

- vi. William Thomas Alford, b. 1887; d. 1887.
- vii. John Martin Alford, b. 30 Aug 1888; d. 1974 in TX.
- viii. Mary Alma Alford, b. 2 Nov 1890; d. 1929.
- ix. George Wilson Alford, b. 6 June 1893; d. 26 Nov 1917 in the Army of an unknown disease.
- x. Nannie Lee Alford, b. 27 Oct 1895; d. 1987.
- xi. James Luther Alford, b. 29 March 1898, twin of Lucy; d. 1949.
- xii. Lucy Jane Alford, b. 29 March 1898, twin of James; d. 1949.
- xiii. Skeen Warren "Doc" Alford, b. 20 Dec 1900 (named after Dr. Skeen who delivered him); d. 1985.
- xiv. Elizabeth Beatrice Alford, b. 10 Jan 1903; still living in Sulphur Springs, TX.

(President's Precept, cont. from p. 1)

finest of its kind in the nation.

Now, let us get on to the main purpose of this association—the research, collection, and distribution of information about our Alford ancestors. Speaking of ancestors, while they were not exactly cuss words, there were those at the meeting who questioned my ancestry. You know who you are. I haven't decided yet whether I appreciate it!

Again I look forward to serving as your President for another year. I know you wanted me because absolutely no one would agree to take the job if elected. That is a real vote of confidence!

Lodwick H. Alford
President, AAFA

Early Mississippi Alford

The next four issues of the quarterly will contain special articles on the Alford of Mississippi. Our purpose is two fold:

- to acquaint you with what we know, or think we know, about Alford of Mississippi
- to give you an opportunity to correct, qualify or expand on the information we have.

These articles will be based on the combined effort of Ruby Alford Heard, AAFA Mississippi State Representative, and Gil Alford, AAFA Executive Director. The two have been working together on Mississippi Alford for years and they hope to culminate their work during this year. Unless sources show otherwise most of the material was researched by Ruby Heard and compiled and edited by Gil Alford.

Early Alford

Although Mississippi did not become a state until 1817, the area was discovered and explored even before the earliest English settlements in New England, North Carolina, and Virginia. It began with Hernando de Soto and his associates who visited the Mississippi region in 1539. They made no settlements, and the death of their leader in 1542 ended that adventure. In 1682 La Salle descended the Mississippi and took possession of the adjacent country for the king of France and called it Louisiana. In 1698 M. d'Iberville was authorized by the French king to colonize the regions of the lower Mississippi. He landed near Ship Island off the coast of what today is known as Biloxi. Of course there were no Alford in these early expeditions.

The first known Alford in the general area of what was to become Mississippi was Jacob Alford, son of Julius Alford and grandson of the James Alford who

was born about 1687 in Virginia. In 1800 there was just the Mississippi Territory which stretched over what is today Mississippi and Alabama, but only in a strip between lines that would go east from about Vicksburg approximately through Meridian and Montgomery, Alabama, on the north and a line that would follow today's southern state lines, but above the boot heels of Mississippi and Alabama. The southern area of what is today Mississippi and Alabama was part of Florida and known as Spanish West Florida. By 1810 it had become "disputed area." There were only two counties in Mississippi in 1800: Adams, which occupied the lower left or southwest corner of the state covering what is today about four counties; and Pickering County, which occupied the western part of the state above Adams County and extended up to Vicksburg and the northern boundary of the Mississippi Territory. Washington County was in the southeast of what is today Mississippi, but the majority of the county was in what is now Alabama. Georgia and its Indian Lands occupied most of the area north of the Mississippi Territory.

Jacob Alford had moved from Cumberland County, NC, to Georgia about the turn of the century. He was granted 450 acres of land in Montgomery County, Georgia, in February 1802. He apparently stayed in Georgia until 1806, when his name disappeared from the records there. By 1807 he was in the area known as Spanish West Florida, where twin sons were born. He was given headrights on over 600 acres. The northern boundary of his property was the line between the Mississippi Territory and Spanish West Florida. The eastern boundary was the Bogue Chitto River.

By 1810 several counties had been added in southern Mississippi including

Amite County which included what is today Pike County. Adams County (present day Natchez) had been split into two counties and Wilkinson County (present day Woodville) occupied the very southwest corner. Pickering County north of Adams had been renamed to Jefferson County and split into three counties including Warren (present day Vicksburg) and Claiborne (present day Port Gibson). As well as we have been able to tell there were no Alford in Mississippi as such in 1810, although Jacob and several sons were residing just south of the state line by 1807.

By 1820 more counties had been established, and what had been a large Amite County was cut into three pieces making Pike County and part of Marion County. In 1820 Alford's begin appearing in the Mississippi Census. Louisiana and Mississippi had both become states between 1810 and 1820.

Edwin Alford

Edwin (probably Barksdale) Alford, one of Jacob's sons, was born 1792 in Cumberland County, NC. He was one of four Alford's enumerated in the 1820 census. He was in Pike County with a wife and a young son. Edwin was a private with the 12/13th Consolidated Louisiana Infantry in the War of 1812. He married Martha Smith, of Pike County, MS, in 1818, and that probably marks the date of his permanent entry into Mississippi. Edwin Alford was the progenitor of many present day Alford's, several who are AAFA members.

Fort Alford

Just above Pike County was Lawrence County (present day Monticello), occupying what is today Lincoln, Lawrence, and part of Jefferson Davis Counties. Fort Alford, who was between the ages of 26 and 45, was enumerated in Lawrence County in

1820 with his second wife and five children. Fort, who was probably born in North Carolina or Georgia about 1785, died in 1848 in St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana. He and his family, along with in-laws, moved to Mississippi in 1816. Nothing is known yet of his Alford ancestors, but we are in touch with present day descendants.

Hudson Alford

Hudson Alford was in Wilkinson County in the southwestern corner of the state. His family consisted of himself, a wife, four daughters (one being an adult age 26-45), and two sons. Hudson and his wife were over 45 years of age. It was probably this person who is listed as "Hadcol or Hadcut" Alford in the 1830 census of Wilkinson County. If he was the same person, then we can estimate Hudson's birth to have been between 1770 and 1775. In 1840 we find a Hudson Alford in Tallahatchie County along with a Cade Alford and James Alford. Hudson died intestate sometime before 1853, as we have a letter of administration concerning his estate dated in January 1853 and recorded in February 1853. Hudson and his wife Mahala were enumerated in Tallahatchie County in 1850, when his age was 45 and place of birth was North Carolina. James in the census of 1840 and 1850 was the son of Hudson. He was a sheriff of the county (you'll read more of him in a later issue). The Cade Alford in the 1840 census was age 60-70 and had only a son living with him plus 13 slaves. It is supposed that Cade was the father of Hudson and that they came from Wake County, North Carolina. A close study of the ages of this "Hudson" over the years suggests either two Hudson Alford's or an error in some of the census data.

There is evidence that Cade Alford came to Mississippi via Alabama. "Kade" Alford was enumerated there in Morgan County in 1830. He was identified there, as Cade Alford, in a

deed of trust dated September 1827 along with James Alford, supposedly his son. Thanks to Katherine Black we have considerable information on this Cade Alford and his descendants, and it will be developed in future issues. (We intended to deal only with 1820 Mississippi Alford's in this article, but it was necessary to ramble a bit in order to get their origin fixed.)

Phoebe Alfred

The last of the "Alford" families in Mississippi in 1820 was a Phoebe Alfred in Claiborne County. Claiborne County was just south of Warren (Vicksburg) and north of Natchez. Her family consisted of herself, born before 1775, two females (daughters?) over 16 and five males (sons?)—the oldest being over 18 and two youngest born between 1811 and 1820. She was probably widowed within just a few years of the census. We are at a loss as to who this lady is or who her husband was. It is likely they were enumerated in the censuses of 1810 and before somewhere east of Mississippi.

In the next issue we will continue with more recent Mississippi Alford's.

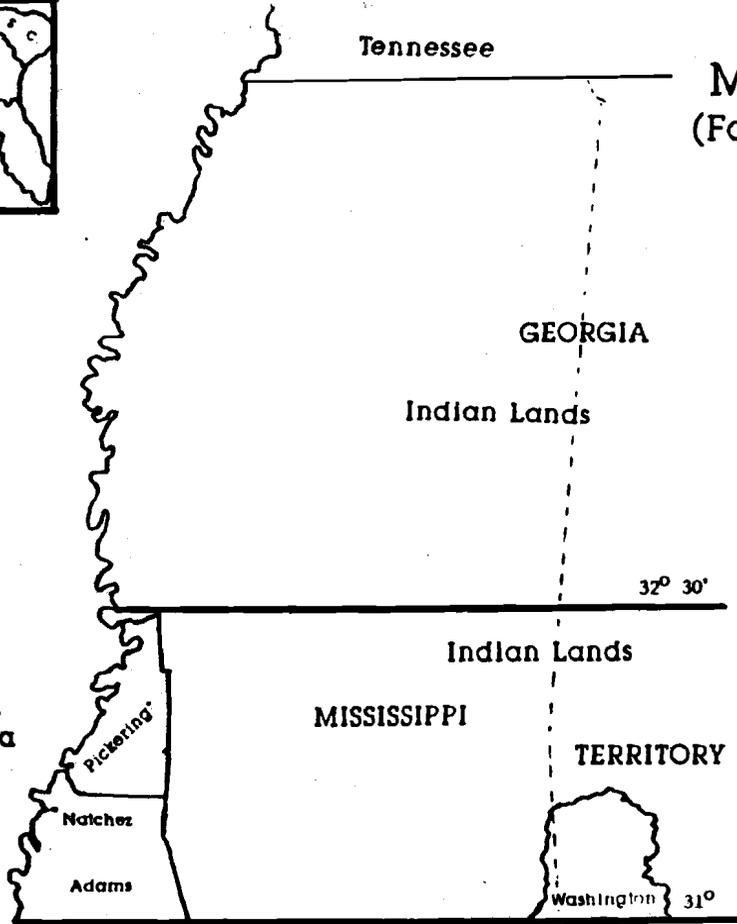
A Note on Photo Quality

To avoid the expense of making halftones from photos (\$10 per 8x10 sheet) and the subsequent \$10 printing charge for each page with pictures on it, I've decided to use scanned photos. The quality, while not as high as halftones, is acceptable—and the savings are significant: about \$125 for this issue. This allows us to print more pictures and keep our membership cost down.

If you have an old photo you'd like to see printed, send it to me, and write an article to accompany it!—Pam Thompson



MISSISSIPPI 1820 (Four Alford Families)



MISSISSIPPI 1800 (No Known Alford)

* Renamed Jefferson in 1820

ARKANSAS TERRITORY

LOUISIANA

LOUISIANA

Site of homestead of Jacob Alford who came to this area about 1806/7.

NOTE: Mississippi became a state in 1817.

