

## Our History, Part IV

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As you can clearly see this is the fourth segment in this series which began in the Fall 2003 issue, #62. We are doing it to document the beginnings of AAFA and to give credit to those who contributed to the early effort who are not members and/or who are no longer with us. I know some of you are reading it because I have received questions or requests for more information based on one of the previous segments.

In part one I described what moved me to even begin dabbling in family history and I introduced the first six persons to contact me or respond to my queries. They were, in order of contact, Lee Ann Turner AAFA 0020, Lucille Mehrkam AAFA 0032, Deena Cross AAFA 0126, Mary Louise Reynolds, Ranelle Foster and Edna Jean Mead. The introduction often involves a copy of their letter and the data they shared with me.

In part two, winter 2004 issue # 63, and summer 2004 issue #65 I continued the introductions. As we proceed there will be more than the introductions as I plan to include the content of some of my *About Alford*s and some of not yet introduced Tressie Bowman's *The Alford Family Bulletin*.

In #63 you met Myra Ozier Hunt, Joy S. Laney, Jacqueline Alford, David Price AAFA 0168, and Elmer K. Miller AAFA 0984. In the last segment in #65 we covered Marshall Kim Gardner, Charles H. Sleight AAFA 0441, R.A. Alford AAFA 0119, Martin G. Alford AAFA 0147, and Lewis Emerson L.E. Alford.

The above covered all of the responses or input I received during the first two months, August and September, of my endeavor except for one. Almost everyone I heard from told me about Julius M. Alford of Mc Comb, MS, but I'd already gotten his name from Everton's Roots register and written to him. Although some of the folks already mentioned and many yet to come provided more data than Julius he and I became close friends. He has been to our house and we have been to his house. As many of you know he was one of the founders of the association, along with Wick Alford, yet to be heard from, and myself. He was our first treasurer and one of the three original board members. But I'm getting ahead of myself.

Julius, or Pooley, as he was known, was not much for writing letters. He would usually just annotate what he received and send it back. In fact he annotated that first letter I sent him, it was used as an example in the first segment of this series. His annotations arrived on September 27, 1982. At the one paragraph in my letter talking about what I had collected he wrote in the margin, Please send me all you have on Alford. Where I asked for family group sheets and offered to send blanks he annotated, please send form and I will fill out. Where I asked for permission to pass on names and data he scribbled, you have my permission to use all of my ~~~~~ (JMAford). And he sent a completed pedigree form. Perhaps most significant of all he sent me was a list of others who he had heard from. His file, a couple inches thick, is made up mostly of other folks letters he sent to me. Some were dated in the 19<sup>th</sup> century and some he sent as he received them. Some of the early ones were published in AAFA ACTION. Later I'll review his file in detail to see if there is anything that needs published and perhaps make a list of the more significant things he sent. You can learn a lot more about Pooley by reading his In Remembrance article in AAFA ACTION Winter 1996, Vol. 8 No. 3, #31, page 18. When I get to the part about where we incorporate AAFA and our first meeting I'll get back to Pooley.

Gloria Clark's letter dated Oct. 3, 1982 arrived Oct. 9. She wrote:  
Dear Mr. Alford,

I am sorry it has taken me so long to answer your letter.

I'm afraid I can give you very little information on my Alford. Since I went to work on a full time basis about 5 years ago there has been little time to work on the family tree. I am still very interested in it and hope to one day be able to have the time to work on it again.

My line as I know it starts with Islam Alford in Ala. This family came to Shelby Co., Tex. before 1860. Since I am not sure just what info you want I will just send a brief sketch.

I will be happy to share what I have and would love to hear from anyone who can give me more





Lodwick Alford I 1715-1789  
Lodwick Alford II  
Bailey Alford  
Chirena Alford  
Carson Andrews 1840-1927  
Orlando C. Andrews 1870-1953  
Elizabeth Andrews Duncan 1911-

Perhaps this will identify my line of the Alford. If you have information of this branch I would be interested in further communication. My information has come from Bobby Alford, Joy Laney, my aunt Florence Grigsby, census reports, Genealogical Guide to Early Settlers of America, Southern Lineages, etc.  
Sincerely Elizabeth A. Duncan

At the time I received this I did not know any better or I would have challenged her on the whole top-half of the genealogy. From Bailey down is OK, but his parents were Isaac Alford and his cousin Mary Alford who was daughter of Lodwick I. All above him is wrong wrong wrong.

I purchased a copy of her book *A Glance Back Over Our Shoulders* which is 318 pages without index. The Alford part goes from page 9 to 28 and cites five sources, none of which are primary, most not even secondary. The published version has the lineage as shown above but in a 1995 letter she sent me with the book she wrote since it was published in 1984, I have noted the mistakes and misinformation - information taken from your publications. At present, the best information I have makes it look like the chart on page 9 should read something like this. She still has the top three generations wrong: Thomas Alford, Benedict Alford, Benjamin Alford - continuing with the erroneous idea that our Virginia Alford's came via New England. She goes on to say The other errors are too numerous to mention here.

Dale R. Best's response was received Oct. 9, 1982 and consisted of a one page chart that appears to have been printed on an early PC with a very early genealogy program. It is a crude pedigree form and was printed on sensitized paper - something like the old thermafax paper of the early 1960s. His maternal grandmother was Laura Edith Alford b. Nov. 30, 1914 in Blount Co., KY, daughter of Robert E. Alford and Sarah Lane. I tried to communicate with him several times later and got no response.

The late Eileen Alford, who was never a member of AAFA wrote on October 14, 1982. We continued to correspond for at least a year and she did publish an Alford book. I never did get a copy of it but did see parts of it. She was great for writing her letters on the back of advertisements, etc. In her letter which she typed, and then filled the margins with ink notations (in parens below), she wrote:

Dear Gilbert K. How fascinating if your middle initial was for Kennedy - one of my family names connected with the Alford's.

Was very interested in your letter and would love to read your Alford newsletter when it comes out. You mentioned having a personal computer available. I am not certain exactly what you mean. I live 12 miles from the Morman library in Mesa, Arizona and they have a microfiche of names and generations which is often called a computer. I don't think you are referring to this. I plan to go over there on Saturday I will put the Louisiana file in the computer and see how the Alford's line up and if any in Washington Parish. It's free. I suppose you have already done this in Salt Lake. I would be interested in your lineage to see if it jibes with any info I already have.

I have spent 18 years looking for the grave of CONSIDER ALFORD 1778-? England. I even wrote a book on it. I now have a clue and can't get the cemetery to answer my letter. I asked the chamber of commerce if they would look into it for me. I have done a lot of research on the very early history of the Alford family in England. Maybe later I will xerox it for you. I will list my lineage below and see what you think.

Richard Alford married Margaret Gregory, Lyme Regis, County Dorset (have him back to antiquity)

Mayor Gregory Alford born ca 1621 Lyme Regis married Mary Burrige (Very important mayor - written up in Dorset Co. Very important friend of King Charles.)

Robert Burrige Gregory Alford born ca 1645. (Moved to Devon Co. to avoid father's trouble)

Marmaduke Thomas probably born around 1670. (Think these 2 lines had to escape to Scotland because of

King friendship. Maybe Sterling Scotland.)

Missing 3 generations to my

Consider Alford b. 1778 England married Windham Conn. 1800 Lucy Fitch Kennedy. (am now searching for Consider s grand parents back to Mayor Gregory Alford.)

Edwin Madison Alford and 10 other kids born 1807, New York City married Anne Marie Honeywell.

This line comes down to me. Consider Alford lived in NYC for 32 years 1801-1832 then can t find where he retired and died. The search has been fascinating. I inherited the old family bible and have photos of most of the above.

I will write again after Saturday. I am sure I heard from someone else years ago who mentioned Washington Parish.

Thank you so much for your letter. I have an older sister who is the image of Maggie Thatcher, the Prime Minister of England. Her father s name is Alfred Robins. So I wrote and asked her if that Alfred is a derivation of the name Alford.

This is another case where I didn t know enough to set her straight when I received this letter. You don t want to hear what I think about it now.

This is probably enough for this issue. The next three, all heard from in November of 1982 are AAFA members and theirs may get lengthy.