

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.

