

## **PRESIDENT'S PRECEPT**

### **ATTENTION ALL HANDS! NOW HEAR THIS!**

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The first annual meeting of the Alford American Family Association held in Atlanta on October 15 was a great success. As you may know, the meeting was called on somewhat short notice and many could not change previous plans in order to attend. But what we lacked in numbers was made up by the enthusiasm, cooperativeness, knowledge, and competence of those who were there. The superb arrangements for the meeting were made by our on-the-spot member, Roberta Alford Folds, assisted by her helpful husband, Milton. The arrangements could not have been better. But frosting on the cake was the lovely buffet supper put on by Roberta and Milton at their gracious home Friday evening before the meeting for all attendees. The spirit and camaraderie engendered were amazing. For Robena and Milton, we all give a rousing and standing ovation!

For our meeting sessions on Saturday, our efficient Executive Assistant, Gil Alford, had prepared a varied, interesting and demanding agenda. While we did not exactly zip through the agenda, we were completed by noon and covered all items. Some decisions were made while other items were discussed without any decisions necessary. These agenda items with action taken or not taken are outlined in this issue of AAFA ACTION. But let me mention a few issues that stand out in my mind. For the coming year, we want to focus our attention on building our membership base and pooling our efforts towards Alford research.

One decision we made was to hold our next annual meeting in East Texas, probably in October. A committee is already working on the arrangements, and don't be surprised if the location turns out to be the western part of East Texas, namely Central Texas. Gil will concentrate publicity in Texas for the next meeting, and we believe this will be a great help in building our membership since that state has by far the largest number of Alfords in the population, about twice as many as the next two runner-up States, California and Florida.

A consensus developed at the meeting that we can accomplish much more in Alford research if we proceed on a broad front in a concerted effort by all or nearly all of our members. Our Genealogist-Historian, Nancy Alford Dietrich, is working on a research plan for the Association, which she will present to the members. We request your participation and cooperation with Nancy as she develops plans for this most important effort of AAFA.

Finally, while many of us have laughed at and ridiculed claims that Alfords have similar physical characteristics, I was astounded at the meeting to see some of the attendees with the same peculiar upper eyelid skin folds as is common in my line of Alfords! Maybe this, like beauty, is in the eyes of the beholder. But what was not simply my imagination was the spirit and chemistry which prevailed among us who, except for spouses, had never seen each other before. In my six hour drive back to my home on the coast of Georgia, I was full of euphoria about the meeting and prospects for AAFA.

In that spirit. let me send best wishes for all in the Holiday Season, and I look forward to working with you and serving as your President in 1989.

Lodwick H. Alford, AAFA President