

AAFA ACTION #95

AAFA - In The Beginning

By Gil Alford who created AAFA

As many of you know AAFA has completed 25 years, and in this 26th year we are celebrating the anniversary. This article will provide some of the background and cover what was happening, who was involved and what was being done.

In 1987 I began the fifth year of publishing *About Alford's*. The following is a transcript of the page that announced the creation of the association followed by update announcements made in *About Alford's* until Pam Thompson had *AAFA ACTION* in publication.

ABOUT ALFORDS Nr. 18 - January 1987 - Page 5

ALFORD AMERICAN FAMILY ASSOCIATION

We hope that most of you will see a need for the association and support it by joining. Included with this newsletter is your copy of the "PROPOSED CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS", an application for membership (as one of the founders) and an information sheet needed from each applicant. Each Founding Member will receive a membership certificate suitable for framing and a membership card.

Only those persons who were on our mailing list as of January 1, 1987 will be eligible to qualify as a founder of the association and given founding membership. We do plan to invite about 8000 other Alford families to join as charter members. After that all memberships will be just regular memberships subject to the desires of the membership. Everything, including the name is tentative. Since it is your association you will have the option to make changes in name, constitution, registration fees, dues, etc. The "Membership Applicant Information Sheet" is the starting place for that. We need each of you to not only join, but to consent to hold one or more offices should you be nominated and elected. The form also asks for your input to several other bits of important start-up business.

It is my intention to keep my Alford work completely separate from the association and as it is able to take over on its own to step completely back in the organization. I do intend to eventually donate all of my material (and probably a computer system) etc. to the association. You will notice that the association has a separate mailing address using a different zip code, and this can be changed to one of your addresses as the association gets operational. I am also opening a separate bank account, just for the association maintaining detailed and complete financial records and will turn this all over to a treasurer as soon as one is operational.

As you might expect the association is being started on something less than a shoe string. Membership registration fees and dues will not cover the initial expenses of organization and we sorely need donations from those who can afford to make same. To give some encouragement in this regard, I agree to match the highest donation (up to \$500) made during the year. If one of you should give \$100 I'll also give \$100. If later someone else gives \$150, then I'll add \$50 to the \$100 I originally donated. I will not match each and every donation given, but will make a donation equivalent to the largest given by any member in 1987. A donation slip is enclosed for your convenience in sending a donation.

THE SCHEDULE FOR GETTING THE ASSOCIATION OPERATIONAL IS AS FOLLOWS:

1987 Contact most Alford's of the USA inviting them to become Charter Members; solicit volunteers for

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office or committee's; solicit comments on the constitution; solicit recommendations for how the association (family) should be divided, and recommendations for time and place of our first national meeting.

1988 Appoint a nominating and elections committee and provide them results of solicitation for volunteers etc. Appoint an ad hoc constitution and by-laws committee and provide them with the recommendations of the membership. Appoint an ad hoc family divisions committee and furnish them the recommendations of the membership along with information on the membership, their locations and ancestral lines. Conduct an election by mail for officers required to be elected. Officers and committee members to assume office and serve until the next annual election.

1989 Hold the first annual meeting, or if this is not possible, hold the second annual election by mail. Membership will review and vote on constitution and by-laws. If possible register the constitution with the appropriate Secretary of State. If a full scale family meeting cannot be scheduled then attempt a meeting of the Board of Trustees and the Executive Committee.

The following are updates on progress or status that were published by Gil Alford in his *About Alford's* until the first AAFA quarterly, *AAFA ACTION*, edited by Pamela Alford Thompson, was published in June 1998.

ABOUT ALFORDS Nr. 19 - April 1987 - Page 2

EDITOR'S COMMENTS

The ALFORD AMERICAN FAMILY ASSOCIATION is proceeding as expected. One surprising aspect is that we are getting about as many members from non-subscribers as we are from subscribers. We had thought most of the founding membership would have come from our regular readers. We have not heard from some of you who we thought would be one of the first members. We included a tentative schedule in the last issue of the newsletter. It seems practical now to advance some of that. We will probably have an election (by mail) during this year and have our first national meeting in 1988 instead of 1989. If you have not sent your application, don't put it off any longer. If you have lost the application (also send the information sheet showing areas in which you would agree to serve etc) we will be happy to send another copy.

ABOUT ALFORDS Nr. 20 - July 1987 - Page 24

ALFORD AMERICAN FAMILY ASSOCIATION Report

It has been six months since the association was begun and the members of the association have received a report on the first six months operation. The seven page report they received will be abbreviated on this page.

The association has a total of 63 members ranging in age from 1 to 89. We were very surprised to discover almost half of the members do not subscribe to ABOUT ALFORDS, and most of the subscribers are not members of the association. Those who have not joined are missing a tremendous opportunity to

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contribute to the Alford family of the future.

Membership spreads over the United States from Washington State to Florida and from California to Connecticut; and there are members in Alaska. Most of the major family groups are represented in the membership.

Tentative plans have been made to hold our first annual meeting before the end of this year and to have our first election of officers.

The Association is sponsoring several Alford projects. See the Editor's Comments for more on this subject. One of those is our Virginia Alford Research which is covered below.

ABOUT ALFORDS Nr. 21 - October 1987 - Page 2

EDITOR'S COMMENTS

ALFORD AMERICAN FAMILY ASSOCIATION Time is running out for those of you who want to become members of the association and be recognized as a 1987 founding member. You might wonder why you should join, particularly if you cannot actively participate. The association needs the strength of your numbers to your financial support (dues & fees) to enhance its ability to become a strong organization which can collect and preserve Alford information and insure it is made available to future generations. With your help we can also do much to educate Alford descendants, present and future, concerning the history of the family and how it relates to the history of our nation and states.

Pam Thompson and Dr. Jim Edwards have completed their work on the membership certificates and they did a superb job. Action is in process with the association incorporators to have the association registered as a Missouri non-profit corporation and within the month the first slate of officers should be appointed by the initial board of directors. As soon as the president signs the certificates they will be mailed to all members.

ABOUT ALFORDS Nr. 22 - January 1988 - Page 2

EDITOR'S COMMENTS

ALFORD AMERICAN FAMILY ASSOCIATION

You will normally find a page or more in the newsletter dealing with the Alford American Family Association. Pam Alford Thompson, the association Publications Editor will be responsible for those pages. Suffice it to say this time that the association is off and running. It was incorporated as a not-for-profit corporation in 1987 and application for IRS tax exempt status is underway. The directors are Capt Lodwick H. Alford, Julius M. Alford and Gil Alford. The president is Capt Alford, vice-president is Ambassador Weston Adams, Secretary is Miss Nancy Thomas Alford, Treasurer is Julius M. Alford, Genealogist-Historian is Nancy Alford Dietrich, Publications Editor is Pamela Alford Thompson and the

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Executive Assistant (and state agent) is Gil Alford.

The association has commissioned the design of a family emblem similar to, but not to be confused with a coat of arms. An association newsletter will be forthcoming in a few weeks with much more detail.

Readers, please do not be confused. Subscribers to this newsletter are not automatically members of the association. Most of you are not members of the association which requires specific application and payment of fees and dues. If you are not a member and would like to have more information let us know and it will be sent.

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ALFORD AMERICAN FAMILY ASSOCIATION

PLEASE NOTE: THIS NEWSLETTER *ABOUT ALFORDS* IS NOT A PUBLICATION OF THE ASSOCIATION. THOSE WHO ARE SUBSCRIBERS OF THIS NEWSLETTER ARE NOT AUTOMATICALLY MEMBERS OF THE ASSOCIATION. AAFA MEMBERSHIP REQUIRES SPECIAL APPLICATION AND THE PAYMENT OF A REGISTRATION FEE AND DUES.

The association, in its second year, seems to be off and running well. Membership continues to grow at a slow but fairly steady pace.

Captain Lodwick (Wick) Alford, of Sea Island, GA the AAFA President has announced plans for several programs in 1988. In addition to continuing the Virginia Research the association hopes to begin a special research project in North Carolina. There are plans to contact all the Alford families in Missouri and Mississippi, inviting them to become members of the association.

Those who are members should be receiving shortly a copy of the associations newsletter published by AAFA Publications Editor Pamela Alford Thompson of Mountain View, CA. Pam has been having some start up problems, such as getting information from folks like the editor of this newsletter, and was not able to make the mid-May target date she set for mailing the first issue. In addition to publishing a newsletter for AAFA members (probably about 12 pages quarterly) Pam expects to publish a special newsletter for the officers of the association, as required, to compensate for the communications problem caused by the dispersed location of all the officers.

Ambassador Weston Adams, of Columbia, SC AAFA Vice President was instrumental in lining up a professional in heraldry and heraldic design so the association now has a unique family emblem which was recently approved by the officers of the association. The design is based on some of the more common features found in Alford coats of arms of old.

Miss Nancy T. Alford, of Westpoint, GA the AAFA Secretary will be sending out renewal notices in the very near future. Although the first year membership of many of the earliest members has expired, the association elected to delay sending out notices until the family emblem was approved and new membership cards displaying the emblem were available.

Julius M. Alford of McComb, MS the AAFA Treasurer and Gilbert K. Alford the AAFA Executive Assistant and Registered State Agent were able to schedule a brief meeting in April of this year. The financial report for the first year has been completed. The 1988 budget has been completed and work is underway on the 1989 budget. All of these documents will be required by IRS as part of the associations tax exempt status.

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AAFA Genealogist-Historian Nancy Alford Dietrich of Westport, WA is trying to get the AAFA Virginia Alford Research going again. It was necessary to terminate the relationship the association had with the first researcher. The results of a \$200 expenditure for Virginia research is published elsewhere in this issue as ALFS, not members of AAFA, contributed to the research fund.

President Wick Alford has appointed a committee to plan the 1988 meeting of the Association. The chairman of the committee is Ambassador Weston Adams and committee members are Pam Thompson and Gil Alford. As plans progress other members (not officers) may be asked to join the committee.