

Alderson

Roots & Branches



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Sketch of John D. Alderson

[John Duffy Alderson was the eldest son of Joseph Allen and Mary Susannah (Duffy) Alderson and was born in Nicholas Co., VA on 29 Nov. 1854, and died in Richwood, Nicholas Co., WV on 2 Dec. 1910. His father was the seventh child of Col. George Alderson of Greenbrier and Fayette Cos., WV. John D. first married Eugenia Rader, and his second wife was Mrs. Martha Graham, a widow of Washington, DC. He had nine children. The following biographical sketch provides little additional information on his family, but it does reflect the strong partisan political views of the day.]



JOHAN D. ALDERSON, the Democratic nominee for Congress in the Third District of West Virginia, bears a record in private and public life of which the Democracy of this State may well be proud. Born in 1854, among the West Virginia hills in Nicholas county, the son of honorable, hospitable and practical parents, he has inherited a robust constitution, a tenacious will, a sterling integrity, a clear, logical, and vigorous mind, and that warmth of emotion, generosity of heart and affection for his friends that bespeak his Celtic descent. His father, Hon. Joseph A. Alderson, in his turn as State Senator, represented a section previously represented in the Virginia legislature by his own father and grandfather, and before and during the Civil War sustained the family record as

a faithful and efficient legislator, thoroughly conscientious and honest. The War closed in 1865, bringing upon the old man the hands of radicalism, the outrageous injustices of disfranchisement and maltreatment, and then further suffering the reverses, which fell upon the Southern people subsequent to this epoch, he lived to see his estate dwarfed and consumed and died leaving to his son, John, the cares and responsibilities of a family, but also left with these the two best inheritances of a manly boy—a good mother and a family name unbroken through a long line in its record for integrity. Accepting the duties and responsibilities of life, young Alderson entered the school of adversity, relying upon his own manhood to fight stubborn issues and to finally triumph over the stern logic of relentless events. Sustained by an inherent integrity and cheered by the precepts and moral injunctions of a mother, whose loving hands were best fitted to shape and proportion the character of an impulsive boy, young Alderson fought his way upward from debt to prosperity, from the farm to the bar, and from the bar to the prosecuting attorneyships of Nicholas and Webster counties. In 1872 he was made a page in the Constitutional convention; in 1872 and 1873 was door-keeper in the Senate; in 1875-'77-'79, and '81 was Sergeant-at-Arms of the Senate, and in 1883-'85, and '87 was Clerk of that body. His party recognizing his solid worth and

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**Commission of Col. George Alderson
Greenbrier Co., VA, 1830**

KNOW YOU, That from the special trust and confidence reposed in your fidelity, courage, activity and good conduct, our Governor, on the recommendation of the Court of *Greenbrier* County, and in pursuance of the Act, entitled, "An Act to reduce into one, all Acts and parts of Acts, for regulating the Militia of this Commonwealth," doth appoint you, the said

George Alderson, Lieutenant Colonel
in the *seventy-ninth* Regiment *thirteenth*,
Brigade, and *fifth* Division of the said Militia; to rank
as such, agreeably to the number and date hereof.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF; These our Letters, are sealed with the Seal of the Commonwealth, and made patent.

WITNESS,

John Floyd
our said Governor, at Richmond, this *19th*

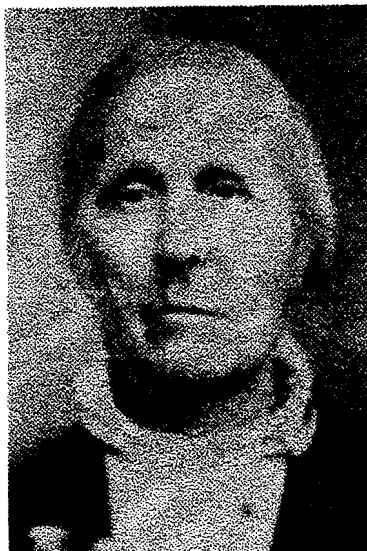
day of *July* 1830.

John Floyd
Registered.

W. R. ...

All of us have seen reference to "Col. George Alderson," the legendary father of 28 children, but few of us have seen the paper in which he received his commission as Lieutenant Colonel in the Virginia Militia. The commission was signed by Governor John Floyd. (Submitted by T.G. Alderson, Banner Elk, NC.)

The Last Words of Col. George Alderson



On Sunday morning, he seemed to have a free exercise of his reasoning faculties, and perfectly conscious of his approaching dissolution, calling his family to his bedside he says I am almost gone and want you all to meet me in Heaven, said Christ came into the world to save sinners—you can do nothing of yourselves, but rely on the blood of Christ which was shed for sinners and trust in him and he will save you. Told all to meet him in Heaven. I promising him, he said he wanted the balance to promise, which they did, calling many of his neighbours who were present by name, made the request of them that they should meet him in Heaven. Speaking to his wife, he said Eliza, I have to leave you, I want you to meet me in Heaven. You have been a good wife. I want you to lay me by the side of Jinney and when you die, lay yourself by my side, and speaking in reference to his burial, he said, I want no pomp and display about me. One of his neighbours asked him in the morning if he had put his trust in the saviour, he said oh yes, I have done that long ago, to which his neighbour replied, I am glad to hear it, it is a good thing, to which he said, oh yes, I want you to meet me in Heaven. At 4⁰⁰ in the evening he became speechless, the last words he uttered being "The Lord will soon take me," and he lay calmly and quietly until 25 Minutes after 8⁰⁰, when he passed away, and appeared as though he had fallen asleep.

Geo Alderson was born
20 Nov 1789 and
died 22 Jan 1871 at 80:25 M. P.M.
Aged 81 years 2 Mo. & 2 days

(George Alderson, son of Joseph Alderson and grandson of the Rev. John Alderson, Jr. The author is unknown but was probably a family member. Submitted by T.G. Alderson, Banner Elk, NC. Portrait of George Alderson reproduced from the *Charleston Gazette*, 24 Feb. 1952, submitted by Mr. Florian Ceperley, Charleston, WV.)

superior training as a public man, in 1888 nominated him for Congress, to which high position he was elected and seated, though strongly and bitterly contested for his seat by the malignity of the Republican party, then in power, under the speakership of Tom Reed. Placed second on the calendar of the seventeen contested election cases to be called up and disposed of, he was not unseated, though eighteen Democrats, whose majorities ranged from thirteen thousand to five hundred, and whose cases had been placed after his on the docket were turned out of Congress. Alderson de-

manded a square fight to the finish in which quarters were neither asked nor given and no compromise was to be considered. Collecting his testimony after great personal expense, weeks of hardship and constant travel through his mountain district, he then accepted the gauge of battle thrown down by his challengers and adversaries to have the satisfaction of witnessing them back down, inasmuch as they dared not bring his case to the open day light of a trial. Mr. Alderson's struggle in youth and early manhood had attracted the attention of John E. Kenna¹, who was always his close friend

¹ Senator Kenna was a descendant of Col. Andrew and Jane (McCreery) Donnelly, early pioneers of Greenbrier Co. Donnelly built a fort northwest of Lewisburg (Pt. Savanna) in 1771, where he survived one of the last Indian raids in Greenbrier Co. in 1774. He was high sheriff of Greenbrier Co. and later went to the Kanawha Valley, where he helped to establish Kanawha Co. in 1789.

and adviser. Senator Kenna has vividly and accurately described this memorable contest in an interview given by him to the *Hinton Herald* during the campaign of 1892, in which he said:

"There was something in John D. Alderson to accomplish all this. There was something in the man who rode these hills to take testimony in sixteen counties. There was something in the character that met these issues at the cost of more than the salary, and active days and sleepless nights, rather than surrender the standard which the democracy had placed in his hands. There was something in the manhood, which fought this case every inch from the polls to the Capitol, and holding its record in the face of the Reed regime, demanded that it should be the first to be settled. Such things have happened where men were out and wanted to be in, but Alderson was in on his *prima facie* case, and when he presented the unusual spectacle of a demand for the immediate trial of his rights, the majority met him by placing *McGinnes vs. Alderson* at the foot of the docket. And so it remained, until the contest perished with the dying hours of a congress that did not dare to meet an issue which the Republican managers in the Third district had been two years in the making. The details of this struggle would fill a volume, and it counts a chapter in the career of John D. Alderson which ought to endear him to every Democrat who loves his party for its principles, and his party's principles for its principles sake.

To say that Mr. Alderson deserves well of the Democracy is a tale but half told. He deserves well of the people; for as time goes on, and the calmer judgment infuses its better elements into the deliberate retrospect, no man can find comfort in the success of rascality and fraud and no man but will recognize, in some sense an obligation to him who rights wrong."

Mr. Alderson on entering Congress at once enlisted his energies in behalf of the improvements of our streams. With Senator Kenna, he was instrumental in placing Kanawha River on what is known as the permanent appropriation list, and was also instrumental in securing sufficient appropriations for the completion of this project to which the Government is now committed, contracts having been made therefor. In the Fifty-third Congress, Mr. Alderson secured a position on the Rivers and Harbors Committee, thereby giving up a good chance to secure the Chairmanship of another Committee, inasmuch as the interests of the Third District made it imperative that personal promotion be eschewed for the interest of his constituency dependent upon improved river ways for the cheapest transportation of their large and valuable output of coal. As a member of the Rivers and Harbors Committee of the Fifty-Third Congress, Mr. Al-

derson has secured 70 percent of the appropriations recommended by U.S. Engineers for the improvement of Elk, Gauley and Guyandotte Rivers, in his District, although the recommendations in the aggregate for the whole country was cut down 75 per cent. He was also instrumental in aiding to secure recommendations for appropriations for the Tug Fork of Big Sandy and Big Sandy, streams bordering on his district. He secured in the Rivers and Harbors Bill, passed by the Fifty-Third Congress, provision for preliminary examination of the Big and Little Coal Rivers with a view of improving them, and of Elk and Guyandotte, with view of their improvement by means of locks and dams, and appropriations to pay for examination. This is the first time that Big and Little Coal Rivers have ever received any attention from Congress. He has secured an insertion into the present Rivers and Harbors Bill of a provision which will prevent the contamination of waterways improved by the Federal Government.

Having been reared upon a farm and having known what it was to earn his bread by the sweat of his brow, he very naturally sympathizes with the agricultural and laboring class, and he has favored in Congress....

[Editor's Note: the copy of the article quoted ends here. The source is unclear, but was probably written in the 1890s. Submitted by T.G. Alderson, Banner Elk, NC.]

Nicholas Alderson, Captain Kidd & Piracy on the High Seas

[The following article is reprinted from the *Alderson Family History Society Newsletter*, No. 21, February 1991, p. 8-9. The deposition was published by the Society with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. The Public Record Office Reference is Class 323/2 and it is covered by Crown copyright.]

1 697 The deposition of NICHOLAS ALDERSON marriner, about 45 years of age, who came out in the Adventure Gally about 250 Tons, 154 men & boys & com(m)anded by Capt. Wm Kid Inhabitante of New Yorke—declareth that when shipt myself with the above said Com(m)ander he told me he was going out as a Privateer to Madagascar to take the Pyrats that infested those parts & if found them not there, he would proceed

to the Red Sea & other parts of India to look for them. We sayled out of New York on this design the 6th or 7th of September 1696 and first came to the Maderas & had under our Convoy a Brigantine that came out in Company with Us, after one days stay there set sayl for one of the Cape Verd Islands called Bonavista, there took in som(e) salt & from thence went to St Jago & took in water and provisions & from thence steered our Course to Cape Bona Esperanza but in the way met with 3 English men of war & a fireship who came out to convoy the Rt Hon(or)able Compa(nie)s² Shipping. The men of War commanded the Gallies boat to com(e) on board the Commandore & sent their boats on board the Gally but what passt between the Com(m)and(er)s I know not. After 4 days stay with the men of war we left them & made the best of our way for Madagascar arriving at a place called Talleers but the time of our Arrival I do not remember. We took in som(e) Water & provisions & from thence went to Johanna & there met with 3 of the Rt Hon. Co's Ships and one interloper & after a small stay at this place & taking in som(e) water went to Moheila and hald our Ship ashoar & gave her a New Coat in w(hi)ch time most of our men were taken with feavors w(hi)ch caused our stay there about 5 weeks & before we went thence we buried 38 men of our compa(ny). From thence came to Johanna & took in Water for that of Moheila was not good. From Johanna came to India & on the Arabian Coast put in at a place called Motta where stayed 6 or 7 days & from thence sayled to the Babs w(hi)ch lye near Mocha where we lay about a month or 5 weeks to wait for the Pirats & used to send our boat out to see if (we) could espy any along the shoar but met nothing. At last came out the Guzarat fleet from Mocha which our Com(m)ander p(er)ceiving ordered us to weigh our Anchors, not making any man in the ship acquainted with his design & in the night of the same day that saw them, fell in the midst of them, but nothing was don(e) that night. The next morning proving little or no wind, a Moorship one of the fleet fired at Us, upon w(hi)ch most of the fleet did the like. Being all alarum(e)d the English & the Dutch did the same. An English ship had her 2 boats ahead towing towards us there being but little wind, upon w(hi)ch our capt(ain) looking with his glass said



twas an English man of War w(hi)ch (he) supposed to be a Convoy to the Fleet & that there was no good to be don(e) we made ready immediately our oars to get away when sprang up a small breeze, we shipt our oars & sett our sailes the Gally sayling very well. We soon gott out from amongst the fleet & haled up our sayles againe but upon what acco(unt) I know not, the English Ship still giving us Chace & when we estem(at)ed her to be within gun shot We set our Sayles again & made the best of our way to the high land of St Johns where I suppose the Com(m)ander did think to pick up som(e) ships that might straggle from the Fleet tho(ugh) I did not hear him say so, yet it was the opinion of most of our people that it was his design, but instead of falling in with St Johns fell to the So(uth) ward of it som(e) 60 or 70 Leagues when espied a small vessell whom we gave chace to & came up with her, she had Engl(ish) Colours aboard & belonged to Bombay as they said. We fired a shot at her & com(m)anded the Master to com(e) on board us, who im(m)ediately did & was carried into the Cabbिन by our Capt(ain) but what discourse they had I know not. Presently after our boat with the Quarter M(aste)r & severall of our men went on board the small vessell as I suppose to plunder

for they returned after an hours stay or thereabouts with som(e) bags of rice & raisons & severall other small things as the Peoples Cloathes & I heard the people of the small vessell cry out under the punishm(en)t that was then inflicted on them by our people to make them confess where their mony was, but whether they got any I know not, Our Com(m)ander carried the master Tho. Parker by name away by force saying he nor none of his know these parts of India therefore he must go their Pilot & we let the vessell go & being in want of wood and water, wee went directly for Carwar where I & others that found our selves happan(e)d & to be with a Pyrate instead of a Privateer being 9 of us in all made our escape, & many more on board that were dissatisfied with the Capt(ain)s proceedings would do the like if had opportunity. Thus far I Nicholas Alderson declare to be true & further know not.

Bombay 19th October 1697

Nicholas Alderson, Sworn before me Jno. Burniston

2 i.e. the East India Company.

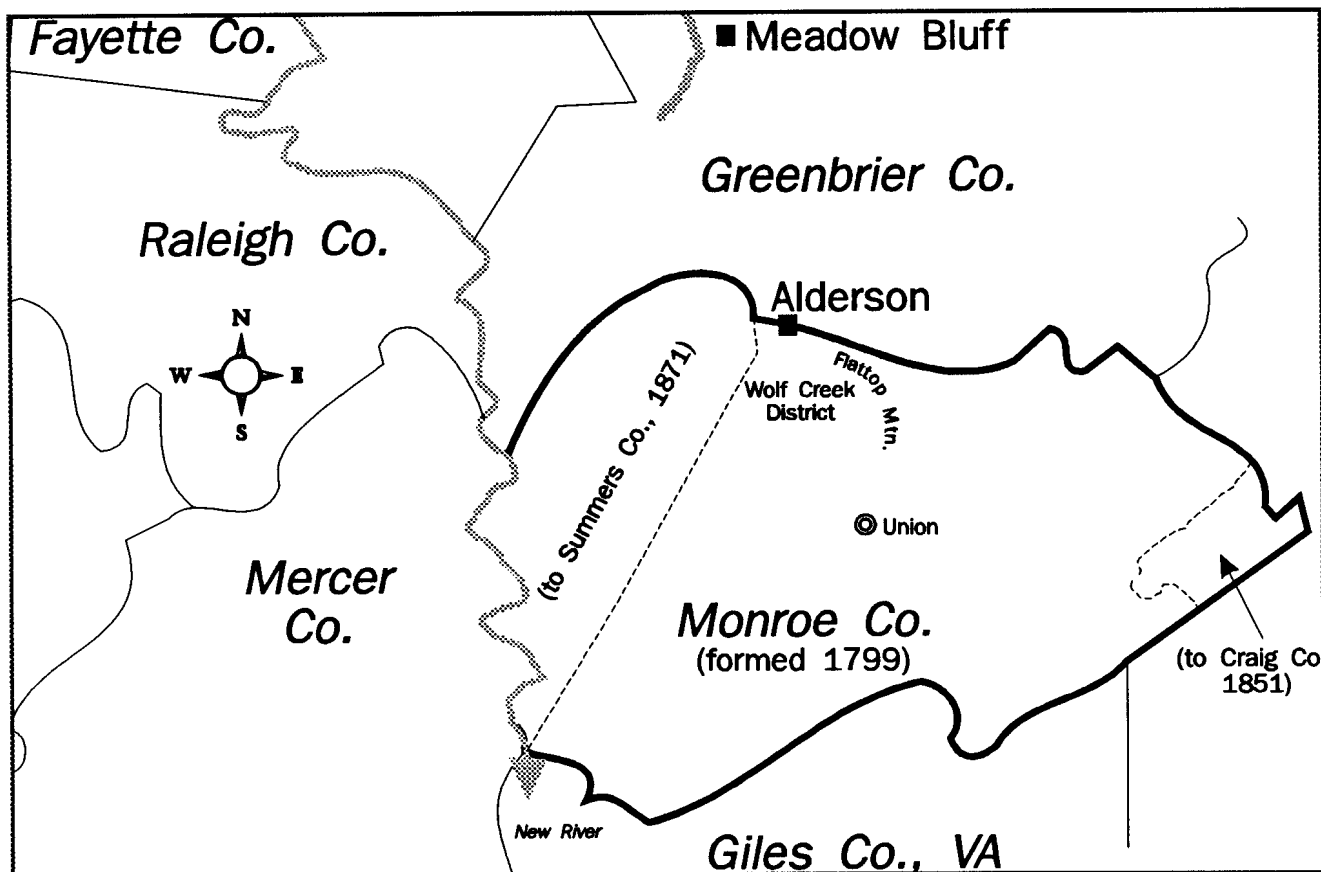
1850 Census of Monroe County, Virginia: Alderson Family

Fam.#	Name	Age	Sex	Occup.	Real Est.	Born	Notes
(District 39½)							
064	Jackson SMITH	30	m	farmer	248	VA	Andrew Jackson, b. 1819, d. 1877, s/o Jacob and Elizabeth (Ballard) Smith
	Catharine	23	f			VA	d/o John and Nancy (Robinson) (Mays) Alderson, md. 20 July 1843, Monroe Co.
	Eliza J.	6	f			VA	
	Nancy E.	4	f			VA	b. 1846, d. 1930, bur. St. John's Church, Monroe Co.
	Millard F.	2/12	m			VA	
164	James CALLISON	55	m	farmer		VA	s/o Anthony and Abigail (McClung) Callison, md. 1st 1835, Monroe Co., Martha Byrd.
	Melinda	45	f			VA	d/o John and Jane (Walker) Alderson, md. 1840, Monroe Co.
	Thos.	14	m			VA	s/o James and Martha (Byrd) Callison
	Rebecca C.	13	f			VA	d/o James and Martha (Byrd) Callison
	John A.	8	m			VA	John Anthony, md. Susan A. McClung
	Henry C.	6	m			VA	Henry Clay, md. Virginia C. Jones
	James J.	5	m			VA	James Joseph, md. Elizabeth Muller Tomlinson, d. Kansas
	Martha J.	3	f			VA	Martha Jane, md. Jacob Odell McClung
	George W.	1	m			VA	d. 1920, Opportunity, Spokane Co., WA
455	Thos. H. ALDERSON	32	m	farmer		VA	s/o James and Elizabeth (Keaton) Alderson, md. 1840, Monroe Co., Emily Mann
	Eli Davis	7	m			VA	b. 13 June 1843, d. 27 June 1916, Summers Co., WV, bur. Talcott Cem., Summers Co., md. Henrietta Vines
468	Andrew ELLIS	38	m	farmer	1000	VA	b. 19 July 1811, md. 1834, Monroe Co.
	Mary	35	f			VA	d/o John and Jane (Walker) Alderson, b. 31 Dec. 1813
	Melinda J.	14	f			VA	md. John Crockett
	Nancy	11	f			VA	
	Susan	9	f			VA	Margaret Susan, md. 3 Dec. 1860, Monroe Co., Enos Edgar Huffman
	John	5	m			VA	d. in Civil War
	George	4	m			VA	George W.
	Eliza E.	6/12	f			VA	
469	John ALDERSON	71	m	stonemason		VA	s/o Thomas and Sarah (Bond) Alderson, b. 6 Sept. 1779, d. 16 Sept. 1855, Monroe Co.
	Nancy	60	f			VA	née Johnson, md. 1826, Monroe Co., d. after 1870
	Augusta	25	f			VA	
	Ballard MEADOWS	10	m			VA	
	Frances JONES	6	f			VA	
472	Levi ALDERSON	55	m	farmer	400	VA	s/o George and Sarah (Osborne) Alderson
	Clemency	55	f			VA	d/o Thomas and Sarah (Bond) Alderson
	Joseph G.	25	m			VA	md. 19 Feb. 1852, Monroe Co., Sarah Jane Strickler
	Margaret	21	f			VA	
	Sarah	19	f			VA	
	Clemency	16	f			VA	
481	James ALDERSON	66	m	farmer	920	VA	s/o Thomas and Sarah (Bond) Alderson, b. 30 Apr. 1784, d. 1872, Monroe Co., md. 1st 15 Mar. 1808, Monroe Co. Elizabeth Keaton
	Lethe	56	f			VA	née Canterbury, md. 1st Adam Miller, md. 2nd 1847, Monroe Co.
	Charles H.	14	m			VA	grandson, son of Franklin Bond and Jane (Rambo) Alderson
	Nancy MILLER	24	f			VA	d/o Adam and Lethe (Canterbury) Miller?

484	John ALDERSON	67	m	farmer	10,000	VA	"River Jack", s/o John and Mary (Carroll) Alderson, b. 4 Sept. 1783, d. 25 June 1853, Monroe Co.
	Eleanor	62	f			VA	Mrs. Eleanor Milhollen, m. 8 Feb. 1839, Monroe Co.
	Eliz.	21	f			VA	d/o John and Nancy (Robinson) (Mays) Alderson, md. 1850, James William Gray.
	Lucy	19	f			VA	b. 9 Nov. 1831, d. 24 Feb. 1899 Monroe Co., md. 1854, Joseph P. Hines, Monroe Co.
	George	17	m			VA	at school. b. 13 Nov. 1833, d. 18 Mar. 1924, Alderson, WV, md. 1st 1856, Mary Jane Hines, Monroe Co., md. 2nd 1867, Mrs. Virginia M. Stevens Boyd, Monroe Co.
489	Thomas SMITHSON	76	m	farmer	1000	MD	s/o Thomas and Sarah (Bond) Smithson, d. 9 Oct. 1854 Monroe Co. [Sarah was the second wife of Thomas Alderson.]
	Margaret	72	f			VA	d/o John and Mary (Carroll) Alderson, b. 18 June 1778, d. 9 Jan. 1869, Monroe Co.
	Betsy FLINT	38	f			VA	
513	John ALDERSON, Jr.	36	m	farmer		VA	s/o of John and Jane (Walker) Alderson, family moved to MO ca. 1868.
	Harriet	33	f			VA	née Johnson, md. 1839, Monroe Co., 1880 lived Buchanan Co., MO
	Eliz. J.	10	f			VA	b. 11 Jan. 1840, d. 1906, md. 28 March 1859, Monroe Co., Harris Dewitt Smith.
	Sophrona	8	f			VA	Sophrona Lucretia, md. 1858, Monroe Co., Christopher Ballard
	Elen F.	5	f			VA	
	Wm. A.	3	m			VA	liv. 1900 DeKalb Co., MO, vd. Viola
	David J.	1	m			VA	
514	Albert ALDERSON	44	m	farmer		VA	s/o John and Jane (Walker) Alderson, b. 4 Feb. 1807, d. 18 May 1872, Monroe Co.
	Matilda	43	f			VA	d/o William and Jean (Alford) Hines, b. 5 Jan. 1808, d. 25 Dec. 1882 Monroe Co.
	Jas. R.	20	m			VA	Joseph Kiser, d. TX, md. Nancy. In CSA.
	Louiza J.	18	f			VA	Louisa Jane, md. 1850, George Eades, Monroe Co.
	Mary A.	16	f			VA	
	Catharine	14	f			VA	Malinda Catherine, md. 1857, James T. Bobbitt, Monroe Co.
	Margaret E.	12	f			VA	md. 1891, James A. Foster, d. CO.
	Frances	10	f			VA	Sarah Frances, md. 26 Jan. 1865, John L. Keaton, Monroe Co.
	Jno.	8	m			VA	John Walker, b. 24 Jan. 1842, d. 23 Feb. 1908, md. 15 Jan. 1891, Richmond, VA, Sadie Garstang. Built the Alderson Hotel.
	Henry C.	6	m			VA	b. 13 April 1844, d. 22 Nov. 1862, of diphtheria.
	Amanda E.	4	f			VA	b. 25 Aug. 1846, d. 7 Nov. 1876, Monroe Co. WV
(39th District)							
736	Joseph TOLL	29	m	landlord		VA	
	Isabel	24	f			VA	
	Joseph BLACK	18	m	clerk		Ireland	
	James R. ALEXANDER	18	m	clerk		VA	
	James CAMPBELL	19	m	clerk		VA	
	Wm. WILLIS	95	m	none		Mass.	
	Joseph A. ALDERSON	29	m	lawyer		VA	s/o George and Jeannette Creigh (McCleary) Alderson, b. 17 Mar. 1821, Greenbrier Co., d. 8 April 1876 Summersville, Nicholas Co., WV

Special thanks to Mrs. Cecilia Schiller, who compiled and contributed this census listing.

ERRATUM: in the 1850 Fayette Co., VA census listing from September 1990, p. 7, Hannah (Alderson) Withrow was erroneously listed as the daughter of Thomas and Sarah (Bond) Alderson. Her mother was actually Thomas's first wife, Hannah Davis Alderson.



Monroe Co., VA, 1850.

Aldersons in Monroe Co., WV

Monroe County was formed from Greenbrier Co., VA in 1799. Its original boundaries have varied little from those established at its creation; the major shifts include the transfer of part of the Potts Creek Valley across Peters Mountain in 1851 to Craig Co., VA, and the loss of the lower Greenbrier River Valley to Summers Co., WV in 1871.

Located on the southern banks of the Greenbrier River, Monroe Co. was the site of the Rev. John Alderson's first home and the location of Alderson's Ferry, which later became the town of Alderson. The Greenbrier Baptist Church founded by Rev. Alderson was located on the northern bank of the river, in Greenbrier Co.

The Rev. John Alderson, Thomas Alderson and many of their children lived in Monroe Co., primarily in what is now known as "Wolf Creek District." Wolf Creek rises in central Monroe Co. near Swopes Knobs, north of Union, and flows north to the Greenbrier River near Alderson. It is supposed that the graves of Thomas Alderson and his wives are located somewhere in this area.

By 1850, numerous Alderson descendants remained in the Wolf Creek District. Both John "River Jack" Alderson (son of Rev. John) and John "Capt. Jack" Alderson (son of Thomas) lived in this neighborhood, as did many of River Jack's children and his sister Margaret Alderson Smithson. Other of Thomas' children in the area included James and Clemency (who was married to River Jack's nephew Levi Alderson.) Others of the family had moved away to Greenbrier, Fayette, Nicholas and Kanawha counties, or had already left for other states.

At the formation of Summers Co. in 1871, a few Monroe Aldersons found themselves in a different county. Among these were Eli Davis Alderson, son of Thomas H. Alderson, who lived near Talcott, the site of the famous Big Bend Tunnel of John Henry fame.

Many of the Aldersons in Monroe were buried at the Old Greenbrier Baptist Church in Alderson, where a number of their tombstones still stand. Currently, none of our membership lives in Monroe Co., though descendants of the Rev. John Alderson—Mrs. Julia Alderson Fletcher, Alice Todd Alderson, and Mr. John Alderson—now reside at Alderson.

Marriage of Charles H. Alderson

Monroe County in the State of Virginia.

I HEREBY CERTIFY, That the following is a correct Statement of a
Marriage solemnized by me in the County aforesaid:

Date of Marriage, *February 5th 1856*
Place of Marriage, *Flat Top, M. Monroe County Va*
Full Names of Parties married, *Charles H. Alderson Elizabeth H. Evans*
Age of Husband, *Twenty years*
Age of Wife, *Twenty one years*
Condition of Husband, (widowed or single,) *Single*
Condition of Wife, (widowed or single,) *Single*
Place of Husband's Birth, *Sewell Valley, Greenbrier County Va*
Place of Wife's Birth, *Monroe County Va*
Place of Husband's Residence, *Monroe County Va*
Place of Wife's Residence, *Flat Top, Monroe County Va*
Names of Husband's Parents, *Franklin B. Alderson Jane Alderson*
Names of Wife's Parents, *David & Polly Evans*
Occupation of Husband, *Farmer*

Given under my hand as a *Minister of the Gospel*
(legally authorized to solemnize Marriages,) this *Fifth*
day of *February* A. D. 1856 *M. J. Bibb*

Issued the 14th 1856
Now G. W. Hutchinson in this is to
authorize you to issue license for my son Charles
H. Alderson to marry Miss Elizabeth H. Evans as my son
is not of age given under my hand and
Franklin B. Alderson (Seal)

Charles H. Alderson was born ca. 1836 in Sewell Valley, Greenbrier Co. but was enumerated in the 1850 Monroe Co., VA census along with his grandfather James Alderson (see p. 7). Submitted by Gaye Whitehead, Daniels, WV.



Book Search

Susan Sharp, Projects Coordinator for the Alderson Family History Society

in England, addresses us in the February issue of their newsletter: 'I wonder if you have consulted *The Baptist Encyclopedia* by William Cathcart? Better still, the revised edition by Louis H. Everts which was published in 1883? This later edition is described as 'a dictionary of the doctrines, ordinances, uses, confessions and successes, and of the general history of the Baptist denominations in all lands.' It has numerous biographical sketches of distinguished American and foreign baptists and a supplement! Revised edition published in Philadelphia in 1883. In 4" (24 cm), 1366 p, supplement p. 1289-1366 Portraits. John Alderson (b. 1699) is included in the index for this work along with several other Alderson baptists! I understand that the Library of Congress in Washington (ref BX 211 C3) and the Harvard University Library in Cambridge, Mass. (ref U.S. 8003 3 2) both have a copy of this reference work. If you have the opportunity to extract the relevant information from this book sometime, I would very much like to receive a copy.'

And so would we. Are there any researchers who happen to have a copy of these particular biographical sketches to share with us? Or is anyone interested in tracking down a copy at the library? Please let me know if you are able to locate this reference work.



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.

Subscription Notice

Beginning with the last issue, I have moved to a ten-page newsletter format, in order to increase the amount of Alderson family material in each issue. As you probably have noticed, this increased the postage for each issue from \$0.25 to \$0.45; with the postage increase of February 3, this brings the postage for each issue now to \$0.52. Over a year, the increased postage totals over a dollar. The longer format has also increased copying costs. By producing the newsletter in-house (literally), I have tried to keep costs low enough to encourage widespread membership, but with the first issue of volume 3 (June 1991), the membership costs will rise from \$6 to \$7.50 per year.

Renewal notices for next year are included in this issue for those readers whose membership is due to expire with this issue. I hope that all of you will choose to renew for the next year and continue your help and support in making the newsletter even more useful to Alderson family researchers. Higher prices are never welcome, but I promise you more articles, pictures, and other items of interest in return. And at this last issue of our second year in existence (!), I again express my sincere thanks to all of you who have encouraged and supported me so far.

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 \$7.50 per year (\$13 international) for four issues and run from the June to March issues, including any back issues for the year. Back issues from Vols. 1 and 2 are available at \$1.50 apiece. *Checks or money orders should be made payable to David Fridley.*