



Sarah Alford Thornhill
1936 - 2001

Sarah Alford Thornhill

Sept 30, 1936 – May 21, 2001
AAFA #0079

**Sarah Kay Alford
Thornhill**
(1936-2001)
AAFA #0079

TYLERTOWN TIMES
Tylertown, MS May 2001

Funeral services for Dr. Sarah Kay Alford Thornhill, 64, of Baton Rouge and Tylertown, were May 24, 2001, at Broadmoor Baptist Church in Baton Rouge with Dr. John Goodwill officiating, followed by grave side services at Tylertown Cemetery.

Dr. Thornhill died May 21, at her residence in Baton Rouge. She was born Sept. 30, 1936, at Tylertown, daughter of the late Joseph Hardy and Katherine Kyzar Alford. A brother, William Kyzar Alford, also preceded her in death. She is survived by her husband of 43 years, John W. Thornhill; a daughter and son-in-law, Amy and John Gould of Dallas, Tex.; one son and daughter-in-law, Gary and Denise Thornhill of Baton Rouge; a sister, Virginia Knippers of Tylertown; a brother, Joe Alford of Jayess; and five grandchildren, Katie, Kara and Kristen Gould, and Elyse and Baylie Thornhill.

Dr. Thornhill was the department head of the Baton Rouge Campus of Southeastern University College of Nursing and Health Services. She was a Christian and a member of Broadmoor Baptist Church.

"Southeastern has lost a great

professional and friend. She was a role model for faculty and aspiring young nurses. She was known nationally and internationally as an authority in nursing education. Dr. Thornhill was scheduled to go to Denmark to make a presentation at the International Council of Nurses. Kay was even more than a great professional. She was an extraordinary lady who positively touched thousands of lives. Southeastern will be forever grateful for her extreme capacity to care for others. We will miss her beyond words," Sally Clausen, president, Southeastern Louisiana University, said. Dr. Thornhill received her Ph.D. from Louisiana State University in 1991. She was a 1957 graduate of Gilfoy School of Nursing, Mississippi Baptist Hospital; received a Bachelor of Science from the University of Tennessee in nursing in 1974; and a Masters degree in nursing administration from the University of Southern Mississippi in 1978. She was certified by the American Nurse Credentialing Center in Nursing Administration Advanced, Texas A&M Research Center for Distance Learning, Louisiana Board of Secondary and Elementary Schools as a Level A Evaluator, and licensed as a Registered Nurse.

She received the Excellence in Leadership Award, Gamma Lambda Chapter, Sigma Theta Tau International, University of Southern Mississippi in 1996, and was named Outstanding

Professional Achievement, one of 25 nurses, by the Baton Rouge District Nurses Association in 1994. Since 1995 she was named Program Evaluator for the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission: National League for Nursing Council of Baccalaureate and Higher Degree Programs. In 1989 she was an invited member of Phi Kappa Phi, and in 1974 she was listed in Who's Who Among American Colleges and Universities. Dr. Thornhill held membership in the Louisiana Organization of Nurse Executives, SLU Honor Society of Nursing, National League for Nursing, Sigma Theta Tau National Honor Nursing Society, Phi Kappa Phi, and the American Nurses Association, serving as Baton Rouge District Nurses Association president from 1997-1999, and two terms as first vice president.

She served as a member of the Louisiana State Nursing Association Continuing Education Committee, a member of Louisiana Council of Nurse Educators, a member of the SLU Honor Society of Nursing, and was an elected member of the Louisiana State Nurses Association Board of Directors.

She was well known for several presentations, and had been scheduled to give two presentations in Copenhagen, Denmark, this month. Among her presentations were "Preparing

Graduates for a Professional Nursing Career," "A Consortium Model: Distance Learning for Graduate Nursing Education," "The Utilization of a Clinical Practice Critical Thinking Process Model to Improve Professional Nurses' Patient Care Interventions and Outcomes," and "Clinical Practice Incidences Initiating Critical Thinking Processes." In addition to the Denmark presentations, her presentations had been made to meetings in Nashville, Tenn., Indianapolis, Ind., San Diego, Calif., Baton Rouge and other locations. She was the author of several manuscripts and publications.

Dr. Thornhill attended many continuing education programs and was responsible for submitting several grant applications.

Memorial donations may be made to Sarah Kay Alford Thornhill Nursing Scholarship, Southeastern Development Foundation, SLU 10450, Hammond, LA 70402. Pallbearers were nephews, Cletus Alford, Jamie Alford, Benji Alford, Brad Alford, Kyzar Alford and Gerald Planche.

Burial was in Tylertown Cemetery with Rabenhorst Funeral Home and Capps Funeral Home in charge.

(Space exceeding Times policy paid for by the family)

A tribute to Dr. Kay Thornhill
(The following was written by Barbara Lowe, a friend, Sunday School teacher and colleague in nursing, as a tribute to Dr. Kay Thornhill.)

When I think of Dr. Kay Thornhill, I have a mental picture of a very gracious lady with many talents. I had the privilege of getting to know Kay through my Sunday School and Church and through our professional association-nursing. When asked to share with you some of Kay's accomplishments, I spoke with a number of her friends and colleagues who had the following to say:

-She was an exemplary Professional Nurse who came up

through the ranks, having earned a Diploma in Nursing, a Bachelor of Science in Nursing, a Master of Science in Nursing and a Ph.D. She assumed many roles through the years including Staff Nurse, faculty member at Our Lady of the Lake School of Nursing, and at Southeastern Louisiana University, Assistant Professor, Associate Professor and Full Professor. She taught both undergraduate and graduate students. In recent years, Kay moved into administration. She served as Director of the Graduate Program in Nursing at Southeastern prior to her most recent appointment as Department Head of Southeastern Louisiana University College of Nursing and Health Sciences, Baton Rouge Campus.

-Kay was a Visionary-one of the first in the community back in the early 70's to recognize the need for nurses to pursue advanced education that would improve patient care and advance the profession.

-She was an innovative teacher...always saw ways to make things better!

-Kay was very active in her professional organization by assuming leadership roles. For example, she served as Secretary, Second Vice President and President of the Baton Rouge District Nurses Association.

-She has distinguished herself by receiving numerous awards from the University as well as professional Organizations. In 1994 she received recognition as an Outstanding Nurse, an award presented by peers.

-She was a long-term member of Sigma Theta Tau, National Honor Society in Nursing.

-Kay was a frequent presenter at local, state, national and international meetings. She was scheduled to make two poster presentations in Copenhagen, - Denmark, in June 2001; One of these was titled "Clinical Practice Incidences Triggering Critical Thinking Processes: What Nurses Experience." The second was "A Consortium Education Model: Distance Learning Initiative for Graduate Nursing Education."

-She was also involved in writing grant proposals and was successful in obtaining funding to accomplish things like Distance Learning for Graduate Nurses in the state and region.

-Kay is also remembered for her appreciation of history. It is said that her appreciation of the past helped with her acquisition of a Commemorative Nursing Art Collection that will be enjoyed by many for years to come at Southeastern Louisiana University, College of Nursing. Perhaps this appreciation for the past helped her to be the visionary that she was. She frequently reminded the faculty to "Look at the Big Picture." Through her leadership role and innovation, she guided the faculty in developing a new curriculum.

-She was a respected evaluator with the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission. In this role she participated in the evaluation of the quality of education in other nursing programs throughout the country.

In summary, she was described as the Epitome of Professionalism...a very caring person...a mentor for many over the past several years. So while we grieve at our loss, it is comforting to me to visualize Kay in her new home.

John MacArthur Jr. has this to say about Heaven: "In Heaven we will not spend our time Bitting on the edge of a cloud and playing a harp, or strolling the golden streets, or in picking flowers in a massive celestial garden. We will be busier than we have ever been, yet will do perfect work and never grow tired. We will each fulfill the inheritance God has given us and yet rest at the same time. God has built into human nature a drive to accomplish a goal and objective. One of life's greatest pleasures is satisfaction over a job well done."

Kay's family and friends recognize the joy she derived from her work here on earth, and the satisfaction of knowing she had done a good job. This was a part of her nature. It is so hard for us to understand many things that

happen...like the sudden loss of a dear wife, mother, friend. No, I don't have the answer, but would like to leave two verses of scripture with you.

Romans 8:28: "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose."

Psalms 46:1: "God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble."

Alford Ancestors of Sarah Kay Alford Thornhill

1. **Sarah Kay Alford** born Sep 30 1936, Tylertown, Walthall County, MS, occupation nurse +, married **John W. Thornhill**. Sarah died May 21 2001, Baton Rouge, East Baton Rouge Parish, LA.

Parents

2. **Joseph Hardy Alford** born 1901, Pike Co., MS, married Feb 7 1925, in Walthall Co., MS, 3. **Katherine Kyzar**.

Grandparents

4. **Thomas Lafayette Alford** born Dec 15 1870, Mississippi, married Dec 2 1899, in Pike Co., MS, 5. **Lillie Rushing**, born Nov 1877, Mississippi, died 1915. Thomas died 1910.

Great Grandparents

8. **Sebastian "Bass" Alford** born about 1831, Pike Co., MS, occupation Watch Repair Shop Owner, married (1) Rosalene D. Williams, born Jan 14 1847, died Dec 10 1917, buried: Centerville Cemetery, Walthall County MS, married (2) 9. **Stayra Leonard**, born about 1835, Mississippi. We need more events and dates in his life. He was enumerated with his parents in 1850 and 1860 Pike County, suggesting he went back to live with them after the death of his first wife. In 1860 he was listed as a Teacher.

Great Great Grandparents

16. **William Alford** born about 1804, Georgia, married about 1828, 17. **Eveline Ginn**, born about 1809, Mississippi. William died after 1860, Pike Co., MS. After they were married they lived in the Progress Community of Pike County which is the area in which older brother Edwin Alford lived. Very little is known about him but his descendants are "documented" in what was probably an unpublished work by Marie Luter Upton called GINN & KIN.

3rd Great Grandparents

32. **Jacob Alford** born Aug 15 1761, Bute Co., NC, occupation farmer, married (1) about 1780, in North Carolina, Elizabeth Bryant, born Jun 20 1765, died 1789-92, Cumberland Co., NC, married (2) about 1792, in Cumberland Co., NC, 33. **Frances Seaborn**, born about 1766, Virginia, died after 1860, Washington Parish, LA. Jacob died Jul 16 1824, Washington Parish, LA.

Though born in Bute Co., NC, Jacob lived in Franklin Co. after some reorganization of counties and later moved to Cumberland Co. where he was enumerated in 1790. Before 1795 he moved to Montgomery Co., GA where tax and land records show he lived until about 1806. By 1807 he was in Louisiana where his twin sons were born. Louisiana land records prove that he had settled on land in what was to become Washington Parish by December 1807. He was given headrights on 641.32 acres in what was to become Section 54 with the north boundary on what was to become the state line and the eastern boundary on the Bogue Chitto River. In the 1820 census he was in St. Tammany Parish, LA. 1850 census shows several children were born in Georgia.

4th Great Grandparents

64. **Julius Alford** born Sep 1717, St. Peter's Parish, New Kent Co., VA, occupation farmer, married 65. **Lucy**, died after 1790. Julius

died 1771, Bute Co., NC.

5th Great Grandparents

128. **James Alford** born about 1687, probably New Kent Co., VA, died about 1730, New Kent Co., VA. Birth and death dates are estimates based on other recorded events in New Kent County, VA in the St. Peter's Parish Register. PLEASE NOTE: It is not proven that he was the son of John Alford but there is some circumstantial evidence indicating that he is.

6th Great Grandparents

256. **John Alford** born about 1645, probably Virginia, died Mar 14 1710, New Kent Co., VA.

