By Executive Director Gil Alford, grandson of Jeptha

Jeptha Martin Alford, son of John Seaborn and Margaret (BRUMFIELD) Alford (see “John Seaborn Alford, 1801-1891,” p. 17, AAFA ACTION, June 1992], was the youngest of 17 children, born July 22, 1862 on a farm in the Second Ward, Washington Parish, Louisiana, the general area in which he lived his entire life. He died May 26, 1948 at Mt. Hermon, Washington Parish, Louisiana, and is buried in the Alford Cemetery on his farm near Mt. Hermon, Louisiana.

Jeptha was married twice. He married first Fannie Ophelia PURVIS September 18, 1886. She was born about October 1869 and she died March 9, 1896. He married Laura Jane WARNER May 12, 1897 in Washington Parish, Parish, Louisiana. Laura, the daughter of Daniel Cornelius and Laura Drucilla (Holmes) Warner, was born March 8, 1871 and she died March 29, 1939. Both wives are buried in the small family cemetery with Jeptha.

The following is from a newspaper article printed when Jep was 78, about 1940:

ARDENT LONG SUPPORTER WANTS ADMINISTRATION TO WIN

Jep M. Alford, life-long resident of Washington Parish and one of its notable elder citizens, is an ardent follower of Governor Earl K. Long, and is actively supporting him in the Second Primary to be held February 20th. Recently Mr. Alford spent several days in Baton Rouge, and while there, was a visitor at the Governor’s Mansion. Later, Mr. Alford went to New Orleans and attended the Long meeting held there prior to the First Primary. Mr. Alford supported Huey P. Long every time he ran for office, and has been a loyal administrationist ever since. He is sincere in his belief that the only way in which the masses of the people of the state can continue to receive the benefits made possible by Huey P. Long is to continue the present governor in office and he is fighting to that end.

His obituary follows:

Probably THE ERA-LEADER
Franklinton, LA—Thurs., 3 June 1948

Jep M. Alford of the Mt. Hermon-Bogue Chitto Community died at his home May 26, 1948, after having been confined to his bed for several weeks. He was almost 86 years old age at the time of his death.

Mr. Alford lived his entire life in his immediate community, having been born within 300 yards of the home in which he died.

Funeral services were conducted Thursday by Rev. C.O. Stegal and interment followed in the family cemetery located near the home.

Mr. Alford was a member of the Bogue Chitto Baptist Church and had always been an active member until age prevented making a total of 12. [That is the way it was printed. Apparently they left out a line in typesetting. The “12” undoubtedly refers to his children.] Those surviving are: Mrs. Gene Dillon and Mrs. Edgar Smith of Mt. Hermon; Mrs. Kenzie Penton, Franklinton; Mrs. Dan [sic—should be Don] Shaeffer, Gonzales, Louisiana; Mrs. D.B. Fortenberry, New Orleans, Louisiana; Alonzo, Banton and Iddo of Mt. Hermon; G.K. of Gonzales, La.; and L.W. of Walterboro, South Carolina.

There are 32 grand children and 36 great grandchildren.

Children of Jeptha and Fannie (Purvis) Alford:


(Continued on p. 40)
RIGHT: Jeptha Martin Alford and his first wife Fannie Purvis with children. Standing are Banton (l) and Leoda (r); seated in front is Nola and on Jep's lap is Alonzo. This picture was taken about 1894!

BELOW: During his married life Jeptha lived in three houses. This is the second, which burned about 1923.

BELOW: Jeptha Martin Alford, about 1920.

ABOVE: Jeptha's third and final house, which burned after his death. Lora Wayne Penton is on stool in front.
ABOVE: Jeptha Martin Alford and his second wife Laura Jane Warner with children. Standing left to right: Leoda, Banton and Nola; seated on Laura's lap is Iddo and leaning on Jep's leg is Alonzo. Taken about 1897.

ABOVE: Lora W. Alford, about 1925.

ABOVE: Gilbert K. Alford Sr., about 1925.

### Children of Jeptha and Laura (Warner) Alford:

| vii. | Gilbert Kendric Alford, born November 9, 1901 in Washington Parish, LA. He married Mattie Inez NEWSON May 26, 1924 in East Baton Rouge Parish. She was born May 20, 1903 in Pointe Coupee Parish. They are both living. |

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#### Welcome to 23

New Members

This Quarter!