

803 Roxboro Road
Rockville, Maryland 20850
August 8, 1983

Mr. Gilbert K. Alford, Jr.
1403 Kingsford Drive
Florissant, MO 63031

Dear Mr. Alford:

While I have been meaning to write you for sometime, I have somehow kept putting it off, but not intentionally - just too busy. Since I went by Mother's apartment yesterday and found your letter and she suggested that I answer it for her, since she is hospitalized at present and unable to do much.

Nearly two weeks ago, she came down with either a virus type thing or something causing severe diarrhea. My husband and I were at our place in Virginia and although I spoke with her daily she only mentioned that she was having a slight problem. When we returned that Saturday, I found her seemingly better, but still unable to eat much.

On Monday, we called the doctor and he came out to see her and said she was very dehydrated. On Tuesday, he ordered her into the hospital and she has been there ever since - a week tomorrow. They seemed to think she had a chemical imbalance added to shingles and the dehydration, but they are giving her excellent care and I feel she will be able to come home sometime later this week.

Mother said to tell you that the reference to "Alford Charts page _____" refers to the charts of Mrs. Jewel Gallagher, and that since you mentioned her in your letter she feels sure you must have her charts.

I am feeling much better now, although I still find I tire very quickly. I am now trying to get all of my genealogical records, charts, books, etc. in a decent order. Before I retired in 1981, I was teaching a class after work and frequently went to the National Archives after work, arriving home as late as 11:30 p.m. when I would be exhausted and just toss my notebooks, etc. in the genealogy room. Well, it has caught up with me now, for after being out of things for a year (hospitalized a total of 5½ months in 1982), I can't find half of my stuff. I have 19 notebooks with family group sheets on families that I am working on, and I had bits and pieces everywhere.

Your computer sounds like a great idea and I know it is, too. Our local genealogy club has been giving classes in computer orientation, etc. but they have fallen when I was not able to go. I still hope to do something about it later on.

I have a number of problems both with my SHULL lines (my maiden name) and the MAINS/MAINES lines, which was my grandmother's maiden name. It is like a gigantic jigsaw puzzle.

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One of the things I like about doing this type of research, is the number of interesting people one meets. Also, it is surprising the number of distant cousins one turns up sometimes.

For instance, on the Mains/Maines lines, I have had two nice encounters. A few years back, I sent a query to a woman's magazine saying I was doing genealogical research on the following families, and proceeded to name about 20-25. Later I received a response from a young woman in East Texas who descended from a William Seaborn Maines (known as "Sebe"), who was a brother to my great-grandfather, Williamson Maines. All my grandmother, Lucy Maines Shull ever said was that they didn't know much about Uncle Sebe except that he had "gone to Texas" and no one ever heard of him after that. Well, Jo Ann Jacobs sent me reams of his descendants.

About a year ago, Mother received a telephone call from a young man, a William Maines, who is the City Engineer for the City of Waco. He is only about 31 yrs. old, but he descends from a brother to William Seaborn Maines, a John Maines, whose name we had, but there again we knew nothing much about him, not even who he married or anything else. We have quite a correspondence going with young William and he is actively pursuing the Maines lines. It is a joy to know that there are young people interested and will carry on the work.

Before I forget, another piece of correspondence arrived for Mother, and it is a request for a subscription to the Alford Bulletin. I shall return her check with an explanation and your address. Also, for your info her is her address, you might want to send her a copy of your latest.

Mrs. Lloyd E. Fite
11938 Longleaf
Houston, Texas 77024 782-1557

I sincerely hope you are doing some better with the bulletin. I know it is a very difficult job to get something like that going and to make it profitable, too. I considered taking it over before I got sick, but after all my troubles I decided I could not do it.

Somewhere in this disorganized chaos that I call a bedroom (upstairs and unused for its intended purpose) I have some recent census information for you re Alford's. Offhand, I believe they were in West Virginia, because that is where I was looking recently. I'll check it out and send it to you as soon as I come across it again.

Must run and catch the mailman.

Sincerely,


Lucy Shull Stevens