

## *Getting to Know . . .*

### **Christie Alford Baldwin, AAFA #0006**

*As part of our effort to get to know members better while they are still living and to place emphasis on the earlier members we wrote to Christie and asked her for some input on the subject. The following is what she sent just as she sent it. She does not like to talk or write about herself as you can see. Before she finished she had lapsed back into writing about one of her first loves - Alford ancestors. From our earliest days of collecting Alford data she has been a great help. She is one of just a few members who have written so much that her papers are in a separate notebook in the AAFA collection. At the 1990 meeting in Raleigh, NC she made a presentation on Grants and Deeds from following counties: Edgecombe, Granville, Bute, Franklin, Johnson and Wake; pertaining to Lodwick Alford. A copy of her work is still used as a reference by some of us.*

Received your recent letter. Surprised that anyone would want to know something of my life. Hadn't thought much about it. Past is past, only looking back when someone mentions a certain year, etc.

Hardly know where to begin, so will just start with



Christie Alford

1910, the year we came to Oklahoma City. Papa had been told about Oklahoma from others that had come and either gone back to Tennessee, or written of it. Were three days coming by train. Had caught the measles on the train. The lady where we stayed was a nurse and she nursed us. Later when bedding, dishes, and some furniture arrived by freight we had our own

house. Sister was enrolled in Willard Grade School, also Brother. I was not the right age for kindergarten as birthday in February and semester had already started. Sister graduated from Willard, going on to Oklahoma City High School. We moved to another school district and Brother and I graduated from the school there.

Papa and Mama thought Sister and I should make a trip back to Tennessee when she graduated. Spring was spent in making Sisters graduation dresses, then Mama made dresses for me for the trip. She also made a dark dress for each of us in case of a death and we had to go to attend the funeral. Three days on the train to Diana, Tennessee. A cousin, driving a horse and buggy, met us at the station. I can picture the scenery yet green rolling hills. Planted crops near the road with no fences, a blue sky above. The sound of the harness and buggy as we drove down the hardpacked, creek sand, road.

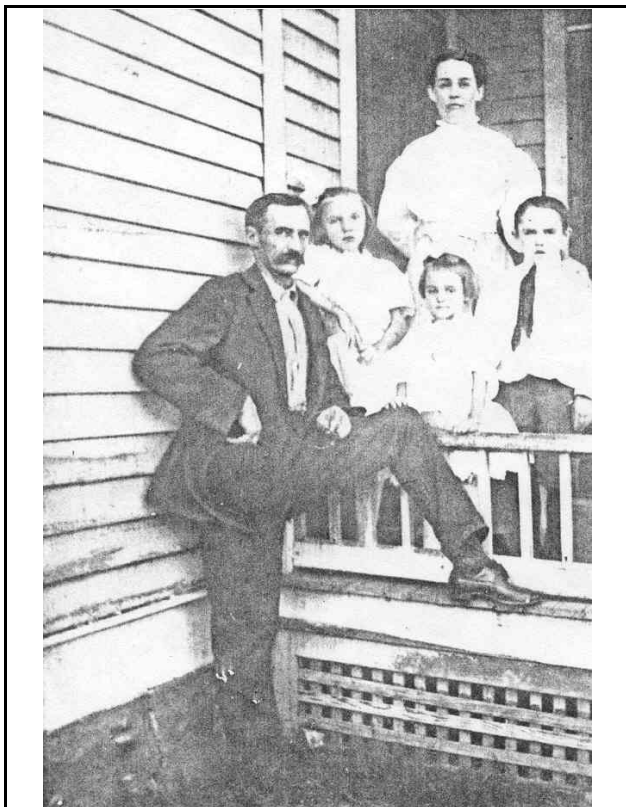
When meeting aunts and uncles, cousins especially, I was introduced as Cousin Christie which must have made me feel grown up. Regardless of which relative visiting the cousins had chores to do and I was just another person to help do them. After chores we could do about as we pleased, roaming the woodland, picking blackberries, swinging in grape vine swings, riding Grandpa's mare and Uncle Quincy's horse, and listening to Civil War stories. Ice cream making done many Sunday evenings, if I didn't go to church. We met Papa's brothers, Uncle Clint Alford and Uncle Hues Alford, and two cousins. A Diary was kept by Sister and I tried also to keep one. It was a wonderful summer for a thirteen year old.



Zona Belle Alford and Bob Alford (Papa) and taken when lived on First Street. 1910 or 1911

On return to Oklahoma City Sister took a business course. Went to work, then took night and summer courses to complete her education. She was the studious one and should be the one to be writing this letter.

Brother and I finished grade school. I went to business school, then took a job with a farm mortgage-



Bob Alford, Zona Belle, Christie, R.V. & Vonie Alford

loan company. I believe Brother went to college about two years. I don't seem to remember much about that. He later moved to Texas.

I started out answering the phone, typing, making plats of farm land sending interest notices, etc. About two years later the company changed hands and the office moved to less expensive office space. I was the only one kept - guess it was because my salary was the lowest. Depression getting worse, the bookkeeper put on part time and I had to learn bookkeeping. Later took over all that, with writing checks and finally my signature on same, as owner did traveling to look after farms on rental.

Paul and I married during depression years. He worked at General Baking Company. As the times worsened he was let out for the reason that I worked and we had no children. Men with families kept on. It was understandable. He then leased D-X filling station, working for D-X until being drafted by the army. He thought he would like the navy better so enlisted. Shortly after enlisting he left for boot camp. Three weeks in boot camp and he was sent to Oakland area. Boarded USS Rainier (an ammunition ship) and shipped out for the South Pacific. Never returned to Oklahoma City for three years but did come back to Oakland area for repairs and ammunition. I would go to California to see him. Had his only furlough after the third year on board ship, then back for another trip to South Pacific. When war was over he was able to get a job as letter carrier at our post office as he had taken an examination before the war, and his service time also helped.

About a year after the war we took a three week vacation with a couple from Nevada, MO. Bought a car together, drove north through the Dakotas, west through those states. Visited Glacier National Park in Canada, Idaho area, Spokane and Seattle, Washington, down the coast to Los Angeles. I don't think we missed a thing. We picnicked on the Snake River, where they were building a dam. We stayed at old hotels one sees in western pictures today. There were very few motels at that time through that part of the country. There were no crowds as today. I believe it was this same trip we visited in Salt Lake City. It was a trip to give me memories. We traveled with the same couple over the years, and always a fun trip. Car sold at end of trip.

In the 1950s joined the night group of women at our church, and have become a part of the day group since retired. Started taking an interest in NALC

Branch 458 and the Ladies Auxiliary. Still belong to same.

In the 1960s a distant cousin on my Mother's side of family started putting together a book on Doggetts. Her book is now in Nashville Archives, with a number of



Paul and Christie Baldwin AAFA 1989 Meeting in Houston, Texas

individuals having same. Sister and I worked to help add our family also. She had copied the record on the Alford's from the Alford Family Bible that Uncle Clint Alford had. I still have that to day.

Paul retired about 1974. Then worked for the Credit Bureau for a year or two. During this period he was on the board of the U.S. Federal Employees Credit Union. Vice-president a two year term. We attended Credit Union Seminars every year, then national conventions of the NALC. I would go with him at times, especially so if the city was one that I had never visited.

I retired shortly after Paul as the owner of the company passed away. Since the son knew nothing of the business I had to close the office. We had just a few farms to service, and the owner took over. Mineral interest, or royalty, had been reserved when tracts sold, so had a large acreage of minerals in the office, some leased by oil companies. I had to make a list of everything for the attorneys. All files had to be checked to be sure nothing was overlooked. Took me a month to do that and I watched my life go by me a second time as I saw correspondence in all the files, made during the depression years and later.

Sometime after that I became more interested in genealogy. I was as green as could be on the subject. I am a lighter shade of green now and hope I am still learning.

Several years ago I decided to put a book together on the family, for my nieces and nephews. I call it *I Remember* book. I hope it is a fun book as well as educational for those that read it. Kay, my beauty operator helped on the outer cover. Guess I am a little proud of it. Became acquainted with a second cousin 1998 from Houston. He came to see me, saw the book and wanted a copy. I was able to put together another one as I still had copies of many pages. On his receiving same he wrote me that it was like finding buried treasures which I thought was very generous of him. He never knew the aunts, uncles and great grandfather as he had lived in Birmingham AL all of his life and they had all passed away (aunts, uncles and



Christie Baldwin and Louise Fuller at AAFA 1990 meeting in Raleigh, NC

cousins) by the time he came along. I am glad he has the book.

Recently trying to up-date the lineage book for nephew and also my copy, decided to make sheet for each of the children of Lodwick/Lod<sup>k</sup> Alford, giving some information on each one so can discard the files I have accumulated. When I got to Warren found I had never copied the inventory of estate, so did it. Hard to



## AAFA ACTION #50

FallFall 2000

Getting

read some items. The funny thing, I thought, listed 1 pr trowsers, 6 prs pantaloons, and other items that leads me to believe he could have run an ordinary. Will check

Noted you mentioned obituaries. Relatives, friends and acquaintances know about us, so when had the flu in May I came up with my own one. After reading the above I still think it serves the purpose:

She was Born  
She Lived  
She Died  
CAB

I believe it will work well on the tombstone, also.

Papa: John Robert Bob Alford  
Mama: Lavonia Doggett Alford  
Sister: Zona Belle Alford  
Brother: R.V. Alford, moved to Texas  
Writer: Christie Alford Baldwin  
Uncle Quincy: Quincy Doggett, Mama s brother  
Louise Fuller: Researcher [AAFA #0284]  
Kay Franklin: Neighbor and Beauty Operator



Used in I Remember Book  
Paul & Christie Alford Baldwin

against the sale sheet to clarify some items hard to read on the inventory. One thing Warren did stress was that Minta, the slave, be set free if possible. She did buy soap grease at the sale, as though still living there. It is odd no one seems to have information on Warren in Pasquotank County. Maybe haven t contacted the right person.

I think I learned a lot from Louise Fuller s writings, able to visualize happenings as they were then. I want to be able to relate to my ancestors and not just be aware of begats, begats, and more begats. Granville Grants were an education. I even put together tracts of land with them. Had to stop as later deeds, descriptions, were not always complete.

As to pictures. Seems as though all in my book. Inclosing one I tried when first started. The later pictures were on better paper with a slight gloss.



Christie Alford and Paul Baldwin  
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