

The Second Annual Meeting of AAFA



Landon Alford of Henderson, Texas; Captain Lodwick Alford, AAFA President; and Gil Alford, AAFA Executive Assistant

The 1989 Annual Meeting of the Alford American Family Association was a huge success! Over 120 people attended the reception on Friday evening, October 13, as well as the meeting on Saturday, October 14. The facilities provided at the Houstonian Hotel and Conference Center were outstanding. Everyone agreed that the meeting was a major AAFA and Alford family event.

Members came from California, Washington, Arizona, Colorado, Oklahoma, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, Louisiana, Missouri and of course, Texas. One member reported that she had cancelled a trip to South Africa just so she could attend the meeting. From all indications she was not disappointed!

On Friday evening members met many Alfords and other cousins whom they had never seen before—some they'd never even heard of before. The reception began early and continued for several hours. A cash bar was provided and our Texas hosts and a few other members made donations to cover the cost of the outstanding food arrangements.

Those from Texas who contributed were D. L. Alford, Jr., Dovie Jean Alford, Harold Alford, James P. Alford, J. Posie Alford, Landon Alford, Robert A. Alford, Jr., Mrs. W. B. (Lucille) Mehrkam, Bryant J. Alford, Pat Fite, Robert B. Coyner, Hollis W. Alford, Betty Alford Davis, Bess Rayford and Kenneth M. Alford. Others making contributions for the meeting were Captain Lodwick H. Alford, Joe B. Alford, Jean H. Brown, and Ella Alford. The entire membership of AAFA, and especially the members in attendance, thank these generous and hospitable Alfords!



Catherine (Mrs. D.L.) Alford of Caldwell, Texas, Head Hostess (seated); Dovie Alford of Houston, Hostess; and James P. Alford of Houston



Some props from Lee Alford III's ranch to give the reception a western flavor!



Margaret Alford of Brookhaven, Mississippi, and Norman Alford of Houston were guests of cousins Liz Alford Williams of Greenville, Mississippi, and Julius M. Alford, AAFA Treasurer, of McComb, Mississippi.



Mr. and Mrs. Joe B. Alford of Colorado Springs, Colorado—Joe is the AAFA Colorado State Representative.



Katherine Black made several crocheted Alford panels and donated them to the Association. D. L. Alford made these available to members in return for a \$50 donation. It is hoped that some of these crocheted items will be available at the next meeting.

Background music played during the reception was martial music written by British bandmaster Kenneth J. Alford and other noted Alford band musicians. (An article on Kenneth Alford appeared in the March 1989 issue of AAFA ACTION.)

H. Harold Alford of Longwood, Florida; his son Victor Alford; J. Posey Alford (back to camera), AAFA Texas Publicist; Sally (Mrs. Richard) Stoewer, AAFA Louisiana Representative; and Richard Stoewer of Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

On Saturday D.L. Alford, Jr., later to become a member of the Board of Directors and AAFA Vice-President for Texas, welcomed members and introduced Gil Alford, who presented President Captain Lodwick H. Alford an AAFA gavel and a plaque recognizing his distinguished service as president of AAFA from its beginning to date.

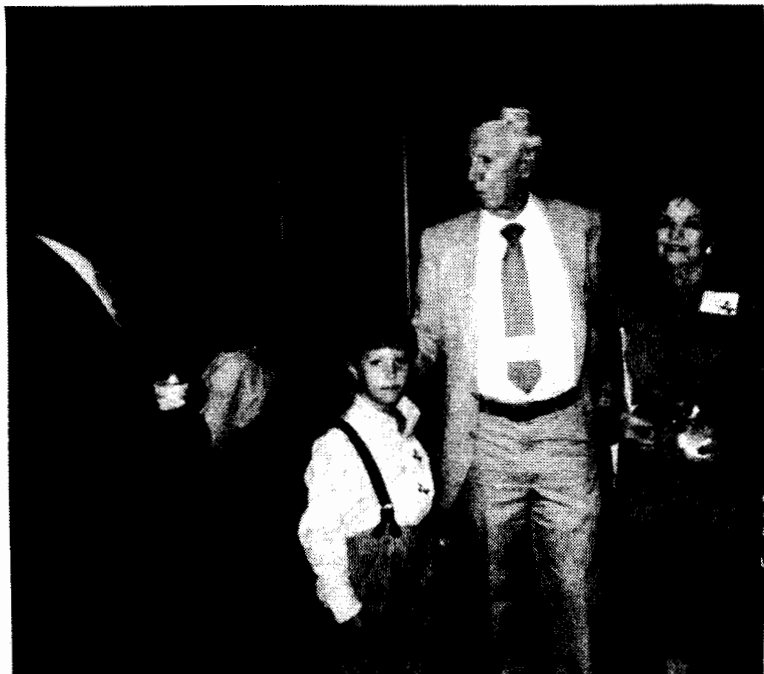
The Reverend Douglas Lee Alford of Fort Worth, TX, gave the invocation.



Shirley (Mrs. Douglas) Early Alford and Reverend Douglas Lee Alford of Hurst, Texas, Gil Alford (standing), Arliene (Mrs. Hollis) Ferguson Alford and Hollis W. Alford (Doug's brother) of Hemphill, TX

7.4.8

Enjoying the Friday Night Reception



Walter M. Mischer of Houston; James Posey Alford, AAFA Texas Publicist, of Gonzales, Texas; Mary (Mrs. Walter) Alford Mischer; and Joe Alford, son of James and Kathryn Alford, one of several children and grandchildren who attended the Friday night reception.



Lillian (Mrs. Paul C.) Murphy of Baytown, Texas, and in back Pat Fite of Houston, Texas Secretary



Katherine Black of Houston; Lucille Mehrkam of Houston, Texas Genealogist; and Lodwick Alford, AAFA President



Paul C. Murphy of Baytown, Texas, and Lodwick Alford

Captain Alford recognized those who were present at this meeting who also attended the 1988 meeting in Atlanta and expressed his appreciation to our Atlanta hosts, Mr. & Mrs. Milton (Roberta Alford) Folds, who had last minute problems that precluded their presence in Houston. He recognized Nancy Alford Dietrich, AAFA Librarian, who had come the greatest distance—from Westport, Washington. Miss Dovie Jean Alford, who made the initial arrangements with the Houstonian, was recognized as the member living nearest to our meeting. The youngest person present was the infant daughter of Roy and Susan Alford. At the meeting Roy took over the management of Alford cemetery data. The most senior member present was Vesta Alford Giddings of Baytown, Texas (born in Louisiana). The member present with the lowest membership number (had been member longer than anyone else there) was Landon Alford—Member #2—of Henderson, Rusk County, Texas. The member present with the highest membership number (had been member less time than anyone else there) was Landon's sister, Ella Alford—Member #246—from Missouri.



James Posey Alford of Gonzales, Texas, AAFA Texas Publicist; Lodwick Alford; Pat Fite of Houston, AAFA Texas Secretary, who did a terrific job of getting the news about our meeting published in many newspapers and genealogical columns; Gil Alford; and Dovie Alford of Houston

Julius Alford made his report on the treasury and pointed out that donations were needed from the membership if our financial status was to remain healthy. A notable contribution to the meeting was an effort Julius shared with his cousin, Elizabeth Alford Williams. They had T-shirts and aprons stenciled with "1989—The Alfords Get Together," for sale. These went like hotcakes, with AAFA receiving a commission on their sales.



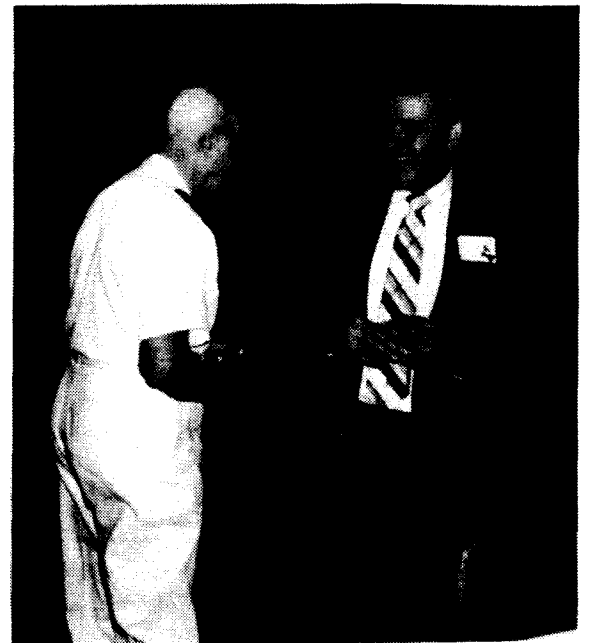
Margie (Mrs. Gerald) Alford from Burleson, Texas; Louise Alford from Houston, Texas; Victor Alford and his father H. Harold Alford from Longwood, Florida; and Jim Alford, son of D.L. Alford

AAFA librarian, Nancy Alford Dietrich, talked about a book in the AAFA library, *THE COWBOY*, by Fred Gibson. It is a true story about the life of a Texas cowboy, Eddie "Fats" Alford of Texas. The Reverend Douglas Alford agreed to read the book and write a review for the newsletter. Others who'd like to borrow the book should contact Nancy in Washington. Nancy also asks that all members send copies of their old photographs to the library, identifying the subjects, to assist in the Association's objective to preserve Alford history.

It was agreed that efforts will be made to obtain pins with the Association emblem. Members will be advised when these are available—for a very modest price.

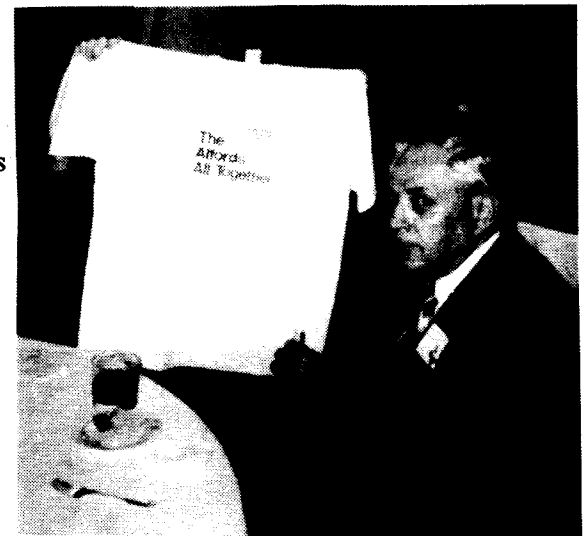


Ella L. Alford, the attendee who was an AAFA member for the shortest time—Member #246, and her brother Landon Alford, the attendee who's been a member the longest—Member #2!



President Lodwick Alford and Kenneth M. Alford of Arlington, Texas

State officers are being designated for many of the states. As quickly as possible each of them is being provided a state notebook. When there are several state officers, as is the case of Texas, the notebook goes to the state genealogist. Lucille Mehrkam had the "Texas book" at the meeting, and it seemed to be one of the more popular items there. At future meetings we hope to have many state books present.



Gil and Mary (behind the shirt) Alford—The T-shirt, a big hit, was produced by Julius Alford and Liz Alford Williams.



Lee Alford IV of Dallas, his arm around his grandmother, Catherine (Mrs. D.L.) Alford; James J. Alford (back left), his wife Kathryn, and their sons Joe and Drew, all of Caldwell, TX; Lee Alford III (back right), his wife Mary, and D.L. Alford Jr., father of James J. and Lee III, all of Caldwell



Mary (Mrs. Robert L. Jr.) Gilbertson Alford, seated; Robert A. Alford Jr., and Robert L. Alford, Jr., all of Houston

D. L. Alford, Jr. discussed the painting in the rotunda of the Texas State Capitol. The painting shows the surrender of Santa Ana to Sam Houston. Prominent in the painting is General George G. Alford, who was Sam Houston's Quartermaster General.

After a meeting of the Board of Directors and considerable discussion it was announced that the annual dues beginning January 1, 1990, will be raised to \$15, and the initial registration fee will be dropped to \$5. The increase in revenue is necessary to cover the cost of operations, not the least of which is the publication and mailing of this newsletter.

One of our notable Alford ancestors was Arba Alford who, in partnership with a Lambert Hitchcock, early in the 19th century produced the famous "Hitchcock & Alford Chair." D. L. Alford, Jr. had one of the chairs available for members to view.

The Board of Directors was expanded from the original three members—Lodwick H. Alford, Julius M. Alford, and Gilbert K. Alford—to five: Lodwick H. Alford, Director of Operations; Julius M. Alford, Director of Finances; D. L. Alford, Jr., Director of Membership; Pamela Alford Thompson, Director of Publications; and Gilbert K. Alford, Jr., Executive Director.



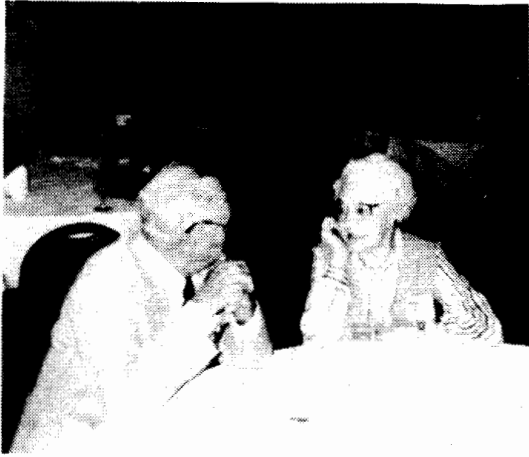
James P. Alford of Houston and Mr. and Mrs. D.L. Alford, Jr.



Gerald Alford and his cousin Harold Alford, both of Texas



Jim Alford of Houston, Posey Alford of Gonzales, Texas, Dr. Chester Brown of Tucson, Arizona, and Robert A. Alford, Jr., of Houston, all enjoying some of that great Texas hospitality!



Paul and Christie Alford Baldwin from Oklahoma City, Oklahoma



Lee Alford IV, Catherine Alford, and seated, George Marie (Mrs. Joe B.) Alford



Mary and Gil Alford of Florissant, Missouri

**More
Members of the
Alford Clan**



Kate (Mrs. Steve) Alford, Betty Alford Davis from Texas, and Judge Steve A. Alford, Jr., from Louisiana



Lodwick Alford, Mary Alford, and her husband Lee Alford III



Phyllis (Mrs. Landon) Alford with Bryant J. Alford and his wife Mary Louise of Jacksonville, Texas



Julius Alford, AAFA Treasurer; Gil Alford, Executive Assistant; and Robert L. Alford, Jr., of Houston



Gil Alford at the podium, leading the very popular Alford Family Forum during the afternoon of the meeting.



Lodwick Alford with Miss Maxine Alcorn, the manager of Houston's Clayton Library and the guest speaker at the meeting.



D.L. Alford, Jr., of Caldwell, TX, the Head Host of the Annual Meeting, V.P. for Texas, and newly elected member of the Board of Directors

Saturday, October 14: The Business Meeting

Due primarily to the lack of members willing to serve as general officers, the 1989 officers agreed to serve another year. Several of them are hopeful that some of you will offer to give them some relief after this next year.

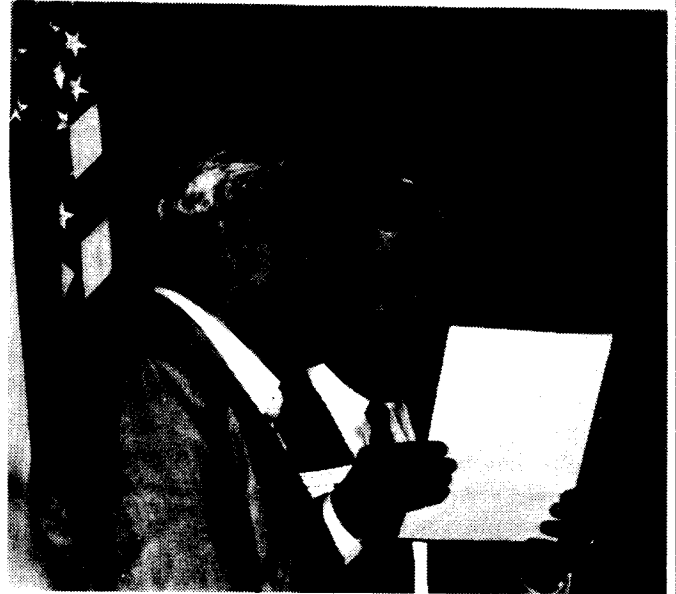
In the past members have received new membership cards each year as they renewed membership. It was agreed at the meeting that new cards each year are not necessary. Effective January 1, 1990, cards issued will not contain an expiration date and members will continue to use the card as long as they maintain their membership. It was announced previously that the mailing of invoices or receipts would be discontinued and that members should use cancelled checks for receipts. All invoicing or receipting will continue in the computer, without printouts, and a listing of all receipts is furnished to the president and treasurer each month. Specific questions from members concerning their payments will be handled on a case by case basis from the Missouri address.

It was agreed that the 1990 meeting will be in Raleigh, North Carolina. It was hoped that a specific date would be known in time to announce in this newsletter but that is not the case. It will undoubtedly be the first half of October. There are three major colleges in the Raleigh area, and we are told there is no way to miss a football weekend. The North Carolina state fair is also held in the Raleigh area in October. It is expected to be in mid-October, which suggests to us that the first half of the month is most likely for our meeting. The Raleigh Convention and Tourist Bureau is working on arrangements for us, and it is hoped that the next newsletter will not only provide the date but also the facility. At the meeting members decided that the 1991 meeting will be in Mississippi, probably the Jackson area, and in 1992 in Northern Florida, probably Tallahassee or Jacksonville.

Miss Maxine Alcorn, Manager of the Houston Public Library's Clayton Library Center for Genealogical Research, was our guest speaker. She talked on some of the resources available at the library and how they might be used. Her presentation is included in the video tapes of the meeting that members can order.

Gil Alford conducted "The Alford Family Forum," which was a general discussion of the Alford lineages of the members. He used a handout on which the Alford lineage of all members had been charted. There were 24 pages of these charts with some index and explanation. Most of those present agreed that their work with the charts was the highlight of the meeting.

At the close of the meeting the Texas Alford presented Gil Alford with a silver bowl in appreciation for the work he did in helping start AAFA. Captain Lodwick H. Alford presented him with a letter of appreciation which extended him



Lodwick Alford, President, reading the Letter of Appreciation to Gil Alford, Executive Assistant

lifetime membership. Gil accepted these in behalf of the membership, without which he acknowledged that he could do nothing.

Letter of Appreciation to Gil Alford

Whereas, in 1987 you almost single-handedly organized and initiated the Alford American Family Association and, Whereas, in your capacity as Executive Assistant of AAFA since that time, you have by hard work, superb leadership and singleminded purpose, carried, sustained and have been the driving force in making the organization work and, Whereas, by your seasoned good judgment, mature wisdom and perspicacity you have caused AAFA to grow steadily until it has reached a point of robust viability and, Whereas, by your untiring efforts, your enthusiasm and your technical expertise, you produced a volume of work of enormous proportions in carrying out the purposes of this Association and, Whereas, such devotion and accomplishments have been far above and beyond the normal calls of duty and in recognition thereof you are commended in the highest words of fulsome praise and, Whereas, the Board of Directors has granted and on their behalf, it gives me great pleasure to confer on you Life Membership. Your outstanding achievements in promoting the goals of the ALFORD AMERICAN FAMILY ASSOCIATION are exemplary and are in the highest and finest traditions of the ancient, proud, honorable and illustrious name of ALFORD. I therefore set my hand and seal this date in the Year of our Lord One Thousand Nine Hundred and Eighty-Nine.

—Lodwick H Alford, President, AAFA