

Alderman Historical Association

First Reunion Held in 1928
Patricia Crosby Leonard - President

OCTOBER, 2010

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

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Markers placed in the Alderman Family Cemetery during the June 26, 2010 Reunion. The John Alderman, Sr. grave was officially marked with the original DAR marker and with a SAR marker. The Mary Alderman/Keziah Alderman marker was placed by other family members in memory of some of John and Mary's children and their descendants.

Below is an article that was prepared and published in the Sampson County newspaper---

On Saturday, June 26th at 11:00 descendents of Daniel & Abigail Harris Alderman, some of which were the direct descendants of John Alderman, Sr, their oldest child, met for a very special ceremony.



In the late 1960s the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) had placed a marker on the gravesite of John Alderman to honor his service in the American Revolution. But this ceremony was for the SAR, North Carolina Society Sons of the American Revolution. After everyone was gathered by the cemetery, the current president of the Alderman Historical Association, H. Sidney Bland III, welcomed everyone. Then the SAR color guard presented the colors, marching in with perfect formation and coordinated step. These people take great care to make sure their uniforms are representative of the time and place. Reverend Richard Brand, husband of direct descendent

Rebecca Bland Brand, brought the invocation. Next Emily Cline, NC State president of the Children of the American Revolution (CAR), led us in the pledge of allegiance. Hugh Williams, past president of the Raleigh Chapter SAR led us in the SAR Pledge. The color guard placed the flags behind the gravesite, then marched back out to stand at attention for the bulk of the ceremony. James Alderman from Texas, read a brief account of the life of his ancestor, John Alderman. Although little is known of the specific units or battles he was involved in, we give recognition to his service.

One common part of a grave marking ceremony is a wreath laying by the other groups participating. At this ceremony Mike Mathis, an Alderman descendent, and Hugh Williams, both past presidents of the Raleigh Chapter SAR, brought the first wreath.



Pansy Alderman Elliot, a direct descendent of John Alderman, laid a wreath for the Colonial Dames XVII Century. The Colonial Dames organization includes women who can prove their direct lineage to a ancestor that lived and served the colonies prior to 1701. She is an honorary state president of this organization. Then Susan Corliss-Bland laid the DAR wreath from the Edenton Tea Party Chapter. Ms Elliot is a proud member of the Edenton chapter, who laid the original grave marker.

Next honors were paid to the ancestor by the John Ashe Chapter of the CAR. Christa Bland, Rachel Bland (both direct descendents of John Alderman) and Emily Cline, walked up and laid a single red rose on the grave. This is the first time a CAR chapter in North Carolina has participated in a service of this type.

H. Sidney Bland, III asked for a show of hands of those people in attendance that were direct descendents of John Alderman. Mike Mathis read the SAR recessional pledge and then Reverend Richard Brand brought us the benediction. The color guard marched back in, took the flags to retire them. And the shutters flashed as many photos were taken before the ceremony was ended.



Although many people living today probably had ancestors who have been here in the country over 200 years, it is a special thrill to actually know the names and dates and personal stories of the people you came from. In 1765 John Alderman secured from Governor Tryon a grant for 300 acres of land on Doctor's Creek in Duplin County, NC. Over his lifetime he continued

to buy more land as he could, eventually ending with an estate of 700 acres. One touching memoir read of John Alderman Sr. was that he loved to read and frequently read from his Bible in the afternoon, sitting in the shade of a large tree in his yard. At the age of 85 he was found sitting in his chair with his Bible in his hand, dead. What a wonderfully peaceful ending to a life lived with honor and valor.



Pictured (back row—left to right):

SAR Color Guard: James E. Alderman, Major K.M. Van Zandt Chapter, Texas Society SAR; Gary Greene—President, Lower Cape Fear Chapter NCSAR; David Mann—Vice President Marquis de Lafayette Chapter, SAR; Tim Boyd—Treasurer, Marquis de Lafayette Chapter.

(front row—left to right)

Pansy Alderman Elliott, Honorary President NC Society Colonial Dames 17th Century & Edenton Tea Party Chapter NCSAR; Sidney Bland, President Alderman Historical Association; Susan Bland, Battle of Rockfish Chapter NCSAR; Rachel Bland & Christa Bland, direct descendents of Patriot John Alderman & members of the General John Ashe Society CAR Wilmington; Emily Cline, NCSCAR State President; Angela Cline, NCSCAR Senior State President; Hugh Williams, Past Chapter President Raleigh Chapter SAR; and Mike Mathis, Past Chapter President, Raleigh Chapter SAR.

Memories of this year's Reunion

This year some of us met for supper the night before the meeting. There are so many friends that come in for the annual meeting many of us don't get to get to know each other. So this year, several of us met for dinner and fellowship the evening before and I really enjoyed getting to talk in a more relaxed setting. Here is Rachel Bland entertaining the Westberry's.



If you missed this year's meeting, I am so sorry. It was a once in a lifetime ceremony. (On the bright side, you missed the heat. We were all about to melt by the final pictures.) The SAR laid the marker at the John Alderman headstone with all the pomp and circumstance the occasion could muster. It was a sight to see the people in colonial dress, the wreaths and flowers. I had the honor of assisting Pansy Alderman Elliot in wreath laying, since she brought two wreaths. I had never participated in a wreath laying, but I just followed her lead and smiled for the photo. JaAnn Alderman let me wear her DAR pin and as I was handing it back I noticed it was for Pennsylvania. My revolutionary ancestor of my maternal grandfather came in through Pennsylvania; it seemed a striking coincidence.

The program this year was brought to us by Tim Boyd from Moores Creek National Battlefield. He gave us an excellent talk on the life of the American Revolutionary soldier. He educated us on the Patriot or Loyalist dilemma that many faced. One noteworthy comment was: "The well-bred, well fed and well ed(ucated) got us into the war, but the farmers and regulars won it!". I always enjoy the speakers at our program and you learn something new every year. Kudos to the planning that goes in to having great speakers.



New friendships are made, and old ones renewed. Here is President Sidney Bland talking with his 'cousin' Frances Clifton.

Right: James & JaAnn Alderman from Texas, chat with Joe & Elaine Alderman from Georgia. It seems that fewer of us at the meeting still carry the Alderman name. Nice to have namesake representatives among us.



We created so many great memories this year. Hope to see everyone again next year! And if anyone is coming in the night before and would like to meet for dinner, please give us a call.

Minutes of the 2010 Meeting

President H. Sidney Bland, III called the meeting to order on June 26, 2010

Recognition:

First Timers—Caroline & Gene Funderburk, Olivia Dunnery, Joe & Elaine Alderman
Golden Years (80+)—Boreham Johnson, Pansy Elliot, Irene Rivenbark
Longest Distance traveled—James & JaAnn Alderman, Joe & Elaine Alderman
Shortest Distance traveled—Ray & Charlotte Ezzell
Generations (multiple generations present) Blands & Elaine Alderman

Old Business—Reminder to send copies of old photos and wills to Kay Ezzell for the website.
ezzellk@mac.com

New Business

- A motion was approved to place a plaque at the cemetery stating: “Maintained by Alderman Historical Association. For Information Call: H. Sidney Bland (910)-532-2667
- A motion was made by Mike Matthis to develop a mission statement for the association. This information can be made available to the members through the website.
- It was decided to charge dues for those not attending reunion, or purchasing a book during the year. Rates are \$10 per person, \$15 per family and are for the calendar year (January-December). This will allow them to stay on the mailing list for two years.

Susan Corliss-Bland brought the treasurers report:

June 2009 balance	689.36
Book Sale 6/09	95.00
Book Sale 12/09	95.00
Interim Contributions	<u>150.00</u>
Balance May 1, 2010	1029.36
Book Sale 5/10	190.00
Reunion pre-registrations received	<u>706.00</u>
Pre reunion available balance	1925.36
Money received at reunion	474.00
Expenses:	
Website	-65.89
Mowing	-50.00 (taken from cemetery donation)
Donation for use of fellowship hall	-100.00
Cost of lunch	<u>-724.08</u>
<i>Carryover to next year</i>	1,459.39

A motion was made to donate \$100 for the use of the building and consensus for meeting at the same place next year.

Election of Officers.

President: Patricia Leonard
Vice President: H. Sidney Bland, III
Secretary: James Alderman
Treasurer: Susan Corliss-Bland



Recognition was made to each of the special guests for the grave marking, as well as to Sidney Bland for serving as President for several years, against his own request.

Special thanks to those sending donations that could not attend: Mabel Brown Lanier and Mary Johnson. Special thanks also to a gift this past year from Becky Springer in honor of her uncle, James Ezzell.

After setting the next meeting for June 25th, 2011, the meeting was adjourned.

Susan Corliss-Bland, Treasurer / Secretary

And It Wouldn't Be Good to Close Without A Little More History –

James Alderman- From Duplin County, NC to Gadsden County, Florida

Among the many Alderman men named James there is one who moved to Gadsden County Florida in the early days of the new U.S. territory. Gadsden County was created 24 June 1823 and its first census was taken in 1825. A log courthouse burned in 1840 and only the records between 1832-1837 were saved.

James, b. 1802, Duplin County, was a son of John Alderman, Jr. and Nancy Ann Newton Alderman. James married Susan Newton, b.1802, in 1823, daughter of James Newton and Sarah Alderman Newton.

Duplin County Land deeds show that James sold approximately 100 acres for \$75 to his brother, Isaac N. Alderman, on 15 April 1825. James would need this money to buy land in Gadsden County. A land deed in the Florida State Archives show that James acquired approximately 80 acres in the East half of the North West quarter of Section Fifteen, sometime before 1833.

A booklet that was authored by John Thomas Alderman and titled "Amariah Biggs Alderman" states that A. Biggs Alderman helped his brother, James and his family, move to Gadsden County in 1840. This date is questionable because it leaves only two years for James to clear land and setup a homestead. A more likely date would be in the mid 1820 as most of the children were born in Florida.

James and Susan's children: John James, b.1824; Sarah Ann, b. 1826; Margaret Ann, b.1829; Enoch Wells, b. 1830; Asa, b. 1832; Gideon, b. 1834; David, B. 1836; Susan Jane, b.1838; Michal Cooper, b 1840. After the death of both parents the children were sent to live with cousins in Florida and Georgia.

I have been unable to find the cause of death for Gideon, Michael, Susan (mother) or James Alderman (father). Medical bills that were found in the Gadsden County Courthouse indicate that James probably died of TB or Pneumonia: cough syrup- \$1.00; Cough pills- 25 cents; Doctor visits-\$3.00. Those bills were sent to a cousin, David Alderman, Executor for payment. James left a Will which provided monies to the surviving children. Susan Jane and Sarah Ann received money before or about the time of their wedding. Records show that both John A. Alderman and Darlin Creed journeyed to Gadsden County to obtain the monies. Both men were later to become part of the political system in Colquitt County Georgia. James Alderman was my great-great grandfather,

his daughter, Susan Jane Alderman Alderman, my great grandmother and her daughter, Martha Jane Alderman Crosby, was my grandmother.

Submitted by Patricia Crosby Leonard, Louisburg, NC

Family History Books Are Still Available

Original "Aldermans in America" – contact Susan Bland - susan@intrstar.net

New Volumes 1&2 – contact Jack Westberry- janeandjackwestberry@live.com

New Association Contact Information -

<u>Name</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>Email</u>
Patricia Leonard - President	(919)853-3293	g-p-leonard@msn.com
H. Sidney Bland, III – Vice Pres.	(910)432-2667	susan@intrstar.net
Susan Bland – Treasurer	(910)532-2667	susan@intrstar.net
James E. Alderman – Secretary	(817)605-0538	alde711@aol.com
Kay Ezzell – Webmaster		ezzellk@mac.com

Membership in the Alderman Historical Association

If you read the meeting notes, you noticed that the membership present at the recent reunion voted to solicit dues starting with year 2011. Expenses related to the up keep on the cemetery (repairs, cleaning, mowing), cost of mailing newsletters, and the maintenance cost of our website are on-going expenses that are not always offset with donations. If you look at the Treasurer report for this year we have a treasury surplus but this is deceiving in that we had 4-5 members personally absorb some major expenses that would have eliminated any carryover. We would like to encourage everyone to join the association and renew each year to help us make sure that adequate funds are available to maintain and support the association efforts. To this end, we have developed a Mission Statement to help guide us as we move forward.

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.



2011 ALDERMAN HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

MEMBERSHIP

First Name: _____ Middle Initial: ____ Last Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Check One:

_____ Individual \$10.00

_____ Family \$15.00 (households with children under the age of 18)

Please mail completed form with check to:

**Alderman Historical Association
c/o Susan Bland, Treasurer
P.O. Box 107
Harrells, NC 28444**

Membership will run from January through December each year. Those registering prior to January 1, 2011 will remain on the direct mail listing or electronic listing for 2011 Association correspondence. The website will remain open to everyone. This form is provided for you to mail in along with your check. Thank you for all your past support to protect the cemetery and to foster family ties.

*****Please note that this membership does not cover registration for the annual reunion luncheon.**