

Cleveland

Cleveland

November 16, 1982

SUBJECT: OLIVER CROMWELL CLE(A)VELAND
Document: 5A

Family Records Division
Ga. State Dept. of Archives and History
330 Capitol Avenue SE
Atlanta, Ga. 30334

Dear Sir:

After doing extensive genealogical research on the Cle(a)veland family, I felt compelled to write this letter in hopes that it might save someone else from making a mistake in their research.

My g-g-g-grandfather was Oliver Cromwell Cle(a)veland, so when I ran across that name, I automatically assumed he was my ancestor since neither his father or his son had the same name. I was wrong.

There were three men named Oliver Cromwell Cle(a)veland that were born within 70 years of each other. I have also found 2 other men named Oliver Cle(a)veland, but have been unable to determine if they had or used a middle name. As you will see later in this letter, the three men named Oliver Cromwell Cle(a)veland lived in the Georgia-Tennessee area which further complicates any research.

Apparently, the reason the name was so popular is due to a legend that the southern branch of the Cle(a)veland family is descended from an illegitimate son of Oliver Cromwell named Alexander Cleveland. I refer you to a book, "King's Mountain and Its Heroes" by Draper, which states that the Revolutionary War hero Col. Benjamin Cle(a)veland, who was one of the leaders of the victorious American forces at the Battle of Kings Mountain, claims as proof a book he had which was entitled "The Life and Adventures of Alexander Cleveland, Natural Son of Oliver Cromwell." Whether or not this is true could only be verified by genealogical research in England.

All the information I have uncovered on the three men named Oliver Cromwell Cle(a)veland is to follow. To make things easier, I will refer to them as Oliver 1, Oliver 2, and Oliver 3.

Oliver 1 was born 5-26-1786 in what is now Giles Co., Tenn., and was then Maury Co., Tenn. It is near Pulaski, Tenn., on the Alabama-Tennessee border. Since the Giles County Courthouse was burned by Union troops during the Civil War, little information on Oliver 1 is readily available. He is listed in The Genealogy of the Cleveland and Cleaveland Family by Edmund Janes Cleveland. It is a three volume set of books that is in the Georgia State Archives Library in Atlanta. That book lists him as the son of Larkin Cle(a)veland, the grandson of John, and the g-grandson of Alexander Cleveland, Jr.

Oliver 1 bought his father's 100 acre farm on Polk's Creek in Giles County, Tenn., so he apparently was a landowner during his lifetime. I have not checked census records for Tennessee for 1820 and later, but they are available.

(GWR)