

Alderson

Roots & Branches



Vol. 1, No. 4

March 1990

Editor's Corner

With this fourth issue of 1989/90, we bring one year of publications to an end and begin a second year with even bigger plans. More pages, more variety, and more good data—these are the main goals for the coming year. I hope all of you will continue with me over this next year, and I invite you to read the article on subscription renewals on page 5.

We have also established contact with the Alderson Family History Society in England, which has been coordinating research in both England and the United States. Although it is too early to be definite, it appears that some arrangement could be struck between our two organizations, especially in the area of possible overlapping research. We all, of course, would be immensely interested in furthering work on the ancestry of John Alderson in England, but there are members of the English group as well who are researching various American lines. As many of you may have discovered in your research, there are a number of Alderson families in the upper Midwest, descendants of Yorkshire lead miners who came to the US in the 1830s. These ties make it important that we keep in contact with our English cousins, and I will report later on developments in this area.

This newsletter can also serve a "clearinghouse" purpose of bringing together those researchers who are as yet not in contact over the same research questions. In order to make it easier for all members to contact each other, I plan to give a full listing of members in the June 1990 issue. I would also like to keep on hand a record of each member's immediate line of descent, to be entered as well into the computer database. When sending in your renewal for the newsletter - or any time, at that - consider adding a family group sheet of your family along with a pedigree chart outlining your descent from the Aldersons. For those returning sheets by June, a note will be added to the membership list indicating line of descent. Please feel free as well to use the Query section to ask about collateral lines; many have done further research on the history of the Carrolls, Smithsons, Davises, Merrills, Osbornes and other "married-in" lines.

Out of the Past

he following is a transcript of a letter written by Polly Alderson to her cousin Frances Alderson of Palestine, VA in 1814. Frances Alderson, b. 1786 d. 1856, was the daughter of Thomas Alderson of Monroe Co.; her cousin Polly is likely Mary Alderson, b. 21 Dec. 1793, d. 23 Dec. 1841, daughter of Joseph Alderson, son of John Alderson Jr. It is not known who is referred to as the object of Frances' "consolation", but Polly's reference to "Cupid's tyranny" indicates that there was perhaps a romantic concern in mind. Both women were as yet unmarried; Frances married John Marcus Alderson, son of George Alderson, in August 1815, while Mary remained single until Dec. 1819, when she married Charles Lewis. The "per L.A." noted on the envelope cover likely refers to Levi Alderson, brother of John Marcus, who married Frances' sister Clemency Alderson.

Lewisburgh August 6th 1814

Dear Frances

Before I proceed in answer to your letter, I must express the satisfaction I felt, on the reception of it, what could give me more joy than a letter from your kind hand? You who promises to obey all my commands. Well my dear Cousin, my command will not be verry strict, only that you must not try to supplant me in my absence, which for my sake I cannot believe that you will. I do not tell you not to comfort the desolate, if that name is applicable, though I don't suppose it is, but if you think it is, give him all the comfort that is in your power, which would be cruel in me to forbid. I think you was rather too severe in your hints, respecting the intrusions upon my mind, which you suppose causes the deficiency in my memory which I must deny. Believe me my mind is entirely free from cubits [Cupid's?] tyranny. The last reason

In this issue:		
Out of the Past		1
Queries		4
1860 Russell Co., VA Aldersons		5
Subscription Renewals		5
Alderson Marriages in Tennessee:		
1806-1851	•	6
Tennessee and the Aldersons .		8

that you mentioned perhaps is the invader, you say you join me in my wish. I must return you my thanks for your goodness, and ask you, if you think there is any person or persons in our neighborhood that will join us in our wish. I shall expect a compliance with the request; then I will be able to destinguish my friends from my foes. However striking the contrast may appear to you, on viewing the past and present, I am sure it is not less with me. When reflection calls to mind, the hours spent in each others society, it causes an involuntary sigh to escape my breast. Other reflections teaches me that it is for my own good that we are seperated, without I could have your company here, which fills my heart with gratitude to my parents, from which I hope I never shall deviate. How delighted I would be to ge gratified with your company here, your good humour would enliven those hours not devoted to study, and those tedious days which are spent in meditation would appear to glide away with much more ease. I have nothing particular to add, more than we are all well and desire a remembrance by you and all the family, and we would send a great deal of love, but my letter won't hold it, so I must conclude with subscribing myself, your affectionate cousin,

Polly Kelderson

The following is a letter from Christopher Alderson to his aunt Frances Alderson of Palestine [Alderson], VA, relaying news of the death of his father Davis Alderson, son of Thomas and Hannah (Davis) Alderson. Davis was Frances' oldest half-brother, born 1768¹. He moved to Washington Co., VA from Monroe Co., VA in 1823, after his three youngest sons, Christopher, John D., and George W., were born. Christopher later moved north over the Clinch Mountains to Lebanon, Russell Co., VA, where his second cousin Thomas Creigh McCleary Alderson was a merchant.

Lebanon, Nov. 25th 1851

Dear Aunt,

You probably have heard of father's death ere this time. He had been more infirm during the past year than usual, and had just recovered from a severe attack, so that he was again able to ride on horseback. He was in the field superintending some work, when his horse freightened, ran off and threw him. He walked to the house, which was several hundred yards, conversed somewhat cheerfully during the evening, after his fall, but by next morning was entirely helpless. He was attacked about the second day after with pneumonia, produced chiefly by the shock from the fall, together with an epidemic influence prevailing at the time in the neighborhood. He suffered greatly from pain in the chest and severe cough while he was sensible of the pain, and died



Figure 1
Tombstone of Davis Alderson in the Alderson Cemetery near Abingdon, Washington Co., VA. It reads: "In Memory of Davis Alderson Born in Harford Co., Maryland Died Nov. 14, 1851 Aged 83 years 6 months 1[?] day." Photo by T.G. Alderson, 1989.

on the morning of the 14th instant. He was thrown from his horse on the 3rd. So that I now have neither father nor mother living, and you have lost a brother, who esteemed and loved you greatly. Most of his conversation when I had an opportunity of visiting him, for a year or two past, was about the friends of his youth, many of whom had gone to the grave before him, and about his own near approach to the tomb which was impressed upon him by his age and infirmities, and also about his preparation and readiness for the solemn hour. He said the contemplation of death for many years past had no terror to him, but that had not always been so with him, that he felt perfectly resigned, as he was in the hands of a merciful God, on whom he relied. During his last illness after the first day, he was most of the time either laboring under slight delirium or sunk into a stupor, so that he could not converse satisfactorily, but his life and conversation before that, leaves us no doubt but that he is free from pain, and gone to a world where there is no more suffering.

The relations here are generally well except Margaret Aston, whose health is about as usual.

According to the 1850 Washington Co., VA census, Davis was born in Virginia, but his tombstone states that he was born in Harford Co., Maryland. This indicates that Thomas Alderson was in Maryland in 1768, as noted in the article about him in the September 1989 issue of this newsletter, but that he did not return to the Shenandoah Valley until after Davis was born.

Give my love to Granville, and all, and I remain yours affectionately,

Christopher Alderson

Pr. Alderson was born on the 15th of December, 1816, near Union, Monroe county, (then) Virginia. He was a son of Davis Alderson, who was born near Alderson, Monroe county², and came to Washington county in 1823, and a grandson of Thomas Alderson, who was born in Greenbrier Co³. His mother was also of a Virginia family, Miss Catherine Thrasher, of Botetourt county.

At Lebanon, Russell county, Virginia, in 1841, Dr. Alderson married Mary P. Gibson, the Rev. Samuel Gibson uniting them. The record of their children is: Joseph, now a physician at Meadow View, Virginia; Franklin M., killed on the Gettysburg campaign; Charles W., a farmer; Henry C., an attorney-at-law of Tazewell C.H., Virginia; Mary C., now Mrs. Buchanan; Martha A., now Mrs. Preston. The four sons were all soldiers of Virginia in the late war, entering service at the respective ages of fifteen, sixteen, seventeen, and eighteen years. One gave his life to the cause; three were with Lee at the surrender.

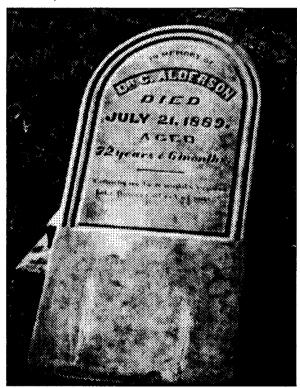


Figure 2
Tombstone of Christopher Alderson, in the Alderson Cemetery near Abingdon, Washington Co., VA. It reads: "Dr. C. Alderson Died July 21, 1889. Aged 72 years & 6 months. Calming as to a night's repose Like flowers at set of sun." Photo by T.G. Alderson, 1989.



Figure 3
Tomb of Mary (Gibson) Alderson, wife of Christopher Alderson, in the Alderson Cemetery near Abingdon, Washington Co., VA. It reads "Our Mother Mary P. Alderson Died Feb. 15, 1891 Age 69 years." Photo by T.G. Alderson, 1989.

Mrs. Alderson was born at Copper Creek, Russell county, on March 19, 1821, the daughter of William Gibson, Esq., whose father was Rev. Samuel Gibson, of the M.E. Church. Her mother was a daughter of George Peery, a prominent citizen of Tazewell county.

Dr. Alderson has been a successful practitioner of medicine for forty-eight years; nineteen years in Russell county, twenty-nine years in Washington county. he has had ten medical students, all of whom have become successful practitioners, some distinguished in their chosen profession.

[From Dr. R.A. Brock, Virginia and Virginians, (Richmond: H.H. Hardesty), 1888, Vol. II, pp. 702-703.]

Capt. George W. Alderson

Capt. Alderson is a son of Davis Alderson and Catharine Alderson, nee Thrasher, whose family line is given in the record preceding this. He was born near Union, Monroe county, (then) Virginia, January 7, 1820. Captain Alderson has been twice married, and the father of nineteen children. His first marriage was with Lydia, daughter of Rev. Andrew Patterson, Baptist clergyman

² Davis lived for a time near Alderson, but he was born in Harford Co., MD (see previous article).

³ Thomas Alderson was born in Bucks Co., PA in 1744.

of Washington county, whose wife was Elizabth Cole, from Smyth county. Lydia Patterson was born December 17, 1824, became the wife of Captain Alderson, December 24, 1840, and died on April 1, 1866. Secondly, Captain Alderson married Mary, daughter of Hugh and Elizabeth Reed, of Washington county, and widow of John Ketron. This marriage was solemnized July 7, 1868, at the home and birthplace of Mrs. Alderson, near Abingdon. The Reed family are among the oldest in Washington county, Hugh Reed the son of John Reed.

The children of Captain Alderson's first marriage are: Elizabeth K., now Mrs. S.P. Edmonson, of Friendship, Virginia; Davis, twice wounded at Cedar Run, near Culpeper C.H., died of wounds at Flint Hill, Virginia, September 17, 1864; two infants, died unnamed; Andrew, who was also a soldier in the Confederate army at age of

fourteen years, and in battle of Saltville, now living in Texas; Ann E., now Mrs. T.J. Tilson, of Hunt county, Texas; Thomas R., now a merchant of Campbell, Hunt county, Texas; Virginia C., now Mrs. Henry Sweft, of



Figure 5
Tombstone of George W. Alderson in the Alderson Cemetery, near Abingdon, Washington Co., VA. It reads: "George W. Alderson Born Jan. 7, 1821 Died Apr. 20, 1893." Photo by T.G. Alderson, 1989.



Figure 4
Alderson Cemetery, near Abingdon, Washington Co., VA. Photo by T.G. Alderson, 1989.

Hunt county, Texas; Miriam M., now Mrs. John Minich, of Wood county, Texas; George, deceased; Lydia J., now Mrs. John Roberts, of Washington county; William K.H., now in Hunt county, Texas; Christopher Dayton, now of Washington Territory. The children of the second marriage are: Mary A.; Davis, deceased; Maggie; John J.; Martha; and George.

Captain Alderson filled the office of magistrate two years in Washington county. He was some time captain of militia previous to the war, and captain and commissary of substinance at Abingdon during the entire four years of that war. He had eight nephews in active service, two of whom were killed, one falling on the Gettysburg campaign, the other in battle at Winchester, fall of 1864. Captain Alderson resides on the farm he cultivates, near Moab.

[From Dr. R.A. Brock, Virginia and Virginians, (Richmond: H.H. Hardesty), 1888, Vol. II, p. 703.]

Queries

Who is John Taylor ALDERSON? He was married 15 Dec 1881 in Texas to Susan DAVIDSON, b. ca. Jan. 1860, d. 12 March 1895, Savoy, Texas. They had at least two children: John Malcolm ALDERSON, b. 1890, d. 26 Feb. 1968, Alpine, Brewster Co., Texas, md. 14 June 1921 Eleanora SEIDENSTRICKER, one adopted son. The other child was Susan Elizabeth ALDERSON, b. 19 Jan 1893, md. Samuel Ewing DAVID, daughter Jean DAVID GREEN. This data was taken from a copy of several pages of a genealogy, title unknown, with marginal notes stating that the DAVIDSONS, ALDERSONS, and GREYS were all related. Any possible connection to George Washington ALDERSON, who had a son George Taylor ALDERSON, b. Oklahoma? Mrs. Helen Boswell, 1124 Beuth Rd., Moberly, MO 65270.

1860 Russell Co., VA Census							
Fam.	Name	Age	Sex	Occup.	Real Estate	Pers. Estate	Born Notes
1084	Able Alderson	57	m	farmer	17,810	21,282	VA son of Davis and Leah (Carroll)
	Elizabeth D.	46	f	wife			VA
	William C.	13	m				VA
	Mary E.	10	f				VA
	Sally M.	8	f				VA
1086	John D. Alderson	41	m	farmer	6,090	4,417	VA son of Davis and Catherine (Stiver)
	Martha	42	f	wife			VA
	William G.	20	m				VA
	Thomas	18	m				VA
	Davis C.	14	m				VA
	Isabel C.G.	6	f				VA
	John H. Candler	27	m	clerk			VA
Leba	non District						
7	Christopher Alderson	48		physician	10,000	6,918	VA son of Davis and Catherine (Stiver)
	Mary P.	39		wife			VA
	Joseph D.	19		teacher			VA
	Frank M.	16	m	in school			VA
	Charles W.	14	m				VA
	Henry G.	12	m				VA
	Mary [B.?]	9	f				VA
	Martha A.	8	f				
8	Thomas C.M. Alderson	42	m	merchant	10,471	23,483	VA son of George and Jeanette (McCleary)
	Nancy J.	40	f	wife	•	•	VA "
	George	14	m				VA
	James D.	12	m				VA
	Charles C.	10	m				VA
	Thomas M.	8	m				VA
	Mary J.	3	f				VA
	Nannie J.	3/12	f				VA

Transcribed by Gaye Whitehead, Daniels, WV.

A year has passed, and the newsletter has gotten off to a strong start. Readership over the past year has risen from just a few dozen who responded to the mailout of the first issue to the present 75 or so. Many readers have written with gratifying words of support—contributing articles, copies of family records, and other family data as well—and a number

have helped get the newsletter off the ground financially. All of this help and support are most gratefully appreciated, and I hope as we move into the second year of publication that the newsletter can expand and serve even a wider group of readers.

Subscriptions to Alderson Roots & Branches are provided on an annual basis, beginning with the first issue of the year in June and ending in March, for a total of four issues. Those of you who subscribed later in the year should have received all the back issues up to that point. I can't always guarantee my accuracy—anyone who does not have the first three issues of Volume 1, please contact me and I will be glad to make up what's been missed. For those of you who sent in subscriptions as well as payment for back issues, your subscription



period will be adjusted to accord with the June-to-March basis of the rest. With our low budget—now totalling \$300—it is still not affordable to open a separate bank account. Subscription checks should continue to be made out to me personally, with a memo note of the subscription details.

Subscriptions for 1990-91

will remain at \$6.00. This is likely to change next year since the Post Office has already announced their intention of raising postal rates by some 20% next January or February. Moreover, I would like to expand from the current eight page format, which will raise both the weight and postage of each issue. We would not be eligible for a Bulk Rate mailing permit until total mailings exceed 200 per issue—so the more readers we have, the better it is for us all!

As of the June 1990 issue (vol. 2, no. 1) all subscriptions will come up for renewal (those who made additional payments will be contacted separately.) Please continue to support this fledgling effort to preserve the rich heritage of our Alderson ancestors and the history of this fascinating group of people!

Alderson Marriages in Tennessee, 1806-1851

Date	Husband	Wife	Bondsman	Performed by	Source; Notes
		Davidso	n County		
1827, Nov 9	Richard S. Alderson	Louisa Cobler			1:98; BkI, p. 338
1837, Feb 28	Thomas Alderson	Rebecca Compton		J.T. Edgar, M.G.	1:15; License 27 Feb 1837; BkI, p. 507
1840, Jan 1	H.P. Cleveland	Lucinda Alderson		R.B.C. Howell, Bapt.	1:180,5:260; BkII, p. 51 bond 1 Jan 1840
		Jefferso	n County		
1828, Aug 23	Isaac Alderson	Susannah Coppock			2:45; Record no. 2125
1830, Dec 23	Daniel Hearn	Mary Ann Alderson			2:49; Record no. 2312
		Maury	County		
1817, Jan 23	William Alderson	Edith M. Edwards	County		3:6; bond 23 Jan 1817
1819, Jun 24	James Forgey	Fidelia Alderson			3:13; bond 24 Jun 1819
1819, Sep 16	Edward Williams	Elizabeth S. Alderson			3:13; bond 13 Sep 1819
1821, Dec 6	James R. Shelton	Mary E. Alderson			3:21
1822, Feb 21	Joseph Hart	Frances M. Alderson	Taswell Alderso	n	3:179
1822, Jul 18	Hugh Leeper	Sally Davis	John Alderson	Ц	3:184
1823, Nov 4	Robert Crosby	Eliza P. Coleman	Josiah Alderson		3:169
1823, Nov 4	Samuel J. Wilkins	Rebecca Paul	James C. Alders	on	3:202
1824, Jan 12	Jesse Rogers	Elizabeth Alderson	James C. Alders	OII	3:25
1827, Feb 22	Jeremiah Alderson	Sally B. McGimpsey	Thomas P. John	son	3:161; bond only
1827, Feb 22 1827, Sep 30	Daniel D. Deans	Martha Jane Alderson		SOII	3:34; bond 30 Sep 1827
1828, Aug 6	Peter Graham	Martha Bowdin	J.J. Alderson		3:176
1828, Feb 17	Samuel Wantlan	Anney Alderson	John W. Beasley	7	3:201
1828, Jan 30	Thomas Harbison	Jane Alderson	Elijah Adkins		3:178
1828, Sep 18	John B. Alderson	Amanda Shelton	Samuel Phillips		3:161; bond only
1829, Apr 16	John B. Hamilton	Sarah A. Alderson	Samuel I minps		3:39; bond 9 Apr 1829
1829, Sep 4	Thomas M. East	Sarah J. Alderson	J.H. Walker		3:172
1830, Feb 23	John Alderson	Susannah Edwards	J.11. Walker		3:42; bond 22 Feb 1830
1830, Sep 29	Alexander McKee	Matilda Alderson			3:44; bond 29 Sep 1830
1833, Jul 11	George W. Coock	Elizabeth Alderson			3:54; bond 8 Jul 1833
1835, Mar 3	Armstead Alderson	Ann E. Dodson			3:60; bond 24 Feb 1835
1835, Oct 1	Bathus C. Alderson	Isabella Craig			3:63; bond 1 Oct 1835
1836, Jun 21	Henry Woolard	Mary E. Alderson			3:67; bond 21 Jun 1836
1837, Mar 1	John Smith	Mary Alderson			3:71; bond 1 Mar 1837
1838, Jan 18	Samuel S. Alderson	Margaret J. Alexander			3:76; bond 17 Jan 1838
1838, Oct 27	Silas Edwards	Nancy Alderson			3:97
1840, Dec 23	William Alderson	Winny Dodson			3:76
1840, Feb 18	Robert, Sr. Alderson	Elizabeth Dodson			3:76; bond 18 Feb 1840
1840, Mar 15	Bathus C. Alderson	Sarah J. Vanhook			3:75; bond 2 Mar 1840
1842, Nov 26	Josiah Alderson	Milly Fitzgerald			3:76; bond 25 Nov 1842
1842, Oct 20	William A. Alderson	Nancy Wilks			3:76; bond 20 Oct 1842
1846, Sep 24	Joseph P. Tate	Nancy C. Alderson			3:149; bond 24 Sep 1846
1847, Mar 10	John Mills	Mary Alderson			3:129; bond 9 Mar 1847
1077, WIGI 10	JOHN MINS	way Auction			3.123, WAIN 7 IVIAL 104/

1849, Dec 19	Nathan W. Harris	Eliza Alderson			3:110; bond 18 Dec 1849
1849, Feb 6	Samuel S. Alderson	Josephine Hunter			3:76
1849, Jul 5	Lewis F. Lanier	Margaret A. Alderson			3:121; bond 5 Jul 1849
1850, Feb 27	Raleigh W. Dodson	Ann A. Alderson			3:94; bond 27 Feb 1850
1850, Mar 31	William B. Alderson	Louisa J. Burnham			3:76; bond 28 Mar 1850
1850, May 23	Joseph L. Orr	Mary Alderson			3:134; bond 22 May 1850
1851, Sep 27	James F. Alderson	Sarah C. Alderson			3:75; bond 27 Sep 1851
		Rut	herford Co.		
1831, Feb 3	Richard D. Alderson	Mary Millins		Henry Ridley, JF	5:11; Bond 2 Feb 1831
		Su	ımner Co.		
1806, May 28	Greenberry Orr	Aramintha Juliet Harr	is William Alderso	n	4:13
1812, Feb 27	Seth Russell	Polly Jackson	James Alderson		4:24
1817, Feb 24	Jeremiah Alderson	Crisia Nowlin	James Alderson		4:32, 5:11
1818, Apr 17	William Dinning	Lucky Alderson	William Alderso	n	4:36, 5:365; date of bond
1818, Nov 26	Michael Clyne	Margaret Ogle	William Alderso	n	5:265; date of bond
1818, Sep 14	Armstead Alderson	Elizabeth Orr		John Gilbert, JP	4:35, 5:11
1821, Jun 25	John Jackson	Polly Alderson	James Alderson	Addison Foster	4:47
1822, Jan 21	Frederick Carpenter	Lucinda Chambers	James Alderson	Addison Foster, JP	4:49, 5:217; bond 21 Jan 1822
1822, Sep 9	Benjamin Ragland	Nancy Dotson	James Alderson		4:50
1823, Jan 23	John Taylor	Nancy Sherry	John Alderson		4:52
1824, Aug 4	Robert Harris	Anne Alderson		Robert Norvell, MG	4:55
1824, Feb 22	William Lovell	June Alderson		Alex D. Duval, JP	4:55
1824, Nov 8	William Willoughby	Kesiah Smith	William Alderso	n	4:57
1825, Jul 12	Armstead Meredith	Elizabeth Weaver	William Alderso	n	4:59
1826, Feb 17	William Alderson	Tabitha Dinning	John Dinning	Robert Norvell	4:62, 5:12; bond 17 Feb 1826
1827, Sep 26	John Alderson	Polly Hodges	Creed Hodges		4:66, 5:11; bond 26 Sep 1827
1828, Apr 22	Elbert Benbrook	Polly Chapman	James Alderson	Robert Norvell	4:70, 5:91; bond 22 Apr 1828
1828, Mar 11	James Doughty	Elizabeth Brown	John Alderson	Robert Norvell	4:71, 5:378; bond 11Mar 1828
1829, Dec 29	Ramond L. Hodges	Mary Ann Murphy	John Alderson	S. Cochran, JP	4:75
1829, Oct 13	Green Jackson	Betsey Harris	James Alderson	Robert Norvell	4:75
1830, Mar 8	Israel Dye	Elizabeth Anderson	John Alderson	Robert Norvell	4:79, 5:396; bond 8 Mar 1830
1830, May 24	Robert Alderson	Elizabeth Clack	William Alderson	n Robert Norvell	4:78, 5:12; bond 24 May 1830;
				Lucas and Whitley bo	oth have Elizabeth Clark.
1831, Sep 25	Thomas Frost	Matilda Wygal	James Alderson	·	4:84, 5:470; date of bond
1833, Apr 12	Elijah Clack	Myrum Alderson		Robert Norvell	4:91, 5:251; Miriam? Alderson
1834, May 24	James Alderson	Patsey Morgan		J. Hobday, JP	4:93, 5:11; bond 24 May 1834.
1835, Apr 28	Reuben Alderson	Sally Stevens		Freeman Senter	4:95, 5:11
1838, Aug 19	Armstead Alderson	Eliza Bradley	John Jackson		4:105, 5:11; bond 19 Aug 1838

Note: Most of the dates given in these entries are for marriage bonds; where a separate date for bond issuance is given, the initial date is the date of marriage.

Sources:

- 1. Whitley, Edythe Rucker, comp. Marriages of Davidson Co., Tennessee, 1784-1847. (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co.), 1981.
- 2. Whitley, Edythe Rucker, comp. Marriages of Jefferson Co., Tennessee. (Baltimore, Genealogical Publishing Co.), 1982.
- 3. Whitley, Edythe Rucker, comp. Marriages of Maury Co., Tennessee. (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co.), 1982.
- 4. Whitley, Edythe Rucker, comp. Marriages of Sumner Co., Tennessee. (Baltimore, Genealogical Publishing Co.), 1981.
- 5. Rev. Silas Emmett Lucas, Jr., et al. 35,000 Tennessee Marriage Records and Bonds, 1783-1870. (Easley, SC: Southern Historical Press), 1981, vol 1. A-F.

James F. Alderson

George H. Gantt

1849, Aug 14 1849, Aug 28 L.D. Oliphant

Martha A. Alderson

3:75

3:103; bond 28 Aug 1849

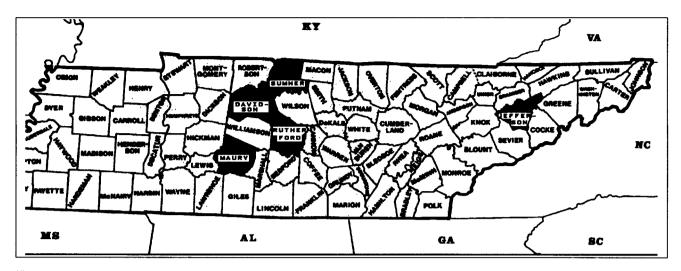


Figure 6
Map of Tennesse Counties, 1850, showing locations of counties covered in marriage listing. (Based on William Dollarhide, Map Guide to the U.S. Federal Censuses, 1790-1920, 1987.)

Tennessee and the Aldersons

Tennessee served as a meeting ground for a number of Alderson lines. Located at the southern end of the Great Valley of Pennsylvania and Virginia, eastern Tennessee was settled mainly by Virginians and North Carolinians who were attracted to the mountains and valleys of the Holston, Clinch, and French Broad Rivers. Early Alderson settlers in this region may have included Simon Alderson, son of the Rev. John Alderson of Rockingham and Botetourt Co., VA.

In central Tennessee, the rich black soil of the Nashville basin attracted settlers from both north and south. It is likely that some of the descendants of Benedict Alderson of South Carolina and Lunenberg Co., VA settled in this area. They were likely joined by several Alderson lines from Eastern Virginia, some of whom later moved into Kentucky.

Unfortunately, many of the early Tennessee records are lost. The 1790, 1800, and 1810 censuses were lost for all counties (except for Grainger and Rutherford in 1810), and the 1820 census was lost for the district of East Tennessee, encompassing all counties east of a line defined by Morgan, Bledsoe, and Marion counties. The loss of these censuses has been somewhat offset by compilations of tax records. Some county records were also destroyed during the Civil War. As a result, is has been difficult to untangle all the various Alderson lines in the state.

If any of you has made progress on Alderson research in Tennessee, perhaps you'd like to share your results with others. I would like to begin a series of articles on the Aldersons of Tennessee, but it would require someone more familiar with the region to take on the responsibility. If you're so inclined, please get in touch with me, and I'd be glad to send along what additional information I have as well. This would be a great opportunity to put your data in order for others to enjoy!

Don't Forget! Alderson Reunion 27 May 1990

(For more information, contact Mr. John Alderson, Rt. 1, Box 183, Troutville, VA 24175.)

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 on the family of John Alderson, Sr., born 1699, Yorkshire, England, died 1780, Botetourt Co. VA.

Editor: David Fridley

Contributions in form of articles, photgraphs, 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 96818.

Subscriptions are \$6 per year for four issues and run from the June to March issues; including any back issues for the year. Back issues from previous years are available at \$1.50 apiecs. Payment by check or cash may be made to David Fridley (please note payment for the newsletter in the check's memo field.)

Thank you, and Happy Hunting!