



Elizabeth Hawes Hazlip  
1924-2000

*Elizabeth C. Hawes Hazlip*

*Nov 6 1924 - Oct 19 2000  
AAFA #0358*

**ELIZABETH CAROLINE HAWES HAZLIP**

AAFA #0358  
1924-2000

*COPIAH COUNTY COURIER*  
Wednesday, October 25, 2000

Elizabeth Caroline  
Hawes Hazlip, 75, of  
Hazlehurst, died Thursday,  
Oct. 19, 2000, at the  
University of Mississippi  
Medical Center in Jackson.

Services were held  
Saturday, Oct. 21, from  
Stringer Funeral Home  
Chapel with interment in  
Hazlehurst Cemetery....

She was born in  
Ferriday, LA, on Nov. 6,  
1924 and moved to  
Hazlehurst as a child in 1933.  
She was an avid genealogist  
and a retired telephone  
operator of South Central  
Bell.

She was preceded in  
death by her mother Cicilia

Demolliens Hawes, father  
Newton Edgar Hawes and  
sister Dorothy Hawes  
Channell.

Survivors include:  
daughter, Cicilia I. Papas of  
Hazlehurst; brothers, John  
Thomas "J.T." Hawes of  
Hazlehurst and Cecil Newton  
Hawes of Poulsbo, WA; and  
one granddaughter.

Memorials may be made  
to the George W. Covington  
Memorial Library genealogy  
room in Hazlehurst.

*The following letter was  
printed with the obituary,  
but the author's name was  
missing:*

Saturday morning I said  
my final goodbye to  
Elizabeth Hazlip. We were

more than schoolmates, we  
were friends.

She could do anything if  
she made up her mind. She  
was a telephone operator for  
many years, and when she  
retired what did she do....got  
another job.

Later, most of her time  
was spent on genealogy.  
Most days you would see her  
car or truck parked at the  
Court House or Library.

She enjoyed the Alford  
reunion and tried to go each  
time. She had just returned  
from the reunion when she  
got sick.

I'll miss her calls, visits  
and gifts she had selected for  
me, but I know she is in a  
better place. Farewell my  
friend, and "May God Bless."



Elizabeth Hawes Hazlip  
1924 - 2000



## Elizabeth Hawes Hazlip

Contributed by Gil Alford

Elizabeth was a cousin, a colleague, a fellow member of AAFA, and a very dear friend. She contacted me shortly after I became involved in our family history and told me "I am not a pro but enjoy working with genealogy." I was impressed with her most unusual, neat and deliberate penmanship. In one of her first letters she enclosed \$2.50 for a copy of something she wanted along with "a book of stamps that I know you can use." It was unusual for most folks to send a SASE (self-addressed stamped envelope) or copy cost much less several dollars. It was not unusual to get a stamp but never a whole book of them. She also asked in that same letter "Will it help if I made copies of the Alford's in the

1850 Copiah County, Miss. Census or let me know what I might do here to help."

Though she was a great and generous associate she was not what you would call a "joiner." In fact it was not until November 1990- after the North Carolina meeting- that she joined the association. It was not until that year that it was my privilege to meet her in person. As we were being seated for the dinner in Raleigh, Elizabeth and a cousin friend with her happened to be placed at the table with Mary, my wife, and me. I was immediately struck with her slow, deliberated but very positive speech-not at all unlike her penmanship. It was not long before she had me cracking up with laughter,

telling stories about some of her cousins, one was our member, the late Julius M. "Pooley" Alford. Before the meal was over I had her tabbed as Mississippi's female answer to Jerry Clower.

During our dinner conversation we learned that she was born in the same town where Mary and I met, went to school and were married -Ferriday, Louisiana. Not only were we cousins but we had other things in common, and after that we talked frequently about that place. Elizabeth was known to visit the boats (casinos) frequently but she would always include a genealogy stop on her way, On one such trip she went to the boat in Natchez, MS,

which is across the river from Ferriday, and while in the library happened to stumble across a hardback book about Ferriday. In fact that was it's title. She called later to tell us that she was sending it. She said when she saw the book she knew she had to get us a copy. She bugged the folks at the library about getting her one and they sent her to a local book store. They knew of the book but were sold out. She bugged them until they called several places across the river but to no avail. She went to Ferriday and decided to try the Library there and for some reason they did have a copy available. The book, something of a conversation piece, has been on the table on our enclosed back porch or deck ever since.

Not long after she joined the association she wanted to know what she could do to help and we were in need of someone to help promote the meetings so she took on the job as publicist. For each meeting she and I would decide what would be a logical "target area" for that meeting and then she would mail out press releases and flyers to the genealogical and/or historical societies, libraries, and weekly or small newspapers in that area. She was not a computer person so I told her we would fix up a computerized mailing list and would send

her computer labels to make the job easier. She declined saying that she thought it would be better to address them by hand so that the recipient would see that they received personal attention.

Over the years she sent out thousands of mailings and maintained meticulous records of expenses which she submitted to the treasurer. She informed me one time that she would sometimes have a mailing returned by the post office. She said she did not throw those away. She worked as, what I guess one might call, a semi-pro genealogist. When folks would write to the Copiah Co. MS courthouse for documents they would not search for them but would refer them to Elizabeth who did the search for a modest fee. She said when she mailed out those documents she would include the returned AAFA publicity with a note to please pass them on to a local agency that could make use of it.

Here is a typical report from Elizabeth: "Eight Sundays, 12:30 til 2:00, I am taking a genealogical class at the Broad Street Branch Library in New Orleans. This is to learn where to go in New Orleans for research on my ancestors in that city. Different friends go with me for the ride & sights. Sunday morning, yester-

day, on the way down, taking the old highway 51, that I call the scenic tour, I saw a building with the sign, C.P.A. Tim Alford. Well now I am not about to miss a chance of performing my duty as publicist, so I turned around, went back and left a poster and news release about our annual Alford Family Reunion. I think this was in Kentwood, LA, or in that area. I folded up the papers and left them in the handle of the door. I hope Tim Alford finds this and joins up with us if he hasn't already."

Members who have purchased one of the framed Alford and Miller tomato labels have a piece of Elizabeth's contribution to the AAFA. She called one time and said she had come across these old crumbling aged but unused labels and wanted to know if we would like to have them. Seeing the memorabilia possibilities I told her to get all that she could. She went through all that they had and got all that were not already crumbling with age. When she found that the Alford and Miller store in Hazlehurst was going out of business and selling off everything she went down to see what she could find for AAFA. She came across a few nice wooden coat hangers with the "Alford and Miller" label on them. She bought all that they had, not all that many,

packaged them up in several large bundles, and mailed them as a donation to be sold as memorabilia in the AAFA gift shop. After learning that we had lost our initial source for the Alford crochets that are sold in the gift shop she went looking for help in that area. She found the source for the very large crochets and she got them for half the price we paid for the smaller ones.

Well before the meeting in Augusta, GA she called and wanted to know if it would be alright if she purchased little inexpensive gifts to be used as prizes for that meeting. She said they were just little things she had seen in a dollar store and thought they would be fun gifts and she was considering wrapping them in funny papers - comic strips. As it turned out she brought several large grocery bags full of the small gifts with regular wrapping.

It was not at all unusual for Elizabeth to see information published as a result of her effort and there are members who have joined because of her work. However, her first time to ever meet such a result face to face, immediately after an annual campaign, came in Augusta. Ann Alford Lewis of Cleveland, TN saw her news release in a local paper and she and her husband drove to Augusta for the meeting, without further information.

Those who were present in Augusta may have noticed when she stood once to defend the folks in the courthouses. There was some talk about how records were being destroyed and she was quick to advise them of a project she was working on in Copiah Co. to preserve many documents by laminating them.

Elizabeth was so proud of her daughter Cicilia and her granddaughter Chelsea. They sometimes came with Elizabeth when she went to the annual meetings. But they are not into Alford heritage so they would go sight seeing and shopping. She used to report to me how much help Chelsea was in doing the publicity mailings. I've known of her to turn folks away. Who wanted her to do something, saying that she had a commitment to her granddaughter.

I was advised in Augusta by the chair of the Human Resources Committee that one of the nominee's for induction into the AAFA Hall of Fame at the next meeting was Elizabeth Hazlip. It was less than 72 hours later that she sustained her fatal injury. Action has already been taken by the board of directors to proceed with a posthumous award. Elizabeth will be missed by her family, her friends, the Association, and I'm sure by the folks at the Copiah Co. Court House.

The Clarion-Ledger, Jackson, Mississippi,  
Saturday, October 21, 2000

Elizabeth C. Hazlip  
Genealogist

Hazlehurst — Elizabeth Caroline Hawes Hazlip, 75, a genealogist and retired telephone operator, died of heart failure Thursday at the University of Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson.

Services are 11 a.m. today at Stringer Funeral Home with burial in Hazlehurst Cemetery.

Mrs. Hazlip was a native of Ferriday, La. She was retired from South Central Bell. She was a member of First Baptist Church.

Survivors include: daughter, Cicilia Papas of Hazlehurst; brothers, John "J.T." Hawes of Hazlehurst and Cecil Hawes of Poulsbo, Wash.; and one grandchild.

#### **AAFA Publicist**

With the increasing work involved with national publicity for the annual meeting each year, the board of directors has approved the establishment of a new position AAFA National Publicist. President Lodwick Alford has appointed Elizabeth Hawes Hazlip, Member #358, to this position.

Article printed in June 1991 AAFA ACTION

Elizabeth Hazlip

— Gil Alford

I cannot let this great lady's "In Remembrance" go without contributing some personal comments about her. She was truly an extraordinary person. I first heard from her in November 1983 when she wrote to subscribe to my "About Alford's" newsletter. She followed-up with a letter in February 1984 in which her final paragraph was "Will it help if I made copies of the Alford's in the 1850 Copiah County, Miss. census or let me know what I might do here to help." She never quit helping until she fell off that back porch and sustained the injury that led to her death. With that letter she enclosed her typed pedigree which was about 18 inches by 22 inches. Her name was not Alford, but she had Alford blood, going back to her great great grandmother Miranda L. Alford born in NC who moved to Mississippi with some of her parents.

We corresponded and exchanged information for the next several years and of course she joined AAFA. I had never seen her or talked to her on the phone. When we attended the 1991 AAFA meeting in Raleigh it was our (Mary and Me) good fortune to wind up sitting with Elizabeth and her friend Dora. As we sat down I realized who I was with. She had a most distinctive voice and accent. I've often said that she sounded like a female Jerry Clower. But she was funnier than he was. I think I never sat through a meal in which I laughed as much as I did at this first meeting with Elizabeth. She started calling soon after that and when I'd answer the phone she would say "This is Elizabeth!" reminding me of Ray Stevens in his classic "It's Me Again. Margaret."

But Elizabeth was not just all fun. She did genealogical research professionally in the area and she attended a highly regarded genealogical training session annually in Alabama. During our dinner in Raleigh we talked about how she might best serve AAFA. One of the jobs open at the time was "publicist" and that is where she fit like a glove. She did not have or use a computer but each year we would work together and create a press release and a flyer or graphic meeting announcement. She would mail these to newspapers, libraries, societies and columnists. We offered to prepare mailing labels for her but she refused saying that she thought they would get more attention if they were handwritten. An what a distinctive hand she did have.

When folks would write to the Copiah Co. courthouse for information they would turn the letters over to Elizabeth she would respond. She told me that in all those responses she would slip in something about AAFA just in case.

I don't have all of them, but she kept meticulous records of what she did and sent bills to Doris, or treasurer for reimbursement. The following are some excerpts from her reports to Doris:

March 1995, Enclosed is receipt for postage stamps, \$86.40, for genealogical societies in eight states, total 267, States- Alabama, Georgia, Florida, Tennessee, Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas, Kentucky." (Each year we would confer to determine the states she would address depending upon the state in which we were meeting.)

May 1995, "Enclosed is receipt for postage for mailing news releases and poster to genealogical columnists in eight states, Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana,

Mississippi and Tennessee. These were mailed 15 May 1995. Copies of mailing list can be obtained if necessary for cost of copies. Through these genealogical columns this information will be received in other states as well. At present, I am in the process of addressing and stuffing envelopes with the Alford News Release. These will be mailed to all of the newspapers in Alabama and to all the weekly newspapers in the other seven states, probably the first part of July."

I know for a fact that this effort was productive. I received letters and phone calls from folks frequently. People turned up at meetings and reported that they had seen something in the paper. The last one was in Augusta just before she died.

The last thing I remember about Elizabeth is the three grocery bags filled with little amusing door prizes all wrapped so pretty that she brought to the Augusta 2000 meeting for AAFA to give away. She seemed to especially enjoy these when the person doing the drawing was one of our child members.

She did the publicity for almost ten years. Most folks blame our drop in meeting attendance to nine-eleven and the high cost of gas. I blame it on the death of Elizabeth Hazlip.