

ALDERSON



Roots & Branches

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On the Trail of the Rev. Lewis Allen Alderson

by Jeffrey L. Alderson

On the Wednesday prior to Thanksgiving, I finalized business plans to visit a company in Kansas City, Missouri the following week. Once off the phone with the travel agent, I immediately opened my road atlas to see what genealogical opportunities were near by. Atchison, Kansas struck my attention. I remembered that the Reverend Lewis Allen Alderson had moved there at about the time of the Civil War. A chance to locate the religious books passed down to him from Elder John Alderson also leapt to mind. On Monday in Kansas City, I called the Atchison Public Library for its hours, directions, and the size of its local history section. The librarian was extremely helpful and seemed more excited about my visit on Tuesday evening than I was.

The drive north along the Missouri River was pleasant. For the first week of December, I was thankful for the 50 to 60 degree temperatures. The Atchison library contained a large room devoted to local history. This included a complete microfilm collection of "The Globe",

Atchison's local newspaper. With a good idea of the subjects date of death, I started my search for his obituary. In a short period of time, I located the obituary in the Friday, May 20, 1881 issue of "The Globe". The contents of the obituary are duplicated below:

Death of Rev. L. A. Alderson

Rev. L. A. Alderson, one of the oldest settlers of Atchison, and one of its most universally respected and esteemed citizen, died last night at 11:30, in the sixty-ninth year of his age, of congestion of the lungs, after an illness of almost a year. Mr. Alderson was born in Greenbriar, West Virginia, on May 5th, 1812, and was educated at Athens, Ohio, where he graduated in 1832. He has been a member of the Baptist church for almost half a century, and preached the first sermon of that faith ever heard in Atchison, in 1858, in the law office of ex-Senator Pomeroy. In April of that year he arrived in Atchison with his family on the steamer "Hesperian," of which A. B. Symms, the wholesale groceryman, was head clerk. For three years following that date he gave his time and money to the building and organizing of a Baptist church in Atchison, and both are yet in prosperous existence, fitting monuments to a good man's memory. He was the pastor without salary for three years, and is very properly regarded and venerated as the father of the Baptist church society in Atchison. But two of his original congregation remain—Mrs. Dr. Challiss, and his bereaved and stricken wife. He has been a teacher in the Sabbath school of the church constantly until his failing health of last fall, and his kindly face and good

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counsel have been a part of the church's history for twenty-three years.

During the war he engaged in banking with Wm. Hetherington, and later operated a bookstore. Since retiring from that business he has owned an insurance agency, and directed its operation until a few days before his death.

The date of the funeral cannot yet be announced, as it is not known when his children living in Virginia will arrive. The probable date, however, is Sunday afternoon.

The writer has known Mr. Alderson intimately and well during the three years of his residence in Atchison, and deeply deplores his death. For more than two years he was his nearest neighbor, meeting him every day, and learned to venerate him as a good man. If we have never benefitted by his advice it was not the fault of him now lying dead, and if we have not benefitted by his blameless life, it was not because we did not respect and admire it. There are a few men who teach good lessons with so much charity and kindness that the most erring respect and love them; Mr. Alderson was one of these, and we believe that the master who sent him will make his crown brighter because he was always patient, forgiving and charitable. His religion was intelligent and earnest, but blessed with forgiveness, mercy and hope; it was a religion of redemption for the weary children of the earth, and rejoicing at the return of the one lost sheep. He talked more of the gold-paved streets of the eternal city, and of the music and beauty of the angel inhabitants, than of the abode of the wicked dead, if he did not believe in universal salvation, he believed that God's mercy is much greater than any of us imagine. He preached and wrote this doctrine, and now that he has gone to his reward, we cannot doubt that it will be magnificent. For fifty years he has been a faithful soldier of the cross, and by deeds of valorous goodness earned the victory we hope he is enjoying to-day in Paradise.

This obituary is more complete than others I have come across. It indicated to me the conditions of the Reverend's death and hinted that he

was to be buried in Atchison. There was no mention of the religious books handed down to him from the 1700's. The reference that Lewis operated a bookstore later ran by his son was not pleasing to me. Valuable books and a bookstore combine to make the possibility that the books have left the family. I continued looking through the newspaper prior to searching for clues elsewhere. The Saturday, May 21, 1881 issue of *The Globe* had an entry in the social column copied below:

"Rev. L. A. Alderson will be buried from the Baptist church to-morrow morning at 11 o'clock. His son Coleman cannot arrive until next week, as he is somewhere in the mountains of Virginia on a business trip, and has not yet heard of his father's death."

I continued to scan the newspaper for the next two weeks and only found the following advertisement. I had hoped to find something regarding the fate of the Reverend's estate. The ad was offered by a son of Lewis:

Alderson's Insurance Agency.

Carey Alderson will continue the General Insurance Agency founded by his father, and will continue his office at Johnson's bookstore. Only safe, prompt companies represented.

My next thought was to examine a book listing the wills that the Atchison Courthouse had on file. No entry was present for Lewis Allen Alderson. I did copy the address for the Register of Deeds and later mailed a query for the will of Lewis. One week later, I received a response that no such will was on file. The city directories were located in the same room. For 1860-61, there are two Alderson entries: J. K. Alderson, student, and Rev. L. E. Alderson. Middle initials must not have been the city directory's strong point. The initial for Lewis is obviously wrong. I believe J. K. Alderson to be Joseph Coleman Alderson, the son of Lewis that later served as a Major in the Confederate States Army during the war. Joseph would have been 21 in 1860 and would have likely traveled with his father to Kansas in 1858. More on Joseph later. The next city directory entry I could locate was for "Louie Alderson" in the 1878-79 city directory. The 1880 directory was more specific for the Alderson's with the following entries:



Tombstone of the Rev. Lewis Allen Alderson, in Oak Hill Cemetery, Atchison, Atchison Co., Kansas. Photo by Jeff Alderson.

- Alderson, Carey F., clerk, Johnson & Bereman's, res. E. S. 5th, N. of Division St.¹
- Alderson, Henry, driver, Moulton & Yates, teds, S. S. Utah Ave. W. of 4th St.²
- Alderson, L. A., fire insurance agt. 325 Commercial St. Res. E. S. 5th, N. of Division St.
- Alderson, Louie A, operator Telephonic Exchange, res. E. S. 5th, N. of Division St.³
- Alderson, Walter, res. N. S. Mound, W. of 5th St.⁴

I believe these entries to be Lewis and several of his sons [see footnotes]. Three subjects including Lewis are residing on 5th Street north of Division. This is very near to the library and downtown Atchison. The 1882 directory has similar entries including Reverend Lewis Allen Alderson despite his death in May of 1881. The home is listed as 1014 N. 5th Street.

The obituary noted the Reverend's involvement in the Atchison Baptist church. The library

maintained a vertical file on each congregation in Atchison. The Baptist file contained numerous church histories praising the arrival of Lewis and his family. The best history was a first hand account of Mrs. Challiss, mentioned in the obituary. She was present for the first sermon by Lewis and described the scene as "Mr. L. A. Alderson...preached his first sermon on Sun. April 24th, 1858. After that services were held in a room previously occupied as a large beer saloon.

The seats were dry goods boxes, and rough planks from the lumber yard." Also in the church file was a copy of a script from a church pageant that recreated the history of the Atchison Baptist Church. Three speaking lines were given to the character Rev. A.

Next, I glanced through the index of graves for the several cemeteries in Atchison. I very soon discovered that Lewis had been buried in the Oak Hill Cemetery. I then spent twice as much time looking in the library for a city map to show me where the cemetery was located. The cemetery was roughly 20 blocks due west of the library. It being around nine at night, I was not eager to start walking among the head stones. I did drive by the cemetery on my way back to the hotel just in case I ever got back to Atchison.

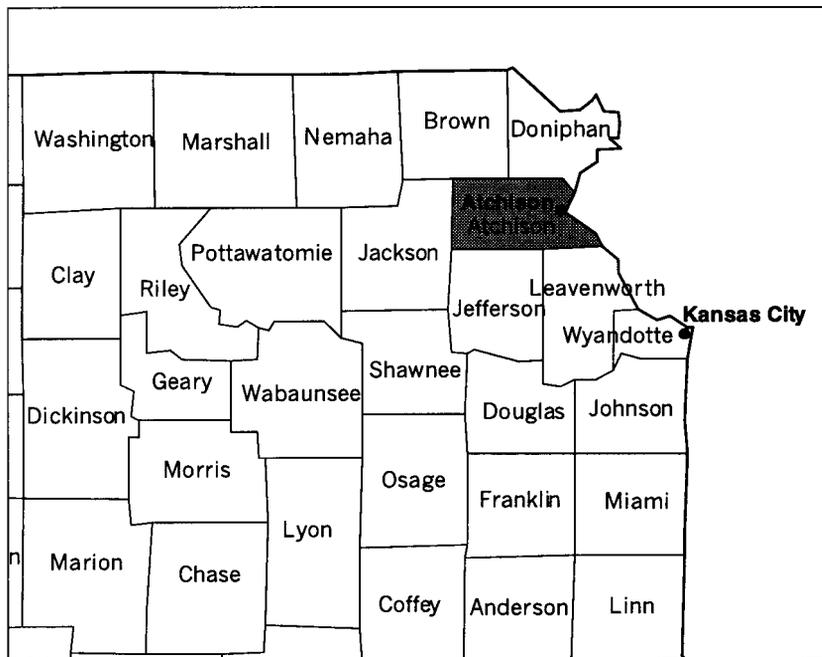
The last volume I examined was an index of Kansas Civil War veterans. This index included militia rosters for soldiers that were not formally inducted into the army. I was surprised to find two Alderson entries, one of which was L. A.

1 Cary Trimble Alderson, b. 30 Apr 1853, Monroe Co., VA, d. 26 Aug 1907, Atchison, Atchison Co., KS. Buried 27 Aug 1907 at the Mt. Vernon Cem., Atchison.
 2 Lewis did not have a son Henry; this Henry Alderson is unidentified. There were no Henry Aldersons listed in the 1880 census of Kansas, and Lewis A. was the only Alderson appearing in the Atchison Co. census.
 3 Lewis Allen Alderson, b. 1863, Monroe Co., VA, d. 1932, Birney, Rosebud Co., MT.
 4 Walter Wyatt Alderson, b. 12 Feb 1856, Monroe Co., VA, d. 20 Mar 1895, Miles City, Custer Co., MT.

Alderson. I had to write the Kansas State Archives for more information. Within one week I was informed that a L. A. Alderson had enlisted in Kipp's militia company of Atchison County men over 45 years of age. The length of service was from October 11, 1864 to October 30, 1864 when the unit was disbanded. I believe the militia was called up in response to a campaign by Confederate General Sterling Price whose army was threatening Kansas City and points north. Thus, Lewis appears to have enlisted in the Union army for a period of 19 days at the age of 52. Now getting back to his son Joseph Coleman Alderson, Joseph during October of 1864, was in his sixth month of prison after being captured by the Union army in Virginia. He was either at Camp Chase, Ohio or Point Lookout prison. Although Lewis and Joseph were far from facing each other on the battlefield, this is another example of relative against relative, or father against son in this case, that the American Civil War is often noted for.

Two days after my visit to Atchison's library, I was fortunate enough to have a few hours of free time. I drove again to Atchison determined to locate Reverend Lewis Allen Alderson's grave. Starting with the oldest looking stones, I began walking the cemetery. My luck in other cemeteries has been dismal at best. Fortunately, I found his head stone in a short amount of time. It is near the north side of the cemetery on the high ground. The stone is modestly small. The inscription reads, "Rev. L. A. Alderson, 1812, 1881, Founder First Baptist Church, Aug. 1, 1858." No other Aldersons are located in the cemetery. Oddly enough, there is an Alderson Cemetery located in Atchison County. No Aldersons are buried here either. The cemetery is named for Lewis Alderson who donated the land for its use.

After returning home, I digested all the information I had gathered and found myself still asking the one question I had hoped to answer. What has become of the religious books that had been passed down from Elder John Alderson. I have come up with the following possibilities:



Northeast Kansas Counties.

1. Joseph Coleman Alderson was the eldest son and expected to travel to Atchison on the news of his father's death. The eldest son may have been a criteria for willing the books.
2. Carey F. Alderson was a clerk in a bookstore and continued his father's insurance business. This could have been a factor in who received the books.
3. Lewis was survived by his wife who may have retained the books to be handed down upon her death.
4. The books could have been sold via the readily accessible book store to a third party.
5. Any one of a hundred other things could have happened to the books.

In other words, I was no closer to solving the mystery of the books, just more familiar with the events surrounding the death of Lewis Allen Alderson.

Descendants of Richard Alderson, Sr of Richmond County, Virginia

by Jim Cross

The evidence of the censuses indicates that the descendants of Richard Sr. are the largest single group among Alderson families in North America. Since David Fridley already has a database of Elder John's descendants, I have concentrated on building a database on members of Richard's line. While Richard was about fifty years older than Elder John, the first two generations of his family were small and all of the identified families are descended from his grandson James Alderson who married in 1729. James was a contemporary of Elder John and it is interesting to compare the number of descendants in the male lines of these two patriarchs down to individuals who married prior to the 1920 census. Like Elder John, James had six sons and his identified descendants were fathered by four of the six. The figures for the line of Elder John are based upon my records. Since David has not been available to compare notes since I completed my census research, I have not had a chance to compare my records with his, but the differences should not be significant.

Richard Sr		Elder John	
Gen. No.	Fams	Gen No.	Fams
1st	1	-	-
2nd	2	-	-
3rd	2	1st	1
4th	5	2nd	5
5th	10	3rd	15
6th	22	4th	36
7th	43	5th	71
8th	81	6th	79
9th	33	7th	23
Total	199	Total	230

The line of Elder John leads in the count of families that have been definitely identified, but

the numbers are deceptive. The line of Elder John has been studied much more thoroughly than that of Richard Sr. There seems to be more interest in genealogy among his descendants as evidenced by the membership of the Alderson Cousins and the Alderson Family History Society, very few of whom are descended from Richard Sr.

I have recorded 1540 pre-1920 male heads of families. In addition to those tabulated above there are 88 blacks, 209 19th and 20th century immigrants born in Great Britain, 275 of their descendants born in the U.S. and Canada, 13 immigrants from other countries and their descendants and 12 from the line of Simon of Bath Co., NC. That accounts for 1026 of the families. Probably more than 90% of the remaining 514 are descendants of one of the colonial lines. I have identified perhaps 50 who may be descendants of Elder John and a similar number who may be descendants of Simon of NC. However, the majority, another 300, are probably from the line of Richard Sr. Most of them can be traced back to a family in the 1850 census whose head was born in VA or SC. Genealogical evidence of their connection to Richard Sr. has not yet been found, but some progress is being made.

In 1994 I found evidence linking the family of Samuel B. Alderson, pioneer settler of Henderson Co., Kentucky to the line. There is a deed signed by Samuel and his wife on file in Richmond Co., Virginia which describes him as the son of the recently deceased Jeremiah. That is Q5020 Jeremiah, the last Alderson described in my article in the December 1994 issue. Recently Jeff Alderson has found Maury Co., Tennessee published genealogies which link some additional families there to the line.

Samuel B. Alderson of Henderson Co., Kentucky was another Alderson with a large family. His wife was Marinda Swope. They eloped and were married in Indiana when Marinda was only 14. She outlived her husband and celebrated her 90th birthday in Cairo, Kentucky surrounded by over 125 descendants from four generations. One of those present prepared a five page story of her life. It describes the hardships of life on a frontier farm with a large family. After her marriage her husband taught Marinda how to ride a horse and shoot a rifle. None of her descendants served in the Civil War, but she described how Union soldiers passed through Cairo and camped on her property. Unfortu-

nately, the account does not include any genealogical information, but most of the descendants can be identified from census records. This article is available on microfiche from Salt Lake City.

One of the groups that has not yet been linked to Richard Sr. is the descendants of two Aldersons, probably brothers, who settled in Pittsylvania Co., Virginia. These were William and Poindexter Alderson. Poindexter's name is unusual and may be his mother's maiden name. A number of Poindexter families are known to have lived in southern Virginia at the time. Four sons of the two men fought in the Civil War with the 38th VA Inf. By 1920 there had been more than 40 male descendants in that line, all of whom lived in Pittsylvania or adjoining Halifax county.

Another large unidentified group is the descendants of William Alderson of Mercer Co., Kentucky. William was born c1810 in South Carolina and was almost certainly a grandson of Benedict Alderson of that state. However, the names of his parents have not been identified. William had three sons who served in the Union army. One line of his descendants remained in Mercer Co., KY through 1920, but the majority

moved to Indiana where they lived in Muncie and Indianapolis.

Anyone who has any information which might clarify the parentage of the founders of these last two lines is urged to submit it to me or to the editor.

The Alderson Family History Society Fall Conference

by Jim Cross

The 1995 Annual Meeting of the Alderson Family History Association was held in the village hall at Muker, North Yorkshire on 16 and 17 September 1995. The attendance of approximately fifty included a delegation of eight Americans organized by Don Thompson. Don's report of his experiences has already been appeared in the AFHS newsletter. This account will concentrate on the material presented by the speakers at the meeting. Muker is a small vil-



Map of Swaledale, Yorkshire. Muker is center-left and Reeth is near the center of the map.

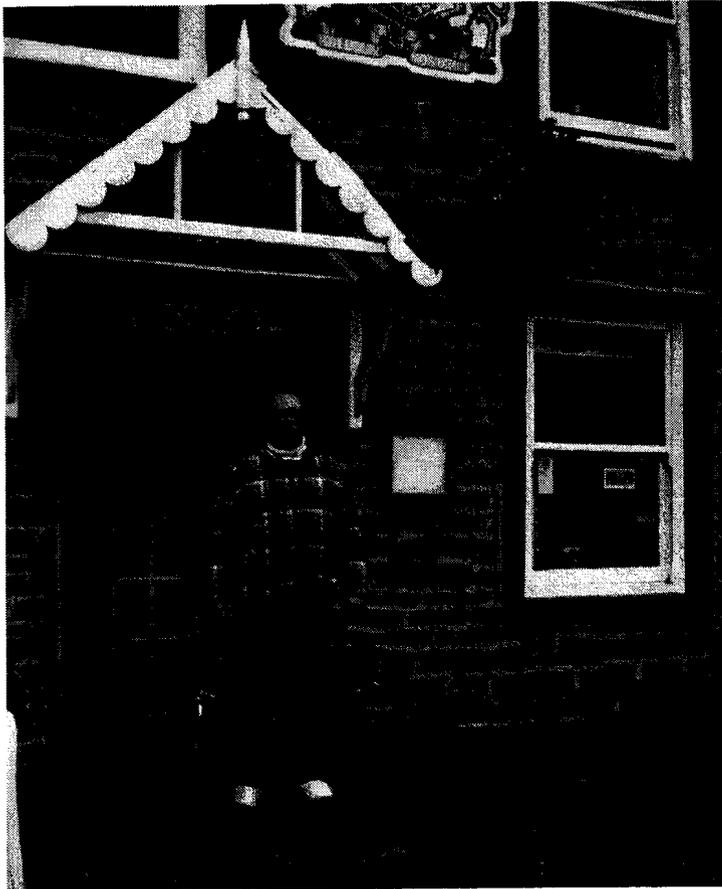
lage in Swaledale in North Yorkshire. The latest AFHS newsletter included a tabulation of 17th century Alderson baptisms in England. A total of 897 were recorded from 1600 to 1699. Of these 511 (56+%) were from North Yorkshire. These figures leave little doubt that this was the center of Alderson settlement and the reason that the annual autumn meetings are held there. The valley of the Swale River forks near the village of Reeth. The Swale valley (Swaledale) continues upstream in a westerly direction. The valley of the Arkle Beck or Creek (Arkengarthdale) rises to the northwest. The land between the two dales and their outer slopes ascends steeply to rocky moorlands. The Swale valley floor is farmed, but the uplands are too rocky for farming and are used primarily for pasture. The moorlands are private hunting preserves, but local farmers have grazing rights dating back to the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. Almost all buildings in the dales, as well as the fences around the fields, are built of the readily available stone. The entire dales area is a British national park. Unlike American national parks the land continues to be privately owned, but new development is strictly controlled and limited. All new structures must be built to blend with the existing buildings. The population of the two valleys is only a few thousand. Many of the place names shown on the map are tiny hamlets of just a few houses. There were three parishes of the Church of England in the valleys: Grinton, Muker and Arkengarthdale. The original churches still are in use in Grinton and Muker. Their cemeteries have many Alderson graves and there are many Alderson entries in the parish records. The original church in Arkengarthdale was torn down because it was near the creek bank and the ground under it was eroding. The current church is in Langthwaite. The dales highlands were rich in lead ore and from about 1650 until the early 19th century lead min-



House in Eskeleth, Swaledale, Yorkshire. Photo by Jim Cross.

ing was the main occupation of the dalesmen, supplemented by subsistence farming and hand knitting of woolen goods.

Saturday morning of the meeting day was spent in registration, viewing exhibits and AFHS publications for sale, fellowship and using the AFHS computer for inquiries. This was followed by lunch and two speakers. The first was David Morris, a local historian whose 1989 book, "The Dalesmen of the Mississippi" is a fascinating account of the exodus from the dales to the lead mining areas of the upper Mississippi valley centered on Dubuque, IA during the second and third quarters of the nineteenth century. Twenty-six Alderson families and a number of single individuals were part of that immigration. These included my own immigrant ancestor, Joseph A. Alderson who came sometime between 1847 and 1849 from Richmond, North Yorkshire. Morris describes how most of the miners were too poor to hire a horse and wagon to carry their belongings to the port and instead loaded what they could on a handcart. The journey up the valley ended in a steep grade which crossed the Pennines and then descended to Lancaster and Liverpool, a journey of over 150 miles. Although steamships had begun to make the Atlantic crossing, most immigrants were too poor to afford the higher fares and came by steerage on sailing ships, often taking almost a



The author, Jim Cross, in front of the King's Arms, Reeth, Swaledale, Yorkshire, September 1995. Photo by Jim Cross.

month to cross the Atlantic. The immigrants, often families with many small children, were preyed upon by criminals both in Liverpool and in the North American arrival ports, who stole their money and possessions and sometimes sold worthless passages. Sanitation aboard the ships was poor to non-existent and many a family lost a member to disease during the trip. The book also includes a short history of the upper Mississippi valley including accounts of the "Blackhawk War", the settlement of Dubuque, IA, Mineral Point, WI and Galena, IL and the early lead mining in the area.

David's presentation to the audience concentrated on why the emigrants left Yorkshire and how they made the trip. It was accompanied by an excellent slide show including family pictures of many of the immigrants. Unfortunately, the lunch hour had extended beyond its allotted time and both David and I, who followed him, had to cut short our remarks which had been allotted an hour each. My topic was the Alderson

immigration to North America. With the aid of a map, I pointed out where the colonial immigrants had settled and described the twenty-six Alderson immigrant families who came to the upper Mississippi valley.

Following the evening meal Lawrence Barker, a mining expert, gave the history of the Yorkshire lead mining. He mentioned that the women and children worked in the smelters, often standing in ice cold water all day long. On Sunday morning visitors who spent the night toured the mining area including a visit to the Old Gang Mine site, the largest in the dales. Don Thompson and I had seen the mine the previous Thursday when we were followed for most of the day by a crew filming a regional TV program, "The Dales Diary." They filmed for several hours, but only about a six minute segment was to be used. We hope to get a copy of the film, converted from British format to the one used on American videotapes. Not only do British and Americans drive on opposite sides of the road, but we also have different video standards. My TV segment included filming of Eskeleth, my ancestors' family home with my tenth cousin, John Alderson, the AFHS Computer Officer. We are both descended from Thomas Alderson who settled at Eskeleth, a farm in upper Arken-
garthdale prior to 1650. I played straight man, asking John questions about the building and John and the wife of the current owner answered them.

On a less positive note I was unsuccessful in convincing the AFHS officers to relax their policy on release of data from their database. The existing policy is to release data only to direct descendants. This contrasts with the Alderson Cousins where the database has been put online so that it is available to anyone on the Internet. The AFHS policy handicaps researchers, like myself, who are interested in working out Alderson lines other than their own.

Let me conclude by mentioning two experiences which may or may not be significant. The current owner of Eskeleth told me that the two other dwellings on the property were formerly protestant churches, one a Methodist church. Second, when Don and I stopped in at the pub in our lodging house after returning from the banquet, a Yorkshireman from Grinton, considerably the worse for drink, came up to us. We had trouble understanding his thick Yorkshire ac-

cent, further thickened by good ale, but this is what we understood. He said he is descended from the father of Elder John. He has a brother in New York, who has visited Alderson, WV to see the place his kinsman founded and sent home pictures. I was leaving early on Sunday, but we asked the man to come and see Don on Sunday and give us further details. He did not return and may not have had any memories of our conversation. Is it possible that Elder John's father was a Methodist minister in Arkengarthdale. If his father baptized him, it would explain why his baptismal record has not been found.

Aldersons on the World Wide Web

Last issue I provided an overview of access to the Alderson family database posted on my World Wide Web site at <http://www.slip.net/~dggf/Alderson>. This issue I am providing the results of additional net searches for information on the Alderson family. The following is a genealogy page located at <http://www.syix.com/lwithrow/index.html>. It has been posted by Mrs. Lola Withrow, who can be reached by snail mail at:

Lola (Harris) Withrow
5881 Cohn Ave
Marysville, CA 95901

Her research is on the POLK, RUTHERFORD & WALKER Families of Scotland & Ireland. Among her Polk families is the following:⁵

Capt. John POLK, born ca 1739 in Cumberland Co., PA, died 1803 in York Co., SC. Married 2 Oct 1758, in Anson Co., NC. Elinora SHELBY

- Charles POLK. Born: 18 Jan 1760, in Mecklenburg Co., NC Died: 16 Oct 1848, in San Augustine Co., TX. Married: Caroline Margaret BAXTER in NC.
- John POLK Born: 1767 in Mecklenburg Co., NC. Died: 24 May 1845, in Maury Co., TN. Mar: (1) ca. 1790, Elizabeth ALDERSON⁶ (2) Mrs. Rebecca BRIGGS.

- Taylor POLK, Sr. (1780 - 1838)
- Shelby POLK.
- Eleanor POLK, Married: John THOMPSON.
- William POLK, Married: Elizabeth McCLANAHAN.

Early Foreign-Born California Aldersons

The following is a list of foreign-born Alderson voters of California in 1872, taken from the Great Register of California of 1872. There were a total of 61,691 records in the register, extracted by Jim W. Faulkinbury, CGRS. The material is copyright Jim W. Faulkinbury and Federation of East European Family History Societies, 1996. The listing can be found at: <http://www.dcn.davis.ca.us/go/feefhs/fbvca/1872a.html>.

Name	Age	Birthplace	Rec No
Alderson, George	34 in 1867	Great Brit	382
Alderson, Joseph	34 in 1868	England	383
Alderson, Richard	54 in 1868	England	384
Alderson, Thomas	44 in --	England	385
Alderson, Thomas	34 in 1866	Great Brit	386

According to census records compiled by Jim Cross, George, Richard, and Thomas Alderson were in Placerville, Eldorado County, California in 1870. Placerville, fifty miles east of Sacramento, is located just south of Coloma, where the Gold Rush began at Sutter's Mill in 1848. Thomas was in Marin County, just north of San Francisco.

Cross records also show that George married Susan _____, and was the son of Thomas and Hannah (Calvert) Alderson (immigrated to the US in 1844). George was in Nevada Co., CA by 1860, and Eldorado Co., CA by 1870, perhaps to join his brother Thomas. He died in 1893.

⁵ See also, "Aldersons of Lafayette Co., Mississippi", in *Alderson Roots & Branches*, vol. 3, no. 1,

⁶ Elizabeth Alderson, b. 1766, NC, d. 24 November 1829, Maury Co., TN, daughter of Benedict and Anne Alderson.

Thomas Alderson was another son of Thomas and Hannah (Calvert) Alderson. Thomas was in Eldorado Co., California by 1860.

Richard immigrated to the US ca 1846, and married Ann Richards in 1847. He was in Los Angeles Co., CA in 1850 and in Eldorado Co. by 1860.

Faulkinbury will also provide on request for \$5 per entry and SASE, additional information available from his extracts, including date and place of naturalization, court of record for naturalization, and county and year of Great Register. For \$12 per entry, Faulkinbury will photocopy the original at the State Library, which further includes information on occupation, street address, ward or township, and the complete registration date. Requests go to Jim W. Faulkinbury, CGRS, PO Box 60727, Sacramento, CA 95860-0727.

Out of the Past

Mrs. Ruby Brower of Aurora, CO, who is researching the family of James and Ann Eliza (Weathers) Alderson (son of Jeremiah Alderson) has sent a picture of John J. Alderson and his wife Leona Littlejohn. The picture was taken at their marriage about 1893. The picture is in the possession of Anette Alderson Edwards of Little Rock, Arkansas.



John J. and Leona (Littlejohn) Alderson, ca. 1893.

John J. Alderson was born 25 June 1869 in Lafayette Co., Mississippi, and died 3 Nov 1910. His wife Leona Littlejohn Alderson was born in 1871. John J. was the son of Jeremiah M. Alderson (b. 1838, d. after 1900) and Hattie Adams Alderson (b. Oct 1847, d. 8 Dec 1908, Lafayette Co., MS). Jeremiah M. was the son of James and Ann Alderson.

Tazewell Co., VA Aldersons: Obituaries

The following are obituaries of two Aldersons—son and father—from Tazewell Co., Virginia. The father, Henry C. Alderson, was the son of Dr. Christopher Alderson of Russell Co., VA, and grandson of Davis Alderson. Henry C. was born in Russell Co. about 1848, and moved to Tazewell Co. by 1870, probably after the Civil War. He married Mary L. Chapman in 1871. Henry was an attorney and judge in Tazewell; a profession later followed by his other son, Chapman Alderson, who practiced in New York. Henry died 9 November 1912.

William Henry Alderson was born about 1876 in Tazewell Co. and died 20 September 1908.

Will Henry Alderson

The death of Will Henry Alderson, which occurred here Sunday night, came as a great shock to his many friends and relatives. The deceased was a son of Col. and Mrs. H.C. Alderson, and at the time of his death was engaged in the insurance business here, at which he was succeeding admirably. He was a young man of brilliant intellect and of remarkably fine business qualities. He possessed many noble traits of character, and the esteem in which he was held by those among whom he was raised, was attested by the large crowd that gathered to pay the last tribute of respect to his memory.

Will Henry possessed in an unusual degree the personal friendship and regard of everyone who knew him. His deportment throughout this

Query

My ancestor, James T. Briant/Bryant, married a Rachael. Could she have been Rachael Alderson? They were married 5 June 1815, Botetourt CO, VA. She was daughter of Burr Alderson. My James T. Briant and Rachael's first child was born 1817 (William Gleason Bryant) in VA. They named another son "Barzil". (he could have been named for his maternal grandfather Burr Alderson.) We think that James T. Briant's parents were John Bryant and Judith Elizabeth Winfrey. The Briant/Bryant family traveled and intermarried with Shelton, Luttrell, Easley families. They were in VA; Adair & Lincoln Counties, KY; Lincoln & DeKalb Counties, TN; and Marion and/or Wayne Counties, IL, where James T. Briant died in 1850. Any information appreciated, and all correspondence answered. Mary Bryant Park, 2204 West 5th, Stillwater, OK 74074-2817; 405-372-6777. Compuserve 75304,551 (75304,551@compuserve.com)

business relations with others was always marked by courtesy, kindness, fairness and a considerate regard for the rights of others.

In the death of this warm-hearted and honorable young man, the community in which he lived has sustained a real loss, and the general appreciation of this fact is evidenced by the sincerity with which he is lamented by a large circle of friends and relatives.

In addition to his other accomplishments, he was a musician of unusual talent and skill, being an accomplished violinist. He loved the beautiful, and moved others by sweet music on his violin. The floral tributes were among the most beautiful ever seen here.

The deceased was thirty-two years of age, and is survived by his father and mother and one sister, Mrs. V.L. Sexton, of Graham, Va., and one brother, Mr. Chapman Alderson, of New York City.

The funeral services were held at the home of his parents Tuesday afternoon, and were conducted by Rev. S.O. Hall, of the Presbyterian church and Rev. C. W. Sydnor, of the Episcopal

New Members

Mary Bryant Park, 2204 West 5th, Stillwater, OK 74074-2817. Mary is researching the line of Burr Alderson, son of Curtis Alderson. See details in this month's Query.

church, and his remains were laid to rest in the Jeffersonville Cemetery.

The active pall bearers were: Dr. C.T. St. Clair, J. Powell Royall, John W. St. Clair, J.P. Harman, A.S. Higginbotham and J. N. Harman, Jr.

The honorary pall bearers were: R.R. Henry, A. St. Clair, S.C. Graham, Geo. W. St. Clair, W.T.T. Gillespie, Dr. W. I. Painter, W. H. Werth, S. M. B. Coulling, S. D. May and W. G. Harrison.

From the *Tazewell Republic*, Thursday, 24 September 1908. Contributed by Gaye Whitehead.

Death of Col. H.C. Alderson

Colonel H. C. Alderson passed away on Saturday night, at 9:00 o'clock, after a brief illness. On Monday after a short service at the house, conducted by Rev. E.E. Wiley he was laid to rest in the Jeffersonville cemetery, by the side of his son, William Henry, who proceeded him to the Great Beyond, some years ago. Colonel Alderson is survived by his wife, who was Miss Mary Chapman, one son, Chapman, an attorney in New York City, and one daughter, Mrs. V.L. Sexton, of Graham.

Colonel Alderson was one of the few remaining in this section, of the old fashioned type of Southern gentlemen made immortal by F. Hopkinson Smith, in Colonel Garter, of Cartersville. That he was always courteous, carefully observant of the little social amenities that makes life pleasant, and kindly considerate of the poor and needy, in every station of life, will keep Colonel Alderson's memory green long after his faults which, be it hoped were interred with his bones, have been forgotten.

From the *Tazewell Republic*, Thursday, 14 November 1912. Contributed by Gaye Whitehead.

Editor's Corner

Almost back on schedule! Instead of a six-month wait, this time it is six weeks, and I am confident that the June issue will be out at its regular time of late June or early July. For most readers, renewal notices have been sent out with this issue; because of the long delays between the last two issues, I have provided this one as a «freebie» to all. Renewals for volume 7 thus will run through the first issue of volume 8, and subscriptions for those on a different cycle will be extended accordingly.

In order to expedite the publication of the Alderson genealogy, I have decided to go ahead and issue individual chapters (each chapter corresponding to one of Rev. John Alderson's children.) The first will be the descendants of John Alderson, Jr. Currently, the manuscript for this chapter is about 90 pages long and is largely the family groups of the descendants of John, Jr. I have intended to add additional census and biographical information beyond what is currently in there, but have now decided instead that the genealogy will have two editions: the first being the entire summary genealogy, by chapter, and the second including additional source materials, citations, census, vital record and other relevant materials. I have been a bit reluctant to go this route without more thor-

ough study, but I wanted to forego additional delays. This publication will serve as well as an index to the (Rev. John) Alderson database as it currently stands.

The manuscript is currently being reviewed by several people for corrections and revisions. That done, I imagine that it can be printed and distributed during the summer. I will forego perfect-binding for this edition, instead offer it spiral bound at minimal cost, and gratis to those who have donated to the research and printing costs up front.

Subsequent chapters will cover the genealogies of Thomas, Curtis, and Benjamin Alderson.

The newsletter has gotten a boost through the offers by Jim Cross and Jeff Alderson to contribute on a regular basis. Jeff's article on Lewis Allen Alderson appears in this issue, and Jim Cross has articles on the family of Richard Alderson of the Northern Neck and his visit to the Alderson Family Historical Society meeting last fall. He has been a regular contributor.

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*, 127 Topaz Way, San Francisco, CA 94131. Fax: 415/920-9856; email: dgf@slip.net (Internet).

Subscriptions are \$7.50 per year (\$13 international) for four issues, including any back issues for the current volume year. Back issues from Vols. 1 and 2 are available at \$1.50 apiece. Vols. 3, 4, 5, and 6 at \$2.00 apiece. *Checks or money orders should be made payable to David Fridley.*

Thank you, and Happy Hunting!



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.