Ahoy Wick, Gil, and Pam,

I began catching up on my correspondence June 10 and the computer promptly broke! It took over ten days to determine that it was the little blue nicad battery powering the Eprom. There were more weird symptoms than the law allows!

<u>First:</u> Nina and I are officially divorced now and both of us are much happier being able to pursue our own interests. We have remained good friends throughout the exhausting process and the kids have taken it quite well. It is likely that she will show up occasionally at AAFA functions. Getting divorced turned out to be a lot more complex than either of us expected. Incidentally, it was brought to my attention that a spicy, though highly incorrect, story is circulating about why we reached our decision last Fall! Some cousins do put the cart before the horse, I suppose.

<u>Second:</u> Regarding the purchase of books and materials: I am opposed to buying what we can obtain from libraries. Our meager funds would be better used to fund publication of critical works dispelling the misinformation that has evolved about the origins of the family. Another good use would be funding a scholarship for Alford kids who need financial assistance in college.

<u>Third:</u> Pam, do send the photographs back to me. I don't have a copy negative of one of them yet and I want to get that done before releasing all of them to Jack.

<u>Fourth:</u> Gil, I'm getting together all the info on my 10 character id for you. The major difference is that I use a 3 character surname id (3 was chosen to distinguish between McCarthy/McDougal and Alford/Allen for example.) I feel that 10 characters is the absolute minimum for positive identification. We need to adopt a standardized identification system ASAP and convert all of the records to it. I'll also answer the rest of your letter shortly.

I'll be moving again about July 31 if the gang violence in this neighborhood doesn't get me first. Meanwhile I'm going to work on catching up my correspondence.

More later,

Jim/Houston

James P. Alford 550 Stafford Run Rd. #705 Stafford, TX 77477