

With the permission of Violet's son, Mike Noble, I am posting this record here to share.

A BRIEF SKETCH OF THE LIFE OF ROLAND BIAS AND SARAH ANN TURNER
Written by their great granddaughter, Violet (Adkins) Noble

Roland Bias was born about 1821 near Natural Bridge, along the James River, in Amherst County Virginia. He was the son of Lindsey Bias and his wife Matilda, who had ten other children. Roland's parents were farmers in Amherst County. He and his brothers and sisters all worked on the farm with their parents.

Roland was a young man when his father, Lindsey, died in 1840, in Amherst County, Virginia. He, with his mother, brothers, and sisters, migrated to Cabell County, Virginia (now Cabell County West Virginia), along with his uncles and their families.

Roldan bought a farm in Guyandotte, Cabell County, then returned to Amherst County, Virginia to marry his fiancée, Sarah Ann Turner. They were married 18 Nov. 1850 in Amherst county. Roland brought his bride back to his farm in Guyandotte. Sarah Ann never returned to her parents' home in Virginia again.

At the beginning of the Civil War, Roland was farming his land in Guyandotte, and also overseeing the "Poor House", which housed the indigents of the county. As the Union Army marched through, they burned the town and took Roland as a prisoner. HE was made to serve in the 1st Cavalry, Federal Army (Union). Roland fought in the Battle of Gettysburg, as well as other less notable battles. He later escaped and swam the Guyandotte River to return to his home in the town of Guyandotte. Roland was captured a second time and was held prisoner for nine months.

In 1867, the State Legislature passed an Act for the establishment of a State Normal School (teacher training school) at Marshall College in Huntington, Cabell County, West Virginia. Roland Bias was a member of the Board of Supervisors of the college. He and the other members authorized a levy on real property locally, to pay for the building of the teacher training school. Roland Bias was listed as one of the four "Gentleman Justices" of Cabell County's Court, meeting Jan. 5, 1863. The court met in the town of Guyandotte. These Gentlemen Justices' were appointed for a period of four years by the Governor of Virginia. The Justices' jurisdiction included common law, limited criminal, police and fiscal policies.

Roland Bias was a minister of the Southern Methodist Episcopal Church. He ministered to congregations, in Guyandotte, and Barboursville in Cabell County; and later, when he moved to Lincoln County he ministered to a congregation there. The Bias Chapel in Hamlin, Lincoln County, West Virginia is named after Roland Bias.

Roland spent his last day on his farm at Falls Bottom, near the town of West, Hamlin in Lincoln County. He died in 1891 and is buried in a cemetery on his farm, near West Hamlin in Lincoln County, West Virginia.

Sarah Ann Turner, the wife of Roland Bias was born about 1827 in Amherst County, Virginia. She was the daughter of Samuel Turner and Edifie Evans. Sarah Ann's parents were quite wealthy. They owned a large plantation on the Potomac River. Their house, which is now a museum, had thirty-two rooms. The Turner's owned several slaves. Sarah told her children about one slave, named George, who had been with her parents for many years. He was so loyal and loved the family so much, especially the children. Sarah Ann's father, Samuel decided to sell George after a man offered him fifteen hundred dollars for him. When George walked in the kitchen with an armload of wood for the stove, he saw the man sitting at the table with her father, counting out the money. George sensed immediately what was happening. He fell to his knees and began to cry and beg and plead. Sarah Ann said that George was so distraught that her father changed his mind and didn't sell George. He remained with the family for the rest of his life.

Sarah Ann (Turner) Bias died in 1893. She is buried by her husband , Roland, in the cemetery on their farm, near West Hamlin, Lincoln County, West Virginia.

Additions by Gretchen Noble

History of the town Guyandotte:

http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~wvcabell/history/guyandotte_oldest.html

Mentions the start of State Normal School at Marshall College

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~wvccfhr/history/cabell.htm>