

Alderman Historical Association

Founded 1928
Sidney Bland, President

MAY, 2007

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 2

IT'S REUNION TIME ! MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR JUNE 23. REGISTRATION FORM IS ATTACHED.

Cemetery Fence Update:

Thanks to everyone who made contributions to the completion of the John Alderman, Sr. cemetery project. Donations of \$275.00 since last October, coupled with the matching funds from an anonymous donor, have made the completion possible. Negotiations are in the works with a local fence company with hopes of having the project completed by Reunion time. All of you should feel proud that we have provided added protection to the cemetery for future generations of Alderman descendants. Mr. James Ezzell has been a driving force behind this project for the last few years and I know he is glad to see it finally drawing to completion. *Note: The Alderman Historical Association has control of the cemetery property and decisions related to the cemetery are made by the Association Board of Directors.*



The cemetery as it looks today. We hope to have new photos after the reunion in June reflecting the new fence which is to be installed in late May. Please notice the old wrought iron fence which we hope to restore to maintain the historical essence of the cemetery. It will be enclosed by the new fencing.

“Aldermans in America” – update

Jack Westberry has completed the indexing task and has started looking for a publisher. He hopes to have the new volume or volumes in print later this year. All of us have been waiting anxiously for this new genealogical reference but projects such as this just do not happen quickly. As soon as Jack provides the availability information, I will get out an immediate email to those we have on file and include the same information in the fall issue of our newsletter. Maybe we will have some great Christmas presents!

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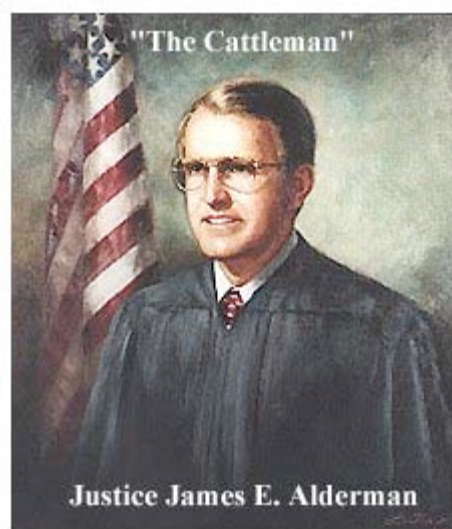
Featured Alderman Article

James Elliott Alderman, b 11-01-1936, Ft Pierce. Son of Burgess Elliott Alderman, **28-8-6-1**, d 8-26-1987 in Fort Pierce, Florida. Article copied from the Florida Supreme Court website.

Justice James E. Alderman

The conflicts between family obligations and public duty were no better exemplified than in the life of Justice James E. Alderman, the 67th Justice of the Court. Alderman grew up amid family traditions older than the State of Florida itself, and these traditions centered on the raising of cattle. Few remember today that one of the earliest "cowboy" states was Florida, in which the cattle industry commenced long before statehood.

The Alderman family, for example, was engaged in the cattle business by 1830, and they have continued the family tradition to this very day well over 160 years later. In early childhood, James Alderman grew up on a family ranch of 9,000 acres, and his earliest passions were roping and wrestling calves. This was only fitting for a youngster who was a sixth-generation Floridian -- and a sixth-generation cowboy.



By the time Alderman was enrolled in Fort Pierce High School, he faced a difficult choice: either staying on his beloved family ranch, or taking "time off" to go to college at the University of Florida. He opted for the latter, which took him away from the ranch for the seven years necessary to get under graduate and law degrees.

The quandary Alderman felt as a teen was to be repeated some seven years after he was appointed to the Supreme Court in 1978. In 1985, Justice Alderman's father suffered an incapacitating heart attack, and the judge was the only person in his family who could then run the enormous cattle ranch. But the ranch was a full-time job. With great reluctance, Alderman left behind his black robes and dusted off his cowboy shirt and boots. As of early 1995, Justice Alderman still could be seen nearly every day, riding his horse around the ranch that holds more than 160 years of fond family memories.

Genealogical Tidbits -- by Susan Bland

Are you one who takes as many pictures and videos as possible at those extended family gatherings? Sidney & I have just watched movies of a family reunion. At that reunion one of the older members gave an oral family history and we have it on film; that's priceless. Some of the people in the film are no longer with us. In another video that we received from another relative we watched old silent movies that had been transferred to video. That Christmas joy was from 50 years ago. The ability to watch videos is becoming harder and if you do have

those valuable old movies, now is the time to take them to a converting service and have them burned onto DVDs. page 3

I wondered about the safety of all those precious memories on the video and discovered that there is a real danger of tapes becoming unreadable in 10-15 years. You can read about it at: <http://www.publiceye.info/vidcotapes.htm>. Few people have the equipment to burn it yourself. You can burn it to DVR-R+, but then you aren't certain what it can be played on. Services are available to get them burned to a regular DVD.

Continuing your Family Genealogy

In the last issue we covered how to begin your genealogy. Want a reference to a great beginner's genealogy course? Try <http://www.genealogy.com/uni-begin.html>. One of the most important tools you can use for your journey is the census data. They have a whole lesson on understanding it. The census collects data every 10 years and has the name of the head of the household and all the members of that household. Today families are spread apart, but decades ago, family members lived nearby. Learning who lived beside your relative can help you find extended family members. There are websites and CDs, where for a fee you can view this data from the convenience of your home. Being able to link this data and search electronically saves you a lot of trips to the library, of many states!



NAME	RELATION	PERSONAL DESCRIPTION	SEX	AGE	COLORED	BLIND	DEAF	MAR.	WED.	DIV.	WID.	WAS. MIL.	WAS. CIV.	WAS. NAT.	WAS. ALIEN	WAS. NAT.	WAS. ALIEN	WAS. NAT.	WAS. ALIEN
William J. Smith	Head	White	M	45															
John A. Smith	Wife	White	F	42															
Robert L. Smith	Son	White	M	15															
Mary E. Smith	Daughter	White	F	12															
James H. Smith	Son	White	M	10															
Elizabeth M. Smith	Daughter	White	F	8															
William J. Smith	Son	White	M	6															
John A. Smith	Son	White	M	4															
Mary E. Smith	Daughter	White	F	3															
James H. Smith	Son	White	M	2															
Elizabeth M. Smith	Daughter	White	F	1															

Here is an example of a census record. It's often hard to read and the results are hand written. That leads to easy misspellings of names. It is also helpful to know what information is in which column. The columns may change from census to census, so some time spent before you are sitting in front of the microfilm machine is very important. Let's start out with the 1930 census, you probably know some of your ancestors and where they were living in 1930. The census records are filed by county, so you need to know the state and county of residence. For census 1930, the data in columns 18-20 are place of birth. This is great to know! That's where their birth certificate would be filed (if that area were keeping records at the time.....this gets harder as you go further back). Column 16 & 17 is the education, column 28 & 29 is the employment, column 30 & 31 is military data. So even though the census is a 'dry' document, you can fill in some wonderful stories about your ancestors. Remember that the census is done every 10 years. It is probably best to start with 1930 and work your way back.

For some families they stay in one place, like Sidney's, for hundreds of years. Other families move around a lot. Ancestry.com has a membership website where you can fill in your person's name, date of birth and place of residence. Then it brings up a screen with all possible matches. You search from there. This is a great time saver if you are looking up a lot of people, or if you have one person that you can't find anywhere (maybe they were working and living somewhere else at the time of the census). You still may be left with questions....like if they go by their middle name, which is listed on the census? Try both. Know some cousins, uncles or aunts? Put those names in, maybe they were living with a relative for a while. And be prepared for errors. For example, on the 1930 census, my grandfather is listed as the 'stepson' to the head of household. I didn't think his father remarried, so I pulled it up. He is living with his in-laws. Maybe son-in-law wasn't an option on the form, maybe my great-grandfather thought of him as a son. Maybe the census taker wasn't doing a good job. Maybe

it was a key in error. When I look at the form itself I see that the handwriting isn't too clear, but it does say 'son-law'.

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Now, I knew all the names of the people, I am aware of the family connections, but I learned that my grandparents lived with my grandmother's parents, at least for a little while. And they probably lived next door to my grandfather's parents, because the names are right together on the census, meaning that the census taker left one house and went to the one next door for the next line of the census. I learned that you have to be careful to not accept a fact just because an online service lists it. Be careful when you gather information on people you don't know and record where you get pieces of information in case you have to go back and re-check something.

So, you can either head out to the library with your quarters in hand (for the cost of coping) or head to Ancestry.com which has the census records indexed from 1930 back to 1790 (but costs over \$150/yr) or view the records at Genealogy.com (ranging from free to \$200/yr). Any way you get there, there's a lot of history to be found. Happy hunting!

Note on the Association -

Your Association continues to have 150+ members. Numbers attending the annual reunion have been dropping for the past couple of years due to health issues of some of our more dedicated descendants but also due to fuel cost which impact travel. We strongly encourage participation either through attendance at a reunion or by small donations to the Association. This will help keep you listed for future Association news and happenings. This Association has been meeting for 79 years and we hope to see it continue for many more. It is important that we teach heritage and foster family ties.

We are always looking for an interesting article for the newsletter. Please send them to James Alderman (email noted below).

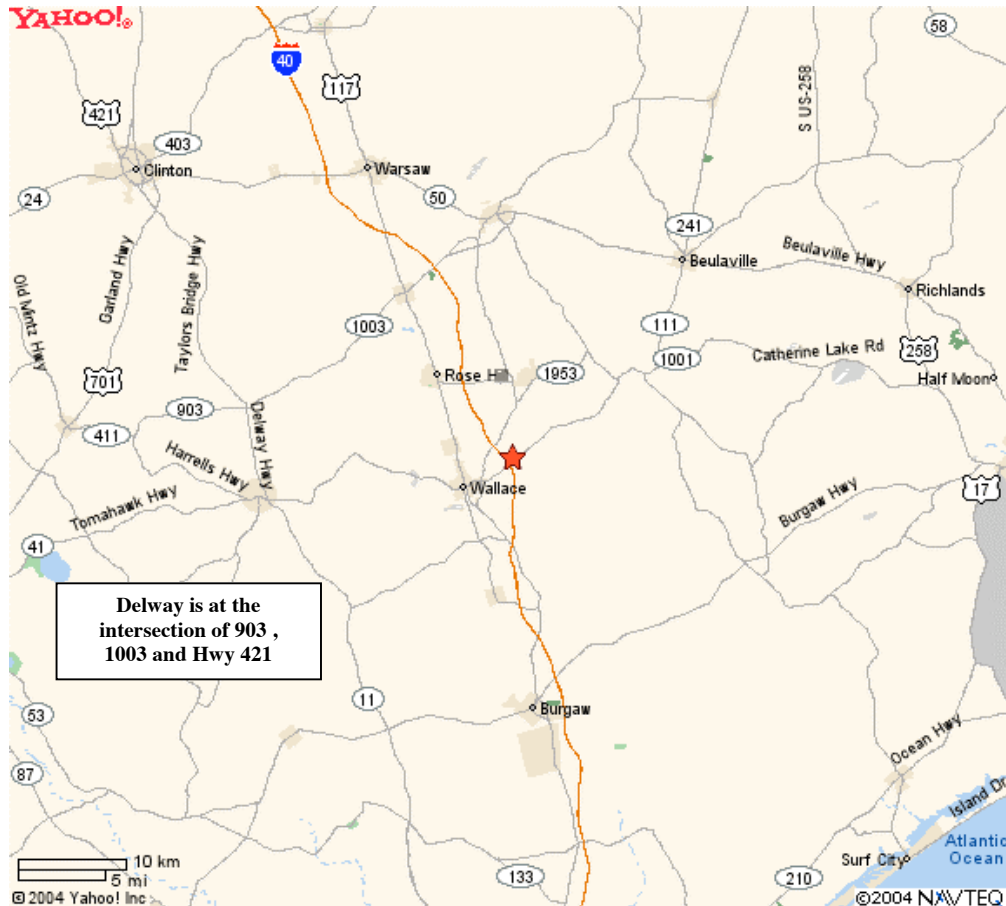
Officer and Board of Directors Election -

We will be holding an election of AHA Officers and Board of Directors this year. If you are interested in holding a position with the Assocation, please make your intention known on your registration form.

Contact Information - (for travel info see attached map)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>Email</u>
Mr. James Ezzell	(910)532-4749	
Sidney Bland - President Susan Bland – Treasurer		susan@intrstar.net
James E. Alderman – newsletter	(817)605-0538	alde711@aol.com

DIRECTIONS TO DELWAY, NC AND THE REUNION SITE



I don't want to sound like a travel agent, but check Orbitz at the link below for economical flights if you are coming from any distance.

www.orbitz.com

You might consider spending a few days on the beaches around Wilmington and then come to the reunion. Make it a true family vacation event.