

Our History, Part V

***Submitted by Gil Alford, Corresponding Secretary, Member AAFA Hall of Fame
(Co-Founder & Past President)***

In the first four parts I introduced you to the first 22 persons to join in our "Alford effort" when it all began back in 1982. There were three more before the first issue of "About Alford's" was published. I'll cover those three in this part and then share with you some of the articles from that first issue of "About Alford's."

I need to digress here and pick up two folks who I missed in my initial review of the early "Alfs." My data management system is something less than perfect. Actually it is my research and recording that is at fault here. Geraldine "Gerry" Showalter tied with Lucille Mehrkam as the 2nd person to respond to my letter. Writing from San Diego here is what Gerry wrote: "Dear Gil, Thank you so much for your very interesting letter. Unfortunately I was unable to tie our lines together, but I'm sending what I have on the Alford family. Our family isn't very extensive as you can see.

"I have all this other material I'm sending. None of it ties in with our family (at this time). After you put what you want into your computers, I would like the material back. I hope you find it of some value.

"There are times I wish I had a computer for all the material I have with my Genealogy. I'm still fairly new at the hobby but have a great deal of material. The Perkin's line goes back to 1303 - England - off shoot of John Alford's wife, Mary Jane Drake.

"You may be able to add to your Alford names through Mrs. Bowman or Mr. Blakely.

"We've traced my husband's Showalter family back to 1600.

"Thank you again for writing. Good Luck in your new venture of Genealogy. It's really a lot of fun.

"Sincerely- Gerry Showalter."

Gerry's great grandmother was Mary Ellen Alford, b. 1877 in Provo, UT, the daughter of John Alford and Mary Jane Drake. John was born 1846 in Nottingham, England.

Bobby Pace Alford of Lawrenceburg, TN, responded with an impressive letter dated October 8, 1982. It was impressive because it had a colored letterhead with a logo of Babe Ruth Baseball and read: "Babe Ruth Baseball, Tennessee State Headquarters, Bobby Alford - Commissioner, etc." He wrote: "Dear Mr. Alford: I appreciated very much receiving your letter about the Alford family. I have done a lot of research on my branch of the Alford "tree", and have a good bit of information.

"I have information back to the first Alford to come to America in 1634, and of each generation pertaining to my particular line to the present. Most, but not all, of the information I have has been documented and I believe that it is basically accurate.

"I would be very much interested in having a copy of your ancestor chart and whatever other information you might have about the Alford family.

"Sincerely, s/Bobby Alford t/Bobby Alford

"P.S.: I am enclosing a copy of "The Alford Line" as it pertains to my branch of the tree."

Alf #25 was Mrs. Carroll (Shirley) Alford. Oct. 14, 1982, she wrote: "Dear Gil, I was very excited about your letter. When you start your newsletter please let me know because I would enjoy an Alford newsletter. I guess you already know that there was a "Alford Family Bulletin" put out by Mrs. Lewis Bowman from Maryland. She had

to let it go because of health reasons. I think there is a need for a Alford newsletter.

"My husband's father was O.C. Alford born in Anderson County, Texas, in 1915. Grandfather was James Edward Alford born in Sabine County, Texas in 1881. Great grandfather was Redin Alford born in Alabama or Georgia in 1859. Great great grandfather was Richard Alford born in Alabama or Georgia.

"Here is a list of people that I know tracing the Alford name. David Price, 1954 Old Hickory Blvd, Brentwood, TN 37027. Felma Headrick, 104 East Valley St., Georgetown, Texas 78626. Hazel Rea, Star Rt., Box 194, Buffalo, MO 65622. Beverly Ball, 530 W. 10th #2, Prineville, Ore 97754. Mr & Mrs T. H. Beals, Jr., 2929 Killcairn Lane, Allison Park, PA 15101. Eileen Alford Apt 1, 3524 Miller Rd., Scottsdale, Ariz. 85251. Marshall Kim Gardner, 1901 1st St., Yuma, AZ 85364. Joy Laney, 210 W. Ash, Warren AR 71671. Judi Hagan, Rt 1. Box 22B, Brewster, Wash 98812. Rose Shelton, Rt. 3, Box 84, El Campo, Tex. 77437.

"Enclosed is my Alford pedigree chart. Looking forward to hearing from you. Sincerely, Mrs. Shirley Alford"

Since she explained their Alford lineage or ancestry I will not go in to the details of the pedigree here. They were "About Alford's" subscribers and AAFA member #0212. They were present at the 1989 meeting in Houston, TX.

Here is what Rod Bush, Alf #26, had to say in his letter of October 16, 1982: "Dear Mr. Alford, I read your letter of Sept 9 with great interest. As a fellow amateur genealogist, I envy your computer and your project, however, I have a big problem with the quality of data that I have collected on "Alford" in about 10 years research.

"I have no Roots Cellar data, but I have written all Southern Alford's who advertised in *The Helper* since 1976. I also have all the back issues of Mrs. Bowman's "Alford Family Bulletin," Do You? I noticed that in issue No. 6, Dec. 1976 Pgs 4-6 covers data on Jacob and Frankie (Seaborn) Alford and their 12 children, including twins - John Seaborn and Seaborn John b. 1807 AT SEA on the way to Pike Co., Miss from Montgomery Co. GA. She also has Jacob's line (more or less) back to the 1600's. Do you have this data?

"My correspondents include: Julius Alford Box 489 McComb, MS. 39648; Lucia Mae McCallum (enclosed); Jean Meade 2707 No. 23 Ave. Phoenix, AZ 85009; Mrs. Louise A. Page, Rt. 1 Box 205 c. Gonzales, LA 70737; Nita Jernigan, Rt 1 Box 65, Lepanto, Ark. 72345; and Wm. Hawkins, 5605 Fair Cove Memphis, TN 38118.

"I also have a 1977 list of names from the "National Surname Index" and some misc. pages from various publications (also enclosed). I have 20 pages of Alford data from Vol 2 of Kinfolks by Wm. C. Harllee, 1935 and lots of data from Miss and Ala census and courthouses.

"I am willing to copy and send any of this that you don't already have, but I would like to be reimbursed for copy costs and postage. Please write me soon and advise."

Rod kept a steady flow of Alford data coming for many years after this letter. In future issues we will share some of that data. I don't think he ever got any reimbursement. He was a subscriber of "About Alford's" and is AAFA member #0116. When we had AAFA State Representatives he was the representative for California. Most of his data has been integrated into the AAFA data base and various genealogy files. He worked on the AAFA census team for a time.

Katherine Black's first response was a Oct. 19, 1982 post card in which she wrote: "Dear Mr. Alford: Please excuse my delay in writing. I will send what info. I have on Cade Alford from Wake Co., N.C. Morgan Co., Ala., and Tallahatchie Co., MS when I have time to gather it all up and copy. Mrs. Lucille Mehrkam has probably sent most of what I have as we exchanged info. For several years. She had copies of Lodwick & wife Susannah Alford's wills from N. C. archives I ordered and also Cade Alford's will so I am hoping not to duplicate articles.

"Mrs. Martin Alford, 751 North Olive, Abilene, Kansas 67410 is also searching for Alford's in Ms. She was so happy to join the Alford Newsletter, just before it stopped.

"Maybe with your help, lots of us researching Alford's will be able to get our families together. Hope you continue your efforts successfully. Katherine Black"

Katherine continued to send data for many years. She was an "About Alford" subscriber and is AAFA #0134. Actually it is her husband, Jerry Black, who is the Alford descendant. She was present at the 1989 AAFA meeting in Houston, TX. It was she who introduced the Alford crochet at that meeting. She told me once that they were not able to do much in the way of dollar donations to the AAFA but she would like to make the Alford crochets which AAFA could then sell. She continued to do this until it reached a point where I thought we were taking advantage of her and AAFA began to reimburse her.

We never did really correspond, but about this time I received a phone call from Grady Alford of Wichita, KS, and we had a long talk. Probably most significant in our discussion was my discovery that his sister was Peggy Alford Schuster who had not entered the scene as yet but was to have a major impact on the Alford effort.

In the next issue I'll introduce a half-dozen more new Alfs - some who I'm pretty sure are reading this now.

It was after hearing from these first 28 folks that I decided to do an Alford newsletter. Here is some of the stuff that was in the first issue of "About Alford."

The heading or banner was scanned from my file copy of that first issue. Notice that the newsletter was free. It consisted of eight pages (four sheets) which I knew I could mail for one stamp. It was mailed to all the folks we have mentioned in this history series as well as to about half-dozen more. I'm taking the liberty of cleaning up some spelling, etc. All articles are not included below.

ABOUT ALFORDS

PUBLISHED OCCASIONALLY
FOR THOSE INTERESTED IN ALFORD GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH
By Mary and G. K. Alford, Jr.
1403 Kingsford Drive Florissant, MO 63031
Number 1 FREE November 1, 1982

YOU ASKED FOR IT

The positive and enthusiastic response to our proposal to make some attempt to establish a genealogical exchange or network on ALFORD has prompted this initial journalistic effort.

Notice in the section above that we say it will be published occasionally. The dictionary says that means "occurring from time to time." To us that means when we have something that may be of interest to you, when we feel like it, and when we can afford it. We will number the issues consecutively so all of us can keep up with them. We will date each publication as of the date we plan to take it to the post office.

ALFORD EXCHANGE

The heart of our operation is the computer data base of Alford Genealogical Information. It along with this newsletter will be the vehicle used in the ALFORD EXCHANGE. Each issue after this one will include a list of Alford's for which our ALFS need information. We will depend on you to give us the names of the Alford's you want to know about. We would expect you to give us birth, marriage, death, and place information to the extent that you have it to assist others in helping you. Information submitted as part of this effort will be loaded in our basic data file.

We will use the data file in attempts to answer your query and we will create queries from gaps that we have in the data file.

Although we are telling you we want all and

everything you have on ALFORD, you need to be more specific when you ask for ALFORD information. It is just not practical, and surely not economical, for us to give you all we have. You should restrict your requests for information to those areas where you have a genuine interest. If you are involved with all ALFORDS as we are and sincerely want all we have then we have to negotiate something wherein you will share most of the expense involved in providing such information.

DATA FILE IS NOT COMPLETELY LOADED

[It wasn't then and has never been since - and is not at this time. March 2005.]

You would think, from the comments elsewhere on this page, that the data was all loaded and just waiting for your questions. Unfortunately that is not the case. We have received an enormous amount of data and it is going to take time to sort it all out and get it loaded. We are trying to keep up with what we have so that we can use it whether it is in the computer or not. If we continue to collect information at the rate we have over the past several months, it will take months or years to ever get the file complete. Don't let this comment discourage your asking for information or your sending information. We want all that everyone has on Alford, and we encourage any and all questions that you may have.

**** CAVEAT! CAVEAT! ****

We need to get several things straight up front.

1. We do not profess to be amateur genealogists, much less professional or experienced genealogists.
2. We have no journalistic experience, training or ability. We are not beginning this to satisfy any journalistic cravings, but rather as a vehicle to communicate with you, and for you to communicate with each other.
3. We do not consider ourselves to be accomplished writers so don't look for any literary gems in our pages. We didn't flunk English in school, but then again we didn't get any scholarships on it either.
4. We are not independently wealthy or operating from

some funded foundation. We are doing this entirely on our retirement pension. So, if it sometimes looks like we are skimpy, you will know the reason why.

5. Notwithstanding the comments in 4 above, we do not want to charge for any of our services and have no plans for any profit making operation. What we do is entirely free, however if you want to send postage stamps occasionally to offset printing and mailing costs it would be appreciated. (It costs just about a dime to print and mail a sheet of information) We will be grateful for what ever you send and we won't cut you off for not sending stamps.

6. You can expect us to make some mistakes. We will do our best to prevent them and we apologize now for those we make. If you will bring them to our attention, we will include corrections in a subsequent issue.

7. The accuracy of the information that we publish is only as good as our source. We make no special effort to authenticate or validate data that has been sent to us. To the extent possible we will always cite the source and you can take it for what is is worth.

8. Speaking of sources. . . . We will not knowingly reprint information from a copyrighted source, unless we have permission. If you should send us copies or extracts of copyrighted material, please bring it to our attention so that we will not violate the copyright.

WHAT'S MY LINE?

Several of you have asked about my lineage. I have provided some of you with some kind of an answer either in narrative or chart form. The best answer right now is "**I don't know.**" Until I started hearing from you and doing research on my own, I thought I had a handle on my lineage.

Shown below is the original idea of my lineage. In 1955 Mrs. Duncan Murphey (nee Pearl Alford) of Oakdale, LA., had the ALFORD line accepted in the Colonial Dames of the XVII Century. Although she was a second cousin, once removed, I do not know the lady.

The family sketch from which this was taken runs some eleven pages and was published in *SOURCE RECORDS FROM PIKE COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI* by Luke

Ward Conerly and E. Russ Williams, Jr; 1978, Easley SC, Southern Historical Press.

There are several "holes" in this lineage, but I will not mention them here and now. They will be the basis for some analysis in future issues (see **Lodwick** on next page). We would appreciate any comments or questions that you may have on this lineage.

[I've updated the following with the notes in italics and brackets.]

VA WILLIAM ALFORD [*Maybe, but probably not.*]

VA JOHN ALFORD, SR. & FRANCES [*Maybe*]

[VA JAMES ALFORD b. ca 1687 added]

~~VANC LODWICK ALFORD & ALICE~~ [*Very wrong*]

[VA JULIUS & LUCY ALFORD added]

NCLA JACOB ALFORD (b 1761 & FRANKIE SEABORN

LA JOHN SEABORN ALFORD & MARGRET BRUMFIELD

LA JEPHTHA M. ALFORD & LAURA WARNER

LA GILBERT K. ALFORD & INZ NEWSOM.

WHAT DO YOU WANT?

We are doing this entirely for you. Most of you have been at genealogy longer than we have. We solicit your suggestions and ideas as to what we might do to enhance the ALFORD research capability.

A LOOK AT LODOWICK [LODWICK]

From the relatively little that I have learned about ALFORDS in the short time we have been involved with family history and genealogy, I have concluded that one of our most confusing and controversial ancestral given names is LODOWICK or LODWICK.

In a future issue we would like to do a feature called A LOOK AT LODWICK in which we would present all the data that is available to us on this name. We already have several pages and several views, but there must be much more.

If you have data and information on Lodowick/Lodwick, or if you have some opinions or conclusions from what you have studied, or if you have any questions about LODWICK please send it along to us. The thoroughness of our LOOK will depend on how much we have to present to you.

To make our publication plans you ought to have your information to us by the end of December.

In this first issue there were several other small, and now insignificant, pieces plus two pages of inquiries, called *Pedigree Potpourri*, from the folks we have introduced to date. There was also the *Alf Directory* giving the names and addresses of the 28 folks I've introduced to date. There was also a six item bibliography.

One full page was dedicated to our very first Ahnentafel or ancestor table - that of R.A. Alford, Jr.

Another full page was given to Mrs. Bowman's *ALFORD FAMILY BULLETIN*. I listed each issue and gave a brief summary of the content of each. We will get into those later in this history.

Before closing this segment I think it would be appropriate to list all the Alfs covered thus far to show how widespread they were in both residency and ancestry. There were about 20 different and distinct branches represented here. Five of them have a connection with England and one with Ireland. Only three have any repetition. [*Ed. Entries which are italicized are deceased.*]

(Continued on page 19)

AAFA ACTION #68

Spring 2005

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GURDON ALFRED AccessNr: OH1590 __.052 Doc Nr: 11107 Type: CASH ENTRY SALE
 Land Office: ZANESVILLE - Meridian: US MILITARY SURVEY - Signed: 1837/11/07
 1 NWNE Sec: 11 TWP: 8 N Range: 8W HOLMES Co., OH 40 Acres
 With Welles Hawes

GURDON ALFRED AccessNr: OH0510 __.110 Doc Nr: 8670 Type: CASH ENTRY SALE
 Land Office: ZANESVILLE - Meridian: US MILITARY SURVEY - Signed: 1837/08/10
 1 SWNE Sec: 11 TWP: 8 N Range: 8W HOLMES Co., OH 40 Acres

GEORGE W. ALFORD AccessNr: OH0210 __.384 Doc Nr: 3390 Type: CASH ENTRY SALE
 Land Office: CHILLICOTHE - Meridian: OHIO RIVER SURVEY - Signed: 1835/11/05
 1 NWSE Sec: 6 TWP: 2 N Range: 17W LAWRENCE Co., OH 44 Acres

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(Continued from page 11, Our History, Part V)

First Name	Last Name	Contact Code	AAFA#	First Contact Date	Ancestor or Family Code	City of Residence	State of Resid.
Lucille	Mehrkam	LCM	0032	19820819	WIL808SC/!!!!!!SC	Houston	TX
Deena B.	Cross	DBC	0126	19820820	JAM791VA/JOH696MD	West Des Moines	IA
Mary Louise	Reynolds	MLR	0	19820821	nan766va/!!!!!!VA	Indianapolis	IN
Ranelle	Foster	RHF	0	19820822	LIT800NC/!!!!!!NC	Dallas	TX
Edna Jean	Meade	EJM	0	19820830	MIC770IR/!!!!!!IR	Phoenix	AZ
Myra O.	Hunt	MOH	0	19820905	WIL787NC/SAL816VA	Foley	AL
Joy S.	Laney	JSL	0	19820909	JON807NC/JAM687VA	Warren	AR
Jacqueline	Alford	JAC	0	19820911	LEA819KY/WIL751NC	Lomita	CA
<i>David</i>	<i>Price</i>	<i>DPJ</i>	<i>0168</i>	<i>19820912</i>	<i>OWE785NC/JAM687VA</i>	<i>Brentwood</i>	<i>TN</i>
Elmer K.	Miller	EKM	0984	19820915	CHA779VA/JAM713VA	Cumming	GA
Marshall Kim	Gardner	MKG	0	19820916	cha815_/ALE627EN	Yuma	AZ
Charles H.	Sleight	CHS	0441	19820917	GRE787NC/LOD749NC	Floral City	FL
R. A.	Alford	RAA	0119	19820917	ELI793NY/BEN619EN	Birmingham	AL
Martin G.	Alford	MGA	0147	19820920	GEO825GA/!!!!!!GA	Abilene	KS
<i>Lewis E.</i>	<i>Alford</i>	<i>LEX</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>19820921</i>	<i>ART803SC/ART775SC</i>	<i>Tampa</i>	<i>FL</i>
<i>Julius Mosby</i>	<i>Alford</i>	<i>JMA</i>	<i>0013</i>	<i>19820924</i>	<i>JUL808NC/JAM687VA</i>	<i>McComb</i>	<i>MS</i>
Gloria	Clark	GC	0	19821003	BAL784NC/ISH755NC	Corpus Christi	TX
Grady J.	Alford	GJA	0	19821007	JOH801NC/!!!!!!NC	Wichita	KS
<i>Reva</i>	<i>McGoogan</i>	<i>RDM</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>19821008</i>	<i>JAC738VA/JAM687VA</i>	<i>Shannon</i>	<i>NC</i>
<i>Elizabeth A.</i>	<i>Duncan</i>	<i>EAD</i>	<i>0366</i>	<i>19821008</i>	<i>BAI781NC/JAM687VA</i>	<i>Soldotna</i>	<i>AK</i>
Dale R.	Best	DRB	0	19821009	ROB824TN/!!!!!!TN	Agoura	CA
Bobby Pace	Alford	BPA	0669	19821012	BAI781NC/JAM687VA	Lawrenceburg	TN
<i>Eileen</i>	<i>Alford</i>	<i>EA</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>19821014</i>	<i>CON778EN/ENGLAND</i>	<i>Scottsdale</i>	<i>AZ</i>
Carroll	Alford	OCA	0212	19821014	BAL784NC/ISH755NC	Houston	TX
Roderick F.	Bush	RFB	0116	19821016	JAC781NC/JAM687VA	Cypress	CA
Jerry W.	Black	KB	0134	19821019	CAD771NC/LOD749NC	Houston	TX

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