

## THE NAME OF THE FAMILY ALDRIDGE

Compiled by

Miss Daisy Aldridge and F.R. Aldridge

Aldridge is a name which has a number of orthographies: Aldrich, Aldritch, Alderidge, Aldishe, Aldrage, Aldriche, Aldridg, Aldridge, Aldrige, Aldritch, Alldridge, Alldredge, Allderidge, Alrick, Alridge, Oldage, Oldrege, Oldridge, and many others. The name comes from the Saxon word "Aldred," meaning old or ancient. Also, "Ald" and "Eld" mean old. According to one writer the first surnames were found in the tenth century. The population had so increased that it became necessary to designate people other than by their Christian name. Surnames were originated by the people from a trade, some trait of character, or from the place where they lived. Tradition has it that the Aldridge people were Welsh, from which our ancestors immigrated to America. Our forefathers did not have the advantage of education we have today, and each spelled the name as he thought it should be, there being only a small percentage of people who could even write their own names. The records show that in the Mayflower, out of more than a hundred people, there were only three who could read or write. The first syllable of the name Aldridge -- "Ald" -- is a corruption of the English word "Auld," meaning old. The old English word of "Eld" means the same thing. The last syllable is from a word meaning "point of land, or ridge." The Welsh pronunciation is "redge," sometimes sounding nearly like "retch." When our ancient people decided to have a surname, they were living in a primitive manner in the hills of Wales as free men. To designate themselves, they were known as the people from the "Auld Ridge," this being the designation of their chain of hills, which was known far and wide as "The Auld Ridge." There is no record of an Aldridge being a nobility, but the descendants have always been industrious people and good citizens of the countries where they have resided.

### ALDRIDGE ARMS

ARMS: "Ermine, on a Chevron Engrailed Argent, between three griffins, heads raised, as many lozenges."

CREST: "A Grafyn Sergerant," (no motto given, except the name means old or ancient).

The heraldic colors are silver (argent); ermine, the fur, symbolizes rank and dignity; the griffins are "proper," or in natural coloring. "Segreant" means with outspread wings. A "chevron" means protection; "engrailed," the possession of land; the "griffin" denotes vigilance and also protection.

This is the Coat of Arms ascribed to Francis Aldridge of Boston, Massachusetts in 1752.

The Aldridges were some of the first to come to America. Robert Aldridge appears to be the first, just what year he came is not known. He died at James Town in 1624, (Immigrants to America - Hotten). This is in the reign of James I of England, the Stuart Line. Muster of inhabitants across the water at Virginia, 1624/25. Those that live in ye Treasurers

Plantation at James City ... on the dead list "at these Plantations" in the name of Robert Aldridge (Ref: Adventures of Paurse & Persons. Page 41) If this Robert left a wife and children, no record has been found of them.

The next immigrants seem to have been George Aldrich. He came from England to Massachusetts in the year 1631. His wife was Catherine Seald. Twelve children were born to this union.