

Alderson

Roots & Branches



Vol. 4, No. 2

September 1992

Simon Alderson of North Carolina

In addition to the family of the Rev. John Alderson of New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Virginia, the "Northern Neck" Aldersons of Virginia, and various English immigrant lines from the 1800s, there are a number of other Alderson lines that appear in early American records. One of these lines is that of Simon Alderson of North Carolina, who appeared in North Carolina by 1706. To date, I have not found any descendants of Simon Alderson, and it is unclear what became of the family after the first few generations.

A concise summary on Simon and his immediate family appears in Virkus's *Immigrants to America before 1750*, in which both Simon Alderson and the Rev. John Alderson are listed.¹

ALDERSON (sometimes ADERSON)
Simon (d. N.C. 1713); imported into N.C. before 1705, by Isaac Wilson, who based his right to 1,200 [acres] upon importa-

tion of him and others; m. _____, issue (of record): 1-Simon, Jr., termed a "fractious and seditious person" by Gov. Spotswood of Va. in 1711; granted letters of admn. on estate of father as eldest son, May 8, 1713; commd. J.P. for precincts of Beaufort and Hyde, N.C. for several terms bet. 1726 and 1739; mem. Gen. Assembly, N.C., 1731; (prob. other sons): 2-Lemon, apptd. J.P. by gov. and council in session in Edenton, Mar. 23, 1734/35 [I think this is a misreading of the old script for "Simon"—the S and L are often written quite similarly]; 3-John, in partnership with Levy Alderson, granted 640 acres in Craven co., N.C., Feb. 17, 1737/38; 4-Levi, granted 100 acres in Beaufort, N.C., Nov. 4, 1744 (N283).

Many of the details of the Virkus account are evidently taken from the early North Carolina court records. The following are Alderson entries in the records to 1744, in which Simon, Simon, Jr., John and Levi are named.²

- **Simon Alderson** imported 1706 by Isaac Wilson (I, 650)
- **Simon Alderson** to be arrested for conspiring with others in inciting the Indians to revolt (in Virginia), July 1711 (I, 776)
- **Symon Alderson Jr.**, eldest son of **Symon Sr.**, prays Letters of Administration on his father, deceased, May 1713 (II, 43)
- **Alderson Land 1716**—near Pamlico to Matchapungo Creek. (II,217)

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¹ *Immigrants to America before 1750*, A-Bat, ed. by Frederick A. Virkus, Genealogical Publishing Co., Baltimore, 1965, p. 28.
² These entries were taken from a multi-volume series of North Carolina records for which I do not have a proper reference. The figures in parentheses refer to the volume and page number of the entry.

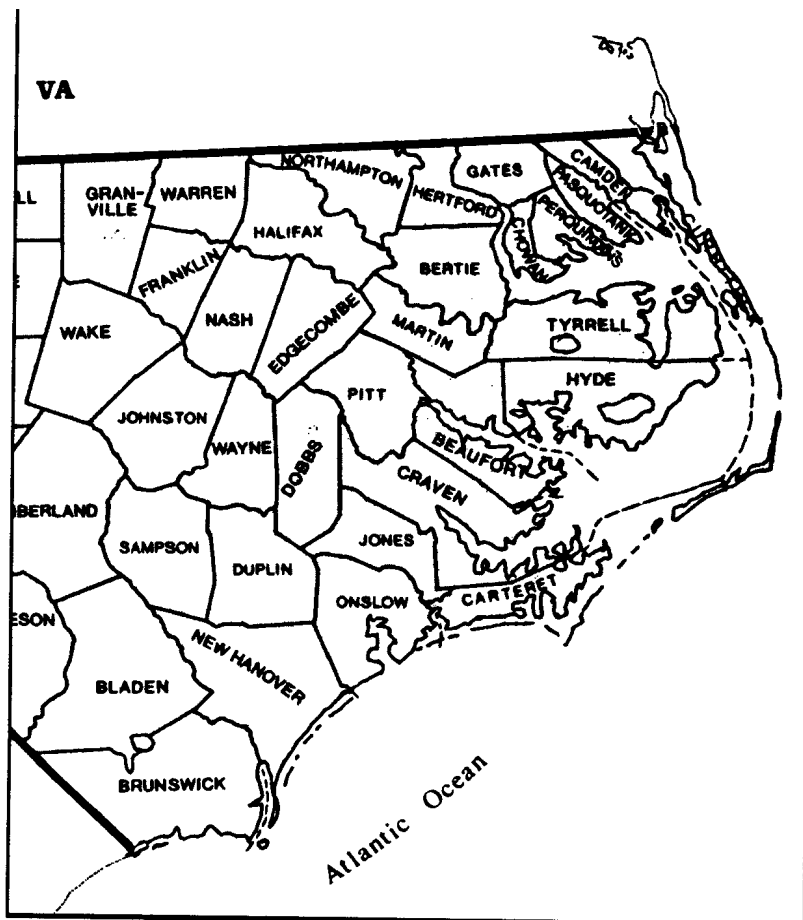
- **Simon Alderson** made Commissioner of Peace in Beaufort and Hyde precincts, 17 August 1726 (II, 368)
- **Simon Alderson**, juror in Edenton, July 1726 (II, 655)
- **Simon Alderson** dropped as Commissioner of Peace, May 1727 (II, 676)
- Members of the General Assembly from Beaufort, **Symon Alderson**, 1731 (III, 285)
- **Simon Alderson**, Treasurer of Beaufort Precinct, 18 January 1731/32 (III, 399)
- **Simon Alderson**, Justice of the Peace, Beaufort and Hyde Precincts, 1734 (IV, 55)
- **Simon Alderson**, Commissioner of the Peace, Beaufort, 1736 (IV, 224)
- Petition for Patents: **John and Levi Alderson**, 640 D°, February 1737/38 (IV, 329)
- **Simon Alderson**, Justice of the Peace, Beaufort Precinct, 1739 (IV, 346)
- **Simon Alderson**, 420a, D°, February 1739/40 (IV, 442)
- **Simon Alderson** petitioned for change in land patent, 1739/40 (IV, 446)
- **Simon Alderson** reported land tax as Treasurer, 1739/40 (IV, 527)
- Land Grant, **Levi Alderson**, 100 acres, Beaufort, 1744 (IV, 708)

Simon Alderson, Jr. is mentioned most frequently in the North Carolina records, and his will of 1740 has also been preserved there:³

Will of **Simon Alderson**, not dated, probated at December Court, 1740, Beaufort Co., NC. Sons: Levin and John, daughters: Elizabeth and Sarah. Other legatee: John Odeon. No executor appointed. Witnesses: Robert Howard, William Martin. Clerk of Court: Roger Jones.

³ *Abstracts of Wills, North Carolina, 1690-1760.*

⁴ Lora S. LaMance, *The House of Waltman and Its Allied Families*, published by author, 1928, pp. 176-177.



Eastern North Carolina counties, 1790.
From William Dollarhide, *Map Guide to the U.S. Federal Censuses, 1790-1910*

Additional biographical data can be found in *The House of Waltman and Its Allied Families* by Lora S. LaMance. This history, published in 1928, contains a number of inaccurate assertions and erroneous assumptions, and thus is suspect as a source of accurate information on Simon Alderson, but the following sections are reproduced as is from the original:⁴

He [Simon Alderson, Jr.] died late in 1740, leaving a will. Two sons. He proved his rights as freeman October 11, 1709, in Plaquimine County.

John Alderson², the oldest son, was clerk of the county court in 1749-50. His wife was Mary.

Captain Simon Alderson, (John², Simon¹[Jr.]) served in the Revolutionary War. In the North Carolina Historical Register, Vol. 2, he is called Captain Simon Alderson, of the Fifth Virginia Regiment. He enlisted April 16, 1776, going from the Newberry District, North Carolina. See also History of North Carolina, by Goody, page 80, where he is called Captain. His Colonel was Edward Dunscomb. Simon is repeatedly called Captain, but no date given of his commission. At the time of his enlistment, Enloe was Captain. He enlisted the second time in the Second Regiment of the North Carolina Continental Line, under Captain Vail and Col. Alexander Martin, in 1777. On May 20, 1779, he was made sergeant. June 1, 1779, he was made prisoner. See N. C. Historical Register, Vol. II, page 125. He represented his district in the legislature, two terms, beginning in 1795.⁵

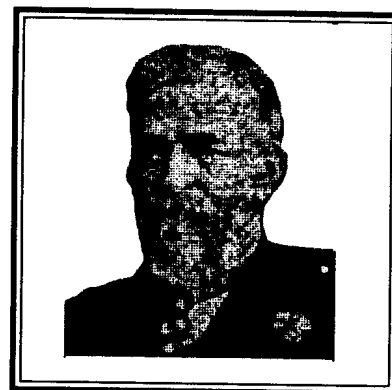
This is the extent of information I have found on Simon Alderson and family. If any reader can add to this history, please let me know and I will be glad to print the additional information.

More on William White Alderson and Family

Susan Sharp, the eagle-eyed recorder for the Alderson Family History Society, has provided me with a nicely detailed biography of William White Alderson, whose family was outlined in the "Identification Needed" column in the June 1992 issue of the newsletter. Susan writes:

⁵ LaMance at this point claims that Capt. Simon had a son Abel Alderson who married a Miss Davis, and that their son, the Rev. John Alderson, was the father of Benjamin Amos Alderson, her husband's ancestor. Actually, Benjamin Amos Alderson was the son of Abel Alderson, born 11 Nov 1810 in Harford Co, MD, died 7 May 1895 at St Charles, St Charles Co, MO. Benjamin first married Matilda Margaret Farrar on 21 November 1838, and married, secondly, Mary Lisle Baker in December 1847 in Missouri. Abel Alderson was the son of Thomas and Hannah (Davis) Alderson; Thomas was the son of the Rev. John Alderson.

William White Alderson was baptized on 24 July 1831 at Arkengarthdale in the North Riding, Yorkshire. His parents were William (alias Simon William)



William White Alderson
(1831-1906)

Alderson and Margaret (Alderson née White) who married at Grinton on 25 June 1825. William White Alderson was their second son and fourth child, but the claim that William W. was the eighth child also holds true because his mother, Margaret, had previously been married to (Simon) William's brother, Christopher b. 1792. Christopher married Margaret White at Grinton on 23 Sept. 1817 and they had four children: Simon, b. 1818; George, b. 1819, d. 1822; Elizabeth b. 1821; and Ann (Nancy) b. 1823. Christopher, a lead miner, died aged 32 years and was buried at Arkengarthdale on 16 June 1824.

William W.'s father (Simon) William was one of twin sons of a Christopher Alderson who were baptized at Arkengarthdale on 20 October 1799. Simon died soon after and was buried on 7 November 1799. It was in his memory that the other twin, William, was also called Simon William by his family, but he himself apparently preferred to be called William or Willy.

(Simon) William and Margaret had nine children: Mary, b. 1826; Christopher, b. 1827; Ruth, b. 1829; William White, b. 1831; George, b. 1832; Richard, b. 1835; Robinson, b. 1837; John R., b. 1840; and Fanny, b. 1850 in America. The family were lead miners in Arkengarthdale and like many families in the

area were affected by the increasingly serious depression in the lead mining industry. Raising a family in Arkengarthdale at this time would have been very hard. It was not surprising therefore that in 1848 the family emigrated to America and were to be found in Benton, Wisconsin in 1850. (Simon) William died 19 October 1858 at Cedar Creek, Minnesota.

Simon, b. 1818 in Arkengarthdale, the son of Christopher and Margaret, had emigrated earlier to America in 1840 having married Mary Ann Liddle in Richmond, North Riding, Yorkshire, in 1839. They lived for a time in Perry, Wyoming Co., NY where their daughter Mary Ann was born and then travelled west by wagon to New Diggins, Wisconsin, where Simon did smelting for the miners. Here he was joined by Jonathan Alderson (b. 1818 in Arkengarthdale and son of Edmund Alderson and Mary Marr) and the two were smelting together there in 1848.

Later Simon owned and operated a general store in Council Hills, Illinois, and was also postmaster, and his half-brother William W. clerked for him. Simon's wife, Mary Ann, died in 1854 and is buried in Council Hills Cemetery next to Margaret (White) Alderson who died in 1848. Simon later married Sophia Margaret Davey and there were two daughters, Sophia Margaret and Nettie Alderson.

William W. wrote of his brother: "He was postmaster at Council Hill, at Council Hill Station, Joe Davies County, Illinois through the successive administrations of Millard Filmore, Franklin Pierce, James Buchanan and Abraham Lincoln. He held the post more on account of the personal convenience it afforded him rather than any direct compensation there was—his mail matter being frequently equal to that sent and received for the remainder of the community.

"He probably reclaimed more prairie land, opened up and successfully cultivated more farms, constructed more furnaces, improved more water powers and erected more flour mills, built more residences and stores and for a quarter of a century gave employment to farm hands, day laborers and mechanics than any other person who ever resided or who ever was engaged in business in that section of the county. The same may be said as to his

extensive operations as a dealer in lead ore, grain, livestock and general merchandise.

"He made several trips from Council Hills to New York City to purchase goods travelling by old slow stage coaches before the advent of railroads into the then western frontier when Chicago was but little more than a hamlet and its immediate surroundings, a magnificent expanse of lakes and pools of fathomless mud. On one of his visits to New York he heard Jenny Lind, 'The Swedish Nightingale', when in 1849 under the management of P.T. Barnum, she first captivated the denizens of Gotham by her sweetness, flexibility and extreme range of her musical voice. His enthusiastic and eloquent description of that remarkable concert was frequently a source of wonderful satisfaction and pleasure to his friends and neighbors after his return."

Simon died 5 September 1896 and is buried in Oakwood Cemetery, Austin, Minnesota, with his second wife. He had been a deeply religious man and was a deacon in the Methodist church.

William W.'s younger brother, John, b. 1840, was by all accounts quite an adventurer. In 1861 he was wounded in the 1st Battle of Bull Run and was taken prisoner. However, he was exchanged on account of his disability and honorably discharged on 25 March 1862. Later in the year he enlisted in the Winona Rangers to suppress a Sioux Indian uprising.

In 1864 John together with his brother William W. homesteaded in Bozeman, Montana and on 21 April 1867 John was in the party that went out to bring in the body of John Bozeman who had been shot by Indians. In 1868 when Indians drove off 200 head of stock and killed one man, John was in the party who went out on an unsuccessful search.

In 1866, William W.'s family joined him, and John sold his entire interest in the ranch, stock, and farming equipment to him for \$2000. John then left Montana and visited Minnesota, California, and Washington. In November 1872 he married at Fairbury in Nebraska and a son, Richard, was born. John and his wife crossed the mountains from Seattle to Bozeman, Montana, on horseback early in the spring of 1876.

During the summer seasons of 1877 and 1878, John built several fleets of flat boats on the Upper Yellowstone River which were loaded with grain and other produce from the Gallatin Valley and sailed down to markets at various military posts.

In 1879 he settled at Coulson which was near the present city of Billings, Montana, where he homesteaded 160 acres and laid out a town site. When the Pacific Railroad bypassed Coulson he moved to Billings. John died 24 October 1890 and was buried beside his wife at Billings.

William White Alderson died 15 October 1906 in Bozeman.



Several members of the Alderson Family History Society belong to this line and we are grateful to them for the information contained in this account. More detailed information is also held by the AFHS.



Ms. Sharp also provided a newspaper account of a reunion of the Sons and Daughters of Pioneers in Bozeman, Montana, in which the life of William White Alderson was summarized: "Alderson was born in England in 1831, the eighth child in a family of 12, he went to work in the lead mines with his father. In 1848, the family came to the United States, landing in New Orleans and traveling on to Galena, Illinois. He joined his brother, Simon, who had come to the states earlier and clerked in Simon's store. In May 1854, he married Frances Weatherby, who was born in England in 1834, and left the mercantile business and engaged in farming until 1864.

That year, having had a good crop and clearing about \$2,000, he and his brother decided to travel west in search of gold. They traveled by four-horse team from Illinois to the Gallatin Valley, accompanied most of the way by two Scotsmen, John Brown and his son, Peter. Alderson's wife and four children stayed with their parents. They departed April 20, arriving in the valley June 14.

A diary, which was kept during this trip, noted they only traveled once on Sunday and that was because of short grass.

They had intended to go to Virginia City to mine for gold but they fell in love with the valley and on July 18, they took out homestead claims a mile from Main Street. They unloaded their wagon, set up their tent, clothing and provisions which included a good stock of clothing, 525 pounds of flour; 50 pounds of cornmeal; 100 pounds of bacon; one third barrel of crackers and 13 pounds of sugar.

They traveled to Virginia City for mail and supplies, which took about a day and a half in good weather. They sent to Salt Lake City, Utah, for seed, machinery and later to Helena where they sold potatoes, butter and cheese.

In 1865, Alderson started a store and a half log house and shingled it in April 1866. The house had an outside stairway and the boys used to climb down the stairs to help their father put up the team when he returned home at night.

As he had received a license to preach by the Methodist Church in Illinois, Alderson held the first church service in Gallatin County June 4, 1865 at the M.W. Penwell's home. In 1866, a Sunday School and a church was organized by the Rev. A.M. Hough. Two years later Alderson built the first church which was the first frame structure in Bozeman. Plans were made for a brick church in 1873 and the money raised. This building is still in use.

The same year (1866), he met his family who arrived in Fort Benton and they returned crossing the Missouri River at Canyon Ferry and they reached Bozeman and settled in their log house where they lived for eight years.

Later he bought 74 head of stock for \$2,120, went into the dairy business, and in one year sold enough butter and cheese to realize the entire purchase price. He shipped in a cheese vat, with freight costing more than the original price of the vat. At the first territorial fair held near Helena in 1870, he took first premium and a diploma for the best cheese and best five pounds of butter. At the time he was milking 22 cows.

Receiving his commission at Fort Peck, as a United States Indian agent in 1873, Alderson served three years there and acquired the title of Major. During his time at Fort Peck, there were several attacks of Indian war par-

ties and trouble with traders selling arms or liquor to the Indians.

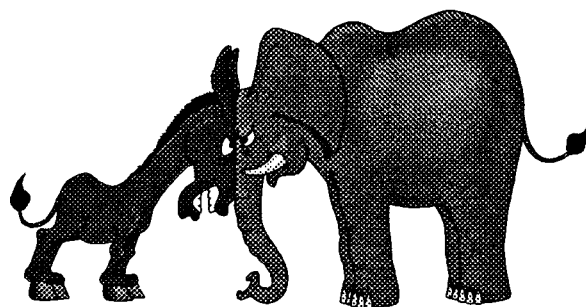
Alderson, Gen. L.S. Willson and A. Lamme assisted Joe Wright in securing the money necessary to purchase a printing press to start the *Avant Courier*. Wright died in 1876 and Alderson took over the paper, buying out Willson and Lamme. Alderson's son Matt, who had learned to set type, went to town after the day's work was done and became a partner in the newspaper business. Matt purchased the first power press and first mailing machine used between Helena and Bismarck. Soon Major Alderson was the editor and Matt became the head of the business and mechanical department.

Although Alderson was devoted to his home and family he traveled extensively and whenever he could he took one of his nine children with him. The children were Matt, Ed, Lina, Charlie, Frank, Margaret, Anna, Mamie and Willie, who died at age 15. Both Matt and Ed were with him part of the time at Fort Peck, working with him on the farm and shared in everything. Matt worked with his father at the *Courier* and Charlie and Frank were both linotype operators.⁶



One additional note that Susan Sharp sent of great personal interest was an excerpt from William White Alderson's diary of 24 October 1864, election day in Montana, in which William W. notes: "_____ quarrelled with me and Fridley came to my rescue." The person was not named, but the story goes: "The Territory, being mostly populated with the 'left wing of Price's army' was overwhelmingly Democratic and it was hardly safe for a Republican to declare his politics. When Mr. Alderson went to the polls he was immediately set upon and but for Mr. Fridley, a physical Hercules and also a Republican, he might have been killed. A strapping big fellow had strode up and declared that 'no black abolitionist' could vote at those polls. In a moment Mr. Alderson was surrounded and then Fridley's voice was heard above the tumult. With determination on his face and his hand

on his gun he broke through the crowd and defied the entire mob. He loudly proclaimed himself a Republican and said 'I and my friend here are free American citizens and by God we are going to vote the Republican ticket in spite of hell and high water and all rebel Democrats.' And they did. Fridley cowed the whole bunch."



Alderson Biography

B. S. ALDERSON

B. S. Alderson, one of the successful farmers of the county, was born near Richmond, Virginia, April 3, 1815. When he was about a year old a colony of his relatives, including his father, John A. Alderson, moved to Maury county, Tennessee. When sixteen he went to Natchez, Mississippi, where for about eight years he was operating in stocks, trading and bartering with whoever would sell or buy. He next went to New Orleans and took a one-third interest in a produce house in that city, and became the agent of the house on the road.

In 1848 he came to Louisville, where he managed the Hotel de Rein as proprietor for a period of five years. A tornado swept him out, and about thirty-one years ago he purchased the West Wood farm, where he has since resided.

February 4, 1843, he married Nancy Seebolt, a daughter of George S. Seebolt, an old

⁶ "Echoes of the Past," *Bozeman Daily Chronicle*, 28 February 1973.



B. S. Alderson

resident of the county, who was born about 1787, in Montgomery county, on the 25th of December of that year. He was a prominent man among the Indians. His father, George S. Seebolt, moved upon the waters of Chenoweth run. He had been in Louisville six years previous to this, with his family, and entered a large tract of land, commonly known as the Phelps tract, but during his absence other parties came in and settled upon it. It not being in the mind of Mr. Seebolt to remove them he hunted up other waters near Jeffersontown, as the main object in that day was to get near some permanent stream of water. Mr. Alderson is the father of seven children, of whom four are living. Mr. Alderson's farm consists of two hundred acres of good land, about two miles west of Jeffersontown, and is under a very high state of cultivation, as is shown by the cleanly condition of fences, rows, and fields, as well as the good repair in which the buildings are kept. Mr. Alderson has an ab-



Mrs. B. S. Alderson

horrence of debt, it being a rule with him to discharge his dues to others with exactness.



Can any reader identify this family?

(From the *History of the Ohio Falls Counties* [Kentucky], date ?, p. 60, contributed by Betty Loffredo, Des Moines, Iowa)

Notes on the Civil War and Civil War Veterans

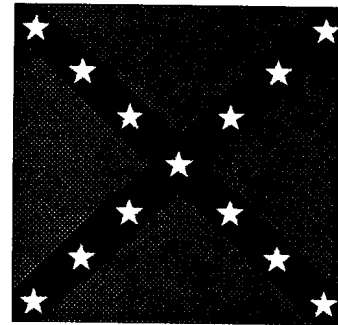
Following on the last issue's focus on Aldersons in the Civil War, I heard from several other readers whose ancestors and relatives fought in the Civil War.

Helen Boswell, of Moberly, MO, adds the following:

James A. Alderson, Randolph Co., MO, Private, Co. C, 1863-1865, Union Army. James was born 5 Mar 1834 in Jessamine Co., KY, son of Hiram and Elizabeth (Knox) Alderson, and died 21 Sep 1903 in Moberly, Randolph Co., MO.

Samuel Williamson Alderson, Private, Co. G, 9th Missouri Cavalry. On muster roll at Columbia, Missouri, 22 April 1862. Valuation of horse \$85.00. He was mustered out at Sturgeon, Missouri on 21 April 1865. "While on forced march in the month of January 1865, he incurred inflammatory rheumatism." Because of this he received a pension. Samuel was James' younger brother, and was born 10 Feb 1835 in Jessamine Co., KY and died 28 Feb 1905 at Edinburg, Grundy Co., MO.

Helen also notes: "My grandfather, **Francis Marion Alderson**, enlisted on his 16th birthday (1865) in the Missouri Militia, Home Guard. He served at the courthouse in Huntsville, Missouri as a guard for soldiers who were in protective custody here because they were suffering from smallpox. No one was allowed to go in or to leave during this time. He perhaps had other service as well. My grandmother, in later years, drew a \$30.00 per month pension for his service." Francis was born 25 Dec 1849, Moberly, Randolph Co., MO, and died 23 Sep 1908 in Moberly, Randolph Co., MO.



Confederate Battle Flag
Sept. 1861 - April 1865

Alice Swanson, of San Clemente, California, sends a biographical sketch of her uncle, **Abel Alderson Withrow** (1833-1911) of Santa Clara, California, son of Abel and Susannah (Jourden) Withrow, and grandson of Robert and Jane (Alderson) Withrow. Abel served in the Union Army:

In 1862, Mr. Withrow became a member of the California Hundred, so well and favorably known in history that it is unnecessary to dwell upon it in this sketch. The company in which he enlisted was under Capt. George A. Manning, which with other companies went East by steamer, paying their own expenses and going direct to Readville, Massachusetts, where they were drilled, mounted, and assigned to active duty as a part of the Second Massachusetts Cavalry, under Colonel Charles Russell Lowell. They participated in fifty battles and skirmishes, Mr. Withrow being in thirty-two of them. Though not permitted to carry the "Bear Flag" they took with them, they were always identified and known among the commands they served as the "The Californians." Mr. Withrow enlisted as trumpeter, and was afterward promoted as chief trumpeter. He was discharged at Readville, Massachusetts, with his regiment, July 20, 1865, the war being closed, and after visiting relatives and friends in Indiana and Iowa, return to Santa Clara in the following November, where he was welcomed alike by Unionist and non-Unionist.⁷

⁷ H.S. Foote, ed., *Pen Pictures from the Garden of the World, or Santa Clara County, California*, Chicago: The Lewis Publishing Co., 1888, pp. 392-3.



Errata, Addenda, Corrigenda

In the membership list printed in the last issue, I left several members' lines incomplete or blank. The following are corrections and additions to the list:

- **Laura Bechard:** James William-Thomas W.-Mildred
- **Nancy Piper:** John-Thomas-Frances-Sarah-Emma-Willie-Nancy/John-John-George-John-Sarah-Emma-Willie-Nancy
- **John Kesler:** John-Thomas-Frances-Sarah-Emma-Willie-Nancy/John-John-George-John-Sarah-Emma-Willie-Nancy
- **Joseph N. Alderson:** John-John-Jeoseph-George-John I-John II-John III-John IV

Also, Mrs. F.F. Ceperley should be listed as **Axson Rodes Ceperley**. Her father was *Hutson* Rodes, not Hudson as listed.



Shirley Gilkeson, of Charleston, WV, writes that she will be installed as the West Virginia Division President, United Daughters of the Confederacy in November (congratulations!). She notes that Amanda Huffman, daughter of Joseph and Jane (Alderson) Huffman, married Matthew Seay, a Confederate veteran.



Florian Ceperley, also of Charleston, WV, writes: "In the article on Major J.C. Alderson, page 2 of the June 1992 newsletter, it is reported that he served on General Rhode's staff at the battle of Gettysburg. This was General Robert Emmett Rodes, spelled without the *h*, who was from the same Virginia family as my wife, the former Axson Rodes. General Rodes was from Lynchburg and was considered a very able leader and a friend and contemporary of Stonewall Jackson. Rodes commanded a division in Ewell's Corp at Gettysburg and later died in battle at Winchester."

New Members

This month we welcome two new members to *Alderson Cousins*. They are:

Alberta Alderson Fairbanks of 701 Montara, Sp. 110, Barstow, California 92311. Mrs. Fairbanks is a descendant of Burr Alderson, son of Curtis and Elizabeth (Ramsey) Alderson and grandson of the Rev. John and Jane (Curtis) Alderson.

Roger Q. Mills of 2206 Independence St., Conway, Arkansas 72032. Mr. Mills is a descendant of the Jeremiah Alderson family of Lafayette Co., Mississippi.

Welcome to *Alderson Cousins*!

Four Generations of John Aldersons at the Greenbrier Baptist Church Cemetery



To the left is the tombstone of the Rev. John Alderson, Jr., son of the Rev. John and Jane (Curtis) Alderson, founder of the Greenbrier Baptist Church at Alderson, Greenbrier Co., West Virginia.

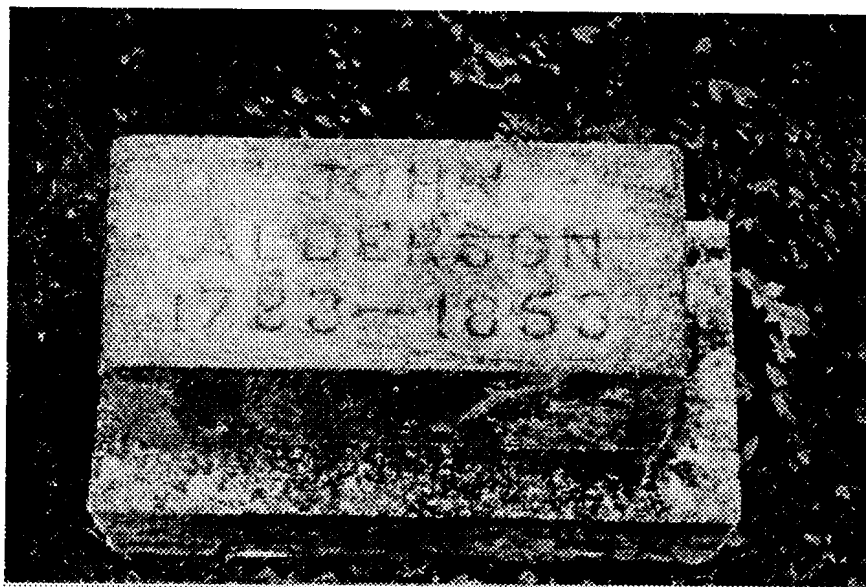
His tombstone reads:

*Sacred
to the Memory
of
Elder Jn^o Alderson
Who was Born March 5
1738 and died
March 3rd 1821
Aged 83 Years
He was the first Minister
who preached in this country
where he afterwards Settled
with his family in
1777
to a vigorous mind was
united Eminent Piety*

To the right is the tombstone of John ("River Jack") Alderson, son of the Rev. John and Mary (Carroll) Alderson.

His tombstone reads:

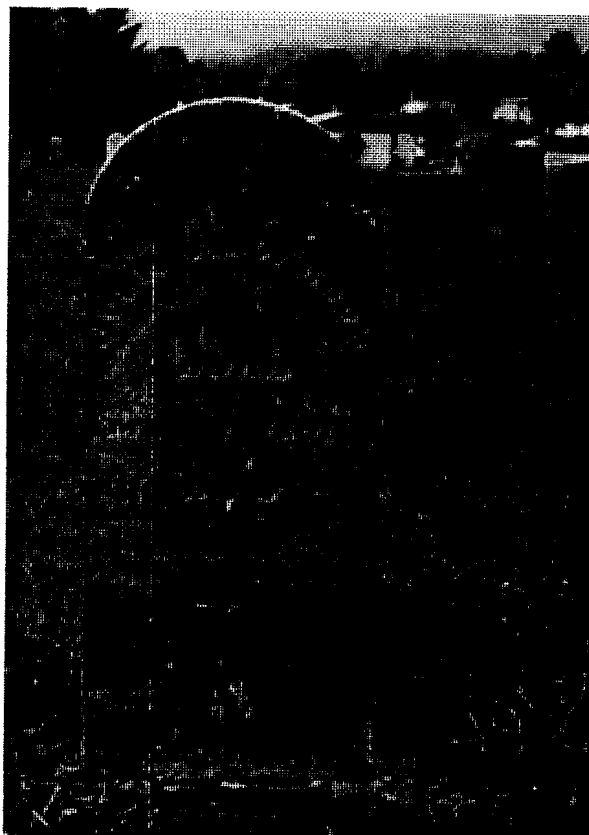
*John
Alderson
1783-1853*



To the right is the tomb of John (Marcus) Alderson, son of George and Sarah (Osborne) Alderson, and grandson of the Rev. John Alderson, Jr.

His tombstone reads:

John Alderson
Born
May 1, 1786
Died
May 3, 1856

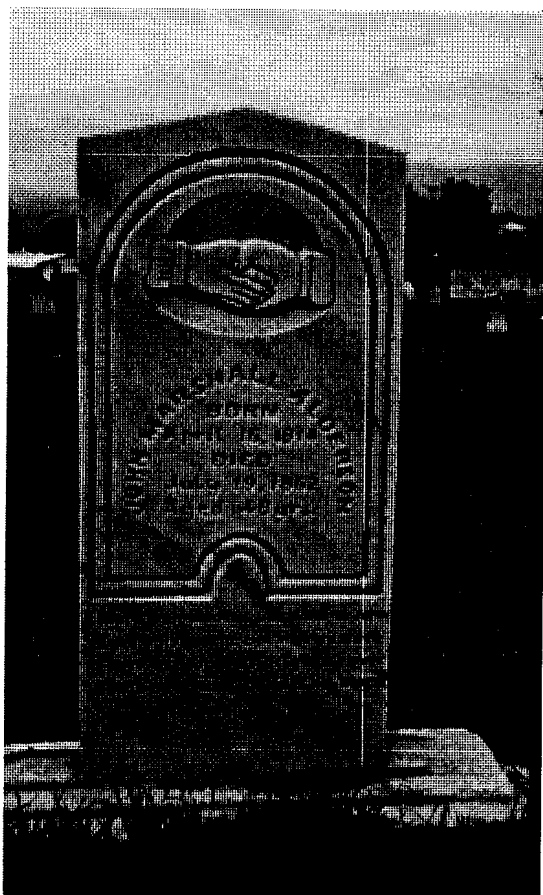


To the left is the tombstone of John Marshall Alderson, son of George and Jeanette Creigh (McCleary) Alderson, grandson of Joseph Alderson, and great-grandson of the Rev. John Alderson, Jr.

His tombstone reads:

John Marshall Alderson
Born
April 16, 1814
Died
July 19, 1862
Aged 48 yrs.

*A heart from whom it was death to serve
Eyes this world can ne'r restore
There as warm as bright as ever
Shall meet us & be lost no more*





Editor's Corner

Another summer has passed and fall is arriving. I don't know how time can pass so quickly, but the result is that I find myself farther and farther behind in replying to many of the nice letters and submissions that you have been sending. I value each letter I receive, so please bear with me longer as I attempt to catch up with my correspondence. Unfortunately, I won't have much time to enjoy the cooling fall weather; trips to China and the mainland will take up several weeks of my time over the next few months.

In August, I made another trip to West Virginia, visiting relatives and friends and spending time in some of the old courthouses there. While passing through Alderson, I stopped again at the Greenbrier Baptist Church and took pictures and video of the old Alderson tombstones. Given the rate of deterioration of the older stones (and acid rain is definitely a culprit here), I thought it valuable to preserve them in photographs; several are reproduced in this month's issue, and future issues will have additional stones.

Over the past few months, I have been especially gratified by the support that members have shown for the Alderson History Book Fund. Since the initial mention of the fund in the last issue, I have received contributions totalling nearly \$200; this will help to cover the early costs of researching, writing and producing the Alderson family history. My grateful thanks go out to those who have been so generous in supporting this project! I also appreciate the offers of assistance in preparing the book; you can be sure that if you made such an offer, you'll be hearing from me!

I was also moved by the expressions of concern I received from members who wrote to ask how we fared during the recent hurricane. I'm sure many of you saw photos or news clips of the incredible damage that Hurricane Iniki inflicted on Kauai; we suffered far fewer losses in Honolulu, but the effects will take months, if not years, to recover from. Needless to say, I had all the Alderson materials packed away in plastic bags in case the roof blew off during the storm!

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, Vol. 3 at \$2.00. Checks or money orders should be made payable to David Fridley.

Thank you, and Happy Hunting!



Alderson Family History Society

The Alderson Family History Society is a British organization devoted to the study of the Alderson family history. Though primarily oriented to family lines in Britain, the membership includes Americans and undertakes research on American and other lines of interest. The Society publishes a newsletter—appearing in February, June, and October—which presents family histories and biographies, research guides and results, organizational news and projects, queries, and other interesting and useful material.

For those interested in subscribing to the AFHS newsletter, the annual fee is \$14 airmail, \$12 surface mail, payable by check to Mr. John Alderson, 133E Alameda Drive, Tempe, AZ 85282.