



Richard Allen Alford  
1929 - 1998

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Aug 27 1929 - Oct 23 1998  
AAFA# 0154

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Genealogy is the hobby of Dick's wife, Arlene, so it was through her that we got to know this family. Gil and Arlene have corresponded long and often about Dick's Alford line, but Arlene said that what Dick liked to do after his retirement was to go fishing!

*THE LEDGER*

Lakeland, FL—Sunday, 25 Oct 1998

LAKELAND—Mr. Richard Allen Alford lived in the same north Lakeland home for 45 years where he raised his children by example.

Mr. Alford taught them to be honest and helpful people and he came to be relied on by neighbors to lend a hand whenever it was needed.

He died Friday (Oct. 23, 1998) while sleeping in that same home surrounded by memories. He was 69.

"He believed in always being honest," said his wife of 48 years, Arlene Alford. "He was a wonderful husband and a super father. He taught our children to live an honest life and he was a good neighbor to everybody."

Born in Monroe, La., on Aug. 27, 1929, he moved to Lakeland as an infant. He attended local schools and graduated from Kathleen High School in 1947.

After graduating he enlisted in the Navy, where he served aboard the USS Stockham. He served for five years, including two in Yokosuka, Japan, as a storekeeper first class.

After returning home he worked briefly for Florida-Georgia Tractor Co. before joining H.F. Mason as a stenographer. He remained there for 25 years, working his way up to office manager and then vice-president.

Mr. Alford started a second career as manager of sales at Conibear RV Center in 1979. He worked there for 13 years before retiring to enjoy having the time to do whatever he wanted.

His wife said that he really enjoyed taking it easy after retirement, with his only commitment being weekly dinners with his family, including the grandchildren who he enjoyed spending time with.

"He'd get out there and play with those kids when he was feeling good," she said. "He enjoyed throwing a ball around and was always fixing up little bikes and things for them to have at the house."

Mr. Alford attended Bethel Baptist Church.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by his son, Rick Alford, Lakeland; daughters, Linda C. Dedman, Lakeland, Shari A. Bruno, Auburndale; five grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

[Added by Arlene Alford: He was preceded in death by his father, William Hinton Alford Sr., and his mother, Ida Mae Alford. He is also survived by his brother, William Hinton Alford Jr.]

Visitation will be from 6 to 8 p.m. Monday at Lanier Funeral Home, 717 Griffin Road, Lakeland. Services will be at 11 a.m. Tuesday at Bethel Baptist Church.

## ALFORD ANCESTORS

1. **Richard Allen Alford, Sr.** born Aug 27 1929, Ouachita Parish, LA, married Jun 16 1950, in Miller County, GA, **Dorothy Arlene Costine**, born Dec 11 1930, Polk County, FL. Served U. S. Navy April 13, 1948–March 27, 1953, Naval Fleet Activities, Yokosuka, Japan; USS Stockham (DD683).

### Parents

2. **William Hinton Alford** born Nov 22 1906, Emanuel County, GA<sup>1</sup>, married Nov 30 1927, **Ida Mae Lewis**, born Feb 16 1913, Cook County, GA, died Nov 14 1992, buried: Oak Hill Burial Park, Polk County, FL. William died Mar 9 1991, buried: Oak Hill Burial Park, Polk County.

### Grandparents

4. **William Peter Alford** born Jun 18 1881, Putnam County, GA, married 1900, in Emanuel County, GA, **Nettie Forehand**, born Jul 2 1882, Emanuel County, GA, died Oct 18 1950, Polk County, FL, buried: Memorial Gardens, Auburndale, Polk Co., FL. William died Dec 11 1964, Polk County, FL, buried: Memorial Gardens, Auburndale.

### Great-Grandparents

8. **Green Colquitt Alford** born Feb 18 1853, GA, married Dec 5 1877, **Camilla Lunsford**, born 1861, Wilkes County, GA, died Jun 14 1938, Clinchfield, Bibb County, GA<sup>2</sup>. Green died Sep 8 1933, Polk County, FL.

### Great-Great-Grandparents

16. **William Alford** born Apr \_\_

1825, Morgan County, GA, married Jan 25 1849, in Morgan County, GA<sup>3</sup>, **Susan Bryant**, born about 1826, Warren County, GA, died Oct 12 1906, Laurens County, GA, buried: Bethsadia, near Dublin, Laurens Co. William died Feb 5 1909, Emanuel County, GA, buried: Bethsadia, near Dublin, Laurens Co.

### 3rd Great-Great-Grandparents

32. **William Alford** born about 1794, NC, ref: WIL794NC, occupation Farmer, married (1) Nov 7 1812, in Franklin County, NC, **Mason Gay**, married (2) Jan 3 1830, in Putnam County, GA, **Jane Kinnon**, married (3) Mar 4 1842, in Putnam County, GA, **Rebecca**



*Richard Allen Alford*

V. Thornton. William died in 1882, Putnam or Morgan County, GA<sup>4</sup>.

### Will of William Alford, 1874

*The following is from a transcript prepared by the late Guy Alford, a descendant.*

Georgia, Morgan County:

In the name of God, Amen. I, William Alford of the County of Putnam and said state, being of sound mind & disposing memory and wishing to dispose of my property while in life, to take effect after my death, do make this my last will and testament, hereby revoking all wills by me at any time heretofore made.

Item 1st. My will is, that all my legal and just debts be paid by my executors hereinafter named, so soon after my death as the same can be done without injury to my estate.

Item 2nd. My will is, that my entire property both real and personal of any description be by my executors named, sold at public outcry as the law provides and my estate be converted into cash.

Item 3rd. My will is, that from the proceeds of my estate my executors pay over to my stepdaughter Mary Ann Thornton, the sum of fifty dollars which is to be in full of her entire interest, she being relieved from payment of board and all other claims in favor of my estate.

Item 4th. My will is, that my executors pay from my estate four hundred & seventy five dollars to my daughter Roena Hooks, wife of John Hooks, which is to be in full for her entire interest in my estate - she being relieved from all claims against her in favor of my estate.

Item 5th. My will is, that my executors pay over from my estate four hundred and seventy five dollars to Thomas Robins as trustee (sic) for the sole & separate use of my daughter Caroline Smith, wife of Francis P. Smith and her children, said Robins not to be

required to give bond on account to said trust, which sum is to be in full of the entire interest of said Caroline in my estate, she to be relieved from all liability in favor of my estate.

Item 6th. My will is, that the remainder of my entire estate, after paying the foregoing legacies, be equally divided between my three sons, John Alford, Green B. Alford & William Alford, share and share alike.

Item 7th. My will is, that in the event of the death of any of my children herein named prior to my death, the children of such deceased child, are to stand in the place of and receive that portion of my estate that the parent would have received under this will, in life.

Item 8th. I hereby constitute and appoint my three sons John Alford, Green B. Alford and William Alford executors of this my last will and testament, all of whom are to be relieved from any liability against them in favor of my estate,

This July 14th 1874. Signed by William Alford and witnessed by C.H. Andrews, P.S. Burney and Jos M. High.

Notice that there was no Thomas listed in the will suggesting that the Thomas "Clausburg" enumerated with William in 1850 was not a son, or else he died before the will was written.

We have a lot of "facts" about William Alford but none of them prove a connection here. There is a bit of conflicting data so we will lay out what we have here and hope someone can help unravel things.

There was another William Alford and son William Alford in and around Hancock County, GA and they must

not be confused with these. That was another well identified and documented family. Another was the son of James of Greene and Hancock Counties who later appeared in Troup County. He was known by several names such as Wiley, Willie, etc. He was about the same age as our subject.

The senior Kinchen Alford's will in NC and the letter written by his son Kinchen in Georgia proves that Kinchen had a son named William who went to Georgia. Indications are he was in the Morgan-Putnam counties area.

There is supposed to be a family Bible which the compiler has never seen which states that William was born 1789 in Wake County, NC. The date would fit without any problem but Kinchen was in Franklin County, NC. However, the proximity of Alford's along the boundary between Wake and Franklin Counties was such that one cannot use one county or the other as an argument against a connection. The Bible supposedly goes on to say that William married Mary Mason. So far we have seen nothing else to support the marriage or person.

A published list of Franklin County, NC marriages shows that Williams Alford married Mason Gay Nov 7 1812 with Bannister Pipen bondsman and G. Hill, Jr. as witness. So far we have not found a William/Williams Alford in this area in 1820-30.

William Allford appears in the 1820 census of Putnam County, Georgia. He and his wife were born between 1775 and 1794. They had two daughters and a son all under age ten.

In 1830 there was no William Alford in Putnam County but in adjoining Morgan County there was such a family. He and his wife were born between 1790 and 1800. There was a son and daughter under 5, 2 sons and a daughter age 5-10 and 3 sons and a

daughter ages 10-15.

That may have been a new wife in 1830 because there is a reported marriage in Putnam County between William Alford and Jane Kinnon, Jan 3 1830.

The 1840 census of Morgan County shows William without a wife. The only female was under age 5. William was born between 1780 and 1790. He also had 2 sons under age 5 and 1 son age 5-10.

There was another William Alford marriage in Putnam County. March 4, 1842 William married a Rebecca Vining Thornton. He must have needed someone to take care of those babies.

A study of the census data from 1820-1840 suggests that William had about nine sons and five daughters. Is the difference between those and the ones listed in the will to be accounted for by early deaths? CAN WE OBTAIN TAX RECORDS FOR SOME OF THIS PERIOD TO REINFORCE THIS DATA?

In 1850 William is in Putnam County age 58, born (about 1792) in NC and the senior female in the household is "Mary Ann" and the AAFA extraction shows age 53. It is thought that this is Mary Ann Thornton, the stepdaughter mentioned in the will. It is assumed that Rebecca Thornton was deceased by 1850.

In 1860 William Alford, born in NC and age 66 (= born about 1794) is enumerated in Putnam County. Living with him is his son Green Alford and a female, supposedly Green's wife M.A. [Martha Ann Arnett], and William's son Henry age 22.

In 1870 William is in Putnam County age 77, born (1793) in GA. With him was son Green Alford and apparently his step daughter, Maria Thornton age

35. AAFA does not have any 1880 GA census except the soundex.

The family Bible says that William died in 1882.

Notice that the will showed in the very beginning to be in Morgan County, but William stated he was of Putnam County—further evidence that we should be careful about putting too much emphasis on one county or the other.

Note that his will's mention of stepdaughter Mary Ann Thornton pretty well proves the marriage to Rebecca V. Thornton.

Guy Alford commented: "On the day I copied this will, I did not have time to study the probate proceedings or jot down more data. In glancing at other parts of the record, however, I observed that the nominated executors, the three sons of the testator, declined to qualify. That a man named Marshall was named, by the court and by agreement of the parties, apparently, to administer the estate."

#### 4th Great-Great-Grandparents

64. Kinchen Alford (Lodwick<sup>3</sup>, James<sup>2</sup>, John<sup>1</sup>) born 1768, Bute County, NC<sup>5</sup>, married May 16 1789, in Franklin County, NC, Linnea Williams. (There is some question about her name—it appears as Linny, Sinny, etc., probably due to handwriting interpretations.) Kinchen died after 1854, Franklin Co.<sup>6</sup> [Information on Lodwick<sup>3</sup>, James<sup>2</sup>, and John<sup>1</sup> appears in this issue, "New Member Lineages" for #1029.]

#### Will of Kinchen Alford, 1848

*The following is a transcription taken from LDS Library microfilm 0018914, Franklin Co., NC 1848-1859 Book O, p. 153. [Upper case letters added for emphasis.]*

In the name of God Amen. I Kinchen Alford, of the county of Franklin and State of North Carolina, being of sound mind and memory, do make and constitute this my last will and testament. 1. That my executor or administrator out of the proceeds of my estate pay my burial expenses as well as all of my just debts. 2. That my wife Sinny Alford should she survive me have the use during her natural life of our residue of my estate. 3. I bequeath to WILLIAM ALFORD \$232 to bear interest from the 31st Jan 1848. 4. To SIPPY ALFORD the sum of \$232 to bear interest from 31st Jan 1848. 5. To KINCHEN ALFORD the sum of \$232 to bear interest from 31st Jan 1848. 6. To ELIZABETH WILLIAMS, wife of M.D. Williams, the sum of \$232 and ? from the 31st Jan 1848. I loan during her natural life and at her decease I give the same to her children then living. 7. To after the decease of my wife LINNEY [or SINNEY] ALFORD that my estate left her as foresaid be sold and this amount stated before be paid out of the same and that the residue be equally divided between my lawful heirs with the exception of Burgess Mullins and his heirs. 8. I appoint Bryant Young and SIMON ALFORD my executors to hereby make all and all former wills by me made Executor under my hand. 15th day of Nov 1848  
Kinchen Alford

#### Codicil to Will, 1851

Whereas, I KINCHEN ALFORD, having made my last will of testament, in writing bearing date the 15th day of Nov 1848 I have hereby made sundry \_\_\_\_\_ bequest according to the then existing circumstance of my estate, but which circumstances having now changed. I do by this my writing, which I hereby

declare to be a codicil to my said will to be taken and \_\_\_\_\_. I direct that the sum of \$220.72 only be paid to each of my sons and daughter (that is to say) William, Sippy, Kinchen, and Elizabeth in full, instead of the sum of \$232 as directed in said part of my will. But that they shall have the interest on this sum of \$232 up to the present date and afterward in this part of my last will and testament of \$220.72 up to the final settlement of the whole to be disposed of by my executors as directed in said part of my will and testament of which this codicil is a part executed in my hands and made this 5th day of Feb 1851.

Kinchen Alford

#### Gift of Deed, 1854

*The following is a transcription of a photocopy of the document described.*

This Indenture made this Twenty Third of November in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty four between KINCHEN ALFORD of the County of Franklin and State of North Carolina of the one part and SIMON ALFORD his son of the County and State aforesaid of the other part Witnesseth that I the said KINCHEN ALFORD for divers good causes \_\_\_\_\_ moving me, but more Especially for the natural Love and tender affection that I have to my son SIMON, I the said KINCHEN ALFORD doth hereby give grant Convey and Confirm unto him the said SIMON ALFORD to him and his heirs and assigned forever one certain tract or parcel of Land Lying in the County and State aforesaid and on the beaver dam branch and bounded as follows beginning at a poplar which is Jones and Thorps Corner & running North to Thorps corner &

then running East Thorps Line and then south to Bunns Line containing one hundred acres be the same more or less.

The same to contain be the same more or less together with all the improvements thereunto belonging to enjoy free and clear forever and I the said KINCHEN ALFORD doth hereby warrant and forever defend a good Lawfull Right Title and Interest unto the said land and premisis before mentioned unto him the said SIMON ALFORD to him his heirs and assigns forever against any person or persons whatever holding or claiming any Rights Title or Interest unto the above mentioned land and premises. signed sealed and delivered in the presence of us.

W.S. Cheves His Mark  
KINCHEN ALFORD his mark  
Duncan Bunn

State of North Carolina Franklin County I Young Patterson Clerk of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions for the County aforesaid certify that the execution of the foregoing Deed of Gift is proven before me at my office by the oath of William S. Cheves a subscribing witness thereto, therefore let it be Registered this 7th day of October AD 1856.

Y. Patterson CCC The foregoing Deed is truly registered this 7th day of October AD 1856. Attest. P  
Yound PR.

#### FOOTNOTES

1. His death certificate shows born Statesboro, Chandler County.
2. According to her son Olin's handwritten note.
3. Guy Alford material says married in Warren County, GA.
4. WHERE WAS HE BURIED?  
WHAT INSCRIPTIONS ARE ON HIS TOMBSTONE? WHO ARE THE OTHERS BURIED IN THE

#### CEMETERY AND WHAT DO THEIR STONES SAY?

5. He was identified as a child of Lodwick in Lodwick's 1792 will. His age is based on the 1850 Franklin County, NC census.
6. Copies of his will are available but the date of death is not known.

11/21/98

Dear Gil,

Thanks for your letter. No, Dick had never experienced any problems at all with his heart. He was very active and helped with my cemetery work at Bethel Baptist Church. I sell lots, mark off grave sites and he always helped me measure a lot off when someone passed away. So, we were quite busy at times. He had a tooth pulled two days before he died, so other than that he had been doing ok. The EMS from our Fire Dept. came really quick and they did a EKG and told me not to feel bad because I was taking a shower, because there was nothing I could have done for him.

You asked what he did after retiring in '92. Mostly he went fishing with Franklin Palmer a dear friend over at Lake Walter near Auburndale, Fl where our youngest daughter lives. He loved to fish & hunt.

He was a hunting guide for trips to the Green Swamp when he worked for H.F. Mason Equip Co. He took customers on weekend trips to a big camp. They killed Turkey, deer & Hogs. On his last trip hunting

to Enfaula, Al. a customer and dear friend Art Beard had a heart attack and died and Dick never went hunting after that experience.

I'm sending a check for \$100.00 TO AAFA in memory of Richard a. (Dick) Alford

Sincerely,  
Arlene



Please add to obituarie

He is preceded in death by his  
father + mother: William Hinton Sr. + Ida  
mae Alford and he is survived by  
his brother William Hinton Alford, Jr. -