

803 Roxboro Road
Rockville, Maryland 20850
9 October 1984

Gilbert K. Alford, Jr.
1403 Kingsford Drive
Florissant, MO 63031

Dear Gil:

Your nice letter arrived today, although late as the mailman seems to be delayed more each day, and I am always so impatient to receive my mail especially after a holiday.

Thanks so much for the kind words about both me and Mother. She is doing well thank goodness, and you will realize just how well she is when I tell you that I am flying down to Sabine Parish, LA on Saturday to attend the annual Homecoming of the Bayou Scie United Methodist Church on Sunday (always the 2nd Sunday in Oct.)

Mother and my daughter, Dolly, flew down for this event last year, and my husband, Bob and I drove. However, he did not feel like making the trip this year, and though Dolly would gladly have gone with me and helped to drive, SHE wanted to drive it in 2 days (it is 1265 miles from here! Bob hit the ceiling and bounced off and said "NO WAY!" Your mother can't stand that kind of trip, so he talked me into flying and getting a rental car, which I am doing. The one good argument is if something should happen that I had to return quickly on Mother's account or whatever, I can be back in about 4 hours!

The SABINE INDEX is primarily a local paper for Sabine Parish, however, it covers a good bit of news on counties in East Texas, including Sabine, Panola, Rusk and a few others that I have noticed. In general, it carries such interesting tidbits as the names of those who have been arrested (and what they were arrested for), a day by day listing of court cases by each respective judge, listing of oil, gas and mineral leases and well completions. The latter is my main interest other than obituaries, births and marriages which it also carries.

Some 60 years ago, my father bought 30 acres of land at a tax sale. He deeded to my grandfather, L. L. Nash (Mother's father), and when he passed away it went to Mother and her sister in El Paso. Mother has paid the taxes on it to these many years (amounting to all of anywhere from \$11.00 annually to about \$25.00). A few years ago, she deeded her half to me so I wouldn't have trouble when she died. Aunt Frankie said she was going to do the same (she is my godmother), but so far has not done so. I am thinking of buying her out, as the land is under lease now, and there has been quite a bit of well drilling on nearby acreage.

This is another reason why I want to go to Sabine Parish now. I want to see about some tree planting for reforestation purposes and it is difficult to have these things done via long distance. I also want to have a survey made as it has been some years since the property was surveyed, and I would like to know the exact boundary lines.

I subscribed to the INDEX for quite a few years (\$20.00 pr yr. for out-of-state subs.) but then let it drop for several years as they did not have anything on genealogy. Last year when we were there, a lady whom I met in the Court House found out I was a genealogist and belonged to a gen. club here in Montgomery Co., so she invited me to make an impromptu speech before their society which happened to be meeting that evening. Since we were staying in the ONLY motel (if it can be classed as such), I was glad of an invitation.

My husband accompanied me to the meeting (the first time he ever went to a genealogy club meeting in his life) and teased me for days because he said all one had to do was to wind me up and I would start spouting genealogy!

I merely recounted some of the things our club has been doing, such as spending one Saturday out of the year copying tombstones in the larger cemeteries in Montg. Co. We have now copied all of the big ones, it just remains to find the smaller hidden ones on private property. I cannot take any credit because we have been down in the country or I've been sick the Sat.'s in June that they have set aside.

I can understand that there was little or no response to the notice that Marie Wise inserted in her column. I saw it and intended writing you, but something came up and it slipped my mind. Incidentally, I met Mari and her husband at the first conference of the National Genealogical Society in the States at Atlanta, GA. in 1981. I had meant to attend each and everyone, but again, circumstances of health have prevented that too.

It is strange that while looking for something else in this "junk room" upstairs, I came across some material which Marie Greer sent me back about 1965. There are several things I'll try and get xeroxed and send on to you. My time is so short for this trip, but I am going to find out from her brother or someone down there what happened to her genealogical records. Unless her family pitched them out, which wouldn't really surprise me, I'll see what I can find. I heard via the grapevine that her husband had remarried, but don't know for sure.

I will sort through some of the 3 or 4 file folders I have from Marie and send copies to you. I have a DAR meeting tomorrow, and while I gave a program jointly with another member last month, I have to tell something about some Revolutionary coins that have been in my husband's family for a great many years and have been handed down to us.

I will also enclose a Pedigree Chart prepared by Col. W. E. Lessard (now deceased) who lived in Baton Rouge in 1965, and he, Marie Greer and I had a 3-way correspondence going, so much of her stuff to me begins Dear Bill and Lucy, etc. His wife is a descendant of Edwin B. Alford, son of Jacob and Frankie Seaborn Alford, and brother to Lucy who married my gr.gr.grandfather, William MAINES.

(Continued on 25 October 1984)

So much water has passed over the dam now and I still haven't sent this letter nor had the proposed enclosures xeroxed (that I intend to do today), that I scarcely know where to start. However, since I have a few ALFORD tombstone inscriptions which I copied in various cemeteries in Sabine Parish, I shall send them now and the other information from Marie and Col. Lessard later.

PROGRESS CEMETERY (a small church community near Pleasant Hill, LA.)

Ethel Alford Jamerson
b. Mar. 5, 1898
d. Aug. 19, 1978

Carrie Sue Alford
Jan. 6, 1893
Sept. 16, 1971

Jake Alford
1865-1922
"In Loving Remembrance of Papa from
his baby girl"
Footstone: PAPA

A Ceramic Tile Stone in bad condition

LOUIS ALFORD

B. 1860
D. 1938

A double stone
ALFORD

Robert D.
b. July 15, 1891
d. ----- (living, I guess)
Gone but not forgotten

Mary C.
Sept. 14, 1892
Feb. 10, 1970

Since I flew in and out of Shreveport, LA., I made time to go to the local court house as I had an aunt and uncle who were married in Caddo Parish in 1914 (both now dead) and even their daughter didn't know the exact date of their marriage, but I was lucky and found it. Of course I can't pass up an opportunity to check for Alford's, Maines, Ramsey's etc. and any families I am currently working on. Anyway, for what it's worth, here is what I took off from one book for the period 1838-1910, Index only. They make copies right there for \$1.00 per copy.

Groom's name	Bride's name	Date lic. issued	Book & page number
ALFORD, Clarence	Wilkinson, Mollie	1-26-1911	Bk. 36-671
" Evanston	Johnson, Alice	12-25-1902	27-232
" E. L.	Hodges, Virginia O.	10-4-1888	17-529
" Glenn	Lucer, Ida D.	2-20-1900 B & L*	24-122
" Henry	Blalock, Mary W.	1-4-1906	30-684
" H. M.	Sandlin, Leila	2-18-1890	18-358
" J. J.	Griffin, Katherine	2-10-1911	36-745
" Peter	Williams, Ellen	11-3-1907	33-350
" Warren	Ray, Rachel	8-8-1842 B*	1-161
" Warren	Hutson, Susan	2-28-1858	2-62
" Willie	Sims, Pearl	8-17-1908	34-101

* B = Bond only which was required earlier

B & L Bond and License which was required later

2nd book I copied from was from Dec. 13, 1911 to Sept. 9, 1922

Alford, W. O.	Melvin, Nellie	3-15-1914	41-627
" Frank S.	Fick, Helen R.	12-27-1921	58-430
" Ed	Carter, Hattie	8-17-1922	59-707
" Jas B.	Perry, Sally May	5-29-1920	54-555

I hope these of some help to you and help to fill some extra space somewhere. Sorry I didn't get to copy more at the Sabine and Natchitoches Parish Courth Houses. I am fairly certain there are a number of marriages there that would be interesting.

Here are two new correspondents to write to Mother for help and I returned one's check and wrote to the other one and gave them your name and address. I'll try to get the letters copied to enclose to you.

I'd better close before I have to start another page as I see this one is getting to the bottom. Thanks for mentioning Mother in your new. She loves it!

Let's go ALFORDING!

Lucy
Lucy