

was sick and unable to take care of herself. She died later that year and as can be seen by taking a look at the 1880 Census, Joseph Harrison Alford became the head of the household. At that time, he, his wife, their two children lived in the house with his unmarried sister, Mary Etta (Molly) Alford. William Tripp and his family lived in the other house.

## 1880 Census of Lawrence County

### Household 113

Joseph Harrison Alford	43M
Tennie Austin Alford	27F
Lesley Alford	3F
Mary Virginia Alford	10 mo.
Mary Etta (Molly) Alford	33F

### Household 114

#### The Tripp family

During the 1840's and 1850's, Isaac Alford was one of the largest property owners in Lawrence County. In 1860, Mary Alford had a stated real estate value of \$6,000, quite a sum in those days. By 1870, the real estate owned by Mary Alford had slipped to \$2,000. This slippage was probably due more to the deflation caused by the Civil War and Reconstruction rather than because she had sold some of the land. It is a reasonable assumption that at her death in 1876 she had a sizable estate for the 1870's.

Evidently Joseph Harrison and Mary Etta (Molly) inherited most of the estate. We know that none of the other children of Isaac and Mary Alford could show any wealth at all after the 1870's.

In 1899, the oldest son, James Madden Alford, applied for a Civil War pension. He made a statement on his application that he had no real estate and was dependent on his children for support. During the thirty year period

from 1870 to 1900, James Madden Alford was a highly respected citizen of Lawrence County. He had been elected to two county offices, Circuit Court Clerk and County Court Clerk. He had operated a grocery store in Wayland Springs during the 1870's. He should have been in good financial shape until his later years.

Robert Newton Alford did not own any property during this thirty year period. He lived on the farm of his cousin, Luc Williams Hannah, most of the time. When he applied for a Civil War pension in 1911 he made oath that he had no real estate and was solely dependent upon his children for support. The other children either died, married or left the county during the last quarter of the 19th Century....

The Joseph Harrison Alford family was well off financially. All the children had good jobs and were thrifty. Oddly enough none of the children married and with the death of each one of them the wealth continued to grow....

Mary Etta "Molly" Alford never married. She lived with the Alford family in Columbia until her death in 1936. Her obituary is reprinted below:

### *Miss Molly Alford*

*Roy Alford, Mrs. Mattie Chaffin, her daughter, Mrs. Myra Giles, Mrs. Maggie Lewis and Miss Ada McLean attended the funeral of Miss Molly Alford at Columbia last Saturday. Miss Alford was 90 years of age at her last birthday, which occurred in December.*

*A number of people of this county knew the deceased lady, who was the daughter of Isaac Alford and who once lived on the Alford farm, which is now owned by the Lawrenceburg sanitarium. She was the last of a family of eleven children and an aunt of B.J. Alford and Mrs. Chaffin, Jim Alford, Mrs. Lee Davidson and of Mrs. Lewis. ❖*

## *Romantic Meeting*

By Doris Alford Vetri #303 & Thelma Frieda Alford Harman #397

Our mother, Frieda Holzmuller, was a young beautiful redhead. She described herself as a flapper who could do a good Charleston. She caused a stir and much attention when she went downtown shopping in Philadelphia, PA—never more so than the time when the beads she was wearing broke. Young sailors came running to help her retrieve her beads. Among those sailors was young James Luther Alford from Texas who had enlisted in the U.S. Navy on January 3, 1920. His brothers described him as being wild young man. Perhaps that got him the ticket for speeding on his horse in Winnsboro, TX. I believe escaping the farm life of Pickton, TX, was his main reason for joining the service—first the Army in 1917 and three years later the Navy. Little did he know that he would never live on the farm again.

Was it the Alford charm or the Texan drawl that attracted Frieda to him? Maybe both—four months later he married that pretty redhead, on May 17, 1920. They had four children together. Discharged from the Navy on August 31, 1921, he became a Philadelphia fireman, from which 20 years later he would retire. He would also purchase a farm house on 10 acres. He went back to Texas to visit his parents but the East was his home after the chance meeting with that pretty redhead. ❖

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