

Research Projects

The purposes of the Association as set out in the Articles of Incorporation suggest considerable research effort. While the Genealogist-Historian, Nancy Dietrich, will be the focal point for this effort, she will require not only much help from the other officers, but from the membership as well.

Listed below are the purposes which have some research implication:

- **COMPILING ACCEPTABLE FAMILY RECORDS OF ALFORD DESCENDANTS AND ANCESTORS.**
- **UNIFYING ALL GENEALOGICAL, HISTORICAL AND BIOGRAPHICAL RESEARCH ATTENDANT TO THE COMPILING OF ACCEPTABLE FAMILY RECORDS.**
- **POOLING RESOURCES AND EFFORTS OF THE MEMBERS OF THE FAMILIES SO THAT THE HISTORY AND GENEALOGY OF ALFORD ANCESTORS MAY BE PASSED ON TO ALL DESCENDANTS OF ALFORDS.**
- **PUBLISHING GENEALOGICAL AND/OR HISTORICAL PERIODICALS AND BOOKS WHICH PROVIDE INFORMATION ON ALFORDS AND ALFORD FAMILIES PROVIDING, WHERE POSSIBLE, INFORMATION ON THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO MANKIND.**

Simply stated, the Association will try to unify national efforts on Alford research and data collection, compile the data, and then pool resources and effort to preserve and pass on the information. Even simpler: work together to collect, preserve, and publish Alford information.

All research work should give consideration to the informational needs of Association members as it pertains to their specific family

history.

If the Association can develop and execute a plan to find the data, get it together, and get it out so folks can use it, the purposes of AAFA Articles will be well served. Alford information is going to come to the Association either as a result of a deliberate effort or as unplanned submissions. No planning can be done for the latter, but much consideration should be given to the Association's deliberate gathering of information.

There are at least three ways to deliberately acquire Alford information:

1. Have members search primary and/or secondary sources, based on guidance provided by AAFA.
2. Pay professional researchers for a specific assignment, to search in general terms or to extract data such as deeds, census, etc.
3. Purchase data already collected commercially.

The Genealogist-Historian will work with the other officers to develop a comprehensive research plan, and the membership will be kept informed through this newsletter. [See pg. 6 for articles on current and future research projects.]

All members of AAFA are encouraged to submit their recommendations and suggestions for areas of research in Alford history and genealogy. Members are also welcome to volunteer their own research time to help AAFA reach its research goals!