DELEGAL

FAMILY HISTORY

1668 - 1830

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DELEGAL

The surname of Delegal has had so many changes in spellings due to changes in languages, geography, time, and phonetic spellings by illiterate record keepers that it is often bearly distinguishable. The original form was the French de I' Aigle,, however our present Georgia form has evolved to Delegal.

One distantly related branch of the family of Rugusta spells the name Delaigle. This branch of the family, however, is related only from beyond the seas as they are not descended from our Philip Delegal. They are descended from Nicholas Delaigle who did not arrive in Georgia until some seventy years after Philip. Nicholas' branch is nonetheless as interesting, colorful, and industrious as all other Delegals.

Nicholas Delaigle was a very successful and ruthless merchant and trader in the West Indies prior to 1800. In 1809 there was an uprising in Haiti. Seeing the need to vacate, Nicholas sewed gold pieces into his garments and bolts of cloth and used gold pieces

to replace buttons on all his clothing. He was smuggled into Savannah, but his reputation as a businessman had preceded him. The merchants of Savannah fearing his competition suggested he go up river. He settled in Augusta, where he amassed his fortune. The Delaigle home that he built is still listed in travel guidebooks of Richmond County. He has quite a few descendants in Richmond and Burke County, Georgia.

There are hundreds of old families in Georgia and South Carolina that can claim descent from Philip Belegal I, but the name Delegal itself is all but died out, due to a lack of proliferation of male heirs. Prior to the Revolutionary War the name was well known and respected in the colonies being associated with bravery, gallantry, and politics. Because of their Tory stance during the Revolution their public favor quickly eroded. By war's end the family was forced to scatter to Canada, Nova Scotia, the Maritimes, Grand Turk Islands, St. Augustine, Florida and most anywhere else that British loyalists could be safe.

THE DELEGAL FAMILY

The name Delegal or De La Gall had its origin in Normandy, the northern province of France. In its original form it was spelled de I' Rigle. It means "of the Eagle" and comes from the city of Laigle, France. The town was founded by Folfert de Beine on the river Risle in 1026. He built a castle or chateau to guard the valley of the river, and here he found an oak with an eagle's nest. From thereafter the castle became Castle of the Eagle. The word Rigle means eagle in French. The family coat of arms is an eagle on a helmet, a knight's torn mantle, and a bar across the center of the shield bearing three fleur de lis.

The family claims descent from Norwegian Vikings who invaded northern France during the ninth century A. D.

The first of the family to set foot in England was Eugoeunolf de l'Aigle, a Norman knight who had left his home in Laigle in the service of William the Bastard (later became William the Conquerer) in 1066. Eugoeunolf de l'Aigle was slain in the Charge of Senlac at the Battle of Hastings after landing in England. His son Richer de l'Aigle received the lands for his father's service and became owner of Penvensey Castle in England. But, several generations later

the family returned to Normandy to claim their Norman lands and holdings. Richer de l'Aigle II married Judith d'Ayaranches, whose family traced descent from Rollo the Red in Norway, 856 A. D. Richer's son, Gilbert De l'Aigle, while on his way to the Seige of Suzanne was shot in the eye and killed by the bow of a boyish opponent. As he lay dying, Gilbert begged his followers to forgive the youth as he (Gilbert) felt he was being punished for his sins. As soon as Gilbert died, the boy was put to death.

The first of our unbroken Delegal line was the Marquis Isaac de l'Aigle of Normandy. He became a Captain in the Huguenot Regiment that landed fourteen thousand strong in Forfar, England on November 5, 1668 in support of William, the Prince of Orange. There were six officers among the fourteen thousand. Five had been French noblemen, including Isaac, and one had been a prince. When William of Orange became King William III of England he continued to retain his Huguenot Regiment as his most loyal troops. When James II raised trouble in Ireland it was his Huguenot Regiment that was victorious at the Battle of Boyne. Captain Issac de l'Aigle's commanding officer was a French nobleman, who had been the former Marshall of France.

is troops sterling victory in the Irish invasion this French

nobleman was given the title Earl of Galway. Captain Isaac De l'Aigle served under Prince Eugene in the War of the Spanish Succession and Queen Anne's War.

Captain Isaac de l'Aigle started a family tradition as British Army Officers that was to continue for four generations in the Delegal family. His son, Thomas Philip Delegal I, and his elder brother by seventeen years, Andrew Delegal, both were commissioned as Lieutenants in His Majesty's Regiment of Foot. By 1710 both had risen to the rank of Captain. Both were in command of Fort Frederick in South Carolina in 1710. Captain Andrew Delegal died in 1727 in Charleston leaving a widow. Andrew's widow continued to draw her husband's pension the rest of her life in Beaufort, South Carolina. This left sole command of Fort Frederick to his younger brother (our ancestor) Captain Thomas Philip Delegal I.

CAPTRIN THOMAS PHILIP BELEGAL I.

Thomas Philip Delegal by a declaration he made in 1741 in the Parrish of St. Margaret, Westminister in the County of Middlesex gave his birth date as 1684. Most all records in the American colonies that refer to his name simply as Philip Delegal I. Philip and his brother, Andrew, first arrived in America in 1701 in Mannikin Town, Virginia. Mannikin Town was located on the James River and was the landing place of about six hundred Huguenots from 1699 to 1701. Some remained in Virginia, but most fanned out southward. Many took up residence on the French Santee north of Charleston, South Carolina.

In Charleston Philip Delegal I met the Clement(e) family, who were also of French descent. As early as 1687 Jean Clemente and Henri Clemente both received grants of seventy acres each in the town of Charleston. These two were brothers and one was the father of Eleanor Clement. About 1711 Eleanor Clement became the bride of Philip Delegal I. They had eight children in fairly rapid succession. Several of the children were baptized in St. Philip's Church.

Since Philip I was a career soldier he was away from his family a great deal fighting in various campaigns, where ever the

Empire was involved. By 1728 his permanent home base was his plantation in South Carolina. Their plantation home was known as Philip's Bluff. It's exact location is not known but was located on the South Carolina coast near Point Royal and Fort Frederick. It is believed to have been at what is now Veredier's Bluff near the naval property outside of Beaufort, S. C. or possibly on the northern end of Hilton Head Island. References are made to give evidence to both locations.

Both Philip I and Philip II were back in England by 1731, because in 1732 they accompanied Colonel James Oglethorpe in his first crossing of the Atlantic. In November, 1732 the Ship Anne set sail from Gravesend, England carrying Oglethorpe and his colonists. Listed among those on board were Lt. Philip Delegal and his son Ensign Philip Delegal. They listed their home as Beaufort, South Carolina, where after several weeks voyage the Ship Ann first made port. Both Philip I and Philip II owned town lots in Beaufort. In February of 1733 the ship's company cast anchor off Yamacraw Bluff. The first night on Georgia soil they posted sentries at wood's edge to protect them from curious Indians. But it was not Indians that prevented them all from sleeping that night. It was the noise from hundreds of alligators sprawled along the steep muddy banks of the Savannah River that they had disturbed when they came ashore.

In the Spring of 1736 Oglethorpe settled on St. Simon's Island building Fort Frederica as a buffer against Spanish invasion from the south. Captain Philip Delegal and Lt. Philip Delegal were the first British officers to set foot on the Sea Island of Georgia. At this time the senior Philip was in command of Fort Frederick in South Carolina.

In April of 1736 word reached Beaufort from merchant ships that the Spanish were starting a steam roller attack northward from their Florida bases. Philip Delegal II was in Beaufort; he immediately crowded one of the scout boats belonging to Fort Frederick with about thirty men. They rowed day and night without sleeping until they reached Frederica. Their boat had been spotted and Oglethorpe was waiting at the shore to meet them. Without even getting out of the boat Delegal and his exhausted men proceeded down the inland waterways accompanied by Oglethorpe in his long boat to the southern tip of St. Simon's Island. Construction was immediately begun to fortify this position and it became Delegal's Fort. As soon as the Fort was ready the senior Philip brought his

soldiers of the South Carolina Independant Company from Port Royal to man the fort.

Oglethorp's Regiment known as Rangers. (See PHILIP II section on the Battle of Bloody Marsh). In 1742 when the garrison at Frederica was no longer needed some of the companies of soldiers were broken up and sent to other military units. As incentive to help settle the Georgia backwoods they were offered land grants. Philip II stayed in Georgia; Philip I, a seasoned officer, elected to stay with the Army.

Philip Delegal I military exploits continued over the next fifteen years. In 1745 his company was sent to Canseaux (now Canso) on Cape Breton Island off of Nova Scotia. There they reinforced Lord Pepperel and successfully seized the great French fortress, Fort of Louisbourg. In the 1750's Philip I was looking toward retirement when he made application to the King for a grant of land in Georgia "as near my son Philip as possible". The land was granted on the Ogeechee River, but it is doubtful that he ever saw his property. By 1760 he was stationed in the Channel Islands. He placed his two younger sons, George and Edward, in charge of his Georgia lands. His wife, daughters, and younger sons were still living at Philip's Bluff

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Plantation in South Carolina.

In January of 1762 as a Captain in Lt. General Parson's Regiment of Invalids at St. Peter's Port, Isle of Guernsey, England, Philip Delegal I became ill and made his will. He died there on January 22, 1762. His wife Eleanor in South Carolina and his son Philip in Georgia were named as his executors. He left all his children land and interest in the Bank of England. He had already transferred by deed his plantation of Philips' Bluff to his wife. He left his gold watch, swords, plate, jewels, linen, and wearing apparel to his son Philip II. It took several years for these articles to reach Philip II at his plantation home on Skidaway Island, Georgia. Also, in his will he gave money to the Poor on the Island of Guernsey. In the records of St. Helena's Church at Beaufort it shows that Mrs. Eleanor Delegal continued to make quarterly contributions to the poor the remainder of her life.

Before the final settlement of this estate could be made Eleanor Delegal died at Philip's Bluff about 1769 or 1770. Their son John, a mariner, had died at sea. Soon to follow was their son Edward and co-executor of the will, Philip II. Charge of the estate subsequently fell to their son George. George only had one child,

George Jr., who had died at age four. George tried unsuccessfully to divert the remainder of his father's estate to his niece, Sophia Devaux. She was the granddaughter of Philip I through his daughter Sophia (Delegal) Devaux. The children of Thomas Philip Delegal I and Eleanor (Clement) Delegal were:

- Children: 1. Thomas Philip Delegal II
 - 2. George Delegal
 - 3. Edward Delegal
 - 4. Catherine Delegal



- 5. John Delegal
- 6. Margaret "Marsh" Delegal
- 7. Isaac Delegal
- 8. Sophia Delegal

(See accompanying chart)

COLONEL THOMAS PHILIP DELEGAL 11

Philip Belegal II was born about 1713 in Charleston, South Carolina. By 1732 he was commissioned as an Ensign. Much about Philip II's life was detailed in the section on his father, Philip I, and won't be repeated here.

the marsh. The Battle of Bloody Marsh ensued and was decisive in keeping Georgia as a British colony.

About 1743 Philip II left the British army and received a land grant of 500 acres on the Little Ogeechee River. In 1745 he gave his residence as Isabella on the Little Ogeechee River. He increased his holdings there to 850 acres and in July of 1769 he obtained another 1000 acres at Rocky Comfort. By this time he also owned 43 slaves. He had a town house and lots in Savannah, where he attended a slave auction on August 12, 1755.

He bought two negroes at auction from William Lee and paid 35 pounds sterling each for a Negro woman named Aubah and a negro girl named Princes.

After leaving the army Philip II quickly rose to the rank of Captain and eventually Colonel in the Colonial Militia of Georgia. This militia was the only law and order in the backwoods of Liberty County and along the outer frontier of the Altamaha River.

Upon his father's death he and his mother, Eleanor became executors of the estate. On May 1, 1764 they both gave power of attorney to Abraham LeMessuier of London, England to collect debts in England belonging to the estate. In a letter dated July 6, 1765

Philip II had arrived at the town of Frederica in April of 1736, where he acquired a town lot on Broad Street. He married his first wife, Jane Daly, in 1739 and at least one of their children, Catherine was born in Frederica. Some of the older children of their family probably were as well.

In December of 1739 under Colonel Oglethorpe, Delegal and his men marched within a few miles of St. Augustine, Florida, but the Spanish refused to encounter them. After inflicting a few casualties and killing some horses and cattle the British troops withdrew. Again in January of 1740 they pushed into Florida capturing several small and lightly manned outlying Spanish forts.

On July 16, 1742 the Spanish Governor Montiano sailed into Jekyll Sound with three thousand Spanish, Indians, and armed Negroes. Lt. Delegal's company of one hundred and sixty men fell back to within a mile and a half of Frederica. Here, reinforced by forty Scottish Highlanders from Darien and about thirty Salzburgers from Ebeneezer they waited for the Spanish. Oglethorpe credited his "trusted Lt. Delegal's cleverness in making the Spanish believe that his forces were much larger than they really were. "On July 18, 1742 this small force surrounded and attacked the Spanish as they crossed

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LeMessuier advised Philip II that John Colcraft had made a payment to the estate.

By now a Colonel, Philip Delegal II served in the Colonial General Assembly of Georgia representing the Sea Islands of Georgia. He had bought 250 acres on Skidaway Island on January 31, 1767 from Anna Maria Lang, the widow of John Lang a carpenter from Savannah. At a meeting at Tontee's Tavern in Savannah on July 4, 1775 Col. "De La Gall" officially represented the Sea Islands of Georgia. After giving up his seat in the legislature he served in the positions that would now correspond to Commissioner of Highways and Commissioner of Education.

From 1767 his plantation and home for most of the year became Skidaway Island, where his home had a "fine view of the ocean". His property lay in full view of his house and eventually amounted to about 4000 acres. It was beyond what is now called Delegal's Cut and Green Island.

The night of December 17, 1778 Philip Delegal II again affected the course of Georgia history. This time his actions were to change the future of the Delegal family for generations to come. The entry in the journal of the Revolutionary Congress was that Philip

Delegal, Esquire had "acted in a manner highly improper". He had used lanterns to aid "a plundering party of British troops and South Carolina Tories" to land on the Island of Skidaway and march on Savannah laying seige to the city. He was "ordered not to leave town" and "ordered to appear before the board for that the Matter be further considered". He was given a parole, but under the Articles of Confiscation and Banishment of 1782 he had 4000 acres and 280 slaves seized and forfeited to the state. He was found guilty of treason and made "ineligible to vote or hold office or place of trust, profit or honour in the state until three years after present war". He was also named in the Amercement Bill among British loyalists made "to pay a rate of 8% on all property real and personal". Less prominent and influential Tories were put to death by the state.

Most of his family, including the Tory families of South Carolina that his sisters had married into fled the state and country. His daughter, Mary, had married Captain John Penn who was a Tory and the nephew of Governor William Penn, the founder of the Pennsylvania colony. They fled to St. Augustine, Florida. Philip's daughter, Catherine, had married John Liechtenstein, also a Tory, and they fled to Nova Scotia.

It is ironic that during the brief period that the British held Savannah the will of Philip Delegal I was among the records stolen. The British crated all of Georgia's colonial records and immediately shipped them back to England. Of the five Will books taken only two have survived. Twenty years later the book containing Philip I will and one other Will book were discovered stored in the Tower of London. After the War of 1812 they were returned to Georgia.

Philip Delegal II died on Skidaway Island about 1782 or 1783, still petitioning the state to remove his name from the Act of Confiscation. He second wife was Margaret Curtis.

Their children were: (By first wife, Jane Daly)

- 1. Philip Andrew Noble Delegal
- 2. Catherine Delegal
- 3. David Delegal
 - 4. Edward Delegal
 - 5. Judith Delegal
 - 6. Eleanor Clement Delegal
 - 7. Jane Delegal
 - 8. Mary Delegal

(By second wife, Margaret Curtis)

9. Henry Delegal (c1770 - c1818)

LIEUTENANT DAVID DELEGAL

David Delegal was born in Georgia about 1743 and grew up in Liberty County on his father's plantation on the Ogeechee River. Upon reaching manhood his father gave him 100 acres on the Great Ogeechee. On January 31, 1765 David Delegal was appointed an Ensign in Captain Joseph Sumner's company of Georgia Colonial Militia. By September 13 of the same year he was made a lieutenant in Captain Josiah Tattnall's company of militia.

David Delegal married Abigail Greene, the daughter of Mrs. Ann Greene. In 1787 David was made executor of his mother-in-law's estate. The marriage took place in Savannah, Georgia.

David apparently saw the need to have his property taken out of his name during the Revolutionary War since he and his family took an unpopular stance siding with the King. Between June 18, 1771 and October 16, 1780 he transferred the following to his wife Abigail: 17 slaves and 523 acres on the Oconee River; 10 slaves and 500 acres on the Little Ogeechee next to Christopher Dawson; and 430 acres on the Little Ogeechee on Sapelo Neck next to Roderick McIntosh. At various times he also owned property in McIntosh,

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Effingham, and Burke Counties. When his father, Philip II moved to

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Skidaway Island, David and his brother, Edward, were given joint charge of looking after their father's wilderness property in Liberty County.

David and his older brother Philip were also named as British loyalists and Tories in the Amercement Bill along with their father. After several board hearings, however, the brothers' names were removed, David in 1782 and Philip III in 1783. When removed in 1782 David was given the choice of serving in the war or finding a substitute. No record can be found of him serving. David and Philip III continued to petition and appeal the act against their father after his death. In January and again in July of 1783 David's petition to return his father's lands were rejected. On January 21, 1784 their petition concerning confiscation was referred to committee, but it was not until February 10, 1787 that the names of Philip Delegal II and John McDonald (he had also arrived on the Ship Anne with Oglethorpe) were taken out of banishment from the state and given back any confiscated lands that had not already been sold at public auction.

One of David's sons, also named Philip, left Georgia during
this time and went to the Grand Turk Islands where other Tory
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relatives had fled. In 1804 he returned home to Liberty County to visit his father and to buy cattle to stock his plantation in the islands.

Another of David's sons, Edward, married his own first cousin, Jane Delegal. She was the daughter of David's brother, who was also named Edward. This Jane Delegal is referred to in several records as "blind Jane". She was about 10 years older than her husband Edward. Edward and Jane's three sons were all Confederate officers. They were Major Thomas Philip Delegal, Colonel Edward Delegal, Jr. (who was a staff officer to the Governor of Georgia), and Colonel Henry Harday Delegal, M.D. The later Dr. Henry Delegal is buried at Old Midway Church Cemetery.

David Delegal owned property both in Liberty County and in McIntosh County in 1803. It is believed that his home was located between Midway and South Newport. David Delegal died in Liberty County about 1812. The children of David and Abigail Delegal were:

Children: 1. Edward Delegal

2. Philip Delegal

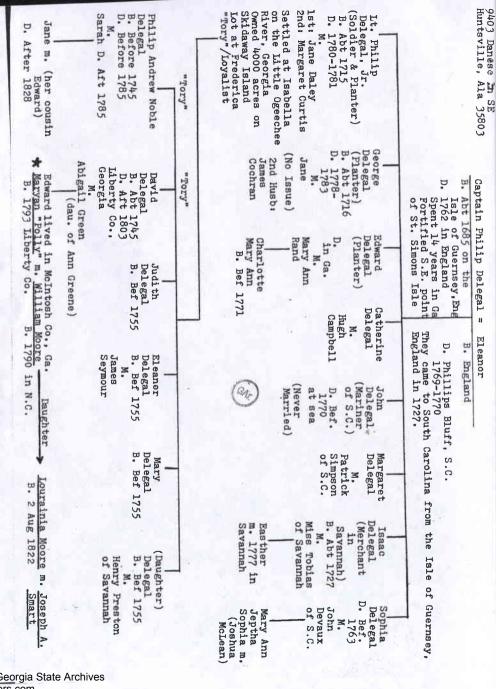
HENRY DELEGAL (c1770 - c1818)

Henry Delegal was the son of Philip Delegal II and his

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Henry Delegal married Mrs. Elizabeth (Bacon) Bacon (b.1777) in Liberty County on September 8, 1806. Elizabeth's maiden name was Bacon and her first husband was her distant cousin, Samuel Bacon, Sr. Henry and Elizabeth Delegal were living at Spring Hill (Savannah) on November 30, 1814 when her son, Samuel Bacon, Jr., died of fever. Samuel Bacon Jr. was born in June of 1796.

By February 9, 1819 Henry Delegal had died and left minor children. On that date his widow had applied for the orphans of Henry Delegal to be included in the contemplated land lottery that was to take place in 1820-21. She also applied for her minor children by her first husband Samuel Bacon, Sr. At this time she was living with her children in Tattnall County, Georgia. Her brother Johnathan B. Bacon had received a land grant in Tattnall County in 1816 and married there in 1818-19. Elizabeth (Bacon) Delegal died between 1830 and 1840, probably while living with her son Nathaniel Bacon in Bryan County, Georgia. Elizabeth (Bacon) Delegal was the mother of Mary Ann, the wife of William Moore. (See MOORE sheets).



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