

# Alderson

Roots & Branches



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## Aldersons of Lafayette Co., Mississippi

by David Fridley

Lafayette County is located in northern Mississippi, near the Tennessee line. The area is primarily farmland and part of the extensive cotton-growing region developed in the rich "Black Belt" soils of Mississippi, Alabama and Georgia. Prior to 1830, settlement in Mississippi was limited largely to the Mississippi Delta region in the southwest, but pressures from the growing populations of Georgia and Alabama to gain control of the Native American lands covering extensive areas of the south led to the shameful "Removal Act" of 1830, backed by President Andrew Jackson, which mandated that Native Americans in this region be given land west of the Mississippi where they could be "voluntarily" resettled. In Mississippi, the Choctaw Cession of 1830 and the Chickasaw Cession of 1832 opened up the northern two-thirds of the state to new settlers, many of whom arrived from cotton-growing areas of Virginia, South Carolina, Georgia, and Tennessee. By

1850, the entire region was settled and dozens of new counties had been carved out of the Indian lands (see maps, page 2).

One of the early immigrants to northern Mississippi was Jeremiah Alderson, son of Benedict and Anne Alderson of Lunenburg Co., VA and York Co., SC. According to the research of Ms. Billie Hardy of Arlington, TX, Benedict was the son of John and Jane (Starks) Alderson of the Northern Neck of Virginia, whose family included:<sup>1</sup>

11. James Alderson, b. 18 May 1730, Richmond Co., VA, d. 1785, will probated 2 May 1785, Richmond Co., VA. Married Sarah Ann ?Glascock.

12. William Alderson, b. before 1737, Richmond Co., VA, d. 1790, will probated 7 June 1790, Richmond Co., VA. Married Mary ?Smith.

13. Reuben Alderson, b. after 1740, Richmond Co., VA. Married 19 Feb. 1781, Middlesex Co., VA, Mary Taff.

14. Jeremiah Alderson, b. after 1740, Richmond Co., VA. Married a Cole, sister of James Cole, Jr.

15. Benedict Alderson, b. ca. 1744/5, Richmond Co., VA, d. before 3 June 1795, York Co., SC.

16. John Alderson, b. after 1737, d. before 7 June 1762.

Benedict Alderson was married ca. 1765 to Anne, whose surname may have been Cole. Their first child, Elizabeth (Nancy) was born in 1766, perhaps in North Carolina.<sup>2</sup> Although later census reports of Benedict's children note that several of them were born in NC, Benedict and Anne appear in several Virginia county deed records in 1768 and 1778.<sup>3</sup> They apparently left Virginia for North Carolina by 1783 because Benedict owed the British government \$20.15 and did not have enough property to pay the claims.<sup>4</sup> By 1790, they had settled in York Co., SC, on the North Carolina border, where Benedict appears in the census listing. According to Billie Hardy, the family of Benedict Alderson consisted of:

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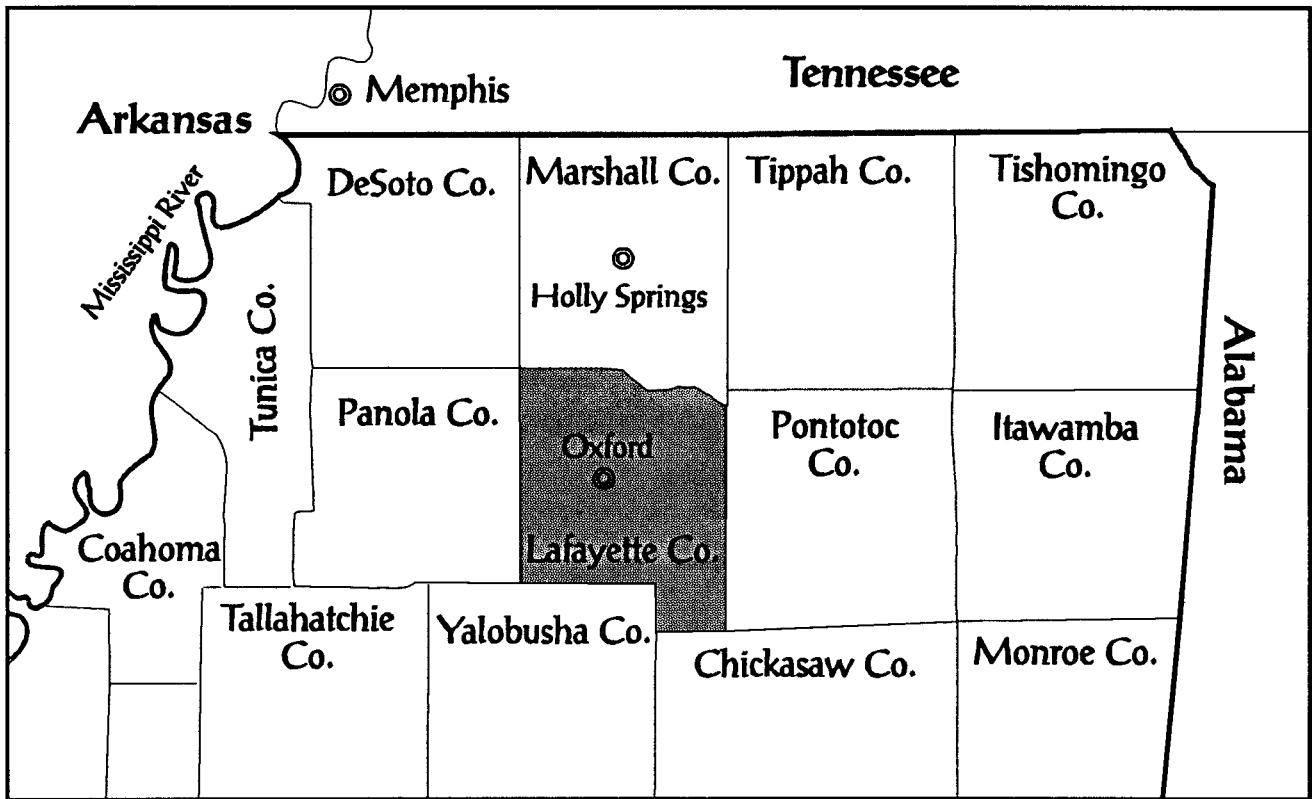
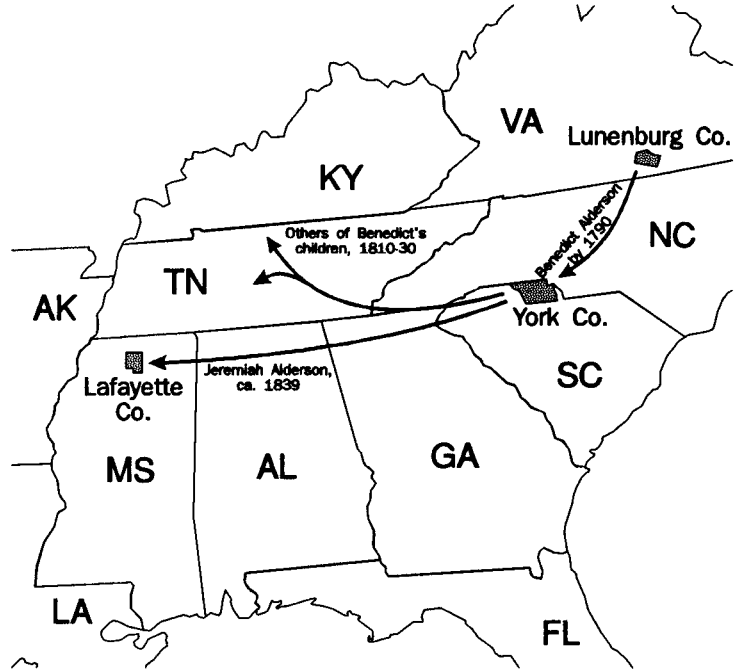
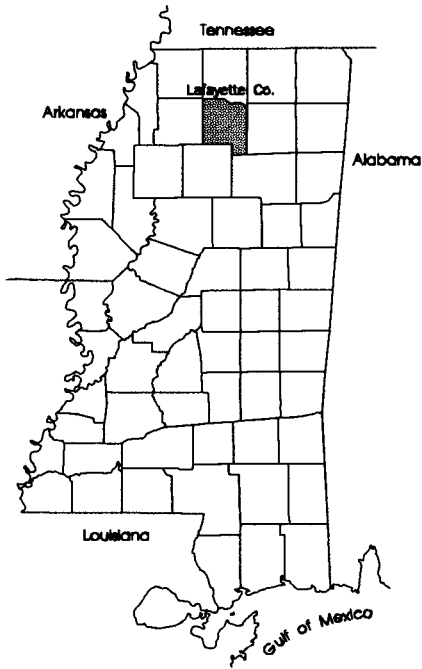
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1 The enumeration system used here numbers from John Alderson as "1", his eldest child as "11", his second child as "12", and so forth. Jeremiah, the subject of this article is thus "156", indicating that he is the fifth child of the sixth child of John Alderson.

2 In the 1880 Census of Maury Co., TN, Elizabeth's son F. Armistead Polk reported that his mother was born in NC. Billie Hardy is descended from this line.

3 Prince Edward Co., VA Deed Book 3, p. 425, 1768; Lunenburg Co., VA Deed Book 11, p. 222, 1768; Lunenburg Co., VA Deed Book 13, p. 120, 1778.

4 Helen Boswell, Moberly, MO, citing *Virginia Genealogy*, 1981, p. 287.



(upper right) Southeastern United States, 1850, showing migration paths of Benedict Alderson and his children.  
 (upper left) Mississippi, 1850  
 (lower) Lafayette and neighboring counties, 1850. Lafayette Co. was organized in 1836 from land ceded by the Chickasaws in 1832.

**151.** Elizabeth (Nancy) Alderson, b. 1766, NC, d. 24 November 1829, Maury Co., TN.<sup>5</sup> Married ca. 1789, John A. Polk of Mecklenburg Co., NC.

**152.** Armistead Alderson, b. ca. 1770, NC.<sup>6</sup> Married 14 January 1803, Mecklenburg Co., NC, Peggy Hutchinson. Lived in Maury Co., TN.

**153.** James Cole Alderson, b. before 1774, d. 1811, Roane Co., TN. His will begins "I, James C. Alderson, of Sumner Co., TN," but was probated in April 1811 in Roane Co., TN. Married Jane.

**154.** Mary Alderson, married before 1795, William Alderson, evidently her cousin.

**155.** Robert Alderson, b. ca. 1777, VA,<sup>7</sup> d. 1863, Maury Co., TN. Married first 20 February 1804, Mecklenburg Co., NC, Nancy Smith; married second 18 February 1840, Elizabeth Dodson.

**156.** Jeremiah Alderson, b. ca. 1780, VA, d. 1852 Lafayette Co., MS. Married Mary.

Except for Jeremiah Alderson, who left South Carolina for Mississippi, the other children of Benedict headed mainly for central Tennessee, where a number of their cousins had also settled (see "Aldersons of Middle Tennessee: Descendants of Jeremiah Alderson of Lunenburg Co., VA", *AR&B* vol. 2, no. 3, December 1990 for an account of the families of William and James Alderson of Sumner Co., TN, sons of Benedict's brother Jeremiah Alderson). The multiplicity of Alderson lines and names in Tennessee has made it difficult to sort out the different branches (compounded by the fact that some of the descendants of the Rev. John Alderson of Botetourt Co., VA also settled in Tennessee); this is a fertile area for further research by anyone who cannot resist the challenge of untangling family groups!

Jeremiah Alderson evidently married before 1800, though no marriage record has been found. He appears in the 1800 York Co., SC census, age 16-25, along with a male, aged under 5 years, and a female (Mary) age 16-25 (Mary was born ca. 1784 in North Carolina<sup>8</sup>). This child has not been identified, and to date no complete family grouping has been identified with certainty; however, based on census and marriage records, family naming patterns, migration patterns, and family legend, his known children have been identified as:

- 
- 5 Tombstone in Maury Co., TN.
  - 6 1850 Census, Maury Co., TN, age 80.
  - 7 1850 Census, Maury Co., TN, age 73.
  - 8 1850 Census, Lafayette Co., MS, age 66, born NC.
  - 9 1850 Census Lafayette Co., MS, age 43.
  - 10 1850 Census Lafayette Co., MS, age 30.
  - 11 1850 Census Lafayette Co., MS, age 29.
  - 12 1850 Census Lafayette Co., MS, age 29.

**1561.** James C. Alderson, b. c. 1807, York Co., SC.<sup>9</sup> Married Ann Eliza Weathers, b. ca. 1810, SC. James and Ann arrived in Lafayette Co., MS around 1840/41, and both appear in the 1850, 1860 and 1870 censuses. James is buried at the Old Shiloh Cemetery in Lafayette Co., although his death date is currently unknown.

**1562.** Anna A. Alderson, b. 1 Dec 1808, York Co., SC, d. 26 Mar 1881, Brenham, Washington Co., TX. Married 23 Dec 1828, NC, John Armistead Polk, b. 14 Dec 1809, Mecklenburg Co., NC, d. 20 Apr 1883, Giddings, Lee Co., TX. John and Anna lived a true peripatetic life, moving from North Carolina to Tennessee, to Lafayette Co., MS and Marshall Co., MS, then on to Bastrop Co., Texas, southeast of Austin). The family was in Corpus Christi, Nueces Co., TX in 1860 and 1870, and Hays Co. (southwest of Austin) in 1880.

John Armistead Polk was a first cousin to President James K. Polk. Both were grandchildren of Ezekiel and Mary (Wilson) Polk of Pennsylvania, North Carolina, and Tennessee.

**1563.** Jane Alderson, b. 1806-1810?, York Co., SC. Married James Listenbee. Appears in Lafayette Co., MS. No further information.

**1564.** Elizabeth P. Alderson, b. c. 1820, York Co., SC.<sup>10</sup> Married James G. Mills, b. ca. 1815, SC.

**1566.** Benjamin F. Alderson, b. c. 1821, York Co., SC.<sup>11</sup> He married Margaret, b. ca. 1823, NC. Benjamin and Margaret moved north to Marshall Co., MS by 1860.

**1567.** Mary Alderson, b. c. 1821, York Co., SC,<sup>12</sup> d. in Texas, b. c. 1821, York Co., SC, d. in Texas. She married James M. Peoples, b. ca. 1804 in NC, d. 14 July 1858, Lafayette Co., MS, buried at the Old Cambridge Cemetery, Lafayette Co., MS. Mary may have later left Lafayette Co. and moved to Texas.

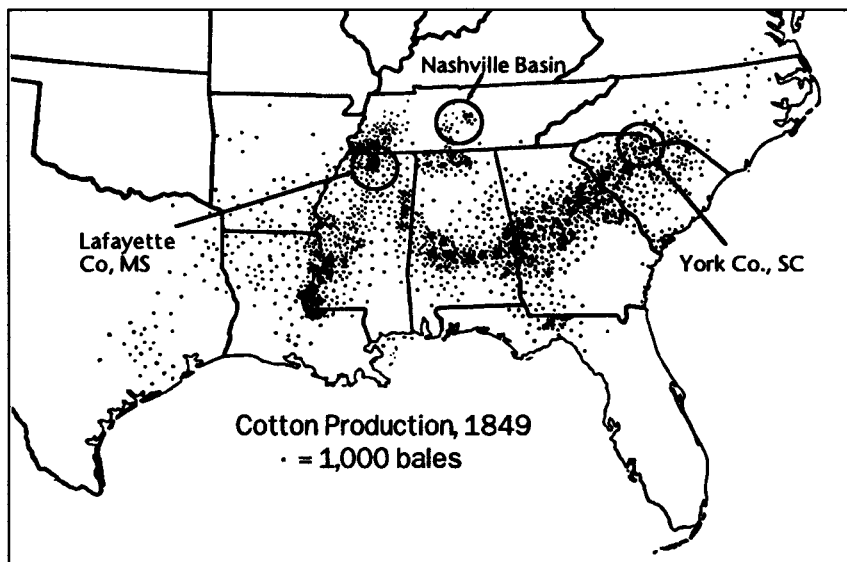
**1568.** Jeremiah Alderson, b. 2 Aug 1824, York Co., SC, d. 16 Apr 1879, Lafayette Co., MS, buried Duke Cemetery, Riverside, Lafayette Co., MS. Jeremiah was married on 20 Jan 1846, Lafayette Co., MS, to Martha H. Butler, daughter of John (b. ca. 1790, VA) and Elizabeth (b. ca. 1794, SC) Butler, born in SC. Both are buried at the Duke Cemetery, Riverside, Lafayette Co., MS.

Given the gap in known dates between Anna and Elizabeth, there were likely other children as well. In the 1820 York Co. census, Jeremiah is listed with 2 males, age 0-9, b. 1811-1820; it is not known who these children were. In the 1830 York Co. census, there appears a Benedict Alderson, age 20-29, who may have been one of these sons.

It is not known why Jeremiah Alderson chose to settle in Mississippi while most of his siblings moved to Tennessee, but the reason is likely connected with "King Cotton." As seen in the map to the right, York Co., SC, the Nashville basin in Tennessee (including Davidson, Robertson, Williamson, and Maury Cos.) and Lafayette Co., Mississippi were all centers of cotton production by 1849. Although we have no indication that Jeremiah or his brothers and sisters were cotton growers, there exists one letter from Jeremiah's son Jeremiah, dated 1872, in which he tells his daughter and son-in-law "I think that we will get don picken cotton this weake."<sup>13</sup> As the fertility of the eastern cotton lands declined, it is easy to imagine the lure of the rich soils of Tennessee and Mississippi.

The date of Jeremiah's arrival in Mississippi is uncertain. He appears as the only Alderson head of family in the 1840 Lafayette Co., MS census, but the household also included, among others, a female of age 0-4; this is likely Mary P. Mills, b. ca. 1839 in Alabama<sup>14</sup>, daughter of Jeremiah's daughter Elizabeth P. Alderson and son-in-law James G. Mills, with whom Jeremiah and Mary were living in 1850 as well. This may indicate that Jeremiah and Mary set out with their daughter's family, stopping in Alabama before making their way to Mississippi.

In 1840, Jeremiah deeded possession of six of his slaves to his daughters Anna A., wife of John A. Polk (who arrived in Lafayette Co. by 1840), and to Jane, wife of James Listenbee. Anna received a female slave named Leah, age about 25 years, along with two children, Cato, age 7, and Sutton age 5.



Major cotton-producing areas, 1849, in relation to the settlement pattern of the family of Benedict Alderson. (From Frederick Merk, *History of the Westward Movement*, New York: Knopf, 1978, p. 51.)

Daughter Jane was given Matilda, age about 28 years, along with Ibby, age 4, and Alford, age 2.<sup>15</sup>

The rest of the family arrived shortly thereafter. Daughter Mary's son Richard Peoples was born in Mississippi about 1843, as was William, son of Jeremiah's son Benjamin. Son Jeremiah's daughter Sarah J. was born in Mississippi in 1847. Son James left South Carolina some time after 1838, when his son Jeremiah was born, and had arrived in Mississippi by 1841, when son Samuel H. was born. James apparently was settled quickly; in 1842, he appears as a grantor to John D. Martin, transferring four lots in the town of Oxford.<sup>16</sup>

### Family of James C. Alderson

**15611.** William F. Alderson, b. c. 1836, SC. Married 29 Dec 1859,<sup>17</sup> Lafayette Co., MS, Anne E. Mills (**15643**), b. c. 1841, Lafayette Co., MS, daughter of James G. and Elizabeth P. (Alderson) Mills. Anne (Mills) Alderson and four children were living with Anne's father in the 1880 Lafayette Co. census. According to Mrs. Dovie Gunn, "Aunt Ann Mills married William Alderson her cousin. She lived with him only a short time. They moved to Arkansas. Uncle William died of pneumonia there

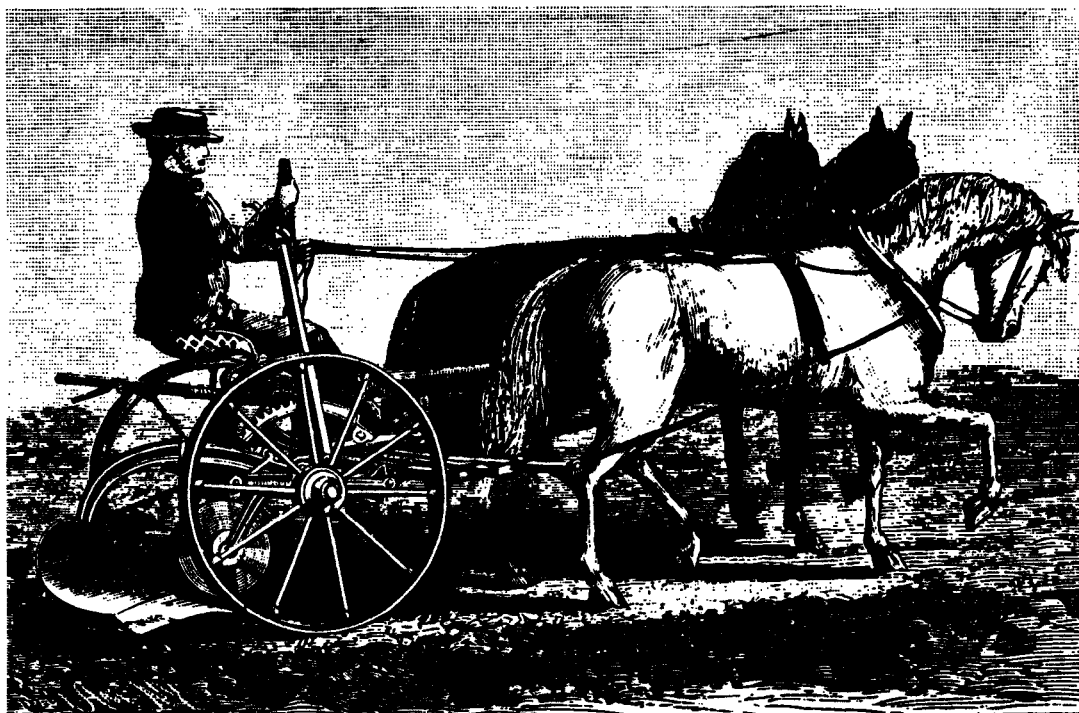
<sup>13</sup> Letter from Jeremiah M. Alderson of Lafayette Co., MS to Thomas Able and Ellen (Alderson) Boyd of Lauderdale Co., TN (about 45 miles north of Memphis), dated 18 September 1872. Transcript of original letter provided by Capt. Boyd D. Gaines, Hertford, NC.

<sup>14</sup> 1850 Census Lafayette Co., MS, age 11, b. AL.

<sup>15</sup> Lafayette Co., MS Deed Book B, p. 337 and 338, recorded 13 May 1840.

<sup>16</sup> Deed Book D, p. 67, December 1842.

<sup>17</sup> Lafayette Co., MS Marriages, Book 2, p. 84.



and she came back to Mississippi, but she had eight children, her fifth child was named Nora.<sup>18</sup>

**15612.** Jeremiah M. Alderson, b. Feb 1838, SC. Married 30 Jan 1868,<sup>19</sup> Lafayette Co., MS, Harriet "Hattie" Adams, b. Oct 1847, MS, d. 8 Dec 1908, Lafayette Co MS. Jeremiah and Hattie are buried at the Old Cambridge Cemetery, Lafayette Co., MS.

**15613.** John P. Alderson, b. c. 1840, SC. Married Mary Pritchard. Both died in Texas.

**15614.** Samuel H. Alderson, b. c. 1841, Lafayette Co., MS. Married 30 Nov 1881, Lafayette Co., MS,<sup>20</sup> H.E. Owen.

**15615.** Mary Julia Alderson, b. c. 1844, Lafayette Co., MS. Married James McGregor.

**15616.** James S. Alderson, b. c. 1846, Lafayette Co., MS.

**15617.** Sarah A. Alderson, b. c. 1849, Lafayette Co., MS. Married G.B. "Jack" Adams, b. ca. 1845, AL. Jack and Sarah were living with Sarah's parents in

the 1870 census, Lafayette Co., MS, along with two of her children.

**15618.** Ara J. Alderson, b.c. 1855, Lafayette Co., MS. Married 25 Feb 1875, Lafayette Co., MS,<sup>21</sup> William H. Butler.

**15619.** Nancy A. "Nannie" Alderson, b. Mar 1860 Lafayette Co., MS. Married 29 Feb 1880, Lafayette Co., MS,<sup>22</sup> C.A. "Lum" Hall.

**1561X.** Wash Alderson, married Lisa Peoples.<sup>23</sup>

**1561A.** Dink Alderson, "died before marriage age in Lafayette County."<sup>24</sup>

### Family of Anna A. Alderson<sup>25</sup>

**15621.** Milas Roberson Polk, b. 12 Sep 1829, NC. Never married.

**15622.** James K. Polk, b. 7 Sep 1831, NC, d. 1863.

<sup>18</sup> *The Alderson Family of Lafayette Co., MS*, undated and unpublished manuscript in possession of Mrs. Vetra Alderson Stephens, Oxford, MS, 1975, p. 6. Vetra was the granddaughter of Jeremiah and Hattie (Adams) Alderson.

<sup>19</sup> Lafayette Co., MS Marriages, Book 2, p. 270.

<sup>20</sup> Lafayette Co., MS Marriages, Book 4, p. 582.

<sup>21</sup> Lafayette Co., MS Marriages, Book 4, p. 226.

<sup>22</sup> Lafayette Co., MS Marriages, Book 5, p. 389.

<sup>23</sup> *The Alderson Family of Lafayette Co., MS*, p. 6.

<sup>24</sup> *The Alderson Family of Lafayette Co., MS*, p. 6.

<sup>25</sup> Information on the family of John A. and Anna A. (Alderson) Polk is from Mrs. Mary Griffin of Lufkin, TX, descendant of John and Anna, in part citing dates from the Polk family Bible.

**15623.** Mary B. Polk, b. 6 Mar 1833, TN, d. 6 Dec 1936. Married 22 Sept 1851, Greenberry B. Moore.

**15624.** Joseph A. Polk, b. 20 Jun 1836, TN, d. 1864.

**15625.** John A. Polk Jr., b. 6 May 1838, Oxford, Lafayette Co., MS, d. 26 Mar 1866.

**15626.** Nancy Jane Polk, b. 23 Aug 1840, Oxford, Lafayette Co., MS. Married 1868, William B. Dean.

**15627.** Marshall Tate Polk, b. 1841(?), d. 15 Oct 1841, MS.

**15628.** William A. Polk, b. 19 Jan 1843, MS, d. 7 Aug 1852, TX.

**15629.** Jeremiah B. Polk, b. 17 Oct 1845, MS, d. 12 Aug 1846, MS.

**1562X.** Thomas Franklin Polk, b. 27 Sep 1847, MS, d. 21 Dec 1848, MS.

**1562A.** Cora Ann Polk, b. 9 Mar 1850, Mt. Pleasant, Marshall Co., MS, d. 9 May 1872. Married 7 Apr 1868, Lewis Buckner Hightower.

**1562B.** Annie Laura Polk, b. 22 May 1855, Bastrop, Bastrop Co., TX, d. 11 Feb 1940. Married 7 Apr 1873, Thomas Swift Parker.

### Family of Elizabeth P. Alderson

**15641.** Mary Mills, b. c. 1839, AL

**15642.** Nancy P. Mills, b. c. 1841, Lafayette Co., MS.

**15643.** Ann E. Mills, b. c. 1843, Lafayette Co., MS. Married 29 Dec 1859, Lafayette Co., MS, William F. Alderson (**15611**), b. ca. 1836, SC, son of James C. and Ann Eliza (Weathers) Alderson.

**15644.** Washington M. Mills, b. c. 1845, Lafayette Co., MS.

**15645.** John F. Mills, b. c. 1848, Lafayette Co., MS.

### Family of Benjamin F. Alderson

**15651.** William G. Alderson, b. c. 1843, Lafayette Co., MS. Married 21 Aug 1865, Marshall Co., MS, Lucinda Sturdivant.

**15652.** Jeremiah Alderson, b. c. 1844, Lafayette Co., MS. Married 17 Jun 1873, Marshall Co., MS, Eliza Young.

**15653.** Mary E. Alderson, b. c. 1845, Lafayette Co., MS. Married 11 Feb 1867, Marshall Co., MS, John L. Aday.

**15654.** Martha A. Alderson, b. c. 1846, Lafayette Co., MS. Married 30 Aug 1866, Marshall Co., MS, Elisha Barlow.

**15655.** Benjamin F. Alderson, b. c. 1847, Lafayette Co., MS. Married 11 Jan 1871, Marshall Co., MS, Lucinda Catherine Aday.

**15656.** James (H.?) K. Alderson, b. c. 1849, Lafayette Co., MS.

### Family of Mary Alderson<sup>26</sup>

**15661.** Richard Peoples, b. c. 1843, Lafayette Co., MS.

**15662.** Annie Louise Peoples, b. c. 1845, b2. 12 Feb 1843, Lafayette Co., MS. Married 8 Nov 1859, Lafayette Co., MS, John James Woodard, son of Samuel a. and Emily (Preston) Woodard, b. 9 Nov 1837, Lincoln Co., TN, d. 4 May 1916, Lafayette Co., MS. John and Annie (Peoples) Woodard are the great-grandparents of Mrs. Betty Loffredo, Des Moines, IA.

**15663.** Isabella Hannah Peoples, b. c. 1846, Lafayette Co., MS, d. 10 Aug 1917, Lafayette Co., MS.

**15664.** Elizabeth Jane Peoples, b. c. 1848, b2. 1 Oct 1844, Lafayette Co., MS, d. 27 Sep 1907. Married 12 Dec 1867, Lafayette Co., MS, Henry Woodard.

**15665.** Mary J. Peoples, b. c. 1851, Lafayette Co., MS. Married 28 Oct 1875, Lafayette Co., MS, P.O. Herndon.

### Family of Jeremiah M. Alderson

**15671.** Sarah Jane Alderson, b. 17 Feb 1847, Lafayette Co., MS<sup>27</sup> d. 21 Dec 1904, Lafayette Co., MS. Married James Aaron Houston, b. 16 Nov 1847, Lafayette Co., MS, son of John Eurelius Walker and Louisa Jane (Morrow) Houston of Mecklenburg Co., NC; d. 25 Aug 1939, Lafayette Co., MS. Both are buried at the Midway Cemetery, Lafayette Co., MS.<sup>28</sup>

**15672.** Mary Elizabeth Alderson, b. 10 May 1849, Lafayette Co., MS.

**15673.** Margaret Ellen Alderson, b. 9 Aug 1851, Lafayette Co., MS, d. 25 Mar 1930, Walker, White Co., AK. Married 21 November 1867, Lafayette Co.,

<sup>26</sup> The 1850 Census of Lafayette Co., MS lists: James M. Peoples, 46, b. NC; Mary, 29, b. SC; Richard, 7, b. MS; Ann L., 5, b. MS; Hannah I., 4, b. MS; Elizabeth, 2, b. MS. The alternate dates of birth, as well as death and marriage dates, for their children are provided by Mrs. Betty Loffredo, Des Moines, IA, from cemetery, marriage and other family records.

<sup>27</sup> The birthdates of Jeremiah's ten children are from the *Lafayette County, Mississippi History*, p. 375.

<sup>28</sup> *Lafayette Co., MS History*, p. 375.

MS, Thomas Able Boyd.<sup>29</sup> Moved to Lauderdale Co., TN by 1871, and later to White Co., AK. Thomas Boyd was a CSA veteran, 2nd Miss. Cavalry, paroled June 1865. Both are buried in the Walker Cemetery, Walker, White Co., AK. Thomas and Margaret (Alderson) Boyd are the great-grandparents of Boyd D. Gaines, Hertford, NC.

**15674.** Annie Polk Alderson, b. 16 Oct 1853, Lafayette Co., MS.

**15675.** Emma Opal Alderson, b. 22 Apr 1856, b2. 22 Apr 1855, Lafayette Co., MS. Married 24 Nov 1875, Lafayette Co., MS, B.D. Temple.<sup>30</sup>

**15676.** Susie Butler Alderson, b. 23 Dec 1858, Lafayette Co., MS.

**15677.** Jimmy Hudson Alderson, b. 14 Mar 1861, Lafayette Co., MS.

**15678.** John Mabrey Alderson, b. 26 Oct 1864, Lafayette Co., MS.

**15679.** Ada Askew Alderson, b. 22 Apr 1866, Lafayette Co., MS.

**1567X.** Ida Nevada Alderson, b. 13 Jul 1869, Lafayette Co., MS, d. 28 Oct 1940. Married 2 Dec 1890, Lafayette Co., MS, James Spence.

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## Aston/Alderson Marriage



Lebanon, Va. April 27th 1846

Col. & Mrs. Alderson,

I hope you will excuse the liberty I take though a total stranger, of addressing you a line on so delicate a subject. It may ere this have come to your knowledge that your daughter Margaret and myself, during her soujourn in Russell, have formed attachments for each other, and have mutually pledged ourselves that, with your consent, we will have the rites of matrimony solemnised between us.

The object then of this, is respectfully to ask your consent to that arrangement. It would perhaps have been desirable to you as I know it would to myself, that I should have visited you

and formed some acquaintance with you and you with me before asking the hand of your daughter; but circumstances render it inconvenient if not impracticable, for me to visit you sooner than the month of August, which time we have designated as that when the matrimonial rites are to be solemnised; hence this is the only mode left me of communicating with you upon the subject. As you have no acquaintance with me I would refer you to your relatives and acquaintances in this country for a history of me. Hoping the above arrangement will meet your apperbation and requesting an answer as early as convenient I subscribe myself

Yours respectfully

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[William B. Aston, born 22 December 1817, was the son of Samuel and Sarah (White) Aston of Russell Co., VA. He married Margaret Catherine Alderson, daughter of Col. George and his first wife Jeanette Creigh (McCleary) Alderson of Fayette Co., (W)Va. Margaret was born 29 August 1824 in Greenbrier Co., VA, and died 23 February 1885. William and Margaret had no children. William's older brother, Samuel W. Aston, married Louisa Carroll Alderson, daughter of Thomas Alderson and granddaughter of Davis and Leah (Carroll) Alderson in 1835. Margaret's older brother, Thomas Creigh McCleary Alderson, was a merchant in Lebanon, Russell Co. after 1830, and it was probably during a visit to him that she met her future husband. Submitted by Norman Hemphill, Shawnee Mission, KS.]

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## Biography of Rev. John Alderson

In the last issue of the newsletter, I included an article requesting information concerning a biography of the Rev. John Alderson in the *Baptist Encyclopedia* of 1881, brought to my attention by Ms. Susan Sharp of the Alderson Family History Soci-

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<sup>29</sup> Lafayette Co., MS Marriage Book 2, p. 269.

<sup>30</sup> Lafayette Co., MS Marriages, Book 4, p. 278.

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ety in England. Within a few weeks of mailing, I received a copy of the relevant pages from Mrs. Nancy Piper of Colby, Kansas, who purchased the book at a library book sale several years ago. The following is the entry in the encyclopedia about the Rev. John Alderson:

\* \* \* \*

Rev. John Alderson was born in Yorkshire, England, in 1699. His father, Rev. John Alderson, was a minister of respectable standing in his denomination. His son, the subject of this notice, was a wayward youth, and, at the age of nineteen or twenty, came to America on board a British man-of-war. Locating in New Jersey, near the old Bethlehem church, he worked in the field for a respectable farmer by the name of Curtis, whose favor he secured, and whose daughter he married.

Having embraced the Saviour in the fullness of his heart, he was baptized, and received into the Bethlehem church. Possessing a clear intellect and a heart deeply imbued by divine grace, he was encouraged to give himself to the ministry of the Word. At length he was sent forth as a herald of the Cross by his church.

Thomas Hollis, of London, who was noted in his day for aiding Baptist ministers with good books, had presented Rev. John Alderson, of Yorkshire, with several volumes, among which were "Keach on the Parables," "Keach on Scripture Metaphors," large folio, and "Cottin's Concordance," quarto, London, 1635. The aged father sent these books to his son as an evidence of his inexpressible pleasure in learning that he had changed his manner of life and was now a preacher of the gospel. Mr. Alderson removed to Germantown, and here continued in the ministry until 1755, when he located in Rockingham Co., Va.

This frontier country had been previously visited by himself, Benjamin Griffith, Samuel Eaton, and John Gano. On the urgent solicitation of the few brethren there Mr. Alderson was induced to settle as their preacher, and on the 6th of August, 1756, he was instrumental in organizing them into a church, called Smith's and Linville Creek church.

A little Baptist church, which became extinct, existed in the Isle of Wight County in 1714. The Opeckon was constituted, in Berkeley County, in 1743, and this church, constituted by Mr. Alderson, was the third that had a name in the State of Virginia. Though twice dispersed by inroads of the In-

dians, "after two or three years," says Semple, the historian, "they rallied again, and put their church matters in regular order. On the 12th of October, 1762, Mr. Alderson attended the meeting of the Philadelphia Association, when his church was received as a member of the body." Subsequently, Mr. Alderson removed to Botetourt Co., Va. Like many of the early Baptist ministers of that State, he did not escape persecution. He was imprisoned in the jail at Fincastle. He died in 1781, in the eighty-third year of his age, and was buried in the grave-yard of his neighborhood, afterwards abandoned and overgrown with tall oaks, with neither hillock nor stone to mark his resting place.

\* \* \* \*

From *The Baptist Encyclopedia*, William Cathcart, D.D., editor, Philadelphia: Louis H. Everts, 1881, Supplemental Volume, p. 1289. This biography of the Rev. John Alderson draws upon earlier biographies from Semple (1810) and perhaps Taylor (1838), but adds new information not in the earlier works. Of particular interest is Cathcart's mention of "several volumes, among which were *Keach on the Parables*, *Keach on Scripture Metaphors ...* and *Cottin's Concordance*" that were sent by the elder John Alderson of Yorkshire to his son in America. In the will of the Rev. John Alderson, dated 24 February 1780, he bequeaths to his son John "W. Keith's parabales,"<sup>32</sup> evidently referring to *Keach on the Parables* sent him by his father. The Rev. Lewis A. Alderson, in his notes on the life of the Rev. John Alderson dated 1873(?), referred to the "...three large books on religious subjects. These books were handed down from clergyman to clergyman and are said to be some place in the Middle West at present."<sup>33</sup> Another source claims that the books are in the West Virginia Department of Archives and History at Charleston; to date, the books have not been located.

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## Query

Still need help on my Mitchell/Michael ALDERSON b. 1834 in OH, md. 1856 in Warren Co., IN, d. 1913 in IL. Believe he is related to Vermillion Co. Aldersons and could be related to Orange Co. Aldersons. Anyone researching those two counties please write. Also will give free help to anyone needing Indiana research done on any Aldersons. James R. Coleman, 2332 E. North St., Bremen, IN 46506.

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32 I have not seen a copy of John Alderson's original will; this wording is from a transcript. *Keith* may be a misreading for *Keach*.

33 See "John Alderson, Senior: the Progenitor," *Alderson Roots & Branches*, Vol. 1, No. 1, June 1989, p. 5.

## Selected Alderson Marriages in Indiana, 1822-1934

ALDERSON	SPOUSE	DATE	COUNTY
Robert	Celiza GOODMAN	Jan. 29, 1870	Bartholomew
Maggie	Joseph PATTERSON	Jan. 4, 1914	Clark
Westella	Regger VAUGHN	Jan. 10, 1915	Clark
Margaret	Charles W. REED	Feb. 4, 1886	Clay
Thomas	Sadie CRISS	Jun. 17, 1897	Clay
J. W.	Phoebe PATCHETT	May 20, 1889	Clinton
Chas. T.	Daisy PITTSFORD	Feb. 2, 1895	Delaware
James W.	Sarah J. BRIGHT	Apr. 8, 1871	Delaware
John W.	Rebecca JACKSON	Mar. 10, 1877	Delaware
Joseph R.	Midline WEST	Nov. 6, 1895	Delaware
Lena	Charles GEORGE	Apr. 29, 1916	Delaware
Lena M.	Joseph SHIDELER	Apr. 17, 1912	Delaware
Moses L.	M. N. CAMPBELL	Jun. 9, 1870	Delaware
Thomas M.	Mary F. CLAIR	Dec. 23, 1875	Delaware
Leer (Leeh)	John SEE	Apr. 15, 1836	Elkhart
Olney L.	M. A. VANMETRE	Nov. 15, 1919	Floyd
Richard	Malinda INGRAM	Mar. 14, 1836	Floyd
Samuel B.	Marinda SWOPE	Sep. 26, 1828	Floyd
Elbert	Francis BILLINGS	Jun. 13, 1934	Fountain
Elsie	G. Claud BABB	Mar. 9, 1907	Fountain
Harry	Bertha BLACKFUL	Aug. 15, 1917	Fountain
Henry	Phebe A. HOBART	Sep. 30, 1879	Fountain
Harvy B.	Margaret JACKSON	May 11, 1882	Gibson
Maggie	Wilson STRICKLAND	Jun. 5, 1898	Gibson
Ada	William RICE	Jul 1, 1919	Greene
Charles	May REED	Aug. 8, 1917	Greene
Eleanor	Wm. E. DOURAUGH	Mar. 27, 1915	Greene
Henrettie	M. M. PRIEST	Apr. 28, 1915 ?	Greene
Minnie M.	Louis I. REAMS	Sep. 7, 1912	Greene
Benj. A.	Mary J. RUSH	Jan. 24, 1914	Hancock
Amos	Elizabeth Jane SHANNFELT	Feb. 26, 1854	Hendricks
Harriett	Lewis GEORGE	Jan. 9, 1845	Hendricks
Mary L.	Edgar J. ANDREW	Sep. 18, 1889	Hendricks
Cora	Lee ANDERSON	Sep. 20, 1902	Howard
Samson D.	Mable M. COOPER	Feb. 21, 1920	Howard
Ada E.	Allen C. ANDERSON	Jul 12, 1904	Johnson
Benj. F.	Opal WOOD	Aug. 13, 1900	Johnson
Geo. W.	Mary E. BRUMIT	Dec. 7, 1887	Johnson
Geo.	Cora FRESHOUR	Jun. 1, 1910	Knox
Eva E.	Edgel L. DONLEY	May 2, 1914	Madison
Bertha E.	Henry W. FLORY	Jul 27, 1903	Marion
Charles F.	Emma BARTON	Nov. 27, 1902	Marion
John W.	Wealthy BARNETT	Sep. 20, 1905	Marion
Margaret	Homer E. WRIGHT	Nov. 20, 1904	Marion
Phoebe	Andrew JOHNSON	Nov. 27, 1901	Marion

(continued next page)

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James W.	Eva FREIND	Apr. 13, 1896	Marion
John W.	Martha I. DAVISSON	Oct. 23, 1899	Marion
Eliza	Daniel T. SANDERS	Oct. 28, 1894	Marion
Pearl E.	William L. ALDERSON	Dec. 24, 1894	Marion
William L.	Pearl E. ALDERSON	Dec. 24, 1894	Marion
Flossie M.	Thomas C. GOINS	Jul 21, 1917	Marion
Marjorie E.	William L. STOUT	Feb. 17, 1917	Marion
William	Cora COMPTON	Nov. 8, 1920	Marion
Charles F.	Clara McGRUDER	Jun 21, 1910	Marion
Edna G.	Warren A. CHAPMAN	Dec. 9, 1909	Marion
Pearl E.	Fred A. HOFFMAN	Aug. 27, 1910	Marion
William	Nora B. BOGGS	Mar. 12, 1910	Marion
Marie	Arthur L. HAYNES	Nov. 11, 1911	Marion
Marie	John M. CLINE	Jul 11, 1914	Marion
Norman K.	Margaret M. JESTER	Mar. 1, 1915	Marion
Otis	Marie Bertie HARRING	May 28, 1922	Marion
Joseph R.	Ella W. COX	Sep. 18, 1901	Morgan
Walter O.	Mary SPARKS	Mar. 28, 1908	Morgan
Ada	William E. REYNOLDS	Feb. 26, 1914	Orange
Alex. M.	Roxanna CHAMBERS	Dec. 6, 1853	Orange
Charles O.	Margaret C. HENDERSON	Dec. 20, 1876	Orange
Daisy M.	Harry M. JONES	Mar. 18, 1899	Orange
Elbert	Ada MOORE	Sep. 28, 1904	Orange
Lillie R.	James A. DAVIDSON	July 3, 1891	Orange
Mary E.	Thomas W. STEVENS	Apr. 19, 1876	Orange
Moses	Ruth DICKS	Feb. 10, 1817	Orange
Richard H.	Louisa F. DALTON	Dec. 25, 1887	Orange
Albert	Emma BROWN	Aug. 11, 1910	Posey
Eva	William THORNBURG	Apr. 2, 1915	Posey
Dessie E.	Harry WEBSTER	Oct. 3, 1912	St. Joseph
Jason L.	Lydia GRABOWSKY	Jul 17, 1917	St. Joseph
Bessie	William DAVIDSON	Apr. 25, 1904	Tippecanoe
Clyde	Anna Alma NOLEN	Nov. 27, 1918	Vanderburgh
Essie Mildred	Jerome C. BUSCH	Mar. 18, 1913	Vanderburgh
Nellie	Daniel PRYOR	Jun 10, 1909	Vanderburgh
Pauline	John F. HUMMEL	Aug. 29, 1918	Vanderburgh
Fanny	Nathan MOORE	Sep. 13, 1868	Vermillion
Harrison	Elizabeth FLEMING	Mar. 1, 1871	Vermillion
Harry	Alcie J. NEEL	May 24, 1894	Vermillion
Horace B.	Mary FLEMING	Feb. 10, 1850	Vermillion
Nellie	Melvin LONG	Nov. 26, 1897	Vermillion
Richard	Ellen HUGHES	Oct. 21, 1869	Vermillion
Sterling	Rebecca JOHNSON	Mar. 7, 1857	Vermillion
Luther A.	Candias E. LLOYD	Mar. 30, 1877	Vigo
Samuel M.	Mary BEBEE	Aug. 10, 1842	Vigo
Mitchell	Belinda RUCKMAN	Sept 11, 1856	Warren
Elizabeth	Elihu ELLIS	Feb. 28, 1822	Wayne
Victor C.	Harriett E. THOMAS	July 3, 1888	Wayne

Many thanks to Mr. James R. Coleman of Bremen, IN, who compiled and submitted this listing.

# Marriage of Levi and Clemency Alderson

KNOW all men by these presents, that we *Levi Alderson*  
*Isaac Hutcheson*  
 are held and firmly bound unto His Excellency *Thos M Randolph*  
 Esquire, Governor of Virginia, and his successors, for the use of the Com-  
 monwealth, in the sum of one hundred and fifty dollars, to which payment  
 well and truly to be made, we bind ourselves, our heirs, executors and ad-  
 ministrators jointly and severally, firmly by these present. Sealed and dated  
 this *19<sup>th</sup>* day of *Febry* 1820 in the *44<sup>th</sup>* year  
 of the Commonwealth.

THE Condition of the above obligation is such, that whereas a marriage is  
 shortly intended to be solemnized between the above bound *Levi*

*Alderson & Clemency Alderson*

of Monroe County if therefore, there shall be no lawful cause to obstruct  
 the said marriage, then the above obligation to be void: otherwise to re-  
 main in full force and virtue.

Signed, Sealed and Delivered  
 in the Presence of }

*Levi Alderson* L. S.  
*Isaac Hutcheson* E. S.

*to the Clark of Monroe County*  
*this Certifycat will*  
 authorize you to eshu licens for my Daughth  
*Clemncy Alderson and Levi Alderson to be*  
 joind In the holy Bands of marimony  
*February 19<sup>th</sup> 1820* { *Thomas Alderson*

Above: Marriage Bond for Levi Alderson and Clemency Alderson, Monroe Co., VA, 1820. Levi Alderson, b. ca. 1795, Greenbrier Co., VA, was the son of George and Sarah (Osborne) Alderson; Clemency was the daughter of Thomas and Sarah (Bond) Alderson, b. ca. 1795, Greenbrier Co., VA. They were first cousins, once removed.

Below: Permission for Clemency Alderson from father Thomas Alderson. It reads "to the Clark of Monroe County. this certifycat will authorise you to eshu licens for my Daughth Clemncy Alderson and Levi Alderson to be joind In the holy Bands of marimony. February 19th 1820." (Contributed by Cecilia Schiller, Marietta, GA)

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## Comments, Corrections, and Notes

**M**r. John Alderson of Alderson, WV, writes that I goofed in stating that there are no members currently living in Monroe Co. (see last issue). Not only does he live in Monroe Co., but Mr. Alderson resides on the same land granted to the Rev. John Alderson after his arrival in 1777. He notes that Alderson is a beautiful city with inexpensive real estate, and encourages members of the clan to consider settling there on retirement.

Mrs. Frances Swope of Lewisburg, WV, added that her sister, Alice Todd Alderson, also lives on the Monroe side of the river. (Alderson is split between Greenbrier Co. on the north side of the river and Monroe Co. on the south side. The Rev. John Alderson settled on the south side, built his church on the north side, and operated a ferry in-between!) Frances also noted that the original of Col. George Alderson's commission (reproduced in the last issue), along with the original of his commission as captain around 1817, are both in her family's possession. She also pointed out that my footnote concerning Andrew Donnally in the article on John D. Alderson in the last issue was potentially confusing: Col. Donnally's fort was named "Fort Donnally," while my mention of "Ft. Savannah" was in reference to the fort located at present

day Lewisburg. The raid on Donnally's fort took place in 1778, not 1774 as I reported.

Mr. Florian Ceperley of Charleston, WV, also caught my incorrect spelling of "Donnally," adding that his wife's brother-in-law was a direct descendant of the Colonel.

### Moving!

**A**fter seven years in the fair isles, I have decided to leave Hawaii and move back to the mainland. I have targeted September for leaving, but the exact date is not yet set. I hope all of you can understand how busy I will be arranging a new job and place to live, and will bear with me if the newsletter publication schedule is off come this fall. Meanwhile, feel free to write me at my current address until the beginning of September; I will write all of you after the move to let you know my new address in San Francisco.

Also, I want to again express my thanks to all of those who have written me or have sent Alderson information in for the newsletter. If you haven't heard from me, please be patient — I have been unusually busy as you might imagine, but will be answering your letters as soon as time permits.



*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 \$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. *Checks or money orders should be made payable to David Fridley.*