



# Alderson

Roots & Branches



## Editor's Corner

Welcome to the second issue of *Alderson Roots & Branches*! With the support of numerous people responding to the trial issue, it is now possible to continue publication of the newsletter. I particularly appreciate the offer of help from almost all of you, and thank you for sending articles, family group sheets, and other relevant material to use in this and future issues.

This issue introduces several regular columns I hope will prove useful to Alderson researchers: one is *Alderson Events*, which provides a look at the lives of Aldersons and their families through biographical articles; *Of Alderson Interest*, providing information on books, articles, events and other material of general interest; and *Queries*, where readers are welcome to submit questions concerning their research problems. Queries can be sent in care of the editor and will be printed as space permits.

Future issues will continue to present compiled genealogical and historical data such as vital statistics and census records. A number of readers descendant from other Alderson lines suggested including material on their families; these other families, who in some cases intermarried with descendants of John and Jane Alderson, will also be looked at. Especially for the Kentucky/Tennessee region, this should allow researchers to distinguish a confusing array of Alderson lines.

I would like to add a technical note on graphics used in the newsletter. Photographs, drawings, maps, and other black-and-white or color material can be reproduced (scanned) for inclusion. If you have any old family or tombstone photos, Bible records, wills, letters or other hard-to-obtain material, they can be shared with others by providing me with either an original (which will be returned) or a high-quality photocopy. I hope to begin a series reproducing original marriage bonds, which are often a treasure trove of information. This material also adds a personal touch to the Alderson story and provides primary evidence for documenting our history. ☐

## Thomas Alderson, Revolutionary Veteran

Thomas Alderson, son of John Alderson and Jane (Curtis) Alderson, is best known to his descendants as a veteran of the Revolutionary War who was present at Yorktown at the surrender of Gen. Cornwallis to George Washington. His life is not as well documented as other Aldersons, but the outline of his life history has been preserved in his application for a veterans pension in 1832, a few years before his death. Thomas did not follow his father and brother into the Baptist ministry, although he was a charter member of the Greenbrier Baptist Church at its establishment in 1781. He lived most of his life in Monroe Co., VA, now WV, and his descendants have spread throughout the country.

Thomas was born 22 August 1744 in Bucks Co., PA.<sup>1</sup> This was probably the period when his father, the Rev. John Alderson Sr., was minister at the New Britain Church in central Bucks County. Among the Alderson family's likely neighbors in the New Britain area were the Davis family, who were later joined through marriage to the Aldersons.

At age 12, Thomas accompanied his parents when they left Pennsylvania to settle in Virginia. His statement as an old man noted that as a child he moved to "Shenandoah Co., and later to Rockingham."<sup>2</sup> Details of his childhood in the Shenandoah Valley remains unknown, but one can imagine how strikingly different life on the

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1 Based on a comparison of the handwriting in Thomas' pension application, some researchers have named *Berks* Co., PA (established 1752) as Thomas' birthplace. Although the pension application does appear to read as *Burks*, this is most likely a misspelling (or unusual letter form) for *Bucks*.

2 In 1756, the area around Linville and Smith Creeks was located in the northern part of Augusta County, VA, (established 1738) which later became Rockingham Co. in 1778. Though no land records are available for verification, it is possible that John Alderson first settled on the lower reaches of Smith and Linville Creeks, which was located in neighboring Frederick county, also formed in 1738. Shenandoah County was created from Frederick in 1772. Thomas may have been referring to the entire area as "Shenandoah", or to the county name as it existed after 1778. Note that John Alderson, Sr. was an elector from Frederick Co. in the 1757 elections to the Virginia House of Burgesses.

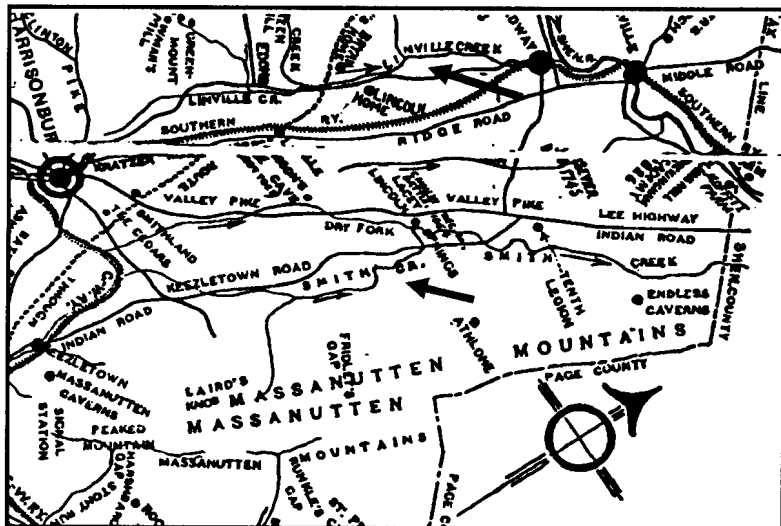


Figure 1  
Location of Smith and Linville Creeks (arrows), Rockingham Co. VA. (Taken from Historical Map of Rockingham Co. VA, in J.W. Wayland, *Virginia Valley Records*, 1930.)

frontier was from the life in Bucks Co., which had been settled for over a hundred years.

In the same year that the Aldersons came to Virginia, John Davis, Baptist minister at the Pennepak Church in Philadelphia, moved to Baltimore (later Harford) Co., MD to join with a Baptist Church there. John Davis and the senior John Alderson must have been acquainted, perhaps from Bucks Co. or from activities in the Baptist Church, and they continued this acquaintance after moving to Virginia and Maryland. In 1767, at age 23, Thomas was back in Baltimore Co., where he married Hannah Davis, daughter of John and Jane Davis, on 15 December.<sup>3</sup> Thomas may have stayed a year or so in Maryland, but he was back in the Shenandoah Valley by 1769 when his son Davis was born.<sup>4</sup> His presence is also attested by a survey taken for Thomas of 80 acres in Augusta Co. lying on Daniel James' branch of Smith's Creek, and neighboring Jacob Woodley, Looker, and Carols [Carrolls]; the survey was entered in the land book for what is now Rockingham Co. on 2 Nov 1770 (Figure 1).<sup>5</sup> In January of the following year, his daughter Jane was born,<sup>6</sup> while in 1772, Thomas was likely in at-

tendance at the baptism of his wife Hannah at the Linville Creek Church.<sup>7</sup> On 11 July 1773, Thomas's daughter Naomi was born at his Smith Creek residence<sup>8</sup>, followed by son Abel on 14 August 1775; Thomas' wife Hannah then gave birth to daughter Hannah on 7 October 1777, shortly after which she died.

Thomas apparently maintained his connections with Maryland, since by 22 November 1778 he had returned to marry Sarah (Bond) Smithson, widow of Thomas Smithson, Jr., in Baltimore Co.<sup>9</sup> The newly married couple probably returned to Rockingham Co. a short time after, since son John was born there on 6 September 1779, and Thomas participated as buyer in the sale of the estate of old Augusta resident and neighbor John Harrison on 16 September.<sup>10</sup>

Thomas' life on Smith Creek changed abruptly in September 1780, when he was drafted for three months into military service under Capt. Jeremiah Ragan; he was marched to Richmond, where he stood guard at a jail holding "Robers and Torys, 5 of whom (as he was told) were condemned to be hanged." The lack of provisions faced by the Continental Army at the time can be imagined from an incident related in Thomas' pension application: "A short time before his three months had expired, a proposition was made by a regular officer, his name not recollected, that if the Militia would give up their Blankets and tent cloths for the use of the Army that they might go home, which was agreed by the Militia officers." Thomas returned home in time for Christmas, but he was likely unaware until his return that his father had died in his absence. In June 1781, just a few weeks before son Curtis was born on July 4<sup>11</sup>, he was again drafted, this time for a period of 20 days, and marched again to Richmond. Thomas arrived in Richmond during or shortly after the burning of the city by the British, and he left there with the army to march on to Williamsburg. At Kent Court House (now New Kent, VA), the army ran into the British, and the troops, under the command of Col. Harrison of Rockingham Co., were ordered "to turn a little to the left where they remained about two hours for the British to get out of the way." This incident was followed by a skirmish at a place named Hot Water, where Thomas was finally discharged.

3 Baltimore Co. Marriages

4 1850 Washington Co., VA census, "b. VA".

5 *Rockingham Co. Land Book O-I*, p. 174, Harrisonburg, VA.

6 1850 Greenbrier Co., VA census, "b. VA", 1860 Greenbrier Co., VA census, "b. VA". Jane's death record, provided by her son, notes her place of birth as "MD" (*Greenbrier Co., WV, Deaths*, Book 1A, p. 24, line 97). Calculating backwards her age at death gives a birthdate of 22 January 1771, while Fred Smithson, in a letter dated 14 Jan 1958, gives it as 26 January.

7 Harrison, *Settlers on the Long Grey Trail*, p. 233.

8 1850 Richland Co., OH census, age 67, "b. VA"; Smithson's letter provides the date.

9 *St. John's [MD] Parish Records, Marriages, 1777-1799*.

10 *Monroe Co., WV, Deaths*, 1855, Book 1, page 9, line 77, age "76 years, 10 days, b. Rockbridge Co, VA" (probably error for Rockingham). Chalkey, *Records of Augusta Co., VA 1745-1800*, Baltimore: Genealogical Pub. Co., 1965 (org. 1912), Vol. III, p. 171.

11 Smithson, 1958. He provides the following dates for Thomas's other children: James, b. 14 Oct 1783; Ruth, b. 12 Dec 1785; Frances, b. 15 Dec 1788; Clemency, b. 22 April 1792. Smithson was the grandson of Margaret Alderson, daughter of James Alderson, Thomas' son. No other documented source for these dates appears to exist.

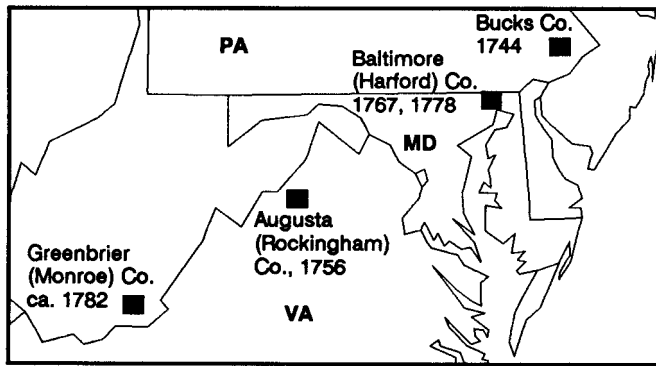


Figure 2  
Thomas Alderson's places of birth, travel, and residence.

Thomas' final period of service witnessed the birth of a new nation. In September 1781, he was again drafted for three months under Capt. Coger, and was appointed by Col. Daniel Smith to be quartermaster to the troops. The troops, again marching to Williamsburg by way of the Swift Run Gap in the Blue Ridge Mountains,<sup>12</sup> continued on to Yorktown, where the troops joined with those of General George Washington in the final stand against Lord Cornwallis' British troops. In Yorktown, Thomas joined a scouting party which lost several men as the soldiers, under the command of Col. Lewis and Major Lockard, attempted to take a redoubt. Thomas Alderson was one of a historic few who witnessed the surrender of Cornwallis on 19 October 1781. His service ended with his assignment to guard duty for British troops, but he was soon appointed to take care of sick soldiers and to try to get them home. Thomas notes in his pension application that he spent two thousand dollars to get the sick soldiers home, and received nothing but \$1.25 in return from a grateful soldier.

According to Thomas's pension application, after the war he moved to Greenbrier Co., "that part which is now Monroe, and has resided where he now lives for forty-nine years." (Figure 2) This would place his move in 1782 at the earliest, a date consistent with his statement that he returned from Yorktown "about the 1st of December [1781]." The minutes of the Greenbrier Baptist

Church, however, note that Thomas was a charter member of the Church, organized on 14 November 1781.<sup>13</sup> Whether Thomas erred in his recollection of the events following Yorktown or he was considered a charter member *in absentia* of the Greenbrier Church can not be determined, but given the date of Cornwallis' surrender, it is unlikely that Thomas could have finished the terms of his enlistment, returned to Rockingham, and moved to Greenbrier in less than one month's time.

Thomas quickly adjusted to the possibilities on the Greenbrier frontier. Property being plentiful and cheap, most settlers were able to acquire much larger tracts than available farther East. In May 1785, Thomas' nephew George Alderson, who was prominent in the early settlement of Kanawha county, entered for him 100 acres near 2-Mile Creek of Elk River (in present-day Kanawha Co. near Charleston) and 200 acres on Twentymile Creek of Gauley River (now in Nicholas Co. near Belva.)<sup>14</sup> Perhaps the freedom of the frontier was instrumental in affecting his behavior, for which he received criticism from the Church; in September 1788, his "unruly passions threatening the Church and refusing to hear the Church" led to his excommunication.<sup>15</sup> At the time this was a serious charge—bringing one's post-life existence into question—but Thomas eventually repented and was received back into the church. In 1789, Thomas had a survey made of a 320-acre tract of land lying on the south side of the Greenbrier River near Wolf Creek; as

assignee of George Alderson, he received this land (granted in 1793) as part of the same Land Office Warrant for 1,916.5 acres, dated 30 July 1783, from which George had patented his and Thomas' other lands in Kanawha and Nicholas counties (Figure 3).

The Court Orders of 24 April 1792 named Thomas as the appointed overseer of the "road from the river at John Alderson's to the foot of Fishbrough Hill, with the titheables from David Jerritt's and up the river, including Graham's company to clear and keep same in repair."<sup>16</sup> Although Fishbrough Hill cannot be identified on modern maps, it is likely near or along the present road from Alderson to the mouth of Wolf Creek, which may

pass what was once Thomas' property. In August 1793, Thomas and wife Sarah appeared in court at the suit of James Kitchen against James Dyche, who seem to have

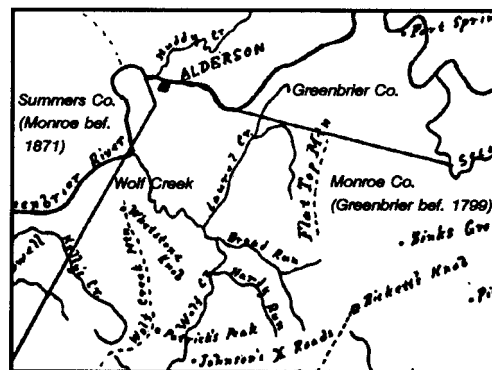


Figure 3  
Location of Wolf Creek District, Monroe Co., WV, residence of Thomas Alderson after 1782. (from Oren Morton, *History of Monroe Co., WV.*)

12 Now crossed by US Route 33 at the border of Rockingham and Greene Co., VA.

13 *Minutes of the Greenbrier Baptist Church*, in Thomas W. Dixon, Jr., *The Rise and Fall of Alderson, West Virginia*, McClain Printing Co., Parsons, WV, 1967, p. 14

14 Helen Stinson, *Land Entry Book, Greenbrier Co., WV*, pp. 153, 155

15 Dixon, p.17.

16 Helen Stinson, *Greenbrier Co., WV Court Orders: 1780-1850*, p. 128

to a for which he now claims a pension  
 sworn to and subscribed before me  
 5<sup>th</sup> day July 1833  
 William Ellis J.P.

Figure 4  
 Sworn and signed testimony by Thomas Alderson to William Ellis, Justice of the Peace for Monroe Co., VA, in support of his Revolutionary War pension application. (VA Application S8020)

spent much of the 1790s exchanging suits.<sup>17</sup> Two years later, in August 1795, Thomas and nephew George Alderson served as jurors on a case that found James Mase [Mays?] guilty in his suit against Daniel Fear. As this case ended, Thomas found himself appointed as processioner in a district laid off within the bounds of Capt. Elijah Garten's militia company.<sup>18</sup> The following spring, in March 1796, Sarah Alderson received \$1.06 in payment for her attendance at another suit by James Dyche against James Kitchen, which found Kitchen not guilty and ordered the plaintiff to "take nothing for his false clamour." That summer, Thomas acted as assignee of Joseph Parson in accepting a bounty for a wolf head.<sup>19</sup>

Thomas' added more property to his estate in 1798 when he was granted 86 acres on Lick Creek, north over Keeney's mountain in present-day Summers county.<sup>20</sup> He then appeared as plaintiff in court in May 1799, when he argued cases against David Jarrett and Bradley Meredith on behalf of his son John. Both cases were dismissed.<sup>21</sup>

In 1799, the area where Thomas lived on Wolf Creek south of the Greenbrier River was separated as part of the new county of Monroe. In a census of resident property-holders in 1799, Thomas appears along with John and Joseph Alderson.<sup>22</sup> He is listed with three tithables—men aged 16 and above—referring to Thomas and perhaps sons John, age 20, and Curtis, age 18. Son Abel, age 24 in 1799, was evidently living in Harford Co., Maryland, with or near the Davis family.

Virtually nothing is known of Thomas' life up to the final years of his life. He and wife Sarah were enumerated along with two daughters (probably Frances and Clemency) in the 1810 census of Monroe Co., and in

May 1811 at the age of 66, he and Thomas Creigh appeared in Lewisburg court to prove a deed presented by John Hutsepilllar.<sup>23</sup> In 1820, at age 76, Thomas was head of a household including wife Sarah and perhaps son John. By 1830, Thomas and Sarah no longer lived on their own; both, now in their 80s, are found living with John M. Alderson in Monroe Co.<sup>24</sup>

Fifty-five years after Independence, the aging veteran had yet to be compensated for his role in the Revolution. Recognition came late. On 7 June 1832, the US Congress passed its final pension act for Revolutionary War veterans. Until this date, only officers of the Continental Army and invalids had been eligible for a full pension, but this act extended a lifetime pension to all surviving war veterans. In October 1832, Thomas made his first application for the pension, appearing in front of Henry Alexander, Justice of the Peace of Monroe Co. in Union. Here he recounted the outline of his life, including the details of his revolutionary service. Not having any written proof of his service, Thomas relied as well on the testimony of his friends Hugh Caperton and James Shanklin as to the veracity of his deposition. In July 1833, Thomas appeared again in front of the Justice of the Peace of Monroe County to swear out the same declaration he had given the previous fall. (See Figure 4)<sup>25</sup> Evidently, this final step was sufficient, and his pension was granted to him in August 1833. The pension was retroactive to March 1832 at a rate of \$20 per year; Thomas received a total of \$30 including the half-year installment for March to September 1833.

Thomas had little time remaining to enjoy the fruits of his pension. In 1835, his wife Sally died.<sup>26</sup> Thomas' life came to an end in 1837, at the age of 92 or 93.<sup>27</sup> Neither his nor his wife's burial site has ever been found, and it is likely secluded on one of the wooded hills near their home.

Thomas was the last known surviving child of the immigrant John Alderson, who arrived when America was still in its infancy and the idea of an independent nation had not yet been born. His children followed the growing nation west, bringing with them their heritage from the hills of Monroe. □

17 Stinson, p. 146

18 Stinson, p. 172, 174. In the older Eastern states like Virginia, property boundaries were marked off in metes and bounds surveys, which relied on local landmarks like trees and streams to describe location. This meant that after a period of time, the owner would have to retrace the property to reestablish boundary marks. This was often done in the company of officials, neighbors, or surveyors, and was described as *processioning*.

19 Stinson, p. 180, 181, 188

20 Greenbrier Co. Deeds, Book 4, p. 104. Thomas' son Curtis eventually settled on Keeney's Knob, while daughter Jane (wife of Robert Withrow) lived near Curtis' children and other relatives in the Lick Creek settlement.

21 Stinson, p. 236

22 Oren F. Morton, *A History of Monroe Co., WV*, Baltimore, Regional Publishing Co., 1988, p. 480. (Orig. pub. 1916). John and Joseph are likely the Rev. John Alderson, Jr., whose land lay on the south side of the Greenbrier River at Alderson, and his son Joseph.

23 Stinson, p. 258

24 With only one daughter age 0-5, this is unlikely to be the household of John Marcus and Frances Alderson. It is likely John, son of Thomas.

25 Some researchers have read this date as "1838" and have placed Thomas's death after this time, but since there were no further pension claim acts after 1832 (except for widows), Thomas would not have been reapplying in 1838.

26 This is assuming that the reference to "Sister Sally Alderson" in the Minutes of the Greenbrier Church is Sarah Bond Alderson. It notes that she was "one of the oldest members."

27 In a letter from Niyo Wilson, Clerk of the Old Greenbrier Baptist Church, to Mrs. Marjorie Williams of FL dated 23 October 1978, she states that in the Minutes "a list of members in 1834 includes [Thomas'] name and the record of his death in 1837."

## Alderson Events

### Out of the Past

**H**attie Alderson was born on August 2, 1892. She was the daughter of John Morgan (Bud) Hutchinson and Nancy Lola Fitzwater, of Nicholas County.

She married Roy Alderson on May 2, 1917 (Roy was born December 21, 1895—the son of George “H.C.” and Sabina Huffman Alderson.)

Hattie and Roy had five children—Nancy, Betty Jo, Peggy, Dot and John Henry.

Hattie died in 1965 and her husband Roy died in 1980.

Roy's father was George Henry Clay Alderson (October 28, 1844–July 6, 1936). He operated the big hardware store across from the Nicholas County Courthouse on Main Street.

Bettie Jo was my teacher when I was very young. She says she remembers taking me home with her one day at noon and I was ever so thrilled watching her use the electric toaster. Betty Jo began teaching in 1940, so I was probably in her second

grade class. I think Blanche Summers was my first grade teacher and then we returned to the one-room school house at Salmon's Creek.

Hattie Alderson was once Worthy Matron of Wakama Chapter 52 of The Eastern Star. She was also a charter member of Mt. Azalea Garden Club.

I found a picture of the Alderson family (October 10, 1914) [see Figure 5]. The man with the beard is George Henry Clay Alderson, beside his wife Sabina (Huffman) Alderson. Beside them is George Henry's oldest son, Cecil. The others in the picture were children of George H., born to his first wife, Mary C. Jones. (I presume she died.) They are Ida May, Otis, Evalena, baby Roy, Alice, Zela, Grant, and Herbert.

I just called Maude Hypes and she told me she was named after Maude Alderson and her brother Cecil after Cecil Alderson. Maude was a Rader.

The baby in the picture would be Roy.<sup>28</sup> (The only child born to George H. by his second wife Sabina.)

I decided to wind up my little bit of Alderson history, to check with W.G. Brown's history book<sup>29</sup> and see what

he knew about the very *early* history. He says Alderson is English. That the Nicholas County Aldersons descended from Rev. John Alderson, of England. He came as a young man to Virginia—before the American Revolution. In 1777 he located at the site of the present town of Alderson. In 1781 he organized the first Baptist church west of the Alleghanias on a lot donated by his brother-in-law William Morris. The Alderson Hotel later located there.

Sons of Rev. John were George, Joseph, and John. George moved to the Kanawha Valley (George's Creek is name for him). He had a son George, known as Colonel George.<sup>30</sup> he had a tavern and a stage coach station on the James River and Kanawha Turnpike near Lookout (Fayette County). He was married twice and fathered 28 children. One of his sons, Joseph A. Alderson came to Nicholas County about 1855. He was a lawyer and as a member of the Virginia State Senate, voted against secession. Two of his sons became prominent in public life. John Duffy Alderson was an eminent lawyer and politician. He was elected to Congress three times. Joseph A. was a teacher, county superintendent of schools, county clerk, and later circuit court

clerk. Fleming was a lawyer and member of the state legislature (he introduced the bill creating Nicholas County High School).

Now we come down to George Henry, who was a half brother of Joseph A. W.G. Brown says he operated a store and farm at Enon—and then later the “big hardware store” in Summersville.

He also says, “For almost a century the Alderson family has been active

in the political and social life of Nicholas County.”

I just called Nancy Alderson, who is now living on Broad Street. She told me her sister, Betty Jo, had died about a year ago. I was so sorry to hear that.

Nancy says she remembers the old toaster I mentioned. She and Betty Jo were both students at Marshall College and brought it home for a present for their mom and dad. They bought it at a dime store in Huntington.

Nancy and Betty Jo both graduated from Marshall in 1940. Betty Jo got a teaching job (2nd grade) at Sum-



Figure 5  
Family of George Henry Clay Alderson, 10 Oct. 1914. Front row, left to right: George H.C. Alderson, Sabina Huffman Alderson, Cecil Alderson.

28 This is unlikely since Roy Alderson was married in 1917.

29 i.e. *History of Nicholas County, West Virginia*

30 Col. George was the son of George's brother Joseph Alderson.

mersville Grade School, so Nancy wasn't allowed to teach in Nicholas County. In those times only one person from each family was allowed to teach because there was so much poverty that the school system didn't want one family to be receiving two incomes.

So, Nancy had a hard time finding a job. Finally, right at the end of the summer—Mary Woods Groves, wife of Lewis Groves, sent her a clipping about the need for teachers in McDowell County. She applied and was hired. She worked there for four years. She remembers the great deal of poverty in that county, but she says she will never forget the wonderful people there. She says she has fond remembrances of those years.

Nancy began teaching at West Virginia Tech in 1954 and retired in 1980. She says one of her favorite students at Tech was our nephew—Rex Bell, who is now with the U.S. News and World Report in Washington. She also is proud of Rex's brother Sid who is a lawyer in Welch (also one of her students).

The Aldersons went to Fincastle, Virginia a year or two ago to the unveiling of a monument of Rev. John Alderson, who came there from England. She said there were hundreds of Aldersons there from the first big Alderson Clan Gathering. She said there were so many John Aldersons (one was her brother) that they had a large group picture made. ☐  
[From the *Richwood News Leader*, Richwood, WV, 17 May 1989, p. II-5, submitted by Mary C. Hall.]

## Obituary of George Henry Clay Alderson

Final rites for George H. Alderson, 92, a Confederate veteran and member of a pioneer souther West Virginia family, who died Thursday at his home, are to be conducted at two o'clock tomorrow afternoon at the Summersville Baptist Church.

The Rev. William Bricen Miller, D.D., is to officiate. Burial will be held in the family cemetery at Enon. Members of Summersville lodge No. 76, A.F. and A.M. will be in charge.

Mr. Alderson was the last survivor of a family of 28 children. He was born at Lookout, Fayette county, in 1844.

He was engaged in the farming, lumbering and mercantile business for 50 years in Nicholas county.

Mr. Alderson was the son of Col. George Alderson, to whom was born 14 children by his first wife and 14 by his second wife.

### Fought in the Civil War

The deceased was enlisted in Company A, Fourteenth Virginia cavalry of the Confederate army on September 1, 1862, under command of Gen. McCausland. He was in the battle of Gettysburg, Droop Mountain and several skirmishes. He was with Gen. Robert E. Lee at the surrender to Gen. U.S. Grant at Appomattox Court House.

Mr. Alderson was first married to Miss Mary C. Jones of Fayetteville in 1871. She died in 1887. To this union were born seven children. He married Miss Sabina Huffman in 1889. To them was born a son. His third marriage was to Mrs. Betty Ward.

Surviving are three sons, Otis Alderson of Belton, Mont.; Cecil W. Alderson of Charleston and Roy C. Alderson of Summersville, and three daughters, Mrs.

F.A. Hummel of Mt. Hope; Mrs. Arch Grant of Memphis, Tenn., and Mrs. Isaac Fry of Princeton. ☐  
[from the *Charleston Gazette*, filed from Summersville, 10 July 1936; submitted by T.G. Alderson.]

## Of Alderson Interest

The Alderson Family History Society in England publishes a newsletter containing material relating to the Alderson family history in Great Britain and in former British colonies such as Australia and New Zealand. Subscriptions can be obtained in the US through John F. Alderson, 113E Alameda Dr., Tempe, AZ 85282. The annual fee (for three issues) is US\$7 for surface mail and US\$10 for air mail delivery.

Although there are a few subscribers from the US, the Society has not published material on the John Alderson family. The editor made special note in the February 1989 newsletter of new members from Alderson, WV, and remarked that "perhaps they would like to tell us something of the history of the town." I'm sure we'd be glad to tell them about Alderson in return for some help in tracing John's ancestry in Yorkshire! ☐

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A fascinating story of the westward movement told from the point of view of a Monroe Co., WV woman can be found in *A Bride Goes West* by Nannie Tiffany Alderson. Mary Ann "Nannie" Tiffany, daughter of Hugh Snidow and Susan (McDaniel) Tiffany, married Walter Wyatt Alderson in 1883 in Monroe Co. Walter Wyatt Alderson was the son of the Rev. Lewis Allen and Eliza (Coleman) Alderson, and grandson of Joseph Alderson, son of John Alderson, Jr. Walter Wyatt Alderson went West to Kansas with his family, later moving to Miles City, Custer Co., Montana, where he died from injuries from a kicking horse.

The book can be ordered from the University of Nebraska Press, 901 North 17th St., Lincoln, Nebraska 68588-0520, for \$6.95, plus \$2.00 shipping for quantities up to four books. ☐

## Queries

David J. Alderson, son of John "River Jack" and Harriet (Johnson) Alderson, migrated to Missouri in 1868. In 1850 Monroe Co., VA, David J. is listed at age 1, b. ca. 1849; in 1880 Buchanan Co., MO census there appears a John Alderson, single, living with the family of Vance Bigham, age 28, b. VA. Is this the same person? Helen Boswell, 1124 Beuth Rd., Moberly, MO 65270.

Monroe Co., WV marriages list an 1810 marriage of John Alderson to Peggy Walker. Was this a first marriage of John Alderson, son of Thomas? Is Peggy Walker related to Jane Walker, who married John Alderson, son of John, in 1805 Monroe? David Fridley, 817A 18th Ave., Honolulu, HI 96816.

## Alderson Marriages in Greenbrier Co., WV

Date	Husband	Wife	Performed By:	Sources
14 Jan 1781	George Alderson	Sarah Osborne	John Alderson	1, 2, 3
24 Mar 1789	Robert Watchers {Withrow}	Jane Alderson	John Alderson	1, 2
15 Sep 1789	Davis Alderson	Leah Carrel {Carroll}	John Alderson	1, 2, 3
27 Sep 1790	William McClung	Jane Alderson	Josiah Osborne	1
5 Aug 1792	Samuel Withrow	Hannah Alderson	John Alderson	1, 4
19 Apr 1796	Thomas Smithson	Margaret Alderson	John Alderson	1
2 Aug 1809	David Evans	Ruth Alderson	Josiah Osborne	1
8 Jul 1813	George Alderson	{Jeanette Creigh} Jane McCleary	John McElhenny	1, 2
21 Dec 1819	Charles Lewis	{Mary} Polly Alderson	John Alderson	1
25 Dec 1821	Thomas Smithson	Sarah Alderson		
1825	James O. Alderson	Abigail McClung		
17 Mar 1825	William Feamster	{Martha} Patsey Alderson		
10 Dec 1829	Asa Alderson	[Peggy] Susannah Zickafoose	C. Alderson	1, 2
10 May 1834	Robert McCutcheon	Abigail Alderson	A. Campbell	1
12 Feb 1835	Joseph Alderson	Jane Rambo	David Reed	2
5 Oct 1838	James Remley	Jane Creigh Alderson		
18 Aug 1842	John Campbell	Amanda F. Alderson	James Remley	1
2 Jan 1845	Franklin [Bond] Alderson	Susan Rookstool	Johnson Keaton	1, 2
2 Dec 1845	Joseph G[ranville] Alderson	Sabina Spotts	John McElhenny	1, 2
30 Dec 1845	Thomas B. Patton	[Virginia] Eliza Alderson	L.A. Alderson	1
9 Jun 1846	Allen McClure	Sarah A. Alderson	James E. Moore	1
19 Feb 1852	Joseph G[ranville] Alderson	Sarah Jane Strickler	L.A. Alderson	2
22 Dec 1853	Giles Burdette	Mary Frances Alderson		4
23 May 1854	Rufus Davis Alderson	Hester Ann Ammen		
26 Feb 1856	George Alderson	Mary J[ane] Hines	L.A. Alderson	2
8 Nov 1856	Joseph G. Alderson	M.J. Ballard	John McElhenny	2
3 Sep 1863	John Gilmer Lobban	Sarah A. Alderson		
18 Feb 1864	Sampson I. Alderson	Martha J. Hedrick	P.S.E. Sixe	2
26 Sep 1865	Franklin B[ond] Alderson	Judy Bragg	Joseph Marshall	2
13 Feb 1867	Joseph D. Alderson	Mary J. Feamster	James Haynes	2
19 Dec 1867	Franklin B[ond] Alderson	Margaret Bosture	A. Weller	2
25 Jan 1870	Thomas H. Alderson	Hester A[nn] Alderson	H.C. Tinsley	2
2 Feb 1871	Harvey G. Alderson	Abba Bragg	H.C. Tinsley	2
28 Nov 1871	Andrew Lewis Riffe	Mildred J. Alderson		
25 Feb 1874	J. Coleman Alderson	Mary Price	M.L. Lacy	2
17 Dec 1879	James W. Alderson	Martha F. East	William H. Sanders	2
28 Aug 1892	Rufus D[avis] Alderson Jr	Emma Perry	E.D. Jeffries	2
16 Feb 1893	John Marshall Alderson [II]	Ida Florence Hodges		
20 Sep 1897	Henley O. Alderson	Clara A. Hennessy	L.R. Markwool	2
28 Sep 1897	Leonard W. Alderson	Rena Perry	T.W. Brown	2
29 Mar 1908	James H. Alderson	Ellen Glover	T.H. Schooley	2
Feb 1909	George L. Alderson	Annie M. Alexander		2,
18 Aug 1909	Newman J. Alderson	Revina Lane	M.L. Lacy	2
Sep 1909	Joseph D. Alderson	Effie B. Wiley		2
11 Feb 1911	Joseph Newman Alderson	Frances Richardson		
20 Mar 1921	John M. Alderson	Elizabeth Creigh	Robert L. Kennain	2

## Sources and Notes: Greenbrier Co. WV Marriages

- (1) *Journal of the Greenbrier Historical Society*, Vol. V, No. 2, 1988, pp. 18-81. Corrected transcript of Greenbrier Co. Marriages, by Blanche Humphreys, taken from Marriage Book 1A.
- (2) Transcript of Greenbrier Co. Marriages, West Virginia State Archives, Charleston, WV.
- (3) "A Book Containing the Marriages by Me, John Alderson," in *William and Mary Quarterly*, Series 2, Vol. 8, 1928, pp. 194-202.
- (4) Greenbrier Marriages, Greenbrier Co. Courthouse, Lewisburg, WV; personal transcript.

Names in curly brackets { } represent corrections, customary spellings, or the full form of a name.

Names in square brackets [ ] represent additional information not given in original listing.

The main reference on the marriages of Greenbrier Co., WV is a copy of the original marriage register (Bk. 1A) located in the County Clerk's office at the Greenbrier Co. Courthouse in Lewisburg, WV. This register is an official listing of ministers' returns to the County Clerk, including those by the Rev. John Alderson. An additional copy can also be found at the West Virginia State Archives in Charleston, WV. This

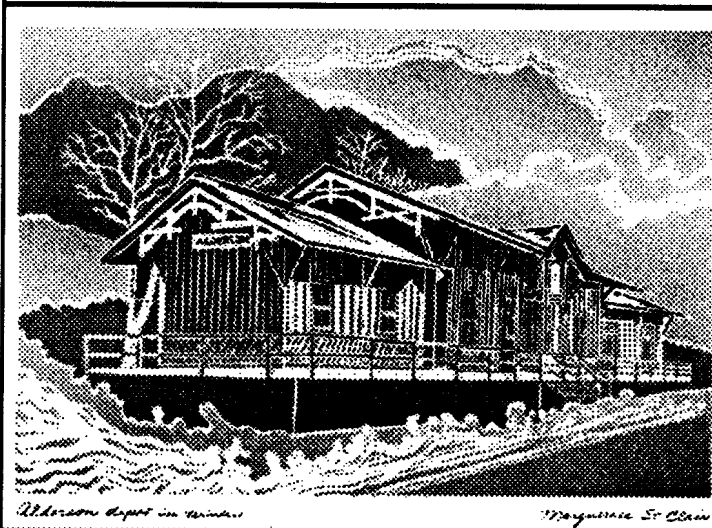
register is also available on microfilm at LDS genealogy libraries around the country.

The copies open for public use are of poor quality and in reverse print (i.e. white letters on a black background). This has probably resulted in a number of errors in transcriptions; in such cases, only inspection of the original register could provide a final answer.

Three of the Alderson marriages also appear in the Rev. John Alderson's personal record of marriages performed by him in Rockingham, and later, Greenbrier Co. The original manuscript is located at the Virginia Baptist Historical Society at the University of Richmond (VA), and is reprinted in the *William and Mary Quarterly* (1928) and in John J. Wayland, *Virginia Valley Records*, published 1930.

Certain discrepancies remain in the printed versions of the marriage record. If anyone has an alternative source for this information, please send it to the editor and a correction/clarification will be printed.

- Marriage of George Alderson and Sarah Osborne. Sources 1 and 2 have 14 *January* 1781, while source 3 has 14 *June* 1781.
- Marriage of Davis Alderson and Leah Carroll. Source 2 has 15 September 1789; sources 1 and 3 list 15 September 1788.
- Marriage of Joseph Alderson and Jane Rambo. Who is Joseph? Could this actually be Franklin Bond Alderson, whose first wife was also named Jane?



Greeting card cover (5"x7") of the Alderson Depot at Alderson, WV, by Marguerite St. Clair. Limited edition line embossed prints of this and other WV historical scenes (16"x20") are also available. For further information, contact St. Clair Printing, Route One, Alderson, WV 24910. (Reproduction approximate.)

## Alderson Roots & Branches

is a quarterly newsletter of Alderson Cousins, the family association devoted to research and discussion on the history and genealogy of the Alderson family, particularly on the family of John Alderson, Sr., born 1699, Yorkshire, England, died 1780, Botetourt Co. VA.

Editor: David Fridley

Contributions in form of articles, photographs, vital records, Bible records, and other Alderson memorabilia are welcome. All material accompanied by a self-addressed stamped envelope can be returned. Suggestions, contributions, and research queries can be addressed to David Fridley, *Alderson Roots & Branches*, 817A 18th Ave., Honolulu, HI 96816.

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Thank you, and Happy Hunting!