

Missouri "Alfords"—1850 and Before

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What we now know as Missouri was part of the Louisiana Purchase in 1803. In 1805 it was part of the Territory of Louisiana and in 1812 it was established as the Missouri Territory. It became the 24th state in 1821. Until 1837 the western boundary of Missouri was pretty much a straight line running north and south. That changed with "The Platte Purchase" March 1837, when by proclamation based on a June 1836 act of Congress, 3168 square miles were added in the northwest corner of the state. This area eventually became the counties of Platte, Buchanan, Andrew, Holt, Nodaway, and Atchison—several home for Alfords. Note that a Halford and Alford were already in the area by 1840.

The Mississippi River marks the eastern boundary of Missouri. The Missouri River traverses the state from St. Louis to Kansas City and then becomes the western boundary for the northern part of the state. These rivers have played a very important role in the growth and development of the state—and our Alfords.

Most of these comments are based on census records, but there is evidence of the presence of some Alfords who were never enumerated in the census.

Pre-1830

The 1820 census for all Missouri counties was lost. However, we have records of a John Alfred who got War of 1812 military bounty land in Howard Co.—it was patented in 1819. Amasa G. Alford died intestate in St. Louis in November 1820. So far we have been unable to learn any more about either

of these earliest Missouri Alfords.

Isaac Alford, having left North Carolina and coming through Williamson Co., Tennessee, was in Boone Co., Missouri at least by 1825–27. They left Missouri between 1827 and 1829 and were enumerated in Pike Co., Illinois in 1830. Isaac's son, Winfield, married 1829 in Perry Co., Illinois and by June 1832 the family was in Austin Co., Texas. The rest of his family seems to have returned to Missouri, but by 1838 had also arrived in Texas.

1830

The Missouri censuses of 1830 and 1840 have not been verified by the AAFA Census Project team and therefore has not yet been published. The comments below pertaining to "Alfords" in 1830 and 1840 censuses are based on a copy of a preliminary draft extract of the census, supplemented with information in various Alford genealogies compiled by AAFA as well as assorted documents and records.

Cooper County

Est. in 1818 from Howard County

Jesse Halford (Halford) was in Cooper Co., which at that time covered the area that was to become Morgan Co. by time of 1840 census. Jesse was taxed in Cooper Co. before 1825. Over the coming years we will find Jesse or his family moving over much of Missouri. Jesse was born 1781 in North Carolina and he married Rebecca Powell. His children included James Powell Halford, John Harrison Halford and William C. Halford (see 1840).

New Madrid County

Est. in 1812 as an original county

Brothers George G. Alford and Ethan

Allen Alford (Allyn in census) were sons of George and Betsy Hulbert Alford of the northern branch of the family. They were in New Madrid before 1825. Allen was on a Grand Jury there in 1825. They were in New Madrid Co. in 1830, which at that time covered all of the bootheel and about half of what was to become Stoddard Co. George later went to Texas and became the Quartermaster General for Sam Houston. His likeness is depicted in a painting of Mexico's surrender to Sam Houston in the rotunda of the Texas State Capital. His son George F. Alford became very prominent in Texas. It is thought that Allen died shortly after the 1830 census. (See New Madrid Co. in 1850.)

He never appeared in a census, but Alonzo Alfred or Alford was taxed in Lincoln Co., Missouri in 1834. He had been in Pike Co., Illinois with Isaac in 1830. There is no known evidence of his presence in Missouri after 1834. John Alfred was on a delinquent tax list in Ripley Co., Missouri in 1834 and 1837. Nothing more is known about him and his whereabouts at this time.

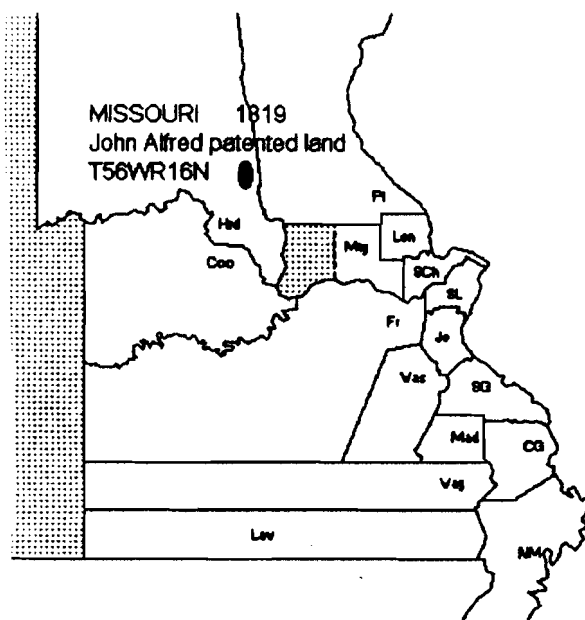
1840

Morgan & Platte Counties

Morgan County was established in 1833 from Cooper County
Platte County was established in 1838 from the Platte Purchase

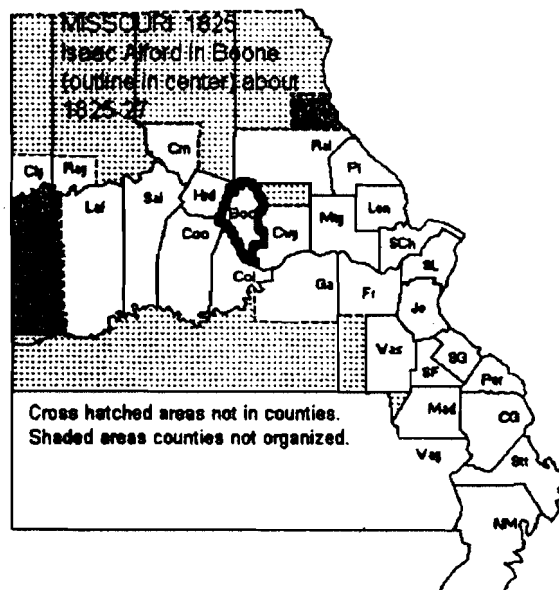
Jesse Halford was in Morgan Co. in 1840—remember that Cooper Co. covered Morgan in 1830. Two of his sons and their families were further up north and in a county on the Missouri River—Platte Co. They were James P. and John H. Halford. Another son, William C., and his wife were in Morgan Co. near Jesse. These folks were probably Baptists and did not own any slaves.

Where Missouri "Alfords" Lived, 1819-1840



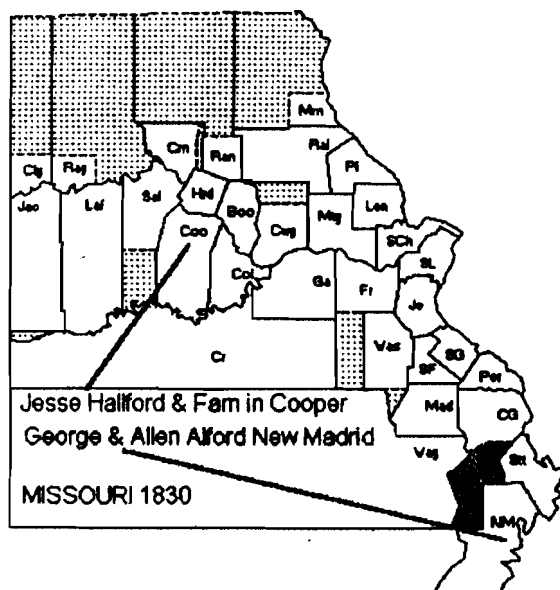
1819

John Alfred's patented land in area of dark oval.
Cross-hatched areas not in counties.



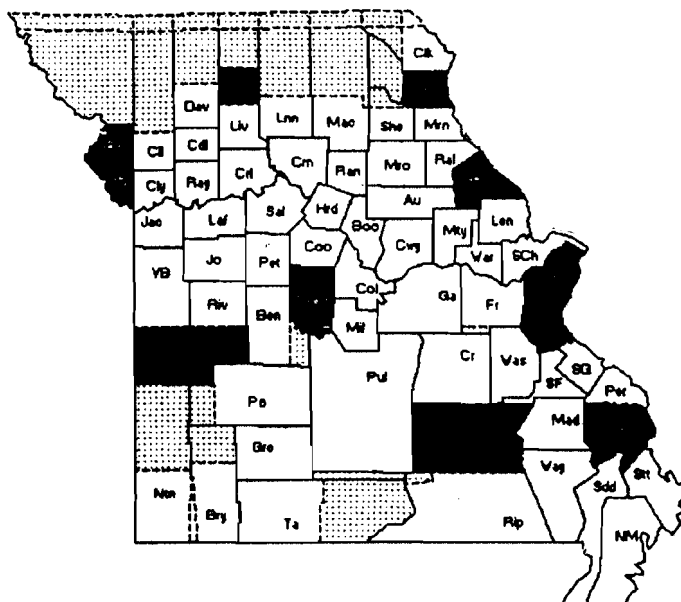
1825

Isaac Alford living in Boone County.
Cross-hatched areas not in counties.
Two shaded counties not yet organized.



1830

"Alfords" in Cooper and New Madrid Counties.
Cross-hatched areas not in counties.
Shaded county not yet organized.



1840

"Alfords" living in Buchanan, Platte, Lewis,
Pike, St. Louis, Jefferson, Cape Girardeau,
and Morgan Counties.
Black counties not yet organized.
Cross-hatched areas not in counties.

New Madrid County

(see above)

The only Alford left in New Madrid Co. in 1840 was an apparent widow, Victoria Alford, and four children. It is thought that she was the wife of Ethan Allen Alford.

Cape Girardeau County

Est. in 1812 as an original county

A new and prominent branch of the Alford family appears in 1840—sons of Jacob Alford and Nancy Hunter of Virginia and Kentucky. One son, William C. Alford, shows up here this year. He married Catherine Bast and died in Cape before Nov 9, 1847.

Pike County

Est. in 1818 from St. Charles County

Payton Alford, William's older brother who married Lucy Haley, lived in Ralls and Pike counties at one time or another. According to statements made later by Payton's son, Thompson, the family came to Pike Co. in 1837. It is possible that Payton and his brother, William Alford, came to Missouri together with William remaining in Cape Girardeau Co.—he was there by 1836—while Payton went further up the river to Pike Co.

Buchanan County

Est. in 1838 from the Platte Purchase

Here we are introduced to another prominent branch of the family in Missouri. Listed in the census is a "Laudey Alfort," almost certainly "Landy" Alford—full name Stephen Landers Alford. Landy, a descendant of the John Alford whose will was dated 1748 in Frederick Co., VA, was born about 1803; he married Sarah Duke who was born about 1812, and they had five daughters and no sons before 1840. A son, Charles, was born in Missouri in 1844 before the family left for California where they were

enumerated in 1850.

Jefferson County

Est. in 1818 from St. Louis and Ste. Genevieve Counties

Johnson H. Alford was enumerated here in 1840. This is Col. J.H. Alford, the younger brother of George G. and Ethan Allen of New Madrid Co. He married Adaline Bates Lewis, widow of Samuel W. Lewis, in 1832. He died about 1849 [see also 1850 Jefferson Co..

Lewis County

Est. in 1833 from Marion County

There is a John C. Alfred, born about 1815 (+ or - 5 years) with wife about the same age, and a daughter under five. It's not proven yet, but there is a good possibility that this family was from Monroe Co., VA/WV. We have several published references to Alford's in Lewis Co. before 1840, but more work is required before we can draw any conclusions.

St. Louis

St. Louis City was created in 1764. The city existed almost 50 years before the county was created, and then it became part of the county. In 1876 it withdrew from the county and has been an independent city ever since. St. Louis Co. was established in 1812 as an original county.

There was a "Planean" Alford [likely to be corrupted spelling] with wife and daughter present here in 1840. A notation shows that he was employed in navigation of canals, lakes and rivers. He may be the same person as the one shown as P. Teney in 1850—see below.

1840-1850

We have established the presence of the family of Thomas Alford, born 1802 in Wythe Co., Virginia, even

before 1840. The family had come via Claiborne Co., Tennessee. Marriages in the family from 1840 to 1850 prove their presence during that time but by the mid 1850's the family was on its way across the plains headed for Oregon.

In 1844 James P. and John H. Halford or Halford were among a family/church group who left Platte Co., Missouri and went to Texas. They went to what is now known as Denton Co., Texas, but at that time the area was called Halford Prairie. John H. returned to Missouri in 1845 to escort another group to Texas. This area of Texas was then Robertson Co., and they were the first group of Baptists to establish themselves in that area. John was enumerated in 1850 in Moniteau Co. (see below), while James P. was in Navarro Co., Texas. By 1860 they were both in Texas, but their parents, Jesse and Rebecca, lived out their lives in Moniteau Co. (see below).

1850

An article in this issue of *AAFA ACTION*, "'Alford's' in the 1850 Missouri Census," is a complete listing of all the "Alford's" in that census. The comments below should be read in conjunction with the census listing.

There were several "isolated Alford's" in 1850 whom we cannot identify. We hope to eventually know more about some of them.

Buchanan County—Ellen Halford born about 1834 in England

Caldwell County—Eva Alvert born about 1787 in Germany

Clinton County—James Halford born about 1793 in Vermont

Schuyler County—George Alfrey born about 1823 in Kentucky with wife Elizabeth and two young children. The AAFA marriage list

indicates a George Olphra married Elizabeth Foster Oct 27, 1847 in Schuyler Co. [This is probably not an Alford spelling variation, but it is listed here as a possibility.]

Cooper County

(see above)

Patsey Alfred is enumerated with four Alfred children born in Missouri from 1840 to 1848 and a Charlotte Martin age 10. Patsey is surely the Martha N. Martin who married William C. Halford, March 31, 1839 in Cooper Co. Note that William was living with wife and family in Morgan Co. in 1840. He apparently married widow Martin who brought a daughter or niece, Charlotte, to the family. William died intestate July 25, 1849.

Holt County

Est. in 1841 from the Platte Purchase

We have another prominent branch of the family in Missouri now, descendants of a fellow we call "Irish John" Alford, whom we found in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia before the Revolution.

James Alford was enumerated as James Olfred. He was with his wife Margaret [Margaret Carlisle] and four children, all born in Virginia [see also 1860 Holt Co.].

John Alford, son of James, with wife Sarah [Sarah Ann Jasper] were enumerated nearby with daughter Rhoda [shown in the census as son Rodney].

Also in Holt Co., in the same district, was a six-year-old Isaac Olfrey born in Missouri. He was enumerated with Isaac Martin of Ohio and his wife Mary of Pennsylvania. In the family were three children born in Ohio; and two Martin children born in Missouri. This appears to be the second marriage for Isaac and Mary. We have more work to do to "unravel" young Isaac

Olfrey. Since there were two Alford families in the county that year listed as "Olfred," it seems possible that Isaac Olfrey was an Alford also.

Jefferson County

(see above)

There are two households with Alfords here this year. First is widow Adaline Alford and her children Shenanda and Louis. She was the widow of Col. Johnson H. Alford [see also 1840 Jefferson Co.].

The other "Alford" is William C. Alvord, born about 1846 in Missouri. He is enumerated with James McColloch of Missouri and Amanda M.F. McColloch of Kentucky. The AAFA marriage list shows us that Amanda Alvoid married James McColloch May 17, 1849 in Jefferson Co. When we look further in the marriage list, we see that William B. Alvord married Amanda M.F. Lee, July 20, 1845 in Jefferson Co. Looking at the next entry we see that William C. Alvoid married Mary Luciana Gamble, Dec 15, 1868 in Jefferson Co. There are too many William B. Alvords connected with St. Louis (adjacent to Jefferson Co.) in this period mentioned in the 1908 Alvord book for there not to be a connection [see also 1860 Jefferson Co.]. We will continue to search.

Lafayette County

Est. 1820 from Cooper County

The two families here are ancestors of AAFA members. John and Thomas, brothers, were sons of James Alford and Nancy Hines of Monroe Co., VA.

John A. Alford was a well-to-do brick mason in 1850. He died in Lexington, MO, Dec 5, 1886. His wife Mary died Apr 27, 1894.

Thomas Alford, a plasterer, died in Lexington Apr 17, 1890. His wife Malinda Miller Fife died Aug 16,

1889. Also enumerated with this family is John Fife, no doubt Malinda's father.

Lewis County

(see above)

Nancy Alford with two children is enumerated with David and Susan Smith. There is nothing to support such an idea at this time, but it is felt that Nancy was probably an Alford widow, a sister of David Smith with whom she is enumerated. There is a possibility that Nancy was a daughter-in-law of Payton or William Alford of Kentucky.

Sidney Alford is Sidney Ewing Alford, the widow of John Alford of Monroe Co., VA/WV. John Alford, who died 1834 in Virginia, was the son of Joseph and Jenny/Jane Alford. Lois Alford married John Ewing Dec 26, 1841 in Lewis Co. Jane Alford, Sidney's mother-in-law, and much of the family apparently moved from Virginia to Missouri with the Ewings and were enumerated with them in, 1840—there is evidence they were in Missouri at least as early as 1838.

Moniteau County

Est. in 1845 from Cole and Morgan Cos.

Jesse Halford, probably the progenitor of most of the Missouri Halfords, was the son of John Halford and Nancy Dalton of Rutherford Co., NC.

John Halford was John Harrison Halford, son of the above Jesse. His wife was Melissa Medlin.

Jesse R. Halford was Jesse Richard Halford, also a son of the Jesse above. He is enumerated with his wife Hester, who was Hester Ann Cole.

Montgomery County

Est. 1818 from St. Charles County.

Samuel G. Alfroy is enumerated in Montgomery Co. in the 1860 census under the surname "Olfrey"—probably

not an "Alford" since the other spelling is consistent and no other known Alford's were in the county.

New Madrid County

(see above)

There are five households in the county this year with Alford's, though none of them are headed by an Alford. See also the New Madrid Co. in 1830 and 1840 above. See also close kin in Jefferson Co.—Johnson H. Alford.

Albert and Emma, both born in Texas, are enumerated with John H. and Sarah C. Walker. These were children of George G. Alford and his second wife, Ann Barfield, who both died 1847 in Texas. [See notes under 1830 New Madrid Co. and biography of George G. Alford in *History of Houston County, Texas 1687-1979*, summarized on Booklist published in AAFA ACTION Winter 1994, p. 55. This book also includes a biography of George G.'s son, George F. Alford (see below), and information on other descendants.] Their minor children all returned to Missouri to be raised by kin. Albert Nelson Alford later moved to Texas and married twice. Emma Alford married Mark Toney.

Hulbert, M.D., and Ann, all born in Missouri, are enumerated with H.D. Maulsby and his wife and family. It is thought that these are three more children of George G. Alford. Although the census shows M.D. as a male, M.D. was Mary Barfield Alford.

George F. Alford is enumerated with Louis A. and Virginia Waters. George Frederick Alford, son of George G. Alford, moved to Texas and became very prominent. He married Annie Marie Maulsby.

Harriet Alford is enumerated with L.D. and Iris Lefesney. Harriet married John B. Pasquet July 18, 1850. He had previously married Amanda Alford in New Madrid on May 17, 1849. Harriet

and Amanda were sisters, daughters of the late Ethan Allen Alford and Victoria ____.

George Alford is enumerated with the Jonathan Till family. George was also a son of Ethan Allen Alford and Victoria ____ [see also in 1860].

Pike County

(see above)

Lucy Alford is enumerated with three Alford children and George and Maria Payne. Lucy was the widow of Payton Alford—see Pike Co. in 1840. Maria Payne was Maria Alford Payne, a daughter who married George Payne August 9, 1849 in Pike Co.

James Alford and Clarinda are enumerated in the household of John R. and Elizabeth James. He was a son of Payton Alford. It is thought that he first married Nancy Woodruff in Garrard Co., KY.

Ralls County

Est. in 1820 from Pike County.

Catherine Alford, enumerated with Catherine Smith and young Smiths, was Catherine Bast, widow of William Alford. Catherine Smith was Catherine Mariah E. Alford Smith who married Addison Smith Feb 26, 1839 in Cape Girardeau Co., MO. Members of this family were in Dallas Co., TX by 1860.

James H. Alford and Elizabeth J. are James Henry Alford and probably Elizabeth Jane Evans. He was the son of William Alford and Catherine Bast, and they also went to Dallas Co., Texas by 1860.

John Alford was a son of Payton Alford. He married Cassandra Aldridge. Mary King, an aunt in the household, was Polly Alford, daughter of Jacob Alford and Nancy Hunter, who married Russell King Oct 7, 1881

in Garrard Co., KY.

St. Louis County and City

(see above)

St. Louis has long been recognized as a traffic hub and one of the major crossroads of America. The Alford's demonstrated that in 1850 by having representation from the three main transportation modes—water, land (stage), and rail. St. Louis was the home of the Mr. Alford who was the conductor on the train involved in "The Great Train Robbery" and his cool demeanor when facing Jesse James was credited with saving many lives. [See AAFA ACTION articles, "Jesse James Meets Conductor Alford" in June 1989, p. 12, and "Jesse James News," March 1990, p. 13.]

As a crossroads it is probable that many of the folks enumerated in St. Louis in any one year were transients. None of those listed have been found in 1860 St. Louis. We know nothing about these "Alford's," other than that there is some thought that P. Teney Alford, river boat pilot, is the same person as the "Planean" enumerated in St. Louis in 1840. ♦

(Projects, cont. from p. 17)

it was he who lined up Robert Davis as speaker for our Decatur meeting.)

Alicia Houston's Census Project Team is pumping out completed "Grade A" census reports faster than we can publish them! You can expect to see a census in each issue for quite some time. Alicia still needs help with Step 1 for some censuses: obtaining the index listing. She needs indexes for the following states for the inclusive years 1870-1920: AK, CT, ID, IL, ME, MA, MI, NH, NJ, RI, and WI. Indexes for many other years are missing for many other states. Help!! If you have access to census indexes at your library or National Archives, contact Alicia (see page 27 for her address). ♦