

## Expansion Projects

### Missouri Expansion

The Alford population of Missouri ranks about 18<sup>th</sup> in the nation, with approximately 130 prospective Alford families. Research thus far shows very little, if any, relationship between the Alford families of North Carolina (or the rest of the Southeast) and those of Missouri. While there may have been a common progenitor in the early Virginia Alford families, it appears that some of the lines may have come from Alford families who landed and settled first in Maryland. Most of the migration to Missouri came from Indiana, Ohio, Kentucky, Tennessee, and western Virginia. At least one family came from New York, and probably New England. There was probably greater Alford activity with temporary residents migrating to the West than there was in those who settled in Missouri permanently.

Although Gil Alford resides in Missouri, and that is where the Association is chartered, there has been relatively little Alford work there. Gil's total Missouri contacts are about ten, and only a third of them are considered active. While he has



collected some census data for Missouri, relatively little research has been conducted in that state.

Gil is willing to split postage costs of a Missouri expansion effort with the Association if he is given equal space in the mailing. [See "Secretary's Summary," pg. 4.]

### Mississippi Expansion

Mississippi appears to be one of the better states for Alford expansion in 1988. The primary reason for selecting this state is the work already done there by Gil Alford and some of his associates. The Sunday, August 2,



1987, issue of *The Clarion-Ledger/Jackson Daily News*, contained an article indicating that the AAFA was sponsoring the publication of *About Alford Families in Mississippi*. This project is being coordinated by Gil, with most of the research being done by Ruby Heard of Jackson, Mississippi.

Free help in tracing Alford ancestors was offered. Moderate response was received, and Gil and Ruby are now working with several interested folks in Mississippi, tracing about five or six different Alford lines.

Mississippi probably ranks sixth in the nation in Alford population after Texas, Florida, California, North Carolina, and Louisiana. Based on some rather crude statistics, it is estimated that the state has about 470 Alford families or households. It is probable that 30 to 40% of these Mississippi Alford families are Black families.

Ruby Heard's efforts have thus far produced the most extensive Alford marriage list available for any state. Joint efforts between her and Gil have produced statewide Alford census data for all years through 1860, part of 1870, the Soundex for 1880, and

all for 1900 and 1910. *There is more data available for helping Mississippi Alford families than for those in any other state.*

As with the Missouri project, Gil is willing to split the postage costs of an expansion effort in Mississippi with the Association as long as he is given equal space to solicit input for his Mississippi book in the expansion letter.