

Alford Research

RESEARCH NOTES

By Kent Irvin, AAFA #1023

As readers will see from the dates on the documents below, AAFA has had this information for about three years. For a variety of reasons we have been unable to prepare the data for inclusion in the quarterly. In coming issues we will include notes on some Alford families from Kent. Note Kent's permission to publish near the end of his second letter.

15313 County Road 790
Nevada, Texas 75173
June 21, 1998

Dear Sir or Madam,

I would appreciate any information you could send me about the Alford American Family Association. I am a descendant of Mary Clark Alford who married James Landrum in Amherst County, Virginia, on 13 December 1787. I am also researching an Alford family that intermarried with my Irvin family. William Alford of Stokes County, North Carolina, died in 1812 and left a will dated 10 December 1809 which named his sons Andrew Alford and William Alford and other children. Andrew Alford lived in Williamson County, Tennessee, and died in Hardeman County, Tennessee. His brother William Alford appears to have died in Williamson County, Tennessee, and left his heirs a tract of land in Hardeman County, Tennessee. There were three Alford/Irvin marriages in Williamson County, Tennessee. John A. Alford married Naomi Irvin, Edward Alford married Margaret Irvin, and Thomas J. Alford married Mary B. Irvin. John A. Alford and Thomas J. Alford were sons of Andrew Alford, and Edward Alford was probably a son of William Alford. Thomas J. and Mary B. (Irvin) Alford had several children who were living in 1870, but I have been unable to find any of them after the death of Thomas J. Alford in Arkansas County, Arkansas, in 1874. I would like to exchange information with anyone who is researching any of these Alford families.

Sincerely,

Kent Irvin

15313 County Road 790
Nevada, Texas 75173
July 18, 1998

Dear Mr. Alford,

Thank you for the information on Mary Clark Alford's family and the draft copy of "Known Descendants of Leander Alford b. 1814 North Carolina". I have very little information on Leander Alford. Hardeman County court records show that the family could not locate him in 1870. I found him in Hot Spring County census records

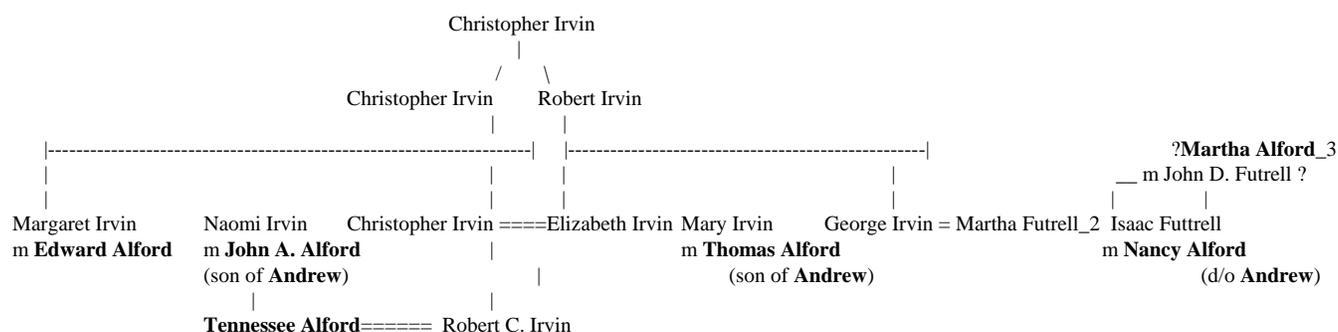
which you already have, but when those same records showed that no other families that I was interested in lived in Hot Spring County I stopped doing research on his family. I estimated that Leander Alford was born about 1819 from tax records. Leander Alford was a taxpayer in Hardeman County, Tennessee, Civil District 2 in 1841 and 1842. He probably lived with his father until he was 21 and likely until he married. Since his father was a taxpayer in the same district for several years before 1841, I reasoned that 1841 was the first year that Leander Alford was over 21 years of age for a significant portion of the year. I assume that a man had to be over 21 before a certain date to be taxable for a given year. That would mean that Leander Alford was probably born in 1819. I found published marriage records of Madison County, Tennessee, which state that Leander Alford married Nancy Davis on 30 January 1844, but that may only be the date the licence was issued. I only found the marriage record because I searched all the counties surrounding Hardeman County for any marriages for the families I was researching. The Leander Alford/Nancy Davis marriage is the only Madison County record I have in my notes for any family.

The draft copy of "Known Descendants of Leander Alford" mentions that one census gives Leander Alford's birthplace as Kentucky but two others list North Carolina. Andrew Alford and his brother William may have lived in Kentucky briefly. Edward Alford, probably a son of William, was also listed as being born in Kentucky in one census but in North Carolina in others. I also noticed in the draft copy that Leander Alford named two of his daughters Amanda Almedia and Sarah Mahalia. He had sisters named Mary Almedia/ Alameda, Sarah, and Mahala/Mahalia, .

I would be happy to give permission to publish any of my Alford family notes. Most of the records mentioned in my notes came from microfilm copies of the originals, but in a few cases I may need to add full citations for published sources where I only put the title and author. I have all of the information that I sent you in computer files which can be easily modified.

Sincerely,

Kent Irvin



15313 County Road 790
Nevada, Texas 75173
July 3, 1998

Dear Mr. Alford,

Thank you for the information about the Alford American Family Association and the Alford family group

sheets. I will send my application for membership to Doris Alford Vetri.

I have enclosed copies of some Alford family notes that I compiled to support my Irvin family research. I have drawn a chart to illustrate how the Alford and Irvin families were intermarried. I have also enclosed some family group sheets which show my own Alford connection. Letitia Landrum (#2615), daughter of James Landrum (#101) and Mary Clark Alford (#95), married Jesse Y. Reed in Greene County, Tennessee, on September 20, 1814. Jesse Y. Reed was listed on page 288 of the 1830 census of Jefferson County, Tennessee [Jesse Y. Reed 212101-011001]. Apparently Jesse Reed died intestate in Jefferson County in or before 1837. Letitia (Landrum) Reed probably died before the 1840 census was taken. On February 7, 1843, James H. West and his wife *Mary M. J.* West of Hamilton County, TN, sold their undivided interest in the real estate of James Landrum deceased to Nancy Crosby of Jefferson County by their attorney, James L. Reed of Hamilton County, Tennessee. On the following day James L. Reed sold his own undivided interest in the real estate of James Landrum to Nancy Crosby, and Hassey Hill sold Nancy Crosby an undivided interest in the real estate of James Landrum which he had purchased from Henry Harrison and his wife *Amelia*, formerly *Amelia Reed*. Apparently *Mary M. J.* West was a sister of James L. Reed and *Amelia Harrison*. In the 1850 census of Grainger County, Tennessee, Henry Harrison and his wife *Parmelia* had in their household *Martha A. Reed*, an 18 year old female, and several children including *Mary M. J. Harrison*. James and *Mary West* named their second daughter *Catharine Letitia West*. The West family lived in Hamilton County, Tennessee, in 1850, Clark County, Arkansas, in 1860, and Montgomery County, Arkansas, in 1870 and 1880. "The Minutes of the Thirty-Ninth Annual Session of the Caddo River Baptist Association, Held with Black Springs Church, Montgomery County, Ark, September 12-15, 1896", held by the Arkansas History Commission, states: "Liberty Church -Sister *Mary West*, died June 14, 1896, born 1822. She lived a consistent member of the Baptist church for many years." I have seen no evidence that James H. West married more than one time. All of the descendants of James H. and *Mary West* should be descendants of James and *Mary Clark Alford Landrum*.

Andrew Alford moved to Hardeman County, Tennessee, in the 1830's and died intestate there in 1868. His heirs were mentioned several times in the county court minutes of Hardeman County. The following heirs were described as "nonresidents of the State (or their residence after diligent inquiry cannot be ascertained)": Thomas Alford, Leander Alford, Martha Folwell and her husband Folwell, the children and heirs at law of Sarah Folwell deceased, and the children and heirs at law of John Alford deceased. Thomas Alford was stated to have been a resident of Arkansas in more than one Hardeman County record, but I was unable to locate him until I found an 1870 Arkansas census index. Thomas Alford was in Arkansas Township, Arkansas County, Arkansas, in 1870. I checked the 1860 census of Arkansas County and quickly discovered the reason that I had been unable to find him in the 1860 index -he was listed as Thomas "Allphin". Although Thomas Alford died in Arkansas County in 1874, I cannot find any of his children after the 1870 census. The county probate book repeatedly states only that records were filed without giving any details. There may still be loose estate records in Arkansas County that show where Thomas Alford's heirs lived. Some of my Irvin connections also disappear after the 1870 census, and I hope that finding where Thomas Alford's children lived may help me find them. I do not know how *Mary Odell* and *Jackson Dees* were related to the Alford's, but Thomas Alford appears to have married an *Odell* after *Mary (Irvin) Alford* died.

Although I am not a descendant of any of the Alford's who married into the Irvin family, they are as important to me as my own Alford family. The children of Robert and Susannah (Hargrove) Irvin of Civil District 22, Williamson County, Tennessee, can only be proven by preponderance of evidence. Census and school records show that they raised four boys and three girls. Tax and census records of Civil District 22 show that the sons must have been James Irvin, George Irvin, Bennett Irvin, and Christopher Irvin. James Irvin made his mark on the marriage bonds of his sisters *Mary* and *Elizabeth*. *Mary Irvin* married Thomas Alford, and *Elizabeth Irvin* married her cousin Christopher Irvin. It took me several years to prove that *Mary (Irvin) Alford* was not a sister of *Naomi (Irvin) Alford* and *Margaret (Irvin) Alford*. There are two separate records in Arkansas County, Arkansas, which show that *Mary (Irvin) Alford's* middle initial was "B". *Naomi* and *Margaret's* sister *Mary Caroline Irvin* was said to have married first William Weedon and then Benjamin Warren, but there is no

surviving record of her first marriage. Mary (Irvin) Weedon was the only member of the Irvin family to have lived near Edward and Margaret (Irvin) Alford. The Edward Alford family was in Rutherford County, TN, in 1850, Cannon County, TN in 1860, and Coffee County, Tennessee, in 1870. Some of the children of Edward and Margaret Alford were married in Cannon County. They may be the Alfords of Coffee County that you mentioned.

The only Alford families who lived near the Irvins in Williamson County, TN, for any length of time were the families of Andrew Alford and his brother William. I cannot prove the names of the children of William and Elizabeth (Cannon) Alford, but I believe that the following list is probably accurate:

- | | | |
|----------------------|-----------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Nancy Alford | born circa 1805 | married James Sheppard |
| 2. Lucinda Alford | born circa 1807 | married William Wells |
| 3. Edward Alford | born circa 1809 | married Margaret Irvin |
| 4. William H. Alford | born 1810/15 | |
| 5. Elizabeth Alford | born 1815/20 | married Lawson Rickman |
| 6. Mary Jane Alford | born 1815/25 | married Newton K. Richardson |
| 7. female | born 1815/25 | |
| 8. male | born 1820/5 | in 1840 census |
| 9. Phoebe | born 1829/30 | married Jesse P. Dugger |

Since I have no census records for William Alford before 1830, I am uncertain about the number of children who may have married and left home before 1830. Harrison Crouse and Malinda Alford were married in Williamson County, Tennessee, on 13 August 1828, and Joseph Alford made his mark on the marriage bond. I do not know if this Joseph Alford was a son or brother of William. If he was William's son, then Malinda must have been William's daughter. There were no other Alford families in the area except for Andrew Alford, whose children are known.

The Alfords were involved with the Sheppard family in Wilkes County, North Carolina, Williamson County, Tennessee, and Hardeman County, Tennessee. The James Sheppard who signed the marriage bond of William Alford and Elizabeth Cannon in Wilkes County, North Carolina, was probably the same James Sheppard whose will was recorded in Williamson County, Tennessee, in October 1828. He named his wife Phoebe Sheppard, sons James Sheppard and William C. Sheppard, and other children. His estate included notes on Andrew Alford, Joseph Alford, and Harrison Crouse and an open account on William Alford. On 22 March 1832 William Alford sold 100 acres in Williamson County on the waters of Spring Creek beginning in William C. Sheppard's north boundary line. By the time of the 1840 census William Alford had moved across the county line into Marshall County. Most of the families I am researching in Civil District 22 of Williamson County had more connections in Marshall County than in other parts of Williamson County. William Alford died between 1840 and 1850. Nancy Sheppard, Lucinda Wells, and Phoebe Dugger were residents of Hardeman County, Tennessee, in 1850, and Elizabeth (Cannon) Alford was living in the household of Phoebe Dugger. I suspect that the Cannon family was related to Phoebe Sheppard, which would explain why William Alford named one of his daughters Phoebe.

A tract of land in Hardeman County was surveyed for the heirs at law of William Alford on June 2, 1852 (Hardeman County Survey Book VC S2 Margin #1454 Entry #1452), but I have not been able to find any record of how they disposed of the land which might name all of the heirs. The land was next to entry #1326 in the name of N. Perry, who may have been Nathaniel Perry of Van Buren in District 9 of Hardeman County. The inventory of the estate of Nathaniel Perry was recorded in December 1846 and included one town lot with a blacksmith shop and tools in the town of Van Buren and doubtful claims against Pheba Sheppard, W. C. Shepherd, and James Sheppherd. William C. Sheppard executed a deed of trust to Andrew Alford in Hardeman County in 1844 but moved to Maury County by 1850, taking his mother Phoebe Sheppard with him. The 1850 census of Maury County shows that William C. Sheppard was a blacksmith Andrew Alford was a farmer, but he may have had an interest in William C. Sheppard's blacksmith shop. Andrew Alford's son Thomas Alford returned to Williamson County in 1841 and married Mary B. Irvin, daughter of Robert Irvin. George Irvin, son of Robert Irvin, moved

from Williamson County to Hardeman County in late 1848 or 1849. Both George Irvin and his father were blacksmiths. Andrew Alford and George Irvin attended the estate sale of William W. Usher who died in March or April 1848, and Andrew Alford purchased a set of blacksmith tools. The accounts of the estate of John D. Futrell recorded in 1854 include a reference to "cash pd A. Alford his Blacksmith a/c herewith filed 5.48". John D. Futrell's son Isaac married Andrew Alford's daughter Nancy, and his daughter Martha Futrell was George Irvin's second wife. From these records it appears likely to me that George Irvin operated a blacksmith shop in partnership with Andrew Alford, and that shop may have been on the land of Andrew Alford. When George Irvin first arrived in Hardeman County, Frederick Sheppard (relationship to the other Sheppard family unknown) was operating a blacksmith shop in the town of Van Buren. Andrew Alford's land was in Civil District 2 but was near Van Buren. Many of the people connected to the Alford family lived in Civil District 9, and some lived in both districts at one time or another. Both George Irvin and Thomas Alford were taxpayers in both Districts 2 and 9. George Irvin was a taxpayer in District 2 from 1849 through 1854. The tax lists for 1855-1861 are missing. In the 1860 census George Ervin was listed in District 9, and the people listed around him included owners of lots in the town of Van Buren. In 1850 Isaac Futrell and George Irvin were listed consecutively in the Hardeman County census, but "Ervin" has been corrupted to "Crain". No "Crain", "Crain", etc. appears in any tax lists or area records, and the George "Crain" household is a perfect fit for George Irvin's family: George "Crain" 27 blacksmith born TN; Mary 22 born SC; John 1 born TN. In 1850 Isaac Futrell owned land adjoining Andrew Alford. Since George Irvin did not own land and he was listed immediately before Isaac Futrell in the census, it seems likely that he rented land from Isaac Futrell or from someone who owned land adjoining Isaac Futrell -like Andrew Alford.

Andrew Alford was guardian of Mary Atkinson, daughter of Richard D. Atkinson. His second wife Polly Atkinson was probably a sister of Richard D. Atkinson and of William Atkinson, whose son (another Richard D. Atkinson) was the administrator of Polly (Atkinson) Alford's estate. Mary Atkinson married John E. Mastin, a merchant in the town of Van Buren. John Mastin and George Irvin were listed on the same page of the 1860 census. When John Mastin died shortly after the 1860 census, his estate owned a blacksmith's account book. The names in the account book were of neighbors of George Irvin from Districts 2 and 9 and included Andrew Alford. The unnamed blacksmith could only have been George Irvin. When George Irvin moved from District 2 to District 9, he probably changed business partners from Andrew Alford, his sister's father-in-law, to John Mastin, husband of Andrew Alford's niece.

I would be happy to exchange information with anyone who is researching any of these Alford families. Please let me know if you have any questions about my research.

Sincerely,

Kent Irvin

QUERY

The following is a query that was submitted by one of our new members, Richard E. Alford, #1168.

I am trying to locate descendants of John Thomas Alford, born in July 1862, and Orilla Benton Alford born in September 1865.

In 1900 their family lived in Simpson Creek Township, Horry Co., SC, and in 1910 the family lived in Loris, SC (Horry County). The 1910 census showed John and Orilla had nine children - Estella M. 18, Ada B. 16, John O. 14, Albert L. 12, Joseph B. 10, Willie S. 8, Esther V. 5, Ruth 3, and Leon B. (shown as Detlan B.) 10 months at census time.

I am a son of Leon, the youngest of JB and Orilla's children. Leon would be 92 if still alive. Leon moved to Maryland in the 1930's, then to California in the mid-40's where he died and was buried in 1962.

This inquiry is for the children and grandchildren of this large SC Alford family, and/or the great grandchildren of John and Orilla. I could not locate members of the family in Horry Co. census of 1920.

I would appreciate any help that anyone could provide.

