

LCM

MARY and GIL ALFORD
1403 Kingsford Drive
Florissant, MO 63031
314 831 8648

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MRS. W. B. MEHRKAM
1070 Gardenia Drive
Houston, TX 77018

DRAFT

Dear Mrs. Mehrkam:

Thank you so very much for your response to our letter. We really appreciated the reply and the information you sent. Then names and addresses are super, but do have a question or two on them later.

I am afraid we don't have the Alford family on the computer yet. We have a very small start, but we have big plans and high hopes. Your son apparently has not been bitten by the same computer bug that bit me or the genealogy bug that bit us. We don't seem to have time for anything else. We are letting everything go to pot so we can do this.

You mentioned the trouble your eyes were giving you and the effect it was having on your typing. You should not have taken the trouble to type all the stuff you sent us. Especially the names and addresses and the genealogy charts.

Enclosed are ~~X~~ computer pedigree charts that I made from the data you sent. Check them closely for I may have made some mistakes. This is now loaded on one of our computer disks and it is a simple matter to change it or add to it when you have something new. When you think you have made enough changes on your copy to make it worthwhile to run through the computer just send us a copy of the mark up, we will punch it into the computer and send you back an updated copy. If and when we get to the point that you think the chart is final or fairly static, let us know and we will take it to our printer when we finish the update. We will shrink it on his xerox machine and we will send you a copy that is exactly notebook size. If you aren't interested and don't want to bother, that will be alright with us, just let us know so we can erase your file off the disk and use the space for something else.

It was interesting to see a Snowden on your chart. Mary's 2nd gr grandpa married a Snowden. We will check what we have on them sometime to see if they were close to South Carolina.

You asked what we had on Alford. Not much. We have a little data on an alledged line of descendants going back to the mid 1600's in Virginia. That plus a couple of other short histories has provided most of what we have. Our Alfords were not from this part of the country and there is not as much available locally on that surname as some of our others.

Do we have the Alford Family Bulletin? No, but we have written for a subscription. Another correspondent set us copies of issues no 9 and 10 (spring and fall 1978). We made copies and returned them to her. We prefer to borrow and copy rather than pay the pretty stiff price she has for back issues. If you have them we will pay you for reproduction or if you wish send them to us and we will make copies and return them immediately.

Do you have the Alford family from England? No, never heard of it.

Do you have the Arthur Alford family of Horry Co SC? No, and never heard of him either. (We really just got into this as you can see)

We do not have and have not heard of the Alford data from the Ala Register by Granduel & Jones.

Except for what we are getting in response to our letters, we had nothing on Texas Alfords.

We have just a little about the Alfords in NC (Lodowick and his family) and a little about those in Pike county Ms. Very little about our own family in Washington Parish La.

Again, we have never heard of Cade Fulmore and the Fulmore family.

All the other stuff you mentioned we don't have.

So we can **DRAFT** LCM

We have a computer, the interest, the desire and the time.

You mentioned 2000-3000 cards on Alford's. I am sure we would like the data that is on them, but not sure how best to go about it. It is too much of a job to reproduce that volume. Can you send us the format of the data that is on the cards to see how it would go into the computer. Is there a chance that you would trust them to us, some at a time rather than all at once. We would protect them with our life, load them immediately and return them to you. You would have access to the data on the computer and we could give it to you in just about any sequence or format you wanted it. (Dependant of course on what you have on the cards and how we would put it in the computer)

You have relatively few Alford's in your ancestry. May I ask how in the world you collected so much on that surname? If the data you have on your other surnames is in proportion to the data you have on Alford, you must have a substantial library___almost your own little genealogical society.

It looks like our Alford lines will parallel in the Carolinas and in Georgia (ours) and Alabama (yours), but they will probably never tie in. We are not interested in just ours though so we would like to find some way to get everything you have.

Do you know if any of the books you mentioned are still in print, or for sale anywhere? We would like to buy them if they have any substantial information on Alford, otherwise, we will just try to reproduce pages or a chapter or two. We have a book on Pike County Ms which has several references to the Alford's and contains one genealogy that stops at my grandfather. It was that genealogy I used to make the chart we sent you. We also have a copy of something written about 1975 by Hugh Edwin Alford. It is a typed copy, and we don't know if it was ever published as such. A cousin in Ms sent us the copy we have. Hugh Edwin was of the same general line we are from. If you are interested in any of this we would be glad to make a copy and send to you. We typed an extract of the genealogy from the book so that it could be reproduced, ~~for~~ the copy from the book was rather poor.

We sure are pleased with the long list of contacts you sent us. There were some that did not have complete mailing address. We wonder if you have anymore information on them. We intend to write each and every one of them. For Billy McClenny there in Houston you just had a phone number, apparently you call rather than write in his case. The same is true for a Lillie Thuman who is the one we are most interested in for she is interested in Jacob & Frankie and Seaborn Alford. Jacob and John Seaborn were ~~my~~ Gil's 2nd great grandfather and great grandfather. Thanks again, you gave us more contacts than we got from roots. Incidentally, Mary Louise Reynolds, who was on your list, gave us a list on which your name and address appeared. Her current address is 1910 S. 3rd St. #140, Louisville, KY 40208. We will tell you the results of our contact with them later.

We have made a great deal more progress on a similar effort on Newkirk which is Mary's maiden name. We are mailing out our first issue of little newsletter to those working on Newkirk. It does not appear to be the case with you, but most of those with whom we are in contact are crying for some means of communication exchange within their group. We hope to do the same with Alford soon, unless we discover that there is one. (Mrs Bowman's Bulletin seems to be one way__very good for the purposed planned, but not good for two way communication) *ill*

As soon as we can find time I want to make you a family chart similar to the one we sent you in our letter. I will start with what you have in your family group sheets. If you wish you can add ~~to~~ to that and I will update the chart for you.

I will be using the article you sent on William B. Alford. Did you intend for us to keep that or do you want it returned. It will be no trouble to copy and return if you want it.

Thank you again for all the information you have sent and the help you have promised. I trust that we eventually will make you feel that it has been worthwhile for you.