

## Early Mississippi Alfords, Part 2

By Ruby Alford Heard & Gil Alford

*If you have further information about the Alfords listed below, please share it with others in the Association. Just mail it to the AAFA POB.*

In the previous two issues most of the Alfords in Mississippi through 1830 were discussed. The state had 24 counties then. There was some question about John and William Alford being the sons of Thomas and Phoebe (Cummings) Alford because of their age. Thomas and Phoebe married in 1793. John and William probably were their sons.

### Franklin County Revisited

The last issue covered Lemuel Alfred and the Alfords of Franklin County. Consider the following as possible and search for evidence to prove or refute the theory. Lemuel was enumerated in Franklin County, MS in 1820 and 1830. Needham J. Alford married in Franklin County, MS in 1815. He moved to what was to become Sabine Parish, LA on the frontier or then Mexican (Texas) border. Lemuel, son of Lodwick Alford, was Needham's first cousin once removed. Lemuel married Clary Jones September 21, 1790 in Franklin County, NC. NC land records place him there from 1794-1804. He was guardian of his father in NC in 1794 and 1795. Tax records in NC show he was there from 1804-1807 and from 1811-1815. He was in NC with 9 children in 1810 and in 1830 with 2 children. Where was he in 1820? Did he go exploring in MS, little more than Indian country, with his cousins? The Domirus Alford who married Jesse Carraway in Franklin County February 14, 1824 could have been one of Lemuel's children. James Alford, who married Nancy Meridith October 1, 1837 in Franklin County, MS, could have been a child of Lemuel. Is there

anyway we can place Lemuel in MS and NC for the 1830 census which was taken June 1.

By 1840 there were 56 counties and nineteen Alford households. In 1850 there were 59 counties and about 45 Alford households.

Five families from 1830 or before were still there in 1840 and in 1850. Halcut Alford was in Madison County. William Alford and Henry Alford were in Yazoo County (Henry was in Hinds County in 1830). Edwin and William Alford were in Pike County and Fort Alford had returned to Lawrence County from Florida. There is a biographical sketch on Halcut Alford elsewhere in this issue.

### Pike County

The kin of some of these earlier families joined them by 1840. You may remember that Edwin and William Alford of Pike County were brothers—sons of Jacob and Frances (Seaborn) Alford. In 1840 a younger brother, John Seaborn Alford, was in Pike County. John had a twin brother, Seaborn John Alford, who remained in Washington Parish, LA—the place of their birth. Some may find the Alford involvement with slavery interesting. In 1840 Edwin owned 15 slaves, William 5, and Seaborn John owned 7. All three of these families were still in Pike County in 1850.

In 1850 four new Alford households appear with three new puzzles. One newcomer was Warren J. Alford who was a son of Edwin Alford. The family of a Matilda Alford born about 1811 in South Carolina raises some questions. She had four children born in MS between 1838 and 1844. Her husband must have been there in 1840. Who was he? Her children's names were Sarah, Polly, Elander and Abraham. She could

have been a daughter-in-law of Edwin Alford and she lived just three houses away from him. She also could have been the widow of an unknown brother of Edwin's. She and her family were still there in 1860 living amongst the descendants of Jacob Alford. Who has the answer on Matilda Alford? In 1850 there was a 19 year student, Richard Alford, living with an Adams family. William C. Alfred, a Wheelwright born in Virginia about 1816, was living with a Simpson family in 1850 and a Lamkin family in 1860.

### Madison County

Halcut Alford was the only Alford in Madison County in 1830. By 1840 a younger brother, J. C. (Julius) Alford and his wife Mary, were in Madison County. Julius died April 27, 1847 but his wife Mary, and the family, remained in the county. Francis A. Alford, a son of Halcut who was later to be the executor of Halcut's estate, and his family lived there in 1850. Julius' and Mary's son Leonidus Alford, was also in his own home by 1850. Halcut had 49 slaves in 1840. These early Madison County Alfords are ancestors of many AAFA members. All of Halcut and Julius' family members married and lived in Madison, Rankin and Hinds counties until after the Civil War.

### Yazoo County

The Alford family to endure in Yazoo County was that of Henry Alford who married Annis (Arnis) Cottengham May 7, 1825. Their children, all born in MS from 1834-1854, were Tennessee, Missouri, Henretta, Robert, Josephine, Helen and Hattie. Henry's brother, Warren Alford was in Yazoo County in 1840. It was probably him in Morehouse Parish, LA in 1850. Henry owned 14 slaves in 1840 and Warren

had 94. Thomas and Jackson, mentioned in the previous issue, were in Yazoo in 1850.

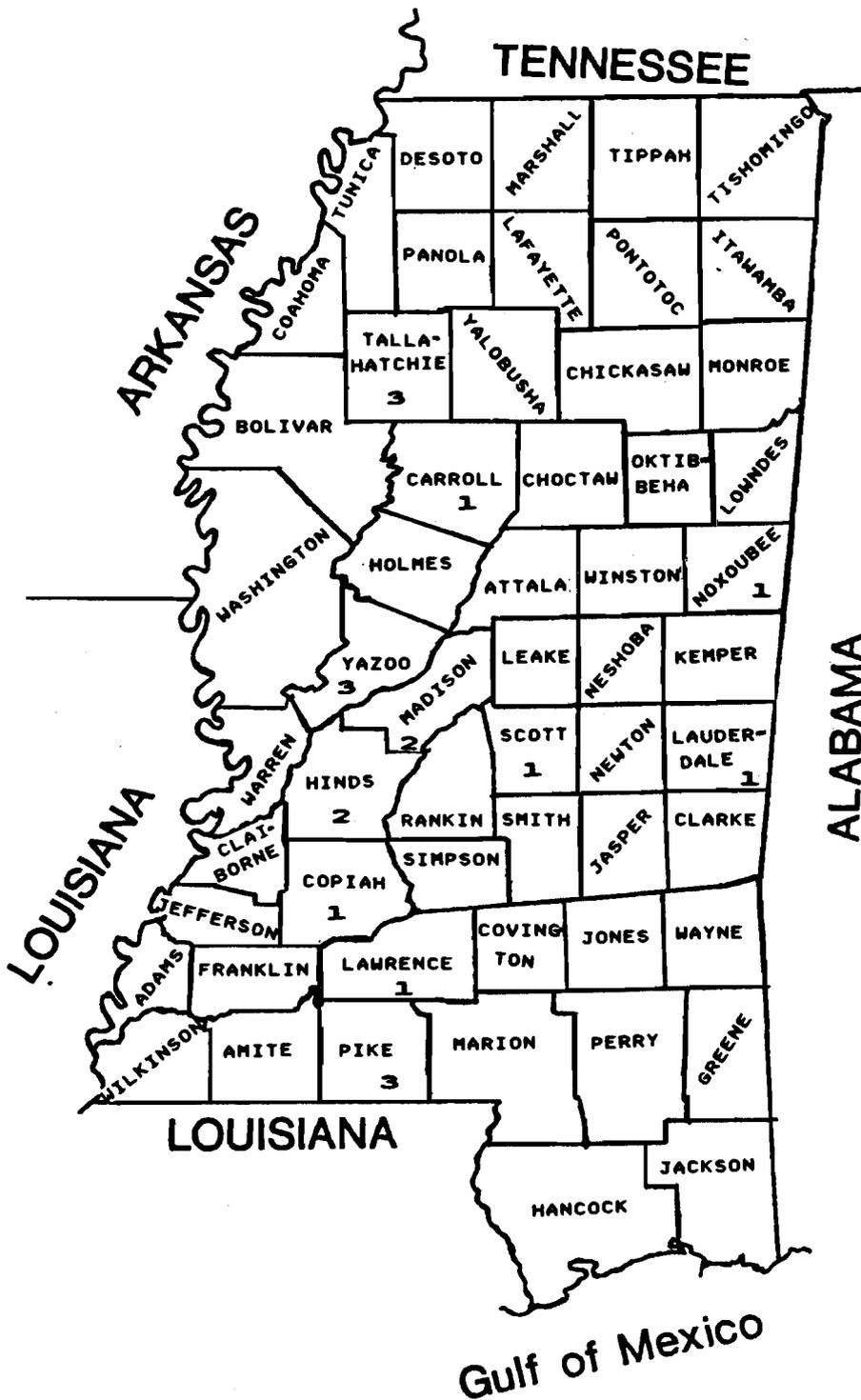
Two young girls, Frances Alford age 13 and Sarah Alford age 12, were living with Thomas C. and Elizabeth Lewis in 1850 in Yazoo County. Whose children were they—Henry's? Or did they belong to William as suggested in the last issue.

### Tallahatchie County

The MS-NC Alford connection is apparent in Tallahatchie County. Cade Alford was probably the son of James Lodwick Alford, the ancestor of AAFA President, Lodwick Alford. Cade remained in NC long enough for two sons to be born. Hudson Alford and James Alford both appear in the 1840 and 1850 census of Tallahatchie County. Cade left NC after 1820 and was in Morgan County, AL by 1827. By 1838 the family was in Tallahatchie County. Cade Alford owned 13 slaves, James had 23 and Hudson owned 11. AAFA member Katherine Black's husband is a descendant of Cade Alford.

### Copiah County

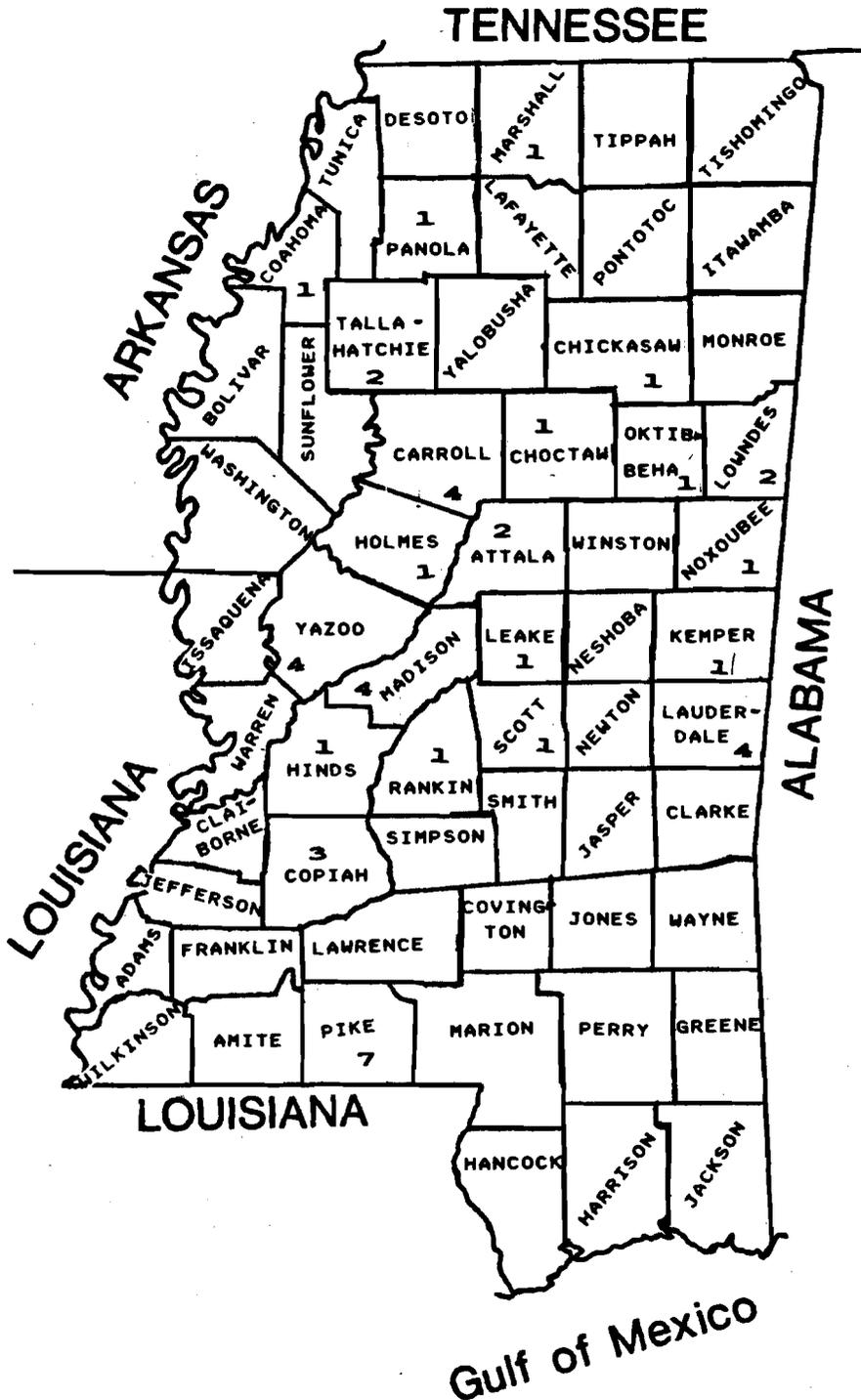
The early Alfords of this county also represent a significant connection with NC. Julius Alford arrived in MS about 1838. He owned 7 slaves in 1840. He was the progenitor of several AAFA members. A biographical sketch of his father, James Alford, appears elsewhere in this issue. In 1850 Mary Alford, born in NC, appears living with the Willis family. She was the maiden sister of Julius. She died there in Copiah County. Furney Alford, who was in Hinds County in 1840 appears in Copiah County in 1850. He had 2 slaves in 1840. According to the 1850 census he was born 1795 in GA but the 1860 census says he was born 1795 in NC. There are court records about the estate of Fort Alford's (Lawrence



## MISSISSIPPI 1840

19 Alford Households

Numbers denote Alford households per county.



# MISSISSIPPI 1850

45 Alford Households

Numbers denote Alford households per county.

County) father-in-law. They show that Furney Alford, born between 1808 and 1810, was living with Fort in 1820. Several Wayne County, NC land records mention Furnifold or Ferney Alford.

## Carroll County

The strong influence that Carroll County was to have on MS Alford's began early in the 1830's. Carroll County was established from Choctaw Indian lands in 1833. John Alford, his wife Leanna, and their family arrived from AL. John had 8 slaves in 1840. By 1850 his son James H. and his wife Elizabeth Beck had their family well on the way next door. (See also Choctaw County below.) John was the progenitor of several AAFA members. Unfortunately the ancestry of John Alford is not known.

## Lauderdale County

Lauderdale County was to become the home of many Alford families. In 1840 there was only Owen Alford, age 30-40 with his wife, 2 sons and 1 daughter. At this time nothing more is known about this Owen Alford. A Owen Alford did marry Mrs. Vena Wilkenson in Leake County, MS September 11 1865. If the same fellow then this would have been second marriage. By 1850 there were several Alford households. Melva Alford the widow of Jacob Alford (son of John and Chloe Pope Alford) was there with her son Sherrod H. Alford. James G., Warren and Julius Alford, all probably other sons of Jacob and Melva were living nearby. Julius, James, and Sherrod were all born in NC—further evidence of the strong connection found between the two states.

## Scott & Leake Counties

Spier Washington Alford, the ancestor of several AAFA members, represents yet another NC connection. His father, Brittain Washington Alford was born in

NC, the son of Isham Alford. Most readers will remember that Isham was probably one of the sons of Lodwick Alford. Spire W. was in Scott County in 1840 and in Leake County in 1850. In 1840 he owned 9 slaves. A biographical sketch will be printed in the next issue of *AAFA ACTION*.

## Hinds County

Furney Alford's connection with Hinds County is recorded above under Copiah County. He was in Hinds County in 1840. One other Alford family was in Hinds County in 1840. John F. Alford, born in Kentucky about 1811, married Rebecca Love in Hinds County November 12, 1833. As far as is known he was the first Alford of Kentucky to come to MS. John and Rebecca had Mary J., Matilda A., Lucinda C., Sarah A., and John F. Alford. In 1840 he owned 4 slaves. Nothing is known about the ancestry of John F. Alford and the family disappears after the 1850 census.

## Noxubee County

There was a John Alford/Alfred listed in both 1840 and 1850. It probably was not the same person. The John in 1840 was born between 1790 and 1800 had one child—a daughter. He owned 12 slaves in 1840. It is possible this was the father of John Madison and Duke Alford (see Scott County below). The John in the 1850 census was born about 1826 in AL. John Madison Alford, born about 1826, was in AL and he moved to Neshoba County. He did not marry until after 1850 in AL. Is this the same John who later returned to AL and started his family before returning to MS? John Madison and Duke had a brother, George Alford, who died in Noxubee County. John Madison Alford is the progenitor of several AAFA members.

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The above completes the accounting

for the Alford families in MS through 1840. A few others appeared for the first time in the census of 1850. Little is known about these Alfords or Alford families described below.

## Oktibbeha County

Another NC connection! Little Berry, or Berry, Alford was born in NC about 1801. He married Polly Butler January 3, 1822 in Wake County, NC. Nothing is known about his parents. He migrated to MS via AL where his nine children were born between 1824-26 and 1840. Several descendants of Little Berry Alford are known. One was a member of AAFA earlier but let her membership expire. A genealogical listing of the descendants of Little Berry will be published in next quarter's *AAFA ACTION*.

## Rankin County

Lurinda Alford and her family of Rankin County represent another of the mysteries concerning the early MS Alfords. Who was her husband? She had children named James, William, Sarah, Mary and Minerva. The children were born in MS from 1828 through 1846 suggesting their father would have been subject to the censuses of 1830 and 1840. There were three Alfords in the 1830 or 1840 census, or both, who were not listed in 1850. They were as follows: John Alford, probably the son of Thomas Alford, Jr. and Phoebe Cummings, was present with eight children in 1830. He was not listed in 1840. John Alford of Noxubee County in 1840 had only one child. The most likely candidate is Owen Alford who was in Lauderdale County with three children in 1840. Was he the Owen Alford in AL in 1830?

## Marshall County

Another NC connection. Wiley Alford was born 1815 in NC and was an overseer in Marshall County in 1850.

He was living with John and Sarah Martin—also from NC.

## Kemper County

Some folks wonder why the Halfords/Halfords are included in the Association. An 1850 Kemper County family explains it well. For years Ruby Heard and Gil Alford looked for connections to the family of Moses G. Alford of Kemper County. He appeared there in 1850 with wife, Elvira, and four children—Susan born ca 1838, Henry born ca 1840, George born ca 1844 and Jane born ca 1847. Lucille Mehrkam, AAFA Texas genealogist sent in a family group record on Moses Gordon Halford and there are several similarities. He was born January 1817. He died in DeKalb, MS. He is buried in a family plot on a farm six miles from DeKalb—the county seat of Kemper County. The difference in the children's names makes the connection questionable. The family described by Lucille had a wife named Nancy Maria Warrick. Their children were Sam, Julius P. born 1851, Mezekiel, John, Moses M. born 1857, Nancy, Sallie, Lou, Josephine, and Maggie. One explanation would be that Moses married twice and had two families. Lucille shows Moses to be the son of Burrell and Nancy Halford. In the meantime the Association heard from a lady who is a descendant of Moses G. Halford and his wife Nancy Warrick through their son Samuel Halford and Zillih Dowling.

## Choctaw County

William Alford born 1826 in AL is probably the son of John and Leanna Alford of Carroll County (see above). William and his wife Jane appeared in both 1850 and 1860 census of Choctaw County without children.

## Panola County

William D. Alford, born 1824 in NC

was in Panola County in 1850. He was a carpenter and his wife Julianna was born 1826 in Tennessee. It is possible that the W. P. Alford who married Miss. J. A. Tinkle September 29, 1849 in DeSoto County (adjoining county) was the couple in the census.

## Coahoma County

Here's another fellow from NC. Green Alford, an overseer, born 1810 in NC married Delia of MS. They were in Coahoma County in 1850 with an infant—Harriet. A difference in their ages suggests this might have been Green's second marriage. What ever happened to the Green Alford who married Nancy Denton October 15, 1834 in Franklin County, NC?

## Scott County

See the earlier reference to Scott County in 1840. In 1850 there was only one Alford in this county. It was Duke (Marmaduke) Alford, born 1833 in AL, brother of John Madison Alford, and living with Henry Robbins who was born in Tennessee. John Madison will be prominent in Neshoba County later. Duke and John M. were the sons of John, born about 1801—probably in NC, and his wife Mary. Duke moved to Texas after he served in the Civil War. He was the progenitor of several AAFA members.

## Lowndes County

A AAFA member lives in Lowndes County. Although her family has been there for several generations they are not related to those listed in the 1850 census. There were two Alford households listed but the census shows they were in the same dwelling. There was a George Alford, born about 1820 in NC—a wood worker—living with the Fulgham family. James Alford, born about 1823 in AL, married Annie E. Clayton July 8, 1847 and they had

Sarah in 1849. James was a wellborer and he and Annie lived with the Clayton family—probably Ann's parents.

## Attala County

The Alford's in this county in 1850 present another puzzle. There were three young girls, living in two households, with no known parental connections. Harriet born about 1837 in MS was living with James and Mary A. Keith. (Was Mary an Alford?). In the house next door—Jane born 1841 and Rebecca born 1842 in MS were living with Dillaney Keene. They were probably orphaned sisters living with their kin.

## Holmes County

Martha Alford, born about 1837 was a student living with the Elmer family. Nothing more is known about her.

## Chicksaw County

Here is one more NC connection. Calvin Alford was a laborer born about 1817 in NC. He and his wife, Mary A. born about 1820 in AL, were in Chicksaw County in 1850. Their children were James, Martha and Mary. A 19 year old Melvina Snero was living with the family. Nothing more is known of them. Have you ever heard of a Calvin Alford? Maybe someone could check out the C. F. Alford who married Mary Ann Snow in Jefferson County, AL November 7, 1839. Maybe "Snero" was "Snow" and Melvina was Mary's sister.

Plan to attend the annual meeting in Jackson in October. There will be much discussion of many of the folks listed above. ♦

## Ancestry Tables

By George Miller, Member # 253  
Ancestry Tables Project Officer

This is the big step forward! In this issue is a copy of the newly formatted Ancestry Chart. It will be quite familiar to most of you, as it follows a standard pedigree chart format. I have turned the chart on its side, and only three generations are on the chart, allowing for more writing space. On the back side is a form to use if you still don't have room for your particular handwriting style.

As I mentioned in the previous issue of AAFA ACTION, only one copy of the chart can be supplied with the quarterly. If you do not have easy access to a copier for making duplicates, don't hesitate to write me and let me know. I will have plenty of extras and will send you as many copies as you request.

Fill out the sheets as best you can, just like a pedigree chart. Specific formats apply for dates and locations:

DATE:                      Year, Month, Day  
LOCATION:                  State, County, City

When filling out person #1, try to use one of your children. This will allow us to record the family lines of both you and your spouse. The next chart number will be filled in for each parent of #4-7. Place this number, starting with 2 for the father of #4 on the next chart in the lower left side. Follow this sequence when filling out other charts.

Don't be worried if you can't fill out these charts exactly right. I will be able to interpret the data and get it in proper sequence. If you are totally lost, please contact me and I'll can help you get started. When you have finished your line, send the charts to me, and I will enter them into my database. When I have completed the entries, I will send you a copy of the printout for review and corrections. ♦