



Thelma Alford Harman

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Feb 25, 1923 - Jan 28, 2003

AAFA #0397

Thelma Frieda Alford Harman (1923-2003) AAFA #0397

Gone but Not Forgotten by Doris Alford Vetri

Thelma Frieda Alford Harman -
Feb 25, 1923 - Jan 28, 2003
#0397 AAFA member since 1991

Second child born to Frieda
Holzmuller (1902 Germany) and
James Luther Alford (1898 Texas)
Feb 25, 1923, Rhawnhurst, PA
She was premature and was only 2
lb. My mother would tell of how
she would put hot water bottles
around her. She was born at home
and cared for in home. It took her
a full year to get to the normal
weight of a newborn.

She graduated from Olney High
School, Philadelphia, PA. 1940
And was employed at the
Philadelphia Navy Yard during the
war. She was a happy go lucky
kind of gal. Enjoyed life to the
fullest.

When she was in her late
twenties she met and married
Robert Harman Sep. 30, 1950.
They lived in Sellersville, PA and
had 7 children; Robert 1951,
Patricia 1953, Diana 1956, Mark
1958, Michael 1959, Roger 1961
and George 1963. Mother to 7
children and 18 grandchildren.

She was a housewife and mother
though out her married life. When
her husband retired they bought a
motor home and traveled for

several years. They found Mesa,
AZ and decided this was the place
to put down and stay out their
remaining years. They both
enjoyed the warm (sometimes hot)
weather. After Bob passed away
Jan 24, 2000, she remained in her
home in Mesa, AZ. Buzz and I
visited several times and found her
happy and content with life.

She went on a cruise to Mexico
in 2001. After returning home, her
friends urged her to go to a doctor
as she had lost weight. (who losses
weight on a cruise) She was
diagnosed with stomach cancer.
She was in a hospice in AZ when
we visited in October after the
AAFA meeting in SLC. She was
doing good and continued to say
that nothing was wrong with her.
She decided against any
treatments. She was so good, that
the hospice house left her go
home. At that time she went to
live with her son Roger in Iola,
TX. I spoke to her at Christmas
and like always she said "I am fine
and they are really good to me
here." This would be the last time I
would talk to her. She passed
away Jan 28, 2003 in the home of
her son. Her body was returned to
AZ and she rests in peace with her
husband at the Valley of the Sun
Mortuary Chapel, Chandler, AZ.

Thelma was my older sister by
12 years. She and my mother were
very close when Thelma was a
young woman dating. Many a
night they would be sitting around
the table talking and laughing.
She kind of looked for the rainbow

in life and didn't let the dark side
of things stay with her. She was a
helpful and strong companion and
mother. The glue that keeps the
family together. May she rest in
peace.

She was a member of AAFA
since 1991. Always enjoyed
reading about the Alford's.

Alford Ancestors of Thelma Frieda Alford Harman

1. **Thelma Frieda Alford** born
Feb 25 1923, Philadelphia, PA,
married Sep 30 1950, **Robert
Frederick Harman**, born Feb 8
1924. Thelma died Jan 28 2003,
Iola, Grimes Co., TX.

Parents

2. **James Luther Alford** born
Mar 29 1898, Franklin Co., TX,
married (1) Jul 14 1918, in Bexar
County, Texas, Eula Mae
Williams, married (2) May 17
1920, in Elkton, Cecil Co, MD, 3.
Frieda K. Holzmuller, born Dec
26 1902, Germany, died Feb 26
1987, Sellersville, Bucks Co., PA.
James died Jul 14 1949,
Pennsylvania, buried: William
Penn Cemetery, Philadelphia, PA.
James was twin of Lucy Jane.

Grandparents

4. **George Washington Alford**
born Jan 18 1855, Greene Co., AL,
occupation farmer, married Jan 6
1876, in Lauderdale Co., MS, 5.

Mary Henretta "Mollie" Warren, born Oct 10 1858, Mississippi, died Feb 14 1942, Dallas Co., TX. George died Nov 26 1909, Franklin Co., TX, buried: Bethel Cemetery, Good Hope, Franklin Co. In 1880, George was enumerated in Neshoba Co., Ms.

In 1882, George and his family migrated to Texas with Mollie's father and his family-looking for work with the railroad. They first stayed in Cleburn, Johnson County, Texas, but it is said the water didn't agree with Mollie. George went to the railroad station and asked to go as far east in Texas as his money would take him. George, Mollie and their children took the train to Scroggins, Franklin County Texas - 10 miles east of Winnsboro in 1898. On the train George met a Mr. Templeton, owner of several rent farms in Franklin County, who offered one to George to work on "halves." The Alford and Templeton families remained good friends throughout their lives.

George moved his family several times but in early 1900 they bought 140 acres near Winnsboro, Texas, and this was to be their permanent home. George never got to appreciate being a land owner, for he died in 1909 from gall bladder surgery complications in the new Mt. Vernon Hospital at the age of 54. Mollie and George had 14 children but four of them died in infancy. Mollie was left to raise six children under the age of 16 by herself. She led what must have been a hard but active life and died at the age of 83 in Dallas, TX.

George and his family were listed in the 1880 Neshoba County, MS census and then in 1900-1920 in Franklin County, Texas. In 1900 his nephew, Andrew J. Alford, was enumerated with the family. In 1920 he being deceased, "Mollie" was the head of the house. In the 1910 census Beulah May Alford was enumerated with Mary Alford and this family but she was the daughter of George Callicutte and

Annie Alford.

Great Grandparents

8. **John Madison Alford** born Aug 7 1826, Georgia, married (1) Apr 6 1854, in Greene Co., AL, 9. **Sarah Cornelia Rainey**, born Nov 6 1836, Alabama, died 1858/60, Greene Co., AL, married (2) Sep 6 1860, in Lauderdale Co., MS, Sarah Frances Cooper, born Apr 8 1836, Lauderdale Co, MS, died Feb 8 1910, Neshoba Co., MS, buried: Henry's Chapel Cemetery, Neshoba Co. MS. John died Mar 29 1892, Neshoba Co., MS, buried: Henry's Chapel Cemetery, Neshoba Co., MS. John was enumerated in 1850 in Noxubee Co., MS, with the John Cammett family. He was listed as age 24 born in Alabama - rather than GA as shown in the 1880 census. In 1860, he was enumerated in Newton Co., MS, as Aulford, 34, born GA. In 1870, he was still in Newton Co., MS, age 48 born in GA. In 1880 he was in Neshoba Co, MS, born in GA. His nickname was "Jack," according to his grandson, Andrew Jackson Alford (Source-Alive and Good to Know, p. 60) CA1950 Andrew Jackson Alford and his son, Roy, visited at the old church and Uncle Jack was invited to preach in the same spot where his grandfather, JMA, had preached in his day.

It's thought that he was a private in Company B., 8th Mississippi Regiment. He was with a unit at the final surrender at Citronella, Alabama. However, there seems to be some conflict between what's found in the soldiers record and what's in the pension file. Until several J. M. Alford records can be reviewed this is an open item.

"Jack Alford, 1830ca, was left an orphan while small. He and his siblings were taken in by various families. Jack was sent to an uncle in Georgia, their home state. He ran away and went to Missobia (sic) County, MS, where he found a sister with the family that had taken her. His first

marriage occurred there." (Source: Alive and Good to Know, p. 60, by Gerald Virtrue Post; an interview with Andrew Jackson Alford in Pickton, TX, March 1954.)

"Family Lore:" James Henry Alford always told this story. JMA's parents died when the children were at home (some small). The children were divided among relatives. The uncle that took John Madison was not good to him so he ran away from home, the first time at the age of 10. They found him and took him back home. He stayed until he got to the age of 14 or 15 years old, then ran away again. This time they let him go. He made his living the best he could. One day he went to a carnival with some boys. They noticed a bunch of girls and decided to go over and get acquainted. John Madison picked out a redhead and told the boys you can have the rest of them, but the one with the red hair is mine. He went over and introduced himself. She was Frances Alford, his sister, that was the way they found each other."

Great Great Grandparents

16. **John Alford** born about 1801, North Carolina, married died Alabama ?? . John had two contemporary "namesakes" in Mississippi whose families should not be confused with this one. There was a John Alford born about 1801 in Carroll County, MS and he apparently came from the same area of Alabama as our John did. There was a John Alford born 1816 in North Carolina who lived in Neshoba County, Mississippi.

It's supposed that the John Alford enumerated in Pickens County, AL in 1830 is our subject. There is a close fit with the children but it is not exact:

*Two documents define the children of this family. The first was a note ca1940's sent to the late Herman Alford from his Aunt Manza Tingle (1869-1951), daughter of John Madison Alford. She identified John Alford as the

head of the family and listed children John Madison father of Warren Alford (father of Herman); George Wash, Noxubee Co at Macon, Miss; Julius A., Rankin Co., Rollah Miss; and Duke Alford who died in Civil War.

The other evidence is a set of estate papers of George Washington Alford:

The administrator's final accounting sworn to the court June 24, 1880 identified the brothers and sisters of G. W. Alford to be J. M. Alford who resides in Neshoba County, Mrs. Frances S. Alexander and her husband J. F. Alexander who reside in Kemper County, Julius Alford who resides in Hinds County, Marmaduke Alford who was last heard from at the seige of Vicksburg and who removed from there to the state of Texas; a decedent sister, Adeline Sims, who formerly lived in Simpson County.

Included in the papers was a letter from J. M. Alford to his dear friend R. G. Rives. He makes reference to the "as state" of brother G. W. Alford and said his sister died long before the war and brother Duke had not been heard of since the war. He's asking R. G. Rieve to act for him to straighten out the estate.

There is also a 1885 court record responding to a petition by Jno M. Alford, Frances Alixander, Julius C. Alford of Hempstead County, AR. The document refers to Marmaduke Alford and sister Adeline Goodwin who married after death of first husband Thomas Sims.

*Peggy Alford Schuster provided this information. She reaches these conclusions because of: 1. The note would probably have been from his aunt, Manza Alford Tingle (1869-1951) who lived in Mississippi. She was the daughter of John Madison Alford and his second wife, Sarah Frances Cooper. Herman's father was Warren, brother to Aunt Manza and son of John Madison Alford.

2. The George Wash of

Noxubee Co., Miss., is a brother to John Madison. The George Wash who died in Franklin Co., Tx at the hospital in Mt. Vernon was the son of John Madison.

3. Jimmie Alford who died in Caddo, OK was the son of John Madison.