



Alford American Family Association, Inc.

WE ARE FAMILY !

AAFA OnLine Newsletter

(response should be addressed to alford_staff@alfordassociation.org)

May 31 2013 (revised & sent June 7)

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1 Non-Editorial Comments From The Editor



Gil Alford, AFAA President,
San Antonio, TX 1999

*I am helping out as the interim editor of the newsletter. I believe that two-way communication with the membership is of the utmost importance and I believe that the membership should be as well informed about AFAA activity as possible. If you agree with me and have ideas or suggestions please send an email to the above address. Through-out this issue there are requests, suggestions, or subtle hints that **we would like to hear from you**. As an alternative to sending an email to the address above, a better idea would be to send a message to our companion group at Yahoo called "About_Alfords."*

I no longer hold any official position of authority in the association so what I write here will not be officially official, but I will never try to misrepresent things or write contrary to what I think is AFAA policy or in the best interest of the association. I alone am responsible for the content (unless attributed to another) and have not sought approval from any member of the board or executive committee. I call these "non-editorial" just in case I get an itch to editorialize something some day.

You are likely to find more stuff here than you care to read. Just glance over the titles or headers and take your choice. It is a "Heinz 57" by design.

IMPORTANT

*We propose to deliver the next, and all subsequent issues of the newsletter via email with a pdf attachment containing the actual newsletter. Yahoo limits any one transaction, all of message components, content, and attachments, to 15 megabytes. It is possible that some subscriber Internet service imposes an even lower limit. **If your system does not accommodate 15 mb attachments please let us know ASAP** so that we can prepare an alternative. In addition to the attachment, each issue will be posted to the website, and the email transmitting it will provide details as to where to find and print or save (download).*

"Yahoo Groups limits messages to a size no larger than 15 MBs. This size limit includes all components of an email: The message text, attachment, headers, etc. Files with following extensions will not be delivered to a group by Yahoo - .exe, .vps, .pif, .scr, and .bat.

"A PDF attachment would work within the size limitations imposed by Yahoo Groups. I would think viruses would not be a problem since the newsletter is a one way communications set up. As an alternative, we could post the file on the Yahoo Groups web site and add a link in the message for the file" – **President Max Alford**

This proposed change providing you with a PDF attachment will give us near unlimited capabilities. It is similar to what we had in mind when it was first suggested that we go digital with the AFAA quarterly, and it is what we were thinking when we said the newsletter could take the place of the quarterly as the latter was phased out. Next month readers will be able to just glance at an item and either ignore, look closer, read, print and/or download (save).

See the article at the end of the newsletter about things likely to be coming. What would you add to those listed?

– Gil Alford - Interim Editor

2 Happy Memorial Day to all!

(For more see http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Memorial_Day)

A **belated** :) greeting (unless you still use the old date like some folks do).

Memorial Day is a day of remembering the men and women who **died** while serving in the United States Armed Forces. It began in the 1860's after the Civil War in both the north and south and was known as Decoration Day. The first well known observance came on May 1, 1865 in Charleston, SC, at the old Charleston Race Course where 257 Union prisoners died and were hastily buried. Together with teachers and missionaries, black residents of Charleston organized the ceremony.

By 1882 Decoration Day had gradually become known as Memorial Day. It did not become more common until after World War II, and was not official until Federal law named it such in 1967. In 1968 Congress passed the Uniform Monday Holiday Act, which changed four holidays from their traditional date to a specified Monday in order to create a more convenient three-day weekend. Some are still fighting that. Other holidays changed were Washington's birthday, Columbus day, and Veteran's day.

Those who did not give their life for their country and are buried as well as the living who served are now remembered on Veteran's Day__ but that is another story.

Who are your Alford ancestors who died in Military Service? Why don't you share some information about them and tell us about your memories of them or what you have been told about them.

Would you believe that I have no direct Alford ancestor who served in the military? Do you? Be thinking about them. In a future issue we will talk about getting copies of military and pension records.

Of course some of us are still living and we probably don't qualify as folks to be remembered. Have we done all we can to inform our loved ones, kin, and even kin to come, about our service? I know I have not. I am not suggesting that we be memorialized or honored in any way. Just that we *document* that piece of our history. I have most of the documents and stuff collected and arranged in binders, but that is about as far as I get. In some__way when memorial day comes around__I have something of a guilt feeling or am ashamed that my life was spared in my 13 years of active military service. But I remember reading something years ago that reported that for every soldier fighting on the front there were seven more soldiers somewhere "in the rear" providing support for them. I was never at the front or even assigned to a unit at the front, but then I was never asked where I wanted to be. After those of us in this category pass on we will not be officially remembered on Memorial Day, but we certainly want to be remembered.

If you are the veteran then get with it now. If you are not the vet– If your spouse, or close kin was a veteran and his service is not well publicly documented there is not better time to begin the work. Why don't some of you other vets and I work together on this to encourage, and maybe *shame*, each other into fixing something that will share our experience in the service. I know– I'll bet some of you have the same feelings as I do about me and Memorial Day. I did not give my life in service so it does not apply. That is true, but we did serve, we do have some military experience, and we ought to bring it to light and share. I have just about resolved that I am going to begin some of mine and either post it on the website or include them in the newsletter. How about you?

How can we do it? Let's really have some ideas from you.

3 AAFA Memorials

Speaking of “memorials” did you know that AAFA has a very good and very active memorial program for deceased members (the “Alford” and spouse). In fact I see it as one of the best benefits of AAFA membership these days. There are the original on-line memorials posted by Pam Thompson that include obituaries, In-Remembrance articles, and photographs; plus the “hard-copy” bound memorial albums maintained by Earline Alford that were created for use at the meetings. For those of you have not been to the site the following was clipped for there: *[some of the following is no longer applicable as there is no quarterly and no dues]*

4 AAFA Member Memorials

“An important segment of our membership is our deceased members. We are determined they will not be forgotten. Once a person joins AAFA, they can never get out! As long as dues are current, members are "active" and receive the quarterly publication, *AAFA ACTION*, which is mostly what dues pay for. When dues slip, members become "inactive" and cease to receive the quarterly. Inactive members do receive all other privileges of membership.

AAFA membership is by family so in many cases the deceased person is not an Alford descendant but a spouse or, rarely, a child. Their membership numbers are denoted with an s (female spouse), S (male spouse), or C (child) and no Ahnentafel is linked.

When a member dies, and AAFA is aware of the death, they are classed as deceased members. They are retained on the membership rolls, coded as deceased, and placed on these pages and in a hard copy Memorial Album maintained by Earline Alford. Memorial Albums are present at all AAFA annual meetings for viewing by members. You can see a [photo of the memorial album](#). It is a large nearly 5 mb file.

Earline (Mrs President Max) Alford does the albums and she had a report in the March newsletter. As of this writing they have digitized the content of most of the albums. Albums I - III covering members 0003- 0068 are posted to the website. Go to the link below and click YES in the first column.

<http://www.alfordassociation.org/mem.html>

A special memorial service is conducted at each meeting for our the members whose death became known during the past year.

Obituaries, In Remembrance articles, and photos were published in AAFA ACTION and are posted here (linked to first name). We need help obtaining obituaries for many of our members and would appreciate receiving any noted as "need obituary" below. If you have comments or questions or can add names or information to this file, please contact Earline at ebalford@swbell.net or you can mail to her attention at AAFA, Inc. POB 1297, Florissant, MO 63031-1297.

Those who might be inclined to send a memorial contribution for one of those listed, or for the group as a whole, may send a check payable to AAFA to Robert D. Alford, Treasurer; 1115 Fall Breeze Drive; Houston, TX 77064-4817. Please annotate it for "AAFA Memorial." “

5 Welcome to New Members

As we proceed to the new format the following will be replaced with links to the new members ahnentafel or ancestor table listed on the website. If the new members will cooperate we would like to have photographs and a family summary of their extended family (members, children & parents). *[This set-up will actually decrease some of my workload.]*

#1419 (1) Raymond Vail Johnson & Cecilia Ayala, Santa Rosa, CA:

(2) **Charles Vail Johnson** 1932 TX & (3) Marie Aurore Jacqueline Simoneau 19__ Montreal;

(4) **Herrick Vail Johnson** 1900 NC & (5) May Justice 1892 OH;

(8) Samuel Myrtle Johnson 1860 IN & (9) **Florence Ida Vail** 1864 NC;

(18) **Thomas Lodwick Vail** 1827 NC & (19) Smythia Jane Person 1827 NC;
(36) Benners Whidbee Vail 1803 NC & (37) **Mary Susan Alford** 1806 NC;
(74) **Lodwick Alford** 1768 NC & (75) Polly Hall 1785 NC;
(148) **William Alford** 1734 VA & (149) Sarah _____;
(296) **Lodwick Alford** 1710 VA & (297) Elizabeth Cade 1717 VA;
(592) **James Alford** ~1687 VA;
(1184) **John Alford** ~1645.

#1420 (1) Sharon Ann Pettit Webb, Cleburne, TX:

(2) Robert Ivan Pettit 1930 NY & **(3) Barbara Ann Marshall**;
(6) J. D. Marshall 1893 TX & **(7) Azelle Cash** 1899 TX;
(14) Osceola C. Cash 1866 GA & (15) Alma Hamilton 1879 GA;
(28) Newton Hamilton Cash 1841 GA & **(29) Mary Anne Elizabeth Alford** 1848 GA;
(58) William Henry Alford 1811 NC & (59) Sarah Elizabeth Stillwell 1809 NC;
(116) Job Alford 1763 NC & (117) Sarah Ann Turner? 1765 NC;
(232) Julius Alford 1717 VA & (233) Lucy _____;
(464) **James Alford** ~1687 VA;
(928) **John Alford** ~1645.

From an email or hers sent May 16, 2013:

"I started this last night but was interrupted by a tornado and lost my electricity last night. We had a wide one come through town and I was still without electricity when I left for work this morning. . ."

#1421 (1) Shelia Lynn Alford Means & William Taylor Means, Bedford, TX:

(2) Earnest M. Alford 1923 TX & (3) Betty Anne Church 1927 TN,
(4) Jessie Maxon Alford 1884 LA & (5) Mary Leona McMichael 1887 LA,
(8) Louis Charles Alford 1862 LA & (9) Sarah Elizabeth White 1865 LA,
(16) William H. Harrison Alford 1823 MS & (17) Mary Martha A. McDaniels 1835 LA,
(32) Edwin Barksdale Alford 1792 NC & (33) Martha Smith 1802 SC,
(64) Jacob Alford 1761 NC & (65) Frankie Seaborn 1770? VA?,
(128) Julius Alford 1771 VA & (129) Lucy _____,
(256) James Alford ~1687 VA,
(512) John Alford ~1645.

6 About_Alfords and AAFA OnLine Newsletter

This publication, the newsletter, was set up as a means for the AAFA leadership to report to the membership and to provide them with information. Some of that information might have been supplied by a member or members who wanted to share it with the Association. It was never envisioned as two way or something equipped with a reply option.

About_Alfords, though also a Yahoo Group, was set up as a discussion group whereby members, and others (only AAFA members are allowed to subscribe to the newsletter) can send an email on any subject dealing with AAFA and/or Alfords (including stuff they have seen in this newsletter). These About_Alfords emails are then sent by Yahoo to all other subscribers, which in our case, includes most__ if not all__ of the leadership. So any of us can initiate a discussion which can be read, and replied to, by all other subscribers.

We have never really taken advantage of the capabilities of this companion discussion group. Thus far this year there have been only 21 messages, including replies. I think you can expect to see a change and I do hope and encourage you to join in. See one paragraph below to subscribe.

This newsletter has 297 subscribers of which 14 are experiencing a soft bounce which means their emails are not getting through. About_Alfords has 136 subscribers of which 8 are soft bouncers. I'll try to address "bouncing" in the next issue and at the same time report the increase in About_Alford subscribers.

To subscribe to About_Alfords send an email to the address below. There is no cost or obligation (though we would appreciate seeing a message from time to time) and one can unsubscribe at anytime. No text is required in the subject or message. Note that there is an underscore or underline mark between About and Alford that may be hidden by the hyperlink coding.

About_Alfords-subscribe@YahooGroups.com

I've had the feeling for years that there are folks on both the newsletter and About_Alfords who are not getting the thing even though they are a subscriber, and are not bouncing. Further I feel that a bunch of folks who do receive the applicable email just ignore it and don't read it.

I'm going to try to work with you all to fix this situation over the next few months. For starters-- if you are a subscriber to either of these and you really are not interested -- don't plan to pay any attention to it -- etc. then why don't you do us a favor and unsubscribe. That will make it possible for the *system* to help us see things more as they are. To unsubscribe send an email to either or both of the addresses listed below-- as applicable. Don't run away mad now because I've sounded like a horse's rear to some of you. We would love to have you stay if you are interested. Remember if you use these addresses you do not need a subject or anything in the message body. There is an underscore or underline between About and Alford

aafa-oln-unsubscribe@YahooGroups.com

[About_Alfords-unsubscribe@YahooGroups.com](mailto>About_Alfords-unsubscribe@YahooGroups.com)

7 2013 AAFA Meeting

The 2013 AAFA Annual Meeting and National Alford Reunion is all set to go in Raleigh, NC, Oct 13, 14 & 15 (2^d week-end just before Columbus Day).

It will be at the **Holiday Inn North Raleigh**, 2805 Highwoods Boulevard, Raleigh, NC 27604. This is the same hotel used in 1990 for the 3rd AAFA meeting. Telephone 1-800-315-2621 or 1 919-872-3500. The latter, a local direct number, will probably be best for making reservations. Don't forget to tell them you are with the (AAFA) Alford American Family Association. Room rates are \$85.00 per night plus tax. This rate includes their full hot buffet breakfasts, and all rooms have refrigerators, complimentary wi-fi through-out the hotel, a 24 hour business center with complimentary printing, and access to their pool and fitness center.

Reservations must be made by 27 September to get these rates. Make them now and you need not worry about it later. Later if you need to cancel for some regretful reason you can do so. Cancellation for individual room reservations are required by 6 PM on check in day.

The registration material is in the process of preparation and when ready, probably before the next issue of this publication, will be posted and available for printing or downloading (save) at

<http://www.alfordassociation.org/meet2013.html>

If you are unable to obtain the forms there send us an email requesting we email you a registration packet.

As usual there will be a drawing of names of the first 25 members to register for a free room night. Get your registration in early and be sure to complete the little strip form across the bottom of the registration form. It will be torn off for use in the drawing.

Thanks to **Tom H. Alford**, AAFA 1386 for making the hotel arrangements and signing the contract and to **Bobbie Alford Stuck** AAFA #1331 for setting up the interesting tours. Details of these will be in

the registration packet. It is a pet friendly hotel for those who have asked. Research trips will be arranged to go to the state library/archives (which is closed on Mondays).

This meeting will follow the pattern of most recent AAFA meetings with segments on Friday dealing with Alford's and research, Friday evening reception dinner with no program; Saturday morning the lively (not boring) annual AAFA business meeting and when it is completed_ or in the afternoon_ Alford family forum where members will talk about their Alford families and branches; Saturday evening the annual banquet with memorial, recognition, etc. Sunday morning an informal show and tell and question & answer session.

8 Planning Future Meetings - Where, When & Format (content)

There has been some informal and unofficial talk about **where** we ought to meet each year and what, if any, pattern should be used over the years. That was extended to include **when** we should meet and based on those two - **What** the meeting should include.

Where?

There are two schools of thought: (1) move around and emphasize places with considerable early Alford information and research facilities [Original states and others nearby] and (2) closer to "home" at the risk of repeating places.

Why not both? Every other year we could meet in an early Alford state with research facilities. Like, North Carolina, Georgia, Virginia, etc. In alternate years we could meet in a *home* state. AAFA has never had a home other than the basement at my home address and the post office box. But consider the following:

(1) There are more AAFA members who live in Texas than in any other state. [Not sure how many when only living are counted].

(2) There are more Alford residents in Texas than in any other state.

(3) There are more Alford's in Houston than in any other city in the world.

We also know:

(4) AAFA has more Alford burials recorded in Texas than any other state.

(5) While there is not much early research that needs to be done in Texas there is still a lot of Texas Alford work that ought to be done:

(A) Identify and connect every Texas Alford who appears in any and all records.

(B) Make sure that every Texas Alford resident (including as many descendants of females as can be identified) is familiar with AAFA.

(C) Record in some way on the website the results of (A) and (B) above.

(6) Three of the four Executive Committee members (officers) reside in Texas and that does not include the photo archives.

Questions:

(1) Would it be best to rotate Texas meetings through the major cities or

(2) Select a hotel in Houston, or elsewhere, and make that our "home" hotel and return to the same facility each year.

When?

When I first announced the idea of an association in my old newsletter "*About Alford's*," I projected 1989 as the year for the first meeting. As we began to form it became apparent that a meeting might be

advanced. In 1988 we decided to go ahead with the first meeting and our **President, Captain Lodwick “Wick” Alford** had already *influenced* a Georgia location, our secretary, **Nancy Alford**, lived there too; and I asked the other leaders about a convenient time. **Pamela Alford Thompson**, the first editor of our quarterly, had a business meeting or something going on in Florida in October and she said she could lay over in Atlanta for the week-end of October 15 with no problem. That was all we needed.

At that meeting we had no good reason to change it so we just told the Texas folks to plan for about the same time in Texas. That 2nd meeting, in Houston, was such a whooping success that we never got around to changing it.

I have heard, more than once, over the years that if we changed the dates we could get better participation. We need some more member thoughts on this - especially from other than the members who traditional show up in October.

Format?

As to what we do at meetings, and how long to meet – that has evolved over the years but has been in something of a rut for several years. We are flexible and it can be changed if someone has a suggestion. Most hotels base some of the charges on how many room nights our folks use and tours were added to attract members to help with that room count.

What do you Think?

Designation of the meeting state has an influence on considerable work each year. Even if you don't attend_ “where we meet” drives work or information about which you might be interested. **We need your position or ideas** (call it a vote) on where, when, and what on meetings. I will make a recommendation to the board of directors that they accept the choice of the majority of the membership; and as soon as practical; announce the results in the newsletter.

Should we alternate meeting states or not? In 2014 should we meet in Texas or Georgia? Does that mean meet in the other state in 2015? When would be best for you? How would you like to see meetings structured? As we hear so often: **VOTE!!**

More About Meeting/States

With our new arrangement we will have the capability to revisit previous meetings or meeting states and do an update without actually being present. Which meeting would you like to see updated?

If you have attended one or more meetings and have photographs that not been shared with us (**Janice & John Smith** -AAFA Photo Archivists) then we need them now for this re-visitation. Mail hard copies (photocopy is not adequate) to AAFA, POB 1297, Florissant, MO 63031. Please send along identification of subjects when applicable and possible. Watch for scanning and emailing instructions in a discussion at About_Alfords.

9 Alford Cemetery Information

The cemetery project was mentioned in the February and March issues of the newsletter but in a fashion to show the order of magnitude by state. Below is a more complete coverage of the cemetery reports posted on the website update page thus far this year. It is the week by week, blow by blow, report on the various state efforts. **Your help could make a significant contribution to the cause.** If you were to get involved here you would have a greater sense of “belonging” to the AAFA and Alford family.

For this project members, or any other folks worldwide, may go to our website and the cemetery records and submit new data or revise what it there. When the online input form is complete it is sent via email to **Wayne Parrish**, AAFA #1254, the AAFA Cemetery Project. Before passing the data on to our online files Wayne does a quick security and validation check. “We” below is Wayne and the several state cemetery project officers.

He has not formally announced it yet but Wayne has done some computer programming that has successfully allowed him to acquire the basic information from www.findagrave.com and add it directly to our cemetery files. It does not capture the data displayed beyond the initial FAG screen or page. See the Arizona state data as an example. Go to:
http://www.alfordassociation.org/CEMETERY/az_cem.html

“We have updated the cemetery records for Illinois, North Carolina, Oregon, and West Virginia, based on the input received as of Jan 22. About a dozen interment records were received since that work was completed. We will catch up soon. Some of these files are getting quite large so expect some delay when some load.

North Carolina 8 February 2013, Texas 8 February 2013.

North Carolina 21 February 2013. There are now over 950 interments in the North Carolina listing. Check this file often - updates are being posted frequently!

North Carolina, Oregon, and Pennsylvania cemetery updates were posted on 25 February 2013. Georgia cemeteries were updated on 1 March 2013. Almost 100 interments were added or revised in DeKalb, Fayette, and Floyd Counties.

Georgia cemeteries were updated on 5 March 2013 with about 25 new interments in Fulton County.

Cemetery listing updates were posted on 17 March 2013 for Arizona, Louisiana, Maryland, Missouri, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, and Texas.

North Carolina cemeteries were updated on 26 March. Thank you, Lynn and Gil.

Georgia cemeteries were updated on 28 March. This update includes a number of new graves in Harris and Hart counties. Most of the Hart County entries are from the Lodwick Alford 1802 SC family branch.

Virginia cemeteries were updated on 28 March. The update includes Amherst County and all the Alford interments in Arlington National Cemetery.

Arkansas cemeteries were updated on 5 April, adding all graves (except two) from the Arkansas Obituaries compilation.

Virginia cemeteries were updated on 5 April. This update added about 40 graves in Augusta County cemeteries, most of whom were descendants of Robert Alford b. 1828 VA

Minor updates with a few additions and revisions were also posted on 5 April to the cemetery listings for Georgia, Florida, Louisiana, Missouri, New York, North Carolina, and Texas.

Updates were posted on April 9 for North Carolina, South Carolina, and Texas cemeteries.

Updates were posted on April 19 for California, Illinois, Louisiana, North Carolina, and Texas cemeteries. There are more to come, as several states have major update projects ongoing. If you would like to help as a State Cemetery Project Officer, or as a member of a State Cemetery Project team, please let us know.

Smaller updates (a few additions and revisions) were also posted on April 19 for Alaska, Arkansas, Hawaii, Maine, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, North Dakota, Rhode Island, South Dakota, and Wyoming. These updates are part of the reconciliation effort to ensure that we have a grave record for each obituary in the obituary files. If you like to help with this effort, email the Project Manager.

Updates were posted on April 25 for Washington DC, Louisiana, Missouri, North Carolina, Tennessee, and Texas.

Cemetery listing updates were posted on 28 Sep for Louisiana, Mississippi, South Dakota, and Texas.

Significant changes to Louisiana and Texas cemeteries were received this week from Carolyn and Lynn and were posted on 5 May. There were also updates posted for Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, Michigan, Minnesota, and New York. Anyone, AAFA members or not, can submit Alford (and alternate spellings) cemetery data to us for inclusion in our data. We now have over 12,500 graves recorded, many with cross reference links to obituaries and family branch genealogies.

Updates were posted on 12 May 2013 for Arkansas, Kansas, Louisiana, and Texas.
An update to Arizona cemeteries was posted on 13 May 2013.
An update to Idaho cemeteries was posted on 14 May 2013.”

10 Alford Obituaries

Looking back over the earlier issues of the newsletter this year we find little mention of progress with the Alford obituary project which is under the loving care of **Pamela Alford Thompson**, AAFA #0030, who many will remember edited the AAFA quarterly for about the first 12 years. The following are Pam's words, with some editing or format change, as she posted them on the website updates page. If you have not explored the AAFA obit collection then you have missed something. It is awesome and I challenge anyone to find something that exceeds it for any other surname.

From Pam:

"Even though I work on AAFA obituaries every day, I am so far behind in posting updates! I have a massive backlog of obituaries that you haven't seen yet, both new ones and, increasingly, *old ones that are becoming available online (but need to be typed). Right now I'm almost ready to post an update for Kansas, last updated in 2009 with 45 pages, very few photos (no gravestones), and lots of missing lineages and notes. The new update is over 125 pages, with AAFA NOTES for nearly every person and many photos, and includes 2 AAFA members. Next I have to tackle North Carolina, this year's meeting state. Not to mention poor Alabama and Tennessee, states I have never posted!



Pamela Alford Thompson
California, 2012

*Does anyone have a paid subscription to NewspaperArchive.com? I already have a subscription to GenealogyBank.com, but Newspaper Archive has more old papers. A free subscription allows one "page view" each day, so even if you just register for the free subscription, you can help by searching for these old obits. You can reach me at pamrthompson@aol.com."

– Pamela Alford Thompson, AAFA Obituary Project Officer

Pam's compilations are more than just copies of the obituary. Each state compilation begins with useful information and links. For example the following was clipped from the Missouri compilation:

"The Alford American Family Association (AAFA) held its 2005 Annual Meeting in St. Louis, MO. We made a special effort to obtain obituaries of all "Alfords" who died in that state, published them, and distributed the publication at the meeting.

We continue to obtain obituaries for "Alfords" who died in Missouri. This compilation includes all Missouri obituaries we have obtained to date. It will be updated periodically as we acquire new obituaries.

Obituaries are listed alphabetically by FIRST name. Included are people whose last name, maiden name, or married name is Alford or a spelling variation: Alfred, Alvord, Allford, Halford, Hallford, Holford, etc.

The name of the newspaper (or other source) and place and date of publication follow the name of the deceased. If we included the obituary in *AAFA ACTION*, the issue is noted.

AAFA often adds notes to each obituary, including Social Security Death Index (SSDI) data, relationship of the deceased to other Alfords, and lineages. We will add to **AAFA NOTES** as time permits.

Where lineages are included (Alford unless otherwise stated), the format is: Name, year of birth, state or country of birth.

Obituaries of AAFA members and their spouses are also included on the [AAFA Member Memorials](#) web page and may include more information.

We welcome corrections and additional information. If you have an obituary from this state that is not included here, please share it with us!

Date posted: 18 OCTOBER 2011

The death certificates linked to the obituaries in this compilation are from Missouri Digital Heritage, [Missouri State Archives, Missouri Death Certificates](#). Images are available for 1910–1959.

The families of some of the subjects of these Missouri obituaries are represented in genealogies AAFA has published on this website, so we are referring readers to them for more information.

*AAFA's Online [Published Genealogies](#):

1. [Known Descendants of John Alford and Jane McElhattan](#) (DNA Group One)
2. [Known Descendants of Milton W. & William Henry Denton Alford](#) [brothers, parents unknown] (No DNA Group yet)
3. [Known Descendants of William Alford 1803 NC](#) (No DNA Group yet)
4. [Thomas Alford b. about 1598 England](#) (DNA Group Four)
5. [Descendants of John & Mary Alford of Frederick County Virginia](#) (DNA Group Two)
6. [Known Descendants of William Alford ca 1780 VA – ca 1835 TN](#) (No DNA Group yet)"

The following is what she did with my father's obituary:

“AAFA CORRECTION: The list of pallbearers changed and the funeral home was not able to contact Betty Alford Wells to get the changes before submitting the obituary to the newspaper. The correct list of pallbearers: Grandchildren: April Alford Ernst, Mary Alford Tedder Davis, Timothy Wells; grandson-in-law Scott Ernst; great-grandchildren Jessica Tedder, Benjamin Banks, Sherri Banks Wells; great-grand son-in-law Jesse Wells.

AAFA NOTES: SSDI records show that Gilbert Alford (SS# issued in LA) was born 9 November 1901.

See the obituaries of his wife, Mattie Inez Newsom Alford; parents, Jephtha Martin Alford and Laura Jane Warner Alford; his sisters Roxie Udine Alford Penton and Gussie Alford Fortinberry; and his half-siblings Wiley Banton Alford, Nola Alford Smith, Alonzo Seaborn Alford, and Iddo Lampton Alford and in this compilation. We included the obituary of his half-sister Frankie Leoda Alford Smith in Mississippi Obituaries; and brother Lora Warner Alford in South Carolina Obituaries.

Gilbert Kendric Alford was born in Washington Parish, LA, the son of Jephtha Martin Alford and his second wife, Laura Jane Warner. See “[Jephtha Martin Alford, 1862–1948](#)“, *AAFA ACTION*, March 1993, pp. 37–40.

Gilbert Sr.'s son, Gilbert K. Alford, Jr., one of AAFA's founders, wrote a brief biography of his father that is included in Gilbert Sr.'s [In Remembrance](#).

*See AAFA's Published Genealogies, #1.

His lineage: Gilbert Kendric 1901 LA1, Jephtha Martin 1862 LA2, John Seaborn 1807 LA3, Jacob 1761 NC4, Julius 1717 VA5, James 1687 VA6, John 1645 VA⁷.”

CALIFORNIA: The last update to California Obituaries was posted in 2011 with 206 pages. This update is 265 pages and includes obituaries for 6 AAFA members.

IDAHO: The last update to Idaho Obituaries was posted in 2011 with 40 pages. This update is 57 pages, and includes an obituary for 1 AAFA member, President Richard M. Alford.

UTAH: The first, and most recent, Utah Obituaries file was posted in 2009 with only 26 pages. This update is 130+ pages, with many Alvords and Halfords. Many old obituaries are included--thanks to June Schaub, AAFA #1083, for typing them!

SOUTH DAKOTA: The first, and most recent, South Dakota Obituaries file was posted in 2010 with only 2 obituaries. This update includes 5 obituaries! South Dakota is apparently not a state where many "Alfords" live.

11 Alford Y-DNA - Interesting and Perplexing

*(President **Max Alford** is our AAFA DNA project officer and is the coordinator or our representative at FamilyTreeDNA.com as well as at WorldFamilies.Net. He was not the author of what follows although some of it was reviewed by him.)*

From time to time we hope to share some of our Alford Y-DNA information with you, but we must be careful that we do not violate the privacy of the member or the policy of FamilyTreeDNA.com. In this particular case we have a member who did not sign the release form that came with the test kit so he will not be identified in any way. Suffice it to say that he is a male named Alford and his Alford ancestry goes back to John Henry Alford born 1850 Wake Co., NC who married Alice Ann Alford born 1853 in Wake Co. Based on what we think we know we have traced his Alford line on back to James Alford born about 1687 in VA, **BUT!!** Y-DNA disproves this. He does not match the rest of us who are from this James and who did the Y-DNA thing.

Another BUT!! We do have a member who has a perfect 37 marker match with the fellow mentioned above, and he did sign his release and further gave us permission to share his information with others. Some of you met **George Chester Alford** and his wife **Verna**, AAFA #0129, at the 2002 meeting in Salt Lake City. George's Alford's are Chester born 1917 in Oklahoma, Sigmond Wolf born 1886 in Arkansas, George Wiley born 1838 in North Carolina, and Greene Alford born, by estimate, 1815 in North Carolina.

Who was the common Alford ancestor of Greene and John Henry Alford? How would you suggest we find out?

Which one of you - or other male Alford's - have Y-DNA that will match George? Does your Y-DNA really prove what you believe to be your Alford ancestry? We could use help here from every living male Alford who is not already part of the Alford Y-DNA project. To join the project see "Sign Up" in the paragraph below.

12 Generic Y-DNA - A Layman's Explanation

In our Alford DNA project we have several male participants who are not named Alford. That is OK with me and AAFA as long as they are not participating thinking they will find an Alford ancestor. They may find an ancestor that is common to some Alford's and other surnames, but that will be back about the year 900 or earlier before surnames were used.

For example— John the butcher, as he would have been called, may have had sons who had several male grandchildren, all who had his Y-DNA. When surnames evolved these descending males of John took the name of Brown or Green for one reason or another, or perhaps the names of North, West or even Alford. Descendants of all these guys will have matching Y-DNA, but with only the surname Alford will folks learn about Alford ancestry. If you are named Brown, then your paternal Brown line will take you back to more Brown's but it is absolutely impossible to trace back to an Alford - **UNLESS!! Look for more on this in a subsequent issue.**

13 Sign up for DNA test by Joining the Alford Surname Group

Like most things computer driven – one must be exact when getting involved with our AAFA DNA project. Some folks have failed to do that when they got involved. Some are still not completely straightened out.

There are several different places or ways to have your DNA done. Ours is done by familytreedna.com and our project is hosted by worldfamilies.net with the two linked and working together. FamilyTreeDNA is the largest and most popular operation and it is located in Houston, TX. We had one of their representatives address those present at a recent meeting.

Some test results done by other facilities can be converted to be compatible with ftdna and some cannot. Getting a test done costs less when it is done through the Alford Project at worldfamilies.net. You may go to the address listed first below, or to the second address. Do not use any other and follow instructions to the letter. **It is of the utmost importance that you sign and return the release form that comes with the test kit.** Unless you do you might as well not take the test.

<http://www.worldfamilies.net/surnames/alford/order>

<http://www.familytreedna.com/group-join.aspx?Group=alford>

14 Our AAFA Families

WE ARE FAMILY!!

Be thinking about the following, send some ideas and look for more. We don't want to get as wild as the stuff on Facebook but as families we ought to be **more family oriented**. In many cases we know more about your 4th or 5th grandparent than we do your immediate family. Be thinking of your extended family as you and spouse - if applicable, the parents of both and your kids and their kids.

From emails:

Gil wrote: In your response to my request for help you mentioned some *grandparent responsibility*, in my last email from **Wayne** he had a similar comment about something we were working on, **Mary** and I will have daughters around the next two days, but not the great-grands. **Lynn** has been, and will be until later in June, *involved with family*, a son, who works in Korea, getting married [in Florida] and another son who married a Chinese lady- have a baby I believe, and has worked there for some years are returning to the states to live. Her daughter married an Irishman, I think, and they live in Canada. **Max's** sister just underwent a biopsy but has no results, and **Max** had his *Texas style pick-up jacked up* and the four chrome plated wheels, the tires and hub-caps were *stolen*.

This all makes me realize just how well we know, or don't know, each other in what is supposed to be a family oriented group. I think if we knew more we would be closer and perhaps more effective. What do you think about doing a series of pieces for the olnl that would be impersonal and non-private **descriptions of our families** from those who are willing to share. Like we did with the "Getting to Know" you introduced years ago I'll start it off. Maybe if you agree you can do something to follow.

Pam replied: It would be fun to put little "news tidbits" from folks in the newsletter, especially if accompanied by photos. Probably many people already do this kind of thing thru Facebook and may not be interested in doing more of it, but I'd do it. By the way, anybody in the tornadoes this week?

Alford American Family Association

Account
Number

Income Statement for Year to Date, May 31, 2013

| | | | |
|--------|---|---------------|--------------------------------|
| 1.0.00 | Receipts: | | |
| 1.1.00 | Memberships (8) (1414-1421) | | 40.00 |
| 1.2.00 | Donations: | | |
| 1.2.01 | General | 25.00 | |
| 1.2.99 | Total Donations | <u>25.00</u> | 25.00 |
| | Total Receipts | | \$65.00 |
| 2.0.00 | Disbursements: | | |
| 2.2.00 | AAFA Action (Quarterly)¹: | | |
| 2.2.01 | Printing | 241.00 | |
| 2.2.02 | Postage | 109.56 | |
| 2.2.99 | Total AAFA Action | <u>350.56</u> | 350.56 |
| 2.3.00 | Office Expenses: | | |
| 2.3.01 | Computer Software | 124.00 | |
| 2.3.04 | Equipment | 145.72 | |
| 2.3.06 | Legal Fees | 9.94 | |
| 2.3.09 | Postage | 10.12 | |
| 2.3.99 | Total Office Expenses | <u>289.78</u> | 289.78 |
| | Total Disbursements | | <u>\$640.34</u> |
| | Net Income | | <u><u>-\$575.34</u></u> |

Checking Account Reconciliation

| | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|
| Beginning Balance | January 1, 2013 | \$7,337.22 |
| Net Income | | (575.34) |
| Ending Balance | May 31, 2013 | <u><u>\$6,761.88</u></u> |

Notes:

¹ Final Issue

16 Other Things That Are Probably Coming Soon

Something on **Facebook**. We still need to find a way to make it work for AAFA. I've befriended or liked some of our AAFA members on Facebook and they can expect to hear more from me.

Member Input or Feedback. I think it is important that we, especially our leadership, have a good appreciation for member feelings and ideas. I'm about to kick off a periodic ten member survey with ten *questions* related to the association. All response will be confidential and reporting and discussion will leave the members anonymous. The names were selected using a sampling technique that returned random member names.

You might be interested to know that this initial sample has eight women and two men. Neither of the men is named "Alford," but six of the women were or still are Alford. As best I can tell two of the women are African-American, but I cannot be sure as our data is color blind. The group comes from a good cross-section geographically and genealogically.

Member Articles. Much of the early success of the association came from articles submitted by a large assortment of members. I regret to say that practice has just about died on the vine. There is at least one exception which I'll introduce in a later issue.

North Carolina Outreach. For several months we have been engaged in getting involved with new Alford and Alford families in North Carolina. We now have about 630 addresses which have been used and not bounced by the postal service. By time for the next issue we should have made our second contact with these folks and may be getting feedback.

If you go to the meeting in October you may meet some cousins you did not know you had.

Other Publications. In AAFA ACTION #98 - the final issue - we mentioned the possibility of occasional future publications. We want to keep that possibility alive and take advantage at the appropriate time.

Genealogies. In this issue we emphasized cemetery data and obituaries. We have been working just about as hard on genealogies. Expect some of that in the next issue.

Data Dumps. Back in our early years, when I published "About Alford," one frequently used item was called "Alford Data Bank (A-File), (B-File) etc. It served as something of an "index" for my system in those days. It looks like we got through the I-File and gave up. Other files like census and genealogy became more interesting and useful. This was the favorite feature for my good friend, the late **Dave Price** who was one of the few others who was interested in ALL Alford-- not "just my line." **Lynn Shelley** and **Jim of Houston** (at the time) were also interested in ALL Alford. We might be doing these dumps alphabetically as before or geographically or chronologically. Our data is not good enough to do it by branch at this time. **Wayne Parrish** is the AAFA data manager now and he has some ideas about how to use this information. Wayne will use his brain and computers to manipulate a lot of the data. All I had, for all practical purposes, was a pencil. I find it something exciting to look forward to. In case you did not guess I've not kept this data base current and there are tens of thousands of new records in the obituaries, cemeteries, genealogies, etc. that need to be entered. I expect we will find an easy way for you all to help us do it.

Thanks to so many of you and our sincere love to lots of you. I expect you know who.

Let's plan to meet here again just before Independence day. See Ya!!