

# Alford Bible Records

## Making Connections with Bible Records

Lynn D. Shelley, AAFA #0484

Lynn was born in Morgan City, Louisiana and raised in Baton Rouge. She attended Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge and LSU Medical School in New Orleans where she obtained a BS in Zoology and a Masters in Biochemistry. She married Jim Shelley in March of 1971 as he was finishing Tulane Medical School and was a Captain in the Air Force. They spent six years in Biloxi, MS, four years in San Antonio, TX, five years in Fort Worth, TX, and over that time had a daughter and three sons. They moved to Alexandria, VA in 1985 where they lived while Jim finished his last tour of duty in the Air Force before retiring and taking a position at Monongalia General Hospital in Morgantown, WV. In 1992 Lynn discovered AAFA, became a member and the AAFA WV State Representative. She and her family left WV in 1995 when Jim took a position with Medical Arts Laboratory in Springfield, MO. It was coincidental that AAFA had already scheduled the 1996 meeting there. Lynn has been AAFA VP since 1995, chair of the research committee since its inception and last October also became President of her local Ozarks Genealogical Society. Lynn is a good example of the dedication and selflessness of some of our members. She was not an Alford and has no recent Alford ancestors. Her nearest Alford relative is her third great-grandmother Anna Alford Davidson, born 1790 in GA. - Editors



**Do you have an Alford family Bible, Bible records or a Bible from another family with Alford information? Is there genealogical information you can share with AAFA members by publishing those names and dates? Be sure to include the publishing information in the front of the Bible, especially the publication date, as well as who the Bible originally belonged to and who has it now. If you know someone else who is in possession of such a Bible, please let us know or try to encourage that person to share the Alford information in the Bible with us.**

The following Bible record (and comments) was published in May of 1998 in the biannual newsletter of the Garrard County [KY] Historical Society, *On the Garrard County Line*, Vol. XVII, page 6:

### "ALFORD BIBLE

Found under the stairwell of the Charles Hamilton home on Maple Ave. [in Lancaster, Kentucky?] during the restoration of the home.

#### Page 1 Births

Ormon Alford b. 2/19/1795 [February 19, 1795]  
Polly Alford b. 8/07/1791 [August 7, 1791]

#### Page 2

Benjamin H. Alford 6/10/1817 [June 10, 1817]

Polly E. Alford	4/07/1819	[April 7, 1819]
Ormon F. Alford	6/08/1821	[June 8, 1821;
name probably Ormon Franklin]		
Samuel W. Alford	6/13/1823	[June 13, 1832]
Sally L. Alford	10/18/1824	[October 18, 1824;
must have died prior 1832]		
John P. Alford	9/08/1827	[September 8, 1827]
Willar M. Alford	5/12/1830	[May 12, 1830;
should be William?--see below]		
Sally L. Alford	5/24/1832	[May 24, 1832;
same name as older sister?]		
Lorenzo D. Alford	9/04/1834	[September 4, 1834]

#### Page 3 Deaths

Sally L. 6/29/1881 [June 29, 1881;  
one born 1832?; married or single?]

## AAFA ACTION #47

Page 68  
2000

Alford Bible Records Winter

Lydia Alford died \_\_\_\_\_  
[no date given but see below]

Page 4

Oralee Alford           1/29/1854           [January 29, 1854;  
assumed to be a birth; Gratee??]  
Myron Alford           8/26/1860           [August 26, 1860;  
assumed to be a birth]

Page 5

Lydia L. Alford        b.9/05/1835        d.4/19/1886  
[born Sept. 5, 1835; died Apr. 19, 1886]  
Ormon F. Alford       d.9/22/1910  
[died Sept. 22, 1910] age 89

**Editor's Note** [editor of the Garrard Co. periodical]: I did not know who these Alford's were, but Jackie Couture from the EKV Archives found matching names on the 1830 and 1840 New York census. There is an O.P. in Garrard County in 1860. There was a Lorenzo D. in the Nebraska 1860 census."

\*\*\*\*\*

AAFA research has shown that the O. P. Alford in Garrard County in 1860 was Oliver Perry Alford and that he is buried in the Lexington Cemetery in Lexington, KY. His family is descended from a James Alford born c1715 VA whose descendants went to KY just before it became a state. No one of any of the first names found in the Bible is found in any Kentucky census.

At the AAFA meeting in California, October, 1997, AAFA member Frank Pangburn (#868) had shown me information

**Bible records can play a vital role in making connections even though they rarely mention places. Here we have connected a Bible found in Kentucky with a family that originated in Vermont, then went to New York and Illinois before going cross-country to California during the Gold Rush. Surviving members returned to Illinois and somehow this Bible found its way to Kentucky either through a descendant or through misadventure. In 1997 we had no further information on Orman than his birth date and now we have his death, a wife, children and grandchildren. Hopefully we will someday make connections with descendants and extracting the 1870-1900 Kendall Co. IL census will help fill even more blanks.**

about an interesting trail marker at Bruff's Camp, put up by OCTA, the Oregon/California Trail Association. It marked the site at which some Alford's had died along the Lassen Trail. The same information is also found in the following article, Bruff being the name of the man who kept the journal:

From *The Kansas City Genealogist*, Vol. VI, No. 2, October 1, 1965, page 18  
[as taken from a journal kept by a fellow traveler in the party] page 226. **"While still in Sierra Nevada near Lassen Rancho: 'Ormond Alford, age 54, and his sons, William M., age 19, and Lorenzo D., age 15, and John W. Cameron, age 22. The first three were of Kendall Co. IL, formerly of Peru, Clinton Co. NY, and the last was of Will Co. IL. Killed by the falling of an oak tree upon them, while asleep in their tent, near this spot about 1 a.m. Oct. 31, 1849. This family had another son, who had gone on ahead into the settlement, and another elder brother with a family in Illinois."**

The AAFA genealogy of the northern branch of Alford's (descendants of Benedict Alford) shows that an Ormon/Orman with this exact birth date (from his father's Bible) was the second son of Ashley Owen Alford and first wife Hannah Coolidge. We have his ancestors back to England several generations earlier but in 1997 we had no wife or descendants for Orman/Ormond. Orman was born in Addison County, Vermont. Since no publication date was given for the above Bible (very important information), it is difficult to say if this Bible actually belonged to Ormon and his wife Polly (we do not yet know her surname) or to some descendant of the family. With the following history of this family, you really have to wonder how their Bible got to Kentucky. It may have been the Bible of Ormon F. (Jr.?) or one of his descendants since his death date [and that of probable wife Lydia] is recorded therein. The Bible was lost or at least no entries made after 1910 since that is the last date in the published record.

As per the comments in the published article giving the Bible record, Ormon's family was found in Peru, Clinton Co. NY, in 1830 and 1840. His father is enumerated there in 1820, so perhaps he and his young family were part of his father's or his in-laws' household in that census. The marriage probably took place in New York since that is where the eldest child was born in 1817. That location might be one to search for the marriage record and the maiden name of his wife.

The elder brother with a family in IL (mentioned in the journal excerpt) was really Ormon's younger brother Clark Baker Alford who was residing in Kendall Co. IL in 1850 and

## AAFA ACTION #47

WinterWinter 2000

Alford Bible Re

who died in DeKalb Co. IL in 1885. He was in LaSalle Co. IL in 1840 and may be the reason Ormon traveled to IL. His son Henry (and possibly son Vincent Lorenzo), missing from the 1850 Kendall Co. IL census enumeration, may have gone to California with their uncle Ormon's family.

Ormon's family or part of it went to CA in the year 1849 after living in IL for a time. That is where Ormon and his two youngest sons met their fate and were killed. There is a memorial marker at the spot which has the following inscription:

**"Marker L-50, Alford Family Grave--Bruff's Camp.  
'While traveling the Lassen Trail, Ormond  
Alford, 54, William M. Alford, 19, Lorenzo D.  
Alford, 15, and John W. Cameron, 22, were killed  
in their sleep by a falling tree, October 31, 1849.'**  
"

This is the marker mentioned to me in October, 1997, a picture and details of which are found in *EMIGRANT TRAILS WEST: A GUIDE TO TRAIL MARKERS.....*, compiled by Devere and Helen Helfrich and Thomas Hunt, Trails West, Inc., Reno, NV, 1984, page 177.

The members of the family who had gone on ahead into the settlement or survived the accident because they were in a different tent can be found in California in 1850. The 1850 census of California is very incomplete and inaccurate in some cases as evidenced by other known families as well as this one but the family of Ormon or part of it is found in Butte Co. CA in the 1850 census as follows:  
Page 28, House 333 and Family 333, Sep. 28 1850  
O. H. ALVORD 30 M WI Miner

[Was this Ormon F.? Living in a group with other miners but with misinformation on his name and where he was born??]

Page 31, House and Family 377, Sep. 30, 1850

Samuel ALVORD 26 M NY Trader  
Alvira 20 F NY  
[wife or sister? or not even an Alford?]  
Loraina 23 F NY  
[really Sally L.?]  
Jane 58 F NY  
[same as Polly??; see next census enumeration]  
Joel SMITH 30 M NY Miner  
T. SMITH 28 M NY Miner  
James FRENZTON 27 M MO Miner

[Also found in Butte Co. is probably the same family as enumerated above but by a different census taker. Note the differences in names and ages. Date was not recorded]:

Page 43, House and Family 13  
Polly ALFRED 60 F NY  
[widow of Ormon]

Samuel 27 M NY Ranch Keeper  
[son of Ormon]  
Henry 22 M NY  
[nephew, son of Clark Baker Alford, brother of Ormon?]  
Lamira 18 F NY  
[probably Sally L., wife of Henry or wife of Samuel??]

I guess that CA was not the same without their father and brothers because they all seem to have returned to IL by 1860:

Kendall Co. IL, Lisbon Township, Bristol P.O., Page 167, Family 1143  
Frank Alford 40 M NY  
[probably Orman F., son of Ormon and Polly]  
Lidia 28 F NY  
Gratia 6 F IL  
[is this Oratee?? or was the Bible transcribed incorrectly?]

[Perhaps following either this daughter Gratee or son Myron Alford, born 1860 (see Bible and below), would give a clue as to how the Bible got to KY. It is also possible that it was lost, sold in an estate sale, or somehow parted from the family to whom it once belonged.]

Kendall Co. IL, Page 167, Family 1144 (immediately next to Frank)  
Polly Alford 68 F NH?  
[widow of Ormon]  
Lorinda 28 F NY  
[same as Sally L.?]

Family 1145  
Samuel Alford 37 M NY  
[son of Ormon]  
Maria 30 F VT  
[Samuel m. Eliz. Fish/Fisk, Oct. 24, 1858, Kendall Co. IL]

None of this family can be found in CA in the 1860 census. We do not yet have complete census data for IL from 1870-1900. Myron Alford (probable son of Orman F. per the Bible) is found in Kendall Co. IL in the 1910 and 1920 census. A Franklin Alford, probably Orman F. who died in September, 1910, is found in the 1910 census, age 88, born in NY, living with Ray Sable in Kendall Co. IL. From our Illinois marriage list, Gratee E. Alford married Lewis J. Gabel on Feb. 24, 1875, in Kendall Co. IL. Was Ray Sable really a Gabel/Gable and related?

The Will of Ashley Owen Alford, who died in 1847, did mention son Orman and the following is an excerpt from a notice published in the *ALBANY ARGUS*, once each week for six successive weeks beginning March 22, 1849:

"MATTER OF PROOF OF LAST WILL AND

TESTAMENT OF ASHLEY OWEN ALFORD--  
The People of the State of New York: to Clark B. Alford,  
residing in Plattville, IL [in Kendall Co. IL], **Orman Alford,**  
**same place;** Josiah Alford, res. in S. Bristol, Ontario Co.,  
....."

Bible records can play a vital role in making connections  
even though they rarely mention places. Here we have  
connected a Bible found in Kentucky with a family that  
originated in Vermont, then went to New York and Illinois  
before going cross-country to California during the Gold

Rush. Surviving members returned to Illinois and somehow  
this Bible found its way to Kentucky either through a  
descendant or though misadventure. In 1997 we had no  
further information on Orman than his birthdate and now we  
have his death, a wife, children and grandchildren. Hopefully  
we will someday make connections with descendants and  
extracting the 1870-1900 Kendall Co. IL census will help fill  
even more blanks.

A

*(AAFA Census Project Continued from page 72)*

multiple spelling variations) from 1790 through 1850.  
Almost all those counted in 1860 and 1870 have been  
extracted also. Volunteers have extracted from the Soundex  
almost every state enumerated from 1900 to 1920.

After close inspection and a second viewing of original  
microfilm to verify completeness and accuracy, we have  
published results of the entire national "Alford" census for  
1790, 1800, 1810 and 1820. Most of the 1850 and many of  
the 1860 state units have also been published in *AAFA  
ACTION*. In the not-too-distant future, we hope to publish a  
single volume containing all of 1780-1840, and a second  
volume containing all of 1850. 1860 and 1870 are also  
progressing toward completion and publication will follow  
shortly.

Lest one think the task is complete, let me say that in our  
efforts to make the extraction meaningful, we have much  
work to do. Although the initial extraction has been  
completed for almost all units between 1830 and 1870,  
many need to be revisited to resolve questions resulting  
from unintelligible handwriting, poor microfilming and  
index errors. We hope by performing this extra step, the  
quality of our published work is worthy of the time and  
energy spent.

None of this would have been possible without the  
dedicated and conscientious efforts of AAFA volunteers.  
Many have been with the program from the start and others  
have given assistance over several years. Others have  
contributed their own research or assisted with a particular  
state of interest. To all of you we owe a great debt of  
gratitude.

As the new century opens, let the work continue!

Sincerely,  
Alicia Roundy Houston  
AAFA Census Coordinator

A

**Well, You've made it 3/4 of the way  
through!**

**What do you think?**

This publication is sent to YOU,  
is done by some of YOU,  
about some of YOU,  
and for all of YOU.

Please won't YOU take a few minutes now to tell  
us what you think.

What do you like and not like?

What would you add?

All of the above applies to the Association also  
so while you are at it send us your comments  
about the AAFA.

Send by regular mail to: AAFA, Inc.  
POB 1586  
Florissant, MO 63031

Leave a message at the web site:  
<http://www.alford.com/alford/aafa.homepage.html>

Or e-mail to [GAlford1@compuserve.com](mailto:GAlford1@compuserve.com)