

Inquiries

[Ed. Over a period of time, we have received a number of inquiries about Alford's that do not seem to have easy answers. We need your help and would appreciate any clues or information you might have to help answer these questions.]

Anna Mae Alford

Anna Mae Alford was born between 1871 and 1875, most likely in Kentucky. When she was about seven years old her parents and siblings were killed in a buggy and train accident, leaving her an orphan. When she was thirteen years old she ran away from the orphanage, where she had been placed by an uncle, and married Isaac Westly Larmore on the 18th of December 1888. She and Isaac had sixteen children in Henry County, Indiana. On the 18th of June 1963 Anna died in Anderson, Madison County, Indiana.

From the date of her marriage until her death all events are clearly documented. Before her marriage all events need to be proven.

I am about to start research in Kentucky and will share all Alford information I uncover. Have you any information about Anna? I'll appreciate any help you can give me.

Sincerely,

Richard H. Gardner
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WILLIAM HENRY WHADFORD

June 2, 2005

Greetings:

RE: William Henry Whadford, 1860's-1939

My name is Nancy L. Compton and I live in Boise, Idaho and I am researching my maternal genealogy of my great grandfather, William Henry Whadford and I'm hoping you may be able to offer possible guidance to my endless search. I was advised to write you from two Halford-Alford researchers from the Buncombe County, North Carolina website.

My aunt recounts a story in the late 1960's when she and my uncle drove from their Colorado home to Walter Reed Medical Center to visit a very ill relative, then down to Miami and back to Colorado. Along their journey, she spotted from the roadway a statue-possible headstone with the name of **WHADFORD** on it and an old country store with the same name spelled exactly the same way. They were unable to stop and investigate and of course she now wished she had, especially since she doesn't recall the location or travel route they took. I've often wondered if what she saw was actually spelled **WHITFORD** or something similar, like **HALFORD** or **ALFORD**; having focused on something and in her mind she saw Whadford. I believe anything is possible. Since our Whadford surname spelling is unique and through all my years of research, I have never been able to find a listing of another person living or deceased with that exact same spelling that was not known to me. I've researched variations of Wadford, Watford, Wolford, Walford, Woodford, Whitford, etc. without success. I have seen the Halford-Alford names in North Carolina, Alabama and Texas during my research also. I hope the mysterious statue and country store can be identified and I can at last concentrate my research with possible concrete clues that will lead me down a definite road to answers. Here is what we know:

Great-grandfather William Henry Whadford was supposedly born September 15, 1862(?) in Alabama(?) approximately during the Civil War years (different years on different censuses) and the tale told is that his family may have originally come from the Carolinas and/or Georgia to perhaps Newton, Dale County, Alabama, where he may have been born. He was orphaned at a young age when his family may have died in a "plague" possibly on a river(house)boat and the story has it he was discovered alone after a couple of days. At some point, he was sent to live with an "uncle" in Florida, but ran away with "cousins" when he was a young boy and they ended in Texas with another possible "uncle." The family is able to trace him from his first marriage to Mary E. Havens on October 25, 1885 in Rains County, Texas where he had worked building Sulpher Springs Road. They had a son, William Henry Whadford Jr. born Oct. 15, 1886 in Sulpher Springs, Hopkins County, Texas and Mary soon died afterwards. My g-grandfather then married Sminthie Ellen Matlock (b. Sept. 4, 1874, Marlin, Falls County, Texas) on Jan. 14, 1889 at Cureo, Dewitt County, Texas. They had six children:

Leona Josephine (f) b. Mar. 20, 1890 at Cuero, Dewitt County, Texas

Bonnie Monroe (m) b. Jan. 15, 1892 at Edna, Jackson County, Texas

Jessie Winnie (f) b. Sept. 26, 1893 at Edna, Jackson County, Texas

Maude Belle (f) b. Jun. 26, 1895 at Edna, Jackson County, Texas

Lillie Mae (f) b. Mar. 5, 1898 at Edna, Jackson County, Texas

Charles Henry Claude (m) b. Jan. 9, 1902 at Paonia, Delta County, Colorado (my grandfather)

The found censuses of William Henry are:

The 1900 census of Montgomery County, Texas lists:

William Henry Whadford, w, m, born-Sept, year-1865 age last birthday is 30 or 39 and he is a logger (possibly in the San Jacinto Range) and his unknown parents were born in Alabama. The census date is June 4th, 1900.

The 1910 Delta County, Colorado census lists:

William H. Whadford, m, w, age 47 (birthyear? 1863?) and as a survivor (dependent?) of the Civil War and that his father was born in Alabama and his mother was born in Florida. The census date is April 18th, 1910.

The 1920 Delta County, Colorado census lists:

William H. Whadford, m, w, age 56 (birthyear? 1864) and both his parents were born in North Carolina. The census date is Jan. 24th, 1920.

The 1930 Delta County, Colorado census lists:

William H. Wadford, m, w, age 66 (birthyear? 1864) and his father was born in South Carolina and his mother was born in Alabama. The census date is April 10th, 1930.

William Henry died September 23, 1939 and is buried at Cedar Hill Cemetery, Delta County, Colorado.

Recently, I finally found an Alabama census listing a Willie Wadford approximately the same age as my grandfather may/would have been. I included this information as the Hubbard last name may be some type of clue or tie you may recognize to the WHADFORD (HALFORD-ALFORD) name/statue/country store. It is the 1870 census of Shelby County, Hillsboro, P.O., Alabama, page 423. I cannot clearly make out Ms. Wadford's first name.

The listing is:

Hubbard, James D. age 24, M, W, Farmer b. Alabama.
Mollie, age 20, F, W, Keeping house, b. Alabama.
Walter R. or B., age 1, M, W, At Home, b. Alabama.
Wadford, ? (Annie, (N)Annie, Ammie short for Amelia?), age 25, F, W, At Home, b. Alabama.
Wadford, Willie, age 4, M, W, At Home, b. Alabama.

My thoughts are perhaps Ms. Wadford may have been a sister (some type of relative) to James D. or Mollie Hubbard, but she could have been only a boarder. I cannot locate any information on the Hubbards as well.

It's my hope someone may remember or recognize the statue/country store. If you would be so kind as offer search ideas or put me in contact with someone who may be able to offer me other suggestions on the possible surname variations, including Halford-Alford, I'd be very grateful! Please contact me at my numbers listed below; any assistance will be most assuredly appreciated!

Thank you very much! I look forward to hearing from you soon!

Very truly yours,

Nancy L. Compton
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FRANCES ALFORD

Dear Jim and Sue,

Gil Alford - who has been valiantly trying to help me with my brick wall to no avail - suggested I write this inquiry and submit it to you for inclusion in the AAFA Quarterly. I've done my best to make it thorough and interesting. Let me know if there's anything more I need to do. And thanks. (India Penney. Indiavan@aol.com)

FRANCES ALFORD

I am searching for the ancestry of Frances ALFORD, my husband's great-grandmother. She was probably born between 1850 and 1852 in Alabama. (The 1880 census lists her as 29 - which would be a birth year of 1850 or 1851 ... the 1900 census says she is 48 and born in June 1852.)

Her parents were either both born in Alabama (per 1880 census) or her father was born in Georgia and her mother in South Carolina (per 1900 census.) The fact that she, herself, was born in Alabama is verified by both the 1880 and 1900 census, as well as by the death certificate of her eldest child. The only evidence to the contrary is the 1920 census for her second child, which states Frances ALFORD was born in Georgia.

Frances married Baylor PALMER on 30 December 1866 in Lauderdale, Mississippi (per LDS). She would have been between 14 and 16 years old. Actually, the LDS lists her name as F. S. ALFORD. The use of periods and underline is somewhat confusing. It would suggest either that the letters between the F and S of Frances were illegible, or that her first and middle initials are F and S, or ...?? The possibilities are boggling.

Frances and Baylor's first child, Bertha, was born 25 August 1868 either in Virginia (according to Bertha's death certificate) or in Alabama (according to the 1880 census.) Her being born in Virginia is not out of the realm of possibility, as Baylor PALMER was born in that state. She was given the middle name HAFFNER - which I mention only because it sounds like a family name and might provide a clue.

Frances' next two children, Etta and Gertrude, were born in Mississippi — and a family document suggests that it may have been Natchez. I haven't yet found Frances and Baylor in the 1870 census (my index source is incomplete) but by 1876, Frances and Baylor were in Texas, where they had their last three children: Imogene, Tom and Kate. They lived in both Travis County (1880 census) and Houston, Harris County (1900 census.)

If it's of any help, Bertha's married name was GINGER. Etta was first married to James ALBRIGHT whom she divorced after roughly 25 years and at least 9 children, and then married a man named SHULTIS. Imogene, whose full name was Marian Imogene but who called herself Mary, married Clifford PENNEY. All three ended up in California. Mary Palmer Penney's 1949 obituary leads me to believe that Gertrude never married and was living in Amarillo Texas, and that Tom and Kate were by then deceased.

I have only been working on this for a year (and I am a neophyte) but I can't find Frances ALFORD's parents, or anything else that "proves" her existence prior to her marriage.

Can anyone help?

I can be e-mailed at

INDIAVAN @ AOL.COM -

or written to at

540 South Reese Place
Burbank, CA 91506.

Thanks in advance for any effort, Best regards, India Penney

ARKANSAS ALFORDS

[Ed. Gil Alford has asked that we include the following query to see if any of our members might be able to help out. He has a great deal of information about Alfords and many have no connection. This falls into that category.]

Zellie Alford appeared in the 1930 census of Arkansas in Chicot County. The census shows he was age 50 and born in AR as were both his parents. His wife, Edna was 40 and also born in AR. All of the children were AR born

boys and were: W.J. 16, A.J. 14, Marcus 10, and Warren 8.

In the 1920 AR census the family was in Independence Co., AR and consisted of Zella 51 TN, Edna 35 AR, Mabel 12, William J. 9, Alfred J. 4 and Thomas J. 2+, all born in AR.

In the 1910 AR census the family was also in Independence Co., AR and consisted of Zell 41 TN, Edna 24 AR and Mabel whose age was not recorded.

In the 1900 census of Independence Co. AR we find the family of Joyet Alford 69, June 1830, NC with wife Bunie 54, Dec. 1845 TN and son Zelle 31, Feb. 1869, TN. In another household, near by in this census was a Jack Alford servant 32 (Nov. 1867) TN.

In 1880 Independence Co., AR, there were two Alford families that appear to be brothers. The first is one we believe was described for 1900 above. Jasper 48 NC with parents both born NC, Beunivista 30 TN with parents both born TN and children: Thomas J. 14 TN, William J. 12 TN, Mary E. 7 AR and George W. 2 months AR. The neighboring family was: Wiley 42 NC with both parents born NC, Mary 29 AR, and children: Tular (f) 8 AR, Viola 7 AR, Cora 5 AR, Arch P. Green 1 AR. There were also two laborers in the family who do not appear to be related.

In 1870 Shelby Co., TN there was a family that is a fairly close fit: W.J. 33 NC, B? 4 TN (f) [age probably wrong], John 4 TN and Mizell 2 TN. They were the only Alford family in Shelby Co.

In 1860 Shelby Co., TN there was a family consisting only of William J. 24 and Mary 17.

July 26 1859 William Jasper Alford married Mary E. Lewis in Shelby Co., TN.

From the above we conclude that there was a family as follows:

William Jasper Alford born in North Carolina about 1835 [he was consistent in the NC birthplace but birth year based on the age in four censuses ranged from 1831, 1832, 1836 and 1837]. He married Mary Beunivista Alford, born in Tennessee about 1844, July 26, 1859 in Shelby Co. TN. The family was enumerated in Shelby Co., TN in 1860 and 1870 and in Independence Co. AR in three subsequent censuses. Children were:

Thomas John "Jack" b. 1866 TN

William J. "Zellie" b. 1868 TN who married Edna and had Mabel, William J., Alfred J., Thomas J., Marcus and Warren.

Mary b. 1873 AR

George W. b. 1880 AR

If Wiley Alford who was neighbor in 1880 was a brother and with a son's name that included "Arch" and "Green" one would suspect they connect to one of the NC family where Arch or Archibald and Green were prominent names.

[Ed. This is a query from a lady who lives in Texas and is looking for some Mississippi Alfords. She found out about 2 years ago that the man who had raised her for a short time was her adopted father. Her biological father was an Ellis.]

She is looking for the following people:

Alford Verner Ellis who married Cora Alford.

Cora's parents are Edward David Alford who married Martha Ellis

They settled in Leake Co., MS, and are buried in Shockalo Cemetery

If anyone has any information, she would appreciate passing it on to her. Her address is:

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Let This Be a Lesson

Submitted by Peggy Alford Schuster, AAFA # 0666, Member AAFA Hall of Fame

In the Spring issue of *AAFA ACTION* No. 68, we had a collision of data for two Julius Caesars: son of Spire Washington (pg. 25 Dave Price's Schedule 5), and son of John 1801 NC (pg/ 69 and 70 my time line). That raised doubts about both propositions. Were there really two Julius Caesars who married Marys who both named their first three sons John L., George and William? The Spire J.C. named his William Brittain. The John J.C. named his William Douglas, but no proof?

Mr. Price is no longer alive to defend his conclusion. No sources were cited, but he did leave the clue of another possible Julius-Mary marriage. Mine is the weaker position. I made the mistake of accepting, without verifying previous information and adding to it without enough backup. Please accept my apology. I am embarrassed but not so upset. As my two year old grandson has learned to say, "We're NOT going to do THAT again!"

We have multiple Johns, Georges, Williams and Julius

migrating across Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana. The most difficult chore is separating the identities of these men (and now these Marys) with the same names in the same places about the same time. It is a slow process but it can be done. We have to dig a lot deeper, find more pertinent records, evaluate, analyze and go where the evidence leads us. We can't choose which person is connected to our family. "The name's the same so it must be....." is not just cause. *AAFA ACTION* prints this disclaimer on every page ii: "Some data has not been proven. Use it as an index or reference only. It is not source material." I apologize for forgetting this good advice in my rush to get over the brick wall.

CORRECTION (same article) pg. 72, lines 8, 9 and 11: The "first" and "second" wives were a gremlin's mixup with the citation of 1870 census enumerating Marmaduke and family twice. Insofar as we know, Marmaduke had only one marriage. The Isabelle/Annie Bell is probably a census error. But again I have not seen their research.