

## Guy Alford, Part Three

(The previous two issues introduced Guy Alford, who did much Alford research in the 1950s. The following is the foreword that Guy Alford prepared for the book he was going to publish. It is reproduced verbatim—including the title.)

### Foreword—Caution

This is not to be taken as a completed compilation of the mass of notes I have jotted down, from time to time, in my efforts to set down, later, some facts about my lineal forebears and collateral lines.

As I caution or warn in my comments set down on these notes, I want to stress in this 'foreword' to the notes I have typed and included here that my

(Will Alford, cont. from p. 42)

*mended by the Sheriff and other officers of Cooke Co where the arrest occurred. The County Judge, County Attorney, Sheriff and other officials of Hamilton Co. where applicant lived, recommend his pardon.*

*On account of the age of the applicant, his good conduct in the penitentiary and the fact that he has served two full years for his first offense, we advise that he be pardoned. Nov 19/97.*

### At last the campaign paid off

On December 21, 1897, four days before Christmas, Governor Charles A. Culberson pardoned Will.

[AAFA records have no further information on Will Alford. He seems to have vanished by 1900. The author believes he may have gone to California.] ❖

conclusions now, and until I complete my research are tentative and subject to change, in many instances.

For instance, I have not had the time or physical capacity to hurry along and complete my research in the Hancock County, Georgia, background. It takes time and patience to build an adequate or provable genealogy, is a point I want to stress upon members of the family.

Patient and diligent research will, in time, uncover missing links or open up new leads. New leads to seemingly hidden facts often turn up, unexpectedly as a reward for patience and diligence in this research.

I will appreciate it if any member of the family, or any one outside the family, will cooperate with me in constructing this Alford genealogy.

Bear in mind, too, that all who bear the name of Alford or who are descended from an Alford are related. That is true in England as well as in the United States. The word 'ford' is a common name in England and 'ford' is an element used in many family names. Space and time, at the moment does not permit me to discuss the evolution or development of our Family Name System. I will say something about this subject and add it to my completed compilation of this genealogy of Alford and allied lines. It is enough to say, now, that our name simply means 'Old Ford' and it was, at times gone by, spelled Alderford, Auldforde, etc. with letters being dropped until most of us now use this spelling: Alford. Some even substituted a v for the f and use the spelling: Alvord. That, I think, is due to the influence of the old dialectal accents used in the various sections of England. I am no expert on this subject but I had the good fortune of serving in the army in Europe in World Wars I and II and, since the origin of names

always fascinated me, I utilized some of my spare time reading and talking with informed Englishmen. I shall, in the end, set down some of my impressions of what I heard or learned on this subject. Some have asked me about this point or I would not have mentioned it here.

In addition, I want to add this conviction of mine: I have not, and do not expect, to find any man bearing the name of Alford has been or is a saint or one of the plaster saints fastened up on a wall for decorative or worship purposes. They stack up about like the general run of humanity, no worse or better. Our forebears are sound, dependable old Anglo-Saxon stock—a race of people I think are on a par with or equal of any other race of mankind, past or present. I am what I am because of my forebears. I inherited some of my characteristics. Environment played a part, a substantial part, to be sure. We see these things all through the generations past. It is an interesting and fascinating study, for me.

I am not trying to build a genealogy that is tied to the fame of some great general or a governor or a president or some king, or noblemen. Those of us who bear this family name can, if they wish, get into kind of a background. But I am just an ordinary mortal and proud of my family name, and the family names allied with it, and will be content to record the facts, leaving out the glamour, romance and unprovable legends. Every Alford I personally know feels the same way about this subject, I believe.

[Next comes 24 numbered paragraphs containing, to a great extent, administrative comments. The series will continue with them in the next issue.] ❖