

Alderman Historical Association

First Reunion Held in 1928
Patricia Crosby Leonard - President

APRIL, 2014

[HTTP://ALDERMANHISTORICALASSOCIATION.ORG](http://ALDERMANHISTORICALASSOCIATION.ORG)

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*****AHA Mission Statement*****

To honor our ancestral lineage and foster the continued efforts of John Thomas Alderman in compiling and recording the history of the Southern Branch of the Alderman family. We will do this by honoring Alderman descendants with an annual reunion to allow sharing of genealogical information, maintaining relationships with other Alderman family groups, the care and maintenance of the John Alderman, Sr. cemetery and other sites as may be deemed needed by the Association Board of Directors.

**2014 REUNION WILL BE ON 28 JUNE
RESERVATION FORM IS ENCLOSED**

GUEST SPEAKER

This year our guest speaker will be Mr. Amos McLamb. Mr. McLamb is a local resident and lover of history. He will be speaking on the Long Leaf Pine, a mainstay of the early economy of SE North Carolina. He personally has replanted hundreds of acres of trees to re-establish the Long Leaf forest. He will also explain how turpentine was made in the early days, another important resource our ancestors depended on for income.

LETTER FROM MR. CHARLES BLAND ONE OF OUR BLAND FAMILY CONNECTIONS –

TO MY BULLOCH COUNTY GEORGIA COUSINS

I'm wishing all of you a Great Reunion this year. Cousin James Alderman invited me but to my regret distance and timing prevents my attendance. I have often received an invitation and hope some year to attend. It's on my Bucket List.

Much has happened since I came out with my book "A Vision of Unity: The Bland Family in England and America: 1555-1900" back in the 80s. Twenty Eight Volumes of Annual Newsletters named "Among Cousins" have followed, but more important is the development of the Annual National Bland Family Reunion which met first in 1985 at Elizabethtown Kentucky and will celebrate its 30th year in 2014 at Williamsburg Virginia. Williamsburg and nearby Jamestown are national historical sites of significance to the Bland family and also a fine area for a family vacation I am hopeful that many of you can attend.

In 1999 the National Bland reunion organized itself into Bland Heritage Foundation (blandheritage.org) and elected members. I have preferred to be the Historian of the group and after all these years probably know as much about the Bland Family's national heritage as anyone, though I have been helped in indispensable ways by many more local historians.

Two such were William Graham Bland from Jacksonville Florida and at that time a teenage genealogist Stephen McLeod then of Tallahassee Florida. I haven't heard from either in years, but both were extremely helpful in my first work putting together the book.

Chapter 8 of my book focuses on your root family, including about 25 pages on the Bulloch County Family, thanks to the help of Graham Bland and Stephen McLeod. My book came out in 1982 and in 1996, following many requests from members of your line to update your specific line, I undertook the project. I was getting nowhere when I wrote to Stephen McLeod, by then a young man of about 30. Stephen replied that he had no time to organize his material but would send me a box of his collection and I could sort it out myself. Within a week or two I received a huge box in

the mail that was filled with a jumbled gigantic pile of graphs, letters, etc. that comprised Stephen's collected work. During the next few months I organized it into what was to become the main body of Volume 14 of "Among Cousins", which to this day is the volume I have always been most proud of. The Volume contains 103 pages including 93 pages of the family you belong to which originated in Cumberland County (now Cumbria) England during the 16th Century.

It begins with James Bland in Cumberland England who was born about 1575. James was the great grandfather of James Bland (1661-1709) who left Cumberland for London about 1682 as a young man and from there shipped out to the American colonies, moving quickly from East Jersey to St. Mary's Maryland to Stafford County Virginia where he married a woman we now know as Margaret Straughm. James lived out his life in Stafford/Prince William County Virginia and he and Margaret had eight children including his eldest son William Bland (C1686-1744) who is the ancestral grandfather of most Bland descendants in America today.

William's eldest son was James Bland, (1707-1774) who migrated to present day Duplin County North Carolina about 1750. Before he died he had two sons, of whom we only know about William Bland (1726-1775). In his will, William mentioned seven children, including six sons, of whom we know about four. These four sons lived out their lives in or near Duplin County but their children scatted to the four winds, including Alabama, Georgia, Indiana and Mississippi. William's eldest son was probably William Bland (1748-1816) who married Rachel Powell. The younger William in turn had two sons, of whom James Bland (1772-1818) who married (1) Jemima Alderman and (2) Esther Newton, was your descendant. James was the father of William Bland (C1794-1875) and Susannah Alderman (1795-1880) and of Daniel White Bland (1796-1880).

It seems obvious that of these two brothers, Daniel White Bland was the fair haired boy, favored in both his father's and grandfather's wills, while William was excluded from both. Grandfather William died in that fateful year of 1816. Grandfather William's generosity to Daniel came on April 2, 1816, the day of Daniel's marriage to Dorcas page. Grandfather William and his wife died that fateful year, but the event of 1816 "known as the "The year without summer" could have carried off grandfather William and grandmother Rachel as well as casting a pall of apocalyptic fear over everyone in the United States.

In April 1815, the gigantic volcano eruption at Mount Tambora in present day Indonesia probably one of the greatest such events in recorded history, sent millions of tons of ash into the upper atmosphere. It was blown around the world causing prolonged darkness and cold weather, leading to massive crop failures everywhere, including North America. Historians have since discovered that the Mount Tambora eruption stimulated mass migrations including East-West migrations in continental North America. It is not likely that everyone at that time knew the source of this event and probably attributed it to the wrath of God, perhaps causing William, the least favored among his family, to think God would prefer him to move to Georgia.

Notwithstanding theirs troubles in North Carolina, William and Susannah prospered in Georgia. William died in possession of 1,000 acres and he and Susannah lived to an old age. They gave us eleven children, who are your family's ancestors. You are entitled to be very proud of your family. .

Sincerely

Charles L. Bland

Historian, Bland Heritage Foundation and

Author of [A Vision of Unity: The Bland Family in England and America](#)

And "Among Cousins: the Bland Family Newsletter" 28 Volumes.

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Contact Information: cbland@buffalo.edu

Family Webpage: <http://www.blandheritage.org/>



ALDERMAN FAMILY ARTICLES

If any of you have articles you feel would be of interest to our group, please send them to James Alderman at alde711@aol.com for possible use in our semi-annual newsletters. You may have something that a member would love to know about.

Alderman Family History Books Are Still Available

- Original “Aldermans in America” – contact Susan Bland - susan@intrstar.net
- New AIA Volumes 1&2 building on the original “Aldermans in America” – contact Jack Westberry- janeandjackwestberry@live.com

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SEE YOU IN DELWAY, NC ON JUNE 28TH !!!!!