

Alderman Historical Association

First Reunion Held in 1928
Patricia Crosby Leonard - President

MAY, 2013

[HTTP://ALDERMANHISTORICALASSOCIATION.ORG](http://ALDERMANHISTORICALASSOCIATION.ORG)

VOLUME 9, ISSUE 1

*****AHA Mission Statement*****

To honor our ancestral lineage and foster the continued efforts of John Thomas Alderman in compiling and recording the history of the Southern Branch of the Alderman family. We will do this by honoring Alderman descendants with an annual reunion to allow sharing of genealogical information, maintaining relationships with other Alderman family groups, the care and maintenance of the John Alderman, Sr. cemetery and other sites as may be deemed needed by the Association Board of Directors.

REUNION TIME IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER SO MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

JUNE 29 – EVERGREEN BAPTIST CHURCH - DELWAY, NC

(See Registration Form Enclosed)

Happy 85th Birthday

It might be of special interest to many of you that the first Alderman reunion was held 85 years ago in 1928. Mr. James Ezzell, whose mother started the reunion (Lila Brewer Alderman, 13-3-2-1, page 234 AIA), indicated to me several years ago that the Alderman reunion had been held continuously with the exception of the World War II years. I think this is quite a feat and we all hope that the younger generation will step in behind us and to keep the Association going for many more years. Please try to attend and show your support.

Meeting Minutes and Treasurer's Report

These items were printed and distributed in the 2012 Fall Edition of the newsletter and can be reviewed online at our newsletter archive on the website: <http://www.aldermanhistoricalassociation.org>

New Book Available: "Heritage of Duplin County North Carolina 1750-2012"

This book has now been published and is in the hands of many of our members. If you missed the opportunity to order over the last two years, you might try contacting County Heritage, Inc., P.O. Box 34, Waynesville, NC 28786 or by phone at (828)452-7600. Our Alderman Family is well documented on pages 323 and 324 thanks to Pansy Alderman Elliott and our association president, Patricia Crosby Leonard. I am sure there will be a copy available at the reunion for everyone to see.

Alderman Family History Books Are Still Available

- Original "Aldermans in America" – contact Susan Bland - susan@intrstar.net
- New AIA Volumes 1&2 building on the original "Aldermans in America" – contact Jack Westberry-janeandjackwestberry@live.com

Our Feature Article

This issue we were given permission from Mr. Joel W. Rose to reprint his article from the Sampson County Historical Society Newsletter – "The Huckleberry Historian". I have been a member of the Sampson County Historical Society for a number of years and found that Mr. Kent Wrench has done a wonderful job in producing a newsletter that is very interesting and has been a tremendous asset to family genealogy. If you are interested in subscribing to their newsletter, please contact Kent Wrench, 2821 Wrench Road, Godwin, NC 28344, (910)567-6528, or kwrench@intrstar.net.

In this article, we will be focusing on **Penelope Eliza (Howard) Alderman** the wife of Amariah Biggs Alderman (5-12, page 115 in AIA). He was the twelfth child of John Alderman, Jr. and his wife Nancy Ann Newton. Before we get into the article written by Mr. Rose, it should be noted that much of the article was extracted from a book written by John Thomas Alderman for his grand children titled "Amariah Biggs Alderman, Reminiscences and Civil War Experiences". You may recall that John Thomas Alderman started the

work on "Aldermans in America" that was ultimately finished by William Alderman Parker. We will start with some background on Amariah Biggs Alderman and then follow with the article from Mr. Rose.

AMARIAH BIGGS ALDERMAN

Amariah Biggs Alderman was a son of John Alderman, Jr. and Nancy Ann Newton Alderman, born in Duplin County, North Carolina, on July 28, 1819, on a 700 acre farm owned by his father, John Alderman, Senior. At twenty-eight years old he joined old Wells Chapel Baptist Church. John Alderman, Jr died on October 10, 1824 when Amariah was only five years old.

Nancy Ann Newton was a daughter of Isaac Newton and his wife, Jemima Chambers Newton. Nancy Ann was a woman of unusual force and energy. After the death of John Jr. she managed to keep her large family of 15 children in comfort by requiring each one to take part in the all parts of the household and farm. The children received a basic education and she instilled a reverence for the Bible and the church.

When Amariah was fifteen years old the responsibility of managing the farm fell mostly upon his shoulders and with the help of three servants and a younger brother he kept the farm in good condition and supported family.

In 1840 his older brother, James, moved with his family to Florida (now Gadsden County, Fla.) Amariah made the trip to assist with moving James's family. The women and children rode in loaded wagons and so it was necessary for men to walk most of the way. The long journey was a three weeks trip. Amariah stayed with the family for about six months; he helped build a water-mill on a spring branch which furnished plenty of water from a spring that was close by.

On his way back to North Carolina Amariah rode and walked through Georgia and South Carolina. He took a train from Camden, South Carolina to Charleston, South Carolina, from there he booked passage on an ocean vessel to Wilmington, North Carolina. He was gone from home about seven months.

When Amariah was a young man he was stricken with typhoid fever and the effects of the sickness was the loss of most of his hair. It never grew back and so he remained bald the rest of his life.

He was baptized at Wells Chapel Baptist Church on January 1842 and soon he was impressed with a call to the ministry. His mother was greatly pleased and told him to get an education and prepare for his work; she would look after the home affairs. He began to teach in 1844 and in the early summer of 1844 he taught in a school near Owensville, now Roseboro, in Sampson County. In the fall of 1845 he entered Wake Forest College. He learned to play a Flute, which was a pretty, tan colored piece. It remained in his possession until Sherman's bummers carried it off.

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He preached his first sermon at Wells Chapel on October 11, 1845 and was ordained at the regular meeting at the church in November, 1847.

He married Penelope Ann Howard on January 9, 1851. Their oldest daughter, Penelope, married Thomas B. Parker.

Apparently Amariah had his own farm close to the old farm and his mother. It is an interesting fact that his place was a part of the old John Alderman grant secured from Governor William Tryon in 1765. Amariah Biggs Alderman died in 1889.

From the Sampson Historical Society **Diary of A Sampson County Farm Wife**

From the Southern Historical Collection, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Penelope Eliza Howard Alderman (1834-1893) lived in Sampson County, NC, with her husband Amariah B. Alderman, a Baptist minister. She was the daughter of Thomas and Penelope Cooper Howard. Starting with her marriage day and continuing through August 18, 1856, Penelope made entries documenting her daily life as a farm wife in antebellum North Carolina. Initially, the entries, made two or three times a week, are quite brief. By February 1854, however, she was making almost daily entries, many of them detailing not only her own life, but her husband's activities and those of her neighbors, family, and friends. In the spring of 1854, the time period included by this excerpt, Penelope was the mother of two children and was expecting another. She and her husband would eventually have twelve children.

April, 1854:

Mond. 3. Wove some. Mr. A. ploughing and took the head ache very hard, cool and fair. Not well.

Tues. 4. Mr. A had hard head ache all night. Some better, not much work of any kind. Do not read much, and the time is so rapidly going.

Wed. 5. Washed, wove some, warm and fair Mr. A. with head ache

Thur. 6. Mr. A. planted his corn. Martha A. Bland [and] David Newton going to be married. Fair warm

Fri. 7. Mr. A. started to the sound. Emry went to Boneys and brought the horse back. Wove some. Fair and warm not very well. Mother A. came down to stay but did not, by my self.

Sat. 8. Home, worked some. Mother and Hosea came down to stay with me. Half past 1 o'clock. Enoch Alderman, wife, two children, Elizabeth, Anne Jane Heighsmith her daughter Susan and Harriet came from Georgia headed to Fathers. Was very sick

Sun. 9. Anne Jane Heighsmith and her daughter went to Weddles Chapel, we went to Hoseas. Rained very hard in the evening, faired off some. I came home, rode the horse. Very lonesome and in much trouble, want to hear from Father.

Mon. 10 Went to Hoseas a while, came back in James F. Bland cart. Sent Emry to meet Mr. A. They came back. He got his Smith tools, brought me five yards calico. We went to Hosea. I worked motto (sampler) to send to Kitty.

April Tues. 11. We went to Fathers to see him. He had got better all the rest were tolerable well we were very tiard. Left Emry at Hoseas. The children took very bad colds. Very cool windy but fair went through Clinton.

Wed. 12. Went to Thomas A. and Uncle Minson [and] Aunt Dicy met us there after dinner mother went. We went back. I was very sick with sick stomache and misary through me. Bro Jacob and wife and her granmother went to see me but I could not sit up. Aunt Polly went; fair.

Thur. 13. Better but very sore. Aunt Polly came and Isabella, mother give me some cloth, children very unwell. Cloudy and warm.

Fri. 14. Very unwell after dinner. Mr. A. Started to Limestone meeting house to preach in Kennedys place and see Dr. Thomas and Kennedy coming to Bethel. Fair and warm. I wrote a letter and started it with a drawing in it to Mother Howard. Mr. A. weatherboarded the far side of his shop before he started. By myself, worked a large motto (sampler) for Mr. A.

Sat. 22. Worked some on papas plants, Hosea came down, planted some wine seed that came from Georgia, worked at small motto for Mr. A. Susan came down to stay, thundered very heavy this evening but no rain. Fair and warm the beautiful spring.

Sund. 23. Susan went home. Beautiful day [with] Enoch and family, Elizabeth, mother went home with J. N. Bland. By my self.

Mon. 24. Mr. A. returned bought one stay at Kenansville, 1.00
At Kenansville, one candle .25
3 bunches cotton at .95, 2.85
Worked some. Hosea came down to stay. Fair and warm.

Tuesday 25. Worked some fair and warm. Hosea came to stay. Mr. A not well.

Wed. 26. Mr. A. went to Clinton and back to get some things for his buggy. Been very busy at work. J. T. not well. Mary Eliza came down and then back. Enoch and family return to Hosea

Thurs. 27. Washed piece of cloth for countpins. Mr. A went [to] Taylor Allen Johnson to get collard plants but failed and to Hoseas. Joseph then fixed my harnisess. Enoch went to Louise, then took supper here then to Hoseas. Fair and warm.

Fri. 28. Went to WillibyPowells and got some collard plants, and set them out. Planted some. Bernice, Susan, Sallie Rogers came down. Cool and rainey.

Sat. 29. Drew my count pins in the harness. Hosea ploughed some. Enoch come and worked some on his wagon. Lucy Ann Rackly, James Rackly, Hiram Page came, cool and cloudy. Not very well. John Thomas walking.

Sun. 30. Went to Bethel. Mr. A. and cousin R. Newton preached. Left children home at 7 o clock Mr A. preached at Hoseas. Carried Penny Ann. Mary Hams Feby Newton come with us cool and fair. J.T. walking.

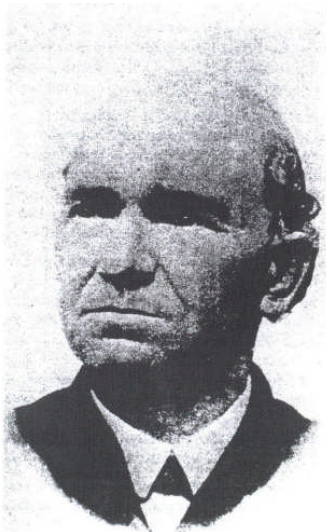
May, 1854

Mon. 1. Mr. A. went to Hoseas. Enoch came back with him. Elizabeth came to see me. George Newton, Timothy Bland all took dinner with us. Fair and warm. I am twenty years old today.

Mon. 2. Mr. A. went to get Hosea to come and plough. Hosea plant corn. Mr. A. plough the mules. Fair and warm.

*From Diary 1834-1893, Penelope Eliza Howard Alderman Papers #4479, Southern Historical Collection, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

* The entire diary can be viewed at: [http://www.lib.unc.edu/mss/inv/a/Alderman, Penelope Eliza Howard.html#](http://www.lib.unc.edu/mss/inv/a/Alderman,Penelope%20Eliza%20Howard.html#)



AMARIAH BIGGS ALDERMAN



Penelope (Howard) Alderman

I urge you to go online at the address noted above and either download Penelope's diary or read it from the website in it's entirety. It tells of the hardships inflicted upon the citizens of the Carolinas by General Sherman's army as he marched through the crumbling Confederacy.

Association Contact Information -

<u>Name</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>Email</u>
Patricia Leonard - President	(919)853-3293	g-p-leonard@msn.com
H. Sidney Bland, III – Vice Pres.	(910)432-2667	susan@intrstar.net
Susan Bland – Treasurer	(910)532-2667	susan@intrstar.net
James E. Alderman – Secretary	(817)605-0538	alde711@aol.com
Kay Ezzell – Webmaster		ezzellk@mac.com

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU ON JUNE 29TH