

2008 South Carolina Meeting Report

Columbia, South Carolina, October 10-12, 2008

Submitted by Ramona Alford Darden, AAFA #0715, Member AAFA Hall of Fame

This year's Alford Reunion began on Friday October 10, 2008, with a welcome by AAFA Workshop Chair Lynn Shelley. The morning session began with two Power Point presentations, "Alfords in South Carolina" and "The Alford YDNA Project Made Simple." They were prepared complete with sound bytes by Gil Alford who was unable to attend the meeting this year.

The first one presented detailed information on the South Carolina colonial period, first settlers, and early census records by county and Alford family. Lynn Shelley assisted with the narration and added Alford family information.

The DNA presentation included definitions of technical terms, examples from the Internet, history of the project, results by family branch, costs, and the slide: "You don't have to be male!" Y-chromosome testing as we learned is for males and records information passed down from father to son and follows surnames. Mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) tests present information passed from mother to daughter. Both are important.

Everyone seemed to enjoy hearing Gil's recorded voice segments. Links to the DNA test results of Alford members may be found on the AAFA website.

To understand how all this works, it helps to know that almost all of the genetic material you inherit from your parents is thoroughly mixed together, and is thus unique to you. It can be used to link you to living relatives, but it can't tell you much about your ancestors.

There are two intriguing exceptions, though---and, so far, they form the whole basis for genetic

genealogy. One is something called mitochondrial DNA (MtDNA), which a mother passes on to all of her children. If you're a man you also have your father's Y-chromosome, which is passed down, intact, from father to son

With rare exceptions every human being has exactly 46 chromosomes, which are made of DNA. These chromosomes determine a person's inherited traits. Eye color, height, the shape of your hairline---it's all there somewhere.

In all but two of these chromosomes, the DNA from both parents is blended together thoroughly to form something completely new. But one pair of chromosomes work differently. That pair's sole function is to determine the sex of the baby. The chromosome the mother contributes to that pair always has the value of X. The father, through, can contribute either another X chromosome or a Y chromosome. If it's an X, the child will be female; if it's a Y, the child will be male. Therefore, the Y chromosome's route is very easy to follow: it goes from father to son to son to son and so on.

Part of the mother's genetic contribution is something called mitochondrial DNA, or mtDNA. While it is not a chromosome (it's actually something of an energy source for cells), it is passed from the mother to all her offspring, regardless of sex. So all children of one mother have the same mtDNA, as do all children of that mother's daughters (though not of her sons, since men can't pass on mtDNA).

As it happens, both Y chromosomes and mtDNA evolve, or mutate, very slowly---think millennia, not generations. This means that if you can pick up either the Y-chromosome trail

or the mtDNA trail, you can follow it back hundreds or thousands of years.

If you're a woman, you can follow only your mtDNA trail, unless you have a brother (or a cousin who's the son of your father's brother) who can take a Y-chromosome test on your behalf.

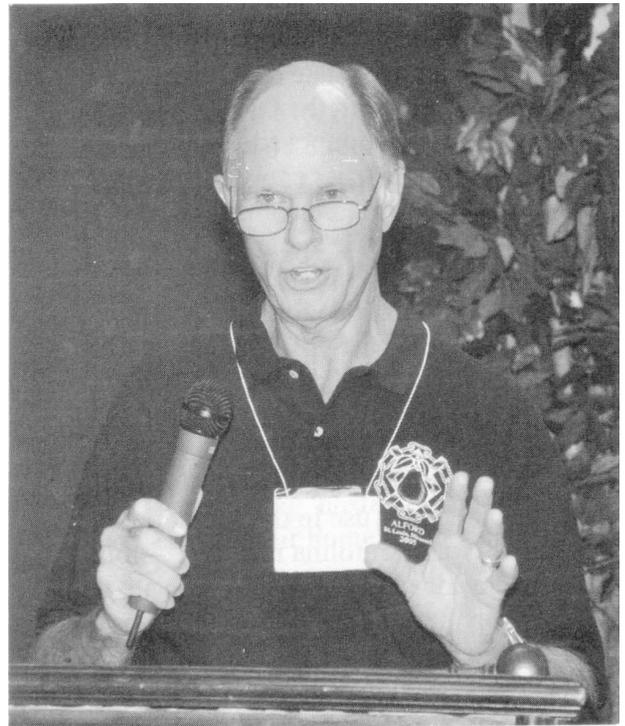
AAFA has been recording data since before 1987; however, this has opened up new windows to our ancestry. If your lineage has not taken the male test we suggest you talk with your cousins to pool together the cost for one male family member to take this test on your family's behalf. The connections we are finding are amazing.

Lynn Shelley had prepared information on SC Records, Cemetery & Military which she made available in the research room. She is preparing reports on SC Cemetery & Military Records which will be included in a separate article of AAFA ACTION soon.

After lunch MaryLee Alford, wife of Carl Alford, President, presented National Geographic's "The Journey of Man". This four part CD explained a Professors' research on DNA going back to Africa. Following the movie, MaryLee discussed the importance of DNA in genealogical research. Carl and MaryLee Alford also gave a DNA kit as a prize for anyone there in the afternoon session. Vesta Bowden was the recipient of this prize. Earlier, Beverly Alford, AAFA #0686 had stated that she was the first black person to attend one of our meetings. After this movie, someone stated that since we all originated from Africa, she couldn't be the first Black attending. This created a big laugh with the attending group.

Friday evening was our seated dinner for Mix & Mingle. After dinner not many were moving around. I guess they were enjoying visiting with others at their table. Faith Alford came to me and suggested we have each person introduce themselves and tell a little something about ourselves. This suggestion was a great success, so thanks Faith; it was a lot of fun. It was very

interesting to hear comments from members why they attend year after year. Most enjoyed the fellowship.



President Carl Alford, AAFA Member# 1272 presided over the Business Meeting on Saturday morning.

Saturday morning was the business part of the meeting with President Carl Alford. The current Officers and AAFA Board were introduced to those attending, after which the names of those members who were nominated for the Board were announced. They were Doris Vetri, Evelyn Mistich, Matt Alford, Ramona Darden, and Earl Alford. The new board members are as follows, Doris Vetri, Evelyn Mistich, Ramona Darden and Earl Alford. The new board then left the room to determine who the officers would be for the next year. They are as follows: Carl Alford - President, Walt Smith- Vice President, Doris Vetri Treasurer, Evelyn Mistich - Secretary.

Lynn Shelley reported on the Master Book List and Alford Research in general. Carolyn Saunders made a plea on both Friday and Saturday about getting more volunteers to help AAFA with cemetery research (she is not the head of this but since doing the Texas cemeteries, she was trying to encourage others to take on other states). Carolyn has worked out

most of the kinks with this research, so it should be an easier job for someone working with another state cemetery project. I also tried to enlist help with the DNA project (identifying needed donors and trying to connect those lines that DNA has shown are connected) but had no volunteers. Please contact us. We need your help with this project.

Photography Committee Report: given by Janice Smith: During the past year, 48 photos were furnished for the *AAFA ACTION*. Photos were sent to Earline Alford for use in the Memorial Albums and to Pam Thompson for use on the Memorial page of the website. Images were also furnished to Ramona Darden for use in the Memorial program at the 2008 South Carolina meeting. A total of 78 photos were added to the AAFA website this year. We currently have a total of 2,430 photos that have been entered into the photo database file; 134 of those have been added since last year's meeting.

Will Report, given by Janice Smith: There are a total of 86 Alford Wills in the will index, most transcribed and available on AAFA's website under Databases->Wills and Probate AAFA received one new will this year. It is a will for Asahel Alford, 1848, which was filed in New York and submitted by Vieva Johnson. There are two probate packages that are new this year. One is for Jacob Alford, 1838, Lauderdale County, Mississippi, and the other one is for George Washington Alford, 1878, Noxubee County, Mississippi from the branch of John 1801 North Carolina. Both of these probate packages were submitted by Peggy Schuster.

Doris Vetri gave the AAFA budget report for the past year which is reported under a separate article in the Quarterly.

Ramona Darden reported the Friday night Board of Directors Meeting recommended our 2009 meeting be changed from Virginia to a site closer to our bulk membership, either Texas or Louisiana. As the economy is weak, it was felt that more could and would attend if the meeting was held in one of those two states The attending group agreed and decided to move the

meeting to Texas, which has the largest membership in AAFA. Next year the Board will revisit the economy to decide where the meeting will be held in 2010.



Ramona Alford Darden, AAFA Member #0715 led a discussion about changing the meeting location for 2009.

Alford Family Forum on Saturday afternoon: During this time several members gave reports on their Alford lines.

Jean Alford Barkalow presented information about her line from John William Alford born 1844 in South Carolina. Jean presented a short synopsis of the descendants of John William Alford, and concentrated on the family of his son, Samuel James and Clara McMinn Alford.

Carolyn Alford Saunders spoke about Edwin Barksdale Alford born in 1792 in North Carolina. Her talk centered around Edwin, his children and their migration to Mississippi.

Norma Alford Idom gave a report on her line from Brittain Alford born 1781 in North Carolina. Norma concentrated on one of Brittain's sons, Spire Washington and Sarah Brassell Alford who brought their family to Scott County, Mississippi.

Kathy Schultz spoke on her line from William Alford born 1780 in Virginia. She concentrated on the descendants of his son, Thomas Jefferson Alford.

Beverly Alford gave a talk on her line from Jesse Alford born 1882 in South Carolina.

Bobby Alford presented a short talk on his line from William Alford born about 1760 in North Carolina. A poster of sketches was displayed showing Daniel "Duke" Alford and his wife, a son Arnold Bethel Alford and his wife and their son Joseph Preston Alford. The sketches were done by Rick "Ebbie" Alford who is also a descendant of William and Daniel "Duke" Alford.

A short talk was given by MaryLee Alford on Carl Alford's line from John Madison demonstrating the use of Family Tree Maker. Peggy Schuster was scheduled to do a report on the line from John Alford born 1801 in North Carolina. After Walter's accident, they were not able to attend the meeting.

Saturday evening began with the Alford Banquet. After dinner, Ramona Darden began with the Alford Memorial Remembrance honoring one of our three Founding Members, Lodwick Houston Alford, USN Retired. Wick was born on April 27, 1914 in Sylvester, Worth County, GA., and died on December 20, 2007 in Sylvester, Worth County, GA. Wick spent two years enlisted service, graduated from the Naval Academy in the Class of 1938, and 29 years as a commissioned officer. Wick was the first President of AAFA.

He is survived by his second wife, Frances DuPriest Parks Alford now living in Sylvester,

GA. He is also survived by his son Lodwick Kirkland Alford and daughter Andrea Elizabeth Alford Fantacci. Preceding him in death, was his first wife Mary Katherine Kirkland Alford, the mother of his children.

Wick, Gil and Julius Mosby "Pooley" Alford corresponded for years discussing Alford family history and research. The association was formed in Florissant, MO, in 1987. For that, AAFA had to have a board of directors. Gil chose Wick and "Pooley" to join him on the board and appointed, with their consent, Wick the first President and "Pooley" the first treasurer.

The three of them, Pam Alford Thompson and ten others joined together for the first AAFA meeting, October 15, 1988, to lay the plans for future meetings. That meeting, hosted by Roberta and Milt Folds, was at their home and a local Guest Quarters.

Others remembered at the meeting this year are as follows, Margaret P. Alford, William A. Mitchiner, Luella Roosa Moore, John Rogers Alford, Jr., Lillian Lois Reed Alford, Charles E. Boulson, Mattie Lou Fry, Burt Wesley Alford, Julia Kathryn Plake Alford, Juanita Rivers Stevens, Inez Cole, Halcut Alford, Mabel Elsie Lindstrom Thaanum, Lillie Bell Franklin Alford, Allen Stephens Alford, Sr., Margaret S. Alford, Kae Moody Shaw, Lt. Col. Uriel B. Alford Jr., George Kenneth Alford, and Walter M. Clerihew. Following a short remark about these members, there was a bell toll for each.

The Alford Recognition and Awards were presented by President Carl S. Alford. The Alford Hall of Fame awards were as follows:

PROCLAMATION

Whereas, the Alford American Family Association was established in 1987 for the broad purposes of.:

1. Collecting, recording, preserving and dissemination biographical data and Historical information on Alford's and their ancestors.
2. Education of members, particularly those of younger generations. on Alford family history and how it relates to the history of our nation.

3. Furthering fellowship and camaraderie within living Alford families, and,

Whereas, the Board of Directors of the Alford American Family Association are desirous of honoring individuals who have contributed most to furthering the broad purposes of the Association, and whereas,

Julius M. "Pooley" Alford

Was a founding member of the Association in good standing. and performed his duties as a member and superbly doing so, and

Whereas, Julius M. "Pooley" Alford provided long and faithful service as a co-founder, researcher, a collector of data, a Treasurer and an AAFA Board member, and

Whereas, because of his devotion and accomplishments, he is commended in the Highest words of fulsome praise and the Board of Directors is pleased to announce the induction of Julius M. "Pooley" Alford into the Alford American Family Association

HALL OF FAME

His superb achievements in promoting the purposes and goals of the Association are exemplary and are in the highest and finest traditions of the ancient, proud, honorable and illustrious name of ***ALFORD***.

I therefore set my hand and seal this 11th day of October in the year of our Lord Two thousand and eight.

Carl S. Alford
President

A second Hall of Fame award was given as follows:

PROCLAMATION

Whereas, the Alford American Family Association was established a 1987 for the broad purposes of:

1. Collecting, recording, preserving and dissemination biographical data and Historical information on Alford and their ancestors.
2. Education of members, particularly those of younger generations on Alford family history and how it relates to the history of our nation.
3. Furthering fellowship and camaraderie within living Alford families, and,

Whereas, the Board of Directors of the Alford American Family Association are desirous of honoring individuals who have contributed most to furthering the broad purposes of the Association and whereas,

PATRICIA FITE

Is a founding member of the Association in good standing and has performed her duties as a member and superbly doing so, and

Whereas, Patricia Fite has provided long and faithful service as a researcher and a collector of Alford data,

Whereas, because of her devotion and accomplishments, she is commended in the Highest words of fulsome praise and the Board of Directors is pleased to Announce the induction of Patricia Fite into the Alford American Family Association

HALL OF FAME

Her superb achievements in promoting the purposes and goals of the Association are exemplary and are in the highest and finest traditions of the ancient, proud, honorable and illustrious name of ***ALFORD***.

I therefore set my hand and seal this 11th day of October in the year of our Lord Two thousand and eight.

Carl S. Alford
President



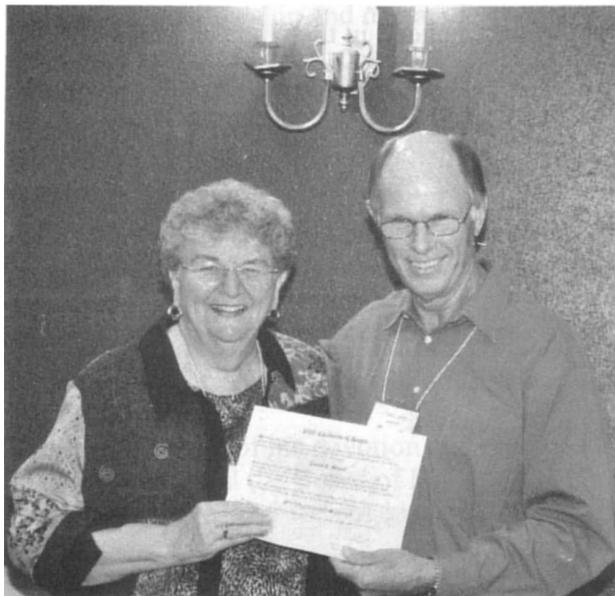
Julius Mosby "Pooley" Alford, Member #0013 was posthumously entered into the AAFA Hall of Fame.



Patricia Fite, Member #0070 was inducted into the AAFA Hall of Fame.

Distinguished Member Awards were given to the following members for their dedicated work over this past year:

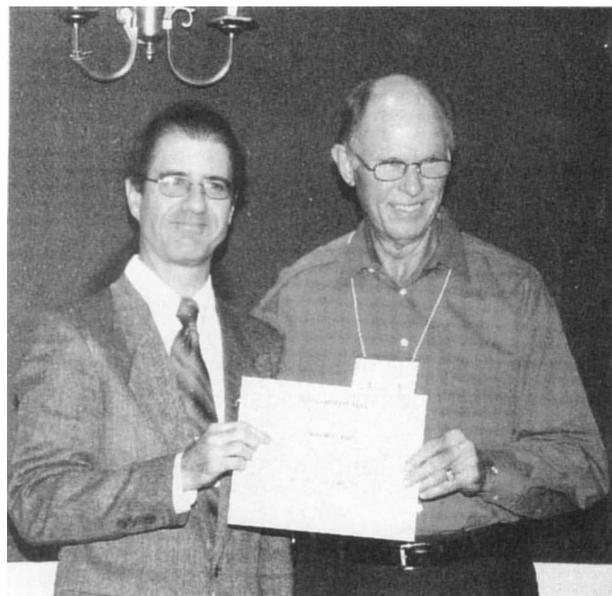
Pat Brock Smith and her sister **Mildred Brock Breeland** who mailed out AAFA ACTION and helped to maintain current addresses for all active members.



Evelyn Mistich, Member #0481 was presented with the AAFA Distinguished Member Award by President Carl Alford

Evelyn Mistich has served as Secretary of the AAFA, provided backup for the Treasurer and served as the 2008 meeting registrar handling all registration and moneys for the meeting and the tours as well as doing deposits and providing valuable support to the meetings coordinator.

Walt Smith has during the past year served as a member of the official AAFA Photography Staff as he has done for many years, provided technical assistance to others in preparation of presentations for the meeting, and has always helped with the setting up for the meeting and the tearing down and packing up after the meeting.



Charles Walter "Walt" Smith, Member #1247 was presented with the AAFA Distinguished Member Award by President Carl Alford.

The drawing for the one free room night was held, and Doris Vetri was the winner. This drawing is from the first 25 members who register with both AAFA and the hotel where our meeting is held.

The raffle then took place and the winners were as follows:

Carl Alford and Ramona Darden won afghans. Both afghans were handmade by Marie Bateman. Funds from that raffle went to sought-after Alford DNA project. Vesta Bowden and Janice Smith won afghans also handmade by Marie Bateman for the Alford Raffle. A green shawl donated by Sally Stoewer was won by Earl Alford. Vesta Bowden won the sought after wooden cut-out of the AAFA Logo framed and handcrafted by Ebbie Alford. Jean Barkalow won a signed book titled *Evidence Citation & Analysis for the Family Historian* by Elizabeth Shown Mills. This was donated by Helen Steele.

Each year members donate items for door prizes and raffle. We appreciate their contribution to the meetings success. This year items were contributed by Lynn Shelley, Norma Idom, Helen Steele, Sally Stoewer, MaryLee and Carl

Alford and others. If you contributed a gift and your name was overlooked, please forgive me, it was not my intent to overlook you. My forgetter is working better than my rememberer. I was

trying to get this down on paper before my brain quit working for AAFA. I am currently working on finishing up the painted toys for tots so they can be distributed before Christmas.