

Blount Co., TN, and Murray Co., GA Alford's

By Gil Alford, Executive Director

We recently received a letter from Peggy Perry Oliver, 2604 Ramblewood Drive, Carrollton, TX 75006. The following was adapted from her letter:

Please add the following family to your collection of Alford's:

1880 census, Murray County, Georgia

John Alford	b. 1839 Tn
Nancy (wife)	b. 1840 Tn (Blount Co.)
Margaret	b. 1868 Ga (all b. Murray County)
James N.	b. 1872 Ga
John T.	b. 1875 Ga
Lucinda J.	b. 1877 Ga
John R.	b. 1878 Ga
Mary Alford	b. 1812

Note two boys named John.

Nancy Ann Rorex was the dau of Rossy Ann Harris and Joseph Rorex, both of whom were born in Blount Co., Tn.

I know nothing of John Alford—have run lots of queries with no “takers”. Nancy Ann was sister of my great grandmother. Will be delighted to share information available on that family. Thank you, and best regards. —Peggy Oliver

AAFA ANALYSIS

1. Apparently Peggy extracted the above data from the original census record microfilm or some published extract therefrom. The 1880 Georgia census data we have come from the published work of the late Mrs. Tressie Bowman as published in her *ALFORD FAMILY BULLETIN* #3, July 1971. The following information on two families was extracted from the cited source.

2. V. 17, MURRAY COUNTY, ED 155 SH 33 Line 11 District 1012, McDonalds

Mary	68	Tenn.	mother
John Alford	41	Tenn.	
Mary A.	40	Tenn.	wife
Maggy Ann	12	Ga.	dau.
James N.	8	Texas	son
			[suspect TN vs TX]
John R.	2	Ga.	son

3. V. 17, MURRAY COUNTY, ED 155 Sh 25 Line 48, District 1013, McDonalds

Charles N. Alford	38	Tenn.	
Mary E.	36	Ky	wife
Henry	10	Ga.	son
John T.	5	Ga.	son
Lucinda J.	3	Ga.	dau.
Mary	68	Tenn.	mother

4. Since we have not seen any of the original records, we don't have any first hand knowledge but it appears that Peggy's source may have mixed two families together. But what about the wife Nancy shown as John's wife in Peggy's family? One of the marriage lists we have shows 1860-71 Murray County marriages:

John Alford to Nancy A. Rorex
Charles N. Alford to Mary E. G_tewood.

Hopefully a reader has experience in this area and can straighten this out.

5. Our census project team has not extracted the 1870 Georgia census yet, but they have acquired a copy of the index. The index lists three Alford's in Murray County—all with Post Office of Spring Place: John Alford age 32 born TN in house 514; Charles A. Alford age 28 born TN in house 515; and Mary Alford age 59 born TN in house 515.

6. Although our census project team has not completed work on the 1860 Georgia census, the preliminary data shows no Alford's in Murray County. The 1860 Tennessee census also has not been verified by our team, but the extract done by the Sistlers shows only Robert Allford age 35 in Blount County.

7. The 1850 Tennessee census, like 1860, has not be verified by our census team, but the Sistler published version shows three Alford families in Blount County. Robert Alford age 24 born TN and Nancy Alford age 21—apparently his wife—are family 557 on page 80. Next door in house 556 was William Alford age 34 born TN and Susan Alford 35 also born TN. Their children were John Rambo age 9 and Eliza Alford age 2. On page 147 family 1066 is that of Mary Alford age 39 TN. Her children were Jane 13, John 10, Charles N., and living with the family was a Devins G. Wright age 31. It is possible that Devins Wright was Mary's brother.

8. There were no Alford's in Blount County in the 1840 census but there were some in surrounding counties.

9. Some of our marriage data shows these marriages in Blount County, TN.

William Alford to Susan Rambo November 3, 1846.
Martha Alford to Andrew McFaddin August 15, 1840
Nancy Alford to M.A. Lain September 27, 1853

10. The LDS-IGI shows the marriage of Martha Alford and also shows that she was born May 31, 1826 in Blount County.

11. From Beverly Nelson Rambo's *THE RAMBO FAMILY TREE*, 1986 we learn that Susan Rambo was the widow of Andrew Lawson Rambo whom she married October 8, 1838. Before she married she was Susan Wright and they had only one child before Andrew died, John Rambo born about 1841.

12. That puts a "Wright" in the two yet unconnected Alford families [see paragraphs 7 & 11]. Can anyone provide us information on any of the above mentioned families?

13. With the hope that we might be able to follow the line on to the present day and find descendants who could help with this branch, we checked our preliminary data from the 1900 and 1910 census. There were no Alford's in Murray County, GA according to the data we have. However, in adjoining Whitfield County we found Nancy A. Alford born January 1840 in Tennessee living alone. This appears to be the widow of John Alford mentioned in paragraph 4. Looking for other Alford's in Whitfield County in 1900 we find the family of Alexander W. Alford born November 1843 in TN along with his wife Sarah E. born September 1846 in TN. Their children, both born in GA, were Madie W. born July 1875, Gordon born July 1881, Floyd C. born May 1884, Ethel D. born August 1886 and Roman V. born May 1889.

14. With this 1900 clue of another family probably related to this branch, we doubled back to the 1880 census of Georgia and checked Whitfield County. There we found Alexander N. Alford 37 TN, Sarah E. 34 TN, John B. 11, GA, Mary V. 8 GA, Mattie E. 4 GA and Essie 1 GA.

15. According to the 1870 GA census index Alexander Alford was in Varnells Station, Whitfield County.

HYPOTHESIS

A yet unnamed Alford and his sister, Martha Alford and brother William resided in Blount County, Tennessee in the late 1830's and early 1840's. Martha, born May 31, 1826, married Andrew McFaddin August 15, 1840. William Alford, born about 1816, married Susan (Wright) Rambo

November 3, 1846. Our unnamed Alford was born about 1810 and married, probably about 1836, a Mary Wright who was born in Tennessee in 1812. Their children included:

- i. Jane born about 1837
- ii. John born about 1839 who married Nancy Rorex about 1867 and had children Margaret, James N. and John R.
- iii. Charles born about 1842 who married Mary Gatewood about 1869 and had children Henry, John T. and Lucinda
- iv. Alexander N. born about 1843 who married Sarah ____ about 1868 and had children John B., Mary V., Martha E. and Essie.

Do what you can to help us prove or defeat this hypothesis. ❖