

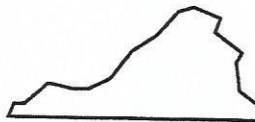
Virginia Research Project

The Virginia research project has been put on hold until the membership has a chance to discuss direction at the annual meeting. The feedback I've received has been about evenly divided between the membership doing more preliminary research with film from the Virginia archives and the LDS library before hiring another professional.

The problem with trying to do it ourselves is getting enough members to help so the project can be completed in a reasonable amount of time. Also the Virginia archives will not sell copies of its microfilm to individuals. They only sell to libraries. If we try

to set up an Alford family library and research center, I don't know if it would qualify or not, but I doubt it.

If we decide to hire another professional, then the time frame to be searched and the focus counties



should be spelled out so that whomever we hire will have clear direction. A selection committee should be appointed at the annual meeting.

The problem, no matter which way we go, is the burned counties. So many of the early Alford's lived in counties where the records were burned, with no or very few surviving records. An example is New Kent County, which has only one small fragment of records left, and they are housed in the Huntington Library in California.

The members might want to consider working more on North Carolina and from there working back into Virginia.

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