

when dead, I wish my executors to pay such indebtedness as quickly as possible without encroaching upon the corpus of my estate, but out of the profits.

3rd. In the third paragraph he appointed his wife, Malinda Gleaton, and his good friend William Tison his executors, and expressed the desire that they keep the estate intact until the youngest child became of age and at that time to divide the estate equally between the children and his wife. In the mean time, the proceeds of the estate were to be used for their support and education. The following were the witnesses: James G. Brown, W. L. Lane and L. W. Wilson. (Recorded in Will Book A, Page 1.)"

OTHER WILLS RECORDED IN WILL BOOK A

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HENDERSON POWELL

Henderson Powell holds a place of prominence among the financiers of Worth County.

This capitalist illustrates what can be made in the agricultural industry of Worth County.

While he is a stockholder and associated in a financial way with a great many enterprises of the County, he is primarily a farmer.

He began life with no capital other than thrift, economy and good, sound judgment in business. He is today (and not an old man) one of the largest tax payers of Worth and is one of the largest land owners.

He has held many places of trust in the county. He was on the Board of Commissioners four years; was president of Farmers and Merchant Bank of Sylvester eight years; was President of First National Bank fifteen years.

His father was Dennis Powell of Lee County and his mother was, before marriage, Elizabeth Bozeman of North Carolina.

He married Anna Watson and they have seven children, four sons and three daughters: George, A. C., S. I., and Harmon. Lena married Cap Ricks, Eleve married ——— Kendal, Berny married ——— Hudson.

THE ALFORD FAMILY

The Alford's of Worth County are descended from a very ancient English family, who for many centuries lived at Meaux Abby, Yorkshire, England. The family is of Saxon origin, and the name is said to be derived from Alfred, the great Saxon King of England, from whom they are descended.

A branch of the Alford family came to Massachusetts in 1635. There were three immigrants, William, born in London in 1608, with two brothers, Benedictus and Alexander. They all landed at Boston, and the Worth County branch descended from William Alford. The line of descent is as follows:

Benjamin, son of William, born 1650; James, son of Benjamin, born 1691.

James William Zion, son James, was born in 1730, probably in North Carolina, as his father moved to that state about that time. James William Zion was a Revolutionary soldier and fought in the battles of Cowpens and Guilford Courthouse as Captain.

Lodwick (or Loderwick), son of James William Zion and wife, Judy (Harper) Alford, was a major of militia in Indian wars. He held public positions in the civil life of North Carolina during the Revolution.

Green Alford, son of Lodwick and wife, Mary (Hall) Alford, was born about 1788 in Wake County, N. C. He was a large planter and founded and named his estate "Wakefield."

Green Haywood Alford, son of Green Alford and wife, Nancy Rose (Liles) Alford, was born in Wake County, N. C., June 7, 1820. He married Rebecca Jones January 8, 1844. She was born in Wake County, N. C., March 18, 1822. He was Captain of Horse Guards in the Confederate Army. He was a very prominent citizen in his state, and a member of the Legislature of North Carolina prior to the War Between the States. The dates below were taken from his Bible now in possession of Mrs. Blanche Godwin, of Sylvester, her only living child, in 1934. The children of Green Haywood Alford and wife, Rebecca (Jones) Alford, were:

George Benton, born July 24, 1845; Andrew Jackson, born Jan. 29, 1847; Elizabeth Leland, born Sept. 21, 1848; Columbus Augustin, born Feb. 6, 1850; Francis Adner, born March 18, 1853; Salina Blanche, born April 28, 1857; William Leoris Haywood, born Oct. 23, 1863.

Of his seven children, those who immigrated to Worth County were: Andrew Jackson, Columbus Augustin, William Leoris, and Blanche (Mrs. F. K. Godwin).

Andrew Jackson Alford came to this section first and made his home at Pelham, later moving to Sumner, Ga. He was a turpentine operator and lived at Sumner many years before moving to Florida where he died.

COLUMBUS AUGUSTIN ALFORD

Columbus Augustin Alford was born and grew up in Wake County, N. C. He obtained his education in the local schools near his home. He learned the lumber business and, in 1871, at the age of 21 years, came to Worth County and settled at Sumner, Ga. For twelve years he followed the naval stores business at that place, which was then the metropolis of Worth County. In 1883 he moved to Willingham and, with his brother-in-law, Benj. J. Sloan, built an immense saw mill and

turpentine business. He built a palatial home at Willingham which was burned after his death a few years ago.

Mr. Alford accumulated a large fortune in the timber and turpentine business, and was one of the wealthiest men of this section. He became largely interested in lumber, naval stores, and farming. He was a stockholder and director of the Southern States Life Insurance Company, and one of the largest depositors and stockholders of Sylvester Banking Company. He had large interests in many other public enterprises. In 1888 he was elected by the Democrats to the State Senate from the 10th District, serving with distinction and ability. In 1905 he built the Flint River & Gulf Railroad from Bridgeboro to Sylvester, joining at Sylvester with the line built from Ashburn to Sylvester by J. S. Betts & Co., operating the two lines together until 1907, when, after laying a connecting line to Hawkinsville, the name was changed to Gulf Line Railway Company. He was president of this railroad until his death.

Mr. Alford was a leading spirit and public benefactor in all civic affairs, and was an active member of the First Baptist Church of Sylvester. It is impossible to estimate the value and worth he was to Worth County, and he is revered by its people as one of its greatest citizens.

He married first, Miss Martha Sumner, of Sumner, Ga., daughter of John C. (Jack) Sumner, she being the sister of John N. Sumner, of Sylvester. She died in 1881. By this marriage they had two children, Beulah (Mrs. W. R. Johnston) and G. Floyd. After her death he married Miss Janie Johnston, daughter of Benj. Johnston, of Americus, Ga. They had seven children: Mattie Blanche, (Mrs. Edwin K. Gully); Bennie Love (Mrs. Malcolm Hugh Westberry); Frankie E. (Mrs. Will H. Westberry); Columbus A.; Earl J.; Helen (Mrs. I. H. Mann) and Ruth, (Mrs. Jack Wimpy). Mrs. Janie Johnston Alford died July 5, 1901.

C. A. Alford died Sept. 21, 1908.

Their Marriage Record

Beulah, married June 18, 1902, to W. R. Johnston; G. Floyd, married January 7, 1903, to Miss Claude Gibson; Mattie Blanche, married August 9, 1911, to E. K. Gully; Bennie Love, married April 28, 1910, to M. H. Westberry; Frankie, married April 18, 1912, to W. H. Westberry; Columbus A., married

December 10, 1913, to Ann Douglas; Earl J., married October 15, 1915, to Erin Shealy; Helen, married February 7, 1922, to Ivan H. Mann; Ruth, married December 20, 1924, to W. H. Wimpy.

C. A. Alford was no greater as a financier and statesman than as a father. Both of his wives died and left him with small children. He nobly took the place of both parents and reared his children with the aid of his oldest daughter, Mrs. Beulah (Alford) Johnston, with such care and training that wherever they are found today, they are numbered with those of the highest character and are identified with all movements that are for the betterment of the community. They have well lived up to the standards set by their illustrious forebears.

GREEN FLOYD ALFORD

Green Floyd Alford, oldest son of Columbus A. Alford and wife, Martha (Sumner) Alford was born and reared in Worth. He received his higher education at Mercer University and Georgia University. He came to the town of Sylvester (his father then living at Willingham) to accept the position of assistant cashier of Sylvester Banking Company, holding this place for seven years.

After his father's death he was made administrator of his large estate. He was president of the Gulf Line Railroad, a road running at that time from Hawkinsville to Camilla, Ga. It now has the name of G. A. S. C. He is the owner of a large landed estate, is a general agriculturist and turpentine operator and for several years operated a sawmill. He has been an active deacon in the Missionary Baptist Church for twenty or more years. He built one of the most elegant homes in the county on Pope Street, Sylvester, in 1912 where he has lived since.

In 1903 G. Floyd Alford was married to Miss Emily Claude Gibson, the daughter of James S. Gibson, of Scotch descent, and wife, Mary (Harden) Gibson of Montezuma. She was the music teacher of Sylvester school at that time.

Mrs. Alford graduated in music at Brenau College at Gainesville. She possessed wonderful talent in music and was a skilled performer on the piano and pipe organ. For many years she was director of music for the services of the Missionary Baptist Church and was a leader in all musical affairs of the city.



HON. C. A. ALFORD

She was a D. A. R. through the service of her ancestor James Hardin, and had several lines to the Revolution. She was organizing Regent of the Barnard Trail Chapter, and served one other term as Regent.

Mr. and Mrs. G. Floyd Alford were unrivaled host and hostess and dispensed generous hospitality. This combined with their pleasant personalities, made a visit to their home one of delight.

Their children are:

Green Floyd Alford, Jr., married Mary Mays, one child Mary.

James Gibson Alford, married Mary Bance Joiner, one son James Gibson, Jr.

Mrs. G. F. Alford, Sr., died 1930.

WILLIAM LEORUS HAYWOOD ALFORD

William Leorus Haywood Alford, the youngest son of Green Haywood Alford and wife, Rebecca (Jones) Alford, was born in Wake County, N. C. Oct. 23, 1863. He married Miss Ellie Norris of Wake County, N. C., in 1885 and came with his bride to Worth County. He settled at Parkerville where he lived for thirty-five years. During all that time he was engaged with his brother, C. A. Alford in the naval stores business.

He received his education at Bingham Military College, Mebane, N. C.

Hon. W. L. H. Alford represented the County of Worth in 1902-1904. He was long prominent in the political and social affairs of Worth and was a member of the Missionary Baptist Church.

Mr. W. L. H. Alford and first wife were the parents of nine children, H. B., Ellie, (Mrs. E. L. Veazey) Sadie (Mrs. Carlton Godwin) Maggie (Mrs. T. C. Akin), Dewey, Myers, Jack, Alton. His first wife, Mrs. Ellie Norris Alford, died July 28, 1906.

W. L. H. Alford was married the second time to Miss Lucy Mell Overby. She is descended from very old and distinguished families of Virginia, South Carolina, and Georgia.

These records are copies of records taken from the Bible of Basil Earl Overby. An affidavit is attached that they are correct and the Bible is a very old volume.

The first Overby to come to America was Nicholas Overby, came from Paris, France, to Virginia, born in 1622, died in 1732, age 110 years. Raised three sons. The line of descent:

Son, Peter, born 1649, died 1755, wife Ann. His son Nicholas ———.

His son, Meshack, was born 1753, died 1841, married Mary Mitchell of Virginia. His son, Nicholas, born Jan. 20, 1784, died 1868, married Mary Hallam of South Carolina, Jan. 10, 1814. She was born Feb. 3, 1783, died Nov. 4, 1862. His son, Benj. Mitchell Overby, born Sept. 18, 1818, died Nov. 17, 1891. Married Lucy Caroline Seay, Aug. 18, 1841. She was born Feb. 2nd, 1823, died Feb. 17, 1908. His son, Walter Knox Overby, born Sept. 29, 1850, died Feb. 27, 1930. Married Sallie Beatrice Simms, Dec. 9, 1874.

Walter Knox Overby and wife, Sallie Beatrice (Simms) Overby are the parents of Mrs. W. L. H. Alford. They are also the parents of Presiding Elder Marvin Overby who at one time was pastor of the Methodist Church of Sylvester.

Mrs. Alford is also descended from John Seay, and James Wilson. Both served in the Revolutionary War from Georgia.

James Wilson, married Phebe White in 1789 in Green County, Ga.

John Seay, born 1758, married a Miss West. He served under Micajah Williamson in the Revolutionary War.

Mr. and Mrs. W. Leorus H. Alford are the parents of nine children, Haskel and Hoyle (twins), Beatrice, Leorus. Lodwick, Melvina, Mary, Marvin, Louise.

Mr. Alford died June 16, 1931.

His wife is a teacher in McPhaul Institute of Sylvester. She has been a member of the faculty for a number of years.

MRS. BLANCHE (ALFORD) GODWIN

Mrs. Blanche (Alford) Godwin, the last living child of Green Haywood Alford and wife, Rebecca (Jones) Alford, married F. Keit Godwin, Jan. 21st, 1880.

They moved with their five children, all of whom were born in North Carolina, to Worth County, in December, 1908. Mr. Godwin was a farmer and moved into this County to engage in farming. Their children are: Carlton, married Saydie Alford; "Vada," married Dr. W. C. Tipton; Rebecca, married

Col. B. W. Tipton; Columbus B., married Lovelace Westberry; Clair, married Winnifred Brim.

F. Keit Godwin died in Sylvester, Sept. 25th, 1919.

Mrs. Blanche (Alford) Godwin fully illustrates the nobility and courage of her patriotic sires. At the age of sixty-six years she took seven little grand children, left motherless, one only a few days old to rear, which task she tenderly and cheerfully carries on, in this her 78th year.

WILLIAM ROBERT JOHNSTON

William Robert Johnston is another of the splendid contributions of the "Tar Heel" state to Worth County. He was born in Franklin, Macon County, N. C. He is the oldest son of Jackson Johnston and second wife, Eugenia (Siler) Johnston.

On his paternal side the family is Scotch-Irish. His grandfather, Robert Johnston, was born in Ireland. He and his wife, Elizabeth (Wilson) Johnston, lived in Scotland where all their children were born except the youngest, Jackson, W. R. Johnston's father, who was born in South Carolina. Robert Johnston came to America and lived in Pendleton District, South Carolina.

Jackson Johnston settled in Franklin, N. C. He married first a Miss Osborn of Haywood County, and after her death he married Miss Eugenia Siler, a daughter of William Siler of Macon County and his wife, Althea (Swain) Siler, who was a sister of David L. Swain, Governor of North Carolina, and at one time president of the State University of North Carolina.

The maternal grandfather of W. R. Johnston, Wm. Siler, and his three brothers, Jacob, Jesse and John settled in what is now Macon County, N. C. They were among the first white settlers among the Cherokee Indians that then occupied that section. Unwelcomed at first they soon became their trusted friends and advisors. After the government had removed the nation beyond the Mississippi, many of the Cherokees slipped back to their native mountains and William Siler deeded them hundreds of acres of land in order that they might have their own homes where they could live unmolested. Finally the government gave them a reservation. The descendants of the Siler Indians became the nucleus for the reservation.

W. R. Johnston received his college education at Emory when it was at Oxford, Georgia. He is a member of the Chi Phi fraternity, was a "Knight of the Grip" when married in 1902 to Miss Beulah Alford, the daughter of Hon. C. A. Alford of Willingham, Worth County. Her step-mother died a short while before her marriage and left her father with seven small children. She, with the greatest devotion for them, helped him with them. They lived at Willingham in her father's elegant home until his death in 1908, when they moved with the children to Sylvester where they might have better school advantages.

This couple have no children of their own, but no parents have ever filled the duties and obligations better than they have to her brothers and sisters to whom they have given unselfish devotion.

They have at all times manifested a profound interest in those movements and activities which represent the best in the life of the community, whether financially, socially or morally.

For more than a quarter of a century he has served as Sunday School Superintendent of the Methodist Church and has every interest of the church in his heart. He served as chairman of the Board of Trustees for McPhaul Institute for ten years and there never was a better one. He was a charter member of the Kiwanis club. He and his wife are owners of a large landed estate and he has looked after their farming interest personally and has furthered all forward movements in agriculture in this section.

Mrs. W. R. Johnston is a graduate of Shorter College. She served with great ability for nine years as State Chairman of Fine Arts in the Georgia Federation of Woman's clubs. During that time she brought many educational features to Sylvester in exhibits of pottery from the foremost pottery works in the United States and of prints of masterpieces in pictures twice, once in her own home and invited the school children. She was instrumental in bringing other exhibits of art to the city school.

She was chairman of the work room of the Red Cross for one term during the World War.

They built a beautiful home of old English style in 1912 which has been an open court of hospitality to Sylvester and this section.

RECORDS FROM THE BIBLE OF BENJAMIN JOHNSTON

These records are taken from Bible of Benjamin Johnston who was born in Scotland and brought by his parents to North Carolina when quite young. He moved to Georgia after marriage. This Bible is now in the possession of his grand daughter, Mrs. E. K. Gulley, of Sylvester, Ga.

Births

Robert Johnston, Sr., was born in Ireland Oct. 17th, 1765, or '66, father of Benj. Johnston.

Elizabeth Wilson, consort of Robert Johnston and mother of Benjamin Johnston was born Sept. 12, 1777. They were married about the year 1795 or '96.

Benjamin Johnston was born in Scotland on the 4th day of May, 1817.

Martha Elizabeth Welch Johnston wife of Benjamin Johnston was born on the 29th day of May 1825, in Waynesville, Haywood County, N. C.

Children of Benjamin Johnston and wife Martha Elizabeth Welch Johnston: Mary Elizabeth Johnston was born in Ellijay, Ga., on Nov. 22nd, 1844, at 9 o'clock P. M.

Wm. Robert Johnston was born in Ellijay, Ga., on Feb. 23rd, 1847 3 o'clock P. M.

John Randolph Johnston was born in Ellijay, Ga., Monday night Feb. 12, 1849.

Edward Young Johnston was born on the 25th of Sept. 1851, at 2 o'clock A. M.

James Harvey Johnston was born July 20th, 1853 at 7 o'clock A. M., at Pleasant Hill, Ga.

Martha Ann Johnston was born Oct. 26th, 1854 at 5 o'clock A. M., at Pleasant Hill, Gilmer County, Ga.

Hugh Asbury Johnston was born in Pleasant Hill, Gilmer County, Ga., Friday 5 o'clock P. M., July 3rd, 1856.

Ada Louisa Johnston was born on the 11th day of March 1860 at 11½ o'clock P. M. Pleasant Hill, Ga.

Jane Eliza Johnston was born on 18th of July, 1862 about 11½ o'clock P. M. Pleasant Hill, Gilmer County, Georgia.

Bennie Love Johnston was born in Sumter County, Ga., at Pine Forest, Aug. 30th, 1866.

Marriages

Benjamin Johnston and Martha Elizabeth Welch were married May 4th, 1843 in Waynesville, N. C.

Deaths

Robert Johnston, Sr., father of Benjamin Johnston died March 27th, 1838 age 72 or '3 years.

Elizabeth Wilson Johnston consort of Robert Johnston died June 15th, 1848, age 70 years.

Benjamin Johnston died at Willingham, Ga., Dec. 20th, 1886, at 6 o'clock A. M., 69½ years.

Bennie Love Sexton, daughter of Benjamin Johnston died at Willingham, Ga., Sept. 5, 1891.

Hugh Asbury Johnston, son of Benjamin Johnston died in Willingham Jan. 12th, 1897, 39 years, 6 months, 9 days.

Jane Eliza Alford, daughter of Benjamin Johnston, wife of Columbus A. Alford, died in Willingham July 5th, 1901, age 38 years, 11 month, 3 weeks, 1 day.

John Randolph Johnston, died in Americus, Ga., Jan. 27, 1887, 7 o'clock P. M., age 38 yrs. 11 months, 15 days.

Mary Elizabeth Johnston Cantrell, daughter of Benjamin Johnston, died in Americus, Apr. 12th, 1878, age 34 years.

Benjamin Johnston Cantrell, grandson of Benj. Johnston died in Americus, June 28th, 1880, age seven years, 25 days.

Edward Young Johnston died in Ellijay, Ga., Oct. 6th, 1851, at 2 o'clock P. M., age 11½ days.

James Harvey Johnston died July 20th, 1853 at 3 o'clock P. M.

Addie Louisa Johnston died Feb. 6, 1886 at 6 o'clock P. M. at Willingham, Ga., near Sylvester, Ga., age 28 years, 11 months.

IVAN HOLDEN MANN

Ivan Holden Mann, son of Jesse Ellsworth Mann and Mattie (Holden) Mann, was born Nov. 30, 1889, at Decatur, Indiana. He lived in Omaha, Nebr., Butler, Penn. and Fort Wayne, Ind., before moving to Louisville, Kentucky in 1898. There he attended the graded school and Du Point Normal Training High School. After his high school course he attended Purdue University at LaFayette, Ind., where he received his training in Civil Engineering. Returning to Louisville he en