

Biography: Columbus Augustine Alford

By Lodwick Houston Alford
AAFA President

Columbus Augustine Alford [uncle of the author] was born 6 February 1850 in Holly Springs, Wake County, North Carolina. He was the fourth of seven children and the third of four boys born to Green Haywood and Rebecca (JONES) Alford. [See "Biography: Green Haywood Alford," *AAFA ACTION*, March 1989, pp. 22-23.] He died of typhoid fever 22 September 1908 in Waynesville, Haywood County, North Carolina, and is buried in Hillcrest Cemetery, Sylvester, Worth County, Georgia.

He first married Martha SUMNER about 1876 in Sumner, Worth County, Georgia. She was the daughter of John C. and Polly (Hobby) Sumner, a distinguished family of early settlers in south Georgia. She died 3 February 1881 in Sumner and is buried alongside her husband in Hillcrest Cemetery, Sylvester, Worth County, Georgia. Two children were born to this marriage.

The tragic loss of his young wife in 1881 was a turning point in the life of Columbus Augustine Alford. In 1883 he married his second wife, Jeannie Elizabeth JOHNSTON, daughter of

Benjamin Johnston of Americus, Sumter County, Georgia. In that same year he moved with his new bride to Willingham in the western part of Worth County, built a new house and commenced raising a second family. His business continued to prosper, allowing him to take an active part in the public life of the area. He served on the County Board of Education and in 1888 was elected to the State Senate from his district. He was active in Masonic orders and a faithful member of the Baptist Church.

Meanwhile his younger brother William Leorus Haywood Alford, with whom he became loosely associated in business, had migrated from Wake County, North Carolina, to Worth County with his bride in 1885. Their older brother, A. J. Alford, had already resettled in northern Florida. The business ventures of C. A. Alford continued to be successful, and by the turn of the century he was estimated to be one of the wealthiest men of the southern part of the state and worth over a million dollars. He became president of the Sylvester Banking Company and after selling his lumber business became the prime mover in building railroads to towns of adjoining counties and connecting lines to trunk roads. He was president of the Gulf Line Railway up to the time of his death.

While his business prospered a fine family of children were being raised. Of his second marriage, eight children were born, of whom seven grew to maturity. But again tragedy struck when his second wife Jeannie Elizabeth Alford died in 1901 leaving motherless small children, the youngest only six months old. While coping with this difficult situation, he continued to serve his state, county, and city of residence with distinction until his own untimely death in 1908. On a trip to Western



Columbus Augustine Alford

North Carolina he was struck down with typhoid fever and died on September 22 of that year, just 58 years old. He was brought back and buried alongside his two wives in Hillcrest Cemetery, Sylvester, Worth County, Georgia. Although he died intestate, he left comfortable assets and property to each of his children.

Columbus Augustine Alford was a man of integrity and common sense. He was a mover, shaker and innovator, universally recognized and respected in his section as a nation builder. He was truly a "giant."

The children of Columbus Augustine and Martha (Sumner) Alford were:

- i. Beulah Belinda Alford, born 1877 in Sumner, Worth County, Georgia, and died 1948 in Sylvester, Worth County. She is buried by her husband in Hillcrest Cemetery, Sylvester. She married William R. JOHNSTON of North Carolina about 1900, and they made their home in Sylvester. He died in 1943 in Sylvester and is buried there with his wife. Beulah Alford Johnston was a cultured, grand and gracious lady in the best southern tradition. William was a kind, courteous and courtly gentleman of the old school. Their home in Sylvester was perhaps the finest in the city and a visit there was always remembered as a study in good manners and gracious southern hospitality. They were faithful members of the Methodist Church, where he was superintendent of the Sunday School for many years. W. R. Johnston was by profession, in the vernacular of that day and region a "drummer man." There were no children of this marriage.
- ii. Green Floyd Alford, born 21 March 1879 in Sumner, Worth

County, Georgia, and died in Sylvester, Worth County 2 July 1943. He is buried in Hillcrest Cemetery there. He married Emily Claude Gibson 7 January 1903.

Children of Columbus Augustine and Jeannie Elizabeth (Johnston) Alford, all born in Worth County, Georgia, were:

- iii. Unnamed Infant, no dates, but born and died in Sumner, Worth County, Georgia.
- iv. Mattie Blanche Alford, born 8 October 1884 in Willingham and died 13 July 1960 in Sylvester, Worth County. She married Edwin Kerr GULLEY in August 1911.
- v. Bennie Love Alford, born 27 December 1886 and died 3 November 1949 in Sylvester, Worth County. She married Malcolm Hugh WESTBERRY about 1912.
- vi. Frankie E. Alford, born about 1889 in Willingham and died about 1945 in Sylvester, Worth County. She married William Harrison WESTBERRY about 1914, no children.
- vii. Columbus Augustine Alford, Jr., born 27 December 1891 in Willingham and died 26 December 1948 in Sylvester, Worth County. He married Anne Birch DOUGLAS December 10 1913.
- viii. Earl Johnston Alford, born 17 December 1893 in Willingham and died 9 June 1954 in Sylvester, Worth County. He married Erin Sadie SHEALEY 15 June 1915 in Worth County, Georgia.

- ix. Jeannie Helen Alford, born 3

June 1897 in Willingham and died 8 November 1959 in Sylvester, Worth County. She married Ivan Holden MANN in 1922.

- x. Ruth A. Alford, born 3 January 1901 in Willingham and died 24 September 1979 in Sylvester, Worth County. She married (1) Montie "JACK" Hope WIMPY 20 December 1924, and (2) Lige Calhoun.

(Alfords & Their Kin, cont. from p. 51)

War. In addition to his county workload, we find that he had been elected an Assemblyman from Wake County. Then, we find that on April 24, 1778, he was appointed 2nd Major of Wake County Militia, and Michael Rogers was appointed Colonel. LODWICK JR. was then given a leave of absence from the House of Commons, presumably to join his Regiment. He is identified variously in these records as "LODOWICK ALFORD JR.," "LODOWICK ALFORD ESQ. JR." and just plain "LODOWICK ALFORD." The Esquire designation was recognition of his official county positions.

During 1778 JAMES remained busy too. He served as Tax Assessor and Tax Gatherer in Capt. Powell's district as well as Processioner in Capt. (Michael) Rogers district. He sold three tracts of land in Bute county and received warrants for two tracts on the south side of the Neuse River in Wake County. He too was divesting himself of his Bute County ties.

WARREN returned to Bute County and entered into a Marriage Bond with Betty Ward, one of the younger daughters of Judge Benjamin Ward, on November 25, 1778. On December 23, back in Wake County, he received a warrant for 400 acres on both sides of Wilders Branch.

TO BE CONTINUED

Biography: William Leorus Alford

By Lodwick Houston Alford
AAFA President

William Leorus Haywood Alford, son of Green Haywood and Rebecca (JONES) Alford [and father of the author], was born 23 October 1863 in Holly Springs, Wake County, North Carolina. He died 16 June 1931 in Shingler, Worth County, Georgia. He is buried in Hillcrest Cemetery, Sylvester, Worth County, Georgia.

William Leorus Haywood Alford was married twice. He married Eleanore Frances NORRIS 21 November 1885 in Holly Springs, Wake County, North Carolina. She was born 19 October 1869 in Holly Springs. She died 30 July 1906 in Parkerville, Worth County, Georgia. She died in childbirth along with twin daughters who did not survive but a few weeks. She is buried in Sylvester, Worth County in Hillcrest Cemetery.

Ellie Norris' death was a tragic loss for W. L. H. Alford with a motherless family of eight children, the oldest under twenty and the youngest just two years old. Fortunately, there was in the Parkerville area a young school teacher, Lucy Melvina OVERBY, who was wooed and won by W. L. H. Alford. They were married 11 April 1907 in Parkerville, Worth County, Georgia in what has to be one of the bravest acts ever by a young woman in taking on an instant family of eight children. Lucy Melvina, the daughter of Walter Knox and Sarah Beatrice (Simms) Overby, was born 3 June 1881 in Newnan, Coweta County, Georgia. She died 18 April 1953 in Cochran, Bleckley County, Georgia. She is buried in Hillcrest Cemetery in Sylvester, Worth County, Georgia. Lucy Melvina was a woman of deep religious convictions. She undertook the task of raising an instantly large family with courage and energy. Simultaneously she com-

menced having children of her own, her firstborn being twin boys.

William Leorus Haywood Alford in late 1885 came with his bride from Holly Springs near Raleigh, North Carolina to Worth County in southwest Georgia. He came to join his older brothers, Andrew Jackson Alford and Columbus Augustine Alford who had preceded him by several years while he completed his education at Bingham Military College, Mebane, North Carolina. W. L. H. Alford settled in Parkerville in the southwestern part of Worth County, where he lived with his family for thirty-five years. During that time he was engaged in the naval stores and sawmilling business with his brother C. A. Alford. Meanwhile A. J. Alford had further migrated to Florida and settled in Carrabelle. W. L. H. Alford was long prominent in the political and social affairs of Worth County and he was a member of the Missionary Baptist Church. Honorable W. L. H. Alford represented the County of Worth in the state legislature, 1902-1904.

The untimely death from typhoid fever of Columbus Augustine Alford in 1908, with whom W. L. H. Alford had been associated in business for over twenty years, left him to proceed alone with expanding the quite profitable naval store operations. While cutting back on sawmill operations, new stands of timber were leased or acquired and turpentine stills set up all over South Georgia. World War I boosted the ever increasing demand for naval stores and by the end of the war W. L. H. Alford had amassed in money and property a fortune close to a million dollars. Unfortunately, the end of the war and the release of floods of formerly German owned chemical patents caused the bottom to drop out of the demand for turpentine and other naval stores products. Operations had to be

cut back, and increased reliance was put on farming, primarily cotton. But the next blow was the boll weevil. The great depression had come to South Georgia ten years before it did to the rest of the country. By 1925 the fortune of W. L. H. Alford was gone. With a large family, farming became almost entirely for the purpose of producing food. Money for necessities was hard come by and it was truly genteel poverty for the Alford family. But poverty breeds character and brings out resources of faith, energy, and hard work.

Lucy Melvina Overby Alford came from a family of staunch, God-fearing Methodists. Two of her brothers were Methodist ministers. Since she had taught school before her marriage, she sought and obtained employment as a teacher in the public schools. Her two oldest sons, the twins, volunteered to quit school, go off to Jacksonville, obtain work and send money home so the other children could continue in school. By this time the children of the first wife were grown and married or had gone off to make their way. After the twins, the next two children were sent off to live with their married half-sisters so they could continue school. She was determined that her children would get an education and they did, some reaching masters degrees.

W. L. H. Alford bore this situation with courage and stoic dignity. He helped out as best he could and with his love of farming since boyhood, raised prodigious amounts of food and occasional money crops. This he was engaged in on a hot day in June 1931 when, resting in the shade of pecan trees, his great heart failed. W. L. H. Alford was a proud and honorable man but generous to a fault. It was said that half the people in the county owed him money they could not pay. He never met a stranger in his life, and his



*Lucy Melvina Overby Alford
Taken at about the time of her marriage
to W.L.H. Alford, 11 April 1907*

hospitality and skill as a raconteur were widely known. He loved his children, grandchildren and other kinfolk. He and Lucy Mell were affectionately known to their children as papa and mama. But to the grandchildren they were very respectfully and with considerable awe known as "Big Pa" and "Big Ma." And he could be a stern disciplinarian. Tall and big-boned with a mustache varying from cropped to Kaiser Bill style handle-bar with waxed upturned ends, he indeed was an awesome figure. He was truly a southern patriarch of the old school. He was autocrat of the breakfast table, the dinner table, and the supper table—a man to remember.

Lucy Melvina Alford continued teaching school until more of her children were employed and able to send money home. Then she went back to school and obtained her degree at the University of Georgia, qualifying for higher pay. In her younger, single years she had not been able to complete her degree work because of illness. Thus with steadfast, single-minded devotion to her task, she educated her children, inspired them and set an example that

will never be forgotten. In World War II she proudly displayed four blue stars for her four sons serving in the Navy. At the Communion table she said a prayer for each of her children by name. Now, it shows. At her death in 1953, her children swore to meet every year at that time in her memory. They still do.

Children of William Leorus Haywood Alford and Ellie Norris—all born in Parkerville, Worth County, Georgia:

- i. Unnamed son, born 17 June 1886. He died the following day and is buried in Lige Calhoun private cemetery
- ii. Harvey Benton Alford, born 20 January 1888 and died 12 March 1961 in Duval County, Florida. He married Nellie MILLER 1914 in Worth County, Georgia.
- iii. Eleanor Rebecca Alford, born

26 January 1891 and died 6 January 1948 in Fulton County. She married Eli Lincoln VEAZEY 27 June 1917 in Worth County.

- iv. Sadie Estelle Alford, born 25 November 1893 and died 1 March 1925 in Worth County. She married Carlton Haywood GODWIN March 1913 in Worth County.
- v. Maggie Eugenia Alford, born 20 July 1895 and died 17 September 1973 in Dougherty County, Georgia. She married Thomas Cecil AKINS 14 July 1915 in Worth County.
- vi. Dewey Leorus Alford, born 25 May 1898 and died 13 July 1979 in Polk County, Florida. He married Mary Ethel HUMPHREYS 2 September 1917 in Worth County.

(Continued on p. 44)



*William Leorus Haywood Alford
Circa 1930*

(W.L.H. Alford, cont. from p. 43)

- vii. Columbus Myers Alford, born 18 August 1900 and died 29 November 1968 in Duval County, Florida. He married Eula HOLCOMBE 27 March 1922 in Worth County.
- viii. Jack Haywood Alford, born 30 December 1901 and died 26 November 1963 in Duval County, Florida. He was a Navy veteran of World War II; he never married.
- ix. Alton Sloan Alford, born 29 December 1903 and died 3 March 1977 in Duval County, Florida. He was a veteran of both the Navy and Coast Guard; he never married.
- x. Beulah Alford, twin of Blanche, born 30 July 1906 and died in infancy 30 September 1906. She is buried in Hillcrest Cemetery, Sylvester, Worth County, Georgia.
- xi. Blanche Alford, twin of Beulah, born 30 July 1906 and died in infancy 16 September 1906. She is buried in Hillcrest Cemetery, Sylvester, Worth County, Georgia.

Children of William Leorus Haywood and Lucy Melvina:

- xii. Earnest Haskell Alford, born 5 January 1908 in Parkerville, Worth County, Georgia, and died 24 July 1967 in Jacksonville, Duval County, Florida. He is buried in Memorial Cemetery in Jacksonville. He married Edna Eugenia PIPKIN 16 September 1929 in Jacksonville. "Gene" dies 22 October 1980 and is buried beside her husband.
- xiii. Walter Hoyle Alford, born 5

January 1908 in Parkerville, Worth County, Georgia. He married Dorothy Marie HORNE 1 May 1933 in McClenny, Baker County, Florida.

- xiv. Sarah Beatrice Alford, born 30 April 1909 in Parkerville, Worth County, Georgia. He married Richard Howell PARRAMORE 18 August 1940 in Blakeley, Early County, Georgia. Richard died 2 November 1967 in Valdix, Georgia and is buried there in Riverside Memorial Cemetery.
- xv. William Leorus Alford, born 17 November 1911 in Sylvester, Worth County, Georgia. He died 2 November 1985 in Sylvester and is buried in Hillcrest Cemetery, Sylvester. He married Flora KING 24 January 1932 in Sylvester.
- xvi. Nell White Alford, born 25 February 1913 in Sylvester, Worth County, Georgia, and died there that day.
- xvii. Lodwick Houston Alford, born 27 April 1914 in Sylvester, Worth County, Georgia. He married Mary Katherine KIRKLAND 10 August 1940 in Sylvester.
- xviii. Lucy Melvina Alford, born 27 December 1915 in Sylvester, Worth County, Georgia. She died 7 June 1985 in Tallahassee, Leon County, Florida, and is buried in Hillcrest Cemetery, Sylvester. She married Jack Shelton SUMNER 8 February 1938 in Albany, Dougherty County, Florida.
- xix. Mary Marjorie Alford, born 1 April 1919 in Parkerville, Worth County, Georgia. She married (1) Woodrow Wilson

BROWN 23 December 1940 in Cochran, Bleckley County, Georgia. He died in 1975 and is buried in Arlington Cemetery in Atlanta. Mary married (2) Martin Turner DITTO 9 September 1979 in Fulton County, Georgia. Mary died 19 January 1988 in Atlanta, Georgia, and is buried beside her first husband.

- xx. Marvin Floyd Alford, born 10 December 1921 in Parkerville, Worth County, Georgia. He died 22 March 1989 in Jacksonville, Florida, and is buried in Memory Gardens Cemetery in Orange Park, Florida. He married Juanita SHEPHERD 26 July 1941 in McClenny, Baker County, Florida.
- xxi. Louise Grace Alford, born 19 July 1924 in Parkerville, Worth County, Georgia. She married (1) James Knox PARKER 31 December 1939 in Dothan, Houston County, Alabama. James died 22 January 1983, and Louise married (2) C. William EKIN.

Things to Do

1. Join us in Raleigh for the Third Annual Meeting—send in your Registration Form!
2. Renew your membership when it's due.
3. Recruit a new member, or give a gift membership.
4. Offer to help on one of the committees that is collecting Alford data.
5. Send in every piece of Alford information you find—from any source.

Pleasant Grove Baptist Church

The Pleasant Grove Baptist Church, founded in 1867, is located a few miles north of Fuquay-Varina, NC, and a few miles east of Holly Springs.

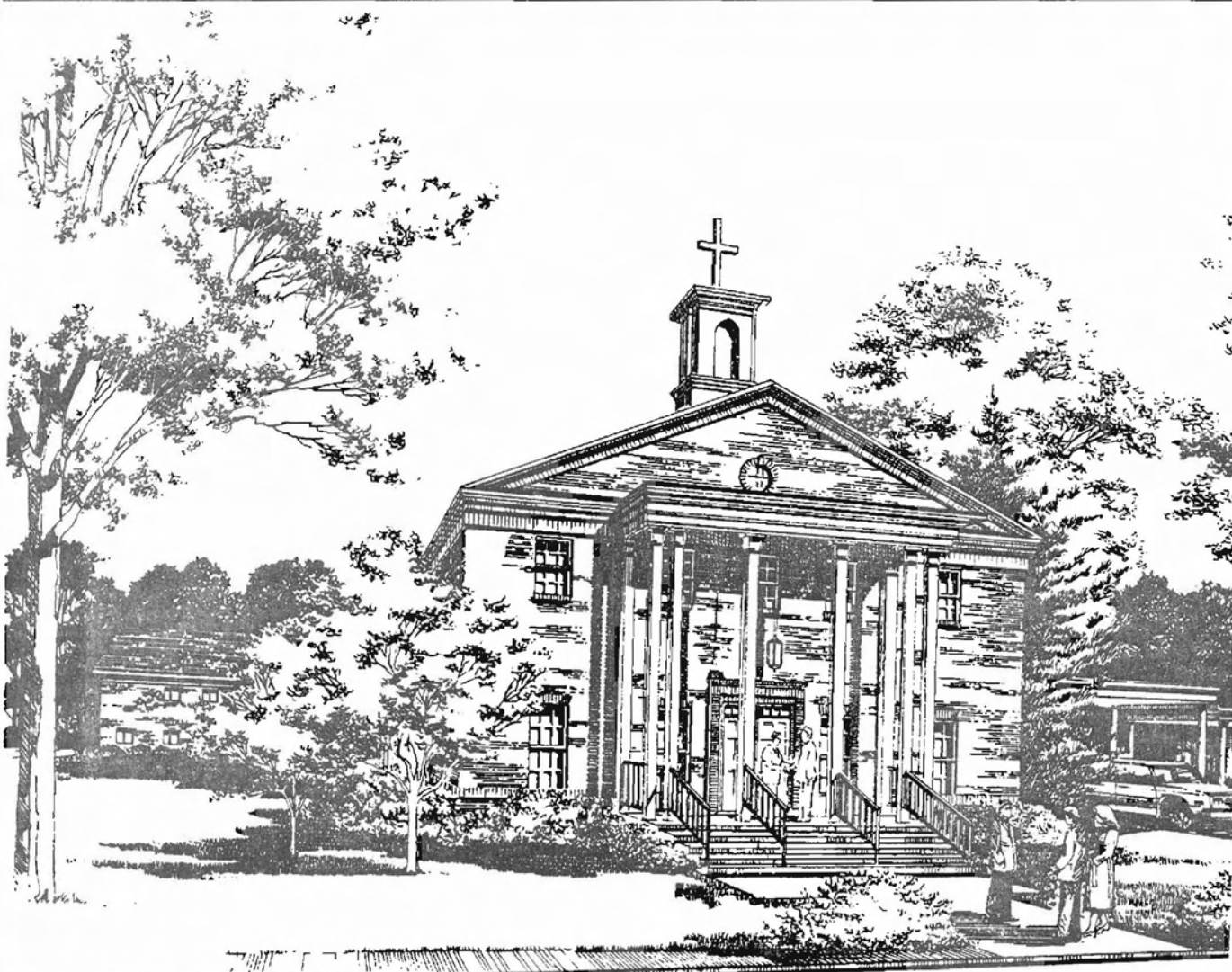
Green Haywood Alford and his wife Rebecca Jones Alford, grandparents of AAFA President Lodwick Alford and parents of Columbus Augustine and William Leorus Alford, were charter members. They are buried in the churchyard, and their home was located about two miles west of the church. [See "Biography: Green Haywood Alford," *AAFA ACTION*, March 1989,

p. 22.] Early minutes of the church have been beautifully preserved, and various Alfords now living have contributed funds for this preservation.

The minutes show that most of the children of Green Haywood Alford were members of this church. William Leorus Haywood Alford, Green's youngest child, was baptised the first Sunday in October 1877 right before his 14th birthday. He was Chief Clerk for three years beginning in July 1881, and his handwriting is instantly recognizable. Salina Blanche Alford, Green's

youngest daughter, married Keit Godwin in this church on 21 Jan 1880. The minutes are fascinating to read and well worth a special trip.

The sanctuary shown is a modern building. The original building stood on the ground where the graveyard is now, just a few yards away and across the road to Holly Springs. The Pleasant Grove Baptist Church celebrates Homecoming every year on the first Sunday of October. All Alfords and their descendants are invited and are recognized and honored.



From The Descendants of Alexander Alvord

From *A Genealogy of the Descendants of ALEXANDER ALVORD an Early Settler of Windsor, Conn, and Northampton, Mass.*, compiled by Samuel Morgan Alvord (Webster, NY: 1908).

Beginning with the publication of the Preface in this issue of *AAFA ACTION*, we will print excerpts from this 823 page book. It deals almost exclusively with the Alvord branch of the family, and the AAFA membership profile at this time does not justify reprinting the entire book. However, the Preface, a chapter on "English Alford's" and a chapter titled "Other Settlers of the Alford Name in America" do deserve some attention. Although Alvord's book was published in NY the very same year that Mr. Josiah Alford's *Alford Family Notes* was published in London—1908—there is little duplication of data, and the presentation is quite different. Following is a reprint of the Preface from Alexander Alvord's book.

Preface

Interest in a genealogy of the Alvord family antedates that of most New England families. In the early "sixties" William Alvord Burke of Lowell, Mass., became interested in the genealogy of the families of his father and mother and published the "Burke and Alvord Memorial." (Published by Henry Dutton and Son, Boston.) Mr. Burke engaged John A. Boutelle of Woburn, Mass., to gather and arrange the data. No attempt was made either on the part of the Burke or the Alvord family to make it a complete record. Only those families of Alvords were taken up that resided in Northampton, Mass., and vicinity, excepting Mr. Burke's own line. The notes on the origin of the name and the antecedents in England were of practically no value.

Shortly after the publication of the "Burke and Alvord Memorial" Coridon A. Alvord, a prominent printer of New York City, became interested in the matter and desired that a complete genealogy of the Alvord family should be published. He at once engaged Mr. Boutelle, who proceeded to further carry on his genealogical work on the Alvord family. From 1866 until 1868 Mr. Boutelle was apparently devoting a good share of his time to this work. Mr. Alvord alone met the full expense of this undertaking, which was considerably over one thousand dollars. When it seemed that the work was nearing completion and would soon be in press, Mr. Alvord met with sad affliction which affected his business relations, so that he did not see his way clear to carry out his plans for publication. Mr. Boutelle's health also began to fail about this time. Both these men died a few years later and the manuscript was packed away with Mr. Alvord's papers. And so it happened that for twenty-five years what had been gathered at great labor and expense was laid away and almost forgotten. We can scarcely overestimate the value of Mr. Alvord's unselfish effort and everyone interested in the history of this family owes him a debt of gratitude. While the facts and records thus gathered were far from complete—surprisingly so along some lines—the present work could scarcely have been made so thorough and satisfactory except for the aid that has been afforded by it, especially since it preserved for us the testimony of men of a previous generation. It might be added that the present work is about triple the size of the Alvord-Boutelle collection.

About the year 1897 my uncle, Rev. Frederick Alvord, being much interested in the family history and knowing of Coridon Alvord's work, desired to learn if the manuscript was still in

existence. After some search he found that George M. Alvord, son of Coridon, was living in Hartford, and he learned from him that he had the manuscript and was willing to give it to anyone who would complete the work and publish it. Thus the manuscript came into the possession of Rev. Frederick Alvord, who at once began to plan for its publication. Disappointment in securing financial support and advancing years led him reluctantly to give up the plan and in the fall of 1901 he came to my house and requested that I take the manuscript with the understanding that I should complete and publish it at some favorable time.

It was not my intention to proceed at once with the work, but letters from various members of the family led me to believe that the time was ripe for its publication. I therefore began to revise what had already been done and to add new matter. Mr. Boutelle had been unable to trace many families that had migrated to New York State soon after the Revolutionary War. Through the aid afforded by the Pension Bureau, Adj. General's Office, U. S. Census Dept., County Clerks and Surrogates, and the recollections of private individuals of advanced years, these families have been traced almost without exception. I confidently believe that there exists in the country no branch of the Alvord family whose annals do not appear in this volume—except some isolated instances of individuals bearing the name, which will be noted in the appendix. The work, covering a period of seven years, has been accomplished in the midst of the confining duties of a teacher's life, but it has been my aim to neglect nothing that would add to the interest and completeness of the work.

Our relations to the family in England had been in a large measure worked out through the personal efforts of John W.

Alvord of Chicago, who most generously contributed what he had gathered at his personal expense. This contribution was of great value and served as a basis for the later and more complete researches, making it possible to at once strike at the very heart of things. The services of C. A. Hoppin, Jr., an experienced specialist in searching English records, were engaged and he has added materially to the value of the data gathered by Mr. Alvord. I am convinced that this part of the work has been thoroughly done, and that all records have been searched with care in the vicinity of the home of our ancestors in England. The sum of one hundred and fifty dollars for engaging the services of Mr. Hoppin was contributed by the following persons: John W. Alvord of Chicago, Ill., John F. Alvord of Torrington, Conn., Dean Alvord of Brooklyn, N. Y., Clinton Alvord of Worcester, Mass., E. C. Alvord of Washburn, Wis., Geo. B. Alvord of Torrington, Conn., Andrew P. Alvord of New York City, Chas. H. Alvord of Torrington, Conn., Samuel M. Alvord of Hartford, Conn., Mrs. E. J. Brown of New York City, H. B. Alexander of Geneva, Ill.

I desire also to express my appreciation to all those who have so readily given their support and cooperation to this task. Letters have in general been promptly, and always courteously, answered, even though demands were repeatedly made upon time and patience. In the Alvord homes that I have visited, whether in Vermont or California, the greatest hospitality and courtesy have been shown me, so I have been made to feel that the tie of kinship is indeed very strong in the family.

I cannot close without acknowledging my special obligation to the late Hon. William Alvord of San Francisco, who by his generous financial support and kindly words of encouragement materially lightened the burden of the work. It was my privilege to meet Mr.

Alvord in San Francisco in Sept., 1904, and the pleasure he took in driving through the city and explaining the points of interest was only surpassed by my own pleasure in his delightful companionship. Three months later his earthly career was closed and the sight of the city that was the pride of his heart, almost in total ruins, never came before his mortal vision.

Rev. J. G. Alford (now Canon Alford) of Bristol, Eng., is about to publish pedigrees of the early Alford families in England and he has willingly contributed from his notes. . . .

Samuel Morgan Alvord
Hartford, Conn., July, 1908.

How Shall We Pronounce Our Name?

There is clearly a lack of uniformity on this point and many inquiries have come to me from those who are uncertain whether they ought to give the first syllable of the name the sound that it has in Al-fred, or in al-ways. I am convinced after careful inquiry and investigation that the latter was the original sound of the first syllable of our name and is based on the best authority. The transition to the former is a late development, but in some localities, especially in the West, it has become quite general.

The first syllable of the name, being derived from the German al-de (awlder), must obviously have had the same sound. The same German word appears in the first two syllables of Alderman and the Germanic sound is retained. Again, if we note the pronunciation of the name in localities where the family has continued to live from the time of the early settlement, as in Northampton, Easthampton and South Hadley, Mass., it will be observed that the name is invariably pronounced Awl-vud.

The Alford Badge

By James L. Haynsworth

In its inception heraldry was mainly a practical matter of identification. It originated in the devices used to distinguish the armored warriors in a tournament and war, and the utilitarian motive predominated. But as time passed, heraldry became primarily symbolic and decorative, and in choice of arms, men followed their own fancies. The popular notion is that most arms are symbolic of ideal virtues, exploits in battle, and the like. With a few—a very few—notable exceptions, this is romantic fiction. A great many coats of arms are "canting" or "punning"; that is, the arms contain an allusion to or play on the name of the bearer. Examples are rams for Ramsey, wings for Wingfield, trumpets for De Trumpington. Many others are as obvious; some are quite subtle. Another common practice was an altered version of the arms of a feudal overlord, or to use a device from his arms. This showed a relation either of kinship, tenure, or some other attachment.

In most cases we have no clue to what led to the adoption of a particular device. There are several coats of arms belonging to families named Alford, but those which seem to be most widely used show an arrangement of pears as their primary charge. Why Pears? If the name were Pearson or Pearman the explanation would be obvious. Perhaps the grantee chose pears for personal reasons; he may have owned an orchard of which he was proud, or perhaps the word "pear" or "pears" alluded to some event in his life, or to his feudal overlord. We can only guess. Whatever the explanation for the original symbolism, the AAFA badge, with its pear, fret and endless chain, today symbolizes the family's ancient heritage and familial association to which the organization is dedicated.

Constitution Changes

Several changes to the constitution (articles of incorporation) and by-laws will be voted on at the October meeting. Four weeks notice of the proposed changes is required, and that notice is herewith given.

Membership

1. The original constitution required that members be limited to the family of those who were descendants of an Alford. It is proposed that this be emended to include any person with an interest in Alfords—including the many possible variations of the spelling of the name.

2. The types of membership will be expanded from the original Charter and Founding to Charter, Founding, Regular, Honorary, and Institutional.

3. Membership, according to the original articles of incorporation, began the month following the receipt of application at the Missouri office. At that time, however, a copy of the latest Association quarterly, *AAFA ACTION*, was sent to the new member. This combined action resulted in most new members receiving five quarterlies during their first year's membership. It is proposed that future membership periods be determined by the period of the quarterly "subscription" and be such that the new member receives only the four issues covered by the first

year's dues.

Board of Directors

4. The board of directors was initially established at three with the proviso that the number could be increased by an amendment to the by-laws. It is proposed that the articles of incorporation or by-laws make no mention of the number of directors and that the matter be left to the discretion of the directors.

Officers

5. It is being proposed that the elected officers be the President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer. The others—Genealogist, publications Editor, and Librarian, will be appointed by the President from qualified volunteers.

6. The term of office for officers will be changed from one year to three years.

Voting

7. Article X of the original constitution provided for voting by mail for those who cannot attend meetings. It is proposed that this option be deleted because of the difficulty in administering a vote by mail, and because of the good attendance at the 1989 meeting.

Series of Alford Books Underway

Founding Member James P. Alford of Houston has offered to be the AAFA Book Editor! He is preparing the first of a series of books on American Alfords. Books in the series are tentatively planned to deal with:

- Southern Alfords to 1860, focusing on the New Kent County folks and their descendants;
- Northern Alfords to 1860, focusing on New England and the migration across the Midwest;
- Alfords Since 1860, highlighting the post-Civil War immigrants.

Alford data will be presented in the context of American history rather than as a flat genealogical recital. James said he is going to "weave the Alfords into the flow of American History, in effect inserting them into the development of the nation rather than just being a straight presentation of dull genealogical material." Judging from James' work so far, we know it won't be dull! Be sure to read his article beginning on the following page.

The set will be published by the Alford American Family Association and proceeds from sales will be used for acquisition of permanent library and museum facilities to house the Alford library and mementos.

Release date of the first volume has not been announced.

James also has some other ideas for raising funds through book sales—for instance, a book of reprints of genealogically valuable Alford articles from *AAFA ACTION* and other sources.

Anyone with a "writing urge" should contact James at 14106 Pineroock, Houston, TX 77079.

Thanks to Contributors

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I am also very grateful to Willie Alford, who types lots of material for me, frequently on short notice—"Obituaries" and "Alfords in the News" are only two examples. If you've offered to help by typing (onto disk), you will probably be hearing from me soon!

Pam Thompson, Publications Editor

Alfords and Their Kin in Early NC, Part II

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AAFA Member #115

AUTHOR'S NOTE: Material in this article will be included in the text of one of the most complete works on Alfords yet attempted. If you find any omissions or inaccuracies, please send a note with copies of any documents that you have to the author. Don't be quiet if you think there's an error. It takes many critics to produce a good history book.

Part I, published in *AAFA ACTION*, March 1990, pages 14-17, covered the earliest days in the Carolinas from the 1680's through 1760. Part II continues at 1760 and focuses on the Four Corners area where Franklin, Wake, Johnston and Nash Counties meet and attempts to identify and trace the

movements of Lodwick Sr.'s children in that area. Part II:

The Four Corners Area, 1760-1778

Lodwick and JOHN FERRELL had migrated slightly westward since their arrival in North Carolina about 1739. The county name had changed several times as the area was divided and subdivided into new political units causing a lot of confusion for researchers and creating an impression of constant movement.

By 1760 JOHN FERRELL's lands seemed to center between the Tar River and Crooked Creek in Bute and Edgecombe Counties. The Alford's lands adjoined

and encircled him in what are now Franklin, Nash, Johnston and Wake Counties. All, that is, except the loner WILLIAM who settled in Dobbs and Wayne Counties, downhill toward the coast.

Lodwick's sons were growing up and had begun appearing for the first time in adult records. Julius' sons were considerably younger. We know nothing of Goodrich's family after New Kent County, Virginia although there is a real probability that he had more children. Were some of Lodwick's younger "children" really those of Goodrich? We'll try to identify the possible ones as they appear.

Before going further into this period, let's quickly review the age ranges at which poll taxes were assessed:

1. If you were a freeman or an indentured servant between the ages of 16 and 60 government viewed you as a source of revenue. (They were lucky! Today, we're Revenue from cradle to grave.) You were called a Taxable or a "White Poll."
2. If you were a negro slave between the ages of 12 and 50, you were a "Black Poll" and your owner was obliged to pay taxes for you.

Two James Alfords

In Part I, the existence of two JAMES ALFORDS was initially identified. One was clearly visible in the legal records of the day before Lodwick's son could have reached his majority. At that time the possibility of this being Lodwick's brother was raised. Yet, a glaring problem existed. Why didn't he appear in the Tax Lists?

Remember the ages at which a person was a Taxable? Rather than being Lodwick's brother, the older JAMES

Lodwick Alford's Verified Children

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. William Alford, b. 1734 | Proved by parish records |
| 2. Elizabeth Alford, b. 1736 | Proved by parish records |
| 3. Jacob Alford, b. 1738 | Proved by parish records |
| 4. James Alford, b. ca 1740 | Proved by tax roll |
| 5. Lodwick Alford Jr., b. ca 1740 | Proved by tax roll - |
| 6. Julius Alford, b. ca 1744-48 | Proved by tax roll |
| 7. Goodrich Alford, b. ca 1747 | Proved by his will |
| 8. Warren Alford | Proved by tax roll and his will |
| 9. Winny Alford Rogers | Proved by his will |
| 10. Mary Alford Alford | Proved by his will |
| 11. Anselm Alford | Proved by his will |
| 12. Kinchen Alford, b. 1758 | Proved by his will |
| 13. Lamuel Alford, b. ca 1760 | Proved by his will |
| 14. Susanna Alford Hobbs | Proved by his will |

Unverified Children Associated with Lodwick Alford

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 15. Isham Alford | Close association |
| 16. Drury Alford | Close association |
| 17. Lany Freeman | Mentioned in his will |
| 18. Susannah Freeman | Mentioned in his will |
| 19. Sarah Cloe | Mentioned in his will |

could well have been his father! In 1760 the old gentleman would have been 70+ years old which would explain his absence from the Tax Lists. Any negroes that he had would have likely been older than 50, so they wouldn't have appeared either.

The first evidence of the presence of an older JAMES in Bute County was in February 1760 when he witnessed a deed and in November, 1760 when he was defendant in a suit. Both of these events occurred before JAMES the son could possibly have been an adult.

Now, let's leave old James for a couple of columns and look at two of LODWICK's sons:

On July 21, 1761 a significant family event was recorded: Both JAMES ALFORD and LODWICK ALFORD JR. bought Granville Grants in Bute County. James chose land adjacent to LODWICK SR. and uncle JULIUS on Crooked Creek while Lodwick Jr. chose land about 8 miles north on Turkey Creek at Perry's Branch.

While Lodwick Jr.'s grant omitted the suffix "Jr.", numerous other references called it the grant of LODWICK JR. He subdivided it years later and sold half to his younger brother GOODRICH, probably for Goodrich's 21st birthday.

Now, a person was required by law to be 21 in order to sell land but not necessarily to acquire it. However, prevailing custom seems to have required age 21 for all land transactions. Also, if it were a true minor's transaction there should be mention of a parent or guardian in the deed.

Twins?

So, what was the significance? Based on JAMES the son's obituary in 1812, we can calculate that his 21st birthday was between November 7, 1739 and November 6, 1740. One as yet unconfirmed source places it in May, 1740.

This means that JAMES the son would have just turned 21 when he received his Granville Grant. But, what about LODWICK JR.? Conventional Wisdom has said that he was two years younger than his brother. Could it be that he was really the same age as James? Could it be they were twins? Nothing found so far disproves it.

Up until the time of JAMES the son's departure for Georgia, the two brothers seemed inseparable.

The 1762 Granville County Tax List of St. John's Parish showed LODWICK's household with JAMES as a white poll and Frank and Venus as black polls. LODWICK JR. did not appear. Neither had he appeared on the 1755 Tax List. This seven year gap was sufficient for him to pass from age 15 to 22 undetected. Since he had acquired land a distance from his father's home it's almost certain that he was living there and was on another tax list for 1762. JAMES was 22 and still living with his father that year because his land was next door.

Between 1762 and 1771, it was apparent that either older JAMES or JAMES the son was practicing law in Bute Co. He was witnessing deeds, probably after he had prepared them, proving them in court and then later picking them up after the court clerk had recorded them. During this period, in April, 1766 and again in February, 1769, one of the JAMES' twice served briefly as Justice of the Peace for Bute County.

Considering that judges are selected for their maturity, experience and superior judgement, would he have been LODWICK's son who would have been 26 years old, LODWICK's brother who was 53 years old, or how about LODWICK's father who would have been in his upper 70's? Unless the county was terribly short of mature, literate freemen knowledgeable in the law, it's doubtful that the good citizens would

have stood for a youth of 26 passing judgement on them!

The brevity of the two terms as judge may indicate that the JAMES who served was semi-retired and working in a part-time capacity.

In 1766 the Bute County Tax List for the Crooked Creek District was compiled (proccessioned) by JAMES ALFORD ESQ., and a JAMES ALFORD was the last household on that tax list. This James was a white poll and had four black polls—Quash, Christmas, Jack, and Lucy. This was surely the same JAMES who had received the Granville Grant on Crooked Creek in 1761. As a possible means of further identification, LODWICK SR. had a negro named Pash (?) on the 1755 Granville Tax List. Were Quash and Pash the same?

An interesting pattern appears in the surviving court records that helps to further distinguish the two JAMES ALFORDS. The one who practiced law often signed his name "JAS. ALFORD" while the one who prepared tax lists and later moved to Wake County always signed JAMES ALFORD. The court clerk also referred to the lawyer as "Jas." or just plain "J." perhaps as a means to distinguish him from the other.

The final suggestion that there were two men named JAMES would come much later in Wake County. The older JAMES was gone by then, and JAMES the son was an active Tax Assessor/Collector in Wake County. The rather complete court records found there do not indicate that he ever practiced law.

Another Bute County Tax List for 1766 (Cypress Creek?) listed LODWICK ALFORD, LODWICK ALFORD JUNR and GOODRICH ALFORD living adjacent to each other but as separate households.

This was the first appearance of son GOODRICH and provides some insight into housing customs of the day. Why

wasn't he on the 1762 Tax List if he was now old enough to live apart from his father? Probably the big house was crowded and Goodrich moved into a cabin on dad's land before he was 21. Using the two tax lists we can conclude that he was no older than 15 in 1762 and 19 in 1766. His first land transaction was not until 1769 when he would have been no older than 22.

June 10, 1768. John Hancock's trading ship "Liberty" is seized by Customs agents in Boston. An angry mob gathers and threatens the Crown's representatives...

In Bute County during July, 1768, Lodwick Sr.'s brother Julius was apparently ill and summoned his attorney to prepare his will. Julius named Lodwick Alford and his son James as his Executors and the will was witnessed by James Alford. Were they the same James? It's not likely. Very seldom do you see a legatee or an Executor witness a will. The witness was most likely older James the attorney who had drawn up the will.

Fall of 1768. Four Regiments of British Redcoats are marching about Boston, posing an open threat to the angered citizens...

ROBERT CADE SR. died intestate some time early in 1769, and JAMES ALFORD was appointed Administrator of his estate. Which JAMES was this? Unlike Executors who were usually family members, Administrators were generally appointed from the legal community, so the best bet would have once again been the older JAMES. At the estate sale June 3, 1769, LODWICK, LODWICK JR. and JAMES ALFORD were buyers. As in the majority of records, no distinction was made as to which JAMES.

LODWICK ALFORD JR., planter, sold 230 acres, or half of his Granville Grant, to little brother GOODRICK, November 2, 1769. The deed was witnessed by

LODW. ALFORD. This transaction was likely an observation of GOODRICH's 21st birthday.

On March 4, 1770, a "Council of War" was held at Colonel William Bryan's home on the Neuse River in Johnston County. (This area may have become Wake County shortly after.) Present was CAPTAIN LODOWICK ALFORD. This was almost certainly LODWICK JR. who would later rise to the rank of Major in the Wake County militia. LODWICK SR. had served his militia duty as a Private and was too old by now to be active.

March 5, 1770. A Company of Redcoats stationed before the hated Boston Customs House opens fire on an unarmed mob...

On June 19, 1770, JAMES sold his Crooked Creek land grant to neighbor John Ferrell. This signaled his imminent move a few miles south into the growing region that would shortly become Wake County. He identified himself as a "Planter" in the deed.

Like the year a decade earlier, 1771 was an eventful period for the Alfords.

First, it marked the emergence of LODWICK SR.'s next set of sons, JULIUS and WARREN. They appeared with him on the Bute County Tax List that year. LODWICK JR. and GOODRICH continued to live next door as heads of their own households. Son JAMES no longer appeared in Bute County.

Wake County

Wake County was formed that year, largely from the upper half of Johnston County. Whether some of Bute was carved off is not known at this writing. The area in Wake County where the sons would settle was directly adjacent to the area in Bute County where the Alfords, Ferrells and Cades had lived for many years. Even as the sons migrated to new lands, they were never more than 12-15 miles from old dad.

That was a short journey either on horseback or a morning affair with the wife and kids in a wagon.

JAMES had moved into the area that was soon-to-be Wake County territory or had been annexed by Wake County sometime between June 19, 1770 and April 28, 1771 when "his dwelling house burnt." Here we find the first evidence that an occupation begun in Bute County had been continued in Wake—James had lost some of the county's tax money in the fire. This story can be found in *The Colonial Records of North Carolina, Volume IX*.

According to the first Wake County Quarter Court Minutes recorded on June 4, 1771, JAMES ALFORD and John Rogers were sworn in as deputies of Sheriff Michael Rogers. Thus began a long Alford relationship with Michael, John and other members of the Rogers clan.

That November, JAMES ALFORD petitioned the Assembly at Raleigh to replace the lost tax money from the Province's Sinking Fund. Lucky for him they were in a good mood, or he would have been out 28 pounds and a few shillings!

At the Wake County Quarter Court Session of March 1773, JAMES was appointed to a "jury" to lay off one acre for a mill. This is the first indication that he might also have some surveying skills. Of course, to be a Tax Assessor he had to be able to measure a person's holdings. Olive Belle Alford Gunn (born 1875), paraphrased much later in *The Compendium of American Genealogy*, Volume VI, 1937, stated that he was a surveyor but didn't mention tax assessing/collecting.

December 16, 1773. An unknown gang disguised as Indians boards a British trading vessel in Boston Harbor and throws the entire cargo of tea overboard...

LODWICK JR. apparently moved into Wake County in the summer of 1774 and bought two tracts. Both deeds were proved by JAMES ALFORD at the September Court. Near Christmas, he sold the remainder of his original 1761 grant in Bute County. Witnesses to that transaction were LODWICK SR. and a new name, DREWRY ALFORD.

Yet another new name appeared that year when ISHAM ALFORD and LODWICK (Jr.) witnessed a deed from LODWICK SR. to Andrew Tanner in Bute County July 20, 1774. DREWRY and ISHAM have never been proved to be sons of LODWICK SR. and may well have been sons of the deceased GOODRICH who were raised by LODWICK SR. Since witnessing deeds required an adult, both DREWRY and ISHAM would have been conceived or born before Goodrich's death in 1753.

September 5, 1774. The First Continental Congress convenes...

JAMES ALFORD made bond before the Wake County September Court to open a Public House. In March 1775, JAMES was appointed a Proccessioner in Captain Michael Roger's district, and LODWICK ALFORD JR. and Josiah Crudup were appointed Patrolers or Proccessioners for Captain Fowler's district in Wake County. The Colonies' need for war funding was soon to become urgent.

April 19, 1775. Minute-men send the Redcoats packing at Lexington and Concord. The war is on...

May 10, 1775. The Continental Army is created by act of The Second Continental Congress and George Washington is appointed Commander...

In May LODWICK JR. sold more land in Bute County, the deed being witnessed by LODWICK SR. That June, LODWICK JR., JAMES and Josiah Crudup served together on the Wake County Grand

Jury.

June 17, 1775. Redcoats engage the Massachusetts Militia at Bunker Hill...

In December 1775, JAMES was appointed Overseer of the Road by Justice Michael Rogers.

May 10, 1776. The Continental Congress recommends that the former Colonies form new State governments as quickly as possible...

July 4, 1776. The Declaration of Independence is signed at Philadelphia...

On December 23, 1776, LODOWICK ALFORD was first appointed a Justice of the Peace for Wake County. Probably mass resignations of Loyalist officials had forced the Governor to fill vacant offices with younger Patriots. Now, rather than being LODWICK ALFORD JR., he became LODWICK ALFORD ESQ. Now, LODWICK ALFORD and Josiah Crudup were Patrolers in CAPTAIN ALFORD's district!

Government jobs were all part-time, so willing citizens who could read and write often wore many hats. The lesser positions in local government were appointed by the Justices and since the Militia and the Continental Army were snapping up the available manpower, the Justices were having to assume the unfilled positions themselves. Thus, we see LODWICK JR. being a Justice, Patroler, Proccessioner, Collector, and Captain of a tax district in Wake County.

The title "Captain" seems out of place for a tax collector and prompts one to wonder if perhaps the person didn't derive that title from also serving as Captain of Militia. (Anyone know the answer?) In addition to all these new duties and titles, LODWICK also found himself appointed Overseer of the Road

"from Martin's house to the Little River Bridge"!

December 25, 1776. On Christmas night George Washington and his Continentals surprise the Hessians at Trenton...

On May 8, 1777 the House of Commons passed a resolution to pay JAMES ALFORD \$800 that was due to him from the assignment of a Colonel's pay voucher. Some time later he requested a copy of a War Claim filed in the Legislature's papers according to comments found in the Delamar Papers. These events signaled that he too had become active in State affairs.

October 17, 1777. General Burgoyne surrenders at Saratoga to a determined New England force...

The manpower drain of the War was increasingly affecting the home front as LODWICK was appointed Tax Gatherer in both his district and Captain Mials' district at a Quarter Court session December 3, 1777.

In February 1778, LODWICK ALFORD acknowledged a deed to WARREN ALFORD marking the move of yet another son to Wake County. Other records that year showed that WARREN was living adjacent to LODWICK on the Little River at Cedar Rock Branch and Gale's Branch on the north side of the Tarborough Road. This was about eight miles southwest of LODWICK SR.'s house. At that same Court LODWICK ALFORD ESQ. and Michael Rogers Esq. became Securities for a bond.

February, 1778. Because of Ben Franklin's efforts, France signs two treaties with the United States and prepares to enter the war...

The State Records of North Carolina, Volume XII provides a lot of eye-opening information about how active LODWICK JR. had become during the

(Continued on p. 41)

Juliette Cox Spratling

Juliette Cox Spratling: Daughter of Juliet Warren Alford and Granddaughter of Hon. Julius C. Alford, "The Old War Horse of Troup"

By Benjamin Barnett Spratling III, AAFA Member #263

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Introduction

In June of 1989, while attending the Samford University Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research, I decided to try out my newly acquired genealogical skills by searching for the "forgotten" parents of my great-great-grandmother, Juliette Cox Spratling. I already knew that her maiden name was Cox and that she was originally from LaGrange, Georgia. From conversations with my grandmother, Sarah Whitaker Spratling, I had learned that many years ago (perhaps in the 1920's) my grandparents visited an elderly Cox lady in LaGrange who was related to my grandfather, Benjamin Barnett Spratling, Sr. On that visit my grandparents were taken to a cemetery located in town near U.S. Highway 29 where they were shown the graves of some of my grandfather's Cox relatives.

My research in the Special Collections Department of the Samford University Library led me to a book by Forrest Clark Johnson, III entitled *Genealogical and Historical Register of Troup County, Georgia*, Vol. III of *Histories of LaGrange and Troup County, Georgia*. When I turned in the book to the Cox family section of the genealogical register, I immediately noticed the name "Juliet" and started to think I might have found my ancestor. However, a closer reading revealed that the maiden name of the Juliet Cox in the book was Alford, not Cox, and that she was too old to be the Juliette Cox who married my great-great-grandfather, Lindsey Colbert Spratling¹ (although I later discovered that the Juliet Alford Cox listed in the genealogical register was the mother of my Juliette Cox Spratling).

The purpose of this article is to document the results of research regarding the ancestry of Juliette Cox Spratling and thereby to prove that her parents were Judge Albert Ewing Cox and Juliet Warren Alford, daughter of Hon. Julius Caesar Alford. Perhaps if I have done my work well, readers of later editions of Mr. Johnson's book will find Juliette Cox Spratling listed therein with her parents.

Results of Research

The following is a summary of the genealogical information regarding Juliette Cox Spratling which was obtained in the course of my research:

1. Marriage records of Chambers County, Alabama show that "Juliette Cox" married Lindsey Colbert Spratling March 2, 1865 (shortly before the end of the War Between the States) at the residence of Mrs. R. M. Avary.² The wedding was also recorded in the diary of Joseph H. Harris, a resident of Oak Bowery in Chambers County, who wrote on March 2, 1865:

Attended the marriage this evening of Lindsay Spratling & Juliette Cox. They were married at Mrs. Avarys. Miss Cox parents bitterly opposed to the match. Mrs. Barnett, Spratling's mother, gave them a nice supper, attended it, had a nice time.³

2. Family records reflect that Juliette Cox Spratling's father was a "Judge Cox."⁴ Albert Ewing Cox served as a Judge of the Inferior Court of Troup County, Georgia (Troup County adjoins Chambers County, Alabama) in 1845 and 46.⁵ Two of Albert Ewing Cox's daughters, Mrs. Margaret Cox Tuggle and Mrs. Mary Louise Cox Wright, listed their father as "Judge Albert Ewing Cox" in lineage records they filed with the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution.⁶

3. Census records indicate that Judge Albert Ewing Cox and Juliet Warren Alford of Troup County, Georgia, had a daughter, Juliette Cox, who was the same age as the Juliette Cox that married Lindsey Colbert Spratling in Chambers County, Alabama. According to the 1850 Census, "Juiett Cox," a 3-year-old girl, was a member of the family of "Albert E. Cox" and "Juiett W. Cox" of Troup County.⁷ Ten years later, the 1860 Census reflected that a 13-year-old girl, "J.W. Cox," was part of the family of "A.E. Cox" and "J.W. Cox" of Troup County.⁸ Then in 1870 (five years after Juliette Cox married Lindsey Colbert Spratling) "Juiett Spratlin," age 23, was listed in the Troup County, Georgia Census as the only other adult in the household of "L.C. Spratlin," age 25.⁹ In the 1880 Census (the first Census in which actual family relationships were recorded), "Juliette Spratling," age 33, was listed as the wife of "Lindsey C. Spratling," age 35 of Oak Bowery in Chambers County, Alabama.¹⁰

4. The 1870 Census reveals that five years after Juliette Cox and Lindsey Colbert Spratling married, they lived next

door to Albert Ewing Cox and Juliet Warren Alford in Troup County, Georgia—apparently on Albert Ewing Cox's property.¹¹

5. Census and family records show that names from Albert Ewing Cox's family were passed down in Juliette Cox Spratling's family. The first son of Juliette Cox Spratling and her husband, Lindsey Colbert Spratling, was Albert Johnson Spratling, apparently named "Albert" for Juliette's father, Albert Ewing Cox.¹² Another of their sons was Henry Heard Spratling, probably named "Heard" for the Heard family to which Albert Ewing Cox's family was related.¹³

6. Tombstones reflect that Juliette Cox Spratling's infant son, Julius Alford Spratling, was buried with the family of Albert Ewing Cox. Julius Alford Spratling's small grave is in the Cox plot at Hillview Cemetery in LaGrange, Georgia—only a few feet from the graves of Albert Ewing Cox and Juliet Warren Alford. His tombstone reads as follows:

JULIUS ALFORD
Son of
L. C. & JULIETTE
SPRATLING
Died Aug 21, 1870
Aged 4 mo's
& 12 days¹⁴

7. Julius Alford Spratling, infant son of Juliette Cox Spratling and her husband, Lindsey Colbert Spratling, was no doubt named for Juliette Warren Alford's father, Hon. Julius Caesar Alford, "The Old War Horse of Troup" who was a "States-rights Whig" Congressman in 1837 and a "Harrison Whig" Congressman from 1839 to 43.¹⁵

8. Family letters indicate that after Juliette Cox Spratling's death in 1881, her daughter, also named "Juliette Spratling," lived with Mrs. Margaret Cox Tuggle (one of the daughters of Albert Ewing Cox and Juliet Warren Alford Cox) in LaGrange, Georgia.¹⁶

9. Letters from Margaret Cox Tuggle's granddaughter, Elizabeth Bethea, confirm that Juliette Cox Spratling was the sister of Margaret Cox Tuggle and the daughter of Albert Ewing Cox and Juliet Warren Alford. In a letter to Miriam Ann Kirkwood Syler dated March 5, 1977, Mrs. Bethea wrote:

I wanted to get information for my cousin Frances Boyd Taylor of New Bern, N.C. Our grandmothers were sisters, hers Juliet Cox who married a Spratling, mine Margaret Cox who married W.O. Tuggle of LaGrange.¹⁷

In another letter to Mrs. Syler dated May 16, 1977, Mrs.

Bethea stated:

My grandmother, Margaret Cox Tuggle . . . was the daughter of Albert E. Cox and Juliette Warren Alford. Frances Taylor's grandmother [Juliette Cox Spratling] was a daughter also and probably was named for her mother, Juliet or Juliette Warren Alford Cox.¹⁸

Evaluation of Genealogical Data

In this article we have identified nine genealogical facts (summarized in the nine numbered paragraphs above) which indicate that Juliette Cox Spratling was the daughter of Albert Ewing Cox and Juliet Warren Alford. By using a method of evaluating genealogical data suggested by The Alford American Family Association (which we shall call the "Alford Evaluation Method"), we can determine if we have "proved" the relationship indicated.¹⁹

Under the Alford Evaluation Method we must first grade the sources for our nine genealogical facts from "A" to "F." In order to receive an "A" (the highest grade), a source must be one of the following: "An original document or its reproduction ranging from government records and newspaper accounts to Bible records, family correspondence and tombstone inscriptions."²⁰

Except for the facts referred to in paragraphs 2, 8 and 9 above, our genealogical facts were clearly obtained from class "A" documents and records. Although arguably the principal sources used for paragraphs 2, 8 and 9 could qualify as class "A" documents, we shall assign them a grade of "B."

Next we must also grade the relationships indicated by our records. In order to receive an "A," a relationship must be: "Proved Beyond a Doubt. Requires Class A or B records stating the exact relationship. All sources must be in agreement."²¹

A critical analysis of our nine genealogical facts shows that the first eight (referred to in paragraphs 1 through 8) do not actually state that Juliette Cox Spratling was the daughter of Albert Ewing Cox and Juliet Warren Alford. For example, the census records cited in paragraph 3 create a strong presumption, but they fall short of "stating the exact relationship" since actual family relationships were not recorded in censuses until the 1880 Census. Our first eight genealogical facts therefore constitute class "B" proof which is: "Accepted as Correct. Requires Class A, B or C records indicating that the relationship probably existed . . . All sources must be substantially in agreement."²²

Class "A" proof of Juliette Cox Spratling's ancestry is found

in paragraph 9 where class "B" records state the "exact relationship," i.e. Juliette Cox Spratling was the daughter of Albert Ewing Cox and Juliet Warren Alford.

Conclusion

Despite some long hours and more than a few dead ends, the search for the "forgotten" parents of Juliette Cox Spratling turned out to be interesting and enjoyable. The unexpected bonus of discovering an ancestor as appealing as her grandfather, Hon. Julius Caesar Alford, "The Old War Horse of Troup," made it all the more rewarding.

Footnotes

¹Lindsey Colbert Spratling, born October 15, 1843, and Juliette Cox Spratling, born February 12, 1847, had a son, Benjamin Barnett Spratling (whose death certificate reflects that his mother, "Juliet Cox," was born in "LaGrange, Ga."). This son, born July 29, 1874, in turn had a son also named "Benjamin Barnett Spratling," born December 21, 1902, who became Benjamin Barnett Spratling, "Sr." after his father's untimely death in a hotel fire on February 1, 1918. Benjamin Barnett Spratling, Sr. (actually the son of the first Benjamin Barnett Spratling) was the father of Benjamin Barnett Spratling, Jr., born August 30, 1923, who is the father of the author.

²Chambers Co., AL, Mar. Lic., Vol. 5, No. 808-2. Mrs. R.M. Avary, who hosted the wedding, was Rachael Militia Ware Avary (daughter of Philip Ware and wife of Elias Holcomb Avary). She was the mother of Mary Ann Avary Spratling, wife of the groom's older brother, Col. William P. Spratling. Spratling Family Papers, in possession of Miriam Ann Kirkwood Syler (Mrs. P.H.), West Point, GA.

³Joseph H. Harris, *Oak Bowery Journal, Civil War Diary, 1860-1865*, p. 202, copy in Cobb Memorial Archives, Valley, AL. The reason for the opposition of the bride's parents to the marriage is unknown. Considering the date of the wedding, only a month prior to General Robert E. Lee's surrender at Appomattox, one reason could have been a possible disagreement over the wisdom of the South continuing to fight the War. Also, it is possible that the bride's parents did not think the groom's financial prospects were bright. However, for this to have been the case it would seem that the groom's prospects would have had to appear to be quite different from those of his older brother, Col. William P. Spratling, who was considered to be a relatively wealthy plantation owner. Col. Spratling's grandson, William Spratling, a famous writer, architect and silversmith, in his autobiography wrote, "[B]efore the war, there were some six hundred slaves" on "Grandpa's plantation . . . at Oakbowery." William Spratling, *File on Spratling* (Boston: Little, Brown and Company, 1967), pp 3-4.

Mrs. Barnett (Lindsey Colbert Spratling's mother) was

Emily Elizabeth Colbert, who married first Johnson Spratling (Lindsey Colbert Spratling's father) on December 10, 1828. Johnson Spratling (a son of James Spratling (Jr.) and grandson of James Spratling, a Revolutionary War soldier) died June 2, 1849, and on October 6, 1850, Emily Elizabeth married her second husband, William H. Barnett. Spratling Family Bible (Philadelphia: C. Alexander and Co., 1834), in possession of Miriam Ann Kirkwood Syler. Emily Elizabeth Colbert and both of her husbands, Johnson Spratling and William H. Barnett, are buried in the Spratling family cemetery near Oak Bowery, Alabama. Margaret Parker Milford and Eleanor Davis Scott, ed., *A Survey of Cemeteries in Chambers County, Alabama* (Huguley, AL: Genealogical Roving Press, 1983) p. 258.

⁴In 1977, seventy-nine year old Edward Park Langley, a great-grandson of Johnson Spratling and Emily Elizabeth Colbert, compiled family group records on his grandfather, Henry Johnson Spratling, and the other children of Johnson Spratling (including Lindsey Colbert Spratling and his wife, Juliette Cox Spratling) in which he listed the father of Juliette Cox Spratling as "Judge Cox." Edward Park Langley, Spratling Family Group Records, copy in possession of Ruth Spratling Denard (Mrs. B.K.), Cochran, Georgia.

⁵Clifford Lewis Smith, *History of Troup County* (Atlanta: Foote and Davies Co., 1935), p. 44. The Inferior Court was probably more important to Antebellum LaGrange and Troup County than any other governmental body. Its functions were not just judicial in nature. In fact, "[t]he court dominated all three branches of local government." Forrest Clark Johnson, III, *A History of LaGrange, Georgia 1828-1900*, Vol. I of *Histories of LaGrange and Troup County, Georgia* (LaGrange: Family Tree, 1987), p.43. For several years "[t]he Inferior Court provided LaGrange's people with all government services." Ibid. p. 44.

⁶*Lineage Books of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution* (Harrisburg, PA: Harrisburg Publishing Co., 1898), Vol 6, p. 216; Ibid. (1902), Vol 14, p. 94 (emphasis added).

⁷U.S., Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, *Seventh Census of the United States, 1850: Population*, Troup County, Georgia, p. 114. Actual relationships of members of a household were not recorded in the 1850 Census or other censuses until the 1880 Census. In addition to "Juiett," the Cox children listed in the household in 1850 were "Margarett A." (age 8), "Eliza I." (age 5) and "Albert" (age 1).

⁸*Eighth Census of the United States, 1860: Population*, Troup County, Georgia, p. 324. "M.A." (female, age 18), "E.I." (female, age 15), "Albert" (age 11), "Mary" (age 6), "G.E." (female, age 3) and "Fannie" (age 2) were also listed as living in the Cox household in 1860.

⁹*Ninth Census of the United States, 1870: Population*, Troup County, Georgia, p. 438 [hereinafter *1870 Troup County Census*]. Children in the Spratling household were

"Albert J." (4 years old), "Juliett" (2 years old) and "Julius A." (less than a year old).

¹⁰*Tenth Census of the United States, 1880: Population*, Chambers County, Alabama, E.D. 24, p. 30 [hereinafter *1880 Troup County Census*]. Four sons and a daughter of "Lindsey C." and "Juliette Spratling" were listed in the 1880 Census as "Albert J." (age 12), "Juliette" (age 11), "Ben B." (age 9), "Lindsey C." (age 6) and "George P." (age 2).

¹¹*1870 Troup County Census*, p. 438. Although Juliette Cox Spratling's parents had originally objected to her marriage, five years afterwards they seem to have accepted it rather well, as evidenced by the fact that the young couple was living next door to them. Perhaps the trials of living through the difficult days of Reconstruction brought the family closer together.

¹²*1870 Troup County Census*, p. 438; 1880 Chambers County Census, E.D. 24, p. 30; Spratling Family Papers.

¹³Henry Heard Spratling, born May 7, 1881, and his mother Juliette Cox Spratling were never listed together in a census since she died the same year he was born. Spratling Family Group Records; Spratling Family Papers. Albert Ewing Cox was the great-grandson of Ann Heard and Peter Gillum (or Gilham). *Lineage Books of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution*, Vol. 6, p. 216. Ann Heard's parents were Steven Heard (son of John Heard) and Mary Faulkner of Virginia. Ibid; A. Evans Wynn, *Southern Lineages: Records of Thirteen Families* (Atlanta: Walter W. Brown Publishing Co., 1940), pp 130-32. Albert Ewing Cox's two half-sisters, Mary Cade Alford and Margaret Erasmus Alford (who were also Juliet Warren Alford Cox's first cousins) married two brothers, Rev. Peter Abran Heard and Dr. Thomas Henry Heard, who were great-grandsons of the same Steven Heard and Mary Faulkner who were Albert Ewing Cox's great-great-grandparents. Forrest Clark Johnson, III, *Genealogical and Historical Register*, Vol. III of *Histories of LaGrange and Troup County, Georgia* (LaGrange: Family Tree, 1987), p. 327 [hereinafter *Genealogical Register*]; Forrest Clark Johnson, III, Letter to Benjamin Barnett Spratling III, George D. Allen and James P. Alford, LaGrange: October 13, 1989, in possession of Mr. Spratling. Steven Heard (the great-great-grandfather of Albert Ewing Cox) was the uncle of the Steven Heard who served as Governor of Georgia in 1781. *Southern Lineages: Records of Thirteen Families*, pp. 129-32; Thomas McAdory Owen, *History of Alabama and Dictionary of Alabama Biography* (Chicago: The S.J. Clarke Publishing Co., 1921) Vol III, p. 780 [hereinafter *History of Alabama*].

¹⁴Cox Family Tombstone Inscriptions, Hillview Cemetery, LaGrange, Georgia, transcribed and photographed by Benjamin Barnett Spratling III, August 19, 1989. Albert Ewing Cox and Juliet Warren Alford Cox are buried side by side and share a tombstone which reads, in part, as follows: "ALBERT EWING COX / FEB. 22, 1819 / JULY 21, 1896 / SON OF DR. ZACHRY / COX OF VIRGINIA / AND

MARGARET / MORROW OF GEORGIA / BELOVED-REVERED"; and "Sacred to the memory of / JULIET WARREN COX / Eldest daughter of / HON. JULIUS C. & / ELIZA COOK ALFORD / Born in Covington Ga / Jan 16, 1824 / Died near Lagrange Ga / Aug 29, 1879."

Cox Family Tombstone Inscriptions, Hillview Cemetery, LaGrange, GA. Albert Ewing Cox and Juliet Warren Alford were married November 26, 1840. *Genealogical Register*, p. 132.

¹⁵William T. Northern, ed., *Men of Mark in Georgia* (Atlanta: A.B. Caldwell, 1910) Vol. II, p.48; *History of Alabama* Vol. III, p. 21.

¹⁶Martha Elizabeth Todd Spratling (Mrs. Hugh), Letter to Miriam Ann Kirkwood Syler, Hogansville, GA: August 29, 1977, in possession of Mrs Syler. "Juliett [Spratling] lived with the Tuggles in LaGrange and graduated from LaGrange College." Ibid; See footnote 6.

¹⁷Elizabeth Bethea, Letter to Miriam Ann Kirkwood Syler, Atlanta: March 5, 1977, in possession of Mrs. Syler. Mrs. Bethea explained in another letter that she was writing on behalf of her cousin Frances Boyd Taylor because Mrs. Taylor had arthritis and "writes very little." Elizabeth Bethea, Letter to Miriam Ann Kirkwood Syler, Atlanta: May 8, 1978, in possession of Mrs. Syler. Mrs. Syler is a great-granddaughter of Col. William P. Spratling (Lindsey Colbert Spratling's brother).

¹⁸Elizabeth Bethea, Letter to Miriam Ann Kirkwood Syler, Atlanta: May 16, 1977, in possession of Mrs. Syler. Mrs. Bethea also wrote Mrs. Syler a letter in which she stated:

As you already know Juliet Cox married Linsey Colbert Spratling. They had seven sons and one daughter. This daughter, Juliet, married Dr. Hugh Boyd—Frances Boyd Taylor is their daughter . . . The sons of Juliet Cox and Linsey Spratling were Albert, Ben, Palmer and Heard. I do not know the names of the other three.

Elizabeth Bethea, Letter to Miriam Ann Kirkwood Syler, Atlanta: May 8, 1978. The other three sons of Lindsey Colbert and Juliette Cox Spratling were Julius Alford (died when 4 months old), Lindsey Colbert (Jr.) and William (died when 9 months old). *1870 Troup County Census*, p. 438; *1880 Chambers County Census*, E.D. 24, p. 30; Spratling Family Group Records. Dr. Hugh Boyd, husband of Juliette Spratling (only daughter of Lindsey Colbert and Juliette Cox Spratling), was Hugh Buchanan Boyd of LaGrange. Spratling Family Group Records. He was apparently the son of Andrew J. Boyd and Mary F. Ashford of LaGrange. *Genealogical Register*, p. 169.

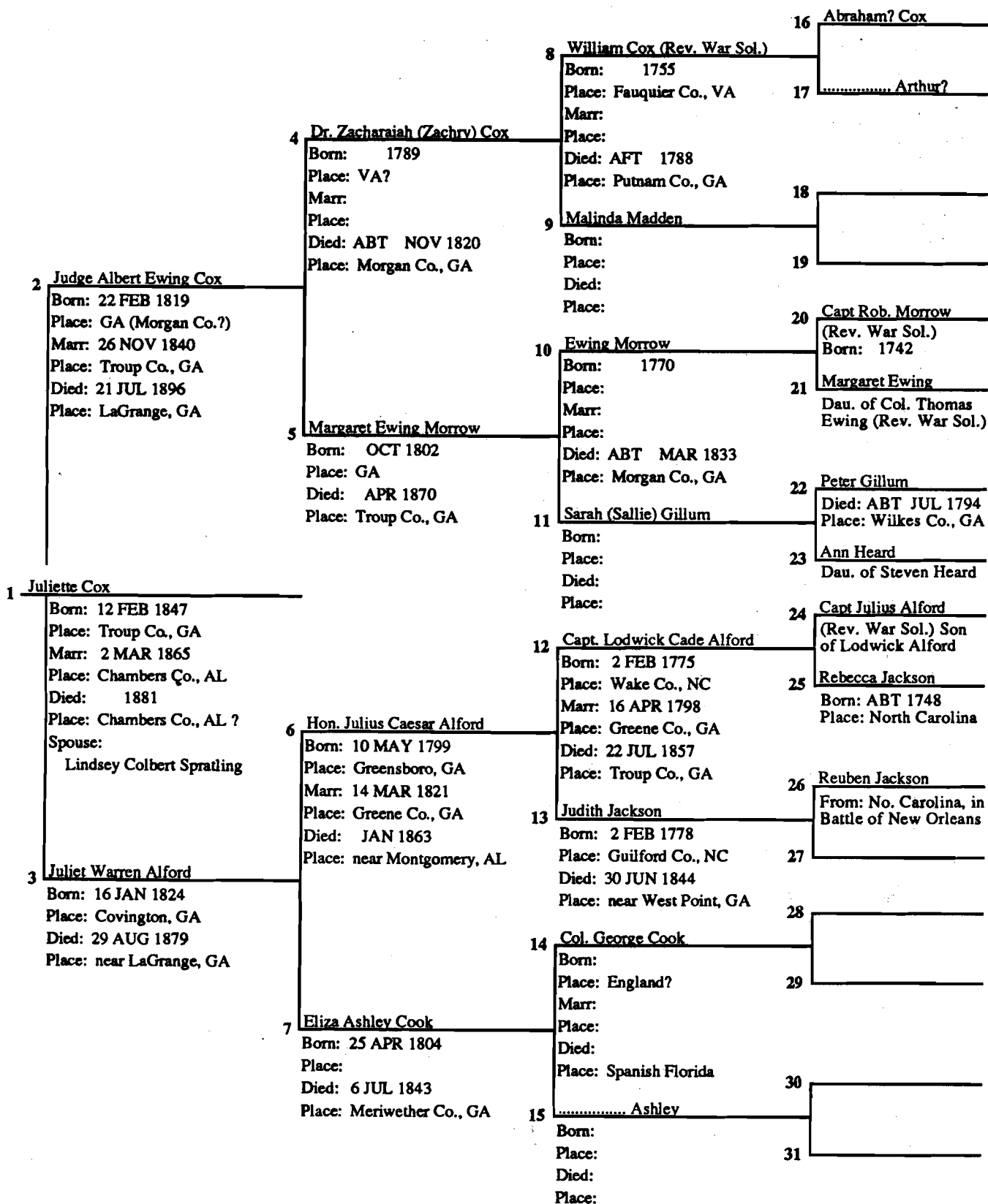
¹⁹James P. Alford, "Organization: Just What You Need," *AAFA ACTION*, Vol. II, No.1 (1989), pp. 26-27.

²⁰Ibid., p. 26.

²¹Ibid., p. 27.

²²Ibid., p. 27.

Ancestor Chart for Juliette Cox Spratling



Welcome New AAFA Members

MBR NAME	ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ULTIMATE ANCESTOR	EVENT DATE & PLACE
284 MRS. LOUISE FULLER	1520 LA FAYETTE	ROCKY MOUNT	NC 27801	NOT A DESCENDANT	
285 MRS. WANDA W. ROGERS	206 EAST 25TH AVENUE	NO KANSAS CITY	MO 64116	LOGAN	B 1810CA VA
286 MRS. DOROTHY JEAN JONES	211 NOTTINGHAM DRIVE	COLONIAL HEIGHTS	VA 23834	JAMES	B 1687CA VA
287 MRS. FAYE ALFORD WILLIAMS	3406 HEATHERWOOD	LUFKIN	TX 75901	NOT REPORTED YET	
288 MISS ANNIE KATE MYRICK	ROUTE 2, BOX 191 B	MENDENHALL	MS 39114	JAMES	B 1687CA VA
289 MR. ROBERT MURRAY ALFORD	POST OFFICE BOX 182	CALDWELL	TX 77836	JAMES	B 1687CA VA
290 MR. DAN BRADLEY ALFORD	1804 TERRACE DRIVE	CALDWELL	TX 77836	JAMES	B 1687CA VA
291 MRS. JEAN J. WILSON	2308 DAWN TRAIL	DURHAM	NC 27712	JAMES	B 1687CA VA
292 MR. GLENN C. ALFORD	1400 PRAIRIE LAKE BLVD.	OCOE	FL 34761	ROY	B 1879<E AL / NJ
293 MISS LORI ANNETTE ALFORD	25102 CAMINO DEL MAR, #B	LAGUNA NIGUEL	CA 92656	JAMES	B 1687CA VA
294 MR. DAVID HUSBAND	412 E. CENTER STREET	WHITE OAK	TX 75693	DAVID T.	B 1813CA VA
295 CAPT. ZEB DICKEY ALFORD	232 LITCHFIELD LANE	HOUSTON	TX 77024	JAMES	B 1687CA VA
296 MRS. PATTI OLIVAS	POST OFFICE BOX 101	SANTA TERESA	NM 88008	JAMES	B 1687CA VA
297 MRS. PEGGY ALFORD	11320 PROSPECT, N.E. #C	ALBUQUERQUE	NM 87112	JAMES	B 1687CA VA
298 MRS. JANE ALFORD	47 MAIN STREET	FALMOUTH	MA 02540	JAMES	B 1687CA VA
299 CAPT. KATE A. EASLEY	1817 PIASANO, N.E.	ALBUQUERQUE	NM 87112	JAMES	B 1687CA VA
300 MR. STEWART A. BROWN	702 SHERWOOD DRIVE	LAWRENCEVILLE	GA 30245	JAMES	B 1687CA VA
301 MRS. MILDRED WARD	301 TENTH AVENUE	BURNHAM	PA 17009	BENEDICT	B 1615/18 ENGL
302 DR. W. EUGENE ALFORD, MD	209 KENSINGTON COURT	HOUSTON	TX 77024	WILLIE M.	B 1909 GA
303 MRS. DORIS O. A. VETRI	29 CIRCLE DRIVE	TELFORD	PA 18969	JOHN	B 1800CA NC
304 MRS. GALES J. BELSER	POST OFFICE BOX 9	EDISTO ISLAND	SC 29438	EDWARD	B 1731CA MD
305 MRS. LILLIAN R. ALFORD	1629 SHARP ROAD	BATON ROUGE	LA 70815	WILLIAM	B 1816CA TN
306 MR. L. KIRKLAND ALFORD	11858 GREENLAND OAKS DR.	JACKSONVILLE	FL 32258	JAMES	B 1687CA VA

Editor's Note: In last quarter's "Welcome New AAFA Members" list, almost every "R." was inadvertently changed to "S.", making each MR. a MS., etc. Therefore, the gentlemen are being reprinted below. My apologies—everyone who does word processing on a computer will immediately recognize a "Find and Change" gone awry.

271 MR. FLOYD SHELBY ALFORD	2300 BEECHRIDGE ROAD	RALEIGH	NC 27608		
272 MR. KENNETH JAMES ALFORD	1071 EAST 425 NORTH	OGDEN	UT 84404	WILLIAM	B 1816 ENGLAND
274 MR. HOWARD ALFORD	10 PHELPS STREET	SUMTER	SC 29150		
278 MR. WILLIAM R. ALFORD, JR.	12300 VONN ROAD	LARGO	FL 34644	CONSIDER	B 1778 ENGLAND
279 MR. CLOYCE B. ALFORD	2236 RUMSON ROAD	RALEIGH	NC 27610		
281 MR. DONALD SUTTON ALFORD	20 BROOKSIDE PLACE	MADISON	MS 39110	JAMES	B 1687CA VA