

Walter Thomas Alford

Sep 18 1911 - Dec 28 2001

AAFA #0683

WALTER THOMAS ALFORD

AAFA #0683

1911-2001

THE STATE

Columbia, Richland Co., SC
Thursday, 3 January 2002

HARTSVILLE [Darlington Co.]—Services for Rev. Walter Thomas Alford, Sr., 90, will be held at 1 p.m. Friday at First Baptist Church with burial in Greenlawn Cemetery. Visitation is from 6:30-8:30 tonight at the chapel of Young & Young Funeral Home.

Rev. Alford died December 28, 2001.

Surviving are wife, Lillie Alford; daughters, Jessie Stuckey, Mary Yarborough, Gradye Stephen, Beverly and Linda Alford; sons, Norman, William and Reginald Alford; sisters, Ellen Pickett, Alberta Mack, Minnie George, and Rosa Hines, and brother Dock Blyther.

In another article, source unknown:

Services for the Rev. Walter Alford will be held today, Friday, Jan. 4, at 1 p.m. at First Baptist Church in Hartsville. Rev. Alford died Friday, Dec. 28, 2001.

He pastored the Bennettsville Church of God.

In the tradition of a devoted life in the service of the Lord, Pastor Walter Thomas Alford Sr. made his annual trip, for the last time, to the Church of God Campgrounds in Augusta, Ga., on Dec. 28, 2001. At approximately 11:30 a.m. he was called to his final duty standing in the vestibule of the Augusta Church of God to minister to a lost soul that expressed a great desire to be set free from the burden of sin and experience the joy of salvation. In his humble obedient way, this spiritual giant labored to win the soul of a young woman for the Lord and as he prayed the Lord looked upon His faithful servant and ushered him into His presence. For, "to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord." When the death angel came at 11:40 a.m., Pastor Alford was walking with the Lord.

On Sept. 18, 1911, Walter Thomas Alford was born to Jesse Thomas and

Susanna Mack Alford. He was the second of seven children born to this union. His immediate family affectionately called him "Bubba." He distinguished himself among his siblings early in life, as being different. By age 15, this different quality was manifested through his conversion to Christ. He started his Christian walk with absolute resolve to serve the Lord with a faithful heart. He became an avid reader of God's Word and read the Bible in its entirety right from the start as a youth. He began his service in the Vineyard of the Lord in the Methodist church as a Sunday school teacher, choir member and church secretary at the Sandy Grove Methodist Church for two years. Then he moved his membership to Emanuel AME Church where he served in the same positions for the next two years. His study of God's Word lead him to the Church of God Reformation Movement, headquarters in

Anderson, Indiana in 1931. Thereafter, he proclaimed that this change led him to fully embrace God's Word, which reads, "Be ye holy, for I AM Holy, and Without Holiness no man shall see the Lord." This marked the beginning of a great servant of the Lord . . . called to be a Saint. He continued to show forth a remarkable understanding of God's Word, always lending his spiritual ears to the voice of the Lord. He truly accepted the fact that it was the Holy Spirit who leads and directs God's children in to all truth and reveals the deep understanding of His word. Walter's ability to discern and teach God's Word even as a youth amazed those who came to know him.

While still a teen-ager, Walter began to pray to the Lord for his helpmate. He often shared the story of how he put several fleeces before God to get confirmation on who would become his bride. Eventually, by age 21, he was satisfied that he had received his answer from the Lord and on Sept. 3, 1932, he married the former Lillie Bell Franklin and God blessed

this union with 10 children . . . five girls and five boys.

As a young family man he resided in Lamar, and situated himself with the Lamar Church of God serving in the capacity of Sunday school superintendent, youth leader, teacher and janitor. After a period of time, he moved his family to Timmonsville and joined with other pioneers of the faith to build the Timmonsville Church of God edifice.

Surviving are his beloved wife of 69 years, Mrs. Lillie B. Alford; five daughters, Jessie A. Stuckey of Washington, D.C., Mary A. Yarborough of Aiken, Gradye A. Stephen of Paterson, N.J., Beverly Alford of District Heights, Md., and Linda Rene Alford of Florence; three sons, Norman L. Alford of Freeport, Bahamas, William Alford of Darlington, and Reginald Alford of Hartsville; two sons-in-laws, Maxi Stuckey Sr. of Washington, D.C., and Allen Stephen of Paterson, N.J.; one daughter-in-law, Carolyn Alford; four sisters, Ellen Pickett of Norfolk, Va., Alberta Mack of Timmonsville, and Rosa Lee

Hines and Minnie Lee George, both of Hartsville; one brother, Dock Blythers of Lamar; one aunt, Louise "Sweeter" Ashwood of Bennettsville; 18 grandchildren; 19 great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild; two sisters-in-law, Johnnie Lee Alford of Wilmington, N.C., and Lillian Alford of Marion; one brother-in-law, Joseph Scott of Baltimore, Md.; a host of nieces, nephews, and other relatives and friends.

AAFA NOTES:

SSDI records confirm the birth and death dates for Walter T. Alford (SS #247-28-9758 issued in SC). Rev. Alford, responding to a 1994 AAFA survey, reported that his father, Jesse Thomas Alford, was born 1882 in Lee Co., SC and that his grandfather was George Alford. His wife was Lillie Belle Franklin, born Sep 21 1916. The family was enumerated in 1920 Darlington Co., SC when Jesse's wife was listed as Susanna [Mack] and Walter's siblings as: Creola 13, Jessie Leroy 9, Ellen 6, Mary Ann 5, Henry 3 and Bessie 2.

1737
WALTER AND LILLIE ALFORD
320 JAMES AVE
HARTSVILLE, SC 29550



WTR



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0683



FLORENCE SC 29501 08/15/94 17:02

The AAFA
Is a non-profit corporation
and has no paid or salaried
employees or workers.

ALFORD AMERICAN FAMILY ASSOCIATION
Post Office Box 1586
Florissant, MO 63031-1586



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WTR

AAFA 1994 SURVEY

Please complete the following then stamp (19¢) the card and mail it.

1. How many years have you lived in the state and county in which you reside? 82 years
2. What state and county before that and how long? D, S.C.
3. In what state and county were you born? Darlington, S.C.
4. In what state and county was your father (Alford) born? Lee, S.C.
5. In what year was your father born (estimate is ok) 1882
6. What was your father's first and middle name? Jesse Thomas 114
7. What was your grandfather's first and middle name? George 112

I would like to have more information on:
 My Alford ancestors The Alford Association The Richmond Meeting
 (If needed make corrections to your name and address on the other side)

REV. WALTER ALFORD

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APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

WTR 683

Your name Walter Thomas Alford Date of birth 9th 18th 1911
 Family members to be included in membership:
 Spouse Lillie Bell, Franklin Alford Date of birth 9th 24th, 1916
 Child under 21 0 Date of birth _____
 Child under 21 0 Date of birth _____
 Child under 21 0 Date of birth _____
 Mailing address: 320 James Avenue Membership sponsor: Meet 1994
 City, state, zip: Hartselle S.C. 29550 Phone (803) 332-7628

Tear off and mail with registration fee and first year dues to: AAFA Treasurer, 1451 Circle Drive, Telford, PA 18969

Sent Card 9/1

Sent Max label CIS 9/1

Post Office Box 1586, Florissant, MO 63031-1586

ANCESTOR SUMMARY

ANCESTOR 1
 Relationship to you Grand Parents
 Name George & Ellen Alford
 Birth date I do not know
 Birth place X
 Death date X
 Death place Lee County
 SPOUSE of 1 Beahrspratt ss
 Maiden Name _____

ANCESTOR 2
 Name Jessie T. b. Susannah Alford
 Birth date 1887
 Birth place Lee County
 Death date Darlington County
 Death place May - 1944
 SPOUSE of 2 _____
 Maiden Name _____

ANCESTOR 3
 Name _____
 Birth date _____
 Birth place _____
 Death date _____
 Death place _____
 SPOUSE of 3 _____
 Maiden Name _____

ANCESTOR 4
 Name _____
 Birth date _____
 Birth place _____
 Death date _____
 Death place _____
 SPOUSE of 4 _____
 Maiden Name _____