



Katherine Alford Echols  
1909-2001

*Katherine Alford Echols*  
*Jun 03 1909 - Jun 14 2001*  
*AAFA# 0364*

THE NEWS AND OBSERVER  
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June 2001

MACCLESFIELD — Katherine  
Alford Echols, 92, died Thurs-  
day.

Funeral service Sunday 3:00  
p.m. at the Macclesfield Presby-  
terian Church with Rev. Charles  
Coats officiating. Burial in  
Macclesfield Cemetery.

Mrs. Echols taught school for  
over 35 years and served as a  
Elder in Macclesfield Presbyte-  
rian Church and was the pianist  
for many years. She was pre-  
ceded in death by her parents,  
Lawrence and Linda Winstead  
Alford, and husband, Rev.  
Joseph Todd Echols, Sr. Mrs.  
Echols attended the Flora-  
McDonald School in Red  
Springs, NC.

Surviving: daughters, Linda  
Echols Perry of Williamsport,  
MD, Mary Echols Clark of  
Littleton, NC, Ruth Echols  
McNinch of Carrollton, GA;

sons, Joe T. Echols Jr. of  
Richfield, NC, Charles L. Echols  
of St. Cloud, MN, John A.  
Echols of Rocky Mount; 15  
grandchildren; 15 great-grand-  
children.

In lieu of flowers, memorials  
may be made to Macclesfield  
Presbyterian Church,  
Macclesfield, NC.

Family will receive friends at  
Macclesfield Presbyterian  
Church, Saturday 7-9 p.m.

Arrangements by Carlisle Fu-  
neral Home, Tarboro, NC.

By Gil Alford, AAFA President

If you don't recognize the young lady in the photograph it is understandable, but if you've been to some of the AAFA meetings, you've probably met her. Katherine and some of her family were present in the Jackson, MS as well as the Destin, FL meeting. To learn more about this branch of the family see the following articles in *AAFA ACTION*:

"Descendants of Henry H. Alford 1826-1887," Sept 1991. P. 15;  
"Lawrence O'Bryan Alford," March 1992, p. 31; and the obituary for Charles Winstead Alford, June 1992, p. 32.

Katherine Bailey Alford and her twin brother, Wilbur Hollis Alford, were born March 6, 1909 in Kenly, Johnson County, North Carolina. They were the children of Lawrence O'Bryan Alford and Linda May Winstead.

Lawrence O'Bryan Alford was born January 2, 1868 in Johnson County, NC. He married Mrs. Linda Winstead Walston in February 1908.

In addition to Katherine and Wilbur, they also had Charles Winstead Alford, who was born December 20, 1911 and died October 14, 1991 in Mecklenburg County, NC. At the time of this writing (1994) Wilbur was still living and resided with his twin sister Katherine in Macclesfield, NC.

Wilbur Hollis married Ludie Lee and they had two children: Jerry Wilbur Alford born 1936 in Kenly, NC and Anne Stella Alford born in Lumberton in 1939.

Charles Winstead married Hilda Evans and they had three children: Charles Alford born 1940, John Lawrence Alford born 1944 and Helen Anne Alford born 1949---all in Charlotte, NC.

Katherine Alford Echols is AAFA #364, her son John Alford Echols is AAFA #365, and daughter Ruth Echols McNinch is AAFA #368. Helen Anne Alford is AAFA #599.

*The following was taken from an article about Linda May Winstead Alford published May 10, 1959 by the Sunday Telegram of Rocky Mount, NC.*

A charming little lady, 90 years old, came to Littleton on a visit recently, and not only did she enjoy her visit to the fullest, but so did everyone else with whom she came in contact.

She is Mrs. Linda Alford, of Kenly, and the daughter she visited here is Mrs. J.T. Echols [Katherine Alford Echols, AAFA #364], wife of a former Presbyterian minister, and the third grade teacher in the Littleton School.

Mrs. Alford, the mother of seven children, including two sets of twins, was born in Wilson County, about two miles from the city of Wilson, January 17, 1869. She is the former Linda Mae Winstead and was raised around Elm City.

Mrs. Alford's children live around in the eastern part of the state, and Mrs. Alford recalls the times after her first husband died when she not only was left to raise her children alone but also had to provide support for them.



*The Lawrence O'Bryan Alford Family  
Twins Wilbur and Katherine, Linda  
Winstead Alford, Charles (in lap) and  
Lawrence Alford. Taken in Wilson, NC, about  
1912/13*

In May 1888, she was married to Robert Edmond Walston, and for five years they lived in Waycross, Ga.

She had four little children----"my twins were not quite 15 months old, and my oldest child just five years when Mr. Walston died," she says.

Two of her little daughters were placed in a Baptist orphanage "through the kindness and help of my minister and several of our friends" but things didn't stay that way long, for Mrs. Alford moved to Kenly and began running a boarding house in 1907---and "I soon got us all together again," she says.

She rented a "whooping big house," and soon had 35 boarders.

In 1908, she married again, this time to Lawrence O'Bryan Alford of Kenly. She was introduced to him by her son, George, who had known Mr. Alford for sometime, and "thought he was the finest man!"

"Our meeting was right unusual," she says. "I was a Baptist, he was a Presbyterian, and we met in the Methodist Church." Later, she changed to the Presbyterian faith herself and that is the way the family grew up.

In recalling her days of boarding house management, she glibly quotes prices that would floor those who have to buy the groceries now.

"The choicest cuts of beef were 11 cents a pound, eggs 12 cents per dozen. I used to buy 25 dozen at the time."

Mrs. Alford says that she and the children did all the work for this crowd, too.

"Sometimes I had hired help, but most of the time we did it ourselves. Lots of nights we'd be scrubbing the dining room floor or dressing chickens at one o'clock in the morning."

"I made up 24 pounds of flour a day into biscuits---did that the day my second set of twins were born, too."

"Why, one man boarder we had ate 15 biscuits a meal---and he was just as skinny as he could be, too, so evidently biscuits aren't as fattening as I thought they were. I always told him to eat all he wanted," she smiled, "and he did, too."

When the children were small they had a cow for them most of the time.

"I always did every bit of the sewing for both sets of my children," Mrs. Alford recalls. "and the Walston children wore long stockings. I knitted every single pair of them as long as they wore them, and many a night I've been up sewing at midnight for all of them."

Mrs. Alford had many rich experiences with her children growing up, and of her two sets of twins she says, "Some people say that two are not any more trouble than one---I'm here to tell you they're just DOUBLE TROUBLE, but they are mighty sweet."

Two of Mrs. Alford's daughters have twins in their families. Mrs. Mattie Webb in Macclesfield has twin daughters, and Mrs. Echols has a boy and a girl set in her family.

"We've got twins in our families on both sides," she chuckles, "and no skipping generations, either!"

"There are twin girls on my father's side and twin boys on my mother's side."

Mrs. Alford's family include Levy Walston, who is cashier of the bank at Farmville; Miss Sue Edna Walston of the home; Mrs. Martha Webb of Macclesfield; and George Walston, who is with a Building and Loan Company in Greensboro. George and Mattie are the twins in this set. The Alford children include: Wilbur Hollis Alford, who is with a tire and rubber company in Richmond, VA; Charles Alford, who works with a finance company in Charlotte; and Mrs. Katherine Bailey Echols of Littleton. Wilbur and Katherine are the twins in the Alford family.

Mrs. Alford has 18 grandchildren and 20 great grandchildren, "and don't forget there are two sets of twins in the grandchildren," she says.

**Katherine married Joseph Todd Echols. The following was taken from an article published December 7, 1964 in the *Appomattox Presbyterian*.**

### **Echols is Called to Three-Church Field**

The Rev. Joseph Todd Echols will be the new pastor of Providence, Hermon, and Memorial Churches around the first of the year.

Echols, a native of Covington, Georgia, was educated at Erskine College, the University of North Carolina, and Union Seminary in Richmond. He has held pastorates in North Carolina, West Virginia, Alabama, Mississippi, and for the past several years has been at Nettleton, Mississippi.

Mrs. Echols, the former Katherine Alford, is a native of Kenly, N.C. and graduated from Flora MacDonald College.

The Echols have six children: Joseph Todd Jr., Ph.D., a research fellow at Louisiana State University; Linda, P.S.C.E. graduate who formerly worked with Dr. W.B. Sullivan in Richmond and is now married to the Rev. Thomas Perry of Baltimore; Charles, now working on his doctorate in pipe organ at University of Southern California; Mary, now Mrs. Thomas Clark, Littleton, N.C.; John, a student at the University of Mississippi; and Ruth a student at Belhaven College.

They have three grandchildren.

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