



Willie M. Alford  
1919-1995

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*Nov 18 1919 - Feb 19 1995*  
*AAFA# 0128*

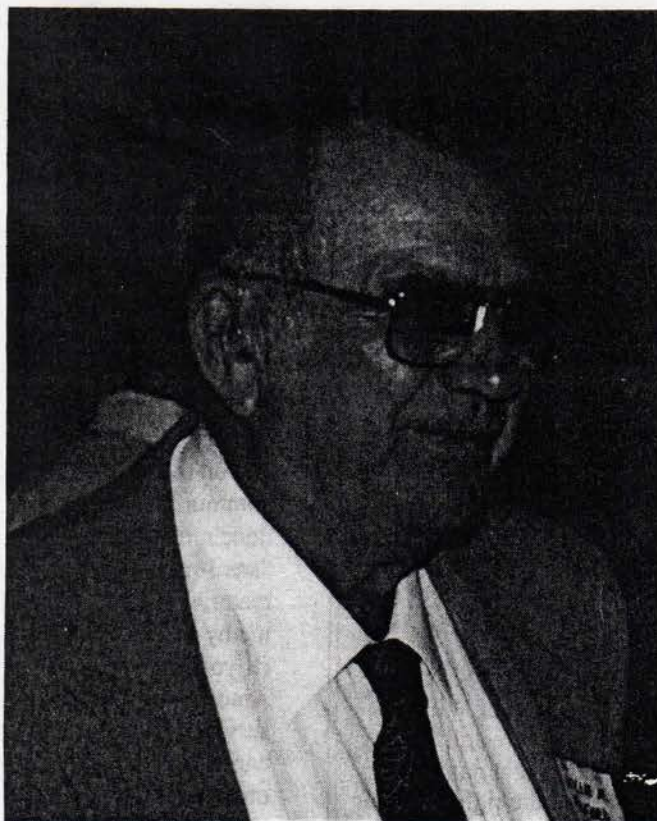
By Gil Alford, Executive Director

**Willie Marshall Alford**  
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AAFA #128

Willie Marshall Alford<sup>11</sup> (Nathan Bell<sup>10</sup>, Warren Jefferson<sup>9</sup>, Warren Jefferson<sup>8</sup>, Spire Washington<sup>7</sup>, Brittain Washington<sup>6</sup>, Isham<sup>5</sup>, Lodwick<sup>4</sup>, Lodwick<sup>3</sup>, James<sup>2</sup>, John<sup>1</sup>) was born 18 November 1919 in Hinds County, Mississippi. He died at 2:38 P.M. Sunday, 19 February 1995 at the Manatee Memorial Hospital in Bradenton, Manatee County, Florida.

Willie, who often went by his middle name, Marshall, was the son of Nathan Bell Alford and Susie Mae Overby. He married Beatrice Virginia Ponder on 3 December 1945 in Brandon, Rankin County, Mississippi. They had three children: William Marshall Alford born 5 June 1947, Carolyn Diane Alford born 4 August 1950, and David Randall Alford born 10 June 1953.

He was born and raised on a farm near Jackson, Mississippi and spent the first 20 years of his life there. He was attending school in Terry, Mississippi, but he left when he was 17 and worked painting houses. On 29 November 1939, just after his 20th birthday, he joined the U.S. Army and spent the next nine years in service. He served in England, France, and Belgium in late 1944 and



*Willie Alford*

Willie M. Alford 0128  
b. Nov 18 1919 & d. Feb 19 1995  
Lived in Bradenton, FL  
Family BRI781NC/ISH755NC  
Attended 2 meeting(s).  
An avid member who supported AAFA in every way he could. He was in frequent touch with other members and assisted several of the workers in the work they did. He was the Florida State Representative and he did considerable computer input for the AAFA.

1945, returning to the states in November 1945.

He remained in service and was with the occupation forces in Japan in 1946 and 1947. He returned to the United States and was discharged in July 1948. He completed the mechanics courses at the Armored Forces School, Ft. Knox, Kentucky and the Tank School, Detroit, Michigan, and was a master mechanic and a tractor mechanic.

He served as a master sergeant, the highest enlisted rank possible, with the 3509th Ordnance Medium Automotive Maintenance Company, the 703rd Ordnance Maintenance Company, and with the 8th Army Auto Maintenance School in Japan. He was qualified as a sharpshooter with the US Caliber 30 carbine. He continued his service in the inactive Army reserves and was recalled to active duty in September 1950 when he was sent to Korea. He served in Korea from November 1950 through March 1951. He returned to the states and was discharged again. He was awarded the World War II Victory Medal, the Army of Occupation Medal - Japan, Good Conduct Medal, Bronze Service Star for the Rhineland Campaign, and the Korean Service Medal.

Between his tours of duty with the army Willie worked as a truck driver for the Dunn Construction Company, a road construction company, and he went back to work for them when he returned from Korea. From 1951 to 1967 he held all kinds of jobs in road construction from truck driver to general superintendent and worked in Alabama, Georgia and Florida. In November of 1967 he moved to a new company, General Asphalt, as Vice President of Construction and spent the next 15 years in that job,

spending considerable time traveling for the company.

He was an avid bowler and taught his children to love and enjoy the sport. When serving in the army in Japan he worked as a pin setter at the local G.I. bowling alley. In 1970 he took up golf and played at every opportunity until a bad ankle began to pain too much. He was on the Bay Pines course in Orlando when he had his first heart attack in 1974.

His cousin, Charlotte (Mrs. Wylie) Alford, of Denver, Colorado, introduced Willie to the Alford American Family Association (AAFA) in January 1989. In the short six years that followed many in AAFA became acquainted with Willie. They come to respect, admire and love him for his friendly, cooperative, "can do" spirit.

When he submitted his application for membership, a letter came along with it saying, "I don't know how good I will be as I have dodged administrative work when possible—alho I have had to do some in the past. With some help from you and others I will be willing to try to fill the job as "Cemetery Project Officer" for the state of Florida, if there is no one else to take the job." Then a month later in February, he wrote, "If you do not as yet have a Cemetery Project Officer for Mississippi, I would be glad to take both Florida and Mississippi to get things started. I was raised in Mississippi and possibly could get some help in searching some of the cemeteries." In a later February letter: "I am working on some addresses here in Florida and keep trying to send out a few letters trying to reach some new members." Still in February: "I received your letter yesterday and also the "Founding Membership Certificate" which I am proud of. I will as I have time be trying to recruit some new members both here and back in Mississippi.... I will write to several papers here in

Florida and see if I can find some with a genealogical columnist. I have a lot to learn but am willing to help wherever I can."

He served the Alford American Family Association as representative for the State of Florida. He assisted the editor of the quarterly by typing numerous files into computer records and assisted the census team by entering thousands of census records into the computer. He was also the member responsible for maintaining the master computer genealogy files for his main branch of the family. He acquired and provided AAFA records, such as death certificates, for many Mississippi Alford's. He was a close and much loved friend of many association members, and he will be greatly missed.

The following was written by fellow church member, Clifford D. Boyer, and read at the funeral:

#### THE HOME GOING OF MARSHALL ALFORD

He has kept the faith and fought the  
good fight  
His joy is not complete.  
His face reflects the perfect light  
That comes from the mercy seat.

He was a builder of roads  
and character too  
To this his grandchildren can attest.  
Many lives, not just a few,  
Through Marshall all will be blessed.

His smile was sweet, his hand shake  
the same  
They lit up the church  
Sunday mornings  
No one could see the awful pain  
At times it struck without warning.

In latter times, voices sweet slowly  
slipped away.  
And Jesus' voice came loud and sweet,  
"It's time to fly away."

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Springs, Miss.; two brothers, Ralph E. and Robert S., both of Jackson; and nine grandchildren.

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[Willie's "In Remembrance" was published in the Summer 1995 issue, but at that time we didn't have an official obituary, which his nephew, Ralph Alford, Jr., AAFA #746, subsequently sent.]

*BRADENTON HERALD*  
Bradenton, FL-21 Feb 1995

Willie Marshall Alford, 75, of Bradenton, died Feb. 19, 1995, in Manatee Memorial Hospital.

Visitation will be 6-8 p.m. today at Bradenton Funeral Home, 5100 Cortex Road. Service will be 11 a.m. Wednesday at the funeral home, with the Rev. Sterling Forrester officiating. Burial will be in Skyway Memorial Gardens, Palmetto. Memorial contributions may be made to Southside Baptist Church, 1604 17th St. W., Bradenton, Fla. 34205.

Born in Hinds County, Miss., Mr. Alford came to Manatee County from Fort Myers in 1967. He was retired from Gator Asphalt Co., in 1983 after 16 years. He was a member of Southside Baptist Church in Bradenton. He was a veteran of World War II and Korean War.

He is survived by his wife, Beatrice V.; a daughter, Diane Thiers of Bradenton; two sons, Butch, of Fort Myers and Randy, of Bradenton; three sisters, E. Margarite Bishop and Verdie E. Dees, both of Jackson, Miss., and Susie L. Conley of Crystal