

## 1993 Meeting in St. Francisville a Success!

By Max Alford, AAFA Secretary

**T**he meeting in St. Francisville was a smashing success. It was definitely one of the largest to date. Everyone in attendance really enjoyed themselves.

The festivities began on Friday morning with early registration. This was followed by an all day session of good information concerning genealogical research. The sessions were conducted by Gil Alford, Alicia Houston, and Elizabeth Hazlip. Subjects covered included basic research, church and cemetery records, military and census records, court and probate records, and a discussion of LDS sources and facilities. The session was well attended and enjoyed by all.

The proceedings officially convened with the Friday night reception. Sally Stoewer and her Louisiana



*Pat Collins from Bentley, LA, who helped much with the meeting; Andrea Alford Fantacci, the "T Shirt lady" from Zachary, LA, who operates the AAFA buying service and who helped with the meeting; mannequin; Executive Director Gil Alford from Florissant, MO; Thelma Alford McGeorge, Shreveport, LA; and Chairman of the Board Lodwick H. Alford, Sea Island, GA.*



*Richard and Sally Stoewer with a mannequin in the middle. Sally, who had been working towards this event for many months, was the AAFA Louisiana Representative until the meeting, at which time she turned the duties over to Michael Alford of Kentwood, LA. Sally can take credit as the first to add any significant theme to our Friday reception and in providing some entertainment.*

bunch are to be commended for a very well put together reception. The theme of the reception was the "Mardi Gras." All the attendees were given strings of beads as they entered the reception area. In the reception room, mannequins were dressed in the elaborate costumes worn during the February celebration in New Orleans. The costumes were very ornate and the colors were beautiful. Sally really went to a lot of trouble but the results were spectacular. Sally had some help from people who were not AAFA members or Alford relations and we certainly want to thank them for their help.

The business meeting was officially opened with a welcome from the Sally Stoewer, the Louisiana state representative. She in turn introduced the mayor of St. Francisville who welcomed the Association to St. Francisville, gave a short welcoming address and passed out "I love St. Francisville" stickers. The stickers could be used in lieu of payment for any tickets received in St. Francisville (except DWI). I don't know of anyone who actually tried the sticker payment method so I can't say if it worked or not.

Sally then turned the meeting over to the President of the Association, Benjamin Alford, Jr. After opening remarks, the president called upon the secretary for the secretary's



*Doris Alford Vetri, #303 AAFA Treasurer of Telford, PA with husband and big AAFA helper Sebastian Vetri.*

annual report. The secretary presented some informative slides concerning the past year's membership growth and makeup by states. Texas still has the most members but Alabama has the highest percentage of Alford's as members in their state. On average, there have been one hundred new members added each year since the inception of the Association. However, it was pointed out that there are several states in which the Association has no members. Members were encouraged to promote the Association so the membership will continue to grow.

The treasury's report was given by Doris Vetri. This past year the Association has managed to maintain a steady cash flow in part due to contributions from members as well as an increase in dues as new members are added.

Alicia Houston, the AAFA Genealogist, reported continuing progress concerning the census project. However, she could still use some more volunteer help if anyone would like to volunteer.



*Husband and wife Earline Alford, a big AAFA helper, and Max Ray Alford, AAFA Secretary, from Mesquite, TX*

Andrea Fantacci, AAFA Buying Service, reported on continuing sales and new products. Among the new products will be baseball style caps, and she is also checking on the possibility of ladies tote bags. Both items would carry the AAFA logo.

Jack Kinabrew, AAFA Photo Project, reported that the number of photos is growing and he is beginning to catalog them now. He also encouraged all members who may have any photos of Alford's to submit them or a copy of the original so that future researchers can benefit.



*Lodwick H. Alford, Chairman of Board of Directors and Past President; Ella Langdon Alford, Brixey, MO, new AAFA Missouri Representative; and Betty Wagstaff, Bronson, TX.*

D.L. Alford, Jr., VP—Texas, reported that the Texas members are concerned about the number of members who do not renew their membership. The Texas group has pledged to make a concentrated effort to contact all former members and make a real effort to get the former members to renew their membership.

Julius Alford, VP—Mississippi, had nothing new to report but pledged to continue his efforts on behalf of the Association.

Betty McGugan, AAFA Representative—Georgia, announced that the Georgia segment of the AAFA plans to hold a state meeting in the coming year prior to the '94 meeting. The meeting will be used to discuss ways to increase membership among the non-member Alford's in Georgia.

Gil Alford, Executive Director, summed up everyone's desire to continue to grow the Association and the compilation of all Alford data so that future generations of Alford's will know of their ancestors.

There were several additions to the volunteer



*Seated l. to r.: Juanita R. Stevens, Macon, GA; Robert Alford Folds, Atlanta, GA, hostess of our first annual meeting; and Alicia Roundy Houston, Monroeville, PA, AAFA genealogist and census project officer. Standing l. to r.: Lodwick H. Alford, Sea Island, GA; Ella Langdon Alford, Brixey, MO, new AAFA Missouri Representative; James P. "Posey" Alford, Gonzales, TX; and Mrs. Nolan David (Mary Morgan) Alford, Mt. Hermon, LA. A woman behind Roberta is so well concealed that she cannot be identified.*



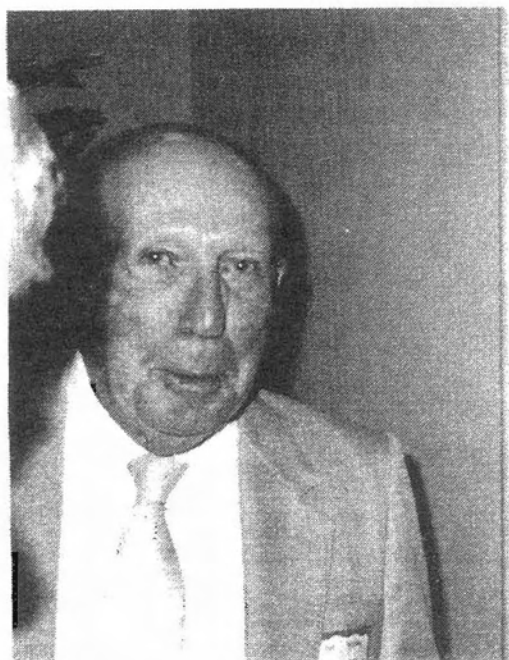
*Elmer A. Alford #608 of Houston, TX; his wife Willie Jean Alford; and his twin sister Thelma Alford McGeorge #603 of Shreveport, LA.*

staff of the Association. Emanuel "Al" Alford volunteered to be AAFA Events Coordinator. As such, he will be responsible for nailing down arrangements for future meetings. [Editor's note: This is a tremendous addition to the "staff" of AAFA. It will free Gil from many of the administrative duties of the annual meeting. Many, many thanks to Al for this service.] Janice S. Smith was appointed Wills Project Officer and Evelyn Z. Mistich was appointed Cemetery Project Officer. The following members were appointed state representatives:

Ella Langdon Alford, Missouri  
Elroy P. Alford, Oklahoma  
Michael Alford, Louisiana

Chairman of the Board Lodwick Alford also announced that all of the current officers have agreed to stand for re-election at the 1994 meeting. The only exception is that of VicePresident Ray Alford who was unable to attend the meeting. Wick will contact him to see if he also will stand for re-election. The Chairman also encouraged members to make nominations from the floor provided the





*Cousins David Gaston Alford, AAFA #503 of San Antonio, TX, and Joe Gray AAFA #607 of Baton Rouge, LA.*

person nominated had consented to being nominated. Similar encouragement will be forthcoming prior to the elections at the '94 meeting.

After much debate and consideration, Springfield, Missouri, was selected by the membership as the site for the 1996 meeting. The site was selected with the idea of moving slightly to the north and west of areas covered by previous meetings.

The membership was also asked what new items they would like to see available through the Buying Service. Some of the items suggested were sweatshirts, golf style shirts, tee shirts, coffee mugs, baseball caps, and tote bags. Andrea Fantacci agreed to research items which have not already been offered and to see if those already offered can be improved.

This concluded the business meeting portion of the 1993 Annual Meeting.

Gil Alford conducted the Alford Family Forum during the afternoon. Gil gave a brief synopsis of the ancestral family of each member present. He also covered the early Virginia Alfords, the Indian Alfords, and James Alford of St. Peter's



Parish, New Kent County, Virginia. Gil also covered some early Alford migration patterns. Gil did his usual terrific job.

The buffet Saturday night was attended by 120 to 135 members and their guests. Despite being somewhat cramped for space, the buffet went off without any major problems and everyone enjoyed themselves.

Gaylon Alford of St. Francisville was kind enough to arrange a special tour of the house the Smithsonian dubbed "the most haunted house in America and the thirteenth most haunted house

in the world." The house is known as the "Myrtles" around St. Francisville. The tour was an after-hours nighttime tour and started at approximately nine at night. We had such a caravan that we probably scared all the ghosts off. I had my trusty video camera and was fully prepared to capture a



*Wick's sister-in-law, Juanita Shepherd Alford, widow of Marvin Floyd Alford of Jacksonville, FL; Lodwick H. Alford, Sea Island, GA; and his sister Beatrice "B" Alford Parramore, Valdosta, GA.*

ghostly apparition on my tape. Unfortunately, the tour guide asked me to please not turn the camera on during the tour. There were some in the group who did report feeling chilled during the tour and at least one unexplained camera flashbulb flashed without the assistance of any living human. We understand that a part of a pre-arranged happening went by the wayside when one of the participants failed to live up to her part of the scheme. (Is that true, Evonne?)

Sunday morning, some of the members spent several hours going over research material that Gil had brought with him. And then all too soon, the meeting was over. Everyone I spoke with agreed that this meeting was the biggest and best so far.

The following is a list (by ancestral families) of all members who attended. Only the member is listed and Gil's abbreviation for the ancestral family is used.

[Editor's note: This is a great way to present the list of attendees!]

ARC780NC: Janice Smith (TX) and Paul W. Alford (AL)  
EDW792NC: C.A. Alford, Sr (MS) and Helen McManus (MS)  
HAY780GA: Betty McGugan (GA) and Bryant J. Alford (TX)



*Robert Wagstaff, Bronson, TX; 2 mannequins;  
and Dovie Jean Alford, Houston, TX..*

ISA748NC: James P. Alford (TX) and Robert B. Alford (TX)  
ISH749NC: Lynn Shelley (WV) and Theo Wesley (MS)  
JAC738VA: Dora J. Warren (MS), Elizabeth H. Hazlip (MS), Julius M. Alford (MS), and Juanita Stevens (GA)  
JAC761NC: Peggy Wood (TX)  
JAM713VA: Beatrice Parramore (GA), Juanita Alford (FL), Andrea Fantacci (LA), Lodwick Alford (GA)  
JAM741NC: Ella Alford (MO) and Jean Holzapfel (FL)  
JEP797NC: Virginia Bray (MS) and Nancy Elkin (MS)  
JOB765NC: Michael Collins (LA) and Patricia Collins (LA)  
JOH696MD: Margaret Windham (NM)  
JOH787NC: Benjamin Alford, Jr. (PA)  
JOH801NC: Doris Vetri (PA) and Max Alford (TX)  
JOH807LA: Faye Alford Swan (MS), Josephine Carrigan (CA), Patricia Smith (MS), Gil Alford, Jr. (MO), Michael Alford (LA), Paul Reeves (LA), Jill Richard (LA), Sally Stoewer (LA), Mattie Fry (TX), Vesta Giddings (TX), Betty Davis (TX), Murray Alford, Jr. (LA), Nolan Alford (LA), and Vesta Bowden (TX)  
JOH844SC: Emanuel "Al" Alford, Jr. (FL)  
JUL747NC: Audrey Veola (TX), Geraldine Obermiller (NC), and Leonora Ginn (GA)  
JUL747NC: D.L. Alford, Jr. (TX), Evonne Salmons (TX), and Dovie Alford (TX)  
JUL747NC: James P. Alford (TX)  
JUL797GA: William J. Alford (TX)  
JUL819MS: Edna Stewart (LA)  
MIL895TX: Kenneth Alford



*Cheryl (Sherry) Lynn Stoewer Kinchen reading to those present the scoop on Mardi Gras. Sherry is the daughter of Sally Stoewer, the AAFA Louisiana Representative who was responsible for the Mardi Gras arrangements as well as many other outstanding arrangements for the meeting. Sherry and husband Jack Kinchen were very instrumental in making the Friday reception a great success. On the right, Andrea Alford Fantacci is taking photos.*

*(Continued on p. 56)*



Morgan, who was b. 1883 and d. 1971—listed under bio of Alexander "Alec" Morgan family); **Smithie**, 227 (daughter of Charles and Mollie, m. John Hester); **Sudie**, 227 (b. 1868, daughter of William and Ama; daughter of Charles and Mollie, m. Dudley Hester); **Wendell**, 227 (son of Charles and Lila); **William Jr.**, 227 (b. 1874, son of William and Ama, killed when his horse fell on him); **William**, 227 (NOTE: handwritten note on this biography says "wrong". Bio: b. in England, educated for ministry in Methodist Church, settled in MS, m. Ama Williams and had 8 children; d. en route to Houston Co. in 1878-79 and is buried near Weches, TX); **Willie Dorman**, 227 (son of Dorman and Opal); **Willie Jr.**, 227 (b. 1920, son of Willie and Emily, m. Addie Lois Allee); **Willie**, 227 (son of Charles and Mollie, m. Emily Anne Hiroms), 408 (listed under bio of Samuel C. Hiroms family).

## WEST VIRGINIA

### Greenbrier County—established from Montgomery, 1777

• Evans, Norma Pontiff. *A REGISTER OF THE MARRIAGES CELEBRATED IN GREENBRIER COUNTY, (WEST) VIRGINIA 1781-1849*. Beaumont, TX: By the author, 1983. Title page, Introduction, Maps, Index of Alford's, and all pages that list Alford's or variations: **Anne**, 27 (m. Charles Keenan 23 June 1798); **Joseph**, 1 (m. Jenny Gwinn 5 Nov 1792); **Polly**, 46 (m. John Sallards 22 Sept 1794—handwritten note in margin says "Sowards?"); **Sarah**, 36 (m. Ervin B. Miller 1 Sept 1836); **George ALFRED**, 1 (m. Mary Byrnside 14 Feb 1793).

• Shuck, Larry G. *GREENBRIER COUNTY (WEST) VIRGINIA RECORDS, Volume 1*. Athens, GA: Iberian Publishing Company, 1988. Title page, Index of Alford's, and all pages that list Alford's (no variations): **Geo/George**, 69 (110 acres Jan 28, \_\_\_\_\_—years in other listings appear to be between 1780-91), 202 (1793 listed in Court Minutes), 233 (1798 recorded deed from John Byrnside); **John**, 261 (1818 recorded deed from Chas. Arbuckle 118 acres in Monroe Co.); **Robt.**, 112 (1782 on list of ration allowances).

### Monroe County—est. from La Crosse, 1854

• Johnston, Ross B. *WEST VIRGINIA ESTATE SETTLEMENTS, An Index to Wills, Inventories, Appraisements, Land Grants, and Surveys to 1850*. Baltimore, MD: Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., 1978. Title page, Contents, and the only page that lists Alford's (no variations)—all from Monroe County: **John**, 168 (will June 1810 lists sons **John**, **James**, **Thomas**; daughters **Margaret**, **Sarah**, **Jane**; wife **Jane**), 168 (inventory July 1834, List of Sales Oct 1834); **Joseph**, 168 (Inventory July 1819, Inventory Feb 1839, List of Sales Dec 1840, Settlement June 1845). ♦

### (1993 Meeting, cont. from p. 15)

NEE789NC: Joe Gray (LA), David Alford (TX), Elmer Alford (TX), Walter Clerihew (TX), Bettye Wagstaff (TX), and Thelma McGeorge (LA)  
 ROB760EN: Donald Alford (NV) and Mary Helms (AR)  
 SEA807LA: Melba Wise (LA), J.M. Kinabrew, Jr. (LA), and Evelyn Mistich (LA)  
 TOM860IT: Elroy Alford, Sr. (OK)  
 THO802VA: Alicia Houston (PA)  
 WIL786TN: Thomas R. Alford (TX), Thomas H. Alford (LA), and Robert Dunagan (MS)  
 WIL804GA: Catherine A. Ellard (MS), Margie Alford (LA), and Evon Ratliff (MS)  
 WIL812GA: Patricia Thorn (TX) and Roberta Folds (GA)

I look forward to seeing all of you in Richmond, Virginia, next October. ♦

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Dec 89	II, 3	48	5.10	
Mar 90	II, 4	40	4.50	13.10
Jun 90	III, 1	58	5.80	
Sep 90	III, 2	58	5.80	
Dec 90	III, 3	64	6.30	
Mar 91	III, 4	60	6.00	20.00
Jun 91	IV, 1	70	6.70	
Sep 91	IV, 2	76	7.20	
Dec 91	IV, 3	64	6.30	
Mar 92	IV, 4	60	6.00	22.30
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