

## Expansion Efforts

### Free Inquiries

As Wick said in his comments in the September newsletter, we want "MORE! MORE! MORE!" Alford. A nationwide source just begging to be tapped is the 100+ genealogical columnists in the country. Practically all of these will publish free inquiries.

There are also thousands of genealogical and/or historical societies which allow members to publish free inquiries (usually a limit and some geographical restrictions).

We need information on thousands of Alford; we also need to get our surname, and AAFA, mentioned in print as often as we can—the publicity will generate more Alford data and new members. Even when inquiries do not produce the requested information requested, they frequently cause general "Alford" responses.

We will be asking all members for information about their (1) membership in local societies, (2) local newspapers, especially those with genealogical columns and (3) desires for an inquiry to be published. Those who have access to inquiry publishing who have no need for inquiries will be fed inquiries to submit for publication.

### Individual Effort

While we're on the subject, here's a great success story—and the best news is that you can duplicate it!

Walter W. Alford of Laguna Hills, CA, sent the following letter to 33 Alford's whose names appeared in the Orange County, CA, telephone book:

*Dear Mr/Mrs ALFORD:*

*Perhaps you have already become a*

*member of "ABOUT ALFORDS", or have at least received material about it. Mr. Gilbert K. Alford, a distant cousin, is engaged in a massive genealogical search of the family, its history, and its origins. I, for instance, am a ninth generation American, and Gilbert and I share a common great grandfather, John Seaborn ALFORD, who was the twin of Seaborn John ALFORD. No, they were not born at sea—Seaborn was their mother's maiden name. Gilbert needs all the information he can get to flesh out the family history, so we would appreciate it if you would fill out the enclosed form and mail it to:*

*Gilbert K. Alford,  
1403 Kingsford Drive, Florissant,  
Missouri 63031-2422  
For further info, I can be reached at  
(714) 830-6696.*

*Walter W. Alford  
23465 Caminito Salado  
Laguna Hills CA 92653*

Walter enclosed a blank family group record with his letter. Gil has already received three responses, two containing extensive Alford information!

Walter also plans to call the 11 in the phone book without an address, but there has not been time for a report from him on that.

If all AAFA members would follow Walter Alford's lead, we could expect a significant informational response as well as an increase in membership.

The only change we would recommend is that the first sentence in the letter mention becoming a member of the Alford American Family Association instead of *ABOUT ALFORDS* since the only real membership involved is with AAFA.

As a member of AAFA, you are

encouraged to do all possible to reach the Alford's in your geographic area. As you can see, the personal touch is sometimes more appealing than an organized effort on a larger scale by the Association office. The cousin you find could be your own, so let's get the word out. Thanks for the idea and the work, Walter!

### State Expansion Projects

Our effort to reach Missouri Alford's was less successful than expected. Our president signed letters that were addressed to about 200 Missouri Alford families. As expected, about 25% of those were returned because of bad addresses. We expected to get responses from about 20 of the families in the state. Thus far there has been one response, and no new Missouri members.

In addition to the letters to specific Alford's, news releases were sent to 230 Missouri newspapers, and as part of our meeting promotion another 280 were sent to Georgia newspapers and genealogical columnists nationwide. The releases to the genealogical columnists seem to be the most effective and have resulted in 13 (probably more) new members.

Because of the expense and problems with the Missouri effort, the Mississippi expansion has been temporarily suspended. However, we are still receiving responses to our effort, so it is much too early to judge.

For expansion coordinated with our 1989 meeting in Texas, we plan to concentrate on media releases in Texas. We also plan to contact every Texas Alford soliciting their help to add to the voluminous Texas data already in our file. As an aside they will be invited to attend our meeting and/or join AAFA.

## Biography: John Rogers Alford, Senior

John Rogers, son of Egbert Benson and Ella A. (Overton) Alford, was born 1 February 1885 at Overton, Rusk Co., TX. Five years later his family moved to Henderson, TX, where he lived the rest of his life, dying there 8 March 1960. He died unexpectedly about 1:30 PM on a Tuesday in Henderson Memorial Hospital. He had been at his office earlier in the day but went home complaining of feeling ill. He later collapsed and was taken to the hospital.

John's father, Egbert B. Alford, a prominent and successful merchant, sold plows and other useful articles. He told John, who worked in the store, that he ought to know how to use a plow if he was going to sell them. So John mixed some practical farming with his education in the Henderson High School and made a success as a real dirt farmer at the age of 15.

John held his first job at 14 as inspector and salesman of tomatoes, peaches, and watermelons for the East Texas Fruit & Truck Growers Association at Indianapolis, IN, and Pittsburgh, PA. At 22 he was a bookkeeper in the Farmers and Merchants National Bank and rose to become chairman of the board of the Citizens National Bank, its successor. At 26 he was a traveling salesman for Harris-Lipsitz Dry Goods Company of Dallas. He served as clerk, cotton buyer, and assistant manager of Irion & Alford and salesman for Mayfield-Alford Company. As a young man, he made many trips to New York to buy goods.

He was a captain in the Texas Cavalry in World War I. He was stationed at the army camp in San Antonio, TX, where many people died IN the 1918 flu epidemic.

He engaged in the oil business in 1925 and was highly successful, acquiring many valuable oil royalties. He was involved financially with Henderson Cotton Oil Mill, Henderson Clay Products Company, Alford Brothers Motor Company, Boren Oil Company, Maco Oil Company, Texas Finance Company, and Tex-E-Lec Corporation, a manufacturer of wooden toys, and many other enterprises. He was president and chairman of the board of the Citizens National Bank of Henderson.

John married Susan LANDON on 5 September 1927. Susan was born 16 July 1893 and died 2 April 1976.

The following are excerpts, taken from a letter dated 16 May 1927 from J. W. Fitzgerald, Vice-president of The First Citizens National Bank of Tyler, TX, tell the story of how John and Susan met. The letter was addressed to Mr. Alford and Mr. English of Henderson.

*Miss Susan Landon, in the Educational Department, Texas Co-Operative Cotton Association, is spending this week in your county, and I am writing to urge that you show her every courtesy that you can conveniently. She is the daughter of a North Carolina farmer, a graduate of the University of North Carolina, and is spending her life in the interest of better farm home life. I met her first at A. & M. College Short Course last summer, and at once "fell in love with her", and later she spent one week in this county at my earnest request, and I have ever since been trying to arrange to get her to go into every school house in the county; and hope I may yet succeed. She has a wonderful message, calculated to inspire to higher and greater things in home life, and it will pay you all to take some interest in getting her a good*

*crowd and showing her other courtesies.*

*She is a real student, spent a month or two in Denmark and other European countries studying how farm life was transformed in those countries in just a few years; and, with her pleasing and strong personality, she can give those who hear her a vision of higher and better things, and at least the desire to attain them.*

John was a staunch Democrat and Methodist. He was a leader in Boy Scout work, on the advisory board of Southern Methodist University and of the Southwestern Medical College. He was a director of the Henderson Chamber of Commerce, member of the American Jersey Cattle Association, and of the Texas Hereford Association, Knights of Pythias, Woodmen of the World, Lions Club and many other business, civic, and fraternal organizations. He was president of the East Texas Chamber of Commerce in 1946. He was also a long time member of the board of directors of the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas, Texas. He was liberal in his views but believed strongly in the American free enterprise system.

He lent money to East Texas boys and girls to go to college and proudly claimed that he never lost a dollar on one of those loans.

John operated a 400-acre farm and dairy near Henderson. Through his efforts, along with other Rusk County agricultural leaders, a branch test plot of the Texas Research Foundation was established a mile south of Henderson in 1955. He was a director of that Foundation. For many years he was active in promoting soil and water conservation, reforestation, the growing of new crops, development of trench silos, pasture improvement,

(Continued on p. 14)

(John R. Alford, cont. from p. 13)

and other farm practices. He planted his first pine trees in Rusk County in 1939, became a tree farmer in 1949 and was a member of the Texas Forestry Association. He was responsible for having the Headquarters, District 2, Texas Forest Service located in Henderson in 1953. In 1945 he was noted for planting crotalaria in strips with peanuts, where it served both to check wind and water erosion and to fertilize the soil it grows in. During the period 1947-49 he spearheaded the promotion of crimson clover as a grazing and soil-building crop. He and a friend underwrote the first carload of crimson clover seed brought to East Texas. In less than 15 years the hills of East Texas were blanketed with a crimson red cover.

At 75 years of age he was as active in

the affairs of his community and his state as he ever was in what men are wont to call the "prime of life." His last official act, less than two hours before he passed away, was typical of the man. He knew that the East Texas Chamber of Commerce was to hold a Tax Study Conference in Henderson, his home town, the following day, and he called the president of one of the service clubs of which he was a member and asked if they would not adjourn their luncheon and join with others in attending this conference.

John Rogers and Susan (Landon) Alford had three children:

- i. John Rogers Alford, Jr., born 1 August 1928 in TX; married (1) on 6 June 1953 Barbara Burke Shaw, who was born 24 November 1931. They divorced

and John married (2) on 10 May 1977 Marjorie Stewart Skloss, who was born 10 October 1936. They have four children; they were divorced in 1988.

- ii. Ella Langdon Alford, born 21 December 1931 in TX; married 18 July 1957 Bill McDonald, who was born 4 October 1929. They are divorced.
- iii. Egbert Landon Alford, born 11 July 1935 in TX; married 18 April 1957 Phyllis Potthast, who was born 29 March 1935. They have three children.

Source: This biography was prepared from various East Texas business and agricultural publications and news articles plus family group records supplied by Landon Alford.

## Collecting Alford Biographies

A major purpose of our Association is to document the history of our family. In support of this effort, we would like to preserve the history of present day Alford members and their fathers. You can make a positive and worthwhile contribution to the Association by participating in this exciting project!

If your father's last name is Alford, please write a complete biography on him as well as yourself and send it to the AAFA mailing address as soon as possible. If your father's name was not Alford, please write a biography on your most recent Alford ancestor if you have sufficient information.

Note that these are biographies, not biographical sketches or family group records. There is no limit on length and there is no particular format. Suggested subjects to be included are early childhood interests; education at all levels; hobbies from childhood to

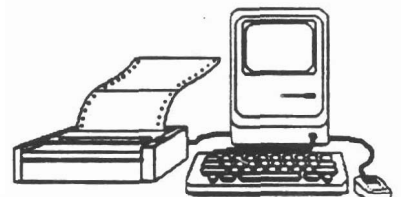
present; participation in various organizations; military service in sufficient detail to identify units served with, assignment stations, duties, etc.; religious affiliation and service performed; vocation, occupations, talents, skills; medical history; physical descriptions; places of residence and property ownership; and anything else that might come to mind.

As the biographies are received, they will be typed into the computer. (If you have an IBM/compatible or Macintosh, you'll make our job easier by sending your bios on disk—which will be returned.) Some of them will be published in *AAFA ACTION*, abridged if necessary, and all the biographies will eventually be published in a series of books or booklets. However, before publication, a typed copy will be returned to you for corrections, with questions and comments about possible

improvements.

If you have photographs that you would like printed with the story, please send copies (not originals unless absolutely necessary). All photos will be returned. When the biographies are published, the photographs will be included at the discretion of the editor—based on space and appropriateness. Depending on available funds, you may be asked to contribute a small fee to cover the cost of making the half-tones.

We hope all AAFA members will consider this project a wonderful way to share in the preservation of our Alford heritage for posterity!



# Josiah Alford's Alford Family Notes

The most complete published account of the early Alford's of England is undoubtedly Josiah G. Alford's *ALFORD FAMILY NOTES* published 1908 in London. The book, long out of print, is in the Library of Congress and is available from the library photo duplication service on either microfilm or paper. The cost is approximately \$30 for the microfilm and \$60 for the paper. AAFA member Landon Alford purchased a copy on paper and allowed Gil Alford to make a copy for use in making reprints for anyone who would like to own this book. Copies can be made and mailed for \$11, but readers are warned that the print is very small and sometimes very difficult to read. The 220 page book is indexed.

Landon Alford made a trip to Alford, England, and has visited the site of the Castle. He wrote a report which was published in *ABOUT ALFORDS* several quarters ago. He also took photographs, which we might print in a future issue.

The preface, printed here, provides some insight into Mr. Josiah G. Alford and his reason for compiling the book. Future issues will contain further excerpts from the book.

## PREFACE to *ALFORD FAMILY NOTES*

It is now over twenty-five years since there fell into my hands, through the death of an octogenarian relative, various Wills, Documents, and Papers affording much accurate information concerning the history of my family.

The possession of these papers naturally aroused interest, and I soon became aware of a desire on the part of one here and another there to learn something more of the family antecedents, and of the details of that record of an honorable ancestry of which there was a traditional knowledge.

Some years previously Henry Alford, Dean of Canterbury, had traced out his line of the family for several generations, while others since had put together valuable memoranda of their immediate connections.

There also came to light some manuscript notes by the late Reverend Frederick Browne, a celebrated Somersetshire genealogist of the last century, showing the connection of the families of Alford, Symes and Sydenham, all of that County.

Thus, on the one hand, I found a strong desire and frequent enquiry for information, and on the other, a supply of available sources from which that desire could be gratified. The desire, moreover, appealed to me as an eminently reasonable one, for there is something, surely, in hereditary influence upon character; and though, as far as I knew, we could claim no descent from men of noble birth or of great fame, yet a history of some centuries of educated and cultured family-life seemed, for the sake of those still to come, worthy of record in definite and permanent form.

I resolved therefore to make the attempt, and, having once commenced, the work of collection and compilation became a pleasure—hobby (I may as well confess it)—leading naturally to much further research . . . .

The result I now offer to my kith and kin in these "Family Notes", the private publication of which is subscribed for by various members of the family . . . .

We cannot pretend to produce legal proof of every fact or statement included, but would nevertheless distinctly state that nothing has been passed by Compiler or Editor without good ground for acceptance. Many points, however, are manifestly incomplete, affording ample opportunity for further research and future addition.

Regret must be expressed that it is impossible to include records of some who, though closely connected, are not themselves Alford's. The mass of information concerning the actual family precluded any wider view.

JOSIAH G. ALFORD, Bristol,  
December 1908.



## SIGN ME UP!

Alford American Family Association.  
P.O. Box 1586, Florissant, MO 63031

- \$10 Registration Fee—one time only  
 \$ 8 Annual Dues  
 Please send me more information and your registration packet.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

## Welcome New AAFA Members

#	Name	Address	City	State	Ancestor	Event / Date / Place
076	MRS. ELISABETH A. MCLANE	202 WAYNE AVENUE	VALDOSTA	GA 31602	WILLIAM B.	B 1789ca NC WAKE
077	MRS. FAYE A. CANNADY	4056 BLUEBONNET DRIVE	GREENSBORO	NC 27407	HINES BERRY	B 1827 NC
078	MRS. MARJORIE MCDANIEL	ROUTE 5, BOX 5197	ATHENS	TX 75751	ROBERT	B 1760ca ENGLAND
079	MRS. SARAH KAY THORNHILL	3019 WOODLAND RIDGE ROAD	BATON ROUGE	LA 70816	JAMES	B 1687ca VA NEWK
080	MRS. DEBORAH A. BELL	4224 HOUMA BLVD. STE 660	METAIRIE	LA 70006		
081	MR. JOHN E. SKELTON	201 HOLLY STREET	HARTWELL	GA 30643	JAMES	B 1687ca VA NEWK
082	MR. IRA ALFORD	1560 3 MILE LAKE AVE	PORT BARRIE	LA 70577	JAMES	B 1687ca VA NEWK
083	MRS. ROBERT W. SMITH, JR.	5447 MARCIA AVENUE	NEW ORLEANS	LA 70124		
084	MR. ROBERT ALLEN ALFORD	11988 FOREST OAK COURT	BATON ROUGE	LA 70815	ALBERT WENDELL	LA TANG
085	MISS EVA FRANCES ALFORD	6851 ROSWELL ROAD	ATLANTA	GA 30328	JAMES	B 1687ca VA NEWK
086	MRS. OMER S. ALFORD	374 E. PACES FERRY RD 110	ATLANTA	GA 30305		
087	MR. J. M. KINABREW, JR.	6178 GENERAL HAIG STREET	NEW ORLEANS	LA 70124	JAMES	B 1687ca VA NEWK
088	MR. W. JOSEPH ALFORD, JR.	309 BEECHMOUNT DRIVE	HAMPTON	VA 23669		
089	MR. W. BILL MC CAIN	P. O. BOX 13320	ALEXANDRIA	LA 71315-3320	JAMES	B 1687ca VA NEWK
090	MR. STANLEY H. JORDAN	100 OLDE OAK DRIVE	JONESBORO	GA 30236	FORT	B 1792< GA / NC
091	MRS. FRANK M. SALAMONE	111 VERNON STREET	BELLE CHASSE	LA 70037	JAMES	B 1687ca VA NEWK
092	MR. R. D. FEATHERSTONE	67 HOLMES ROAD	RIDGEFIELD	CT 06877	MARY	B 17880418 CT
093	MRS. JANET F. BAUGH	10422 LANDBURY COURT	BATON ROUGE	LA 70809	EDWARD	B 1820ca IRELAND
094	MRS. LUCY SHULL STEVENS	803 ROXBORO ROAD	ROCKVILLE	MD 20850	JAMES	B 1687ca VA NEWK
095	MRS. FRANCES S. CALLAWAY	1410 DOYAL DRIVE	MORRISTOWN	TN 37814	JAMES	B 1687ca VA NEWK
096	MRS. BETTY BUTTS	4104 BLUEFISH	PASCAGOULA	MS 39567		
097	MRS. ELEANOR P. ALFORD	2499 E. MADDOX ROAD	BUFORD	GA 30518	WILLIAM H.	B 1811ca NC
098	MR. M. THEO WESLEY	BOX 786, 209 S. BROADWAY	NATCHEZ	MS 39120	JAMES	B 1687ca VA NEWK
099	MR. CLIFFORD ALFORD	100 PAR AVENUE	BORGER	TX 79007	ANTHONY	B MS