

Orville Alford
#390
P O Box 45
Pineville, Ky
40927

8/17/52
Pineville Ky

Dear Gil,

Forgive me if I become long-winded.

I have - together with Herman Blalock of Yucaipa - formulated a theory which needs the "factual" basis verified.

I have apprised Connell and German re this theory.

I know there are many "holes" in the establishment of the James 1787 complete family and also in the families of the sons of James, i.e., Lodwick, Julius etc.

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 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 is available on him or his family? anywhere?

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

aside

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

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

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

To return to my thoughts.

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?

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, Bradley and Joseph Halford. All four were recorded in

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marriage records of Rutherford County NC (either groom or bondsman) in 1812 and 1816. The migration is therefore established. These were to adjacent counties on the Alabama border (Wayne and Lawrence Co).

HALFORDS.

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

Well, 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.

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.

-upt. → * They had a son (Isaac and Mary died) 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)?

From census records, it would also "appear" that he could easily have migrated with the 4th & 5th Halfords.

And his son, the namesake Isaac,^{b. 1800} would further be "too" circumstantial.

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

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.

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.

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

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

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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 is 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.

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-Halfordes?

Old John Alfred (Alford)-Alford 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).

Old John, by then a widower dec.^{CA} 1804. intestate and certain sons sold his property. I have the deed.

Lucy was still there 1810 census, as mentioned.

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 Halfords within 10 years of her last being recorded there.

Gil, here it gets hairy.

Stretch your imagination on this one. In 1790, A John Alford Sr and a John Alford 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.

The record plot shows "this" John Alford (Jr) marrying a Sally Dalton (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.

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

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, KILLES).

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

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

* { Remember, John Axford Jr, (son of John b CA 1750) was never accounted for after Franklin Co. This John Axford Jr (as was Bailey) would have been - was - a grandson of Julius-Lucy of Franklin.

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.

Summary:

John, son of Julius, was in Cumberland Co NC ^{before} going south.

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Summary

We have an elderly Lucy who doesn't fit the Rutherford families.

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.

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

Connelle has this theory. No need to send copy.

Further, if Lucy and/or Bailey and/or John Jr connect - Then there's a familial relationship between Old John Jr 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).

They would not have been that close in Rutherford without familial 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.

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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 either, but Connette Blalock's husband, Fernan, 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

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

Sorry about the length.

D