Our History, Part IV

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

As you can clearly see this is the fourth segment in this series which began in the Fall 2003 issue, #62. We are doing it to document the beginnings of AAFA and to give credit to those who contributed to the early effort who are not members and/or who are no longer with us. I know some of you are reading it because I have received questions or requests for more information based on one of the previous segments.

In part one I described what moved me to even begin dabbling in family history and I introduced the first six persons to contact me or respond to my queries. They were, in order of contact, Lee Ann Turner AAFA 0020, Lucille Mehrkam AAFA 0032, Deena Cross AAFA 0126, Mary Louise Reynolds, Ranelle Foster and Edna Jean Mead. The introduction often involves a copy of their letter and the data they shared with me.

In part two, winter 2004 issue #63, and summer 2004 issue #65 I continued the introductions. As we proceed there will be more than the introductions as I plan to include the content of some of my *About Alfords* and some of not yet introduced Tressie Bowman s *The Alford Family Bulletin*.

In #63 you *met* Myra Ozier Hunt, Joy S. Laney, Jacqueline Alford, David Price AAFA 0168, and Elmer K. Miller AAFA 0984. In the last segment in #65 we covered Marshall Kim Gardner, Charles H. Sleight AAFA 0441, R.A. Alford AAFA 0119, Martin G. Alford AAFA 0147, and Lewis Emerson L.E. Alford.

The above covered all of the responses or input I received during the first two months, August and September, of my endeavor except for one. Almost everyone I heard from told me about Julius M. Alford of Mc Comb, MS, but I d already gotten his name from Everton's Roots register and written to him. Although some of the folks already mentioned and many yet to come provided more data than Julius he and I became close friends. He has been to our house and we have been to his house. As many of you know he was one of the founders of the association, along with Wick Alford, yet to be heard from, and myself. He was our first treasurer and one of the three original board members. But I m getting ahead of myself.

Gloria Clark s letter dated Oct. 3, 1982 arrived Oct. 9. She wrote: Dear Mr. Alford,

I am sorry it has taken me so long to answer your letter.

I m afraid I can give you very little information on my Alfords. Since I went to work on a full time basis about 5 years ago there has been little time to work on the family tree. I am still very interested in it and hope to one day be able to have the time to work on it again.

My line as I know it starts with Islam Alford in Ala. This family came to Shelby Co., Tex. before 1860. Since I am not sure just what info you want I will just send a brief sketch.

I will be happy to share what I have and would love to hear from anyone who can give me more

information. My info comes from census records, cemetery records, pension applications and death notices. I also have some info on other Alford families from the same area but do not know how the different families tie in.

Please let me know how I can help.

Thank you,

S/Gloria Clark

Her sketch: (the format has been changed to conserve space)

Islam Alford born about 1815 in GA. Wife Anna ---, born about 1825, known children: Brittier born 1839 in Ala., Frances born 1842 in Ala, Allen Josiah born Feb. 2, 1844 in Ala., Burtis (Bertis) born 1845 in Ala, Louisa born 1849 in Ala, Baldy born Mar. 4, 1852 in Tex, Wiley born 1864 in Tex.

Allen Josiah Alford born Feb. 2, 1844 in Ala (St. Clair Co. ?) Died July 23, 1923, married Nancy A. Land (?) Born Aug. 24, 1851, died Sept. 4, 1926. Pvt. 11 Texas Infantry C.S.A. known children: Lee born 1872 in Tex., Ovada born in 1873 in Tex., Benjamin M. born 1878 in Tex., Laura born 1879 in Tex., Willie born in Tex., Bertha Mae born in Tex., Kate born in Tex., Florida born in Tex.

Bertha Mae Alford born in Texas. Died June 4, 1956. Married Eugene Anderson Doggett born Jan. 19, 1874, died Oct. 5, 1914. Known children: Ruby born about 1898, Lillie, Mildred, Roy, Gary Sidney born Dec. 24, 1902, Zelma.

Gary Sidney Doggett was my grandfather. I also have a line on the Richard Alford family from St. Clair, Ala to Shelby Co., Tex. I have a copy of his son s (Redden) death notice from Palestine, Tex.

The next person I heard from was Reva McGoogan. I received two letters, one right after the other as follows:

Shannon, N.C.

Oct 8th 1982

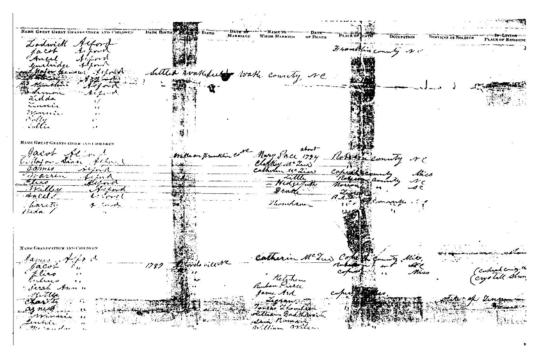
Mr. Gilbert etc.

Dear Mr. Alford-

I received your letter and I really would like to have a copy of your family record. I wonder what relation you are to Julius M. Alford. I have a copy of our family record which I will mail to you next week when I get some stamps. I would like for you to return this copy. The old copy was worn so bad scotch tape had to be put on to hold the chart together and the tape has turned so dark the names can t be seen under the tape. Wishing you success in your genealogy work.

Sincerely, Reva McGoogan

I scanned one of the two pages of what she called the old copy of her family record and it is displayed here for you to see. In the discussion of Julius M. Alford above I mentioned having received some old letters from him dated in the 19th century. In one of those letters there were comments about a form received as part of an effort to collect Alford family data. The form



involved was the same form as sent by Reva.

Shannon, N.C. Oct 12, 1982

Dear Mr. Alford - I have tried to write my family record, but I get confused and may have names down twice and dates some down and some missing. I hope you can figure most of it out. My vision really is poor as you can see. Maybe sometime I can send you some records of the families of the other children of Nathan T. Alford and Diana McCallum Alford. There were 10 children, 3 sons, 7 daughters.

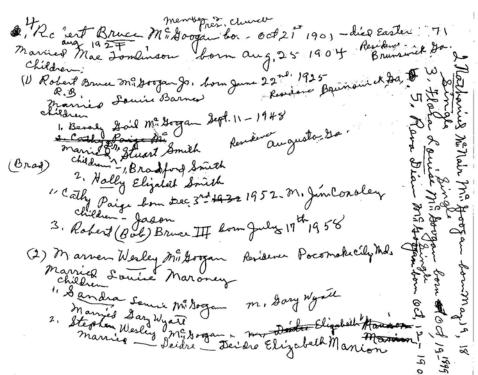
Sincerely, Reva McGoogan

Annotated in the top right corner of her letter was: My mother was Mary McTier Alford m. Malcolm Thomas McGoogan they had 7 children 3 daughters 4 sons.

On the back of the half page of paper was: My grandfather N.T. Alford & family lived a short distance back of Ashpole church. Ashpole

Church is about 1 ½ miles from Rowland, NC. In the communities nearby are Plainview and Alfordsville on the way to Maxton, NC.

I received seven pages of the family pages that Reva wrote and sent with the 2nd letter. One of the pages is reproduced here as an example. I regret to say that after 22 years I still don t have it transposed, and I m not sure I can. Sometime I am going to have to do all I can on the descendants of Jacob Alford b. 1738 in VA and then I will be forced to tackle this. If you would like to work on it in the meantime please let me know and I ll send you copies.



I heard recently that Elizabeth A. Duncan, AAFA #0366 is now deceased. In her letter of Oct. 8, 1982 she wrote: Dear Gil: Thank you for your letter concerning the Alford Family information. I am interested in exchanging info. What I have received from the various sources I have written up into a chapter for my book, soon to be published. (Includes 15 different family names and goes back to their immigration from England, Ireland, Wales and Scotland - more than you want for your records) My typist has the manuscript readying it for the printer, so what I write here is from memory and scraps of paper in a scrapbook.

Are we talking about the same Alfords? My ancestors hail from Meaux Abbey in Yorkshire, England. Most of the Alford men were millers by trade. Later generations settled near London and from thence to the New World in the 17th century (1635). As new territories were opened for settlement, home became New Kent, Va. Wake/Franklin Counties, N.C., Lawrence Co., Tenn., and other southern states. The following is a chart from John Alford I to me:

John Alford I
John Alford II
John Alford III
William Alford (our immigrant ancestor) 1608-1677
Benjamin Alford b. 1650
James William Zion Alford 1691

Lodwick Alford I 1715-1789 Lodwick Alford II Bailey Alford Chirena Alford

Carson Andrews 1840-1927 Orlando C. Andrews 1870-1953 Elizabeth Andrews Duncan 1911-

Perhaps this will identify my line of the Alfords. If you have information of this branch I would be interested in further communication. My information has come from Bobby Alford, Joy Laney, my aunt Florence Grigsby, census reports, Genealogical Guide to Early Settlers of America, Southern Lineages, etc. Sincerely Elizabeth A. Duncan

At the time I received this I did not know any better or I would have challenged her on the whole top-half of the genealogy. From Bailey down is OK, but his parents were Isaac Alford and his cousin Mary Alford who was daughter of Lodwick I. All above him is wrong wrong.

I purchased a copy of her book A Glance Back Over Our Shoulders which is 318 pages without index. The Alford part goes from page 9 to 28 and cites five sources, none of which are primary, most not even secondary. The published version has the lineage as shown above but in a 1995 letter she sent me with the book she wrote since it was published in 1984, I have noted the mistakes and misinformation - information taken from your publications. At present, the best information I have makes it look like the chart on page 9 should read something like this. She still has the top three generations wrong: Thomas Alford, Benedict Alford, Benjamin Alford - continuing with the errone ous idea that our Virginia Alfords came via New England. She goes on to say The other errors are too numerous to mention here.

Dale R. Best s response was received Oct. 9, 1982 and consisted on a one page chart that appears to have been printed on an early PC with a very early genealogy program. It is a crude pedigree form and was printed on sensitized paper—something like the old thermafax paper of the early 1960s. His maternal grandmother was Laura Edith Alford b. Nov. 30, 1914 in Blount Co., KY, daughter of Robert E. Alford and Sarah Lane. I tried to communicate with him several times later and got no response.

The late Eileen Alford, who was never a member of AAFA wrote on October 14, 1982. We continued to correspond for at least a year and she did publish an Alford book. I never did get a copy of it but did see parts of it. She was great for writing her letters on the back of advertisements, etc. In her letter which she typed, and then filled the margins with ink notations (in parens below), she wrote:

Dear Gilbert K. How fascinating if your middle initial was for Kennedy one of my family names connected with the Alfords.

Was very interested in your letter and would love to read your Alford newsletter when it comes out. You mentioned having a personal computer available. I am not certain exactly what you mean. I live 12 miles from the Morman library in Mesa, Arizona and they have a micro fisch of names and generations which is often called a computer. I don't think you are referring to this. I plan to go over there on Saturday I will put the Louisiana file in the computer and see how the Alfords line up and if any in Washington Parish. It's free. I suppose you have already done this in Salt Lake. I would be interested in your lineage to see if it jibes with any info I already have.

I have spent 18 years looking for the grave of CONSIDER ALFORD 1778-? England. I even wrote a book on it. I now have a clue and can t get the cemetery to answer my letter. I asked the chamber of commerce if they would look into it for me. I have done a lot of research on the very early history of the Alford family in England. Maybe later I will zerox it for you. I will list my lineage below and see what you think.

Richard Alford married Margaret Gregory, Lyme Regis, County Dorset (have him back to antiquity)

Mayor Gregory Alford born ca 1621 Lyme Regis married Mary Burridge (Very important mayor - written up in Dorset Co. Very important friend of King Charles.)

Robert Burridge Gregory Alford born ca 1645. (Moved to Devon Co. to avoid fathers trouble) Marmaduke Thomas probably born around 1670. (Think these 2 lines had to escape to Scotland because of

King friendship. Maybe Sterling Scotland.)

Missing 3 generations to my

Consider Alford b. 1778 England married Windham Conn. 1800 Lucy Fitch Kennedy. (am now searching for Consider s grand parents back to Mayor Gregory Alford.)

Edwin Madison Alford and 10 other kids born 1807, New York City married Anne Marie Honeywell.

This line comes down to me. Consider Alford lived in NYC for 32 years 1801-1832 then can t find where he retired and died. The search has been fascinating. I inherited the old family bible and have photos of most of the above.

I will write again after Saturday. I am sure I heard from someone else years ago who mentioned Washington Parish.

Thank you so much for your letter. I have an older sister who is the image of Maggie Thatcher, the Prime Minister of England. Her father s name is Alfred Robins. So I wrote and asked her if that Alfred is a derivation of the name Alford.

This is another case where I didn t know enough to set her straight when I received this letter. You don't want to hear what I think about it now.

This is probably enough for this issue. The next three, all heard from in November of 1982 are AAFA members and theirs may get lengthy.