

AAFA Awards Program Winners

By Pam Thompson, Publications Director

Congratulations to the winners in the AAFA Awards Program, announced at the Jackson meeting. Winners each won \$25!

•The Most New Family Group Sheets

Don Bender (#260) of Meridian, MS, for 30+ unpublished family group sheets—donated his prize back to AAFA.

New members have a great opportunity to win this competition by filling out FGS's for all their family units, ancestors or living relatives, in which either parent is named ALFORD (or a variation). Old members who haven't submitted their records yet, and anyone who can put together a family group from research, are also potential winners. So far this year, NO ONE has submitted any new FGS's—so get busy and win!

•The Most New Members Sponsored or Enlisted

Betty Alford Davis (#223) of Fort Worth, TX, for signing up 6 of her family members.

As of the end of this quarter, I have the most with 4! Two of these were Alford's with whom I had business contact by phone or mail. I wrote to them about AAFA, encouraging

them to send their lineages to the Association even if they weren't interested in joining so we could extend our knowledge about Alford's and perhaps help other members. Lo and behold, they were interested and did join! (A third contact didn't respond, but 2 out of 3 isn't bad!)

•The Best Biographical Sketch

Doris Vetri (#303) of Telford, PA, for "George Washington Alford, 1855-1909," December 1990, pp. 34-35—donated her prize back to AAFA.

So far this year, Eulon Alford's "Bailey Monroe Alford, 1875-1932" on p. 24 of this issue is the only entrant—a good one, but give him some competition: write a biography of one of your Alford ancestors.

•The Best Non-Biographical Article

Willard Perry (#336) of Raleigh, NC, for "St. John's Parish Church," September 1991, p. 25.

Doris Vetri sent an article that will be published next time, "Mississippi Cemetery Adventure," so you better get busy! Compile some research, write about an experience, let us know of some successful research you've done—or maybe a research problem you're having. I publish almost 100% of submissions, so go for it! ♦

Part 3: Eileen Alford's Consider Alford

Excerpts from Eileen Alford's *THE ANCESTORS AND DESCENDANTS OF CONSIDER ALFORD AND HIS WIFE LUCY FITCH KENNEDY - A SAGA OF THEIR LIVES AND TIMES IN OLD ENGLAND AND COLONIAL AMERICA*—pages 32-33

... The Ellesdon descendants have taken great pride in the part their ancestor played in attempting to aid the king to safety, but Gregory Alford threw doubt on this in a series of fiery letters he wrote, bitterly attacking the good faith of his fellow townsman, Ellesdon. Documents can still be found in Lyme Regis on this subject. Ellesdon's wife was a Presbyterian and after the restoration of Charles to the throne, Gregory showed great severity to dissenters of the Established Church.

There is a wealth of information in the files of Lyme Regis concerning the three families who played a part in the escape of the king: the Alford's, Ellesdons and the Wesleys. The following is taken from the archives for a glimpse into the personality of Gregory Alford.

On October 25, 1661, Gregory Alford signed a receipt for money disbursed in providing a town column. During the previous year he had been 'presented' for having a dung mixen in the street before his house. During his first mayoralty (1663) he expended 16s on cakes consumed at the election of Mr. Walter Tucker. In July 1671, it seemed that Charles II revisited the scene of his adventures in the autumn of 1651. — King Charles being about to pass

through Charmouth on July 2, 1671, a party at the head of which was our well known townsman Captain Gregory Alford, went forth to meet his majesty. Refreshments were served consisting of fine biscuit, six penny loaves, brandy and strong beer."

For the years 1681-2-3 Gregory showed much energy in the persecution of the dissenters. He addressed certain letters on the subject which are found in the Sir Leoline Jenkins correspondence. They betray a strong animosity toward his fellow citizen, William Ellesdon, of Charmouth. He accuses Ellesdon of conniving at the proceedings of the conventicle preachers. Ellesdon did attempt to defend himself in public from the Mayor, explaining

(Continued on p. 37)

(Consider Alford, cont. from p. 36)

that some men's zeal runs before their wit and discretion.

Gregory Alford was first made Mayor of Lyme Regis in 1663. He was described as a fit man. He remained an extreme Royalist to the end of his life. This characteristic showed up again, many years later, in 1685 for his part in the Monmouth Invasion concerning the Rye House Plot against the king. After this, Gregory Alford and his family quit the

town of Lyme Regis and appeared to move to Devon, the County of Castles, where his son and others of his kin were already making their home.

The tales Consider heard of this man must have impressed him as he is the only ancestor mentioned on a long since yellowed paper which is still in existence. Although I know definitely that Consider Alford was the (4 great) grandson of Mayor Gregory Alford I was not able to fill in the first name of

the four missing generations on the chart. The Alford family had lived in the counties of Wiltshire, Somersetshire, Dorset and Devon since the fourteenth century, so in all probability Consider was born in or near Devon County. The Raine family of Witton Gilbert, Durham County, showed a great interest in my "History Of the Alford Family", and made a detailed search for Consider's birthplace. Although this information was not found the friendship was a worthwhile reward. ♦

Bible Record of Sion & Clarkey (McTyer) Alford

Source: (Submitted by Roderick F. Bush)
Be It Known and Remembered, Bible Records Volume Three, 1962. Baton Rouge, LA: Louisiana Genealogical and Historical Society, 1962.

The following is a verbatim copy of page 12 and the next unnumbered page. [Editor's note: The inconsistency in the spelling of "Clarkey" comes from the source.]

This Bible was in possession of a great granddaughter, Miss Margaret Agnes Alford, Columbia, Ala. The Bible was printed and published by Matthew Caney in 1807, No. 122 Market St., Philadelphia, PA. Sion and Clarkey Alford lived in Robeson County, North Carolina. Sent in by Mrs. Doak S. Campbell, 1001 High Road, Tallahassee, FL.

MARRIAGES

James J. Alford and Sarah Alford were married Oct. 30, 1834
Charles McRae and M. A. Alford were married March 7, 1867
J. H. Lee and Victoria Alford were married Feb. 20, 1868
C. B. Cox and Juliet Alford were married Jan. 4, 1871

BIRTHS

Sion Alford was born Dec 31st A. D. 1763
Clarkey McTyer was born March 5 A. D. 1767
Elizabeth Alford, daughter of said Sion and Clarkey, was born. Nov. 15, A.D. 1788
Mary Alford was born July 9, 1790 A. D.
Warren Alford was born Feb 12, 1793
Susanna Alford was born Feb 18, 1795
Catherine Alford was born Feb 24 A.D. 1797
William Alford was born Feb 14 A.D. 1799

Wiley Alford was born June 21st A.D. 1801
James Jordan Alford was born Nov 21 A.D. 1803
Ann Hopson Alford was born Dec 16 A.D. 1805
Robert McTyer Alford was born May 10 A.D. 1808
John Witherspoon Alford was born June 7 A.D. 1809
Sion Alford was born April 13 A.D. 1837
Victoria Alford was born April 16 A.D. 1839
Margaret Ann Alford was born Dec 24 A.D. 1840
Juliet Alford was born Aug 17 A.D. 1842
Sarah Alford was born 1817, wife of James Jordan Alford.
(The four above were their children)

DEATHS

Robert McTyer Alford departed this life Sept 4, 1808
Clarkey Alford, consort of Sion Alford, departed this life Oct 7, 1830
Sion Alford, husband of Clarkey, departed this life June 28 Anno Domini 1832
James J. Alford departed this life Sept 19, 1843
Sion M. Alford departed this life Oct 17, 1861
Dr. Warren Alford departed this life Jan 9, 1860
Victoria Alford, consort of J. H. Lee, departed this life Dec 1, 1868
Juliet Alford, consort of C. B. Cox departed this life Sept 11, 1871
Sarah Alford, consort to James J. Alford, departed this life Sept 12, 1896
Margaret Ann Alford McRae died Dec 2, 1909

Note: Taken from "Kinfold" [sic] by William C. Harlee, page 1329, the marriages of other children of Sion and Clarkey (McTyer) Alford were:

John Baker married Mary Alford
John McKay married Catherine Alford
Alexander H. Blue married Ann H. Alford
John Byars Brown married Susan Alford ♦