



Alderson

Roots & Branches



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Thomas Curtis: Baptist at Baptisttown

by David Fridley

[This is the second and last article about the family of Thomas Curtis, father of Jane Curtis, wife of the Rev. John Alderson. In the last issue, I wrote about a possible ancestral line for Thomas Curtis based on the Curtis family history in *Stillwell's Historical Miscellany*, along with supporting evidence contributed by a number of other researchers. Thomas was most likely the son of Thomas and Jane Curtis, early Quaker immigrants to East Jersey from Bugbrooke, Northamptonshire, England. He was born in 1685 in New Jersey, but his father died while he was only a child. In 1698, his brother-in-law William Atkinson became his guardian, which lasted until Thomas reached the age of majority in 1706.]

Between his release from guardianship in 1706 in Burlington Co. and the formation of the Hopewell Baptist Church in 1715, Thomas's whereabouts are not known. During this period he may have been introduced to the Baptist religion through the influence of his nephew Samuel Osborne, who became prominent in the Baptist church at Middletown. Eventually Thomas left Burlington, settling in Hopewell, where he married Else Merrill probably around 1710 or 1711.¹ Else's ancestry is not documented, but she may have been the daughter of William Merrill, son of Richard Merrill of Staten Island, who was recorded as having "gone West." "West" was actually Middletown, East Jersey, where William bought 120 acres of land from Richard Stout, Jr. in 1687.² At

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Middletown, home to the Baptist mother church of New Jersey, William may have become active in the church. He stayed in Middletown until after 1701 but later moved to Hopewell, probably before 1710, and he appears as a resident in the Hopewell tax list of 1722. Although William is not on record as a member of the Hopewell Church in 1715, other family members joined in the 1720s, including Rachel Merrill and Mrs. Penelope Stout Jewell, who married William's son William after the death of her first husband. William Merrill, Sr. died in 1724.³

Thomas and Else became constituent members of the Hopewell Baptist Church at its organization in 1715. A few years later, according to family tradition, John Alderson arrived in New Jersey from England, and was bound to the Rev. Curtis in return for his passage across the Atlantic. It must be a fascinating story how John Alderson ended up in Hopewell, but it would seem that he may have already had some connection with the Baptist church before coming to America. Perhaps he had made the acquaintance of Baptist groups during his travels around England. In 1729 or 1730, he became a baptized member of the Hopewell congregation.⁴

The children of Thomas and Else Curtis are known from a history of the New Jersey Baptists written by Morgan Edwards in 1790. In a short biography of Thomas Curtis, Edwards notes: "His wife was Alice Merrill, by whom he had children, Jane Curtis, Thomas Curtis, Benjamin Curtis, Ann Curtis, Mary Curtis: these married into the families of the Aldersons, Peers, Macauleys, Hills, and Thatchers; and have raised him 22 grandchildren."⁵ Of these five, only sons Thomas and Benjamin are specifically named in Thomas' will of 1747. Daughter Jane accompanied her husband to Bucks Co., PA, then to the Shenandoah Valley frontier in Virginia, but Ann and Mary likely remained in New Jersey.

Jane Curtis. Despite the volume of material known about the life of the Rev. John Alderson, very little has been uncovered about the life of his lifelong partner Jane Curtis. She was probably the first child of Thomas and Else, born between 1710 and 1715. She was still a young girl when John Alderson arrived in New Jersey, and must have gotten to know him like a brother as she grew up.

Jane does not appear in the Hopewell records, although there is a mention of a Jane Curtis being received into the church by letter from Philadelphia.⁶ If this is

1 The name Else is a Dutch variant of the name Alice. It also appears as Ailse, Als, and Alis. The area around Hopewell became a part of the county of Hunterdon at its formation in 1713.
 2 *East Jersey Deeds*, D:34 cited in *New Jersey Archives*, vol. 21, p. 165. Note that Stouts were charter members of the Hopewell Baptist Church in 1715.
 3 "New Jersey Wills" in *New Jersey Archives*, Vol. 23, p. 316. Dated 23 Feb. 1724, proved 5 May 1724.
 4 Lida Cokefair, compiler, *Hopewell Town Records*, 1931, p. 127, "joined by 1730," following a listing of membership in 1728.
 5 Morgan Edwards, *Materials Towards a History of the Baptists*, Vol. XII, "New Jersey," reprinted by Heritage Papers, Danielsville, GA, 1984, p. 101.
 6 Cokefair, p. 127-8.

Thomas' daughter Jane, she may have been at school or with relatives in Philadelphia, returning home perhaps to find a husband. In any event, Jane and John were married at Hopewell, though the exact year is unknown. According to the Rev. James B. Taylor, historian of Virginia Baptists, "a short time subsequent to his [John Alderson's] marriage, the subduing grace of God arrested him. He became a joyful believer in Christ Jesus, and was baptized in his name."⁷ If this refers to his uniting with the Hopewell church in 1729 or 1730, then John and Jane may have been married around 1728 or 1729, some ten years before the birth of their oldest son John Alderson, Jr. in 1738. Edith Tunnell, a genealogist, wrote in 1937 that "John became converted after the death of his oldest child." This would imply that John and Jane were married even earlier than Taylor states, but it may refer instead to John's decision to enter the ministry after his baptism. If this is true, John and Jane may have had a child before John who died young.⁸

John and Jane's family are only partially documented. Five sons are mentioned in the will of John Alderson in 1780, but eight children have been recorded from various sources:

- » Mary Alderson. She is supposed to have married a Mr. Orton and moved to western Pennsylvania. I have found no source for this child, but if she married before John and Jane took their family to Virginia, she would have likely been born by 1736.
- » John Alderson, Jr. John was born 5 March 1738 in New Jersey, and died 3 March 1821 at Alderson, Greenbrier Co., VA. In 1759 he married Mary Carroll, who is buried beside him at the Old Greenbrier Baptist Church at Alderson.
- » Curtis Alderson. Curtis may have been born ca. 1740. He married Elizabeth Ramsey before 1766 (when she was baptised at Linville Creek), and he died near Fincastle, Botetourt Co., VA in 1804.
- » James Alderson. A James Alderson appears in Botetourt Co., VA in the 1770s and thus has been assumed to be a son of John and Jane. In 1773, he received a license to run an ordinary (inn) at his house, and in May 1779 he served as a jury member in a trial case in Botetourt Co. He is not mentioned in John Alderson's will.
- » Thomas Alderson, born 22 August 1744 in Bucks Co., PA, died 1837 Monroe Co., VA. See "Thomas Alderson, Revolutionary Veteran" in *AR&B*, vol. 1, no. 2, September 1989.

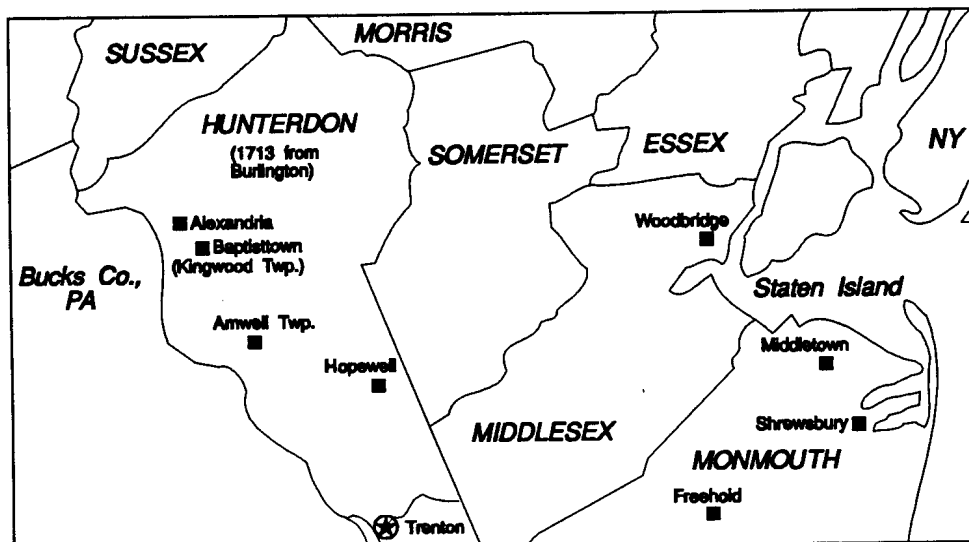


Figure 1
Hunterdon Co., NJ, 1790.

- » Benjamin Alderson. Benjamin may have been born ca. 1745 in Bucks Co., PA, and he died some time after 1820 in Indiana. See "Benjamin Alderson, Kentucky Pioneer" in *AR&B*, vol. 1, no. 3, December 1989.
- » Simon's date of birth is unknown. He married Ann Spratt in Botetourt Co., VA in 1773, moved to Montgomery Co., VA by 1780, and was in Washington Co., VA by 1784.
- » Samuel Alderson. It is uncertain if John and Jane had a son by this name.

Ann Curtis. Virtually nothing is known of Ann. Edwards' listing may indicate that she married a Hill, but in 1796 a John Grimes and "Anne his wife, late Anne Curtis" entered a complaint against Jane Curtis, widow of Thomas' son Benjamin Curtis, requesting that Jane file an account of the estate of Benjamin, who had died in 1778.⁹ Assuming this Anne is the daughter of Thomas and Else, she may have been widowed and remarried to John Grimes, or Edwards may have been in error. Edwards, however, was writing some six years before the court complaint was filed.

Mary Curtis. Mary's year of birth is unknown. Based on Edwards' order of children and marriages, Mary may have married a Thatcher. In Kingwood, there were numerous Thatchers from an early date. In 1749, a John Thatcher of Kingwood wrote his will, which was proved in August of that year.¹⁰ In it he mentioned a daughter Ann, to be brought up by his wife Susanna—perhaps indicating that he was fairly young at the time he died. John named his brothers James and Jeremiah Thatcher as executors of his estate. Edmond Thatcher was mentioned as witness. The settlement account of 1752 mentions, among others, A. Curtis [Aise?], William Thatcher, Joseph Thatcher, Jr., Edmond Thatcher, Jeremiah That-

7 James B. Taylor, *Lives of Virginia Baptist Ministers*, Richmond, VA, 1838, second edition, p. 22.

8 Tunnell does not provide a reference for this statement beyond a general reference to Edwards', Taylor's, and Semple's histories of the Baptists. I have not been able to find this passage in the three volumes.

9 *New Jersey Wills*, Book 25, p. 145.

10 *New Jersey Wills*, Book 6, p. 276.

cher, Elizabeth Thatcher, and Joseph Thatcher, Sr. The Jeremiah Thatcher listed here may be the Jeremiah named as father of Mary Thatcher, who married Jonathan Curtis, son of Mary's brother Thomas Curtis. A Jeremiah Thatcher also provided the administration bond and was appointed to take inventory of Benjamin Curtis' estate in 1782.

Thomas Curtis. Thomas' tombstone at the Old School Baptist churchyard provides his birthdate as 1719. Thomas stayed in Kingwood, where he married Mary (Peer?) on 25 November 1742. In the year before his father died, Thomas bought 157.5 acres from Thomas Thatcher; in 1751 he added to his property through the purchase of 174 acres from John Hoff of Bucks Co., PA. Both of these lots were located about a half mile north of the Kingwood Presbyterian Church.¹¹

Thomas and Mary had eight known children:

- » Jonathan Curtis. Jonathan was born 19 May 1744 at Kingwood, and died 26 June 1782. He married Mary Thatcher, who died in 1807. After Jonathan died, Mary remarried to Ashfordly(?) Arrison, by whom she also had children. In 1795, she was brought to court by John Arrison, who raised exception to her administration of the estate of her late husband Ashfordly. She may have not been herself after the deaths of two husbands; after her own death in 1807, she was certified a "lunatic" in the inventory and appraisal papers. In the settlement of her estate, her heirs were listed as "Daniel Curtis, 36 yrs; Ann Curtis, 33 yrs, now Ann Robeson; Thomas Curtis, 31 yrs; Mary Curtis, 31 yrs, now Mary Danley [Donnelly]; Jeremiah Curtis, 28 yrs; Sarah Curtis, 26 yrs, now Sarah Britton; Euphenie Arrison, 22 yrs; Elizabeth Arrison, 20 yrs; Grace Arrison, 17 yrs."¹²
- » Francis Curtis. Francis was born 22 December 1745. His spouse is unknown, but he had two children.
- » Obediah Curtis. Obediah was born 13 April 1748, but died before reaching 7 years of age.
- » Sarah Curtis. Sarah was born 24 March 1750 and died 20 August 1852, age 102 years. She is buried at the Old School Baptist churchyard along with her husband Edward Taylor, whom she married in 1774.¹³ He was born about 1748-49 and died 18 January 1833. Sarah and Edward had 7 children, who were named in Edward's will as Thomas, John, Elizabeth, Athaliah, Mary, Theodocia, Able, and Ann.
- » Thomas Curtis. Thomas was born 17 July 1752 and died in 1823. He was issued a license to marry Elizabeth Taylor on 16 April 1774, the same day as his sister Sarah Curtis received a license to marry Edward Taylor, who was probably Elizabeth's brother. Elizabeth was born in 1757 and died in 1819. Thomas and Elizabeth had 8 children.
- » Obediah Curtis. Obediah, second of his name, was born 27 June 1755 and died in 1806. He is buried at the Old School Baptist churchyard along with his

wife Anna Yard Curtis, born 1768, died 1848. Obediah and Anna Curtis had 7 children: Jehu (9 Oct. 1790—1876), Sarah (15 Jan. 1792—2 June 1882), Adger Silas (22 Sept. 1793—?), Rachel (1 June 1795—Sept. 1888), Mary (6 April 1797—21 Nov. 1858), Frances (25 Aug. 1799—25 July 1808), and Uzinah Elizabeth (26 August 1802—25 July 1808).¹⁴

» Abel Curtis. Abel was born 29 April 1761 and died 3 February 1847. He never married and was buried at the Old School Baptist churchyard along with his brother Benjamin. Abel was willed 80 acres of his father's land.

» Benjamin Curtis. Benjamin was born 10 May 1763 and died 8 February 1835. He was never married. Benjamin was willed 60 acres of his father's land.

Benjamin Curtis. Benjamin was also buried in the Old School Baptist churchyard. His tombstone provides his date of death as 12 May 1778, "in his 58th year"; his birth, therefore, was in 1720 or 1721, and he may have been Thomas and Else's youngest child. His wife Jane, who died 14 July 1821, aged 86 years and 3 days, was buried beside him. Again following Edwards, her maiden name may have been Macauley.

Benjamin and Jane's children are not known, but they may have had one son Thomas Curtis. On 10 September 1773, a letter from Samuel Fleming of Alexandria township [north of Kingwood] stated that his two sons, apprenticed to men in New York, were attacked on the road from Baptisttown to Alexandria by John Taylor, Jr. and his son Bartholomew Taylor, and Thomas Curtis, Jr., son of Benjamin.¹⁵

Although Benjamin died in 1778, his estate administration was not granted until 1782 to his wife Jane Curtis on bond of Jeremiah Thatcher, with John Hanna, Jr., as witness. His estate was appraised at £115.10.9, but by 1796, the accounts had not yet been settled (see Anne Curtis, above).

In 1738, Thomas Curtis left Hopewell and headed north to the vicinity of Bethlehem, Hunterdon Co. Here he settled near a group of Baptists who had arrived in the area in 1729. Among these early settlers were Isaac Wolverson and wife, William Fowler and wife, and Elizabeth Warford. In 1734, John Burtis, Ann Lanner, and Mary Green joined the earlier group. Curtis worked with the settlers to build a Baptist meeting house, and in 1739, he brought his family from Hopewell to join him. Over the next few years, Thomas preached throughout the township, and in 1741, he assisted in the building of another meeting house in lower Bethlehem, now Kingwood township. The settlement around the church became known as "Baptisttown," and Thomas preached here under license until 1745, when he was finally ordained minister by the Rev. Jenkin Jones and Nathaniel Jenkins of Cohansey. Thomas lived only four more years; Edwards reports his death as 29 April 1749.

In his will dated 30 January 1747 (NS) Thomas left his house and furniture to "Dear and Loveing wife Els,"

11 "Recollections of Baptisttown and Vicinity," by Jay Bee, Part 15, 1893. Copy of an article at the Hunterdon Co. Historical Society, original publication unknown. Except where noted, the information below on the children of Thomas and Mary Curtis is from this article.

12 Hiram Deats Notes, Hunterdon Co. Historical Society.

13 Marriage license dated 16 April 1774 (Hiram Deats Notes).

14 Hiram Deats Notes, Hunterdon Co. Historical Society.

15 C.C. Gardner's *General Dictionary of New Jersey*, "Benjamin Curtis," citing the *New York Historical Society Magazine*, 25:10.

and divided his land equally between his sons Benjamin and Thomas. On his wife's death, the furniture was to be divided among his three daughters, who are unnamed in the will. He appointed his wife and son Thomas as executors. In a codicil to the will dated 26 April 1749, Thomas left the house to son Benjamin on Else's decease. The will was witnessed by Timothy Hixson, Elisabeth Bird, and Lawrence Huff, but only Hixson and Huff appeared to prove the will on 11 May 1749. On that date, Else and son Thomas as executors swore to provide a full inventory of Thomas' estate, which was appraised at £91.2.6.

Edwards notes in his history that Thomas Curtis was "a steady man, and remarkable for his peace-making. This church consider him as their father, and speak of him with great veneration to this day [1790]."¹⁶ He indeed must have been a man of great influence, as he was instrumental in the conversion of John Alderson to the Baptist faith. Instilling in his son-in-law the same missionary fervor that brought him to Baptisttown, Thomas in many ways was responsible for bringing the Baptists to the Shenandoah frontier in Virginia.

Queries

Would like any information on the family and ancestry of Warren ALDERSON, b. 1819, Greenbrier Co., VA, died 1903, Rowan Co., KY. Warren married Rachel HATFIELD, location unknown, and was reported to have lived in Kanawha and Logan Cos., VA before moving to Kentucky. He appears in the 1850 Logan Co., VA census. Children were Harvey B. ALDERSON, b. 1850, Cynthia, and Allen. Family tradition says he is a son of Col. George Alderson, but this is obviously an error. Any clues as to where he fits in? David Fridley, 817A 18th Ave., Honolulu, HI 96816.

Joseph Andrew Alderson, b. 1859, d. 1952 Nicholas Co., WV, son of Joseph Allen Alderson (see "Out of the Past"), had at least seven daughters by his wife Anna Laura Peck. Three have been identified: Emma Frances, Jennette, and Louise. The other four married George KING, J.L. DUNBAR of Kanawha Co., WV, Roy SMITH of Hinton, WV, and E.M. SMITH of Sutton, WV. Does anyone have any further information on this family? David Fridley, 817A 18th Ave., Honolulu, HI 96816.

Out of the Past

Jennette Baptist Church

Out of the mail that a column elicits from over hill and vale there comes many a suggestion for another column. Here is what I mean. Reading in this department a column recently about Colonel George Alderson, one about Rev. John Alderson's church, and still others relating to the late Ed Crouch, caused Jen-

nette Alderson, Summersville, W.Va., to write me at length about a number of things. She tells me the late Colonel George Alderson was her great-grandfather. Also she is a granddaughter of Joseph A. Alderson of Summersville, who was one of the fourteen children of Colonel Geo. Alderson by his first wife, Jennette Creigh McClary.

When Colonel Alderson sought to memorialize his beloved first wife he built and named a church for her. Thus it was that Jennette Baptist Church came into being and was named. This church was organized in 1853, at the Spy Rock, near Lookout, W.Va. It was this Jennette Creigh McClary Alderson who was the first person buried in the Jennette Cemetery. This cemetery marks the scene of the original church site. During the Civil War the church-burning Yankees demolished the Jennette meeting house. When the rancor of the war had somewhat disappeared a claim was made upon the Federal government for payment of damages caused by this destruction. A token payment was made, I've always heard, and the money was used to help erect a new house of worship.

When population centers move, congregations often move their church houses to be closer to the members. A shift of this kind was made in the instance of the Jennette Baptist Church. The second edifice was torn down and moved to the Rogers farm in the Edmond community. In 1895 this second structure was razed and moved to its present location. Because of the vanished condition of the congregation and need for a revision of the roster of its membership, Jennette church was reorganized in 1900 under the pastorate of the Rev. G.W. Huddleston. Even the original church covenant, the Articles of Faith, and records of the organization had been lost in the shuffle of time.

But time marches on and now the Jennette church is housed in another temple. In 1945 another building program was launched and today the congregation worships in the entirely new building. In its long history, Jennette church has played a prominent part in the life of the people called Baptists on "yon side" of New River in fine old Fayette County. In 1954, a membership of 89 was reported.

Jennette Alderson, correspondent responsible for starting me off on today's offering, writes that her grandfather J.A. Alderson, "represented his district in the Virginia Senate prior and during the War between the States. He voted against secession and when Virginia seceded from the Union he did, too. On returning to Summersville, W.Va., he, as well as all Confederates, could not vote for eight years and was not allowed in court to practise law." Further, Jennette Alderson's letter relates that Colonel George Alderson, his two wives, and fourteen of his twenty-eight children are buried on his old home place, now known as Boone Cemetery. The old Alderson barn is still standing, says my versatile informant, who was the roommate of Mrs. Jean Crouch at old Alderson Baptist Academy when they were young girls fifty years ago.¹⁷

¹⁶ Edwards, p. 101.

¹⁷ Undated article from an unidentified newspaper, probably from Oak Hill, W.Va. in the 1950s. Shirley Donnelly, author of this article, wrote a column for dozens of years on W.Va. local history and events. Jennette Alderson, subject of this column, was the daughter of Joseph Andrew and Anna Laura (Peck) Alderson. Her statement that George and his wives were buried in the Boone Cemetery is incorrect; all are buried in the Jennette Cemetery. Submitted by Raymond D. Alderson, Durham, NC.

Alderson Vital Records

KNOW all men by these presents that we *James Alderson and John Alderson*
 are held and firmly bound unto *William H Cabbell*

Esquire, Governor of Virginia, and his successors, for the use of the commonwealth, in the sum of
 one hundred and fifty dollars, to which payment well and truly to be made, we bind ourselves, our
 heirs, executors and administrators jointly and severally, firmly by these presents. Sealed and dated
 this *15th* day of *March* 1808

THE condition of the above obligation is such that whereas a marriage is shortly intended to be
 solemnised between the above bound *James Alderson and Betsy*
Keaton daughter of James Keaton
 of *Monroe* County, if therefore, there shall be no lawful cause to obstruct the said marri-
 age, then the above obligation to be void, otherwise to remain in full force and virtue.

Signed, Sealed and delivered }
 in the presence of }

Isaac Thetterssee Cune

James Alderson

John Alderson

This is to certify that I James Keaton
do consent for James Alderson a priviledge
of marrying my daughter Betsy Keaton
given under my hand and seal this 12th of March 1808
Attest
William Keaton

Upper: Marriage Bond for James Alderson and Betsy Keaton, daughter of James Keaton, 15 March 1808, Monroe Co., VA. Signed by James Alderson and John Alderson.

Lower: Letter of consent for marriage of Betsy Keaton to James Alderson. It reads: "This is to certify that I James Keaton do consent for James Alderson a priviledge of marrying my daughter Betsy Keaton. Given under my hand and seal this 12 of March 1808. James Keaton. Attest: William Keaton."

Both documents are filed at Monroe County Courthouse, Union, WV. Contributed by Mr. and Mrs. F.F. Ceperley, Charleston, WV.

James and Betsy (Keaton) Alderson

James Alderson, son of Thomas and Sarah (Bond) Alderson was born in 1783 or 1784 in Greenbrier Co., VA (now Monroe Co., WV). James remained in the Wolf Creek region after his marriage to Betsy Keaton, daughter of James and Ankey (Ballard) Keaton of Monroe Co. According to Morton's *History of Monroe Co.*, James Keaton was born in

1745 and came to Indian Creek in Monroe Co. (then Greenbrier) in 1790. The Keatons and the Ballards were both from Orange Co., VA.

Betsy was born 10 August 1784 and died 7 July 1846 in Monroe Co. James remarried in 1847 to Mrs. Lethe Miller, and he died in Monroe Co. in 1872.



[Submitted by Raymond D. Alderson, Durham, NC, from a copy provided by Halberts of Bath, Ohio.]

An Alderson Coat of Arms

This version of an Alderson coat of arms was drawn by an artist based on the description of an Alderson shield in *Burke's General Armory*. The design of the shield makes one wonder what Alderson might find it an appropriate emblem for his family—in plain English, the description of the arms reads: “Silver, three savage heads severed at the shoulder natural color, wreathed about the temples in silver and black,” and that of the crest as “A dove, holding in the beak an olive branch natural color.” I can understand the dove and olive branch, but three severed savage heads?

Coats of arms were in use in Western Europe by the 11th century, but their origin is obscure. Arms are generally composed of a “shield” and sometimes a “crest.” A helmet may connect the shield with the crest, and itself is surrounded by a “wreath,” which originally served to bind the crest to the shield. The positioning of the helmet is an indication of the social status; generally, a helmet facing forward with open visor indicated royalty, while a sideways helmet with visor closed indicated the position of gentleman.

Naturally, coats of arms are purely historical symbols for Americans since we are not an arms-granting country as is the UK. If one desires, an American can apply for a grant of arms from England’s College of Arms as a hereditary honor, assume an existing coat of arms, or simply create a coat of arms of one’s own design. For those few who entitled to assume an English title and coat of arms, the arms may stay but the title can not—the Constitution forbids us from holding anything other than an honorary title.



- **Compilers.** No pay, few hours. Required to transcribe record sources on the Aldersons. Includes individual county census listings, marriages, births, and death records, land entries, state indexes, etc. Annotations would be useful. Must have paper and pen, typewriter, or computer (or copy machine). Little experience necessary. Must be motivated.
- **Typists.** No pay, lots of job satisfaction. Required to type up texts of wills, biographies, histories, obituary, and news clippings for inclusion in the newsletter. Set your own hours and pace. Must be familiar with keyboard.

All of us have collected some information relating to the Alderson history. Whether from hours behind a microfilm reader or a few minutes with a Xerox copier, we have managed to accumulate a wealth of data on our families. Setting on ours shelves or tucked away in notebooks, this information does us little good beyond our immediate goals. But think of the number of researchers who may find the answer to their questions in these records!

I invite all of you who are willing and able to spend a few minutes or hours helping out with the newsletter by pulling together parts of your research to share with others. Copies of primary sources are most welcome (such as marriage bonds), though all compilations will be appreciated. I would like to use this as a beginning of an “Alderson Resources” book for public distribution. Please contact the editor for more details.

1850 Census of Fayette County, Virginia: Alderson

Fam.#	Name	Age	Sex	Occup.	Real Est.	Born	Notes
007	Robert McCutchen	47	m	farmer	2000	VA	Abigail's second husband, md. 1834 Greenbrier Co. VA.
	Abigail McCutchen	45	f			VA	dau. of Joseph and Jane (Cavendish McClung, widow of Rev. James O. Alderson (d. 1832)
	Amanda J. Carnefix	24	f			VA	dau. of James O. and Abigail (McClung) Alderson
	Madison McCutchen	21	m	laborer		VA	
	M. Alderson	21	f			VA	Margaret, dau. of James O. and Abigail, b. 11 July 1829.
	Isaac T. McCutchen	19	m	laborer		VA	
	James G. Alderson	19	m	laborer		VA	son of James O. and Abigail, b. 15 Nov 1831, d. 26 Jan 1921, Alderson, WV.
	Jones McCutchen	14	m			VA	
	Frances A. McCutchen	13	f			VA	
	Mary McCutchen	11	f			VA	
	Wm H. McCutchen	9	m			VA	
	Robert P. McCutchen	6	m			VA	
	019	J. H. Alderson	33	m	farmer		VA
Mary Alderson		30	f			VA	Mary Mansell Taylor, dau. of Rufus and Sarah Frances (Johnson) Taylor, d. 1897 MO.
Jesse J. Alderson		14	m			VA	Jesse James, d. 1902 MO.
Lewis A. Alderson		12	m			VA	Lewis Allen, d. 1917
S.E. Alderson		10	f			VA	Sarah Elizabeth, d. 1914 MO.
G.F. Alderson		8	m			VA	George Franklin, d. 1850 Ansted, Fayette Co., VA
William A. Alderson		5	m			VA	d. 1855 Ansted, Fayette Co., VA
Mary M. Alderson		8/12	f			VA	Mary Margaret
376		George Alderson	60	m	farmer	6,720	VA
	Eliza A. Alderson	37	f			VA	dau. of Charles Lewis and Rebecca H. (White) Davis
	Jinnet C. Alderson	12	f			VA	Jeanette Creigh "Jennie", b. 30 Jul 1838
	Georgiann Alderson	9	f			VA	Georgia Ann, b. 9 May 1841, d. 12 May 1902
	Rebecca W. Alderson	8	f			VA	Rebecca White, b. 29 Mar 1843, d. 8 Nov 1890
	G.H.C. Alderson	5	m			VA	George Henry Clay, b. 28 Oct 1844, d. 9 Jul 1936 (see photo and obit. in <i>AR&B</i> Sept. 1989)
	Josephine D. Alderson	4	f			VA	Josephine Davis, b. 26 Mar 1846, d. 5 Jul 1924
	A.E. Alderson	2	f			VA	Alice Ellis, b. 15 Jul 1848, d. 27 Jan 1927
	F. Lewis Alderson	3/12	f			VA	Frances Lewis, b. 26 Mar 1850
	Theophalis Harrah	19	m	laborer		VA	
572	Charles Hughart	51	m	farmer		KY	son of George W. and Rachel (Wall) Hughart.
	Mary Hughart	48	f			VA	dau. of Samuel and Hannah (Alderson) Withrow, d. 1877, Fayette Co., WV.
	Sam'l Hughart	25	m			VA	
	Ruth Hughart	19	f			VA	
	Joseph Hughart	16	m			VA	Joseph Lewis
	Francis Hughart	13	m			VA	Francis Thomas
	William Hughart	10	m			VA	William H.
	F.R. Hughart	7	f			VA	Frances R.
	Mary Hughart	4	f			VA	Mary Ann "Polly"
	Hannah Hughart	35	f			VA	dau. of Samuel and Hannah (Alderson) Withrow, widow of Joseph Hughart.
	M.M. Hughart	14	f			VA	
	Reubin Hughart	13	m			VA	
	Sam'l Withrow	75	m			VA	brother of Robert Withrow, husband of Hannah's sister Jane Alderson.
	Hannah Withrow	72	f			VA	daughter of Thomas and Sarah (Bond) Alderson

Aldersons in Fayette Co., West Virginia

Fayette County is located on the high Allegheny Plateau in south-central West Virginia. Geographically it is bisected by the deep gorge of the New River (shown in the map as a grey line), which flows north through the county to join with the Gauley River to form the Kanawha. In the eastern part of the county, an early Indian route joined the Kanawha with the Greenbrier. This Indian path eventually became known as the Midland Trail, which is roughly followed today by U.S. Route 60.

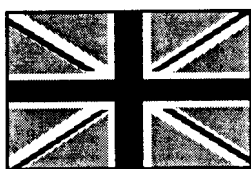
One of the earliest Alderson settlers of Fayette Co. took advantage of the growing number of people travelling this road to the Kanawha. Col. George Alderson, son of Joseph Alderson, built his famous DeKalb Inn at Spy Rock, near present-day Lookout. Here his first wife Jeanette died in 1835, buried in the nearby Jeannette Cemetery. George died in 1871 and is buried beside his two wives.

Another early settler was the family of Samuel and Hannah (Alderson) Withrow, who appear in the Fayette county census of 1840. They may have settled in the region before this time; Samuel's brother Robert Withrow, who married Hannah's sister Jane Alderson (daughters of Thomas Alderson), had settled in the Lick Creek region of Greenbrier County (now Summers County), and it is likely that Samuel and Hannah lived in what is now the southern part of Fayette county east of the New River.

By 1850, other Aldersons included the family of James Harvey Alderson, who settled at Ansted. Located at the foot of Gauley Mountain, Ansted was the last stop for travellers heading north before entering the great valley of the Kanawha. James Harvey Alderson moved here from Monroe County and stayed until after the Civil War. He and most of his family then moved to Missouri.

The Rev. James Osborne Alderson, son of George Alderson and grandson of the Rev. John Alderson, became minister at the Old Greenbrier Baptist Church in 1830. He was an industrious man, and converted many people in the two short years of his ministry. He died in early 1832, leaving a wife and three young children. Abigail McClung Alderson, James' widow, remarried two years later to Robert McCutchen, a widower also of Greenbrier. With the children by their first marriages, Robert and Abigail moved to the Ansted area, where they raised additional children of their own.

(Special thanks to Cecilia Schiller, who compiled the material used here.)



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.

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 Drive, Tempe, AZ 85282.

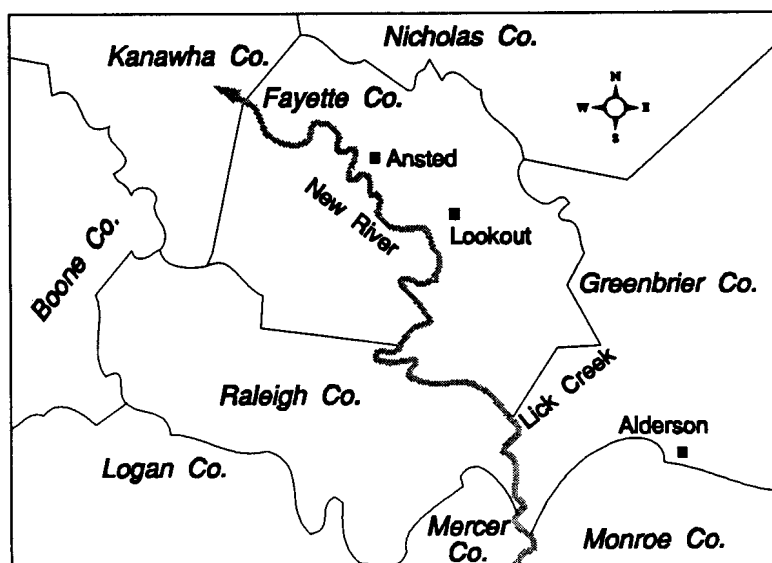


Figure 2

Fayette Co., Virginia, 1850. Fayette County was created in 1831 from Giles, Kanawha, Nicholas and Greenbrier counties.

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!