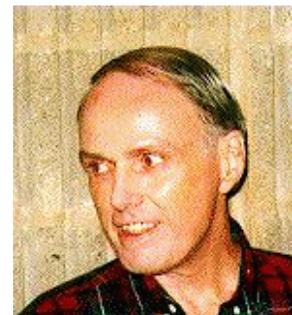


## What's In A Name ?

### Anselm

Cecil O. Alford, AAFA #0751



*Cecil's Alford lineage, published in AAFA ACTION Fall 1995, shows that he was the grandson of Julius C. Alford and a descendant of Brittain Alford of the Isham Alford branch of the family. Notwithstanding Cecil's very busy schedule and extremely technical skills, as evidenced by the paragraph that follows, he finds time to help AAFA. Until health dictated otherwise he maintained the Association e-mail directory and mailed the online newsletter. He did the initial computer input of the 71-page (hundreds of records of Alford's) 1920 Georgia census data to the database file. He has been active on the board of directors for several years. He is currently working on a project converting two massive databases to a format suitable for AAFA use. In that same issue as his lineage under Alford's on the Internet the following was published giving some of his professional background. -Editors*

### Cecil Alford

#### Professor - The School of Electrical and Computer Engineering, Georgia Tech

Dr. Cecil O. Alford received the B.E.E. and M.S.(E.E.) degrees from the Georgia Institute of Technology in 1956 and 1960 respectively. He received the Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering from Mississippi State University in 1966. He has worked at Harris Corporation and Martin Marietta in Melbourne and Orlando, Florida in developing guidance and control techniques for missile systems. He was one of four designers of the control system for the SPRINT missile. Dr. Alford has also worked at Boeing Company (Huntsville, Alabama), the Aerospace Corporation (Cape Kennedy, Florida), and ARO, Inc. (Tullahoma, Tennessee). At these companies he worked on control systems for the Saturn V, Titan and Atlas boosters, computer simulation hybrid computing, and techniques for partial differential equations.

Professor Alford's current research interests are in designing and building proprietary, high performance, special purpose, parallel computers. He directs research in the Computer Engineering Research Laboratory. Under a multi-million dollar contract from the Army Strategic Defense Command, he leads undergraduate and graduate students, engineers, faculty, and staff developing new VLSI chips, ADA programming tools, algorithms for signal processing, guidance, navigation and control, and packaging techniques. Designs include new computer architectures for molecular dynamics, fluid flow, weather modeling and other computer-bound problems.

### BACKGROUND

James P. Alford of Houston, Texas wrote two articles on strange Alford names entitled, **What's in a Name?**, which appeared in *AAFA ACTION*, Vol. II, Nos. 1 and 2. One of the central ideas dealt with the origin of the rather strange names of Anselm, Kinchen, and Drury. He used the IGI to track down the presence of these names in lines which appear on the maternal side of the Alford family. James was able to locate many Kinchen names but Anselm and Drury, while present, were rare. I decided to investigate further and see if these names might appear

somewhat earlier in history, as more well established names. I was lucky with the name of Anselm which appeared in Italy just after 1000 AD. The following notes were taken from the references listed at the end of the article.

### A BRIEF SKETCH OF HIS LIFE

Anselm was born at Aosta, Italy about 1033, of noble Lombard parents. He was strongly urged by his parents to enter politics but resisted and pursued a classical education. He was studious, religious, and longed to

become a monk, but he met stiff opposition from his father. He eventually left home, crossed the Alps, and settled at the famous Benedictine monastery of Bec, in Normandy, sometime between 1050 and 1060. In 1060 he became a monk under the tutelage of Lanfranc. In 1063 Anselm succeeded Lanfranc as prior at Bec, while Lanfranc was moving up the ladder at other monastic communities to an eventual appointment as Archbishop of Canterbury. Anselm was chosen abbot of Bec in 1078, resulting in visits to the abbey's possessions in England, where he won many friends. Upon the

death of Lanfranc, who was then Archbishop of Canterbury, the king, William the Red Rufus refused to fill the position at Canterbury and kept the see vacant from 1089 until 1093. He would probably have continued this policy except that he became ill, and believing he was near death, the King consented to the consecration of Anselm. When the King recovered he repented of his decision, for Anselm demanded that he be invested with the insignia of his office by the Pope and not by the King. This right of investiture was the basic issue which had kept the post vacant for years and the King was quite stubborn about not releasing control. The quarrel was smoothed over, but Anselm decided to go home in 1097 where he remained until William's successor, Henry I, recalled him in 1100. The dispute over lay investiture was revived and was not settled until 1107. At this time it was agreed that the bishops shall do homage to the kings for their lands but must be invested with the symbols of their spiritual functions by the Church itself. Anselm died at Canterbury, April 21, 1109 and was canonized in 1494 (Another reference says 1163 which strikes me as too soon after his death. Of note is the lack of a date in references 3 and 4.).

### MAJOR WRITINGS

Anselm had three major achievements. First, in the field of Christian dogma he elaborated a revolutionary interpretation of the doctrine of the Atonement. In brief this line of thought was that the sacrifice of Christ was a ransom offering to God and not to the Devil, as many had previously believed. The new interpretation quickly won acceptance and is still accepted today.

Second, he addressed the question of reason and faith. Following the teaching of St. Augustine he maintained that faith is the necessary presupposition of rational speculation. Phrases attributed to him are faith seeking

knowledge, and I believe in order that I may know. His thought moved into the Augustinian school and was widely taught until the time of Thomas Aquinas.

Third, he developed an ontological argument, which professes to show that the very conception of God involves his existence. This argument has been in and out of favor, discussed, restated, twisted and turned, attacked, and championed down through the ages to this very day.

Although his writings were striking and important, they did not have staying power. Augustine and Aquinas were more powerful and they could not be supplanted. His writings did, however, gather attention and were widely read. It is interesting that Martin Luther read his works and found his work **Cur Deus Homo** (Why God-man) helpful in his study. If it impressed Luther it had to be good.

### IMPACT ON AAFA

Could this be the source of the name that appears in those early Alford names? I believe it is for the following reason. Anselm was a powerful and popular figure in England and he cast a very long shadow after his death. I believe that his name was picked up by Catholics in England probably as early as 1300. From our records this would not include Alford's since few were Catholic. These Catholics, however, began to marry Alford's and brought with them the name of Anselm, the largest figure in the Catholic religion in all of England. I believe this is the source of the name that James Alford of Houston found in the IGI and the reason that rather strange name of Anselm appears in the Alford line.

### REFERENCES

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**Anselm:Anselm: On the Existence of GAnselm**  
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[www.fordhamwww.fordham.edu/www/source/anselm.html](http://www.fordhamwww.fordham.edu/www/source/anselm.html)

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### Peggy Alford

#### Gospel CD

We were pleased to learn from AAFA members Don and Earsel Alford Bender (0260) that Earsel's niece Peggy Alford has just released a Gospel music CD, "He Was Always Right On Time." Some readers are more likely to recognize Peggy's uncle, Dezmon Alford AAFA #0651, who has attended several meetings. Peggy has donated a copy of the CD to AAFA and it is in our library. All of the selections were written by Peggy except one that was written by her brother, Wayne Alford. The Truth Records 1999 label includes the following titles: From Sin To Calvary, It Still Takes The Blood Today, If God Be For Us, He Was Always Right On Time, Point Of No Return, How Wonderful Is Your Name, Jesus Stepped On Board, Jesus Is The King Of Kings, Just Keep The Faith, and He'll Take The Time.

If you listen to Gospel radio you may have already heard Peggy by the time you are reading this.

Anyone who wishes to purchase the music may order from Peggy Alford Ministries, P.O. Box 1500, Philadelphia, MS 39350. The CD is \$15 and cassettes are \$10. There is also a \$2 shipping expense on either of them.