



Vesta Alford Giddings  
1905 - 1999

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Apr 2 1905-Jun 4 1999  
AAFA #0233

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**1905-1999**  
**AAFA #233**  
**JOH807LA/JAM687VA**

Vesta Alford Giddings passed away peacefully at the home of her daughter Mattie Lou Fry, AAFA #454. This great lady was an inspiration to all who knew her. Though she was AAFA's oldest member-94 on her last birthday-she never missed an annual meeting after she discovered AAFA. She attended every meeting from Houston in 1989 through Paducah in 1998. She was a personal inspiration to me. I had the pleasure to meet her personally before I ever heard of most of the AAFA members. Her daughter Vesta Bowden was working here in the St. Louis area back in the early 1980s when Vesta came to visit her. She'd heard about my "Alford interest" and called and wanted to know if she and her daughter could call on us. We thoroughly enjoyed our visit and learned to love her immediately. I think she seeded the love that so many of us talk about that permeates the annual meetings. She became a

shining light for me when she visited here, and that light will never dim.

-Gil Alford, AAFA President

#### OBITUARY

##### HOUSTON CHRONICLE

Houston, TX-Sunday, 6 June 1999

In loving memory of our mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, Vesta A. Giddings, born in Amite, LA, on April 2, 1905, she passed away Friday, June 4, 1999. She was preceded in death by her husband, Capt. Harold D. Giddings, USNMC (Ret.) She is survived by her daughters, Vesta G. Bowden [AAFA #537], Mattie Lou Fry [AAFA #454] and her husband, H.M.; grandchildren, Mary Vesta Mellard and her husband Randy, Bert Bowden and his wife Connie, Mark Fry, Matt Fry and his wife Rhonda, Cherie Bowden, Tracy Adair and her husband Jeff, Elizabeth Fry; 16 great-grandchildren; numerous other relatives and friends. Family will

receive friends from 6:00-8:00 p.m. Monday, Earthman Bellaire Chapel, Funeral Services: 1:00 p.m. Tuesday, June 8, 1999, Bellaire United Methodist Church Chapel, 4417 Bellaire at Newcastle.... Interment: Houston National Cemetery.

#### ALFORD ANCESTORS

1. Edna Vesta Alford born Apr 2 1905, Amite, Tangipahoa Parish, LA, married Oct 2 1929, Harold Dewitt Giddings, born May 1 1899, Brenham, Washington Co., TX. Vesta died Jun 4 1999, Houston, TX, buried: Houston National Cemetery. Vesta was a nurse and in WAC (Womens Auxilliary Corps) Recruiting at Norfolk VA in World War II. Vesta attended every annual meeting/reunion from 1989 in Houston, TX, when she first heard of the AAFA, through 1998 in Paducah, KY.

#### Parents

2. Murray Luther Alford born Jul 8 1873, Tangipahoa Parish, LA, married (1) [3] Ruffini "Finni" P. Spring, born

1880, died Nov 7 1910. After the death of their mother and the second marriage of their father, Finni's three daughters went to live elsewhere.

Murray also married (2) Annie Singer, born 1887, died 1944. Murray died 1944, buried: Amite Cemetery, Tangipahoa Parish, LA.

#### Grandparents

4. Marshall Thomas Alford (John807LA5, Jacob761NC4, Julius717VA3, James687VA2, John645VA1) born Sep 29 1839, Washington Parish, LA, married Nov 20 1867, Charity Ann Self, born Sep 19 1844, died Nov 20 1922, Oakdale, Allen Parish, LA. Marshall died May 24 1904, Tangipahoa Parish, LA. They are both buried: Beulah Baptist Church Cemetery, Tangipahoa Parish, LA.

Marshall was a private and corporal in companies A and K 3rd (Wingfield's) LA Cavalry. He entered service at Camp Moore, LA May 13th 1862. He was elected Corporal January 6 1863.

For information on John Seaborn5 through Julius3, see AAFA ACTION Spring 1999, pp. 21-22; and that same issue, pp. 16-17, for James2 and John1. v