monument for James Ballard and his second wife Susannah also has inscriptions on the other three sides memorializing members of the family.



James Ballard was honored for his service with a War of 1812 Veterans medallion.



“Barnett W. Ballard died whilst a cadet at the U. S. Military Academy at West Point, N. Y.”, is how the account begins in the book “Polk Family and Kinsmen”. It continues: “he stood at the head of his class, and was a great favorite, his classmates erecting a monument over his grave at Shelbyville, KY.”

The monument was originally placed as a cenotaph at the family cemetery. Since it was moved in 1856 to Grove Hill the cenotaph has displayed the admiration of his comrades who commissioned the giant stone tribute. At some point the large finial that once adorned the stone was lost or left at the family cemetery but not their words of veneration.

“In memory of cadet Barnett W Ballard, son of Colonel James Ballard and Suzannah his wife, who died a member of the US Military Academy West Point New York, NY April 27 AD 1834, aged 19 years five months and two days.

“Directed by his classmates the 4th class of 1833 through 4 as a testimonial of the recognition of his many tributes and as a tribute to his memory.

“He was judicious and sincere. His lofty nature cherished every kindly feeling and harmonized with every noble impulse of the heart.

“He left us in the bounty of his youth and in the brightness of hope. Earth's cares had not chilled nor time's vicissitudes changed the warm current of his affections.” Cadet Barnett Williams Ballard is interred in the United States Military Academy Post Cemetery West Point, Orange County, New York, USA.

**Editor's Note:** One of the things Friends of Grove Hill and the educators of SC High School struggled with during the Project Based Learning partnership Spring 2024 was being able to give adequate time or support for students to complete some stages of the project. Especially time for the students to do the research and writing for the web pages. Col. James Ballard's research primarily.

The challenge was exacerbated by the habit of the pioneering Ballard families of VA and KY to honor their ancestors by continuing their given names for several generations, possibly without middle names or those names were not recorded. This was the biggest challenge of doing the Story Behind the Stone of James Ballard who was reinterred to Grove Hill from possibly the Bland Cemetery off KY 53 South or the family cemetery on his farm located off U S 60 West.

To be as accurate as possible in sharing the history of James Ballard resting in Grove Hill we have reprinted the research collected in the publication titled below. Much of that history is transcribed from James Ballard's personal letters or interviews. The spelling and grammar is reproduced as originally written or transcribed.

***Ballard of Virginia, A Chronicle of Descendants in the Male Line of the Colonial Families in Virginia.***

***James Ballard of Shelby County, Kentucky (1763-1849).***

<https://ballardofvirginia.com/the-children-of-thomas-ballard-of-james-city-county-virginia-william-ballard-of-york-caroline-counties-virginia-c-1668-c-17/bland-ballard-sr-of-spotsylvania-county-virginia-c-1700-1791/bland-ballard-jr-of-spotsylvania-county-virginia-1735-1788/james-ballard-of-shelby-county-kentucky-1763-1849/>

“James Ballard, the son of Bland Ballard, Jr of Spotsylvania County, Virginia, was born 15 August 1763 in Spotsylvania county, Virginia. His career as a soldier is summed up in the following letter dated 16 March 1931 from the Veterans Administration, Washington, D.C.:

“From the papers in the Revolutionary War pension claim, R. 463, it appears that James Ballard went with his father, Bland Ballard, in May, 1780, to the Falls of the Ohio, Kentucky. He volunteered in June, 1780 and served as spy, hunter and ranger under Captain Jacob Piatt and General George R. Clark until the following spring; he then served as scout and spy in Captain George Owen's Company and was with Colonel [John] Floyd when his forces retreated, and [was] in several skirmishes with the Indians. In August, 1782, he marched with Captain Aquilla Whittaker to Shawnee Town on the Miami and to McKees Town on the Sciota River when these towns were destroyed and prisoners were taken, and served until December. He continued to act as a scout and spy until the fall of 1783. James Ballard served as spy, hunter and scout in all General George R. Clark's Expeditions against the Indians: in 1786 under Captain Bland W. Ballard and Colonel John Hardin against the Wabash Indians; in 1788, eight months in Captain Aquilla Whitaker's Company, and in 1793 under Generals Scott and Wayne, and served until all hostilities had been settled.<sup>1</sup>

**“Pension Application of James Ballard – R463 transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris**

“Deposition of Majr Bland W. Ballard [pension application W20655] taken at the house of s’d. Ballard in Shelby County Kentucky on the 17 day of September 1832

“The deponent being about 70 years of age and first duly sworn before Robert T. Robb a justice of the peace for Shelby County deposite and saith that he knew his brother James Ballard in 1780 at Louisville as a Militia soldier and rendered services there under the controle of Gen. George R Clark [George Rogers Clark] untill the fall 1782 then went under Capt Aquilla Whitaker against the Indians at Shawnee Town on the Miami under the comand of Gen George R Clark and in 1786 went against the Wabash Indians and frequently services rendered at intirvells as Scouting ranging and spying in 1788 he acted as a guard and Spie for about one month on Brasheers [sic: Brashears] Creek then Jefferson County Ky under the Command of Capt. Aquilla Whitake in 1789 he went under Capt Bland W. Ballard Comand by Col. John Hardin against the Wabash Indians also Capt Paine Comanded by Gen Charles Scott against the wabash Indians also he went in 1793 in Capt William Steels Company Commanded by Gen. Charles Scott and joined Waynes [Anthony Wayne’s] Campain. I believe James Ballard is about 66 years of age and further the deponent sath not. [signed 1 Mar 1838] Blan W Ballard

“The Declaration of James Ballard of Shelby County Ky made on this [blank] day of Feby 1838 to receive the benefits of the provisions of the act of Congress passed the 2 [sic: 7 ] day of June 1832

“He states that he is now in his 76 year of his age. That he rendered service in the war of the the Revolution as follows, that in the month of May 1780 Bland Ballard the father of said James landed at the falls of Ohio Ky. that in June following he volunteered as a militia soldier in Capt Jacob Piatts [possibly Jacob Pyeatt’s] company and was hunting securing and killing provisions for the army under the command of Captain Piatt untill Spring following. Captain Piatt was an officer under the command of Captain Piatt was an officer under the command of George R Clark that during the term aforesaid he was employed and engaged as an Indian Spy and ranger and hunting for the army – and was in numerous skirmishes and engagements with small parties of the Indians. That in the Spring 1781 he again joined the Company of Capt George Owen’s [George Owens’s] Company as a spy and ranger. that he continued to act as a Spy in said Owen Company all the summer and untill September of that year having to do continual service as a spy and having had numerous skirmishes with the Indians, that it was about this time that an engagement took place between the Indians an Col Floyd in which Col Floyd was defeated [John Floyd, at Long Run Creek, 14 Sep 1781] and that he was one among the defeated on that day and fled for safety. That at Floyds defeat he recollects Col Sam’l Wells [Samuel Wells] was in the engagement

“That in August or Sept 1782 he volunteered as a soldier in Capt Whitakers Company for 3 months or upwards and marched under said Capt Whitaker and under Gen’l Clarke to Miami River to Shawnee Town from thence to McKees Towns on the Sciota River, having taken the Towns and destroyed them, and also took prisoners – and returned home to the Station, in the month of Dec following. That when he returned he continued to act as a Spy from that time untill the Spring following – giving the Commander in Chief all the information they could procure relative to the movement of the army of Indians and depredation of the settlements, and supplying the army with

all the provisions they could kill & pack in. that the Army under the command of Genl Clarke had to be supplied with provisions almost entire by hunting which was done mostly by spys That he acted at some time under special directions of Genl Clarke as a spy and hunter and at others in a company regularly raised for the purpose. That in the spring of 1783 he continued to render similar service, In a detached party under special directions of Genl Clark as a spy not having any special commander only to return and give such information as he had in procured to Genl Clark and securing the army provisions which was killed & packed in That he continued in service untill the fall of 1783 and that he was in all Clarkes expeditions West after 1782 Towit at Wabash River under Col John Hardin 1786. that in 1788 he acted as a spy on Brasheares Creek for 8 months. that he was in all the campaigns from 1788 untill 1793 under Genl Scott Harmer & Wayn's untill all the difficulties were fully settled with the Indians in 1794 or therabouts.

“That in the service aforesaid he knew in 1781 or thereabouts Genl Clarke Col George Slaughter Col [Joseph] Crockett Capt [Benjamin] Roberts Capt Rogers Capt Mark Thomas Capt. George Capt Benj Field [sic: Benjamin Fields] Lt Sanders Col Todd Col Floyd Col Wells Major Harlan and nearly all the inferior officers of the Regiment under the command of Genl Clarke & [John] Montgomery, which were on state establishment and numerous others of the militia of the State of Va. That he never has received any pension for the aforesaid services and hereby relinquishes all others but the present.

[signed] James Ballard

### “Louisville March 26 1838

“Wm H Todd – Dr. Sir I omitted in the business I entrusted to you, to state that my father, mother, two brothers and a sister were killed in my Fathers house and the house burned, all my Fathers papers as well as my own were then destroyed by fire. For reference in relation to this matter you may correspond with the Hon Jon Pope & Henry Clay members of Congress from Kentucky. I am not intimately acquainted with Mr. Graves but I would also refer you to him

“This letter is written from Louisville. I will soon return to Shelbyville, where I will expect frequent letters from you. Yours with respect James Ballard

“P.S. Refer also to Col. R. M. Johnston

*“NOTE: Ballard’s claim was not allowed in spite of the fact that the pension act of 1832 provided for Indian Spies in service during the Revolutionary War (up to 15 Apr 1783) in an embodied corps such as George Rogers Clark’s Illinois Regiment.*

“James Ballard represented Shelby county in the Kentucky Legislature in 1813 and 1814. On 25 December 1788, he married Mrs. Amy Leman, the widow of Samuel Leman.<sup>2</sup> They had seven children. Amy Leman died 7 June 1803. James married, second on 17 August 1803,<sup>3</sup> Susanna Cox, who was born 27 September 1785, died 21 July 1858, the daughter of Benjamin Cox and Sarah Piety. He died 26 March 1849 on his farm near Shelbyville, Kentucky, and was buried as a colonel.”

**Editor's Note:** Grove Hill's James Ballard was the great-grandson of William Ballard and Philadelphia Lee Ludwell, the grandson of Bland Ballard Sr. and Mary Deering, and the son of Bland Ballard, Jr. and Elizabeth Williams who was the third of possibly nine children.

James and his first wife Amy Leman (1765 – 1803) had 7 children. James and his second wife, Susannah Cox (1785 – 1858), had 8 children. We believe it may have been Susannah who encouraged or underwrote the reinterment of her husband James to Grove Hill after its opening in 1855. The lot deed states James plus family members who died in the years prior to Susannah's death were reinterred in 1856 included: Sarah who died in 1834, Sarah/1838, Thomas/1852, and an Unknown Ballard.

A name listed on the Ballard deed for the James Ballard lot in Grove Hill Cemetery is Mrs. Greathouse in space 7. No further information is provided to her identity in Grove Hill's documents. Additional research led us to a stipulation in James Ballard's will dated "15 March 1849, recorded in Shelby County, Kentucky, April Term 1849". Ballard directed his executor, "I further give to Sarah An Greathouse a negro boy Isaac."

The others resting in the lot died after Susannah, the Ballards: William, Frank, Mary, Robert and W. H. Ballard Jr. This last name W. H. Ballard Jr. ((1849 – 1887) creates a new mystery. Is this Grove Hill resident Susannah and James' son William Henry Harrison Ballard and the Jr. was noted erroneously? We leave our readers of this biography to solve the mystery and if they can solve this one or any other mysteries or errors please contact Friends of Grove Hill by emailing

grovehillfriends@gmail.com.

One question this research raises is why in all the documents we found referenced as from our Grove Hill James Ballard (1763 – 1849) did he not mention his service in the War of 1812 for which he was honored by local historians as having fought in?

For the Shelby County High School junior history class students in the spring of 2024 who adopted James Ballard as their resident to research and write about, we thank you for your participation in this partnership. We regret that you did not have time to complete the research and webpages. Thank you: Writer & Editor: Aidyn Weingartner, Autumn Simpson, Research: Cooper Swindler for your good efforts.

**Stories Behind the Stones** – A Project Based Learning Partnership of  
Shelby County High School Junior History Class 2024, Friends of Grove Hill Cemetery,  
Calvary Cemetery Friends, and Shelby County Historical Society.

Thanks to all the students and educators from SCHS who worked with us to provide this historical record for our community.



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