

AAFA Annual Meeting

Houston, TX

October 12 thru 14, 2012

Secretary Notes

Friday, October 12, 2012

General Information

Registration table was manned by Robert Alford and Evelyn Mistich.
Door prize tickets and raffle tickets were handled by Max and Earline Alford.

Lynn Shelley opened our meeting with the introduction of the officers:

Max Alford	President
Walt Smith	Vice President
Robert Alford	Treasurer
Evelyn Mistich	Secretary

Lynn also named our Board of Directors: Gil Alford, Max Alford and Pam Thompson.

John Smith spoke about Researching Texas Land Records.

After a short break, door prizes were drawn. These prizes were donated by members of AAFA. The following winners chose a prize from the table; Joan Alford, Jim Liptrap, Tricia McElveen, JoAna Breeland and Janice Smith.

Lynn spoke about the AAFA website, how to maneuver through it and what you can find on it. She also asked for help with any of the AAFA projects that someone would volunteer to work.

After a break for lunch, Jane Buck with Family Tree DNA spoke about DNA as a tool for Genetic Genealogy. Her talk was very informative and a number of members had their questions answered. A few members either made arrangements for a kit to be delivered to them or had their DNA profile upgraded.

Door prizes were won by James Alford, Earl and Pauline Alford, Don Alford, Evelyn Mistich and Gail Alford.

Max spoke about the Alford DNA project. He also answered many questions from the members.

After breaking for a short time, in order to have the meeting room converted to a dining room, we returned for a sit down dinner. This is our get to know each other activity, as we visit with one another from table to table. This is always enjoyable, getting to know members that we have not met before.

Saturday, October 13, 2012
Business Meeting

Registration table and door prize and raffle tickets were handled by Robert Alford, Evelyn Mistich, Max and Earline Alford.

Lynn Shelley opened the meeting welcoming everyone to the 25th Anniversary of AAFA.

President Max Alford spoke about some of the recent changes in the organization. The Board of Directors has returned to 3 members from the 12 that it recently contained. With the economy, the difficulty of getting a quorum, etc., it was voted by the membership to return to 3 members as it originally was when the organization began. Also the board members can transact their meetings over e-mail rather than being present at a reunion meeting. The original Board Members were Gil Alford, Wick Alford and Pooley Alford. The current Board members are Gil Alford, Max Alford and Pam Thompson.

Max also spoke about the Online Newsletter being for members of AAFA to communicate and ask questions. About Alford's is for anyone interested in Alford's to communicate and ask questions.

Officers for the coming year were voted by e-mail. With no nominations from the floor, the officers are Max Alford, President; Walt Smith, Vice-President; Evelyn Mistich, Secretary; Robert Alford, Treasurer.

Since the dues we collected were mainly for the publishing of the Quarterly, dues have been dropped now that the Quarterly is online. There is a one time registration fee of \$5.00 for new members.

Max said there is an unlimited amount of space for our website, we just need help with input and work on various projects that are underway, such as the Cemetery project.

Door prizes were drawn. Winners: Lorraine Mabus, Deloris Bitting, John Smith, James Alford, Walt Smith, Kathy Schultz, JoAna Breeland.

Lynn spoke about the Master Book List. When making a copy of a book with Alford's in it, copy the page with the Alford information, the index where the name is listed and the cover page with the book title on it.

John Smith spoke about scanning photos to send to AAFA. A 4x6 should be scanned at 300 dpi and an 8x10 at 150dpi if you can choose those settings on your scanner. Smaller than 4x6 should be scanned at 300dpi or above.

Robert Alford gave the Treasurer report. Total receipts from dues, donations and annual meeting were \$7268.64. Total disbursements for printing the Quarterly, office expenses, legal fees, box rental, etc. was \$5941.48. Net income was \$1327.16. (The 2012 meeting expenses have not been totaled as yet.) Current bank balance is \$14, 928.68. The Bank Box rent for the photos has not been paid as yet.

Ramona Darden made a motion that the Bank box rent should be paid now. Seconded by Doris Vetri. Much discussion was held with John Smith saying that if we wait to pay the box rent, it may be less money as they may be able to combine all photos into one box. Motion voted and failed.

John Smith made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as is, seconded by Lynn Shelley, voted and passed.

There was no Secretary report as the Secretary, Evelyn Mistich, was not at last year's meeting.

Janice Smith gave reports about the photos and the will collection. She stated she has 2 binders of wills and that there are 88 listed on the website. She received two more wills this year. There are over 2000 photos in 14 albums. You can look through these in the library room.

Evelyn Mistich spoke about the Cemetery Project and about how easy it is to collect the information on the internet and complete the form on the AAFA Cemetery website.

Lynn Shelley spoke about Death Certificates and the information that can be gained from them. She said when doing research remember that not all Alford's come from the same line. Some have even changed the name's spelling, such as Benedict Alford and his brother Alexander Alvord back in the late 1630's.

Door prizes were won by Gail Hall, Janice Smith, Ramona Darden, Tricia McElveen and Doris Vetri.

Max asked the members where they would like to meet next year. He said Gil would like to see us go to North Carolina. Nothing was resolved and no one volunteered to help with a meeting in North Carolina.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Ramona Darden and seconded by Doris Vetri. Voted and passed.

Saturday, October 13, 2012

Afternoon Session

After lunch, various speakers told of their involvement in researching different families of Alford's:

Janice Smith spoke about the family of Isham Alford. She also spoke about John Seaborn Alford, son of Marshall Thomas Alford.

Stephanie Alford spoke about the family of Mike Alford.

Janice Smith spoke about William Alford, 1794.

Robert Alford spoke about “Clem” “Clarence” Alford.

These speakers answered questions from the floor and there was a lot of discussion on the topics.

Door prizes for the afternoon went to Helen Steele, Stephanie Alford, Jerry Alford, Pat Fite, Jim Bitting, Earl Alford and Jim Liptrap.

The discussions were called to a close because the hotel had to rearrange the room for the Saturday night banquet.

Saturday Night, October 13, 2012 AAFA Reunion Banquet

Ramona Darden welcomed everyone to the AAFA Reunion Banquet. She called for Earline Alford and Walt Smith to help her with the memorial ceremony. Every year we call the names of our members who have passed away during the past year or if we discover that they have died but have not been memorialized. Each name is called, a bell is sounded and we have a moment of silence. The recognized members are listed with their membership number and date of death:

Frances DuPriest Alford	#0011	8-8-2012
Margaret Faye Leonard Windham	#0031	3-29-2010
Lucille Clepper Mehrkam	#0032	10-29-2011
Robert D. Featherstone	#0092	11-9-2010
Richard Wayne Alford	#0257	7-27-2012
Travis Arnold Alford	#0374	6-22-2012
William Dean Steward	#0387	3-11-2012
Marie Eastman Spain	#0416	3-20-2012
Delores Flowers Rhodes	#0440	3-10-2012
Gwendolyn Murray Walsh	#0449	11-7-2010
Vesta G. Bowden	#0537	10-20-2011
Charleston S. Veazey	#0654	10-5-2011
Emerson Alford Meggs	#0791	8-21-2012
Terry Fayne Alford	#0793	2-1-2012
Dorothy Adella Alford Lobdell	#0822	3-1-2010
Sam Walker Wilson	#0855	6-18-2012
Judy Kaye Rowe	#0964	3-18-2011
Frances Alford Cordine	#0976	2-11-2012
Mina V. Alford Culbertson	#0998	8-20-2011
Jessie Homer Bankston, Sr.	#1003	11-25-2010
Brenda Alford Herington	#1033	4-28-2011
Judy C. Morgan	#1146	5-5-2011
Mayme Carolyn Honeycutt	#1225	12-14-2011

Plaques were awarded to Jim and Sue Adams for their many years as Quarterly Editors; Doris Vetri for her service as being the original and only treasurer until last year when Robert Alford accepted the position; and to Ramona Darden for her many years as the meeting coordinator.

The raffle tickets were drawn and the following members are listed with their prizes.

Gail Alford	Book about the City of Houston
Don Alford	Genealogy Book
Don Alford	Doily made by Earline Alford that looked like a stained glass window.
Lynn Shelley	Card table size cutwork tablecloth made by Earline Alford.
JoAna Breeland	Quilt wall hanging made by Alice Werner who has had her quilt work exhibited locally and nationally. She is the cousin of Nick Darden, Ramona's husband.

Each year the hotel supplies AAFA with one free night to be given away. This year's winner was James Alford.

Certificates were handed out to members for the following:

Youngest member in attendance	Tricia McElveen
Oldest member in attendance	Jerry Alford
Lives farthest away	Doris Vetri
Lives closest	Janet Hemby
Most family members present	JoAna Breeland, Gail Hall, Tricia McElveen

After the supper and when people were mixing and meeting other members, Janice, John and Walt Smith took pictures of family members in their AAFA groups.

Sunday, October 14, 2012

Morning session

This session is a time for researching, asking questions, and sharing information about Alford's. Lynn Shelley, John and Janice Smith, Walt Smith and Ramona Darden are on hand to help with whatever questions they can answer about Alford's, cameras, computer input, etc.