

SOUTH CAROLINA GENEALOGIES

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Alston - Colcock

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JOHN ALSTON.

By A. S. SALLEY, JR.

JOHN ALSTON, the founder of a family distinguished in the annals of South Carolina, was the son of William Alston, gentleman, of Hammersmith (a part of London), Middlesex, and came to South Carolina in 1682 as an apprentice to James Jones, a merchant of Charles Town, as will be seen by the following indenture, which is recorded on page 123 of a book of miscellaneous records of the governor of South Carolina, covering the years 1672-1692:

This Indenture Witnesseth that John Alston the sonne of William Alston of Hammersmith in the County of Middlesex gent doth put himselfe apprentice to James Jones of the County of Carolina merchant to Learne and follow his Art with him after the manner of an apprentice & to serve him his s^d master the full end & terme of Seaven yeares from the day of the date hereof dureing w^{ch} s^d Terme he the Afores^d. James Jones doth hereby covenant to finde unto his said Apprentice meate, drinke, apparell Lodging and all other necessaryes which shall be needfull and convenient for him provided nevertheless and it is hereby further Agreed by and between the said James Jones and the Afores^d William Alston ffather of the said John that if the s^d. William Alston shall at any tyme or tymes hereafter cause to require or call home to him his s^d. sone within the afores^d. Terme of seaven yeares and before that time be compleated he the s^d. James Jones doth hereby covenant and Oblige himselfe to returne him Carefully (if alive) The said William defraying the money due for his passage into England and returne In Wittness whereof the pies above named to these p^rsent Indentures have put their hands and seales Interchangeably this sixteenth day of May Anno Dni 1682.

John Alstone¹ (x)³

Witness

John Nicklis
Joseph Pope

¹This instrument was, of course, recorded by a clerk in Charles Town, and, as usual, little attention was paid to the proper spelling of the name. Subsequent original documents, which are herein given and to which John Alston signed his name, show that he himself spelled the name A-l-s-t-o-n.

³This mark indicates that the original indenture bore a seal of some sort.

Nine years later John Alston, now evidently a merchant on his own responsibility, and about to depart the Province temporarily, executed the following power of attorney to his old preceptor:

Be it knowne unto all men by these presents me John Alston of Berkeley County in Carolina that Whereas I am Now Departeing out of this province, and therefore I doe hereby Impower James Jones of y^e Afforesd County & province to be my Lawfull Attorney & factor for me & in my Name & upon my behalfe & Account to receive all Sum or sums of Mony Marchandize or whatever kind of goods shall be sent from Urope or Else where be the^r to me for my Use & I doe place ye sd James Jones in my stead to have all the right & power to receive keep sell or Dispose upon whatever goods shall be sent to me in My Absence as if I were here in Carolina my selfe in Witness Whereof I have signed These presents at Carolina ye 23^d day of Febr^y- 1690/1

Signed Sealed & delivered
in ye Presence of

Jn^o Stewart
Jos: Palmer
ffra: Williams

March ye 17th 1690/1
proved this day before me
and alsoe recorded^s by me
G Muschamp

Sometime between February 8, 1693, when John Harris made his will, and August 13, 1695, John Alston married Mrs. Elizabeth Harris, widow of John Harris and sister of Francis Turgis, Esq.⁴ He was one of the sureties on the bond his wife executed to Governor Blake, on the last date given above, as executrix of Harris's estate.⁵

³On p. 94 of the 1672-1692 book of miscellaneous records of the governor of South Carolina.

⁴John Harris, in his will, dated February 8, 1692/3, appointed his "Loveing Brother M^r: ffancis Turges" one of his executors. (Records of the Governor and Ordinary of the Province of South Carolina, Probate Court, Charleston County, book 1, p. 111.) Francis Turgis married Elizabeth Axtell, daughter of Landgrave Daniel Axtell, and, after Turgis's death, she married Governor Blake.

⁵August 13, 1695, John Alston, gentleman, Mrs. Elizabeth Harris, alias Alston, John Guffell, and Thomas Hubbard, all of Berkeley County, executed their bond to Governor Blake for Mrs. Alston's faithful performance of her trust as executrix of the estate of John Harris, gentleman, late of the Province, deceased, her former hus-

John Alston died in 1718 or 1719, leaving issue:⁶

- I. John Alston, who married Deborah _____, and, upon her death, Mrs. Sarah Belin; died in 1750. (Issue.)
- II. William Alston, m. Esther LaBruce. (Issue.)
- III. Elizabeth Alston, m. Joseph LaBruce, April 6, 1821.⁷ (Issue.)
- IV. Mary Alston, m. Joseph Warnock. (Issue.)
- V. Peter Alston, m. Sarah Torquet;⁸ buried April 16, 1748. (Issue.)
- VI. Thomasin Alston, m. Abraham Warnock. (Issue.)

[As the descendants of the above John, William and Peter Alston have been traced in *The Alstons and Allstons of North and South Carolina* (Groves) they will not be traced here now, notwithstanding the crudities and errors of that work.]

band. Witness: John Hamilton. (Records of the Governor and Ordinary of the Province of South Carolina, P. C., C. Co., book 1, p. 212.)

In a work entitled *The Alstons and Allstons of North and South Carolina* Dr. Joseph A. Groves, of Selma, Ala., suggests that John Alston came over with Governor Archdale. That was purely a guess and the revelation made by the records above quoted shows the usual consequence of guessing in historical work—the wrong guess being usually made.

⁶John Alston, of St. John's, Berkeley, planter, in his will, made January 2, 1718, and proved November 30, 1719, mentions his children, John, William, Elizabeth, Mary, Peter and Thomasin Alston. (*Simms's Magazine*, Vol. II., p. 51.)

⁷Register of St. Thomas and St. Dennis's Parish. The name is there given Joseph Marbeuf. The correct name seems to have been La Bruce de Marbeuf, the first part being the family name and the latter part the place name. The place name was soon dropped.

⁸Register of St. Andrew's Parish.

as governor until Gov. Archdale's arrival 1695 and then as deputy in his new council.

In Nov. 1696 "Gov. Archdale return'd for England * * and Joseph Blake Esq: became a Proprietary¹ was looked upon as the fittest person to succeed him in the Government; in which office he behaved himself to the satisfaction of the Country, which he Govern'd with equal Prudence and Moderation" *Oldmixon*. His administration was disturbed only by the effort, urged by the Proprietors, to settle the constitutions to suit themselves and the people.² Many important laws were enacted. Thro' his influence the Huguenots were enfranchised and a maintenance settled on the church of England, for "tho' accounted in some measure a dissenter" "he possessed the most liberal sentiments towards men of a different persuasion." In June 1695 he had pursued for and ultimately gave to, the Presbyterian congregation in Charlestown the land on which the Circular church now stands. In 1698.9 when storm, earthquake, fire and pestilence afflicted the province, "Gov: Blake deeply sensible of the public distress tryed every art for alleviating the misery of the people and encouraging them to patience." Gov: Blake inherited a good estate, received large grants of land himself and acquired a considerable property. He in Dec 1698: Elizabeth widow of Francis Turgis Esqr (member of Assembly 1695) and dr. of Landgrave Daniel Axtell and

¹ Gov: Blake is styled Landgrave in a warrant 20 Nov. 1694 also in Act 17 Jan. 1694: *A 2 p 86* and Proprietor 10 March 1694: *Ibid 152*: He was probably made a Landgrave on succeeding Gov. Smith and Proprietor on succeeding Gov. Archdale, altho' the deed conveying Lord Berkeley's proprietorship was not made until 11 April 1698.

² 25 April 1697 Lds Proprs to Jos: Blake esq: one of the Landgraves of Carolina: express their satisfaction in the conduct of Mr Archdale and his placing his proprietary in such good hands as those of the person addressed; as he is now one of them urge him to get settled in Carolina by the Assembly constitutions which may tend both to the good of the people and themselves. *Hist Soc. Col. I. p. 141*.

³ 6 Dec: 1696 Jos: Blake esq: bond to John Alexander of Charlestown mercht £1250 17s, whereas Francis Turgis gent: late of this Province decd, dyed intestate whereby admin'n of his estate was com-

Rebecca his wife. "His Lady also was one of the greatest benefactors towards the ornaments of the church" *Oldmixon* She was a clever and energetic woman, careful of her husband's estates and the education of his only son, the young Proprietor. She died in 1726.¹ He left issue:

1. Joseph Blake, born 1700, his heir.

1. Rebecca Blake, b. 1699 m. March 1717 George Smith, esq: 2d son of Hon: Thomas Smith Landgrave and Governor of Carolina.²

Gov: Blake died 7th september 1700³ and was succeeded by his only son:

mitted to Elizabeth Turgis relict of ye sd Francis and whereas ye sd Francis Turgis left two daughters Elizabeth and Mary to whom by law $\frac{2}{3}$ of his estate did belong, estate £944; and whereas there is an Intermarriage intended between ye sd Joseph Blake and ye sd Elizabeth Turgis relict of ye sd Francis Turgis Now condition &c pay £314 14s 9d each to sd Elizabeth and Mary at 21 or marriage and meantime give and allow without any charge to ye sd children such maintenance and education in this Country as shall be thought requisite by ye sd Elizabeth Turgis Mother of ye sd children or ye sd John Alexander &c *Be 1693-704 p. 270* Elizabeth m. Thos Diston esq: mem: Council 1710.11; Mary m. 19 may 1713 Walter Izard esq: mem: Commons.

¹ 30 Sept. 1725 will Elizabeth Blake widow in the County of Berkeley in the province of Carolina &c to my drs Elizabeth Dicton and Mary Izard £500 each; to every one of my gd children living at my death £100 &c to the building of an Anabaptist parsonage house in Charles-Town £50 and to the Minister £20 per an: to my beloved Sister Elizabeth Weekley for life £20 per an: the said Elizabeth being the dr: of Benjamin Blake decd; to my beloved Son Joseph Blake all the rest & appoint him ex'or. Pd. 23 July 1726.

² 19 March 1716 bond £10,000. and Indenture between Hon: Landgrave Thomas Smith of Berkeley Co: & Mary his wife 1st part, the Honble the Lady Elizabeth Blake of Berkeley Co: wido & Walter Izard esq: 2d part, and Rebecca Blake dr. of ye said Eliz: Blake 3d part; whereas a marriage by ye Grace of God is intended shortly &c between George Smith one of the sons of Landgrave Thos Smith & the said Rebecca Blake Now &c to Geo. Smith paid. & by Eliz: Blake as ye marriage portion of Rebecca Blake &c joynture made to her &c plantation 737 acres &c

³ 27 Dec. 1699 will Joseph Blake of Plainsfield in ye County of Colleton: to my dr. Rebecca my proprietary in ye $\frac{1}{3}$ of ye Province of Carolina with all ye Royalties &c all my lands in Carolina with the

Hon^{ble} Colonel **Joseph Blake** of Plainsfield, Pawlets and Newington, Esq, J. P Lord Proprietor and Landgrave of Carolina, member of H. M. Hon: Council for South Carolina and Colonel of the Provincial forces.

He was born — — — 1700 and educated probably partly in England. Soon after coming of age he was appointed a Justice of the Peace and elected to the Assembly. Gov: Nicholson recommended him 25 June 1724, as one of 12 gentlemen fit to supply vacancies in the Council, he was afterwards Colonel of the Berkley regiment and 2^d April 1733 Gov: Johnson "recommends Col. Blake son of one of the late Proprietors" for the Council. In 1734 he was a trustee of the Free school at Dorchester and 10 Nov. 1736 was elected to the Commons for St Helena and sat until 3 June 1740 when he was appointed to the Council. In 1741 he was of the Committee to distribute the Fire relief fund. He went to England in 1746 and seems to have remained until 1748.¹ He continued of the Council until his death in 1751.

Col. Blake inherited his fathers Proprietorship and landed estates, besides a good estate from his mothers family including the Newington, M^t Boone and Cypress lands, some 6000 acres, and the fine Newington mansion, where he chiefly

buildings &c but if she die before 21 &c then to my cousin Wm Dry son of my sister Elizabeth Dry; to my beloved sister Mrs Elizabeth Dry £100; I remit what is due to me on ye Fresbyterian Meeting house in Charlestown and desire that title be made to the house &c my friend Dr Jas Williams; his dr. Margaret Williams £50; Mr Jas Stanyarne £50, assist my wife in managemt of my estate; all rest to my wife Elizabeth Blake & my dr. Rebecca; wife sole exe'x. Mem: I give to my affectionate Mother ye Lady Rebecca Axtell £20 to buy her & her waiting maid mourning and will in case my wife be delivered of a child and it be a son that he have my Proprietary and lands and $\frac{1}{3}$ residue of my estate. *Bk 1687-1700 p. 37.*

¹ 4 Oct: 1746 Gov Glen writes: Mr Blake and Mr Atkins have asked leave to go to England. Charlestown 31 March 1748 the Snow Nancy from Bristol was taken by Spaniards in sight of the Town the Hon: Joseph Blake who came passenger in her was landed here the same day by her long-boat. *S. C. Gazette.*

resided. His Proprietorship was surrendered to the King under Act of Parliament 1729.

He m. 16 June 1720 Sarah dr. of Daniel Lindrey esq: (mem: assembly 1703) and Elizabeth his wife¹ She predeceased him He had issue :

- i. Daniel Blake, his successor.
- ii. Robert Blake, d. infant s: p.²
- iii. William Blake, of whom presently.
 - i. Rebecca Blake, m. Ralph Izard esq: and left issue.
 - ii. Anne Blake, m 5 Nov: 1761 at Dorchester Adam Daniel esq: (mem: assembly 1763) she d.s.p? 17—³

Col. Blake died in 1751 and was succeeded by his eldest son:

Hon^{ble} **Daniel Blake** of Newington Esq: J. P. Landgrave of Carolina, member of H. M. Hon. Council for S. Carolina &c. was born at Newington ? 23 April 1731 ?⁴ and educated in England; He inherited Newington⁵ and a large estate. In 1755 he was Justice of the Peace and member of the

¹ June 16 1720 Then was married Joseph Blake & Sarah Lyndrey by ditto (Rev. Alex. Garden) License by Gov. Johnson *St Phil. Reg:*

² 31 Aug. 1738 Thomas Distons will: my uncle Joseph Blake; my cousins Daniel & Robert Blake.

³ 18 Dec. 1750 will Joseph Blake of Berkley Co: in prov: S. Carolina; estate be kept together until it raises £2000 ster. & £1000 proc'n money, exclusive of maintenance of my sons Daniel Blake & Wm Blake and dr. Anne Blake, interest towards their education & maintenance; £1000 to each at 21 &c; to son Daniel Blake plan'n I live on called Newington also Cypress and lands on Charlestown neck between High road & Cooper river. 1500 acres, 597 acres &c; to my son Wm Blake plan'n on Wadmelaw & New cut called Plainsfield, land on Charlestown neck betw High road & Ashly river; to dr Rebecca Izard 1873 acres Granville Co: &c; to my dr Anne Blake 1000 acres &c rest of real estate to sons Daniel & Wm Blake; household goods & plate to sons & dr. Anne; coach & horses to son Daniel; rest personal estate to my four children &c exrs dr Rebecca Izard, son Daniel Blake. son Ralph Izard. Pd 30 Aug. 1751. *Bk 1747.52 p. 448.*

⁴ Daniel ye son of Joseph and Sarah Blake of Dorchester baptised Oct ye 24, 1731. *St Andrews Register*

⁵ The stately brick mansion, with its fine grounds and avenue of four rows of live oaks, was one of the finest in Carolina; long a picturesque ruin, it has now been destroyed.

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