

2011 Meeting

2011 ALFORD FAMILY REUNION REPORT

By Ramona Alford Darden, AAFA 0715, Meetings Chair

The 2011 Alford Family Reunion was held in St. Louis, Missouri at the Westport Doubletree Hotel. Several members arrived early for St. Louis tours to begin our fellowship and fun visiting with each other. Set-up for the meeting began on Thursday evening for the library and family photo collection, wills and estate papers.

Friday morning our meeting began with registration after which the AAFA genealogy workshop began. Lynn Shelley welcomed those in attendance. She was joined by Gil Alford.



Pauline Alford looks on as Earline and Max Alford and Robert Alford set up for registration on Friday morning.



Gil Alford made a presentation on the History of AAFA Friday morning as Lynn Shelley assisted him. Max Alford with back to camera is operating the computer.

Gil presented a history of how he began *About Alford's* newsletter that ultimately was the early stages of his recording Alford family genealogy. The association was formed in 1987 and in 1988 a group met in Atlanta, GA to discuss the future of the Alford American Family Association thus here we are almost 25 years later.

A short report on the DNA Project was given by Max Alford, the AAFA DNA Project Officer. A spreadsheet showing the latest DNA matches was displayed on the video projector. The need for more Alford surname Y-DNA tests was explained. With only about 80 tests done so far, it is difficult to make

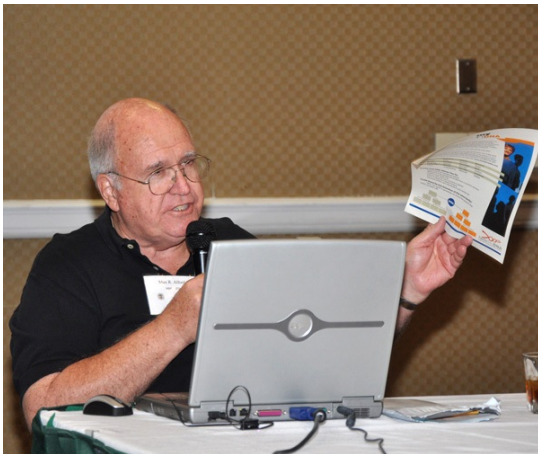
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judgments in some instances on which numbers are the primary numbers and which are mutations.

The cost savings to be gained by ordering through a Surname Group rather than directly from Family Tree DNA was explained. The following cost comparisons were offered:

	Family Tree DNA	Alford Surname Group
12 Marker Test	N/A	\$99
25 Marker Test	N/A	\$124
37 Marker Test	\$169	\$149
67 Marker Test	\$268	\$238
111 Marker Test	\$359	\$339



Max Alford presented a talk on DNA on Friday afternoon.

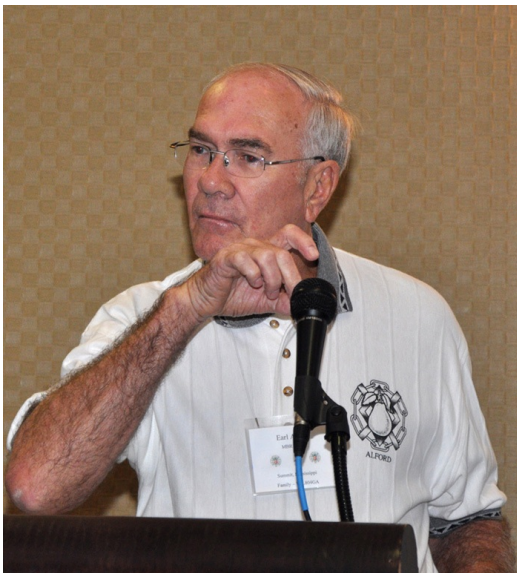
It was pointed out that similar savings could be had on most but not all of the other tests available.

The importance of the Alford surname was explained. Since we all descend from a single man many thousands of years ago, there are bound to be matches between surnames. The tricky part about hoping to confirm these matches with written documentation is the fact that before surnames came into use, there is no written documentation (unless you count the cave dwellers' wall paintings). Limiting it to matching surnames at least gives one hope that written documentation may exist. It just has to be found.

A test kit purchased by the AAFA was displayed. The various parts of the kit and their use were explained. A question and answer period followed.

On Friday evening we held our meet & greet meal, which began with a meal of flat iron steak, and herb gilled salmon with Chardonnay cream sauce enjoyed by all. After dinner each one in attendance was asked to stand and introduce themselves and tell something so others could know them better, such as their current family, about what AAFA means to them and how they began attending the annual meetings. It was very interesting to learn more about each person.

Saturday morning activities began with a welcome to St. Louis by President Earl Alford. The following reports were given: Minutes of the 2010 New Orleans meeting were not available but the report which was in the *AAFA ACTION* was available for those to read. The budget report was given by



Earl Alford opened the meeting on Saturday morning.

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Robert Alford gave the Treasurer's report.

Janice Smith followed with a report on wills, estate papers, and photos in the Alford archives. The photos are kept in three safety deposit boxes at a bank in Plano, TX. The Smiths take pictures during our annual meetings of those in attendance and on our tours. All of the pictures that are submitted for the photo archives are recorded and placed in the safe deposit box. This has become a very valuable asset for families who want to either share with others or in case of a disaster where valuable family photos can be replaced; otherwise they would be lost forever.

It was announced by Ramona Alford Darden that the next Alford Reunion which will be the 25th, will be held in Houston, TX. Ramona also thanked those who have helped her with the annual meetings since she has been meeting planner. She extended a special thank you to Max Alford, Earline Alford, Janice Smith, John Smith, Walt Smith, Evelyn Mistich, Earl Alford, those who have given presentations, and those who have

attended meetings while she was planner. She gave a special thank you to Gil for his Alford dream and letting us share and plan these meetings to continue support of his "Alford dream".



Ramona Darden discussed the meeting location for next year, and it was decided that the meeting would be in Houston, Texas.

Several weeks prior to the meeting, proposed amended Bylaws were sent either by email or USPS to the membership for their review and vote. Of those who returned their decision, 55 approved, and 4 disapproved out of 270 ballots sent out. There will now be three members on the board of directors of the association: Gil Alford, Pam Alford Thompson and Max Alford. However, any board member who still has time on their term will continue on the board until their term expires in 2012 and 2013 unless they resign. Max has been appointed the new President of AAFA.

About Alford's began on Saturday afternoon. Milton Folds gave a very informative presentation on the line of his

wife Roberta Alford. She was a descendant of Lodwick through his great grandson Wiley Alford who was born in 1811/12 in Georgia. Milton has done a great deal of research on the line of Lodwick Alford and his wives and descendants. He wanted to stress how important it is in research not to forget about the wives and their maiden names and the fact that those maiden names may have been used to name some of their children as well. Also, some of those families possibly moved along with your family as they moved to a new location. He also dealt with terms used to identify a person such as "esquire" and "ordinary," which could help you in identifying your



Milton Folds gave a very interesting and informative presentation on his wife Roberta's line from Wiley Alford born 1811/12 in Georgia.

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ancestor.



Gil Alford presented a talk on the line from William Alford born 1794 in North Carolina stressing the information that was collected by Guy Alford.

After the break, Gil Alford spoke on the collection of Guy Alford's notes and research and how he was able to acquire the boxes of information for AAFA. Guy Alford did a significant amount of research on the early Alford families in Virginia, North Carolina and Georgia. His main focus was on the line of William Alford born 1794 in North Carolina.

Earl Alford talked about some family pictures as they were shown on the screen that he had just received from a family member, and gave some information about the people in the pictures and how they were related to him, Earl is from the line of William Alford born 1804 in Georgia.

Pat Thorn, who is a cousin of Roberta Alford Folds, told something about her family line as her family pictures were shown.

During the last year, Kathy Schultz received two special photos of people in her line from William 1780 in Virginia. She had received a much better copy of a photo of Thomas Jefferson Alford. She had also received a photo of Mary Vanhoy Alford and her daughter. Mary was the wife of George Washington Alford.

LaDonna Alford gave a short talk on her husband Winfred's line from Salvatore Alford born 1816 in Virginia through his descendant Jessie Claude Alford. She also told how she met her husband and how she came to Texas.

Gil Alford told a story about a portrait of his mother that was taken when she was young. The photo meant a lot to him, and it had been lost for several years. His daughter found it recently, and brought it to him.

Photos are an important part of family history. We should try to record time and place of your photos and name those in the pictures. Another suggestion would be to ask other family members to help identify them if possible and to tell any family stories they might know about the ones in the pictures. You could also make a Xerox copy of the pictures and include a story or information on the back of the page. Be sure not to write on the original picture.

After a couple of hours break we once again gathered for the Saturday evening banquet, a meal of baked chicken, roast rib beef with mushroom Bordelaise, rice pilaf, seasoned vegetables, mixed salad. Deserts were an assortment of delicious cakes.

The first item on the program after dinner was the memorial program to honor those who have passed away over the past year since we last met or for those who we just were told of their passing. The program was presented by Ramona Alford Darden and assisted by Earline Alford.

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