

## 1995 Meeting Report and More Photos

By Max Alford, AAFA Secretary

The 1995 meeting of the AAFA was held in Decatur, Alabama, beginning October 13. The meeting began with the workshop on Friday. Gil Alford started the workshop off as only Gil can. He outdid himself at this meeting. He not only had overhead view graphs with lineage information but also had transparency color maps of the U.S. as it looked during a particular period of history as he discussed the westward migration of our Alford ancestors. Lynn Shelley, our newly elected vice-president, assisted Gil in presenting the program. Lynn has done an amazing amount of research concerning Alford's. She shared some of her finds with the audience as well as offering tips on doing research.

In the afternoon session, we were very fortunate to have as a guest speaker Robert S. Davis, Jr., Director of the Family and Regional History Program at Wallace State Community College in Hanceville, Alabama. Mr. Robin Sterling, AAFA #320, made the arrangements for Mr. Davis to speak at the meeting. Mr. Davis has had more than 500 documents published on records, research, and archives, including 24 books. He presented a very informative talk on doing research in both Georgia and Alabama. According to Mr. Davis, there is a wealth of information in these two states that is not normally found in other states. Mr. Davis also stated that he was very impressed by our Association and the amount of information that it has available not only to its members but to the general public as well.

The Friday night reception was well attended. The food was delicious. Every one had a chance to visit old acquaintances as well as make new ones.

The meeting officially began Saturday morning with a "Welcome" issued by Paul W. Alford, AAFA #455. Paul and his wife, Jean, were the hosts for the event. Everyone who attended owes Paul and Jean a debt of gratitude for all their work in preparing for the meeting—including, for the first time, a copy machine available on site to make copies of the numerous documents available in the Research Room.

Before Ben Alford, AAFA President, officially called the meeting to order, some door prizes were handed out. Our editor, Pam Thompson, was awarded the prize for having traveled the farthest to the meeting. As you probably know, Pam lives in California. However, she only beat out Jo Carrigan's group by a few miles! Paul Alford, who lives in Decatur, won for having traveled the shortest distance. Vesta Alford Giddings, AAFA #233, won for being the most senior member present. Another senior member, the late Oliver Perry Alford, was not present when the award was handed out, or he would have won—O.P. had about a year on Vesta.

Ben Alford then officially called the meeting to order. Ben gave a report on actions by the President since the last meeting. He then called on the following people for their reports:

Doris Vetri	- Treasurer's Report
Pam Thompson	- Publication Report
Janice Smith	- Wills Report
Evelyn Mistich	- Cemeteries Report
Jack Kinabrew	- Photographs Report
Sally Stoeber	- Memorabilia Shop
Gil Alford	- Reorganization
Elizabeth Hazlip	- Publicity
Max Alford	- Secretary's Report

The meeting site for next year was discussed. Al Alford, Events Coordinator, informed the membership about what he had encountered in trying to

arrange for hotel accommodations. After some discussion, a vote was taken and California was reaffirmed as the meeting locale for 1997. Some mention was made of forming a caravan for the trip to California. This would consist of meeting at a predetermined location and traveling not necessarily together but rather staying at the same motels along the route, sightseeing at the same attractions, etc.

A vote was also taken for the meeting site in 1998. Jimmie Alford, AAFA #500, volunteered to help organize and advertise the '98 meeting if it could be held in Kentucky. Jimmie's ancestors are from Kentucky. The vote was in favor of Kentucky as the 1998 meeting site, a city to be determined at a later date by Al and Jimmie.

The Saturday night buffet was attended by 136+ people, the most attendance by any one event for the entire meeting. An official with the City of Decatur made an appearance dressed as Stephen Decatur, naval hero of the War of 1812 and for whom the city is named. He delivered Decatur's official welcome to the city. The awards for the Photography Contest were also announced. The winners were: Camille Crouse, #034; Robert B. Alford, #207; Timothy W. Alford, #476; Elroy Alford, #563; Vincent M. Heazel, #664; William C. Alford, #675.

All of the winners were awarded a one year extension of their subscription to AAFA ACTION. Start gathering up those old photographs now to enter in this year's contest.

The Board of Directors met Friday night after the reception. Wick Alford, the late Pooley Alford, Gil Alford, and D.L. Alford resigned effective at the end of the meeting. James P. Alford had already submitted his resignation

YOU ARE OK!  
WE JUGGLED THE PAGES A BIT!!

*(1995 Meeting, cont. from p. 64)*

by letter and was not in attendance at the meeting. Paul W. Alford, Janice Smith, Lynn Shelley, and Marian Alford Hodges were elected to the Board. The Board discussed the revisions to the By-Laws and a decision was made to submit the changes to the membership with a few minor changes and schedule a vote so that the changes would be in place by the next annual meeting.

Sally Stoewer and her sister Jeanne Singleton oversaw The Company Store, a tremendous success as usual. There were t-shirts, caps, pins, coffee cups, golf shirts, tote bags, cross stitch graphs, and key rings for sale during the meeting. Sally is also in the process of putting together an Alford cookbook which will be for sale at this year's meeting.

The meeting ended with the Sunday morning Alford History Workshop. There were notebooks full of Alford data, video tapes for viewing, every issue of *AAFA ACTION*, books, computer disks (with a computer available), and numerous other research sources. And, of course, some of the nicest people you would ever want to meet! Those people who can not stay for Sunday morning just don't know what they're missing.

I don't know the words to convey the wonderful associations that are made during these meetings. It is similar to when you vacation somewhere and the scenery just takes your breath away—but you can't capture the beauty of it all on film, so you end up telling your friends that you just had to be there to appreciate it. The meeting is very much like that. Dealing with people via mail or electronic means, even over the telephone, you just can't feel the warmth they project as you do when meeting them in person. Make your plans now to attend the 1996 meeting in Springfield, Missouri. Experience what I am talking about in person. It's the only way to fly. ♦



**ABOVE**—Betty A. Wall, #779, MS; her son Nolan David Alford, #425, and his wife Mary Alford, LA; Gil and Mary Alford, #019, MO; Lib Shuermann, LA, guest of Frankie Penny; Sally Stoewer, #120, LA; Pat Brock Smith, #064, MS; Frankie A. Penny, #704, LA; and Sally's sister Jeanne Singleton, #249, LA. Betty, Nolan David, Gil, Lib, Sally, Pat, Frankie, and Jeanne descend from John Alford, 1807 LA.



**LEFT**—Robert and Kate Hollingsworth, #772, MS, Pat Brock Smith, #064, MS, Edwin V. McMillan, #819, MS, Helen Alford McManus, #451, MS, and Will and Carolyn Alford Saunders, #673, TX. Robert, Pat, Edwin, Helen, and Carolyn are descendants of Edwin Alford, 1792 NC.





*LEFT—Ella Langdon Alford, #246, MO, a descendant of John Alford, 1810 GA; Jan (Mrs. Elroy) Alford; and descendants of Tommy Wildcat Alford, 1860 OK: Ruth Alford Musick, #778, OK, and her son Elroy Alford, #563, OK.*

*BELOW—Margie and Andy Alford, #786, AL. Andy is a descendant of Pleasant Alford, 1818 AL.*



*ABOVE—Descendants of Exum Alford, 1788 NC: Ruth Echols McNinch, #368, GA; her mother Katherine A. Echols, #364, NC; and Katherine's daughter-in-law Gail Echols, NC.*

*RIGHT—Renee Alford Shelfer, #744, AL; Ramona Alford Darden, #715, TX; Jessie Adams, #738, TX, whose husband is Ramona's cousin; and guest Rosemary Alford, TX, Ramona's sister-in-law and Renee's mother. Renee, Ramona, and Jessie's husband are descendants of Levin Ellis Alford, 1814 GA.*





ABOVE—Gene and Pat Waters, #781, MO. Gene is AAFA's only descendant of Payton Alford, 1785 KY.



ABOVE—Julius and Mary Virginia "Ginny" Alford, #717, NC. Julius is a descendant of Jacob Alford, 1781 NC.



ABOVE—Max and Earline Alford, #230, TX (back left). Doris and Sebastian Vetri, #303, NJ (front left). Betty and Travis Alford #374, KS, with their daughter and grandson Michelle and Ibrahim Sani. Max, Doris, Travis, Michelle, and Ibrahim descend from John Alford, 1801 NC.

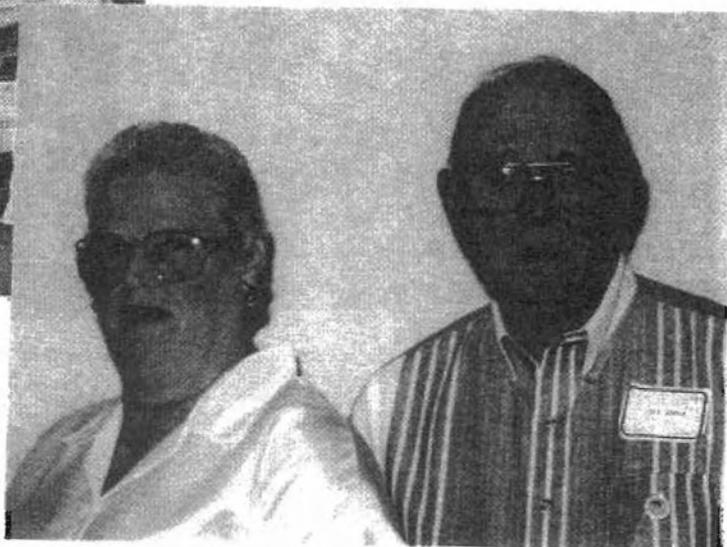


LEFT—Cecil "Dezmon" and Marie Alford, #651, MS. Dezmon is a descendant of John Alford, 1816 NC.



*LEFT—Vesta Alford Giddings, #233, Houston, TX, receiving an award from Jean Alford for being the oldest member present.*

*BELOW—Angie and H.L. Alford, #446, MS. H.L. is a descendant of Littleberry Alford, 1800 NC.*



*BELOW—Patricia Cook and Robert Thorn, #562, TX, descendants of Cullen Alford, 1775 NC.*



*RIGHT—Leslie and Jeffrey Evan Alford, #485, AL. Jeffrey's ancestor is Redden Alford, 1820 SC.*

