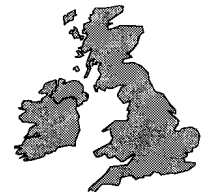




Alderson

Roots & Branches



Vol. 6, No. 4

September 1995

REUNION AT ALDERSON, WEST VIRGINIA, 1995

by Teresa L. Peck

I read the signs at the counter of the sporting goods store: NEVER MIND THE DOG BEWARE OF THE OWNER and ANYONE FOUND HERE AT NIGHT WILL BE FOUND HERE IN THE MORNING.

The store, adjacent to our motel in Alderson, was where we checked in, prior to the Alderson family reunion, on Sunday.

I'd looked forward to this reunion. From the fine service at the "Old Greenbrier Baptist Church," under the auspices of Reverend Bill Bryan, to the delicious food and marvelous hospitality at John and Betty Alderson's picnic to the outstanding display of fireworks over the river at night, proved I was right to do so.

The spirit of this community and that of his ancestors would have made Elder John Alderson, Jr. proud that he never gave in to adversity. Elder John, previous to settling the town of Alderson, traveled alone from fort to fort, al-

ways aware of the danger from Indians and others who didn't care for his preaching.

Nevertheless, with the help of twelve charter members, he started his church in 1781, and it stands there today, the third building, on the original site. He lies buried in the cemetery behind the church, beside his wife, Mary Curtis Alderson and several members of his family. Here too reposes the dust of many other earlier settlers.

It was at the cemetery, we first met some of my Alderson "cousins." I enjoyed seeing Tom Alderson of NC and his family. Previous to that day we'd visited by phone.

Tom had filled me in on some of the adventures of our Alderson ancestors; Callaway, the Yankee who spent time in Libby prison during the Civil War and Walter, the renegade son of Reverend Lewis Allen Alderson of Atchison, KS.

Later, at the picnic, I met a descendent of Lewis Allen, Grace Nelson, of Arizona. She told an interesting story of a frequent visitor to her home in Atchison, when she was a child. The visitor, Nancy Tiffany Alderson, author of *The Bride Goes West* and the wife of Walter Alderson, was at that time a widow. Grace remembered she always wore a lavender dress with a high lace collar and looked very stylish.

It was fun to visit with everyone at this picnic. Including us, there were one hundred guests. It was great meeting our host and hostess, John and Betty Alderson and their daughter, Sarah.

Sarah was under a tent on the front lawn, selling her prize winning video, *The Seasons of Alderson*. She produced this video, winner of the prestigious Telly award, in 1994. I recommend it, even to non-Aldersons.

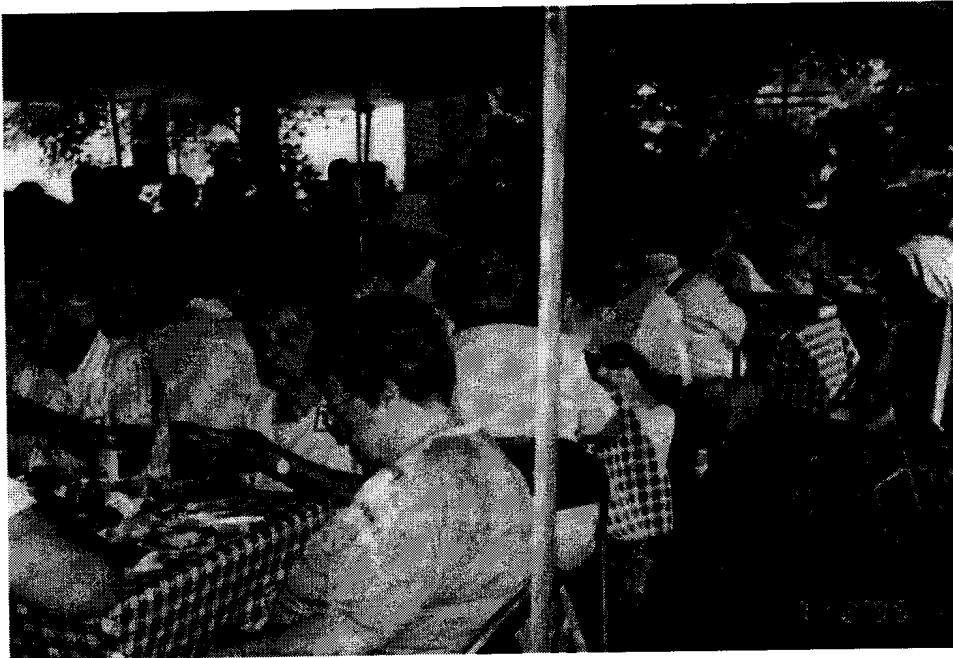
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Home of John and Betty Alderson, hosts of the reunion.
Photo by Theresa Peck

How nice to see again, Miss Julia Fletcher, who so graciously had invited my husband and me into her home, for a short visit, the previous day. I also said "hello" to Alice Todd Alderson, whom I had only spoken to by phone. About



Good friends, good food, good conversation
Photo by Raymond Alderson

this time, one of Tom's grandsons came to tell us he'd noticed the cornerstone at the church was done by Dorsey C. Peck and he wondered if he and my husband were related. We said we'd check it out. It's not the first time, there appears to have been an Alderson-Peck alliance. It was a lawyer named, Henry Peck, who pleaded before the court for Elder John Alderson, Sr.'s release from prison in Virginia.

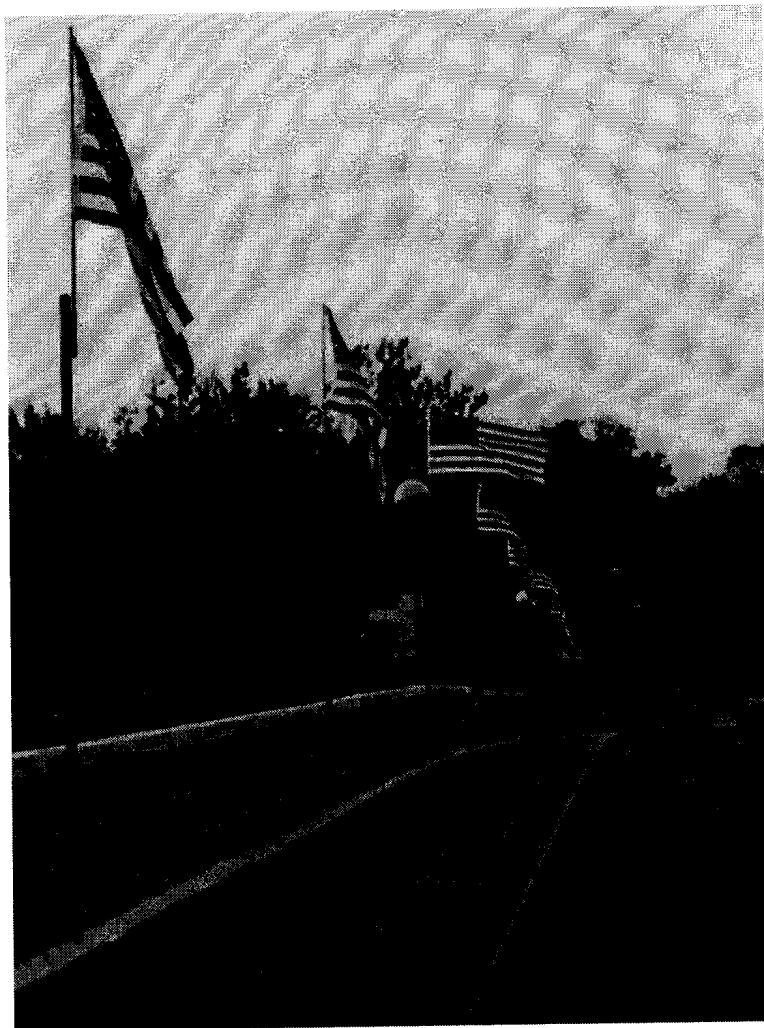
When comparing data with the other Aldersons, I commented I was impressed to be standing on land that had been

in the Alderson family for over two hundred years. It had been a grant from King George III, then was handed down through various wills.

I'd been given a copy of Elder John, Jr.'s will when I arrived and it was of special interest to

me. From reading it, I learned his son, John (River Jack) Alderson, my 3rd great grandfather, had acquired the land on the north bank of the Greenbrier River, in front of what is now, the railroad station. He lived there all his life and from there operated the Alderson ferry, thus the name, "River Jack."

I sensed a presence of those who'd gone before at this gathering. Wasn't the ghost of Miss Emma about? Miss Emma, who founded the Alderson Academy in 1901, was spoken of quite often this day. And what of Elder John's chair on the porch, the chair from which he'd preached his last sermon, now occupied by a



The Alderson Bridge on the Fourth of July, 1995
 Photo by Theresa Peck

young woman holding her baby. Had the ghost of Elder John, risen to give her his seat?

I feel quite certain all the others who lived and died hereabout were enjoying this get together as much as the rest of us.

Too soon the picnic ended. We thanked John and Betty, for this wonderful day. Then it was down the mountain, and over the bridge, back to our motel.

But the day hadn't ended for us until we walked in twilight on the historic bridge between columns of unfurled flags and later that night, watched fireworks from the same bridge. We were reminded how proud we were to be Americans and how glad to be here celebrating our national Day of Independence with other Aldersons.

Our stay Alderson was over the next morning, but the festivities went on for two more days while this town, home of the "Old Greenbrier Baptist Church," founded back in 1781, just one month after Cornwallis surrendered at Yorktown, hosted the largest 4th of July celebration in the state of West Virginia.

NON-BRITISH ALDERSONS

by Jim Cross

Starting in 1850 the U.S. censuses began to record the birthplace of each individual listed. More than 95% of the Aldersons listed since then have origins in the British Isles. This article describes some of the others.

The first group are black Aldersons, former slaves and their descendents. African slaves often took the last names of their masters. Early census records show that members of three colonial Alderson families were slave-holders. The 1810 census shows the following families owned slaves:

Descendants of Richard Sr. of Richmond Co. VA

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Jeremiah of York Co, SC | 9 |
| Robert of York Co, SC | 1 |
| William of York Co, SC | 1 |

Descendants of Simon of Bath. NC

| | |
|-------------------------------|----|
| Simon of Hyde Co, NC | 2 |
| Thomas Sr. of Beaufort Co, NC | 22 |

Descendants of Elder John of Virginia.

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| Benjamin of Mercer Co, KY | 2 |
| Abel of Harford Co, MD | 4 |
| Aaron of Barren Co, KY | 2 |

Ancestors undetermined

| | |
|----------------------------|---|
| John S of Lunenburg Co, VA | 2 |
| Josiah of Lunenburg Co, VA | 9 |
| John of Cumberland Co, VA | 7 |

The 1850 and 1860 censuses list a free mulatto, Charlotte Alderson, born c1812 in TN, living in Nashville, TN. In those years the census included lists of slaveholders, but did not show the names of the slaves. They were first listed in the 1870 census. At that time there were black Alderson families in Union Co, AR, Hawkins and Maury Co, TN and Russell Co, VA and single individuals in Mecklenburg Co, NC and Allegheny Co, PA. The patriarch was Z5810 Steven Alderson born c1790 in VA who lived with his wife, Kewpie, in Maury Co, TN.

The evidence of the 1880 and 1900 censuses indicates quite a few black families were missed either in the census or in the indexing of the records. I have recorded 78 black and mulatto families thru the 1920 census. There appears to have been a high mortality rate in the black families as many children listed disappear by the next census.

The other group is Alderson immigrants from other countries. They came from Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Finland and Romania. The following census records have been found:

1850

| | | |
|-----------------|----------------|---------------|
| John Elderson | Bergen Co NJ | Norway family |
| Syrena Elderson | Rock Co WI | Norway single |
| Mary Alderson | Waukesha Co WI | Norway single |

1860

| | | |
|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Ben Alderson | Iowa Co WI | Norway family |
| Aron Alderson | Bad Axe Co WI | Norway family |

1870

| | | |
|----------------|---------------|---------------|
| James Alderson | Clayton Co IA | Norway single |
| M.J. Alderson | Redwood Co MN | Norway widow |
| Evan Alderson | Iowa Co WI | Norway single |
| Ole Alderson | Iowa Co WI | Norway single |

1880

| | | |
|-------------|------------|---------------|
| H. Alderson | Cook Co IL | Norway single |
|-------------|------------|---------------|

1900

| | | |
|------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| John R Aulderson | Wadena Co MN | Sweden family |
| Gussie Aulderson | Manhattan NY | Sweden single |
| Fred T Alderson | Hyde Co SD | Sweden family |
| Hannah Alderson | Luzerne Co PA | * widow |
| Ellen Alderson | Philadelphia PA | * widow |

* Widows were born in U.S., but children's records indicate that their fathers were born in Sweden.

1910

| | | |
|-------------------|---------------|----------------|
| Alter Alderson# | Pittsburgh PA | Rumania family |
| William Alderson# | Pittsburgh PA | Rumania family |

Native language of these families was Yiddish.

1920

| | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Albert M Alderson | Pacific Co WA | Norway family |
| Emil Alderson | St. Louis Co MN | Finland family |
| Harris Alderson | Clay Co SD | Sweden family |

The Danish immigrant was Andrew P. Alderson, a ship captain. No census record for him has been found, but his son, Victor, was the first Alderson listed in *Who's Who in America*. The two Rumanian families were father and son. There is a possibility that the entries for some of the families from Scandinavia are misspellings of Anderson.

EARLY KENTUCKY ALDERSONS

by Jim Cross

The first Alderson in Kentucky appears to have been an English immigrant, Henry Alderson. Henry was descended from a branch of the same line that I am descended from, that of P1320 Thomas Alderson of Eskeleth in Yorkshire, who first appears in the records in 1642. Henry had arrived in Fayette Co, Kentucky by 1789. The following entries relating to him appeared in the *Kentucky Gazette*:

| | |
|-------------|--|
| 13 Jun 1789 | Henry Alderson has land for rent |
| 28 Nov 1789 | Henry Alderson is living with R. Chinn near Lexington. |
| 26 Jun 1790 | Article about burglary of H. Alderson in Fayette Co |
| 17 Jul 1794 | H. Alderson has land for sale. |
| 26 Jul 1794 | H. Alderson placed ad re a stray mare. |

Kentucky censuses for 1790 and 1800 have been lost, but Henry Alderson was listed in the censuses of Fayette Co, Kentucky for 1810 and 1820 as a single man.

On 1 July 1791 the *Kentucky Gazette* listed a letter available in its office addressed to James Alderson of Nelson Co. This James has not been otherwise identified. A James appears on the tax

lists of Lincoln Co, Kentucky in 1796, 1797 and 1799. Some references show that Elder John had a son named James. There is also a possibility that this was another name for Elder John's son Simon about whom nothing is known after his marriage except that he drowned in the Clinch River. A related mystery is the identity of the crippled James who was Colonel George's school-teacher.

In 1792 Benjamin Alderson and his family came to Clark Co, Kentucky. An account of his arrival by Helen Boswell appeared in *Alderson Roots & Branches* Vol 1, No. 3 in December 1989. On 13 Apr 1801 the *Kentucky Gazette* advertised a letter for his son Isaac Alderson at Lancaster near Danville, Kentucky. Isaac appeared on the tax list of Garrard Co, Kentucky in 1804 where he died in 1808 leaving a will which mentions a widow and two daughters, one named Malinda, and named his brother John as executor.

The 1810 U.S. census lists the following Alderson families in Kentucky:

| Head | County | Page | Male/Female/Slave | Descent |
|----------|------------|------|-------------------|------------------------------------|
| Aaron | Barren Co | p33 | 21101/12210/02 | R5115, son of R5103 Benjamin |
| Benjamin | Mercer Co | p639 | 21210/21010/02 | R5118, son of R5103 Benjamin |
| Benjamin | Mercer Co | p340 | 22001/00001/30 | R5103, son of Elder John |
| Benjamin | Garrard Co | p201 | 00100/01101/01 | This is believed to be an Alverson |
| Henry | Fayette Co | p341 | 00001/00000/00 | The English immigrant |
| John | Fayette Co | p60 | 22010/30010/00 | R5117, son of R5103 Benjamin |

Note the first two families were slaveholders with two slaves each. The three others listed in the household of R5103 Benjamin may have been freed slaves. The four males 0-16 in Benjamin's family do not include Aaron, Benjamin Jr, or John who are listed separately in this census, or Isaac who had died in 1808. One is probably Moses who did not marry until 1817 and who was born before 1795 according to the 1820 census. That leaves three others that are not accounted for, one born 1794-1800 and two born 1800-1810. The family of R5115 Aaron includes 4 males 0-18. Two were probably R5144 Aaron and R5149 Hiram, but his two other identified sons, Albery S. and James B. were born after 1810. That leaves two males that are not accounted for.

The family of R5117 John includes 4 males 0-16. No descendants of R5117 John have been

definitely identified. John was living in 1825 when he was named executor of the will of his brother Moses, but no 1820 census record for his family has been found.

The family of R5118 Benjamin includes 3 males 0-16 and 2 males 16-25. The only descendant of R5118 Benjamin definitely identified is R5157 Thomas who was born in 1826. The 1830 census indicates that Benjamin was born 1780-1790. He was over 25 in the 1810 census indicating a birth date between 1780-1785. He probably did not marry prior to 1800. It seems likely that some members of the household in 1810 were not his children. The 1820 census lists four males in Benjamin's family aged 0-10 and none older which tends to confirm this conclusion.

I believe it is highly probably that the 14 unidentified males listed in the 1810 census include a number of additional descendants of Elder John whose lines have not been connected to him thus far. Here are some of the candidates:

A marriage bond shows Hiram Alderson married Nancy McAllister 30 Oct 1811 in Pulaski Co KY. He would probably have been born c1786. No census records for this Hiram have been found. He is not R5149 Hiram who was the son of R5115 Aaron.

William H. Alderson listed in the 1850 census of Washington Co, Arkansas showed his age as 62 (born c1788) and his birthplace as Kentucky. William was listed on the tax list of Washington Co, Arkansas as early as 1838.

Jonathan Alderson listed in the 1850 census of Callaway Co, Missouri showed his age as 45 (born c1805) and his birthplace as KY. He is listed next to Michael Alderson who showed his age as 41 (born c1809) and his birthplace as Kentucky. Michael is known from land records and tax records to have been in Missouri as early as 1829. He does not appear in the 1830 census, but

was listed in Callaway Co in 1840. Marvan Alderson listed in the 1870 census of Christian Co, MO listed his age as 40 and his birthplace as Missouri. He was probably a son of one of these two early Missouri pioneers.

Aaron Burr Alderson was a pioneer resident of Dubuque Co, IA. His marriage in 1840 is the first one listed in the records of that county. While there are different data in some census records, it appears that he was born c1809 in Kentucky. His obituary in 1898 appeared in a Dubuque Co newspaper which was indexed by the County Historical Society in the 1950's, but no surviving copies of the newspaper can now be found. It apparently was not microfilmed. Aaron served briefly in the Iowa militia during the Blackhawk War of 1832. His name strongly suggests his ancestry as most other Aldersons with that name are descendents of Elder John.

Anderson Alderson age 50-60 appears in the records of Barry Co, Missouri in 1840. His household included males 40-50, 15-20 and 10-15. The male 15-20 may be Jesse W Alderson. The 1880 census entry for Jesse gives his birthdate as c1820. He was a Baptist minister in Dade Co, Missouri and served briefly with the Union forces in the civil war as a contract surgeon. No census records for him have been found in 1850, 1860 or 1870, but his 1880 record in Barry Co, Missouri indicates he was born in Kentucky, suggesting Kentucky origins for Anderson. Jesse married Lavina Williams 17 Sep 1844 in Washington Co, Arkansas according to his military pension records.

The 1840, 1850 and 1860 censuses of South Carolina show a John F. Alderson born c1807 in Kentucky living in Charleston, South Carolina.

There are two unmarried John Aldersons listed in the 1850 census of Kentucky. Both show their birthplace as Virginia. John in Garrard Co, Kentucky p141 was age 65. John in Russell Co, Kentucky p262 was a school teacher age 70. The latter was living with Efraim and Rebecca Cain (could this be a married daughter?).

Kegley's Early Adventurers on the Western Waters

Mary Kegley's seminal series on the settlement of Southwestern Virginia is a standard reference to the history of the area

The following are some excerpts of her books relating to the Aldersons:

Simon Alderson

- (Montgomery Co.) In 1780 Simon Alderson received permission to operate his ordinary and no location is given, but it was probably in present Wythe County between Fort Chiswell and the Lead Mines.¹

All applicants for an ordinary had to post bond with security. Part of the bond posted with the county court reads: "If therefore the said xxx doth constantly find & provide in his said ordinary good wholesome cleanly Lodging & diet for Travellers & stableage fodder & provender or Pasturage as the season shall require for their Horses for & during one year from the day of the date of these presents & from thence until the next Court to be held for the said County of Montgomery & shall not suffer or permit any unlawful gaming in his House nor on the Sabbath Day suffer any Persons to tipple or drink any more than is necessary. Then the above obligation to be void otherwise to remain in full force."

- List of Persons Who Took State Oath Before James McGavock September to December 1777

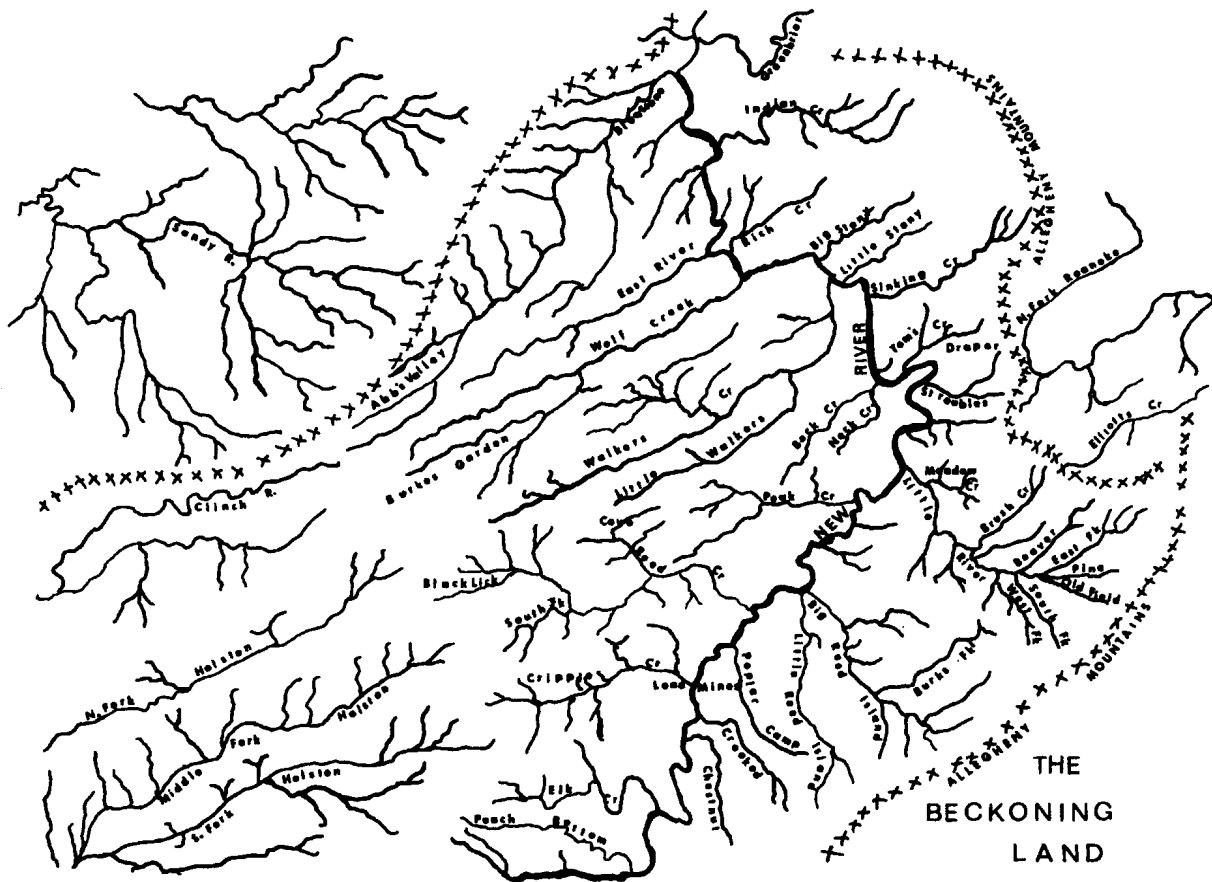
Simon Alderson [et al]²

Virginia law required that each county keep a list of all persons who had sworn an oath of allegiance to the Commonwealth of Virginia and renounced allegiance to King George III of England.

- In 1781 James McCorkle and Stephen Sanders were appointed as overseers of the road from Simpson Anderson's [Simon Alderson's] to Herbert's Ferry, and from Fort Chiswell to the Lead Mines.³

1 Mary B. Kegley, *Early Adventurers on the Western Waters*, Vol. 1, Green Publishers, Orange, VA, 1980, p. 112.

2 Kegley, Vol. 1, p. 147.



The "Western Waters" of Southwest Virginia. From Kegley, *Early Adventurers on the Western Waters*, Vol. 1, 1982, p. 4.

James McCorkle was a merchant who is said to have immigrated from Ulster, and was a merchant at Staunton before moving to Dunkard Bottom in Montgomery Co. around 1773.

- (Montgomery Co. Land Entries, 4 Sept 1782, p. 73) WM. LOVEDAY, assignee of Robert Miller, assignee of Simeon Alderson, Commissioner's certificate, 400 acres on North Fork of Peak Creek commonly called Robinson's Tract Fork.⁴

Robinson's Tract Fork flows south to join the main branch of Peak Creek several miles northwest of present-day Pulaski, Virginia.

- (Montgomery Co. Commissioner's Certificate, p. 118) Henry Long assignee of Thomas Patton assignee of Simon Alderson assignee of John Denton, 400 acres on Peak Creek, branch of New, joining Robinson and Denton, settled 1775.⁵

Owing to the confusion of the French and Indian War, the Proclamation of 1763, and the War of Independence, many long-time settlers in this region were without legal claim to their land. In 1779, Virginia enacted a statute allowing settlers to claim up to 400 acres of land if they could demonstrate that they had settled and improved the land.

3 Kegley, Vol. 1, p. 361.

4 Mary B. Kegley, *Early Adventurers on the Western Waters*, Vol. 2, Green Publishers, Orange, VA, 1982, p.45.

5 Kegley, Vol. 2, p. 110.

- A List of Men in Captain Edwards' Company of Militia From Sixteen to Fifty Years of Age, March 24, 1781

Simon Alderson [et al]⁶

George Alderson

- (Montgomery Co. Land Entries, 7 Sept 1782, p. 81) GEORGE ALDERSON, assignee of Archer Mathews, 200 acres at the mouth of Laurell Creek, opposite Sampson Mathew's claim on the New River⁷

This apparently is George Alderson, son of John Alderson, Jr.

Isaac Alderson

- (Wythe Co. Court Orders, 11 Nov 1795) On the complaint of Peter Binkley, it was ordered that Isaac Alderson, his apprentice, be summoned at the next court to answer his complaint and in the meantime continue with said Binkley and "behave himself as the law directs."⁸

This apparently is Isaac Alderson, son of Benjamin Alderson, son of John Alderson, Sr. Isaac may have stayed in Virginia and become apprenticed to Mr. Binkley when his family moved to Kentucky around 1791.

Aldersons on the World-Wide Web

The recent explosion of interest in the Internet has mainly focused on the World Wide Web (WWW), and genealogists have quickly taken advantage of the power of the Web to do family research and to share family data. The World Wide Web is particularly useful way to display genealogical information, since each Web "page" can be linked to other pages, allowing the user to follow family lines in much the same way that current genealogy software presents them. With the recent release of Roots IV version 1.2 from Commsoft, preparing a genealogy for the WWW has become easier than

ever. This version of Roots includes a function to automatically create "genealogy pages" in HTML format, which is the "language" used on the WWW and by Web browsers. To test it out, I had the program create a descendants genealogy of John Alderson (1699-1780) through five generations of descendants. Although there is no limit (except disk space) to the number of generations it can handle, a problem either in the database or the software itself prevented me from extending the genealogy to more than 5 generations. When this problem is solved, I will extend the genealogy to encompass all his descendants (as currently recorded in the database) and post it as well.

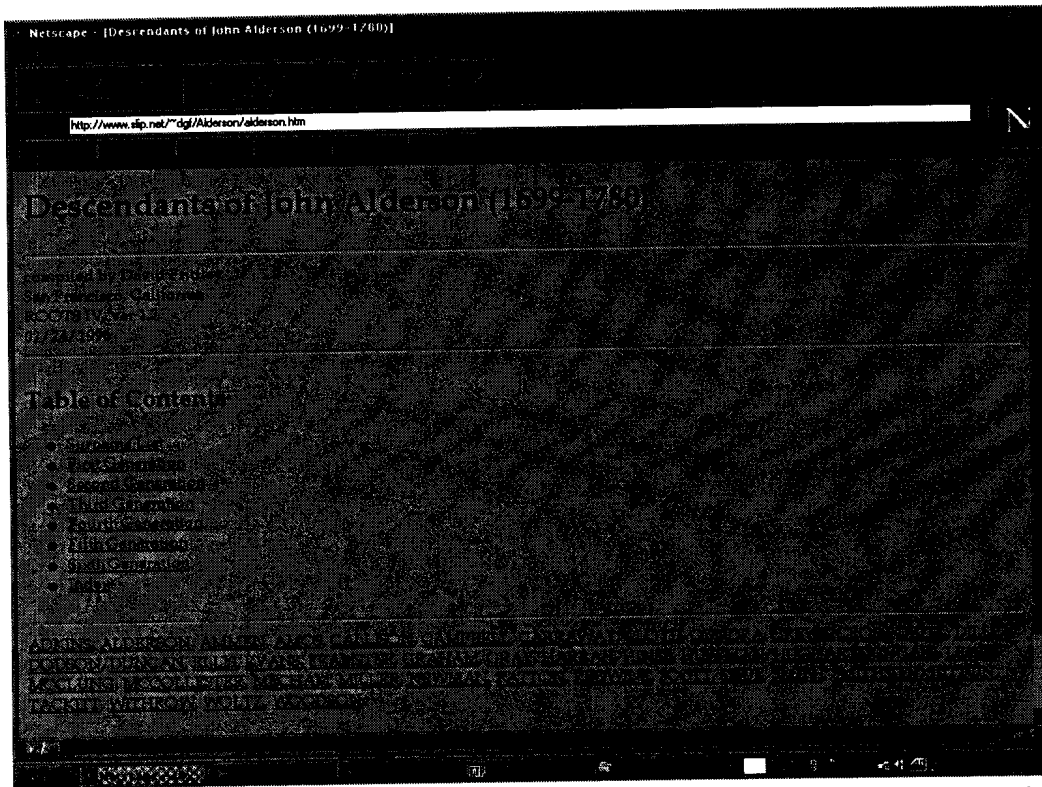
The genealogy follows the National Genealogy Society's modified register style, which assigns each descendant a unique number, and numbers each child in a single family with Roman numerals. A "+" sign before a name indicates that further information on family and descendants is presented later in the genealogy. Endnote numbers are shown in parentheses following an entry and are accessed on a separate page.

If you have World Wide Web access through America Online, Compuserve, or another Internet provider and would like to check out the Alderson genealogy on the Web, point your browser to <http://www.slip.net/~dgf>. This will take you to my "homepage", most of which is otherwise incomplete. On this page is a link to the genealogy, which leads to the page show at the top of the next page. This is the first page of the genealogy, containing a summary list of surnames in the genealogy, and links to an index of all the people listed in the genealogy (accessed by clicking the word "Index"). To search for a specific person, use the index, or click any of the surnames to see a list of people of that surname in the index. Clicking on a generation will lead to the first child of that generation; for example, the screen that comes up when you click "Third Generation" is shown at the bottom of the next page. These are screen shots from my machine running Netscape 2.0 under Windows 95, but any browser can read the genealogy pages.

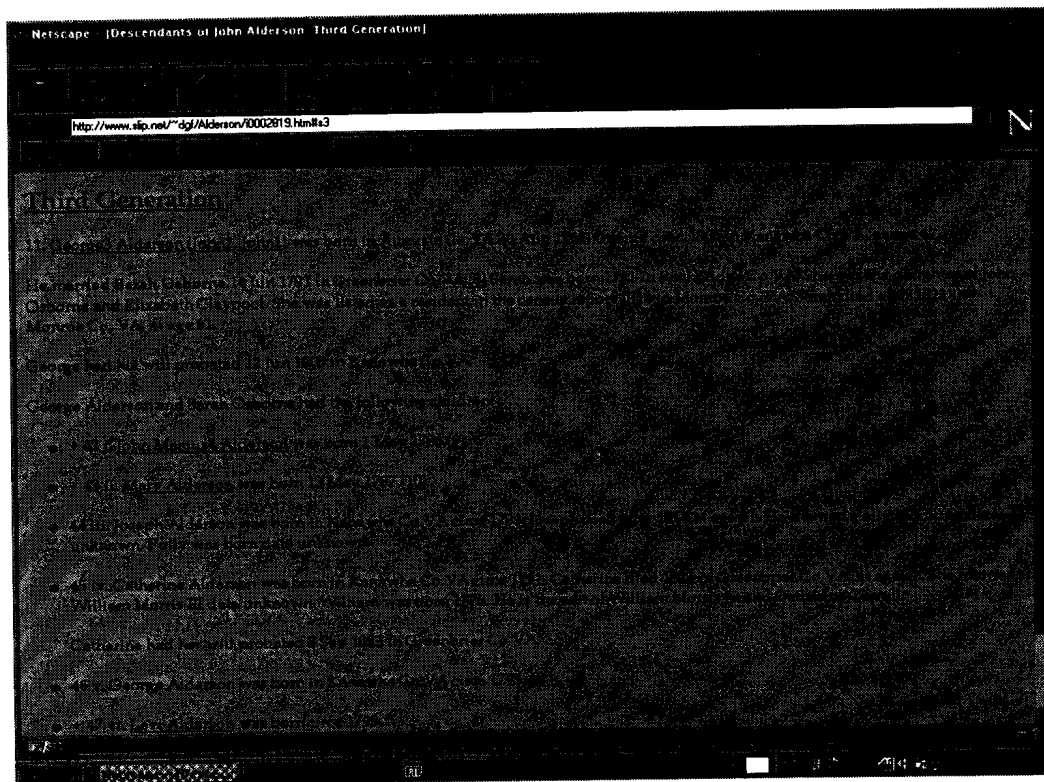
6 Kegley, Vol. 2, p. 383.

7 Kegley, Vol. 2, p. 48.

8 Mary B. Kegley, *Early Adventurers on the Western Waters*, Vol. 3, Part 1, Kegley Books, Wytheville, VA, 1995, p.192.



First page of the Alderson genealogy on the World Wide Web. Clicking the underlined words takes you to linked pages where further data are displayed.



Initial page for the third generation descendants of John Alderson. This page is reached by clicking "Third Generation" on the page shown above. Further information is available on persons whose names are underlined on the page.

Since the WWW supports a variety of multi-media, it is possible to include photographs, sounds, or even video as part of the Web pages. As the Alderson genealogy is expanded, I hope begin including these additional features to supplement the text.

The text of the genealogy is somewhat stilted in places, since the program is taking basic data and creating the wording automatically. Once a final version is in place online, I will try to clean up some of the worst examples. If you have any comments or suggestions on the page, please feel free to write or email me. An icon is included at the bottom of the main "home page" to provide an email form.

Aldersons in Illinois Public Land Sales

The University of Illinois has made available online the Public Domain Land Tract Sales Archive for the state of Illinois.

These records include the sales of federal, state, school, mineral, military, swampland, and canal lands as well as sales by the Illinois Central Railroad of land it was given by the federal government. The federal records cover the years 1815 to 1876, when the last Federal Land Office in Springfield was closed. Details included in the records provide the name and residence of purchaser, date, location, size, and price of land purchase, and type of purchase. Aldersons appeared in the records between 1836 and 1895.

| | | |
|-------------------|---------------|----------|
| ALDERSON ALBERT M | Aug. 16, 1895 | Railroad |
| ALDERSON ALBERT M | Aug. 16, 1895 | Railroad |
| ALDERSON ALBERT M | Oct. 22, 1894 | Railroad |
| ALDERSON ALBERT M | Aug. 16, 1895 | Railroad |
| ALDERSON ALBERT M | Aug. 16, 1895 | Railroad |
| ALDERSON ALBERT M | Oct. 22, 1894 | Railroad |
| ALDERSON ANTHONY | Jan. 19, 1895 | Railroad |
| ALDERSON ANTHONY | Jan. 19, 1895 | Railroad |
| ALDERSON ANTHONY | Jan. 19, 1895 | Railroad |
| ALDERSON ANTHONY | Jan. 19, 1895 | Railroad |
| ALDERSON ANTHONY | May 23, 1864 | Railroad |
| ALDERSON ANTHONY | July 22, 1864 | Railroad |
| ALDERSON ANTHONY | May 23, 1864 | Railroad |

| | | |
|--------------------|----------------|--------------|
| ALDERSON ARMSTEAD | Feb. 18, 1851 | Federal sale |
| ALDERSON ARMSTEAD | Feb. 18, 1851 | Federal sale |
| ALDERSON ARMSTEAD | Feb. 18, 1851 | Federal sale |
| ALDERSON CHARLES | Oct. 21, 1850 | Federal sale |
| ALDERSON DORA | April 8, 1892 | Railroad |
| ALDERSON JOHN | Feb. 18, 1851 | Federal sale |
| ALDERSON JOHN | Feb. 18, 1851 | Federal sale |
| ALDERSON ROBERT | Nov. 15, 1836 | Federal sale |
| ALDERSON ROBERT | Nov. 15, 1836 | Federal sale |
| ALDERSON ROBERT | Feb. 25, 1850 | Federal sale |
| ALDERSON RUBEN | Nov. 24, 1854 | Railroad |
| ALDERSON SAMUEL | March 22, 1890 | Railroad |
| ALDERSON SAMUEL T | April 22, 1865 | Railroad |
| ALDERSON SIMON | April 7, 1847 | Federal sale |
| ALDERSON SIMON | April 7, 1847 | Federal sale |
| ALDERSON SIMON | April 7, 1847 | Federal sale |
| ALDERSON SIMON | April 7, 1847 | Federal sale |
| ALDERSON THOMAS | Sept. 2, 1891 | Railroad |
| ALDERSON THOMAS | Jan. 19, 1895 | Railroad |
| ALDERSON THOMAS | Jan. 19, 1895 | Railroad |
| ALDERSON THOMAS | Jan. 19, 1895 | Railroad |
| ALDERSON THOMAS | Jan. 19, 1895 | Railroad |
| ALDERSON THOMAS | Jan. 19, 1895 | Railroad |
| ALDERSON WILLIAM | Sept. 23, 1889 | Railroad |
| ALDERSON WILLIAM W | April 8, 1892 | Railroad |

The oldest Alderson sale records dated from 1836, when Robert Alderson (1810-1884, son of James and Elizabeth (Russell) Alderson) bought a total of 80 acres of land in Macoupin and Sangamon counties, Illinois. The details of these records include sufficient information to locate the land on a township plat map.

Purchaser: **ALDERSON ROBERT**
 Record ID: 188448
 Date: 11/15/1836
 Acres: 40.23
 Price: \$1.25
 Type of sale: Federal sale (FD)
 County: Macoupin
 Section: 3
 Section Part: NENW
 Township: 12N
 Range: 07W
 Meridian: 3
 Purchaser Res: Macoupin
 Arch. Vol. No: 339
 Vol. Page No.: 123
 Cash warrant code:
 Record corrected: 0.

Purchaser: ALDERSON ROBERT
Record ID: 188449
Date: 11/15/1836
Acres: 40
Price: \$1.25
Type of sale: Federal sale (FD)
County: Sangamon
Section: 33
Section Part: SESW
Township: 13N
Range: 07W
Meridian: 3
Purchaser Res: Macoupin
Arch. Vol. No: 339
Vol. Page No.: 123
Cash warrant code:
Record corrected: 0 .

New Members

Nina W. Combes, 7013 Valley
Drive, Newland, NC 28657

Ruby Brower, 12524 E. Cornell
Ave., #204, Aurora, CO 80014. Ruby is
researching the family of James and
Ann Elizabeth Weathers Alderson
(grandson of Benedict Alderson).

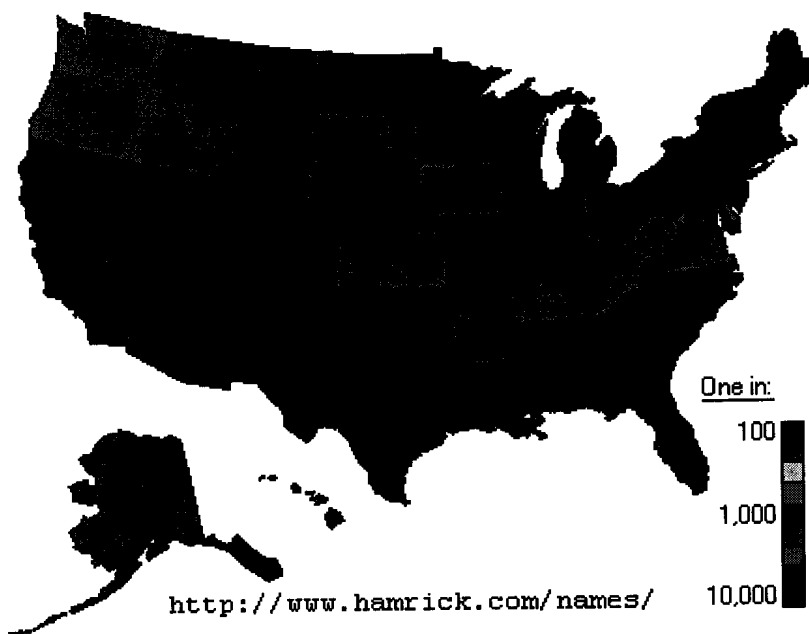
Diane Wilson, 15 Palmer Court,
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Distribution of US Aldersons

An interesting use of nationwide phone book data can be found at the Web site of Hamrick Software (<http://www.hamrick.com>), which allows you to pick a surname and get a map of the US in return showing the "density" of the surname in all 50 states. I tried this with "Alderson" and received by email the map shown to the right.

The original map was in color, but even in this printing it is clear that Aldersons (at least those with published phone numbers) are scarcest in New England, Ohio, Louisiana, and Hawaii. The top four states in terms of distribution (at 1 in 1,000) are Nebraska, Arkansas, Tennessee, and West Virginia. In Virginia, Kentucky, Indiana, Iowa, South Dakota, and Idaho, Aldersons are found at one in every 2,000 people.

This map can be correlated to the summary distribution of 5,753 Alderson phone numbers worldwide printed in the February 1996 issue of the *Alderson Family History Society Newsletter*, submitted by Bernard C. Alderson. This is an interesting follow-on to Jim Cross's excellent survey of Aldersons in the US Census series. Now if we could just identify them all!



Editor's Note

As most of you have noticed, the newsletter has been on hiatus for a long time. Last fall, family matters necessitated my setting aside a mostly complete September issue of the newsletter and all other genealogy work and correspondence. I apologize profusely to all of you for effectively disappearing for so long without explanation or notification, but I am hopeful that recent changes will now allow me to return to a normal publishing schedule.

I have realized, however, that the reliability of publication will be greatly increased through the regular involvement of others in the writing and organizing of each issue. Although it is no problem for me to prepare the final computer version of the newsletter and prepare the mailing, I would prefer to avoid yet another situation in which my personal schedule prohibits me from publishing on time. As a result, I would like to hear from anyone willing to make a commitment to preparing articles, book extracts, vital record and other data summaries, or other types of material for publication each quarter. If you are interested, please let me know and I can coordinate schedules. At this point I would like to thank Jim Cross in particular for his strong and active support of the newsletter and his

penning of numerous articles breaking new ground on the analysis of the Alderson families in the US Census. In the absence of a formal society structure such as that of the active group in the UK, the newsletter remains a major conduit for exchange of information on the Alderson family in the US.

I have retained the September 1995 date of this issue to complete the four issues of volume 6. Volume 7 will now start in March 1996, to appear in April 1996. Most subscriptions expire with this issue, but to make up for the inconvenience of the hiatus, I will provide the next issue free of charge, and resume subscriptions with the June issue.

Many have inquired as well about the progress of the Alderson history. I grossly underestimated the time involved in preparation, and the original timetable is now completely off. I will provide a more detailed update in the next issue.

Again, my sincere apologies for my long absence, and I thank each of you for your continued patience.

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*, 127 Topaz Way, San Francisco, CA 94131. Email: dgf@slip.net.

Subscriptions are \$7.50 per year (\$13 international) for four issues and run from the December to September 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!



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.