

The first annual Jephtha Martin Alford family reunion was held in the main Lodge at Percy Quin State Park near McComb, Mississippi on April 25, 1987. At least seven families spent Friday night in the campground and enjoyed getting reacquainted. The whole park is beautiful, surrounding a manmade lake whose source of water is the head of the Tangipahoa River. Saturday was sunny and cool and cousins began arriving at the Lodge before 10 AM and by noon there were approximately 97 direct kin and friends gathered. At the 11AM business meeting each person was recognized and told their direct line of kinship. Grandpa Jep had ten children but only one was able to attend. Gussie along with her husband, Duvoix Fortenberry received the awards for being the oldest male and female attending. Five of the other children had ~~six~~ children there, Bannon, Alonso, Iddo, Roxie and Gilbert. It was interesting to me that Alonso and Iddo had all their children present with Odilee Alford Miller having all six of her children and 25 more direct descendents attending. Gilbert Alford talked of his dedication to researching records, going to get dates at cemeteries and talking with older people about their personal recollections. We all need to send him any and all information we have on our families so we can have as complete a record as possible. Once the book is printed it may be many years before there will be a revision. Gil had put some old pictures on tape and let this run for several hours so each would have a chance to view their ancestors and cousins.

Naturally the tables were laden with many family specialties with much food being divided and shared to take home. We need to give a special thanks to Gil and at this end to Pansy McClendon <sup>Pam DeBlieux</sup> and Euphanie Stoewer for all the pre-planning. Hope to see many new faces on April 23, 1988 and be sure to come with your family information if you do not send it on to Gil now.

If you need the 'alford down' Road children, <sup>spouses</sup> wives - their children I think mother can name them for you. Home to run Jerry