

## Stephen J. Alford, 1836-1896

This article was submitted on behalf of Elizabeth Alford Kittle by Richard Grundy and his wife, Claudia Alford Kittle Copeland, 8905 Linton Lane, Alexandria, Virginia (Members #331). The article compiles information on an Alford family branch with origins in Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois. The information was obtained by Richard Grundy from his mother-in-law, Elizabeth Alford Kittle, formerly of Chicago, Illinois; and Jean Frances Alford Myers (34) of Madison, Wisconsin, from the records of her father, Leland Golden Alford (27). Additional AAFA information was obtained through Gil Alford from John David Alford (43), 149 Valleyview Drive, Joplin MO 64804 (Member#117); John Morris Alford III (38), 4141 North Henderson Road #728, Arlington, VA 22203 (was Member#162); and by letter to AAFA President Lodwick Alford from Mrs. Josephine Alford Hollister (28), 720 N.W. 3rd Avenue, Galva, IL 61434.

The authors would like to receive any additional information about the antecedents and descendants of this Alford family branch. An interesting twist on the family occurs with Anstrilla Alford around 1830. The late Rear Admiral JOHN MORRIS ALFORD, whose biographical sketch appeared in the March 1989 AAFA ACTION belongs to this family.

1 JOHN ALFORD, the earliest Alford in the branch, was born in Ireland circa 1780. He married Margaret WILSON. Their children were:

- 2 LUCRETIA ALFORD, born 1811 and died September 25, 1846; married Billy ALLEN.
- 3 RIPSIE J. ALFORD, born May 10

- 1813 and died October 25 1854; married \_\_\_\_\_ SUTTON.
- 4 STEPHEN ALFORD, married Mary Ann RAWLEY.
- +5 GEORGE WASHINGTON ALFORD, born May 1816 and died 1893.
- +6 ANSTRILLA ALFORD, born 1826 and died September 26 1881.

5 George Washington Alford was born May 1816 and married Jane HUGHES, who was born in 1826. She was related to an early English Colonial Governor DINWIDDIE. Their children were:

- 7 JOHN ALFORD.
- 8 MARY STRILLA ALFORD.
- 9 CHARLES ALFORD.
- 10 MARTHA "NANNIE" WEBBER ALFORD.
- 11 GEORGE WASHINGTON ALFORD, Jr.
- 12 MARGARET "Mag" ALFORD.

6 Anstrilla Alford married ERWIN (or IRWIN) ALFORD by estimate around

1830. And here is the interesting twist of events: according to the records of Anstrilla's grandson Leland Golden Alford (27), Erwin (or Irwin) on their marriage took his wife's family name; his original name is unknown. Their only child was:

+13 STEPHEN J. ALFORD, born April 1 1836 and died October 7 1896, from whom this branch of the family descended.

13 Stephen J. Alford married Rebecca Jane HOBACK, March 15 1860. She was born October 11 1844 in Ironton, Ohio, and was killed by a cyclone March 23 1913 in Nehawka, Nebraska. During the Civil War Stephen served in Company "D" of the 125th Ohio. The following obituary was extracted from a local newspaper (date not available) probably *Ironton Register* and supplied by Leland Golden:

*Rebecca J. Hoback was born at Ironton, Lawrence County, Ohio,*



*George Washington and Jane (Hughes) Alford and family*

*Back row: Margaret (12), Charles (9), Martha(10), George Jr. (11)  
Front row: Mary (8), George Sr., (5), Jane, John (7)*

October 11, 1844 and died near Nehawka, Nebraska, March 23, 1913, aged 60 years, 5 months and 12 days. She was united in marriage to Stephen J. Alford March 15, 1860 and to this union were born 8 children: John, Willis, Mrs. Mary Jameson, James D., Albert, Mrs. Nannie McReynolds, Mrs. Lenna Dodson and Robert. Of these, Will, James D. and Mrs. Jameson are dead, and the husband died in 1896. She joined the Baptist church early in life and has always been a consistent and devout Christian. When the family came to Cass County in 1887 she joined the Christian church and has been a worker in that denomination ever since.

The tragic manner in which she met her death was a great shock to the community, and many have been the words of sympathy and love spoken for her noble character. She had maintained her home and with her two sons had lived, her life of love.

Their children were:

- +14 JOHN MORRIS ALFORD, born January 10 1861 and died December 31 1918; married Emmazetta "Emma" MOORE April 20 1884 in Ironton, Ohio.
- +15 WILLIAM H. ALFORD, born September 6 1862 in Lawrence County, Ohio and died April 23 1904 in Council Grove, Morris County, Kansas.
- 16 MARY E. ALFORD, born September 14 1864 and married Arthur JAMISON May 10 1885.
- 17 JAMES DANIEL ALFORD, born May 19 1867; never married.
- 18 NANCY JENNIE ALFORD, born July 9 1869 and died May 9 1928; married George Washington McREYNOLDS on February 24 1887.
- 19 ALBERT J. ALFORD, born September 27 1871; never married.
- 20 LENNA LOATA ALFORD, born June 30 1879; married Elba DODSON December 17 1899.



John Morris Alford (14) and his wife, Emmazetta "Emma" Moore, probably about 1910

- 21 ROBERT C. ALFORD, born September 16 1881; married Susie STROUT.

14 John Morris Alford was born January 10 1861, Decring, Ohio, and died December 31 1919. He was a school teacher in Ohio. He married Emmazetta "Emma" MOORE April 20 1884 in Ironton, Ohio. Emma was born April 5 1862 in Ryansville (Southpoint) Ohio. She died June 19 1932 and was buried in Galva, Illinois. Their children were:

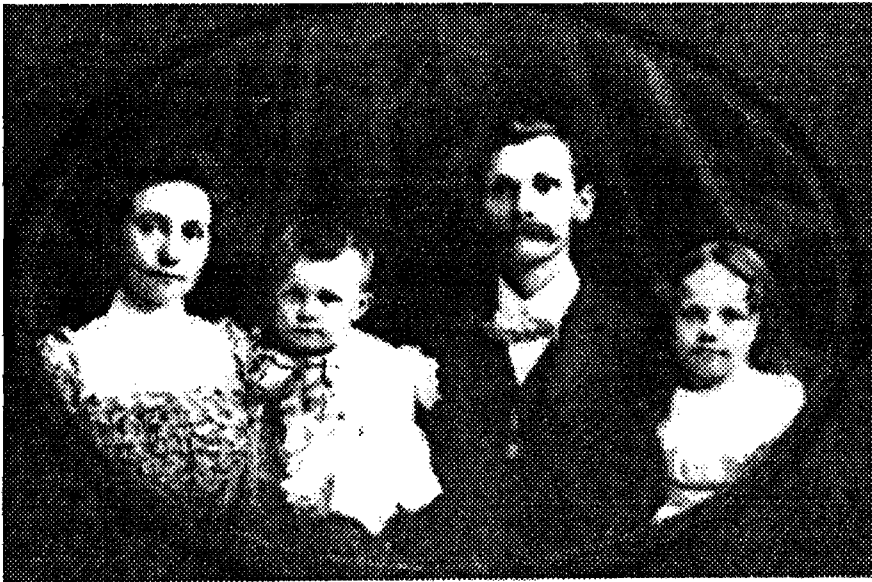
- +22 JOHN MERLIN ALFORD, born August 20 1886 and died April 21 1948 in Peoria, Illinois.
- +23 AUBREY ALVIN ALFORD, born March 8 1888.
- +24 ELSIE ALFORD, born February 21 1890 in College Corners, Jay County, Indiana, and died May 25 1965 in Chicago, Illinois.
- +25 VIRGIL EMERSON ALFORD, born May 23 1893 and died November 23 1970; married Stella O'NEILL April 29 1919.

15 William H. Alford was born September 6 1862 in Lawrence County, Ohio, and died April 23 1904 in Council Grove, Kansas. He married Anna Louise GOLDEN September 20 1892 in Ironton, Ohio. Anna was born February 26 1866 in Ironton, Ohio, and died January 13 1958 in Denver, Colorado; however, she was buried in Council Grove, Morris County, Kansas. William was the Morris County Recorder. Included in material furnished by Leland GOLDEN through Jean ALFORD Myers was an article on Will ALFORD which reads as follows:

*RECORDER WILL ALFORD*

*No corps of county officers in Kansas would be complete without an Ohio man in it somewhere. Our Register of Deeds is an Ohio man. He was born in Lawrence county and received his education there. At the age of twenty-one he began teaching. After two terms work in Ohio, he came to Morris county, Kansas. He taught one term near Parkersville and then accepted a position as book keeper and manager in the general merchandise store of N. Dilley & Co. in Parkerville in 1887. He continued in this position twelve years or until 1899 when he was elected to his present office. In 1892 [five years after leaving there] he went back for an Ohio bride marrying Miss Anna Golden, of Ironton. Both Mr. and Mrs. Alford are members of the Baptist church and he is superintendent of the Baptist Sunday School in this city. He is a popular county officer. His fairness, courtesy, and promptness are the comment of all who do business at the Register's office. Mrs Alford is his assistant and much of the present efficiency of the office is due to her care and help.*

The following excerpt is from an unidentified newspaper article:



*Anna Louise Golden, Leland Golden Alford (27),  
William H. Alford (15), Vivian G. Alford (26)*

*There is something touching and beautiful in the devotion of a true woman. Rev. Rickman touched upon this at the funeral of W. H. Alford when he said: "I am not here to preach Mrs. Alford's funeral, but I want to say to my fellow citizens in concluding this service, that a more devoted, faithful wife, never stood by the bedside of a dying man, than the companion of the deceased. I will not wait until she is in her coffin to express my appreciation of her noble deeds but here and now in the name of the people of Morris county, present her with the most beautiful flower in the Universe of God—the flower of gratitude. It would cause the heart of my dear and departed brother to beat for joy to know that I had publically recognized the worth of one so near and dear to him and at the same time so true to the best interests of Morris county.*

Following Will's death, Anna assumed the position as the first woman to ever hold an elected office in Morris County. The following obituary appeared in a Morris County, Kansas, newspaper on the death of Anna Louise GOLDEN Alford:

#### *First Local Woman In Elective Office*

*Mrs. Anna Alford, 91, who passed away Monday at the home of her daughter, Vivian Blackledge, in Denver, was the first woman ever to hold an elective office in Morris County.*

*That followed her appointment as register of deeds upon the untimely death of her husband, Will H. Alford, who passed away during his second term in the office in 1904. Following that two-year term, she assisted in several other court-house offices until 1914, when she again was elected register of deeds for two terms. After an interval of about six more years, she was elected county treasurer in 1924 and served two terms.*

*Mrs. Alford was a resident of Morris county for nearly 60 years and long was identified with courthouse activities as is shown by many of the big leaders in the office of the register of deeds. Her handwriting is a beautifully clear style that was called "Spencerian" and which today seems almost unknown.*

*Between the intervals of office holding, she made her living as an abstractor, having started originally*

*with the old style hand written forms even before typewriters were purchased for use in the court house offices. Her home was on West Main street here until failing health caused her to dispose of it and live with her children, Mrs. Frank Blackledge in Denver and Leland Alford in Kansas City.*

*Mrs. Alford was born February 26, 1886, at Ironton, O. She was married in the fall of 1892 to Will H. Alford, then employed in Parkerville.*

*Funeral services will be held Thursday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock at the Baptist church with graveside rituals by the P.E.O. Sisterhood, Mrs. Alford having been one of the charter members of Chaper H, Council Grove.*

Their children were:

- 26 VIVIAN G. ALFORD, born November 25 1894 Parkersville, Morris County, Kansas, and died September 1983 in Denver, Colorado; married Benjamin Franklin BLACKLEDGE July 1 1918.
- +27 LELAND GOLDEN ALFORD, born May 30 1897 and died July 10 1979; married Helen Josephine DAWLEY February 9 1920.
- 22 John Merlin Alford was born August 20 1885 in Indiana and died April 21 1948 in Peoria (Galva), Illinois. He married Shirley FOOTE June 17 1910. Shirley was born August 10 1881 in New York and died February 25 1965 in Ohio. Both John and Shirley were doctors—a rarity for a couple in those days. He delivered the babies and he was the local pediatrician in Galva, Illinois. Their children were:
  - 28 JOSEPHINE ROSS ALFORD, born October 20 1913, married Russell Holdrege HOLLISTER December 14 1942.
  - +29 JOHN MORRIS ALFORD II, born April 13 1915.
  - +30 WILLIAM WILCOX ALFORD, born April 17 1917.

23 Aubrey Alvin Alford was born March 8 1888 and died about 1970 in

Miami, Florida. He married Oldine EIDSOR September 10 1911. Their children were:

- 31 MARGARET ALFORD, born November 9 1912.  
32 AUBREY "Buddy" ALVIN ALFORD, Jr., born October 12 1921.

24 Elsie Alford was the grandmother of Claudia Alford Kittle Copeland (Member#331). Elsie was born February 21 1890 and died May 25 1965 in Chicago, Illinois. She married Roy Leslie KITTLE August 27 1914 in Chicago Illinois. He was born Aug 27 1914. Elsie was reared as a typical middle-class young gentlewoman of her time. She was a high school graduate, was trained to sew a fine seam and play the piano socially, and given a smattering of household experience. She was a fun loving, attractive woman, with a good many suitors who were only too eager to teach her to play tennis and croquet, escort her to church socials, and all other genteel entertainment. Somewhere along the way she met Roy Kittle, a graduate of Northwestern University. He was a fine teacher and athletics coach in Ohio. Their marriage was short (4 years) as he died in the 1918 influenza epidemic at a camp near Rockford, Illinois. Two months later her father, John Morris Alford, also died. Elsie, her mother, and her only child (Elizabeth Alford KITTLE, born May 3 1915) set up house together. Elsie worked as a stenographer and executive secretary until the end of her life. The daughter, Elizabeth Alford Kittle, later married Maurice Donald COPELAND March 18 1939 in Evanston, Illinois; among their five children was Claudia COPELAND Grundy (Member #331).

25 Virgil Emerson Alford was born May 23 1893 and died November 23 1970 Miami, Florida. He married Stella O'NEILL April 29 1919. With his artistic and writing talents he found a niche for himself in business. Their

only child was:

- 33 JOHN BLAKE ALFORD, born May 5 1920 and never married.

27 Leland Golden Alford was born May 30 1897 in Parkersville, Kansas, and died July 10 1979 in Kansas City, Missouri. He married Helen Josephine DAWLEY February 9 1920 in Manhattan, Riley County, Kansas. He worked for General Electric. Helen was born September 17 1899 in Waldo, Kansas, and died January 17 1980 in Kansas City, Missouri. Their children were:

- 34 JEAN FRANCES ALFORD, born August 14 1921 Chicago, Illinois; married Phillip Samuel MYERS May 26 1943 Manhattan, Kansas.  
+35 LYNN BRUCE ALFORD, born June 11 1923; married Martha WESTFALL February 19 1949.  
36 MARGARET LOUISE ALFORD, born January 12 1925; married Thomas FERGUSON June 14 1947.  
37 ARDITH LENORE ALFORD, born November 6 1934 Riverdale, Illinois, and died October 21 1982 Winfield, Kansas; married Douglas Thane FELL December 26 1953 Kansas City, Missouri.

29 John Morris Alford II was born April 13 1915 and died December 17 1988. [See AAFA ACTION, March 1989, p. 12, for a biography.] He married Frances MILLER by whom there were no children. He then married Mrs. Mary Anne (CARLSEN) NETHERWOOD. The children by his second marriage were:

- 38 JOHN MORRIS ALFORD III, born June 28 1954, married Susan TENBROCK who was born June 9 1961.  
39 STEPHANIE ANN ALFORD, born October 5 1958, married \_\_\_\_\_ GOULD.  
40 GLENNA MARIE ALFORD, born June 22 1963, married \_\_\_\_\_ LIBBY.

30 William Wilcox Alford was born April 17 1917 and died November 10

1982. He married Jeanne KREUZER. Their children are:

- 41 ROSS ANDREW ALFORD, born January 17 1957.  
42 JEANNE JAY ALFORD, born March 14 1960.

35 Lynn Bruce Alford was born June 11 1923 in Riverside Illinois. He married Martha "Marty" Louise WESTFALL on February 19 1949 in Kansas. Martha was born February 7 1928 in Kingman, Kansas. Lynn is a General Electric employee near Joplin, Missouri. Their children are:

- +43 JOHN DAVID ALFORD, born June 24 1950.  
44 BARBARA HELEN ALFORD, born July 20 1951; married James BROFFITT December 12 1975.  
+45 RICHARD EARL ALFORD, born January 14 1953.  
46 MARSHA LEE ALFORD, born June 24 1955; married Kirk LUEKEN.  
47 JULIE ANN ALFORD, born July 21 1958; married Darrell CARLBLOM.

43 John David Alford was born June 24 1950 in Schenectady, New York. He married Charlene Patrice PLUMB on December 18 1971 in Joplin, Missouri. Charlene was born September 22 1950 in Joplin. Their children are:

- 48 DAVID BRANDON ALFORD, born June 14 1975.  
49 PATRICE LYNELLE ALFORD, born June 28 1977.  
50 REBECCA GRACE ALFORD, born September 24 1981.  
51 DENNIS SCOTT ALFORD, born October 23 1982 (adopted).  
52 MARTHA ELIZABETH ALFORD, born March 29 1987 (adopted).

45 Richard Earl Alford was born January 14 1953. He married Vicki \_\_\_\_\_. Their children are:

- 53 CHRISTOPHER GOLDEN ALFORD, born March 1980.  
54 LACEY HOPE ALFORD, born September 1983. ♦