

Alderson

Roots & Branches



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Thomas Curtis: New Jersey Roots

by David Fridley

The Rev. Thomas Curtis was born in New Jersey in 1685 and died near Kingwood, Hunterdon Co., NJ in 1749. During his 64 years, he played an important role in the development of the Baptist Church in New Jersey, both through his membership in pioneer churches as well as his missionary work that brought the church to other parts of western New Jersey. He is best known to Alderson descendants as the father of Jane Curtis, who married John Alderson and accompanied him in his Baptist missionary work in Pennsylvania and Virginia.¹ Thomas Curtis married Else Merrill, probably of the Merrill family of Staten Island, who survived him by a number of years.

Little is known of the history of Thomas Curtis and his family. A number of documents relating to him have surfaced over the years, but they in general provide few clues to his parentage or place of birth. In this first part of a two-part series on the Curtis family, I will summarize the research findings of George and Virginia Jansen, which link Thomas Curtis to a well-documented Curtis line of Burlington Co., NJ based on the similarity of signatures. Other evidence supports and expands on their conclusions, but I invite all readers who may have additional information to share their findings and interpretations. I would like to thank George and Virginia Jansen, Jean Langowski, and other readers for their generous provision of much of the material cited in this article.

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Figure 1
Location of Bugbrooke, Northamptonshire, home of Thomas and Jane Curtis, in relation to London and Grinton, Yorkshire.

Early History

According to available evidence, Thomas was the son of Thomas and Jane Curtis of Bugbrooke, Northamptonshire, England (Figure 1). Thomas and Jane were members of the Society of Friends ("Quakers") in Bugbrooke, and there recorded the births of four of their children—Jane, Dorothy, Sarah, and Elizabeth.² It is not known when Thomas and Jane arrived in America, but it was probably in 1681 or 1682, at a time when less than a thousand families had settled in New Jersey. The area which became New Jersey had been originally settled by the Dutch, but the colony was taken over by the English in 1664, when they successfully attacked the leading Dutch settlements at New Amsterdam (New York) and along the Delaware River. Granted by the Duke of York to Carteret and Berkeley, New Jersey became a proprietorship, and Carteret became the first governor of a English New Jersey. The arrival of the English upset a number of early New Jersey settlers, who protested paying taxes to the proprietors for land they had originally bought from the Indians. In 1672, they led an insurrection, but this was overshadowed by the return of the Dutch during the English-Dutch war of 1673-4. Carteret returned to New Jersey after the reestablishment of English rule in 1674, but Berkeley sold his share in 1675 to John Fenwick and Edward Byllinge, members of the Society of Friends in England. Fenwick came to New Jersey, but Byllinge, forced by the exigencies of his debts, entrusted his shares to a groups of Friends which included

¹ See "John Alderson: Pioneer Baptist," *Alderson Roots & Branches*, Vol. 1., No. 1, June 1989.

² Stillwell, "Curtis of Burlington and Monmouth Counties [NJ]", *Historical Miscellany*, vol. 3, p. 200; vol. 4, "Addenda and Errata," p. 375 (1916). Stillwell's work is well researched and documented.

William Penn, founder of the Pennsylvania colony. In March 1676 (NS)³, the proprietors and inhabitants of West Jersey organized themselves into a form of representative government; one of the signers of this early constitution was John Pancoast, who in 1689 married Jane Curtis, widow of Thomas. Later in 1676, Penn and his associates won a deed of division with Carteret—creating “New West Jersey” and “New East Jersey”—and issued a declaration of intentions and designs for the region; these views of religious tolerance and ample land induced many English Quakers to emigrate.⁴ It was perhaps during this period that the Curtis family of Bugbrooke, England began considering the move to the New World.

Curtises in New Jersey

The English settlers found it necessary to concentrate their scattered numbers in view of continued threat from the Indians and the Dutch, so in 1677, they laid out the town of Burlington, named for the hometown of a number of Quakers in Yorkshire (Figure 2). Within a few months, on 15 July 1678, the first Meeting of the Society of Friends was organized, and it was here that the Curtis family first appeared in New Jersey records. In March 1683, Thomas and Jane Curtis were named as parents at the birth of Mary Curtis.⁵ Their daughters Sarah and Elizabeth found alternate passage to America (which at that time cost about £5 per head): in 1681, they had bound themselves out as servants—Sarah to Benjamin Scott and Elizabeth to Elias Farr—to earn their passage to West Jersey. Benjamin Scott was likely the same man who came to West Jersey in 1677 as commissioner for the proprietors of lands purchased by the Society of Friends in London.⁶ No other children have been found in the Quaker records, but Thomas and Jane also were parents of Anne, Abigail, Jonathan, and Thomas Curtis; Jonathan, born ca. 1678-83, may have been born in England, but Thomas, b. 1685, was probably born in Burlington (Figure 3).

In 1685, a Thomas Curtis appeared as a landowner in Burlington Co., and in 1686, Thomas, “of Buggbrook, West Jersey”, was named as recipient of land conveyed by Peter Harvey and his wife Sarah [Curtis]. He apparently died not long after, as his widow Jane was soon to remarry, only to be

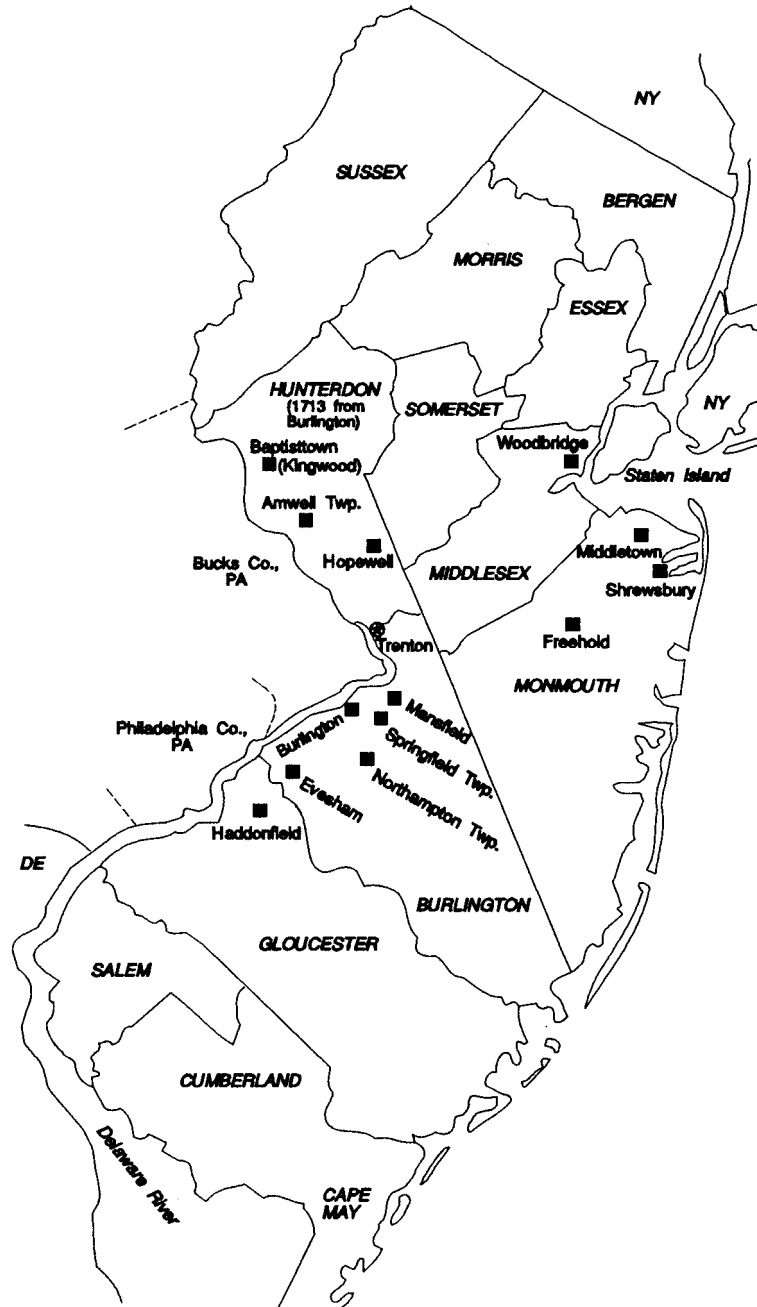


Figure 2
Curtis Family in New Jersey, 1681-1749.
New Jersey counties in 1790, showing locations mentioned in article. New Jersey was separated into East Jersey and West Jersey until 1702; the boundary ran northwest-southeast along the line separating Burlington and Monmouth counties. (Adapted from Thorndale and Dollarhide, *Map Guide to the US Federal Censuses*.)

3 New Style. All dates falling within the period of double-dating (Jan. 1 to March 24, 1583-1752) are cited New Style.
4 John Barber and Henry Howe, *Historical Collections of New Jersey*, New Haven, CT, 1868, pp. 2-24. New Jersey was reunited in 1702 when it reverted to direct crown rule under Queen Anne.
5 Stillwell, p. 200 citing the *Minutes of the Burlington Monthly Meeting*.
6 Barber and Howe, p. 20.

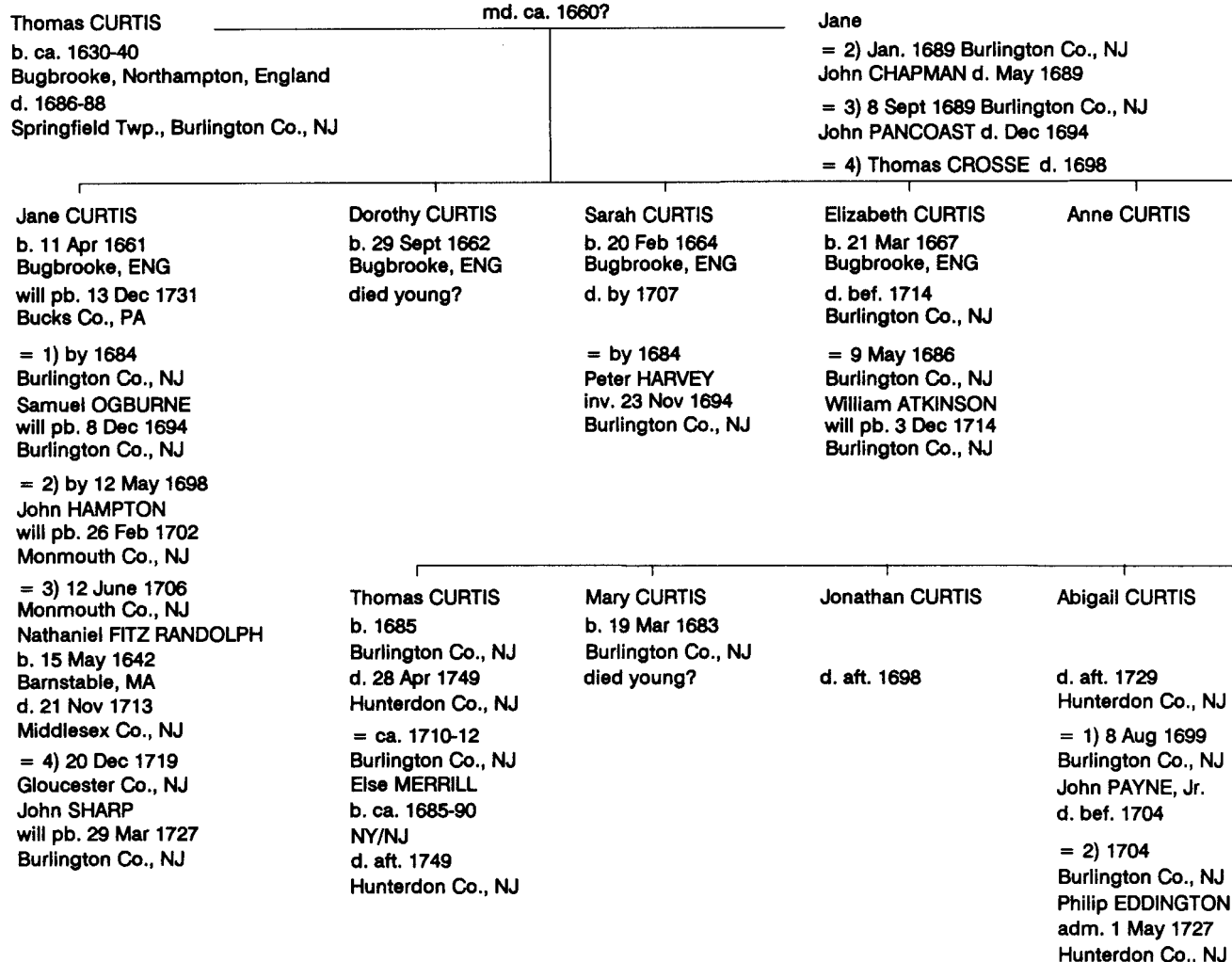


Figure 3
 Family of Thomas and Jane Curtis, of Bugbrooke, Northamptonshire, England, immigrants to New Jersey, ca. 1681.

widowed again within three months. In January 1689, "John Chapman and Jane Curtis, widow with children, declared their intention of marriage the second time."⁷ On Chapman's death, Jane was again faced with the burden of providing for herself and at least four small children. She soon found another husband, John Pancoast, the early settler, whom she married in September, 1689. This caused some consternation among her Quaker neighbors, as seen in the entry into the Burlington Monthly Minutes: "John Pancoast and Jane, his wife, joined together in a marriage contrary to good order, and before said Jane's husband, John Chapman, had been dead five months."⁸

John and Jane remained in the Burlington area, but in 1694, she found herself widowed again. Her husband,

"of Mansfield, Burlington Co.," made his will on 30 November, and it was proved in Burlington Court on 22 December. In it, he mentioned his wife Jane and a number of children by his previous wife.⁹ After Pancoast's death, Jane remained a widow at least two years, but was eventually married to Thomas Crosse, a wheelwright and Quaker originally from Byberry, Philadelphia Co., PA. In January 1697, Crosse purchased 400 acres of land from Lawrence Morris of Burlington, located in Northampton Township, Burlington Co.¹⁰ Here he spent his last year with wife Jane and both continued to be associated with the Friends in Burlington. On 7 April 1698, Crosse made out his will, which was proved on 19 April. Legatees included Thomas Kendall and Joseph Adams, for the use "of our Meeting at Burlington;" daughter-in-

7 Stillwell, p. 200, citing the *Minutes of Burlington Monthly Meeting*.

8 Stillwell, p. 200.

9 Stillwell, p. 200.

10 "West Jersey Records, Liber B, Part 2," *New Jersey Archives*, vol. 21, p. 507.

law [stepdaughter] Abigail; sons-in-law [stepsons] Jonathan and Thomas Curtis; and the children of William Atkinson; Atkinson served as witness to Thomas' will and was the husband of Jane's daughter Elizabeth Curtis.¹¹

There is no further record of Jane after 1698. She was probably around 60 years old, and may have spent the remaining years of her life with one of her children. Most of her children remained in New Jersey, though daughter Jane eventually moved across the river to Bucks Co., PA.

Jane, the oldest daughter of Thomas and Jane, was married shortly after the family's arrival in West Jersey. Her first husband, Samuel Ogbourne, was from Burlington and a member of the Burlington Meeting. Their first son, Samuel Ogbourne, was born on 25 December 1684; Samuel and Jane also had two daughters, Mary and Sarah. As their family grew, Samuel and Jane decided to build a house in Burlington on a one-fifth acre site fronting on High Street, purchased in August 1693 for £13. Unfortunately, tragedy struck before the house was completed, as Samuel fell sick and died in the next year. His will was made on 7 November and proved on 8 December 1694.¹² He named his "dearly beloved wife Jane" as executor, and his "brother-in-law Peter Harvey" [husband of Jane's sister Sarah Curtis], as trustee and assistant. Among the signers of the bond filed by Jane Ogbourne was William Atkinson, "of Burlington, yeoman," her brother-in-law.¹³ Within a few months after Samuel's death, Jane repurchased a 90-acre lot with house which her husband had previously sold to John Harwood of Springfield. She then sold the one-fifth-acre lot and building materials for the Burlington house to Lyondell Britton of Philadelphia for £52—a considerable sum in those days.¹⁴

About 1697, Jane remarried to John Hampton, of Freehold, Monmouth Co., NJ. She left Burlington, and in 1698, she and John sold a house in Burlington to John Borradaill of Burlington. While they were living in Freehold, John and Jane had one son, Joseph, but John died within a few years of his birth. In his will, written 23 January 1702 and proven at Freehold on 26 February 1702, John mentioned Jane, his third wife, and left legacies to Sarah and Mary Ogbourne, her children before "our marriage;" to son Joseph; and to other children from his previous marriages. Jane remained a widow for four years before marrying Nathaniel Fitzrandolph of Woodbridge, Middlesex Co., NJ. They were married at Shrewsbury, northeast of Jane's home at Freehold, on 12 June 1706.¹⁵ Jane left Freehold and moved to Woodbridge, where she and Nathaniel had one son, Benjamin, born 23 December 1707. At age five, Benjamin's father died, leaving him his shares of land at Rahway Neck along with £30 from the estate, payable

when he "arrives to the age of twenty-one." Nathaniel also left some of his sheep to "my son-in-law" Joseph Hampton.¹⁶

At this point, Jane decided to leave Woodbridge, and she joined her son-in-law Edmond Kinsey and daughter Sarah in requesting a certificate of removal from the Woodbridge Meeting to the Falls Meeting in Bucks Co., PA, where they moved in 1715. Jane stayed four years, then requested a removal. This was evidently prompted by her upcoming marriage to John Sharp, of Evesham, Burlington Co., whom she married on 20 December 1719 at Haddonfield. Jane outlived her fourth husband as well. John Sharp died in 1727 in Evesham, leaving wife Jane and a number of children by his previous marriages. Returning to Bucks Co., Jane lived for over four more years. She died in late 1731 at Buckingham, Bucks Co., age 70. In her will, dated 8 August 1729 and proved 13 December 1731, she names son Samuel Ogburn, son-in-law Edmond Kinsey, son-in-law Jonas Kettle [Cattell], son Benjamin Fitzrandolph, daughter Mary Kettle, daughter Sarah Kinsey, and son Joseph Hampton, along with seven granddaughters, to whom she left over £150 in cash, silver and gold. Jane had amassed a comfortable amount of wealth during her life.¹⁷

Aside from the birth entry in Bugbrooke, England, no further information has been found on Dorothy Curtis, Jane's younger sister. She may have died in England before the family left for America. The next sister, Sarah, who had earned passage to America as the servant for Benjamin Scott, married around the time sister Jane married Samuel Ogbourne. Sarah married Peter Harvey, who lived in or near Burlington, and their first child John Harvey was born 14 February 1685. Other children included Sarah, born 6 October 1688, two months before her father Peter bought land from Thomas Wright, one of the proprietors of West Jersey; Mary, born 10 January 1690; Elizabeth; and Hannah, born 12 October 1694. Hannah may have been just a few weeks old when her father died. Peter Harvey left no will, but an inventory of his estate, dated 23 November 1688, and appraised by John Ogbourne, was submitted to the Burlington Court. Peter's brother-in-law, John Day, also a Quaker, became administrator of the estate, a position he held until a final accounting was made on 5 August 1707. In this final accounting, John Day credited himself with the costs of buying coffins for Peter Harvey, his wife, and a child. He paid William Atkinson, husband of Elizabeth Curtis, for nursing and keeping several of Peter and Sarah's children, including Elizabeth and Hannah.¹⁸ Sarah Curtis Harvey probably lived only 40 years or so.

Elizabeth Curtis, born 1667 in England, also married in Burlington Co. According to the records of the Burlington Meeting, on 9 May 1686, "Samuel and Jane Og-

11 *Abstract of Philadelphia County Wills*, Book A, p. 399. The original is on file at Trenton, NJ.

12 Stillwell, vol. 4, p. 156. Samuel left £5 to each child, at the discretion of the executrix, "if so much remains when they are brought up."

13 Stillwell, vol. 4, p. 156.

14 Stillwell, vol 4, p. 156.

15 Stillwell, vol. 4, p. 158, citing the *Records of Shrewsbury Monthly Meeting*.

16 Stillwell, vol. 4, p. 158. The will of Nathaniel Fitzrandolph was dated 5 May 1713 and proved on 12 May at Woodbridge.

17 Stillwell, vol. 4, p. 159. The will of John Sharp was dated 17 May 1725 and proved in Burlington Co. on 29 March 1727.

18 Stillwell, vol. 4, p. 375.

borne, Sarah Harvie, and others, were witnesses to the marriage of William Atkinson and Elizabeth Curtis.¹⁹ William and Elizabeth had at least seven children: Joseph, b. 1688; John, b. 1690; and Mary, Micheal, William, Elizabeth and Isaac Atkinson. William appeared in a number of legal documents relating to the Curtis family, including the bond on administration of the estate of Samuel Ogbourne in 1694, and his children were mentioned as legacies in the will of Thomas Crosse in 1698. The mention in Crosse's will of the "children of William Atkinson" may have indicated that Elizabeth had already died; she was in any case dead by the time her husband died in 1714. William remained in Burlington Co., where he died at Birch Creek. On 3 December 1714, his will was proved, naming his children.

Anne Curtis, daughter of Thomas and Jane, was probably born in England. She was mentioned in the testimony of William Pancoast, who in 1699 declared that "before Jane Pancoast was married to Thomas Cross [ca. 1697] he was present when there were 5 cows that belonged to Anne and Abigail Curtis."²⁰ No further record of Anne has been found, and she was not mentioned as a legatee in the will of Thomas Crosse in 1698, in which Thomas left bequests to Anne's sister Abigail and brothers Jonathan and Thomas.

Abigail Curtis, also likely born in England, married John Paine, Jr. "at the House of Geo: Willhouse, in Burlington, ye 8th of August, 1699: Before Tho: Revell, Jno. Jewell & Antho: Elton, Justices, & many other witnesses."²¹ John lived only a few years; in 1704, Abigail remarried to Philip Eddington.²² Philip and Abigail eventually left Burlington, moving north to Amwell, which became part of Hunterdon county at its formation in 1713. Here Philip died, and Abigail was granted administration of his estate on 1 May 1727, with Jonathan David and John Burroughs on the bond. In 1729, Abigail served as executrix of the will of Robert Wall, a friend (and debtor) of the Eddingtons.²³

Jonathan Curtis, mentioned in the will of Thomas Crosse (1698), and Mary Curtis, whose birth was recorded in the minutes of the Burlington Friends Meeting, have left no further record. Mary may have died young, since as a child she would have likely also been considered in the will of Thomas Crosse, as were Thomas and Abigail. Jonathan may have left the Burlington area, and record of him may yet appear in another location. It is likely that Jonathan was the youngest of the Curtis children born in England.

Thomas Curtis

Thomas and Jane's youngest child, Thomas, was born in 1685. His identity in the New Jersey records has been uncertain, and Stillwell tentatively placed him as the Thomas Curtis who died intestate in Burlington Co. in

Figure 4
Thomas Curtis' signatures. Upper: on petition for release of guardianship, 1706, age 21. Lower: on will, Hunterdon Co., 1749, age 64.

1732. There is other evidence, however, that connects this Thomas to Thomas Curtis of Hopewell, father of Jane Curtis, wife of John Alderson.

In May 1698, the month after his step-father Thomas Crosse died, Thomas Curtis was bound to William Atkinson as legal guardian. Jane was likely by this time unable to care properly for Thomas, and the burden was taken by her son-in-law, whose own children had been left bequests by Thomas Crosse. The period of legal guardianship lasted until Thomas' majority at age 21, and in 1706, he petitioned Thomas Revell, Surrogate of the province of New Jersey (and witness at the marriage of sister Abigail in 1699), for a final accounting of expenditures by William Atkinson during the guardianship period. In an "account of what money William Atkinson has disbursed or laid out on the account for the use of Thomas Curtis", Atkinson lists mainly clothing purchases totalling just over £9, or an average of £1 per year.²⁴ Thomas signed this document, and the signature closely matches that on the will of Thomas Curtis of Hunterdon Co., who died in 1749 (Figure 4). This identification is strengthened by the appearance of Samuel Ogbourne—Thomas' nephew by his oldest sister Jane—as one of the organizers of the Hopewell Baptist Church in 1715. Born a Quaker, Thomas' later conversion to the Baptists can be viewed in context of the rapid expansion of the Baptist church in the early 1700s. The mother church of the Baptists in New Jersey was in Middletown, organized in 1688 from the Pennepak church of Philadelphia. Samuel Ogbourne, who had taken up residence in Hopewell, moved to Middletown around 1712, when he purchased 120 acres in the town from Hendrick Gulick and his wife Katherine for £185. Samuel quickly became an important figure in the town; in 1715 he was chosen Overseer of the Poor and was a frequent office holder in the years following.²⁵ He also joined the Baptist church there, and in 1715 accompanied the Rev. John Burrows to Hopewell to assist

19 Stillwell, vol. 3, p. 201.

20 Stillwell, vol. 4, p. 375.

21 Stillwell, vol. 2, *Burlington Court Records*.

22 Stillwell, vol. 3, p. 201, citing the St. Mary's Church Record.

23 Stillwell, vol 3, p. 201.

24 *Unrecorded Wills of New Jersey*, New Jersey State Library.

25 Stillwell, vol. 4, p. 159. The deed mentioned that Samuel was "of Hopewell, in Burlington Co., N.J., wheelwright."

in organizing their church. In the "History of the Hopewell Baptist Church", first compiled by Isaac Eaton in 1749, the establishment of the church was recorded as follows: "At a meeting held at the house of Joseph Stout in Hopewell April 23 day Anno Dom 1715 there met together Abel Morgan Minister of the Church at Penepack and Philadelphia Griffith Milles & Joseph Todd Members of s^d Church, and John Burrows Minister of Middletown & Samuel Ogborn Member of his Church to be Assistants and Witnesses at the Constitution of this these few members or Baptised persons that was then Living Near here into Church Order and Fellowship the Names of those then Constituted are: Hannah Stout, Sarah Fitzrandolph, Rachel Hyde, Mary Drake, Ann Stout, Ruth Stout, Alse Curtis, Sarah Smith, Jonathan Stout, Joseph Stout, Thomas Curtis, Benjamin Drake."²⁶

Morgan Edwards, chronicler of the early Baptists in America, provides the final clue. In his biography of the Rev. Thomas Curtis, written some 40 years after his death, he stated that Thomas Curtis died "April 28, 1749, in the 64th year of his age."²⁷ This places the birth of Thomas of Hopewell in 1685, the same year that Thomas Curtis, who released his guardian at age 21 in 1706, was born.

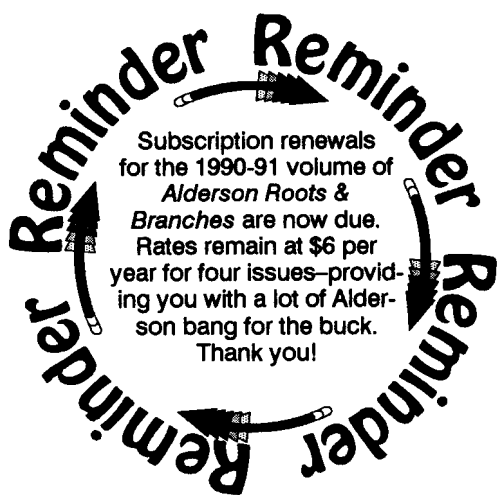
(continued in the next issue)

? Queries ?

Reference the letter from Dr. Christopher ALDERSON to his Aunt Frances ALDERSON, dated 25 November 1851, in the previous issue. In the next to last paragraph he refers to the health of Margaret ASTON. Is there someone who can give me any information as to who this person might be?

My grandmother was Margaret Aston ALDERSON, daughter of George W. ALDERSON, b. 1873. I presume she was named for the above-mentioned lady. She spoke fondly of Dr. Chris.

Lorraine Keith, P.O. Box 155, Maple Valley, WA 98038.



26 *The Town Records of Hopewell New Jersey*, p. 126.

27 Morgan Edwards, *Materials Towards a History of the Baptists*, Vol. II, New Jersey (1790), Heritage Papers: Danielsville, GA, 1984 (reprint), p. 101.



Editor's Corner

As researchers eager to share our findings with fellow researchers, we often pass on information sent to us by others who have been working on the same family lines—but not always with proper credit given. Indeed, sitting here thousands of miles from the mainland U.S., I owe much of my ability to do further research on the Aldersons to those generous friends and relatives who send copies of vital records, newspaper clippings, letters, and other material of importance in piecing together the Alderson puzzle. As is the case with the article on the Curtis family in this issue, I rely on these sources for much of the material included in this newsletter. I try to provide as full a citation as possible on the material used in articles, but I'm afraid that in some cases, the original source of the material has been lost.

I recently received a letter from T.G. Alderson of Beech Mountain, North Carolina, who, as much as anyone, has made this newsletter possible. He asked me to express his sincere thanks to all those who have sent him items and data over the years. Tom has kindly provided me with copies of much of this material, but I am not always able to credit the original owner or compiler of the information. A good example is the letters to Frances Alderson reprinted over the past few issues; although I worked from copies of the originals, I found out from another reader that the originals are in the possession of her brother, John Kesler, a great-great grandson of Frances who lives in West Virginia. Mr. Kesler and others who possess these family treasures deserve special thanks for sharing these items with us. At the same time, I apologize to all those whose hard work and generosity has provided us with a better knowledge and understanding of the family but who go unrecognized as material is copied and passed on dozens of times.

Proper citation is not the only reason to keep track of where material has been obtained. I have seen copies of Bible records so faded that I would have loved to have had a chance to verify the information against the original. I've also seen Xeroxed copies of photographs that I would have paid for reproducing had I known who owned them. Owners of these items are often direct descendants of the family members named or shown in these sources, and for researchers of the same line, additional direct contact can often provide clues to their own lines.

According to several readers, the Alderson Cousins reunion over Memorial Day was a great success. New friends were made, old correspondents met, and plenty of food eaten. Is someone willing to write a short article on the reunion for the next issue, or have photographs he/she would be willing to share for inclusion? (They will be promptly returned.)

Washington Co., VA Marriages, 1785-1912

Date	Husband Wife	Age Age	Place of Birth Place of Birth	Parents Parents
1813, 19 March	James WOOLAM Polly ALDERSON			
1833, 23 Oct.	Rolen R. REDWINE Leah ALDERSON			
1837, 20 Sept.	Davis ALDERSON Elizabeth JONES			
1839, 4 April	John D. ALDERSON Martha GRAHAM			
1861, 28 Feb.	David VARCEIL Catherine FRICK	44, widow 33, widow	Illinois Russell Co., VA	James & Elizabeth Varceil Joseph & Elizabeth Alderson
1862, 6 Feb.	John A. CATRON Mary REID	22		Christian & Margaret Catron Hugh & Barbara Nancy Reid
1862, 13 Dec.	Samuel Porter EDMUNDSON Elizabeth Catherine ALDERSON	22 22		Andrew & Rosanna Edmundson George & Lydia Alderson
1867, 3 Sept.	Charles W. ALDERSON Sally F. EDMUNDSON	21 19	Russell Co., VA	C. & Polly Alderson Andrew & Rose Edmundson
1868, 7 July	George W. ALDERSON Mary CATRON	47, widow 28, widow		Davis & Catherine Alderson Hugh & Nancy Reid
1870, 27 Dec.	Thomas J. TILSON Anna L. ALDERSON	23 21		David & Elizabeth Tilson George & Lydia Alderson
1872, 1 May	James M. BUCHANAN Mary C. ALDERSON	23 21	Russell Co., VA	C. & Mary Alderson
1874, 3 Sept.	Andrew P. ALDERSON Mary CULBERTSON	26 21	Russell Co., VA	George W. & Lydia Alderson James Culbertson
1874, 21 Oct.	Thomas M. PRESTON Mattie A. ALDERSON	27 22	Russell Co., VA	Thomas M. & Elisine Preston Christopher Alderson
1875, 13 Oct.	John W. MINNICK Marion Mayfield ALDERSON	24 20		Henry & Rosannah Minnick George & Lydia Alderson
1890, 30 Sept.	Joseph D. ALDERSON Matilda F. DAVENPORT	22 21		C.W. & Florence Alderson Lilburn & Martha Davenport
1891, 29 March	William Elihu DUVALL Mary Ann ALDERSON	26 21	Ashe Co., NC	Thomas & Martha Duvall George & Mary Alderson
1892, 20 Jan.	William H. ALDERSON Minerva SPROLES	36 28	Russell Co., VA	Thomas C.M. & A.J. Alderson Solomon & S.J. Sproles
1900, 1 Sept.	Patton W. GRAHAM Rose Buchanan ALDERSON	20 25	Lee Co., VA	H.B. & Martha Graham Charles W. and Sally F. Alderson
1902, 15 Feb.	John J. ALDERSON Flora M. BUCHANAN	25 24		George & Mary Alderson William R. & Martha A. Buchanan

Transcribed by Mrs. Loraine Duvall Keith, LDS microfilm #034389

Washington Co., VA was formed in 1776-7 from Montgomery and Fincastle counties and comprised the entire southwestern portion of Virginia. In 1785, the northern part of the county was separated to form Russell Co., where the families of Davis Alderson (1768-1851) and Thomas Creigh McCleary Alderson (1817-1877) settled. (See the 1860 census of Russell Co., VA in the previous issue). Davis Alderson originally settled in Washington Co., where he died and is buried (see photos in "Out of the Past" is the previous issue).

One unidentified Alderson in the listing above is Polly Alderson, who married James Woolam in 1813. Anybody have a clue who she is? Perhaps she is a daughter of Simon Alderson?

Membership as of June 1990

Member	Line of Descent	Member	Line of Descent
Alderson, Mr. John B.		Fridley, Mr. Robert	John-Thomas-Jane
Alderson, Mr. and Mrs. W.C.		Gilkeson, Mrs. Roy A.	
Alderson, Mr. T.M.		Grady, Mr. John Paul	John-Benjamin-Aaron
Alderson, Mr. J.V.		Hall, Ms. Mary C.	John-John-Jane
Alderson, Mr. Joseph N. III		Hardy, Mrs. Billie D.	
Alderson, Philip and Eileen	John-John-Joseph-George	Hemphill, Mr. Norman S.	John-Thomas-Davis
Alderson, Mr. Clay		Ingraham, Mrs. Thom	
Alderson, Mr. John		Keith, Mrs. Loraine Duvall	John-Thomas-Davis
Alderson, Mr. John H.		Kesler, John W.	John-Thomas-Frances
Alderson, Mr. John M., V	John-John-Joseph-George	Kocurek, Mrs. Marsha	John-Thomas-Jane
Alderson, Mrs. Bertha		Lalonde, Mrs. Carrie	
Alderson, Ms. Della E.		Langowski, Mrs. H.R.	John-Thomas-Margaret?
Alderson, Mr. Allen W.	John-John-Joseph-Lewis	McNeil, Ms. Evelyn	
Alderson Jr., Mr. Creed F.	John-John-Joseph-George	Miller, Mr. Condra H.	John-Benjamin-Aaron-Rebecca
Alderson Jr., Mr. and Mrs. J.W.		Mitchell, Mrs. Barbara G.	
Alderson, Mr. T.G.	John-John-Joseph-George	Noe, Mr. Howard A.	John-Curtis-Thomas
Alderson Family History Society		Pennington, Mr. and Mrs. R.C.	John-Thomas-Hannah
Bixby, Mrs. Mary-Louise	John-Thomas-Davis-Mary	Piper, Ms. Nancy	John-Thomas-Frances
Boswell, Mrs. Robert	John-Benjamin-Aaron	Polk, Mrs. Dorothy L.	Northern Neck
Bowman, Ms. Carole Staton	John-John-Margaret	Reppell, Mrs. Clarice Alderson	John-John-George-Levi
Brown, Mrs. Carole		Rhodes, Mrs. Dreama Alderson	John-John-George-Levi
Brown, Mr. William T.		Richardson, Ms. Janice	Northern Neck
Burks Jr., Mrs. Winston W.	John-John-Joseph-George	Schiller, Mrs. Cecilia G.	John-Thomas-Hannah
Ceperley, Mrs. F.F.	John-Thomas-Curtis-Curtis	Solem, Ms. Shirley	James (Eng.)-Thomas-Jane
Clevenger, Ms. Anna B.		Shough, Mrs. Diane Peters	John-Benjamin-Aaron-Hiram
Coleman, Mr. James R.		Stanford, Ms. Helen Jarrett	
DeRossitt, Mrs. James P.	John-John-Joseph-George	Swope, Mrs. Kenneth	John-John-Joseph-George
Firebaugh, Mr. Dan	John-Curtis-Thomas-John	Tackitt, Mr. James W.	John-Thomas-Davis
Fletcher, Mrs. Julia A.	John-John-Joseph-George	Thompson, Mrs. Anne A.	John-John-Joseph-George
Fox, Mrs. Joseph F.		Van Sant, Mrs. Mary K.	John-Thomas-Jane
Fridley, Mr. David	John-Thomas-Jane	Warner, Ms. Charlotte Cooper	John-Thomas-Jane
Fridley, Ms. Marlene	John-Thomas-Jane	Whitehead, Mrs. Gaye M	John-Thomas-Jane
Fridley, Mrs. Almeta		Yancy, Dr. & Mrs. Richard S.	



Alderson Family History Society

The Alderson Family History Society is a British organization devoted to the study of the Alderson family history. Though primarily oriented to family lines in Britain, the membership includes Americans and undertakes research on American and other lines of interest. The Society publishes a newsletter—appearing in February, June, and October—which presents family histories and biographies, research guides and results, organizational news and projects, queries, and other interesting and useful material.

After a friendly and encouraging exchange with various members of the Society, we have decided to exchange newsletters, share material we publish, cross-advertise, and accept queries from readers. Some discussion has been had as well on the possibility of assistance in looking further into the ancestry of the Rev. John Alderson. More details will be announced as they develop.

For those interested in subscribing to the AFHS newsletter, the annual fee is \$10 airmail, \$8 surface mail, payable by check to Mr. John Alderson, 133E Alameda

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 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 (\$10 international) for four issues and run from the June to March issues, including any back issues for the year. Back issues from previous years 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!