

## Was A. O. (Alford?) Harrison Janetta's Son?

By Ben R. Londeree

Janetta's obituary (1899) stated that she had 12 children and 10 were still living. Only 11 have been identified from census records. Ten children married and had families that we know about. The eleventh was Jasper who was born in 1850 and died sometime after 1870. The name Alford has been mentioned by family members, but no one has been able to verify that he's the twelfth child. At the 1998 Londeree Family Reunion I speculated that A. O. Harrison may have been the one. Since then I discovered support for this hypothesis. The 1900 census for James M. (Janetta's brother) and Sallie Harrison stated that they had had 8 children and 4 were still alive. From the 1870 and 1880 censuses and daughter Anna's obituary the following 9 children were identified in the Harrison household: Mary W., Martha A., Nancy Ellen (Chesley Londeree's wife), A. O., Anna M., Bettie Lee (Thomas Londeree's wife), Lula, Sallie L., and Minnie in birth order. One of these 9 must not have been one of James and Sallie's 8 natural children. Two other Londeree children were listed with the Harrisons in the 1870 census (George and Thomas), so it seems logical that the ninth child could have been Janetta's as well. A. O. was born in 1862 and Anna was born in 1865, so Mary, Martha, Nancy, and A. O. are the only candidates who could have been conceived by Joseph before he was killed in 1862. Since Nancy Ellen would have been a full blooded sister to Chesley if conceived by Joseph, it is reasonable to exclude her. Mary was born in 1855 which would have been sandwiched between Thomas (8-Oct-1854) and Martha Jane Londeree (3-Dec-1856), an unlikely but possible event. Martha Harrison was born in 1857, while Josephine Londeree was born 30-Apr-1858 (only 14 months between Martha Jane and Josephine Londeree); it would have been nearly impossible for Martha Harrison to have been Janetta's child. The only one left is A. O. The fact that Alford begins with an "A" fits neatly into this scheme. I did not find an Alford Harrison in the 1880 census, so it appears that he died young. When all of the evidence is consistent with the hypothesis and no instances of contradiction occur, it is reasonable to conclude that the hypothesis probably is true. Alford probably was Janetta's twelfth child.