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The following is a letter - theory - received from Orville Alford, AAFA #390. It is the type of thinking that ought to be shared with other members and it is something we sincerely wish to have you respond to. The theory touches the ancestors or branches of many AAFA members. If you have other theories about these persons or situations or if you have information to prove or refute anything written here we need to hear from you. Orville's letter is in open regular type and our [Gil Alford's] comments are in [] in parentheses.

8/17/92

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Dear Gil,

Forgive me if I become long-winded.

I have- together with Ferman Blalock, AAFA #381, of Yucaipa- formulated a theory which needs the "factual" basis verified.

I have apprised Connette and Ferman re this theory.

I know there are many "holes" in the establishment of the James 1687 complete family and alas in the families of the sons of James, i.e., Lodwick, Julius etc.

[I'd agree there could have been, almost should have been, a son of James named John but we have never found him.]

The basis of my theory (suspicions) depends upon some answers to:

1. Was Lucy, wife of Julius, accounted for after the appearance in a deed with a John Alford March 1790? I don't think so. That same (?) John appeared in same county (Franklin NC) in deed 1791.

[I have nothing later than 1790 on Lucy. Maybe Jim Alford/Houston has. I think his file of early NC Alford's may be more complete than what I have.]

I presume "that" John to be John, the son of Julius-Lucy, who later migrated to Georgia (b ca 1750).

2. Is it "still" a fact that the grandson of Julius - Lucy and son of John, i.e. John Jr., has been documented as existing, but no record available on him or his family? Anywhere?

[It is my theory that it was this John (Jr.) who married Nancy Wright September 1, 1801 in Franklin Co. and died before 1850. We have no proof though we have marriage record, widow Nancy in 1850 family of a son, and will or estate records that mention John.]

My theory is predicated upon the answers to those two questions.

As an aside-

My ultimate ancestor John 1807ca NC has no bearing on this theory, at the moment.

Neither does the Alford-Halford "maze" of Rutherford Co NC from whom my John 1807ca came or was intermingled with . . . and Connette Halford's, too.

I have separate work in progress on both the above areas.

To return to my thoughts.

[We have numerous John "Alfords" in NC 1790-1840. Missing census data from key counties in 1790, 1810 & 1820 preclude a complete listing- even of heads of families. I'd always related the Rutherford Co. Alfords to Georgia migration rather than to Tennessee. Until Orville brought it to my attention I'd never realized that Rutherford was so completely in the migration path from Franklin Co. NC to Lawrence Co. TN.]

We know that the Franklin Co. NC Alfords gradually migrated S and W. We have no Franklin countians proven in the mountains of extreme western Virginia or Western NC (Rutherford Co.) I did say, "proven".

Would it arouse your curiosity if I could "prove"(?) a link between Franklin County Julius and Rutherford County NC? *[Yes!]*

Go with me to SW TN 1820 census. Four Halfords (ignore the spelling, for the present) were first enumerated there, all young married men. They were Ames, Andy, Bradly and Joseph Halford. All four were recorded in marriage records of Rutherford County NC (either groom or bondsman) in 1812 and 1816. The migration is therefore established. These were adjacent counties on the Alabama border (Wayne and Lawrence TN). HALFORDS.

[We also have some unconnected Alfords in early northern Alabama for which we are seeking ancestry.]

ANOTHER more important "ALFORD" was in the Lawrence Co TN census - BAILEY ALFORD - later censuses establishing birth ca 1781(?). The same later census established first born son named Isaac W. b CA 1806 NC (son of Bailey).

[According to descendants Bailey was born July 15, 1781 almost surely in Franklin County, NC. His son, Isaac W. was born November 4, 1805 in NC. According to the birth place of his children, Bailey moved from North Carolina to Tennessee between 1812 and 1815. The county of those born in North Carolina is not specified. Bailey married in July 1800 and would certainly not have been enumerated as a household head in 1790 and I'd think likely missed it in 1800.]

Gil, the spelling of his surname and other circumstances are the justification of this circuitous theory. Bailey was never documented in Rutherford Co. I must add, but he was a young man in 1790-1800 - and many were missed in Rutherford Co (mountains) in that era.

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Let's stay with Bailey Alford.

We know that Julius (son of James) and spouse Lucy had a son Isaac - who married his first cousin Mary Alford, daughter of Lodwick. They had a son (Isaac and Mary did) named Bailey b ca 1781.

Is it "too" circumstantial that such a unique given name would wind up in the same TN county (SW TN) as the Halfords of Rutherford Co - who are Alfords (but that's another story)?

[He could wind up in any county between Franklin County, NC and Lawrence Co, TN. He surely did not fly to Tennessee so he had to traverse all those counties at some time.]

From census records, it would also "appear" that he could easily have migrated with the a4sd 4 Halfords.

And his son, the namesake Isaac, b 1806, would further be "too" circumstantial.
[I don't get the point, but if it adds to the study, Bailey also has a brother Isaac, Jr. who I'm certain migrated first to Tennessee (don't know where) and then on to Texas where he died.]

Therefore, the theoretical link between Franklin NC, Rutherford NC and Lawrence TN.

[I'd agree that it is theoretical or possible but so far see nothing to suggest it was probable.]

Now to Lucy "Hallford" in 1800 Rutherford Co NC. All heads were spelled Hallford on that occasion. Ignore the erratic surname spelling, for it's prevalent for three census periods.

We know that Lucy (wife of Julius) was the grandmother of Bailey (son of Isaac).

In 1800 Rutherford Co NC, Lucy Hallford, (apparent widow), > 45 y.o. with a goodly-sized household.

[I have nothing on a Lucy in 1800 or 1810. We are still missing much of the North Carolina Halford data (didn't realize it was pertinent as much of our NC research was done.) Where would she have gotten this "goodly household?" In 1790 she had only two sons and three daughters and surely most of them were gone by 1800.]

She also appeared in 1810 census, large household, and at her age, some of the younger children obviously not her children.

She didn't appear in 1820, anywhere.

I wish we could establish her exact age, but all we have is (1800) > 45. It looks as though she might have died > 1810.

[Repeating- I have no 1800 or 1810 Lucy. I'd always assumed she was deceased by 1800 and I'd estimate her age then to have been about 75.]

None of the TN migrants were (1820) enumerated with an elderly person to accommodate "this" Lucy, for what it's worth.

Let's revert to Julius (b ca 1717) and spouse Lucy.

Question: How could Lucy be "still" alive in 1810?

Answer: Lucy's (spouse of Julius) first born in ca 1750 (John, who went to Georgia). This would suggest she was much younger than Julius to begin with. Perhaps born after 1730, or perhaps 2nd wife of Julius. That's another story.

[It is my theory that John, son of Julius & Lucy, was born about 1747. Another earlier spouse for Julius is possible. He was born in 1717 and would have been 30 by the time the first "known" child was born in 1747. I think earliest, almost only, documentation of Lucy as his wife was in his will dated 1771.]

Nevertheless, with a birth > 1730, she'd be slightly < 80 y.o. in 1810, last record of her. That's feasible.

Question. Why does Lucy not fit into the Rutherford NC Alford-Halfords?

Old John Alfred (Alphard)-Allford Halford is the only known candidate that could be her husband, and much has been researched by us on this, yet old John "Alford" was enumerated separately with his spouse and family at the same census of 1800 when Lucy first appeared (as separate enumeration).

[Repeating - our NC Halford/Hallford, etc. records are not complete enough for me to make a meaningful comment.]

Old John, by then widower dec ca 1804 intestate and certain sons sold his property. I have the deed.

Lucy does not fit at all into any known past or then-present families of Rutherford County NC.

And Bailey, her grandson (?) migrates to TN with (?) the Rutherford County Hallfords within 10 years of her last being recorded there.

Gil, here it gets hairy/ *[I think it is already hairy!]*

Stretch your imagination on this one. In 1790 a John Allford Sr and a John Allford Jr were in the Rutherford NC census with only one abode of separation. Common sense says father-son, but many factors are against that "ready" conclusion.

[Sr. and Jr. in same area and period is not always indicative of a father son relationship. It may have been used as a convenience to distinguish between two folks with the same name. This is not one of my ideas but is the position of highly respected professional genealogists.]

The record prob shows "this" John Alford (Jr.) marrying a Sally Dolton (Dalton) in Rutherford County on Oct 27, 1789, just before the first census, and the Jr of 1790 census showed him and spouse with no children- makes sense.

But John Jr didn't show up in 1800 census of that county or thereafter. Gone or missed.

[The census data is extant for all North Carolina counties in 1800. (That is not to say that everyone was included.) John Jr. may have gone to Georgia where the census data is missing so cannot be proven or refuted.]

If he was migrated - that early - that's one thing. However, should he have still been there, why did he not execute the deed 1804 for his father (?) (he didn't); yet three sons of old John did, (Surrel, Jesse, Killis).

[Maybe he was not the executor because he was in Georgia.]

Could this indicate he was indeed not a son of John Sr, perhaps a relative though - living close to him.

[Maybe he was not even a relative. We have found instances of where Alford's lived very near to one another but were not kin.]

The great migrations were not yet in full-swing before 1800.

[They were swinging enough to confuse us.]

Remember, John Alford Jr, (son of John b ca1750) was never accounted for after Franklin Co. This John Alford Jr (as was Bailey) would have been - was a grandson of Julius - Lucy of Franklin. John, son of Julius, was in Cumberland Co NC before going south.

[He was by my theory. Jacob, son of Julius, was also in Cumberland Co before going south.]

Should this John Jr. be the son of John, & grandson of Julius, he would have been just old enough to be getting married in 1789. Likewise, John b 1750 is only est., so he could have been different age also.

[Yes, I think 1747 is a better date.]

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Summary:

We have an elderly Lucy who doesn't fit the Rutherford families.
[We have very many North Carolina Alford's of the period 1790-1850 that don't fit.]

We have a John Jr who seems not to fit, but seems related.

We have a Bailey (son of Isaac - grandson of Lucy) who appears to migrate to TN with the Halfords.

We have no other Franklin Countians in that area - with our name.
[I think Isaac, Jr. was there.]

Is there a link? Franklin - Rutherford - Lawrence TN.

Connette has this theory. No need to send copy.

Further, if Lucy and/or Bailey and/or John Jr connect - then there's a familiar relationship between old John Sr of Rutherford Co NC and the sons of James of Franklin and before. Most families had a John, and one has never been established for a son of James b. 1687. Julius son "John" supposedly went to Georgia (father of "lost" John Jr).
[I know of nothing to prove or disprove any Rutherford County connections. Since there was a Jn/John/Jonathan and a Jr. there in 1790 I'd concluded that most subsequent Alford's came from them rather than from Franklin County. There was a John Alford in Rutherford as early as 1782.]

They would not have been that close in Rutherford without familiar kinship.

If Lucy/Bailey and/or John Jr. connect, then old John connects - probably back in Virginia, for he was in Rutherford in 1782, first record.

Gil, just in case this is theoretically impossible or totally off-the-wall, I've made my appointment "for the couch."

I don't blame him or discredit him either, but Connette Blalock's husband Ferman, has been log-jammed on Lucy for some time in trying to make an association with Lucy - Franklin - Rutherford.

Your neutral opinion greatly appreciated.

Always, Orville AAFA 390

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PS

The theoretical suggestion is that (son of John) John Jr., gr son of Julius, migrated ca 1789 and Lucy (widow) and Bailey (gr son) migrated between 1790-1800 to the area of Alford kin - old John of Rutherford NC.

Sorry about the length.