

A Family Line from John "River Jack" Alderson (1783-1853)

I recently received a letter from Teresa L. Peck of Overland Park, Kansas, who is a descendant of the Rev. John Alderson, Jr., through his son John "River Jack" Alderson. Her family left Monroe Co., VA during the Civil War and moved to Missouri. Mrs. Peck is fortunate to have preserved the memories of a number of her elder family members and has her father's diary as well, extracts of which she has shared along with memories from her aunt and of her own. She has also contributed the photograph of her great-grandmother printed on page 3.

"River Jack" Alderson

John "River Jack" Alderson (1783-1853) was the youngest child of the Rev. John Alderson, Jr. and his wife Mary Carroll. He was born in Greenbrier Co. (in what would later become Monroe Co.), and was married and died in Monroe as well.

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John married three times. His first wife was Jane Walker whom he married in 1805.¹ John and Jane had two sons and four daughters:

- Malinda Alderson, b. 6 Nov 1805, d. 31 Aug 1891
- Albert Gallatin Alderson, b. 4 Feb 1807, d. 18 May 1872
- Louisa Alderson, b. ca. 1809, d. 1898
- Evaline Alderson, b. 1810
- Mary Alderson, b. 31 Dec 1813
- John Alderson Jr., b. ca. 1814

John's second wife was (Mrs.) Nancy B. (Robinson) Mays, whom he married on 24 January 1824 in Monroe Co., VA.² They had five daughters and one son:

- Jane Alderson, b. 1824, d. 16 Feb 1914
- Amanda Alderson, b. ca. 1825
- Catherine Alderson, b. 1826, d. 1916
- Elizabeth Alderson, b. ca. 1829, d. 5 December 1909
- Lucy Alderson, b. 9 Nov 1831, d. 24 Feb 1899
- George Alderson, b. 13 Nov 1833, d. 18 Mar 1924

John's third wife was also a widow, (Mrs.) Eleanor Milhollen, whom he married on 8 February 1839, also in Monroe Co., VA.³ They had no children.

John Alderson

The second son of John "River Jack" and Jane (Walker) Alderson was John, born about

1 Monroe Co. VA Marriage Bonds F1 J532; Ministers Rtns, p1.
 2 Monroe Co. VA Marriage Bonds F4 J2417
 3 Monroe Co. VA Marriage Bonds F6 J3950

1814 in Monroe Co. He married Harriet Johnson in 1839 in Monroe Co., VA.⁴ The couple had 10 children:

- Elizabeth, b. 11 January 1840, married DeWitt Smith (1839-1906) in 1867
- Sophrona Lucretia, b. 27 Jan 1843
- Ellen, b. 7 May 1844, married Will Bigham in 1864
- William, b. February 1847
- David J., b. 14 March 1849
- John, b. 12 May 1851, never married
- Mary, b. 18 September 1853
- Rosy, b. 27 January 1856
- Harriet, b. 13 March 1858, d. 5 Oct 1930, married David Vance Bigham (1849-1931), great-grandparents of Teresa Peck
- Perry, b. 13 Sept 1859

John Alderson lived on Dropping Creek, Monroe County, (West) Virginia, until he and his wife moved with the family (except Elizabeth) to northwest Missouri, near the town of Weston, in 1862.

Harriet Alderson Bigham

Harriet Alderson, daughter of John and Harriet Alderson, married David Vance Bigham, perhaps about 1874 in Missouri; they had eight children.

Ella May Bigham, 1875-1940, eldest daughter of David Vance and Harriet (Alderson) Bigham married John Austin Weber in St. Joseph, Missouri.

Marven Austin Weber, 1904-1978, son of John Austin and Ella May (Bigham) Weber had a sister, Mildred Irene Weber, born before he was, but she died at age two. He married Mary Fay Trant in 1923 in Kansas City, Missouri.

Teresa Loraine Weber, daughter of Marven Austin and Mary Fay (Trant) Weber, was born in 1927. She currently lives in Overland Park, Kansas.

Teresa's great-aunt, Goldie Marie Dille, age 95, lives in Kansas City, MO. Goldie is the daughter of David Vance and Harriet (Alderson) Bigham. She was the youngest child of Har-

riet's family and she was the only one of eight children that wasn't born near the town of Weston in northwest Missouri, where her grandfather had settled after leaving West Virginia in 1862.

Goldie's family moved to St. Joseph sometime before she was born in 1898. Her father ran a livery stable, charging people by the hour for leaving their horses or carriages in his care. She remembers her mother working very hard to keep up with the 8 children, but she says although her father was a very pleasant man, he had little to do with supporting or rearing them.

When she was 13, they moved to Kansas City, Missouri to a house on Admiral Blvd. At one time her father operated a movie theater and during the silent films, she played the piano for wedding marches etc. Her mother and father lived with her just before they died. Her mother had gall bladder surgery in 1930 and died during the surgery. Her father died a year later.

Teresa adds that some of the information presented here comes from the pages of her father's diary, others from her great-aunt Goldie, and the rest from Morton Bigham, who also is in his 90s and lives near Gower, Missouri. His grandmother, Ellen, and Teresa's great-grandmother Harriet Alderson were sisters. They both married Bigham brothers.

There was a 23-year span between Harriet Bigham, the oldest child and Teresa's grandmother, and the youngest, Teresa's great-aunt Goldie. As Teresa wrote: "Harriet told my aunt (her daughter) that she was always afraid the Indians would burn down their cabin near Weston, Missouri.

"I remember very little about my great-grandmother as I was only three years old when she died, but at that young age, I lived with my parents on a small farm in Belton, Missouri and my grandparents and great-grandparents also lived there in a separate farmhouse.

"At that time, great-grandmother Harriet was always in bed in the front parlor and on occasion someone would take me to visit with her. She would reach out to pat my hand and I called her, "Grandma-Sick-in-Bed," and then one day

4 Monroe Co., VA Marriages, F6 J3906

she was no longer there. My father was her first grandchild and I, her first great-grandchild.

"Her brother, John, my great-great uncle, also lived there, at least some of the time. I remember only that he took me fishing and then one day, he too was gone. My aunt says he would bring a sack of cornmeal and a quart of buttermilk with him as payment for his room and board.

"I'd also like to answer the question on page 11 of your March 1992 issue regarding William Alderson, born 1847 in Virginia. The question asked was: "Is this the son of John Alderson, (b. ca. 1814) Virginia, son of "River Jack" Alderson (b.1783)?" He is indeed the son of John Alderson, as stated. He was my great-grandmother's brother and he moved with the family from West Virginia to Missouri in 1862."

Many thanks to Teresa Peck for these details on her Alderson line!

New Curtis Information

Thomas Curtis, b. 1684/5, d. 28 April 1749, was the father of Jane Curtis, wife of the Rev. John Alderson, Sr, and he was the son of Thomas and Jane Curtis, who emigrated from England to New Jersey by 1681. An article detailing the history of the Curtis family appeared in the June and September 1990 issues of *Alderson Roots & Branches*, including a pedigree chart of Thomas's parents, siblings, and their children. Recently, I corresponded with Mrs. Viola Rawn Schatzinger, of Bartlesville, Oklahoma, who is a



Harriet Alderson Bigham (front row, third from left), daughter of John and Harriet (Johnson) Alderson

descendant of Thomas's sister Elizabeth (b. 1666), who married William Atkinson in Burlington Co., NJ. Although she had not done further research on Elizabeth's family, she recently sent me the results of the IGI (International Genealogical Index) search on Thomas and Jane Curtis, Thomas' parents.

The search revealed the marriage of a Thomas CURTISE and Jane PAMER on 18 October 1659, at Pitney, Somerset, England. The date of this marriage is appropriate to be that of Thomas' parents; their first child, Jane, was born 11 April 1661, in Bugbrooke, Northampton, England.⁵ Northamptonshire is some distance to the northeast of Somerset; for this to be the marriage of Thomas' parents, they must have moved shortly after marriage to Bugbrooke, where they were members of the local Society of Friends. Bugbrooke may have been the home of Thomas Curtis, and he may have come to Somerset just to be married.

The search also uncovered a christening that may belong to Jane Pamer, wife of Thomas Curtis. There was a Jane PAMER christened on 29 June 1647 at Bishopstone by Swindon, Wiltshire, England (Wiltshire neighbors on Somerset), daughter of John PAMER. It appears that chris-

⁵ Stillwell's *Historical Miscellany*, Vol. 3, p. 200.

tenings did not necessarily occur soon after birth; if this is the case, then the Jane christened in 1647 would have been far too young to have the Jane married to Thomas Curtis in 1659. Perhaps our British cousins could shed some light on the interpretation of these data.

Mrs. Schatzinger also found a christening record for a William Atkinson, son of Michael Atkinson, on 10 July 1672 in Matterdale, Cumberland, England. She also sent the following records from the Burlington (NJ) Monthly Meeting found in the *Hinshaw Quaker Encyclopedia*, Pennsylvania and New Jersey:

- 1686, May 9 [3rd m, 9th d]. Atkinson, William, Burch Creek, N.J., married Elizabeth Curtiss, daughter of Thomas, Burlington, at Burlington Meeting.
- 1716, November 21 [9th m, 21st d]. Atkinson, John, son of William, Burlington, married Hannah Shinn, daughter of James, Burlington, at house of James Shinn.
- 1734, June 23 [4th m, 23rd d]. Atkinson, Michal, son of William, Burlington, married Hope Shinn, daughter of James, Burlington, at house of James Shinn, Springfield Twp., Burlington Co.

Many thanks to Mrs. Schatzinger for her contribution!

New Bits and Old Pieces about the Rev. John Alderson

Once again, Mrs. Susan Sharp of the Alderson Family History Society in the UK has unearthed some additional source material concerning the Rev. John Alderson of Yorkshire. Many Alderson researchers are familiar with the biography of the Rev. John Alderson as compiled by C.N. Feamster circa 1955, now located in the Library of Congress, in which he refers to articles written by the Rev. Lewis Allen Alderson in 1872 (Feamster's original manuscript contains a misprinted date of 1772). With the help of a researcher in the Society, Mrs. Sharp has obtained copies of two of the articles

New Members

Theresa L. Peck, 7715 W. 101 St., Overland Park, KS 66212. Details on Mrs. Peck's line appears in the lead story on John "River Jack" Alderson.

J.L. and Sandra Alderson, 1510 Coventry Lane, Charleston, WV 25314. Mr. Alderson is a descendant of John Alderson through his son Thomas of Monroe Co., and then down through Thomas' son Curtis, Curtis' son Asa, Asa's son Jesse Joseph, and Jesse's son Herbert Alderson, who was Mr. Alderson's grandfather.

A warm welcome to Alderson Cousins!

which appeared in the *Religious Herald* of Richmond, Virginia on 12 January 1871 and 10 April 1873; copies were found at the Virginia Baptist Historical Society, PO Box 34, University of Richmond, Richmond, VA 23173. These two articles are transcribed here in their entirety:

Religious Herald, 12th January 1871 Page 5, Column 2

Historical Notes

REV. GEO. B. TAYLOR

Dear Brother, I have just finished reading your book—Walter Ennis—having had by my side Semple's *History of the Baptists of Virginia, Life of James Ireland, and Virginia Baptists Ministers*, by your revered father. I confess I commenced the book with misgivings as to the propriety of presenting such serious and important historical events with such surroundings, and I feared the difficulty the reader would encounter in sifting the real from imaginary details. My first thought was to drop you a private note, expressing the pleasure I enjoyed in reading your book; but then, decided to say some things that might be of general interest, I knew you would pardon me for addressing you through the *Her-*

ald, the columns of which, by the way, I have regularly perused ever since the year 1832, the four long years of the war excepted.

In the year 1857, meeting with William C. Rives in Lewisburg, he remarked that he had been studying the history of the early Baptists of Virginia with a great deal of interest, that he was preparing for the press a *Life of James Maddison*, that he was surprised at the persecution the Baptists endured, that his political persecution had given tone to the political views of James Madison, and that the Baptists, aided by Patrick Henry, James Madison and Thomas Jefferson, had done more than all other denominations in securing religious liberty in Virginia. I asked him if he had read the speech of Patrick Henry in defence of John Waller, Lewis Craig, and others, who were imprisoned in Fredericksburg. He said he had not, but would be thankful if I would procure a copy for him. Failing to find the speech in my file of the Herald, I wrote to the veteran editor—William Sands and was told, in reply, that the speech referred to was the production of Rev. J.M. Peck; that Bro. Peck had met in the West, with an aged brother, who informed him that Patrick Henry appeared in defence of the imprisoned ministers in Fredericksburg, and that Bro. Peck, on the spur of the occasion, wrote what he supposed Patrick Henry might have said in their defence. I am glad that you have preserved this eloquent speech in "Walter Ennis" but not because it emanated from Patrick Henry, for, from all I can learn, he was not in Fredericksburg at the time.

The events just referred to occurred in 1768, and even though the Baptists had previously suffered severe persecution, this is probably the first instance of imprisonment, and yet Chas. Campbell, in his *History of Virginia*, p. 550, with a strange disregard for the truth, says: "The persecution of the Baptists commenced in Chesterfield in 1770, and in no county was it continued further." I met with a distinguished politician, a few days ago, who does not believe that the Baptists were ever persecuted in Virginia, and said he: "I know their ministers were not imprisoned in Culpeper, for I was raised in that county!"

In this connection, let me ask you not to discredit me when I tell you that, since the war, Rev. A.H. Dean, at one time president of the Baptist State Convention of Kansas, and for two years a major in the Federal army, was thrice arrested and imprisoned in Jackson county, Mo.,

preferring rather to preach the gospel, as he did, through the grates of his prison than to ask the magistrate permission to obey the command of the Lord Jesus.

Several years ago, standing by the grave of Patrick Henry, the youngest son, Mr. Henry informed me that while Elder John Weatherford was in Chesterfield jail, in 1773, he learned that, on the other side of the James River, there was a lawyer who had become distinguished as a friend of the persecuted Baptists. He secured a messenger, and, by him, sent £5 in gold—all the money he could raise—with the request that this lawyer would appear at the the next term in his defence. Patrick Henry did appear, and having secured his release, returned him the £5, wrapped up in the same handkerchief, just as it had been sent to him.

When Elder Chadoin was about ninety years of age, he informed the writer that he had witnessed the baptism, in the James River, by Rane Chastain, of the nine candidates who had professed faith under the preaching of Wm. Webber and Jos. Anthony, while they were prisoners in Chesterfield, during the winter of 1770-71. I felt a good deal of interest in becoming acquainted with one of these candidates as the wife of "Walter Ennis".

You mention the name of one of my ancestors—**Rev. John Alderson**—who, at an early age, came from Yorkshire, England, and having professed conversion, united with Bethlehem Church, in New Jersey. In 1755, he settled in Rockingham County, and in the following year, he constituted Smith's and Lynville Creek church, the third Baptist church in the State—the first as you know, having been constituted by emigrants from England in the Isle of Wight, in 1714, and the second Opecken—in Berkeley county, in 1743.

Rev. John Alderson, Sr., removed to Bortort county in 1770. He was imprisoned in Finncastle, not, however, for preaching the gospel; for the Established church had not sufficient influence to imprison the Baptists in the Valley of Virginia; but he imprisoned for celebrating the rites of matrimony, as he and other dissenters, as you stated, had been advised to do by Patrick Henry.

I have in my possession at this time three large folio volumes—*Keach on the Parables*, *Keach on the Scripture Metaphors*, and *Cotton's Concor-*

dance—which were presented by Thos. Hollis, a wealthy Baptist of London, to Rev. John Alderson of Yorkshire, England, and by him presented to his son, Rev. John Alderson, who first carried the gospel beyond the Alleghany mountains.

Cotton 's Concordance was published in London in 1635. On the margin of the title page is written, in letters beautifully formed, "Thomas Hollis, 1721" and in another place "Joseph Eaton, 1735."

Rev. John Alderson, whose name is last mentioned, visited Greenbriar county, in the year 1776, and baptised three persons. The next year he removed, with his family, and took up residence in a fort in Wolf's creek, Monroe county. The Greenbriar Baptist church was constituted in November, 1781, and united with the Ketocton Association. The twelve members of this church, though spread over a territory of sixty miles in extent—there were the Remleys, of the White Sulphur, and the Shumates, of the New River—were generally all present at the regular meetings.

Your brother,
Atchison, Kan. L. A. ALDERSON.

Religious Herald, 10 April 1873 Page 57, Column 6

Memorial Readings

[Our Kansas correspondent furnishes the following sketch of the father of the useful minister, of whose life he has spoken in the last two issues of our paper - EDS. HERALD]

Rev. John Alderson sr. was born in Yorkshire in the year 1699. His father, John Alderson, was a Baptist minister, of useful talents and respectable standing, and though supporting his family by the cultivation of the soil, he devoted a large portion of his time to the ministry. At the age of 19 or 20, his son was about to form a matrimonial connection beneath the social standing of the family, and the father, in order to divert his attention from the object of his affections, proposed furnishing him an outfit and the requisite means for travelling through the country. The proposition was accepted, but the youth soon squandered all his means, and was overtaken by a press-gang, who forced him on board their ship, which was about to sail for

America. Without the knowledge of his parents, he was brought to the state of New Jersey, and, as was the custom of those days, he was hired out by the captain for his passage money. His employer was a respectable farmer, by the name of Curtis, and the affections of his daughter to whom he married.

Soon after this he became deeply concerned about his eternal interests. By the grace of God he became a humble penitent at the feet of Jesus. Having embraced the Saviour in the fulness of his heart, he was baptized and received into the fellowship of the Bethlehem Baptist church. Possessing a clear intellect, and a heart deeply imbued by divine grace, he was encouraged to give himself to the ministry of the word. After a protracted struggle, he, at length, obtained the consent of his own mind, and was sent forth as a herald of the cross of the same church that put into the ministry John Gano, Hezekiah Smith, Charles Thompson, the Eatons, and other distinguished ministers of the gospel.

It must have been exceedingly gratifying to the father to hear from the long lost son, and more especially to hear that the prodigal had become a minister of the gospel.

Thomas Hollis, a wealthy merchant of London, and a Baptist, had presented Rev. John Alderson of Yorkshire, with a number of valuable books, among which were *Keach on the Parables*, *Keach on Scripture Metaphors*, large folio, and *Cotton's Concordance*, quarto, London 1635. These books the father sent over as a present to the son. They are now in the possession of the writer. In the *Concordance* is written "Thomas Hollis 1721", and "Joseph Eaton, 1735"; also "John Alderson his book".

Mr Alderson removed to Germantown, now included in the corporate limits of Philadelphia. Here he continued his ministry until 1755, when he located in Rockingham county, Virginia. Some ten years before this, a few Baptists had settled in this wilderness, exposed to the incursions of the Indians. They were as sheep without a shepherd. One John Harrison, having found the Saviour, in order to be baptized, travelled all the way to Oyster Bay, Long Island, where was at that time the only Baptist church in the entire state of New York, excepting a small band in the city of New York, from which spread the present First Baptist church in that city. Not only Mr Alderson, but Samuel Eaton,

Benjamin Griffith, and John Gano, had visited the people, and had dispensed to them the word of life. On the urgent solicitation of the brethren, **Mr Alderson** was induced to become their preacher, and on 6th of August 1756, he was instrumental in organizing them into a church, called Smith's and Linville Creek church.

This was the third Baptist church constituted in Virginia. During the first century after the settlement at Jamestown, we are unable to learn that there was a single Baptist in the entire state. In 1714, a minister by the name of Nordin formed a church in the county of Isle of Wight, which was in existence of upwards of thirty years.

In 1743 a church called Opeeken, but subsequently Mill Creek, was formed in Berkeley county, of members from Chestnut Ridge church in Maryland, with Henry Loveall as pastor. Smith's and Linville Creek was formed, as we have seen, in 1756.

"Under the care of **Mr Alderson**", says Semple, "this church went on very happily, having considerably increased until the fall of 1757, when the Indians invaded their country and scattered their church—many of whom removed forty or fifty miles below the Blue Ridge. After two or three years they rallied again, and put their church matters in a regular train." On the 12th of October, 1762, "**Mr Alderson** attended the meeting of the Philadelphia Association, when his church was received as a member of that body."

The next summer his members were again dispersed by the Indians, but most of them returned to their homes in the fall, and continued in their church relation peaceably and properly until his resignation in the year 1775, when he removed to Botetourt county, and settled on Catawba creek, some eight or nine miles from Fincastle. His son, **John Alderson, jr.**, having received license to preach, was ordained in October following, and settled as pastor of Lynville Creek church.

Mr Alderson belonged to the *regular Baptists*, subsequently called in Virginia *Particular Baptists*. They adopted the confession of faith composed by the Baptists of London in 1689, and reprinted by Benjamin Franklin for the Philadelphia Association, with an additional article, requiring the "laying on of hands" on all persons newly baptized. They did not suffer as

much persecution as the Separatists or General Baptists, probably because, as suggested by Semple, they usually obtained license to preach in certain places, or because they did not manifest as much zeal as the others; but so far as it is related to the Valley of Virginia, the main cause was that in this locality the power of the Establishment was very weak.

Mr Alderson, however, did not escape persecution. After his removal to Botetourt county, he was imprisoned in the jail in Fincastle. Under the Establishment no one was permitted to celebrate the rite of matrimony but a minister of the Church of England, and according to the book of Common Prayer. The Baptists used their efforts to secure the repeal of this law, and consulted Patrick Henry on the subject. He advised their ministers to unite in matrimony all proper persons applying, as the most effectual means of procuring the repeal of the offensive law. With the view of securing to the Baptists their just rights, **Mr Alderson**, in common with many of his brethren, acted in accordance with this advice, for which offence he was arrested and committed to jail. My informant in this matter, a nephew of **Mr Alderson**, who visited him while in jail, gave me an account of the interview, and described him as a *tall, slender man and remarkably erect for one of his age. His hair, originally black, was now perfectly white. His countenance indicated a benevolent heart and great force of character.*

After his settlement on Botetourt county he continued his ministry, but not as a pastor of any church. He closed his long and useful life in 1781, and his body now rests in the Catawba valley, in an abandoned grave-yard, covered over with a modern growth of timber. It was the privilege of the writer, many years ago, to visit the house where he breathed his last, and stand on the ground pointed out as the final resting place of his body; but neither hillock nor stone to designate the precise locality. "Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth; yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors; and their works do follow them."

Atchison, Kansas. L. A. A.

Note that the editor mentioned that this article followed two previous ones concerning John Alderson. Would any reader be able and willing to look further into locating these two articles?

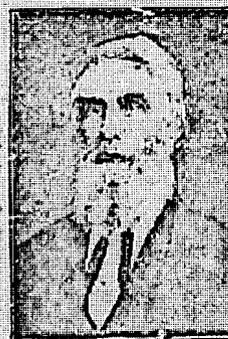
More on Lewis A. Alderson

The Rev. Lewis A. Alderson, author of the preceding two articles about his great-grandfather John Alderson of Yorkshire, has himself been honored with a number of biographical sketches. The following is one that appeared in the *History of Greenbrier County*, by J.R. Cole, published in the early 1900s but written shortly after his death in 1881.

Rev. Lewis Allen Alderson

Rev. Lewis A. Alderson was born May 5, 1812, and was the youngest of his father's sons. He attended the Lewisburg Academy about four years and then graduated with the highest honors of his class at the University of Ohio, in 1832. Dr. Hogue of Richmond, Va., the late Dr. Thomas Creigh, Charles and John Stuart, Charles L. Ar-buckle, and others of Greenbrier were his class mates at Athens, and were among his warmest friends. While at Athens he experienced a change of heart, and rode all the way back to the Greenbrier church to make a public profession of religion and receive baptism in the church of his parents. Mr. Alderson entered the ministry soon after graduating, and preached his first sermon in the old "Powder Horn Church" at Williamsburg, Va. in which General Washington stored his powder during the Revolutionary war. The day after he graduated he married Miss Lucy B. Miles, of Athens, Ohio, who only lived a few months. While pastor of the Grace Street Baptist Church, in Richmond, Va. he married Miss Eliza Floyd, daughter of Captain John Coleman of Amherst County, Va., by whom he had eight children; seven sons and one daughter. Major Joseph Coleman Alderson of Wheeling being the eldest. After the death of his father in 1845, Mr. Alderson moved to this county and took charge of the old homestead. His diary up to 1869 shows that he had preached 676 sermons and traveled 13,644 miles. He preached for many years at the Greenbrier Baptist church, located on his farm, and at Red Sulphur Springs in Monroe Co., and at the same time took a deep interest in managing and improving the estate left him by his father. He soon became one of the most successful farmers in the county. In 1853 he visited most of our leading farmers and

The late L. A. Alderson came to Atchison April 24, 1858, on Friday, and preached the following Sunday in the office of S. C. Pomeroy, corner of Second and Atchison streets, which is still standing. He was a Baptist minister, and came from Alacerson, W. Va., a



town named in his honor. He brought \$40,000 in gold to the country, and was one of the first bankers. In 1864, he opened a book store, which may be seen in one of the old street scenes illustrated in this issue. He gave \$2,000 in cash toward building the present Baptist church, and preached three years without pay. Dr. W. L. Challiss gave a similar amount toward building the Baptist church, and these two men supported it a great many years. Mr. Alderson died in 1881. His wife and five children survive him.

Source unknown; contributed by Norman Hemphill, Shawnee Mission, Kansas. Probably early 1900s.

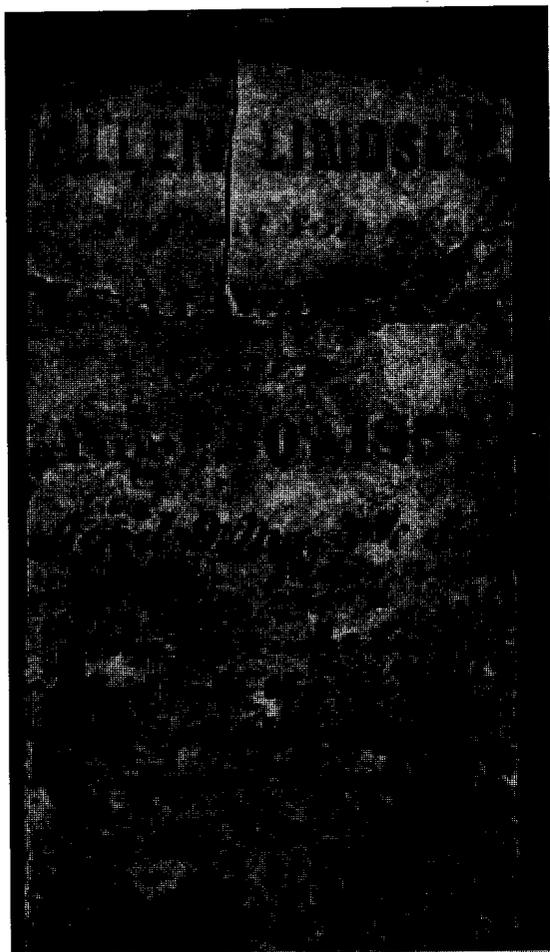
stockraisers and succeeded in getting them interested in the organization of the Greenbrier Agricultural Society. He was elected President of the Society and remained as such until the spring of 1858, when he moved with his family to Atchison City, Kansas, where he resided to the day of his death. What is now a large city was then nothing more than an insignificant river landing. He built the first church in Atchison City and the first large church in the Territory of Kansas in 1859, and preached to its congregation until the first year of the war. He established seven or eight other churches in eastern Kansas, and in 1863 was compelled to leave home on account of the intense feeling there against every one who had emigrated to that country from the South. He went to New York City and remained there until near the close of

the war. Mr. Alderson spent all of the best years of his life, and most of his means, in the advancement of charitable objects and the cause of religion. He was one of the most learned and scientific men in the west, and was offered time and again the Presidency of different colleges, though he declined to accept, believing that his life would be of more benefit to his fellow men in the sphere in which he had chosen to walk.

He died in Atchison City from dropsy of the heart on the 19th day of May, 1881, in his 70th year and was buried in Oak Hill Cemetery in that city. A set of books that have descended from his great-grandfather Rev. John Alderson of England are among his effects in that city.

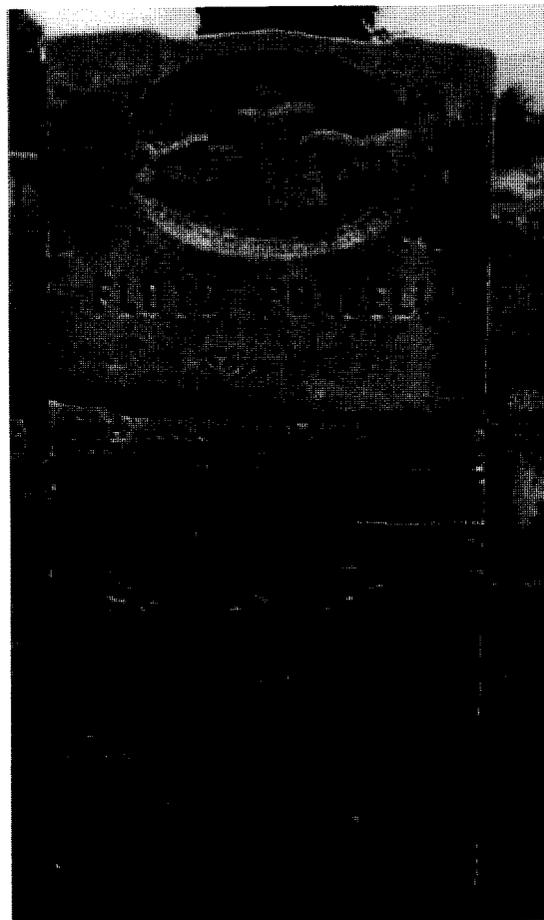
Lewisburg, W.Va. September 18, 1882.

M.W.



Tombstone of Allen Lindsey Alderson, son of the Rev. Lewis A. Alderson, Greenbrier Baptist Church, Alderson, WV. The inscription reads:

Allen Lindsey
 Infant Son of
 E.F. & L.A. Alderson
 Died
 Aug: 30th, 1851
 Aged 9 Ms & 4 ds
 Sleep on sweet babe
 And take thy rest
 God called thee home
 He deemed it best.
 Thy Mother



Tombstone of Floyd Powell Alderson, son of the Rev. Lewis A. Alderson, Greenbrier Baptist Church, Alderson, WV. The inscription reads:

Floyd Powell
 Son of
 E.F. & L.A. Alderson
 Died
 Sep: 18th 1857
 Aged
 15 Yrs. 4 Ms. & 27 Ds

Randolph Co. Missouri Marriage Records Book A (1829-1895)

Husband	Wife	Date of Marriage	Performed by	Page No.
James A. Alderson	Sarah N. Oliver	23 December 1858	James Barnes, MG	221
Samuel W. Alderson	Mollie Reed	17 November 1859	James Williams, Christian Elder	233
Henry H. Alderson	Sarah F. Robinson	19 January 1864	S.C. Davis, MG	292
John Thomas Alderson	Sue Barron	16 October 1865	M.J. Sears, MG	306
Francis M. Alderson	Julia A. Penn	23 January 1868		363
Francis M. Alderson	Sallie J. Penn	13 December 1869	M.J. Sears	393

Contributed by Diane Shough, Osceola, Iowa

Notes:

James A. Alderson is the son of Hiram and Elizabeth (Knox) Alderson, b. 5 Mar 1834, Jessamine Co., KY, d. 21 Sept 1903, Moberly, Randolph Co., MO.

Samuel W[illiamson] Alderson is the son of Hiram and Elizabeth (Knox) Alderson, b. 10 Feb. 1835 Jessamine Co., KY, d. 28 Feb. 1903, Edinburg, Grundy Co., MO.

Henry H. Alderson has not been further identified.

John Thomas Alderson is the son of Hiram and Elizabeth (Knox) Alderson, b. 6 May 1843, Randolph Co., MO, d. 22 Dec. 1911, Huntsville, Randolph Co., MO.

Francis M[arion] Alderson is the son of Mary Elizabeth Alderson (daughter of Hiram and Elizabeth (Knox) Alderson), b. 25 Dec. 1849, Randolph Co., MO, d. 23 Sept 1908, Moberly, Randolph Co., MO.

Errata

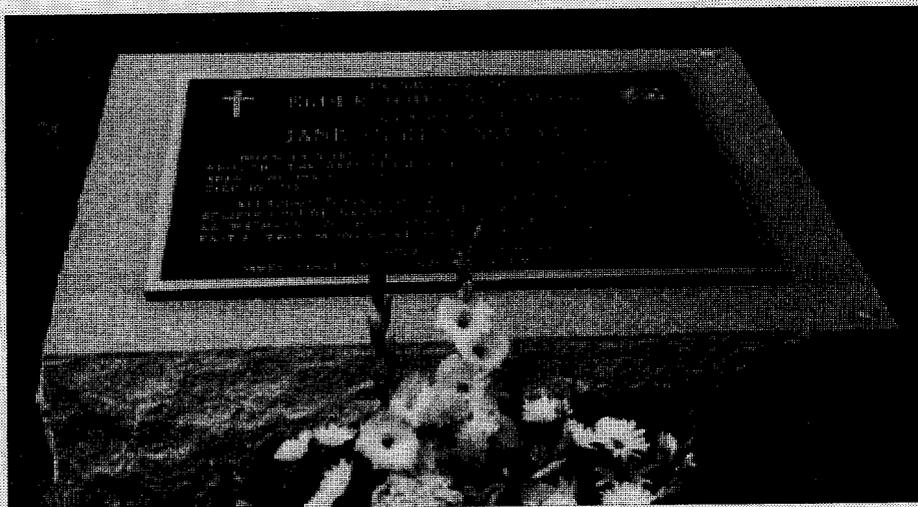
Mrs. Frances Swope of Lewisburg, West Virginia has written to point out two errors in the listing of the 1850 Census of Greenbrier Co., (West) Virginia on page 31 of the December 1992 issue.

The corrections are:

- 380-380 J.M Alderson was identified as John *Marcus* Alderson; this should read John *Marshall* Alderson.
- In the same family group, Joseph N. Alderson's death date was printed in error as 10 August 1898; the correct date is 10 August 1901. Mrs. Swope notes that her grandfather Joseph N. Alderson lived on the Monroe Co. side of the Greenbrier River, but she is unsure of the exact location of his death.

Thank you for writing!

Alderson Family Reunion



The descendants of the Rev. John Alderson will be gathering at the farm of John Earl Alderson of Fincastle, Botetourt Co., VA on 30 May 1993. This reunion will, among other things, celebrate the sixth anniversary of the commemoration of the stone to the Rev. John Alderson and his wife Jane Curtis Alderson. All Alderson descendants and their friends, guests and other interested people are most welcome to attend—bring along family papers and photographs, charts and sheets and share them with your relatives!

Tom Alderson, of Beech Mountain, North Carolina, has been busy organizing this event, and has made arrangements for catering. Although his invitation requested a response by May 10 in order to complete a count for the caterer, I'm sure he will still be glad to hear from you if you decide to attend, and Tom can also send you a copy of a map guiding you to the John Alderson farm. His address is T.G. Alderson, C-106 Overbrook Trail, Beech Mountain, NC 28604, and he can be reached by phone at 704/387-4529.

So, if you plan to be travelling over Memorial Day weekend, consider heading for the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia and enjoying a relaxed and pleasant day with new friends and old friends, and some relatives you may have never met before! The Alderson clan has spread all over America, but here is a chance for you to reassemble at the spot, appropriately enough, where the emigrant John Alderson was laid to rest 213 years ago.



Editor's Corner

I apologize profusely to all the readers for the inordinate delay in preparing and mailing this volume of the newsletter. From December until late April, I was totally occupied in the research, writing, and publication of a 300-page research report which left me no time to commit to the newsletter or other correspondence. I regret the delay as well because of the upcoming Alderson reunion in Fincastle, Virginia, which I would have hoped to advertise sooner in order that more Alderson relatives be aware of the event.

The June issue will be delayed as well. From late May until late June, I will be taking a (well-deserved!) vacation in Europe, starting in the UK and going to France, Germany, and the Netherlands as well. I will not be able to begin work on the next issue until after my return, so it will likely not appear until late July at the earliest.

The delayed schedule may affect the September issue as well. A full 18 months after initiating the process of leaving Hawaii, I have finally arranged a move to San Francisco to begin a new job with Caltex Petroleum. Unless unforeseen circumstances arise, I plan to move around the middle of August and be settled in San Francisco by the end of the month, and I will begin work at my new position at the beginning of October. This position will require my spending most of my time in Hong Kong and China, but I have purchased a notebook computer (a true godsend!) and will be able to take much of my work on the road with me. Until all these changes settle down and my routine is reestablished, I'm afraid that the scheduling of the next few issues of the newsletter may become somewhat erratic. I apologize in advance for the inconvenience!

Many of you will be receiving notices for membership renewal with this issue of the newsletter. We are now beginning our fifth year of publication, and I am as excited about the prospects of another year as I hope you are. By the end of this publication year in 1994, I am hoping to have completed the manuscript on the history of the Aldersons in America. A number of you have written offering your assistance in the preparation of the history; I greatly appreciate hearing from you and will respond as soon as I can organize the relevant materials.

Once again, I thank each one of you for the continued support and encouragement in this venture; with your help, we have created a solid publication, and I look forward to many more years of working together!

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, Vol. 3 at \$2.00. *Checks or money orders should be made payable to David Fridley.*

Thank you, and Happy Hunting!



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 \$14 airmail, \$12 surface mail, payable by check to Mr. John Alderson, 133E Alameda Drive, Tempe, AZ 85282.