



Claude Anding Alford
1898 - 1996

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Jan 6 1898 - Dec 8 1996
AAFA# 0017

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1898-1996
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AAFA's oldest living member, Mr. Claude Alford, died in December. He was so proud of being an Alford and being a member of AAFA. His obituary is the first one I've seen that identifies him as a member of the Alford American Family Association. Some of us in AAFA sent him cards when we heard he was in hospital, and his daughter Kathleen said he was so proud of the cards that he had her put them out where everyone could see them.

You'll remember Mr. Claude for his short presence at the meetings in Jackson, MS, and St. Francisville, LA. He has been mentioned frequently in *AAFA ACTION*.

It was he who, having been born in 1898, planned to live into the year 2000 so he could say he was the only Alford to have lived in three centuries. It was he who made corn brooms by hand and brought them to the meeting in Louisiana to give out to those interested in having one. He died one month short of age 99.

Mr. Claude was one of the few members whose home I have visited. He still lived in the same house in which he was born. We've gone "cemeterying" together. I'll miss him. —Gil

MCCOMB ENTERPRISE-JOURNAL
 McComb, MS—Monday, 9 Dec 1996

Claude A. Alford Sr.

Claude A. Alford Sr., 98, of Magnolia, died there Dec. 8, 1996, at Beacham Memorial Hospital.

Visitation is 4-9 tonight at Capps Funeral Home of Tylertown and from 1 p.m. Tuesday at Progress Baptist Church until services there at 2 p.m., with the Rev. Billy Ray Simmons officiating. Burial will be in Progress Cemetery.

Mr. Alford was born Jan. 6, 1898, in old Pike County. He was the son of J. Dock Alford and Luminda Fortenberry Alford.

He was a retired merchant and farmer and served as post master at Progress for many years. He was a member of Progress Baptist Church. He was the oldest living member of the Alford American Family Association. He was a Mason for more than 70 years and was a member of Friends of the Progress Library and Silver Seniors of Silver Springs.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his wife, Inez Allen Alford; and nine brothers and sisters.

He is survived by two sons, C.A. Alford Jr. and Hollis Alford, both of Progress; two daughters, Florene Alford Brumfield of Baton Rouge, La., and Kathleen Alford Easley of Progress; 14 grandchildren, 26 great-grandchildren and six great-great-grandchildren.

Mr. Alford's grandsons will serve as pallbearers.

 A few days later the newspaper printed a letter from a friend:

MCCOMB ENTERPRISE-JOURNAL
 Thursday, Dec. 12, 1996

Claude A. Alford Sr. did more than live a long time

Editor, *Enterprise-Journal*:

Please permit me to say a word about a great Pike Countian who recently passed from the earth. I refer to Mr. Claude A. Alford Sr.

His longevity in itself deserves recognition, living to be almost 99. But he did more than live a long life; he lived well. He was a man of industry, social involvement, and religious persuasion.

He demonstrated perfectly how to grow old gracefully. He was always cheerful, uncomplaining and concerned about others. Right up through his fatal illness, he called people needing encouragement from his bed in the hospital. For the last several years, he spent much time contacting and checking on people suffering the blows of life.

One of his most beloved chores was making dusting brooms from sage grass. These he gave to all he knew, and I suppose the streets of downtown McComb would not hold the brooms he gave away. His big heart made a way to many other hearts.

Few will be conscious—though the loss is very real—of the death of the last member of the J. Dock Alford family. This family of 10 has left a constructive shadow over Pike County that will influence this area from now on. Some were school teachers; some were prosperous farmer-businessmen. One was editor of the old "Progressive Farmer" for several years. From their little community of Progress, they have reached around the world with their lives.

Lives like this one take a long time, if ever, to evaluate. But may we never let their deaths take our eyes off the great legacy they have left us. They deserve more than our tears.

Sincerely,
Jimmy Hodges

ANCESTORS

1. Claude Anding Alford born Jan 6 1898, Pike County, MS, married Apr 18 1920, Inez Allen. Claude died Dec 8 1996, McComb, Pike County, MS, buried: Progress Cemetery, Pike County, MS.

Parents

2. Jephtha Josephus Alford born Dec 8 1854, Pike County, MS; married Feb 18 1874, Olevia Luminda Fortenberry. Jephtha died Nov 29 1913, Pike County, MS, buried: Silver Springs Cemetery, Pike County, MS.

3. Olevia Luminda Fortenberry born Dec 22 1856; died Dec 3 1942, buried: Silver Springs Cemetery, Pike County, MS.

Grandparents

4. Ira Payne Alford born Jun 22 1822, Pike County, Mississippi; married (1) Dec 30 1843, Elizabeth Hope, married (2) Sep 19 1872, Mary Hughes. Ira died Sep 15 1901, Washington Parish, Louisiana, buried: Mt. Hermon Cemetery, Washington Parish.

5. Elizabeth Hope born Jan 15 1826; died Dec 25 1871, Washington Parish, LA, buried: Mt. Hermon, Washington Parish, LA.

6. Hollis Horton Fortenberry born Feb 12 1825, Pike County, MS; married Louisa Margany James. Hollis died Oct 24 1867, Pike County, MS, buried: Hollis Fortenberry Cemetery. Said to have contracted yellow fever from a bale of cotton baggage sent to Osyka, MS from New Orleans and died soon after and was buried on hillside 300 yards west of old house by the road side south.

7. Louisa Margany James born Dec 5 1828; died Aug 9 1909, buried: Silver Springs Cemetery, Pike County, MS.

Great-Grandparents

8. Edwin Barksdale Alford born Nov 25 1792, NC, probably Cumberland County, married Dec 20 1818, in Pike County, Mississippi, Martha P. Smith. Edwin died Mar 10 1878, Pike County, Mississippi, buried: Roadside Grave, Pike County, MS.

9. Martha P. Smith born Mar 2 1802, SC; died Aug 8 1861, Mississippi.

10. James Hope born Ireland; married Isabelle Smith.

11. Isabelle Smith born South Carolina.

12. William Jasper Fortenberry born about 1772, perhaps in SC; married Violette Kennington.

13. Violette Kennington.

14. Evan James married Mary Magee.

15. Mary Magee.

Great-Great-Grandparents (Alford line)

16. Jacob Alford born Aug 15 1761, Butte County, NC, occupation Farmer; married (1) about 1785, in NC, Elizabeth Bryant, married (2) about 1792, probably in Cumberland County, NC, Frances Seaborn. Jacob died Jul 16 1824, Washington Parish, LA. Though born in Bute County, NC, Jacob lived in Franklin County after some reorganization of counties and later moved to Cumberland County where he was enumerated in 1790. Before 1795 he moved to Montgomery County, GA where tax and land records show he lived until about 1806. By 1807 he was in

Louisiana where his twin sons were born. Louisiana land records prove that he had settled on land in what was to become Washington Parish by December 1807. He was given headrights on 641.32 acres in what was to become Section 54 with the north boundary on what was to become the state line and the eastern boundary on the Bogue Chitto River. A Jacob Alford also took land in Amite County, MS, May 10, 1812 NE 1/4 Sec. 8, Twp 4 North, Range 6 East. More information is needed on this land, its use, etc. There is little doubt that it was this Jacob who had the land.

17. Frances Seaborn born Sep 29 1766, perhaps in Suffolk County, VA, died after 1860, Washington Parish, LA.

3rd Great-Grandparents (Alford line)

32. Julius Alford born Sep 4 1717, St. Peter's Parish, New Kent County, VA; married Lucy _____. Julius died Nov __ 1771, Butte County, NC.

33. Lucy _____.

4th Great-Grandparents (Alford line)

64. James Alford born about 1687, probably New Kent County, VA; married _____. James died about 1730, New Kent County, VA. Birth and death dates are estimates based on other recorded events in New Kent County, VA in the St. Peter's Parish Register. PLEASE NOTE: It is not proven that he was the son of John Alford but there is strong circumstantial evidence indicating that he is. James was the son of John Alford born possibly 1645, probably VA, married _____. John died Feb 10 1710, New Kent County, VA.

DESCENDANTS

Children of Claude Alford and Inez Allen :

2. i Florence Inez Alford, born Jun 20 1921, Pike County, MS; married (1) Pete A. Peterson, married (2) Hall A. Brumfield.
3. ii Kathleen Mallory Alford, born Aug 18 1923, Pike County, MS; married John D. Easley.
- +4.iii Claude Allen Alford, born Sep 28 1925.
- +5.iv Hollis Howard Alford, born Apr 3 1928.

Second Generation

4. Claude Allen Alford, born Sep 28 1925, Pike County, MS; married Marilyn Jackson, born Apr 26 1934.

Children:

6. i Brad Alan Alford, born May 1 1953, Walthall County, MS; married Cheryl Higgs, born Apr 16 1958.
7. ii Gary Claude Alford, born Aug 10 1955, Pike County, MS.
- 8.iii Susan Inez Alford, born Dec 1 1956, Pike County, MS; married Gary Boyd.
- 9.iv John Ferman Alford, born Dec 25 1959, Pike County, MS.
10. v Ronnie Scott Alford, born Feb 7 1962, Pike County, MS.
- 11.vi Richard Todd Alford, born Feb 7 1962, Pike County, MS.

5. Hollis Howard Alford, born Apr 3 1928, Pike County, MS; married Katie Ruth Smith, born Jan 12 1930.

Children:

12. i Ramona Rose Alford, born Jun 24 1955, Pike County, MS; married Joe Young.
13. ii Rebecca Ruth Alford, born Jul 6 1956, Pike County, MS.
- 14.iii Howard H. Alford, born Nov 25 1958, Pike County, MS.
- 15.iv Lisa Lynn Alford, born Aug 10 1962, Pike County, MS.
16. v Andrew Lee Alford, born Nov 28 1968, Pike County, MS.

Claude Anding Alford 0017
b. Jan 6 1898 & d. Dec 8 1996
Lived in Magnolia, MS
Family EDW792NC/JAM687VA
Attended 2 meeting(s).

Known by his initials C. A.- he was for several years the oldest member of the association. At each meeting he attended he was the senior person present. He was a very enthusiastic supporter of AAFA. He said on several occasions that it was his objective to be the first Alford to have lived in three centuries. He almost made it.

Claude Alford, AAFA's Oldest Member!

The photo at right was taken Saturday morning, 9 October 1993 in St. Francisville, LA, at the annual meeting. Claude A. Alford, AAFA #17, was born 6 January 1898. He is the only living AAFA member born in the previous century. He informed us in St. Francisville that he plans to live until the year 2000 so that he can say he lived in three centuries! Many of us believe he will make it. He brought to the meeting some corn brooms which he had made himself and gave them to members who were interested in having them. Thanks to Hollis Fortinberry and AAFA member Fay Smith for bringing Mr. Claude over from Mississippi, and thanks to Faye Swan for taking the photograph. It would seem appropriate for AAFA to schedule the meeting in 2000 as near Progress, MS, as possible so Mr. Claude won't have to travel so far! Long Live Alford!—Gil Alford



Claude Alford of Progress recently celebrated his 96th birthday with a party hosted by his children at the Progress Baptist Church fellowship hall. Approximately 120 people attended. Twenty-seven family members attended, including his children: Florene, Kathleen, C.A. Alford Jr. and Hollis Alford. Alford lives alone in the 117-year-old home where he was born 96 years ago. His wife of 63 years—Inez Allen—died 11 years ago.—From an unknown newspaper

The following article appeared in the May 1994 issue of an unidentified rural electric company newspaper and was sent by Faye Swan, AAFA #220.

Super Seniors Offer Their Recipes for Health

May is Older Americans Month, a time to honor those who are in their golden years. It's also an ideal time to learn from the examples set by many of our senior citizens.

STILL ACTIVE AT 96

Born January 6, 1898, Mr. Claude A. Alford says that in less than six

Mr. Claude Alford holds one of the broom sedge brooms he makes as a hobby and gives to friends.



years he will be able to say that he has witnessed a part of three centuries.

A resident of the Progress Community in Pike County, Mr. Alford was born in the house in which he still resides. One of a family of 10 children, he began farming with his father in 1918 and married in 1920. He and the late Mrs. Alford were the parents of four children.

Raising cotton, timber and cattle, he branched into contract road and bridge construction for the county. He also operated a general store and served as postmaster.

Mr. Alford's elder brother, the late G.H. Alford, was an agriculturist who advocated telephones, electric lights, paved roads and good schools for rural people long before they became reality. He became the first manager of Magnolia Electric Power Association.

At age 96, Mr. Alford is an active member of Progress Baptist Church. He has been a member of the Masonic Lodge since 1924 and an officer for the past 51 years. He is a charter member of the Alford American Family Association and the oldest living member. He has traveled extensively in 38 states but says he has never been away from home more than six weeks in his life.

Last year Mr. Alford logged 7,400 miles in his auto. He keeps a daily diary and stays busy with such activities as working in his yard and making broomsedge brooms. Tied with a bow and decorated with cotton that he grows, these brooms are found in 21 states.

When asked the secret of his long and active life, Mr. Alford replies: "Moderation in all things and with the help and will of the Supreme Being."

Recalling the days when Highway 51 was awinding gravel road, he says, "Cooperation has made possible things we never had before. Why can't we apply that to everything we do?" ❖

CLAUDE A. ALFORD

Member #17

No source
Includes photo (quality unsuitable for reproduction)

C.A. Alford Celebrates 94

C. A. Alford of Progress honored on his 94th birthday with a party at the home of his daughter, Kathleen Easley of Progress. Attending were his children, Florence Brumfield, Kathleen Easley, C.A. Alford, Jr., Hollis Alford and numerous grandchildren. "Mr. Claude", as he is known in the community, was born in 1898 in the home he now lives in. He says "if I can make it to the year 2000, I will have lived in three different centuries."

Article printed in September 1992 AAFA ACTION

Mr. Claude is 98!

Mr. Claude Anding Alford, Sr., AAFA #017, a founding member and long time avid supporter of AAFA, celebrated his 98th birthday recently. He was born January 6, 1898 in the now 117 year old home in which he still resides. His four children sponsored a birthday party for him in the fellowship hall of the Progress [MS] Baptist Church.

He has four children whom he and his late wife Inez Allen reared, 14 grand children, 25 great grandchildren, and five great-greatgrand children. Over 100 persons attended the celebration.

Mr. Claude has been present at two AAFA annual meetings, and many members have visited him at his home in Mississippi. At the Louisiana meeting he presented several members gifts of corn or straw brooms that he had made by hand. He says his plans call for a birthday in January 2000 so that he can say he is one Alford who lived in three different centuries! *

Printed in Spring 1996 AAFA ACTION

CLAUDE ALFORD

Sent by AAFA Treasurer Julius Alford:

MAGNOLIA GAZETTE

Magnolia, MS-Wed., 14 March 1990

"The Progress Report" By Mrs. Birl Rimes Sr.

Monday the 5th, Mr. Claude Alford [AAFA Member #0 171 made a business trip to Osyka and visited with Mr. and Mrs. Wilford Varnado. Tuesday, Mrs. Claude and grandson, Howard Alford, went to Franklinton on business. Wednesday, Mr. Claude and son, Hollis Alford, attended the Rotary Club meeting in McComb. Thursday, Mr. Claude Alford made 25 new straw brooms and went to Columbia to visit his sister, Mrs. Effie Smith and his nephew, Richard Ball.

On Friday Mr. Harry Cornea of Bogalusa, La., visited with Mr. Claude Alford.

Saturday, Mr. Claude Alford attended the reunion of the 1941 graduating class of Progress High School. A large crowd with some of the teachers and classmates with their families attended....

Saturday evening Mr. Claude visited both rest homes in McComb and that night attended the Masonic Lodge meeting. For a person 92 years young I would say he had a very busy week! Could you keep up with him?