

The 2002 Salt Lake City Meeting Report
by Max Alford AAFA #0230, Member Hall of Fame

The 15th Annual Alford American Family Association Reunion and Meeting were held in Salt Lake City, Utah, on October 11, 12, and 13, 2002. Although the numbers were small in comparison to previous years, the enthusiasm of the group more than made up what was lacking in sheer numbers.

We arrived in Salt Lake City about mid- to late afternoon, Tuesday, 11/08/02. As usually occurs at meetings, the early arrivals all got together and converged on the hotel restaurant for our Tuesday evening meal. You might even describe it as being similar to a swarm of locust descending on a field and I am sure that is how it must have looked to the restaurant staff.

The first tour was scheduled for Wednesday morning. We were very fortunate to have a knowledgeable tour guide who accompanied us. She made the trip much more interesting with her commentary as the tour progressed. First, we toured the Beehive House, one of Brigham Young's many homes as he had a home for each of his wives. Our guide at the Beehive House was a young lady by the name of Sister Mortensen (Sister is a title and was not her first name). We were shown many of the rooms furnished as they were in Brigham Young's day. After the Beehive House, we walked a short distance to the capitol building where we were given a tour of the rotunda with its beautiful murals. From there we visited the tallest building in the city. I believe it was thirteen stories with an observation deck on top. We then walked a short distance to the Lion House where we had lunch. The meal was very good.

As we were finishing our meal, a member of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir talked about the Choir giving us some very interesting background information. We concluded Wednesday's tour with a short drive-thru of the campus of the University of Utah.

On Thursday a tour of the genealogy library was scheduled. Those who attended this session were given an orientation of the Family History Library. Access to the international genealogical index and computer indexes compiled by the LDS Church were explained along with how to use the Internet to continue your research.

Thursday night, those who had signed up for the tour to see a practice session of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir were shuttled to Temple Square by the hotel vans. It was a magnificent place with every seat affording one a good view of the choir. As it was a practice, there were no complete songs being sung, just bits and pieces over and over. I guess the director of the choir sensed the restlessness of the crowd because he interrupted the practice to have the choir sing two songs for us.

Friday morning, the meeting was officially kicked off with registration beginning at 8:00 AM. As a prelude to the Friday session, there were several recognitions to be made. Up until the Salt Lake City meeting, there were only three members who had the distinction of attending every meeting since the very beginning. Those three were Mary and Gil Alford, AAFA #0019 and Wick Alford, AAFA #0011. Unfortunately, due to circumstances beyond his control, Wick was not able to be at the meeting. My wife, Earline, AAFA #0230, decided after the meeting in Raleigh that these three deserved some sort of special recognition at the Salt Lake City meeting as it would be the fifteenth meeting of the AAFA. What she came up with was a denim vest (which she made herself) and upon the vest she placed embroideries which included an outline of each state where a meeting had been held along with the official state bird (to add a little color to the vest) and the name of the city where the meeting was held along with the year. Those states that had hosted more than one meeting were represented more than once on the vest. Mary and Gil were called to the front of the room and presented their vests in a fitting ceremonial flourish.

Unbeknownst to those assembled at the Friday session, an elaborate plot had been hatched by Sally and Dick Stoewer, AAFA #0120, to honor the missing third member who had never missed a meeting. As Wick Alford is known for his rather colorful outfits, Sally and Dick happen to be in a thrift store not too many days before the meeting when Dick spied a red blazer. He immediately thought of Wick. They

purchased the jacket and wrote a memo in Wick's style of writing. This is where the plot thickened. It was decided that after the presentation to Mary and Gil, my wife would approach the lectern and hand me what would purportedly be a fax from Wick expressing his regrets at not being there (in reality, it was the memo that Sally and Dick composed).

The purported fax read:

"Hear Ye, Hear Ye, Hear Ye. This is the Captain speaking.

Gil – My comrade, my friend, buddy and pal, I sometimes sit on the front row so I can be seen by everyone – but mostly to make eye contact with you so I can harass you, dispute your research and to keep you straight.

To my buddies that go out to smoke a cigar after dinner - I hope you will keep this camaraderie and think of me.

To Earline – I will not be buying any tickets this year – I suggest you sell my tickets to Gil.

I will miss every one of you and I regret having to miss my first meeting. I trust you all can carry on without me.

Please make a place in the front row for me so Gil will see me often.

*Respectfully
Wick Alford, Captain
U.S. Navy Retired"*

Now any of you who have read anything that Wick has written (he writes all the Hall of Fame certificates as well as the Distinguished Member certificates to name a few), know that the above message captures Wick's writing style very well. As I finished reading the fax, Jeanne Singleton, AAFA #0249, came rushing up and pretended to excitedly whisper something in my ear. I barely had time to exclaim "Ladies and gentlemen, I have just been told that Wick has come to the meeting after all!" At that moment Dick Stoewer walked in wearing the red jacket, a baseball cap pulled low over his eyes and Wick's name tag. I must admit at first glance, I thought it was Wick. Dick did a really bang up job of impersonating him.

Everyone got a big kick out of the little masquerade. Dick then proceeded to remove the jacket which was hung in a place of honor on a coat rack at the front of the meeting room with Wick's name tag draped over it and a copy of a photograph of Wick attached to the coat hanger. If you look closely at the pictures taken during the meeting sessions, you will see the red jacket with Wick's picture in the background of a lot of the shots. While I am not 100% sure of this, at one point during the Saturday afternoon session, I even thought I saw the jacket raise it's sleeve trying to get the floor so it could dispute one of the points that Gil made during his presentation.

Then my wife had one final presentation to make before the session got under way. This was to a gentleman who has provided a great deal of assistance with the raffle over the years. He has handled the money for the raffle tickets, and he has sold raffle tickets and quite a seller he is. But, most of all, he has been a genuine, all around nice fella willing to pitch in wherever he was needed. You will never meet a nicer person than this gentleman. His name is Sebastian "Buzz" Vetri, husband of Doris Vetri, AAFA #0303 and the AAFA Treasurer. My wife presented him with a golf shirt with the outline of the state of New Jersey, his home state, embroidered on the left side with the state bird, an American gold finch,

sitting atop the state outline.

The Friday session was spent on the following subjects: Photography & Genealogy, Military Records, Computer Genealogy along with Multimedia and On Line Sources, 1930 Census; AAFA Action Quarterly, and British Origins of Colonial “Alfords” (Migrations). I apologize for this short report on the Friday session. Unfortunately, I was not in attendance for a large part of it. It is always well attended and I do not mean to slight it in any way at all.

The Friday night reception attracted one of the larger crowds of the meeting. At most of the past meetings, the reception was a stand-up affair where you had to manage to hold your plate, your drink and still eat and carry on a polite conversation. A neat trick if you could manage it. At this year's meeting, tables and chairs were provided but we were all given a stern warning by “Mother” Ramona, the Meetings Chairperson, that should she observe anyone not moving about from table to table during the reception, she would personally yank that individual's chair out from under him or her. I don't know about the others but she sure made a believer out of me.

After the reception, the Board of Directors retired to a meeting room to hold the annual Board of Directors meeting. I will not cover the Board meeting in this report, as the minutes will be published, if not in this issue, in the next issue of the quarterly.

On Saturday morning, the business meeting was called to order at 9:00 AM. Ramona Darden gave a report on the progress of hotel negotiations for the Arkansas meeting. She had not had much success in talking to Little Rock hotels. Ramona said she had starting looking at hotels in Hot Springs. Vice-President Morris Myers and his wife have visited several hotels in Hot Springs for Ramona and has found them to have sufficient facilities to meet our needs. A motion was made and seconded to give Ramona the authority to make location changes within a state if she encountered similar problems with facilities for future meetings. The vote was unanimous to give Ramona this authority.

Doris Vetri gave the Treasurer's Report and read the financial statement of 9/30/02. Doris stated that a donation from the sale of the patriotic items in the gift shop during the Raleigh meeting had been made to the Salvation Army. The Treasurer's Report was accepted as read.

The Scholarship Program was discussed. As this was the first year of the program, there were some bugs to be worked out. There was only one entrant received but the Board was advised of a second application submittal that was apparently never received. The Board worked out a compromise in an effort to do the just and honorable thing in this situation. The final judging is still ongoing in the scholarship program and the final results are not available at time. The results should be available before the next quarterly goes to press. At that time, the winner or winners will be announced and the winning applications will be published in the quarterly.

The membership in attendance at the business meeting also voted to subscribe to a membership in the Ancestry.com web site. I am at this time doing some research on what types of memberships are available to groups like ours. When I have finished that research, the information will be furnished to the Board so they can vote on which membership they deem most beneficial to the Association.

Alicia Houston, AAFA #0001, gave a report on the Census Project. Alicia has been project manager of the census extraction since the project's inception during the very early years of the Association. They have done an excellent job and are close to 100% extraction from all the available census records. The census information will be placed on the Association's web site, www.alfordassociation.org, as time permits. Alicia also would like to encourage anyone who would like to help with this project or any other

AAFA project to please let her or one of the board members know. We have a desperate need for volunteers to help in the Association's work.

Lynn Shelley, AAFA #0484, gave a report on the master book list. The master book list is a compilation of the names and pages of any book that has mention of the name Alford or any of the numerous spelling variations. Members are encourage to copy the title page and any page where Alford (including the spelling variations) is mentioned and then send these pages to Lynn. She will then place the titles and pages in the master book list. Lynn also is an avid researcher. She has volumes of information ready to be entered into electronic files and is also in need of volunteers to do this. Anyone that has access to a computer and minimal typing skills is encouraged to contact the Association and let us know of their willingness to tackle this project.

In the absence of the Association's web master, Stephanie Alford, AAFA #1163, I gave a report, which she prepared. A company called Dream Host hosts the Association's web site at a cost of \$120 a year. For this charge, they provide 150 MB of storage space (we currently are using a little over six MB), twenty GB of bandwidth and twenty email accounts (right now we are using only one email account). As you can see, we have quite a bit of space to grow into but with the data we plan to make available on the web site, we could outgrow the storage space. However, Dream Host makes it very easy to upgrade to a bigger storage space. The major problem that we have now with the web site is the lack of qualified people to prepare and upload the data to the web site. Stephanie has returned to school fulltime so this limits the time she has available to work on the web site. Even if it were not for her schooling, the web site requires more than one person to update and maintain it. If you have experience or a willingness to learn and access to the web, please let us know. We need you desperately.

During the preparation for this meeting, someone put forth a question about where do members who attend the meetings live in relationship to the meeting location. To try and answer this, I prepared a map for each meeting from 1995 through the Salt Lake City meeting that indicated where each person who pre-registered lived. Almost in every case, the majority of the attendees came from the southern half of the US. What does this mean? Probably nothing since the majority of our members are from what is generally regarded as the South. It was just an interesting tidbit that was tossed out by me.

Normally, the active membership at the meeting will select a meeting location for two years out from the present year. Somehow that had stretched to four years. The Board discussed this Friday night and came to the conclusion that with the state of world affairs and the economy and the fact that most hotels will not enter into negotiations concerning room rates or food prices beyond two years, there would be no selection of a future meeting site this year. An Arkansas city (not yet determined) was selected for 2003, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, for 2004 and Indiana (city yet to be selected) for 2005. The situation will be monitored and addressed at each of the coming years' meetings. When the Board decides that it is time to pick a site for the 2006 meeting, the members in the Saturday morning session will be asked to nominate a location and a vote will be taken right after the nominations close. This most likely won't take place until our 2004 meeting in Baton Rouge.

Then it was time for the election of four new Directors to replace those who were rotating off. The four members rotating off were Doris Vetri, AAFA #0303; Ramona Darden, AAFA #0715; Dick Alford, AAFA #0633; and me, AAFA #0230. Since we had some problems with nominations or a lack thereof, Doris, Ramona, and myself agreed to stand for re-election to the Board. Dick, when he stepped down as President last year, had stated while he would remain active in the Association, he preferred not to serve as an officer or Director so he could devote more time to his medical research. Therefore, Samantha Alford, AAFA #0836 agreed to accept the nomination as the fourth director. The floor was open for additional nominations from the members. The only stipulation was that anyone that was nominated had

to have agreed to the nomination prior to being nominated. As there were no nominations from the floor, Helen Steele, AAFA #0904, made a motion to accept by acclamation, the nominees as presented for the vacant rotating Directorships. Carolyn Saunders, AAFA #0673, seconded the motion. The membership voted unanimously to pass the measure as presented. The Board of Directors for 2002-2003 consists of Jeanne Singleton, AAFA #0249, Kim Savage, AAFA #0258, Elroy Alford, AAFA #0563, Janet Hemby, AAFA #0832, Lynn D. Shelley, AAFA #0484, Seanne Carrigan, AAFA #0335, Alicia Houston, AAFA #0001, Morris Myers, AAFA #1065, and the newly elected members, Max Alford, AAFA #0230, Doris Vetri, AAFA #0303, Ramona Darden, AAFA #0715, and Samantha Alford, AAFA #0836.

The nominees presented to the membership for the offices of President, Vice-president, Treasurer, and Secretary were Max Alford, AAFA #0230, Morris Myers, AAFA #1065, Doris Vetri, AAFA #0303, and Samantha Alford, AAFA #0836 respectively. The floor was opened for additional nominees with the same stipulation as made previously for director nominees. The stipulation being that anyone nominated from the floor had to have given prior permission for his or her name to be placed in nomination. There were no nominations from the floor so the Board (including the four newly elected members) adjourned to a corner of the room and by voice vote elected the officer nominees as presented to the floor.

Max Alford then presented a Certificate of Appreciation to outgoing Director, Dick Alford, AAFA #0633, for his service to the Association as a Director. Dick had also served three terms as President as well as doing work on the census project and volunteering at this meeting to doing research, along with Elroy Alford, AAFA #0563, on the Alford's in the War of 1812.

Sally Stoewer, AAFA #0120, chairperson of the Merchandise Committee, gave a report on the gift shop operation. Most of the time during the meeting, you will find Sally and Jeanne Singleton, AAFA #0249 and also Sally's sister, in store manning the cash register or more correctly, the cash box. Sally announced a new policy for the gift shop. In the past, the gift shop featured merchandise that prominently displayed the AAFA logo. There were ballpoint pens, sweatshirts, t-shirts, key chains, coffee mugs, baseball caps, etc for sale. It got to the point where there was almost more than one couple could pack in their vehicle and still leave room for their clothes and themselves. There was a short-lived effort to get people to volunteer to take charge of a small portion of the merchandise and be responsible for storing it during the year and then bringing it to the meeting so it could be sold. Needless to say, there wasn't a rush of volunteers for this.

The new policy kind of turns the gift shop into a mini-flea market. If you are into crafts, you may bring them to sell in the gift shop and split the proceeds with the AAFA. I think the split is 60% for the seller and 40% to AAFA. There are no plans for the Association to buy merchandise to resell in the gift shop. If some enterprising person wanted to invest their money in pens or t-shirts, etc., bearing the AAFA logo, to resell in the gift shop and split the profits with the AAFA, I am sure the Board would approve of such a venture though it has not been discussed by the Board. Sally still has some items, which she will continue transporting to future meetings until the supply is exhausted.

Jeanne Singleton, AAFA #0249, then made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Elroy Alford and passed by a voice vote of the membership. The President, Max Alford, then adjourned the 2002 Business Meeting of the Alford American Family Association. At this time, we took a break for lunch.

The Alford Family Forum was next on the meeting schedule. As usual, it drew one of the largest crowds of the entire meeting. Janice Smith, AAFA #0152, was scheduled to give a presentation on the Haywood Alford branch. Unfortunately, Janice became ill a couple of days before they were scheduled to leave for the meeting. When it became apparent she would not be able to make the trip, she and husband, John,

took their material to Peggy Schuster, AAFA #0666, who was kind enough to bring it to the meeting so someone else could make the actual presentation. Gil more or less volunteered to present Janice's material. Dan and Betty Perkins who are descended from the Haywood Alford line aided him. It was the Perkins' first meeting although they have been members since 1991. Gil presented information about an 1850 Utah family and how the family migrated to Utah from their beginnings in the 1600's. There were lots of questions from the audience as well as interesting information provided by those attending the Saturday afternoon session.

Gil presented a new interesting concept to the members. The AAFA has long encouraged its members to present their life history for publication with some results but not as much as was hoped for. The new concept is called "Turning Points." He is encouraging all members whether you were at the meeting or not to sit down and write about a turning point, or points, in your life, something that you did or something that happened along the way that had a major impact on your life. This would not include getting married or having children as this impacts most of us in relatively the same way. Gil shared a couple of his turning points with us, as did several members of the audience. Now, Jim and Sue Adams, AAFA #1129, editors of the AAFA Action quarterly are waiting to be inundated with members' Turning Point write-ups. The concept impressed me so much that when we got home, I immediately dashed off two or three of my turning points and sent them to Jim and Sue for publishing in a future quarterly. I strongly encourage you to do the same.

Saturday night arrived and it was time for the much-anticipated highlight of the entire meeting, the Saturday night Buffet and awards dinner. The food was outstanding again. There was prime rib, chicken, vegetable medley, rice, green beans, a salad, and, of course, topped off with several different kinds of desert. As at the other meeting sessions, Wick's red coat, nametag, and picture were present to oversee the whole affair.

After dinner, it was time for the honors and awards part of the evening's program. As at past meetings, there was a Memorial Service to commemorate those members who had passed away during the year since the last meeting. The service in the past had been conducted by one of our esteemed founders, Wick Alford, AAFA #0011. In Wick's absence, Don Alford, AAFA #0059, and Ramona Darden, AAFA #0715 conducted the ceremony. Don paraphrased part of a poem that he and his wife had heard while at York Minster Cathedral in York, England, during a ceremony commemorating the Battle of Kohima during WWII. His version read:

"They shall not grow older as we that are left grow old;
 More age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn;
 At the going down of the sun and in the morning,
 We will remember them,
 We will remember them!!!!!!!"

Then, as Don read off the name of the dear, departed member, Ramona struck a solemn tone on a ship's bell. The members honored in this year's ceremony were:

Glenn A. Alford	#0038	July 13, 1919	-	September 14, 2002
Dr. Charles D. Alford	#0072	December 24, 1921	-	October 31, 2001
Sarah May Alford,	#0180	May 23, 1917	-	Unknown
Murray I. "Pug" Alford	#0236	July 26, 1921	-	February 16, 2002
Mary Schulz Alford	#0236	November 19, 1923	-	July 31, 2002
Col. David Gaston Alford	#0503	May 29, 1917	-	May 20, 2002
Mary Alford Intellini	#0707	April 24, 1924	-	October 01, 2002

Next on the agenda was the presentation of the certificates honoring those members designated “Distinguished Members” for their outstanding contributions to the Association during the past year. The honorees this year were:

Earline Alford, AAFA #0230, was honored for her work in arranging and, in some cases, making the items used as door prizes as well as some raffle prizes. She also manages, along with the help of Jan Alford and Buzz Vetri, the raffle held at the meeting. She prepares the membership certificates as well. She also assists with the mailing of renewal notices each quarter. She has always assisted with the secretarial work when I was secretary and continues to assist me with my presidential duties.

Jim and Sue Adams, AAFA #1129, were presented a certificate for their superb work as editors of AAFA ACTION. They have worked long and hard to get the quarterly back on schedule and are very close to succeeding. Much is owed this couple for stepping forward when the AAFA was in desperate need of help.

Stephanie Alford, AAFA #1163, for her work in locating a host for our web site and then designing, setting up and transferring much of the data from our original web site to the new web site. Stephanie also is the editor of the AAFA On-Line Newsletter.

Sharon and Henry Klehm, AAFA #1080, for their work in support of the AAFA Treasurer, Doris Vetri, were also recognized. Although Sharon and Henry have not been able to attend a meeting yet, they have pitched in and have been a tremendous help to Doris. They have even caught some errors made by yours truly when I was doing the dues update. They are to be commended for their work and efforts for the AAFA.

Peggy Schuster, AAFA #0666, for her work in helping Alicia Houston with the Census Data and for all the research data she had provided AAFA. This lady is heavily involved in promoting the AAFA and pitching in wherever she is needed. She thinks nothing of hopping in her car in Richardson, Texas, and driving over to Jackson, Mississippi, to do a little research. She also happens to be my cousin.

Jeanne Singleton, AAFA #0249, for her work in distributing the AAFA Action quarterly. This lady is responsible for mailing the quarterly that you receive which means she must receive the quarterly, place it in envelopes, place stamps on the envelopes and then transport the envelopes to the nearest post office. No small task when you consider the average mailing is over 400 quarterlies. She also must handle any that are returned because of bad addresses. She researches the address to see if she can find a good address for the member whose quarterly was returned. No small task in itself. She does a fantastic job and frequently goes above and beyond what would normally be expected of the quarterly distributor.

These members are all to be commended and congratulated for their work and dedication to the Association. Everyone owes them a great big “Thank you!”, for without them and others like them, the Association would just wither and die away.

The next item on the agenda was the Hall of Fame induction. This is not an annual occurrence and is the highest honor the Association can bestow upon a member. This year, there were two members so honored.

The first to be inducted was Kim Savage, AAFA #0258. Kim joined the Association in October of 1989. Kim was instrumental in getting the Association on the Internet. She designed and maintained the AAFA web site beginning in 1997. For the longest time, she was the only one who worked on the web site adding new data and updating the existing data. Kim resigned her position as web master to devote more

time to personal projects which she had been neglecting since becoming involved with the AAFA web site. Kim is now also on the Board of Directors. She has, indeed, devoted a lot of time to the AAFA over the last several years. Were it not for Kim, there might not be an AAFA web site today.

The second member to be inducted was Ramona Darden, AAFA #0715. Ramona joined the Association in November of 1994. She has since attended every meeting. Ramona voiced an interest in helping out almost from the start. She is very involved back home in civic responsibilities and serves on a utility commission and wanting to become involved with the running of the Association was just natural for her.

When the Meetings Chairperson had to resign his position, she almost immediately volunteered to assume that responsibility and, as they say, the rest is history. Any of you that have attended one of the last six or seven meetings have seen Ramona in action. What you may not know is that the initial planning for the next meeting starts even before the present meeting has started. She has to negotiate with the hotels well in advance of the meeting so that the information for the meeting can be distributed to the members allowing them time to make their plans for attending. Ramona has done a remarkable job. Sometimes there are snafus that occur during the meeting. These she has always taken care of in a most efficient manner. She is always making sure that every one that attends is taken care of and does not have any problems as far as the hotel and meeting is concerned. She also makes arrangements for tours before and after the meeting. And while you may hear some of us complaining about this and that, I have never heard Ramona complaining about a lack of help (although she certainly lacks help) with her job. Ramona also is serving on the Board of Directors and is, in fact, just beginning her second term on the Board.

Both of these members are certainly deserving of this honor. My hat is off to both of them for a job well done.

Back five years ago for the Paducah, Kentucky, meeting, Sally Stoewer, Merchandise Committee Chairperson and co-proprietor of the gift shop, came up with the idea of a contest of sorts in which a small prize would be awarded to all winners. She had buttons made with the AAFA logo on them along with the city and state (all except for the Texas meeting, no state on that button, makes me wonder if she has something against Texas, being from Louisiana and all) and the year. This was to be done for each meeting up to and including the Salt Lake City Meeting. These buttons could be purchased for a small fee in the gift shop at each meeting. The original rule was that you had to attend all five meetings and purchase your button at that meeting. The rules were eased somewhat so that you could buy the buttons at any meeting up to and including this year's meeting. The other rule was that you had to wear them to the Saturday night buffet. Anyone wearing all five buttons would receive a prize. There was no good way to estimate how many prizes we would need so it was decided to order fifty each of a plastic bookmark for the ladies and a plastic letter opener for the men. There was a place for a photo in both pieces. We chose to insert a color photo of the AAFA logo in each. As it turned out, we had quite a few left over. So, in order to not have to transport all of them home, I awarded each lady her choice of the opener or the bookmark if she could produce a picture of her husband from her purse or billfold. There were a few ladies who were able to do that. I then awarded the same choice of prizes to any man who could produce a photo of his wife from his billfold. Needless to say, there were a few more men than women who won. I think I also awarded a prize to anyone who could produce a picture of a grandchild. There may have been more after that but I do not recall.

The last official function of the Saturday night Awards Buffet was the drawing for the raffle prizes and the awarding of the free room night. The following won the prizes that were awarded:

Rochelle Brewer, AAFA #1197
Sally Stoewer, AAFA #0120

Family Photo Album
Photo Album

Lucy Eastham, AAFA #1095
Jim Adams, AAFA #1129
Connie Alford, AAFA #0633
#0707*
Holly Coffey, AAFA #1177
AAFA #0707*
Helen Steele, AAFA #0904

Birdhouse donated by Elroy and Jan Alford, AAFA #0563
Birdhouse donated by Elroy and Jan Alford, AAFA #0563
White Monks Cloth Afghan donated by Mary Intellini, AAFA
Earthtone Monks Cloth Afghan donated by Mary Intellini,
Afghan donated by Marie Bateman, AAFA #1165

Upon arriving at the meeting, we found out that Mary Intellini had passed away October 1, just days before the meeting. She had told my wife at the meeting in Raleigh that she would make the two afghans and donate them for the Salt Lake City raffle. She also made several bread cloths and donated those, which were used for door prizes. Mary and her sister, La Rue King, AAFA #0701, had both intended to be at the Salt Lake City meeting.

After the Awards Buffet, you can usually find people gathered in the hotel lobby or, in the case of this meeting, the gift shop that Sally opened to give any last minute shoppers an opportunity to buy some more stuff. She also did this as she and Dick were scheduled to leave early Sunday morning, which meant the gift shop would not be open Sunday morning. But evidently, we must all be getting a lot older as we seemed to have departed for our rooms much earlier than past years.

Sunday morning found people milling around the gift shop (although there wasn't much left to buy), the research room and the photo room. Some were saying their good byes, some engaging in last minute conversations and some were doing last minute research. The hotel had said that we didn't have to vacate the rooms until Sunday night, which, as it turned out, was a blessing in disguise. The meeting officially ending at noon and a group of us went to lunch.

It wasn't long before it was time to head out for the Sunday afternoon tour. Originally, the tour was to have included the Tracy Aviary in Salt Lake City and the local planetarium. A last minute change had to be made when the folks at the planetarium informed Ramona that they were in the process of packing their equipment up in preparation for a January move to a new location. They offered to substitute an IMAX film for the planetarium but wanted to charge the same price. Ramona declined the offer. She rented a maxi-van as there were only thirteen people signed up for this tour. In the place of the planetarium, a visit to Promontory Summit, site of the driving of the Golden Spike that linked the East Coast and West Coast of the US with rail service.

The Tracy Aviary is located on 7.5 acres of land in the middle of Salt Lake City. Banker Russell Lord Tracy founded The Tracy Aviary when he donated his private bird collection to Salt Lake City and its children. Open to the public since 1938, The Tracy Aviary maintains a collection of approximately 400 birds representing about 135 species. Many of these birds are considered rare or endangered. Many have been injured and are kept at the Aviary until they are fully recovered. Some of the birds are shipped to what are called reciprocating zoos. Those zoos ship birds to the Tracy Aviary in return.

We had to cut our tour through the aviary short to allow us enough time to make it to Promontory Summit and back and still have time to clean out the meeting rooms at the hotel. There was plenty of lively conversation going on in the van. JoAna Breeland was keeping everybody in stitches with her stories and whatnot about one thing and then another. She was truly a charming lady in the finest tradition of the South. We finally arrived at Promontory Summit and the Golden Spike National Historical Site.

The site is situated some 690 miles east of Sacramento and 1,087 miles west of Omaha and lies in the northern reaches of the Great Basin Desert and ranges from 4,300 to 4,900 feet above sea level. It is the

location of the driving of the last spike (the golden spike) of the first transcontinental railroad on May 10, 1869. Normally, there is a show where the driving of the golden spike is reenacted with the two replica steam engines coming from opposite ends of the track and stopping in front of the audience. However, we found out that the show closes for the winter about the end of September. In place of the show, you can go on a tour of the building where the locomotives are parked in the winter so that routine maintenance can be carried out as well as any repairs that need to be made. Old Number 119 and the Jupiter looked as if they had just come from the show room floor.

Soon, it was time to reload the van and head back to Salt Lake City. It was getting close to supertime and grumbling could be heard about the van as people expressed a desire to stop for a bite to eat. Of course, when asked what they preferred, everybody came back with "It doesn't make any difference to me." We finally decided on a Cracker Barrel, mainly because it was close to the freeway and would be an easy off, easy back on location. Soon, we were on our way back to the hotel. We finally made it back to our hotel. It didn't take us long to load Gil's trailer once he had backed it into the hallway outside the research room. I don't think there were any late night gatherings in the hotel lobby that night.

Monday morning, several of us once again bumped into each other in the hotel restaurant. After eating, we said our final good-byes and wished everyone a safe and sane trip home.

The following is a list of those who attended the Salt Lake City meeting. The list is arranged by family groups and then alphabetically within the family groups.

0484	Lynn & Jim Shelley	Springfield, MO	ann790ga/SH755NC
0386	Ann Lavinia Alford	Columbus, MS	BYN787GA/ISH755NC
0059	Don Alford	Melbourne, FL	DAV785VA/ROB760EN
0832	Janet Alford Hemby	Houston, TX	DAV785VA/ROB760EN
1065	G. Morris Myers, Jr.	Hot Springs, AR	DAV785VA/ROB760EN
0020	Lee Ann Turner	Newhope, AR	DAV785VA/ROB760EN
0673	Carolyn & Will Saunders	Horseshoe Bay, TX	EDW792NC/JAM687VA
0129	George & Verna Alford	Ogden, UT	GEO838NC!!!!!!NC
0421	Dan & Betty Perkins	Eugene, OR	HAY780GA!!!!!!GA
1095	Lucy Dodd Eastham	Houston, TX	ISA782NC/JAM687VA
1050	Doris Ross Johnston	Grand Prairie, TX	ISA782NC/JAM687VA
0717	Mary V. Alford	Highlands, NC	JAC781NC/JAM687VA
1177	Holly Alford Coffey	Pfafftown, NC	JAC781NC/JAM687VA
0664	Mike & Betty Heazel, Jr.	Severna Park, MD	JOH795VA/JOH696MD
0230	Max & Earline Alford	Mesquite, TX	JOH801NC!!!!!!NC
1197	Rochelle & Allen Brewer	Redlands, CA	JOH801NC!!!!!!NC
1175	Velta & Rhett Brown	Hesperia, CA	JOH801NC!!!!!!NC
0666	Peggy & Walter Schuster	Richardson, TX	JOH801NC!!!!!!NC
1205	Sandra Schuster	Houston, TX	JOH801NC!!!!!!NC
0303	Doris & Buzz Vetri	Mount Laurel, NJ	JOH801NC!!!!!!NC
0019	Gil & Mary Alford, Jr.	Florissant, MO	JOH807LA/JAM687VA
1165	Mac & Marie Bateman	Mt. Hermon, LA	JOH807LA/JAM687VA
0537	Vesta G. Bowden	Houston, TX	JOH807LA/JAM687VA
1142	Mildred J. Brock Breeland	Tylertown, MS	JOH807LA/JAM687VA
0335	Seanne Carrigan	Walnut Creek, CA	JOH807LA/JAM687VA
0249	Jeanne & Clif Singleton	Greenwell Springs, LA	JOH807LA/JAM687VA
0064	Patricia B. Smith	McComb, MS	JOH807LA/JAM687VA
0120	Sally & Dick Stoewer	Baton Rouge, LA	JOH807LA/JAM687VA

1115	Grace & Kelly Brown	West Jordan, UT	JOH811EN/ROB699EN
0904	Helen & Bob Steele	Lakewood, CO	JOS816LA/JAM687VA
0622	Ruth Eager Moran	Oklahoma City, OK	lav806va/JOH696MD
0633	Dick & Connie Alford	Lewiston, ID	ORI806NY/BEN619EN
0926	Richard H. Alvord	Simi Valley, CA	THA781MA/ALE627ENV
0001	Alicia & Dan Houston	Monroeville, PA	THO802VA/JOH696MD
0563	Elroy & Jan Alford, Sr.	Spencer, OK	TOM860OK/INDIAN
0855	Sam & Anita Wilson, Jr.	Desoto, TX	TUR800NC/JAM687VA
0534	Dick & Nelda Alford	West Columbia, TX	WIL780VA/!!!!!!VA
0715	Ramona Alford Darden	Houston, TX	WIL787GA/JAM687VA
0738	Jessie M. Adams	Abilene, TX	WIL787NC/JAM687VA
1203	Sherrie & Chris Hall	Ogden, UT	WIL787NC/JAM687VA
1129	Jim & Sue Adams	Marietta, GA	WIL799MA/CT!!!!!!
1132	Robert L. Merritt	Corvallis, OR	WIL804GA/JAM687VA
0049	Roberta & Milt Folds	Decatur, GA	WIL812GA/JAM687VA
	Adam Weber	Ogden, UT	WIL787NC/JAM687VA
	Jessica Weber	Ogden, UT	WIL787NC/JAM687VA
	Liz Chapman Coddling	Edmond, OK	
	Marion Honsinger	Starkville, MS	
	Judy K. Johnson	Bellair, TX	
	Doris Scanlon	Sunset, UT	

I hope you have not been too bored with this report. All comments, both positive and negative, concerning this report are welcome. Can't wait until October, 2003.