Altord file

This is in response to Olin's letter of June 21.]

303 Wilton Drive, Decatur, Georgia, June 24,1951

Mr Olin F. Alford; Route 1, Statesboro, Ga.

Dear Olin:

I appreciate your interesting letter of June 21. It contains, in addition to some family history, enough information to give me a good picture of youself. My wife says it a most interesting letter, too.

I can't ever recall seeing you more than a couple of times. I have never seen your brother, Willie, and I recall seeing Leila once or twice before she married, I believe. I was well acquainted with Lo and Horace because they lived in Emanuel County while I lived there. —t this late date in life, I guess I will not be able get about and become better acquainted with the curviving members of Uncle Green's family. I wish I could. (A fellow who has had a stroke just can't hurry or worry or travel or otherwise carry on as he would like to do, I can assure you).

Since I cannot carry on in a gainful vocation, as I would very much like to do, I am, as I told you in my recent letter, trying to finish a job I wanted to do when I was a young fellow and just out of the Army in 1919. It is a job that requires patience and persistence and a lot of research to put the pieces together. I jotted down a lot about what my father, Uncle Ben, Uncle Greene and others told me years ago, but these written notes, seemingly, have become lost or misplaced. Hence, I am having to start from scratch, so to speak.

I was overseas, in Europe, in both World Wars. Before that I had been in the army long enough to rate myself a professional soldier, when I entered the phase known as World War I I went into the Army right after I was 21 and remained continuously until July, 1919. It was an interesting experience. I had many opportunities to improve myself, mys knowledge and know-how, and I have never had any regrets. In fact, it took me more than ten years to get it out of my system. I may say that I intended to stay in the army only one year, to get some military experience; then come out and take up the practice of law. If I had not prepared myself for admission to the bar and had that profession so deeply embedded into my thinking, I probably would have made the army my life career. I have often thought that a man's first urge to follow a line of work, if he really want ed to follow it, can never be completely eradicated from his hopes and ambitions.

In each trip to Europe, I satisfied a let of curisioty I had accumulated over the years. One of these was: visiting in the countries of our European forebears. Time and customs and outllock, between the time when our ancestors came over and today, showed unbelieveable changes, to be sure. Space and my physical capacity to sit at the typewriter for any considerable length of time, precents me from going into more detail, I may add here. It is enough to tell you that I plan to set down a lot of this in my proposed family history project, to the end that my own posterity and others interested may have the benefit of my observations. It is something all of us should keep in mind and pass on to our children, namely, why our forebears came to North America, the custoss and traditions, the language, etc. and why we separated from the British Empire and set up an entirely different form of government, different from that of any other kind ever conceived and set in motion by man. I want my boy and his children to better understand and appreciate these essential facts about what we call Americanism, the free enterprise system, etc.

I may add in this connection that, during orld war II, I volunteered and being too old for Infantry or other combat service, I was assigned to public relations and mann military intelligence. That proved to be most interesting. For example, in addition to having a vocation for a livelihood, a man, if he is to be well oriented and happy, must also have some kind of a hobby or avocation to while away his spare time, for all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy.

I was in Northern Ireland, Scotland and England. For a hobby, I am proud to record, I devoted most or all of my spare time to a study of the origin of our European Family Names. I am not going to go into details. I got up a series of columns on the subject for printing in the Army's daily newspaer. Stars and Stripes. D-Day, however, approached and everything except battle news was crowded out of the paper. I tried to keep my notes, books, etc. with the idea of requiting and publishing in the United States, if and when I got back and recuperated enough to be able to reconstruct what I had prepared for the army newspaper. Ater D-Day I was hurt and hospitalized; after being hospitalized, I suffered a stroke (a thing that often happens when a man of 50 and beyond is subject to if he suffers a severe hurt. The doctors never thought I would ever leave over there, but I fooled 'em and was, after several months in the hospital, put on a stretcher, put aboard a hospital ship, returned to the United States and again hospitalized for awhile. It was only recently, after treatment all the while, that I have felt like undertaking two or three tasks I planned while in the army - one, this family history, and anoter, rewriting my column on family names. The high price of paper and costs of printing newspapers has become so high that newspapers, because of the uncertainty of the current war in Korea, are not taking on new features for their papers. I am keep my material, I may add, for some day, if times ever get back to something like normal, my son can sell this newspaper feature, I believe. I am enclosing, for your perusal, several copies of the draft I made recently of my proposed

daily news aper column. I am only an amatuer on this subject, I will say here, because I went into the subject far enough to know that a man, even a scholar or scientist of the first rank, can devote a life time to the subject and not be able to do the research necessary to reach anywhere near the bottom. He must know several languages too: I hardly know my way around in English, hence I am an amatuer, but I did get enough to give me a working sinsight into the origin of our names and the customs and evolution through which they became fixed in the lives of our forebears. So, around the subject of names, we see an interesting custom brought over by our ancestors. I hope the enclosed data will convey to you something about what I have in mind - to include something touching on why we have our names, their speeling, meaning, etc.

In the by-line on the enclosed copy, I deliberately spekled my name A U L D F O R D, for that, is the old English way of spelling our name. Alde is another spealing of the first element. The first element simply means 'old' and the last 'ford'. There were a lot of old fords in England by the time the English language was developed from the many dialetcs used in that section of world. In the course of time, like many other spellings, custom, and probably requiring less effort, our name was spelled ALFORD, by the simple process of dropping the U and D was dropped. In some parts of the United States I have had people who persisted, by the way, in pronouncing my name Alfred or pronouncing the first element, ALf, like the Alf in alfred. used to burn me datem even after I had corrected pronounced it. I was tempted many time, while in the army, to adopt the spealing back to AULDFORD, to get the correct pronounciation of my name. Now, bear this in mind too, that every body bearing inheritable names like Alford, Brown, Smith, Farthing, etc. are not necessarily related, in any form or fashion, for old ford places, smiths by the hundreds worked their trade at one and the same time, Brown, well there are scores of ways by which the color brown may become associated with men everywhere, and farthing simply means a fourth part; it is, in England, the fourth part of an English penny. You know these facts, no doubt, but some don't and I want my grandchildren to know something about our customs that have survived or have become so fixed in our way of life, that we can't dispense with them. I may have more curisoity than some people, but I have always had a desire to want to know the beginne of a custom or why I do certain things. I plan, in my family history project, to develop the subject more than I have named here.

I plan to put the whole project together as a typewritten, may be mimeograph, form, so as to provide others with copies. It may be possible, some day, to have it printed; if so, many more copies can be pro yided for distribution, etc. I am, however, concerned, at the ment, with getting a typewritten manuscript completed. And that, all of us may be sure, is quite a tash. It is a project, I believe, our posterioty will appreciate. All of us ought to be concerned with more than our brothers, sisters, grand parents, and maybe, sometimes, our grand parents. As a lawyer, I long ago learned that but very few people knew

anything abour their father's and mother's parents, their uncles and aunts, etc. Many, I have found, did not know the Berrect name of their mother's parents or their father's people. depending, of course, upon how closely they were associated with older members of the family in their earlier days. Our grand parents and those before them had remarkable memories and, to me, it was interesting to sit down and hear them relate incidents that happened years before. Today, we have the printing press and printed records, unlike the generations ahead of us, so we let news and information come in one ear and out the other, hoping that we can find it recorded, somewhere, if we should need it. And there is so much that transpires in a day that we, of this generation, simply can't absorb and retain it. Once upon a time, the older peop le, for want of or opportunity of better means of entertainment, had time to talk and relax and enjoy conversation with relatives and friends. Today, well - you know the story. e are going somewhere but, after all, we seem to doubt if we know where wer are headed - just got to keep hurrying on and on.

Olin, I must confine myself to a brifer outline, and one that seems to be directly at hand, but I did want to give you some sort of an idea of what I am trying to do.

I have a lot of Alford names, and other families we are related to or connected with, but, since I must concentrate upon one subject at the moment - our immediate family.

Reently, I had the good fortune to get from Roy S. Alford, a native of Putnam County and a grandson of John Allen Alford, (Uncle Jack to us and a brother of our grandfather, William Alford, and Uncle Greene and Aunt Carolina, the record from an old family Bible. And I will use it as a basis for our immediate purpose, namely, get our own immediate lineal and collateral kindred in order. After this, I shall go further and build on our basic foundation.

- 1. William B. Alford was born in N.C. in Wake County, in 1789. He married Mary Mason. He died in Putnam County, Ga., in 1882.

 They had these children, according to my information. (John Allen Alford is named in this old Bible record; the others were brothers and sister, is my information)
 - (a) John Allen Alford (Uncle Jack to us).

 (b) Greene Alford (Never married),
 - (c) William Alford (our grandfather).

 (d) Caroline Alford (do not know any more about her)

 I am asking each member of the family these questions:

 Have you any information to supplement above? From parents
 Of any records? Other others in family?
- 2. (a) John Allen Alford married Jerusha Paschall. He was born July 10,1815; died Aug 22,1910; buried in Putnam Co. Ga. His wife died in Sept, 1892.

 Allen 3. Alford, their son, only child they gave me information about, was born Sept 4,1848; he

died August 17,1934, at Columbia. S.C. His wife was born Jan 27,1852; died Sept 30, 1925, at Estonton, Putnam Co. Gs. They were married Nov 5,1874, in Putnam Co. by Rev A. M. Marshall Their children: Lelia Ophlia Alford, born Aug 17,1875, Putnam co. Clarence Brown Alford, B. Nov 20,1876, Putnam Co Julian Hartridge Alford, B. July 7, 1878, Putnam Co Roy S. Alford, born Nov 19, 1879, Putnam Co. Paul Soffer Alford, born Apr 25,1883, Putnam O John Gordon Alford, B. July 28, 1886, Putnam Co May Alford, May 1,1890, Putnam Co. I ahev the mariage records of each of these. One. Julian Hartridge Alford, died in 1904. And I have, from this Bible record, some other names and facts and will complete cards for all, including their children and grandren, when I go to Milledgeville and Estonton, in a few days, for this purpose and to check some other old family data they possess.

- (b) Uncle Greene, as stated, died, unmarried. I think he died in the Confederate Soldier's Home. I will check records in Atlanta, at first opportunity. I remember he visited our home and spent some time with us, when I was a boy; I was quite y oung but I went fishing with him several times. He caught plenty of 'em every time, I remember.
- (C) Our grandfather, William Alford, was born in County, Ga (Putnam, I am sure and am rechecking with Aunt Mat. He was born 18 (I suppose I will have to ty to get this from some public record, like his application for a Confederate pension. Doyou have any information?) He married Susan Bryant, of Warren Co.Ga. Jan 25,1849 (according to data furnished me by Aunt Mat.) (Her brothers and sisters were, according to Aunt Mat: Jasper Bryant, William Bryant, Betsy Bryant and Martha Bryant. (I think a son of one of these brothers lived at Buckhead, Morgan County, for I remember he had a daughter, a little older than I was, who also went to school at Buckhead with me. I can't recall her name, except that it was Bryant and she died that year. I was quite small, just beginning in school. My father in latter years tld we were cousins. Do you happen to knowany thing about Grandma's family?) Grandpa and grandma had these children (most of the dates, etc. furnished by Aunthat) William Benjamin Alford, b. Married Molly Garnton, of Laurens Co. 1907; No children; died July ____, 1942, at Dublin, as. Greene Colquitt Alford, B. Feb 18,1853; Married Camillia Lunsford, of Wilkes Co. Ga.,

He died at Lakeland, Fla.

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His wife died		19	at	
/Their Children	1:			
/Lorenzo Alford	l	•		·
/ J Olin A	llford			
P		Alford		
Horace	Alford			
Leila Alford				:

Olin, I do not know all the facts, birth, placef birth, marrage, etc. Will try to get cards from each, to supply this.

This about all data I know, not even full names of one, Tap. Homer or Matthew is dead; Alonzo, also, is decaesed. Am trying to get in touch with one of thoseliving in Atlanta but so many Jones live here it is about like looking for a needle in a hay stack. Will keep trying.

Lorenzo Dow Alford (nickname "Bud", to most of his immediate family and acquaintances) b. July 30, 1857; Morgan Co. Ga. Died Jan 4,1946, at Ludowidi, Long Co. Ga. and buried in Carter's Chapel Cemtery, Laurens Co Ga. Married Anna Hart, Born Oct 21,1865, in Exas, but mother, after death of father, returned to Greene Co. Ga. where mother and children lived with faxing mother's father and mother at Greshamville, home of family until she married L.D. Alford, Dec 19, 1889. She died Dec 18,1850, at Dublin, Ga., and burried in Carter's Chapel Cemetery, near Scott, Ga. She was the daughter of John S. Hart and Martha Jane Leverett Hart, both of Greene Co. Ga., were married Sept 10,1857 (natives of Greene Co.) Children of L.D. & Anna Hart Alford: Guy Alford, born Dec 15,1890, at Buckhead, Morgan Co. Ga. Married Olive Holliman (daughter of Joel Hurt Holliman and Sarah Frances Bostright Holliman of Wilkinson Co. Ga.) on June 11,1925. One child: Winston Holliman Alford, B. Nov 11,1926, at Swainsboro, Emanuel Co. Ga. Married Samuel H. Hilbun, Laurens Co. Ga. Allo. 22. Beulah Mae Alford, b. Moh 16,1892, in Morgan Co, Ga Children:

Ann Arphelia Hilbun

Ruby Hilbun

(Mr Olin Asford, June 24,1951, page 7)

Guy Hilbun, and Elaine Hilbun I am unable to give further details, for certain, but each are married. Am waiting on my sister for dates etc Gartrell Alford, b. Feb 27, 1894, in Morgan Co. Ga. Married Ethel Barwick, of Laurens Co. Ga. July 30,1920 Children: Luther "Bill" Alford Russell Alford Trellie Alford Talmadge Alford Dean Alford Ann Alford Not sure about all dats I have, so am rechecking. Homer Lee Alford, B. Oct 15,1895, in Morgan Co. Ga Married Alma Odom of Laurens Co. Ga. ,1919 Children: Mabel Alford Myrtise Alford Leastt Alford Doubtful about dates I have, so am checking, for certainty. Two of these are married. Louise Alford, b. 1900, died in fancy, about 1 year old

George Washington Alford, b. May 4,1859, Morgan Co Ga. Do not know more facts; have asked Aunt Mat for more details.

Martha Jane Alford, b. July 21,1861, Morgan Co Ga
Married Fred Farthing, of Morgan Co. Dec 16
1878. (Have asked Aunt Mat for details to supply complete information for card. Flora Kimball is helping etc.

I do not know their order by age or all of the names of her children, for sure, but there is Jim, Irvin, Willie, Flora, etc. so will not enter more about Aunt Mat's family.

James Wesley Alford, born August 22,1867, in Morgan Co. For some reason, I never heard much about Uncle Wes, though I heard my father mention his name and talk about him several times in my younger days In the Morgan County marriage records, I found a record of the marriage of Wesley Alford and E lla Smith. I assume he must have died early. Rora will try to get facts from her mother.

I could speculate upon some facts or tradition I have

(D) Caroline, the last of the four children, I heard my father mention several times. He called her Aunt Caroline, seemingly, know/ing her, that is, she must have reached maturity, etc. I do not recall positively that he told me she married or if she died. I want to determine these facts, possible. May be I can get it from Roy Alford or some one in his family.

So, you will see I am concentrating on getting our immediate family's record completed. After I do this, I want to determine, next, who was the father of our great grand father, william B. Alford and our great grand mother, Mary Mason Alford. This can be done, no doubt, by looking into the old records in wake County, N.C. I have already looked into many of the books, etc. of N.C. Records and hisotries, as well as the U S Census Report for N.C. for 1790, the first census ever made in the United States. This Census, by the way, lists the 'heads' of families and not the names of each person in the family or household; it gives the also the district and county and four categories of persons by age: 1. those above 16 years of age, males, while, 2. those under 16 years of age, males, white, and 4, slaves. I found a number of Alford families, including Lodwick, James, William, etc.

According to Mrs U S Gunn, Crawfordville, Ga., nee Olive Alford, of Rutledge in her youth, tells me that our common ancestor is Lodwick Alford, who was the father of James and Julius Alford, both of whom came to Georgia, James settled in Hancock County, and Julius, the record shows, settled in Troup County. Ga. or that immediate area. I made a copy of the wills of Lodwick Alford and James Alford and sent them along to Aunt and Flora, to check and study with a view of determining, if possible, if the son Willie named in James Alford's Will was our ancestor. I wish you would drop by Aunt Mat's and take a look at these wills. You will find them interesting reading as well as information. I do not have another copy or I would mail one to you.

I don't want to confuse you, Olin, or get the record out of joint, but my view is that if the son Willie named in the James Alford will, probated in Hancock County, is our ancestor, we need to establish if he had an initial, or that he must or should have been a Senior or Junior. I see several William Alfords, one or two seniors and juniors. And the Willie named in this will would have been born in N.C. before James Alford came to Georgia, after the Revolution. When I get through checking the records of Putnam, Greens, Hancock, Warren, Washington, and possibly Wilkes counties, I will probably be able to have enough facts to eliminate doubts and conflicts. In my letter to Aunt Mat you will also see that I found and mention the transcript of the will of William H. Alford and among his sons was William, Jr. Looking at the deed records, marriage books, cemeteries, etc. and may be some one there who is a desendant of some of the several Alfords who lived and died in those

counties may point to whether or not our ancestor, William B. Alford, born in 1789, in Wake Co. N.C., is the son of James Alford and named 'Willie' in the will.

If such is the case we would be descendants of Lodwick Alford, according to the genealogy records compiled by Mrs Gunn, for her record shows Lodwick Alford as being born in N.C. in 1715; died 1789 in N.C. and his wife as Rebecca Terrell (or Thersell). There may be a typegraphical error in these notoes mentioned or it could be in copying the will, for his will recites that it was executed in 1792 (see copy sent to Aunt Nat.)

These notes of Mrs Gunn says Lodwick Alford had two sons, James W. and Julius Alford, both of whom came to Georgia.

(a) James W., our ancestor, according to Mrs Gunn, was born in N.C. in 1741; died in N.C. in 1813 and his wife was Lurania Boykin, their marriage being ih 1769. It is possible for him to died in N.C., while on a visit for example, but the copy of the will of James Alford, probated in Hancock co. Ga. in 1814 and made in 1912, would bear out that point. He drops the W in his name, according to the will. But his wife, named in the will, has her name spelled Lurena, not an impossible difference in spealing, of course. Among other children, James Alford's will names Kinchen and Willie, as you will note.

By the way and my reason for mentioning Kinchen here is that Mrs Gunn claims Kinchen as her ancestor. Her notes says that Kinchen Allford, Sr. was born in N.C. in 1768 and his wife was Cynthia He must have had a son, for these nations says Kinchen Alford, Jr. was born in May 9,1812; died July 26,1891. He was a son of Kinchen, Sr. Willie, named in James Alford's will, doubtless is our Rilliam B. whom I have referred to on page 4.

(b) The son, Julius, also came to Georgia, as previously stated. I might mention in passing, for we will see the names in the records frequently, Julius alford had a son, Lodwick, Jr., and a grandson, Julius Ceasar, among other numerous descendants.

I am enclosing a list of marriages from the Morgan Comarriage records for the period 1808-1905 and Greene Co. Marriages for period 1787 - 1875 (both are incomplete, I think,
and I will recheck and bring up to date when I visit those
counties checking their records). Thought you might be interested in reading. I copied down the Hart and Leverett marriages
too, for they are my mother's families, and I do not feel like
recopying or making new records exclusively of the Alford
marriages.

I have on cards, many items about Alford's who drew land for Revolutionary War services. Also other grants when the State got cessions of land from the Indians, usually through some lottery scheme; others upon application, etc. I have extracet from old tax digests and like information. I am looking into the re cords available in Atlanta, to get all the information I can before I sort it out and assemble for final arrangment, and after I make my planned trip to Eatonton, Milledgeville, Sparta, etc.

I have made carbon copies of this letter and will enclose a copy when I write Willie, Leila, Horance's wife and Lo's wife because I just am not physically able to write each a lengthy letter. Thus, I hope to kill two bird's with one stone, to use an old saying. I hope each of them will cooperate with us in this project, for I want as complete and authentic information as possible to obtain.

From each of you I would like to have the data necessary set up a card for themselves and their families, namely-

- a. Full first, middle and last or family name.
- b. Husband or wife, as the case may be, also, for this is a valuable piece of data for the record of a person's family.

Born	18	_ in		
	_Co	•		
Married				3 or
(or daughter) of _	<u></u>			
and				
on				
		, &&&	•	
Children: (includi	ng those	decessed	l, if any))
			born _	
Died: (If decease				<u> </u>
Died: (II decembe				

h. Any other information desired to to recorded: Such

a public office, army or navy service, civic, fraternal or church connections or service, or any networthy act or deings of yourself or family, any member; personal characteristics; interesting experiences; place of residence, why there, etc. I mention simply as suggested ideas that might be included on each individual's card or a particular individual - grand parent, father, mother, brother, sister, etc. Even good fortune or misfortune and why, one's observations may be interesting to thos who come after them. An invetion, a new way or idea for doing a thing. There is an interesting and worthwhile story, somewhere, in the life of every individual. Some people may not appreciate or understand that point, but it is true. If you know something about your parents, grand parents, etc., that highly impressed you, set it down.

So, I am hoping each of you will give me a card about yourselves and each member of your family. When all is put together we will have a factual record and one that ought to be preserved for posterioty. Need not be bashful about it, or possess an inferior complex - every person, particularly one's family, is worthy of at least having a brief biographical sketch, one that is authentic, preserved.

I will prepare at least one copy, if typewriten, if mimeographed, more copies, for each group in the family. Itay be that, through some good fortune, I may be able to get it r inted. Book publishing is expensive, of course, but where there is a will there is a way, I will repeat here. It is going to take quite a bit of time and patience and effort to get it even in shape for a manuscript. However, after I visit the old counties wherr our forebears were born, and maybe North Carolina. I will have the biggest obstacles overcome and ready for piecing in the parts dealing with the yourger and present day generations. There are Alford all over the United States. Some may be in our orbit but, to be sure, many are of no relation because they, too, sprung from an immigrant from some part of England who lived nearby an old fording place. I must, therefore, confine myself within the mimitations of a foreseesble endour immediate family, both lineal and collateral lines, and then some of the other families into which the daughters married, etc.

I wish you would notice the places, in the previous pages, I have left blank or asked a question. If you can help me to supply the missing link or recheck my present data, I will appreciate having you or any member of the family make a contribution to that extent, at least. Every one has some facts or tradition about his or her family, I find. Some even have old papers, documents, Bibles, etc. that are invaluable.

Olin, I have made a lot of mistakes in this letter, but charge it up to my physical limitations. I started it Sunday, and will try to finish here today, Yonday.

And I want to apoligize to you for putting a P in your

Mr Olin Alford, June 24,1951, pake 12.)

name. I started without your letter before me and did not discover it until I had written several pages.

I will be writing you again. Hoping others in the family will give me their good will and cooperation, to the extend indicated on page 11, where I enumerate the items that will help in compiling this information about each individual.

If possible, I will try to get down to Aunt Mat's Anniversary party on July 21. The travel I have in mind, before that date, may lay me up for awhile, but right now I feel rather spry as compared with the past five years.

And I thank you for the invitation to visit you and your family. If I get down that way, I shall certainly accept it. And if you or your folks are ever in the vicinity of Atlanta, come to see me. We will be glad to see you any time.

Since I want to turn to letters to your sister and brothers and families, I must quite here.

Let me hear from you again. And thanking you in advance for the requested information, I am,

Your cousin,

Guy Alford