

1998 Annual Meeting in Paducah, KY

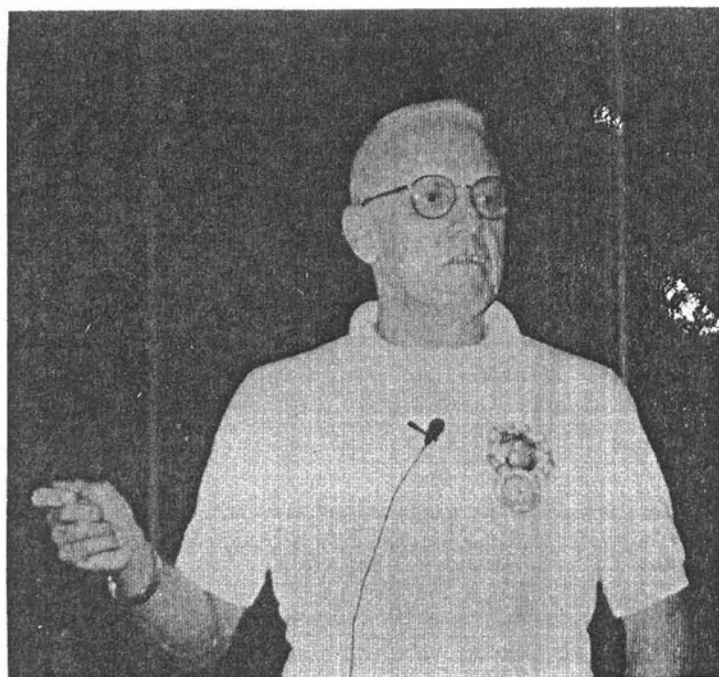
By Max Alford, AAFA Secretary

The biggest and best yet! These words are heard often near the close and after each meeting. Now, while there may be room for debate on whether the 1998 meeting fits this description, there is no room for debate on the meeting facility—J.R.'s Executive Inn—being the largest facility that has played host to us (at least of the 5 or 6 meetings I have attended). The building must have been at least two city blocks long and situated on the bank of the Ohio River just a short distance from where the Tennessee River joins the Ohio. Every morning you could see barges being pushed up the river by the tug boats. The meeting and banquet rooms were large enough that there was no crowding, and during the meetings there was room at the back so the refreshments could be set up and removed afterward without that operation becoming the focal point. The research room was large enough to put all the reference material on tables lining the walls and still leave room in the center for several tables on which members could conduct their research.

The photo room was perhaps the smallest of the rooms, becoming crowded when group pictures were made after the Saturday night buffet. But



Jimmie Alford, #500 IL, was our host for the meeting. At one of the Friday genealogy workshops, he gave a presentation on migration trails into Kentucky with particular emphasis on where the different Alford family groups settled. His use of many old maps was especially interesting and enlightening.



as usual, Janice and John Smith did an excellent job of getting everyone in, picture taken, and out. Sally and Dick Stoewer had ample room in the company store to display all the merchandise they bring to each meeting. As a bonus, the room could be locked so all the items didn't have to be boxed up and put away each night.

The meeting began as usual with registration Friday morning, 8:00 AM. That went very smoothly thanks in part to the help Doris Vetri and I received from my wife Earline, my daughter Samantha, my son Matt, and Doris's husband Buzz. The fact that we had so few that showed up without advance registration also contributed to a nice, orderly registration.

Friday was spent conducting a genealogical workshop

R.M. "Dick" Alford, #633 ID, gave us the pros and cons of Family Tree Maker as part of a panel discussion on genealogy software programs.



AAFA Vice-President Lynn D. Shelley, #484 MO, leading the genealogy workshop on Friday. Lynn does so much for AAFA, especially in the area of genealogical research, that every member should send her a thank-you note!

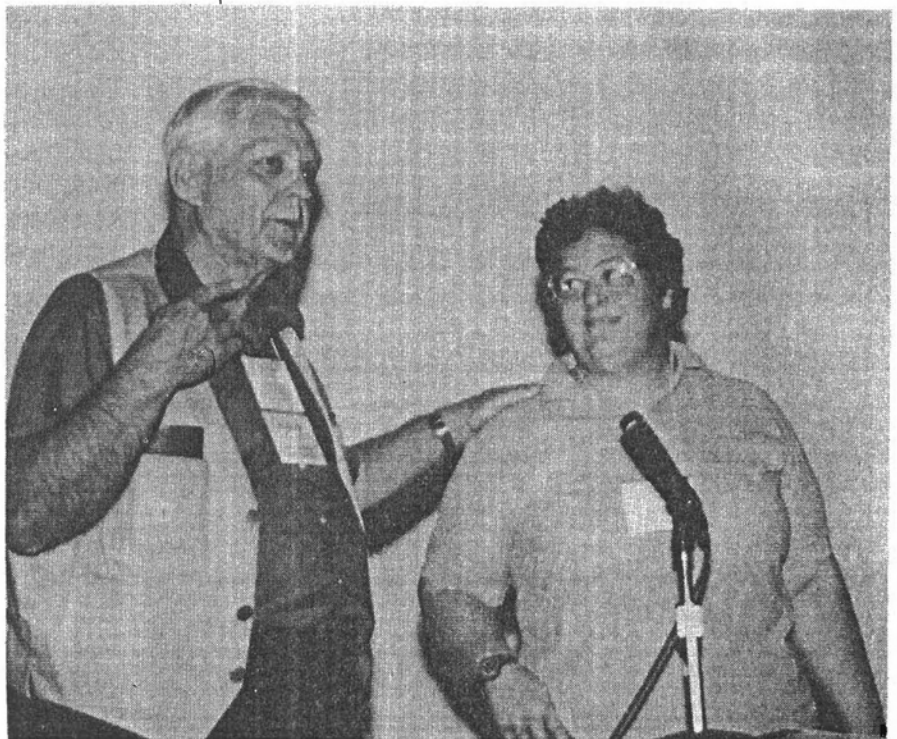
covering such things as how and where to access various records such as census, county courthouse, federal government, military. Part of the Friday workshop was dedicated to various computer programs that help you manage and manipulate your genealogical records, like Personal Ancestral File, Brother's Keeper, and Family Tree Maker. The workshop was conducted by Lynn Shelley, our Vice President, assisted by several other members who generously volunteered to give presentations. (I would attempt to name them all but I am afraid I would leave someone out.)

As in other years, the Friday night reception had the second highest attendance (the Saturday night buffet was the largest gathering). The serving tables were on opposite sides of the room which kept the crowd mingling as everyone wanted to make sure they did



Above: Lodwick H. Alford, #011 GA, presided over the election of the new Board of Directors on Saturday morning. Wick was AAFA's first President and served on the Board of Directors for many years.

Below: On Saturday morning, President Gil Alford, #019 MO, introduced Kim Savage, #258 IL, AAFA's hard-working and very valued Web page manager.



not miss any goodies. The tables were so far apart that you almost walked off the plate of food you just had getting to the next food table.

After the reception, the Board of Directors held its annual meeting. There was a lively discussion concerning some adjustments to the bylaws. Believe me, you haven't lived until you've attended a meeting with Gil Alford and Wick Alford. If you didn't know better, you'd think they were coming to blows at any moment. (Of course we all know that Gil and Wick love each other like brothers.) Finally, Wick's craving for a good cigar gets to him and things settle down so the meeting can proceed—which means Wick can get his cigar that much quicker!

The Saturday morning business meeting was opened by Jimmie Alford #500, official host, and Ramona Darden #715, meetings chairwoman. After opening remarks, the meeting was turned over to Gil Alford, President. Before getting down to the serious business, a few prizes were awarded:

Registration slip drawing
 Saturday morning
 Friday morning
 Newest member present
 Longest active membership
 Longest distance traveled
 First to arrive at the meeting
 Youngest member present
 Oldest members present (tie)

Dovie Alford #110
 Jeanne Singleton #249
 Sue French #1047
 Alicia Houston #001
 Frieda Shepherd #763
 Don Alford #059
 Matt Alford #835
 Vesta Giddings #233
 Jo Carrigan #235

The President then called for reports from the following:

Secretary	Max Alford #230
Treasurer	Doris Vetri #303
Photographic Committee	Janice Smith #152
Research Committee	Lynn Shelley #484
Merchandise Committee	Sally Stoewer #120
Census Project	Alicia Houston #001
Wills and Estates Project	Janice Smith #152
National Publicist	Elizabeth Hazlip #358
Web Site Report	Kim Savage #258
Constitution Committee	Lynn Shelley #484

Following these reports, Wick Alford #011, Chairman of Human Resources, presided over the election of the new Board of Directors. Wick presented a slate of candidates prepared by the Human Resources Committee and then asked for any nominations from the floor. A motion was made and seconded that the slate of candidates as presented by the Committee be accepted and nominations closed. A voice vote was then taken and the new Board was elected unanimously. The new Board consists of the following members: Gil Alford #019, Pamela Thompson #030, Sally Stoewer #120, Max R. Alford #230, Jare M. Pearigen #259, Doris O. Vetri #303, Lynn D. Shelley #484, Harris M. Alford #667, Ramona A. Darden #715, Cecil O. Alford #751, and Joyce C. Foster #765. Immediately after the election, the new Board convened and re-elected our current officers for the coming year from a list of nominees prepared by the Human Resources Committee.

Ramona Darden then presided over selection of a site for our 2002 meeting (1999 Texas, 2000 Georgia, and 2001 North Carolina). After much discussion, Salt Lake City, Utah, was selected as the site for our meeting in 2002. The winter Olympics will be held there in February but should be out of our way when we meet in October of that year. The 1998 business meeting was then gavelled to a close.

Josephine A. Carrigan, #235 CA, visited with her sister Vesta A. Giddings, #233 TX at the buffet on Friday night. The next morning they found out that they shared the honor of being the oldest members present!





Above: Judith Jackson, #533 GA, discussed "Publishing Your Genealogy." She showed a copy of the book she published on the ancestors and descendants of Allen Stephens Alford, 1848-1925. We hope she inspired those in attendance to publish their own work!



Above: Elizabeth H. Hazlip, #358 MS, gave a report on how the publicity is handled for AAFA. Elizabeth sent over 450 mailings to libraries, newspapers, and genealogical societies in advance of the meeting!

Sally Stoewer, #120 LA, gave a report on the AAFA store and encouraged people to come and look around.



The Saturday afternoon Alford Forum was hosted by our President, Gil Alford. His presentation covered the Alford migration across the U.S. As he covered the lineages of those in attendance, he recognized those in the audience who belonged to that particular line. Presentations were also made by Dr. R.M. "Dick" Alford, Mike Heazel, Jimmie Alford, Milton Folds, John and Janice Smith, and Dr. Cecil Alford. The presentations covered family migrations of some of the different family groups. The Forum is the most popular session of the meeting due in part to the charisma of our President (who probably was taught Charisma 101 by his lovely wife, Mary) and by the content of the program.

At the Saturday night buffet seating was by choice—no reserve seating. The doors are opened and you go in and find a seat. My wife and I were at a table with our daughter and son, Samantha and Matt, Sebastian "Buzz" and Doris Vetri (who also happens to be my cousin) and Jan and Elroy Alford (AAFA #563). To determine which table goes to the buffet line first, numbered slips of paper are passed around and a number is drawn by each table. Elroy did the honor for our table and did a bang-up job as he drew number 1 from the hat. Gil Alford must have drawn for his table because they ended up last!

The meal was delicious and enjoyed by all. After everyone had eaten, two inductions were made into the Alford American Family Association's Hall of Fame. Alicia Houston was inducted for all the work she has done guiding the extraction of census data from the beginning to the last census released. She has to go back many generations before she finds an Alford ancestor, but she has really put in a lot of time and effort into helping AAFA attain its goals—and she's done so since the very beginning of the Association. Lynn Shelley, our Vice-President, was also inducted



Two of AAFA's biggest contributors of time and effort: Alicia R. Houston, #001 PA, and Lynn D. Shelley, #484 MO, with their well-deserved Hall of Fame Awards.

into the Hall of Fame. She has served as Vice-President for several years. She is also very involved in genealogical research and has traveled extensively at her own expense to do some of the research. She, like Alicia, has a distant Alford ancestor, but a more tireless worker and promoter of AAFA would be hard to find. Thank you, Lynn and Alicia!

Several members were also honored as "Distinguished Members" for their work over the past year. These include not only the Alford members but in some cases their spouses! The following were so honored:

Betty Alford Peveler, #947 KY, Maree and Jimmie Alford, #500 IL, and Dora Mae Alford, #948 KY. Dora Mae is the mother of Betty and Jimmie, who descend from William Alford, born in 1804 in VA.



Mary Alford #019	Margaret Alford #571
Nancy Dietrich #028	Harris M. Alford #667
Patricia Fite #070	Carolyn Saunders #673
Sally Stoewer #120	Mary Intellini #707
Dick Stoewer #120	Ramona Darden #715
Janice Smith #152	Lorene Rambo #755
John C. Smith #152	Joyce Foster #765
Earline Alford #230	Robert G. Lewis #789
Max R. Alford #230	Barbara Carlile #815
Jeanne Singleton #249	Robert Alfred #844
Doris Vetri #303	Sandy Snowball #895
Sebastian Vetri #303	Nell Alford #908
Elizabeth Hazlip #358	Richard Alvord #926
Orville Alford #390	Elmer K. Miller #984
Nolan D. Alford #425	Vergie Crompton #985
Miles Jackson #533	Kay McCaw #991
Judy Jackson #533	Francis D. Coker #1008
Elroy Alford #563	Carrie Alford #1014
Billy F. Polk #564	Kent Lee Irvin #1023

The outgoing members of the Board of Directors—Paul Alford, Nolan David Alford, JoLynn Alford Long, and Janice Smith—were also presented certificates of appreciation for a job well done during their tenure of service.

Lodwick "Wick" Alford #11, chair of the Human Resources Committee, introduced our first memorial service for deceased members. His committee is responsible for maintaining the AAFA memorial album which contains information and photographs, to the extent available, of all



Elroy Alford, #563 OK, with the winners of the raffle prizes that he made and donated. The winner of the birdhouse was one of our newest members Corine Kesner, #1045 IN. Longtime member Vesta G. Bowden, #537 TX, was the lucky winner of the angel. If you check page 73 of the Winter 1998 issue of AAFA ACTION, you'll see that Elroy donated an angel and a birdhouse last year as well!

deceased AAFA members. The album was available for viewing and will be at all future meetings. Wick read the names of the recently deceased members, after which the Reverend Ben R. Alford, AAFA #500, led attendees in a special prayer.

After the awards were presented, the drawings for the raffle prizes were held. Elroy and Jan Alford make wonderful curios and craft items, and like they did at the California meeting last year, they donated two of them to be raffled off at the buffet: a beautiful wooden angel and a charming birdhouse. Doris Alford, our treasurer, donated a cross-stitched Christmas stocking and a cross-stitched sampler for the raffle also. The raffle is always a big attraction at the meeting. Buzz Vetri, Earline Alford (my wife) and Samantha Alford (my daughter) sold tickets. Buzz had put in his bid to be "Boss of the Raffle" because as he put it, "I want to supervise and count the money." (I hope he had more luck with my wife and daughter than I have when it comes to supervising.) My wife got into the selling so strongly that she even tried to sell Dick Stower a ticket for next year's

Alicia and Bill Polk, #564 MO, with their research binders. Bill, who's been a big help typing for AAFA ACTION, is a descendant of Needham Alford born 1789 in NC.





The families of many AAFA members probably wish AAFA was just a little less interesting—and no doubt none more so than the family of AAFA's President and founder, Gil Alford, #019 MO. This year members were able to thank Gil's son-in-law Scott Ernst and his daughter April Alford Ernst, #269 MO, for the time he spends on AAFA! Gil's wife Mary attends every meeting—and this year we made her a Distinguished Member for her support! Gil and his daughter April are descendants of John Seaborn Alford, born 1807 in LA.

AAFA is fortunate to have two willing, able, and long-serving officers, Secretary Max Alford, #230 TX, and Treasurer Doris Alford Vetri, #303 NJ. We thank them and their family members for their dedication.

Standing: Max, Sebastian Vetri (Doris's husband), and Matt Alford (Max's son), #835 TX. Seated: Earline Alford (Max's wife), Doris, and Samantha Alford (Max's daughter), #836 TX. Doris, Max, Matt, and Samantha are descendants of John Alford, born 1801 in NC.



raffle! The proceeds from the raffle go into the Alford American Family Association's general fund. We thank everyone for their support of this effort—buyers, sellers, and especially the prize contributors.

Sunday morning was spent in the research room doing some last-minute research and saying last-minute goodbyes as the meeting drew to a close. An important aspect of the meeting is providing access to a lot of the Alford material that Gil Alford keeps in his basement (or Alford Central as he refers to it) and the note books containing census data that Alicia Houston brings to the meeting. But just as important is the camaraderie that builds between members. Friday and Saturday nights it is not uncommon to find groups sitting in the

hotel lobby chatting until the wee hours of the morning. Victor Alford was in charge of procuring chairs Friday night and I think he relocated almost every chair in the hotel to a group that started out small but grew significantly before everyone retired. There are members that make almost every meeting and good friendships are made and kept alive by attendance at the meetings. So I urge each and everyone of you to make every effort possible to attend a meeting. I

realize that some cannot travel great distances, but when one is in your general vicinity, please do come and meet part of the membership of the best family genealogical group in the world (made the best by the members).

I hope all of you are making plans to be in San Antonio in October 1999. Please come on down and we will do our best to show you some genuine Texas hospitality.

The following member and non-member attendees are grouped by family branches.

ALM810GA	0752	Ed Alford, KY
ann790ga	0484	Lynn & Jim Shelley, MO
	0859	Paul and Pat Davidson, LA
BAL784NC	0152	Janice & John Smith, TX
	0908	Bob & Nell Alford, TX
BEN619EN	0217	Virginia E. Alford, MO
	0633	R.M. "Dick" & Connie Alford, ID
BRI781NC	0751	Cecil O. and Yvonne Alford, GA
BYN787GA	0387	W. Dean & Martha Steward, FL
CHA790NC	1026	Ina & Ralph Wallace, KY
DAV785VA	0020	Lee Ann & Turner Wallace, AR
	0059	Don & Joan Alford, FL
	0832	Janet Alford Hemby & Bill McKenzie, TX
DAV816KY	1047	Sue French, KY
	1048	Christine Alford Schnitzler, KY
EDW792NC	0225	Victor H. Alford, FL
	0673	Carolyn A. Saunders, TX
	0772	Bob & Kate Hollingsworth, MS
EDW808KY	1049	Pat Sidebottom & Sarah Patterson, TN
GRE787NC	0011	Lodwick & Frances Alford, GA
	0306	L. Kirkland & Lyn Alford, KS
HAL788GA	0110	Dovie Alford, TX
HEN815SC	0791	Emerson Alford Meggs, TN
HIR800VT	0917	Richard A. Alford, IN
ISA78-NC	0258	Kim Savage, IL
JAM764NC	0358	Elizabeth H. Hazlip, MS
JAM791VA	0763	Frieda Shepherd, CA
JOH763VA	0622	Ruth Eager Moran & Mary Jean, OK
JOH782VA	1038	Colleen Burgen Lovan & Sandra Burgen, KY
JOH787NC	0447	Ben F. & Ruth Alford, PA
1056		Ruth & James Sample, Benton, KY
JOH795VA	0664	Vincent M. Heazel, MD
JOH798VA	0988	David Howard, Nashville, TN
JOH801NC	0230	Max R. and Earline Alford, TX
	0836	Samantha K. Alford, TX
	0835	William "Matt" Alford, TX
	0303	Doris & Buzz Vetri, NJ

JOH807LA	0019	Gil & Mary Alford, MO
	0269	April & Scott Ernst, MO
	0064	Pat Brock Smith, MS
	0120	Sally & Dick Stoewer, LA
	0249	Jeanne & Clif Singleton, LA
		Hugh Mac & Marie Bateman, LA
	0233	Vesta Alford Giddings, TX
	0537	Vesta G. Bowden, TX
	0235	Josephine Carrigan & Ester Hutchins, CA
	0335	Seanne Carrigan, CA
	0425	Nolan David & Mary Alford, LA
	0454	Mattie Lou & Harvey Fry, TX
	0704	Frankie Penny, LA
	0779	Yvonne (Betty) Wall, MS
	0848	Estelle (Dock) Alford, LA
JOH816NC	0651	Cecil "Dezmon" & Marie Alford, MS
JOH844SC	N/A	Larry Alford, OH
	N/A	Jeannine Alford Mayberry, OH
	N/A	Harlene K. Wolfe, OH
JOS816LA	0904	Helen & Bob Steele, CO
LAN804VA	0868	Frank & Barbara Pangburn, CA
LIT800NC	0446	H.L. & his grandson, MS
luc784nc	0593	Peggy & Sam Wood, TX
MAN853SC	0667	Harris Monroe & Marie Alford, MS
NAT804MA	1024	Richard Alvord & Jean Ward, VA
NEE789NC	0564	Bill & Alicia Polk, MO
ROB806VA	1045	Corine Alford & Ray Kesner, IN
SEA807LA	0481	Evelyn Z. Mistich, LA
	1035	Kate Rehkop, MO
	1036	Carol Alford Rehkop, NV
THO802VA	0001	Alicia Houston, PA
TOM860OK	0563	Elroy & Jan Alford, OK
TUR800NC	0855	Sam Walker & Anita Wilson, TX
WIL783NC	0505	Ben R & Sheri Alford, TN
WIL780VA	0568	Kathy & John Schultz, TN
WIL787NC	0715	Ramona Alford Darden, TX
WIL794NC	0076	Elisabeth A. McLane, GA
	0528	Julia A. & Don Duke, GA
	0533	Miles Dailey & Judith Jackson, GA
	0773	Myrtice A. Edwards, GA
	0774	Leaette A. Braswell, GA
	0775	Celeste E. Furr, GA
	0989	Sandra & Jerry Harwood, FL
	1044	Myra Alford & Bill Bishop, TX
WIL804VA	0500	Jimmie R. & Maree Alford, IL
	0947	Betty Alford Peveler, KY
	0609	Doug Flowers, KY
	0948	Dora Mae Alford, KY
	1046	Bobby Alford, KY
WIL812GA	0049	Roberta A. & Milton Folds, GA
	0562	Pat & Robert Thorn, TX
WIL831SC	0783	Kathryn Dickenson, TN
ZAD787GA	0830	Grady H. Wilson, TX ♦