SKETCH OF THE ALDERSON FAMILY.

John Alderson, Sr., was born in Yorkshire, England, in 1699,

and came to this country when twenty years old. The circum-

stances under which he left his native land were peculiar. His

father, a minister of the Established Church, opposed with con-

siderable violence a matrimonial connection he was about to make.

To divert his son from this alliance he prevailed upon him to

travel and furnished him with a horse and requisite funds. In a

short time these means were exhausted, and he, without the

knowledge or consent of his father, bound himself on board a

vessel which brought him to America. On arriving in this country,

he was hired to a well-to-do farmer of New Jersey (a Mr. Curtis)

for his "passage money." His conduct was such that he not only

gained the esteem of Mr. Curtis, but married his daughter, Mary.

The death of a daughter led to his conversion, and caused him to

write his first letter to his father in England. He connected him-

self with the Baptist church, and we are told that "with his char-

acteristic energy he began at once to preach." He received in

reply to his letter sent his father, two volumes on theology, and

a very kind letter. These books are still in the Alderson family.

He lived near Bethlehem Church, New Jersey, and then moved to

Germantown, Pennsylvania, where he preached for a number of

years. In 1755 he was sent by the Philadelphia Association as a

missionary to Rockingham county, Virginia, and there organized

one of the first Baptist churches in Virginia, the Smith and Lynn-

ville's Creek church, August 6, 1756. The members were driven

by an Indian invasion in 1757 forty or fifty miles beyond the

Blue Ridge, but rallied after two years and returned to their

homes and church, which was admitted into the Philadelphia Asso-

ciation, October 12, 1762.

For about sixteen years he was pastor of Smith's and Lynn-

ville's church, when he removed to the county of Botetourt, where

he labored nine years, when he was called to rest in 1781 at the

age of 82. He was buried in the graveyard of his neighborhood,

afterward abandoned and overgrown with tall oaks, with neither

hillock nor stone to mark his resting place.

John Alderson, Sr., had seven sons and one daughter. The

latter married a Mr. Orton and moved to western Pennsylvania.

Of the sons, Thomas and John only came to Greenbrier, and a

great granddaughter of his son, Curtis, Hester Ammen, who mar-

ried 1st Rufus D. Alderson, great grandson of Elder John Aider-

son, Jr., and after his death married Thomas H. Alderson, grand-

son of Thomas, who was a son of Elder John A., Sr. After many

years of active service in the Old Greenbrier church, she still lives

at an advanced age, with her son, Rufus D. Alderson, in this

county, retaining in full her vigorous mentality.

Source: Cole, J.R., History of Greenbrier County [W VA],

1917, Page 309