

In 1884, David Lee Alderman, William's oldest son, had married Effie Morgan and moved to Brevard County, in the Bassinger area. The country was new and uncrowded so in late 1888, William and his family picked up stakes and moved to their newly purchased land in Osceola County, which had been formed from western Brevard in 1887. Much of their land had been purchased in June of 1888 from William Peeples. The Aldermans' homestead was known as the Mico Place and was located on the eastern side of the Kissimmee River about 8 miles north of Fort Bassinger. From this homestead, William operated an extensive cattle business, his herds roaming on the open range in Osceola, Brevard and Dade counties. His primary brand was Diamond I.

When William and Martha Jane separated, their four oldest children went with their father and lived with him and his new wife. These four oldest sons all moved to Bassinger in the late 1880's, about the same time as their father moved there. The four youngest children remained with Martha Jane, who reared them at Arcadia in DeSoto County.

William Alderman died at the home of his son, David Lee, in Bassinger on January 30, 1893. The obituary in the Kissimmee paper, the Osceola Gazette reads as follows:

"We are pained to chronicle the death of one of Osceola County's most prominent and respected citizens, the late William Alderman, who died at the home of his son, D. L. Alderman, at Fort Bassinger on Monday, January 30th, 1893. Mr. Alderman had been for several months suffering from lung troubles, and recently dropsy of the heart, which was the immediate cause of his death. Mr. Alderman settled on the Kissimmee River several years ago where he was largely engaged in the cattle business and by close attention and honorable dealings he had become one of the largest cattle owners in South Florida. To the afflicted family, we join all the good people of Osceola County in extending our heartfelt sympathies."

William's will was dated Dec. 23, 1892 and was entered into probate on Feb. 17, 1893. Robert Alderman served as executor. According to the inventory of the estate, there were some 3,400 head of cattle, some of which were sold and others of which were distributed to the heirs.

After William's death, his three young children by Mary Thomas were placed under the guardianship of his brother, Hiram Alderman. He was appointed guardian on Oct. 5, 1894 and Osceola records show that he was still serving as guardian for Finis, the youngest child, until 1910. Mary (Thomas) Alderman died in 1902 and was buried in old Pelot's Cemetery, near Lithia in Hillsborough County.

Martha Jane (Hollingsworth) Alderman and the four youngest children by the second marriage lived in Arcadia until 1895, when Robert and William Alderman returned to bring them over to Bassinger. Martha Jane lived at Bassinger until her death there on Christmas Day, 1929. She was buried in the Bassinger Cemetery and at her funeral all eight of her children were in attendance.

The grave of William Alderman is located across the Kissimmee River in Highlands County. On his gravestone there are no dates, only the hand-carved surname, "Alderman".