

## Biographies from Eastland County, Texas

The following articles appear in an unidentified history of Eastland Co., Texas. Judging from statements made by the writers of these biographical sketches, the book was probably published about 1988.

[Ben Allen] Alford -

[Mary] Hosea

Were married and lived in Lee County, Texas, 1885. Moved to Burnet County and then to Rising Star in 1895 where they farmed for several years. They had the following children: George Alford, my father, Eula, Preston, William, Asa, Jess, and Retha. The only survivor is Retha Alford Hitchcock of Brownwood, Texas. Ben Allen and Mary Alford moved to Brownwood, Texas, about 1910 where they spent their remaining years. *By Lynn Alford*

[Cecil] Alford -

[Sarah May] Barber

Cecil Alford was born near Abilene, Texas, August 23, 1910, the fifth child of B.F. and Lula McCown Alford. In 1913 the family returned Robertson County. In 1917, Cecil started school at Bald Prairie. He remembers his mother, but in February, 1918, she died with flu soon after the birth of twins; and soon one twin died also. Relatives and a good Negro neighbor helped the family.

In 1924 they moved to Eastland County where B.F. worked for an oil company plant. Cecil and the other children went to school at South Ward.

In 1926 B.F. rented a farm near Lone Cedar School. They farmed, and Cecil worked for neighbors or plowed for his father and helped raise chickens, hogs, cattle and horses. They sold eggs and cream and picked cotton.

During the depression, money was very

scarce; and they baled hay and cut wood, and Cecil went west to find work. In the 1930's he helped build Eastland Post Office. He often walked to work; but the builder liked Cecil's work and hired him for the Ranger Post Office.

Just before World War II, Cecil helped build the Army Camp at Brownwood, but soon left that job for work on a ranch near Staff.

Social events included church dinners, picnics, a picture show, and hayrides or horseback riding, and the young people attended these gatherings. Cecil Alford met Sarah May Barber at church at Staff, and after about five years they married, April 2, 1941.

Cecil and Sarah May Alford farmed and raised chickens and cows and sold fryers and eggs and cream or butter. Cecil baled hay for neighbors with horse-drawn equipment, and thrashed wheat using an old-time thrasher. He raised good hogs and pigs, and raised corn to feed them.

On September 15, 1945, their first son, Norman Lee, was born at Gorman, Texas.

In 1946, they moved to the house south of Lone Cedar where Cecil was raised. Cecil farmed that place and others nearby.

On May 28, 1948, a second son, Jerry Lynn, was born at Gorman. That year, Cecil had dangerous adventure on the Leon River. Stray hogs had gotten into his corn patch; so he took a shotgun and a dog and went at night to investigate. The marauder was a wild hog with huge tusks!

Cecil and Sarah May lost their farm to Lake Leon in 1953, and moved to Olden, where the boys finished school with honors. Both finished Abilene Christian College.

Cecil worked for Texas Electric and Featherite at Ranger. He kept good cattle, hogs, sheep and goats, and raised hay, all of which he loved to do. On May 7, 1980, Cecil Alford died, at home. He had just finished sowing his crop and checking on his cattle. He died happy.

Sarah May sold the farm in 1981 and moved to Eastland, where she lives and works at Eastland Memorial Hospital. Norman Lee Alford and Jerry Lynn Alford and their families live away from Eastland. *By Sarah May Barber Alford*

[Curtis] Alford -

[Marguerite] Almand

Curtis Alford, son of Mr. & Mrs. Allen Alford, was born October 8, 1914, in Maysfield, Texas. The Allen Alford family moved to Brown County while Curtis was small. Allen Alford expired in 1918.

Years later Mrs. Minnie Alford married Mr. Guy House. The family moved to Sipe Springs, Comanche County, Texas. Curtis attended school in May, Texas and Sipe Springs, Texas.

In Sipe Springs, Texas, December 26, 1936, Curtis married Marguerite Almand, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. D.N. Almand (Jack) of Sipe Springs, Texas. Curtis and Marguerite lived south of Sipe Springs, Texas, on their oil lease, where he worked and drilled.

To this union two sons were born. Edward Allen Alford was born August 6, 1938, in Gorman, Texas, Blackwell Hospital. Dr. D.V. Rogers was our doctor. Tommy Jack Alford was born February 18, 1945, in Gorman, Texas, Blackwell Hospital.

Curtis sold the oil lease, and the family moved to Rising Star, Eastland County, Texas in 1951. He was a drilling

contractor and a rancher while living in Eastland County. After a lengthy illness of leukemia, Curtis expired at age 70, January 1, 1985, in Humana Hospital of Abilene, Texas. He is buried in Elm Cemetery of Eastland County.

At the time of this writing (November 6, 1987), Mr. & Mrs. Edward Alford and son Jason live in Abilene, Texas. Edward's daughter, Leslie Alford Boyd, lives in Anson (Mr. & Mrs. Vance Boyd).

Mr. & Mrs. Tommy Alford and son Chance live in Spring, Texas. Marguerite Alford lives in Abilene, Texas. [no author]

### [George] Alford - Hilton

Were married in 1912 and lived on a farm in the Okra community. They had four children Lynn, Willard, Aza Lee, and Willia Faye. Willard and Aza Lee died during the influenza epidemic of 1918. Willia Faye married Pat Patterson and has three children Linda, Beverly, and Dana. She now lives in Mineral Wells, Texas. She married Pat Patterson who died in 1987. The parents attended church in Okra and did their shopping in Carbon and Rising Star where they sold their cotton to the local buyers. *By Lynn Alford*

### [Jacob] Alford - [Twilley] Gibson

Jacob Lewhorn Alford was born (1864) and reared near Shreveport, La. He was of Scotch decent. His father (or grandfather) was a Methodist minister and held the first Methodist Revival in Texas. (Legend has it that he took his rifle in one hand and Bible in the other, and laid them both on the rostrum while he preached.)

Jake Alford's wife was Dr. Gibson's daughter, Twilley.

Jake worked as a detective, also Brown County Deputy Sheriff, while studying

law. He passed the bar at age 23. He moved his family from Brown County to Rising Star in 1910. He established a law practice which spanned 55 years.

He and Mrs. Alford had 13 children: two died as small children. Mrs. Alford died about 1915. Judge Alford later married Mrs. Carrie Joyce, who also preceded him in death.

Jake was an affectionate, generous and very caring man. His children and 37 grandchildren adored him. One year (1941) he had five grandchildren in the Rising Star High School graduation class.

The Alford's were all represented in the Armed Forces. Two of Jake's sons served in the Navy in WWI, and two sons and a daughter, plus numerous grandsons served in WWII. Judge Alford died in 1941. *By Jane Hicks*

### [Lynn] Alford - [Dorice] Davis

Was born in 1914 at home and delivered by Dr. Bell who practiced in the community. We attended the Methodist Church in Okra. After it closed we attended the Baptist Church in Long Branch. I attended school four years at Hallmark and my teachers were Mrs. Hallie Acker Marsh and Miss Alice Whiting. The other five years were in Okra School.... The last year was spent in the Rising Star School where I was graduated. Juanita Claborn, Bernice McMillan and I took turns driving our cars to Rising Star.

Very little recreation went on during the depression. We went fishing on Elm and Sabanno Creeks, played baseball on Saturdays, if we were not busy in the fields. We played basketball on outdoor courts at all the schools I attended. Mr. Jack Gingrich, our coach at Rising Star, used a lot between two buildings in the back of the Star Trading Company that helped protect us from the wind. We

attended the King Tut Theater in town on Saturdays, if time permitted. My closest friend, Truitt Been, son of Elzo and Frances Been, lived nearby.

After finishing high school I attended Daniel Baker College and graduated in 1936. Upon graduation completion, Dorice Davis, a classmate, and I were married and taught school in Plains, Texas, for two years. Dorice's father was Dr. Guy Davis the President of Daniel Baker College. We then moved to Dawson County and taught for four years before I entered the U.S. Coast Guard OCS in New London, Connecticut. After serving the European and Asian Theaters for four years, we resumed our teaching in the Dawson County schools. I then attended Sam Houston State College. After serving as Superintendent of the Klondike School District, and my wife as an English teacher in the district, we retired in 1974. We have lived in Lamesa since 1950.

We have three children and six grandchildren. Barbara Alford Archer and her husband Maurice of Lamesa have twin sons, Stephen, of Midland, and Michael, who died in 1978. We also had twins, Thomas Hilton Alford and Nancy Alford Hartley. Thomas Hilton Alford of Vernon Hill, Nancy Alford Hartley of Bay City, Texas and her husband Joe have two children, Lynn and Dustin.

We have seen our son graduated from Texas A&M and Trinity Divinity School with a Doctorate in Theology. Barbara was graduated from Angelo State University with a BS in biology and Chemistry. Her son, Stephen, was graduated from Angelo State University with a BBA in finance. Nancy did not complete her college work before marriage.

We started farming in 1947 in addition to our teaching and still continue to raise cotton. We have had an enjoyable time traveling in this country and foreign countries. We are in reasonably good health.

(Continued on p. 44)

Mass., lived near the meadow where the Phillip's place now is. Later he probably resided on Hawley St., near John Broughton.

The following references to Alexander Alvord have been gathered from various records:

"Alexander Alluard" signed a petition against imposts Nov. 4, 1668; signed a petition to Mass. legislature to form a society at Northfield, May 31, 1671; was admitted to the Northampton church after 1672; subscribed to Harvard College 4 lb. flax,—04s, 1672-3; took the oath of allegiance at Northampton, Mass, Feb. 8, 1678; was admitted as freeman in 1684. A local historian speaks of him as an "early settler and possessed of large means for the times."

Mrs. Mary (Vore) Alvord was one of the original members of the First Church of Northampton, Mass. She signed the church covenant, 1661, 4th, 18. Her father, Richard Vore settled in Dorchester, Mass., probably in 1630 with Rev. John Warham. He was a member of Mr. Warham's church in Dorchester and was one of the company that migrated to Windsor in 1635....

Item from Richard Vore's will, July 1, 1683: "I give Thomas Alvord, son of my daughter Mary Alvord, dec'd, 5 shillings."

Will of Alexander Alvord

.... May 23, 1687. Whereas I Alexander Alvord of Northampton ... bequeath [my estate] as follows viz:

[Here we depart from the verbatim text to summarize the will:]

*Already received their full portions:*

Son John Alvord

Daughter Abigaile wife to Thomas Root

Mary Weller deceased

Elizabeth Birth deceased

*Twenty shillings each:*

John Alvord

Samuel Root, son of Thomas Root

Experience Weller [child of Mary]

Abigail Weller [child of Mary]

Henry Burt's child [child of Elizabeth]

Son Benjamin Alverd: "that part of my old house joyneing to that w<sup>ch</sup> my son Weller lived in, together with that piece of Land it standeth upon which was given me by the town."

*Thirty pounds each:*

Son Jeremiah Alvord

Daughter Sarah Alvord

*Twenty pounds:*

Jon<sup>th</sup> Alvord

"The rest of my Estate ... I give to my son Ebenezer Alvord viz: my house barne, orchard, pasture, meadow land, stock, debts, household stuff and all my estate whatsoever, both moveables and immoveables."

Son Ebenezer Alverd to by sold executor.

"I desire my trustie ffriende Mr. Hawley to see this my will to be accomplished and to take speciall care of my unmarried children; to advise them in matching & to have y<sup>e</sup> oversight of y<sup>m</sup> while they remayne in a single condition."

Witnesses: Joseph Hawley and John Lyman

From Northampton Reg. of Probate, Hampshire Co., Vol. 1, p. 265. ♦

**Keep Your  
Membership  
Current—  
It's Only  
\$15 A Year!**

*(Photos, cont. from p. 4)*

had a section on the collection of Civil War photos being compiled by the Military History Institute in Carlisle Barracks, PA. My husband, Bruce, and I were visiting family in PA in July and went to the Institute. After finding outstanding information on our several Civil War ancestors in their massive collection of military unit histories and other books, we went across the street to the building that houses the photo collection. The curator, Michael Winey, went directly to the volume containing Bruce's ancestor's unit and found a large photo of the regiment's band—the ancestor was a drummer! We were ecstatic—and extremely thankful to the generous person who submitted this photo.

So this is my challenge to you: Make the effort to submit at least one of your great old photos to AAFA. You'll make someone very happy some day, and you might be saving a picture of your ancestor from destruction! —PT ♦

*(Eastland Co., TX, cont. from p. 42)*

As I have enjoyed Mr. Langston's 1903 *History of Eastland County*, I hope this history may be enjoyed in future years by many persons. *By Lynn Alford*

[Robert Lee] Alford -  
[Bertha] Taylor

Bertha Taylor met a guy named Robert Lee Alford, they met in the country and a year later were married. They didn't have a wedding party or a honeymoon. Bertha met Robert's parents a week after they met. They moved into an apartment in town where he found work. While there, a daughter, Barbara was born in August of 1933. They moved to Tyler, on to Verna, and finally settled in Eastland, Texas. They had another baby girl, Shirley, born in July 1935. They had two more girls and one boy.... [article cut off here]. ♦