

Sometime in January of 2008, I received a telephone call from someone who asked if I was related to Elijah Bond and William H. A. Maupin. I answered "yes" and Bob Murch introduced himself. I had heard about Elijah Bond from my father, Walter Dent, and William H. A. Maupin was my great grandfather. I had not heard too much about either one of them and so I really did not know a great deal. My father had mentioned that Elijah Bond had invented the Ouija Board and that seemed to be the extent of his knowledge. William H. A. Maupin and his wife, Virginia Bond Maupin were divorced back when divorce was a scandal.

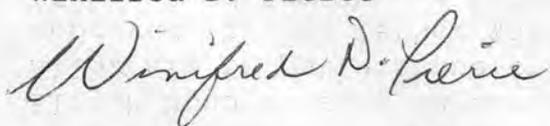
Bob sent me a copy of the patent for the Ouija Board dated Feb. 10, 1891. He also sent me some genealogical information that he had collected. I was very glad to get the information because at that time all I had was that Elijah Bond was a brother of Frank A. Bond, my great-great-grandfather. I had virtually no information about William H.A. Maupin. I very much appreciated Bob's willingness to share information that he had spent a great deal of time researching.

In his researches, Bob discovered that there was no grave marker on Elijah Bond's grave in Greenmont Cemetery. The cemetery would not allow him to put a stone on the gravesite unless a family member approved it. My father was the oldest living member of that branch of the Bond family and he gave his consent. Now there is a beautiful and unique gravestone marking Elijah Bond final resting-place.

Bob and I sent a lot of e-mails back and forth and talked on the phone several times. I finally got to meet him when we were both in Baltimore at the same time in February 2008. He came to my father's home with a descendent of William Fuld and we had a pleasant visit. I had access to pictures of some of the early Bonds that I shared with Bob. I contacted my cousin, a descendent of Elijah Bond's sister, Clara, and she had a picture of Elijah that she sent to me. I forwarded the picture to Bob - now we both know what Elijah looked like.

While I am not an Ouija Board enthusiast, Bob and I continue to keep in touch with each other. I appreciate having the opportunity to get to know my ancestors better and look forward to seeing Bob's latest project.

Winifred D. Pierce

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Winifred D. Pierce". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name.