

Ms. Adams contacted a genealogist in Marshall County, Betty Taylor (344 Hill Ave., Guntersville, AL 35976), to gather more information on O.H. Alford. Ms. Taylor's letter to Ms. Adams, dated 22 Feb 1995, says:

The Alford family was part of a group that came from Georgia in 1867 and settled that part of Brindley Mountain known today as Georgia Mountain (The History of Marshall Co, AL). J.Q.A. Alford was a Baptist Minister and the church was called Mt. Carmel. J.Q.A. died 1899 in Texas at age 86 (The Guntersville Democrat July 20 1899). O.H. Alford died Dec. 30 1883 (The Democrat Jan. 3, 1884).

After finding the above information in the Guntersville Library, I found the enclosed lists in the Final Probate Court Records in the Marshall County Courthouse. The settlement was 20 pages long, but I only copied the lists of assets. I did read through the 20 pages. My untrained eye does not see any indication of O.H. being anything except a farmer. You may decide differently.

I did find something that you need to be aware of. Albert M. Ayres was the administrator of O.H.'s estate. His wife and Erycenia P. Alford were sisters—daughters of Ira R. Foster. I don't know whether any of the furniture ended up in the Ayres family or not, but several years ago the old Ayres home was broken into and most of the furniture stolen. Nobody was ever charged with the crime, but the Ayres family members think they know who did it, and were really upset about it because a little while later the house burned. Your piece of furniture may not be connected, but I thought you needed to be aware of the situation. ♦

Colombia-Alabama Connection

Transcribed by Robin Sterling, #320

Mobile Press Register
6 May 1945 [with picture]

Separated In Colombia Years Ago, Brothers Hold Reunion In Mobile

Thirty-three years ago, William "Bill" Alford, Mobile businessman, left his home in Colombia.

Last week, Bill had a very welcome visitor from the Latin-American county. It was his younger brother, George, now owner of one of the larger radio stations in Bogotá and other business, including a medical and surgery supply agency.

George Alford, a radio engineer, had been in Chicago for a month on business.

His business finished there, he came to Mobile last week. Looking up his brother's office—a typewriter and adding machine supply and repair house on St. Francis St.—he walked up to the door and saw Bill sitting at his desk talking on the telephone. It was after business hours, so when the younger man first sought admittance to the locked office, Bill motioned to him to wait until he got off the telephone.

Finally, the door was opened. But there was no sign from Bill he recognized his visitor. The latter then proceeded to carry on a general conversation in Spanish, giving no hint as to his identity. At first Bill was somewhat provoked, but the younger man being a Colombian, of course, was welcome.

"George asked all kinds of questions about Bill, his business, family, etc. At long last, nearly an hour after he went into the place, he pulled a picture of

Bill's home out of his pocket, and asked: "Please tell me how I can get to this place. . . I'd like to see Pauline."

Pauline is Bill's wife, so the Mobilian's ears pricked up somewhat as he wondered who this young man could be. George came out into the open then, grabbed his brother by the shoulders and asked: "Don't you know who I am . . . I am your brother." In true Latin-American fashion, they then went into an embrace.

"I was so excited," explained Bill later. "I almost tore up my office hugging this brother whom I had not seen for 33 years."

The two have since had long hours to chat, and the Mobile brother will accompany George on a trip to Washington and New York, after which he hopes to return to Bogotá with George for a visit.

Mobile Press, 22 Oct 1955

William Alford Dies After Long Illness

William Alford, a salesman of surgical and medical supplies in South America, died at 5:30 a.m. Saturday at the family residence, 1056 Augusta St.

Mr. Alford, who operated his business out of Mobile, had been in ill health for some time.

He was a native of Bogotá, Colombia, but had resided in Mobile for 30 years. Survivors include his wife, Mrs. Pauline Alford, and other relatives in Colombia.

Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Sunday at the Higgins Mortuary chapel. Interment will be in Creola Cemetery. ♦