

Owen Warren Alford

Apr 2 1907 - Apr 5 1991

AAFA #0321

Owen Warren Alford

By Bob Alford Sterling
AAFA Member #320
Grandson of Owen Alford

Owen Warren Alford was among the third generation of Alfords in Alabama. His grandfather, Alexander Marshall, settled in Winston County, Alabama, in the late 1870s. Owen was born as John Warren's third child April 2, 1907. He married Mary Jane Miller in Walker County, Alabama, July 21, 1928.

The Alfords farmed the area near Houston, Alabama, for many years. In the 1920s and 1930s, Owen and his brother Marshall broke with the family tradition of farmers and against the advice of their father, entered into the lumber business. Marshall later became the Postmaster of Houston, Alabama while Owen continued in the lumber business. Things were slow during the 1930s, but following World War II, business picked up. In the early 1950s, the lumber mill was permanently located on Highway 278 between Addison and Double Springs. About that time, the addition of a planer reduced the distance area residents had to drive to purchase finished lumber. By then, Owen's wife Mary had stopped teaching school and became Alford Lumber Company's full time office manager. Other employees included

two of Owen's sons-in-law, brothers Carl and Lanier Godsey.

A life long Democrat, Owen Alford served for a term as one of Winston County's road commissioners. He was interested for a time in raising cattle. He invested in the mobile home industry which became big business in the area in the 1960s. He continued to be active in the lumber business until he turned it over to Carl and Lanier in the 1970s.

Owen was an avid fisherman for a large part of his life and could be found on

the Tennessee River from time to time in the 1940s and 1950s. In the early 1960s, the Tennessee Valley Authority built a hydroelectric dam in Walker County which backed up water onto part of Owen's landholdings. That reduced considerably the distance he had to travel to indulge in a favorite hobby. Later, after wife Mary proved to be better at fishing, Owen turned more of his attention to hunting. He owned a succession of prized hunting dogs. Area squirrels and raccoons were not safe as long as Owen hunted. The squirrels were eaten and the raccoons were skinned, the skins cured, and then sold to area hide merchants. Owen and Mary grew up to three

gardens during the growing season. That way they always had fresh vegetables during the summer. He grew some of the best watermelons in the county and had no trouble selling them to local grocery stores.

Owen was interested in the Alford family history and spent many years trying to locate the grave of his Great Grandfather Spire Alford. Spire is buried somewhere in East Texas in the Cornett Community near Daingerfield and Marietta, Texas. Owen got to walk over the land which use to belong to his Great Grandfather, but he died never knowing the precise location of Spire's final resting place. The search continues.

On March 8th, 1991, Owen suffered a sudden cerebral hemorrhage. Friday April 5th, around 3:30 in the morning and three days after his 84th birthday, Owen Warren Alford died. He is buried at the Houston United Methodist Church in Winston County, Alabama. His grandfather Alexander Marshall is buried on a hill across the road. Owen's father John Warren is buried a mile or so away at Pleasant Hill.

[See also Owen Alford's obituary in this issue.]

Article printed in June 1991 AAFA ACTION

**OWEN WARREN
ALFORD
AAFA Member #321**

Sent by Member #320 Bob Sterling

[See also biography of Owen Alford in this issue.]

THE CULLMAN TIMES
Cullman, AL-? Apr 1991

Funeral services for Owen Warren Alford, 84, of Houston will be today at 3 p.m. at Houston Memorial United Methodist Church. Burial will be in the adjoining cemetery, Kilgore - Green Funeral Home directing.

The body will lie in state one hour before the service.

Mr. Alford died at Carraway Methodist Hospital Friday.

He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Mary Alford of Houston; four daughters, Mrs. Peggy Owens and Mrs. Evelyn Sterling, both of Addison, Mrs. Betty Godsey and Mrs. Owene Godsey, both of Houston; brother, Marshall Alford of Houston; sister, Myrtie Hunter of Houston; 11 grandchildren and 25 greatgrandchildren.

[Bob Sterling adds: "To be historically correct, it should be pointed out that Owen had only 10 grandchildren. The eleventh was a great niece who lived with the Betty Godsey family for many years. Because of that, we unhesitatingly count her and her two children as part of the group."]

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Owen Alford 0321
b. Apr 2 1907 & d.
Lived in Houston, AL
Family ZAD787GA/JAM687VA
Attended 1 meeting(s).

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

OWN
321

Your name OWEN WARREN ALFORD Date of birth 4/2/1907
Family members to be included in membership:
Spouse MARY JANE MILLER ALFORD Date of birth 1/2/1908
Child under 21 _____ Date of birth _____
Child under 21 _____ Date of birth _____
Child under 21 _____ Date of birth _____
Mailing address: STAR ROUTE
HOUSTON, AL 35572 Phone (205) 489-5718

Tear off and mail with \$18 to: AAFA, P.O. Box 1586, Florissant, MO 63031