

Letter written by Franklin A. Aldridge to his sister, Caroline Aldridge Whitted in 1878, with enclosed newspaper notice about the death of their father, Elijah Aldridge:

FUNERAL NOTICE

The funeral of the late Elijah Aldridge, father of Frank and Caroline Aldridge, will take place from the Christian Church at 2:00 o'clock PM today (Friday) May 24th, 1878. Friends and acquaintances of the family are respectfully invited to attend the funeral. Watsonville May 24, 1878.

Dear Sister:

I have written yesterday to all the children and was trying to learn your whereabouts. To my great relief I received your letter this morning. I send this funeral notice it explains itself. Our poor old Father is gone to his final reward to the peace where we must all go sooner or later. After an almost constant confinement to his bed over 5 months he breathed his last at my house in the town of Watsonville May 24th half past 2 o'clock in the morning in the 87th year of his age. The funeral discourse was delivered by Hiram connell in the Christian Church. He was buried in my burying ground near the town. The discourse was mainly delivered on his history and life. I will briefly state the history. Elijah Aldridge was born in the State of North Carolina, Feb 13, 1792. Emigrated to Kentucky with his parents at the age of 2. Was married to Jane White January 26, 1812. Remained in Kentucky about 30 years from thence removed to Indiana remained in that state about 29 years from thence removed to the state of Iowa, remained in that state about 17 years was then brought to California by his son Frank Aldridge, lived in California until his death a little over 7 years. Was married to Jane White 66 years ago and the result of the marriage was 7 sons and 7 daughters* of whom 5 sons are dead and one daughter. Just one half of the children have passed the Jordan of death while the other half remain on this side. The whole family consisted of 14 members of which one half are dead and the other half still lives. Elijah Aldridge united with the Christian church 39 Years ago. Father fully prepared to meet his final desolution. Death was no terror to him but only a welcome visitor. Blessed are the dead that die in the Lord from this time forward --- says the Spirit may rest from their labors and their works do follow them. Mother is still lingering on the brink now 83 years old but looks much younger than that, is quite stout --- fare to live yet many years. She lives in the house with me and is a full partner with me and my wife and will be as long as she lives. A more devoted and faithful woman to her husband never lived. We are all well and I am truly glad to hear that you are all well. I cannot think but that your move way down south is a strange one. But may luck attend you. Alvins are all in Oregon. Warwicks live Lompoc Valley about 250 miles from me. J. W. Aldridge family live over 300 Miles from me at Anahimi [Anaheim]. I am, still in the mill business but live 6 miles from the mill in Watsonville. Direct your next to Watsonville, Santa Cruz County, California. Write soon.

Your Brother, Frank Aldridge

* Elijah and Jane had twelve children. The last three children, Alvin, Mary and William, died young in Putnam County, Indiana.

The above from *Aldridge Records*, by Franklin Rudolph Aldridge, Nashville, TN, 1966, pp.226-227.

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