

Our History, Part VI
By Gil Alford, AAFA #0019

In the first five parts of our history we covered a period of three months during which time we exchanged information with 28 different persons interested in Alford. Fifteen of the 28 went on to become members of AAFA in 1987 or later. Sixteen more were to be heard from before the end of the month or year, and 11 of them joined AAFA when it was formed.

Please do not accept the genealogical data provided by these folks as correct. While some of it may be there is considerable error on much of it. Look for the official AAFA updated lineage on each person if you want better data.

Weston Adams, an Attorney in SC, who later became the first Vice President of AAFA, AAFA #0035, wrote the following Oct. 22, 1982:

Thank you for your recent letter concerning the information exchange on the Alford family. I am quite interested in taking part and I am enclosing my Alford chart as you requested. The chart begins with my great grandmother, Agenora Bingham Drake Peterkin. Her daughter, Elizabeth Peterkin (my grandmother) married my grandfather, Robert Adams, III and their son Robert Adams IV, is my father. From the chart, you can see that I am a double Alford descendant, being descended from Elias Alford (1779-1858) and Major Sion Alford (1763-1832) both sons of Jacob Alford (born Dec 12, 1738). Jacob Alford was the son of Lodowick Alford who moved from New Kent Co., VA to North Carolina. He married three times and has about 23 children. His father may have been Sion William Alford or William Sion Alford. That is as yet unproven, as far as I know. My best source of Alford information is Julius M. Alford, P.O. Box 489, McComb, Mississippi 39648. Unless you already have done so, you should contact him. Julius has a great deal of information on the Alford family and is a fine gentleman. I would appreciate hearing from you after you have a chance to review this. I would like to know if your records indicate any information about the ancestors of my Lodowick Alford. I look forward to your reply when it is convenient.

With best wishes, I am Yours very truly Weston Adams.

Weston was appointed Ambassador to Malawi by President Reagan in 1984 and for a couple of years we corresponded with him there. Weston played a very key role in the establishment of the AAFA and we all see evidence of it almost daily. More on that when we get to 1987 and the actual beginning of the association.

John & Janet Markley made their presence known Nov. 8, 1982 by sending information showing a connection to Michael Alford of PA, b. 1770 Ireland, through Hugh Alford and Martha Weller and their son John Weller Alford. There was no further exchange with them.

Alberta Alford Skillen of California, later to become AAFA #0015, wrote a very interesting letter that was received Nov. 9, 1982.

Box 105
Etna, CA
Nov. 4, 1982

Gilbert K. Alford, Jr.
1403 Kingsford Drive
Florissant, Missouri, 63031

Dear Sir:

Thank you for your Alford information. I am sending you my pedigree but at present I do not have the pedigree chart so will do my best.

My Alford line: This is a copy of my D.A.R. papers (she sent the one lineage page. I never did check to see if she was accepted by D.A.R. but doubt it based on what she listed as her lineage.)

I Alice Alberta Alford Skillen am the daughter of Albert Campbell Alford, born 22 Sept. 1878 at Quartz Valley, Siskiyou Co., Calif. Died at Oro Fino Siskiyou Co. Calif 6 Mar 1920 m. Alice Gay Callihan born 9 Sept. 1893 at Oro Fino, Calif. Married 20 Aug. 1910.

The said Albert Campbell Alford was the son of Austin Hanly Alford born 9 Nov 1852 at Holt Co., Missouri wife Sarah Mariah Campbell born 27 Jan. 1855 at Quartz Valley Calif. Died at Oro Fino, Calif. July 1884 Married 26 Mar. 1877. The said Austin Hanly Alford was the son of John Alford born 1822 at Monroe Co., VA died at Doniphan Co. Kansas, married Sarah Ann Jasper. The said John Alford was the son of James Alford born 1791 Rockingham Co., VA. Died at Holt Co. Missouri after 21 Nov. 1867. Wife Margaret born 1799 at VA. Died Holt Co., Missouri Nov 1867.

The said James Alford was the son of John Alford born 1750 probably VA. Died at Monroe Co., VA 16 June 1834 wife Jane died at Monroe Co. Oct 1834. Said John Alford was Pvt. of the 12th Reg t commanded by Col James Wood.

The pedigree papers for Jacob Alford may be obtained from the D.A.R. if any one is interested and can trace their heridity back to Jacob Alford Born Feb 1759 Goochland Co., VA Married Nancy Hunter born 1762 Louisa Co. VA.

The surnames I am working on are: Callihan, Conner (especially Elizabeth Conner born in Germany came to Penn.) Her husband ? Kistler Penn. Married Jacob Callihan in Penn. possibly Westmorland Co. in the 1840's.

I have some Alford family charts if you want them. Also information on a town (Alford England) about 22 miles from London.

Sincerely
Alice Albert Skillen
P.O. Box 105
Etna, Calif 96027

Hayden Alford of Mississippi came highly recommended by several folks. After contacting him I received his first letter Nov 10, 1982. He died Oct. 4, 1983 before AAFA was created. See the special article about him in AAFA ACTION #58, Fall 2002, Vol. XV, No. 2, page 40 ff.

Peggy Alford Schuster, now very active AAFA #0666 wrote the following November 9, 1982 and she is still writing. Few folks have sent AAFA more correspondence than Peggy. She is a sister of Grady Alford from whom we had heard earlier.

Hi Cousin???

Enclosed is the completed pedigree; also a sheet showing how far back we know for sure. As noted, we have not found the John Alford to whom we think we are connected. We have lots of other Alford's, and I have included a quick page showing the basic information with the twins Seaborn John and John Seaborn on it. This has not been confirmed and I can't connect them with us as yet.

I'm uncertain as to why Grady referred you to me because I thought he has the same information, unless he gave me his only copy. I've been working up a chart showing the laterals which means all the children, grandchildren, and so on, trying to keep them on the proper generation line. It keeps being added to until now I can go around a room with it. It's too bulky and costly to duplicate and mail, especially since it may not be accurate.

In case Grady did not refer you to my brothers, I will give you their information for immediate families. They don't have the bug as you and Grady and I have.

(I'm omitting this data since it is vital stats on living persons.)

Have you run across our family in any of your searching? There's still another branch in Tennessee that I have not been able to connect in the proper sequence. Hope this information will help.

Peggy Alford Schuster
433 Lexington Lane
Richardson, Tx 75080

Susan Laubengayer, now AAFA #0647, wrote the following which we received Nov. 15, 1982:

Dear Mr. Alford,

How nice to receive your first newsletter. You have certainly taken on quite a load. I hope we Alford's are appreciative enough.

I am in the process of getting my Alford material together to send to you. Just wanted you to know.

Have you met Merrill Berkeley (member SLGS [St. Louis Genealogical Society]) yet. He's the man who

finally got me started in genealogy. I was able to meet him 2 years ago while in Chesterfield for my nephew s wedding. We had corresponded for 5-6 years before that.

Thank you for your work on Alfords. It should prove very interesting.

Sincerely
Susan Laubengayer

I m going to break it off here for this segment because the next person to be heard from sent considerable information along with photographs and we plan to provide you the whole thing since they are not members of AAFA. We will have to work with John and Janice Smith on the photographs.