

Alderson

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The Aldersons of Northern Virginia

by Jim Cross

The earliest known Alderson immigrants to North America came to Northern Virginia. The descendants of this line are the most numerous group of Aldersons in the US. Articles about some branches of the line have already appeared in the present newsletter. This article summarizes what is known about them through 1800.

The area where the early Aldersons settled is the peninsula lying between the Potomac and Rappahannock rivers known as the "Northern Neck" of Virginia. It was settled early because the natives there were not as hostile as those living south of the Rappahannock. It was first organized as Rappahannock county – known as Old Rappahannock – to distinguish it from the present-day county of that name which is further west. It was later subdivided into Lancaster, Northampton, Richmond and Westmoreland counties. These counties are small with a current combined population of about 50,000. I visited the area in June 1994. The peninsula is generally low land with the highest elevation about 100 feet, cut by numerous creeks flowing into the two boundary rivers. There are numerous marshes and much of the land is wooded. It

is criss-crossed by narrow winding paved country roads. On an early morning drive in Richmond county I saw wild turkeys, deer, and rabbits along the road. Fields of corn were plentiful, but few domestic animals were seen. History tells us that raising tobacco eventually destroyed the fertility of cropland, and this probably explains why much of this area is now wooded and also why most descendants of the early Aldersons eventually left the area.

THOMAS ALDERSON. The earliest colonial reference to an Alderson is to Thomas Alderson who administered the estate of Henry Waits in old Rappahannock county in 1654 (county records, Vol. 14, p. 79). His land is mentioned as adjoining land described on page 79 of the deed book of Northumberland Co., VA, 20 May 1656. The only other reference to a Thomas Alderson is that the estate of a Thomas Alderson was inventoried 26 Jul 1704 in Westmoreland Co., VA. If that were the same individual, he probably was well over 70 years old at his death. He may have been the progenitor of the other families described below, but no evidence of that has been found.

ANTHONY ALDERSON. The next Alderson about whom records have been found is Anthony Alderson, who witnessed a deed of Thomas Gaskin in Northumberland Co. on 10 Feb 1662 (Deed Book, p. 90). Charles Morgan of Bristol, a mariner, gave a power of attorney to Anthony Alderson of Bristol 6 Jul 1676. Roger Miles was bound in Liverpool England 30 Sep 1665 for four years to Anthony Alderson of Virginia. Anthony was consignee of cargo on the ships Unicorn and Comfort in 1685 and 1686. My article in *Alderson Roots & Branches*, Vol. 5, No. 2, December 1993, discussed Teliffe A. *Alverson*, whose name was often spelled Alderson in colonial records. This may be the same individual as Anthony Alderson.

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RICHARD ALDERSON SR. (?-1698 OS). The earliest record for Richard is a deed showing purchase of 150 acres in Lancaster Co. from Thomas Chetwood, 8 May 1672. His will dated 15 Sep 1695, recorded 4 Jan 1698 in Richmond Co., mentions his wife, sons Richard Jr. and John and three grand-daughters, Ann, Margaret and Mary. Nothing is known of his origins. He may have been an immigrant or perhaps a son of Thomas mentioned above. For now, he is considered to be the founder of the Northern Neck line. His widow later married Christopher Edmonds and apparently left the area, taking with her three slaves which had been left to Richard Jr. On 5 Dec 1723, Richard Jr. signed a power of attorney in Lancaster Co., VA authorizing his agent to apprehend and return the three slaves.

WILLIAM ALDERSON (?-1688). The only known record for William is a will which was probated in Surry Co., VA, which is south of the Rappahannock, opposite the Northern Neck. The river is over a mile wide at Tappahannock where the modern highway bridge now crosses. William left no known male descendents.

GEORGE ALDERSON (?-1714). A suit filed by George against William Hill was dismissed in court in Westmoreland County 8 Apr 1693 (Court Orders p. 95a). George is named in a number of additional court documents in Westmoreland County. His will dated 20 Nov 1714 mentions his daughter Ann and mother Mary Baxter (remarried widow?) who was given custody of three minor daughters. Mary Baxter died in 1715, leaving a will which mentions Jane Alderson and three other daughters. George also left no known male descendents. The parentage of William and George is unknown. They may have been siblings of Richard Sr., immigrants, or sons of unknown earlier immigrants.

JAMES ALDERSON (?-1732). James lived in Essex County on the south bank of the Rappahannock. He first appears in the records as a witness to two court documents on 25 Apr 1705. His name appears in ten probate cases between 1720 and 1730. He inherited marshland from a neighbor Edward Moseby whose will was probated in 1727. His second wife was Anne Cooper, widow of Thomas Gregson. This information is annotated to the 1704 tax list of Essex county after the entry for Thomas Gregson. Both James and Anne died in 1732. His estate inventory is in Essex County Will Book 5, pages 39

and 44. Nothing is known about his first wife or whether he had any surviving children.

Northern Neck Descendants

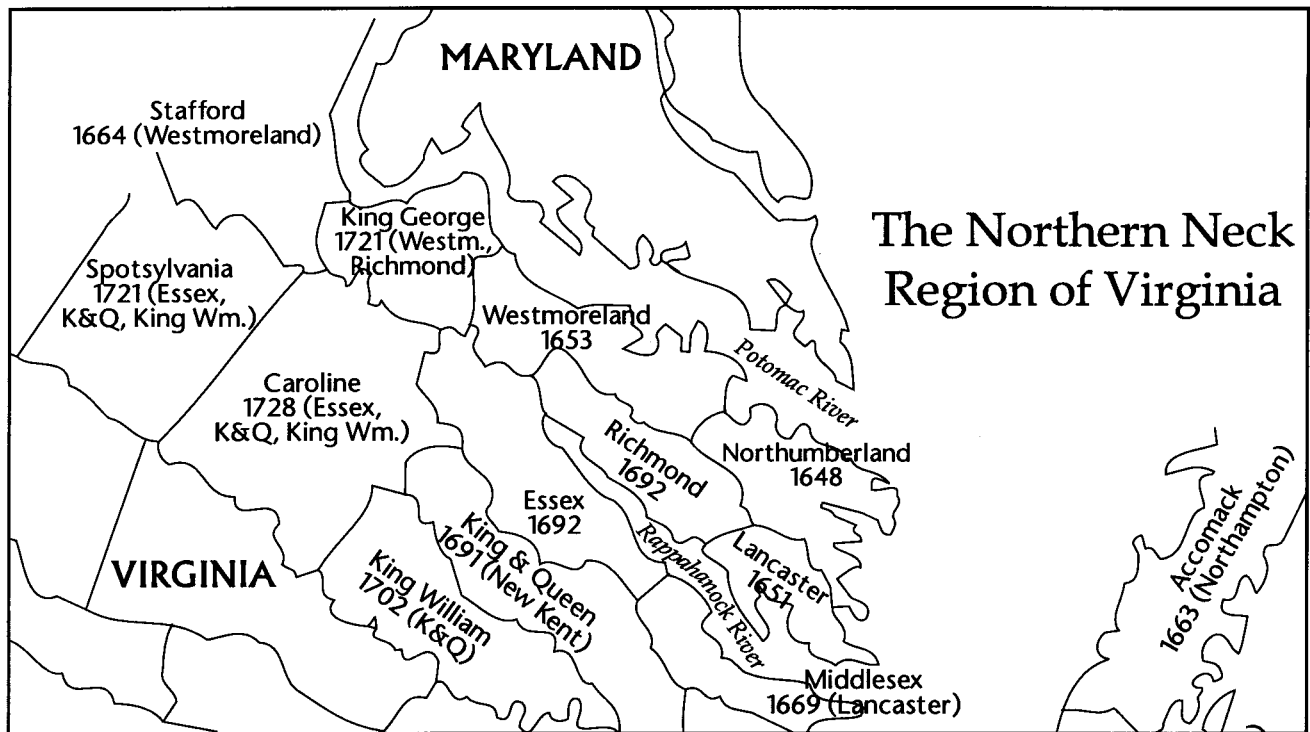
The Alderson Family History Society of the UK utilizes a family numbering system in its computerized records. It is helpful in distinguishing individuals with similar names. Tentative numbers in the 5000 series have been assigned to heads of families born in North America. The numbers are shown with a Q prefix which distinguishes individuals descended from families in Northern Virginia. The numbers are shown as part of the remaining entries.

Q5000 JOHN ALDERSON, son of Richard Alderson Sr. A John Alderson was mentioned in the 1704 inventory of the estate of Thomas Alderson in Westmoreland County and in the records of Northumberland County in 1708 as a witness to a deed. The deed recorded in Book 5, page 179 in Richmond County lists him as owning adjacent property near the junction of Northumberland, Richmond and Lancaster counties. No records have been found about his death or giving the names of his wife or children.

Q5001 RICHARD ALDERSON JR (?-1758), son of Richard Alderson Sr. He is listed in the tax records of Essex county in 1696 and 1702 with three tithe areas. He patented 85 acres in Short Neck, Richmond county on 4 Apr 1695. He was one of 23 patentees on 1146 acres in Henrico county, VA on 1 May 1705. He was one of 7 patentees on 305 acres in Norfolk, VA on 28 Apr 1711. He is listed on the 1714 rent rolls of Richmond county, VA. A 1723 power of attorney is discussed above under the entry for his father. Richard's will was dated 23 May 1753 and probated 6 Mar 1758, and mentions two sons, John and Richard Alderson, to whom he left his slaves. The rest of the estate was divided between all of his children, who were not named individually.

Q5002 RICHARD ALDERSON, son of Q5001 Richard Alderson Jr. He is listed on the rent rolls of Lunenburg parish, Richmond county in 1757. He witnessed a deed for his sister-in-law Jane on 6 Mar 1758 in which she transferred property to her son William. No records of his family have been found.

Q5003 JOHN ALDERSON (?-1757), son of Q5001 Richard Alderson Jr. John was a member of the North Farnham parish church in Rich-



The Northern Neck Region of Virginia

mond County. The churchbook has been preserved. It is on file in the county registrar's office in Warsaw, the county seat. It includes the following: (1) John Alderson married Jane Starks 4 Jul 1729; (2) son James born 18 May 1730. John died in 1757. Court Order Book 14, page 98 records letters of administration given to his wife, Jane. Jane was appointed guardian of son Reuben, Benjamin Branham was appointed guardian of son Benedict, and James Alderson was appointed guardian of son Jeremiah on 4 May 1761 (Court Order Book 14, pp. 375-376). The widow Jane married Benjamin Smith 3 Nov 1762 (marriage bond). Her will was dated 23 Mar 1774 and probated 4 Jul 1774; it mentions James, Benjamin (Benedict), Jeremiah, Reuben and a son, William.

Q5004 LEWIS ALDERSON. Records for Lewis are found in the International Genealogical Index. He lived in Gloucester county on the south side of the Rappahannock. His wife's name is shown as Matilda Dunwoodie. A daughter Lou Ann was born to the couple in 1757 and a son Richard on 9 Nov 1760. No other records have been found for this family.

Q5007 JAMES ALDERSON (1730-1785), son of Q5003 John Alderson. James was a member of the North Farnham parish church and the births of six of his children are recorded in the parish

records. His wife's name was Sarah Ann. James contracted with George Glascock, Jr. to allow him to build a mill on Alderson land. This may be a relative of his wife, whose maiden name might have been Glascock. The contract was recorded in 1786 after James' death, but was probably dated earlier. Their children were:

Reuben	22 Jan 1755
Jane	22 Sep 1756
Sarah Ann	2 Jan 1762
James	28 Feb 1764
John	18 Nov 1766
William	11 Jun 1769
Jeremiah	31 May 1774
Elizabeth	(named in father's will)
Ann	(named in father's will)

(1) Reuben can be confused with his uncle Reuben, son of Q5003 John. He had died by 1782 according to his father's will. See Q5013 Reuben.

(2) Jane Alderson who married Peter Northern. She is listed by that name in her father's will.

(3) Sarah Ann married Thomas Stone 20 Jul 1780 and John Baker 26 Dec 1786 (Richmond Co. Marriage Bonds).

(4) The other four sons have detailed entries below.

(5) The will of Betsy Alderson dated 24 Sep 1810 and probated 7 Jan 1811 in Richmond county, VA names her living brothers and sisters and divides her property among them (Will Book 9, pp. 382-3). She was unmarried.

(6) Ann married ? Walker according to her father's will.

James submitted a claim for 375 pounds of beef impressed by the county commissary for Continental Army use. The claim was allowed 3 Apr 1783 (Order Book 18, p. 202). By his will dated 2 Jun 1782 and probated 2 May 1785, James divided his property among his eight living children (Will Book 7, pp. 472-475).

Q5010 JEREMIAH ALDERSON, son of Q5003 John Alderson. He witnessed a deed in Lunenburg Co., VA on 13 May 1784 and sold four slaves on 28 Dec 1784 (Deed Book 14, page 49 and Deed Book A, page 154). See Janice Richardson's article in *Alderson Roots & Branches*, Vol. 2, No. 3, December 1990.

Q5012 BENEDICT (BENJAMIN) ALDERSON (c1740-1795), son of Q5003 John Alderson. Since Benedict was made a ward of Benjamin Branham in 1761, he must have been a minor at the time. However, he is listed individually on the tax list of Lunenburg Co., VA in 1764. Further information about Benedict was given by the editor in *Alderson Roots & Branches* Vol. 3, No. 1, June 1991.

Q5011 WILLIAM ALDERSON, son of Q5003 John Alderson. William was apparently a lifelong resident of Richmond Co., VA. By deed of 6 Mar 1758, his widowed mother and elder brother transferred title to 24½ acres of land on Totoskey Creek to William. He appears on the county rent rolls in 1766, 1768 and 1770 and again in 1783. His wife's name may have been Mary Smith. He apparently died in 1787. His will dated 5 Dec 1787 mentions wife Mary and John, Jerry, William and Rachel Alderson. The latter seem to be his nephews and nieces. His widow, Mary, transferred land as his executrix to Peter Northern on 4 Apr 1791 (Deed Book 16, p. 170). No children of William have been identified.

Q5013 REUBEN ALDERSON. He may be the son of Q5003 John Alderson or Q5007 James Alderson. Reuben was apparently a lifelong resi-

dent of Richmond Co., VA. His wife's name is given as Mary Taff on the marriage bond of his daughter Rachel who married John Chamberlain in Richmond Co. on 16 Dec 1791. The wording of the bond suggests that Reuben was deceased by that time. The daughter may be the Rachel listed in the will of Q5011 William.

Of the five sons of Q5003 John, two of them — Jeremiah and Benedict — moved first to Lunenburg Co., VA and later to South Carolina. William and Reuben apparently left no male descendants. Four sons of James comprised the next generation in the Northern Neck. All remained in Richmond County thru the 1810 census and had large families. The 1810 census lists 14 young males and 14 young females in the four families.

Q5014 JAMES ALDERSON (1764-before 1820), son of Q5007 James Alderson. There is very little data about this family. The 1810 census lists 4 males, one each 0-10, 10-16, 16-26 and 45+ and 5 females, three 0-10, one 16-26 and one 26-45. This may be the James who married Catherine Scurlock in Richmond Co. on 5 May 1813. A widow, Catherine, is listed in the 1820, 1830 and 1840 censuses of Richmond Co. By deed of 28 Jan 1822, title to 22 6/7 acres, known as "the old house tract" was transferred from James (deceased) to Richard Alderson, Polly Flinn and Sarah Jackson (Deed Book 11, p. 350). That Richard Alderson is unidentified, but he may be the Richard (deceased) from whom 100 acres was transferred to John Hudson in June 1835 (Deed Book 24, p. 30). No descendants of Q5014 James have been identified.

Q5016 JOHN S. ALDERSON (1766-?), son of Q5007 James Alderson. John was a member of North Farnham parish and births of seven children are recorded in the parish records. He is listed on the 1787 tax roll of Richmond Co. living with William Miskey. He married Rachel Davenport 31 Jan 1787 (marriage bond) and Betsey Coleman 5 Jan 1803 (parish records). Children were as follows:

Nancy	31 Jan 1790	Mother-Rachel
Jery	15 Nov 1797	Mother-Rachel
Fortunatus D.	29 Oct 1798	Mother-Rachel
Lucy Rout	7 Oct 1804	Mother-Betsey
Richard C.	25 Mar 1806	Mother-Betsey
Sarah W.	4 Nov 1808	Mother-Betsey

Benjamin 3 Apr 1811 Mother-Betsey

He may also have married Elizabeth Scrimger in Richmond Co., VA on 26 Dec 1812 (marriage bond). The unique name of Fortunatus makes it possible to trace his migration to Tennessee where he is listed in Davidson county in the 1830 census and Maury county thereafter. His older brother Jeremiah was in Maury county in 1830 and 1840 and Lawrence county, TN thereafter. Richard C. remained in Virginia where he is listed in the 1850 census in Halifax county. John S. probably died before 1820. The 1850 census listing for an elderly Elizabeth in Richmond Co., VA is probably his widow.

Q5017 WILLIAM ALDERSON (1769-c1840), son of Q5007 James Alderson. He married Elizabeth Baker on 29 Apr 1789 (marriage bond) and was probably the William that married the widow Ann M. Tapscott on 20 Feb 1805 (marriage bond). Probably he was the William who is listed in the 1830 census of Maury Co., TN with a wife and a male 15-20. William first appears on the 1824 Maury Co tax list with his nephew Jeremiah. The 1832 tax list shows he had 11 slaves. The son in the census may be Bathes C. Alderson who is listed in the 1840 census of Maury Co., TN and then moved to Union Co Arkansas. Bathes' 1850 census record shows he was born in Virginia c1812. He owned a number of slaves which he may have inherited after his father's death. William B. Alderson was appointed executor for William Alderson deceased and paid for his duties on 30 Sep 1840 in Maury Co., TN. William B. Alderson, the executor, was born in Virginia according to 1880 and 1900 census records of his sons. He apparently settled first in Mississippi then in Alabama where two sons were born, before coming to Maury Co., TN. The evidence suggests he was William's son by his first marriage.

Q5020 JEREMIAH ALDERSON (1774-c1818), son of Q5007 James Alderson. Jeremiah married Caty Alloway 17 May 1791 in Richmond Co., VA (marriage bond). The family were members of the Lunenberg parish church in Richmond Co., VA. The births of two sons are recorded in the parish records as follows: John, 3 May 1793; William, 27 Sep 1794. There was also an older daughter Caty whose marriage bond to Mr. Davis on 18 Dec 1808 shows the name of her mother. Jeremiah apparently died before 1820 as

a widow Catherine is listed in the 1830 and 1840 censuses of Richmond Co., VA.

Calaway Hodge Alderson

by Mike Donovan

Calaway Hodge Alderson was the fifth of six children born to Burzilla Alderson of Virginia and Eliza Dawson of Maryland. Burzilla was said to have been a Baptist Minister, and was the son of Curtis Alderson, who in turn was the son of another Baptist minister, the Rev. John Alderson, Sr. of Virginia. Being the son of a long line of Ministers must have led young Calaway along a very strict and proper upbringing. I would imagine even with his rigid home life he would have found time to have fun and enjoy the things that young boys enjoy to this day.

In 1812, six years prior to Calaway's birth, the Saux and Fox Indians were involved in the start of the Black Hawk Wars which would end with the Indians being pushed across the Mississippi River in the early 1830s. The final push came in the years 1838-39, with the Cherokee and the other "Five Civilized Tribes" being marched on the now infamous "Trail of Tears". This forced march to the reservations in Indian Territory (modern day Oklahoma) received its name from the large number of Indians who died along the trail. The Indians perished due to disease, hunger, lack of clothing and shelter along the long march. During these early years of national strife, Calaway had grown into his early 20s.

At 22 years of age, Calaway decided to take Nancy Coppock as his bride. Calaway's older brother Isaac had married Nancy's older sister, Susannah, twelve years prior. The arrangement of families marrying brothers of one to sisters of the other was far more common during the early days on the frontier, as the families were far more isolated than in this day. This caused them to band together in tight-knit small groups for security and companionship.

Calaway and his new bride had three children: Elizabeth (b. 1842), William (b. 1844) and Martha (b. 1846), and all were born in Jefferson Co., Tennessee. He was working in the area as a

blacksmith and a farmer to support his family when tragedy struck.

On the 1st of August 1848, four miles south of the Loys Crossroads, in Union County, Tennessee, his wife Nancy died. This left Calaway with a very young family, which I believe may have gone on to be raised by Nancy Coppock's family, as there is no mention of them living with Calaway in any of the following census reports.

Calaway was always a man of action. After a short period of grief he met and decided to marry his second wife, Louisa Brummett, through whom this writer is descended. They were married in Clinton, Anderson County, Tennessee on 9 November 1848, just 3 months, 1 week, and 1 day after his first wife's death. To this second marriage were born Harriett (b. 1851), Isaac (b. 1853), Mary (b. 1855), Thomas (b. 1858), and Jason (b. 1860). Isaac was my ancestor.

At the time of Calaway's second marriage, the United States was continuing to move through a very turbulent time. The Mexican War had started in 1846 and concluded with the 1848 signing of the Treaty of Guadalupe. With this treaty, Mexico ceded to the United States nearly one million square miles of modern day California, Nevada, Utah, Arizona and New Mexico. The 15 Northern and 15 Southern States were evenly split at the time, with each faction hoping to gain a majority by making parts of the newly acquired land into free states or slave states respectively. These turbulent times continued to spin ever faster until the Southern cannon attack on Fort Sumter on the morning of 12 April 1861. These guns sounded the opening of the Civil War.

Calaway was said not to be a strong supporter of either side during the opening of the Civil War, and I imagine that he would not have wished to leave his family. A story handed down in the family said that Calaway was actually sympathetic with the South as he lived in Tennessee, a state which seceded from the Union on 7 May 1861 to join the Confederacy. Calaway managed to stay clear of the opening battles of the war. In early 1863, the Union Army came through Loudon County, Tennessee

where Calaway was living and commandeered some of Calaway's horses for use in the Union War Army. Word spread that Calaway had given the horses to the "Yankees", and this put Calaway and his neighbors at odds. He had such a heated argument with one his neighbors that, at the age of forty-five, with his second young family in need of him, he decided that it was time to join in the war effort. In true Alderson style, he made his way north to Camp Nelson, Kentucky and on 25 June 1863 he joined the Union, 11th Tennessee Cavalry, Company B as a private for the coming three years.¹

One month later, on 21 July 1863, Calaway was appointed Sergeant Major of Company B. This was the highest noncommissioned officer rank and was no doubt due to his age (45) and an ability to write (not at all common in those days).²

During the following year and 8 months that he was to serve, Calaway saw many hardships, as did all of the 145,000 men that Tennessee supplied to the war effort. Of that number, about 1 in 5, or 30,000 would side with the North and join the Army of the Tennessee. The Northern sympathizers came mostly from the North East corner of the state. The 11th Tennessee Cavalry was involved at the battle of Crab Orchard, Kentucky on the 24th of August 1863 and then were marched toward the strategic Cumberland Gap in Southwestern Virginia from 24 September through 3 October. It was here that the men of the 11th were stationed and skirmished with the Confederate Army for several months. Throughout the winter the men of both sides were poorly supplied and at times subsisted on forage. "The supply of ammunition is only 40 rounds in pouches, two of the cavalry regiments not even having that amount, and no revolvers."³

On 22 February 1864 at Wyerman's Mills, Lee County, Virginia the 11th Tennessee Cavalry was surprised as they slept and captured by Brig. General W.E. Jones of the Confederacy. "The fruits of the expedition consist of 256 prisoners, 8 wagons, and it is supposed about 100 horses; small arms were in due proportion, and the entire camp equipage of the 11th Tennessee

1 Records of Alberta Alderson Fairbanks, Barstow, CA.

2 National Archives. Military Records of Calaway Hodge Alderson.

3 Crab Orchard, KY, 24 August 1863, John DeCourcy, Colonel, Commanding. From *The Official Records of the War of the Rebellion*.

(Federal) Cavalry and a detachment of the infantry. There was a rich harvest of abandoned blankets and overcoats, much needed by my command. Thirteen of the prisoners were runaway slaves."⁴

The Union prisoners were marched to the rear of the Confederate lines and taken to Belles Island located just outside of Richmond, Virginia. During the time that Calaway was held prisoner at Belles Island, he and the rest of the 11th were confined in the open with no tents or blankets for protection from the February winter cold. Calaway told of the men huddling in the corner of the corral trying to keep warm during snowstorms. He thought at times that he would surely die from the cold. During this time he came down with rheumatism and dysentery. This would plague him until his death 36 years later.⁵

After the Confederates learned that Calaway was a Sergeant Major, he was sent to Libby Prison, on the banks of the James River in Virginia. This notorious prison was a converted warehouse that was used for Union Officers that were taken prisoner. On the night of 9 February 1864 Libby Prison was the scene of one of histories most daring prison escapes. During that night, 109 Union men escaped.⁶

This escape made it very hard on the men confined at Belles Island, for only after the escape tunnel was discovered by the Confederate guards days later, and security tightened, did they allow any new prisoners to come in out of the fierce weather that had frozen some of Calaway's fellow prisoners to death.⁷

Calaway was paroled at City Point, Virginia on 22 March 1864 as was the custom of the day. He was by this time very ill and was ordered by the Union Army to report to Camp Dennison, Ohio, where he reported on 30 June 1864. Calaway stayed at this Union Hospital Camp until his honorable discharge from the Union Army on 24 March 1865. He made his way back home to Tennessee but was in such a weakened condition that he had to purchase a horse to travel be-

cause he was unable to walk the distance. A friend of Calaway's, Joseph D. Foute of Eaton's Cross Roads, Tennessee said under oath "He (Calaway) was able to hold an anvil straight out in front of him, that he was a first class blacksmith who worked early to late both on his farm and in his shop. After he returned from the war he was sickly and unable to do this."⁸

After months of rest at home, Calaway was able to gain back some but never all of his original strength. From this time on he would always tire easily. Family history has it that in 1869, Calaway got in a fight with the neighbor that he had argued with prior to his enlisting in the Union Army. During the fight it is said that Calaway shot and killed his neighbor.⁹ I would think with hard feelings in a "Southern" state and a death of a "loyal Southerner", Calaway thought it best to leave for a fresh start in some other state. At this time the Federal Government was allowing Civil War Veterans to homestead in the newly formed state of Kansas.

In October or November of 1869, Calaway homesteaded land 3 miles south of Concordia, Jewell County, Kansas. This homestead grant was signed by then-President Ulysses Simpson Grant. It was said that Calaway set up a blacksmith shop, but because of the illness from the war, he was unable to work long hours. His neighbors felt that he was a good blacksmith and when they could, they would wait until he was well enough to do their work. In 1874 Calaway sold his homestead and moved to Randall, Jewell County, Kansas. On 1 March 1875 he was listed in Buffalo Township, Jewell City, Jewell County, Kansas.

Time passed and Calaway's family grew. Hardship came again on 26 February 1896 when Calaway's second wife, Louisa Brummett died. She was buried in the Randall Cemetery, Jewell County, Kansas.

The following story was told about his search for a wife after Louisa's death: "Calaway Alderson was a prosperous farmer in Jewell County, Kansas. After Louisa died, he was lonesome and

4 Morgan's Farm, Lee County, Va, Jones' Cavalry, March 14, 1864. From *The Official Records of the War of the Rebellion*.

5 Morgan's Farm, Lee County, Va, Jones' Cavalry, March 14, 1864. From *The Official Records of the War of the Rebellion*.

6 "Civil War Escape from Libby Prison", *American History Illustrated*, Nov/Dec 1985.

7 "Civil War Escape from Libby Prison", *American History Illustrated*, Nov/Dec 1985.

8 Records of Albert Alderson Fairbanks, Barstow, CA.

9 Records of Albert Alderson Fairbanks, Barstow, CA.

also needed a house keeper, so one day he hitched up his buggy and drove to town to call on the banker, accompanied by his grandson Delbert. He asked the banker if there were any good "widow-women" that he could recommend as a wife. The banker thought for a while then suggested a certain woman (Lydia Garber) who lived in her own little house in town. Calaway thanked him and drove to the house (Lydia's). At the door he introduced himself. The widow said, "Yes Mr. Alderson, I have heard of you." Calaway said, "Well, will you marry me?" She thought a few minutes and said, "Come back in one hour and I will give you my answer." Calaway, accompanied by his grandson, went back downtown and loafed around for the hour and then went back to the widow's door. She said, "Yes, Mr. Alderson, I will marry you," and she did. Her name was Lydia (Garber).¹⁰ They were married on 7 October 1896 in Jewell County, Kansas.¹¹

Another story handed down in the family relates to Calaway's drinking habits. "Now Calaway, like most men in those days, liked his liquor and would occasionally get inebriated by nipping on the jug of whiskey that he always kept in the house. But Lydia was always objecting and "getting after him" about it. One morning, he came downstairs to breakfast carrying his shoes in one hand and his whiskey jug in the other. Lydia immediately began to berate him. Calaway said, "But Louisa never minded if I had a little drink occasionally." And Lydia answered sternly, "Yes but Louisa is dead!" Calaway looked at her a long time. Then without a word, he got a wash basin from the sink, sat down, took off his shoes, poured the entire contents of the jug into the basin, and washed his feet in the whiskey. Then he dried his feet, carried the basin to the back door and threw the whiskey on the ground. Then he said, "Well, if I can't drink it, I can at least wash my feet in it!" and he never drank again.¹²

Calaway died of "cancer of the cheek" probably caused by chewing tobacco, which was a common practice of the day. He died at his

10 Stories told to Clair Alderson by his father Delbert Leonard Alderson, who had known his grandfather Calaway. Recorded by Crystal Fleming.

11 Marriage License, Jewell County, Kansas, J.B. Reed, Justice of the Peace.

12 Stories told to Clair Alderson by his father Delbert Leonard Alderson. Recorded by Crystal Fleming.

13 Randall News, *Jewell County Monitor*, Mankato, August 1, 1901.

14 Stories told to me by Ken Alderson, son of Rosco Wallace Alderson, grandson of Calaway Alderson.

Query

Who is Erville ALDERSON?

He was an actor who appeared as CSA President Jefferson Davis in the movie "Santa Fe Trail." This movie also starred Errol Flynn and Ronald Reagan.

Erville was also Gary Cooper's neighbor in the movie "Sergeant York." Erville played the man that was supposed to sell Sgt. York a piece of bottom land for a farm but backed out.

Jeff Alderson, 1651 College Ave., Racine, WI 53403

home in Concordia, Jewell County, Kansas on Friday, 26 July 1901 and was buried on Saturday, 27 July in the Randall Cemetery. Calaway was buried in the Alderson plot with his second wife Louisa and Louisa's mother, Mrs. Elizabeth Brummett.

An obituary from the local paper reported that "Funeral services were held in the M.E. Church, Rev. J.C. Howard of the Baptist Church preaching the funeral discourse. His remains were buried in the Randall Cemetery. Mr. Alderson was one of our early settlers, a veteran of the Civil War, a highly respected citizen and a member of the Baptist Church."¹³

Lydia applied for and received a pension of \$6.00 per month after Calaway's death because of his service to the Union Army. This was about double the normal amount for the day. She lived in the Kansas State Soldiers Home in Fort Dodge, Kansas until her death on 18 April 1921 at the age of 85. She was buried next to Calaway and many of the other members of the Alderson family buried in the Randall Cemetery.¹⁴

[This article was first printed by the Alderson Family History Society in the 1980s.]

Letter from Lebanon, Virginia

The following is a copy of a letter from Thomas Creigh McCleary Alderson of Lebanon, Russell Co., VA to "Brother James", yet unidentified, dated 14 Dec 1858. Thomas C.M. Alderson was the second son of Col. George and Jeanette Creigh (McCleary) Alderson, born 17 Nov 1817, Greenbrier Co., VA, died 22 Mar 1876, Lebanon, Russell Co., VA. Thomas moved to Russell Co. in 1831. Contributed by Norman Hemphill, Mission, Kansas.

Lebanon Va Dec 14th 1858

Dear Bro. James

Your much esteemed favor of the 17th ultimo was received by due course of mail & I admire your punctuality, & would have written to you without delay, but as yours was rec^d about the time a protracted meeting commenced in the Baptist church at this place, & thinking at its close, that perhaps I might give you some interesting news, I deferred writing, but the meeting has now closed and with it no very remarkable results - however, during its continuance two members were received to our church, ^{by letters} and 3 by baptism, & there was a seriousness prevailing the congregation the most of the time, the meeting lasted 10 days, but the most of the time, Bro. Snuff was alone. he is quite an efficient minister.

I regret exceedingly that you did not visit our portion of the state with a view of settling before you went to Iowa, especially if it had resulted in your living among us, and Mr. Aston says, can't you do so yet? Oh how pleasant it would be, if it could be so. Your letter is so descriptive of the Yankee character, their selfishness, shrewdness, and false pretensions are not too highly coloured, from the little knowledge I have of them, acquired by my business intercourse with them at the North, and I do not blame you, but rather

commend you for determining...in not forcing your lands into market under the present depressed state of monetary affairs. You wished to know where Uncle Thomas C. McCleary lived.¹⁵ He lives in the vicinity of Montgomery City in Montgomery County, month, in fact the city is being built up on his land - he gave part of the ground for a depot, and I am told that lands which cost him a few years ago thirty five hundred dollars would now bring him forty thousand dollars, so you see he has been quite fortu-

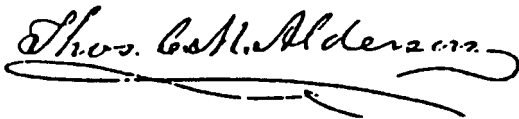
15 Thomas Creigh McCleary, brother of Jeanette Creigh McCleary, mother of Thomas.

nate in his speculation and in his move to Missouri. When you visit Missouri I hope you will make it suit to call on Uncle Thomas—he would be so glad to see you. I received a letter from him today, he and his family have had uninterrupted good health, ever since they have been in Mo. until about 2 cases of chill and fever recently, and he is much pleased with his present home. You have many friends in this county and not a few of them often enquire after you. Have you forgotten your old friend Andy Williams, who interrupted you, when you made your temperance address in the court house, and at whose house you afterwards preached? He is now a sober man and you have the credit of making him so. We have had but little cold weather here thus far, at this time we have plenty mud and can sit in the house comfortably, without a fire. You know Augustus W. Aston¹⁶, a brother to William, he has again gone deranged for the third time. He had wound up all of his mercantile business and devoted himself to the Ministry, joined the Methodist conference and had a circuit in Tennessee, was there but a few weeks until he was brought home deranged, and is now at his brother William's. Margaret¹⁷ is enjoying her usual health, my family are in good health, Nancy¹⁸ and Margaret wish to be kindly remembered to you, Jane, and family. Give my love to all. Write as punctually as you did before and your letter shall be replied to as promptly. It is so cheering to hear from you—your letters are at all times so interesting to me,

I am

ever yours

Thos. C.M. Alderson



Civil War Compendium (6)

H.B. Alderson

Events: H.B. is listed as a resident of Lansing, Ingham County, MI in the Michigan 1894 veteran's census.

Henry C. Alderson

State: VA
 Unit: A Co., 16th Cavalry
 DOB: 25 Oct 1847, Lebanon, Russell Co., VA
 Line: John/Thomas/Davis/Dr. Christopher
 Enlist: 10 Oct 1864
 Place: Lebanon, Russell Co., VA
 Rank: Private
 Separ: 31 Dec 1864
 Place: Greenbrier Co., WV
 Marr: Mary Louisa Chapman, 28 Sep 1871, Tazewell Co., VA
 Child: Chapman, b. 1872; Leola, b. 1875; William Henry, b. 1876
 DOD: 9 Nov 1912
 Place: Tazewell Court House, Tazewell Co., VA
 Events: Henry is listed as present on the rolls to 31 Dec 1864. The 16th VA Cavalry put into winter quarters on the same date with many soldiers receiving 60 days furloughs. Many did not return. He is listed as Henry G. Alderson in some cases. His occupation after the war was attorney-at-law at Tazewell Court House, VA. His father, Christopher, is listed as resident of Russell Co., VA in the 1860 census. The 1870 census lists Henry as a resident of Jeffersonville Township, Tazewell Co., VA. He was a well respected lawyer and community figure.

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- 16 Augustus B. Aston, born 29 Nov 1815, son of Samuel and Sarah (White) Aston. Augustus' brother William Aston married Margaret Catherine Alderson, Thomas' sister.
 17 Margaret Catherine Alderson, born 29 Aug 1824, Greenbrier Co., VA, died 23 Feb 1885, Lebanon, Russell Co., VA. She married William B. Aston in August 1846 in Russell Co. They had no children.
 18 Nancy Jane Dickinson, Thomas' wife, born 17 Dec 1819, Russell Co., VA, died 28 Sept 1895, daughter of Major James and Mary (Gray) Dickinson. Thomas and Nancy were married on 26 Sept 1844 in Russell Co., VA.

Index of Alderson Deaths in Texas

ALDERSON	County	Date of Death	Serial Number
Willie	Bexar	19-Jul-1905	3263
Ruben	Wise	8-Aug-1905	61048
William B.	Burnet	13-Feb-1908	10247
Female infant	Randall	25-Mar-1910	231
Sarah Jane	Hunt	12-Jul-1915	15673
Bessie	Comanche	9-Jan-1916	679
Emily	Bastrop	17-Jan-1916	49
Nancy E., Mrs.	Dallas	25-Sep-1918	33693
James C.	Lubbock	29-Nov-1919	32987
infant of A.	Jefferson	14-Jun-1920	20148
Ara Kate	Dallas	4-Mar-1922	7230
Frank	Brown	2-Mar-1923	7486-A
Mrs. Mattie	Tarrant	14-Aug-1923	25229
Infant of W.R.	Wilbarger	21-Apr-1924	14570
J.E.	Collin	20-Jan-1925	843
Walter	Jefferson	30-Apr-1925	14821
Nealie	McLellan	25-Aug-1926	29371
Walter Broadies	Fannin	26-Mar-1927	8680
Minerva A.	Fannin	8-Feb-1928	6534
Johnie Belle	Wheeler	29-Jan-1929	7706
Thomas Remly	Eastland	7-Mar-1929	15021
J. Wash.	Cass	15-Jul-1929	34162
R.B.	Wichita	28-Sep-1929	47022
Will, Mrs.	Childress	10-Dec-1929	57536
C.A.	Childress	12-Jan-1930	1138
J.F.	Dallas	18-Jan-1930	1724
Enoch	Harris	18-Sep-1932	38698
Mary Ida	Donley	26-Feb-1933	7598
R.E.	Hood	23-Sep-1933	41936
Newton H.	McLellan	19-Oct-1933	47018
Rebecca Alice	Collin	2-Nov-1933	49362
Jay	Dallas	16-Nov-1933	49747
Charles Edward	Collin	18-Jan-1934	995
Rosa Iola	Cooke	8-Feb-1934	6397
Mattie Ethel	Aransas	25-Feb-1934	5438
Jerry A.	Fannin	9-Jul-1934	32001
Mary	Burnet	30-Jan-1935	729
Addie	Cass	25-Dec-1935	55269
Clara	Harris	27-Feb-1936	8956
Sam W.	Harris	29-Mar-1936	15148
William Franklin	Burnet	14-Nov-1936	53214
Mary Elizabeth	Fannin	26-Dec-1936	72315
Lillie	Galveston	23-Jan-1937	2408
Homer R.	Tarrant	28-Jun-1937	33562
Daymon Elwin	Burnet	5-Mar-1938	11554
Virginia E.	Tarrant	14-Jun-1938	29931
Warner J.	Harris	5-Mar-1939	13024
E.W.	Dallas	9-Mar-1939	11952

Can anyone provide identification of these Aldersons, or copies of the actual death certificates? Copies can be obtained from Bureau of Vital Statistics, Texas Department of Health, 1100 West 49th St., Austin, TX 78756.

New Members

Bernard C. Alderson, 1642 Clairton Road, West Mifflin, Pa 15122. Bernard is the new US Records Officer for the Alderson Family History Society of the UK.

Kathleen Propps Jenkins, 1252 Tall Oaks Road, DeLand, Fl 32720. Kathleen is a descendant of both Thomas Alderson and John Alderson, Jr. through John Alderson Jr.'s grandson Alexander McClung who married Thomas Alderson's granddaughter Virginia Withrow.

Mr. Burney Parker, Rt. 6, Box 6602, Brenham TX 7833-9131. Mr. Parker is a descendant of Jeremiah Alderson of Mississippi through his daughter Anna, who married John A. Polk.

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), DavidFinSF (AOL) 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!

Editor's Corner

Happy New Year to one and all!

As mentioned in the last issue of the newsletter, there is an Alderson reunion planned for 1 July 1995 in Alderson, WV. I hope everyone has given serious thought to attending this event, as I see it as a great opportunity for all the scattered lines of Aldersons to come together to share their pride and interest in their family line, as well as to make personal acquaintance of all those fellow Alderson researchers you have been in contact with over the years. Assuming I'm not sent off unexpectedly to work someplace in China during that period, I plan to come to West Virginia (after all, it is still "home" to me—I was born about an hour away from Alderson in Raleigh Co., WV) and meet as many of you as possible. I will be bringing a multimedia computer presentation of a tour of the home of John Marshall Alderson, wherein is contained many momentos and personal possessions of the Aldersons, from the Rev. John Alderson, Jr. on down. My sister Marlene took a tour this summer, taking pictures and recording a narrative of each piece. By scanning the photographs and adding sound, the presentation will allow you to walk through Alderson history any time you like. The presentation will also be distributed free for anyone who would like it.

I also plan to have available Chapter I of the Alderson history, detailing the family of John Alderson, Jr. By the end of this year, my resolution is to have all the subsequent chapters ready for publication.



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.