

Jeptha Martin Alford, 1862-1948

By Executive Director Gil Alford,
grandson of Jeptha

Jeptha Martin Alford, son of John Seaborn and Margaret (BRUMFIELD) Alford [see "John Seaborn Alford, 1807-1891," p. 17, *AAFA ACTION*, June 1992], was the youngest of 17 children, born July 22, 1862 on a farm in the Second Ward, Washington Parish, Louisiana, the general area in which he lived his entire life. He died May 26, 1948 at Mt. Hermon, Washington Parish, Louisiana, and is buried in the Alford Cemetery on his farm near Mt. Hermon, Louisiana.

Jeptha was married twice. He married first Fannie Ophelia PURVIS September 18, 1886. She was born about October 1869 and she died March 9, 1896. He married Laura Jane WARNER May 12, 1897 in Washington, Parish, Louisiana. Laura, the daughter of Daniel Cornelius and Laura Drucilla (Holmes) Warner, was born March 8, 1871 and she died March 29, 1939. Both wives are buried in the small family cemetery with Jeptha.

The following is from a newspaper article printed when Jep was 78, about 1940:

ARDENT LONG SUPPORTER WANTS ADMINISTRATION TO WIN

Jep M. Alford, life-long resident of Washington Parish and one of its notable elder citizens, is an ardent follower of Governor Earl K. Long, and is actively supporting him in the Second Primary to be held February 20th. Recently Mr. Alford spent several days in Baton Rouge, and while there, was a visitor at the Governor's Mansion. Later, Mr. Alford went to New Orleans and attended the Long meeting held there prior to the First Primary. Mr. Alford supported Huey P. Long every time he

ran for office, and has been a loyal administrationist ever since. He is sincere in his belief that the only way in which the masses of the people of the state can continue to receive the benefits made possible by Huey P. Long is to continue the present governor in office and he is fighting to that end.

His obituary follows:

Probably *THE ERA-LEADER*
Franklinton, LA.—Thurs., 3 June 1948

Jep M. Alford of the Mt. Hermon-Bogue Chitto Community died at his home May 26, 1948, after having been confined to his bed for several weeks. He was almost 86 years old age at the time of his death.

Mr. Alford lived his entire life in his immediate community, having been born within 300 yards of the home in which he died.

Funeral services were conducted Thursday by Rev. C.O. Stegal and interment followed in the family cemetery located near the home.

Mr. Alford was a member of the Bogue Chitto Baptist Church and had always been an active member until

age prevented making a total of 12. [That is the way it was printed. Apparently they left out a line in typesetting. The "12" undoubtedly refers to his children.] Those surviving are: Mrs. Gene Dillon and Mrs. Edgar Smith of Mt. Hermon; Mrs. Kenzie Penton, Franklinton; Mrs. Dan [sic—should be Don] Shaeffer, Gonzales, Louisiana; Mrs. D.B. Fortenberry, New Orleans, Louisiana; Alonzo, Banton and Iddo of Mt. Hermon; G.K. of Gonzales, La.; and L.W. of Walterboro, South Carolina.

There are 32 grand children and 36 great grandchildren.

Children of Jeptha and Fannie (Purvis) Alford:

- i. Wiley Banton Alford, born July 10, 1886 in Washington Parish, LA, died February 23, 1976. He married Emma R. MILLER September 3, 1905 in Washington Parish, who was born August 8, 1885 and died March 3, 1971. Both are buried Bogue Chitto Cemetery. [Their obituaries are in this issue.]

(Continued on p. 40)

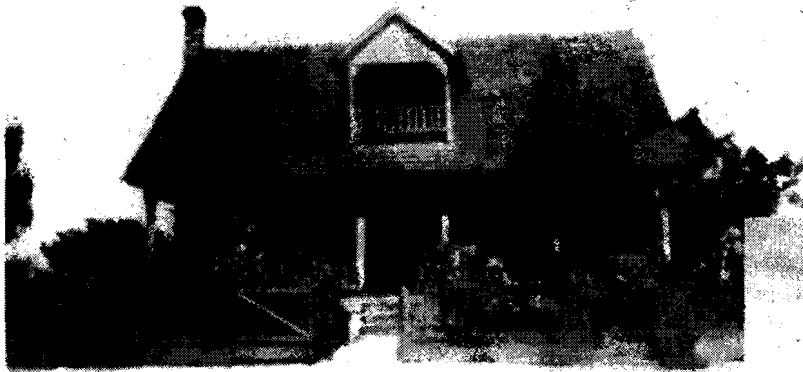


Jeptha Martin Alford and his first wife, Fannie Ophelia Purvis

RIGHT: Jeptha Martin Alford and his first wife Fannie Purvis with children. Standing are Banton (l) and Leoda (r); seated in front is Nola and on Jep's lap is Alonzo. This picuture was taken about 1894!



BELOW: During his married life Jeptha lived in three houses. This is the second, which burned about 1923.



BELOW: Jeptha Martin Alford, about 1920.



ABOVE: Jeptha's third and final house, which burned after his death. Lora Wayne Penton is on stool in front.





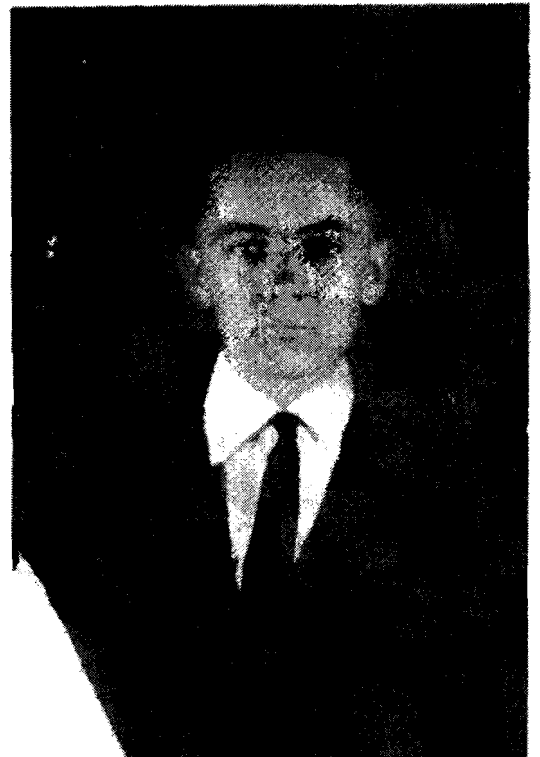
ABOVE: Jeptha Martin Alford and his second wife Laura Jane Warner with children. Standing left to right: Leoda, Banton and Nola; seated on Laura's lap is Iddo and leaning on Jep's leg is Alonzo. Taken about 1897.



ABOVE: Lora W. Alford, about 1925.



LEFT: Wiley Banton Alford, about 1910.



ABOVE: Gilbert K. Alford Sr., about 1925.

(Jeptha Alford, cont. from p. 37)

- ii. Frankie Leoda Alford, born March 9, 1888 in Washington Parish, LA, died November 1, 1971 [see "Obituaries: Children of Jeptha Alford & Their Spouses," p. 43, *AAFA ACTION*, December 1992]. She married: (1) William Van SMITH September 2, 1906 in Washington Parish, who was born July 28, 1880 in Walthall County, Mississippi and died there November 15, 1932; and (2) Gene Dillon.
- iii. Nola Alford, born October 2, 1889 in Washington Parish, LA, died March 10, 1952, married Edgar W. SMITH June 11, 1905 in Washington Parish. He was born March 26, 1879 in Washington Parish and died there May 24, 1953 [see "Obituaries: Children of Jeptha Alford & Their Spouses," p. 43, *AAFA ACTION*, December 1992 for both Nola and Edgar].
- iv. Alonzo Scaborn Alford, born July 10, 1891 in Washington Parish, LA, died May 16, 1964 in Washington Parish, LA, married Florence MORRIS October 24, 1909. She was born September 4, 1891 in Washington Parish and died there March 8, 1956 [see "Obituaries: Children of Jeptha Alford & Their Spouses," p. 43, *AAFA ACTION*, December 1992 for both Alonzo and Florence]. Alonzo was a farmer and school bus owner/driver.
- v. Infant born and died August 14, 1893.
- vi. Iddo Lampton Alford, born August 25, 1895 in Washington Parish, LA, died May 9, 1960 [see "Obituaries: Children of Jeptha Alford & Their Spouses," p. 43, *AAFA ACTION*, December 1992]. He married Ella MORRIS December 24, 1916 in Washington Parish, who was born October 24, 1899 in Washington Parish and died there April 20, 1983 [see obituary this issue]. Both are buried in Bogue Chitto Cemetery. Iddo was a school bus operator.

Children of Jeptha and Laura (Warner) Alford:

- vii. Roxie Udine/Udene Alford, born August 30, 1900 in Washington Parish, died there March 13, 1956 [see "Obituaries: Children of Jeptha Alford & Their Spouses," p. 43, *AAFA ACTION*, December 1992]. She married Martin Kenzie PENTON October 24, 1923 in Washington Parish. He was born December 29, 1895 in Tangipahoa Parish and died October 15, 1970 in Washington Parish [see his obituary this issue].
- viii. Gilbert Kendrick Alford, born November 9, 1901 in Washington Parish, LA. He married Mattie Inez NEWSON May 26, 1924 in East Baton Rouge Parish. She was born May 20, 1903 in Pointe Coupee Parish. They are both living.
- ix. Lora Warner Alford, born March 1, 1903 in Washington Parish, LA, died December 26, 1987 in Columbia, Richland County, South Carolina [see his obituary this issue]. He married Grace GIPSON July 24, 1925 in Jefferson County, Alabama.
- x. Lexie Drucilla Alford, born September 29, 1906 in Washington Parish, LA, died April 5, 1989 in Tucker, De Kalb County, Georgia. She married (1) Milton TURNER November 16, 1926 and (2) Donald SCHAFFER August 4, 1945 who died June 13, 1991 [obituaries are not available].
- xi. Gussie Alford, born April 22, 1908 in Washington Parish, LA. She married Duvoix Brown FORTINBERRY June 13, 1932. He was born November 30, 1908 in Pike County, Mississippi and died July 23, 1991 in New Orleans [see "Obituaries: Children of Jeptha Alford & Their Spouses," p. 43, *AAFA ACTION*, December 1992 for Duvoix]. ♦

(President's Precept, cont. from p. 1)

parents (my grandparents), our aunts and uncles, her brothers and sisters and cousins. We as a Tennessee Alford family need her help. You probably have someone on your side of the Alford family who needs to be urged to fill in the gaps with their knowledge before it is lost.

We should all sit down and write about our parents, about our childhood and later activities in life. Many of us were in the service in World War II and the Korean Conflict. Younger members were in the Vietnam conflict. Many went to college, were active in high school and college sports, worked for companies for many years and raised families. Although most of our families are not nearly as large as those of our Alford ancestors, it has required our love and responsibility to raise them.

Information about ourselves can get cloudy for our children because a lot of our life's activities happened before they were born. Our grandchildren will know very little about our lives except about our visits, baby-sitting, and gifts. Now is the time to help our children and grandchildren by filling in the details about our lives as Alford. Give them more than just the dates when you were born, when you were married, etc., as recorded in the family Bible. Help them to have first hand knowledge about your life's activities to fill the gaps between the limbs in the Alford family tree.

Benjamin F. Alford, Jr.
President, AAFA ♦

Welcome to
23
New Members
This Quarter!