

## Early Mississippi Alford's

In this and the next two issues we will continue with special articles on the Alford's of Mississippi. Our purpose is twofold:

- to acquaint you with what we know, or think we know, about Alford's of Mississippi
- to give you an opportunity to correct, qualify or expand on the information we have.

In the last issue it was explained that these articles will be based on the combined effort of Ruby Alford Heard, AAFA Mississippi State Representative, and Gil Alford, AAFA Executive Director. The two have been working together on Mississippi Alford's for years, and they hope to culminate their work during this year. Unless sources show otherwise, most of the material was researched by Ruby Heard and compiled and edited by Gil Alford.

### Phoebe (Phebe) Alford and Alford's of Yazoo County, MS

In the last issue Gil mistakenly said that he and Ruby were at a loss as to who Phebe Alford was. Ruby reminded him that data was available on this family. Phoebe was the widow of Thomas Alford, Jr. who apparently died before 1820, probably in Claiborne County, Mississippi. They were married 13 October 1793 in Botetourt County, Virginia. She was the daughter of Robert Cummings. Thomas was the son of Thomas and Elizabeth (Field) Alford of Wythe County, VA. Thomas Alford Sr. was the son of John Alford who died 1748 in Frederick County, Virginia. The following document provides some interesting insights into this family.

"To all whom these presents comes we the undersigned whose names are here unto written, and seals affixed; Broth-

ers and Brothers in law, Sisters and Sisters in law, of the late Robert Alford, now deceased, and late resident of the county of Yazoo State of Mississippi, send greeting: Whereas the said Robert died intestate, seized in fee simple, of certain pieces and parcels of real estate, in the state and county aforesaid, a portion of which lies contiguous to the Town of Manchester and upon which he the said Robert, during his lifetime resided; and Whereas also the said Robert, during his lifetime on divers and sundry occasions when in health expressed the like will and desire in his last dying moments of this life to be: That his and our dearly beloved and very aged mother, Phebe Alford, might, and should (in case survived by him) enjoy, possess, use and occupy, for and during her widowhood and natural live; all that particular piece or portion of his worldly estate, in pleased God to entrust him with, and upon which he dwelt during life. Now to that end, and the more fully to effectuate the last will and desire of our dearly beloved and deceased brother's intention in this behalf; and a full purpose of mind on our behalf, to determine and forever conclude that our desire individually and collectively in reation [*sic*] thereto; added to a further devise on our parts to avoid all, and any subsequent doubts, differences, disputes, questions, or controversies of whatsoever kind, or nature which might per possibility hereafter arise or happen between, any or either of us the said parties hereto, of and concerning this our mutual agreement and compact solemnly entered into, each with the other severally and jointly, by these presents: Know ye then; this Indenture witnesseth that for and in consideration of the natural love and affection which we individually and collectively, bear for our beloved and aged parent, Phebe Alford and of the further sum of one dollar to be paid annually so long as

she as the said Phebe shall live. We Samuel Lumm and Betsey his wife, Henry Hull and Temperance his wife, Solomon G. Denton and Frances his wife; Jesse Alford, Henry Alford, William Alford, Warren Alford and Jackson Alford, tenants in common of our deceased brothers estate; Have demised, leased, set, and to form letters; and by these presents do, and each of us doth demise, let, set, and to form let unto the said Phebe Alford, for and during her natural life and widowhood, or so long as she shall continue to reside thereto, all of the following described pieces, or parcels of land, to wit: the N W qr and NW 1/2 N E quarter section No 15 T. 11 Range 2 west, containing two hundred and forty acres more or less: To have and to hold the premises hereby demised, or vacant as intended to be with the appurtenances to the only proper use and behoof of the said Phebe Alford as aforesaid. And the said Samuel Lumm and Betsey his wife, Henry Hall and Temperance his wife, Solomon G Denton and Frances his wife, Jesse Alford, Henry Alford, William Alford, Warren Alford and Jackson Alford, for themselves, their heirs, executors and administrators and assigns doth covenant and agree to and with the said Phebe Alford, in manner following (that is to say) That the said Phebe paying the taxes, ordinary and extraordinary, and other necessary, or contingent expenses incidently [*sic*] incurred in the conducting, well ordering improving and managing in a good husband like manner for the best and most profit and advantage said lands and tenements—together with the annual rent hereby reserved and performing the covenants and agreements herein mentioned and contained which on her part ought to be paid, done and refit, she shall and may peaceably and quietly [*sic*] have hold and use, occupy, possess and enjoy the said lands and tenements with the

appurtenances hereby demised for and during her natural life and widowhood or so long as she shall continue to reside and dwell therein, together with the rents, issues and profits thereof without the pursuit, trouble, molestation or interruption of them, the said parties hereto, their heirs, executors and administrators or any other person or persons lawfully claiming or to claim by, from or under them, or any of them.

"In Testimony whereof the said Samuel Lumm and Betsey Lumm his wife, Henry Hall and Temperance his wife, Solomon G Denton and Frances his wife, Jesse Alford, Henry Alford, William Alford, Warren Alford and Jackson Alford; have hereunto set their hands and affixed their seals this ninth day of December in the year Eighteen Hundred and Thirty Six."

(Followed by court entries and signatures)

From the above document it can be seen that Thomas and Phoebe had at least ten children, Elizabeth/Betsey, Frances/Fanny, Henry, Jesse, Temperance, Warren, William, Robert, Thomas and Jackson. Ruby says four were born in Georgia, three in Tennessee, and three in Mississippi.

Henry, Warren (who later moved to Louisiana), and William are found in the 1840 census of Yazoo County. The 1830 census, particularly of Yazoo County, raises some questions. There were two families: John Alford's and William Alford's. Both were too old to have been the son of ~~Thomas~~ and Phoebe. Neither do they fit as brothers of Thomas as his family seems to be accounted for in Virginia. John's household includes a female who was old enough to be Phoebe. Was it? Ruby thinks she probably died between 1836 and 1840. Who were these guys, John and William, born between 1770 and 1790?

Henry, who was in Yazoo County in 1840, was not there in 1830. There was

a Henry Alford in Hinds County whose family would fit the Henry family found in Yazoo in 1840 and 1850. Was the 1850 Hinds Henry the Henry of Yazoo County? A ~~Thomas F. Alford~~, born about 1826 and too old to be the son of Phoebe, appears in the 1850 census. It is thought that he was probably the son of Henry Alford. Can anyone prove or refute the theory? Henry, who was in both the 1850 and 1860 census, was shown as born in Georgia in both enumerations.

William Alford from the 1840 census does not have a family in the 1850 census. Gil and Ruby both missed William in the 1840 census, as he apparently was not indexed. One source does show that he was enumerated on page 328 of the 1840 census. Two young females, Frances born about 1837 and Sarah born about 1838, were enumerated in 1850 with Thomas and Elizabeth Lewis. It is thought these young girls were motherless daughters of William and were taken in by friends or relatives.

Jackson Alford, born about 1814 in Tennessee, was enumerated in Yazoo County in 1850. His age is such that he could have been the Jackson who was the son of Phoebe. His household included a William Alford born about 1802 in Tennessee who could have been his brother. The household also had a daughter, Missouri, who was born about 1834 in Mississippi. However, a Jackson Alford married Elizabeth Ellison in Yazoo County on 9 January 1849, and his brother, Thomas F. Alford signed the bond with him to get the license. She might have been the second wife. Where was she in 1850? Where was Jackson for the 1840 census—in Louisiana with his brother, Warren?

### Halcut Alford and Alfords of Madison County, MS

In the last issue we discussed a Hudson

Alford of Wilkinson County and speculated a bit as to who he was. We obviously don't know who he was. The family of Hudson Alford who later appears in Tallahatchie County is too different from the Hudson Alford family of Wilkinson County. We'll drop the earlier Hudson and deal with the later Hudson and his family in a subsequent issue. An extensive article or biographical sketch will appear in one of the next couple of issues also.

The "Hadcut" or "Hadcol" Alford of Wilkinson County in 1830 was most likely the same Halcut (Halcote) Alford who was found in Madison County in 1840 and 1850. One of Halcut's sons, Francis A. Alford, is reported as being born in Wilkinson County in 1829. Francis and his family later move to Texas, and he was the progenitor of several AAFA members. Richard, another son of Halcut, also went to Texas and was the progenitor of many AAFA members. An extensive sketch of Halcut will appear in a future issue.

Halcut's younger brother, Julius C. Alford, moved to Madison County after the death of their father. He was the progenitor of many Mississippi Alfords and many AAFA members.

### Lemuel Alfred and Franklin County Alfords

This accounts for all the Mississippi Alfords of 1830 except for a Lemuel Alfred who was in Franklin County. We know nothing about him. It is interesting to note that Needham J. Alford married Martha Waddell in Franklin County in 1815. At that time Franklin County also included much of what is Lincoln County today. After their marriage they moved to Sabine Parish, Louisiana. Needham was the son of Jacob Alford who settled early in the 1800s in what was to become Washington Parish, Louisiana. In 1824 a Domirus Alford married Jesse Carraway in Franklin County and a

James Alford married Nancy Merdith there in 1837. We have yet to get a fix on these two Alfords. There were four Alford households in Franklin County in 1910 and we have an address for a present day Alford in Franklin County. Maybe they can help us.

Next time we will look at some Alford families who were introduced to Mississippi between 1830 and 1840, or enumerated in the 1840 census.

The Mississippi map accompanying this article shows Mississippi counties at the time of the 1830 census. Alfords were enumerated in those counties with names underlined. The Pike County 1830 census was lost and a tax list has been used as a substitute. Our analysis of the situation indicates Edwin B. Alford and his brother William Alford had married and would have been residing in Pike County in 1830. Fort Alford of Lawrence County was

enumerated in Florida in 1830. It is thought that some of his family resided in Lawrence County, MS, at that time but they would have been enumerated with another family. A Moses G. or C. Alford was also on the tax list. This was probably the Moses C. Alford who married Frances Bryant in Amite County, Mississippi, 2 January 1817. Although a Moses Alford appears in Kemper Co., MS, in 1850 it would not be this Moses. We just don't know where he came from or where he went.

## MISSISSIPPI 1830

(Seven Alford Families)



## Feedback

In the September 1990 issue we published the Alford lineage of AAFA member #311, Dianna M. Alford. There was some question about the lineage, so we used a weird pedigree number to show an unusual relationship. BRYANT ALFORD was not the son of WILLIAM R. ALFORD and Sarah LOADHOLTZ, as a quick glance at the chart might suggest. Dianna informs us that William was Bryant's uncle by his grandfather HANSFORD ALFORD and his first wife. The first wife, who he married in 1833, was Jincy MANN. The big question that still remains is which of Hansford's sons was Bryant's father?

AAFA publishes advertisements or notices in a number of national publications asking for information about Alfords. It is not unusual for folks without any Alford interest to respond sending whatever they might have. Two such responses came recently from:

C. B. McMath, Jr. LTC US Army Ret, Honolulu, HI, who sent names from the local telephone book.

Barbara Ernest, Cleveland, OH, who sent information, which we already had, on a branch of the Northern Alford family.