

*Letter written by Franklin A. Aldridge to his niece, Eliza Ann Whitted Bass, daughter of his sister Caroline who had just died. Franklin died not long after his sister, in November 1900.*

Corralitos, California  
Sept. 11, 1900

Dear Niece:

Your letter written Sept. 2, arrived here on the 10th with it's sad news to me. But I am Truly Glad that my letter was received in time for Caroline to hear from me before she took her departure from this land of trial and partings and trouble but this is not our abiding place for man that is born of woman is of few days and full of trouble. *Jobe*. I know she has gone and will never return to us again but I know that I can go to her. *David*. I comfort myself with this thought. She has fought a good fight, has finished her course, has kept the faith from this time forward there is laid up a crown of everlasting life for her and not for her only. But for you and me and all that love his appearing. *Paul*. But you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord shall descend from Heaven with the voice of the arch angels and ---- of God and the dead in Christ will rise first we all the living and dead will meet him so then there will be no more parting but will remain forever. This is my comfort and joy. *Paul*. May God Bless all of her living children and may ----- I lay on my bed and talked with Aunt Anna until a late hour on your mothers and my childhood days. Everything of the family flashed across my mind as it yesterday. According to her account I was 75 years, 4 months and 9 days old when she died. Born on the same month April and same day of the month 20th. 4 years to a day younger. I have not met her but once in near 50 years, do not now remember her only as a young woman, was at my fathers house when she was very low with the fever and her first child was born dead and laid away in the state of Indiana. I do not now remember of seeing any of the rest of her children until I saw you all in Iowa in 1871. Caroline was always looked upon as one of the best and most faithful Christians of all the family. She was the first member of the family to join the Christian Church before either of her parents and has lived a consistent Christian life up to death. Has lived up to the present time longer on the earth to an older and riper age than any of her brothers and sisters that has gone before her. Alvin and William and Mary all died in childhood. David, Charles and Hamilton, Nancy, June [Nancy Jane] and Margaret all died at middle age save Nancy gave [age?] 61. All that is now living of the old family is myself, Wesley about 73, Reba Ann about 66. None of us have reached our old father or mother yet. Father was in his 87th year and mother in 90th year when they died. Both died in my house and I buried both of them side by side in the Watsonville graveyard with a nice \$85.00 tombstone at their head. We once a united family. But have been separated miles from each other and our bodies laying in distant graveyards in different states 3 younger in old Mt. Zion graveyard, Indiana. David, Montayuma? [Montezuma?], Indiana, Charles, Williamsport, Indiana, Hamilton, Iowa. Nancy Jane, Oregon.

Margaret, Nebraska. Father and Mother, my little Charlie and wife in Watsonville, California. Now shall we all once more unite as one family in far and better land to part no more forever with God and his son Jesus Christ. I go to prepare a place for you and where I am you may come. John [?] I have no picture of your mother and would be thankful for the lock of hair. She is not as gray as I am, but I must close. Write soon and I will write again when I am more composed and may God bless you all in your bereavement. We are all well at this writing.

Your Uncle truly,  
Frank Aldridge

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

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