

## Family Locket Genealogists

# James William Johnson Research Project

Report to: James William Johnson II  
15 September 2022

### OBJECTIVE

Using DNA and documentary evidence, write a family narrative proving James William Johnson was born Patrick Alford. James was born on 20 July 1860 in Palmyra, Macoupin County, Illinois, and died in 1934 in West Line, Sevier, Arkansas. James married first Sarah Jane Duncan on 10 September 1885 in Caruthersville, Pemiscot, Missouri. Then he married Dempsey Tennessee Clark, on 2 March 1899 in De Queen, Sevier, Arkansas. Lastly, he married Rosa Ellen Ayers. He was born as Patrick Alford to parents Robert F. Alford and Elsie “Alsa” Evans.

### LIMITATIONS

- 20 hours of research and writing
- DNA data limited to client’s results

### RESULTS SUMMARY

- Studied family reports from previous Johnson/Alford research and interviews, compared with information in online trees at *FamilySearch* and *Ancestry*, and memorials at *FindAGrave*. Used the details to create a timeline for Patrick “Mace” Alford and James William Johnson. Examined selected chapters from two books: *A Horse, A Gunfight, and the Law* and *Written in Blood*. Summarized the information about the 1879 Texas gunfight, contemporary law enforcement, the Alford family, and social context in the project research log. Created diagrams to chart family relationships.
- Scanned the histories of Tarrant County, Texas Reconstruction, and Land Grants. Discovered evidence that social tension toward Northerners and Union Veteran families existed during the post-Civil War era in Texas. Determined that political and social views influenced judges, law enforcement behavior and newspaper reporting. Studied social context and migration. Confirmed the common use of wet nurses, and verified telegraphs and train travel as the widely accepted forms of communication and transportation in the late 1800s.
- Analyzed and correlated census records from 1860 through 1930. Determined the migration patterns of the Alford and Evans families. Identified Patrick Alford’s parents and siblings, and his birth location in Illinois. Compared census information with details on James Johnson’s marriage

and death certificates, his daughter's delayed birth registration, and Alford sibling obituaries. Assembled the FAN club for Patrick Alford and James William Johnson. Confirmed the relationships between: James Johnson and Elsie Jane Johnson; James Johnson and Becky McFadin; James Johnson and Belle Newton; and James Johnson and Richard Joseph Johnson. Concluded that Patrick "Mace" Alford became James William Johnson.

- Evaluated and compared Y-DNA results at FamilyTreeDNA. Used the results to create a patrilineal pedigree and summarized the information in a table. Examined database reports from ThruLines and Shared Matches at AncestryDNA. Compared the information with known relationships and added details to family diagrams. Evaluated shared amounts of DNA with predicted ranges to verify relationships between matches. Studied the shared matches of DNA cousins through Robert and Alcy Alford's descendants. Also noticed several DNA matches descended through the siblings of Robert F. Alford and Alcy Evans. Concluded that a biological relationship exists between the Johnson, Alford, and Evans descendants.

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Name changes hinder typical research practices that connect an individual to an ancestor. Researching an ancestor can come to halt when the ancestor seems to disappear from the records. Women often change their surname after marriage. Immigrants may change their name to blend into American culture. Orphan children may have taken on the surname of a family after adoption. Individuals may choose to conceal their past identity for protection. This seems to have happened to Patrick Alford; between 1879 and 1885, Patrick Alford changed his name to James William Johnson to hide from Texas law.

Before 1879, Patrick's parents, Robert and Alcy Alford, had no reason to misreport information about their son. However, post-civil war feelings between southern confederates and northern unionists influenced the way one group treated the other. Southern attitudes simmered as northern settlers like the Alfords migrated to Texas. The unfavorable circumstances which brought the two communities together changed the Alford's future.

After 1879, Patrick's family and siblings, in particular, had good reason to falsify details about their brother. To protect himself and his family, Patrick became James and the Alford surname became Johnson.

This report uses the FAN club method to combine details found in the records of James William Johnson that connect him to his Alford siblings. The FAN club method studies the family, associates, and neighbors of an ancestor. By investigating the individuals who surround an ancestor during their lifetime, connections can be made and identities revealed. These records, combined with details from interviews with several of James William Johnson's grandchildren, connect their family stories.

## PATRICK ALFORD FANS

### Parents and Siblings

Robert Alford and Alcy Evans married on 20 May 1849 in Roane County, Tennessee and had eleven children: Thomas William, Sarah Elizabeth, George Meshak, Patrick Mathew/Mason, Rachel Rebecca, Susan Isabell, Alsa Eveline, Robert Henry, Charles Parks, Minnie Louella, Ida May.<sup>1</sup> Tennessee and Illinois did not record births until after the 1900s, but early census enumerators usually recorded an individual's age and birth location.<sup>2</sup> The earlier the census, the more accurate the birth information.

Census details observed over time can detect patterns that support family relationships and movement. Between 1850 and 1880, the Alfords migrated from Tennessee to Illinois to Texas (see map in appendix A). In 1880, enumerators began recording the relationships of individuals to the head of household. Prior to that, relationships were inferred. Robert or Alcy probably provided the details in 1860 and 1880, with no reason to misreport information. In 1870 they lived with two other families, but the details line up with those in 1860 and 1880.<sup>3</sup> While some individual elements vary, time and location remain accurate.

### 1860–1880

In June 1870, nine-year old Patrick Alford lived in Illinois with his inferred parents and siblings:<sup>4</sup>

- Alford, Robert, age 37, born Tennessee
- [Alford,] Alcy, age 36, born Tennessee
- [Alford,] William, age 16, born Tennessee
- [Alford,] Sarah, age 14, born Tennessee
- [Alford,] George, age 12, born Tennessee
- **[Alford,] Patrick, age 9, born Illinois**
- [Alford,] Rachel, age 7, born Illinois

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<sup>1</sup> FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org/tree/person/details/LZG5-V38> : accessed 30 June 2022), database, profile for Robert F. Alford, LGZ5-V38. Sourced data.

Also, James Wesley Johnson and James William Johnson, "Allean Newton's Hand Written "History,"" well-documented research notes, 5 May 2022, sent to Michelle Mickelson; supplied by James Johnson, [ADDRESS FOR PRIVATE USE,] St. Petersburg, Florida, 2022.

<sup>2</sup> Wendy Bebout Elliott, "Tennessee" Alice Eichholz, ed., *Red Book, 3d ed.* (Provo: Ancestry Publishing, 2004), 625-626. Also, Carol L. Maki and Michael John Niell, "Illinois," Alice Eichholz, ed., *Red Book, 3d ed.* (Provo: Ancestry Publishing, 2004), 182-183.

<sup>3</sup> 1860 U.S. census, Macoupin County, Illinois, population schedule, Town 11 Range 8, p. 156 (penned), dwelling 1144, family 1094, Robert Alford household; digital image, Ancestry (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 12 July 2022); National Archives microfilm publication, M653, roll 206.

Also, 1870 U.S. census, Macoupin County, Illinois, population schedule, Township 10 Range 7, p. 36 (penned), dwelling 267, family 286, Robert Alford household; digital image, Ancestry (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 30 June 2022); National Archives microfilm publication, M593, roll 250.

Also, 1880 U.S. census, Tarrant County, Texas, population schedule, [unstated city], enumeration district (ED) 92, p. B (stamped), p. 10 (penned), dwelling 93, family 97, Robert Alford household; digital image, Ancestry (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 12 July 2022); National Archives microfilm publication, T9, roll 1328.

<sup>4</sup> 1870 U.S. census, Macoupin Co., Ill., pop. sched., Township 10 Range 7, p. 36 (penned), dwell. 267, fam. 286, Robert Alford household; digital image, Ancestry.

- [Alford,] Susan, age 6, born Illinois
- [Alford,] Ellen, age 5, born Illinois
- [Alford,] Robert, age 2, born Illinois

Compare this household with the following household in 1860:<sup>5</sup>

- Robert Alford, age 27, born Tennessee
- Alcy [Alford], age 27, born Tennessee
- William T. [Alford], age 6, born Tennessee
- Sara E. [Alford], age 4, born Tennessee
- Thomas H. Evans, age 25, born Tennessee

The first four names are the same. Thomas Evans, a school teacher, is probably Alcy's brother. George and Patrick are missing. However, listed on the same census sheet three dwellings away in the Josiah Wells household, is George M. Alford, age 3, born Tennessee.<sup>6</sup>

- Josiah Wells, age 35, born Kentucky
- Serena R. [Wells], age 35, born Tennessee [relationship?]
- Alvina C. [Wells], age 13, born Illinois
- Andrew J. [Wells], age 9, born Illinois
- Esther A. [Wells], age 5, born Illinois
- Louisa P. [Wells], age 3, born Illinois
- **George M. Alford, 3, born Tennessee**
- George W. Wells, age 1, born Illinois
- William J Stennet, age 17, born Illinois

This is almost certainly Robert and Alcy Alford's son, George, listed as a twelve-year-old in the 1870 census.<sup>7</sup> A closer look indicated another three-year-old, Louisa, in the Wells household. In 1860, enumeration day fell on 10 August.<sup>8</sup> Understandably, Serena Wells, with a one-year-old at home, likely invited George Alford as a temporary guest to spend social time with Louisa, while her neighbor Alcy Alford recovered from childbirth.

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<sup>5</sup> 1860 U.S. census, Macoupin Co., Ill., pop. sched., Town 11 Range 8, p. 156 (penned), dwell. 1144, fam. 1094, Robert Alford household; digital image, *Ancestry*.

<sup>6</sup> 1860 U.S. census, Macoupin County, Illinois, population schedule, Town 11 Range 8, p. 156 (penned), dwelling 1147, family 1097, Josiah Wells household; digital image, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com>; accessed 12 July 2022); National Archives microfilm publication, M653, roll 206.

<sup>7</sup> 1870 U.S. census, Macoupin Co., Ill., pop. sched., Township 10 Range 7, p. 36 (penned), dwell. 267, fam. 286, Robert Alford household; digital image, *Ancestry*.

<sup>8</sup> 1860 U.S. census, Macoupin Co., Ill., pop. sched., Town 11 Range 8, p. 156 (penned), dwell. 1147, fam. 1097, Josiah Wells household; digital image, *Ancestry*.

Alcy's infant, Patrick Alford, born just the month before on 20 July 1860, would have lived in the Illinois household but missed the 1 June cut-off date for enumeration.<sup>9</sup> Robert and Alcy's location in 1860 and 1870 fell closest to the time of Patrick's birth, pointing most clearly to a birth in Illinois.<sup>10</sup>

The two records also support a migration from Roane County, Tennessee, to Macoupin County, Illinois, sometime between George's birth in about 1857 to Patrick's birth in 1860.<sup>11</sup> By 1880, the Alfords migrated a second time to Tarrant County, Texas (see map in appendix A).<sup>12</sup> Compare the Alford household in 1870 Macoupin County, Illinois, with this one:

- Alford, Robert, age 48, husband, born Tennessee
- [Alford,] Als, age 48, wife, born Tennessee
- [Alford,] Susan I., age 15, daughter, born Illinois
- [Alford,] Eveline, age 13, daughter, born Illinois
- [Alford,] Robert, age 11, son, born Illinois
- [Alford,] Minnie, age 6, daughter, born Illinois
- [Alford,] Ida May, age 5, daughter, born Illinois

Susan and the two Robert's are the same. Evaline is similar to Ellen and Als is similar to Alcy. Birth states are consistent. The oldest five children—William, Sarah, George, Patrick, and Rachel—are missing. Notice the stated relationships. The five-year age gap between Robert and Minnie suggests a missing sibling. This is consistent with the family records that show Charlie Parks (23 October 1870 - 27 August 1877) was born and died between census years 1870 and 1880.<sup>13</sup> Charlie's death location also supports the Alford family's move to Tarrant County sometime after Ida May's birth in about 1875 and before Charlie's death in 1877.

Robert and Alcy's affirmed relationship to the Alford children listed in 1880 supports their parental relationship to the Alford children listed in 1860 and 1870. Robert and Alcy's stated relationship to each other agrees with their 1849 Tennessee marriage. The information in table 1 compares census details with known family records.

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<sup>9</sup> "1860 Instructions," digital image, *U.S. Bureau of the Census* ([https://www.census.gov/history/www/through\\_the\\_decades/census\\_instructions/1860\\_instructions.html](https://www.census.gov/history/www/through_the_decades/census_instructions/1860_instructions.html) : accessed 15 July 2022), image 17; p. 14, paragraph one, subtitled "3. Individual Names."

<sup>10</sup> 1860 U.S. census, Macoupin Co., Ill., pop. sched., Town 11 Range 8, p. 156 (penned), dwell. 1147, fam. 1097, Josiah Wells household; digital image, *Ancestry*.

Also, 1870 U.S. census, Macoupin Co., Ill., pop. sched., Township 10 Range 7, p. 36 (penned), dwell. 267, fam. 286, Robert Alford household; digital image, *Ancestry*.

<sup>11</sup> 1860 U.S. census, Macoupin Co., Ill., pop. sched., Town 11 Range 8, p. 156 (penned), dwell. 1147, fam. 1097, Josiah Wells household; digital image, *Ancestry*.

Also, 1870 U.S. census, Macoupin Co., Ill., pop. sched., Township 10 Range 7, p. 36 (penned), dwell. 267, fam. 286, Robert Alford household; digital image, *Ancestry*.

<sup>12</sup> 1880 U.S. census, Tarrant Co., Tex., pop. sched., [unstated city], ED 92, p. B (stamped), p. 10 (penned), dwell. 93, fam. 97, Robert Alford household; digital image, *Ancestry*.

<sup>13</sup> Johnson and Johnson, "Allean Newton's Hand Written 'History,'" 2002.

Table 1. Comparison of Alford Parents & Siblings Named in Census Records			
KNOWN FAMILY <sup>a</sup>	1860 <sup>b</sup>	1870 <sup>c</sup>	1880 <sup>d</sup>
Robert Alford	Robert Alford, 27	Robert Alford, 37	Robert Alford, 48
Alcy (Evans) Alford	Alcy Alford, 27	Alcy Alford, 37	Alsa Alford, 48
William Thomas	William T. Alford, 6	William Alford, 16	
Sarah Elizabeth	Sarah E. Alford, 4	Sarah Alford, 14	
George Meshak	George M. Alford, 3	George Alford, 12	George Alford*
Patrick Mathew		Patrick Alford, 9	
Rachel Rebecca		Rachel Alford, 7	
Susan Isabelle		Susan Alford, 6	Susan I. Alford, 15
Elsie Evaline		Ellen Alford, 5	Evaline Alford, 13
Robert Henry		Robert Alford, 2	Robert Alford, 11
Charlie Parks			
Minnie Louella			Minnie Alford, 6
Ida May			Ida May Alford, 5
Sources:			
a. FamilySearch ( <a href="https://www.familysearch.org/tree/person/details/LZG5-V38">https://www.familysearch.org/tree/person/details/LZG5-V38</a> : accessed 30 June 2022), database, profile for Robert F. Alford, LZG5-V38. Sourced data. Also, James Wesley Johnson and James William Johnson, "Allean Newton's Hand Written "History,"" 2022.			
b. 1860 U.S. census, Macoupin Co., Illinois, pop. sched., Town 11 Range 8, p. 156 (penned), dwell. 1144, fam. 1094, Robert Alford household; digital image, Ancestry ( <a href="https://www.ancestry.com">https://www.ancestry.com</a> : accessed 12 July 2022); National Archives microfilm publication, M653, roll 206. For George, <i>ibid.</i> , see Josiah Wells household.			
c. 1870 U.S. census, Macoupin Co., Illinois, pop. sched., Township 10 Range 7, p. 36 (penned), dwell. 267, fam. 286, Robert Alford household; digital image, Ancestry ( <a href="https://www.ancestry.com">https://www.ancestry.com</a> : accessed 30 June 2022); National Archives microfilm publication, M593, roll 250.			
d. 1880 U.S. census, Tarrant Co., Texas, pop. sched., [unstated city], ED 92, p. B (stamped), p. 10 (penned), dwell. 93, fam. 97, Robert Alford household; digital image, Ancestry ( <a href="https://www.ancestry.com">https://www.ancestry.com</a> : accessed 12 July 2022); National Archives microfilm publication, T9, roll 1328. *For George, see 1880 U.S. census, Tarrant Co., Texas, special sched., Inhabitants in Prison, City Calaboose, p. 50, line 43, entry for George Alford; digital image, Ancestry.			

Three independent census records created over a twenty-year time span corroborate family records and support the marriage and children of Robert and Alcy Alford. Patrick Alford appeared in one of those records and no other record has been found that names Patrick as an Alford with his parents or siblings. However, the combined information adequately provides evidence for Patrick's parent and sibling connections.

### Patrick's Grandparents, Tennessee Roots, and Migration

Patrick's paternal grandparents, Charles Alford and Mary Elizabeth Tipton, married 1813 in Tennessee and had seven children.<sup>14</sup> Patrick's father Robert was the youngest male. The diagram below shows the seven Alford-Tipton children in order of birth.

<sup>14</sup> FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org/tree/person/details/LZG5-VQY> : accessed 30 June 2022), database, profile for Charles Alford, LZG5-VQY. Sourced data.

Also, James William Johnson and James Wesley Johnson, Khristopher James Johnson, editor, *A Horse, A Gunfight, And The Law: A Historical Account of Our Alford's in Texas*, Kindle edition (St. Petersburg, Florida: Ipoesy Publishing [ipoesy@me.com], 2019), 19-20.

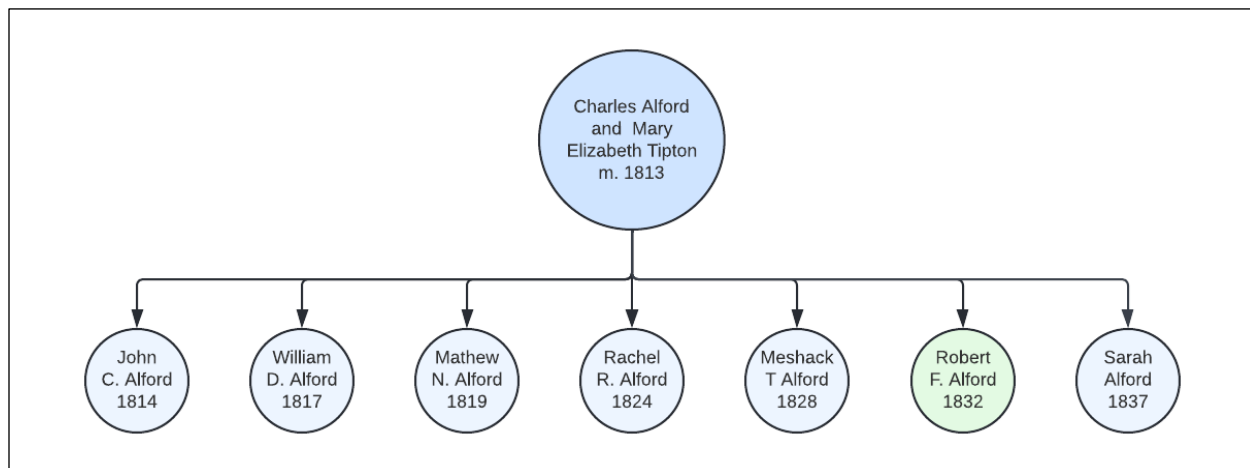


Figure 1. The Alford-Tipton Family.

Patrick's maternal grandparents, Patrick Henry Evans and Rebeca Parks, married 10 November 1830 in Tennessee and had seven children.<sup>15</sup> Patrick's mother Alcy was the oldest. The diagram below shows the seven Evans-Parks children in order of birth. Notice the names in each family group (figures 1 and 2). Many are repeated in some combination with Robert and Alcy's children.

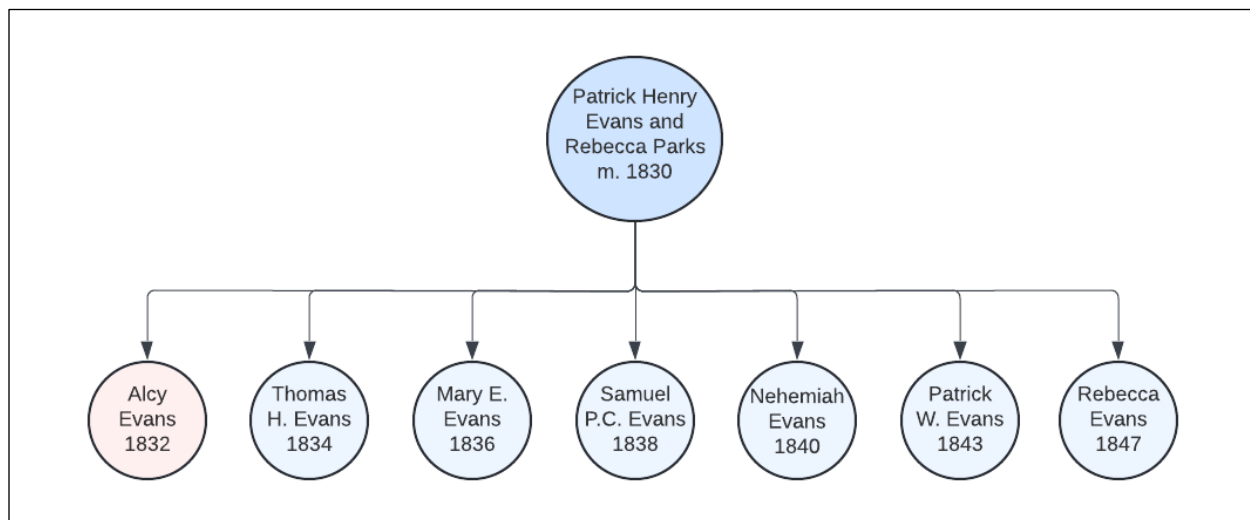


Figure 2. The Evans-Parks Family.

<sup>15</sup> FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org/tree/person/sources/KDWX-3LG> : accessed 30 June 2022), database, profile for Patrick Henry Evans, KDWX-3LG. Sourced data.

Also, Emma Middleton Wells, *The History of Roane County Tennessee 1801-1870* (Chattanooga: The Lookout Publishing Company, 1927), 176; digital image, FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org> : accessed 30 July 2022), call no. 236517. depot



Families in the mid 1800s usually migrated in extended family groups. Patrick's grandparents, Charles and Mary Alford, likely migrated from Tennessee to Illinois with Robert and the last of the Alford siblings between 1857 & 1858. Robert and Alcy joined the older Alford brothers in farming and continued to grow their family in Illinois until about 1876.<sup>16</sup>

### ***Geography, History, and Social Context***

Southwest of Illinois, the Texas Constitution of 1876 was recently passed after a nine-year reconstruction period. Following the Civil War's end in 1865, Texans had economic, social, and political difficulties to resolve. By 1870, Texas was admitted back to the Union.<sup>17</sup> To pay its debt owed to the United States and fund education, the Texas government sold land as homestead grants.<sup>18</sup>

Texas land attracted settlers from everywhere, including Patrick's maternal relatives, the Evans, from Tennessee. As the Constitution of 1876 was being drafted, Patrick's mother, Alcy, received correspondence from a cousin in Tarrant County, Texas.<sup>19</sup> Land availability and proximity to Evans relatives may have prompted Alcy and Robert Alford to relocate from Illinois. The Alford's chosen location near the Trinity River between Fort Worth and Dallas attracted both the good and the bad of society.<sup>20</sup>

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<sup>16</sup> Johnson and Johnson, *A Horse, A Gunfight, And The Law*, 26-37.

<sup>17</sup> "Constitution of 1876," *Texas State Historical Association* (<https://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/entries/constitution-of-1876> : accessed 1 August 2022), par. 1-3.

Also, "Reconstruction," *Texas State Historical Association* (<https://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/entries/reconstruction> : accessed 1 August 2022), par. 1.

<sup>18</sup> "History of Texas Public Lands," article, *The Texas General Land Office* (<https://www.glo.texas.gov/history/archives/forms/files/history-of-texas-public-lands.pdf> : accessed 1 August 2022), p. 15, par. 2, under paragraph titled "Statehood" (education funds); p. 17, par. 1-2, under paragraph titled "Statehood" (homesteaders).

Also, "Land Grants," *Texas State Historical Association* (<https://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/entries/land-grants> : accessed 1 August 2022), par. 4.

Also, "History of Texas (1865-1899)," *Wikipedia* ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History\\_of\\_Texas\\_\(1865%E2%80%931899\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Texas_(1865%E2%80%931899)) : accessed 1 August 2022), under title "Reconstruction," par. 4

<sup>19</sup> Johnson and Johnson, *A Horse, A Gunfight, And The Law*, 17 and 38.

<sup>20</sup> "Trinity River (Texas)," *Wikipedia* ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trinity\\_River\\_\(Texas\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trinity_River_(Texas)) : accessed 10 August 2022), under section titled "Course," par. 2 and 6. "The West Fork Trinity River has its headwaters in Archer County. From there it flows southeast, through the man-made reservoirs Lake Bridgeport and Eagle Mountain Lake, and eastward through Lake Worth and the city of Fort Worth. The Trinity flows southeast from Dallas across a fertile floodplain and the pine forests of eastern Texas... This area gained in population during the period of the Republic of Texas."

Also, "Reconstruction," *Texas State Historical Association* (<https://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/entries/reconstruction> : accessed 1 August 2022), par. 14. "Everyone agreed that lawlessness was rampant in much of the state, but parties could not agree about the cause. Certainly, much of it could be attributed to the postwar breakup. Bands of brigands roamed along the Red River and in the Big Thicket country. Gangs led by such outlaws as Cullen M. Baker, Benjamin F. Bickerstaff, and Bob Lee preyed upon the people of northeastern Texas. Though their targets often were freedmen or federal soldiers, these murderers and horse thieves could hardly be called political activists...In fact the Klan also appeared in the Black belt plantation counties along the lower Brazos, Colorado, and Trinity rivers. Their targets were Blacks and Union men."



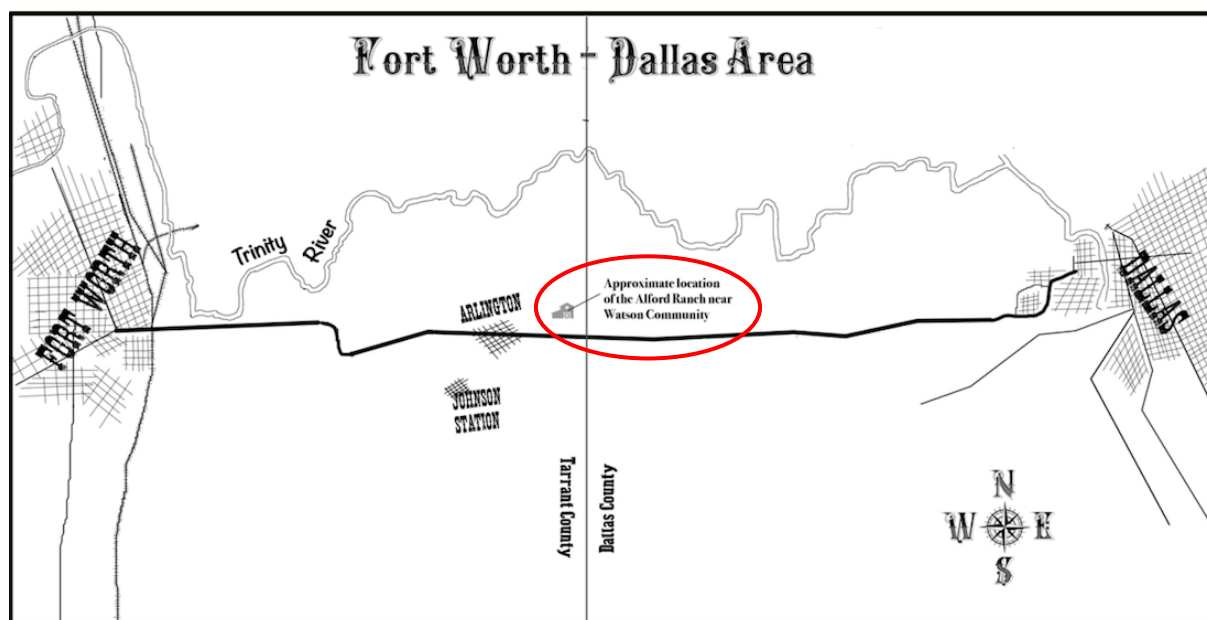


Figure 3. The Approximate Location of the Alford Ranch Between Fort Worth and Dallas.  
Map created by James Wesley Johnson. Used with permission.

The Reconstruction era marked a dark time in Texas state history. Fort Worth in Tarrant County lies on the frontier. During reconstruction, federal troops lined the coast while the state's interior remained largely unprotected. Unwritten rules and politics governed societal law. Most disagreements were settled with guns, and old-time Confederate Texans had a particular dislike for Unionist settlers from the North.<sup>21</sup>

### *The Wild West*

Sometimes good people like the Alfords find themselves in bad circumstances. In 1877, shortly after their ill-fated move to Texas, Patrick rescued his little brother, Charlie, who had fallen into a snake pit (see map in appendix A). "Little Charlie" Parks Alford died and Patrick earned a life-long limp from the bite(s) each received.<sup>22</sup> The Alfords pressed on.

<sup>21</sup> Ibid.

<sup>21</sup> "History of Texas (1865-1899)," Wikipedia ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History\\_of\\_Texas\\_\(1865%E2%80%931899\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Texas_(1865%E2%80%931899))): accessed 1 August 2022), under title "Reconstruction," par. 2

<sup>22</sup> Margaret Elizabeth (McFadin) Staples (Arlington, Texas), interview by James William Johnson, 24 February 2000; transcript privately held by James Wesley Johnson [ADDRESS FOR PRIVATE USE,] St. Petersburg, Florida, 2022. Margaret, a grandniece of James William Johnson (1860-1834) through his sister Rachel Rebecca Alford's son, Henry McFadin, spoke from personal knowledge when she related that Charlie [Parks Alford] died in Texas at the age of nine. He fell into a snake pit, enduring several bites before Patrick jumped in to try and save him. Patrick also received a snake bite in the leg, causing a limp in his gait.

Also, Thomas Jack Alford (Roane County, Tennessee), interview by James William Johnson, 1 May 2002; transcript privately held by James Wesley Johnson [ADDRESS FOR PRIVATE USE,] St. Petersburg, Florida, 2022. Thomas, a great-grandnephew of James William Johnson (1860-1934) through a sibling, Robert Henry Alford (1869-1946), spoke from personal knowledge when he related that Jim Johnson walked with a limp.

Also, *Find A Grave* (<https://www.findagrave.com>): accessed 4 July 2022), memorial 27405482, "Charles Parks 'Little Charlie' Alford," and Charles P. gravestone (Watson Cemetery, Arlington, Texas), digital image; both on 8 June 2008 by Bonnie Diana Hodgson.

Like their grandfather, the three oldest Alford brothers—George, Tom, and Patrick—bred and sold horses.<sup>23</sup> At the same time, horse thieves found refuge among the worst of the west in Hell's Half Acre, Fort Worth's red-light district.<sup>24</sup> In 1879, Tom Alford procured a mare that, unbeknownst to him, turned out to be stolen goods. The sale of that mare set about a chain of events that resulted in gun fight, two deaths, and trouble with the law.<sup>25</sup> By 1880 Patrick and Tom had gone into hiding while George sat in jail awaiting trial for murder.<sup>26</sup>

The historical and social context are two important aspects to consider in the timing of this event. The Alford's were Unionists with relatives who fought and died in the Civil War.<sup>27</sup> Rules and regulations were not yet part of law enforcement. New railroads made for an easy escape and wooded areas provided cover.<sup>28</sup> These conditions certainly fostered the motivation for Patrick to leave the environment, change his name, and settle in another location.

## JAMES WILLIAM JOHNSON FANS

In 1885, under his new moniker, James William Johnson married Sarah Jane Anderson in Missouri. Sarah Jane died in Arkansas after giving birth to their fourth child. James married a second time to Dempsey Tennessee Clark. They had six children before Dempsey died in a wagon accident. James married a third time to Rosa Ayres and they had one child. What clues did each wife leave behind that could help link James Johnson to the Alfords?

### Sarah Jane Anderson, First Wife

James and Sarah married on 10 September 1885 in Pemiscot County, Missouri, at the bride's brother's residence, which was a common practice for the time (see map in appendix A).<sup>29</sup> The bride and groom provided basic details such as name, age, and residence. It is not uncommon for a bride or groom to

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<sup>23</sup> Johnson and Johnson, *A Horse, A Gunfight, And The Law*, 21, 39, 42.

<sup>24</sup> Ibid., 54.

<sup>25</sup> Richard F. Selcer and Kevin S. Foster, *Written in Blood: The History of Fort Worth's Fallen Lawmen, Vol. 1, 1861-1909* (Denton, Texas: University of North Texas Press 2010), p. 68; University of Utah, J. Willard Marriott Library, 295 1500 East, Salt Lake City, Utah, 84112. "Making the whole thing more tragic, it was all so unnecessary. The deaths of two men, a murder charge against a third, and two family names blackened, all resulting from a questionable bill of sale for the inconsequential sum of \$17.50. But then this was Texas where horseflesh and legal ownership of same had always been matters of life and death."

<sup>26</sup> 1880 U.S. census, Tarrant County, Texas, special schedule, Inhabitants in Prison, City Calaboose, schedule page 50, schedule line 43, entry for George Alford; digital image, Ancestry (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 23 July 2022); National Archives microfilm publication, T1143.

Also, Tarrant County, District Court Criminal Case File No. 1777, State of Texas v. George Alford, 1881, murder.

Also, Margaret Elizabeth (McFadin) Staples to James William Johnson, 2000; spoke from personal knowledge when she related the Alford ordeal that led to the name changes of three brothers; Tom, George, and Patrick.

<sup>27</sup> James William Johnson and James Wesley Johnson, Khristopher James Johnson, editor, *A Horse, A Gunfight, And The Law : A Historical Account of Our Alfords in Texas*, Kindle edition (St. Petersburg, Florida: Ipoesy Publishing [ipoesy@me.com], 2019), 23.

<sup>28</sup> Ibid., 37. Also, "Missouri-Kansas-Texas Railroad," *Wikipedia* ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trinity\\_River\\_\(Texas\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trinity_River_(Texas))) : accessed 10 August 2022).

<sup>29</sup> Pemiscot County, Missouri, p. 78, entry for James Johnson-Sarah J. Anderson; Missouri State Archives, Jefferson City; "Missouri, U.S., Marriage Records, 1805-2002," digital image, Ancestry (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 4 July 2022), image 45.

misreport details such as age on a marriage license. If Patrick Alford did not want to be discovered by Texas law officers, he would have had good reason to intentionally misreport information such as his name. Five years after the Texas gun fight Patrick may have already been using the name James Johnson for some time. His Missouri location and discrete new name support the family story that Patrick Alford went into hiding after the gun foray, but the marriage record alone does not prove a name change. The details in James and Sarah's marriage license must be combined with other records to provide evidence of a name change.

The 1890 census could have provided further details about James and Sarah's marriage and children, but the record does not exist.<sup>30</sup> A birth certificate for a Johnson child could also provide clues about James and Sarah, but Arkansas began recording births in 1914, too late for the Johnsons. Sarah died in 1898, just prior to the 1900 enumeration.<sup>31</sup> Before full compliance of birth and death registration in 1944, Arkansas newspapers recorded deaths. Perhaps after Texas, James wanted to stay away from newspapers. As a substitute, Sarah's Arkansas gravestone provided the details:


<p>SARAH J. <i>Wife of</i> JAMES W. JOHNSON <i>BORN</i> Mar. 13, 1861 <i>DIED</i> Nov. 10, 1898 A loving wife, A mother dear, A faithful friend Lies burried here JOHNSON</p>	
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Figure 4. Transcription and Image of Sarah Jane

Johnson's Gravestone.

The carved names remain consistent with James and Sarah's marriage license. Sarah's birthdate on the stone and her documented age in the license point to a first marriage for both Sarah and James. The sentiment "A Faithful Friend" implied that Sarah supported James in his new identity from their beginning.

<sup>30</sup> "History: Availability of 1890 Census," United States Census Bureau ([www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov) : accessed 14 Sep 2018). Also, "First in the Path of Firemen," United States Census Bureau (<https://www.archives.gov/publications/prologue/1996/Spring/1890-census-1.html> : accessed 14 Sept 2018).

<sup>31</sup> Find A Grave (<https://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 4 July 2022), memorial 56995174, "Sarah Jane 'Janie' Anderson Johnson," and Sarah J. gravestone (West Line Cemetery, Sevier County, Arkansas), digital image; both on 12 August 2010 by James W. Johnson.

## *James and Sarah's Children*

During their thirteen married years, James and Sarah had four children (see map in appendix A):

1. 1892 Charles Parker<sup>32</sup>
2. 1895 Murray California<sup>33</sup>
3. 1896 Ida Pearl<sup>34</sup>
4. 1898 Elsie Jane<sup>35</sup>

Ida died shortly after her 1896 birth.<sup>36</sup> After Sarah died giving birth to Elsie Jane in 1898, James buried her next to Ida Pearl.<sup>37</sup> Widower James had six-year-old Charles, three-year-old Murray, and a newborn to care for. In order for James and Sarah's newborn daughter to survive, another lactating mother or *wet nurse* would have had to feed the infant (baby bottles were not common until the early 1900s).<sup>38</sup> Fortunately, James had a female associate about 220 miles away in Tarrant County, Texas, with young children of her own.<sup>39</sup>

## **Beckie (Alford) McFadin, Sibling**

In 1900, one-year-old "Janie Alford," lived with Beckie and Harry in her uncle Lee McFadin's household (see figure 5).<sup>40</sup> Lee, as the household head, probably provided information to the census enumerator. Knowing that his wife Beckie was an Alford, it seems logical that Lee would use the Alford surname to identify his niece.<sup>41</sup> Notice Beckie's birth location showed Illinois, as did Janie's father.<sup>42</sup> This showed consistency when compared with 1870 census details for Rachel and Patrick Alford.<sup>43</sup> Also, Janie's

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<sup>32</sup> Find A Grave (<https://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 20 August 2022), memorial 74661436, "Charles Parker 'Charlie' Johnson," and Chas P. Johnson gravestone (West Line Cemetery, Sevier County, Arkansas), digital image; both on 9 August 2011 by James W. Johnson.

<sup>33</sup> Find A Grave (<https://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 20 August 2022), memorial 58141561, "Murray California Johnson," 3 September 2010 by "Raptorman," and Murray C Johnson gravestone (Redmen Cemetery, De Queen, Arkansas), digital image, 21 August 2011 by James W. Johnson.

<sup>34</sup> Find A Grave (<https://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 4 July 2022), memorial 75281082, "Ida Pearl Johnson," and Ida P. gravestone (West Line Cemetery, Sevier County, Arkansas), digital image; both on 21 August 2011 by James W. Johnson.

<sup>35</sup> Find A Grave (<https://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 20 August 2022), memorial 75283842, "Elsie Jane 'Janie' Johnson Swain," 21 August 2011 by James W. Johnson; no gravestone image. Inscription: "Jane Johns Swain / Nov. 10, 1898 / Mar. 31, 1987"

<sup>36</sup> Find A Grave, memorial 75281082, "Ida Pearl Johnson,"

<sup>37</sup> Ibid. Also, Find A Grave), memorial 56995174, "Sarah Jane 'Janie' Anderson Johnson,"

<sup>38</sup> "The History of Baby Bottles," blog post, My Mom's a Nerd (<https://mymomsanerd.com/history-of-baby-bottles/> : accessed 16 August 2022), under subtitles "Victorian Baby Bottles," and "Vintage Baby Bottles."

<sup>39</sup> 1900 U.S. census, Tarrant County, Texas, population schedule, Precinct 2 Voting Precinct 6 [Arlington Town], enumeration district (ED) 110, p. B (stamped), p. 11 (penned), dwelling 200/202, family 207/205, Lee McFadin household; digital image, FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org> : accessed 15 July 2022); National Archives microfilm publication, T623, roll 1671.

<sup>40</sup> Ibid.

<sup>41</sup> "Texas, Marriage Index, 1824-2014," database, Ancestry (<https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/321935/person/-815809596/facts> : accessed 19 August 2022), entry for Rebecca Alford and L.H. McFadin, 28 September 1879; citing Texas Department of State Health Services, Austin, Texas.

<sup>42</sup> 1900 U.S. census, Tarrant Co., Tex., pop. sched., Precinct 2 Voting Precinct 6 [Arlington Town], ED 110, p. B (stamped), p. 11 (penned), dwell. 200/202, fam. 207/205, Lee McFadin household; digital image, FamilySearch.

<sup>43</sup> Ibid. Also, 1870 U.S. census, Macoupin Co., Ill., pop. sched., Township 10 Range 7, p. 36 (penned), dwell. 267, fam. 286, Robert Alford household; digital image, Ancestry.

mother had a reported birth location in Missouri, which corresponded to the above Johnson's marriage location.<sup>44</sup>

McFadin Lee	Head	M	45	1854	45	M	21		Kentucky	Kentucky	Kentucky
Beckie	Wife	W	38	1862	38	M	21	3	Illinois	Tennessee	Tennessee
Oscar	Son	M	8	1892	8	S			Texas	Kentucky	Illinois
Harry	Son	M	2	1898	2	S			Texas	Kentucky	Illinois
Alford Janie	Niece	W	1	1898	1	S			Arkansas	Illinois	Missouri

Figure 5. Janie Alford in the 1900 McFadin Household, Tarrant County, Texas.

Household	Role	Age	Birthplace	Father	Mother
Lee McFadin	Head	45	Kentucky	Kentucky	Kentucky
Beckie McFadin	Wife	38	<i>Illinois</i>	Tennessee	Tennessee
Oscar McFadin	Son	8	Texas	Kentucky	Illinois
Harry McFadin	Son	2	Texas	Kentucky	Illinois
Janie Alford	Niece	1	Arkansas	<i>Illinois</i>	Missouri

The details gleaned from the 1900 McFadin household, compared with the information in Sarah's cemetery record and gravestone, corroborate the family story that Becky McFadin wet-nursed Elsie Jane after her mother died giving birth on 10 November 1898.<sup>45</sup>

Compare Janie Alford in the McFadin's Texas household with names in the following Johnson's Arkansas household:<sup>46</sup>

Johnson J. W.	Head	M	39	1860	39	M	14		Tennessee	Tennessee	Tennessee
Murphy F.	Wife	W	25	1874	25	M	14	1	Tennessee	Mississippi	Mississippi
Chas. A.	Son	M	8	1892	8	S			Arkansas	Tennessee	Arkansas
Mary F.	Son	M	5	1895	5	S			Arkansas	Tennessee	Arkansas
Lois D.	Daughter	W	4	1900	4	S			Arkansas	Tennessee	Tennessee

Figure 6. Elsie Jane Missing in the 1900 Johnson Household, Sevier County, Arkansas.

<sup>44</sup> 1900 U.S. census, Tarrant Co., Tex., pop. sched., Precinct 2 Voting Precinct 6 [Arlington Town], ED 110, p. B (stamped), p. 11 (penned), dwell. 200/202, fam. 207/205, Lee McFadin household; digital image, FamilySearch.

<sup>45</sup> Johnson and Johnson, "Putting It All Together," 2022. In separate interviews between 1999-2004 James William Johnson's grandniece and six grandchildren stated that after Sarah Jane died giving birth, newborn Elsie Jane Johnson was transported to Tarrant County and wet nursed by Beckie McFadin.

<sup>46</sup> 1900 U.S. census, Tarrant Co., Tex., pop. sched., Precinct 2 Voting Precinct 6 [Arlington Town], ED 110, p. B (stamped), p. 11 (penned), dwell. 200/202, fam. 207/205, Lee McFadin household; digital image, FamilySearch.

Also, 1900 U.S. census, Sevier County, Arkansas, population schedule, Buckhorn Township, enumeration district (ED) 151, p. A (stamped), p. 15 (penned), dwelling 279, family 280, James W. Johnson household; digital image, Ancestry (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 13 July 2022); National Archives microfilm publication, M623, roll 76.



<u>Household</u>	<u>Role</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Birthplace</u>	<u>Father</u>	<u>Mother</u>
<b>Jas. W. Johnson</b>	<b>Head</b>	<b>39</b>	Tennessee	Tennessee	Tennessee
Dempsey T. Johnson	Wife	25	Louisiana	Mississippi	Mississippi
<b>Chas. P. Johnson</b>	<b>Son</b>	<b>8</b>	Arkansas	Tennessee	Arkansas
<b>Murry F. Johnson</b>	<b>Son</b>	<b>5</b>	Arkansas	Tennessee	Arkansas
Lois D. Johnson	Daughter	9/12	Arkansas	Tennessee	Louisiana

James and his two sons, Charlie and Murray remain consistent with the children belonging to first wife Sarah. Elsie Jane is missing from the Johnson household. The fact that Elsie Jane is not listed in this household, strengthens the theory that “Janie Alford” in the Texas McFadin household is Elsie Jane Johnson, James and Sarah Johnson’s daughter. This is the first indication of a Johnson/Alford connection.

Additionally, when comparing James and Beckie’s ages in the two 1900 households with Patrick and Rachel’s ages in the 1870 Alford household, they correlate. Enumeration day in 1900 took place in the month of June, reflecting age accuracy with 38-year-old Beckie’s April birth month and 39-year-old James’s July birth month.<sup>47</sup>

The near 220-mile distance between Arlington, Texas, and West Line, Arkansas, suggests a relationship beyond the average association, something closer to kin. Initial communication between the Johnsons and McFadins would have likely occurred by telegraph, as telephones were just gaining popularity in the early 1900s.<sup>48</sup> It would have been impractical for James to deliver Elsie Jane to Arlington, Texas, with a toddler and young child. Beckie perhaps brought Harry and may have taken the new Louisiana and Arkansas Railway to meet Janie’s father in Texarkana, then a stagecoach to West Line.<sup>49</sup> Certainly, appropriate for a sibling relationship, these details further support a Johnson/Alford connection. An examination of James second marriage provided more clues.

### Dempsey Tennessee Clark, Second Wife

With his infant in caring arms, widower James Johnson needed a mother for his two young sons. No-nonsense dating in Arkansas involved approaching one’s neighbor to solicit their daughter for marriage. Opposite her father’s wishes, Miss Dempsey Clark accepted James’s front porch proposal. James and

<sup>47</sup> Ibid. Also, 1870 U.S. census, Macoupin Co., Ill., pop. sched., Township 10 Range 7, p. 36 (penned), dwell. 267, fam. 286, Robert Alford household; digital image, Ancestry

<sup>48</sup> "Timeline of the Telephone," *Wikipedia* ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline\\_of\\_the\\_telephone](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_the_telephone) : accessed 10 August 2022), under section "1879-1919."

<sup>49</sup> "Louisiana and Arkansas Railway," *Wikipedia* ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Louisiana\\_and\\_Arkansas\\_Railway](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Louisiana_and_Arkansas_Railway) : accessed 10 August 2022).

Dempsey married on 2 March 1899 in Sevier County, Arkansas.<sup>50</sup> This information agrees with details found in the 1900 Johnson household, however, a few conflicting details needed to be resolved or explained (see figure 6).<sup>51</sup>

The inconsistencies found in the Johnson's 1900 Arkansas household likely came from an informant with limited knowledge. Apparently, James's new wife, Dempsey, spoke with the enumerator. The new Mrs. Johnson would have had sparse details about the former Mrs. Johnson and her children, but James had clearly told her he was born in Tennessee. Most certainly there was confusion about the question on "number of years married." Perhaps in answering for James, Dempsey said fourteen and then the enumerator assumed the same for both. In Dempsey's case, simple math disagrees with the marriage of an eleven-year-old child.<sup>52</sup>

Contrast the Johnson's 1900 circumstances to the McFadin's, who had been in their first marriage over twenty years and had mostly first-hand knowledge of the details recorded in the census that year (see figure 5).<sup>53</sup> Having married one month after the 1879-gun incident, Lee almost certainly knew Beckie's family—and therefore Patrick—before that harrowing August day.<sup>54</sup> In 1900, both Lee and Beckie knew more fully than Dempsey, the marriage and birth details of James and his first wife and their child.

### ***Marriage Witness, Robert Alford***

An important clue surfaced in the Johnson-Clark marriage record. Early records usually contain information exclusively about the bride and groom. When James and Dempsey married in the Spring of 1899 a male associate, Elder Robert Alford, performed the union.<sup>55</sup> At first glance, this evidence presented a strong case for a Johnson/Alford connection because it directly states the two surnames in one record (see figure 7). Could this have been a sibling?

In 1900 an Arkansas-born "Day Laborer," Robert Alford, resided in Monroe, Sevier County, Arkansas. His parents had unknown birth-places and the household names did not correspond with those

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<sup>50</sup> Sevier County, Arkansas, "Marriage Record," Book 8, 1889-1900, p. 163, entry for J.W. Johnson-Miss Dempsey Clark; Arkansas History Commission, Little Rock; "Arkansas, County Marriages, 1837-1957," digital image, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org> : accessed 4 July 2022), image 148.

Also, *Find A Grave* (<https://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 4 July 2022), memorial 57083221, "Dempsey Tennessee Clark Johnson" and Dempsey gravestone (West Line Cemetery, Sevier County, Arkansas), digital image; both on 15 August 2021 by James W. Johnson.

Also, Johnson and Johnson, *A Horse, A Gunfight, And The Law*, 223-224.

<sup>51</sup> 1900 U.S. census, Sevier Co., Ark., pop. sched., Buckhorn Twp., ED 151, p. A (stamped), p. 15 (penned), dwell. 279, fam. 280, Jas. W. Johnson household; digital image, *Ancestry*.

<sup>52</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>53</sup> *Ibid.* Also, 1900 U.S. census, Tarrant Co., Tex., pop. sched., Precinct 2 Voting Precinct 6 [Arlington Town], ED 110, p. B (stamped), p. 11 (penned), dwell. 200/202, fam. 07/205, Lee McFadin household; digital image, *FamilySearch*.

<sup>54</sup> "Texas, Marriage Index, 1824-2014," *Ancestry*, entry for Rebecca Alford and L.H. McFadin, 28 September 1879.

<sup>55</sup> Sevier Co., Ark., "Marriage Record," Book 8, 1889-1900, p. 163, entry for J.W. Johnson-Miss Dempsey Clark (1899).



in family records.<sup>56</sup> There is not enough information to determine whether this Robert Alford officiated the Johnson marriage. Perhaps the officiating Robert could have been the same Robert Alford, age two, born in Illinois, who lived with Robert and Alcy Alford in 1870.<sup>57</sup>

Figure 7. 1899 Johnson-Clark Marriage Solemnized by Robert Alford.

The 1870 Robert Alford had a same name father and an inferred nine-year-old sibling, Patrick Alford (see table 1).<sup>58</sup> In 1880, the two Robert Alfords resided in Tarrant County, Texas, the younger now age eleven, and the older forty-eight.<sup>59</sup> By 1900, the younger Robert would have been about age thirty-one, but no longer living in Tarrant County. Family lore hints that the aftermath of the shootout likely created anxiety for Alcy and her youngest children. With good reason, the Alfords decided that Alcy would return

<sup>56</sup> 1900 U.S. census, Sevier County, Arkansas, population schedule, Monroe Township, enumeration district (ED) 151, p. A (stamped), p. 14 (penned), dwelling 209/241, family 211/242, Robert Alford household; digital image, Ancestry (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 13 July 2022); National Archives microfilm publication, M623, roll 76.

<sup>57</sup> 1870 U.S. census, Macoupin Co., Ill., pop. sched., Township 10 Range 7, p. 36 (penned), dwell. 267, fam. 286, Robert Alford household; digital image, Ancestry.

<sup>58</sup> Ibid.

<sup>59</sup> 1880 U.S. census, Tarrant Co., Tex., pop. sched., [unstated city], ED 92, p. B (stamped), p. 10 (penned), dwell. 93, fam. 97, Robert Alford household; digital image, Ancestry.

to Roane County, Tennessee with Evaline, Robert, Ida and Minnie (see map in appendix A).<sup>60</sup> The following timeline of events for Alcy and her four children supports this assertion.

- 1881 Minnie Louella died and was buried in Roane County, Tennessee.<sup>61</sup>
- 1883 Ida May died and was buried in Roane County, Tennessee.<sup>62</sup>
- 1884 Evaline married in Roane County, Tennessee.<sup>63</sup>
- 1895 Robert (R.H.) married in Roane County, Tennessee.<sup>64</sup>
- 1918 Alcy Evans died and was buried in Roane County, Tennessee.<sup>65</sup>
- 1946 Robert Henry Alford died and was buried in Roane County, Tennessee.<sup>66</sup>

The above timeline also supported details found in the 1900 R. H. Alford Roane County, Tennessee household. R.H.–probably Robert Henry–Alford had an Illinois birthplace, and Tennessee-born parents.<sup>67</sup> With the Evans and Alford family's Tennessee origins and migration history, this followed the pattern of movement observed in previous Alford records. Possibly, R. H. Alford and his mother, Alcy, traveled the 630-mile distance between Roane and Sevier Counties–by train–to attend the Johnson union. There is not enough information to determine whether this Robert Alford officiated the Johnson marriage either. However, this Robert's information correlates with those in known Alford family records.

The Robert Alford in the 1899 Johnson-Clark marriage record could not have been the older Robert Alford either. In 1887, the older Robert Alford died in Burleson, Johnson County, Texas.<sup>68</sup> Today

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<sup>60</sup> Johnson and Johnson, *A Horse, A Gunfight, And The Law*, 211 and 214.

<sup>61</sup> Find A Grave (<https://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 4 July 2022), memorial 75302897, "Minnie Louella Alford," 22 August 2011 by James W. Johnson, and Minnie Louella Alford gravestone (Bowman-Bowers Cemetery, New Hope, Tennessee), digital image, 31 August 2011 by Louise Bruman Dice.

<sup>62</sup> Find A Grave (<https://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 4 July 2022), memorial 74356497, "Ida May Alford," 3 August 2011 by "Lou & Eve," maintained by James W. Johnson, and Ida May Alford gravestone (Bowman-Bowers Cemetery, New Hope, Tennessee), digital image, 31 August 2011 by Louise Bruman Dice.

<sup>63</sup> Find A Grave (<https://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 4 July 2022), memorial 154679221, "Elsie Evaline 'Eva' Alford Chapman," 6 November 2015 by "BluMoKitty"; no gravestone image.

<sup>64</sup> Roane County, Tennessee, Marriage Records, vol. 5, Sept 1892-Dec 1899, page 89, R.H. Alford-Myra M. Bowman, 12 March 1895; database with images, "Tennessee, U.S., Marriage Records, 1780-2002," Ancestry ([https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/1169/images/VRMUSATN1780\\_074678-00564?pid=2871555](https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/1169/images/VRMUSATN1780_074678-00564?pid=2871555) : accessed 20 August 2022), image 565; citing Tennessee State Library and Archives, Nashville. Marriage License and Return.

Also, 1900 U.S. census, Roane County, Tennessee, population schedule, 6th District, enumeration district (ED) 117, p. A (stamped), p. 2 (penned), dwelling 22/23, family 23/24, R. H. Alford household; digital image, Ancestry (<https://www.ancestry.org> : accessed 20 August 2022); National Archives microfilm publication, T623, roll 1593.

<sup>65</sup> Find A Grave (<https://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 4 July 2022), memorial 74354816, "Elsie Allean 'Alsa' Evans Alford," 3 August 2011 by "Lou & Eve," maintained by James W. Johnson, and Elsie Alford gravestone (Bowman-Bowers Cemetery, New Hope, Tennessee), digital image, 31 August 2011 by Louise Bruman Dice.

<sup>66</sup> Find A Grave (<https://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 4 July 2022), memorial 74355558, "Robert Henry Alford," 3 August 2011 by "Lou & Eve," maintained by James W. Johnson, and Robert H. Alford gravestone (Bowman-Bowers Cemetery, New Hope, Tennessee), digital image, 31 August 2011 by Louise Bruman Dice.

<sup>67</sup> 1900 U.S. census, Roane Co., Tenn., pop. sched., 6th District, ED 117, p. A (stamped), p. 2 (penned), dwell. 22/23, fam. 23/24, R. H. Alford household; digital image, Ancestry.

<sup>68</sup> Find A Grave (<https://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 4 July 2022), memorial 205184792, "Robert F. Alford," 2 December 2019 by Joe Spears; no gravestone image.

Also, "Looking For a Murdered Man's Relatives," *Fort Worth (Texas) Daily Gazette*, 6 Jan 1888, page 2, column 5; digital images, *Newspapers* (<https://www.newspapers.com> : accessed 8 September 2022).

Also, "Mob-Violence in Caldwell," *The Galveston (Texas) Daily News*, 17 January 1888, page 1, column 2; digital images, *Newspapers* (<https://www.newspapers.com> : accessed 8 September 2022).

the Fort Worth suburb, Burleson, is also part of Tarrant County.<sup>69</sup> This ruled out the older Robert Alford as the one named in the marriage record, still, the identity of “Elder” Robert Alford remains vague. Further research could provide more information.

### *James and Dempsey’s Children*

James and Dempsey had six children between 1900 and 1912:<sup>70</sup>

1. 1900 Lois Dempsey (Childress)<sup>71</sup>
2. 1902 Timothy Toy<sup>72</sup>
3. 1904 Robert Henry<sup>73</sup>
4. 1906 Allie May (Crowder)<sup>74</sup>
5. 1909 Geraldine Verna (Hamilton)<sup>75</sup>
6. 1912 Pompie Franklin<sup>76</sup>

In 1900, Lois is named in the Johnson household and by 1910 Elsie Jane, now called “Janie Johnson” had joined her father and brothers in Arkansas.<sup>77</sup> The “U. S.” place of birth for James’s father indicated that Dempsey, again, likely informed the enumerator. However, Dempsey had ten years to acquire

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Also, Johnson and Johnson, “Putting It All Together,” 2022.

<sup>69</sup> “Burleson, Texas,” *Wikipedia* ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Burleson,\\_Texas](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Burleson,_Texas) : accessed 20 August 2022). “*Burleson is a city in Johnson and Tarrant counties in Texas. It is a suburb of Fort Worth.*”

<sup>70</sup> 1900 U.S. census, Sevier Co., Ark., pop. sched., Buckhorn Twp., ED 151, p. A (stamped), p. 15 (penned), dwell. 279, fam. 280, Jas. W. Johnson household; digital image, *Ancestry*.

Also, 1910 U.S. census, Sevier County, Arkansas, population schedule, Monroe Township, enumeration district (ED) 173, p. B (stamped), p. 6 (penned), dwelling 118, family 119, James Johnson household; digital image, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 13 July 2022); National Archives microfilm publication, M624, roll 66.

Also, 1920 U.S. census, Sevier County, Arkansas, population schedule, Buckhorn Township (DeQueen), enumeration district (ED) 170, p. B (stamped), p. 12 (penned), dwelling 208, family 194, James W. Johnson household; digital image, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 13 July 2022); National Archives microfilm publication, T625, roll 82.

Also, BIBLE, viewed on 28 Jun 2000 entitled, Indexed Holy Bible of Dempsey Tennessee Clark, (Revised, Chicago: John A. Dickson Publishing Co., 1909) in section, “Family History,” on page 1, archived at the residence of James William Johnson, located in Pinellas Co., FL (Saint Petersburg), Bible in possession.

<sup>71</sup> Find A Grave (<https://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 20 August 2022), memorial 67749297, “Lois Dempsey Johnson Childress,” 1 April 2011 by “Arkieologist,” maintained by James W. Johnson, and Lois D. Childress gravestone (Hilcrest Cemetery, Texarkana, Texas), digital image, 7 June 2013 by Doris Lindblad.

<sup>72</sup> Find A Grave (<https://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 20 August 2022), memorial 89290549, “Timothy Toy Johnson,” 29 April 2012 by Deborah Ayers and Timothy Toy Johnson gravestone (Chapel Hill Cemetery, De Queen, Arkansas), digital image, 5 May 2012 by Doyle Wester.

<sup>73</sup> Find A Grave (<https://www.findagrave.com> : accessed [20 August 2022), memorial 59306681, “Robert Henry Johnson,” 27 September 2010 by “sbgraves”; no gravestone image. Inscription: “Beloved Husband & Father / Robert H. Johnson / 1904-1989.”

<sup>74</sup> Find A Grave (<https://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 20 August 2022), memorial 2074872, “Allie Mae Crowder,” and Allie Mae Crowder gravestone (Resthaven Memorial Park Cemetery, Lubbock, Texas), digital image; both on 1 August 2007 by “Shawn The Grave Hunter.”

<sup>75</sup> Find A Grave (<https://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 20 August 2022), memorial 31419590, “Geraldine Verna Johnson Hamilton,” and Geraldine Hamilton gravestone (Juniper Haven Cemetery, Prineville, Oregon), digital image; both on 14 November 2008 by Carrie and Allen.

<sup>76</sup> Find A Grave (<https://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 20 August 2022), memorial 19141351, “Pompie Franklin Johnson,” 29 April 2007 by “Barb N Okla,” and Pompie F. Johnson gravestone (West Line Cemetery, Sevier County, Arkansas), digital image, 2 September 2010 by Deborah Ayers.

<sup>77</sup> 1900 U.S. census, Sevier Co., Ark., pop. sched., Buckhorn Twp., ED 151, p. A (stamped), p. 15 (penned), dwell. 279, fam. 280, Jas. W. Johnson household; digital image, *Ancestry*.

Also, 1910 U.S. census, Sevier Co., Ark., pop. sched., Monroe Twp., ED 173, p. B (stamped), p. 6 (penned), dwell. 118, fam. 119, James Johnson household; digital image, *Ancestry*. Note: Dempsey is indexed as “Dennie” and Toy as “Roy.”

more knowledge about James's first wife, as other information in this record lines up more with the actual details. The Johnson's eleven-year marriage was defined as a first for Dempsey and a second for James (outlined in red). Dempsey also clarified that she gave birth to five of the eight Johnson children in their dwelling (also in red, figure 8).

Johnson James	Head	M	48	11	11	Tennessee	Ark.	Tennessee
— Dannie	Wife	F	35	11	5	Louisiana	Mississippi	Mississippi
— Lois	Daughter	F	10	8		Arkansas	Tennessee	Louisiana
— Ray	Son	M	7	8		Arkansas	Tennessee	Louisiana
— Robert	Son	M	5	8		Arkansas	Tennessee	Louisiana
— Allie	Daughter	F	3	8		Arkansas	Tennessee	Louisiana
— Geraldine	Daughter	F	6	12		Arkansas	Tennessee	Louisiana
— Chas. P.	Son	M	17	8		Arkansas	Tennessee	Missouri
— Murry F.	Son	M	14	8		Arkansas	Tennessee	Missouri
— Janie	Daughter	F	11	8		Arkansas	Tennessee	Missouri
Clark Priscilla	Relative	F	74	11	2	Mississippi	South Carolina	South Carolina

Figure 8. The 1910 Johnson Household, Sevier County, Arkansas.

Household	Role	Age	Birthplace	Father	Mother
James Johnson	Head	48	Tennessee	U.S.	Tennessee
"Dennie" Johnson	Wife	35	Louisiana	Mississippi	Mississippi
Lois Johnson	Daughter	10	Arkansas	Tennessee	Louisiana
"Ray" [Toy] Johnson	Son	7	Arkansas	Tennessee	Louisiana
Robert Johnson	Son	5	Arkansas	Tennessee	Louisiana
Allie Johnson	Daughter	3	Arkansas	Tennessee	Louisiana
Geraldine Johnson	Daughter	6/12	Arkansas	Tennessee	Louisiana
Chas. P. Johnson	Son	17	Arkansas	Tennessee	Missouri
Murry F. Johnson	Son	14	Arkansas	Tennessee	Missouri
Janie Johnson	Daughter	11	Arkansas	Tennessee	Missouri
Priscilla Clark.	MIL	74	Mississippi	So. Carolina	So. Carolina

This evidence supported two mothers for the children in the household. If Janie Johnson in 1910 is the same individual as Janie Alford in 1900, then a sibling relationship between James Johnson and Beckie (Alford) McFadin likely existed.<sup>78</sup> Comparing birth details and age between James and Beckie pointed to the 1870 Patrick Alford.<sup>79</sup> The possibility of half-siblings is incompatible with any Alford

<sup>78</sup> 1900 U.S. census, Tarrant Co., Tex., pop. sched., Precinct 2 Voting Precinct 6 [Arlington Town], ED 110, p. B (stamped), p. 11 (penned), dwell. 200/202, fam. 207/205, Lee McFadin household; digital image, *FamilySearch*.

Also, 1910 U.S. census, Sevier Co., Ark., pop. sched., Monroe Twp., ED 173, p. B (stamped), p. 6 (penned), dwell. 118, fam. 119, James Johnson household; digital image, *Ancestry*.

<sup>79</sup> 1870 U.S. census, Macoupin Co., Ill., pop. sched., Township 10 Range 7, p. 36 (penned), dwell. 267, fam. 286, Robert Alford household; digital image, *Ancestry*.

scenario, as Robert and Alcy each had only one spouse. The evidence of one marriage for Alcy Evans, rules out the possibility that she married a Johnson before or after she married Robert Alford.<sup>80</sup>

James and Dempsey's youngest son, Pompie, joined the Johnson family in 1912.<sup>81</sup>

Less than two years later, in Summer 1914, Dempsey set out to deliver a lunch to James. On the way, her wagon wheel hit a tree stump, launching Dempsey from the carriage. Mrs. Dempsey Johnson died from her injuries a few days later on 24 June 1914.<sup>82</sup>

Although less dire a situation, James once more found himself in need of daily childcare. The older teenage Johnson boys, Charley and Murray, already helped with the family farm, and Janie and Lois, ages fourteen and fifteen, could probably help with family duties after school. Toy, Robert, and Allie likely attended school during the day, but with Dempsey gone, someone would have to look after Geraldine, age four, and Pompie, just under age two.<sup>83</sup> Rather than marry again, James employed a young mother, Rosa Ellen Ayers, to help with his children.

### Rosa Ellen Ayres, Third Wife

Almost ten years later James married Rose, his longtime housekeeper, on 6 September 1923 in Idabel, McCurtain County, Oklahoma.<sup>84</sup> Idabel lies about 21 miles west of the Arkansas state border. Established by the Arkansas and Choctaw Railway in 1902, McCurtain County bordered Sevier County.<sup>85</sup>

James, age sixty-four, and Rose, age thirty-one had one child.

1. 1924 James Harris<sup>86</sup>

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<sup>80</sup> FamilySearch, profile for Robert F. Alford, LGZ5-V38.

<sup>81</sup> 1920 U.S. census, Sevier Co., Ark., pop. sched., Buckhorn Twp. (DeQueen), ED 170, p. B (stamped), p. 12 (penned), dwell. 208, fam. 194, James W. Johnson household; digital image, Ancestry.

<sup>82</sup> Find A Grave (<https://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 4 July 2022), memorial 57083221, "Dempsey Tennessee Clark Johnson" and Dempsey T. gravestone (West Line Cemetery, Sevier County, Arkansas), digital image; both on 15 August 2021 by James W. Johnson.

Also, "A Fatal Accident Befell a Lady of Chapel Hill..." *The Nashville (Arkansas) News*, 27 June 1914, page 1, column 2; digital images, Newspapers (<https://www.newspapers.com> : accessed 22 August 2022).

<sup>83</sup> 1910 U.S. census, Sevier Co., Ark., pop. sched., Monroe Twp., ED 173, p. B (stamped), p. 6 (penned), dwell. 118, fam. 119, James Johnson household; digital image, Ancestry.

<sup>84</sup> Sevier County, Arkansas, p. 492, entry for J.W. Johnson-Rosa Ayres; Various Oklahoma County marriage collections; "Oklahoma, U.S., County Marriage Records, 1890-1995," digital image, Ancestry (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 4 July 2022), image 247.

<sup>85</sup> "Idabel, Oklahoma," Wikipedia ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Idabel,\\_Oklahoma](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Idabel,_Oklahoma) : accessed 22 August 2022), under "History" and "Geography" sections.

<sup>86</sup> 1930 U.S. census, Sevier County, Arkansas, population schedule, Buckhorn Township, enumeration district (ED) 67-6, p. A (stamped), p. 1 (penned), dwelling 7, family 7, James W. Johnson household; digital image, Ancestry (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 13 July 2022); National Archives microfilm publication, M626, roll 95.

Also, Find A Grave (<https://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 20 August 2022), memorial 74661158, "James Harris Johnson," 9 August 2011 by James W. Johnson, and Jimmy Johnson gravestone (Roseburg Memorial Gardens Cemetery, Roseburg, Oregon), digital image, 22 September 2011 by John.



### *James William Johnson's Death*

James died on 24 May 1934 at age seventy-three. If Rose knew about the Alford connection, she didn't say so in the death certificate. Rose provided the personal details, such as James's birthdate and location. Notably, the 20 July 1860 birthdate lines up with early Alford family records for Patrick. Although inaccurate, the Tennessee birth location shows consistency with the details James shared in census records—due to hiding.<sup>87</sup> James and Rose married after Robert and Alcy Alford had died, so any details about them would have also been passed down from James to Rose. Thus, it seems reasonable that Rose assumed her father-in-law, Robert (F.), had the same Johnson surname. Did James take his secret to the grave? Not entirely.

### *James's Obituary*

Newspaper obituaries usually name surviving family of the deceased. The person who provided details for James's obituary is unknown, even so, the information matched with early Johnson family records. Fifty years in Arkansas had established the Johnson family's identity. With the Alford surname intentionally concealed, a generation of Johnsons had begun raising a second. James's five surviving sons and two of four surviving daughters lived in or near West Line. James died at his daughter's, Lois (Johnson) Childress, home in De Queen.<sup>88</sup> As such, carrying on the Johnson name made sense for the living. Rose, Lois, or another Johnson kin probably provided the details.

A transcription of James's obituary is shown below. Notice the transcriber identified female given names and surnames in parentheses (see figure 9).<sup>89</sup> An image of the original was sent from the Arkansas State Archives, but some the information in the far-right column was cut off (see appendix B). The details that can be seen, correlate with the transcription.

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<sup>87</sup> Sevier County, Arkansas, death no. 1238 (1934), James William Johnson; Department of Vital Records, Little Rock; "Arkansas, Death Certificates, 1914-1969," Ancestry (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 14 July 2022), image 840.

Also, BIBLE, "Family History" on page 1, 1909.

Also, Find A Grave (<https://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 4 July 2022), memorial 56970431, "Patrick 'Mace' Alford," 12 August 2010 by James W. Johnson; no gravestone image.

<sup>88</sup> "Sevier County Obituaries: J," ARGenWeb (<https://www.argenweb.net/sevier/obitJ.html> : accessed 14 July 2022), alphabetically arranged, James William Johnson (24 May 1934, DeQueen Bee), submitted by "JJ."

<sup>89</sup> Ibid.

## Johnson, James William

24 May 1934, DeQueen Bee

Submitted by: JJ

James William Johnson, 73, pioneer citizen and well known farmer of the West Line community, died at the home of his daughter, Mrs Curtis Childress (Lois Dempsey Johnson) in DeQueen, Thursday at 8:30 p.m., following a six-day illness of pneumonia. Deceased was born July 20, 1860 at Kingston, Tenn., and had been a resident of Sevier county for the past 50 years. Funeral service was held at the Childress home Sunday at 3 p.m., being conducted by the Rev. J.F. Queen. Interment was made in Walnut Grove cemetery (The cemetery eventually became known as West Line.) at West Line, with a short service at the grave. The Wilkerson funeral Home directed the funeral. Mr. Johnson is survived by his widown, four daughters and five sons, as follows: Mrs. Walter Johns (Elsie Jane Johnson), Newark, N.J., Mrs Curtis Childress (Lois Dempsey Johnson), DeQueen, Mrs. C.M. Crowder (Alamae Johnson), Lexington, KY., Mrs. Archie Hamilton (Geraldine Johnson), Broken Bow, Okla., Toy Johnson, Murray Johnson, Pompie Johnson and Harris Johnson, all of West Line, and Robert Johnson of DeQueen. He is also survived by three brothers, R.J. Johnson and J.W. Johnson of DeQueen, Robert Johnson of Kingston, Tenn., and one sister, Belle Newton (Ella Belle Johnson), Dallas, Texas. NOTE: Parenthesis is mine.

Figure 9. Transcription of James William Johnson's 1934 Obituary.

The obituary's author fell into one of two categories of survivors: those who *knew* about the name change and those who *knew not*. Those who *knew* were fewer and older; those who *knew not* were many and younger. Perhaps a surviving and *younger* Johnson informant unintentionally misreported the surname because the Alford surname had not been openly spoken of—You don't *know*, what you *don't* know.

So, which, if any, of the Johnson children *knew*? James may have had a conversation with Murray while they worked on the farm. Lois could have been informed directly by James during his last few days living in the Childress home. It is unclear which children knew in 1934 or when they found out. Either way, the obituary's author, if they *knew*, took an ethical tone, avoiding unnecessary confusion or inquiry from James's unsuspecting children and/or grandchildren. Most likely Rose, Lois, or another Johnson kin named James's four surviving siblings, three brothers and one sister.<sup>90</sup>

When James Johnson's surviving siblings were compared with known Patrick Alford siblings, the following identities became evident:

- |   |                              |
|---|------------------------------|
| 1. Robert Johnson of Kingston, Tennessee  | = Robert Alford              |
| 2. Belle Newton of Dallas, Texas          | = Susan Isabelle Alford      |
| 3. R. J. Johnson of De Queen [, Arkansas] | = George M. Alford           |
| 4. J. W. Johnson of De Queen [, Arkansas] | = Unidentified Alford cousin |

Location, timeline, and historical context support these claims and agree with family lore. Robert "Johnson" who lived in Kingston, Tennessee, was almost certainly Robert-R.H.-*Alford*. Belle Newton ties in perfectly with this theory. Robert had a sister, Susan I. Alford, in 1880. When the *younger* Robert Alford went to Tennessee with their mother, Alcy, fifteen-year-old Susan went to live with their newlywed sister Rachel (Alford) McFadin in Dallas. Rachel and Susan used variations of their middle names: Rachel Rebecca used Beckie and Susan Isabelle used Belle. The McFadin surname and Dallas location helped

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<sup>90</sup> Ibid.



Beckie and Belle avoid direct association with the Alford surname and may have provided necessary protection for other Alford siblings.

In 1880, Robert, Belle, and Beckie's sibling, George Alford was enumerated as a prisoner in the Tarrant County jail.<sup>91</sup> Accused of committing a murder he did not commit, George's conviction was overturned by the Court of Appeals later that year, and he was released.<sup>92</sup> No mention of death has been found in any Texas county for George Alford or his brother Patrick.<sup>93</sup> By 1900, almost certainly for personal safety reasons, George joined Patrick-aka James William Johnson-in Arkansas.<sup>94</sup> George changed his name to Richard Joseph Johnson-R. J. Johnson in the obituary-and they became known to the Arkansas public as the "Johnson" brothers.<sup>95</sup> This theory was reinforced during multiple interviews by Johnson descendants, who believed Belle Newton was a Johnson too.<sup>96</sup>

Outlier, J. W. Johnson does not correspond to any Alford sibling and may have been an Alford cousin, although further research is needed to validate this claim.<sup>97</sup>

Certainly, James's surviving siblings, R. J., Robert and Belle *knew* their Alford surname. But they had made a pact to never reveal the name change unless asked. Each changed their surname name within a few years after the gun dispute, two by marriage and two by personal decision.<sup>98</sup> New identities and locations for Patrick and George made sense. According to family stories, the McFadins and Newtons supported their two "Johnson brothers" by keeping their secret close and sharing with few.<sup>99</sup>

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<sup>91</sup> 1880 U.S. census, Tarrant Co., Tex., special sched., Inhabitants in Prison, City Calaboose, p. 50, line 43, entry for George Alford; digital image, Ancestry.

<sup>92</sup> Selcer and Foster, *Written in Blood* p.59. *The authors statement about being twins is incorrect, but this illustrates Mace and George's similarities, "... Mace Alford was George's fraternal twin, and it was hard to tell the two apart even for people who knew them."*

Also, *ibid.*, p. 62; citing *George Alford v. State*, Case No. 545. "Alford protested unconvincingly, 'You are mistaken; I was not there.'" Found in *written in blood book*

Also, *ibid.*, p. 68, *Even the jurors struggled with what exactly to do, "What was not so easy to set aside was the matter of the 'remarkable resemblance' between the defendant and his brother Mace."*

Also, *ibid.*, p. 68, "...the Court ruled that trying to execute an unlawful arrest warrant was what provoked the shootout, and therefore George Alford was not criminally liable for defending himself nor his brother Tom for trying to escape. The Court of Criminal Appeals ordered George Alford released..."

<sup>93</sup> Ancestry (<https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/61843/> : searched 4 September 2022), negative results for variations of George/Zack Alford, born 1857, died after 1881, in Texas. Also, *ibid.* for variations of Patrick/Mace Alford, born 1860, died after 1881, in Texas. *Deaths were not recorded in Texas until 1903. With all the trial coverage in newspapers, the death of a criminal would have been welcomed information.*

Also, FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/> : accessed 4 September 2022), negative results for variations of George/Zack Alford, born 1857, died after 1881, in Texas. Also, *ibid.* for variations of Patrick/Mace Alford, born 1860, died after 1881, in Texas.

<sup>94</sup> Selcer and Foster, *Written in Blood*, p. 8, "There has long been an unwritten rule in law enforcement that 'cop killers' would be hunted down and receive the full punishment of the law, no exceptions."

<sup>95</sup> 1900 U.S. census, Sevier County, Arkansas, population schedule, De Queen, enumeration district (ED) 149, p. B (stamped), p. 7 (penned), dwelling 128, family 133, Robt. J. Johnson household; digital image, Ancestry (<https://www.ancestry.org> : accessed 20 August 2022); National Archives microfilm publication, T623.

<sup>96</sup> "Was Belle Newton, James Johnson's sibling?" p. 5, under heading "The Johnson Family Assumption."

<sup>97</sup> Johnson and Johnson, "Was Belle Newton, James Johnson's Sibling?" p. 14. "J. W. Johnson was possibly an Alford cousin who lived in De Queen, Arkansas region."

<sup>98</sup> Johnson and Johnson, "Putting It All Together," pp. 5-7.

<sup>99</sup> *Ibid.*

Also, James Wesley Johnson and James William Johnson, "Was Belle Newton, James Johnson's Sibling?" p. 5, par. 4, under the heading "The Johnson Family Assumption." "From 1998 through 2002, we interviewed most of the Johnson's descendants in

## Sibling Obituaries

Belle Newton was the last Alford sibling to pass. Before her death, five siblings named Belle Newton of Dallas as a surviving sister, three were documented Alford. The locations of each sibling agree with family records, including the two Johnson siblings in Arkansas. The combined details found in each obituary strengthen the Johnson/Alford connection. The table below compares the information found in six obituaries published between 1915 and 1957.

Table 2 Comparison of Alford Siblings Named in Obituaries			
NAME	YR DIED	LOCATION	SURVING SIBLINGS NAMED
Thomas A. Alford <sup>a</sup>	1915	Dallas, TX	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mrs. L.H. McFadden of Arlington</li> <li>Mrs. Belle Newton of Dallas</li> </ul>
Mrs. Rebecca McFaddin <sup>b</sup>	1927	Arlington, TX	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mrs. M.E. Murray of Arlington</li> <li>Mrs. Belle Newton of Dallas</li> </ul>
Mrs. Sarah E. Murray <sup>c</sup>	1928	Arlington, TX	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mrs. Belle Newton of Dallas</li> <li>Bob Alford of Harriman, Tenn.</li> </ul>
James William Johnson <sup>d</sup>	1934	De Queen, AR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>R.J. Johnson of DeQueen</li> <li>J.W. Johnson of DeQueen</li> <li>Robert Johnson of Kingston, Tenn.</li> <li>Belle Newton, Dallas, Texas</li> </ul>
Mr. Richard J. Johnson <sup>e</sup>	1948	Atlanta, GA / DeQueen, AR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mrs. Belle Newton</li> </ul>
Mrs. Belle Newton <sup>f</sup>	1957	Dallas, TX	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No surviving siblings</li> <li>Elsa Allean Newton of Dallas</li> </ul>
<p>Sources:</p> <p>a. "Deaths in Dallas: Alford," <i>Dallas (Texas) Morning News</i>, 13 May 1915, page 15, column 2; digital image, <i>GenealogyBank</i> (<a href="https://www.genealogybank.com">https://www.genealogybank.com</a> : accessed 15 July 2022).</p> <p>b. "Mrs. McFaddin Dies at Her Home Here Sunday," <i>The (Texas) Arlington Journal</i>, 5 August 1927, transcribed by Mr. W.E. Keller; <i>The Arlington Public Library</i> (<a href="https://www.arlingtonlibrary.org/genealogy-local-history">https://www.arlingtonlibrary.org/genealogy-local-history</a> : accessed 15 July 2022).</p> <p>c. "Mrs. Sarah E. Murray Buried Wednesday" <i>The (Texas) Arlington Journal</i>, 28 December 1928, transcribed by Mr. W.E. Keller; <i>The Arlington Public Library</i> (<a href="https://www.arlingtonlibrary.org/genealogy-local-history">https://www.arlingtonlibrary.org/genealogy-local-history</a> : accessed 15 July 2022).</p> <p>d. "Sevier County Obituaries: J," ARGenWeb (<a href="https://www.argenweb.net/sevier/obitj.html">https://www.argenweb.net/sevier/obitj.html</a> : accessed 14 July 2022), alphabetically arranged, James William Johnson (24 May 1934, DeQueen Bee), submitted by "JJ".</p> <p>e. "Funeral Notices : Johnson, Mr. Richard J.," <i>The Atlanta (Georgia) Constitution</i>, 13 June 1948, page 29, column 4; digital image, <i>Newspapers</i> (<a href="https://www.newspapers.com">https://www.newspapers.com</a> : accessed 29 August 2022).</p> <p>f. "Mrs. Belle Newton," <i>Dallas (Texas) Morning News</i>, 30 September 1957, page 15, column 1; digital image, <i>GenealogyBank</i> (<a href="https://www.genealogybank.com">https://www.genealogybank.com</a> : accessed 15 July 2022).</p>			

## Belle (Alford) Newton, Sibling

In 1935—the year after James died—the United States began the Social Security program which required proof of birth. In Arkansas, individuals born before 1914 could apply for a delayed birth registration. The application required a parent or “older relative or other older person” with knowledge of

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person and through email exchanges." The interviewees were well acquainted with Belle Newton, Jim Johnson, and Dick Johnson, having grown up around them. When asked about Belle Newton's maiden name, every answer was the same, "Her last name was Johnson." They spoke without equivocation and offered no other surname as a possibility."

the birth and parents, to sign under oath. In 1942 Belle Newton signed as a witness to the birth of Elsie Jane Johnson. Belle said under oath that she was Elsie's aunt and the "only living sister to the child's father."<sup>100</sup> Belle had no reason to misreport information. Sufficient time had passed since the gun fallout; George had been found not guilty, Patrick's case had been dismissed and eight Alford siblings had passed. Indeed, this record's purpose was to provide proof of three relationships: Elsie Jane to her parents, Elsie Jane to Belle, and Belle to James. If Belle Newton was the only living sister of James William Johnson, and Belle Newton was an Alford, then James William Johnson was an Alford before he became a Johnson. The following points support this conclusion:

- The Alford's daughter, Miss Belle, married M. J. Newton.<sup>101</sup>
- Belle Newton's address, 5410 Mercedes, Dallas, Texas, in Elsie's delayed registration matches the address in her 1957 obituary.<sup>102</sup>
- In 1942, Belle had one living brother, Richard J. Johnson, which made her statement "only living sister" true.

## FAN Results

When the details of Patrick Alford's life before 1879 are compared with the details gathered from the FANs of James William Johnson after 1879, the evidence clearly points to a name change. Census records, online trees, and an historical biography contained the names of Family, Associates, and Neighbors of Patrick Alford's parents and siblings. These Alford family names or their variations were discovered in court records, newspapers, later censuses, cemetery records, obituaries, and delayed birth records, which corroborated Johnson marriage records, censuses, and descendant's interviews. James's FANs were his siblings. Likewise, James's siblings were his fans. Table 3 shows the similarities between Patrick and James.

Table 3 Similarities Between Patrick Alford and James William Johnson		
NAME	PATRICK ALFORD	JAMES WILLIAM JOHNSON
BIRTHDATE	After 1 June 1860	20 July 1860
FATHER	Robert	Robert
MOTHER	Alcy (Evans) Alford	Alcy (Evans) Alford
SIBLINGS	William Thomas Sarah Elizabeth George Meshak	Thomas Alford Sarah E. Murray Richard J. Johnson

<sup>100</sup> Sevier County, Arkansas, Delayed Birth Certificate no. 622 (stamped), Elsie Jane Johnson, 10 November 1898; database with images, "Arkansas, Birth Certificates, 1914-1917," *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 22 August 2022), image 64.

<sup>101</sup> Tarrant County, Texas, Marriage License, page 401, M. J. Newton-Belle Alford, 27 March 1883; database with images, "Texas, U.S., Select County Marriage Records, 1837-1965," *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 18 August 2022), image 423.

<sup>102</sup> Sevier Co., Ark., Delayed Birth Certificate no. 622 (stamped), Elsie Jane Johnson, 10 November 1898; *Ancestry*. Also, "Mrs. Belle Newton," p. 15, col. 1; *GenealogyBank*.

	Rachel Rebecca Susan Isabelle Ellen/Evaline Robert Charlie Parks Minnie Ida May	Beckie McFadin Belle Newton Evaline/Evie Robert/Bob Alford Charlie P. Minnie Louella Ida May
Sources: see text		

### ***Naming Patterns***

Naming patterns can often provide clues to related individuals. Parents typically named a child in honor of a relative, such as a parent, grandparent, aunt, uncle, sibling, or other family member. The naming patterns of the Johnson children present strong evidence of a familial connection. Notice how the following names correlate with James's Alford siblings above:

- First son, Charles Parker = sibling, Charlie Parks, who died from a snake bite(s)
- First daughter, Ida Pearl = sibling, Ida May, who died after the move to Tennessee
- Daughter, Elsie Jane = mother, variation of Alcy/Alsa/Elsa; and Jane after Sarah Jane
- Son, Robert Henry = father and sibling, Robert
- Daughter, Lois = sibling, Minnie Louella, also died after the move to Tennessee
- Daughter, Allie May = sibling, Ida May

The details of James and Patrick's life may seem insignificant when considered in isolation. However, the correlated details of multiple records from many relationships generated significant results. The documentary evidence agreed that James William Johnson was born Patrick Alford. Comparing the genealogical evidence above with DNA results can provide the biological evidence to establish proof that James Johnson was an Alford.

### **DNA ANALYSIS**

With no record directly stating Patrick Alford's relationship to his parents and siblings, genetic evidence can confirm a biological relationship between them. Additionally, comparing amounts of shared DNA between matches can rule out other possibilities associated with Alcy Evans such as a Johnson spouse or a misattributed paternal event.

James William Johnson's great-grandson with the same name—James William Johnson II—descended through James and Sara's son, Charles P. Johnson. James II had his Y-DNA tested at FamilyTreeDNA (FTDNA) and his Autosomal DNA (atDNA) tested at AncestryDNA.

A father only shares Y-DNA with his sons. Y-DNA changes very little and can be useful in tracing distant relationships along the paternal line. Y-DNA was used to test the hypothesis that James William Johnson was born Patrick Alford.

A father and a mother both share half of their atDNA with each child. This type of DNA can be useful in determining more recent relationships along both the paternal and maternal ancestral lines. AtDNA was used to support relationships stated in family lore.

## Y-DNA

Y-DNA can link different surnames together and help sort out family relationships. Since Y-DNA can only pass from a father to his son, tracing the direct male line provides biological evidence to compare with documentary evidence. In modern-day America, surnames are passed down from a father, who got that surname from his father and so on. What happens if the father decides to change his surname?

A father can decide to change the documentation, but the DNA will remain the same. In the case of James William Johnson, the Y-DNA carried by his descendants agreed with this logic. The absence of a Y-DNA match carrying the Johnson surname validated a break in the paper trail. The lack of evidence also disproved the possibility that Alcy married or had a misattributed paternal event with a Johnson male. Conversely, the presence of many Y-DNA matches carrying the Alford surname provided the biological evidence to authenticate consistency in the DNA.

## Y-DNA Matches

Closely related Y-DNA matches are part of the same haplogroup. Haplogroup is the “name given to a large branch of the genetic human tree.”<sup>103</sup> James II’s haplogroup, R-M269, is very common, but it does point to an Alford connection. The ideal Y-DNA match compares the same number of markers within a relatively close time frame to track down a common ancestor. Using 67 markers and a genetic distance within three steps can locate an ancestor within four to eight generations. This fits inside the genealogical time frame to test the hypothesis of a biological relationship between the contemporary Johnson’s and the distant Alford’s.

The results of a 67-marker comparison for test taker, James William Johnson II revealed the following:<sup>104</sup>

- Twenty-seven Y-DNA matches shared the Alford surname
- Twenty-two were within a genetic distance of one to three steps

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<sup>103</sup> Blaine T. Bettinger and Debbie Parker Wayne, *Genetic Genealogy in Practice* (Arlington, Virginia: National Genealogical Society, 2016), 143. Haplogroup is “a name given to a large branch of the genetic human tree; there are separate genetic trees for Y-DNA and for mtDNA; two individuals must have the same haplogroup to be closely related on the Y-DNA or mtDNA line.”

<sup>104</sup> “Y-DNA Matches,” match report, *FamilyTreeDNA*(<https://www.familytreedna.com/my/ydna/matches/detail-view> : created 30 August 2022), for James Johnson, 67 Markers Filter.

- Eighteen were in haplogroup R-M269.
- Zero matches had the Johnson surname.

Four matches stood out:<sup>105</sup>

1. Anonymous A
2. Anonymous B
3. Anonymous C
4. Anonymous D

Y-DNA match Anonymous A's earliest known ancestor showed Charles Alford, born 1790 and died 1858.<sup>106</sup> This fell within range of four to eight generations from James William Johnson II and lines up with documentary evidence. The diagram below illustrates the documented paternal lines of test taker, James II, and Y-DNA match, Anonymous A, to Charles Alford (see figure 10).<sup>107</sup>

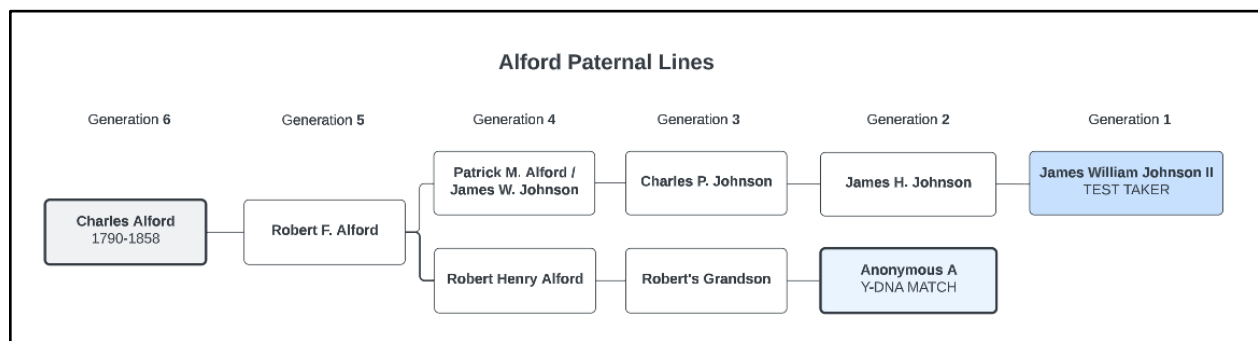


Figure 10. Documented Paternal Line of James William Johnson II and Anonymous A.  
Diagram compiled by Michelle Mickelson on 25 August 2022.

The other three Y-DNA matches share the same surname, are in the same haplogroup, and have the same genetic distance. The probability is quite high that these three matches, Anonymous B, Anonymous C, and Anonymous D, share a common Alford ancestor with James II at or before four generations. That percentage increases at or before eight generations. In table 4, compare the three matches, Anonymous B, Anonymous C, and Anonymous D, with Anonymous A (shaded in light blue). Notice the higher probability at or before four generations. This could mean that Anonymous B, C, and D share a recent common ancestor around the Patrick Alford/James Johnson time frame. (Names have been redacted in the table's citation for privacy.)

<sup>105</sup> Ibid.

<sup>106</sup> Ibid.

<sup>107</sup> "Ahnentafel of Thomas Harper Alford, AAFA #1416," *Alford Association* ([http://www.alfordassociation.org/tafels/tafel\\_1416.html](http://www.alfordassociation.org/tafels/tafel_1416.html) : accessed 30 August 2022), results for Thomas Jack Alford.

Also, Michelle Mickelson, "Alford Paternal Lines," digital file in Lucid Chart private account, digital copy privately held by Michelle Mickelson, [ADDRESS FOR PRIVATE USE,] Washington, Utah, 2022. Chart shows paternal line of test taker with James William Johnson II and Y-DNA match Thomas Jack Alford.

Table 4 Probability that Y-DNA Alford Matches Share a Common Ancestor With James William Johnson at or Before Eight Generations.					
Y-DNA MATCH	SURNAME	HAPLO- GROUP	GENETIC DISTANCE	4 GENERATION PROBABILITY	8 GENERATION PROBABILITY
Anonymous B	Alford	R-M269	1 step	89.79%	98.96%
Anonymous C	Alford	R-M269	1 step	89.79%	98.96%
Anonymous D	Alford	R-M269	1 step	89.79%	98.96%
Anonymous A	Alford	R-M269	2 steps	71.61%	95.17%
Sources: "Y-DNA TiP Report," probability results, FamilyTreeDNA ( <a href="https://www.familytreedna.com/my/ycna/matches/detail-view">https://www.familytreedna.com/my/ycna/matches/detail-view</a> : created 30 August 2022), comparing [REDACTED] and Mr. James Johnson; 67 markers. Also, ibid. [REDACTED]. Also, ibid. [REDACTED]. Also, ibid. [REDACTED].					

## AUTOSOMAL DNA

Everyone inherits exactly 50% of each parent's autosomal DNA (atDNA). Beyond that, approximately 25% from grandparents, 12.5% from grandparents, 6.25% from great-great grandparents and about 3.12% from a third-great-grandparent. DNA inheritance is a random process; everyone inherits different amounts of DNA from different ancestors. For example, second cousins will always share DNA, but amounts will vary. Third and fourth cousins will not always share DNA, even though they are genealogically related.

A relationship is measured in units called centimorgans (cM). A testing company applies probability to this number to predict how the test taker is related to a DNA match. Their relatedness correlates with average and range. For instance, a second cousin (2C) match might share anywhere from 41 to 353 cM; averaging 221 cM (see figure 11 to the left).<sup>108</sup>

For example, James 3 (table 5, red bold), a predicted 2C match, shares 169 cM with James II. 169 falls within the 41 to 353 range, and is close to the 229 averages.

Figure 11. Relationship Ranges

Relationship ranges at Shared cM Project v4 beta		
Relationship	Average	Range
2C	229 cM	41-353 cM
2C1R	122 cM	14-353 cM
3C	73 cM	0-234 cM
4C	35 cM	0-139 cM
4C1R	28 cM	0-126 cM
Half 1C1R	224 cM	156-979 cM
Half 2C	120 cM	10-325 cM
Half 2C1R	66 cM	0-190 cM
Half 3C1R	37cM	0-139 cM

Using the Shared cM Project Tool.

<sup>108</sup> Diahn Southard, *Your DNA Guide The Book* (United States of America: www.yourDNAguide.com, 2020), 103. Also, Jonny Perl and Blaine Bettinger, "The Shared cM Project 4.0 tool v4," DNA Painter (<https://dnapi.com/tools/sharedcmv4> : accessed 25 August 2022).



## Selected Matches

Table 5 shows the DNA matches selected for this study. These represent the best criteria with which to compare genealogical relationships. The information in this table can be used to compare with the diagrams that follow in this section's discussion. For ease and clarity, focus on columns labeled "cM SHARED" and "cM RANGE." DNA matches are grouped by the Most Recent Common Ancestor (MRCA), or the grandparent couple they descend from. Ancestry ThruLines uses self-reported tree information to identify the MRCA: Johnson-Anderson in white; Johnson-Clark in gray, Alford-Evans in blue, Alford-Tipton in green; and Evans-Parks in pink.

Table 5 James William Johnson II's Selected DNA Matches Through Various Ancestor Descendants						
MATCH ID	RELATIONSHIP	MOST RECENT COMMON ANCESTOR COUPLE	DESCENDANT OF	cM SHARED	AVERAGE cM*	cM RANGE*
James 1	2C ↔	Johnson-Anderson	Murray Johnson	135	229	41-353
James 2	2C	Johnson-Anderson	Murray Johnson	177	229	41-353
<b>James 3</b>	<b>2C</b>	<b>Johnson-Anderson</b>	<b>Murray Johnson</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>229</b>	<b>41-353</b>
James 4	2C	Johnson-Anderson	Murray Johnson	169	229	41-353
James 5	Half 2C	Johnson-Clark	Timothy Johnson	113	120	10-325
James 6	Half 2C	Johnson-Clark	Robert H. Johnson	66	120	10-325
James 7	Half 2C1R	Johnson-Clark	Pompie Johnson	117	66	0-190
Rebecca 1	3C1R	Alford-Evans	Rebecca McFadin	33	48	0-192
Robert 1	3C	Alford-Evans	Robert H. Alford	69	73	0-234
Evaline 1	3C	Alford-Evans	Evaline Chapman	43	73	0-234
Alford 1	4C	Alford-Tipton	John C. Alford	76	35	0-139
Alford 2	4C	Alford-Tipton	William D. Alford	11	35	0-139
Alford 3	4C	Alford-Tipton	Mathew N. Alford	20	35	0-139
Alford 4	4C1R	Alford-Tipton	Rachel R. Alford	17	28	0-126
Alford 5	4C	Alford-Tipton	Meshak T. Alford	8	35	0-139
Alford 6	4C	Alford-Tipton	Sarah Alford	13	35	0-139
Evans 1	3C1R	Evans-Parks	Samuel P. Evans	27	48	0-192
Evans 2	3C1R	Evans-Parks	Patrick W. Evans	18	48	0-192
Evans 3	4C	Evans-Parks	Patrick W. Evans	42	35	0-139

\* Predicted cM average and range for each relationship based on "Shared cM Project 4.0 Tool, beta," at *DNA Painter*.  
 ↔ Relationship abbreviation example: 3C1R = third cousin, one generation removed.

Sources:

- "ThruLines for Sarah Jane Duncan [Anderson]," database report, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 25 August 2022), results for test taker James William [Johnson II].
- "ThruLines for James William Johnson," database report, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 25 August 2022), results for test taker James William [Johnson II].
- "ThruLines for Robert F. Alford," database report, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 25 August 2022), results for test taker James William [Johnson II].
- "ThruLines Report for Charles Alford," database report, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 25 August 2022), for test taker James William [Johnson II].
- "ThruLines for Patrick Henry Evans," database report, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 25 August 2022), results for test taker James William [Johnson II].



## The Johnson/Anderson Family

Four matches were selected who descend from James William Johnson and his first wife, Sarah Jane Anderson. These matches share an amount of DNA within the predicted range of second cousins (see table 5 in white). The diagram below shows each match and the amount of DNA shared with the test-taker, James William Johnson II.<sup>109</sup>

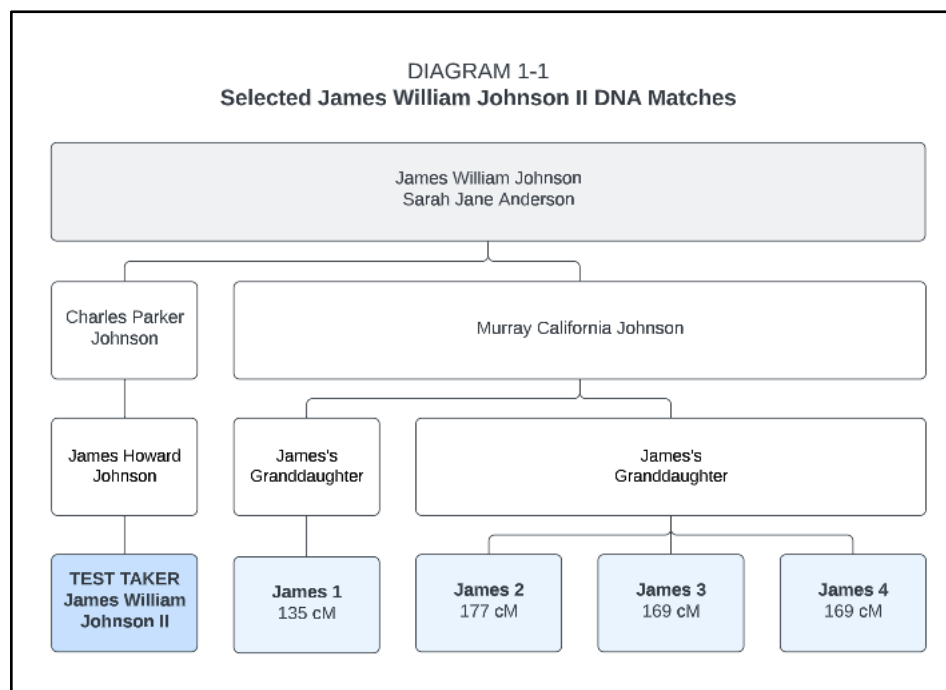


Figure 12. James William Johnson II DNA Matches Through Johnson–Anderson Descendants.  
Diagram compiled by Michelle Mickelson on 25 August 2022.

## The Johnson/Clark Family

Three matches were selected who descend from James William Johnson and his second wife, Dempsey Tennessee Clark. Because these matches descend through a different wife, genetic genealogy defines this type of relationship as a *half relationship* to James II. Predicted half relationships will share

<sup>109</sup> "ThruLines for Sarah Jane Duncan [Anderson]," database report, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 25 August 2022), results for test taker James William [Johnson II].

Also, Michelle Mickelson, "Select James William Johnson II DNA Matches," digital file in Lucid Chart private account, digital copy privately held by Michelle Mickelson, [ADDRESS FOR PRIVATE USE,] Washington, Utah, 2022. Chart shows relationships of Johnson/Anderson descendants who share DNA with James William Johnson II.

smaller amounts of DNA than predicted full relationships because the shared DNA comes from one ancestor instead of two. These three matches share an amount of DNA within the predicted range of half cousins (see table 5 in gray). The diagram below shows the matches and the amount of DNA shared with the test-taker, James William Johnson II.<sup>110</sup>

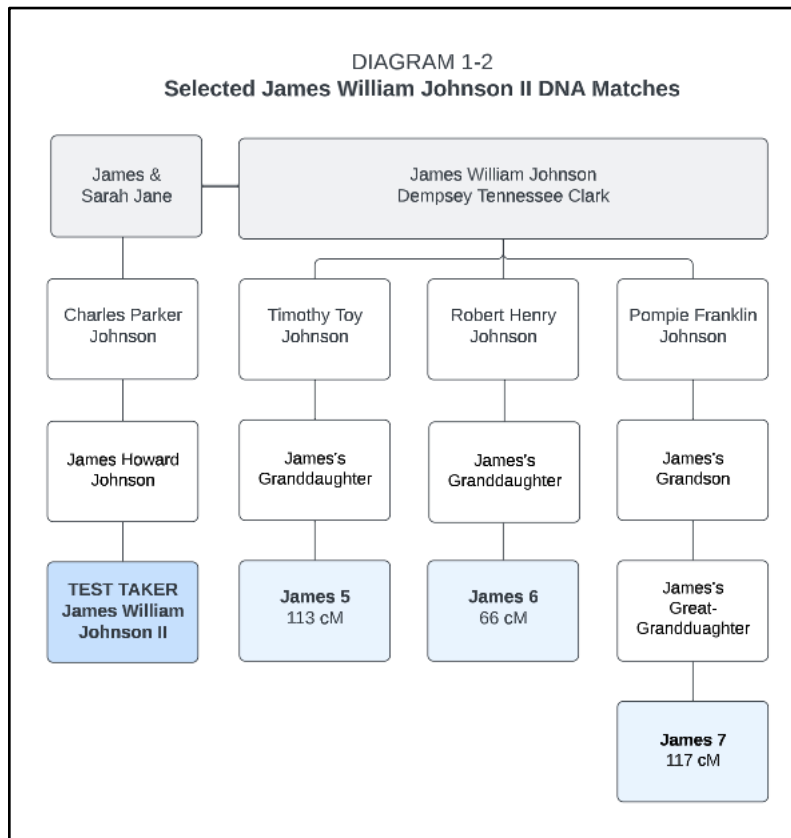


Figure 13. James William Johnson II DNA Matches Through Johnson–Clark Descendants.  
Diagram compiled by Michelle Mickelson on 25 August 2022.

### The Alford/Evans Family

Three matches were selected who descend from Robert F. Alford and his wife, Alcy Evans. These matches share an amount of DNA within the predicted range of third cousins (see table 5 in blue). The diagram below shows the matches and the amount of DNA shared with the test-taker, James William Johnson II.<sup>111</sup>

<sup>110</sup> "ThruLines for James William Johnson," database report, Ancestry (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 25 August 2022), results for test taker James William [Johnson II].

Also, Michelle Mickelson, "Select James William Johnson II DNA Matches," digital file in Lucid Chart private account, digital copy privately held by Michelle Mickelson, [ADDRESS FOR PRIVATE USE,] Washington, Utah, 2022. Chart shows relationships of Johnson/Clark descendants who share DNA with James William Johnson II.

<sup>111</sup> "ThruLines for Robert F. Alford," database report, Ancestry (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 25 August 2022), results for test taker James William [Johnson II]. Two children of Robert and Alcy Alford were not included in this DNA analysis: sons, William Thomas

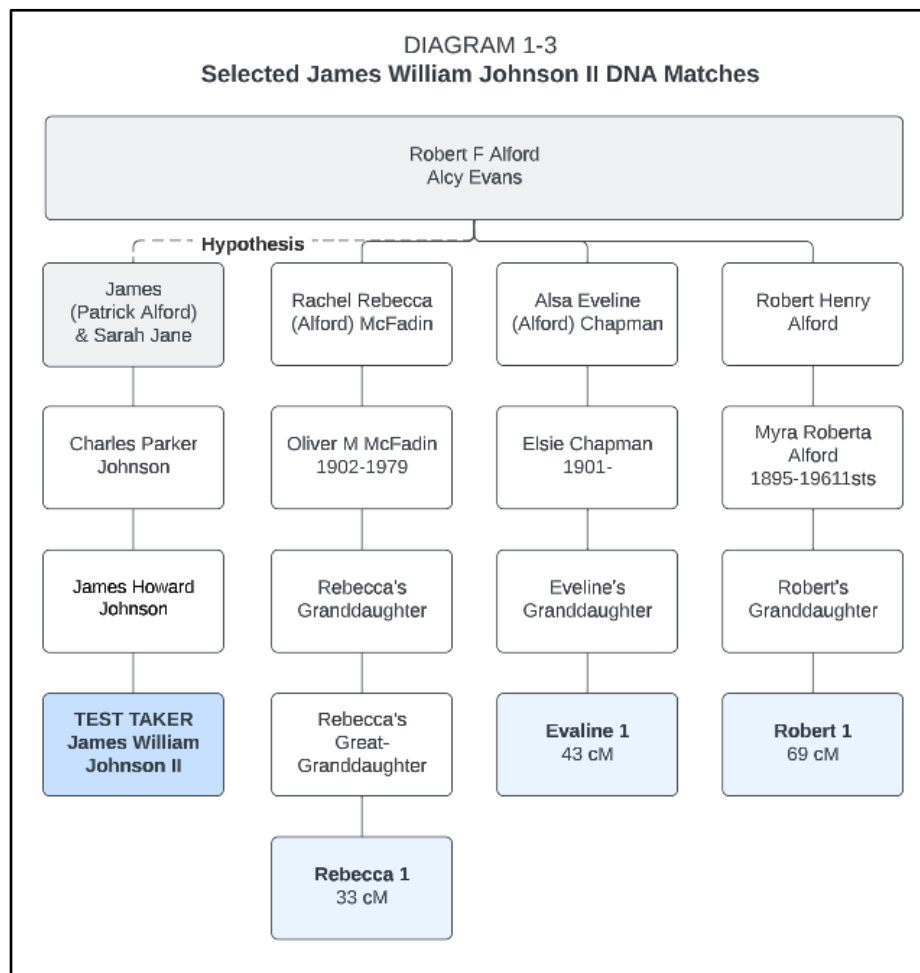


Figure 14. James William Johnson II DNA Matches Through Alford–Evans Descendant.  
Diagram compiled by Michelle Mickelson on 25 August 2022.

### Combined Johnson/Alford Families

When diagrams 1-1, 1-2, and 1-3 are combined, the results show how atDNA supports the hypothesized relationship between James and the Alford parents. The diagram below shows the combined Johnson/Alford matches in blue and the Alford–Evans descendant matches in light blue.<sup>112</sup>

and George M (Richard Joseph Johnson) Alford, did not have linked online trees and therefore DNA could not be compared. Alford siblings without known descendants include: Charles Parks, Minnie Louella and Ida May Alford, who died in childhood; Sarah Elizabeth's one known child died in infancy; Belle (Susan Isabelle Alford) Newton's daughter did not marry and had no known children.

Also, Michelle Mickelson, "Select James William Johnson II DNA Matches," digital file in Lucid Chart private account, digital copy privately held by Michelle Mickelson, [ADDRESS FOR PRIVATE USE,] Washington, Utah, 2022. Chart shows relationships of Alford/Evans descendants who share DNA with James William Johnson II.

<sup>112</sup> "ThruLines for Sarah Jane Duncan [Anderson]," database report, Ancestry.

Also, "ThruLines for James William Johnson," database report, Ancestry.

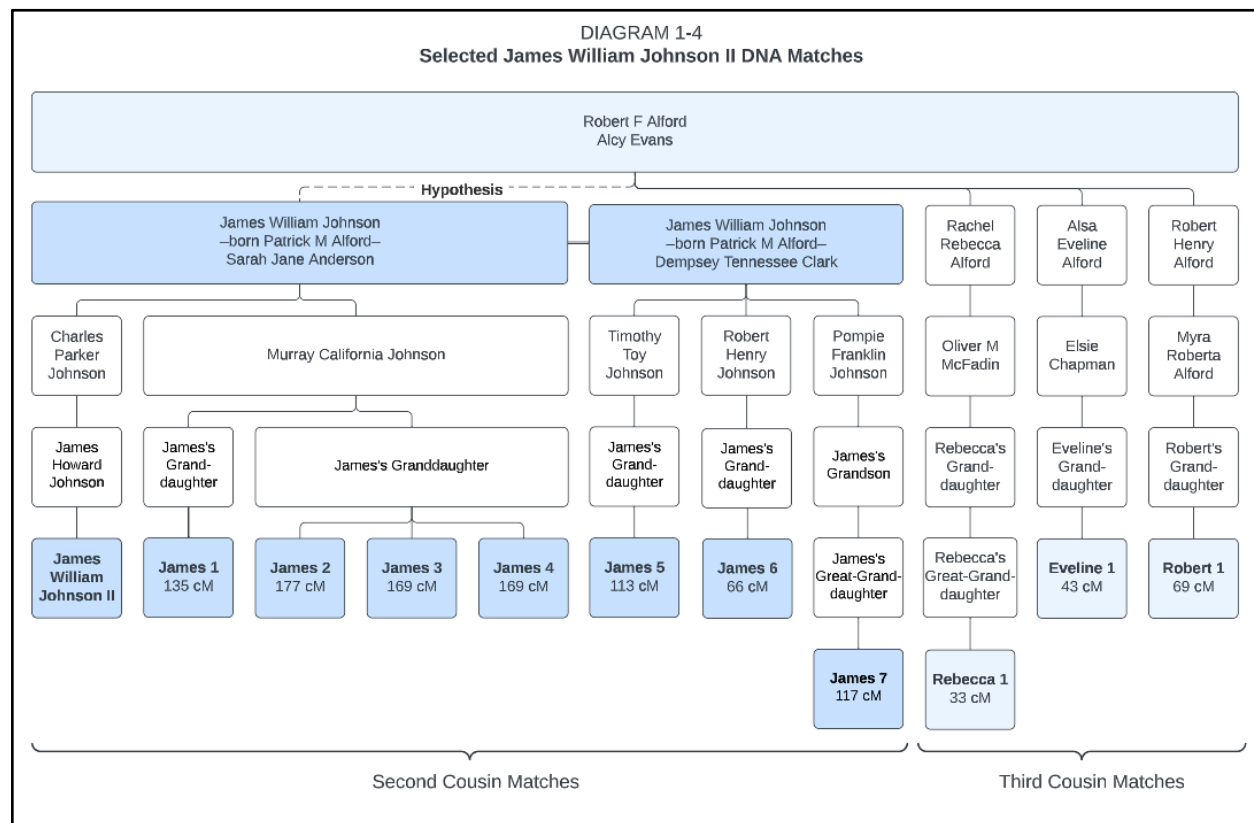


Figure 15. James William Johnson II DNA Matches through Robert F. Alford and Alcy Evans.  
Diagram compiled by Michelle Mickelson on 25 August 2022.

Also, "ThruLines for Robert F. Alford," database report, Ancestry. *Due to the random nature of recombination, some of the Alford descendants shared DNA with some of the Johnson matches, while others did not.*

Also, Michelle Mickelson, "Select James William Johnson II DNA Matches," digital file in Lucid Chart private account, digital copy privately held by Michelle Mickelson, [ADDRESS FOR PRIVATE USE,] Washington, Utah, 2022. Chart shows relationships of Alford/Evans descendants who share DNA with James William Johnson II.

## Shared Matches

A shared match on *AncestryDNA* “is someone who appears both on your list of matches and on someone else's.”<sup>113</sup> For example, James II and his second cousin, James 3, both have James II’s third cousin, Robert 1, on their list of matches, Robert 1 is a shared match (see table 6). James II’s second cousins from figure 15 are listed in table 6, shaded in blue. James II’s third cousins from figure 15 are also shown in table 6, shaded in gray. All shared matches are marked with an “x” in white. (Names have been redacted in the table’s citation for privacy.)

Table 6 James William Johnson II’s Shared Matches (Gray) With Second Cousins (Blue)			
JAMES JOHNSON II	REBECCA 1	EVALINE 1	ROBERT 1
James 1			
James 2	x	x	x
James 3	x	x	x
James 4	x	x	x
James 5		x	x
James 6	x	x	
James 7			x
Source: "Shared Matches," database report, <i>AncestryDNA</i> ( <a href="https://www.ancestry.com">https://www.ancestry.com</a> : created 25 August 2022), for James William Johnson and [REDACTED]; Also, <i>ibid.</i> , for James William Johnson and [REDACTED]; Also, <i>ibid.</i> , for James William Johnson and [REDACTED]; Also, <i>ibid.</i> , for James William Johnson and [REDACTED]; Also, <i>ibid.</i> , for James William Johnson and [REDACTED]; Also, <i>ibid.</i> , for James William Johnson and [REDACTED]; Also, <i>ibid.</i> , for James William Johnson and [REDACTED].			

The shared matches in table 6 form a genetic network or cluster. Using this genetic cluster with documented parent–child links can lead to solid conclusions: “if several members of a genetic network group all descend from a known ancestor or ancestral couple, then it can be assumed that the other members of that group are also likely related through the same ancestral line.”<sup>114</sup> In James II’s case, the genetic cluster in table 6 all likely descend from Robert Alford and Alcy Evans. Although each parent–child link needs to be verified with documentary research, these matches support a biological relationship between the Johnsons and Alfords. Documenting these links can be done in future research.

<sup>113</sup> "AncestryDNA Shared Matches," *AncestryDNA* ([https://support.ancestry.com/s/article/AncestryDNA-Shared-Matches?language=en\\_US](https://support.ancestry.com/s/article/AncestryDNA-Shared-Matches?language=en_US) : accessed 13 September 2022).

<sup>114</sup> Paul Woodbury, “Connecting the Dots-Introduction to Auto Clusters at MyHeritageDNA,” webinar and syllabus, *Legacy Family Tree Webinars* (<https://www.familytreewebinars.com> : posted 14 July 2020).



## Alford/Tipton ThruLines<sup>®</sup>

Ancestry's ThruLines<sup>®</sup> tool uses their online public member trees to suggest genealogical relationships to DNA matches. The results are only as accurate as member's trees. Thirty-two DNA matches were suggested to have descended through Charles Alford and his wife, Elizabeth Tipton. Six matches—one from each Alford sibling—are named in table 5 (shaded green). These matches share an amount of DNA within the predicted range of fourth cousins. Although each parent-child link needs to be verified with documentary research, these matches support a biological relationship between the Johnsons and Alfords.<sup>115</sup>

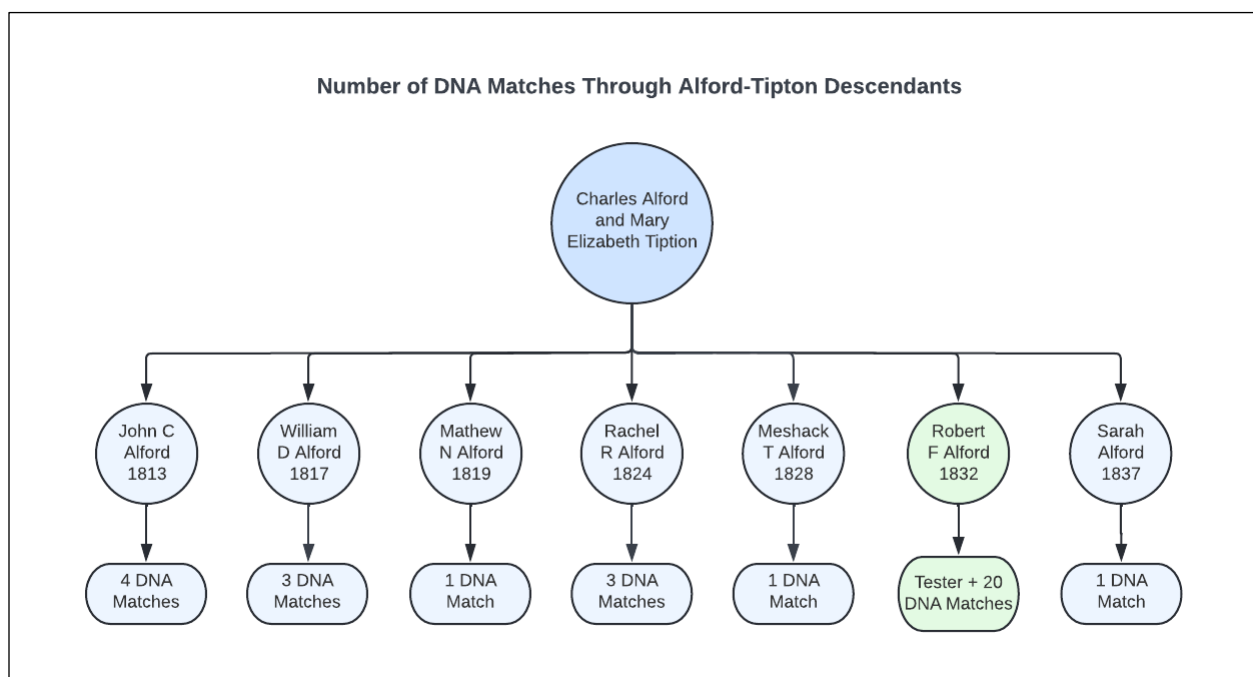


Figure 16. Number of James William Johnson II's DNA Matches Through Alford-Tipton Descendants.  
Diagram compiled by Michelle Mickelson on 25 August 2022.

<sup>115</sup> "ThruLines Report for Charles Alford," database report, Ancestry (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 25 August 2022), for test taker James William [Johnson II].

Also, Michelle Mickelson, "Number of DNA Matches Through Alford-Tipton Descendants," digital file in Lucid Chart private account, digital copy privately held by Michelle Mickelson, [ADDRESS FOR PRIVATE USE,] Washington, Utah, 2022. Chart shows relationships of Alford/Evans descendants who share DNA with James William Johnson II.

## Evans/Parks ThruLines<sup>®</sup>

Twenty-three DNA matches were suggested to have descended through Patrick Henry Evans and his wife, Rebecca Parks. Three Evans sibling matches are named in table 5 (shaded pink). These matches also share an amount of DNA within the predicted range of fourth cousins. Although each parent-child link needs to be verified with documentary research, these matches support a biological relationship between the Johnsons and Evans.<sup>116</sup>

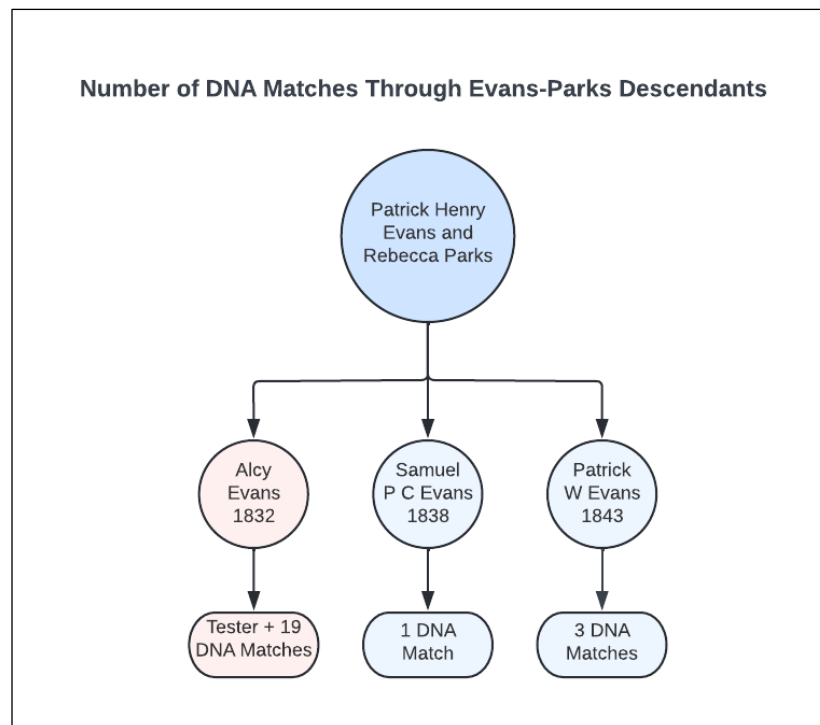


Figure 17. Number of James William Johnson's DNA Matches Through Evans-Parks Descendants.  
Diagram compiled by Michelle Mickelson on 25 August 2022.

All DNA evidence considered; the odds weigh in favor of a name change. DNA matches at the second, third, and fourth cousin level provide sufficient evidence for a biological relationship between the James William Johnson descendants and the Robert and Alcy Alford descendants.

<sup>116</sup> "ThruLines for Patrick Henry Evans," database report, Ancestry (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 25 August 2022), results for test taker James William [Johnson II].

Also, Michelle Mickelson, "Number of DNA Matches Through Evans-Parks Descendants," digital file in Lucid Chart private account, digital copy privately held by Michelle Mickelson, [ADDRESS FOR PRIVATE USE,] Washington, Utah, 2022. Chart shows relationships of Alford/Evans descendants who share DNA with James William Johnson II.

## CONCLUSION

This research session successfully confirmed that James William Johnson was born Patrick M. Alford. The evidence contained in the paper clues of James and Patrick's FAN club together with DNA analysis prove the biological connection between the Johnsons and the Alfords. The time line of events in various records compared with their locations showed *probability*. These events viewed through the lenses of historical and societal context indicated *why*. The geographical consideration of rivers, farmland and forests, incorporated with available travel and communication, shed light on *how*.

## SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE RESEARCH

1. Verify the parent-child links of Alford-Tipton descendants and Evans-Parks descendants by updating Ancestry online trees to include attached documentation for spouses and siblings of each couple.
  - o Alford-Tipton ThruLines: <https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-geneticfamily/thruLines/tree/16037360:9009:66/for/95BD7F83-61F5-4E00-8E88-20DE3D084FF6>
  - o Evans-Parks ThruLines: <https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-geneticfamily/thruLines/tree/20969998:9009:66/for/95BD7F83-61F5-4E00-8E88-20DE3D084FF6>
2. Identify the parents of Sarah Jane Anderson/Duncan/Donovan. What connected these names with Sarah Jane? Anderson was the earliest known surname given by Sarah Jane. Her two children stated Duncan and Donovan in their Delayed Birth Registration.
3. Identify Sarah Elizabeth Moore and Sarah Elizabeth Murray. Did Sarah marry one spouse or two? Could Moore have been pronounced "More-ey" to sound like "Murray?"
  - o Mrs. Sarah E. Murry obit, 28 December 1928, image 45-46: <https://arlingtonlibrary.org/sites/default/files/Documents/Newspapers/journal1928.pdf>
  - o "Sarah Elizabeth 'Sissy' Alford Moore" Find A Grave memorial: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/74355300/sarah-elizabeth-moore>
  - o Sarah's infant daughter, "Leonora Moore" Find A Grave memorial: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/27425727/lenora-moore>
4. Identify "Elder Robert Alford" who performed the 1899 Johnson-Clark Marriage in Sevier County, Arkansas. Was it Robert Alford of Monroe, Sevier County, Arkansas, in 1900? Or could it have been R.H. Alford of Roane County, Tennessee, in 1900?
  - o 1899 Johnson-Clark Marriage: [https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/21003486:7602?\\_phsrc=apS1083&\\_phstart=successSource&gsfn=Robert&gsln=Alford&ml\\_rpos=1&queryId=f10a654b70897076ad05da4d92620eff](https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/21003486:7602?_phsrc=apS1083&_phstart=successSource&gsfn=Robert&gsln=Alford&ml_rpos=1&queryId=f10a654b70897076ad05da4d92620eff)
  - o Robert Alford, 1900 Arkansas: [https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/21003486:7602?\\_phsrc=apS1083&\\_phstart=successSource&gsfn=Robert&gsln=Alford&ml\\_rpos=1&queryId=f10a654b70897076ad05da4d92620eff](https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/21003486:7602?_phsrc=apS1083&_phstart=successSource&gsfn=Robert&gsln=Alford&ml_rpos=1&queryId=f10a654b70897076ad05da4d92620eff)
  - o R.H. Alford 1900 Tennessee: [https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/7602/images/4118706\\_00665?pid=61019179](https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/7602/images/4118706_00665?pid=61019179)

5. Identify J.W. Johnson of De Queen, Arkansas who was named as a surviving sibling in James William Johnson's 1934 obit. J.W. may have been an Alford cousin instead.
  - o James William Johnson obit. 24 May 1934: <http://www.argenweb.net/sevier/obitJ.html>

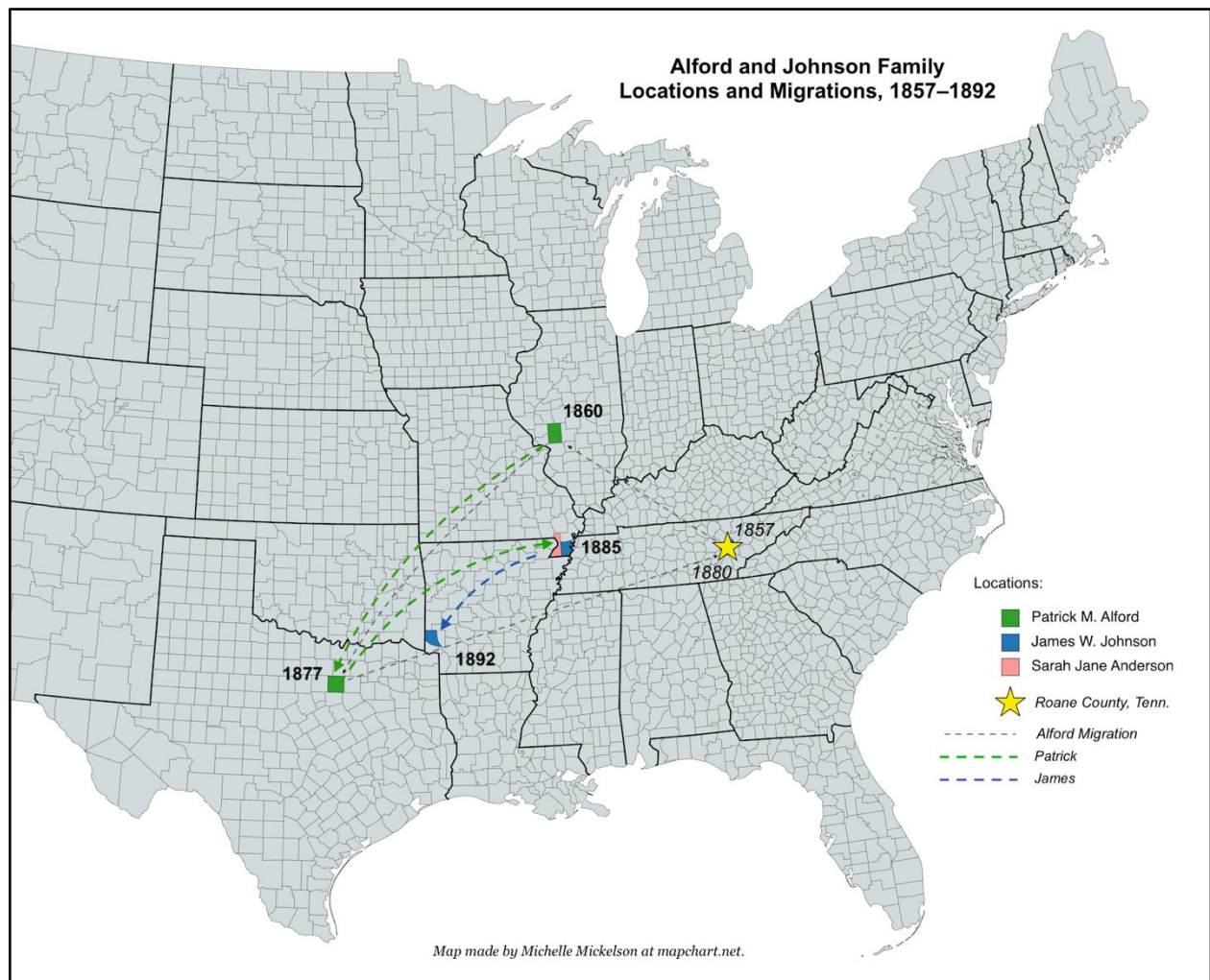
Thanks for allowing us to research your family! We look forward to continuing as desired.

MM / DE

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## APPENDIX A: MAP





## APPENDIX B: 1934 OBITUARY OF JAMES WILLIAM JOHNSON

**DE QUEEN BEE, DE QUEEN, ARKANSAS, THURSDAY, MAY 31, 1934**

and Mrs. J. J. Clark and son left Sunday for a week's visit in Hot Springs.

West Harris of Texarkana is house-guest of Mr. and Mrs. Virly Wommack.

Staggs of Center Point on the Archer Hospital Sunday medical treatment.

Clark of Fordyce arrived to take charge of the Clark Re-builders in the absence manager, J. J. Clark.

J. C. Robins and daughters, Eth, and Mrs. Carolyn Lewis children plan to leave this for a visit with relatives in Falls, Texas and Temple, Tex.

Bunice Thomas of Drexel, Miss Frances Camden, Miss Camden and J. L. Camden, Kansas City, left Saturday for home after a visit here guests of Mr. and Mrs. S. Thomas.

Mrs. R. D. Huskins and Mrs. R. D. Huskins re-wrote Sunday of the death of Rogers, brother of Mr. Mrs. Huskins's son-in-law, Rogers.

Mrs. Joe Matthews of Ma are the parents of a 9½ son, born Saturday. He has named Joseph Simpson Mat-Jr. The grandparents, Mr. I. W. Matthews, report and baby doing nicely.

A. W. St. John and daughter, of Rogers and Mrs. E.

V. Bird of Fayetteville left Friday for Rogers after a visit here as the guests of Dr. and Mrs. C. C. Thompson.

J. J. Walker of Clebit, Okla., spent Thursday in De Queen visiting friends.

Mrs. W. B. Farrior of Texarkana spent the day Thursday here as the guest of Mrs. Ernest Benjamin.

Miss Deli Reid returned from Lubbock, Texas after a months vacation there as the guest of relatives. She was accompanied home by her brother, G. M. Reid. Mrs. Reid and little daughter, Eva Jo.

Mrs. J. P. Haynes returned Thursday from a three weeks stay in Hot Springs.

Miss Helen Ruth Moxley of Nashville spent Thursday here as the guest of Miss Kathryn Porter.

Mrs. Ernest Benjamin and guest Mrs. W. B. Farrior of Texarkana spent Thursday afternoon visiting friends in Mena.

Mrs. Joe Irwin returned Tuesday afternoon from a visit with relatives and friends in Fort Smith.

Raymond Poindexter, son of Mrs. Alice Poindexter, has returned from Sweetwater, Texas, where he attended school for the past year. While there he was at home with Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Matson, formerly Miss Letha Poindexter of this city.

Carl A. Williams returned home Monday afternoon from a trip with his mother, Mrs. M. L. Williams, to Seminole, and Oklahoma City, Okla., to visit relatives. They visited an uncle at Oklahoma City whom Carl had never met. Mrs. Williams remained at Seminole for a several weeks' visit.

Mrs. C. A. Archer and daughter, Mary Jane, Mrs. Ernest Benjamin and Miss Doroth Scroggins left Friday afternoon for Arkadelphia where they will attend the graduation exercises of Ouachita College and Henderson State Teachers College. Charles Archer will graduate from Ouachita and aula Benjamin, from Henderson.

Wilkerson Funeral Home directed the funeral.

Mr. Johnson is survived by his widow, four daughters and five sons, as follows: Mrs. Walter Johns, Newark, N. J., Mrs. Curtis Childress, De Queen, Mrs. C. M. Crowder, Lexington, Ky., Mrs. Archie Hamilton, Broken Bow, Okla., Toy Johnson, son, Pimple Johnson, son, Johnson, all of De Queen, Robert Johnson of De Queen, also is survived by Mrs. B. J. Johnson and J. De Queen, Robert Johnson, Tenn., and one son, Belle Newton, Dallas.

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**Pioneer Citizen Called by Death**  
James William Johnson, 73, pioneer citizen and well known farmer of the West Line community, died at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Curtis Childress, in De Queen, Thursday at 8:30 p. m., following a six-day illness of pneumonia.

Deceased was born July 20, 1860 at Kingston, Tenn., and had been a resident of Sevier county for the past 50 years. Funeral service was held at the Childress home Sunday at 3 p. m., being conducted by the Rev. J. F. Queen. Interment was made in Walnut Grove cemetery at West Line, with a short service at the grave. The

Citing: Lauren Jarvis, Archival Manager, Public Services, email ([Lauren.jarvis@arkansas.gov](mailto:Lauren.jarvis@arkansas.gov)), "1934 James William Johnson Obituary," to Michelle Mickelson, 15 September 2022; Arkansas State Archives, #1 Capitol Mall 2B215, Little Rock, AR. Note: "Unfortunately, [there was] a microfilm problem. The papers were bound at the time they were filmed and the last column was not filmed clearly because of the way the book/crease fell."