



The Alford American Family Association

Serving the Alford community over 25 Years
We Are Family!!

Alice Alberta Alford Skillen

AAFA #0015

Founding Member

October 9, 1918 – August 12, 2011

Obituary



Alberta A. Skillen, beloved mother and grandmother, a 92 year old Scott Valley native, passed away on August 12, 2011.

Alice Alberta Alford was born on October 9, 1918 in Oro Fino, CA to Albert and Alice (Callihan) Alford. She was a descendant of the Great Shasta Indian Chief “Tyee John” and was proud of her Shasta Indian heritage.

Her father Albert passed away during an influenza epidemic when Alberta was just 2 years old. Her mother Alice passed away when Alberta was only 12 years old, leaving her an orphan.

This tragedy forced her to support herself at a tender age. She persevered and overcame her trials. She went on to graduate with honors from Greenview Elementary school soon after her mother’s untimely passing.

She graduated from Etna High School and married Joe Skillen in 1936 at the age of 17. Joe and Alberta had 4 children. She was fond of saying “that when her children were just babies that she would forgo cleaning the house in order to have time to play with her beloved children”. The family settled in Etna in 1942. Joe passed away on September 21, 1986, shortly after the couple celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary.

Alberta worked for over 20 years with Dr. Ashcraft at the Etna clinic, helping to deliver many, many babies in Scott Valley. Alberta had the “Gift of Hospitality” and would spend countless hours cooking and canning yummy delights from her garden for others. She was always fixing meals for someone in need, be it a family with a new baby, or someone who had lost a loved one.

She would always have a lovely dinner ready. Her mincemeat pies were legendary... as were the applesauce and apple pie filling that she made every year.

She was a proud member of the Native Daughters of the Golden West (NDGW) and the Daughters of the American Revolution. She was a member of the LDS Church in Etna and was a charter member of the Valley Oaks Seniors Club.

Alberta is survived by four children, John Skillen of Eutawville, S.C., James Skillen of Crescent City, CA, Alice Thompson of Klamath Falls, OR. and Karol Purcell of Etna, CA; 14 grandchildren; 25 great-grandchildren and six great-great-grandchildren.

In addition to her husband, she was preceded in death by her two sisters, her brother and one grandson.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, August 20, 2011 at 3:00 p.m. in the Etna LDS Church. Memorial donations may be made to the NDGW Childrens Foundation, 543 Baker Street, San Francisco, CA 94117-1405 or to the Scott Valley Scholarships, PO Box 352, Etna, CA 96027.

Girdner Funeral Chapel is assisting the family. Online condolences may be made at www.girdnerfuneralchapel.com.

Published in the Siskiyou Daily News, Yreka, CA, Tuesday, 16 August 2011.
Information copied from the [Girdner Funeral Chapel](#) web page.

Personal Data

Birth:	12 Aug 2011 Oro Fino, Siskiyou County, California, USA
Death:	9 Oct 1918 (aged 92) Scott Valley, Siskiyou, California, USA
Burial:	Unknown
Memorial ID:	77125355

Family Members

- Parents
Albert Campbell Alford, 1877–1920
Alice Gay Callihan, 1890–1932

- Spouse
Joseph Skillen, 1912–1986, (m. 1936)
- Siblings
Austin Allen Alford, 1912–1998
Rhoda Belle Alford, 1913–1990
Annie Lucille Alford, 1915–1996
- Children
John Skillen
James Fredrick Skillen, 1946-unknown
Alice Thompson
Karol Purcell

Information copied from the [Find-A-Grave](#) and [Ancestry](#) web pages.

AAFA Notes:

1. Alberta's Alford lineage: Alice Alberta 1918 CA¹, Albert Campbell 1877 CA², Austin Hanley 1852 MO³, John 1822 VA⁴, James 1793 VA⁵, Joseph 1767 IR⁶, John 1735 IR⁷.