

Alderson

Roots & Branches



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Aldersons of Middle Tennessee: Descendants of Jeremiah Alderson of Lunenburg Co., VA

by Janice Richardson

My focus of research has been the families of William and James Alderson who appear in the 1820 Sumner County, Tennessee census. James Alderson is my husband's ancestor, and William is most likely his brother. They lived near each other in the upper part of Sumner County and signed deeds for each other. I never have been really satisfied with the connection, however, perhaps because we are overloaded with Williams in this generation and the previous one.

The following is a summary of what I have collected on William Alderson, tentatively a son of Jeremiah Alderson of Lunenburg Co., VA. William Alderson was in Sumner by 1803, when he bought 100 acres from a Mr. Hamilton.¹ In 1807 he was taxed for 451 acres on the Sulphur Lick Fork of Drake's Creek, and he served as assessor for the district. The 1817 and 1820 tax lists revealed that he lived near James and the latter's son Jeremiah.

It is not clear how many children William and his wife had, nor did they follow a customary naming pattern. The 1820 Sumner census gave them four sons and three daughters, but William's will, written on 17 October 1829 and proved in February 1830, revealed only two sons and three daughters. Witnesses to the will were Francis Boren and James Alderson. In part, the will read: "In the name of God Amen. I William Alderson of the county of Sumner and state of Tennessee being weak in body, but of sound and perfect mind and memory blessed by God for the same do make and publish this my last will and testament in manner and form following that is to say, I give and bequeath to my son John Alderson the tract of land where I now live containing two hun-

dred and fifty acres. I give and bequeath to my daughter Elizabeth two negro girls viz, Rachael and Emily one horse worth fifty dollars and saddle, one cow and calf, bed and furniture and fifty dollars in cash. I give and bequeath to my son William Alderson one negro boy Lewis. I give and bequeath to my daughter Anne two hundred dollars and all the rest of my property to be sold viz negroes horses, cattle hogs, sheep and other species of property belonging to me at my decease and to be equally divided among my five children viz John Boyle, William Alderson, Anne Harris, Joice Lovell, Elizabeth Alderson, after my just debts are settled and I appoint and make my son William Alderson and John Boyle joint executors of this my last will and testament desiring my said son, and son-in-law to take on the charge and trouble and to see the same performed according to my true interest and meaning."

Only these five children of William Alderson have been identified:

1. Daughter Alderson (c1800 — pre-1829) married John Boyle Jr.
2. William Alderson (c1802 or earlier?). *Early Tennessee Tax Lists* has a William Alderson Sr. and a William Alderson in 1816.
3. Anne Alderson (c1806 Sumner) married Robert Harris on 4 August 1824 in Sumner county. Their family are not found in later census lists of Sumner or Marion County IL.
4. Joyce Alderson (c1808 Sumner) married William Lovell in Sumner in 1824. In 1830 they were living on Sulphur Lick Fork near the family of Joyce's brother John.
5. John Alderson (1810 Sumner — 1881 Marion Co., IL) married Suzannah ____ (1805 GA — 1881 Marion Co.). In 1830 they lived on Sulphur Fork (00002- 01001) on the 250 acres John received from his father, and brother William lived with them. They sold the acreage in 1836 and moved to Marion Co., IL. By 1850 they were living in Omega Twp next to Myrum Alderson and Elijah Clack.
 - 5a. Bluford M. Alderson (c1830 Sumner Co. — 1864 Atlanta?) was wounded in the Civil War and died soon after.
 - 5b. John A. Alderson (c1831 Sumner Co.) married Nancy Matilda Rogers in 1852 in Marion Co., IL.
 - 5c. Malissa Jane Alderson (c1835 Sumner Co. — 1906 Kansas) was the third wife of Dr. W. E. Middleton, a Civil War physician. They moved to Kansas.
 - 5d. Margaret Alderson (c1836 Sumner Co.)
 - 5e. Rufus Alderson (c1837 Marion Co., IL)
 - 5f. Elizabeth Alderson (c1838 Marion Co.)
 - 5g. Martha E. Alderson (c1841 Marion Co.) married Daniel Chapman in 1859 in Marion Co.
 - 5h. James M. Alderson (c1842 Marion Co.)

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1 Sumner Co., Tennessee, Deed Book 3, p. 368.

Now for some material on the ancestor James Alderson. There is no proof of his birth in Lunenburg County, VA, about 1774, the son of Jeremiah Alderson and Susan? Cole. After 1790 he went to York Co., SC to live with his Uncle Benedict's family. James is included with the heirs of Benedict Alderson in 1795.²

He married Elizabeth Russell, the daughter of William and Miriam Russell of the neighboring Lancaster Co., SC. The proof of this marriage is indirect, through Sterling Russell, named in a deed as son of William and Miriam, and also named in the marriage bond of Benedict's son Robert. The Battle, Perrin, and Kniffin account [in *Kentucky Genealogy and Biography*] says they migrated to Sumner Co., TN about 1804, which is supported by a census account that their son William was born in SC in 1804.

In 1808, James bought 133 acres on the Second Spring Branch of Sulphur Lick Fork of Drake's Creek of Barron River above the State Line, for which he was taxed in Sumner in 1809. His near neighbors in 1809 were William Alderson and James C. Alderson. He probably had land in Simpson Co., KY, but the records have been burned.

There was an estate sale in Sumner Co. after the death of James C. Alderson (Benedict's son) in 1811, although his will was filed in Roane Co., TN. Present were James, William, and Josiah Alderson.

By 1817 James was taxed for 625 acres on Sulphur Lick Fork. Tax lists for 1833, 1834, and 1837 show that he gave land to sons Jeremiah, John, William, and Reuben, as well as 100 acres in 1835 to daughter Myrum.

After 1840 traces of James and Elizabeth Alderson are lost. They probably went to live with one of their sons or daughters, but all possible counties have been searched without success.

Two descendants in Illinois said James and Elizabeth Alderson had 12 sons and daughters. Since no will has been found, the following list is open to discussion:

1. Jeremiah Alderson (c1798 York SC) married Lucretia Newlen in 1817 in Sumner Co. They lived for many years on their Sulphur Fork land and in the 1840's moved across the Kentucky line to Simpson County. The full list of children is unknown.

1a. James Alderson (c1818 Sumner Co.) married Clarky Paul in 1843 and was still living in Sumner Co. in

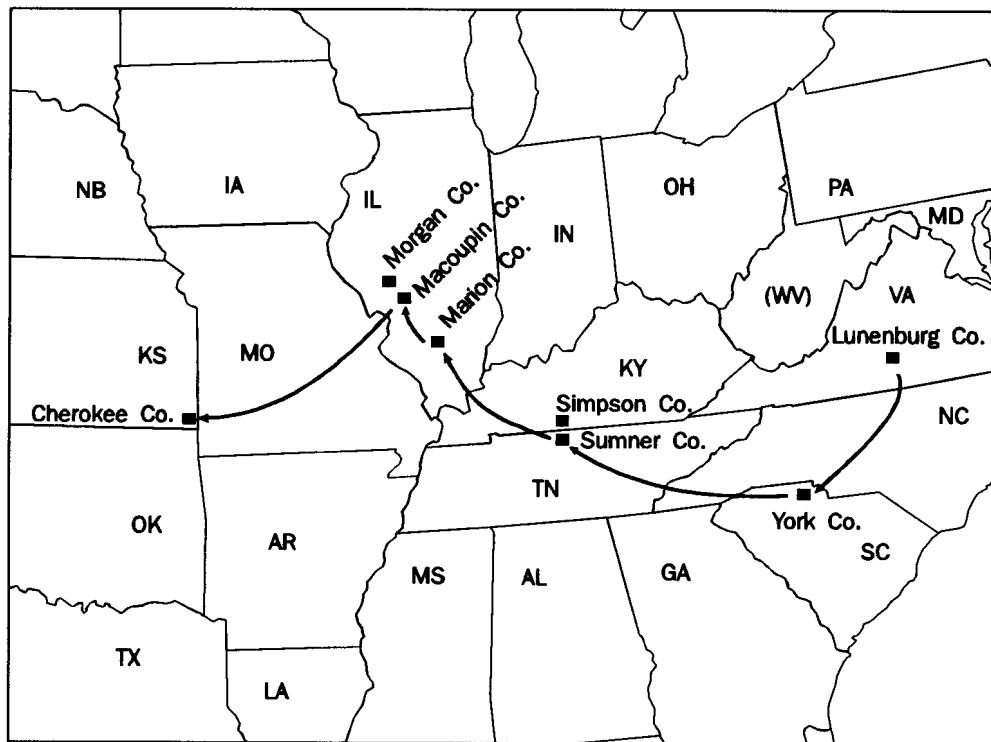


Figure 1
Migration pattern of some of the descendants of William Alderson (d. 1830) and James Alderson (d. after 1840) of Lunenburg Co., VA.

1870. Their children were Jason, Mary, Lucretia, Jeremiah, John, George, Farasina, and Orpha.

1b. William W. Alderson (c1829 Sumner Co.) married Charity Frances Reeder.

1c. Sallie Alderson (c1830 Simpson Co., KY).

1d. Jeremiah Bird Alderson? (c1831 TN?). He moved to Macoupin Co., IL. He married Mary Jane McGinnis in 1860 and had 14 children.

1e. John J. Alderson (c1833 Sumner Co.) was called the ninth child. He was married three times, had six children, and lived in Simpson Co., KY.

1f. Serena Patience Alderson (c1835 Simpson Co.).

1g. Nowland E. Alderson, a daughter.

1h. R. G. Alderson, a son.

1i. G. E. Alderson, a son.

2. Susan Alderson (1800 York SC — 1876 Sumner Co.) married William Denninx or Dinning in 1818 in Sumner Co. They had possibly six children, some of whom are buried in the Denning Cemetery near Brackentown. This marriage seems to be identical with "Lucky" Alderson and William Denninx. I have found no solution to this question yet.

3. Mary "Polly" Alderson married John Jackson in 1821 in Sumner Co. They were still in Sumner in 1838 when John Jackson served as the bondsman for Armstead Alderson and Eliza Bradley. They left Sumner before 1850.

2 York Co., SC Estate Records, Bk. 52, p. 2277; Inventory Bk. ABC, p. 121.

4. William Alderson (c1804 York SC) married Tabitha Dinning or Denning in 1826 in Sumner Co. In 1830 they were taxed for 100 acres on Drake's Creek.

5. James Alderson Jr. (1806/1813 Sumner Co. — pre-1850 Sumner Co.) married Martha "Patsy" Morgan in 1834. They are not found in 1840, but in 1850 a Martha Alderson and three daughters lived next door to the Denning families. However, two of the births predate this marriage.

5a. Elizabeth Alderson (c1826 Sumner Co.).

5b. Jane Alderson (c1829 Sumner Co.).

5c. Susan Alderson (c1839 Sumner Co.).

6. John C. Alderson (c1808 Sumner Co. — c1848 Marion Co., IL) married Mary "Polly" Hodges in 1827 in Sumner Co. Their bondsman was her brother, Creed Hodges. By 1840 brothers John, Reuben, and Robert Alderson were living in Macoupin Co., IL. During the decade John and Reuben moved back to Marion Co. where other Sumner Co. families had settled. John died soon after, so Mary and the children are shown in the 1850 Marion Co. census.

6a. Creed C. Alderson (c1828 Sumner Co. — pre-1879) married Dorcas Church in Marion Co., IL.

6b. James J. Alderson (c1832 Sumner Co. or Macoupin Co.). He is not found in later years.

6c. Martha J. Alderson (c1835 Macoupin Co.) married Thomas J. Chapman.

6d. Samuel Francis Alderson (1837 Macoupin Co. — 1915 Marion Co.) married Rachel Jane Bradley in 1861 in Marion Co. They had ten children.

6e. John W. Alderson (c1846 Macoupin Co.). He is not found in later years.

7. Robert Alderson (1810 Sumner Co. — 1884 Cherokee Co., KS) married Elizabeth Bell Clack in Simpson Co., KY in 1830. They moved to Morgan Co., IL and then Macoupin Co., where they raised 13 children on their large farm. They later moved to Cherokee Co., KS.

7a. James A. Alderson (c1832) married Elizabeth Wilson.

7b. William C. Alderson (c1834) married Lucretia Rafferty.

7c. John Davis Alderson (c1835) m Sarah A. Nevins and later Mary Clarke.

7d. Samuel Alderson (c1837).

7e. Connel Reuben Alderson (c1839).

7f. Elijah Warner Alderson (c1841).

7g. Sarah Alderson (c1843) married Benjamin Higler.

7h. Mary L. Alderson (c1844) married Galen Good.

7i. Nancy J. Alderson married F. J. Coonrod. They moved to Idaho.

7j. Robert K. Alderson (c1849) married Lucy Nevins.

7k. Arthur Joseph Alderson (c1851) went to Oklahoma.

7l. Martha L. Alderson (c1853) married John Simmons.

7m. Lydia A. Alderson (c1855) married F. A. Jackson.

8. Myrum Alderson (c1811 Sumner Co. — 1879 Marion Co., IL) married Elijah M. C. Clack in Sumner Co. in 1833. They later moved to Marion Co., IL.

8a. Joel Clack (c1834 Sumner Co.).

8b. Jeremiah Clack (c1835 Sumner Co.).

8c. Samuel Clack (c1836 Sumner Co.).

8d. Elvin Carol Clack (c1838 Marion Co.?).

8e. Nancy Eliza Clack (c1840 Marion Co.).

8f. Calvin Clack (c1842 Marion Co.).

8g. James H. Clack (1843 Marion Co. — 1863 Paducah Co., KY).

8h. Elijah William Clack (c1844 Marion Co.).

8i. Reuben Clack (c1846 Marion Co.).

8j. Robert S. Clack (c1848 Marion Co.).

8k. John T. Clack (c1850 Marion Co.).

9. Armstead Alderson (c1816 Sumner Co. — 1892/1896 Marion Co.) married Eliza Bradley in 1838 in Sumner Co. They moved to Marion Co., IL and farmed near Eliza's sister and brother.

9a. Elizabeth Alderson (c1840 Sumner Co.).

9b. William Alderson (c1849 Marion Co.).

9c. Julia Alderson (c1853), called the fifth child.

10. Hiram Alderson (c1816 Sumner) married Emily _____. Their children were born in Marion Co., according to descendant Marilyn Clause, but the family has not been found in the census.

10a. Sarah Alderson (c1838 Marion Co.).

10b. Thomas Alderson (c1840 Marion Co.).

10c. Julia Alderson (c1844 Marion Co.).

10d. William Alderson (c1846 Marion Co.).

11. Reuben Alderson (1817 Sumner Co. — 1892 Marion Co.) had three marriages: to Sally Stephens in Sumner Co. in 1835; to Nancy Harper in Marion Co.; and to Mrs. Beatty in Marion Co. Reuben was the guardian for the family of his deceased brother John.

11a. Mary E. Alderson (c1840 Macoupin Co.).

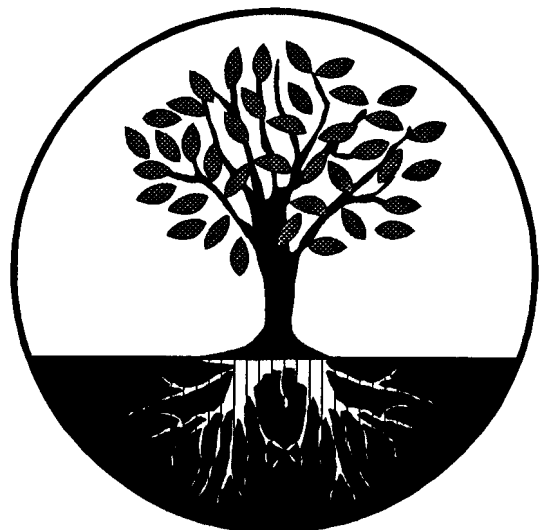
11b. Matilda C. Alderson (c1841 Macoupin Co.).

11c. Nancy L. Alderson (c1843 Macoupin Co.).

11d. James M. Alderson (c1846 Marion Co.).

12. Miriam Alderson (c1814? Sumner Co.) married Elijah Hudspeth. They moved to Marion Co., but they are not found in the census.

[Editor's note: Special thanks as well to Mrs. Billie Dixon Hardy of Arlington, TX who contributed her extensive research materials on this line. Readers who have further information on any of these lines are encouraged to contact either Janice Richardson or Billie Dixon. I would be happy to forward any inquiries or provide you with their addresses.]



Out of the Past

Sketch of the Alderson Family

by Joseph Alderson

[The following two articles details the life of Joseph Alderson, b. 1771, d. 1845, son of the Rev. John Alderson, Jr. The author may be Joseph G. Alderson (1825-aft. 1910), son of Levi and Clemency Alderson and nephew of Joseph Alderson. Levi was a son of George Alderson, Joseph Alderson's oldest brother. The articles appear to be from a newspaper, though the title _____ COUNTY HISTORY is visible at the top of the page; the articles were likely written ca. 1890-1895. Contributed by T.G. Alderson.]

VI

Uncle Joe and Aunt Polly, as they were called by almost every one, went to housekeeping in a log cabin, as I before stated, on the "Perry" farm. After a few year, while absent from home, their cabin was burnt with all of their household furniture. Mr. Alderson then built the house in which the Perry boys now live, and with his own hands cut the initials in a rock near the top of the chimney, which can be seen to-day from the road as you pass by, "J.A. 1799."

After living there several years and being engaged in the manufacture of salt, as before mentioned, with his brother George, he purchased the farm where Mr. Archibald Lipps now resides, embracing all of the lands from the mouth of Muddy Creek, and with the creek to Palestine and with the side of the Mountain to the River above where G.H. Alderson now lives, for which he was to pay in salt, delivered in Cincinnati. A short while after moving to Greenbrier, he was appointed a Justice for that County, but in fact this was at that time all Greenbrier. In connection with his office, I will here give one incident of his life that Uncle Joe did not like ever to have mentioned. That was his arrest for horse stealing. It occurred in this way. The Justices at that time composed the County Court. The Court being in session at Lewisburg during one whole week, late one Saturday evening Uncle Joe ordered his horse, mounted him, and struck out for home. Early Sunday morning before he had arisen, his son-in-law, William Feamster, who was also a Justice, came to his house, called him up and told him he was very sorry, but would have to arrest him for horse stealing and told him that he had in his possession another man's horse. The horse was brought out and after examining the animal carefully he admitted that it was not his horse, and remarked that he thought that Fox (that being his horse's name) stumbled a great deal last night. It is needless to say that the horse was returned and exchanged for Fox.

Uncle Joe represented the County in the Legislature for several terms. He did not wear suspenders and on starting to the Capitol the first time, the boys of Lewisburg made him a present of a pair and requested him to wear them at least while in Richmond. He rode horseback all the way from his home to Richmond, the only mode of conveyance at that time.

He was a very industrious man and worked on the farm when not engaged in public duties. He also liked a little fun occasionally. While engaged in making hay in

the field just below North Alderson, having in his employ one William Jones, a short thick-set man, they went to the spring to get a drink. The spring having a hollow log sunk into the ground, Uncle Joe laid down to drink, and Jones ducked his hand in while drinking. Uncle Joe arose and said: "William, this is no time for foolishness, this hay must go up" and started away, Jones taking it as a reprimand and not thinking of retaliation, laid down to drink. Uncle Joe quietly slipped back and seizing him by both feet, tossed them up in the air and ran. After running some distance he looked back and Jones' feet were still in the air. His head and shoulders had stuck in the hollow log and when Uncle Joe came back and pulled him out, found Jones almost drowned.

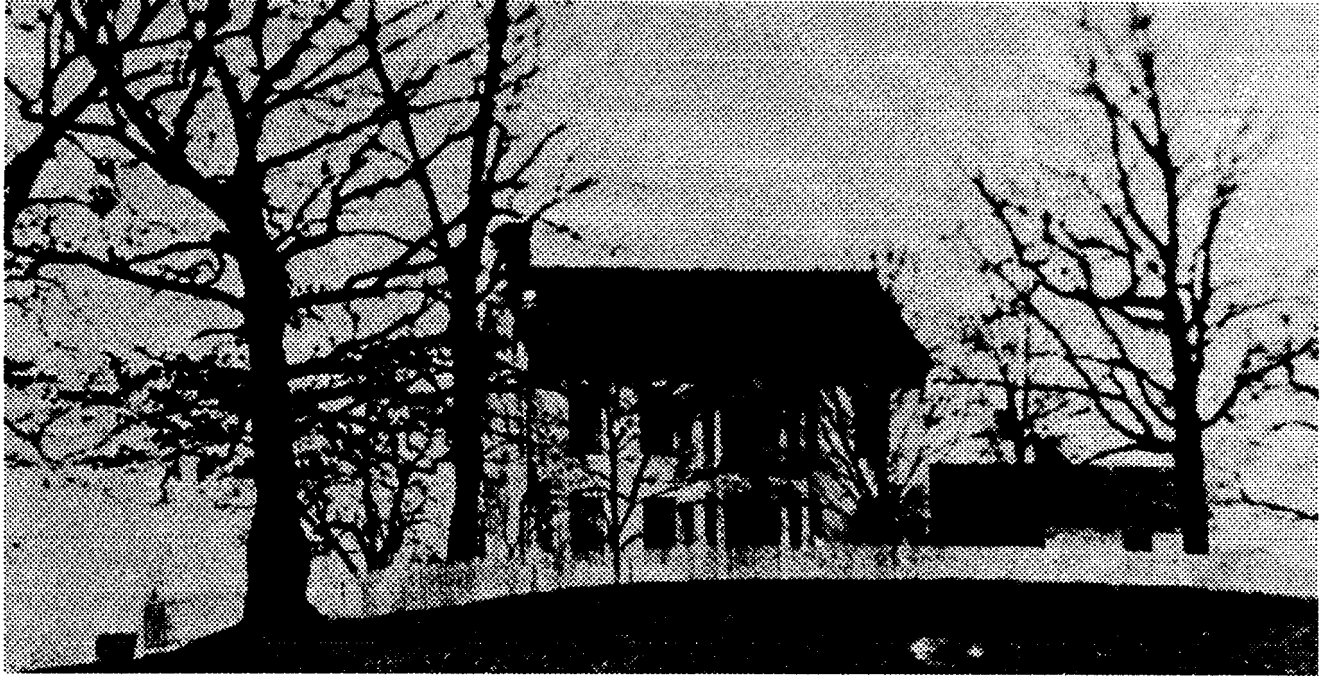
VII

Joseph Alderson was a very devoted Christian. He always attended the meetings of his church, scarcely ever failing to attend the meetings of the General Association of Virginia. He was very charitable and his doors were always open to the poor and when the large meetings were held with the Greenbrier Church, made it his especial business to see that the more humble and poor were provided with homes during the meeting.

But before closing this sketch, I cannot refrain from giving a sketch of his wife. Aunt Polly was a very remarkable person. The writer well remembers when quite a small boy of riding behind her, passing the Perry farm, she pointed out the place where she first went to housekeeping, telling of the burning of the little log cabin, and one remark that she made that I very distinctly remember it. The house was burned in the light of the moon and that was always considered good luck. And she pointed out various places, saying, "here once I had a good flax patch and I still have some of the towels and table cloths that I made while living here." She was then a very old lady. And it was said that after she moved to the Lipps farm that she had so many geese that she could make a feather bed at one picking. When I see the ladies of your town spinning the bicycle, I often think of Aunt Polly's spinning wheel. Aunt Polly never sold any raw material. She worked it up, making all of the clothes for the family and each year loading a six horse team with flax linen, linsay, jeans, feathers &c to Lynchburg and exchanged them for salt, groceries &c. One little incident connected with the writer when a boy and Aunt Polly's geese I relate: One of her geese came across the river and made a nest on the little island where J.W. Alderson now has a garden, and a negro boy, about my age, and myself found it with live eggs in it. We proceeded to build up a fire to roast the eggs, and after the fire had burnt into coals, deposited the eggs and covered them up with the coals. Then the negro was to watch while I went to the house for salt and bread to eat with the eggs. The negro laid down by the fire, and, negro like, with his head towards the fire, went to sleep. We had neglected to make a little hole in the eggs and the consequence was that when they got hot they burst, with a considerable report, throwing the hot ashes and coals into the negro's face, burning him badly. We lost our eggs and that negro always argued with me that it was a judgement sent on him for stealing the eggs. I always taking the side that it was negro like to lay down before the fire and go to sleep.

Aunt Polly in the absence of Uncle Joe superintended the farm as well as the house, Uncle Joe having in the

The House that Uncle Joe Built



Joseph Alderson's stone mansion, built in 1788 by Capt. Jack Alderson. It was torn down in 1916.

Thomas W. Dixon, in his book *The Rise and Fall of Alderson, West Virginia*, details the history of Joseph Alderson's residence:

In very early times, the early 1770's, two men, John Seers and James Burn-sides, owned land in what is now North Alderson. Later Mr. William Morris obtained possession of 525 acres to the north of the river. Mr. Morris' first residence was near what is now the village of Palestine, but in 1788 Capt. Jack Alderson built a large stone residence for him on the hill in the western part of town. It was the second large residence erected west of the mountains and has quite a history.

Oliver Towles, son-in-law of Mr. Morris, bought the property in 1804 and moved into the house. About 1811 Mr. Towles removed to New Orleans, at which time he sold the house and all the land to Joseph Alderson (a son of Elder Alderson), for £600, payable in salt at Cincinnati. Joseph Alderson had just moved back to Greenbrier from a period in the salt making business in Kanawha and this was probably the most convenient means of exchange for him. Mr. Alderson was quite an active man, being a member of the county court, sheriff of the county, and a member of the Virginia General Assembly. It is said that Mr. Alderson did not normally

wear suspenders and when he left for Richmond in 1832 to take his seat in the legislature all his friends contributed and bought him a pair of suspenders and a belt, saying they did not want him to be caught with his pants down while he was representing them.

Mr. Alderson was a very wealthy man for his era, owning seven slaves, thirteen horses, a buggy, a fine mansion and lands which extended from the Greenbrier at Alderson to the summit of Keeney's Knob. He enthusiastically supported the Baptist denomination and contributed the land and money to build the Baptist Church at Lewisburg. Miss Emma Alderson says of him in her memoirs:

It was a common saying in those days that as long as Squire Alderson would build the churches, pay the preachers, and feed the congregation there would be preaching. When the Greenbrier [Baptist] Association met at the Greenbrier Church he would entertain fifty or seventy-five people. The horses were turned out to pasture, the people served on long tables spread under the oaks; the men were given blankets and slept in the barn and the women and children were cared for in the house.

This gives some idea as to the wealth and generosity of Mr. Alderson.

The name of Joseph Alderson is also found in the records of Monroe County as having contracted for and successfully completed the first jail for that county in 1801.

In 1845, at the death of Joseph Alderson, the home and lands passed to Rev. Lewis A. Alderson, who lived there until 1858. It was Rev. L.A. Alderson who platted some of his land and sold it as individual lots. This was in what is now North Alderson, probably on Monroe Street and was sold in 1856-58, making it the first residential property sold in what is now Alderson.

During the Civil War, the county clerk of Nicholas County, John A. Hamilton, became concerned about the safety of the county records. Accordingly, he persuaded Thomas Alderson, then owner of the old stone house, to let them be hidden there. The records were loaded on several wagons and brought over the mountains to Alderson and were walled up in an open space in the basement of the old Alderson house, under the fireplace, where they safely rested until the end of the war.

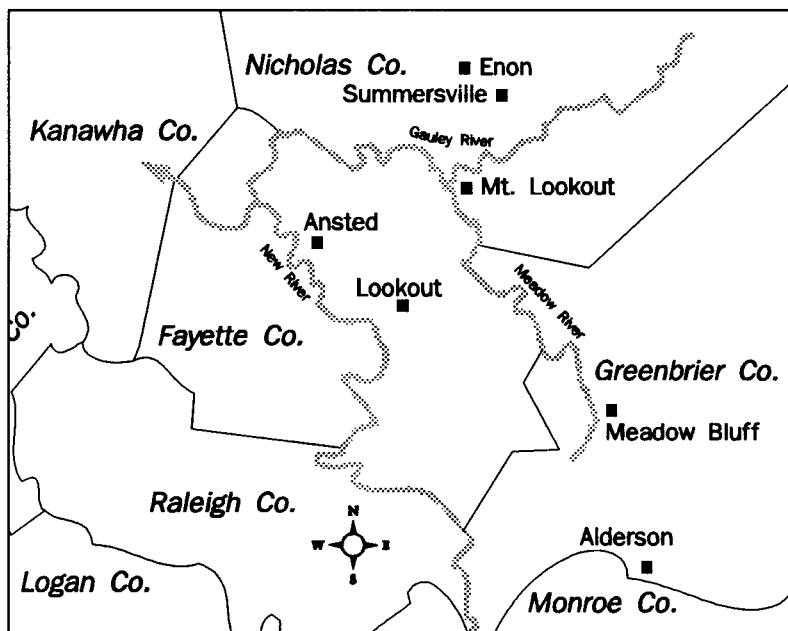
The old stone house was razed by J.S. Thurmond in 1916 and a large brick one built to replace it.

1850 Census of Nicholas Country, Virginia: Alderson Family

Fam.#	Name	Age	Sex	Occup.	Real Est.	Born	Notes
477	Allen McClung	36	m	farmer	2250	VA	son of Samuel McClung, b. 1 Dec. 1814, d. 22 Feb. 1888, bur. Enon, Nicholas Co.
	Mary McClung	28	f			VA	Mary Newman Alderson, dau. of Col. George and Jeanette (McCleary) Alderson, b. 27 Nov. 1822, d. 18 Sept. 1899, bur. Enon, Nicholas Co.
	George McClung	5	m			VA	George Alderson McClung, b. 21 Feb. 1845, died in Civil War, 10 Aug. 1864, Frederick, MD.
	Ginnette McClung	2	f			VA	Jeanette Elizabeth McClung, b. 25 Jan. 1847, d. 9 Aug. 1869, bur. Enon, Nicholas Co.
	Margaret McClung	8/12	f			VA	Margaret Jane McClung, b. 19 Nov. 1849, d. 28 Jun. 1927, bur. Enon, Nicholas Co.
	Washington Grose	22	m	laborer		VA	
497	Monroe McClung	42	m	farmer	600	VA	John Monroe McClung, son of William and Jane (Alderson) McClung
	Nancy McClung	42	f			VA	maiden name McClung
	Sims McClung	21	m	farmer		VA	
	Marshall McClung	19	m	farmer		VA	b. 1830, d. 1912, bur. Mt. Lookout, Nicholas Co.
	William McClung	16	m	farmer		VA	
	Margaret McClung	13	f			VA	
498	Andrew McClung	32	m	farmer	200	VA	? Andrew C[arroll?], son of William and Jane (Alderson) McClung
	Susan McClung	28	f			VA	
	Lydia McClung	3	f			VA	
	Joseph McClung	2	m			VA	
	William McClung	4/12	m			VA	
501	Dickenson McClung	39	m	farmer	400	VA	Dr. Dickenson Carpenter McClung, son of James and Mary (Alderson) McClung
	Sarah McClung	35	f			VA	dau. of David and Ruth (Alderson) Evans
	Rufus McClung	15	m	farmer		VA	
	James McClung	13	m			VA	
	Mary McClung	11	f			VA	
	Matthew McClung	9	m			VA	
	Matilda McClung	7	f			VA	
	Ruth McClung	5	f			VA	
Granville McClung	3	m			VA		
502	William Evans	30	m	farmer		VA	son of David and Ruth (Alderson) Evans
	Sarah Evans	19	f			VA	Sarah Skaggs?
	Eunis Evans	2	f			VA	
503	Alkanah Evans	38	m	farmer	500	VA	son of David and Ruth (Alderson) Evans
	Nancy Evans	35	f			VA	Nancy Bare, md. 25 March 1834, Greenbrier Co.
	Lear? (Jean?) Evans	14	f			VA	
	Sarah Evans	12	f			VA	
	David Evans	11	m			VA	
	Mary Evans	9	f			VA	
	Alexander Evans	8	m			VA	
	Eliza Evans	7	f			VA	
	William Evans	5	m			VA	
	Lydia Evans	3	f			VA	
Virginia	7/12	f			VA		

(Continued next page)

Fam.#	Name	Age	Sex	Occup.	Real Est.	Born	Notes
505	Alexander McClung	47	m	farmer	1300	VA	son of William and Jane (Alderson) McClung, b. 7 Sept. 1803, Meadow Bluff, Greenbrier Co., d. 29 Dec. 1892, bur. Mt. Lookout, Nicholas Co.
	Jane McClung	44	f			VA	Jane Withrow, dau. of Robert and Jane (Alderson) Withrow, b. 1 Dec. 1806, Greenbrier Co., d. 1889, bur. Mt. Lookout, Nicholas Co.
	Mortimor McClung	18	m			VA	Mortimer Allen McClung, b. 12 Nov. 1831, Nicholas Co., moved to Reedy, Roane Co., VA 1853 (Wirt Co. to 1856), d. 9 June 1898, Roane Co., WV. Married Mary O'Dell of Nicholas Co.
	Albert McClung	17	m			VA	Albert Gallatin McClung, d. 21 Dec. 1863.
	Mary McClung	15	f			VA	Mary Jane McClung
	Amanda McClung	10	f			VA	Amanda Abigail McClung, d. 22 Oct. 1875, bur. Mt. Lookout, Nicholas Co.
	Adoniram McClung	8	m			VA	Adoniram Judson McClung, b. 12 Mar. 1842, d. 24 Mar. 1934. Baptist Minister.
	Leander McClung	6	f			VA	Leander Preston McClung
507	George McClung	44	m	farmer	500	VA	son of James and Mary (Alderson) McClung
	Abigail McClung	40	f			VA	Abigail Callison
	Isaac McClung	16	m	farmer		VA	Isaac Callison McClung; in school within year
	Mary McClung	14	f			VA	Mary Thomas McClung; in school within year
	George McClung	12	m			VA	George Lewis McClung; in school within year
	Catharine McClung	9	f			VA	
	Samuel McClung	7	m			VA	Samuel Roberts McClung
	Sarah McClung	4	f			VA	Sarah J. McClung
	Manerva McClung	2	f			VA	
	Nancy McClung	2	f			VA	Nancy Ann McClung



Nicholas Co., VA and surrounding counties, 1850.

Aldersons in Nicholas Co., VA

Nicholas County was formed from Greenbrier, Kanawha, and Randolph Cos., VA in 1818. Its original jurisdiction included the northeast portion of present-day Fayette Co. (formed 1831) north of the New River and east and south of the Gauley River, which bisects the county from east to west.

Many of the early Aldersons in Nicholas Co. lived in the Mt. Lookout region, located on the Meadow River about 10 miles south of Summersville, the county seat. In this area settled the children of David and Ruth (Alderson) Evans, William and Jane (Alderson) McClung, and the family of James and Mary (Alderson) McClung. They had arrived by 1830. Ruth, the daughter of Thomas and Sarah (Bond) Alderson, was originally from Monroe Co. Jane Alderson, daughter of the Rev. John Alderson Jr., lived in the Meadow Bluff area of Greenbrier Co. Mary Alderson, daughter of George and Sarah (Osborne) Alderson, was also from Greenbrier. Their husbands, William and James McClung, were brothers.

Farther north from Mt. Lookout at Enon lived the family of Allen and Mary Newman (Alderson) McClung. Mary was a daughter of Col. George Alderson of Lookout, Fayette Co., located about 12 miles south of Mt. Lookout. Allen and Mary were in Nicholas Co. by 1850, but others of Col. George's children arrived later. Son Joseph Allen Alderson moved to Summersville by 1852, where he practiced law, and son George Henry Clay Alderson was living at Enon by 1880. Son Lewis Newman Alderson also settled in Nicholas Co. by 1880.

Alderson Vital Records

There were undoubtedly a good many Aldersons who fought in the Civil War, both for the South and the North, but the service records of most have not been preserved. One who fought in this bloody conflict was Thomas M. Alderson, who was born about 1839 in Mercer Co., KY, enlisted in Richmond, IN and served during the last year of the war. He didn't finish his entire term of enlistment, as he was mustered out shortly after the war ended. Can anyone identify Thomas M. Alderson?



INDIANAPOLIS

January 17 19 76



This Certifies That the official records of which I am the lawful custodian, on file in this office show that ALDERSON, Thomas M.

joined for duty and was
enrolled as a Private of Company (B), 147th
Regiment, Indiana Volunteers, at Muncie, INDIANA on

the 21th day of January 18 65 by Lieutenant Gibson

and that he was duly mustered into the Military
Service of the United States at Richmond, Indiana on the 25th

day of January 18 65 for the term of one years by

Captain Kinley Mustering Officer

Age: 26 Eyes: hazel Hair: brown Height: 5' 5" Complexion: dark

Nativity: Mercer County, Kentucky Occupation: Cabinetmaker

Mustered out at Cumberland, Maryland, July 25, 1865.

This Certificate is given as official evidence of enlistment, service, and
muster-out of Thomas M. Alderson of

Company B, 147th Regiment, Indiana Volunteers.

Witness my hand and official seal.

STATE OF INDIANA
 Indiana State Library
 For the State Librarian

Alfred F. Ahner
Adjutant General, Indiana.

Lawrie G. Meldrum
 Lawrie G. Meldrum, Assistant Archivist

Editor's Corner

I was fortunate this fall to leave "Paradise" and travel to "Almost Heaven." Accompanied by my brother Bob and sister Marlene, I took off from Washington, DC, their current residence, for a few enjoyable days in southern West Virginia, where we were all born. We still have quite a few family members in West Virginia—scattered all over Greenbrier, Monroe, Summers, and Fayette counties, and it's always a delight to visit them.

This fall's visit was special, since I haven't had the good fortune to see autumn leaves in nearly ten years. I like Hawaii—it is beautiful and lush, the weather is superb, and the blue-green ocean beckons beyond each turn, but it doesn't have autumn. And there are few places where autumn presents such splendor as in West Virginia.

Although my brother and sister don't quite share my passion for genealogy, they do enjoy travelling with me in search of for-

gotten cemeteries and out-of-the-way churchyards. Whether on the rugged summits of Summers County or backroads of Fayette County hollows, there is always the



thrill of a spectacular lookout, a roaring waterfall, or the mystery of an old abandoned homestead.

My thoughts at times turned to how those autumn hills must have looked to the first settlers in the region some 230 years ago. Imagine the small group assembled with the Rev. John Alderson in late fall 1781, consecrating themselves to establish the first Baptist church west of the Alleghenies. Outside their humble dwellings lay the placid waters of the Greenbrier River, the towering peak of Keeny's Knob, and endless rows of hills all cloaked in the reds, yellows, and oranges of fall. They must have indeed felt they were in a blessed location.

Most of us are long since removed from our ancestors' simple beginnings. We have scattered all over the country, work in offices, drive on freeways, and watch movies on our VCRs. I for one treasure these rare chances to leave the rush behind and wander through the now-quiet hills that welcomed the first Alderson settlers.

Hoping all of you have a Merry Christmas and a most joyous and prosperous New Year!

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meantime purchased quite a large tract of land west of Muddy Creek and owning several slaves.

To them were born five children, George, Joseph K., Lewis A., Sarah, and Patsey.

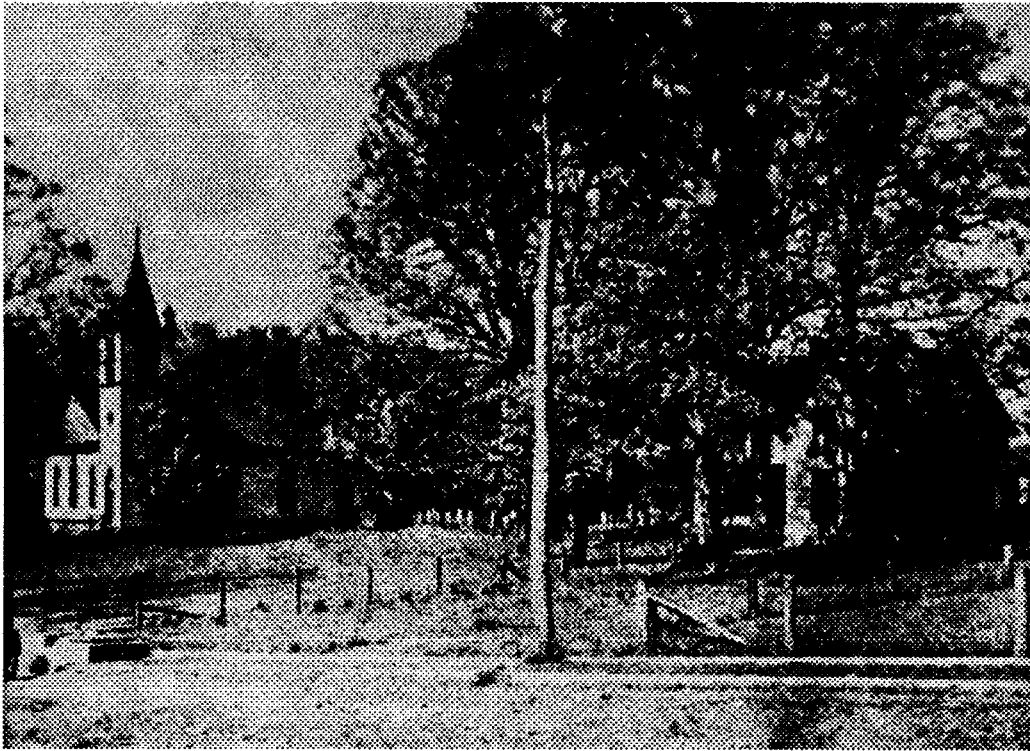
Col. George moved to Fayette, and was for a long time connected with the James River and Kanawha Improvement Company.

Joseph K. died when a young man and Lewis A., who inherited the home place, was a minister and was educated at Athens, Ohio, with T. and Lewis Caperton.

He moved to Atchinson, Kansas, and died a few years ago. Sarah married a man by the name of Smithson and lived and died on the Perry farm. Patsey married Wm. Feamster and was the mother of Messrs. S.W.N. and J.A. Feamster of Muddy Creek and died a few years ago at Lewisburg.

Queries

Seeking information on George ALDERSON b. ca. 1804 possibly in Lancashire County England. Married Mary ALDERSON ca. 1832 in England and had children Mary, Esther, Sarah, George B., John, Margaret, Elizabeth and Jane. Some children born in England and others in Pittsburgh, Penna. He died in Pittsburgh. Especially need birthplace or residence in England to do further research there. Lois Glasgow, 8056 Glenwood Ave., Youngstown, OH 44512.



Alderson Baptist Church and parsonage, 1920. The cemetery where many of the early Alderson family are buried can be seen in the background. This structure was torn down and replaced by the present stone building in 1931.

From Thomas W. Dixon, *The Rise and Fall of Alderson, West Virginia*, Parsons, WV: Parsons Print.Co., 1967, p. 11.



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 \$10 airmail, \$8 surface mail, payable by check to Mr. John Alderson, 133E Alameda Drive, Tempe, AZ 85282.

Alderson Roots & Branches

is a quarterly newsletter of *Alderson Cousins*, the family association devoted to research and discussion on the history and genealogy of the Alderson family, particularly the family of John Alderson, Sr., born 1699, Yorkshire, England, died 1780, Botetourt Co. VA.

Editor: David Fridley

Contributions in form of articles, photographs, vital records, Bible records, and other Alderson memorabilia are welcome. All material accompanied by a self-addressed stamped envelope can be returned. Suggestions, contributions, and research queries can be addressed to David Fridley, *Alderson Roots & Branches*, 817A 18th Ave., Honolulu, HI 96816.

Subscriptions are \$6 per year (\$10 international) 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 apiece. 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!