

AAFA ACTION

The Official Publication of the Alford American Family Association

December 1989

Vol. II, No. 3



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President's Precept

NOW HEAR THIS!

The second Annual Meeting of our Alford American Family Association held in Houston, Texas, on October 14, 1989, was a wonderful occasion. By almost any standard you can mention, it was a great success. Those of you who were there will know what I mean.

On Friday evening before the meeting an informal get-together served to break the ice—and did it ever! With about 125 people there, the decibel level at the party was a good indication of the spirit and camaraderie engendered.

Arrangements for the meeting at the famous Houstonian Hotel where President Bush has his official home of record were superb. And we all owe D.L. Alford and his cohorts a vote of thanks for the set-up and their Texas hospitality. Thank you again, guys and gals.

Topics discussed and decisions made at the meeting appear elsewhere in this newsletter. The future looks bright for our Association. Membership is growing steadily as news about us gets around by print in genealogy columns and, most importantly, by word of mouth. But as gratified as we are about increased membership, never forget folks, the name of this game is family research and sharing the information uncovered with other members.

Let me again urge all of you not to let organizational and administrative details of our Association divert you from digging into the murky areas of your ancestry. Don't hesitate to look in places unlikely to have Alford information. Just recently on a hunch I was looking through a couple of county histories some distance from my home county and quite unexpectedly found some information about my line of Alfords I had not known before. [Editor's note: Did you copy the pages and send them to the Librarian?!]

If anyone has any doubts that curiosity about our forbears is the glue that holds us together, let me tell you about the last session at our meeting in Houston. At this session, our superb Executive Assistant

(Continued on p. 12)

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The Alford American Family Association is a Missouri corporation which has been exempt from federal income tax by the Internal Revenue Service as provided by Internal Revenue Code 501 (c7). The Association has no paid staff or employees and depends entirely on volunteer workers.

Treasurer's Report

	1988 Actual	1989 Budget Original	1989 Budget Revision (8-30-89)	1989 Actual to Date (11-30-89)	1990 Tentative Budget
REVENUE					
REG FEE (INITIAL)	\$ 700.00	\$1200.00	\$1380.00	\$1530.00	\$1150.00
INITIAL DUES	560.00	750.00	1104.00	1224.00	3450.00
RENEWAL DUES	320.00	784.00	800.00	704.00	3450.00
DONATIONS - GENERAL	682.57	1000.00	1326.00	1401.64	1500.00
BUDGETED REVENUE	\$2267.57	\$3734.00	\$4610.00	\$4859.64	\$9550.00
REG FEE (MEETING)				357.00	
DONATIONS - MEETING				1324.00	
DONATIONS - COMPUTER FUND				235.00	
TOTAL REVENUE	\$2267.57	\$3734.00	\$4610.00	\$6775.64	
EXPENSES					
POSTAGE & PO BOX	\$ 653.97	\$1439.00	\$1900.00	\$1786.46	\$3650.00
STATIONERY	817.01	0.00	250.00	204.67	500.00
PRINTING	337.84	1510.00	1660.00	1769.97	3300.00
RESEARCH		340.00	200.00	143.93	400.00
FAMILY EMBLEM	200.00				
MISCELLANEOUS	241.37	445.00	600.00	737.44	300.00
ADVERTISING					300.00
SUPPLIES					700.00
NON EXPENDABLE ITEMS					400.00
BUDGETED EXP'S	\$2250.19	\$3734.00	\$4610.00	\$4642.47	\$9550.00
MEETING & RECEPTION				1499.94	
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$2250.19	\$3734.00	\$4610.00	\$6142.41	
NET WORTH	\$1399.26			\$2032.49	

Note that the above is as of the end of November and is not the complete report for 1989. The December activity will make a significant difference. Funds received and expensed for the annual meeting are shown outside the budget in the above table. The total cost of the meeting was paid for by fees and donations of those participating in the meeting. The cost was \$181.06 less than the funds received, so the balance was placed in the general fund.

In view of the significantly increasing budget it seems wise to break out some of the miscellaneous expenses for 1990. The net worth of \$2032.49 at the end of November is comprised of the \$1399.26 reserve that was brought forward from 1988 plus the 1989 receipts that have not been expended. It is expected to be substantially less at the end of December.

The tentative 1990 budget is under review by the Board of Directors and is expected to undergo considerable change before execution begins. Members who desire a complete financial report may obtain one by sending \$2.00 to the Missouri office to cover the cost of making copies and mailing.

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.

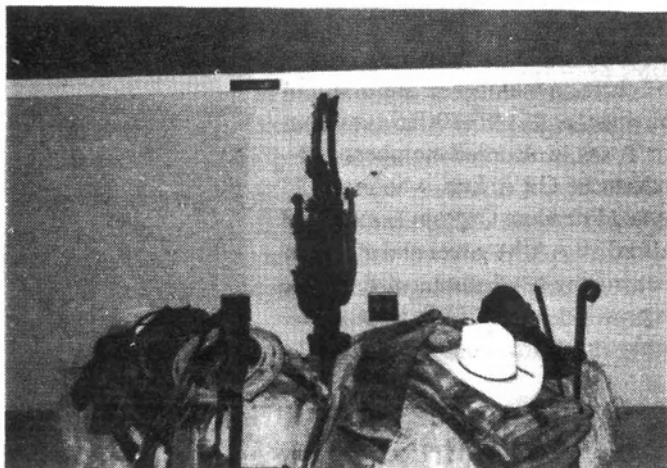
Members came from California, Washington, Arizona, Colorado, Oklahoma, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, Louisiana, Missouri and of course, Texas. One member reported that she had cancelled a trip to South Africa just so she could attend the meeting. From all indications she was not disappointed!

On Friday evening members met many Alford's 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 Alford's!



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

Enjoying the Friday Night Reception



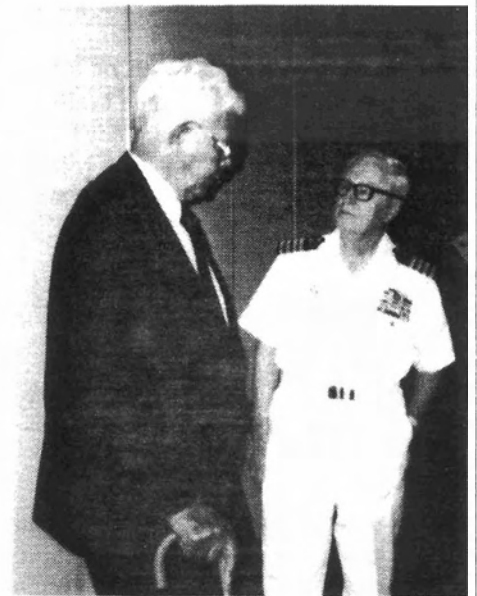
Walter M. Mischer of Houston; James Posey Alford, AAFA Texas Publicist, of Gonzales, Texas; Mary (Mrs. Walter) Alford Mischer; and Joe Alford, son of James and Kathryn Alford, one of several children and grandchildren who attended the Friday night reception.



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.



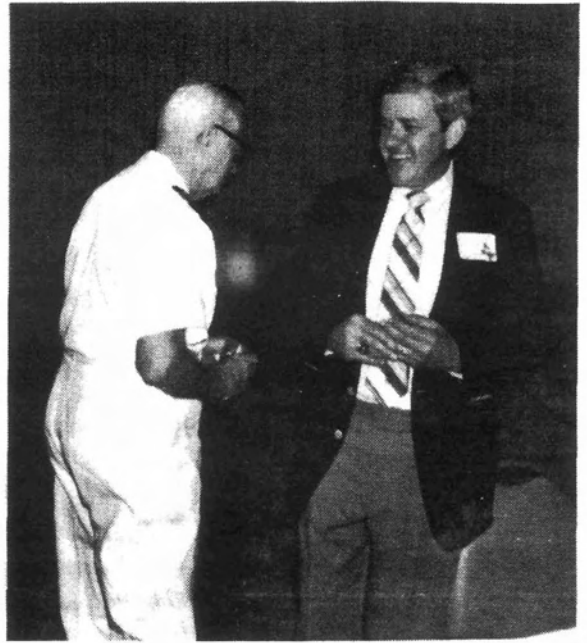
Margie (Mrs. Gerald) Alford from Burlison, Texas; Louise Alford from Houston, Texas; Victor Alford and his father H. Harold Alford from Longwood, Florida; and Jim Alford, son of D.L. Alford

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.

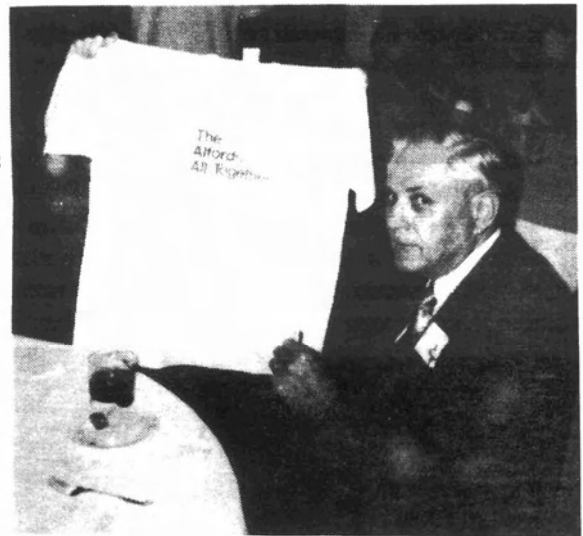


Ella L. Alford, the attendee who was an AAFA member for the shortest time—Member #246, and her brother Landon Alford, the attendee who's been a member the longest—Member #2!



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



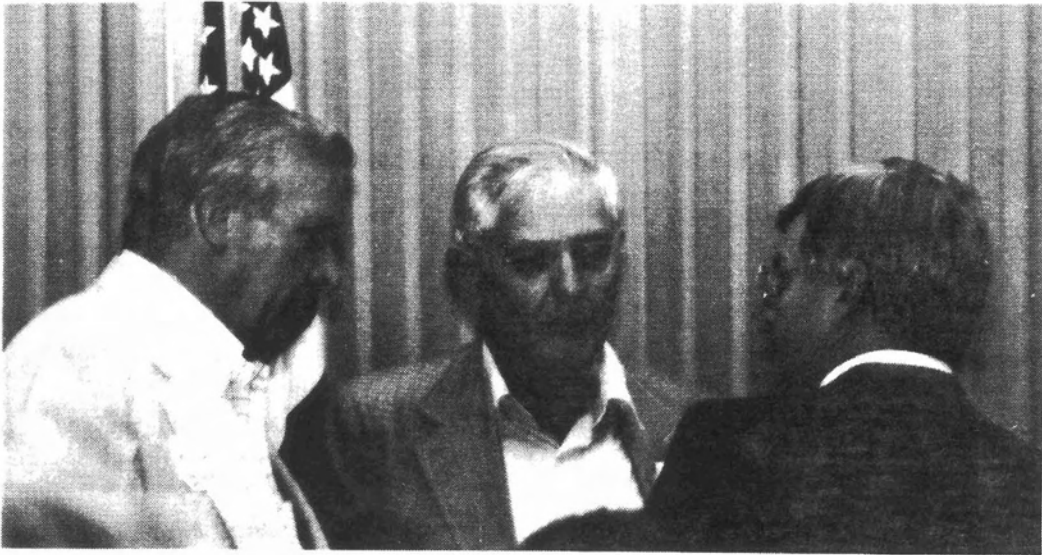
Kate (Mrs. Steve) Alford, Betty Alford Davis from Texas, and Judge Steve A. Alford, Jr., from Louisiana



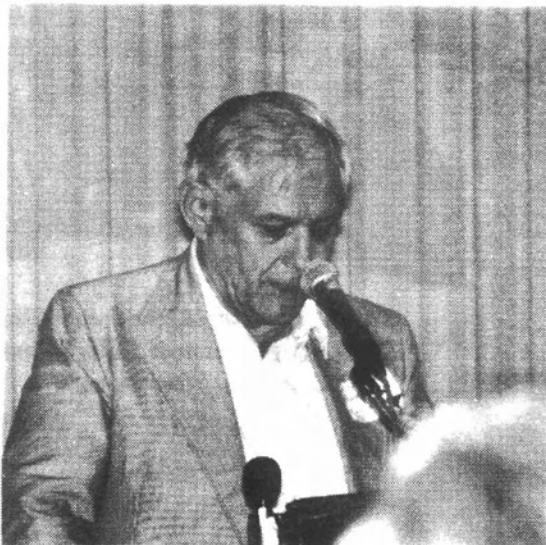
Lodwick Alford, Mary Alford, and her husband Lee Alford III



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 Genelological 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's 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

(President's Precept, cont. from p. 1)
 Gilbert K. Alford, Jr. traced the lineage of each and every member of the Association back to the earliest known person of the line. It was fascinating, and every member present was spell-bound. It was indeed a "tour de force" by Gil Alford.

That brings me to an effort of the Association to express adequately to Gil Alford our appreciation for his work. I am sure you will agree with me that there is no way it can be done. But we tried anyway. At the direction of the Board of Directors, a letter to Gil from the President was written extolling his

accomplishments and granting him Life Membership. At the close of the meeting in Houston the letter was read as a proclamation to the members assembled, who gave Gile a standing ovation. Wea also presented Gil and his lovely wife Mary a beautiful silver bowl . The letter appears on page 11 in this newsletter.

Now as I write this the holiday season is approaching, and I want to wish all of you happiness, good cheer, and good ancestor hunting. I look forward to again serving as your President in 1990.

Lodwick H. Alford, President, AAFA

Meeting Minutes & Tapes Available

Copies of the complete official minutes of the 1989 Annual Meeting in Houston are available for \$1.50 to cover the cost of copying and mailing.

At the Friday evening reception James P. Alford and Gil Alford video taped much of the activity. At the Saturday business meeting they continued taping, and Richard Stratton also taped most of the Saturday session. Copies of these video tapes (VHS) are available to the membership. There are several versions: raw, edited, business meeting only, etc. If you would like to purchase a tape or set of tapes, contact the Missouri office and advise them of the speeds available on your VCR. A list of the versions available and the number of tapes involved along with the price will be furnished in return. Video tapes will be not more than \$10.00 per tape and audio tapes will be not more than \$3.00 per tape.

Members may also obtain a copy of the charts used at the Alford Family Forum by sending \$4.00 to the Missouri office. Make your check payable to AAFA—not to Gil Alford.

If you would like to have an audio cassette tape of the Alford-composed marches that were played at the meeting, send a card to the Missouri office requesting a detailed list with price.

ALFORD HONORED: Burleson County Historical Society President Judy Richardson presents Past-President Catherine G. Alford with a special plaque "with gratitude for distinguished service" to the society. Mrs. Alford served as President of the society for 22 years. The two are pictured in front of the Kraitchar House Museum, one of the many projects Mrs. Alford was instrumental in.

Alfords in the News

THE BURLESON COUNTY CITIZEN-TRIBUNE AND CALDWELL NEWS
 Caldwell, TX—Thurs., 27 July 1989

ALFORD RECEIVES LAW DEGREE

On Sunday, May 21, Lee Alford, IV, [AAFA Member #166] was awarded the Doctorate of Jurisprudence by the University of Texas School of Law. While at the Law School, Lee served as an executive officer in the Delta Theta Phi law fraternity and was selected for membership in the legal honor fraternity of Phi Delta Phi.

A 1982 graduate of Caldwell High School, Lee distinguished himself academically as class Valedictorian and the school's first National Merit Scholar. In addition to being a two-sport letterman, Lee was active in many school activities and organizations and held several elected offices. . . .

Lee attended Texas A&M University as a recipient of a President's Endowed Scholarship and graduated magna cum laude in 1986 with a double major in Accounting and Finance. While at A&M, Lee was a member of the Accounting and Finance honor societies of Phi Eta Sigma and Phi Kappa

Phi. Additionally, he was an active member of the College of Business Student Council and the DBA Fellows program within the college. . . .

During the last two of his three years in law school, Lee clerked for seven law offices in Austin, Houston, and DallasDuring the Spring of this year, Lee was privileged to serve as a legislative assistant to Senator Kent CapertonUpon completion of the Texas Bar Examination this summer, Lee will begin work as an associate in the Dallas law firm of Gardere & Wynne, the largest firm in that city and among the ten largest statewide.

Lee is the son of Mr. & Mrs. Lee Alford, III of Caldwell. He is the grandson of Mr. & Mrs. D.L. Alford, Jr. of Caldwell and of Col. Joseph B. Collerain, Sr. (ret.) and the late Alice Collerain of Houston.

In what appears to be the same issue of the CITIZEN-TRIBUNE a photograph of Catherine G. Alford, wife of D.L. Alford, was published above the following caption: