

# Miriam Ella Alford

Dec 21 1931 - Dec 3 2005

AAFA # 0246

## Miriam Ella Langdon Alford

AAFA #0246

1931 - 2005

### *Northwest Arkansas Times*

Posted on Monday,  
December 5, 2005

Miriam Ella Langdon Alford, 73, of Fayetteville passed away Saturday, Dec. 3, 2005, in Fayetteville.

She was born Dec. 21, 1931, in Dallas to John R. and Susan Landon Alford and was raised in Henderson, Texas.

Miriam Ella was generous with her time and resources, spending much of her life on projects that benefit the environment, education and the underprivileged. She died peacefully at home, surrounded

by her family. Her life touched and blessed so many.

She is survived by two daughters: Susan McDonald-James of Fayetteville and Margaret Newton of Little Rock; a son, Allen McDonald of Fayetteville; two brothers, John Alford of Austin, Texas, and Landon Alford of Henderson, Texas; and five grandchildren, Dillon, Kaitlyn, Anna, Daniel, and Claire.

Miriam Ella was a member of Temple Shalom of Northwest

Arkansas.

Funeral services will be held at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship with burial to follow in Fairview Memorial Gardens in Fayetteville. Visiting hours with the family will follow the burial services at Ella's home.

The family requests that, in lieu of flowers, memorials be gifted to the charity of your choice. Arrangements are under the direction of Nelson-Berna Funeral Home and Crematory in Fayetteville.

## MIRIAM ELLA LANGDON ALFORD

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*Ella Alford*

*From National Water Center website*

*We could not find an obituary for Ella, but these articles are tributes to her.*

National Water Center

Eureka Springs, Arkansas

[www.nationalwatercenter.org/miriam\\_ella\\_alford.htm](http://www.nationalwatercenter.org/miriam_ella_alford.htm):

Miriam Ella Alford was a major contributor and supporter of the National Water Center. Without her sensitivity, insight and generosity it could never have existed. We miss her so much.

Miriam Ella Alford died at home in Fayetteville on December 3 at the age of 73 being loved and surrounded by her family. Ella's passing leaves a great legacy of open-hearted alliance with so many good and abiding things that no one can even calculate or measure them; the list of things beneficial to the Earth and the life (including us) upon it that would not be here had Miriam Ella not helped to engender and support them goes on and on...

I, for one, of a great many carry a great heartache that she is no longer with us, and I miss her being with us here on Earth. Not just people has she cared for, and befriended, and who will be living and breathing their thanks to her for many generations into the future. Consider for one instance the great Alford Forest and all the life within it that she gave for us to take care for in her family name. *Tribute by David Haenke, Director, Alford Forest, Inc., Brixey, MO*

The Alford 4400 acre forest in northern Ozark County, MO, named after the Alford Family and Ella, who donated 3200 acres of it to the Ozark Regional Land Trust, and put the rest of it in Conservation Easements for permanent protection with ORLT.

Miriam Ella Alford was the first major benefactor to AEEA back in 1996 when we were in our infancy. It was a gift that will always be remembered. This gift gave us the confidence to continue. She was a great supporter of environmental education and conservation. We appreciate her generosity and compassion for our natural environment. *Robert McAfee, Executive Director (Volunteer), AEEA - Arkansas Environmental Education Association, <http://aeea.us/>*

Miriam was also the major contributor and supporter of the National Water Center. Without her sensitivity, insight and generosity, it could never have existed. We miss her so much. *Barbara Harmony, Coordinator*

*In another source:*

One Garden

"One Garden, Forest Garden"

By David Haenke

<[www.one-garden.org/features/forestgarden.htm](http://www.one-garden.org/features/forestgarden.htm)>

Running intermittently up to 4 miles along and in places over three miles to the west of Bryant Creek in Northern Ozark County, in the Missouri Ozarks, is the 4000 + acreage known as "The Alford Forest."

Land constituting the Alford Forest was purchased in 1945 by John Alford, who, according to daughter Miriam Ella Alford, wanted a place where his children could go as a refuge from city life.

Miriam Ella Alford is an extraordinary and visionary soul who has supported ecologically and socially responsible causes for decades, and she has a great love for the original family land that we now call "The Alford Forest." Miriam Ella gained controlling ownership of the land in 1975-6, and from that time forward she has done all she can to protect the forest, including, from the late 70's on, maintaining a dialog with local and regional individuals and organizations who concern themselves with issues of ecological protection and management of forests to see what long term options might be out there for caring for the land as far into future as possible.

After around 20 years of good stewardship and periodic planning and visioning discussions, Miriam Ella, along with advisors and local residents who cared deeply about the Alford Forest, engaged in a long-term plan to protect and manage the land through a combination of arrangements that included:

- donating 3000 of the acres to the Ozark Regional Land Trust/ORLT
- working towards putting protection on the rest of the land through conservations easements/CE's
- setting aside nearly 1000 acres into ecological protection reserves
- allowing ecological improvement harvesting of logs, and other timber stand improvement activities, on appropriate areas of the Forest not set aside in ecological reserves.

Starting in 2000, through lease agreements with a non-profit forest management organization, Alford Forest, Inc./AFI (AFI is not organizationally connected with Miriam Ella Alford, and is formally associated with her only through lease agreements), both Miriam Ella and ORLT have engaged AFI to carry out ecological management, including improvement harvesting, on the Forest.

*In another source:*

The Other Economic Summit (TOES)  
July 6-8, 1990, Houston, TX: Eco-Feminism  
<[www.ese.upenn.edu/~hunt/Ecofeminism.html](http://www.ese.upenn.edu/~hunt/Ecofeminism.html)>

Under "Other Participants":

Ella Alford, Ozarks Resource Center, General Delivery, Brixey, MO 65618; (417) 679-4773. Ella Alford was raised in an affluent East Texas family. A major part of her path has been self-healing as she puts it, "for addictions to peoples, places and things." She has lived in Arkansas and Missouri for 30 years, and has 3 children. She is a founder of the Ozarks Resource Center (formerly New Life Farm), which has been important in establishing the Bioregional Congress. She is also a founding member of the Threshold Foundation.

*In another source:*



Ozark Regional Land Trust  
"The Ozark Holler"  
Summer 2006  
<[www.orlt.org](http://www.orlt.org)>

At the Ella L. Alford Memorial in Brixey, Missouri in April 2006, a recording was made of the stories and songs. It is on a CD and is available to anyone who wants one. Cost? Nothing! If you want one, email [susan@wiseheart.com](mailto:susan@wiseheart.com) with your postal address.

AAFA NOTES: SSDI records show that Ella L. Alford (SS #451-42-2211 issued in TX) was born 21 Dec 1931. Her last residence was Brixey, Ozark Co., MO.

Her lineage, from AAFA records: Miriam Ella Langdon 1931

TX<sup>1</sup>, John Rogers 1885 TX<sup>2</sup>, Egbert Benson 1858 AL<sup>3</sup>, John Rogers 1810 GA<sup>4</sup>, Kinchen 1799 NC<sup>5</sup>, James 1741 NC/VA<sup>6</sup>, Lodwick 1710 VA<sup>7</sup>, James 1687 VA<sup>8</sup>.