



# ALDERSON

Roots & Branches



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## A "GALVANIZED" YANKEE

by Jeffrey L. Alderson

Unlike any other war in the history of America, The Civil War is known for its twists of fate and ironic events. There are numerous books published that are collections of hundreds of odd facts and happenings. Often described are incidents of brother fighting brother or a believed dead son returning home more than a year after his death was announced. Research into the service records of Alderson veterans also yields such stories. One of the more interesting is the war record of William L. Alderson of Tennessee. William was in uniform for all four years of the war. What is interesting is that his uniform was gray for the first three years and blue for the final year of the war.

William was born circa 1839 in Maury County, Tennessee. The identity of his parents remains a mystery. William attests to his birth place in documents signed by him during the war. However, examination of Tennessee census records for 1860 fail to identify William or his family. Farming was his profession prior to joining the army. He may have moved from Maury County to Cheatham or Dickson Counties, Tennessee where the military company he joined was raised.

William enlisted into Company E of the 11th Tennessee Infantry Regiment on May 18, 1861 in either Cheatham and Dickson Counties, Tennessee. These counties are located north of Maury County just on the other side of neighboring Williamson County. His company was comprised of men from these two counties. Another soldier, A. J. Alderson, enlisted in Dickson County, Tennessee into Company C of William's regiment. A. J. was one year older than William and had enlisted four days before him. A. J. has not been found in the census, and his relationship to William is also uncertain at this time. The companies that would form the 11th Infantry were all from central Tennessee. Three companies were raised in Davidson County (Nashville) three in Dickson County to include William's, two in Humphreys County, and the remaining two from Hickman and Robertson Counties. The ten companies assembled at Nashville where they were sworn into state service. On June 1st, the regiment was formally organized and sent to Camp Cheatham near Nashville, for military instruction.

In July of 1861, the regiment was ordered to East Tennessee to serve in the forces commanded by Brigadier General Felix K. Zollicoffer. At this time the regiment was 880 men strong and armed with 710 flintlock smoothbore muskets and 175 percussion cap rifles. The 11th Tennessee would remain in this area until the fall of 1862 performing garrison duty near Cumberland Gap. Some small skirmishes were reported while in East Tennessee but no sizable battle was encountered. Both William and A. J. were present for duty during this period according to unit muster rolls. The only significant events during the summer of 1862 were William's promotion to the rank of sergeant and the reorganization of the regiment on May 1st. Officers were elected by the soldiers of the regiment, and soldiers were reassigned to balance out the

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strengths of each company. This included the transfer of A. J. Alderson from Company C to William's Company E. The two would continue to serve in the same company for the next 18 months.

In December of 1862, the brigade that the 11th Tennessee was assigned to was transferred to a division commanded by Major General J. P. McCown. With this change, the regiment's activity in the war would increase. On December 31, 1862, the regiment fought at the Battle of Murfreesboro, 30 miles south-east of Nashville. The 11th Tennessee suffered 83 casualties to include its commander Colonel George W. Gordon, who was wounded. General James E. Rains had been the colonel of the 11th Tennessee up until his promotion during the month prior to the Battle of Murfreesboro. While leading his new brigade at Murfreesboro which included the 11th Tennessee, General Rains was killed in action.

On January 21, 1863, William's regiment was transferred to a different brigade commanded by Brigadier General Preston Smith. This brigade consisted of six Tennessee infantry regiments: the 11th, 12th, 13th, 29th, 47th, and 154th. The 11th Tennessee would remain in this all-Tennessee brigade for the rest of the war. Winter quarters were established at Shelbyville, Tennessee which is 30 miles south of the Murfreesboro battlefield. William and A. J. remained here with their regiment for the next five months.

The regiment departed Shelbyville on June 27, 1863 for Chattanooga and then further south into Georgia. William was now marching with a retreating army that for all practical purposes evacuated the State of Tennessee. Without a shot, Union General Rosecrans had out maneuvered the Confederate Army of Tennessee out of its own home. The retreating Confederate army turned on its pursuers at the Battle of Chickamauga on September 19-20, 1863. The 11th Tennessee again saw hard action in battle. William's regiment captured more than 200 prisoners and the regimental flag of the 74th Pennsylvania Infantry. In its second major engagement, the 11th Tennessee lost a second brigade commander with the death of Brigadier General Smith at Chickamauga.

After this battle, William's regiment took part in pursuing the Yankee army back into Tennessee. The 11th Tennessee arrived at Sweetwa-

ter, Tennessee on October 22, 1863 and then to Chattanooga, Tennessee by November 5, 1863. William's third major engagement was soon to come in Chattanooga. The 11th Tennessee occupied positions on Missionary Ridge which were successfully charged by Ulysses S. Grant's men on November 25th, 1863. Much of the regiment was routed and captured to include William and A. J. Alderson. William and A. J. were evacuated and received by the Union Provost Marshal at Louisville, Kentucky on December 6th. The provost marshal then turned the two, as well as other prisoners, over to the Military Prison at Louisville, Kentucky. On December 9th, William and A. J. entered their new home for the next several months at the Union prison at Rock Island, Illinois.

Rock Island, located in the middle of the Mississippi River between Moline, Illinois and Davenport, Iowa, had been designated as a national arsenal in July of 1862. Due to the breakdown in the system of exchanging prisoners during 1863, the need for prisoner of war camps greatly increased. In July of 1863, construction of such a camp was begun at Rock Island with the intent of being able to accommodate 10,000 prisoners. Overcrowding at other existing prison camps caused by Union victories such as Missionary Ridge forced the Rock Island prison camp to be occupied before it was completely finished. The first shipment of prisoners arrived on December 3rd with William and A. J. arriving soon after on the 9th. Quarters for the guards were not yet constructed. As late as the following May, seven of the prisoner's barracks were used to house the 37th Iowa Infantry assigned to the duty of guarding prisoners.

The prison barracks consisted of eighty-four 22' by 100' buildings arranged in six north to south rows of fourteen barracks each. At the west end of each barracks was a 18' by 22' kitchen with a stove for cooking. The remaining 82' length of the building was used for the sleeping quarters of 120 prisoners. Bunk beds were three men high. A main street bisected the camp into a north half and a south half. This street connected the two main gates at the east side and west side of the camp. A stockade surrounded the camp built with a 12' high fence and a sentry walk built 4' from the top on the outside of the fence. Sentry boxes were placed every 100 feet along the stockade. Additionally, ditches were dug on the north, east, and west sides of the

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camp to prevent tunnels and to denote the "dead line" or point which a sentinel would shoot. There was no ditch dug on the south side since the nearness of the bedrock to the surface adequately prevented tunneling. A row of stakes denoted the "dead line" along this side.

By the end of December, 1863, William and A. J. were two of the 5,600 prisoners now housed at Rock Island. This surge of population created massive problems for the still disorganized prison administration, which desperately tried to cope with one of the worst winters on record. The prison's stock of issue clothing and blankets quickly gave out. Most of the recently received prisoners were not dressed or equipped for a northern winter. An adequate supply of coal was on hand for heating and cooking; however, the prison administration had to impress civilian teams to transfer the coal from the coal house to the prison.

The major problem faced by the prison arrived with each load of new prisoners. In the first contingent of prisoners admitted, 94 cases of smallpox were diagnosed by prison doctors. There was an insufficient supply of medicines on hand and the prison hospital would not be built until much later in 1864. The sick were forced to remain in the same barracks as the healthy. Death by disease claimed 98 prisoners and 3 guards during the month of December, 231 prisoners and 4 guards in January, and 350 prisoners and 10 guards in February. During February, 1864, an inspecting surgeon ordered many changes to improve health conditions. The burial of the dead was directed to designated grave yards rather than just outside the stockade. Six "pest houses" were constructed on the south side of the island to house those with virulent diseases. The construction of a hospital was ordered but delayed by the prison commissary-general. On March 4, 1864 the prison population was reported at 7,600 men. By July, the prison population would peak at 8,600 men and many of the health problems would be resolved by a completed and effective prison hospital.

By October of 1864, the prison must have been very unpleasant for William. He had already survived the worst the prison had to offer. During the spring and summer, William must have coped with the boredom inherent with prison camp life. There was a prison library stocked by sympathetic citizens from surrounding communities. Church services, presided by

visiting ministers and the post chaplain distinguished the Sabbath from the other days of the week. Many prisoners engaged in the industry of making buttons and ornaments from river clam shells and other materials. Prisoners were allowed to hold judicial proceedings to try crimes such as theft. Barracks lawyers often made the trials quite diverting. There was always the hobby of speculating on the progress of the war fed by smuggled newspapers and camp rumors. Many escapes were attempted with few succeeding. There was an alternative to escape if a prisoner wished to leave Rock Island. William chose this alternative on October 13, 1864.

The recruitment of Southern prisoners into the Federal military at Rock Island began on January 16, 1864. Within one week, 664 prisoners enlisted into the Union Navy and were removed to their new assignments. Further recruitment was not continued until Abraham Lincoln approved a request made by officials from Pennsylvania. In order to meet recruiting quotas, an agent from Pennsylvania was allowed to enlist Confederate prisoners into the Union Army, pay the recruited prisoner an enlistment bounty, and credit the enlistment to the municipality that furnished the bounty. The recruiting depot was opened at the prison on September 11, 1864 to procure soldiers to guard the Union's western frontier. After completing an Oath of Allegiance to the Union, the prisoner was paid his bounty and removed from the prison. Sixteen barracks were separated from the rest of the prison by a wood fence and used to house the latest additions to the Federal Army. Within two months, 1,797 soldiers had chose to cross the fence with William doing so on October 13, 1864. William's enlistment was credited to the town of Sharon, Mercer County Pennsylvania. In exchange for a \$100 bounty paid to William, the town of Sharon would have one less soldier needed to fill its quota. A. J. chose to remain loyal to the Confederacy. The term "galvanized yankee" was later used to describe William and others like him.

William must have wondered if he had chosen correctly. The "galvanized yankees" in his group remained in their sixteen barracks until the later half of February unlike the previous naval recruits that were removed from the prison immediately. Clothing was a problem for William and his comrades. The prison commander

VOLUNTEER ENLISTMENT

STATE OF  
ILLINOIS,



TOWN OF  
" ROCK ISLAND,

I, William L. Alderson born in Maine  
in the State of Tennessee aged twenty four years  
and by occupation a Farmer Do HEREBY ACKNOWLEDGE to have  
volunteered this thirteenth day of October, 1864  
to serve as a SOLDIER in the Army of the United States of America, for the  
period of ONE YEAR, unless sooner discharged by proper authority: Do  
also agree to accept such bounty, pay, rations, and clothing, as are, or may  
be, established by law for volunteers. And William L. Alderson  
do solemnly swear, that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the United  
States of America, and that I will serve them honestly and faithfully against  
all their enemies or opposers whomsoever; and that I will observe and obey  
the orders of the President of the United States, and the orders of the officers  
appointed over me, according to the Rules and Articles of War.

Sworn and subscribed to, at Rock Island Barracks  
this 13th day of October 1864,  
Before W. R. [Signature]  
Capt. 10th U. S. Infantry.

William L. Alderson

The muster out roll for William is the last record I have located on him. At present, I have not determined what happened to him once he left the service. Consultations with Jim Cross as to locating William in the 1870 and 1880 census entries have not been successful. Several factors may be causing difficulties. The first is confusion over William's last name. Several documents for William (and also for A. J.) list William's last name as Allison. For William, this error never occurs twice in succession but does occur in the Confederate muster rolls, prisoner documents, and once as a Union soldier. For A. J., his first year in the army in company C has him listed as A. J. Allison or A. B. Allison. Upon A. J.'s transfer to William's company, he is listed as A. J. Alderson. A post-war survey completed in

pleaded for them in a letter to the commissary-general of prisoners: "Their condition is deplorable, as they are poorly clad and clothing cannot be issued to them from the prisoner's stock, as they are no longer prisoners. Clothing cannot be issued to them from the quartermaster's department, as they are not organized."

On February 24, 1865, William was assigned to Company A of the 3rd Regiment United States Infantry. William proved to be as successful at promotion as a Yankee as he did as a Confederate. On the same date, he was promoted to the rank of 5th corporal. By the end of June, he was promoted to 4th corporal, and the end of October to 3rd corporal. His new home was Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. During May of 1865, William was detailed on daily duty as part of the post guard. The May-June, 1865 muster roll notes that William owed the sutler's store \$20. William was mustered out on November 29, 1865 at Fort Leavenworth. The muster out roll notes that he owed \$3.19 to a John Mattis and others for damages to property.

Tennessee interviewed a soldier of the 11th Tennessee Infantry. The soldier named nearly everyone in his company to include A. B. Alderson and Buck Alderson. Buck appears to be a nickname for William. William's own signature on his enlistment document into the Union Army indicates that his surname was Alderson.

The second difficulty is the possibility that William did not want to be found after the war. It was common for "galvanized yankees" to remain out west after the war. The return home after changing sides in the middle of a war was not very appealing. A convenient adoption of another name and no one would be wise to the soldier's past.

Third is that William's parents and pre-war census entry has not been identified. This is true for A. J. Alderson as well. If it was indicated that William returned home after the war, this would be of little value. It has not been determined where home for William exactly was before the

war. It would be greatly appreciated if any reader could help to identify William or A. J. Alderson. Among Civil War buffs, personal knowledge of a "galvanized yankee" is looked upon as a novelty. Among Civil War reenactors, the term "galvanized yankee" is often cursed. At a large reenactment of the Battle of Franklin last fall, the 10,000+ reenactors on hand were more heavily leaning toward the Southern persuasion than what historical accuracy called for. To correct this, organizers ordered many Confederate units to put on blue uniforms or "galvanize" or face not being allowed to participate. Complaint letters still find their way into reenactment publications today. For steadfast admirers of Southern heritage, the term "galvanized yankee" is viewed with disgust both for the present and for 130 years ago.

Sources for this article include:

Civil War Service Record of William L. Alderson provided by The Church of Latter Day Saints Genealogical Library, Salt Lake City, Utah

Civil War Service Record of A. J. Alderson provided by The Church of Latter Day Saints Genealogical Library, Salt Lake City, Utah

*Tennesseans in the Civil War*, Civil War Centennial Commission, 1965

*Compendium of the Confederate Armies: Tennessee*, Sifakis, 1992

*Tennessee Civil War Veterans Questionnaire Volume 5*, Dyer & Moore, 1985

Statement of A. J. Richardson

*A Short History of the Rock Island Prison Barracks*, England, 1985

*The Golden Book of The Civil War*, Flato, 1960

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## 37th VA Infantry, Company C Roster

Transcribed from the Richmond, VA. *Dispatch*, 16 May 1902:

### A List of the Officers and Privates and Brief History

To the Editor of the *Dispatch*:

Will you kindly publish in your Confederate Column the enclosed roll of Company C, 37th

Regiment, Virginia Infantry? By so doing you will oblige a few survivors of that old company, which was a gallant as any that ever kept step to the music of 'Dixie' during the sixties.

And right her I want to thank the *Dispatch* for its generous defence of the worthy Confederate soldier. We claim the paper as our official organ, as some of us commenced reading it in the camps and trenches around Richmond, and we value it greatly. I wish every Confederate was a subscriber to it.

C.B. Price

### The Roster

Roll of Company C, 37th Regiment, Virginia Infantry, Third Brigade (Taliaferro's), Jackson's old Division, Jackson's Corps, Army of Northern Virginia.

CAPTAIN - J. F. McIlhany, dead.

LIEUTENANTS - James L White, wounded; John D. Duff, killed; J.D. Alderson.

SERGEANTS - John W. Fickle, dead; Mike Powers, dead; William H. Fuller, wounded; Floyd Carico.

CORPORALS - James L. Williams; John T. Gray, wounded; William Carson, dead; C. B. Price, wounded.

PRIVATES - James Adams, dead; Thomas C. Aston, dead; Melvin Anderson, killed; Orral Anderson; C. C. Baker; Wesley Barker, dead; Edward Ball; James Ball; Joseph Bausell, dead; George Bays, dead; James Bays, dead; John Belther, killed; Habe. Bickley, dead; Isaac Boyd, dead; James Boyd; R. C. Boyd; Charles Breadlore, dead; William Breadlore; John Buckles, dead; Fleming Burk, killed; John G. Burk; James Bussey; John Bussey, killed; William Campbell, wounded, dead; Luther H. Clapp; Fitze Coman, dead; National Cooper, wounded; William P. Cooper, wounded; John Counts, dead; John Crowder, dead.; William Culberson, killed; William Davenport, E. D.K. Davis, J. B. Davis, wounded; Fullen Dickenson; John Dickenson, wounded; Thomas Dougherty, killed; James Duff; John Duff; O. C. Duff; Reece B. Duff, dead; Samuel Duff; Nathan Easterly, killed; Jesse Eliot, dead; Solomon Engle, dead; Isaac Faddas, dead; Daniel Farmer; Jackson Farmer, dead; Andrew Ferrel; H. S. Fickle, wounded, dead; I. B. Fickle, wounded, dead; Elihu Fields, dead; Lilburn Fields; Charles Finery, dead; Dock Fraley,

dead; Soloman Fraly; William Frick, dead; Henry Fry, dead; Lafayette Gilmer; Morgan Gilmer, dead; W.S. Gilmer, dead; Arch Grey; E.D. Grey; James Grey, dead; John D. Grey, wounded, dead; William Greyham; William Haney; William Hanson; Thomas Harris, wounded, dead; W. R. Harry; Lilburn Hendrix, dead; J.J. Heneritzy; Frank Horton, killed; Jefferson Howell, dead; John Human; James Jessee, dead; Jefferson Jessee, Jr., dead; Jefferson Jessee, Sr., killed; Samuel Keller, transferred; Henry Kelly, dead. Jerry Kelly, dead; David Kimberlin; Thomas King; William King; Samuel MCloud, killed; Joseph McCarthy, dead; John McCloud; David McCrut, killed; Charles McElha, dead; John McElhany, dead; John McFaden, dead; Harry Mays, dead; Hensley Mead, dead; Jacob Mitchem; Hugh Montgomery, killed; Henry Moore; Thomas Morton; Hugh Mutter, dead; William Parks; C. W. Powers; Calvin Powers, wounded; Williams Powers, dead; John Sawyers; William Sawyers, dead; G. W. Seacott; Isaac Shell, wounded; James Shell, killed; Armstrong Skenes; George Smith, killed; Riley Smith, dead; Samuel Southerland; Henry Steel; J. H. Sullivan; J. S. Vermillion, killed; Benjamin Whetsel, dead; Charles Whetsel, killed; John Williams, killed; Thomas Wilson, wounded, dead; S. H. Wyett.

The foregoing roll was made from memory by C. B. Price, a member of the old company, who now resides at Hansonville, Russell County, Va.

I have been at work on it for one year. If any name has been omitted or is spelled incorrectly, I hope it will be reported to me as I wish the roster to be complete before it is impossible to get it, as the survivors will have soon passed away.

C. B. Price was corporal of Company C, 37th Regiment, Virginia Infantry.

Company C was enlisted in Russell County, Va., April 1861, went immediately to the front, and was in the war from start to finish."

Source: Posting to VA/WVA-ROOTS (va/wva-roots@rmgate.pop.indiana.edu), 17 May 1996, from Frieda Davison (fdavison@sun-muw1.muw.edu)

## Aldersons on the World Wide Web

The following is a series of queries posted by Lonnie Wolgamott (wolgammot@bus02.ferris.edu) taken from the genealogical queries section of Helm's Genealogical Toolbox, located on the World Wide Web at <http://genealogy.tbox.com/genealogy/>.

### Anthony and Mary (Moore) Alderson

- Need information concerning Anthony ALDERSON b: circa 1824 in Durham County, England. He married Mary MOORE (b: circa 1825 Durham County, England). Known children are Anthony, Alice, and John Joseph (born 1851 in New Philadelphia, Ohio).
- Need information regarding marriage of John Joseph ALDERSON and Elizabeth Mary HAGLER circa 1887 in Hamilton, Missouri.
- Doing research on the following surnames. Dates represent oldest information for that line.

ALDERSON (1896), ASHMORE (1912), BATCHELDER (1875), BURTON, (1819), CHEEK (1908), DAVIDSON (1862), HILLARD (1835), HOUSLER (1814)

According to Jim Cross, Anthony Alderson and family may have been in Ohio in 1850, but had moved to Christian Co., IL by 1860. Anthony died after 1900. John Joseph moved to Cook Co., IL by 1900 but was living in Newaygo Co., Michigan before returning to Cook Co., Illinois by 1920.

### Update on the Alderson Web Genealogy

I recently received a new version of Commssoft's genealogical software "Family Gathering". It is a revision of their Windows software called "Visual Roots," based on Roots IV and released earlier this year. I was able to successfully use this software to create the entire 10-generation descendants genealogy in HTML format, which I have now uploaded to the Web site where I had earlier posted the 5-generation genealogy (see *Alderson Roots & Branches*, September 1995.)

As new material is added to the Alderson database, I will periodically update the web

pages. For those interested in accessing the site, be forewarned that the sources file and index files are now 250-350k in size and will take at least a minute or more to load, depending on your modem speed. Make sure your browser's cache is on and will save files of that size in order to speed up subsequent accesses.

The address is:  
<http://www.slip.net/~dgf/Alderson/>

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## Alderson Extracts from Monroe Co, WV

**U**nion, West Virginia is a beautiful small town, the seat of Monroe County, nestled in a long valley with Swopes Knob towering to the west and the long ridge of Peters Mountain stretching to the distance in the east. Its local paper, the *Monroe County Watchman*, has served as the chronicler of the region's activities since shortly after the Civil War. The following are extracts of Alderson birth, death, and marriage announcements, some of which refer to Aldersons who had since left the Monroe region. I have omitted some information not immediately pertinent to genealogy but have left much of the original wording of the entries.

### Extracts from the Border Watchman, Union, Monroe Co., WV

1871-1883

21 Mar 1872: On the 17th instant, at his residence on Greenbrier River near the mouth of Wolf Creek, this county, Mr. Albert G. Alderson, aged about 65 years.

21 Apr 1876 (Vol 5, No 13): On the 8th instant, Col. Joseph A. Alderson of Nicholas Co. At the time of his death he was prosecuting attorney for Nicholas and Webster Co., and prior to the War he had been a member of the Virginia Senate for two terms.

24 Dec 1880: In Alderson, Monroe Co., on the 14th instant, Mrs. Cornelia P. Alderson, relict of the late J. Marshall Alderson, aged 62 years.

18 Nov 1881: On the 8th instant at Alderson, by the Rev. B. Cade, Mr. Taylor Mann and Miss Cornelia Alderson, all of Monroe Co.

2 Dec 1881: On the 24th ultimo at the residence of the bride's father, Squire Marion Gwinn, at Green Sulphur Springs, by the Rev. J.A. Alderson, Mr. Peter L. Alderson and Miss Alice N. Gwinn, both of Summers Co. On the following day the bride and groom started for Kansas, where both expect to locate.

15 Dec 1882: On Monday the 11th instant, at the home of the bride's mother near Ft. Spring, Greenbrier Co., by the Rev. A.M. Chappell, Mr. C.C. Claypool and Miss Mattie Alderson, both of Greenbrier.

15 Dec 1882: On the 28th ultimo at the Presbyterian Church in Alderson, Monroe Co., by the Rev. B. Cade, Mr. E.R. Lewis of Mitchell's Station, Culpeper Co., and Miss Lucy Alderson, Monroe Co.

### Extracts from the Monroe County Watchman, Union, Monroe Co., WV

1884-1920

11 Aug 1887: On the 3rd instant near Red Sulphur Springs, Mrs. Cassie Duncan, aged about 75 years.

5 Jan 1888: On Tuesday 20 Dec 1887, at the residence of her son-in-law Hon. George Alderson of Monroe Co., Mrs. Miriam Stevens, aged 75 years.

18 Jul 1889: On Tuesday 11 Jun 1889, at Cottonwood, San Diego Co., CA, Hiatt M. Alderson, infant son of Rufus D. and Minnie M. Alderson.

25 Jul 1889: On Saturday 6 Jul 1889 at Covington, VA of pneumonia, Mrs. Cornelia F. Alderson, wife of Mr. A.B. Alderson, aged 26 years and 6 months.

1 Aug 1889: On 19 Jul 1889 at her home on Wolf Creek, of consumption, Mrs. Florence Alderson, daughter of J.G. Alderson, Esq., aged about 25 years.

29 Jan 1891: On Thursday, 15 Jan 1891, in Richmond, VA, by the Rev. \_\_\_\_\_, Mr. John W. Alderson of Alderson, WV, and Miss Sadie Garstang of Indianapolis, IN.

27 Aug 1891: On Monday, 10 Aug 1891, in Green Sulphur District, Summers Co., Mr. L.M. Alderson, in the 82nd year of his age.

18 Aug 1892: On Monday 8 Aug 1892, at the residence of the bride's mother Mrs. C.J. Perry, near Ft. Spring, this county, by the Rev. E.D. Jeffries, Mr. Rufus D. Alderson of CA and Miss Emma B. Perry of Greenbrier.

23 Nov 1893: On 7 Nov 1893 at Mason City, IA, Mrs. James Remley. Deceased was a daughter

of the late Col. George Alderson of Fayette and had many relatives in this section of West Virginia.

21 Dec 1893: At his home in Gainesville, TX on 4 Dec 1893, of consumption, Mr. Irving N. Alderson, aged 49 years. Deceased was a brother of the late Rev. Lewis N. Alderson, formerly of this section, and a brother of Major J.C. Alderson of Wheeling.

14 Jun 1894: At the home of her father N.C. Kester, Esq. in Staunton, VA on Sunday morn 10 Jun 1894, at 2PM of consumption, Mrs. Blanche Alderson, widow of the late D. Otey Alderson, aged about 25 years. Her remains were brought back to Monroe where she was born and interred in the Mt. Pleasant Cemetery at Sinks Grove last Monday. She is survived but by one child, a little son.

28 Mar 1895: Mr. Walter W. Alderson, whose injuries at his home in Miles City, Montana were reported in these columns last week, died at 11PM Wednesday, 20 Mar 1895. Mr. Alderson was a native of Greenbrier and was about 40 years old. He was a brother of Major J. Coleman Alderson of Wheeling and married Miss Nannie Tiffany of Union about 12 years ago. His wife and 4 children survive him.

19 Sep 1895: On 2 Sep 1895 at her home at New Palestine, Hancock Co., IN, Mrs. Amanda Carraway, aged about 70 years. She was born an Alderson, and was a native of this section. In 1847 she married Samuel Carraway in Monroe Co.

17 Oct 1895: On 11 Oct 1895 at Apishapa, CO, Capt. James A. Foster, native of Greenbrier, aged 68. Deceased was a Confederate soldier and had married Miss Maggie Alderson, of Alderson.

19 Nov 1896: Mrs. Sallie A. Lobban, wife of Capt. John G. Lobban, died at her home in Alderson on Sunday, 15 Nov 1896, at 6AM. She was the daughter of John Marshal Alderson and was born 2 Mar 1845, aged 51. In 1872 she became a member of the Greenbrier Baptist Church, where she was buried.

19 Nov 1896: Mrs. Mary S. Alderson, widow of the late Joseph A. Alderson, died at her home in Summersville, Nicholas Co. on Thursday morning, 12 Nov 1896. She had formerly resided in Monroe Co. She was a Catholic and leaves 5 children: Hon. John D. Alderson, Mrs. A.B. Hereford, Mrs. George, Joseph A. Alderson and E.L. Alderson, all of Nicholas.

14 Sep 1899: Mrs. Elizabeth Alderson died at the tollgate 1½ miles south of Union on Monday, 11 Sep 1899. She was the widow of the late Charles Alderson. She was aged 64 and a Baptist.

She leaves 2 daughters and 2 sisters. She was buried yesterday at Mt. Pleasant.

28 Sep 1899: On Sunday, 4 Sep 1899, at his home at New Palestine, Hancock Co, Indiana, Mr. Samuel Carraway, formerly of Muddy Creek, Greenbrier Co., aged 77. He had married Miss Amanda Alderson (who died several years ago), sister to the Hon. George Alderson and went West about 32 years ago. He leaves 8 children, his oldest a member of the Indiana Legislature.

5 Feb 1900: Mrs. J.G. Alderson died in Wolf Creek District aged 68 ["Events of 1900"].

8 Feb 1900: Mrs. James G. Alderson died near Alderson on 5 Feb 1900 of heart disease, aged 68. She was a Presbyterian and leaves her husband and one daughter, Mrs. Charles Thompson of Alderson.

20 Aug 1900: Mrs. M.J. Alderson died at Rocky Point, aged 61 ["Events of 1900"].

10 Aug 1901: Joseph N. Alderson died at Alderson, aged 53 ["Events of 1901"].

26 Aug 1902: Thomas L. Smithson died at Alderson, age 78 ["Events of 1902"].

5 Jan 1905: Major J. Coleman Alderson of Greenbrier Co., now of New York City, married Mary Calvert Kirker at the home of her uncle Mr. Charles Kirker in Wellsburg, WV, on Friday 30 Dec 1904.

17 Aug 1905: Prof. Bernard C. Alderson died at the home of his parents, the Hon. George and Mrs. Alderson, at Alderson, on Monday 14 Aug 1905, of pulmonary disease. He was the second son, and was born 27 Oct 1870, aged 35. He was a Baptist. He received his M.A. from West Virginia University where he held the chair in Ancient Languages for 5 years. He taught in New Mexico 4 years ago, and 2 winters in Florida. He was the principal of Alderson Academy. He was unmarried. He leaves his parents, and 2 brothers: Mr. Cary Alderson of Logan and the Hon. George Alderson, now temporarily at Los Cruces, New Mexico; and 3 sisters: Emma Alderson, Ida Alderson and Virgie Alderson. He was buried yesterday at the Greenbrier Baptist Church.

22 Sep 1906: At the home of his father S.I. Alderson, Esq. at Asbury, Greenbrier Co., on 14 Sep 1906, Mr. William A. Alderson, age 40, of TB.

21 Feb 1907: At the Hospital for the Insane in Weston, Lewis Co., WV after 12 years of residence, Mr. Eugene Alderson, aged about 34, brother of John D. Alderson of Nicholas Co.

28 Feb 1907: Mrs. Mary Burke Alderson died 1 Feb 1907, aged nearly 87. She was the daughter

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of Col. Peters and a sister to Mrs. Rufus Pack and Mrs. C.W. Withrow of New Richmond. Her husband, the late L.M. Alderson died some 15 years ago. She was a Baptist.

4 Jul 1907: The Hon. George Alderson Jr. died of disease of the lungs at Alderson. He had spent time in Colorado and some winters in Florida. He returned home 2 months ago. He died at 11:15am on Saturday 29 Jun 1907. He was the 4th son of the Hon. George Alderson Sr. and Mrs. Virginia Stevens Alderson. He was born in Alderson on 10 Aug 1875. He was a Baptist, and had graduated from West Virginia University at age 21. He was a writer, and in 1902 was elected to the West Virginia House of Delegates from Monroe Co., again in 1904. He was unmarried. He leaves one brother, J. Cary Alderson of Logan, and 3 sisters: Misses Emma Alderson, Ida Alderson, and Virginia Alderson. His brother Dr. William Alderson died in January 1901 and brother Prof. B.C. Alderson died 14 Aug 1905. He was buried Monday at the Greenbrier Baptist Church.

11 Jul 1907: Mrs. A.C. Masters, daughter of George H. Alderson of Nicholas Co., died at her home in Lewisburg on 27 Jun 1907. On 1 Jul 1907 her infant died only 4 days old. She leaves her husband and 4 sons, the oldest only 8 or 9.

29 Aug 1907: Mr. Cary Trimble Alderson died at his home in Atchison, Kansas on Monday 26 Aug 1907. He was age 54, and had been sick for years. He was the 5th son of the Rev. L.A. and Eliza Alderson and was born near Palestine. He moved to Kansas in 1858 and resided there until his death. He was the brother of Major J.C. Alderson of Charleston, with whom his mother lives. He was buried at Atchison last Tuesday.

23 Jan 1908: Mr. Charles Alderson died in Los Angeles, CA ["Events of 1908"].

30 Jan 1908: Charles R. Alderson died at his home in Los Angeles on Wednesday, 15 Jan 1908, of cirrhosis of the liver. He was born near Alderson, the second son of John Marcus Alderson. He had a business in Huntington, but when his health failed he moved to Los Angeles. He leaves his mother and step-father, Mr. and Mrs. William G. Miller, 2 sisters Mrs. C.H. Pack of Parsons and Miss Bettie Alderson. He was a Baptist.

13 Feb 1908: Mrs. Maggie Foster, aged about 70, died at her home near Trinidad, Colorado on Thursday 30 Jan 1908. She was born in Monroe Co. and married Mr. Foster in Alderson in 1894. She was a sister to John W. Alderson of Alderson and aunt to Mr. W.C. Eades of North Alderson.

27 Feb 1908: John William Alderson died at his home in Alderson on 23 Feb 1908, one of Alderson's best-known citizens. He was born two miles from Alderson in Monroe Co. on 24 Jan 1842, and was the son of Albert and Matilda (Hines) Alderson and a grandson of John Alderson, Jr. He was buried in Alderson at the Greenbrier Baptist Church. In the Civil War he was in Chapman's Battery, and later went to Texas. He then returned to Alderson and built Alderson Hotel. He had been sick for 5 years. On 15 Jan 1891 he married Sadie Garstang, and had three children: Lewis Alderson, Dorothy Alderson, and J.W. Alderson, Jr.

18 Jun 1908 (No. 21): Miss Nina Alderson, youngest daughter of Sampson Alderson, died at her home in Asbury, Greenbrier Co., on 6 Jun 1908, of consumption, aged 21.

8 Oct 1908: Mr. William Zoll died at his home in Warrensburg, MO on 19 Sep 1908, aged 93. He was a native of Greenbrier and Monroe, and before the Civil War moved to Missouri with his wife Martha Alderson. He leaves children in Missouri.

15 Oct 1908: Mr. Andrew L. Riffe died at Roanoke, VA at 8am Monday, 12 Oct 1908, aged 60. He was born near Johnson's Crossroads. While residing in Alderson, he married Miss Millie Alderson, daughter of John M. Alderson. She died years ago, leaving one son William Riffe. Andrew Riffe moved to Roanoke 15 years ago.

15 Oct 1908: William G. Miller, Esq. died at his home in North Alderson on Saturday, 10 Oct 1908, aged 81. His second wife was Mrs. Malinda Alderson, who survives. He was buried at the Greenbrier Baptist Church.

17 Dec 1908: Mrs. Martha Rodes died at her home near Dawson, Greenbrier Co. on 29 Nov 1908 of paralysis, aged 74. She was the daughter of the late Curtis Alderson and was born near Alderson. She was a Baptist. Her husband T.J. Rodes and 7 children survive.

28 Jan 1909: Mrs. Eliza Floyd Alderson, widow of the Rev. Lewis A. Alderson and mother of Major J. Coleman Alderson died at her home in Charleston on Sunday, 24 Jan 1909, aged 89 years. She was a daughter of Capt. John Powell Coleman of Amherst Co., and granddaughter of the first Governor Floyd of Virginia. In 1838 she married Lewis A. Alderson, then pastor of the Grace Street Baptist Church in Richmond. They returned to Greenbrier Co., then in 1858 went to Kansas where he organized the first Baptist Church in the state. He died in Atchison, KS in 1881, and Mrs. Alderson returned to WV to live

with Coleman Alderson, her eldest son. L.A. Alderson of Sheridan, WY and Mrs. Mary Cornelia White of Atchison, KS survive their mother. She was buried at the Greenbrier Baptist Church on Monday. Coleman Alderson wants to bring the body of his father from Kansas to Greenbrier.

25 Feb 1909: Mrs. Sampson Alderson (born Martha Hedrick), wife of Sampson Alderson died at her home in Asbury, Greenbrier Co. on Friday, 19 Jan 1909, of cancer, aged about 65. She leaves her husband, and 3 sons: Attorney Charles M. Alderson of Charleston, Granville S. Alderson of Alderson, and a third in Mansfield, OH. She was a Baptist, and her funeral was held last Sunday.

22 Jul 1909: John G. Lobban died on 21 Jul 1909, aged 75 on 18 Mar 1909. His widow is Sallie Alderson, daughter of John Marshall Alderson.

16 Dec 1909: Mrs. Betsy Gray, sister of the Hon. George Alderson of Alderson, died at her home near Ringgold, Montagne Co., TX on 5 Dec 1909. She was a native of Monroe Co. and the widow of William Gray. Circuit Clerk R.P. Boyd is her nephew. Four sons survive: Oscar Gray, George Gray, Cary Gray and Newton Gray; 2 daughters: Mrs. Emma Bultan and Mrs. Cockrell of Texas. She had lived in Texas some 50 years, and was aged 82.

16 Jun 1910: Lilly Alderson, widow of Joseph N. Alderson, died at her home in Alderson on Friday 10 Jun 1910 at noon, of asthma. She was a Baptist. She was born 55 years ago in Kanawha Co., daughter of the late Dr. Putney of Malden. Two children survive: Miss Alethea Alderson and Mr. Joseph N. Alderson, Jr.. She had 3 sisters and 1 brother, one of whom died 3 Jun 1910. She was buried at the Greenbrier Baptist Church on Sunday, by her husband's side.

9 Mar 1911: George N. Smithson died at his home in Wolf Creek District on Tuesday, 28 Feb 1911, aged 78. He was born within sight of his death on 27 Feb 1833, and was the son of the late George and Betsy (Caldwell) Smithson, and was a great-grandson of John Alderson. He married Sarah Newman on 27 Feb 1856 and had 11 children, 5 now alive: Jonathan Smithson at Pence Springs, Lewis Smithson in Ohio, Walter Smithson, Newman Smithson and Mrs. J.L. Kincaid near the old homestead. His widow survives. He joined the Greenbrier Baptist Church in 1869 and was a deacon from 1880 until his death. He was buried 2 Mar 1911 in the New Alderson Cemetery.

23 Nov 1911: Mrs. Malinda Miller, relict of William G. Miller, died in North Alderson on Tues-

day, 14 Nov 1911, at 9AM, aged 77 years, 11 months and 7 days. She was a daughter of William M. and Elizabeth (Kilpatrick Reyburn) Patton, and was born at the family homestead between Union and Fort Spring. She first married John Marcus Alderson and came to Alderson 56 years ago. She had three children: Judson Alderson and Charles Alderson, both now dead, and Miss Bettie M. Alderson, who survives. She was a Baptist and buried at the Greenbrier Baptist Church on 16 Nov 1911.

5 Dec 1912: Major J. Coleman Alderson died Thursday, 28 Nov 1912 in Charleston. He was the eldest son of the Rev. Lewis A. Alderson and was born in Locust Grove, Amherst Co., VA on 29 Oct 1839. He was aged 74. He joined the Confederate Army on 16 Apr 1861 and was a private in the Greenbrier Cavalry. In April 1862 he became a 2nd Lieutenant, and in Dec 1862 a 1st Lieutenant. He was a member of Company A, 36th Battalion Virginia Cavalry, and was in East Tennessee in 1863 under General William E. Jones. He was injured twice, once in Maryland and once in Virginia. He was capture on 12 Jun 1864 and sent to Camp Chase, Ohio. After the war he was in the coal and timber business, and founded Williamson and Bellepoint, and Mt. Lake Park and Loch Lynn Heights in Maryland. In 1874 he married Mary Price, daughter of Gov. Samuel Price of Greenbrier Co. She died in 1885, and 8 years ago he married Mrs. Mary Kiker of Wellsburg, WV. He is survived by his wife and nephew George P. Alderson. He was a Baptist and was buried at the Greenbrier Baptist Church in Alderson.

8 May 1913: Mr. Joseph Alderson died in Oak Hill on 2 May 1913 of diabetes. He was a son of Mr. George Alderson of Alderson and was a barber. He was born in Summersville, Nicholas Co. and was aged 27 years. He is survived by his wife and one daughter. He wife is a daughter of Mr. C.C. Fullen of Ronceverte, near the town where he formerly resided with his parents. He was buried in Alderson.

30 Oct 1913: Mrs. John M. Alderson died at her home in Alderson on Tuesday, 28 Oct 1913, aged about 47. Her maiden name was Hodges and was born near Columbus, Ohio. She was a Presbyterian and leaves 3 daughters and 2 sons. She was buried at Alderson today.

6 Nov 1913: Florence Hodges was buried on 31 Oct 1913 by the side of son James Alderson who died 1 Mar 1909. She was the daughter of William J. and Julia C. Hodges, and was born in Derbyville, Ohio in 1865. She grew up at Mt. Sterling, Ohio. She went to college at Salem, Ohio and taught at Mt. Sterling until she mar-

ried John Alderson on 16 Feb 1893. She had 6 children: Gladys Alderson, Cornelia Alderson, Florence Alderson, John Marshall Alderson, Jr., James Alderson, and little Julia Alderson.

12 Feb 1914: Mr. and Mrs. G.W. Alderson returned to Norfolk, VA. They had lost their son Coleman Alderson age 11 in an appendicitis operation on 9 Feb 1914.

19 Mar 1914 (No. 7): David Graham died Sunday 8 Mar 1914 at the home of his daughter Mrs. M.L. Duncan of Huntington, where he had lived since October. He was aged 93 years, 2 months and 8 days. He was born in Talcott District, Summers Co, near Clayton. He was a Methodist. His wife Sarah Alderson died in 1878. He had 5 sons: J.W. Graham, editor of the *Hinton Daily News*, J.U. Graham of Charleston, C.H. Graham of Clayton, J.A. Graham of Sandstone, and L.P. Graham of Hinton. He had one daughter Mrs. M.L. Duncan, 25 grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren. He was buried in Clayton Cemetery on 10 Mar 1914.

22 Apr 1915: Col. S.W.N. Feamster died Sunday, 18 Apr 1915, at 1:30pm at his Alderson home. He was born in the house he lived in most of his life on Muddy Creek, Greenbrier Co., on 21 Feb 1836, son of William and Patsey (Alderson) Feamster. During the Civil War he was in the Greenbrier Co. 14th Va. Cavalry. He was a Baptist. Survivors include his wife Nannie McClung and 10 children: Coleman A. Feamster, William W. Feamster, S.W.N. Feamster, Jr., Allen Thurmond Feamster, Cecil Hyde Feamster, Earl Feamster, Garland Feamster, Pattie Hayward Feamster, Anna Warwick Feamster and Lucille Feamster, unmarried daughters. He was buried at the Greenbrier Baptist Church on Tuesday.

25 May 1916: Sampson I. Alderson died at his home in North Alderson on Wednesday morning, 17 May 1916, of Bright's disease. He was born in Summers Co. on 20 May 1841 and after his marriage on 18 Feb 1864 to Martha J. Hedrick, settled on a farm near Asbury. He had 6 sons and 6 daughters, survivors being: Charles Alderson of Charleston; Granville Alderson of Bellepoint; Edward Alderson of Mannsville; Belle Alderson, May Alderson, and Elsie Alderson, all at home. He had 2 brothers: George W. Alderson of Idaho and Jesse W. Alderson of Montana. He was a Baptist. His wife died 5 years ago, after which he moved to Alderson. He was buried last Thursday.

## Obituary of Willie Alderson Clanin

The following is the obituary of Willie A. Alderson Clanin, 1896-1996, of Jewell Co., Kansas which appeared in the *Salina Journal*, Salina, Kansas, and contributed by Virginia Wilhelm of Salina. Willie was the daughter of James C. and Eliza C. Alderson, and granddaughter of Calaway Hodges Alderson, early settler of Jewell County. Her father was born in Roane Co, Tennessee, but came with his parents to Jewell County in 1869, when Calaway took up a homestead claim from his Civil War service. Willie was born just 26 days before her grandmother, Louisa Brummett Alderson, died.

A detailed biography of Calaway Hodge Alderson, written by Mike Donovan, appeared in the December 1994 issue of *Alderson Roots & Branches* (vol. 6, no. 2).

### THE SALINA JOURNAL Willie A. Clanin SALINA, KS.

JEWELL — Willie A. Clanin, 100; Jewell, died Tuesday, April 23, 1996, at Jewell County Hospital Long Term Care, Mankato.

Mrs. Clanin was born Willie A. Alderson on Jan. 31, 1896, at Randall and was a resident of Jewell since 1960. She was a homemaker and a member of Jewell Christian Church.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Garner in 1982; and two sons, Weldon in 1992 and Mandon in July 1995.

Survivors include 10 grandchildren; 26 great-grandchildren; and 15 great-great-grandchildren.

The funeral will be at 10 a.m. Tuesday at Jewell Christian Church, the Rev. Dan Daniels officiating. Burial will be in Wallace Cemetery, east of Jewell.

Memorials may be made to Youthville at Newton or Cookson's Hill at Kansas, Okla.

Visitation will be from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday, 1 to 9 p.m. Sunday and 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday at Kleppinger Funeral Home, 409 Broadway, Jewell 66949.

## Editor's Corner

**A** It looks like we're back on track again after a bit of catching up in the last few issues. This issue features a fascinating story by Jeff Alderson which cleverly weaves together the background of the Civil War with the life and experiences of one of our Alderson relatives. If anyone can identify this William Alderson, please let Jeff know so he can claim a "galvanized" Yankee among his records!

Readers of Everton's *Genealogical Helper* may have noticed in the latest issue (May/June) that Marion Elliott, 1700 Oak Ave., Los Altos, CA 94024 is offering a "reward for documented info on Harris and Jane" Rachael (ALDERSON) STANDLEY, who married in 1888 in VA, TN, or NC. If anyone claims the reward, please let us know as well who this errant Jane Rachael Alderson is!

I have continued working on the genealogy of the Rev. John Alderson, Jr. and am now in the process of adding the 1850 census tables for families of the 4th generation of descent (from Rev. John Sr.). The information keeps expanding! Recently I found

a descendant of "River Jack" Alderson from a query on the Roots listserve who has added new information on some of River Jack's children, particularly the Huffmans, and who will be providing me with Alderson obituaries her grandmother had collected.

The next issue of the newsletter is scheduled for September, but I can predict already that it will likely be a few weeks late. I am due to spend mid-July to mid-August in China for work, and then will be taking a 2-3 week vacation in Europe at the end of August and early September. Fortunately, the addition now of regular contributors has shortened significantly the time needed to put together a full issue. All budding journalists and writers are certainly encouraged to add their articles as well!

A Happy Summer to All!

## 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. The genealogy can be found at <http://www.slip.net/~dgr/Alderson/>.

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. Fax: 415/920-9856; email: [dgr@slip.net](mailto:dgr@slip.net) (Internet).

Subscriptions are \$7.50 per year (\$13 international) for four issues, including any back issues for the current volume year. Back issues from Vols. 1 and 2 are available at \$1.50 apiece, Vols. 3, 4, 5, and 6 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 \$151, payable by check to Mr. John Alderson, 133E Alameda Drive, Tempe, AZ 85282.

The US Records Officer is Mr. Bernard C. Alderson, 1642 Clairton Road, West Mifflin, PA 15122.