

party to Brownwood in a buckboard drawn by a pair of broomtailed ponies.

"I paid Hartman \$20 which was a large sum then," said Alford. "He and I changed and handcuffed the three prisoners to the wagon and placed them on the front seat. He and I rode on the back seat and he drove the team while I held my six-shooter ready for use in the event one or all of the rustlers should get loose and attempt to escape. We had no trouble in getting the men to Brownwood, where they were tried and

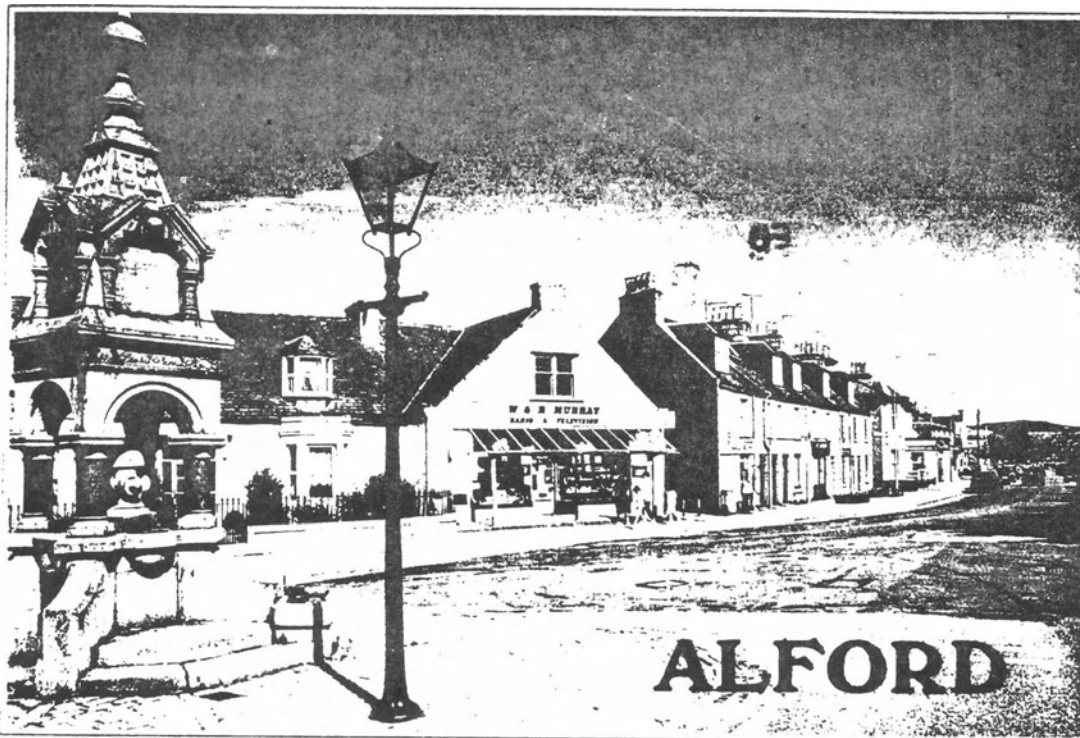
each given long terms in the penitentiary for horse stealing."

As they returned with the men to Putnam, Alford decided to go through the part of the country where he had heard the gun battle and learned that an unknown man and been found shot to death in an abandoned cabin. The dead man's body contained 20 bullet holes. Later, Alford learned this man was the fourth member of the gang he was trailing, and that for some reason he had left the others. He had been found

by a posse of citizens from other south Texas counties that were trailing the gang and when he refused to surrender, had been shot to death. The name of this man was never revealed.

Nor did Alford reveal the identity of the men whom he took back to Brownwood and sent to the penitentiary, and newspapers not being plentiful at the time, their names remained a secret. ❖

Alford, Scotland



Don Alford, Member #59, and his wife Joan are touring the British Isles this summer. They sent this postcard from Alford, Scotland, where they were in early August. Don says, "Another nice Alford town—site of the 'Battle of Alford.' Here two days, three nights. No definable connection with our genealogy. We think Winsham, Somerset offers best chance. . . ."

In late July they sent AAFA a postcard from Hexham, Durham, with a note: "Have toured Alford, Lincolnshire County. Visited vicar in parish church, studied vestry records. Talked to town historian. Last Alford's disappeared in 1500's."

Gil has asked Don to write a report for AAFA ACTION when he returns. And won't it be great if Don makes a presentation at the Destin meeting?!