

## The Alford Library

While we are currently using the term "library" rather loosely, we expect that someday there will be a substantial collection worthy of the name. Until we need a separate librarian to manage the collection, it is being done by our Genealogist-Historian, Nancy Alford Dietrich.

Working with all members, AAFA hopes to review references that might contain Alford information. Where practical and possible, the Association will purchase the book, provided its content is significant for the research of Alford families and related families. When purchasing the entire book is not feasible or appropriate, consideration will be given to having a copy made (within copyright laws) or extracting the pertinent Alford data.

Arrangements will be made for members to access the contents of the library. The details of this have not been worked out, but a small fee to cover the cost of shipping the publications both ways or of making copies will probably be involved.

The general plan is that three lists of references will be printed in each issue of *AAFA ACTION*:

**WISH LIST:** Books which have potential for use in Alford research.

**HOLDINGS LIST:** Partial list of the references (extracts or books) already in the Library. This list will be updated in each issue.

**NO DATA LIST:** Books whose title suggests the possibility of Alford data, but which were found to contain nothing after research. This list should provide members an idea of the books they need not look for or at. *AAFA ACTION* will publish this list as the information is reported.

Members will be asked to participate in this project as follows:

1. Check the books on the Wish List in libraries and archives available to you. Members who belong to local societies, the National Genealogical Society or the New England Historical Genealogical Society may be able to access the books through these organizations.
2. If the amount of Alford data is minimal, copy it along with the title page and the index. Also copy keys to abbreviations, introductory remarks that explain limitations, sources, etc. Xerox copies are best, but handwritten or typed extractions are acceptable if extra care is taken in proofreading! Send the copies to Nancy Dietrich.
3. If the amount of Alford data is extensive, inform the librarian of Alford content so the Association can determine whether the book is worth purchasing. The library will of course welcome donated books or funds earmarked for the purchase of books!
4. **IMPORTANT:** If no Alford data is found, inform the librarian. An easy way is to xerox the title page and send it with a note saying "No Alford data."

If you are doing non-Alford genealogical research, check the index of every reference you use for "Alford" and follow Steps 2 to 4 above. Who knows—an Alford buried in an obscure family history may be YOUR lost ancestor! And don't forget that Gil Alford can add all of this "found" data to his database of Alford families, helping us all to find our ancestors.

### Copyright Law, In Brief

We encourage you to follow both the letter and spirit of copyright law. The following is from G.A. Jentz, K.W. Clarkson, and R.L. Miller, *West's Business Law* (St. Paul, MN: West Publishing Co., 1984), pp. 231-232.

The copyright law in use from 1909-1977 gave copyright protection for 28 years from the date of first publication, renewable for an additional 47 years. Therefore, the copyright has expired on all books published prior to 1914 (75 years ago).

In general, works written after January 1, 1978, are protected by copyright for the life of the author plus fifty years. The fair use doctrine "allows reproduction of copyrighted material without permission if the use of the material is 'reasonable' and not harmful to the rights of the copyright owner. Section 107 of the new copyright law mentions permissible purposes such as . . . scholarship, or research. Four criteria are used in considering whether a particular use is reasonable:

1. The purpose and character of the use, including whether it is of a nonprofit, educational nature or of a commercial nature.
2. The amount and importance of the material used in relation to the work as a whole.
3. The nature of the copyrighted work.
4. The effect of the use on the potential market or value of the copyrighted work.

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