

were living in Huntsville, which is indeed in the southern portion of the county, but just barely. The Howell's neighbors included William and Charles Patton, Albert Russell, Richard Purdom, William J. Mastin, John Read, and Robert Fearn. The Howell family in 1840 was enumerated as consisting of one male age 5 – 10, one male age 15 – 20, one male age 40 – 50 (Alfred), one female age 0 – 5, two females age 5 – 10, and one female age 40 – 50 (Sarah G. Howell).

When neither Alfred nor Sarah Howell were found in the 1850 Madison County census, a search was made of the entire state census records. When that also proved fruitless, a search was made of the entire United States census records. The only family that fit at all was for an Alfred Howell in Grimes County, Texas. He was given as age 52, born in Tennessee. He had no wife in his household at that time, indicating that Sarah G. Howell had died by 1850, either in Alabama or in Texas or along the way as the family moved.

The children of the Texas Howell household in 1850 were listed as: A. E. (male), age 18, born in Alabama; S. W. (female), age 16, born in Alabama; S. F. (female), age 13, born in Alabama; and James (male), age 21, born in Tennessee. James' wife was included in the household headed by Alfred Howell. This data indicates that the Howell family must have lived in Alabama in the early 1830s, then moved to Tennessee for a short time (where James was born) before returning to Madison County, Alabama. Of course, Sarah G. Howell could have been visiting her parents or someone else in Tennessee when James was born there, but we know that the Howell family was living in Madison County (Alabama) in 1830 and 1840. Unfortunately, the 1820 census data for Madison County was lost in antiquity, so there is no census record of the family in the county then. The early tax lists could reveal whether or not the family came to Madison County in the 1820s, but that has not yet been checked.

Internet data was checked for the Alfred Howells in America during the period, and only one was found, listed by 4 different authors at varying levels of detail. The more pertinent data from the on-line Ancestry.com sources are inserted below: