

Alderson

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Aldersons of Harford Co., MD

by David Fridley

Thomas Alderson, son of the Rev. John Alderson, Sr., was born in 1744 in Bucks Co., PA and accompanied his parents to the Shenandoah Valley about 1755. By 1767, at the age of 23, Thomas left for Harford Co., Maryland where he married Hannah Davis, the only child of the Rev. John Davis and his wife Jane. It is not known how Thomas and Hannah met, although the Aldersons and Davises may have been acquainted through the families' connections in the Baptist Church.

Thomas' five children by Hannah Davis were apparently born in Virginia, but two of them later lived and married in Harford Co. Daughter Naomi Alderson, born ca. , 1772, married Frederick Amos of Harford Co., and son Abel, born in 1775, married Ann Amos, cousin of Frederick.

Naomi and Frederick were in Harford Co. in 1790, but having only recently married, were listed in the census without children. Frederick was about ten years Naomi's elder, born about 1762 or earlier. He was the son of Joshua (b. 1725, d. 1779) and Elizabeth (Stilve) Amos, who married in 1749; the Amoses were large land-owners in the Jarrettsville area of Harford Co.

Abel was married in 1804 to Ann Amos, daughter of Benjamin (3 Oct 1748-10 Jan 1815) and Sarah (Bussey) (d. 21 Feb 1821, age 65) Amos; Abel, Ann, Benjamin, and Sarah are all buried in the Old Brick Baptist Church cemetery near Jarrettsville.

Old Brick Baptist Church

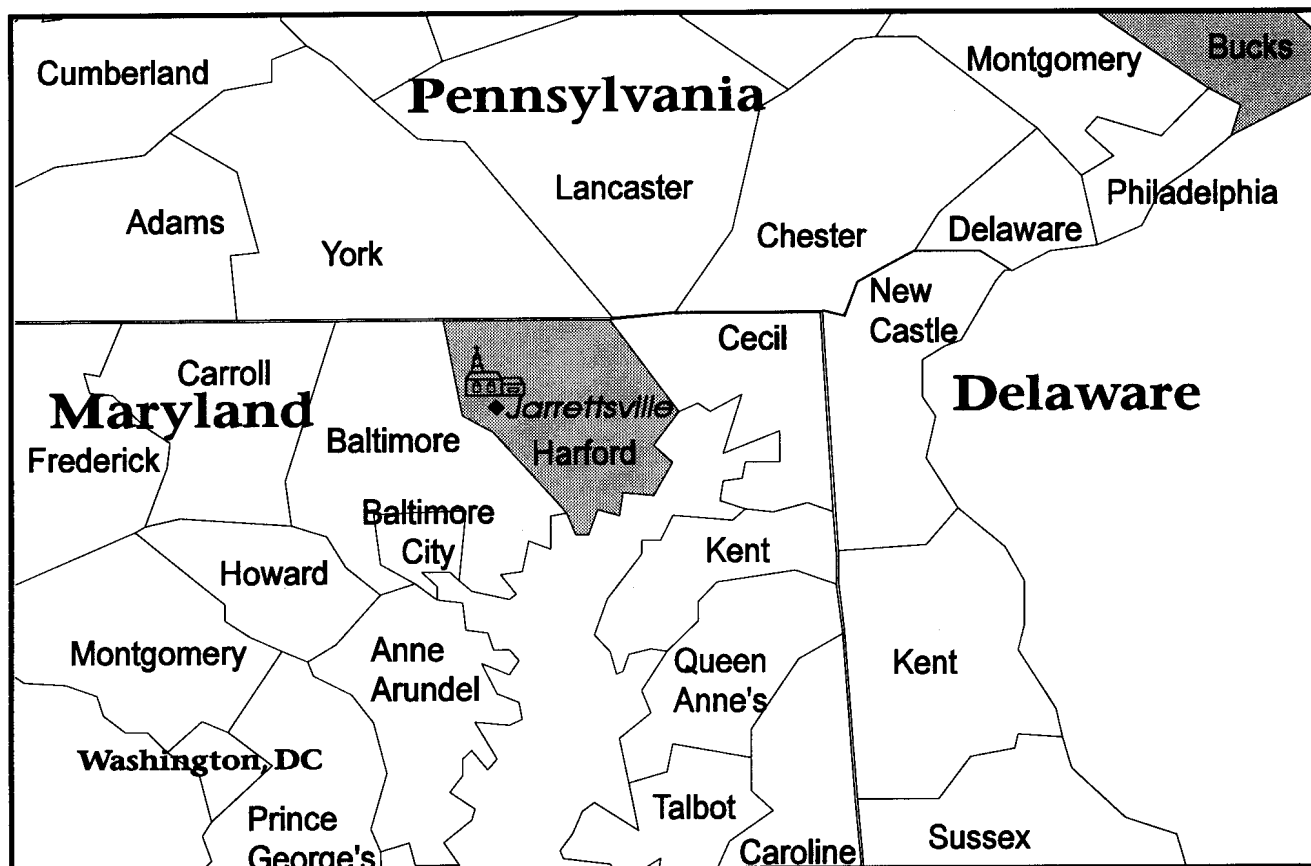
The Harford Baptist Church, where the Rev. John Davis preached for 53 years, is the second oldest Baptist church in Maryland. It was founded in 1754 at Winter's Run, Baltimore Co., by Davis and a group of 13 other missionaries who came from Maryland's first Baptist church at Chestnut Ridge, northwest of Baltimore city. When Harford Co. was established in 1773, the Winter's Run Church became known as the Harford Church. Later, when the church split over differences in religious beliefs, the church was often referred to as the "Old School Baptist Church;" commonly, however, the church is referred to as the Old Brick Baptist Church, in reference to the original bricks brought over from England, which remain in the building today.¹

Unlike the Chestnut Ridge church founded by Henry Slater, who led a General Baptist congregation, the Harford Church was Particular Baptist. In contrast to the General Baptists, the Particular (also known as "Primitive") Baptists believed in limited atonement, stressing as their

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¹ Jo Ann Rogge, *The Harford Baptist Church*, unpublished thesis, 10 March 1971, Baltimore, MD.



authority the New Testament doctrines of pre-destination and election.

Elder John Davis was born in Pennepek, Philadelphia Co., PA on 19 September 1721. He was ordained at Montgomery, PA in 1758, at which time he became pastor of the Harford Church. According to *The History of Baptist Churches in Maryland*: "All who knew him represent him as having been a man of eminent piety, sound views, consistent character, and fervent zeal. He traveled much, and generally on horseback, preaching Christ wherever he went. The woods, the school-house, the barn, the cabin...Nor did he fail to preach to the solitary traveler on the highway. While manifesting this primitive zeal, he was sometimes called to endure primitive persecution, for though the law guaranteed protection to his calling, yet there were not wanting 'lewd fellows of the baser

sort' who resorted to violence, in their efforts to hinder the gospel."²

John married Jane VanVost and their daughter Hannah was born probably between 1745 and 1750. Hannah died about 1779, perhaps after the birth of her last child, Hannah, who married Samuel Withrow. John continued to lead the Harford Church until his death in 1809. Jane lived until 1822. Both are buried in the Old Brick Baptist Church cemetery.

John may have been the son of Daniel and Mary Davis of Montgomery Co., PA. It is known that John had one brother Abel Davis, and a number of Abel's grandchildren worked for the Navy Department in Washington, DC.³ This is evidently the family that Thomas C. Alderson, son of Abel Alderson, was referring to when he spoke of "staying at John Davis, a cousin of ours" while in Washington, DC in the winter of 1846.⁴

² Maryland Baptist Union, *History of Baptist Churches in Maryland*, 1885, p. 27.

³ Letter from Anna Rhodes to Sarah Ann Mecham Harkins (1842-1912), as quoted in a letter from Grace Alderson Harkins (daughter of Sarah Ann) to Mrs. Lucretia Fetzer, January 1931.

⁴ See "Out of the Past," *Alderson Roots & Branches*, Vol. 1, No. 3, December 1989, p. 3; this was noted in a letter from Thomas C. Alder-

Families of Abel Alderson and Naomi Alderson Amos

Abel and Naomi Alderson may have remained in Harford Co. with their grandparents Davis while growing up. According to the history of the Alderson family as related by Col. George Alderson, Abel, "after visited Virginia, returned to Maryland, rented his grandfather's property, married there and raised a family. The writer was at his house in 1815 or 1816."⁵ This would seem to indicate that Abel was living in Maryland before his marriage, and it is likely that Naomi was there as well. It is not known exactly when Abel settled in Maryland permanently, but shortly after his marriage in 1804, he was granted a large piece of land from his grandfather John Davis. The tract, containing 165 acres, was known as "Davis's Cheerful Innocence" and was transferred to Abel for the consideration of "his natural love and affection he bears and has for the said Abel Alderson his grandson" and for the further consideration of five pounds.⁶ Most of this land was leased by John Davis from Alexander McComas in 1757. In early 1805, John Davis drew up his will, and bequeathed to Abel "one hundred and fifteen acres of Land part of my tract of Land called Cheerfull Innocence," giving his wife Jane life tenure on the dwelling house. The remainder of John's real estate was bequeathed to his granddaughter Naomi Amos.

Abel apparently lived out the rest of his life on this estate, as it passed to his son Thomas as evidenced in the letter from Thomas to his Aunt Frances (Alderson) Alderson in 1847 (see footnote 4). Abel was a noted jurist in Harford Co. and raised a family of 10 children, two of whom, Sarah and Hannah, preceded their father in death (see Family Group Sheet, page 40).

Naomi Alderson married Frederick Amos about 1789 or 1790, probably in Harford Co. They appeared in the 1790 Harford census with no children, and their first child Joshua was born about 1791. The Amoses remained in Harford Co. until 1826, when, according to the *History of Noble Co., IN*, they moved to Cumberland

Co., PA, northwest of Harford Co. Here they remained until 1836, when they moved farther west to Richland Co., OH, in the north-central portion of the state. Naomi was still living in 1850, when she was enumerated living with her son Frederick Amos along with Naomi's unmarried children Ellen, John, and Caroline (see Family Group Sheet, page 42).

Neither of these families has been well traced and documented beyond the first generation in Maryland, and a number of descendants of Benjamin Amos Alderson, son of Abel, have been found as well in Missouri. If anyone has additional information on these lines, please let me know as I would like to add them to the Alderson database.

Another Maryland Alderson

In the land records of Baltimore Co., MD appears other Alderson records. In 1795, **George Alderson** was conveyed Lot 647 (location not specified in transcript) from Alexander Cain and Hugh Lyle. In 1796, **George Alderson** was assigned the mortgage on part of Lot 16, from Samuel Dodge. Also in 1796, **George Alderson** was assigned a mortgage on "ground on Alissanna Street" from John Hall.⁷ These lots may refer to locations in Baltimore City.

Who is this George Alderson? A George Alderson appears in the Patapsco Lower 100 of Baltimore Co., MD in 1810, aged 45 and over; this places his birth at 1765 or before, along with a female, aged 45 and up, and a male, aged 10 to 16. A George Alderson also appears in the 1820 Baltimore Co., MD census, aged 45 and over, along with a female 26-45, 2 males 16-26, and one female under 10. This is likely the same person. A George does not appear in the 1830 Baltimore census, but there are listed a Jacob Alderson, age 20-30, and William C. Alderson, also 20-30. These are likely the two males age 16-26 in George's family in 1820. Given the age and location, George does not appear to be of Elder John's line. Does any researcher have any further clues?

son to his aunt Frances (Alderson) Alderson of Alderson, (WVA), 1847.

5 See "George Alderson's History of the Alderson Family in America", *Alderson Roots & Branches*, Vol. 5, No. 3, March 1994, p. 26.

6 Harford Co., Maryland, Deed Book HDR, p. 408.

7 Baltimore Co., MD Deeds, WG No. RR, p. 247, 277; WG No. xx, p. 130, p. 151. Transcribed by George Jansen.

Family of Abel and Ann (Amos) Alderson

HUSBAND: Abel Alderson

Born: 11 Aug 1775 VA[1]
 Marr: 16 Feb 1804 Harford Co MD[2]
 Died: 18 May 1841 Jarrettsville, Harford Co MD[1]
 Buried: Old Brick Church, Jarrettsville, Harford Co MD
 Census: 1810 Harford Co MD
 Census: 1840 Harford Co MD
 Occ: jurist
 Father: Thomas Alderson
 Mother: Hannah Davis

WIFE: Ann Amos

Born: 29 Nov 1779 Harford Co MD[1]
 Died: 4 Jun 1849 Harford Co MD[1]
 Buried: Old Brick Church, Jarrettsville, Harford Co MD
 Father: Benjamin Amos
 Mother: Sarah Bussey

CHILDREN (X = ancestor of preparer)

1 Name: **Lucretia Naomi Alderson**
 F Born: 19 Feb 1805 Jarrettsville, Harford Co MD[3]
 Marr: 3 Dec 1835 Harford Co MD[4]
 To: Richard Mecham
 Died: 20 Oct 1887 Pleasantville, Harford Co MD[3]

2 Name: **John Davis Alderson**
 M Born: 29 Sep 1806 Jarrettsville, Harford Co MD[5]
 Marr: 20 Dec 1838 Harford Co MD[6]
 To: Hannah Trego
 Marr: 14 Oct 1847 Harford Co MD[7]
 To: Anne M. Dunn
 Died: 22 Dec 1889 Harford Co MD[8]
 Buried: Old Brick Church, Jarrettsville, Harford Co MD
 Census: 1840 Harford Co MD
 Census: 1850 Harford Co MD

3 Name: **Sarah Ann Alderson**
 F Born: 20 Nov 1808 Jarrettsville, Harford Co MD[1]
 Died: 5 Aug 1827 Harford Co MD[1]
 Buried: Old Brick Church, Jarrettsville, Harford Co MD

4 Name: **Benjamin Amos Alderson**
 M Born: 11 Nov 1810 Harford Co MD[9]
 Moved: before 1847 MO
 Marr: 21 Nov 1838 Washington, MS[10]
 To: Matilda Margaret Farrar
 Marr: Dec 1847 St Charles, St Charles Co MO
 To: Mary Lisle Baker
 Died: 7 May 1895 St Charles, St Charles Co MO[9]

5 Name: **Jane Davis Alderson**
 F Born: 20 Sep 1812 Jarrettsville, Harford Co MD[9]
 Marr: 20 Mar 1839 Harford Co MD[11]
 To: Joshua Benjamin Morris
 Died: 23 Nov 1852 Harford Co MD[9]

6	M	Name: James Bussey Alderson Born: 19 Mar 1814 Jarrettsville, Harford Co MD[9] Marr: 14 Jan 1846 Baltimore Co MD[12] To: Susan R. Vansant Census: 1850 Harford Co MD
7	M	Name: Abel Alderson Born: 7 Jan 1815 Jarrettsville, Harford Co MD[13] Marr: 5 May 1879 Harford Co MD[14] To: Mary J. Kolter Died: 24 Apr 1894 Harford Co MD[15] Lived: 1847 Fayette, Jefferson Co MS Buried: Old Brick Church, Jarrettsville, Harford Co MD Census: 1880 Jackson, MS[16] Occ: lawyer
8	F	Name: Hannah Alderson Born: 3 Jan 1818 Jarrettsville, Harford Co MD[17] Died: 25 Jul 1821 Harford Co MD[5] Buried: Old Brick Church, Jarrettsville, Harford Co MD
9	M	Name: Thomas Curtis Alderson Born: 6 Jan 1820 Harford Co MD[9] Marr: 8 May 1849 Harford Co MD[18] To: Mary Jane Barton Died: 12 Dec 1906 MD[9] Census: 1850 Harford Co MD
10	F	Name: Elizabeth Amos Alderson Born: 14 Jan 1822 Jarrettsville, Harford Co MD[9] Marr: 13 Oct 1849 Harford Co MD[19] To: George L. Elgin Died: 27 Oct 1876 Neosho, Newton Co MO[9]

REFERENCES

- [1]tombstone; family Bible (1816).
 [2]Harford Marriages, Bk1, p. 35; family Bible (1816).
 [3]family Bible.
 [4]Harford Marr, Bk1, p. 77; family Bible: 4 Dec 1835 by Rev.Thomas Poteet.
 [5]tombstone; family Bible.
 [6]Harford Marr, Bk1, p. 81; family Bible: md. by Elder Eli Scott.
 [7]Harford Marr, Bk1, p. 112.
 [8]tombstone: age 85; family Bible.
 [9]Family Bible (1816).
 [10]Family Bible: Matilda Farrar of the state of Mississippi.
 [11]Harford Marr, Bk1, p. 81; family Bible: 21 Mar 1839, by Rev Eli Scott.
 [12]Family Bible: md by Elder Hitt of Baltimore.
 [13]Family Bible "7th day of January at 9 o'clock in the morning 1815"; tombstone: 1
 Jan 1816 "born in Harford Co., MD"
 [14]Family Bible: May 1879.
 [15]tombstone.
 [16]Jim Cross.
 [17]tombstone; family Bible: 2 Jan 1818.
 [18]Family Bible: md by Elder Thomas Barton.
 [19]Harford Marr, Bk1, p. 94; family Bible: 16 Oct 1849.

The family Bible referred to above was printed in 1816 and last known to be in the possession of Grace and Lucretia Harkins, granddaughters of Lucretia Naomi Alderson Mecham of Pleasantville, Harford Co., MD, in 1931. Its current location is unknown.

Family of Frederick and Naomi (Alderson) Amos

HUSBAND: Frederick Amos

Born: before 1762 Harford Co MD
 Marr: circa 1789 Harford Co MD
 Died: before 1850 Richland Co OH
 Census: 1790 Harford Co MD[1]
 Father: Joshua Amos
 Mother: Elizabeth Stileve

WIFE: Naomi Alderson

Born: circa 1773 Augusta Co VA
 Died: after 1850 Richland Co OH
 Census: 1850 Perry Twp, Richland Co OH[2]
 Father: Thomas Alderson
 Mother: Hannah Davis

CHILDREN

1
 M Name: **Joshua Amos**
 Born: circa 1791 (?) Harford Co MD
 Census: 1830 Baltimore Co MD[3]

2
 F Name: **female Amos**
 Born: circa 1793 (?) Harford Co MD

3
 F Name: **female Amos**
 Born: circa 1795 (?) Harford Co MD

4
 M Name: **Thomas Alderson Amos**
 Born: circa 1797 Harford Co MD
 Marr: circa 1830 PA
 To: Sarah
 Census: 1850 Perry Twp, Richland Co OH[4]

5
 M Name: **Abel B. M. Amos**
 Born: circa 1801 Harford Co MD
 Marr: circa 1830 PA
 To: Lydia
 Census: 1830 Baltimore Co MD
 Census: 1850 Cass Twp, Richland Co, OH[5]

6
 M Name: **John G. Amos**[6]
 Born: circa 1802 Harford Co MD
 Died: 25 Jan 1892 Perry Twp, Richland Co OH
 Census: 1850 Perry Twp, Richland Co OH[7]

7
 F Name: **Caroline D. Amos**[6]
 Born: circa 1804 Harford Co MD
 Died: 16 Aug 1889 Darlington, OH
 Census: 1850 Perry Twp, Richland Co OH[8]

8 Name: **Frederick T. Amos**[9]
M Born: circa 1809 Harford Co MD
Marr:
To: Margaret Schafer
Marr: circa 1867
To:
Census: 1850 Perry Twp, Richland Co OH[10]

9 Name: **Ellen Amos**[6]
F Born: circa 1814 Harford Co MD
Census: 1850 Perry Twp, Richland Co OH[11]

10 Name: **James M. Amos**[12]
M Born: 3 Jan 1816 Harford Co MD
Marr: 28 Dec 1843 Richland Co OH
To: Margaret Weaver
Census: 1850 Perry Twp, Richland Co OH[13]

REFERENCES

- [1]no children in census.
- [2]age 77, born VA; enumerated with Frederick and Margaret Amos.
- [3]age 30 to 40.
- [4]age 53, b. MD.
- [5]age 49.
- [6]never married.
- [7]age 48; enumerated with Frederick and Margaret Amos.
- [8]age 46; enumerated with Frederick and Margaret Amos.
- [9]F.A. Amos was born 1809 at Harford Co., MD; married twice, came to Knox Co. in 1867. Children: Joshua; John F., b. 1850 in Richland Co., OH, married 1874 to Mary E. McNutt, who was born in Starkes Co. in 1856; Freddie T.; Amanda; Mary Elizabeth; and Albert. Children of his first wife, who was Margaret Shafer; second wife was Margaret Weaver [?, sic]. From *History of Knox Co., OH* (1881), p. 574
- [10]age 41.
- [11]age 36; enumerated with Frederick and Margaret Amos.
- [12]James M. Amos, youngest child of Naomi and Frederick Amos was born 3 Jan 1816 at Baltimore Co, MD. He married 28 Dec 1843 to Margaret Weaver in Richland Co., OH. Margaret Weaver was born 18 Dec 1825 in Richland Co., OH...They had six children born in Richland Co., OH: John D., Martha (J. Fryer), Susan (Broughton), Waldo, Naomi, and William (Maude Henry). (From *Noble Co., IN History*, from Helen Boswell)
- [13]age 34, "b. PA".

It is assumed from Frederick and Naomi's residence in Harford County that their children were also born there. The census records from Richland Co., OH in 1850 does indicate that they were born in Maryland, and the *History of Knox Co., OH* also states that son Frederick Amos was born in Harford Co. However, sons Joshua and Abel were found living in Baltimore Co. in 1830, and the *History of Noble Co., IN* states that James was born in Baltimore Co., which may indicate that Frederick and Naomi had moved from Harford Co. before leaving for Cumberland Co., PA in 1826. As evident in the map, the Baltimore Co. line is close to Jarrettsville.

Most of the information on the family of Frederick and Naomi came from Mrs. Frank Schultz, an Amos descendant, through correspondence with Mrs. Helen Boswell of Moberly, MO. Except for the census material, the accuracy has not be rechecked.

Queries

John Taylor Alderson

John Taylor Alderson was married 15 December 1881 in Texas to Susan Davidson, born Jan. 1860, died 12 March 1895. They had at least two children: John Malcolm Alderson, b. 1890, d. 26 Feb 1968, Alpine, [Brewster Co.,] TX, married 14 June 1921 to Eleanora Seidenstricker and they had one adopted son. The other child was Susan Elizabeth Alderson, born 19 Jan 1893, married Samuel Ewing David and there was a daughter Jean David Green.

This material was taken from a copy of a couple pages of a genealogy, title unknown, in which there were numerous handwritten marginal notes. One note said that it was "known that the Davidsons, Grays, and Aldersons were related," and another, in reference to John Malcolm Alderson, said "his Bible records used." The "Grays" referred to here may be the family of James William and Elizabeth (Alderson) Gray, who lived near Dallas, Texas (see "Alderson Collaterals", p. 44); Elizabeth (b. ca. 1829) was a daughter of John "River

Jack" and Nancy (Robinson) (Mays) Alderson. Does anyone have any further information on John Taylor Alderson?

David Fridley, 576 Noe St., San Francisco, CA 94114, or Helen Boswell, 1124 Beuth Rd., Moberly, MO 65270.

Thomas Alderson

Thomas Alderson and his wife Rachel may be the ancestors of Bob Eng of Inver Grove Heights, MN. From what is known, Thomas was involved in some sort of mining operation in Pennsylvania or West Virginia, but left the area to settle in North Dakota after he and his partner were forced (?) out of business. Bob's grandfather was Harvey Alderson, whose obituary appears on page 45. Thomas Alderson may be the Thomas Alderson of the 46th Pennsylvania Regiment, K Company, who filed a pension application from North Dakota, and in which Thomas wife's name was given as Rachel. Anyone with further information please contact Dr. R.E. Eng, 7 High Road, Inver Grove Heights, MN 55077.

Alderson Collaterals

The following is a passage from the biography *My Life* by Emma Cornelia Alderson (1860-1942) describing her visit with her aunt Bettie Gray (Elizabeth Alderson Gray, b. ca. 1829, daughter of John "River Jack" Alderson) about 1880-1. Emma returned with her aunt Bettie to Texas after Bettie spent a year visiting in Alderson. Together they took the train from Alderson to Greenfield, Indiana, where they stayed for a month at the home of Bettie's sister, Amanda Alderson Carraway (b. ca. 1825?). They then headed south to Bettie's farm near Dallas.

"I have always been fond of traveling and wish I could have done much more of it. When around 20 my Aunt Bettie Gray who had moved to Texas before I was born came home on a visit

and spent a year. When she returned to her home I went with her—my first long trip. As I recall it, the trains on which we traveled had neither dining car nor Pullman. We left Alderson on the early train—7:45 A.M.—and arrived late that evening in Cincinnati where we changed cars for Greenfield, Ind. We arrived the following day, where we were met by my cousin Geo. Caraway in a buggy—we drove to my uncle's 8 or 10 miles near Palestine. Samuel Caraway of Greenbrier Co. had married Amanda Alderson and soon after the War between the States moved his family to Texas, but did not remain long, moving back to Indiana. I think my uncle did not find it congenial in Texas as he was a Union man. He had part of a section of land near the village of Palestine not far from Indianapolis. He had a very nice farm, with a comfortable house on it, where he lived with his five sons and four daughters. One daughter was married,

HARVEY ALDERSON INSTANTLY KILLED WHEN FIELD GRAIN BIN COLLAPSES, BREAKING HIS BACK

ROOF OF ICE AND SNOW CRASHES
DOWN WHEN GRAIN IS
REMOVED.

FUNERAL SERVICES TO BE HELD
WEDNESDAY FROM PRES-
BYTERIAN CHURCH.

Struck by a huge cake of ice weigh-
ing about twenty tons, which formed
the roof on a grain bin which collapsed
Harvey Alderson, well known Ram-
sey county farmer and land owner, was
instantly killed Saturday afternoon
about 4 o'clock.

The accident occurred on the Alder-
son farm northeast of Devils Lake, on
which T. J. Thomas is tenant. Mr.
Thomas was with Mr. Alderson when
the structure collapsed.

The men were engaged in taking
oats from a field bin, which was cov-
ered by a straw roof. A great ac-
cumulation of snow and ice rested on
the grain for support. About 13 bush-
els of oats had been removed, under-
mining the roof, when the fatal acci-
dent occurred.

The men realized that they
were engaged in a dangerous job is-
sued by the fact they conversed
the possibility of a cave-in.
that he believed it
under the roof. Al-
removing
came

to smother. Grain was removed from
around Alderson's face and then
and then Thomas rush to the Ryan
farm for assistance to remove the im-
mense cake of ice. With this done a
doctor was called, but no help could
be done. Death it is believed was in-
stantaneous.

This afternoon an inquest is being
held by Coroner Gilbertson. James
Ryan, William Falger and John Franks
compose the jury. Only two witnesses
were called—T. J. Thomas and Law-
rence Ryan, who came to assist
Thomas.

Harvey Alderson was born at Tre-
mont, Pa., in 1884, from which place
he moved to Virginia, coming to Dev-
ils Lake in 1899 with Capt. and Mrs.
Alderson. He graduated from the
Devils Lake high school and was a
student at the Armour Institute at
Chicago, from which he was called by
the death of Capt. Alderson. Mrs.
Alderson died a little later.

For the past eight years Mr. Al-
derson has been engaged in farming
operations in Ramsey county, being
an extensive land owner. In 1909 he
married Fannie Kreiger of Hansboro.
A widow, three children survive the
untimely death, together with two sis-
ters and a brother in the east.

Funeral services will be held Wed-
nesday afternoon at 2 o'clock from
the Presbyterian church, interment
being made at the G. A. R. cemetery.

Journal want ads not results.

Obituary of Harvey Alderson (1884-1916), newspaper unknown, from
Ramsey Co. (adjacent to Minneapolis-St. Paul), Minnesota, 27 March 1916. The
"Capt. and Mrs. Alderson" mentioned in the article may be Thomas and Ra-
chel Alderson.

one became a nurse, one
kept house, and one
stayed around a good
deal with her kin. One
son was married, one
became a doctor in Indi-
anapolis, one at home
(also married). George
who took me around
the country has since
died. The two older
sons were well edu-
cated, one held a public
office in Education.

We found the peo-
ple of Ind. very kind
and hospitable, all hard
working, energetic peo-
ple, and prosperous, as
also were the towns. In-
dianapolis seemed a
very nice, well built
prosperous city; Green-
field, a very interesting
pretty town and the
home of James Whit-
comb Riley. We enjoyed
our month's visit, then
took the train for Dallas,
Texas by way of Ar-
kansas. I remember we
traveled very leisurely,
and became very
friendly with all our fel-
low travelers and some
by the wayside as we
stopped every now and
then to take on fuel,
cord-wood piled beside
the road, and this al-
ways led to an exchange
of wits from the passen-
gers and the natives.
Now and then we
stopped for water and
always for our meals
and sometimes to spend
the night. Sometimes
the folks on the train
who carried their own
meals would invite us
to eat with them. It was

a very delightful way to travel.

The slow speed of the train gave us a chance to see the country much better. I think I prefer it to the modern rush and aloofness of the present day travel. One night we spent in Texarkana, a little town on the border of the two states, was indelibly impressed upon me by the swarms of mosquitoes. I sat up in my bed and with a towel for a weapon simply fought them all night.

The ride over the Texas prairies was interesting. My Aunt's home was at Eagle Rock 4 miles W. of Dallas, where she lived with her cow-boy sons, George, Oscar, Morton, and Cary Gray. Her two daughter, Emma and Mary Jane were married, the former to a farmer and the latter to a cattleman. The people were Southern so, of course, they were hospitable and kind.

My Aunt had a special friend living in Dallas, where I visited and met many people. Mrs. Cockrell was very wealthy, as she ran a city ferry (a fortune in itself), cattle ranches, the biggest flour mill in the South and rented city houses. Her only daughter had married and but recently died. There were two interesting sons, one a graduate of Washington and Lee in Lexington—very dignified. The other a madcap, who took all the police force to manage him when he went *on a tare*. Like all girls he was my favorite but both made it very pleasant for me. Once while lying in bed, I happened to glance under my wardrobe where I saw a pile of silver dollars (it looked like a peck but perhaps not) but it was the biggest pile of money I have ever seen. I think it speaks well for my Father's training that I could live with it day after day and not fill my pockets. Mrs. Cockrell would gather up a big pile of it every Saturday afternoon and go down to the back porch and pay off a bunch of workmen. She could not read or write—but never made a mistake in paying her bills. I had to be pretty nice around her. She had come from S. W. Virginia where some of my family, the Aldersons, lived and she considered them very aristocratic.

My cousins, the 4 Gray boys, stood well in that whole country and were considered among the best riders in Texas. They gave me a fine time, took me to parties, to the city, and all over the section of country. One of them, Morton, was employed by a cattle king who took great loads of cattle abroad with a group of colored to attend to the cattle in the boat. He was witty and

looked very much like the late Will Rogers. The picturesque dress of the cow-boys (ten gallon hats, leather breeches, bright handkerchiefs about the neck) made a picture never to be forgotten. Often they were very good looking and always gallant. They were enough to make a gal lose her head. I did not happen to fall in love with any but I did enjoy going about with them."

From "My Life—Emma Cornelia Alderson, 1938," printed in *West Virginia History*, date unknown, pp. 134-136. Contributed by David Ford, Summerdale, AL.

Alderson Heads of Family

Mr. James Cross, Box 2245, El Cajon, CA 92021 has been working on a compilation of all Alderson heads of families in the United States since 1700. As part of this effort, he has examined nearly every census since 1790 and extracted information concerning Alderson families throughout the country. His work has been assisted by the existence of numerous indices of state censuses, but in some cases, particular that of the 1860 and 1870 censuses, indexing has been incomplete.

Mr. Cross would like to request assistance from any reader who has Alderson census data for 1860 and 1870 for the following states: Alabama, Massachusetts, Maryland, and Michigan; and 1870 census data for California, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Louisiana, Missouri, New York, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin. He notes that anyone with such information need not send the entire census data; the name, counties, and census pages would be sufficient.

He also lists 19 families for whom intermediate census data has not been found; he also requests help from anyone with information on the following families (the information in parentheses indicates the counties in which the family has been located) :

- Josiah Alderson, 1820 and 1830 (1810 Lunenburg Co., VA, 1840 Henry Co., TN)
- Poindexter Alderson, 1840 (1830 Halifax Co., VA, 1850 Pittsylvania Co., VA)

- Warren Alderson, 1860 (1850 Logan Co., VA, 1870 Logan Co., WV)
- William Alderson, 1860 (1850 Simpson Co., KY, 1870 Sumner Co., TN)
- Burr Alderson, 1820 and 1830 (1810 Bote-tourt Co., VA, 1840 Jefferson Co., TN)
- Davis Alderson, 1830 and 1840 (1820 Monroe Co., VA, 1850 Washington Co, VA)
- John Alderson, 1840 (1830 Monroe Co., VA, 1850 Monroe Co., VA)
- Aaron Alderson, 1830 (1820 Hart Co., KY, 1840 Ashtabula Co., OH)
- Simon Alderson, 1830 (1820 Stewart Co., TN, 1840 Hickman Co, KY)
- Levi Alderson, 1850 (1840 Monroe Co., VA, 1860 Monroe Co., VA)
- Able Alderson, 1840 (1830 Russell Co., VA, 1850 Russell Co., VA)
- James C. Alderson, 1840 (1830 Wayne Co, TN, 1850 Marshall Co., MS)
- Albery S. Alderson, 1860 (1850 Hart Co., KY, 1870 Hart Co., KY)
- Moses H. Alderson, 1860 (1850 Hart Co., KY, 1880 in Delaware)
- Hiram Alderson, 1840 (1830 Jessamine Co., KY, 1850 Randolph Co., MO)
- William Alderson, 1840 (1838 Washing-ton Co., AR, 1850 Washington Co., AR)
- William B. Alderson, 1850 (1840 Simpson Co., KY, 1860 Cass Co., MO)
- J.B. Alderson, 1850 (1840 Sumner Co., TN, 1860 Wea Co., KS)
- Bathus C. Alderson, 1850 (1840 Maury Co., TN, 1860 Union Co., AR)

Mr. Cross would appreciate any information that readers can provide. In upcoming issues of the newsletter, I will begin providing some summary material from Alderson Heads of Families.

Civil War Compendium (4)

by Jeff Alderson

George D. Alderson

State: Virginia
 Unit: D Co., 9th Cavalry
 DOB: c. 1833
 Line: George (Judith Haynes)
 Enlist: 1 Sept 1862
 Rank: Private
 Marr: Fannie
 Child: Georgia, Fannie, Minna M., Mable
 Events: The 1850 census lists George as a single laborer, age 17, in Lunenberg Twp., Richmond Co., VA. He is most likely the son of George and Judith (Haynes) Alderson. His father later married Lucy B. Darby in 1840 following Judith's death. George is listed as present for duty up through April, 1864. He is later listed as absent (sick at home) in Lancaster Co., VA. George is eventually reported as Absent Without Leave. Co. D was recruited from Lancaster Co., VA. The 1880 census lists George as a resident of Baltimore, MD, age 42, with wife Fannie 42, and 4 children. His step-mother, Lucy, is listed as living next door to George.

George E. Alderson

State: Illinois
 Unit: A Co., 33rd Infantry
 Enlist: 20 Sept 1861
 Place: Camp Butler, IL
 Rank: Private
 Events: George's prewar residence is listed as Virden, Macoupin Co., IL. George's unit was active in campaigning along the Mississippi River and the siege of Vicksburg. George reenlisted as a veteran and finished out the war in this regiment. George filed pension application #673317 on 24 Sept 1888 in TN. George may be G.E. Alderson, son of Jeremiah and Lucretia (Newlen) Alderson and grandson of James and Elizabeth Alderson. If this is so, his older brother, Jeremiah Bird Alderson resided in Macoupin Co., IL during the 1860 census.

Editor's Corner

We have come to the end of the the fifth year of publication of *Alderson Roots & Branches*! What started as a small publication in 1989 with the encouragement of such veteran researchers and family "activists" such as Tom Alderson, Helen Boswell, and Gaye Whitehead has now grown to over 100 subscribers, who have provided a wealth of information and assistance to share with all. I hope that everyone has benefitted in some form from receiving the newsletter. Certainly, I have enjoyed immensely the contact with all through the years!

I have continued work on compilation of an Alderson History, which I hope to release in initial form next year. Your assistance and patience have been most appreciated!

As I will again be returning to Germany for vacation in September and early October, the next issue of the newsletter may be somewhat delayed. I apologize in advance for the inconvenience to all, but after a year of intense travel and work, it will be nice to relax in the mountains of Bavaria. And I welcome you all to join me in another year with Alderson Cousins!

New Members

Dr. R.E. Eng, 7 High Road, Inver Grove Heights, MN 55077. Dr. Eng is a grandson of Harvey Alderson of Ramsey Co., MN, who may be the son of Thomas and Rachel Alderson of PA (see *Queries*).

Dr. H. Keith Hellums, Jr., 2 Bear Wallow Drive, Warrenton, VA 22186. Dr. Hellums is a descendant of the Elder John Alderson line.

Mr. Mike Donovan, 2180 Jonathan Place, Boulder, CO 80304. Mr. Donovan is a descendant of Burzilla Alderson, son of Curtis Alderson, the younger brother of the Rev. John Alderson, Jr.

Alderson Roots & Branches

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

Editor: David Fridley

Contributions in form of articles, photographs, vital records, Bible records, and other Alderson memorabilia are welcome. All material accompanied by a self-addressed stamped envelope can be returned. Suggestions, contributions, and research queries can be addressed to David Fridley, *Alderson Roots & Branches*, 576 Noe St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Fax no.: 415/861-6998; email: 71052.3046 (CompuServe), or 71052.3046@compuserve.com (Internet).

Subscriptions are \$7.50 per year (\$13 international) for four issues and run from the September to June issues, including any back issues for the year. Back issues from Vols. 1 and 2 are available at \$1.50 apiece, Vols. 3, 4 and 5 at \$2.00 apiece. *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 \$15 airmail, payable by check to Mr. John Alderson, 133E Alameda Drive, Tempe, AZ 85282.