



Alderson

Roots & Branches



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Civil War Compendium

Jeff Alderson, of Wisconsin, has been undertaking an impressive effort to compile a thorough collection of data on Aldersons who participated in the Civil War. In order to assist his efforts, and to help identify the lineage of individual soldiers and avoid reduplication of entries, I will be summarizing his results in the next few issues of the newsletter. Readers are asked to please help in family-line identification of those unknown Alderson entries as well as to forward any new information to Jeff. He also asks readers who have access to local histories in their libraries to search for any Civil War-related Aldersons listed in his compilation who enlisted from your local area; these resources are often impossible to locate without a personal visit to the library or historical society.

Jeff can be contacted at 6260 S. 51st St., #11, Greendale, WI 53129.

This work is a major step towards recording the contributions of the Alderson family during this turbulent period of American history. Nearly all of us have some Civil War ancestor or

relation in our background, and Jeff's work aims to organize and preserve these records.

The following listing details the materials that Jeff has collected; at minimum, Name, State, and Unit are listed, along with notes on the soldier or unit. Any information on the lineage and family of these soldiers would be greatly appreciated!

A.B. Alderson

State: Tennessee

Unit: E Co., 11th Infantry

Events: The 11th infantry was organized as companies in May, 1862. On June 1st, 1862, the 11th was organized as a regiment at Camp Cheatham, Tennessee. The unit was mustered into Confederate service in August 1862.

A.J. Alderson

State: Tennessee

Unit: C Company 11th Infantry

Rank: Corporal

Events: The 11th infantry was organized as companies in May, 1862. On June 1st, 1862, the 11th was organized as a regiment at Camp Cheatham, Tennessee. The unit was mustered into Confederate service in August 1862.

Abraham Alderson

State: Virginia

Unit: A Co., 89th Virginia Militia

Rank: Private

Events: He may actually be Abraham Alderton. The 89th Militia was raised in Morgan Co., VA. This regiment was called out by proclamation of the Governor dated 13 Jul 1861 to have all soldiers rendezvous at Winchester, VA. The regiment appears to have served until 30 Nov 1861.

Alexander Alderson

State: Virginia

Rank: Private

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Events: This regiment was raised from men of Westmoreland Co., Virginia. The regiment was called out to rendezvous at the Westmoreland Co. Courthouse by order of the Governor dated 13 Jul 1861. Muster rolls are on record for four of the regiment's companies. Many soldiers of the 111th militia later served in K Co. 40th Infantry and C Co. 15th Battalion Virginia Cavalry.

Alexander M. Alderson

State: Indiana
Unit: B Co. 24th Infantry
Enlist: 31 Jul 1861 mustered into Federal service
Place: Vincennes, IN
Rank: Private
Date: 31 Jul 1861
Separ: 15 Nov 1865 mustered out with remainder of the regiment
Marr: to Roxanna Chambers on 6 Dec 1853 in Orange Co, IN

Events: Alexander's residence at the time of his enlistment is listed as Orange Co., IN. The 24th Infantry was enlisted for a three-year term. Alexander reenlisted into the 24th Infantry as a veteran organization on 1 Jan 1864. The regiment served in Missouri during 1861, marched on Forts Donelson and Henry (arriving late), and fought at Shiloh suffering heavy casualties. For the majority of 1862 and 1863, the 24th remained stationed in Arkansas. During 1864, the regiment operated in Louisiana. In January of 1865, the unit was moved to Barrancas, FL until departing to assault Mobile, AL. The regiment was reduced to five companies following a July 1865 mustering out with the remaining troops being stationed in Galveston, TX up to November 1865.

Andrew P. Alderson

State: Virginia
Unit: 6th Battalion Virginia Reserves
DOB: ca 1848
Line: John Sr/Thomas/David/George W.
Rank: Private
Marr: Mary Culbertson, 3 Sep 1874, Washington Co., VA

Events: Andrew entered service at age 14 per *Virginia and Virginians*. Officially, reserve units only accepted 17 year-olds and men over 45; his actual age at entry was more likely to be 16 or 17. He served in the Battle of Saltville, Virginia. For

the Battle of Saltville, four companies of reserves from Washington Co., VA were called up. Andrew is a likely member of one. Andrew moved to Texas after the war.

Anthony Alderson

State: Wisconsin
Unit: Lafayette County Home Guard
Enlist: Aug 1863
Place: Lafayette Co., WI
Rank: Private
Separ: Lafayette Co., WI

Events: This company was created at the solicitation (state-wide) of Governor Solomon during the draft troubles of 1863. Anthony is listed as a private on the August 1863 muster roll. The company only existed for a short period of time due to heavy enlistments into Federal service.

B.F. Alderson

State: Tennessee
Unit: A Co. 48th (Voorhies') Infantry
Rank: Private

Events: B.F. could possibly be Robert F. Alderson of the same regiment. Voorhies' 48th regiment was organized at Camp Murray near Nashville, TN on 17 Dec 1861. The regiment surrendered at Fort Donelson, TN on 16 Feb 1862. Remnants of the regiment were assigned to Nixon's 48th regiment in April 1862.

Bluford M. Alderson

State: Illinois
Unit: E Co. 111th Infantry
DOB: ca. 1830 Sumner Co., TN
Line: ?Jeremiah/William/John
Enlist: 14 Aug 1862. Mustered into federal service 18 Sept 1862
Rank: Private
Date: 14 Aug 1862
Separ: 14 Aug 1864, died of wounds
Place: Atlanta, GA
Marr: Parthena Dilenor in 1850, Marion Co., IL; Martha Sweet, 20 Aug 1856, Marion Co., IL
Child: 6 children
DOD: 14 Aug 1864
Place: Atlanta, GA

Veteran's Records

Jeff Alderson also provided information about how to get copies of veteran records:

Send a request for a copy of NATF Form 80 to:

General Reference Branch (NNRG-P)
National Archives and Records
Administration
7th & Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20408

Form 80 requests basic information on the soldier such as name, unit, etc. Fill out the form and return it, and usually, within a month, copies of all records on that soldier will be returned to you.

Events: Bluford was the eldest son of John Alderson and Susannah (Edwards) of Maury Co., TN. Bluford moved with his family to Marion Co., IL in 1836. By 1850, the family was living in Omega Township next to Myrum Alderson, Elijah Alderson, Elijah Clack.

Buck Alderson

Name: may be R. Alderson
State: Tennessee
Unit: E Co. 11th Infantry, E Co. 9th (19th) Cavalry
Events: The 11th Infantry was organized as companies in May 1862. On 1 June 1862, the 11th was organized as a regiment at Camp Cheatham, TN. The unit was mustered into Confederate service in August 1862.

Charles Alderson

State: Virginia
Unit: A Co. 166th Virginia Militia
Rank: Private
Events: The 166th was raised from men of Monroe Co., VA. Company A served from 4-11 Aug. and 20 Aug. to 11 Oct 1861.

Charles D. Alderson

State: Illinois
Unit: 127th Infantry
DOB: ca. 1832 in England
Rank: 2nd Lieutenant
Separ: 20 Oct 1862
Place: Chicago, IL
Marr: Mary E., of Tennessee
Child: Charles, Mary (1860)
Events: Charles was discharged for reasons not indicated, during the organization of the 127th Illinois Infantry from 5 Sep 1862 to 22 Oct 1862. As such he did not actively serve in the regiment and is not listed in the Adjutant General's Report for the State of Illinois. Charles is most likely Charles Alderson of Champaign Co., IL in the 1860 census, which lists his birthplace as England and wife Mary E., age 21, born TN. Charles also had two children, Charles (age 4) and Mary (age 2) in 1860, both born in IL.

Collaterals

Numbering in the tens of thousands, descendants of the early Alderson families have spread all across the county, but relatively few still retain the Alderson surname. Over the years, I have amassed a great deal of information on other Alderson lines of descent, both from my own research and through the generous contributions of other researchers. This column—which I hope to present on a regular basis—will present some of the original data concerning these family lines. If you have a well documented family group that you would like to submit, please feel free to send it onward!

Family of Mortimer Allen and Mary D. (O'Dell) McClung

Mortimer Allen McClung, son of Alexander and Jane (Withrow) McClung, had a double line of descent from the Aldersons; his father, Alexander McClung, was the son of William ("Chunky Billy") and Jane (Alderson) McClung, while his mother, Jane Withrow, was the daughter of Robert and Jane (Alderson) Withrow. Mortimer was born in Nicholas Co., VA, moved to Wirt Co. in 1853 (later Roane Co.), and died there on

9 June 1898. His biography appears in Hardesty's *History of Roane County* (ca. 1880), transcribed below, as well as in the *History of Roane Co.* by William H. Bishop (1927). Bishop's biography is drawn largely from Hardesty's, although he adds new information taken from the Roane Co. vital records.

Hardesty's Roane County

M.A. McClung, born in Greenbrier county, (then) Virginia, November 12, 1831, was a son of Alexander and Jane (Withrow) McClung, both born in Greenbrier county, and now living in Nicholas county, West Virginia. His father was born September 7, 1803, and his mother was born December 1, 1806. In Nicholas county, April 9, 1852, M.A. McClung and Mary D. Odell were united in marriage. She was born in Nicholas county, October 17, 1834, a daughter of John W. and Mary (Bails) Odell. Her parents were born in Nicholas county, her father in 1812, her mother May 22, 1807, and the latter died in Nicholas county, January 19, 1859. The children of Mr. and Mrs. McClung are recorded: Mary J.A., born January 16, 1853, lives at Reedy; Bowen C., February 20, 1854, died November 19, 1880; Fluvanna M., July 3, 1856, lives at Reedy; Amanda F., January 19, 1859, lives at Racine, Ohio; D. Judson, November 27, 1860, and John A., March 16, 1863, live at Reedy; child, born August 18, 1865, died August 23d following, unnamed; and five at home, born: Signora P., November 23, 1867; Park W., September 12, 1870; Matilda H., November 11, 1872; Roxalana V., April 5, 1876; Samuel T., April 24, 1878. The great-grandfather of M.A. was William McClung, the pioneer of settlement in Greenbrier country in the eighteenth century. He entered the lands which now comprises all of Clay, Nicholas, half of Fayette, and a large part of Greenbrier counties. He had twelve children, all but one of whom lived to maturity, married and raised families. He gave to each of his children from 1,000 to 2,000 acres, and to his grandchildren and great-grandchildren from 500 to 600 acres each, and died possessed of 43,317 acres. He raised large herds of horses and cattle, and

many times the Indians came and drove away all he had, while his family fled for safety to the fort. August 26, 1861, while traveling in Nicholas county on private business, M.A. McClung was made political prisoner and sent to Richmond, where he was held till the 20th of October. He had two brothers in the Federal army: A.G.¹, who belonged to an independent company, and died December 31, 1863; Leander P.², who belonged to Company F, 11th West Virginia Infantry, and died in Libby prison, March 16, 1864. Another brother, A.J.³, was in the 60th Virginia (Confederate) Infantry, was twice captured and taken to Camp Chase, Ohio. He is now a minister of the Baptist Church. M.A. McClung settled in this (then Jackson) county, in 1853. He has been about seven years clerk of the Mt. Pisgah Baptist Association, and church clerk six years. He has been school trustee six years, and is now notary public, to which office he was appointed in 1870. He is also practicing law and carrying on his farm. Address, Reedy, Roane county, West Virginia.

[From Hardesty's *Roane Co.*, in the *WV Heritage Encyclopedia*, Supplement Vol. 5, 1974, p. 333. Hardesty's history was written ca. 1880.]

Family Data from Roane County Marriages

Roane County was formed in 1856 from Wirt, Jackson, Gilmer and Kanawha counties of Virginia.

- 4 Mar 1872. John H. Bates, 19, b. Fayette Co., lives Roane Co., s/o Franklin E. and Elizabeth Bates and F[luvanna]. M. McClung, 15, b. Roane Co., d/o M.A. and Mary McClung.
- 3 Oct 1875. D.Z. Dye⁴, 25, b. Wirt Co., lives Roane Co., s/o Disaway and G. Dye and Mary J. McClung, 22, b. Nicholas Co., lives Roane Co., d/o M.A. and Mary McClung.
- 21 Sept 1882. J[udson] D. McClung, 21, b. Roane Co. and L[enora] M. Seaman, 22, b. Roane Co.
- 13 Dec 1891. George M. Chenowith, 24, b. Roane Co. and Nora McClung, 24, b. Roane Co.

1 Albert Gallatin McClung, b. ca. 1833, Nicholas Co., VA, md. 14 July 1851, Melinda Hedrick.

2 Leander Preston McClung, b. ca. 1844, Nicholas Co., VA.

3 Adoniram Judson, b. 12 March 1842, Nicholas Co., VA, md. 14 Feb 1861, Nicholas Co., VA, Louisa Jane McClung, died 24 Mar 1934, Nicholas Co., WV, buried at the Mt. Pleasant Cemetery, Mt. Lookout, Nicholas Co., WV.

4 Bishop's *History of Roane Co.* lists him as "Dusaisaway T. Dye".

- 17 Mar 1895. John C. Yousey, 27, b. Minnesota, lives Roane Co. and Matilda McClung, 22, b. Roane Co.
- 9 Nov 1895. Offa F. Depue, 22, b. Jackson Co., lives Roane Co., and Madelene McClung, 22, b. Roane Co.
- 29 May 1897. Neville L[akin] Chancy, 20, b. Roane Co. and Roxie V. McClung, 21, b. Roane Co.
- 26 June 1902. John A[llen]. McClung, age ?, b. Roane Co. and Lucile V. Hardman, age ?, b. Calhoun Co., lives Roane Co.
- 27 Jul 1904. S[amuel] T. McClung, 27, b. Roane Co. and Georgia Stansbury, 27, b. Roane Co.
- 13 Apr 1913. Okey J. Stalnaker, 30, b. Calhoun Co. and Bonnie Lee McClung, 22, b. Roane Co.
- 27 Aug 1893. William L. Alderson⁵, 37, widower, b. Greenbrier Co., lives Kanawha Co., and Sarah V. Hall, 26, widow, b. Fayette Co., lives Roane Co.

[Contributed by Gaye Whitehead, Daniels, WV. Excerpted from Wes Cochran, *Roane County Marriages, 1856-1919.*]

Skaggs/Alderson ties

According to the *Descendants of Thomas Skaggs*, by Earl N. Skaggs, there were a number of intermarriages between the Skaggs and Alderson relations. These were all children of James Skaggs, born 25 Feb 1786, who married Elizabeth Miller in March 1805. As noted in the family history "James Skaggs had a land grant from the Commonwealth of Virginia for 3000 acres more or less in Fayette Co. (now West Virginia), in and around Anstead, Victor, and Sugar Creek [Nicholas Co., 1818-1831]. He was appointed Magistrate by the Commonwealth of Virginia and held court and collected taxes in this area. Land was valued at 58c per acre. He helped to organize the Hopewell Baptist Church in either 1818 or 1820." Of his 13 children, 3 married Alderson collaterals; according to the Skaggs history, they were:

- Phebe Skaggs, b. 21 Feb 1806, New Haven, Greenbrier Co., VA (now Fayette) married Alderson Withrow, son of Robert and Jane (Alderson) Withrow. Alderson was born ca. 1800 in Greenbrier Co., VA, and married Phebe in Nicholas Co. on 2 Sept 1822. They appear in the 1830 census of Greenbrier Co. (probably living in that part which is now Fayette). Alderson died about 1848. (Phebe's sister Susan, b. 24 Feb 1810, married Samuel Withrow, son of Robert's brother William Withrow.)
- Leah Skaggs, b. 28 Nov 1827 at New Haven, married "William Evans", son of David and Ruth (Alderson) Evans. Here Skaggs is apparently in error, as William Evan's wife in both the 1850 and 1880 censuses of Nicholas Co. is listed as "Sarah"; this is likely Sally Skaggs, Leah's younger sister (see below). William Evans was born ca. 1820 in Greenbrier Co., and married Sarah ca. 1847.
- Sally Skaggs, b. 21 Sept 1830 at New Haven, married "Alexander Evans", son of David and Ruth (Alderson) Evans. Skaggs is again in error; according to the 1880 census of Nicholas Co., Alexander's wife was Edna; this is likely Edna Skaggs, Sally's younger sister, born 28 Sept 1833, died 19 Feb 1914. The tombstone of William B. Evans, Alexanders's son, is inscribed, "son of Alexander and Edna Evans".⁶ Alexander was born 12 Dec 1821 and died 25 May 1904, according to his tombstone at the Mt. Pleasant Cemetery, Mt. Lookout, Nicholas Co., WV.⁷

Family of Enos Edgar Huffman

Hardesty's Greenbrier Co.

Enos Edgar Huffman, son of Enos and Jane (George) Huffman, was born 11 December, 1839, on the farm where he now lives in Blue Sulphur District, Greenbrier Co. On December 3, 1860, in Monroe Co., (now) WV, he married Margaret Susan Ellis, who was born in Monroe Co., 7 February 1839. Andrew and Mary⁸ (Alderson) Ellis, her parents, are still living in Monroe Co., and her mother was born in that county, on the Greenbrier river, December 31, 1813. Her fa-

5 Son of Curtis Gallatin and Sidney (Alderson) Alderson, b. 2 Jul 1855, Greenbrier Co., VA, died 2 Oct 1918 (dates from Mrs. F.F. Ceperley, Charleston, WV).
 6 Helen Stinson, *Nicholas Co. WV Cemeteries*, 1983, p. 174.
 7 Helen Stinson, *Nicholas Co. WV Cemeteries*, 1983, p. 174.
 8 Daughter of John "River Jack" and Jane (Walker) Alderson.

Comment from the Peanut Gallery: Roots IV

A new generation of genealogical software has been recently released by Commsoft of California. Having been an avid user of Roots III to manage the 10,000 individuals in my own family databases, I was very curious to try out the new version, which promised to provide a complete solution to compiling, documenting, evaluating, organizing, and printing family histories.

My initial reaction is mixed. The new version of the software takes at least 10 times the hard disk space than the old one, and the size of a converted database explodes dramatically; my old Alderson database, which required only 750,000 bytes of storage in version III is now 13 million bytes with the new version! The interface is completely changed, and generally unfriendly without a mouse. The professional edition requires 8 MB of RAM to run, hardly a standard even on today's computers. The program, as a consequence, is inordinately slow, even on my 486/50DX machine with 16 MB of RAM. Although the manual says that it will run under Windows—and I have indeed tried it—it slows to an absolute crawl; printing one page of a family group sheet took 30 minutes! Many of the useful summary screens in version III are gone, as are many of the short-cut routines that made version III so useful.

On the other hand, there is a dramatic increase as well in the amount, variety, and nature of data that can be entered, independently evaluated, and linked to individuals. Whereas version III constrained you to about 30 event types (birth, marriage, death etc.) with attached notes of no more than 70 characters, version IV allows unlimited event types and up to 65,000 characters for attached research or footnotes. Scanned images can also be linked to individuals, and the printing routines for family groups, pedigrees, descendants, etc. are much more flexible.

Overall, Roots IV is not for a neophyte or someone with a basic computer. It is a hog of a program (reflecting some rather poor programming), which, on refinement, promises a completely new approach to family record management.

ther was born in Greenbrier Co., 19 July 1811. The father of Mr. Huffman was born in the Shenandoah Valley, VA, August 15, 1793, and died in Ohio, April 19, 1856. Mr. Huffman's mother, who is living with him was born in this district, October 25, 1794. Enos Edgar Huffman was a soldier of the 36th Battalion, and a participant in the battle of Gettysburg, among others. His brother Washington was in the same command, was a prisoner at Camp Chase and Fort Delaware, lost his health from exposure, and died November 15, 1868, from the effects. The children of Mr. and Mrs. Huffman, all at home, are seven: Cornelia B., born November 7, 1861; Ambrose H., November 10, 1864; Calah, September 16, 1866; Cary, October 6, 1868; Andrew, November 21, 1870; Robison, November 10, 1874; Mark S., December 14, 1876. Mr. Huffman also raised Arabella Ellis, born July 13, 1863, his brother-in-law's daughter. She now lives with John Lewis, in Blue Sulphur District. Enos Edgar Huffman is an extensive farmer and stockraiser, has been a member of the school board two years, and is superintendent of the Baptist Sun-

day-school. Address: Alderson, Monroe Co., WV.

[From Hardesty's *Greenbrier Co.*, in the *WV Heritage Encyclopedia*, Supplement Vol. 6, 1974, pp. 233-34. Hardesty's history was written ca. 1880.]

1880 Greenbrier Co. Census Blue Sulphur District, Family 178

	age	occup.	born	father	mother
Enos E. Huffman	40	farmer	WV	VA	WV
Susan	40	wife	WV	WV	WV
Cornelia B.	18	dau.	WV	WV	WV
Ambrose	15	son	WV	WV	WV
Calah	13	dau	WV	WV	WV
Cary	11	son	WV	WV	WV
Andrew	9	son	WV	WV	WV
Robinson	5	son	WV	WV	WV
Mark S.	3	son	WV	WV	WV
Jane	85	mother	WV	VA	WV
Jasper C. Ellis	19	nephew	WV	WV	WV
Arabella Ellis	16	niece	WV	WV	WV

According to his obituary in the *Independent Herald*, Hinton, WV, 15 August 1907, Enos Edgar Huffman died 9 August 1907 on his farm on Wolf Creek, Summers Co., WV. His obituary named son Ambrose, a dentist; daughter Callie, wife of George W. Garst; son Cary, a doctor; son Andrew, a dentist; son "Robert E.", a doctor; and son "S.S."

[Thanks to Gaye Whitehead, Daniels, WV, for her contributions to this family line.]

Family of Harris Dewitt Smith

Harris Dewitt Smith, son of Abraham and Millie Smith of Monroe Co., was born 3 June 1839 in Monroe Co. On 28 March 1859⁹, he married Elizabeth J. Alderson, daughter of John and Harriet E. (Johnson) Alderson. Elizabeth J. was born 11 Jan 1840 in Monroe Co. (source unknown); her date of death is unclear.

In the 1870 Monroe Co. census, Harris¹⁰, age 31, is enumerated along with his mother Millie, age 66, and son David, age 2; Mary Hargo, age 12, is also in the household. Does the absence of Elizabeth J. indicate that she had died by this time?

Harris, age 40, also appears in the 1880 census along with wife Araminta, age 29, and children:

- David C. Smith, b. ca 1868, age 12
- Clinton C. Smith, b. ca. 1873, age 7
- Ida B. Smith, b. ca. 1876, age 4

Is there a record in Monroe Co. of Harris' remarriage to Araminta, probably about 1871-72? Is there any proof that David is the son of Harris and Elizabeth? David C. Smith subsequently

married Annie Ballard; does this marriage record list his parents?

There is one undocumented date of 1906 for the death of Elizabeth J. (Alderson) Smith. Is this perhaps the death date for Araminta, or did Elizabeth and Harris divorce, and she remarry?

Family of James Allen and Nancy Ann (McClung) Burr

The Rev. James Allen Burr, son of Aaron and Margaret (McMillion) Burr, was born 20 Sept 1840 (source unknown), in VA. On 6 Sept 1866 in Greenbrier Co. (?), he married Nancy Ann McClung, daughter of George Alderson and Abigail (Callison) McClung. Nancy was born 20 April 1848, in Nicholas Co., VA (source unknown). Her father George Alderson McClung of Greenbrier Co., was the son of James and Mary (Alderson) McClung; according to the *Mt. Lookout Family Record*, by C.A. McClung, George acquired land in Nicholas Co. in November 1843 and later moved his family there.

In 1850 James Allen appears in the Greenbrier Co., VA census, age 9; Nancy Ann appears in the Nicholas Co., VA census, age 2. In 1880, James (age 39) and Nancy (age 31) were listed along with 4 children in Greenbrier Co.:

- George A. Burr, age 11, b. ca. 1869
- Dickson R. Burr, age 7, b. ca. 1873
- Harvey J. Burr, age 5, b. ca. 1875
- Mary A. Burr, age 3, b. ca. 1877

The Rev. James Allen McClung died 16 June 1889 (source unknown).



9 Monroe Marriages, Bk. 1, p. 24, line 11.

10 Transcribed as "Horace D. Smith" in Pauline Haga, 1870 Monroe County Census.

Obituaries from Nicholas County, WV

Shirley Grose, in her book, *Murder, Mayhem, Hydrophobia*, Volume 1, has collected numerous obituaries and other articles of interest primarily concerning Nicholas county residents during the period 1881 to 1900. Nearly all of the obituaries have been taken from the *Nicholas Chronicle*, the major newspaper of Nicholas County, although a number of entries are cited from other regional papers. As early Nicholas residents, nu-

merous Aldersons are listed in her book, as well as many relations of the Aldersons, such as the McClungs. In the copies of the original obituaries shown below, each is titled with the name of the deceased and the date when the obituary appeared in the newspaper. Some entries are incomplete but do provide relevant dates and information.

Margaret Aston March 7, 1885

A Noble Woman Gone.

Mrs. Margaret Aston died on Friday morning the 23rd inst., at 7:30 o'clock, at her home near Old Court House in this county. She was about sixty years old and had been an invalid for several years—suffering from a heart disease and a pulmonary affection which ended her noble life.

Her maiden name was Alderson, being a sister of the late Col. T. C. M. Alderson, of this place, and her native home was Greenbrier county W. Va.

She and her husband, the Hon. Wm. P. Aston, were the chief pillars of the M. E. Church South of that place, and she was one of the most pious, consistent and devoted christians that we ever knew. Here as well as in every other department of her life, she was a constant minister to the wants of all worthy and heroic persons. Her side was with the weak, and she added to the sum of human joy. The greatest pleasure of this tender and loving friend was in contributing to the wants of the needy, and could every one for whom she had done some kind and loving service bring a blossom to her grave she would to day sleep beneath a wilderness of flowers.

Her domestic life was one of peculiar happiness, and He that directeth all things bestowed liberally of this world's goods upon her household.—*Lebanon (Russel Co. Va.) News.*

Margaret Catherine Alderson was born 29 Aug 1824 in Greenbrier Co., VA, daughter of Col. George and Jeanette Creigh (McCleary) Alderson, and died 23 Feb 1885 near Lebanon, Russell Co., VA. She was married to William B. Aston (b. 22 Dec 1817, VA, son of Samuel and Sarah (White) Aston) in August 1846 in Russell Co., VA. A transcription of a letter from William Aston to Col. George Alderson, Margaret's father, asking his permission to marry Margaret appeared in the June 1991 issue of *Alderson Roots & Branches*. Margaret and William had no children.

Malinda Alderson
January 16, 1892
Incomplete

Malinda Alderson was born on the 6th day of November, 1805. When twenty-nine years of age she was married to James Callison. She departed this life on August 31st, 1891 at her

Malinda Alderson was the oldest daughter of John "River Jack" and Jane (Walker) Alderson, born in Monroe Co., VA. She was the second wife of James Callison (b. ca. 1795, Greenbrier Co., VA, d. 11 Aug 1872, Levasy, Nicholas Co., WV). James and Malinda had at least four sons and one daughter, according to the the 1850 census of Monroe Co., VA.

Thos. G. Alderson
May 19, 1894

FROM the Monroe Watchman we learn of the death of Mr. Thos. G. Alderson, which occurred at his home near Johnsons's X roads Monroe county, at 5 o'clock on Wednesday evening, May 2, '94, after a long illness of consumption, in the 70th year of his age. Mr. Alderson was an excellent man—highly honorable, modest and kindly. The county had no better citizen. He was buried at Alderson last Friday. He leaves a wife but no children. Mr. Alderson was a relative of the Aldersons of this place.

Thomas George Alderson was the son of John Marcus and Frances (Alderson) Alderson, and was born in Monroe Co., VA on 27 Dec 1825, according to his tombstone at the Old Greenbrier Baptist Church in Alderson, where he was buried. He married Margaret S. Alderson (b. 11 Jul 1829, Greenbrier Co., VA, d. 12 Apr 1915, Monroe Co., WV), daughter of James Osborne and Abigail (McClung) Alderson.

Mary S. Alderson
November 14, 1896

The undersigned committee appointed at a meeting of the bar of Nicholas county circuit court, held November 12th, 1896, to express the sympathy we feel for our associate and brother, J. D. Alderson and the clerk of this court, Jos. A. Alderson, upon the death of their mother, respectfully submit the following:

It is with unaffected sorrow we have heard of the death of Mrs. Mary S. Alderson, relic of the late Joseph A. Alderson formerly a member of this bar, and mother of our brother, J. D. Alderson and the clerk of this court, Jos. A. Alderson, which sad event took place at 3 o'clock this morning. We desire to express our high appreciation of the deceased in every walk of life, and especially as a christian and mother, and hereby tender our most sincere and tender sympathy to our said brother John D. Alderson and Joseph A. Alderson, clerk of this court, and to the other members of the family, in this sad trial and sore bereavement—and suggest that this paper be spread upon the record of this court and a copy furnished the NICHOLAS CHRONICLE for publication, and to our said brother and the clerk of this court.

JOHN A. PRESTON, }
SQUIRE HALSTEAD, } Com.
R. A. KINCAID, }

Mary Susanna (Duffy) Alderson, daughter of John and Mary (Haymond) Duffy, was born 31 Aug 1831 in Summersville, Nicholas Co VA, and died 12 Nov 1896; she was buried at the Catholic Cemetery in Summersville.

Mary N. McClung
October 12, 1899

MCCLUNG NEE ALDERSON.
Mrs. Mary N. McClung, who departed this life Sept. 18, 1899, at her home at Enon, Nicholas county, West Virginia, in her 77th year, was born Nov. 27, 1822, at Meadow Dale, Greenbrier county, then Virginia, was a daughter of Col. Geo. Alderson and a sister to Joseph A., Marshall N., and Col. T. C. M. Alderson, Margaret Aston, Jane Remley and Sarah Martha Zoll. She also had nine half brothers and sisters who reared families, eight of whom are still living. She was married to Allen McClung Jan. 27, 1845, who preceded her to bliss eternal nearly twelve years.

We know the difficult task of writing in memory of the deceased whose memory we love without coloring and overmagnifying their virtues beyond merit. But after thirty years of intimate acquaintance we feel safe in saying that she possessed as many noble traits of character as one finds in a lifetime in one person.

Always kind of heart and of a gentle disposition; she sympathized with and assisted the needy and poor who knew her only to love her. Self-sacrificing always considerate of others welfare. She was sought by those in distress or adverse circumstances. She was a kind and affectionate Christian wife and mother to her husband and children, six of whom survive her to mourn her loss, all heads of respectable families of this county.

She professed faith in Christ and united with the Zoar Baptist church in the year 1847, was baptized at Carnifix Ferry by Martin Bibb and for 52 years adorned that profession by steady adherence and practice of an unfaltering Christian life, she and her husband being of the few who organized the Enon church in 1861. Their home has always been the mecca to which the ministry and their many friends and relatives repaired in great numbers, there to be entertained and encouraged in all good works by her timely Christian suggestions. She cheered and led all who came in contact with her to a higher nobler life. If she possessed a fault it was her great energy and industry, yet however, never losing sight of the higher aims of life. Having fought the good fight she was ready to lay her armor down and peacefully and calmly her spirit took its flight to the God who gave it, and she has gone to meet those who have gone there before. She was laid to rest beside her husband in the presence of many sorrowing friends and relatives.

On Oct. 1st, Rev. L. J. Huffman preached the funeral sermon from 1st Cor. 15, 22-24, which was most touching and appropriate to a very large congregation. We extend our sympathy to all her friends and relatives.

A BROTHER.

Mary Newman (Alderson) McClung, daughter of George and Jeanette Creigh (McCleary) Alderson, was born 27 Nov 1822, Meadowdale, Greenbrier Co VA, and died 18 Sep 1899 at Enon, Nicholas Co WV. She was buried in the Grove Family Cemetery, at Enon, Nicholas Co. She married Allen McClung, on 27 January 1842 in Fayette Co., VA. Allen was the son of Samuel McClung and was born 1 Dec 1814 in VA and died 22 Feb 1888 at Enon, Nicholas Co WV. He is also buried at the Groves Family Cemetery at Enon.



Editor's Corner

Another very long delay has come in publication. As mentioned in the last issue, I have since relocated from Honolulu to San Francisco, and the process of moving and the new job (which involves extensive travel) have side-tracked me considerably, but I hope soon to be able to return to a more regular schedule starting with the next issue. The move generally proceeded smoothly, though the predictable bumps become time-consuming. Nevertheless, I find San Francisco a most beautiful and charming city, if not odd in spots, but I dearly miss the year-round tropical breezes of Honolulu.

This past summer as well, I took an extended vacation for the month of June in Europe. The trip was exhilarating, but one of the most interesting events was the visit to my family's village of origin in Germany. The Fridley surname is German, and the immigrant ancestor arrived as part of the large-scale immigration to Pennsylvania of more than 20,000 Palantines during the early 1700s. Through a rather incredible coincidence, I was able to locate both the village in question and the original parish church records detailing events in the immigrant—Ludwig Friedele's—life. A week before I left on the trip, I was logged on to Compuserve, a worldwide computer network, from my computer at home. I began to chat with a man named Bernhard, from Mannheim, Germany, who welcomed me to visit his part of Germany while I was there. I told him that my family was from that part of Germany originally, and I knew the village name, but I had never found it on the map. The next day, I received e-mail from him; he had evidently enquired of a colleague at the Lutheran publishing house where he worked, and was able to locate the village—Hoffenheim—about 20 miles south of Heidelberg, and only a 30 minute drive (by German standards!) from Mannheim. He offered to take me there, so

after visiting friends in Frankfurt, I drove south to Mannheim and met Bernhard, who brought me to a beautiful pastoral region of Germany with low rolling hills and broad vistas, much like the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia where the Fridleys later settled. The visit was a thrill; the village was "typical" according to my German acquaintance, with a number of cross-beam houses, many barns, and neat fields of hay stacked in upright cones. The old Lutheran Church of Hoffenheim no longer existed, but I was surprised and pleased to learn from Bernhard that the publishing house where he works is adjacent to the Lutheran archives, where the old parish registers are stored. The archives are in Karlsruhe, a city one hour south of Mannheim, site of the pyramidal tombstone of the Margrave Karl Wilhelm and location of the German Supreme Court. Bernhard arranged for me to meet the archivist and accompanied me to see her and to help in translation. The parish registers of Hoffenheim dated from about 1690, and the archivist skimmed through the first two volumes—written in an indecipherable old German cursive script—to look for a record of Ludwig. Within 15 minutes, she located his marriage in 1712, and shortly thereafter found the birth of his son Charles in 1716. Photocopying of the registers was not allowed, but she did permit me to photograph the pages in question. At one point she began to chuckle; she said that besides the record of Charles' church confirmation test in 1728, the clerk had written "he knew nothing" in the margin. One wonders, then, why the Fridleys left Hoffenheim in 1731?

For me, finding such records was a matter of pure serendipity, but it also demonstrates the potential of rapidly growing computer networks. If I had intended to search for records of the Fridleys on my own, I wouldn't have known where to start, but this one fortuitous encounter over a popular network had led straight to the parish registers I would have sought and to the insights gained from a visit to the "homeplace."

New Members

Madison E. Alderson, 2413 Country Club Prado, Coral Gables, FL. Mr. Alderson is originally from Russellville, KY.

Kevin Andersen, 51 Brookside Acres, Shinnston, WV. Kevin is a descendant of Thomas Alderson through his daughter Hannah, who married Samuel Withrow.

Notice to Members

The June issue of the newsletter, which normally would have appeared as the first issue of Volume 5 of *Alderson Roots & Branches* will not be published this year owing to the disruption in publication schedules this summer. The current September issue will be issue No. 1 of Volume 5, with issue No. 4 appearing in June 1994. The subscription terms of all members will remain the same, as they are based on the issue number and not the date. I apologize to all for the inconvenience!

The move has also left some of my records in disarray. If there are outstanding requests for back issues, or previous issues have been missed, please let me know and I will correct the situation as soon as possible.

All correspondence should now be addressed to: David Fridley, 576 Noe St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Since during my move I encountered some problems with mail forwarding for letters addressed to the newsletter, it is a good idea to address any correspondence to me personally. I also have a fax here, available 24 hours a day; the number is 415/861-6998.

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*, 576 Noe St., San Francisco, CA 94114.

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, Vols. 3 and 4 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.