

AN INFLUENTIAL SHAWNEE

No other Hampton Institute graduate has had more to do with surveying and allotting of Indian lands than Thomas Wildcat Alford, an Absentee Shawnee of Oklahoma. Beginning as a government teacher after his graduation from Hampton in 1882, Mr. Alford has acted successively as interpreter, surveyor, allotting agent, real-estate agent, and farmer, gradually becoming the most influential Indian among the Shawnee.

Acting first as axe-man in the surveyor's corps, he soon rose to the position of compass-man at four dollars a day. He acted as allotment surveyor for the Shawnee, Kickapoos, and Sac and Foxes, being also county surveyor for one year. In 1894 he was appointed chairman of the Absentee-Shawnee Committee, which has charge of all negotiations concerning Indian lands. He is also secretary of the General Council appointed to decide questions of importance to the Shawnee nation.

For a number of years Mr. Alford held a civil-service appointment, but is now farming his land at Shawnee. Two of his sons are also Hampton graduates.—Hampton Institute Press Service, Hampton, Va.

