



Alderson

Roots & Branches



Happy New Years to All!

In this last issue of 1989, it is worthwhile to look back over the year — and the decade — to the remarkable changes that we have been witnessing in the world. Though many of the events seem far away, their impact on us is heightened by the small world created by modern technology. The same technology that allows us to watch vivid pictures of a heroic student confronting tanks in Tiananmen Square, joyful Germans atop the Berlin Wall, and the fight for freedom in Romania also permits us to easily perform more mundane tasks, such as creating and publishing a small desktop newsletter such as this one. The world looks forward to the promises of the 1990s, and we as well hope that the new decade will bring us peace and prosperity.

In 1990, I hope to see *Alderson Roots & Branches* expand, improve, and reach as wide an audience as possible. One way to expand circulation is through libraries with local history and genealogical collections. I would appreciate any suggestions of libraries to provide with a complementary copy of the newsletter. With their subscription, the newsletter will become available to a wider number of researchers. Who knows — maybe the answer to one of our long-held research puzzles lies with someone who picks up a copy in a library!

In this issue, two of our readers have contributed articles summarizing research on their ancestors. Helen Boswell writes on Benjamin Alderson, one of the Rev. John Alderson's more elusive sons, and Janice Richardson provides an introductory overview of the Aldersons of Southside Virginia. I welcome all such sketches from those of you who would like to share the story of your families.

Finally, I wish to thank you all again for your support (and patience). May you enjoy the best in 1990!

Benjamin Alderson Kentucky Pioneer

by Helen (Alderson) Boswell

Benjamin Alderson, an early Kentucky settler, is believed to be the youngest son of Elder John Alderson Sr. and his wife, Jane (Curtis) Alderson. His date of birth is not known, but it was likely to have been between 1745 and 1748 in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, where his older brother Thomas was born in 1744. Benjamin was probably no more than 10 years old when he moved with his family to Linville Creek in Augusta (now Rockingham) Co., Virginia.

Benjamin was married before he and his wife joined the Smiths and Linville Creek Baptist Church. According to the church minutes of 1766, on the "Third Sabbath in June; Then did Benjamin Alderson and Ann his Wife submit to the Ordinances of Baptism and the Lords Supper."¹ Benjamin's wife was Malinda Ann(e) Fletcher. It is uncertain who her parents were, but it is believed that she was a daughter of an Aaron Fletcher of Prince William Co. (now Fauquier Co.), Virginia. Benjamin's marriage by 1766 places his birthdate at no later than 1748, since colonial regulations required males to reach 18 years of age before marriage. Although this restriction was probably ignored in some instances in frontier areas, the influential position of Benjamin's family in the religious and social life of the community would have made such a violation unlikely.

In the early 1770s, Benjamin and his family may have joined his parents in their move to Botetourt Co., VA, about 100 miles southwest in the Shenandoah Valley, where his father had leased mill property in Fincastle with Adam Walker. By 1780, even the frontier in Botetourt was beginning to fill up. New districts to the southwest had been opened up, marked by the establishment of Montgomery, Washington, and Kentucky counties in

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¹ Smiths and Linville Creek Baptist Church Minutes, in J. Houston Harrison, *Settlers by the Long Grey Trail*, Dayton, VA, 1935, p. 232.

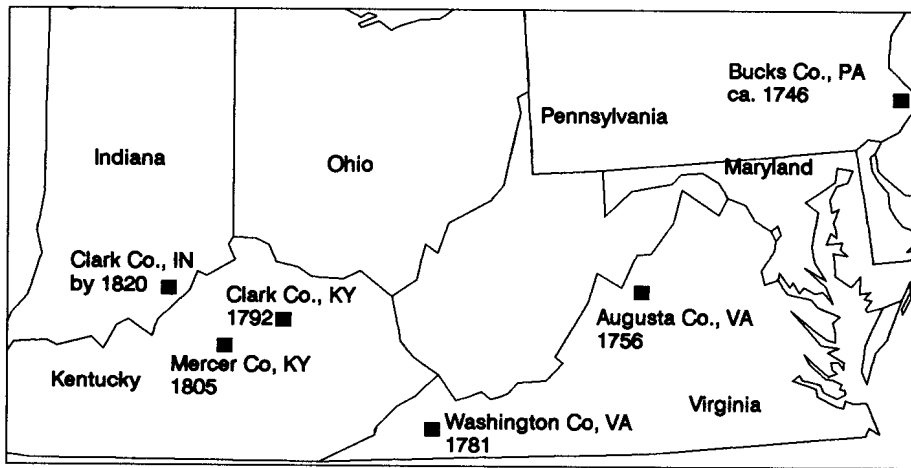


Figure 1
Migration path of Benjamin Alderson, ca. 1746 to 1820.

1776. Benjamin joined the thousands of other families attracted by the plentiful and open land to the west.

After leaving Rockingham (or perhaps, Botetourt), Benjamin settled first on the Clinch River in Washington Co., VA.² He obtained land from the first survey in Washington County taken 24 August 1781. The first tract was a grant of four hundred acres on the Clinch River near Lebanon, followed by a second tract of 330 acres, also on the Clinch River, on 8 October 1783; this second tract was granted to Benjamin by patent on 20 March 1785.³ Benjamin may have arrived in the Clinch River region by 1780; in his father's estate settlement, completed some months after the probate of his will in November 1780, there is mention of travel expenses for the executor to "Washington, Carolina and Greenbrier and Clinch".⁴ This reference to the Clinch may indicate that Benjamin had already relocated.

Benjamin remained in Russell County until 1791, when he no longer appears on the tax list. On 28 September 1791, Benjamin and Ann deeded a 60-acre portion of Benjamin's original 330-acre tract to son Aaron, who is listed as taxpayer that year.⁵

Around the same time that Benjamin arrived in Washington Co., a group known as the "traveling Baptist Church", led by the Rev. Bob Elkins, moved to Abingdon, Washington Co., VA. This group started in Spotsylvania and nearby counties in Virginia. In 1792, the traveling church moved on to Clark Co., Kentucky, where it became the Providence Baptist Church. It is likely that Benjamin and his family migrated with this group; in this year, Benjamin appears as well in Clark Co., where he is granted his first tract of land in Kentucky. Although there is no evidence in the Linville Creek Church Minutes that Benjamin followed in his father's and brother's footsteps, Col. George Alderson, in his paper entitled, *The Alderson Family in America* (1860), stated

that Benjamin was also a Baptist minister. George Alderson may have been overstating Benjamin's continued close association with the Baptist Church even after his departure from home. A search of Clark Co. records has also failed to turn up a minister's license.⁶

Benjamin lived in Clark County several years before he purchased the fifty acre farm on which he lived. In 1805 he sold this farm to his son-in-law, Major Dodson, and he and Ann moved to Mercer County, Kentucky where he appears on the tax rolls. Ann probably died here in 1810 or 1811 as Benjamin was remarried on 13 May 1811 to Leah Lucas. By 1820 Benjamin and Leah were living in Clark County, Indiana. In 1830 Leah is listed as head of household with no

male the age of Benjamin, so, undoubtedly he had died there during the 1820s. There is no extant will or probate record for him.

The children of Benjamin and Ann included:

Aaron Alderson, born 2 Oct 1767 in Virginia died after 6 October 6 1853 when he sold his farm near Lake Erie in Ashtabula Co., Ohio. Aaron was known as an entrepreneur. He was married three times, having six children by his first wife and seven by his second. The first two wives divorced him.

John Alderson, who was named executor of the will of his brother, Moses in 1825, Hendricks Co., Indiana.

Moses Alderson, who first married Ruth Dicks in 1817 in Orange Co., IN, by whom he had two children. Moses married second to Phoebe Ballard, daughter of Jarnin Ballard of Highland Co., Ohio, by whom he had two children before dying in 1825 in Hendricks Co., IN.

Jean Alderson, who married John Slater in 1794 in Clark Co., Kentucky. Nothing further is known about her.

Amy Alderson, who married Major Dodson, a farmer and Baptist minister. They lived in Kentucky, later moving to central Illinois. They had thirteen children.

Ann Alderson, who first married Icem Bierands and second Samuel Pendock.⁷

Isaac Alderson, who left a will in Garrard Co., Kentucky, dying in 1808, is probably a son. His will names "my brother, John" as executor. He mentions an unnamed wife and two daughters, one of whom was Malinda.

It is believed, but unproven that there was a son **James Alderson** also.

Benjamin Alderson Jr. is probably the youngest son, but this is also unproven. He was in Garrard Co. in 1810 and in Logan Co., Kentucky in 1820.

2 This area became part of Russell Co. in 1785.

3 Russell County, VA, Deeds, Book 1, p. 180

4 James B. Taylor, *The Lives of Virginia Baptist Ministers*, Series I, Richmond, VA, 1838, p. 21.

5 Data from Edith Tunnell, professional genealogist and descendant of Benjamin, in a report prepared for an Alderson client.

6 Edith Tunnell

7 Paper by Joseph Newman Alderson, Jr.

Out of the Past

The following two letters, submitted by Mr. T.G. Alderson, are lightly edited transcripts of correspondence between Thomas Curtis Alderson (1820-1906) and his aunt, Mrs. Frances (Alderson) Alderson (1778-1856), of Palestine, Greenbrier Co., VA (now Alderson, WV). Thomas was the son of Abel Alderson (1775-1841), brother to Frances and son of Thomas Alderson. The writer presents a fascinating account of family life at that time, and he is quite frank with his opinions on being single, being a Democrat, and the recent Mexican-American War.

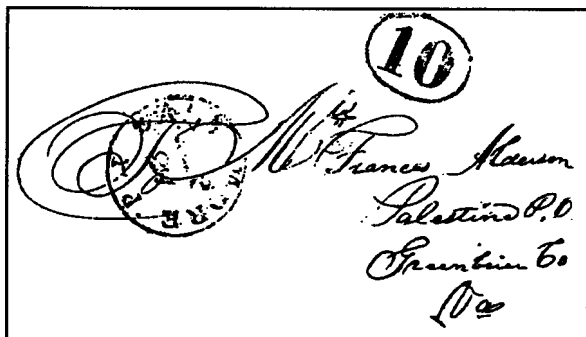


Figure 2
Envelope cover from 1847 addressed by Thomas Alderson to his aunt, Mrs. Frances Alderson, Palestine P.O., Greenbrier Co., Va. The 10-cent letter is postmarked Baltimore.

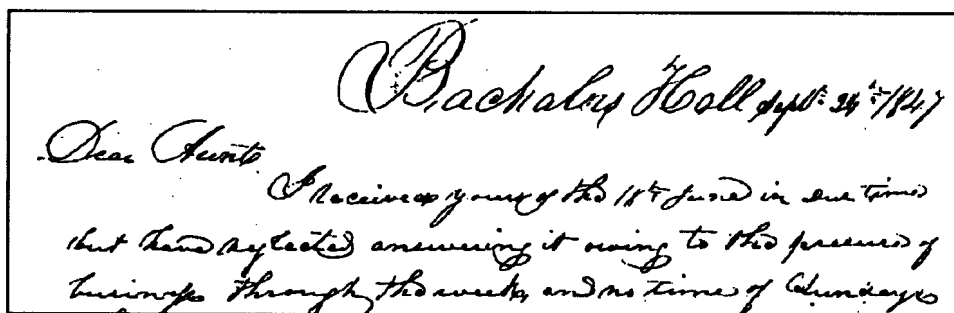


Figure 3
Opening of letter from Thomas Alderson to his aunt, Mrs. Frances Alderson, September 1847.

Bachelor's Hall Sept. 24th 1847

Dear Aunt,

I received yours of the 18th June in due time but have neglected answering it owing to the pressure of business through the week, and no time of Sundays that day of all the rest being my busiest time. I have been nearly eight months living or rather staying in this most despicable way called "Bachelors Hall" sometimes solitary and alone, at other times having to get victuals for half a dozen men, not a female to be seen or heard except sometimes they would pass by and stone the house, but thank fortune, it is nearly at an end, for I have just concluded an article for renting the whole establishment, and

as soon as I can get my produce sold I bid farewell to such a life, and try to seek a better, as there's no danger of getting a worse one. What business I shall engage in I cannot tell as yet. It's my intention of present to take a trip to the South and West to see my Brothers Abel and Benjamin and if I do you may expect a visit also. Perhaps my sister Elizabeth and I may take our Christmas dinner with you this winter, provided Mother's health will permit her to leave. I have now arrived to that age in which every young man should conclude what business he intends following or how he intends to live. Mother is much opposed to my renting and wishes me to continue on my farm, but what is the use, the man that lives to himself without a suitable companion, one whose interest would be mutual, drags out the most wretched life that can be. Let people talk or write of the charms of solitude as much as they please, its all a humbug.

You wish me to give an account of our family. That is a small task, and by way of doing it correct I shall commence at the oldest and take them in rotation. Lucretia has been married about 12 years to Dr. Mechem. He has a good practice and doing well, except he is a Democrat. They have two children Abel Francis and Sarah Ann. Lucretia has been a member of the Old School Baptist Church⁸ for several years. John is a farmer, has been married about 10 years ago, and a widower for the last three years with two children, Charles Davis and Sarah Frances. Sarah Ann has been dead some 20 years. Benjamin has been married about 10 years, a farmer in Missouri. He also lost his wife on the fourth of March last, leaving him six young children. He is rich from accounts. Jane has been married 10 years to Joshua Morris near Bell-

air, our county town. He follows farming. They have no children. James is married and one child lives with Mother and follows tanning and farming. Abel lives in Fayette, Mississippi and practices law. Hannah has been dead about 24 years, and I, the ninth child, am a farmer living in single distressedness. Elizabeth lives with Mother and is also single, making 3 single and 5 married.

You seem to have been somewhat at a loss to know what character I assumed last

winter while at Washington. It was nothing than a private, and a little too much so for my use, for during two weeks' stay, I did not make even one single female acquaintance, although I was staying at John Davis, a cousin of ours. It is a delightful place to be at during the sitting of Congress. It is worth a visit from anyone even though they should have to pay their boards while here. I expect to take a matrimonial excursion to Philadelphia on the 14th of October, as Brother John intends taking his second wife on that day. I have never seen her but from reports she is a very fine girl, but the misfortune is, girls generally bear that name before they get married.

⁸ This is the church where the Rev. John Davis, father of Thomas Alderson's wife Hannah Davis, and great-grandfather of the letter's author, was minister until his death in 1809.

You seem to think the accounts which you have given of our relations will be of no great interest to me, not so, it always affords me great pleasure to hear from a relative whether they be of the same name or not. I am not so selfish, as some on that point, some there are who care not who sinks or swims, so they themselves are buoyed up by the tide of fortune. I must come to a close as I have to ride to Baltimore to-day, through a driving a distance of 25 miles. I would be glad to see some of you in these parts. There's no doubt you would be pleased as there has never any one visited it—yet—but has been pleased, as I have heard of yet. You may expect me through you country this winter and no mistake unless something very serious should turn up. Mother is quite feeble though she is able to go about and do some work. She is now near 70 years of age. My love to all enquiring relatives, and believe me your affection nephew.

Thos Alderson

[P.S.] Do not forget to write and let us know how you all are and tell some of the rest write, if we are not acquainted, we are related and why not correspond. T.A.

relapse by going out too soon. The child is not 18 months old yet, which made it more difficult to treat than it would have been had it been able to have talked. I was taking with it and the bilious, but am recovering fast, should I not get a back set I shall be able for work in a few days. So you can see that we have had an afflicted family for some time. I say we, because I have been boarding here since I quit keeping Bachelors Hall, and that has been ever since the weather got too cold to cook for myself, and it would be a fine thing if there was more of them frozen out, for it is a very poor life to live or rather to stay in. When I shall pay you a visit—it is hard to tell, as I am now halting between two opinions, some advises me to go to the study of medicine, should I adopt that I shall not attempt anything like a travel until I shall have accomplished my aim, which will take me at least two years. But if on the other hand I shall determine to go to the West, I shall give you a call either before harvest or soon after. It may be that I shall teach school for a young man from Maine, as he wishes to return to see his parents about the first of May. Some of our relatives might as well come on this spring to pay us a visit. Very well, perhaps better than any of us, as I suppose that out of so many there must be some that can command

means by which they can take a short trip and spend a few months. They might come on to the Whig National Convention or before, that will be held in Philadelphia on the 7th of June next. Should life and health permit I intend being there and can be found by inquiring for the Maryland delegation, so if any of our friends should be there they can enquire at least for the Harford part of it as it might be they can't all get the same place.

What do folks think of the treaty with you? I suppose though, it is the same in all parts, those that are in favour of the President, or rather, the "one-man power", will weigh it the best thing ever happened. But let partisans say what they will, Cromwell of England never was a greater dictator than Polk has attempted to be, "better that a millstone were hanged about his neck and dashed in the depth of the sea." The treaty proves the war to have been a war of conquest for the accumulation of territory, territory too that will be an expense to the nation as long as it stands, or at least till I get to be President. But I must come to a close for I am so weak that my hands trembles too much to write. They all send their love to you and the different connections, while I remain your affectionate nephew.

Thos Alderson

Cheerful Innocence Harford
County Md March 23rd 1848

Dear Aunt

When I wrote you last I did expect to have been with you this winter, but alas! we know not what one day will bring forth, at that time I had some buildings to complete, which was necessary for the renting of my place, but being disappointed by the masons who were to do the stone work, I had to put it off till this spring, thinking still I would come and return in spring. Mother was taken down very ill. She had scarcely recovered before Elizabeth was taking down, which lasted some two or three weeks. By this time the scarlet fever got started some five or six miles off, and Dr. Mechem, having to ride night and day brought into his family, his daughter lying at the point of death with it, while the rest were hardly able to wait on her except the Doctor, which was seldom that he could be at home, induced Elizabeth and I to go to assist. A few days after our return Elizabeth was taken with it and so it has been in the family for the last months. Out of 9 in the family, none has escaped except James' journeyman, but none of them very serious except James and his child. He was nearly well but took a

Figure 4
Opening of second letter from Thomas Alderson to his aunt Frances Alderson, March 1848.

Cheerful Innocence, Harford County Md
March 23rd 1848

Dear Aunt,

When I wrote you last I did expect to have been with you this winter, but alas! we know not what one day will bring forth. At that time I had some buildings to complete, which was necessary for the renting of my place, but being disappointed by the masons who were to do the stone work, I had to put it off till this spring, thinking still I would come and return in spring. Mother was taken down very ill. She had scarcely recovered before Elizabeth was taking down, which lasted some two or three weeks. By this time the scarlet fever got started some five or six miles off, and Dr. Mechem, having to ride night and day brought into his family, his daughter lying at the point of death with it, while the rest were hardly able to wait on her except the Doctor, which was seldom that he could be at home, induced Elizabeth and I to go to assist. A few days after our return Elizabeth was taken with it and so it has been in the family for the last months. Out of 9 in the family, none has escaped except James' journeyman, but none of them very serious except James and his child. He was nearly well but took a

Southside Aldersons

Virginia has been home to a number of Alderson families in addition to the descendants of the Rev. John Alderson. As early as 1674, a Richard Alderson appears in the deeds of Lancaster Co. in Virginia's "Northern Neck." Other Alderson families appear in the nearby counties of Richmond, Westmoreland, Essex, and Gloucester, while by the mid-1700s, a number of families had settled in the southern counties of Virginia, known collectively as the "Southside". Some of these Aldersons left Virginia for South Carolina, Tennessee, Kentucky, and other southern states, in places mingling with the descendants of the Rev. John Alderson. In order to introduce the different Alderson lines (and perhaps help establish their English origins as well), sketches of the different families will be presented. I welcome any reader with further information on these various lines to submit their own sketches for publication. The following article, based on data submitted by Janice Richardson, introduces the Aldersons living in late 18th-century Charlotte Co., VA.

John Alderson, Jr.

John Alderson Jr. (c1750? Richmond Co.? VA - 15 December 1809 Charlotte Co., VA) married Keziah Foster in Charlotte Co., VA, in December 1778. Keziah's father, Thomas Foster, had stood as surety at the issuance of their marriage bond on 7 December 1778. John Alderson appeared on the 1787 tax list of Charlotte Co., which showed a household including a male, age 16-21, no slaves, three horses or mules, and nine head of cattle.

Keziah's father had made out his will on 2 March 1795 in Charlotte County, naming sons Claiborne, William, Jesse, and Ludson, and daughter Keziah Alderson. John Alderson furnished the security bond (Charlotte WB II:137). Thomas Foster was originally from Cumber-

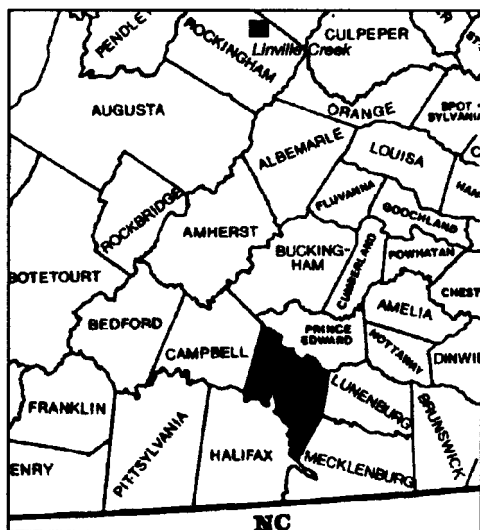


Figure 5
Charlotte Co. and Southside Virginia, 1790, in relation to John Alderson's settlement at Linville Creek.. Charlotte was created from Lunenburg in 1765. (Taken from William Dollarhide, *Map Guide to U.S. Censuses.*)

land County (Nugent, *Cavaliers and Pioneers*; and *Prince Edward Marriages*, C. L. Knorr, 1950). At the estate sale for Thomas Foster on 16 March 1799, William Alderson bought a hand saw and seven plates, and John Alderson bought a butter pot, a candle mold, a chest, and some clothes.

John Alderson died in December 1809, and an inventory for his estate was filed the same month (Charlotte WB III:196). His wife Keziah Alderson survived him for another 15 years; she filed a will on 8 November 1824, which went through probate in Charlotte Co. on 3 January 1825 (Charlotte WB V:256). She named all the heirs. John and Keziah were the only Aldersons to leave wills in Charlotte Co. in the 1800s.

The known children of John and Keziah include:

1. William Alderson (? - pre-1824) had seven children surviving when his mother's will was written in 1824:

- a. John Alderson.
- b. Keziah Alderson.
- c. Prudence Alderson.
- d. Thomas B. Alderson.
- e. Martha Alderson.
- f. Suzannah Alderson.
- g. Nancy T. Alderson.

2. Nancy Alderson (? - pre-1824), who married John Harris on 20 February 1812 in Charlotte County. The surety was George Dobbs, and the minister the Rev. Richard Dobbs (*Marriages of Charlotte County*, Knorr). Their children included:

- a. Emily P. Harris.
- b. Cephus Harris.
- c. John William Harris.
- d. Alfred G. Harris.
- e. Amanda M. Harris.
- f. Adele F. Harris.

William Alderson

William Alderson (ca. 1738 Richmond? Co., VA - pre-1799 Charlotte Co., VA), who lived in Charlotte Co. during the same period as John Alderson, is assumed to have married Mary, whose surname is unknown. His wife's identity is derived from the marriage bonds of Polly, James and Susanna Alderson of Charlotte Co., which name a Mary Alderson as parent. William is the only known Alderson resident of Charlotte Co. who could have left a widow by the time of Polly Alderson's wedding in 1799; Mary Alderson is thus assumed to be his wife.

William was enumerated in the 1787 Charlotte Co. tax lists, with no sons aged 16-21, no slaves, three horses or mules, and two cows. A William Alderson was present at Thomas Foster's estate sale on 16 March 1799 in Charlotte Co., but this William could also have been the son of John Alderson Jr.

No will or other probate records have been found. Aside from the three married in Charlotte Co., no other children are known:

1. Polly Alderson (b. ca. 1780?) married George Moore in Charlotte Co., bond dated 7 October 1799. Joshua Foster was surety. This bond named Polly as the daughter of Mary Alderson (*Marriages of Charlotte County*, 1764-1815, C. L. Knorr, 1951).

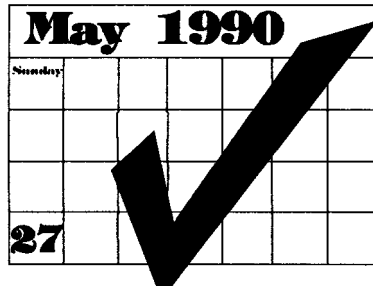
2. James Alderson (ca. 1782?) married Nancy Stokes in Charlotte Co., bond dated 28 January 1803. The

surety was Samuel Green and the minister was the Rev. Edward Almond. The bond named James as the son of Mary Alderson (Knorr). A James Alderson appeared in the 1810 census for Lunenburg Co. VA.

3. Susanna Alderson (b. ca. 1785?), ward of James Alderson, married James Chandler, the son of Thomas Chandler in Charlotte Co., bond dated 2 September 1805 (Knorr). William Chandler served as surety. Since her name was absent in this bond, it is possible that Mary Alderson had died before 1805 and Susanna had become the ward of her brother James.

Queries

Mitchell ALDERSON (also called Michael), born 1834 in OH. Married Belinda RUCKMAN, 1856 in Warren Co., IN. He died 1913 in Essex, Kankakee Co., IL. Need to find parents, brothers and sisters to Mitchell. In 1850 census, Mitchell living with a widow Jane NOLIN and her children in IN. In 1860 census, Mitchell and wife Belinda are in Tippacanoe Co., IN. In 1870, Mitchell and family are in Will Co., IL; 1880-1900-1910 in Kankakee Co., IL. Please answer if you can help—Jim Coleman, 232 E. North St., Bremen, IN 46506.



Mark
your
calendar!

Alderson Cousins Reunion

At the suggestion of Mr. John Alderson of Troutville, VA, on whose farm the memorial stone for John and Jane Alderson was dedicated in 1987, a reunion of the Alderson Cousins is being planned for Sunday, 27 May 1990 (Memorial Day weekend).

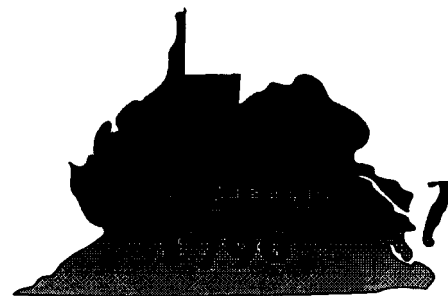
Take the opportunity to plan an outing to the beautiful Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia and share the day with your friends and relatives. It should be a superb event!

Further details will be forthcoming. Any input or suggestions should be directed to Mr. and Mrs. John Alderson, Rt. 1, Box 183, Troutville, VA 24175.

Aldersons in Virginia: Tax List Reconstruction of the Lost 1790 Virginia Census

As is well known among genealogists researching Virginia families, the 1790 census for the state was lost during the burning of Washington, DC by the British during the War of 1812. As a substitute for the missing census, the US Bureau of the Census extracted the names of families listed on various Virginia county tax lists, publishing the collection in 1909 as *Head of Families: Virginia 1790*. The title is somewhat misleading, since the data date from 1782 to 1787 and include only 43 of the 78 extant counties and independent cities. The missing counties were covered in Augusta B. Fothergill, *Virginia Taxpayers*, originally published in Richmond, VA in 1940, and reprinted by the Genealogical Publishing Co. of Baltimore. The two sources provide somewhat different treatments: the 1782 and 1783 listings in *Heads of Families* cover total white and black occupants of the household, while the 1784 and 1785 listings provide total number of white occupants, number of dwellings, and number of other buildings. The listing from *Virginia Taxpayers* provides number of polls (males 16 and over) and number of slaves.

	White	(Poll)	Black	Dwellings	Other Bldgs.
<i>Botetourt Co., 1784</i>					
ALDERSON, Curtis		1	2		
<i>Charlotte Co., 1782</i>					
ALDERSON, John	3				
<i>Cumberland Co., 1782</i>					
ALDERSON, John	5				
ALDERSON, Richard	5		4		
<i>Cumberland Co., 1784</i>					
ALDERSON, John	5			2	2
<i>Greenbrier Co., 1783-1786</i>					
ALDERSON, George					
ALDERSON, John					
ALDERSON, Thomas					
<i>Lunenburg Co., 1782</i>					
ALDERSON, Jeremiah		1	2		
<i>Richmond Co., 1783</i>					
ALDERSON, Fieliff	7				
ALDERSON, William	7		3		
ALDERSON, James	7		17		



Upper District, Lunenburg Parish
Lower Precinct, Lunenburg Parish
Moratico Precinct

Alderson Marriages in Monroe Co., VA (WV) 1799-1919

Year	Husband	Wife	Reference
10 Nov 1800	Curtis Alderson	Susanna Larue {Larew}	1:F1 J62; 3
15 Mar 1803	James McClung	Mary Alderson	1:F1 J305; 2; 3
13 Jan 1805	John, Jr. [River Jack] Alderson	Jane Walker	1:F1 J532; 2: 15 Jan; 3
15 Mar 1808	James Alderson	{Elizabeth} Betsy Keeton {Keaton}	1:F2 J860; 3
20 Mar 1810	John Alderson	Peggy Walker	1:F2 J1047
1814	Davis Alderson	Catherine {Thrasher} Stever {Stiver}	1:F2 J1402
15 Aug 1815	John [Marcus] Alderson	Frances Alderson	1:F2 J1534; 2; 3
05 Aug 1819	John [Wesley] Tackitt {Tackett}	Mary Alderson	1:F3 J1948; 3
19 Feb 1820	Levi Alderson	Clemency Alderson	1:F3 J2046; 3
24 Jan 1824	John [River Jack] Alderson	[Mrs.] Nancy [Robinson] Mize {Mays}	1:F4 J2417
1826	John [Major Jack] Alderson	Nancy Johnson	1:F4 J2640
30 May 1829	A[a]ron Newman	Louisy Alderson	1:F4 J2918; 2: 4 Jun; 3
18 Aug 1834	Curtis G. Alderson	Sidney Alderson	1:F5 J3448; 3
25 Dec 1834	James H[arvey] Alderson	Mary [Mansell] Taylor	1:F5 J3451; 2: 8 Dec; 3
06 Sep 1834	[Thomas] Delaware Crews	Evalina Alderson	1:F5 J3422; 3
06 Sep 1834	Andrew Ellis	{Mary} Polly Alderson	1:F5 J3432; 3
13 Feb 1834	Robert [H.] Miller	Anky Alderson	1:F5 J3416; 2: 29 Jan; 3
29 Feb 1836	Charles Duncan	Cassie Alderson	1:F5 J3659; 3
04 Apr 1839	John Alderson [Jr.]	H[arriet] E. Johnson	1:F6 J3906; 3
08 Feb 1839	John [River Jack] Alderson	[Mrs.] Eleanor Millholland {Milhollen}	1:F6 J3950; 2: 15 Jan; 3
23 Sep 1840	Thomas H. Alderson	Emily Mann	1:F6 J4035; 3
16 Jul 1840	James Collison	Malinda Alderson	1:F6 J4006; 2: 18 May; 3
19 Jul 1842	William Suttle {Settle}	Elizabeth Alderson	1:F6 J4219
20 Jul 1843	[Andrew] Jackson Smith	Catherine Alderson	1:F7 J4361; 3
07 Feb 1845	Zachariah A. Woodson	Sarah Alderson	1:F7 J4557; 3
24 Mar 1847	James Alderson	[Mrs.] Letha [] Miller	1:F8 J4759; 3
05 Apr 1847	Samuel Carraway	Amanda Alderson	1:F8 J4764; 3
08 May 1847	David Graham	Sarah Alderson	1:F8 J4752; 3
05 Apr 1847	Joseph A. Huffman	Jane Alderson	1:F8 J4754; 3
13 Nov 1849	Thomas L[ewis] Smithson	Margaret Alderson	1:F8 J4906; 3
28 Sep 1850	George Eads	Jane Alderson	1:W9 P1; 3
21 Sep 1850	James W[illiam] Gray	Elizabeth Alderson	1:W9 P1; 3
17 Apr 1851	Lina M[ims] Alderson	Elizabeth Dunsmore	1:W9 P2
1852	Thomas H. Alderson	Mariah L. Woodson	1:W9 P4 (empty)
01 Feb 1854	Joseph P. Hines	Lucy Alderson	1:W9 P8
14 Nov 1855	John Rice	[Mrs.] Eleanor [Milhollen] Alderson	1:B1 P7; W9 P11
05 Feb 1856	Charles H. Alderson	Elizabeth H. 3	1:B1 P10
26 Mar 1857	J[ohn] Marcus Alderson	Malinda S. Patton	1:B1 P16; W9 P15
31 Dec 1857	James T[olliver] Bobbitt	Malinda C[atherine] Alderson	1:B1 P20; W9 P16
22 Jul 1858	Christopher Ballard	Sophrona L[ucetia] Alderson	1:B1 P22; W9 P16
11 Apr 1859	Lina M[ims] Alderson	Mary Burks Peters	1:B1 P25; W9 P17
28 Mar 1859	Harris D[ewitt] Smith	Elizabeth J. Alderson	1:B1 P25; W9 P17
15 Nov 1865	Jesse J[ames] Alderson	Virginia A[nn] Dunbar	1:B1 P55
26 Jan 1865	John L. Keaton	Sarah F[rances] Alderson	1:B1 P49

(Continued next page)

(Monroe Co., WV Marriages, continued from previous page)

22 Mar 1866	William L. Swope	Rebecca W[hite] Alderson	1:B1 P59
10 Jan 1866	Eli D. Alderson	Henrietta S. Vines	1:B1 P66
13 Nov 1867	George Alderson	[Mrs.] Virginia M. [Stevens] Boyd	1:B1 P71
07 Apr 1870	James [G.] Alderson	[Mrs.] Elizabeth F. [Swope] Haynes	1:B1 P88
05 Oct 1871	John W. Bledsoe	Matilda S. Alderson	1:B1 P97
08 Nov 1881	Taylor Mann	Cornelia M. Alderson	1:B1 P149
28 Nov 1882	Eugene R[oss] Lewis	Lucy Mc. Alderson	1:B1 P154
04 Apr 1883	Walter W[yatt] Alderson	Nannie H. Tiffany	1:B1 P156
22 Feb 1887	David Oty {Overton Davis} Alderson	Blanch L. Kester	1:B1 P176 L2
29 Dec 1891	James A. Foster	Maggie Alderson	1:B1 P202
16 Oct 1907	Charles B. Rowe	Virginia G. Alderson	B1 P294 L64
29 Dec 1915	Roy Alderson	Nannie Burdette	B1 P343 L545
06 May 1919	W.H. Davis	Emma E. Alderson	B1 P362 L16

Sources and Notes: Monroe Co., WV Marriages

- (1) Monroe County, WV, Index of Marriages
- (2) Monroe Co., VA, Ministers' Returns, Book 1
- (3) Norma P. Evans, *Early Monroe Marriages*

Originals of the marriage records of Monroe Co. can be found at the Courthouse in Union, WV. Records from the pre-1850 period consists primarily of marriage bonds, which are stored in file drawers (F#) in their individual jackets (J#). Though the majority of original bonds are still available, a number of jackets are empty. A printed index to marriages and marriage bonds is also available. A book of marriage returns provided by the minister perform-

ing the marriage also exists; these dates often differ from the date listed on the bond.

Norma Evans' transcription of marriages contains a few inconsistencies compared to the marriage index:

- Evans has "Isabel Hutchinson" as wife to Levi Alderson; cf. Clemency Alderson in Index (1820).
- Evans has Aaron "Noonan"; cf. Newman in Index (1829)
- Evans has "Charles" Alderson; cf. Curtis G. Alderson in Index (1834).

One early marriage poses an unanswered question:

- Who is the John Alderson who married Peggy Walker in 1810? Note marriage of John "River Jack" Alderson to Jane Walker in 1805.

More on Thomas Alderson

Mrs. Frances Swope of Lewisburg, WV, writes that as a child she was told by an old friend about "Fishbox Hill", a little hill located "close to the Wolf Creek Road out of Alderson and where one turns to go to the mouth of Wolf Creek." She has concluded that it was named for an early settler, perhaps a Mrs. Fishpough, one of several settlers taken prisoner by the Indians during a raid on Baughman's Fort (near Alderson) in 1755. "Fishbox" is a logical Anglicization of the German name "Fishpough." In the article on Thomas Alderson in the previous issue, it was noted that in 1792 he was appointed overseer of the road from the river at John Alderson's to the foot of "Fishbrough" Hill.

Mrs. Swope also adds that her research in the records of the Alderson Baptist Church dates Thomas Alderson's transfer from Linville Creek to the Alderson Church by letter of 29 October 1784. This strengthens the supposition that he was indeed not present at its formation in 1781, despite historians' claim that he was a charter member.

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.

Subscriptions are \$6 per year for four issues. Back issues are available at \$1.50 apiece. Payment by check or cash may be made to David Fridley (please note payment for the newsletter in the check's memo field.)

Thank you, and Happy Hunting!