

Florida Alford History, Part Two

By Gil Alford, Executive Director

In the March issue we covered most of the Florida Alford's up through 1850. There was very little change in 1860, but two families merit mentioning. Ruby Heard, our AAFA Genealogist for Mississippi, has long been looking for more information on what happened to her ancestor's brother, David Sherril Alford, who was born about 1819 in Greene County, GA, and took as his second wife Elsey E. Norris on March 12, 1846. Elsey and her step son, James C. Alford born about 1841 in Georgia, appear in the Walton County 1860 census.

Also in Walton County that year was a Marion Alford, born about 1832 in South Carolina, and his wife Nancy, born about 1835 in Georgia. Their children were Mary, born about 1851 in Alabama, and then, all born in Florida: Catherine 9, Lonna Jane 4, and James 1. Living with the family was a 25 year old Edith Garnet and three Garnet children. Was she a sister to Marion or Nancy? We need help to learn more about this family so we can connect them to other Alford's.

Probably the most significant thing about the Alford's in the 1870 Florida census is the appearance of 71 year old Turner Alford of North Carolina and his 64 year old wife Elizabeth of Kentucky. The household also included 18 year old Rebecca Alford who was born in Alabama. There is strong family tradition that Turner was the son of Job Alford. Job Alford, mentioned as a son in the will of Julius Alford born 1717 in Virginia, was the brother of Jacob Alford, who with his wife Frankie Seaborn, moved from North Carolina first to Georgia and then to Louisiana. If this is true, then many of the Alford's of the panhandle of Florida (where we are meeting in October) are distant cousins of many members of AAFA.

Let us digress a bit to give some

credibility to Turner's ancestry and to trace him to Florida. The 1860 Alabama Census for Coffee County shows:

Turner Alford	60	b. NC
Elizabeth Alford	53	b. KY
John G. Alford	17	b. GA
Jane P.D. Alford	15	b. GA
Nancy Alford	13	b. AL
Rebecca Alford	8	b. AL

Living just two houses or families away was James C. Alford born about 1830 in Georgia and his wife Nancy. Descendants of Turner make this James a son of Turner. Also in Coffee County that year was a Henry Alford born about 1815 in Georgia with his wife Martha. In nearby houses were two Weeks families in which each household was enumerated an Alford. It is supposed that these two Weeks men married Alford females. If Turner was in the 1850 census of Alabama, and he should have been, his name does not appear on our extract or his name is obscured. Skipping back to 1830, Talbot County, GA, we find Turner age 30-40, a Julius C. age 30-40 (suspected to be a brother) and Job age 60-70. In 1840 Job has apparently died, Julius age 30-40 is still in Talbot County and it was probably Turner who appeared as "T" Alford in adjacent Harris County with four sons and three daughters.

Back to 1870 Walton County, Florida. In addition to the family of Turner described earlier we find the families of Henry Alford, born about 1815 in Georgia and his wife Martha and the family of James Alford born about 1830 in Georgia and his wife Nancy. Two other supposed sons of Turner, John F. and Francis, and their families, are also in the 1870 Walton County, Florida census. With that foundation you can imagine the explosion of Alford's that might be expected.

From the 1880 census all we have so far is the data from the soundex records, which includes only those families in which there was a child age ten or under.

For the most part the data that is available shows a projection of the families listed in 1870 and before.

By the turn of the century and with the 1900 census, the "migration to Florida" becomes apparent. Where as in the past we found the normal migration from neighboring southeastern states, in 1900 we find in Escambia County (Pensacola area) the families of E.D. (Albert D.) Alfred born about 1861 in Indiana and L.B. Alfred born about 1825 in Ohio (maybe father and son) and Lewis Alfred born about 1876 in Louisiana. [The census folks in Escambia County probably didn't know Alfred from Alfred.] In Marion County were the families of Edwin B. Alfred born about 1856 in Connecticut and William D. Alford born about 1829 in England. There was also a Robert A. Alfred and family in Polk County. He was born about 1860 in Connecticut, wife Agnes born about 1865 in Vermont, and daughter Bernice born about 1885 in NY.

Back to some of the "home folks" in 1900. In Franklin county we find the uncle of our own Lodwick H. Alford [first AAFA president], A.J. (Andrew Jackson) Alford and his first wife, Virginia. John McRae Alford of SC and his family were in Holmes County. He was a descendant of Jacob and Mary Pace Alford and the great grandfather of AAFA member Barney Alford. In Pasco County was the family of William F. and Isadora Alford of North Carolina—ancestors of AAFA member M. E. (Mike) Alford. In Washington County was the family of Sion A. and Mary Alford of South Carolina, another descendant of Jacob and Mary Pace Alford and the ancestor of AAFA member Sion "Gus" Alford. The most prevalent of the Alford's in 1900 Florida were the descendants of Turner Alford. There were about a dozen households in Walton County, and two families in Santa Rosa County appear to be Turner's descendants. ♦