

Louisiana Alford's, Part 1

By Executive Director Gil Alford

You might expect us to begin our coverage of Louisiana Alford's chronologically as we did Alford's in Florida, Mississippi, etc. This is a switch to an *alphabetical* approach—at least for this first article.

When we meet in St. Francisville, LA, next October we will be little more than a stone's throw from Pointe Coupee Parish, LA. It is just across the Mississippi River (a pretty long throw) from St. Francisville. A ferry boat connects St. Francisville with Pointe Coupee Parish and its parish seat, New Roads, LA. That is the home of Oliver S. Robinson III, AAFA #145. But Oliver really has nothing to do with the Alford's of this area!

In my 1948 atlas the map of Louisiana shows a "town" called Alford's on the road running along the Mississippi River about 5-10 miles north and across the river from Baton Rouge.

In the 1850 census of Pointe Coupee Parish we found ABRAHAM ALFORD age 30 born in New York. He was a planter with \$1,000. With him were Leonie Alford age 20 born in Louisiana and William Alford age 2. Abraham died in November 1858 with his death notice being published in two papers.

Two Alford's were listed in the 1860 census of Pointe Coupee Parish. Both were children living with other families. One was 9 year old ABRAM ALFORD whom I believe was the son of the Abraham above who had died two years before. Apparently his mother had also died. The other was a JOHN ALFORD, either age 1 or 11—probably the latter.

The names of the heads of household were illegible, but it did not appear that the female of either family was Leonie who might have remarried after Abraham's death in 1858 and before the

1860 census.

The 1870 census of Pointe Coupee listed only one Alford family. Two young Alford men were living in Livonia: WILLIAM ALFORD 22 and ABRAM ALFORD 19. William Alford, was listed in 1850 and 1870, but not in 1860. Maybe he and the John Alford, who appears only in 1860, are the same person. The ages are close enough to fit.

In the soundex record of the 1880 census of Pointe Coupee Parish we found WILLIE ALFORD age 31 born in Louisiana with Delphine age 20 and WILMAS ALFORD a 2-year old son. Wilmas was probably a corruption of William.

One of my first cousins on my mother's side lives in Pointe Coupee Parish, where we have a NEWSOM reunion every year. She recently sent me a copy of a newspaper article entitled "Le Cercle Historique Old Banner Files" by Olinde Haag. The date and name of the paper were not provided. She sent the article because it contained a piece about one of my great uncles, Arthur LABAT, who died October 7, 1882. He was a son of the immigrant from France. Anyway, in this article was the following notice: "July 15, 1882 - Mrs. Delphine POWELL, wife of WM. A. ALFORD, died on Bayou Grosse Tete . . . June 10th, and was buried in the cemetery at New Road the following day. A large concourse of relatives and friends of the deceased and her sorrowing husband, assisted at the funeral services at St. Mary's Church, whence they followed the remains to the place of interment. . . ." The article has an introductory comment: "Note—In the months following the devastating [*sic*] flood of 1882 much sickness and many deaths occurred."

From this article and the 1880 census we can conclude that WILLIAM or WILLIE

ALFORD's wife Delphine POWELL ALFORD died at a very young age.

In the soundex record of the 1900 census of Pointe Coupee Parish we found WILLIAM L. ALFORD age 52. With him were WILMER ALFORD age 21 and WILLIE ALFORD 19. Willie was obviously born after the 1880 census and just before his mother's death in 1882.

Also in the soundex record of the 1900 census, in West Baton Rouge Parish (adjacent to Pointe Coupee), we found the family of ABRAM ALFORD 49. With him were LEONADA ALFORD 20, JAMES A. ALFORD 18, GERTRUDE ALFORD 15, and GROVER ALFORD 10.

We were fortunate to receive an unidentified local history, probably of Pointe Coupee Parish, which mentions some of this family. From it we have come to the following conclusions:

ABRAM A. ALFORD married Zoraide ROUGON, and they lived on the River Road at Walls, on Rosehill Plantation. They had four children: JAMES ALFORD, LEONIDA AGLIA ALFORD, GERTRUDE ALFORD and GROVER ALFORD. JAMES ALFORD married Katherine "Katie" WILSON, and they had four children: NORA ALFORD who married Dr. John D. HAMILTON, KATHERINE ALFORD who married Luke DORSETT, LILLIE ALFORD who married Alphonse GLYNN, and GERTRUDE ALFORD who married Dr. C. E. HEBERT, Jr. Katherine died when Gertrude was born. Gertrude was raised by a cousin on the Wilson side. LEONIDA AGLIA ALFORD married Dr. James Oliver St. Dizier who was Coroner for the parish of West Baton Rouge for many years and served until his death. GERTRUDE ALFORD daughter of Abram, married Joseph Charles BEAUD. GROVER ALFORD never married.

In the soundex record of the 1910 census of Pointe Coupee Parish we found two Alford households: W. L. ALFORD age 61, son W. C. ALFORD age 35, and the latter's wife Lacoidene age 23; DELPHINE ALFORD age 2 and IVY L. ALFORD children of W. C. and Lacoidene. Also living with the family was Augustine POWELL listed as mother-in-law. Another Alford family in the parish was that of WILMER ALFORD age 31 and his wife Rosa. Their children were COLEMAN ALFORD 11, LOUIS ALFORD 9, WALLACE ALFORD 7, WILMER ALFORD, JR., and FREDDIE ALFORD 1.

In the Social Security Decedent file we found that IVY ALFORD 439-09-0554 was born May 27, 1909 and died January 1985 in Port Allen, West Baton Rouge Parish. COLEMAN ALFORD 435-28-4036 was born December 12, 1898 and died April 1982.

He was living in Torbert, Pointe Coupee Parish. WALLACE ALFORD 433-28-0715 was born January 8, 1903 and died November 1969. He was living in Livonia, Pointe Coupee Parish. WILMER ALFORD, JR. 433-22-8570 was born March 27, 1907 and died September 5, 1988. He was also living in Livonia. FREDDIE ALFORD 437-05-5488 was born April 15, 1909 and died December 1978. He too was living in Livonia. ROSA ALFORD, wife of Wilmer, 434-02-2783 born January 17, 1882 died March 1973.

The Social Security Decedent file lists another Alford of Livonia whom I have not been able to identify. Perhaps she was the wife of one of the above. VIRGINIA ALFORD 439-30-1426 born June 13, 1901 and died March 8, 1988.

Also in the soundex record of the 1910 census for West Baton Rouge Parish we found JAMES A. ALFORD 27 and his wife Katie living in the home of Katie's father, Alex J. WILSON. Their children were NORAL ALFORD 2 and

KATHERINE ALFORD age less than a year.

Eulon Alford AAFA #213 recently sent a clipping of an obituary published in the Baton Rouge paper. ALFORD, ABRAM "BUM" Died Wednesday, April 28, 1992, at 4:40 a.m. at Baton Rouge General Medical Center. He was 72, a native and resident of Livonia (Pointe Coupee Parish). He was a retired Allied Chemical Co. employee. . . . Religious services at St. Frances Cabrini Catholic Church at 10 a. m. Thursday, conducted by the Rev. Bob Stein. Burial in church cemetery. Survived by wife, Theresa JARREAU ALFORD; a daughter, Mrs. Ray LANDRY Sr., Livonia, a sister DELPHINE ALFORD ALBERT, Plaquemine; three grandchildren and two granddaughters-in-law. . . . Preceded in death by parents, and a brother, IVY ALFORD, SR. Pallbearers will be Raymond Jarreau, Richard Bordelon, Ray Landry Sr., Chris Landry, IVY ALFORD JR. and J.D. ALFORD.

With a brother IVY ALFORD we can conclude that Abram was a son of W.C. ALFORD and Lacoidene born after the 1910 census which tracks with the age 72 at death in 1992.

Donald C. Deville AAFA #400 who lives in Baton Rouge is the grandson of GERTRUDE ALFORD and her husband Joseph Charles BEAUD.

We are depending on Karl Heink AAFA #458, the AAFA authority on the northern branch of the Alford family, to locate the parents of Abraham who was born in New York about 1820.

This family account is far from complete and we would appreciate all the help we can get to correct and extend it. In the meantime we will obtain the 1920 census and see what it adds.

After we receive your input, this article will be updated and submitted to the press in Pointe Coupee, West Baton Rouge, and East Baton Rouge parishes prior to our meeting in St. Francisville. ♦

In Search of Alfords Past in Pike Co., AR

By Mary Alford Helms, Member #407

Most folks go to Murfreesboro in Pike Co., AR, to dig for diamonds. Marian and I went there "sleuthing" for ancestors. Everyone we encountered was very helpful to us.

There is no doubt, it is easier to get into Fort Knox than the Pike Co. Archives. We had to first find one of "the" ones who keep "the" key to "the" door of "the" archives. We then went to the courthouse, up the stairs, through the courtroom, through "the" door, and up a steep spiral staircase to get to those two small rooms, "the" Pike Co. Archives. One MUST have the legs of a mountain goat, the tenacity of an ant, the stamina of a bull moose, and the determination of an Alford to get there!

We were directed to a local cemetery, hoping to find where our great-great-grandfather Madison Euing Alford was buried. Not! Marian later commented that our trek had been a "dead end." 'Nough said.

We left Murfreesboro and headed to Nashville, AR, to have lunch with our new-found cousin, Edwin Alford. He is the municipal judge of Howard County and one of Nashville's lawyers. Ed kept Marian and me laughing with stories about his Alford ancestors and his friends. The World of Comedy lost a good one when Ed decided to become a lawyer!

After lunch, it was to the local library and courthouse for more "sleuthing." Time to go home came too soon, but as the old saying goes, "All good things must come to an end."

I have learned that genealogy is more than rummaging around in dusty rooms, looking through dusty records, hoping to find more about past kin. It's also about finding present kin I would have never known otherwise. Edwin Alford of Nashville, AR, is one of them! ♦