

ALDERSON

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Hopewell Baptist Church in Missouri

by Jeff Alderson

Regular readers of *Alderson Roots & Branches* recognize the name Hopewell Baptist Church in several contexts. The earliest reference to this church involves the Reverend Thomas Curtis of Hopewell, New Jersey and the Hopewell Baptist Church that he and his family were members of. This early American pioneer Baptist minister received John Alderson, Sr. as an indentured servant to settle the balance owed on John's 1719 ocean voyage to the new world. Thomas Curtis also would become John's father-in-law and most likely influenced John Alderson's choice to join the ministry of the Baptist faith. The original Hopewell Baptist Church (of New Jersey) minutes note that by 1730, John Alderson had been added to the membership by baptism and had later left the congregation by 1749. The Hopewell name appears to have been popular with John for it resurfaces later after John's death by way of his children.

The Hopewell name next appears in 1790. The Hopewell Baptist Church was established in

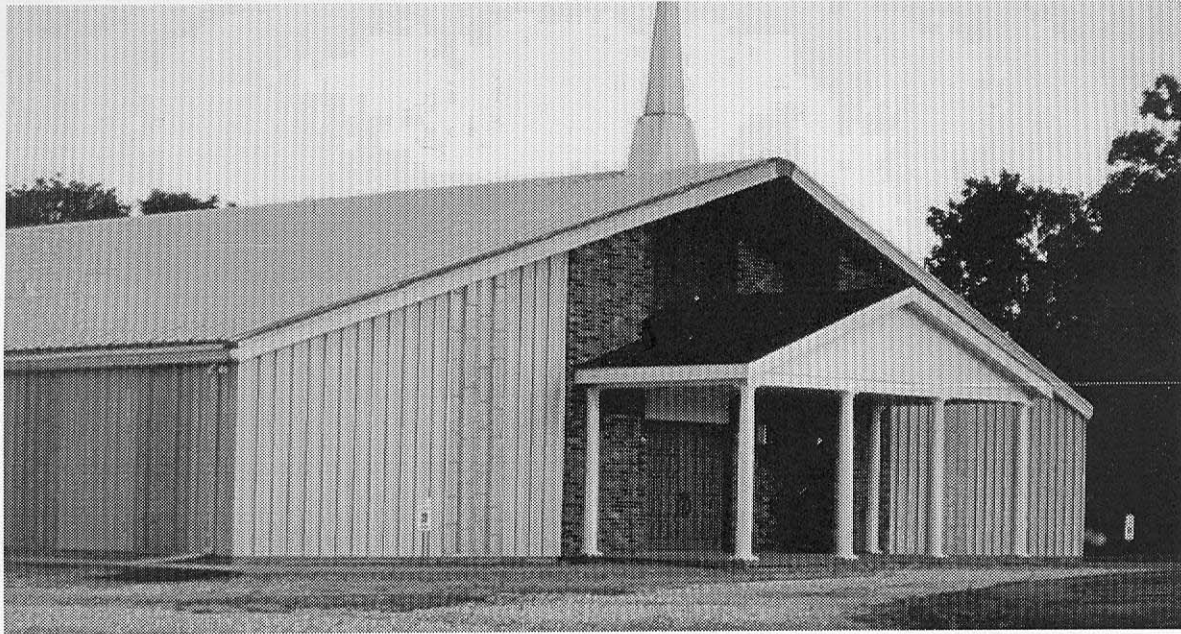
Ansted, Greenbrier Co., VA (now Fayette Co., WV) that year. The initial membership of this Hopewell Church included members that had been dismissed from the Greenbrier Baptist Church most likely due to a westward migration of families. One can only surmise that the Hopewell name is related to the same Hopewell Baptist Church in New Jersey. The Greenbrier Baptist Church, parent to Hopewell Church of Ansted, was founded on November 14, 1782 with John and Thomas Alderson, sons of John Alderson, Sr. as charter members. The Hopewell name was surely familiar to these two parishioners. It is also very likely that Elder John Alderson, Jr. had a large part in establishing the new church at Ansted. This would also include providing the church's name.

Prior to 1850, the family of James Harvey Alderson, son of James and Elizabeth (Keaton) Alderson, settled near Ansted leaving their previous home in Monroe County, Virginia. According to the 1850 Fayette Co., VA census, James was living with his wife, four sons, and two daughters. During the Civil War, this family managed to stay on the farm and avoid much to the turmoil going on all around them. Only the eldest son, Jesse James Alderson went off to war. He actively served for all four years of the war in the 22nd Virginia Infantry Regiment led by the grandfather of George S. Patton. By 1870, the Alderson family near Ansted had grown considerably. James Harvey Alderson remained although his children had left the household. His sons Jesse and Lewis were nearby with families of their own. Also living in the same district was George Alderson, grandson of Elder John Alderson, Jr.

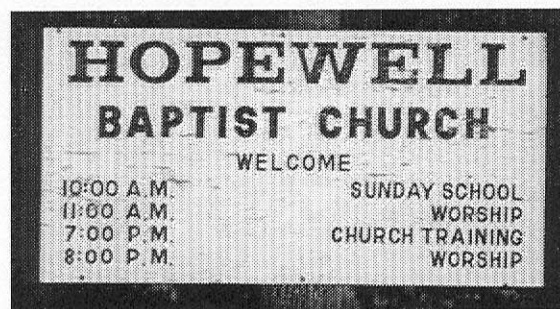
James Harvey Alderson gathered his family together some time in January or February of 1872 to migrate from their home near Ansted, West Virginia to a new life out west in Missouri.

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Included in the group that would travel together were the following. James, age 55, and his wife Mary (Mansell Taylor) Alderson, age 53, were the oldest to travel. They were accompanied by the family of their eldest son Jesse James Alderson, age 36, including his wife Virginia Ann (Dunbar) Alderson and two children Martha, age 5, and George, age 3. James' second eldest son Lewis Allen Alderson, age 33 also traveled with his family consisting of his wife Anna (Wood) Alderson and five children: Joseph Henry age 11, John Nickles age 9, Annette Taylor age 6, Sarah age 4, and George William, only 16 months old. Other members of the voyage were James Harvey's younger son John Marshall Alderson, age 19, James' daughter Sarah Elizabeth Alderson, age 31, then married to husband John Alexander Walker, age 41, and James Dunbar, brother of Jesse Alderson's wife Virginia. This is a long list but may not be complete. As the list stands now, the group included six men, four women, and seven children for a total of 17. The family's departure may be related to the death of James Harvey Alderson's father James which occurred in 1872. James' estate was probated in Monroe Co., WV on 20 June 1872.



photos by Jeff Alderson

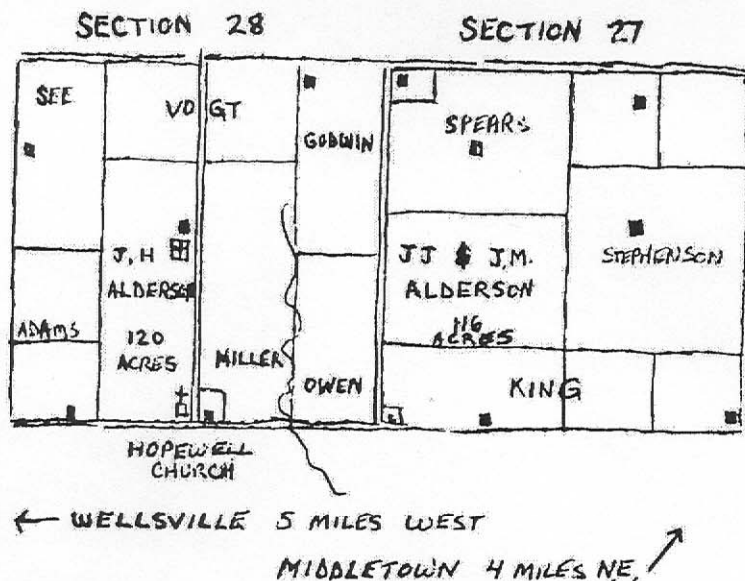
The voyage was eventful. The trek was first made over land to the Ohio River where a steamboat, the "Annie Laura" was boarded. On February 18, 1872 while sailing down the Ohio River, Virginia Ann Alderson, wife of Jesse, gave birth to a daughter. The baby

was appropriately named Annie Laura Alderson for the vessel she was born on. The boat later landed at St. Louis, Missouri where the group resumed their over-land travel. The extended family soon settled in an area five miles east of Wellsville, Montgomery County, Missouri.

The family may have left their Baptist Church behind in West Virginia but that would not interrupt their worshipping very long. James Harvey Alderson soon donated one and one-half acres of his land for the construction of a church. This was soon completed and the name for the church was that of the church left behind at Ansted. The Hopewell Baptist Church (Montgomery County, Missouri) was organized on December 20, 1873. Charter members included James and Mary, Lewis and Anna, and Jesse and Virginia. The Hopewell Baptist Church located in Missouri still stands today although it appears to have little resemblance to what the original charter members were familiar with.



Missouri Counties (present-day boundaries)



1878 Atlas of Montgomery Co., Missouri. Town 50 North, Range 5 West

contributed by Jeff Alderson

Metal sided additions have been made to each side and a pillared stoop has been added to the front. A short distance north of the church lies a small, neglected cemetery with several Alderson

graves including those of James Harvey Alderson's wife, Mary and Jesse James Alderson. It is interesting to note that a church name migrated from New Jersey, to Virginia, and then to Missouri over a period of 150+ years and several generations.

Sarah Elizabeth Alderson Walker

I recently have been in touch with Kate Nance of Puyallup, Washington (knance@webtv.net) who is a descendant of John Alexander and Sarah Elizabeth (Alderson) Walker. Sarah is a daughter of James Harvey Alderson, and according to Jeff Alderson's article above, accompanied the family from Fayette Co., VA to Montgomery Co., MO.

Kate provided information on the family, including a short genealogy taken from the book *Then Along Came Joe*, which was about John Walker's grandfather Joseph Walker. According to this book, John Alexander Walker was born 4 June 1830 in Bote-tourt Co., VA, and married Sarah Elizabeth Alderson in Fayette Co., VA on 4 October 1855. Sarah's date of birth was 7 August 1840.

The history notes that "soon after their marriage they left West Virginia and settled for a while in Greenfield, Illinois. Later they moved to Mineola, in Montgomery Co., Missouri."

In addition, it notes that their first child, Marion Luther Walker, born 16 April 1857, died in Illinois on 10 July 1861 and is

buried there.

On reading Jeff Alderson's article about the Hopewell Church, I noticed that Sarah and John



John and Sarah Elizabeth (Alderson) Walker

Walker accompanied James Harvey and family to Missouri from Fayette Co., so apparently the family returned from Illinois to Fayette Co., perhaps after the death of their son Marion.

The 1880 Montgomery Co., MO census shows that the two listed sons of John and Sarah, Joseph W., age 16 and James D., age 13, were born in Virginia. This would indicate that the family was back in Virginia at least by 1864.

Kate's information also led me to uncover some interesting information on other families who left Fayette Co., VA for Montgomery Co., MO. John and Sarah (Alderson) Walker's neighbors in 1880 were the family of George W. Taylor (age 55, b. VA) and wife Martha. George W. Taylor (age 35) and Martha were also found in the 1860 Fayette Co., VA census, living in the same district as James H. Alderson, but their date of settlement in Missouri is unknown—they may very well have joined the migration party of James and Mary Alderson. The circumstantial evidence indicates that George is the brother of Mary Mansell Taylor Alderson, wife of James Harvey Alderson. According to a descendant of Andrew G. Taylor of Montgomery Co., MO, Andrew G. Taylor, born Fayette Co., VA, died in the Civil War while serving in Co. C, 22nd VA Infantry (the same as James Harvey Alderson), was also a brother of George and Mary's. Andrew's widow, Martha Ann Bibb Taylor, settled in

Montgomery Co., MO as well where her children were raised. She was the daughter of the Rev. Martin Thomas Bibb, a well known Baptist minister of Monroe and Fayette Cos., VA. The Rev. Martin T. Bibb was married three times; his last wife was Sarah Martha Taylor, who was also likely a sister of Mary Taylor Alderson, George W. Taylor, and Andrew G. Taylor. Rev. Bibb may very well have preached in the Hopewell Baptist Church for the

contributed by Kate Nance

Alderson and Taylor families!

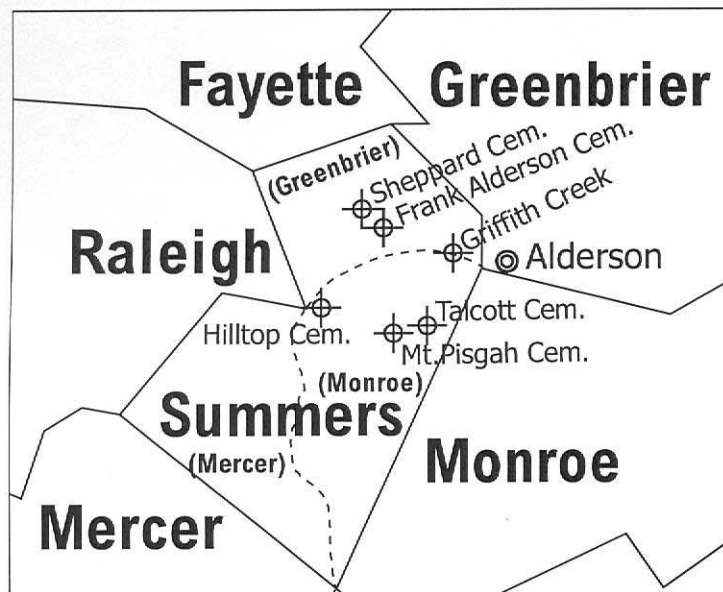
Summers Co., WV Cemeteries

A book was recently published by the Summers County, West Virginia Historical Society containing thousands of entries from cemeteries all across the county. The 561-page compilation provides an alphabetical listing of each burial, including birth and death date, name of cemetery, and any remarks or other information on the tombstones such as age or military service. The book also provides directions to each cemetery, and includes detailed USGS maps of the county with each cemetery numbered and marked.

The book can be bought directly from the Summers County Historical Society for \$50, postage paid. It is a valuable reference for families who lived in Summers Co., which was formed from Greenbrier, Monroe, Mercer, and Fayette Co. in 1871.

Summers Co., WV Burials

Name	Date of Birth	Date of Death	Cemetery	Notes (text from book in italics)
E. Davis Alderson	13 June 1843	27 Jun 1916	Talcott	Eli Davis Alderson, s/o Thomas H. & Emily (Mann) Alderson
Henrietta Vines Alderson	11 April 1850		Talcott	wife of Eli Davis Alderson
Ada Alderson	20 Jan 1877	28 Jan 1883	Talcott	<i>d/o E. D. and H. Alderson</i>
Bessie L. Alderson	2 Nov 1884	30 Sept 1898	Talcott	d/o of Eli Davis & Henrietta S. (Vines) Alderson?
Infant son Alderson	(25 Mar 1873)	17 Jul 1873	Pisgah	<i>Age 3m, 23d, s/o E D & H S Alderson</i>
Ada E. Alderson	(21 Jan 1867)?	27 Jan 1883	Pisgah	<i>age 16y, 16d; this appears to be the same person as Ada Alderson at Talcott; 1880 Summers census has "Adie Eliza" age 3; age may be misreading for 6y 16d..</i>
Franklin B. Alderson	24 Jun 1812	11 Jul 1873	Frank Alderson	Franklin Bond Alderson, s/o James & Elizabeth (Keaton) Alderson; Whitehead transcription has d. 5 April 1873.
Frank B. Alderson	1872	1946	Frank Alderson	Franklin Bond Alderson II, s/o Franklin Bond Alderson; Whitehead has b. 10 Nov 1872, d. 7 Jul 1946
Rose Lee Alderson	1886	1969	Frank Alderson	Rose Lee Lively, wife of Franklin B. Alderson II; Whitehead has b. 7 April 1886, d. 7 Mar 1969
Infants Alderson		30 June 1897	Griffith Creek	<i>2 infants of J L and E F Alderson</i>
Cary Alderson	3 Dec 1896	8 Sept 1911	Griffith Creek	s/o James L. & Emma F. (Burdette) Alderson
Emma F. Alderson	18 Nov 1865	14 Aug 1920	Griffith Creek	<i>on stone with J L Alderson; Emma F. Burdette, wife of James L. Alderson</i>
Infant Son Alderson	17 Aug 1920	17 Aug 1920	Griffith Creek	<i>3 children of L E & G R Alderson, 1 stone; s/o Lawrence Edgar & Grace Eva (Raines) Alderson</i>
Virgil L. Alderson	3 Aug 1916	6 Jan 1922	Griffith Creek	<i>3 children of L E & G R Alderson, 1 stone; s/o Lawrence Edgar & Grace Eva (Raines) Alderson</i>
J. L. Alderson	5 Sept 1857	1 April 1924	Griffith Creek	<i>on stone with Emma F. Alderson; James L. Alderson, s/o Joseph G. and Sarah Jane (Strickler) Alderson</i>
Ella Virginia Alderson	4 Dec 1923	20 April 1924	Griffith Creek	<i>3 children of L E & G R Alderson, 1 stone; d/o Lawrence Edgar & Grace Eva (Raines) Alderson</i>
M. A. Alderson		unknown	Sheppard	probably Margaret A. Alderson, d/o Lina Mims & Mary Burke (Peters) Alderson, b. 22 July 1852, d. 27 Oct 1883
Unknown Alderson	1835	1861	Sheppard	unidentified
M. H. Alderson	1853	1866	Sheppard	unidentified
Unk. M. Alderson	(1 Jan 1810)	10 Aug 1891	Sheppard	<i>age 81y, 7m, 9d; Lina Mims Alderson, s/o Curtis & Susannah (Larew) Alderson; book date of 1831 in error</i>
M. B. Alderson	24 Mar 1820	1 Feb 1907	Sheppard	Mary Burke Peters, wife of Lina Mims Alderson; book has "M. R. Alderson"
J. W. Alderson	1854	1920	Hilltop	James William Alderson, s/o Lina Mims and Elizabeth (Dunsmore) Alderson
M. V. Alderson	1852	1935	Hilltop	Mary Virginia George, wife of James William Alderson
Emily Alice Alderson Burks	1883	1964	Hilltop	wife of William L. Burks
Daisy Boude Alderson	1897	1976	Hilltop	Daisy Nickell Boude, wife of James Clarence Alderson
James Clarence Alderson	1891	1985	Hilltop	s/o James William and Mary Virginia (George) Alderson



Location of Summers Co., WV cemeteries and pre-1871 division of Summers Co.

In the cemeteries listed, four main Alderson lines appear. Two stem from James Alderson, son of Thomas Alderson. In the Talcott area (once part of Monroe Co.) was the family of Eli Davis Alderson, son of Thomas H. Alderson, and grandson of James. He, his wife, and some family members are buried in the Talcott Cemetery and the Mt. Pisgah Cemetery, located a few miles from Talcott at Hilldale, on Tunnel Mountain.

Eli's uncle Franklin Bond Alderson, son of James Alderson, lived in the Green Sulphur District of Summers Co. in what once was Greenbrier Co. Franklin, a wife, and his son Franklin Alderson II are buried at the Franklin Alderson Cemetery near Ramp.

At Griffith Creek, on Dempsey Mountain west of Alderson, are buried members of the James L. Alderson family. James was the son of Joseph G. Alderson, and grandson of Levi and Clemency (Alderson) Alderson.

Also near Ramp is the Sheppard Cemetery, where Lina Mims Alderson, son of Curtis and Susannah (Larew) Alderson, is buried. Lina's wife, Mary Burke Peters, is also buried here, and several other Alderson graves are unidentified.

One of Lina's sons, James William Alderson, is buried at the Hilltop Cemetery on Elk Knob Rd. above Hinton. His wife and several children are buried here as well.

New Findings on the Family of William "Buck" Alderson

by Jim Cross

Maxwell Alderson, whose query was printed in the last issue, has provided a transcript of a document which provides important new data concerning the Aldersons that settled in the Kentucky/Tennessee border area. The document is an unpublished *History of the Dye, Boren & Alderson Families* prepared in 1938 by Carrie Lou Boren Sears (21 Jan 1869 - 31 Dec 1942). Carrie Lou's grandparents were Isaac Dye and Elizabeth (Alderson) Dye. In the rambling document she provides enough information about Elizabeth's family to permit me to identify it as the family of William Alderson, born prior to 1775 who died leaving a will in Sumner Co., Tennessee in 1829. In this article excerpts from her document appear in italics along with my analysis.

Censuses show that William and James Alderson were neighbors. Each witnessed deeds for the other. It seems quite possible that they were brothers and that William was older. The circumstantial evidence suggests they were sons of Jeremiah Alderson, brother of Benedict of Lunenburg Co., Virginia and York Co., South Carolina.¹ Jeremiah probably died around 1796. William married and had moved to Sumner Co., Tennessee by 1803 when he bought 100 acres of land, but James, who was younger, lived with his uncle Benedict and is included in the heirs of Benedict Alderson in Benedict's estate papers in 1795, York Co., SC. The William Alderson who appeared in the York Co., South Carolina census

1 See Janice Richardson, "Aldersons of Middle Tennessee: Descendants of Jeremiah Alderson of Lunenburg Co., VA," *Alderson Roots & Branches*, Vol. 2, No. 3, December 1990 for an excellent overview of William and James Alderson.

was Benedict's son-in-law, husband of his daughter Mary Alderson.

My grandmother Dye was born June 9, 1809 in Kentucky. Her maiden name was Elizabeth Alderson. She was the youngest child. Her mother's maiden name was Orr. She was born near Franklin.

The name of William's wife was previously unknown, and her first name is not given in the document. She may have been a relative of Greenberry Orr, who married Aramintha Juliett Harris on 28 May 1806 in Sumner Co., Tennessee, and for whom William Alderson served as bondsman.² She may also have been a relative of Elizabeth Orr, who became the second wife of Benedict's son Armistead on 14 Sep 1818 in Sumner Co., Tennessee.³ Having her surname gives a lead on where to look for more information.

My grandmother had a brother named John and one named William called "Buck". Both came to Missouri in the 1840's. My grandmother had a sister, Jane. Another sister was Mary Orr Alderson and her twin brother was James Orr Alderson (born July 1, 1793).

The following is a partial list of William's children. Based on the information in the Sears manuscript, along with the 1820 census record for William and his will as sources, William may have had a family of 10 children.

1. **James Orr Alderson**, b. 1 Jul 1793, SC?. James did not appear in the 1820 census and was not mentioned in William's will.

2. **Mary Orr Alderson**, b. 1 Jul 1793, SC?. She was the twin James. Mary probably married John Boyle.

3. **William "Buck" Alderson**, b. ca. 1795, SC. William married Margaret Boren in 1817.

4. **(son) Alderson**, b. 1802 - 1804 TN. One of 2 males, aged 16-18, in the 1820 Sumner Co., TN census.

5. **(son) Alderson**, b. 1802 - 1804, TN. One of 2 males, aged 16-18, in the 1820 census.

6. **Anne Alderson**, b. before 1804? Perhaps the female, age 16-26, in the 1820 census. Anne

married Robert Harris in Sumner Co., TN on 4 Aug 1824.⁴

7. **John D. Alderson**, b. ca. 1805, TN. One of 2 males, aged 10-16, in the 1820 census.

8. **Jane Alderson**, b. ca. 1806?. Perhaps one of two females, age 10-16, in the 1820 census. She married William Lovell in Sumner Co., TN on 22 February 1824.⁵

9. **(son) Alderson**, b. before 1810. Perhaps one of 2 males, age 10-16 in the 1820 census.

10. **Elizabeth Alderson**, b. 9 June 1809, KY. One of 2 females, age 10-16, in the 1820 census. Elizabeth was married 8 March 1830 in Sumner Co., TN to Isaac Dye.⁶

Elizabeth was named as Elizabeth Alderson in her father's will, since she was unmarried at the time. She was left two negro girls, a horse and saddle, a cow and calf, bed and furniture and \$50 cash.

Since a son-in-law, John Boyle, is mentioned in the will, and the husbands of the other daughters are known, it is probable that Mary Orr Alderson was his wife. Mary had apparently died by 1829 as he is mentioned and she is not, while the other married daughters are mentioned by name.

There was 2 or 3 sisters of my grandmother. One was Anna Boles (Bowles). Her husband was German and was a drunkard and was mean to his wife.

This was apparently the second marriage for Anne as she is listed as Anne Harris in her father's will.

My grandfather's parents, the Dye's, were not slave holders, but my Grandmother Dye's people were and my grandmother had 1 negro slave who had 4 children. They were Rose, Rye, Bob, and one other girl. They were freed in the Civil War. She brought these to Missouri with her, and her father owned a great many, but I don't know what was done with them.

The will, which was probated in February 1830 in Sumner Co., TN left son John Alderson the family home and 250 acres. It left son William one negro boy. It left daughter Anne \$200 and Elizabeth as stated above. The rest of the es-

2 Edythe R. Whitley, *Marriages of Sumner Co., Tennessee 1787-1838*.

3 Ibid.

4 Edythe R. Whitley, *Marriages of Sumner Co., Tennessee 1787-1838*.

5 Ibid. Whitley transcribed the name as "June" (underscore included) and the name has been read as "Joyce" as well.

6 Ibid. Whitley shows the husband as "Israel Dye" but he is referred to as "Isaac" throughout the Sears manuscript.

tate was to be sold and proceeds divided equally between John Boyle, William Alderson, Anne Harris, Jayne Lovell and Elizabeth Alderson. William Alderson and son-in-law John Boyle were named executors. No other children were named in the will.

John settled near Liberty, Missouri. He had three children: Ann, Eliza who married Trundle, and James who was an ordained minister of the Christian Church and preached in Kansas City and northern Missouri in an early day.

John settled in Platte Co., Missouri, and was married to Nancy Couthur. He is found in the census there and also is mentioned in county histories.

William (Buck) Alderson lived north of Cleveland, Missouri. They had two daughters, Nancy Hendricks of Louisiana and Jane Brady of Stillwell, Kansas and several sons. There were James, John, Peter Hendricks, and David that I can remember hearing spoken of.

This family is found in Cass Co., Missouri census records and county histories.

Anyone who has any other information about this family is urged to contact me at Box 2245, El Cajon, CA 92021, or by email at jimacross@juno.com.

Postscript

In the family group of William "Buck" Alderson mentioned in the last issue as a Query, the name of one of the sons was in error. Fourth son "Erwin" should have been "Ersin" (or Ursin, Uricin), b. ca. 1835, Kentucky. The confusion stems from the identification of Ersin with Erwin/Elwin Alderson, b. ca. 1830, Kentucky, the ancestor of Max Alderson. Erwin/Elwin is the son of William Alderson, and grandson of James and Elizabeth (Russell) Alderson. Ersin, son of William "Buck" Alderson, is the grandson of William and _____ (Orr) Alderson.

Jeremiah and James: Aldersons of VA, SC, and TN

In the previous article, Jim Cross noted that William Alderson was a neighbor, and probably a brother, of James Alderson of Sumner Co., Tennessee. This James Alderson married Elizabeth Russell, and was the father of eleven or twelve children, many of whom later left Tennessee for Marion Co., IL.

It has been commonly accepted that James Alderson is the son of Jeremiah Alderson of Virginia, brother of Benedict Alderson, who later moved to York Co., SC, where he died.

I went back to review what records I had that might shed light on the family of Jeremiah, and to see what existed to distinguish the families of first cousins James (md. Elizabeth Russell) and James C. (md. Jane).

Janice Richardson provided a summary of events known about Jeremiah Alderson:

- Jeremiah Alderson was on a Lunenburg tithes list beside James Cole Sr. and Jr. in 1772, but the date needs to be rechecked (Sunlight on the Southside).
- In 1780 the will of James Cole Jr. listed as an heir his niece, Sarah Alderson, the daughter of Jeremiah Alderson (Charlotte WB I:291 and II:37). From this entry it is assumed that Jeremiah married a Cole; her first name *may* be Susan.
- In 1781 Jeremiah's name appeared in an Amelia County petition to the Revolutionary Army to protect the farmers. Their arms had been given to the militia and then British soldiers had raided and robbed them (VA Genealogist 18:289).
- In the 1783 Lunenburg tax Jeremiah had 1 male over 21, 0 under, [16-21?] 1 Black tithe, and 4 Blacks total (VA Taxpayers Other Than the US Census).
- Jeremiah owed a debt to a British mercantile and denied it in Lunenburg Court - not dated (VA Colonial Abstracts 19).

1800 York Co., S. C. Census

Head of Household	Page	M 0-10	10-16	16-26	26-45	45-up	F 0-10	10-16	16-26	26-45	45-up
Anne Alderson	970	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	1
James Alderson	970	1	0	1	0	0	2	0	1	0	0
James C. Alderson	970	1	0	1	1	0	3	0	0	1	0
Jeremiah Alderson	970	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Jeremiah Alderson	970	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0

1810 York Co., S.C. Census

Head of Household	Page	M 0-10	10-16	16-26	26-45	45-up	F 0-10	10-16	16-26	26-45	45-up
William Alderson	275	1	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	1	1
Jeremiah Alderson	276	2	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	2	0
Robert Alderson	277	2	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0

1820 York Co., S.C. Census

Head of Household	Page	M 0-10	10-16	16-18	16-26	26-45	45-up	F 0-10	10-16	16-26	26-45	45-up
William Alderson	157	2	1	0	1	0	1	2	2	0	1	5
Jeremiah Alderson	157	2	1	0	0	1	0	1	2	0	1	0

1830 York Co., S.C. Census

Head of Household	Page	M 0-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-30	30-40	40-50	50-60	F 0-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-30	30-40	40-50	50-60
Benedict Alderson	332	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Jeremiah Alderson	332	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0
William Alderson	332	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	1	0	1	0

- In 1784 Jeremiah sold four Negroes to a neighbor, Joseph Smith for £150 (Lunenburg DB 14:154).
- In the 1787 tax he was the only Alderson in Lunenburg - no males 16-21, 1 Black above 16, 4 Blacks under 16, 1 horse, no cattle.
- In 1795 Jeremiah sold all his household property and stock for £20 to John S. Alderson in Lunenburg. The deed was dated 19 August 1795 and witnessed by Elisha and Benjamin Estes. Proved 11 February 1796. Although Jeremiah did not name John S. as his son, the deed

probably represents a will. No other will has been found; Bell's Lunenburg Wills 1746 - 1825 has no Aldersons.

Jeremiah's brother Benedict, whose wife was named Anne, may have married a Cole as well. Quoting Billie Hardy from personal correspondence of 1991: "As far as I know there is no proof that the wife of Benedict Alderson was Anne Cole. Until we have proof of some sort perhaps a question mark might be in order here. The nearest to proof I have is a deed in Prince Edward Co., VA Bk 3 p. 425 'Benedict Alderson of Lunenburg Co. and John Cole and wife Anne of Prince Edward Co. to Joseph Motley of Ame-

lia Co. 400 acres on Dahons? Creek bounded by Joniah Whitlock, Matthew Jackson, William Carter, Peter David, and George Moore, the above said land the above John Cole purchased of Thomas Watkins', no witnesses. This seems to indicate that Benedict Alderson, whose name comes first, was actually the owner of the land and that John Cole and wife Anne who originally held the land, are agreeing to the sale. I may be reading too much into this but I would guess that John Cole gave the land to son-in-law Benedict Alderson but that deed was never recorded – hence both names on this deed, dated August 1768."

Benedict died in York Co., SC in 1795. His estate papers names both James C. and James as heirs (York Co., SC Estate Records, Bk. 52, p. 2277; Inventory Bk ABC, p. 121). What evidence exist to distinguish these two James? The settlement of the estate of Benedict Alderson, Bk B, p. 397 in York Co, SC, reads: "James C. Alderson, settlement of the Estate of Bendct Alderson for the year 1804 being a final settlement, produced a receipt from Amstead Alderson, James Alderson, Jeremiah Alderson, William Alderson in favour of his wife late [née] Mary Alderson, and John Polk in favour of his wife late [née] Nancy Alderson, acknowledging themselves satisfied and fully paid their respective shares of said Estate upon Division". His position of executor would more likely identify James C. as the son of Benedict, and the James mentioned in the settlement may be identified as his nephew, son of Jeremiah.⁷

The York Co., SC census enumerated both James and James C. Alderson in 1800. James C. was probably the male age 26-45, and thus was born before 1774 (circa 1771?), and James is shown as age 16-26, born 1774 or after. The male age 16-26 in the household of James C. may be his brother Robert, born ca. 1777 and not married until 1804. Alternatively, the male age 16-26 in the household of Anne Alderson may be Robert, and the older male in the household of James C. Alderson may be Armstead, b. ca 1770 in NC and not married until 1803. This would indicate that James C. was born in 1774 or after. In either case, the census records appear to tie James C. closer to the family of Benedict than of Jeremiah. The two Jeremiah listings in the 1800 census may be duplicates.

Neither James appeared in the 1810 York Co., SC census as both had moved to Sumner Co., Tennessee. James C. died about 1811, and his will was filed in Roane Co. court, but the settlement named land in Sumner County. His will begins: "I James C. Alderson of the County of Sumner and State of Tennessee" and was probated in the March Session of 1811. The executor was wife Jane. Present at the estate settlement were James, William, and Josiah Alderson. These three may be the sons of Jeremiah Alderson.

One piece of evidence, however, would seem to indicate that James Alderson was the son of Benedict. In *Kentucky Genealogy and Biography* (date unknown) is a biography of John J. Alderson "born April 30, 1833, in Sumner Co., Tenn. He is the ninth of seven sons and five daughters born to Jeremiah and Lucretia (Newlen) Alderson, natives of South Carolina. Jeremiah was a son of James Alderson, who married Elizabeth Russell, and came from South Carolina to Sumner Co., Tenn., about 1804, and entered lands in both Tennessee and Kentucky, was a general trader, a plain man of Irish extraction, and was a son of Benjamin R. Alderson, who was a favorite with the Indians. He was accidentally drowned; his body was found by the Indians, who mourned and lamented his loss." I interpret this mention of Benjamin R. Alderson perhaps as a later recollection of "Ben" Alderson, or Benedict.

Does any other information exist to positively identify the two James Aldersons?

Abel Alderson's Wedding Linens

Dan Perry, descendant of Abel and Elizabeth Alderson of Russell Co., VA has written with exciting news of the rediscovery of some historical family materials. Abel Alderson, son of Davis and Leah (Carroll) Alderson, was born 2 October 1803 in Kanawha Co., VA, and died 27 September 1866 in Russell Co., VA. As Dan writes:

⁷ See David Fridley, "Aldersons of Lafayette Co, Mississippi," *Alderson Roots & Branches* Vol. 3, No. 1, June 1991, for a discussion of the family of Benedict Alderson.

"I have solved a mystery. The wife of Abel Alderson 1803-1866 is no longer just Elizabeth D. It is Elizabeth Dorning Dickenson! Forgive my elation but its a good feeling to give someone back their name.

What do I have for documentation? Let me tell you a story. When I was a young boy, my father showed me a set of bed linens and told me they were a wedding gift of the Alderson slaves to young Abel and his bride. The sheets and pillowcases were woven of linen from flax grown by them. The inscriptions on the pillowcases were made from black walnut dye. I forgot about them until after my father died and I began researching my family tree. I questioned my brothers about them and no one seemed to know anything. Apparently they had never been shown the bedclothes. To-day we open some boxes that had been in storage since my father died in 1992. The linens were in there along with a family bible and lots of papers and photographs. A real treasure trove.

The inscriptions are *Elizabeth D. Dickenson - Oct. 27th 1843* on one and on the other two *A. Alderson No. 4*. I have no earthly idea what the #4 is about. Any ideas? I'm assuming the date is their wedding date.

My first cousin also knew of the bedclothes was told by my grandmother that they were made by a house servant named Hilda. I have absolutely no documentation of this or that she ever existed.

Dan Perry"

The Number 4 on the wedding linens remains unclear, but Abel was the fourth son of Davis and Leah (Carroll) Alderson, so it may indicate his family ranking.⁸

Dan also reports that correspondence with other Dickenson descendants has identified Elizabeth D. Dickenson as the sister of Nancy Dickenson, wife of Thomas Creigh McCleary Alderson (Thomas was the son of Col. George and Jeanette Creigh (McCreary) Alderson). In the 1850 Russell Co., VA census, a William Jennings Dickenson, occupation lawyer, was enumerated with Thomas and Nancy Alderson. William is the younger brother of Elizabeth and Nancy, and

New Members

Mrs. Lois Hoyer, 1437 Pinto Ct., Geneva, IL 60134-3149. Mrs. Hoyer is a member of the Alderson Family History Society.

the man after whom Dickenson Co., VA is named.

Dan can be reached at perryd@xtalwind.net or 45 N. Archwood Dr., Inverness, FL 34450.

More on Jane Alderson Huffman

Marilyn Brown writes with a very interesting question concerning the parentage of Jane Alderson, whose family is featured in the December 1996 issue of *AR&B*. She writes:

"I printed out the FGS for John Alderson and Nancy Robinson Mays and lo and behold there was Jane Alderson's birth date of March 7 occurring less than three months after John and Nancy's wedding! Since I am very confident of the dates for both the wedding and the birth, the realization that Jane is not John Alderson's child became quite apparent.

I have been corresponding with a lady in E. Tenn. who is descended from Mary Mays—the known child of Nancy Robinson and Pierce Wade Mays (yes...I was right, it is Pierce). We feel that Pierce died probably in the fall of 1823, as the estate was settled after Jane was born [7 March 1824] and the papers identify Nancy as the wife of John Alderson. I was dumbfounded that I could have missed this...but at least I know why Nancy named Jane after John's first wife.

John did refer to Jane as his daughter in his will...and I believe that her character was very much tempered by growing up an Alderson...but...Has this come up before? Or am I the only "Alderson wannabe"?

8 See David Fridley, "Davis Alderson of Washington Co., VA", *Alderson Roots & Branches*, Vol. 3, No. 3, December 1991.

Editor's Corner

We are now starting into the eight year of the newsletter, and a new year always gives me pause to think of how far the newsletter has come since its first issue in June 1989. At that time, a handful of Alderson researchers encouraged me to begin a newsletter and supported its launching. Since then, readership has expanded to over 100, and the newsletter can now be read by researchers at the Genealogical Library in Salt Lake City.

The 10-generation genealogy of the Rev. John Alderson has also been posted on the World Wide Web so that all researchers with Internet access anywhere in the world can access the information. This has resulted in some very fruitful exchanges with other researchers.

Soon, I will be able to expand the Web site and add the genealogy of the "Northern Neck" Aldersons. My web disk quota is currently full, but I will soon have access to an additional 5 MB of space without having to pay additional to get the information online.

Ties have been established with the Alderson Family History Society of England, and Jim Cross has compiled an impressive and thorough collection of Alderson census materials. The main disappointment has been the long-delayed written history of the Rev. John line. A number of readers made contributions to producing this history, but given the delay to date and the sporadic nature of my free time, I will soon be returning these contributions. I remain committed to producing a printed history, and will announce the sections as they become available. I am extremely grateful for everyone's generosity!

For most readers, a renewal notice will be included in this issue. I would like to remind all readers that a renewal reminder will be sent out when the subscription is due. If you don't hear from me, your account is current. Generally, I send three notices before ending the subscription, so there is plenty of notice!

Many thanks to all of you for your continued patience and unerring support!

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, and the family of Richard Alderson, d. ca. 1698, of the "Northern Neck" of Virginia. The genealogy of Rev. John Alderson can be found at <http://www.slip.net/~dgf>.

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: 415/642-1007; email: dgf@slip.net.

Subscriptions are \$7.50 per year (\$13 international) for four issues, including any back issues for the current volume year. All back issues from Vols. 1 through 7 are available 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 \$15, payable by check to Mr. John Alderson, 133E Alameda Drive, Tempe, AZ 85282.

The US Records Officer is Mr. Bernard C. Alderson, 1642 Clairton Road, West Mifflin, PA 15122. He can be reached by email at bcalderson@juno.com.