

## *Our History, Part I*

*By Gil Alford, AAFA #0019, Corresponding Secretary, Member AAFA Hall of Fame  
(Co-Founder & Past President)*

Some of us got our heads together (electronically) and concluded that I should share with you some special information from our AAFA archives. Specifically, correspondence from those who pioneered this phase of our effort to learn more about our Alford heritage. I say "this phase" to distinguish it from the work done by early researchers such as Guy Alford, Mrs. Lewis O. (Tressie) Bowman, Hugh Edwin Alford, L. E. Alford, etc. We will elaborate on each of these as we get deeper into the subject.

I'll be working from a collection of correspondence from AAFA members and before them folks who worked with me in our beginnings and with "About Alford's." The correspondence is contained in 3-ring binders and filed on shelves in my basement where they take up about 24 feet of shelf space.

A little background is in order to explain how I got into this business in the first place. In January 1981, nine days after I was eligible for early retirement at age 55 I took the big step because I was fed up with both the job and the commute. Having been totally dedicated to my work all my life I had no pastime or hobby. About mid year in 1981 I decided that I would dabble in the stock market and purchased a computer to use in managing my soon to be financial empire. I didn't have any money and even less market moxie. I bought stock in a Texas oil drilling company just before most of the oil drilling went to the mid-east. I bought stock in Pan American Airways just before that company "went south." And there were other similar cases. I soon learned that I lacked the temperament, smarts, and money to indulge in the stock market.

In 1981 there were not an awful lot of choices in the way of personal computers but I shopped around for what was available. I wanted to get an Apple but when I went to their store I was very upset at the attitude of the sales personnel. I looked a little further and then decided upon an Atari 800. Initially it was a very bare bones system but it grew over the coming months. There was no big rush to improve it because now I had no use for it.

In early 1982 my dear mother-in-law, the late Della Chapman Newkirk, was visiting with us and we were sitting around engaged in small talk when the subject of Mary's grandfather came up. I don't remember what prompted it because at that time I had no interest in family history and Mary had even less. Seriously, I did not even know the name of my great grandfather, and had never even wondered about him. Anyway, Mrs. Newkirk made the statement, "You'll never know any more about your grandfather John Newkirk because he was an orphan." Mary actually knew Grandpa John as he had lived with her family for some short periods of time over the years.

The "you'll never" seemed to hit a trigger in me, and I decided upon the spot that I was going to learn more about John Newkirk. The first thing I did was to write to one of Mary's aunts in southern Indiana, where the Newkirks were from, asking her to please send me a copy of a recent telephone book of the area. After Mrs. Newkirk returned home to Louisiana I dragged Mary to the local library where I asked them what they had on genealogy. They pointed me to a book on a nearby shelf and said I'd find a magazine on the periodical rack. The book was of no value but the magazine was *Everton's Genealogical Helper*. If you are familiar with that publication in the eighties, you'll remember that it was loaded with data and inquiries. I immediately subscribed and bought all the back issues

that I could. I was attracted to their Roots Cellar which was a section where folks could register the name of the ancestor they were researching along with a date and place for some event. Folks could then purchase all of the entries on a given surname for a nominal fee. I did not know where I was headed but it seemed like a good idea to purchase the data for the surnames of both Mary's and my four grandparents, so I got Newkirks, Alford's, Chapmans, etc. My list, dated July 1982 arrived and I found 14 Newkirk contacts and 20 Alford contacts along with lots of Chapmans, Warners, Newsoms, Rileys, etc.

7/19/82	ALFORD, GILBERT K 1403 KINGSPORO DR FLORISSANT, MO 63031	PAGE
HERE ARE THE RESULTS OF THE COMPUTERIZED "ROOTS" CELLAR SEARCH YOU REQUESTED.		
A N C E S T O R	S U B M I T T E R	
ALFORD, JOHN B 1846 NOTTINGHAM ENG	478 SHWALTER, GERALDINE 2653 LUNA AVE SAN DIEGO, CA 92117	
ALFORD, ROBERT D 1886 BLOUNT TN	752 BEST, DALE 5841 WHEELHOUSE LN AGOURA, CA 91301	
ALFORD, WILLIAM H 1840 MONROE AL	2041 MEHRKAN, WOODROW 1070 GARDENIA DR HOUSTON, TX 77018	
ALFORD, JOHN D 1877 LAWRENCE PA	4128 HEADE, EDNA JEAN 2707 N 23 AVE PHOENIX, AZ 85009	
ALFORD, WILLIAM B 1787 WAKE NC	6304 HUNT, HYRA O RT 3 BOX 1575 POLEY, AL 36595	
ALFORD, MINERVA B 1856 MACOUPIN IL	7286 LARSON, CARL J. 248 NAPOLEON DR KETTERING, OH 45429	
ALFORD, MARY B 1867 AR	7827 LANEY, JOY S 210 W ASH ST WARREN, AR 71671	
ALFORD, JAMES D 1839 COPIAN MS	9076 ALFORD, JULIUS M P O BOX 489 MC COMB, MS 39448	
ALFORD, NANCY R 1787 NC	9112 REYNOLDS, MARY L 1910 S 3RD #140 LOUISVILLE, KY 40208	
ALFORD, JOHN H 1789 MONTGOMERY VA	9270 SHITH, DEENA B 724 10TH ST NEVADA, IA 50201	
ALFORD, LEANDER B 1819 KY	4460 ALFORD, JACQUELINE 2207 W 259 PL LOMITA, CA 90717	
ALFORD, THOMAS B 1820 MONROE WV	4670 LAUBENGAYER, SUSAN M 103 WASHINGTON KLAMATH PLS, OR 97601	
ALFORD, FIELDING D 1854 FAIRFIELD OH	9889 FEIDEN, KAY A 7741 KILLARNEY CT WICHITA, KS 67206	
ALFORD, JOSEPH D D 1910 CHOCTAW OK	11244 TURNER, LEE A RT 1 BOX 50 NEWHOPE, AR 71959	
ALFORD, MARTHA A D 1918 CHOCTAW OK	11244 TURNER, LEE A RT 1 BOX 50 NEWHOPE, AR 71959	
ALFORD, THOMAS H 1867 MS	11630 FOSTER, RANGELLE 2531 LEWISTON AVE DALLAS, TX 75227	
ALFORD, SAMUEL M B 1843 PORTAGE OH	11699 BEALS, BETTY A 2919 KILCAIRN LN ALLISON PARK, PA 15101	
ALFORD, DAVID H 1853 WASHINGTON KY	12116 MILLER, ELMER K 3517 POBST DR DAYTON, OH 45420	
ALFORD, MICHAEL R 1798 BEAVER PA	12315 HEADE, EDNA JEAN 2707 N 23 AVE PHOENIX, AZ 85009	
ALFORD, MICHAEL R 1798 BEAVER PA	12315 HEADE, EDNA JEAN 2707 N 23 AVE PHOENIX, AZ 85009	
ALFORD, HUGH H 1823 BEAVER PA	12864 HARBLEY, JANET E 3905 78TH ST DES MOINES, IA 50322	

I had already written to all the Newkirks in southern Indiana and in one day's mail I received several letters, four of which were from brothers who knew Grandpa John well as he had spent some time living with them after his wife died. They were loaded with information about him, but not his ancestry. They continued to send me information for several years and one of them even traveled to St. Louis to visit us.

I wrote letters to all of the Newkirk folks on the Roots Cellar list and again in one single mail I received several items. One of the letters was from a lady who was a copyright manager for a New York publisher. All of the letters contained data but this particular one said "you no doubt have studied the 1934 Newkirk book published by the Pennsylvania Genealogical Society." I scratched my head thinking not only have I not studied it - I never heard of it. In the next large envelope in the pile I found the pertinent pages of that book from a dear distant cousin of Mary's from Arkansas. With the combined help of one of my southern Indiana contacts and this 1934 book I knew the ancestry of Grandpa John and had their line back to the name of the boat they arrived in New York on in 1659. I was hooked. I was sure I'd have similar success with my Alford's.

I wrote to the Alford folks who were on the Roots Cellar list and before long I had answers from every one of them. My letter, a copy of which follows below in the next paragraph, went out in August 1982. Six of the folks responded before the end of August, 12 in September, eight in October and six in November. If you will total those you will get more than 20 - the number in the Roots list. As you will see, one bit of feedback I was getting was the name and address of others interested in Alford genealogy. As these names

arrived I sent them a letter similar to the one below and 14 of them responded before the end of the year.

GILBERT K. ALFORD, JR.  
1403 Kingsford Drive  
Florissant, MO 63031  
August 16, 1982

JULIUS M. ALFORD  
PO Box 489  
McComb, MS 39648

Dear Julius:

I am writing in response to your entry in the computer roots file set up by *The Genealogical Helper*. Don't get excited because I do not have information on your James of Copiah County. I do hope to be able to help you before long, however.

Before you read any further let me assure you that I am not selling anything, am not offering a subscription to some service, or in business in any way whatsoever. I retired early last year, bought a home or personal computer last fall, and became a very new amateur genealogist early this year. I am in the process of tracing my ALFORD ancestors as well as our other ancestors.

Most recently my family is of Louisiana as you can see from the enclosed pedigree chart. According to one genealogy that has been written they came by way of Virginia, North Carolina, and Georgia. I have some publications, or extracts of publications, that talk about some ALFORDS in some parts of the country in some periods ever since the 1500's. They were poor copies so I loaded them into the computer to get good originals from which to reproduce. If you are interested in them I will be glad to send you copies.

Let me get back to Roots for a few minutes. I don't know to what extent you have used that system. I asked for information on ALFORDS in Louisiana. When they sent the listing I was advised that there were so few entries under that name that they just sent all in their entire file. There were 20 ancestors that had been submitted by 18 different researchers [two submitted two each]. The submitters came from 13 different states with no more than three from anyone state. [California was the only one with three] The ancestors in which they were interested came from 13 different states and England. Not more than three were from any one state. [Pennsylvania was the only one with three]. I thought you might be interested in that summary. Enclosed is a list of the ancestor entries from roots. I am writing to each of the 18 people who submitted ancestors to the file.

We have done more work on my wife's father's surname NEWKIRK than any other so far. We used the same technique for it as I am proposing for ALFORD. In just a few short weeks we extended our knowledge of that family back seven generations, over 300 years, and across the Atlantic to Holland. We have not imposed any expense on any of our correspondents except what they have chosen to spend for some reproduction, postage, and of course their time. We have been able to help several of them with information others have sent us. We try to make computer assisted charts for each major branch of our family. It helps us in our analysis and in tying fragments of families together. [See the enclosed ALFORD family chart] [Enclosures mentioned in the letter are not in this AAFA ACTION version. -Ed.]

Our proposal is that we set up a central computer file on ALFORD genealogical data. We accept anything anyone wants to send us, and in return we will give them anything they want from our files. We load all the data into a couple of files. A correspondent can give us a name, event and date and we will dump the data file for them and if any thing is found give them what has been accumulated in a subsidiary narrative file. Enclosed is a rather busy explanation of the system as we are using it with NEWKIRK. Additionally, when we see two correspondents working on the same general area we send them information about each other and suggest they get in contact with one another.

To make the system work at maximum effectiveness it needs your support. We need the data you have on ALFORD. You can begin by completing the enclosed blank pedigree chart. You may send family group charts or we will send forms later asking for data on them. [If you have your own just send copies of them.] We need your permission to pass your name and extracts from your letters etc. on to other ALFORD correspondents. [Since you put your name and address in Roots, we assume this will be no problem].

We are writing all ALFORDS we see advertising in *The Genealogical Helper*. We are joining several genealogical societies and using their Surname Indexes. We will contact all with an interest in ALFORD. [There are none in our St. Louis Society but us]

It would help if you would give us the name, address, and area of interest of others you know who are doing ALFORD research. If you are a member of a genealogical society that has a surname index send us the information on all the ALFORD entries and we will contact them. [We will not divulge our source to them] We will explain our plan to all of those we contact. We also would like to know of any publications or other good sources of ALFORD genealogical data. We will try to obtain it, research it and load it in the computer. We will also pass the references or information on to other correspondents.

This may sound too good to be true. It is working so far on NEWKIRK. We are not asking you for any commitment in the way of money or length of participation. By the same token, we make no firm commitment to you. Circumstances could develop that would cause us to discontinue or reduce the scope of our project, but we do not foresee any such situation.

Thank you for sticking with us on this rather lengthy and boring letter. We felt we needed to get it all out in the first contact. We thank you now for whatever attention you give to our request. Enclosed for your convenience in making a response is a stamped self-addressed envelope.

Sincerely,

Gil Alford,

Enclosures:

1. My Pedigree Chart
2. list of Alford ancestors in Roots
3. Alford Family Chart
4. Computer data system explanation
5. Blank pedigree chart
6. Stamped, self-addressed envelope.

[Enclosures mentioned in this letter are not included in this *AAFA ACTION* version. -Ed.]

Note in the above that although I was using a "canned" text I did make the address and first paragraph personal.

With the flood of information I was receiving on Alford and Newkirks I soon found a use for that computer. I created a database which I still use today and bought a word processor and quickly learned how to write letters. Our local genealogical society was holding their annual fair and I signed up for it but could not go. They did send me a bag of freebies that my registration had paid for. One of the freebies was some quick copy work by a printing company about half way across St. Louis. I soon saw that I was going to be writing more letters than I could handle sharing the information with my contacts so I came upon the idea of sending it to them in a newsletter. I created a 4 page *Newkirk Notes* with an actual cut and paste technique and used my freebies to have copies made for all my contacts. I mailed a copy to all of them and they quickly responded telling me how great it was. I'd hit it off with the couple who ran the printing company and we became good friends and on October 1, 1982, I mailed out the 2<sup>nd</sup> *Newkirk Notes* which had eight pages.

The same thing was happening with Alford and on November 1, 1982, I mailed out the first *About Alford* which was a free eight page issue. I'll submit it later for publication in *AAFA ACTION*.

In this issue I'm going to share with you those first six letters. Most of you will recognize some of the names. You will also see how this effort became such a howling success so quickly.

Lee Ann Turner, AAFA #0020 had two entries in the Roots Cellar: Joseph Alford who died 1910 in Choctaw Co., OK, and Martha Alford who died 1918 in Choctaw Co., OK. She obviously dropped everything she was doing and prepared the following letter immediately. If you have *AAFA ACTION*, Winter 2000, p. 60, you can read an article Lee Ann prepared on this ancestor. Lee Ann and husband Wallace, who is the Alford descendant, are regulars at our annual AAFA meetings. She is frequently on the program and at the last meeting Lee Ann was elected to the AAFA Board of Directors.

Lee Ann Turner  
RT. 1, Box 50  
Newhope, Ark. 71959

Aug. 18, 1982

Dear Mr. Alford.

I was very interested in your letter outlining your new computer genealogy work. For various personal reasons, I have not done much work on genealogy in the last year or so. However, I would be very happy to have any information your computer is able to sift out. I have filled out the Family Pedigree Chart you sent (and sent you one of mine, since it is in my husband's line the Alford's appear). I did not include any residences other than those of birth and death. My filing system is a bit haphazard and it would take more time than I have right now to track down the various residences and dates. Some of my ancestors moved every 2 or 3 years over Ark., Okla., La., and Tex. If I can answer any specific questions or supply any further information, write again. It may take longer for me to answer next time, as I am a teacher and school begins next week I won't have as much time to spend on genealogy.

For a time, (1979) I was receiving the Alford Family Bulletin. It was published by Mrs. Lewis O. Bowman, 4400 East West Hwy. 1121 Bethesda, Md. 20014. At that time she would sell back issues for \$20 and a yearly subscription was \$7. I was working on other lines and did not renew my subscription after that one year. I do not know if she is still publishing the quarterly newsletter. It is not listed in the July/Aug. issue of the Helper. If it is still available, that might be a good source of information. If you can't get back issues for any reason, or if she has ceased publication, I will be happy to copy what I have and send those to you. I know one issue has a list of Alford's in the 1840 census. That is earlier than I have traced to, but it might benefit many others.

Thank you again for the information you sent. With the limited amount of resource materials available locally, I will be most appreciative of any further information you care to share.

Sincerely,

Lee Ann Turner

Lucille Mehrkam, AAFA #0032, responded the day after Lee Ann. Her first letter follows. As soon as I advised her that I had none of the references she mentioned, she mailed me (1) a notebook containing all of the Alford Family Bulletins and (2) three large 3-ring binders containing most of her Alford collection. Had she not sent this wealth of Alford information it is possible our effort would have fizzled - she added much "fuel to the fire." I made copies and returned them all. Lucille served for several years as the Texas State Representative for AAFA and then when we went to state chapters she was the genealogist for the Texas State Chapter. Over the years she compiled an extensive set of word processor files, one for each county, in which she recorded all she had on Alford of those counties. Anderson County was published in *AAFA ACTION*, Fall 2001, p. 50, and other counties, with some editing, will be published in the future. Immediately upon receipt of her letter I wrote to all of the folks whose addresses she provided. I received responses from some of them sooner than the letters I wrote to the folks on the Roots list. For her dedication to our Alford cause Lucille was inducted into the AAFA Alford Hall of Fame.

Aug 19, 1982

Mr. Gilbert K. Alford, Jr.  
1403 Kingsford Dr.  
Florissant, Mo. 63031

Dear Sir:

I am glad someone has put the Alford family on computer. My son has one and has promised to do so for me but I can't keep him home from fishing long enough. Hope you can read this as I am having trouble with my eyes and it is affecting my typing.

First I would like to know what you already have as I have some two or three thousand cards on Alford's. First do you have the Alford Family Bulletin by Mrs. Lewis O. Bowman? Do you have the Alford family from England? Do you have the Arthur Alford family of Horry Co., SC? I have all the Alford information as found in the Ala. Reg Granduel & Jones. I have all the births and deaths in Texas from 1903 thru 1960. I have lots of Alford's from Wake and Franklin Co., N. C. Nearly all the Alford's of Ms and La. I also have the Alford family as found in the Fulmore Family by Cade Fulmore. I also have lots of information on Cade Alford of N. C., Al. & Ms. I have the marriage (*Alford*) records of N. C. by Murray Genealogy from Hunting for Bears Inc. I do have some information on the Alford's of Tn.

I am enclosing a copy of my files on Alford's. Any help on my family will be appreciated as this is my problem ancestor.

Sincerely,  
Mrs. W. B. Mehrkam  
1070 Gardenia Dr.  
Houston, Tx 77018  
1-713-686-4771

P.S. Also have copy "*Historical So. Families*, Vol. XII by Boddie 976B666 Thornton & Alford family A *History of Marion Co., S. C. Sellers 1901 975.7*

#### People working on Alford Families

1. Mr. R. A. Alford Jr. , Al. Power Co., 600 N 18th St., P. O. Box 2641, Birmingham, Al. 35291  
Landon Leigh Alford b 22 Nov 1961, Birmingham, Al  
Russell Alger Alford Jr., Born 24 1927 Birmingham, Al. md. Sue F Martin  
Russell Alger Alford Sr. b 28 Jan 1898 Pulaski, Va. md. Alma Rita Dilger  
Wm. Jeremiah Alford b 4 Dec 1858 Michigan md. Jennie Eliz. Craig  
George M Alford md. Francis M. Kinnicutt he was born 1833 Ontario, Canada  
Elijah Alford b 1793 New York St. md. Sarah Nekerbracher
2. L. E. Alford 2536 W. Curtis, Tampa, Fla 33614  
Joseph Whiteford Alford b 31 May 1877 md. Lucy Watts  
Arthur Alford Jr. b 1802 d 1883 (Great Grandfather)  
(Grandfather) Harrison Alford md. Georgetta Sims Woodward b 30 Apr. 18  
GGG Arthur ALFORD B ? D 1827/28 md. Clarky Alford
3. Mrs. Martin Alford, 751 N. Olive, Abilene, Kansas 67410  
George W. Alford b 1825 Ga. md. Mahany ?
4. Randy Alford, 605 Travis Ct., Apt 18, Arlington, TX 76014  
GGGF Rev. John Madison Alford b. 1826 Ga. d. 1892 Neshoba Co., Ms. md. Sarah G. Rainey Green Co.,  
Al 1855

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5. Mrs. Lewis D. Bowman, 4400 EastWest #1121, Bethesda, Md 20014 (Arthur Alford Bultin)
6. Mrs. Larry L. Clark, 1814 Volga, Corpus Christi, Tx 78412  
Isham Alford b 1815 Ga. d 1880 md. 1 Selvira ? m/2 Annie L. ?
7. Mrs. James Dietz, 2132 Old Moulton Rd S W , Decatur, Al 35601  
Ezekial C. Alford b 1841 Walker Co.,Al. d 1924 Morgan Co., Al. m/1 Mary Susan Stovall m/2 Nannie McAnear  
Pleasant M. Alford b 1819 Al. md. 25 Jan 1838 Morgan Co.,Al. buried Ebenezer Cemetery, Morgan Co., Al. md. Lavina Sandlin

[There was no number 8]

9. Mr. Marshall K Gardner, 1901 1st St, Yuma, Az 85364 Sent Alford's of England
10. Katheryn Black, 6214 Glencoe St., Houston, Tx 77087  
Cade Alford, NC. to Ga. to Morgan Co., Al. to Ms.
11. Mr. Ronald Head, 448 Rosedon Montgomery Al. 36116  
Savannah Alford b, 1848 Montgomery Co., AL, md Ellis R. Alford Carter  
John Franklin Alford b 1824 Ga. md. Henrietta Frances Alford d/o Wilkin S. Alford d 1847 Montgomery Co., Al. md. Tabith???  
Ellis R. Alford Carter s/o Asa J Carter b 1798 Ga, md. 1825  
Hancock Co.,Ga. d 1860 Montgomery Co., Al. md. Eliz Calloway Alford  
b 1805 Ga, md, Wm. Alford & Martha
12. Mrs. A. Masterson, 7314 S.W. McVey Ave., Redmond, Ore 97756 Alford of Ky,
13. Billy McClenny, Houston 665 8476 Clarkey A. Alford & McNair Wake Co., N.C. to Ga. to La. Alford's to Saline Co., Tx,
14. Mrs. Rose Shelton, Rt 3 Box 184, El Campo, Tx 77437  
Reddin Alford b 1818 S.C. md. Nancy Harrison, later, moved Tx
15. Mrs. Mary Louise Reynolds, 135 Hamilton Rd, Chapel Hill, N. C. 27514  
Nancy Patience Alford Stokes md. Va and moved N.C.
16. C. H. Sleight, 7413 Sportsman Dr., Falls Church, Va 22043  
Lodwick Alford md. Susanna Ross thru Green Alford & Nancy Rose Liles thru Quinton Adams & Susan Alford of Wake Co., N. C.
17. Mrs. Alberta Skillen, P. O. Box 105, Etna, Ca 96027  
Thomas Alford m Lottie Stanley, Oregon  
G.M. Alford b 1867 LaGrande, Ore  
G.F. - Austin Hanley Alford b 1852 Kansas d 1903 Siskiyou Co.,Ca. md. Sarah Mariah Campbell  
Albert Campbell Alford d 6 Mch 1920 md. Alice Gay Callihan in Yreka, Calif.
18. Lillie Thurman, 864 5071  
Jacob & Franky B. Seeborn Alford (Sabine Co., La & Tx)
19. Velma Alford Whittham 3102 Kudy L. Rd, Pine Bluff, Ark 71601  
Haywood Alford b. 6-7-1870 Wake Co., N.C. md Rebecca Jones
20. Mrs. James R. Alford, Jr. 1655 Big Bend Dr., Milpitas, Ca 95035

Deena B. Cross Smith, AAFA #0126, wrote her letter the day after Lucille. While Lucille and Lee Ann typed their letters allowing me to scan them for this work, Denna's was written by hand and keyed to a computer file for this effort. "The Alford Family Tree in my possession" that she mentions so casually was the large 39 page (legal size) genealogy on the descendants of John Alford who died 1748 in Frederick Co. VA compiled by the late Jewell Alford Gallagher who later became AAFA #0003.

724 10<sup>th</sup> St.  
Nevada, IA 50201  
August 20, 1982

Dear Mr. Alford,

I'd be delighted to help you with your project. It sounds like a lot of fun. I am enclosing my pedigree chart and The Alford Family Tree in my possession.

These are the addresses of people I've corresponded with on the name Alford.

Mrs. Alberta Alford Skillen, Box 105, Etna, CA 96027

Recently approved her DAR line of John Alford m. Jane. (If you don't hear from her let me know. I've got a copy of her line.)

Mrs. Leona Jenkins (1979 address) 1301 W. Main Ave., Clinton, IA 52732

Mrs. Carol Sechrist (1977 address) 3033 Hill St., Huntington Park, CA 90255

(Mrs. Chas. G.) Mrs. Jean Marie King, M.D. (1979 address) 3164 Dona Marta Dr., Studio City, CA 91604

(Mrs. R. S.) Lynda Dossett (1978 address) Rt 2, Box 202, Morehead City, NC 28557  
(If you don't hear from her I've got her line too.)

Of my line: Miss Esther M. Brown, 317 W. Wisconsin, Greensburg, KS 67054

Mr. Elmer K. Miller, 3517 Pobst Dr., Dayton OH 45420 (He sent me quite a bit of Alford data- none of it relating to my line. If he doesn't answer I'll send you what he sent.)

Hope this helps !!  
Good luck

Sincerely,

Deena B. Cross

P.S. I just got married as you'll note on the pedigree chart.

Mary Louise Reynolds wrote her letter the day after Deena. Unlike the others Mary Louise had almost no Alford ancestry. She had one obscure female ancestor. Although she did not join AAFA she did stick with us for over five years, was a subscriber to "About Alford's" and even if we were never able to help with her Alford needs she submitted much information and was very active in our Alford effort- even through a move and a marriage.

1910 S. 3rd St. #140  
Louisville, KY 40208  
21 Aug 1982

Mr. Gilbert K. Alford Jr.  
1403 Kingsford Dr.  
Florissant, MO 63031



Dear Gil,

Thank you for your letter of the 16th regarding the Alford family. I'm afraid I don't have much--and what I have is not proven—but I will send what I do have.

Enclosed are the pedigree sheets showing my Alford line—with the actual connection on the back of the 2d sheet. The line of Martha Stokes Dowling, daughter of Nancy Patience Alford Stokes is well documented in Ray A. Dowling's *A Dowling Family of the South*. Recently I have corresponded with a lady in Bethesda, MD, regarding my Stokes line. She indicates that the Stokes family from which she descends (and from which I am pretty sure I also descend) originated in Sussex Co., VA, and migrated to Northampton Co., NC, then to Darlington dst., SC. In Dowling's book he only says that John Henry Stokes and Nancy Patience Alford were married in Va and that their daughter was born in NC. This, however, does seem to follow Mrs. Foster (the lady in MD 's) data, and the great similarity in some first names leads me to think that my line is related to hers in some way. Unfortunately, she has no record of a John Henry Stokes, although there is a host of John Stokeses. I only know of one other child of Nancy Patience Alford Stokes for certain. There was a son Henry Stokes who married Rhoda Dowling, a sister of Dempsey Dowling.

I have received queries from three other persons regarding the Alford line:

Mrs. Carol Sechrist, 2959 Hill St., Huntington Park, CA 90255

Mrs. W.B. Mehrkam, 1070 Gardenia DR, Houston, TX 77018

Mr. David Price Jr., 1954 Old Hickory BLVD., Brentwood, TN 37027

Again, thank you for your letter.

Sincerely,

Mary Louise Reynolds

2531 Lewiston  
Dallas, TX 75227  
August 22, 1982

Dear Gilbert,

I was delighted to receive your letter and learn of your willingness to help us amateur genealogists. I frankly can't afford much in the way of research and I'm sure there are others who have the same problem.

Yours is absolutely the only response I have ever received from my *Roots* listings. So I am doubly glad for your letter and your willingness to help.

I have completed the pedigree chart to the best of my ability and have also enclosed a Xerox copy of another one I had previously filled in because it carries the lineage back further.

I am not sure exactly how your computer system will work but sure am willing to help. As soon as I can get some of the material I have Xeroxed I will mail it to you. I have several family group sheets of Alford's which my aunt Xeroxed from research done by a friend of hers in Kerrville. I have not been able to connect any of these Alford's up with our family, but I hope you may be able to use them. At least, you might contact some of the "sources of information" to see if they are interested in your undertaking.

I will also attempt to prepare some family group charts - now are you interested only in Alford family group charts, or would you like one on my family which contains no Alford name although I am an Alford descendant?

You certainly have my permission to pass my name and address on to other Alford correspondents; and I will be very grateful for any help you can give me.

Sincerely

Ranelle Foster

August 30, 1982

Dear Gil,

I want to wish you success in your computer work on the surname ALFORD. I always thought I would like to have a home computer and do this with all my lines, just to keep them straight. I'm enclosing my family sheets and my pedigree chart (could get more on mine than the one you sent) and you will notice my maiden name was ALFORD so therefore I have a lot to send you. I had started from scratch on all my family lines and mostly what I have is from family records. I do have some documentation now so what I have sent you is correct. and documented. Family stories say Michael and Martha "Bridget" McCready Alford came over about 1790 from Ireland and purchased 400 acres of land in So. Beaver twp. Beaver Co., Pa. I do have copies of the survey, patent and warrant of the land from the Lands and Records, State of Pa., Harrisburg. Something happened to Michael because Martha Alford is the head of the household in the 1800 census. My John supposedly was born on the boat coming across the Atlantic ocean. About 1804/5 Martha married James Quigley and had two children to this union: Julia Ann and James Quigley, Jr. Now about 1830 the families moved to So. Slipperyrock Twp., Beaver Co. (now Lawrence). Not sure who all moved besides the Quigleys, except my John and Ruth Eckles; Hugh, Thomas and Martha. I had John's name in the Roots Cellar two years ago and at that time I heard from Janet Markley and her Hugh family. Also heard from Betty Beals but I couldn't help her on her Samuel Newell Alford. The following people contacted me on the surname ALFORD and you may want to contact them:

Robert F. Alford, 4017 Stratford Ct., Indianapolis, Ind. 46236

Pam Lash, 326 W. Perry St, Bryan, Ohio 43506

R.F. Bush, 5892 Karen Ave., Cypress, Calif. 90630

Mrs. Lewis O. Bowman, 4400 E. West Hwy, #1121, Bethesda, Md. 20014 (she had printed an *Alford Bulletin* newsletter at one time but it is not available as Oct. 1980.) I never saw one.

I have heard the Alford name is English and many of them came over around the 1750-1800 from England and settled in New York first. I had found a John Alford in Westmoreland Co. on the 1790 census and he could have been the father of my Michael since Michael and Martha named their first born John but I have no leads to that fact. Michael and Martha McCready (have no info on the McCreadys) Alford must have had some information and know-how to come to America and buy settlers land in Beaver Co. Four hundred acres would have been quite a sum of money at that time. A lady at the Beaver Co. Historical Society in Beaver, Pa. told me one time that "that part of the country was forest land and only Indians occupied it until about 1795".

I belong to the Western Penna. Genealogical Society in Pittsburgh but they do not have a surname list available to the members yet. (working on it)

Well, Gil, I will stop with this much for you now with hopes that it can be of use to you and many other Alford descendants in the future. Please keep in touch and if you ever come across any information on anyone on my family sheets, I would appreciate hearing from you.

Thanks for finding me in the *Roots Cellar* — Isn't this an exciting "hobby"!

From a "Gene " friend and possibly a "far-out" cousin,

Edna Jean Alford Meade  
2707 No. 23rd Ave.  
Phoenix, AZ 85009

*To be continued in a future issue.*