

Part 1: Eileen Alford's Consider Alford

Excerpts from Eileen Alford's:
THE ANCESTORS AND DESCENDANTS OF CONSIDER ALFORD AND HIS WIFE LUCY FITCH KENNEDY - A SAGA OF THEIR LIVES AND TIMES IN OLD ENGLAND AND COLONIAL AMERICA

In keeping with AAFA's plan to try to bring you all that has been written about Alford's, another series of book excerpts begins with this article. Eileen Alford, from a northern branch of the family, was born November 1913 in New York and died April 1985 in Arizona. Sometime prior to her death she prepared a book on her ancestors with emphasis on Consider Alford—apparently her immigrant Alford ancestor from England. Gil Alford corresponded briefly with Eileen before her death. William Russell Alford, Jr. (Member # 278) is Eileen's cousin. This first segment will include Eileen's acknowledgements and William Russell Alford, Jr's foreword. Eileen's book provided extensive coverage and much historical background not necessarily pertinent to Alford's, but AAFA ACTION will publish only the parts pertaining to Alford's.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

It is completely beyond my ability to adequately thank all the people, in different parts of the world, who contributed clues, documented facts and hours of research to make this book possible. I am especially gratefully [*sic*] to members of my family, numerous librarians and town clerks in remote outposts of New England, and a world famous clairvoyant. All gave generously of their particular talents, so I, as editor, would not fail in my dream to assemble generations of ancestors, from antiquity to the present day, and show the part they played in history.

PARTICULAR ACKNOWLEDGEMENT GOES TO:

Miss Virginia Alford, painter, of San Antonio, Texas, who not only took an intense interest in this genealogy, but gave hours of her time to Texas libraries searching the records of forgotten books and microfilm, as well as assisting in the editing and authoring of this volume. To her it was a labor of love.

Mr. William Russell Alford of WSYR Radio and Television, Syracuse, New York, who not only joined the search, but provided for a letter writing campaign to ALFORDS all over the United States and England. It was his hundreds of letters of encouragement to me, over a six year period, which kept the flame from dying out.

Mr. Donald Alford Stephenson of Manhasset, Long Island, New York, who supplied the late lineage of the Alford family, complete with dates and full names of all members. He obtained this information as a young man when past generations of the family were still living.

Professor Donald A. Rook of Windham Center, Connecticut, who searched the files of the Land Office at the County Seat to find the long forgotten homestead of the 'Kennedys of Windham'. His hand-drawn maps, showing the location of the homes of the residents of the village in the 18th century, and their closeness to the family of Lucy Fitch Kennedy, enabled me to glimpse back in time and 'see' the streets and buildings as they were when she walked the village green.

Colonel and Mrs. J. Huntington Hills of San Antonio, Texas, whose recently published book, "Ancestors Of Our Children", was an inspiration to me to carry on to the finish line. The books

and catalogues, loaned to me from their private collection, were a never ending source of factual information.

Mr. Edward Raine of Witton Gilbert, Durham County, England, whose zealous search for the birthplace of Consider Alford in England had its own special reward when a host of strangers named ALFORD beat a path to his door and mailbox. 'OPERATION - FIND CONSIDER' must have disrupted his orderly household: I hope pleasantly. His knowledge of English history, which he shared with me, is an enlightening addition to this book. And special thanks must go to this delightful wife, Ellie, who survived it all with patience and a sense of humor. The Raines have great admiration for the American people and were more than pleased to be able to be of assistance to me.

Mrs. Marion L. Bullis of Plattsburgh and Lake Placid, New York, responded to the 150th letter I sent to ALFORDS all over the country. She is searching for the Alford family history as diligently as I am because her mother bears that name. Her lineage charts and findings on the early Alford's of England were a welcome lift to me as they are very difficult to obtain. Her years of research include many other branches of this ancient family. Marion's encouragement and suggestions helped carry me through the eleventh hour.

MY COUSIN EILEEN

Some families have the good luck to have lots of male progeny and the family name flourishes. Others run into a spate of girls or even a complete dry spell and a branch, or even a full family, will fade out of existence [*sic*]. The Alford's are lucky in more ways than one. Adding the males among my

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James Alford, 1764—1839

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James, son of Jacob and Mary (PACE) Alford, was born about 1764 in Robeson, then Bladen, Co., North Carolina. He died 19 February 1839 in Copiah Co., Mississippi. He is buried in the Ard Cemetery west of Crystal Springs, Copiah Co., Mississippi. A transcript of his will follows this sketch.

James married Alice Katrain MCTYER about 1788. Alice, the daughter of William and Sarah Ann (ADAIR) McTyer, was born about 1769 in Robeson Co., North Carolina, and she died about 1837 in Copiah Co., Mississippi. She is also buried in Ard Cemetery.

The story is told that during the Revolution the Tories took James away to hang him because he would not tell them where the Whigs were hiding. Mingo, a negro slave, went on a mule to warn the Whigs. They went in pursuit and overtook the Tories near Gallivants Ferry, South Carolina. After swimming the horses across the stream, they surprised the Tories as they were about to hang James. The 16 Whigs then rounded up the 22 Tories, brought them back, hung them and buried them in the same grave.

James and his entire family, except Jacob and Charity, moved to Mississippi in 1833.

Their children were:

- i. Jacob Alford, born about 1789 in Robeson Co., North Carolina, died February 1861 in Robeson Co., married (1) Mary MCKAY January 1819 who was born about 1793 and died 2 December 1824 in Robeson Co.; married (2) Katherine MCRAE November 1825. She died 14 May 1838 in

Robeson Co. He married (3) Mrs. Patience THOMPSON, widow of Lennon Thompson, about 1842, and she died 16 October 1860.

- ii. Sarah Ann Alford, born about 1791 in Robeson Co., North Carolina, married Reuben PIERCE about 1809.
- iii. Patience [Agnes] Alford, born about 1795 in Robeson Co., North Carolina, died in Copiah Co., Mississippi, married Thomas THOMPSON.
- iv. Mary [Polly] Alford, born about 1796 in Robeson Co., North Carolina, died in Copiah Co., Mississippi.
- v. Charity Alford, born about 1797 in Robeson Co., North Carolina, died 1836 in Wilson Co., Tennessee, married John Guill LIGON 2 February 1819. He was born 13 October 1797 in Virginia and died 3 November 1866 in Wilson Co., Tennessee.
- vi. Kytice [Kitsey] Alford, born about 1798 in Robeson Co., North Carolina, died about 1874 in Copiah Co., Mississippi, where she is buried in the Ard Cemetery, married James ARD who died about 1844.
- vii. Winifred [Winnie] Alford, born about 1804, married William DOATHWAIT.
- viii. Elias Alford, born 18 October 1806 in Robeson Co., North Carolina, died about 1843 in Copiah Co., Mississippi, married Cinthia CAMMACK 27 June 1839. She died about 1847, also in Copiah Co.
- ix. Julius Caesar Alford, born 15

sons and the descendants of my father's brothers we have 15 or more Alford males to perpetuate our branch of the name. We are also lucky in having "my cousin Eileen" who has painstakingly compiled the history of the ancestors and descendants of Consider Alford, my great, great, great grandfather, who migrated to Hartford, Conn. before 1800. Frankly, we do not know much about his early background, but we are zeroing in on the facts. Fortunately, we do know the entire story of his wife's ancestors. This makes us eligible for the Mayflower Society, DAR, SAR, Magna Charta and numerous other patriotic societies.

Many of the connections that we have established have been ordinary New England folks—most of whom migrated to America for religious freedom or adventure. A study of the genealogy of our family is very rewarding in connecting us with the American mainstream as well as with the makers of American history and others of nobility.

"My Cousin Eileen" was, for two years, the Corresponding Secretary of the Mayflower Society for the State of Texas. Her hobby is not ancestor worship, but rather, the challenge of unraveling a delicate and tangled web which eventually leads right back to you! She has labored long and lovingly on the line of her father, Thomas Kennedy Alford. Her mother's maiden name was Agnes McCosker and why she did not go back to the kings of Ireland via that route, I just do not know. I am grateful that she stayed with the Alford side in her research. She deserves a commendation from the family. This is it, Eileen, dear.

WILLIAM RUSSELL ALFORD, JR.
Son of William Russell Alford
Grandson of William Madison Alford
G. Grandson of Thomas K. Alford
G.G. Grandson of Edwin M. Alford
G.G.G. Grandson of Consider Alford ♦