

**From van Alderwerelt to Van Alder**  
*A Dutch Immigrant in the United States*

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**Grass Valley, CA, USA**  
**2006**

## Introduction

The genealogy of the van Alderwerelt family is mostly complete, but there was a large gap in the information concerning a family member who emigrated to the United States. A translation of what appeared in the 1956 "Blue book" genealogy follows:

Adriaan Pieter August Willem du Bois van Alderwerelt, born Maastricht 6 Feb. 1861. called himself Van Alder in the U.S. died in the U.S., married Jenny Alvina Wembley, born 17 Sept. 1872, died 10 June 1905.

From this marriage:

1. William du Bois van Alderwerelt, born in the U.S. 22 April 1899
2. Frank du Bois van Alderwerelt, born in the U.S. 29 November 1901.

As we will see later, the accuracy of this information is somewhat in doubt but the important point is that no place names, so vital to any kind of genealogical research, were mentioned. Fortunately, at a later date, a hand written note mentioning Wardner, Idaho, with a question mark after it, was found in my father's old genealogy papers. This then pointed to Idaho as the starting point of extensive research done during the period 1990 to 1995.

A substantial amount of this research was done at the National Archives in San Bruno, California where microfilms of census reports are available for examination. Other agencies at the local, county, state and federal level were also the source of a large number of significant documents. There is documentation in my files for all specific names, dates and events mentioned in this research paper. The text will make it clear where assumptions were made.

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## A Dutch Immigrant – an Overview

My subject is Adriaan Pieter August Willem du Bois van Alderwerelt, born 6 February 1861 in Maastricht, Province of Limburg, Netherlands. He was the second child and only son of Otto Willem Isaak du Bois van Alderwerelt (1823-1910) and Ernestine Dorothea Elisabeth Krieger (1839-1913).



Otto Willem Isaak du Bois  
van Alderwerelt



Ernestine Dorothea Elisabeth  
Krieger

Adriaan Pieter August Willem du Bois van Alderwerelt emigrated to the United States. In the 1900 Census for the State of Washington and the 1910 Census for Nevada he listed 1883 as his year of immigration, while in the 1920 Census for Idaho, he listed 1882 as his year of arrival. The Final Certificate of Naturalization listed 1882 as the year of entry into the country. I have not been able to determine an exact date nor the port of entry. He would have been a young man of 21 when came to the United States, never again to return to Holland. We can only speculate what made him come to the U.S.; but can imagine it was at least in part because there was the possibility of obtaining free land in the West which had opened up to settlement in recent years. In addition there were many silver and gold mining opportunities which perhaps attracted him.

William became an American citizen. He filed his first papers certifying his intention to become a citizen on 2 July 1883 in District Court, Orange City, Sioux County, Iowa. However, in the 1900 Washington Census and the 1910 Nevada Census he stated that he was naturalized without giving the year, and in the 1920 Idaho Census he gave the year of naturalization as 1904. His Final Naturalization Certificate was issued 19 November 1905 by Superior Court, City of Spokane, Spokane County, Washington. One of the requirements of the 1862 Homestead Act was that in order to receive free land the individual had to be an American citizen. I think this was most likely his motivation to file his first papers so soon after arriving in the country.

Discrepancies in dates or ages frequently show up in Census reports. In addition to the different dates of arrival and naturalization shown in these reports, William's age was listed as 43 in the 1910 Nevada Census when he was actually 49, and in the 1920 Idaho Census he was listed as 54 years old whereas he was 59. While Census documents are extremely useful and interesting, we do need to treat the information contained therein, particularly dates, with a certain amount of caution and other sources of information, if available, should always be consulted.

## Earliest Data

The first information found concerning his activities after his arrival in the United States is dated 2 July 1883 when, as mentioned earlier, he filed his first papers in Orange City, Sioux County, Iowa. Exactly what he was doing there is unknown. It is known that many people from the Netherlands came to the south central part of Iowa soon after Iowa became a State in 1846; however, Sioux County is in the far north west corner of the State.

The next reference was found in Nebraska, where on 1 October 1884 he filed an initial Homestead Land Claim with the Federal Land Office in McCook, Red Willow County, Nebraska, for land in Kearny County, Nebraska. Apparently the land in question was not to his liking, or he had heard about better opportunities elsewhere, because on 6 May 1885 he formally relinquished this land claim by filing the required notice in Bloomington, Franklin County, Nebraska.

In all the documents mentioned above his name was shown as Adrian P.A.W. du Bois Van Alderwerelt. No evidence has been uncovered that the use of the name of du Bois van Alderwerelt as a family name was

ever legally requested or approved in the Netherlands. Therefore both the father in Holland and the son, whose life is described in this paper, were given the name du Bois at birth as part of their given names. Their family name remained strictly van Alderwerelt. That is further confirmed by the fact that the sister of our subject was named only van Alderwerelt.

## **Pacific Northwest Move**

No information has been found for the period 1885 to 1896, some 11 years, as the next document I found was dated 28 September 1896 and recorded in Okanogan County, Washington. This document shows a William Van Alderwerelt, resident of Wardner, Shoshone County, Idaho, making a mortgage loan of \$150.00 to W.L. Keene of Virginia City, Okanogan County, Washington, secured by a parcel of land in Okanogan County. The loan was due in one year and carried an interest rate of 10% with the right to sell the land in case of non payment. This document is the earliest one found in which he uses the name William Van Alderwerelt.

A subsequent document dated 14 December 1897, again describing Wm. Van Alderwerelt as a resident of Wardner, Shoshone County, Idaho, records the release of the mortgage, as the loan had been repaid. A document dated 5 April 1897 and recorded in Okanogan County, Washington, records a Deed of Mining claim from W.B. Robinson of Okanogan County, Washington to Wm. Van Alderwerelt of Wardner, Shoshone County, Idaho, for \$100.00 for a one half interest in the Quartermaster and Yellow Jacket mining claims in the Methow Mining District in Okanogan County, Washington. By means of a document dated 28 April 1897 William sold a one quarter interest in these same mining claims to a Tony A. Tubbs of Wardner, Shoshone County, Idaho for \$500.00.

## **The Miner**

From the above, we know that in September 1896 William was living in Wardner, Idaho, a well known silver mining area, and that he had sufficient funds to be able to make a one year loan to an individual in Okanogan County, Washington. We now also know that during 1897 he bought and sold mining claims. We can assume that he arrived in Idaho well prior to these dates, and that he was successful in mining there. His mining interests were not confined to that area but included the Methow Mining District of Okanogan County, Washington. In all these documents he calls himself either William Van Alderwerelt or Wm. Van Alderwerelt.

The Okanogan County Auditor has been most helpful in searching for documents recorded in that county. However, the Shoshone County Recorder has not responded to requests for a search which explains why we know so little about William's activities in and around Wardner, Shoshone County, Idaho. All 1890 Census papers were unfortunately lost in a fire many years ago, so we are not able to reconstruct the situation at that time.

## The Homesteader

From his Homestead Land Claim I learned that on 5 May 1898 he first occupied the land he later lived on in Okanogan County, Washington. The land was described as being "168.15 acres near Methow River, bench and mountain side, no timber, farming and grazing land". By 1899 he had finished building a 24x18 ft. 2 story log house. Later he completed a 20x40 ft. stock shed, several other sheds, an orchard of 80 or 90 trees, fenced in about 120 acres and plowed about 50 acres on which, from 1900 on, he raised wheat, corn and rye.

Another interesting document from that time period, shown on the next page, is dated 2 December 1898, recorded in Okanogan County. This document states that A.P.A.W. du Bois Van Alderwerelt of Okanogan County sells for \$50.00 his remaining one quarter interest in the Quartermaster and Yellow Jacket mining claims in Methow Mining District to Jennie Van Alderwerelt. This document further states that it was recorded at the request of Mrs. Wm. Van Alderwerelt. So here he uses his full birth names again and sells mining claims to his wife Jennie for the nominal amount of \$50.00. Was this a belated wedding present? We can only guess at the motivation for this transaction.

Mining Deed

A. P. G. W. du Bois Van Alderwerelt To  
Jennie Van Alderwerelt

This Indenture, Made the 2<sup>d</sup> day of December in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and ninety eight:

Between A. P. G. W. du Bois Van Alderwerelt of Okanogan County, Washington, the party of the first part and Jennie Van Alderwerelt of the same place the party of the second part, Witnesseth - That the said party of the first part, for and in consideration of the sum of Fifty (\$50) Dollars, lawful money of the United States of America, to him in hand paid by the said party of the second part, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, has granted, bargained, sold, remised, released and forever quit claimed, and by these presents does grant bargain, sell, remise, release and forever quit, unto the said party of the second part, and to her heirs and assigns, an undivided One Fourth ( $\frac{1}{4}$ ) interest in and to the Quartermaster Mining Claim, and a One Fourth ( $\frac{1}{4}$ ) interest in and to the Appleton Jacket Mining claim, both situated in Methow Mining District in Okanogan County, State of Washington. Together with all the dips, spurs and angles, and also all the metals ore, gold and silver-bearing quartz, rock and earth therein, and all the rights, privileges and franchises thereunto incident, appurtenant and appurtenant, or thereunto usually had and enjoyed; and also all and singular the tenements, hereditaments and appurtenances thereunto belonging or in any wise appertaining, and the rents, issues and profits thereof, and also all the estate, right, title, interest



# Marriage and Family

The Federal Census for Okanogan County, Washington, conducted on 12 June 1900 shows among other things that he was married "for 2 years". This tells us that he married sometime in 1898, perhaps around the time he first occupied the Okanogan County land. As later information shows, his wife was Jenny Alvina Webley. It would seem that Jenny and the son William, who was born 29 April 1899, lived elsewhere until the house was completed because the Homestead Land Claim papers tell us that "in the Spring of 1900 his family came".

In 1999, I was successful in making contact with Alan Webley of Grand Coulee, Washington, a far removed relative of Jennie Webley, who had been researching his family history. I provided him with the above information and he was able to give me a copy of the marriage record of William and Jennie.

**MARRIAGE RECORD "B."**

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**Certificate of Marriage.**

STATE OF WASHINGTON, }  
COUNTY OF DOUGLAS, } ss.

I, *Hereby Certify*, That on the *13<sup>th</sup>* day of *March*  
in the year of our Lord, one thousand eight hundred and ninety *Eight*  
at *Waterville* in the County of *Douglas*  
and State aforesaid, I, the undersigned, a *Justice of the Peace in and for said County*  
of a license bearing date the *10<sup>th</sup>* day of *March* A. D. 189*8*  
and issued by the County Auditor of *Douglas* County, did on the *10<sup>th</sup>*  
day of *March* A. D. 189*8*, join in lawful wedlock *A. P. A. W. du Bois Van*  
*Alderselt* of the County of *Lincoln*  
State of Washington, and *Jennie Webley*  
of the County of *Lincoln* State of Washington.

In the Presence of  
*Margaret H. Anderson* Witness  
*P. B. Berry*  
Signed *A. P. A. W. du Bois Van Alderselt* Justice of the Peace  
Signed *Jennie Webley* Bride

Filed for record this *11<sup>th</sup>* day of *March* 189*8*  
*Wm. Lead* Clerk

**This document shows that they were married on 10 March 1898 in Waterville, Douglas County, Washington. Their names are listed as A.P.A.W. du Bois van Alderwerelt and Jennie Webley. So here again he used his full birth names.**



**Adriaan Pieter August Willem  
du Bois van Alderwerelt**



**Jenny Alvina Webley**

**It is known that William did keep in touch with his parents or sister until at least 1905 and provided them with a certain amount of family information as well as the above two pictures. Family records show that he told them that he married Jenny Alvina Webley, born 17 September 1872, died 10 June 1905. He also told them that he and Jenny had a son William, born 22 April 1899, and a second son Frank, born 29 November 1901. We will be comparing this information with information provided by census reports and other documents.**

**The 1900 Census for Okanogan County, Washington conducted on 12 June 1900, provides some other very useful information. William's household is listed as follows:**

**Van Alderwerelt, Wm., born in Holland February 1861, age 39, married 2 years, father and mother born in Holland, owner of a farm, free of mortgage.**

**Van Alderwerelt, Jennie A., wife, born in Wisconsin September 1871, age 28, married 2 years, father born in New York, mother born in Ohio.**

**Van Alderwerelt, William J., son, born in Washington April 1899, age 1**

**Allen, Tracy, sister in law, born in Wisconsin December 1869, age 30, married 9 years, father born in New York, mother born in Ohio, housekeeper.**

**Allen, Georgie, niece, born August 1892, age 7.**

**So now William says he owns a farm, free and clear. From the later Homestead documents we know that this was the land that he homesteaded under the 1862 Homestead Law. To say he owned it was a bit premature because as we will see later, final title transfer did not take place until 1906. His wife is shown as Jennie A. born in Wisconsin September 1871, and this is the same person as the Jenny Alvina Webley whom he mentioned to his family in Holland. Her birth date of September 1871 shown in the Census is in conflict with the date of 17 September 1872 which William gave his family in Holland but we are inclined to believe the date in the Census where she is also listed as being 28 years old which would confirm 1871. The 1871 date is further confirmed by the 1880 Census for Richland County, Wisconsin, which was conducted on 2 June 1880 in which she is listed as being 8 years old.**

**A search was requested of the birth records in Richland County, Wisconsin, in an effort to confirm her birth date. However, the Register of Deeds for Richland County reported that "our records are scarce for that time period" and nothing was found.**

**The 1900 Okanogan County Census report is the only place where the son William, now age 1, is shown with the middle initial J. This initial J. is not show in any later documents I have found for him. It could of course be that what was intended was William Jr. but the handwritten document very clearly shows only a J.**

Tracy Allen is Jennie's married sister, and Georgie is Tracy's daughter. There is no mention of Tracy's husband but he must still be alive as Tracy is shown as married and not as widowed or divorced.

This particular Census report shows some other very interesting information. The adjacent farm is shown as being rented by H.J. Webley, born in New York November 1835. His household consists of his wife Eliza, born in Ohio February 1845, five of their 14 children, and a housekeeper. Three of the listed children were born in Wisconsin, and two were born in Washington. The 1880 Wisconsin Census shows that at that time the household consisted of H.J. Webley, his wife Eliza and nine of their children. The nine children living at home at the time included Jenny (note the spelling here is Jenny not Jennie) age 8, and Tressie (presume this is Tracy) age 9. The 1840 New York Census lists John W. Webley and family, including H.J. Webley then age 5, as farming in Stueben County, New York. So we find that in 1900 in Okanogan County, Washington, William and his family lived next door to his wife's family, who had come to Washington from Wisconsin, and prior to that had lived in New York State.

On the other side of the Webleys lived a Ferdinand Brossois, born in Holland May 1879, who immigrated in 1900, became a day laborer , and rented a small house, probably a cottage. We will come across this family name again later.

The next farm was owned by an Abel Shaw, born in Iowa August 1862, who resided there with his wife, his father, and three children. Abel was about the same age as William. This name will show up again later.

For a moment we will jump to the 1910 Census for the State of Washington to look for details of the second son. He is simply listed as Frank, without middle name or middle initial, and his age is given as 9. Considering that the Census was taken in January 1910, he would have been 8 years old at that point if the date of birth given by his father as 29 November 1901 was correct. In later years we find that Frank consistently listed his birth year as 1900, so we will accept that as most likely the correct year.

## Wife's Death

While William had told his family in Holland that Jenny had died 10 June 1905, I have not been able to find any formal documentation for this. The Homestead documents do show that in 1906, William, as well as two witnesses, stated "wife died summer of 1905". On the assumption that she died on the farm in Okanogan County, I had a search made of the County as well as the State of Washington death records. At the same time a search was made in these two archives for birth certificates for the two children, William and Frank.

Neither the County nor the State could find any of these documents. The Regional Archivist of the Washington State Archives advised that "it was not uncommon for events to go unrecorded in Washington prior to 1907".

It must be remembered that Washington only became a State in 1889 and was sparsely populated. The entire State population in 1880 was only some 75,000, but it had grown to some 518,000 by 1900. But even in 1910 the population of Okanogan County was still only 15,000.

The death of Jenny in 1905 must have been a terrible blow to the remaining family. The boys were 6 and 4 and William was 44. We will never know what happened, but the 1910 Census gives us an idea of the many changes that took place between 1900 and 1910.

## Farm Sale and Van Alder

Before going into the details of the 1910 Census, we want to go back to the Homestead documents. Final Homestead Certificate No. 2060, issued on 18 January 1906 by the United States Land Office in Waterville, Washington, certified that he had met all requirements, and that upon presentation of the certificate to the Commissioner of the General Land Office, he would be entitled to a patent for the land. This patent, issued in Washington D.C. on 30 June 1906 and recorded in Okanogan County, Washington, 6 October 1906, shows approximately 160 acres of land in Okanogan County were granted by the United States to Adrian P.A.W. du Bois Van Alderwerelt. This grant was under the Homestead Act passed by the US Congress on 20 May 1862 "To Secure Homesteads to Actual Settlers in the Public Domain". This act provided for clear title to be granted to a settler who claimed a maximum of 160 acres of public land, lived on that land for a minimum of 5 years, and made certain improvements.

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

To all to whom these presents shall come, GREETING:

Homestead Certificate No. 2060

Application 3269

WHEREAS There has been deposited in the General Land Office of the United States, a Certificate of the Register of the Land Office at Waterville, Washington, whereby it appears that, pursuant to the Act of Congress approved 20th May, 1862, "To Secure Homesteads to Actual Settlers on the Public Domain", and the acts supplemental thereto, the claim of Adrian P. A. W. du Bois Van Alderwert has been established and duly consummated in conformity to law, for the

Lot numbered three of Section twenty-two and the Lots numbered one, four, and five and the northeast quarter of the southeast quarter of Section twenty-seven in Township Thirty-one North of Range twenty-two, East of Willamette Meridian in Washington, containing one hundred and sixty eight acres and fifteen hundredths of an acre,

according to the Official Plat of the Survey of the said Land, returned to the General Land Office by the Surveyor General:

Now Know Ye, that there is therefore granted by the United States unto the said Adrian P. A. W. du Bois Van Alderwert, the tract of land above described; To Have and To Hold the said tract of Land, with the appurtenances thereof, unto the said Adrian P. A. W. du Bois Van Alderwert, and to his heirs and assigns forever; subject to any vested and accrued water rights for mining, agricultural, manufacturing or other purposes, and rights to ditches and reservoirs used in connection with such water rights, as may be recognized and acknowledged by the local customs, laws, and decisions of courts, and also subject to the right of the proprietor of a vein or lode to extract and remove his ore therefrom, should the same be found to penetrate or intersect the premises hereby granted, as provided by law; And there is reserved from the lands hereby granted, a right of way thereon for ditches or canals constructed by authority of the United States.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I, Theodore Roosevelt, President of the United States of America, have caused these letters to be made Patent, and the Seal of the General Land Office to be hereunto affixed.

Given under my hand at the City of Washington the thirtieth day of June, in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and six, and of the Independence of the United States the one hundred and thirtieth.

By the President,

(SEAL OF THE UNITED STATES )

T. Roosevelt.

(GENERAL LAND OFFICE. )

By F. M. McKean,

Secretary.

Recorded Washington Vol. 160, page 373.

C. H. Brush, Recorder of the General Land Office.

Filed for record October 6, 1906 at 10:37 A. M. at the request of Wm. Van Alderwert.

Recorded October 8, 1906.

  
Auditor.

Here again, William uses his full birth names, probably because of the legal nature of the transaction. While he occupied the land as early as

May 1898, he did not actually file his first claim for that land until 19 August 1901. By the time he received the grant he had actually lived on the land for almost 8 years. The documents also show that the value of the improvements he had made by 1906 was \$1,500. He had also met the citizenship requirement by virtue of the Naturalization Certificate issued 19 November 1905.

A grant document is needed to confirm title which would be required if he wanted to sell the land. Did William obtain this documentation in 1906, the year after Jenny died, because she had died and he wanted to sell his land, move elsewhere, and perhaps return to mining activity rather than continue farming?

I can not help but do a little more speculation. If we examine the information in the 1900 Washington Census we see that Jenny's parents rented the farm adjacent to William, and that Ferdinand Brossois rented a cottage on the other side of Webley. Is it possible that Webley and Brossois were renting part of William's 160 acres? Perhaps so.

Now on to the 1910 Census for further information. There are two documents that need to be examined, i.e. the 15 April 1910 Census for Okanogan County, Washington, and the Census of the same date for Elko County, Nevada.

First Okanogan County, Washington. William no longer lives there in 1910 nor does his late wife's family, the Webleys. But we do find that the Shaw family still lives on their farm and that they listed two boarders as living with them, namely, William Van Alder, age 11, and Frank Van Alder, age 9. This is the first time that the abbreviated name Van Alder is used. There is no mention of whether or not they have been attending school.

So we can extrapolate that William had sold his farm between 1906 and 1910, had left Okanogan County by 1910, and put his two children up as boarders at the Shaws. Ferdinand Brossois is no longer shown but we do find that a Bauduin C. Brossois is shown as owning the farm next to the Shaws. This is probably the farm that the Webleys rented in 1900. B.C. Brossois is identified as born in Holland, married, age 35, and immigrated in 1901. Next to him, on the farm where William lived in 1900, now lives an Ernest Brossois, age 28, born in Holland, single, immigrated in 1900. As both are shown as farmers owning land, it is more than likely that they bought William's land when he left Okanogan County after his wife Jenny died.

The 1910 Okanogan County tax records confirm the land ownership as reflected in the 1910 Census. Shaw, B.C. Brossois and E. Brossois all paid taxes that year on land located in the town of Methow, which had a population of 50 at that time. In the nearby town of Twisp, population 350, there is a listing of a mine called Alder Mine. It is purely speculation that William had something to do with this mine when he lived in Methow. It is perhaps more likely that this mine was named after the Alder tree. William is not listed as a tax payer in the County in 1910 so we know definitely that he no longer owned land there at that time.

## Miner in Idaho or Nevada?

Now for the 1910 Elko County, Nevada, Census. Here I found William Van Alder, described as widowed, living in a house that he owns, and shown as a farmer owning his own farm. Now he is using the abbreviated name Van Alder, just as his sons did at the same time in Washington.

Most of his neighbors are described as gold miners or prospectors. He lists William Jr., age 10, and Frank, age 9, as living with him. There is the notation that they have been attending school. It is difficult to draw any conclusions from the fact that the two boys are listed in two different geographical locations. Are they spending part of the year with their father in Elko County, Nevada, and part of the year with the Shaw family in Okanogan County, Washington? In which location are they really attending school?

I simply do not know. I learned later that William owned a gold mine at Jarbidge, Elko County, Nevada, but I do not know if he already owned it in 1910.

We will now continue to follow William and will pick up the sons again later. The 1 January 1920 Census for Gem County, Idaho, lists a William Van Alder, widowed, born in Holland. He is shown as sharing a rented house with two single men. His age is shown as 54, but that should be 59. Perhaps the census taker could not read his own writing. All three occupants of the house are shown as laborers in a silver mine, working for wages. Perhaps William already owns the gold mine at Jarbidge, Nevada, but he is clearly shown in this Idaho Census as a renter and working as a laborer for someone else for wages. Later on we will see that he was living in Jarbidge, Nevada, in 1932.



## **Second Marriage**

I have yet to persue Census reports for 1930 that were released in 2002, 72 years after the date of the census. So I can not use that avenue to follow his life further. However, I was extremely fortunate in locating an individual who has been able to complete the story for us. This is Geraldine Maurer (maiden name Becraft), then residing in Alhambra, California, who was shown as the nearest relative on the death certificate for a Charlotte Elizabeth Van Alder. She has told us that her mother, Charlotte Elizabeth Cunningham, married Lewis Henry Becraft in the fall of 1912, and that she is the daughter of that marriage. She added that her father died in Clearfield, Utah, on 18 April 1931, and that her mother then married William Van Alder in Ogden/Kaysville, Utah, in the fall of 1932 or 1933. She further stated that William Van Alder subsequently died in Clearfield, Utah, in the spring of 1939 and that there were no children from that second marriage. Mrs. Maurer later mailed me a picture of her stepfather, William van Alder. The information she supplied enabled a search of official records in Utah for exact data. For marriage certificates I contacted several Counties in Utah, while for death certificates contacted State of Utah Bureau of Vital Records and Health Statistics.

A marriage certificate for Charlotte Elizabeth Cunningham and Louis Henry Becraft Sr. has not been located. Death records show that Louis Henry Becraft Sr., last residing in Clearfield, Davis County, Utah, died in that town on 18 April 1931. His last occupation was shown as farmer and merchant. His wife was listed as Charlotte Cunningham and his birth information was shown as 3 April 1861 at Moorehouseville, New York.

His father was listed as Peter Becraft, born in New York, and his mother's maiden name was shown as unknown, born in New York. The death certificate was signed by Louis H. Becraft Jr., one of the sons of that marriage. It should be noted that in this certificate both the father and the son are shown with the first name of Louis whereas elsewhere the first name was spelled Lewis.

A marriage certificate for Charlotte Elizabeth Becraft (maiden name Cunningham) and William Van Alder was found in Davis County, Utah. This shows that William Van Alder, resident of Jarbidge, Elko County, Nevada, occupation miner, born in Holland 6 February 1861 as the son of Wm. Van Alder and Ernestine Dorothy Krieger, both born in Holland,

married on 9 August 1932 in Farmington, Davis County, Utah, Charlotte Elizabeth Becraft, maiden name Charlotte Elizabeth Cunningham, resident of Clearfield, Davis County, Utah, occupation farmer, born in Pike City, California, 30 September 1886 as the daughter of James Cunningham, born in Springfield, Illinois, and Kathleen Elizabeth Murphy, born in Cherokee, California. This is most likely Cherokee, Nevada County, near Nevada City, California, a mining area.

**MARRIAGE LICENSE**

THE STATE OF UTAH. COUNTY OF DAVIS  
TO ANY PERSON LEGALLY AUTHORIZED TO SOLEMNIZE MARRIAGE, GREETING.  
**YOU ARE HEREBY AUTHORIZED TO JOIN IN**  
\* **HOLY MATRIMONY.** \*

I, Mag. William Van Alder of the County of Wasatch and State of Utah do hereby certify that on the 9<sup>th</sup> day of August in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and 32 at Farmington in said County I have solemnized the marriage of William Van Alder of the County of Wasatch and State of Utah and Charlotte Elizabeth Becraft of the County of Wasatch and State of Utah both of the age of 45 years having given assent to said marriage.

WITNESS my hand and official seal hereof affixed at my office in Farmington, Utah, this 13<sup>th</sup> day of Aug. 1932.

By Quaife Luzzon County Clerk

STATE OF UTAH, )  
COUNTY OF DAVIS )  
I, William Van Alder, of the County of Wasatch and State of Utah, do hereby certify that on the 9<sup>th</sup> day of August in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and 32 at Farmington in said County I have solemnized the marriage of William Van Alder of the County of Wasatch and State of Utah and Charlotte Elizabeth Becraft of the County of Wasatch and State of Utah both of the age of 45 years having given assent to said marriage.

The nature of the ceremony was according to the rites of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

WE HAVE MARRIED AS WITNESSES IN THE FOREGOING AND ARE NOW FORWARDING THE SAME.

Signed: William Van Alder (GROOM)  
Signed: Charlotte Elizabeth Becraft (BRIDE)

IN THE PRESENCE OF Quaife Luzzon (WITNESS)  
Quaife Luzzon (WITNESS)

**NOTICE:** The parties performing marriages is the duty of the person solemnizing the Marriage to fill out and sign the above Certificate and return the same, to the County Clerk within 60 days after the marriage is solemnized. For failing to make such return he is guilty of misdemeanor.

A search of the Social Security Records shows that Charlotte Elizabeth Van Alder, born 30 September 1886 in Pike City, Sierra County, California, described as the daughter of James Cunningham and Catherina Elizabeth Murphy, applied for a Social Security number on 17 June 1937 when she resided in Clearfield, Utah. Her employer was shown as Smith Canning Co. of Clearfield, Utah. A search of the birth records in Sierra County, California did not result in locating her birth certificate. This is not unusual, as in California, like in other States, records for these early days are far from complete.



**William Van Alder shortly after his 1932 marriage to Charlotte Elizabeth Cunningham**

## **Death of Van Alder**

**Death records show that William Van Alder died 9 January 1940 in a hospital in Roy, Weber County, Utah, not far from his residence in Clearfield, Davis County, Utah. His last occupation was shown as miningman. His wife was listed as Charlotte Cunningham, and his birth information was shown as 6 February 1861 at Groningen, Holland. His father was listed as William Van Alder, born in Holland and his mother's maiden name was shown as Ernestine Krieger, born in Germany.**

**The death certificate was signed by Mrs. Wm. Van Alder. It is interesting that his place of birth was shown as Groningen, whereas it actually was Maastricht. Groningen was the town where his father was born and died. Also, while his mother's maiden name was shown correctly, her place of birth was actually 's-Hertogenbosch, the Netherlands. Her parents were most likely of German origin.**

**Geraldine Maurer gave us some personal recollections of her stepfather, William Van Alder. She relates:**

*My mother and I called him Billy. He was partially blind in one eye, had lost a forefinger on his right hand and was somewhat deaf as the result of a mine explosion in the Jarbidge, Nevada, gold mine he owned. He worked on my mother's farm in Clearfield, Utah, after they were married until his death from pernicious anemia. He was a gentle and kind man. He loved to clip articles from newspapers and magazines, and file them. He studied the stars and had lots of astronomy charts and books. He also had a collection of sandstone fossilized fish. Billy loved to chew tobacco and had lots of gold teeth, front and back. He was not too tall and slightly chubby. He was an interesting conversationalist and loved to talk about European politics. My mother, I believe, thought he was a very interesting good man.*

**A search of the California death records shows that Charlotte Elizabeth Van Alder died in Palmdale, Los Angeles County, California, on 31 January 1973. Her death certificate shows the Social Security Number assigned to her in 1937, and her last occupation was shown as an Industrial Nurse for Standard Oil Co. The certificate also shows her father as William Cunningham and her mother as Katherine Murphy. This variation in names from what is shown on the Social Security application is most likely due to the fact that it is believed that Charlotte Elizabeth was orphaned or deserted by her parents at a very early age. Perhaps the correct first name of her father and the spelling of her mother's first name may not have been clear to her descendants.**

**The Cunninghams were apparently involved in mining, first in California and probably later in Idaho and/or Nevada. Geraldine Maurer has expressed the opinion that her mother most likely met William Van Alder at an early age in mining country. We do not know this for certain, but we do know that William Van Alder married her mother 16 months after Charlotte's first husband died.**

## **Willam Van Alder Jr.**

We will now pick up the story of William Jr. It will be recalled that the 1900 Okanogan County Census showed a middle initial J. and that the 1910 Elko County Census showed Jr. Neither J. nor Jr. are found in any later documents. I will use Jr. here only as a means of identifying the son from the father and not as part of his legal name.

The 1 January 1920 Census for Los Angeles shows that a William Van Alder, single, age 20, born in Washington, father born in Holland and mother born in Wisconsin, occupation chauffeur in the trucking industry, lived as a lodger at 833 South Grand Avenue. It seems he did not want to follow his father's footsteps either in mining or in farming and most likely came to Los Angeles to try and start a different career.

On November 30, 1936, while still living in Los Angeles, he completed an application for a Social Security Number on which he showed his name as William Van Alder. He gave his birth information as 29 April 1899 in Methow, Washington, and listed his parents as William Van Alder and Jennie Webley. The birth date of 29 April, which also appears on his later death certificate is in conflict with the date of 22 April which his father gave to his family in Holland. I have no choice but to accept 29 April as the correct date. This application showed his employer as trucker J.F. Shea Co., Inc.

We know that he married Loraine Caroline (or Carolyn) Breitreutz, born Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 25 August 1896, as her death certificate describes her as the wife of William Van Alder. She was the daughter of Otto Ferdinand Breitreutz and Laura Elizabeth Larson, both born in Wisconsin. This marriage presumably took place in Los Angeles, California, in the late 1930s or early 1940s. The request was made to State of California for a copy of the marriage certificate but nothing was found, most likely because we were not able to provide many details.

On May 25 1972 Loraine Van Alder applied for a Social Security Number which she needed to collect Social Security benefits. It is not clear why she waited until she was 75 years old to apply. The application in her own handwriting shows her middle name as Caroline while her later death certificate shows her middle name as Carolyn.

Death certificates show that Loraine Van Alder died at Sunland, Los Angeles County, California on 31 December 1977 while William Jr. died at Lake View Terrace, Los Angeles County, California, on 3 March 1985. There were no children from this marriage.

William's death certificate showed his last occupation as machinist for Applied Research, manufacturers of spectrometers. The certificate also showed that the closest relative when William Jr. died in 1985 was Otto (Ned) Wells then of Van Nuys, later of Simi Valley, California. We were fortunate in having been able to make contact with Mr. Wells who told us that his mother was a sister of Loraine Van Alder.

Mr. Wells has given us some recollections of William Jr.:

*We called him Van. He loved to fish and did stone cutting and polishing as a hobby. Van did some mining in Nevada for turquoise which he cut and polished. He read a lot.*

In 2005 the website

[www.usgennet.org/usa/ut/county/weber/cemetery/aultorest/u-v.htm](http://www.usgennet.org/usa/ut/county/weber/cemetery/aultorest/u-v.htm)  
listed:

William Vanalder  
Plot Block 9  
Lot 28  
Position 3

## Frank Van Alder

Now we will pick up the trail of Frank. The 1 January 1920 Census for the city of Seattle, Washington, shows a Frank K. Van Alder, single, age 19, born in Washington, father born in Holland, mother born in Wisconsin. He is listed as a lodger in the household of Bauduin Brossois, age 46, born in Holland, a machinist in a shipyard. This is the same Bauduin Brossois who, in 1910 in Okanogan County, owned the farm adjacent to Abel Shaw's where William Jr. and Frank were boarding. Frank is described as an engineer in a steel mill working for wages. Apparently, Frank did not go into mining or farming either and instead found a home in Seattle with his old neighbors from Okanogan County.

In 1936, when he completed his application for a Social Security Number, he listed his name as Frank Krieger Van Alder. The middle initial K which first appeared in the 1920 Seattle Census is now shown in full as Krieger, which was his paternal grandmother's maiden name. Obviously he was given this name at birth, but it simply did not show up in earlier Census reports.

The application also shows his birth information as 29 November 1900 in Methow, Washington, and his parents are listed as William Van Alder and Jennie Webley.

As discussed earlier, the birth year of 1900, which is also shown on the subsequent death certificate, is in conflict with the year 1901 which his father gave to his family in Holland, but we will accept 1900 as the most likely correct birth year. He listed his residence as Electric City, Washington. Geraldine Maurer is under the impression that Frank worked on the Grand Coulee Dam. This sounds reasonable, as Electric City is adjacent to the dam, and his Social Security Number application showed his employer as Mason-Walsh-Atkinson-Kier Co., of Mason City, Washington, a firm of contractors.

Frank died in Loma Linda, San Bernadino County, California, on 15 May 1982. His death certificate shows that he was never married and that his last address was in Pittman, near Las Vegas, Nevada. His last occupation was shown as a Mechanic. The death certificate also shows that he died at a Veterans Administration Hospital which means that at one time he served in the US Armed Forces. His brother William is shown as nearest living relative.

Mr. Wells has related to us that he never met Frank but recalls that William Jr. had told him that Frank had served in the US Air Force.

In 2003, I found the website:

[www.interment.net/data/us/ca/losangeles/lanat/v/lanat\\_v01.htm](http://www.interment.net/data/us/ca/losangeles/lanat/v/lanat_v01.htm)

which shows:

Frank K. Van Alder

born 11/29/1900

died 5/15/1982

PVT USA

plot C-408146

buried 2/4/198x

So Frank did serve in the Army as a private and I must presume that he was drafted.

## **Conclusion**

**The end of the road was reached when William Jr. died in 1985. With no male descendants in either the US or Europe, this branch of the van Alderwerelt family died out at that time.**

**Selected information developed during the course of this research has been included in "A Genealogy of the van Alderwerelt family", originally published in 1995 and reissued in revised form in 2006.**

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**Idaho Historical Society, Boise, Idaho**

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**Mr. Otto Ned Wells, Simi Valley, California**

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