

NC's Grandfather Clause in Franklin County

By Franceine Rees, Member #51, AAFA Wills and Estates Project Office

A 1900 suffrage amendment to the North Carolina state constitution required applicants for voter registration must have paid poll tax and be able to read and write any section of the Constitution. To protect the right of illiterate whites to vote while disenfranchising blacks, the amendment had a "grandfather clause" that provided that no man who was entitled to vote on or before Jan. 1, 1867 or his lineal descendant should be denied registration if he registered before Dec. 1, 1908.

This retaliatory measure, one of a series of rather creative attempts to make up for setbacks suffered by white Democrats at the hands of Reconstruction-era carpetbaggers and scalawag Republicans, resulted in the loss of 50,000 black voters for the Republicans before it was outlawed a few years later. It also gave genealogists a source of information! The county voter registration lists, taken by township, include the name of the voter, his age, and the father or grandfather through whom he claimed the right to vote, if he himself wasn't old enough to vote in 1867.

The original county lists were destroyed after being microfilmed. Film is available at the NC State Archives. Listed below are Alford voters and Alford "grandfathers" as they appeared on the Franklin County Lists.

NAME OF VOTER	AGE	*DESCENDED FROM	NAME OF VOTER	AGE	*DESCENDED FROM
<i>October 1902, Dunn's Township</i>			<i>October 1902, West Freeman's Township</i>		
H. V. Alford	25	Akeron Alford	Moses Alford	53	Jack Alford
E. H. Alford	23	Akeron Alford	Eugene Alford	27	Julius Alford
M. C. Alford	21	Akeron Alford	<i>October 1902, Cypress Creek Township</i>		
Sidney Alford	24	John Alford, Sr.	Lawrence S. Alford	51	Bennett H. Alford
B. M. Alford	53	Akeron Alford	Madison J. Alford	49	Bennett H. Alford
J. V. Alford	25	John Alford, Sr	<i>October 1904, Dunn's Township</i>		
G. F. Alford	21	John Alford, Sr	J. E. Alford	21	J. R. Alford
S. J. Alford	51	John Alford, Sr	<i>October 1906, Dunn's Township</i>		
J. T. Alford	52	Burkley Alford	Zonie ? W. Alford	23	B. M. Alford
J. R. Alford	53	Lockard Alford	George A. Alford	22	S. J. Alford
Charlie Alford	22	Ben Alford	<i>April-May 1908, Cypress Creek Township</i>		
John Alford	53	John Pearce	W. D. Alford	21	L. S. Alford
M. A. Alford	27	Akeron Alford	[Note: This is William Davis Alford, son of Lawrence Sidney Alford]		
S. A. Alford	46	Ancely Alford	<i>October 1908, Dunn's Township</i>		
J. B. Alford	30	Ake—— Alford	J. S. Alford	21	Jack Alford
<i>October 1902, Harris Township</i>			C. R. Alford	53	——
A. S. Alford	37	Grandfather (sic)	See more on next page.		
C. R. Alford	46	Willis P, Alfor	*Unless a voter himself as of January 1, 1867		
<i>October 1902, East Freeman's Township</i>					
William T. Alford	52	Julius Alford			
Hines Alford	75	Hines B. Alford			
Julius W. Alford	34	Hines B. Alford			
Pet A. or H. Alford	44	Hines B. Alford			
John H. Alford	52	Julius Alford			
William J. Alford	50	Hines B. Alford			
Darcas G. Alford	21	Julius Alford			
William M. Alford	29	Hines B. Alford			
Robert A. Perry	27	Hines B. Alford			

Subject: Re: Nallie Washington Alford, 1904 NC - 1986 NC
From: Lynn Shelley (lynnandjimshelley@yahoo.com)
To: gilalford@rocketmail.com;
Date: Friday, January 18, 2013 5:54 PM

I assume you are talking about the Grandfather Clause thing rather than the subject of this e-mail?

It was published in AAFA ACTION but I don't remember what issue. I also copied the pages from a publication while at Fort Wayne--*The 1902-1908 Voter Registration Lists, Franklin County, North Carolina* By Dr. Stephen E. Bradley.

I don't know what the best plan is. I have included a paragraph about it in the Kisar genealogy update. Do you have the microfilm? I will compare what you sent to the published article and let you know if I find any differences.

What do you think we should do? We can refer to the AAFA Action article or just reprint it.

Lynn

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Subject: Grandfather Clause Items
From: Lynn Shelley (lynnandjimshelley@yahoo.com)
To: gilalford@rocketmail.com;
Date: Friday, January 18, 2013 8:43 PM

There is a typo in the article published in our quarterly--the very first entry should be W.V. and it is H.V.

#6 is James Vincent Alford, son of John I. Alford Jr. (Lockhard grandson) and Martha/Patti G. Alford (Gabriel's daughter). He is listed as Vincent or a misspelling thereof in 1880.

see list next page
#16 is unknown to me. Even though this was to keep blacks from registering, the published book said there were persons listed as "colored" registering. I assume this would be indicated on the list. It could be A.L. but I can't find anyone to fit that either.

One of the C.R. Alfords could be Calvin Roscoe/Richard Alford, son of Kisar.

Garland Festus is left out of the published book and that has an additional Alford in Oct 1908--Dawes J. Alford, age 28, in Youngsville Twp. with Julius Alford given as the ancestor. I assume this is James Docus since his brother Garland Dorcas is already in the list.

I haven't spent a lot of time going over the list in which you identified each one but it looks good to me.

Lynn

FRANKLIN CO. NC. GRANDFATHER CLAUSE

All listed are numbered 1- 36 as they appear on the list. BK # in []

With BK numbers L=Lockhard, E=Exum, K=Kisar, and T=Thomas for the separate BK files.

1. W.V.= William Vance [K36] b. Apr 4 1881 son of Berkley Moses [K6]
2. E. H.= Edward H. [K37] b. Nov 1878 son of Berkley Moses [K6]
3. M.C.= Marcus Cepter [K38] b. Sep 23, 1881 son of Berkley Moses [K6]
4. Sidney b. 1878 (John Sr.)****
5. B.M.= Berkley Moses [K6] b. Jan 10, 1849 son of Kisar [K1]
6. J.V. (suspect he a son of John Randolph [L194] who is not in genealogy or 1880 cen.
7. G. F. = Garland Festus [L1866] b. Aug 19, 1881 son of Sidney J.[L1862]
8. S. J. = Sidney J. "Jake" [L1862] B. Jul 3, 1851 son of John [L179]
9. J.T.= John T. [K8] b. Apr 7, 1854 son of Kisar [K1]; grandson of Berkley Upchurch
10. J.R.= John Randolph [L194] b. Apr 11, 1849 son of Bennett Henry [L107]
11. Charley = Charles Randolph [L223] b. Oct 9, 1880 son of John Randolph [L194]
12. John [T23] b. 1848 son of Archibald [T284] and Priscilla Pearce.
13. M. A. b. 1875 (Akeron Alford)****
14. S. A. = Sidney A. [K9] b. Nov 11 1858 son of Kisar [K1]
15. J.B.= James Berry [K34] b. May 15, 1872 son of Berkley Moses [K6]
16. A. S. b. 1865
17. C.R.= Charles R. [L320] b. 1857 son of Willis P. [L173]
18. William T. [T180] son of Julius [T185]
19. Hines [T10] b. Jan 1827, son of Thomas [T14]
20. Julius W. [T63] b. Aug 15, 1868 son of Hines Berry [T10]
21. Patrick H. [T60] b. Jun 8, 1858 son of Hines Berry [T10]
22. John H. [T271] b. Mar 1850 son of Julius [T185]
23. William J. [T8] b. Mar 1851 son of Hines Berry [T10]
24. Garland Dorcas [T183] b. Jun 18 1881 son of William T. [T180] grandson of Julius [T185]
25. William M. [T95] b. Dec 25 1872 son of William J. [T8] grandson of Hines [T10]
26. ??
27. Moses A. [L1861] b. 1848 son of John L. [L179]
28. Eugene T. [T191] b. May 1873 son of William T. [T180]; grandson of Julius [T185]
29. Lawrence S. [L195] b. Mar 16, 1851 son of Bennett Henry [L107]
30. Madison J. [L196] b. Jun 3, 1853 son of Bennett Henry [L107]
31. J. E. = Julius E. [L224] b. May 15, 1883 son of John Randolph [L194]
32. Zonie (?) W.= Jonnie Williford [K39] b. Sep 9, 1884 son of Berley Moses [K6]
33. George A. [L1867] b. Mar 23, 1884 son of Sidney J. [L1862]
34. W.D.= William David [L244] son of Lawrence Sidney [L195]
35. J.S.= John S. [L1868] b. Sep 1886 son of Sidney "Jake" [L1862] grandson of John [L179]
36. C.R.= (see #17 above thought to be the same)