



Iris Elizabeth Alford

1927 - 2010

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Nov 6 1927 - May 4 2010

AAFA #0729

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Columbus Ledger-Enquirer

Iris Elizabeth Alford
November 6, 1927 - May 4, 2010
NEW CANAAN, CT

Iris Elizabeth Alford, devoted mother, grandmother, and lifetime student of American history died on May 4th in New Canaan, Connecticut from cancer. She was 82 years old. Born on November 6, 1927 in Manchester, Georgia, Ms. Alford was the daughter of William Jefferson and Clara Lee Alford. The co-valedictorian of the Manchester High School class of 1944, she moved to Atlanta, where she graduated from the Marsh Business College and went to work for the American Red Cross, participating in the relief response to the 1947 Texas City explosion in Galveston, Texas. Ms. Alford later worked as an Executive Assistant for Rostenberg-Doern in White Plains, New York and Cheseborough-Ponds/Unilever in Greenwich, Connecticut. Married to Harold E Masback, Jr. of New York in 1948, Ms. Alford had three children, Harold Elmer Masback, III of

New Canaan, Craig Alford Masback, of Amsterdam (The Netherlands), and Keith James Masback of Alexandria, Virginia. Her marriage ended in a divorce in 1999. Ms. Alford was a member of the Scarsdale Community Baptist Church in Scarsdale, New York for over fifty years. She served the church as a Sunday School teacher in the 1960Us and as a deacon in the 1970Us. At age 67, Ms. Alford enrolled as a freshman at Kennesaw State College in Kennesaw, Georgia, working toward a degree in history. Award winning filmmaker Bud Greenspan told the story of her long-delayed pursuit of a college degree alongside the stories of Joe Paterno, Andrew Young, Eartha Kitt, in "Ageless Heroes," a PBS special that aired in 1998. She pursued her interest in history via research concerning the Alford family and family visits to the birthplaces of American Presidents. Her

special interest was the role played by the mothers of American Presidents in their development. Ms. Alford is survived by her three sons, two daughters-in-law, Amy Masback and Sarah Vogelsberg, and seven grandchildren: Owen Masback of Los Angeles, California, Katrina Masback, of New York, New York, Elisabeth Masback of New Canaan, James and Clara Masback of Alexandria, Virginia, and Grace and Britton Masback of Amsterdam. A memorial service will be held at the Northside Baptist Church in Manchester, Georgia on May 22 at 10 a.m. The family has established an "Iris Alford Scholarship for Excellence in the Study of American History" at Manchester High School. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to that fund c/o Manchester High School, 405 North 5th Avenue, Manchester, Georgia, 31816-1398.

August 26, 1994

Dear Ms. Alford:

While at the Georgia Archives recently I picked up a copy of "The Family Tree." I was pleased to see the ad about the Alford Reunion. I would appreciate more information as to exact times and place, and enclose a SAS

Could you possibly put me in touch with someone who knows about the Alfords in Georgia? My ancestors were in Pike County, Georgia when that County was established in 1822 (formed from Monroe County.) I am eager to know where they lived before that.

Genealogical and family research are a real puzzle to me since I have just begun and have so much to learn.

My great grandparents were Thomas J. Alford and Emily R. Mims. I'm not sure who my great great grandparents were but Emily R. Mims was born in South Carolina. In any case I'm trying to trace Alfords right now, and will be happy to pay for information on my direct line.

Thanks for your help. J. S. M. S.

404-479-1726

IRIS ELIZABETH ALFORD
born Colquitt Co. GA Nov. 6, 1927

Willie Jefferson Alford + Clara Lee Martin
born PIKE Co. GA Feb. 7, 1883

John Jefferson Alford + Emma A. Riley
born PIKE Co. GA Nov. 26, 1856

Thomas J. Alford + Emily R. Mims
born ? GA either 1814 or 1815
residing PIKE Co. GA on 1870 census

I believe his father was BRITAIN ALFORD SR.
but have no record showing same.

November 16, 1994

Dear Gil

15A-000

How pleased and excited I was to hear from you and to receive so much family information!

I'm sorry I missed the Richmond reunion and look forward to meeting everyone in Alabama next year.

First, let me tell you that I have just begun family research and am completely uninformed regarding all the technicalities, forms, and documentation. I welcome any advice you can give.

I have been at a disadvantage in getting oral family history since I am the youngest child, went away to school at 16 and then went to live in New York when my husband graduated from Georgia Tech in 1949. (He is a New Yorker.) I separated from my husband and returned to Georgia in 1992. I'm in the process of divorcing and now use my maiden name.

I'm busy getting ready to travel to visit my three sons for the holidays. My oldest son Skip (43) was a lawyer in Washington, D.C. for 15 years. He decided to change careers since he had no time with his family. He graduated from Yale Divinity School in June and now serves as Associate Minister at the First Congregational Church in New Canaan, Connecticut. He, his wife, and three children are all very happy there.

My second son Craig (39) is a lawyer in Washington D.C. He is unmarried.

My youngest son, Keith (29) had an ROTC scholarship in college and now serves as an Army Intelligence officer at Fort Bragg, N.C. He is married to a German girl he met while stationed in Berlin.

I am very proud of them as they seem to be carrying on the tradition of strong Alford men of great integrity and character. They are very excited about my efforts to trace the family.

Enclosed are copies of Alford biographies from the local library.

Perhaps the names will mean something to you. I don't know enough about the ancestors yet to be able to tie people together. Do you think the story of immigration from London to Boston to North Carolina might be true?

When I return to Georgia after the holidays I'll try to complete some family group sheets and send them to you. I also plan to join the AAFA for myself and my children.

Thank you very much for all you sent.

Happy Holidays to you and yours!

Sincerely,
"Cousin" Iris



February 9, 1995

Dear Gil,

Thank you for your kind letter, with enclosures of 11/26/94 - also for the postcard re dates for this year's reunion.

My apologies for not responding sooner.

I went to Connecticut the week of Thanksgiving. Skip only does one sermon a month, so I had to go early in order to hear him. It was a wonderful visit with the grandchildren, but the weather was not great. From there I went to Craig's in D.C. on 12/20¹⁶ and on to Keith's at Fort Bragg on 12/26 and back to Atlanta on 12/30. I was glad to be home again!

School started on January 3rd so I hardly had time to catch my breath. I'm only taking one course - English Composition - but am amazed to find it difficult. Something must have happened to my brain in the last fifty years. Of course, I put a lot of pressure on myself. I expect to

"make 'A's' like⁻² I did in high school.

Thank you for telling me more about the problems of family research. How do stories like the one of the Boston group get into circulation? Who will ever be able to straighten out all the Istavos, Juliuses and Lodwicks? I like using family names in all generations, but now I can see the problems that result.

What a coincidence that you were at Fort Bragg! yes, Keith is responsible for gathering military intelligence for the 82nd Airborne Division. He went through jump school at Fort Benning while he was in college ROTC. Just this year he completed jumpmaster school and now has a star on his wings. Right now, we're celebrating the birth of his son, James Erich, born on my father's birthday, February 7th (his first child)

I'm sending a check and 4 membership applications to Doris Vetric today. Thank you for the extra forms.

I've had to put aside my family research for now because of my school work, but do hope to get back to it. I find it fascinating and lose all track of time when I go to the library. I appreciate your offer of help. I can't find graves for Thomas Jefferson Alford and his wife ~~Ann~~ Emily R. Travis. There is a family cemetery out behind a house in Pike County where I lived as a child. Britain and Barbara Love graves there and several others unmarked. Perhaps the unmarked ones are theirs. The farmer who lives in the house has plowed and planted all around the cemetery so that it is difficult to get to it without walking on his crops.

I'll stop for now. I'm supposed to be working on a four-page essay on FDR. Procrastination is one of my biggest problems.

I look forward to hearing from you again and meeting you at the reunion.

Sincerely,
Drs/-

Iris Alford

5/31/95
IEA

Dear Gil

Enjoyed our chat today. Enclosed is family info as I knew it at the moment. Corrections might be necessary after our family gets together on June 25th. Any computer printouts you can send before that will be greatly appreciated, as well as a photo of the association logo which we might be able to use on T-shirts. Please advise regarding expenses incurred so that I can reimburse you. Thanks in advance. Sincerely, Iris/.

Iris Alford

NAR

June 20, 1995

Dear Gil

Thank you so much for your prompt response to my request. I appreciate so much all that you have done to help me climb my family tree.

I passed your caveat regarding illegal use of the AAFE emblem on to my niece who is in charge of shirts for our reunion this week. I hope to get some new members for the association as well as for the Alabama reunion. Thanks again. Iris/.
