



The Alford American Family Association

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

Sarah May Barber Alford

AAFA #0180

May 23, 1917 – January 5, 2002

Charter Member



History

Author: Norman L. Alford, AAFA #1190, 16 October 2003

[AAFA does not have an obituary for Sarah, but her son wrote this history.]

Mrs. Sarah May Barber Alford of Eastland, Texas, age 84, died January 5, 2002. Services were held at Edwards Funeral Home in Eastland, led by Milton Underwood, an elder at the Daugherty Street Church of Christ where Sarah had been a member since moving to Eastland from Olden in 1981. Burial was in Eastland City Cemetery.

Sarah was born May 23, 1917, the only child of Robert Peyton Barber and Mary Effie Greenwaldt Barber, near Mobeetie in Wheeler County, Texas. Robert P. Barber was born at Rutledge, Crenshaw County, Alabama, on 6 Aug 1879, and Mary Effie near Sharpsburg, Madison County, Mississippi, on 4 Jan 1885. During her childhood and youth, Sarah lived on farms in Wheeler, Comanche, Floyd, Hale, Swisher, Nolan, and Eastland counties with her parents. Sarah's parents, greatly affected by hardships during the Great Depression, left the Texas High Plains and returned to farming near the Staff Community in Eastland County in 1935, but Sarah lived for a time with her mother's parents in DeLeon so that she could be near high school. Her parents later rented a room for Sarah in a house within short walking distance of Eastland High School, and she graduated in May 1937.

She married Cecil Alford on April 2, 1941, at her parents' farm near the Staff Community where the Lake Leon Bridge is now located. Cecil and Sarah May lived on farms near Staff and Lone Cedar, then on the farm at Olden for 28 years. They had cattle and hay crops mostly, and Cecil worked several different jobs over his career, the last being at the Featherlite Plant at Ranger. Sarah moved to Eastland in 1981, after Cecil's death May 7, 1980.

Sarah worked for 30 years at the hospitals in Ranger and Eastland, and since 1988 as a receptionist and treasured employee at Edwards Funeral Home in Eastland. She loved to study local history and knew many longtime Eastland County residents, since her father's family had come from Rutledge, Crenshaw County, Alabama, to Eastland County in 1889 to the Round Mountain and Staff area. She assisted in editing the Eastland County History book published in 1989, was a charter member of the committee, and included articles she wrote about her family. She loved to study American history in relation to family genealogy and do genealogy research. She was proud that through her father there is lineage to John Alden, a coppersmith on The Mayflower, and his wife Priscilla Mullins. Sarah was a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution and the Mayflower Society. She made efforts that will be lasting in leaving records of family history, relating to her family and the Cecil Alford family, for her children and grandchildren. At this time in 2003, there are only five names in the lineage to 1620 in Massachusetts: Alford, Barber, Davis, Packard, and Alden.

Cecil Alford, born August 23, 1910, in northeast Taylor County, Texas, was the fifth child of Benjamin Franklin Alford (29 Sep 1882–18 Jan 1968) and Lula Mae McCown Alford (13 Mar 1881–18 Feb 1918). Ben and Lula Mae were married October 6, 1901, Robertson County, Texas, the same day that Lula Mae's father had gone to Carthage, Panola County, Texas, to marry Mary S. Lewis, his second wife, a "mail order bride." Ben and Lula Mae began their life together at Bald Prairie. Family stories say that B.F. Alford was born in Lee County, and came to Cole Branch, Robertson County, when he was about nine years old. Lula Mae McCown was born at Bald Prairie, Robertson County, and was the daughter of Robert Lewis McCown and Lucy Catherine Day McCown. Robert Lewis McCown's father and mother, John Berry McCown and Sarah Caroline Honea McCown, from Leake County, Mississippi, were early pioneers in eastern Robertson County around 1854. J.B. McCown died in 1863 from Civil War wounds. Records state, and the McCown family story says that John Berry McCown, in the Confederate Calvary Madison's Regiment and Major's Brigade, was wounded, maybe in Louisiana, but he made it back home by horseback to the farm near Bald Prairie, but died three days later, on July 25, 1863.

Benjamin Franklin Alford was the first child of Thomas Jefferson Alford (Jan 1853–16 Sep 1927, born Cherokee County, AL) and Frances Virginia Smith Alford (19 Mar 1864–14 Dec 1958, born Angelina County, TX). Thomas Jefferson Alford was the second child of Jackson Alford (Jan 1830-about Oct 1900, born St. Clair County, AL) and Mary Jane Perry Alford (c1831-after 1880, born in GA), who came from Turkey Town, Cherokee County, Alabama, to near Caldwell, in Burleson County, Texas, after the Civil War and before the Census in 1870. Jackson Alford had served in Company G, 48th Alabama Volunteer Infantry.

Sarah Alford, in trying to recover the Cecil Alford family history in the late 1980s, first found Jackson Alford listed as applying for a Texas Confederate Veterans Pension in 1899. Not much knowledge had been remembered about the Alford ancestors, except Ben Alford had said, "They came from Alabama," and the family hadn't talked much about the ancestors. Most of the knowledge about the Alford family history concerned the years Ben Alford's children lived at Bald Prairie. Lula Mae Alford died in February 1918, and Ben moved the family to Eastland in Eastland County in 1924, then to the Roy Mill's farm at Lone Cedar in 1925. Ben left the farm in 1946 and Cecil and Sarah May Alford farmed there until 1953, when they moved to Olden and bought a farm there.

Sarah is survived by sons Norman Alford and his wife Vickie of Round Rock, Texas, and Jerry Alford and his wife Susie of Roscoe, Texas. There are five grandchildren, Jason and Lindsey of Round Rock, Misti and Jerad of Roscoe, and Chris Alford of Wichita, Kansas.

Sarah will always be remembered as a faithful, diligent, loving mother and grandmother, who was always concerned for her family. Rightly so, she is greatly missed.

Personal Data

Birth: 23 May 1917
Mobeetie, Wheeler County, Texas, USA
Death: 5 Jan 2002 (aged 84)
Eastland, Eastland County, Texas, USA
Burial: Eastland City Cemetery
Eastland, Eastland County, Texas, USA
Plot: E/6 156 B
Memorial ID: 49865958



Photos Added by: [M. S. Hoover](#) on 15 Sep 2011

Family Members

- Parents
Robert Peyton Barber, 1879-1961
Mary Effie Greenwaldt, 1885-1953
- Spouse
Cecil Alford, 1910-1980 (m. 1941)
- Children
Norman Lee Alford
Jerry Lynn Alford

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

AAFA Notes:

Sarah's husband's Alford lineage: Cecil 1910 TX¹, Benjamin Franklin 1882 TX², Thomas Jefferson 1853 AL³, Jackson 1830 AL⁴, Baldy 1784 NC⁵, Isham 1755 NC⁶, Lodwick 1710 VA⁷, James 1687 VA⁸, John 1645 VA⁹.

Sarah's husband died in 1980, before AAFA was established. She was the AAFA member and family genealogist.

Miscellaneous Data

Subject: Memorial Albums and Sarah May Barber Alford - Member 0180

From: "Norman Alford" <nalford@worldnet.att.net>

Date: Mon, 29 Sep 2003 14:29:15 -0500

To: <ebalford@swbell.net>

Dear Earline,

Thank you for your letter concerning the Memorial Albums and my mother, Sarah May Barber Alford, AAFA Member 180. Our mother passed away January 5, 2002. She loved to do genealogy and loved to study history. Because of her interest and care, my brother and I now know the history of our part of the Alford family. We knew about my Dad's father, Benjamin Franklin Alford, and some things about my Dad's grandfather Thomas Jefferson Alford, but all knowledge had been lost of his father, Jackson Alford, who came to near Caldwell in Burleson County, Texas, probably after the Civil War and before the 1870 Census. Jackson came from Cherokee County, Alabama and his CSA enlistment says he was from Turkeytown.

Mother also spent many years studying and accumulating much material on her family. Through her father, Robert Peyton Barber, the line goes back to 1620 to John Alden and Priscilla Mullins on the Mayflower. Mother was a member of the Mayflower Society and the Daughters of the American Revolution.

I will send you a write-up I am working on soon and a picture. I have gone through all the AAFA Action quarterlies that mother had saved, building a notebook of information that applies to the Alford's in our line. It is interesting and important that we now know that our Alford's (through Ole' Lodwick Alford) goes back to New Kent County and James City Colony, Virginia, to at least the mid 1600's.

Thank you,
Norman L. Alford

501 Virginia Dr.
Round Rock, Texas 78664



In the end we only conserve what we love, We will only understand what we learn. We will only learn what we are taught. The Foundation of the Future was laid in the past. You cannot tell where you are going until you find out Where you came from. SMA

Left by Norman Alford on 11 Sep 2019

In Loving Memory

*Sarah May (Barber) Alford*

May 23, 1917
January 5, 2002

Mrs. Sarah May (Barber) Alford, 84, of Eastland, passed away Saturday, January 5, 2002, at Rolling Plains Hospital in Sweetwater, Texas. Visitation was from 7 until 8 p.m. Monday, at the Edwards Funeral Home. Services were held at Edwards Funeral Home in Eastland on Tuesday, January 8, 2002, at 11 a.m., led by Milton Underwood. Sarah had been a member of the Daugherty Street Church of Christ since moving to Eastland from Olden in 1981. Sarah was born May 23, 1917, the only child of Robert Peyton Barber and Mary Effie Greenwaldt Barber, near Mobeetie in Wheeler County, Texas. Robert was born in Crenshaw County, Alabama, and Mary in Madison County, Mississippi. During her childhood and youth, Sarah lived on farms in Comanche, Floyd, Hale, Swisher, Nolan, and Eastland counties with her parents. Sarah and her parents, greatly effected by hardships during the Great Depression, returned to farming in Eastland County in 1935, but Sarah lived for a time with her mother's parents in DeLeon so that she could be near school. Her parents later rented a room for Sarah in a house within short walking distance of Eastland High School, and she graduated in May 1937. She married Cecil Alford on April 2, 1941, at her parents' farm near the Staff Community where the Lake Leon Bridge is now located. Cecil and Sarah May lived on farms near Staff and Lone Cedar, then on the farm at Olden for 28 years. Sarah moved to Eastland in 1981, after Cecil's death May 7, 1980.

Sarah worked for many years at the hospitals in Ranger and Eastland, and since 1987 as a receptionist at Edwards Funeral Home in Eastland. She loved to study local history and knew many longtime Eastland County residents, since her father's family had come to Eastland County in 1889 to the Round Mountain and Staff area. She assisted in editing the Eastland County History book published in 1989, was a charter member of the committee, and included articles she wrote about her family. She loved to study American history in relation to family genealogy, and do genealogy research. She was proud that, through her father, there is lineage to John Alden, a coppersmith on the *Mayflower*, and his wife Priscilla Mullins. Sarah was a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution and the Mayflower Society. She made efforts that will be lasting in leaving records of family history, relating to her family and the Alford family, for her children and grandchildren.

Sarah is survived by sons Norman Alford and his wife Vickie of Round Rock, Texas, and Jerry Alford and his wife Susie of Roscoe, Texas. There are five grandchildren, Jason and Lindsey of Round Rock, Misti and Jerad of Roscoe, and Chris Alford of Wichita, Kansas. Sarah will always be remembered as a faithful, diligent, loving mother and grandmother, who was always concerned for her family. She will be greatly missed.

In Loving Memory

Sarah May (Barber) Alford

May 23, 1917 ~ January 5, 2002

Services

11 a.m. Tuesday
January 8, 2002
Edwards Funeral Home Chapel

Officiating

Milton Underwood

Directed By

Edwards Funeral Home
Eastland, Texas

Pallbearers

Adam Lopez Chris Alford
Jason Alford Jerad Alford
Joe Taylor Willard McFaul

A Tribute to

Mrs. Alford

Mrs. Alford came to work here at the Funeral Home in 1987 immediately after her retirement from Eastland Memorial Hospital. God must have put her two of us together, for she was just what we needed, when we needed it. The adjectives used to describe what she brought with her are: **Values, Work Ethic, Dedication, Empathy, Private, Friend, Advisor and Patriot.**

Values- She had high moral values, a Godly woman.

Work Ethic- arrive early and stay late, always willing to do her part.

Dedication- Willing to work weekends and holidays so others could be with their families.

Empathy- She would console others by putting her arm around them, crying with them, or using her money to purchase flowers for a service when there were none.

Private- She didn't meddle in others business and expected the same courtesy.

Friend- She became a friend to all who worked here, especially Phyllis Edwards, with whom she shared much and was very close.

Advisor- Always giving good, time proven advice, only when asked and always delivered in a kind way.

Patriot- A true American. She saw that the American Flag was flown when we were open, and the flag on display here today was purchased some time ago by her. She voted at every opportunity.

We considered her part of our extended family, and us hers. All who worked with her or came in contact with her were influenced by these attributes which still live on through us.

She has passed to her heavenly reward, reunited with family and friends who have gone on before. She will be missed by us, but she will not be forgotten.

The Edwards Family & Staff