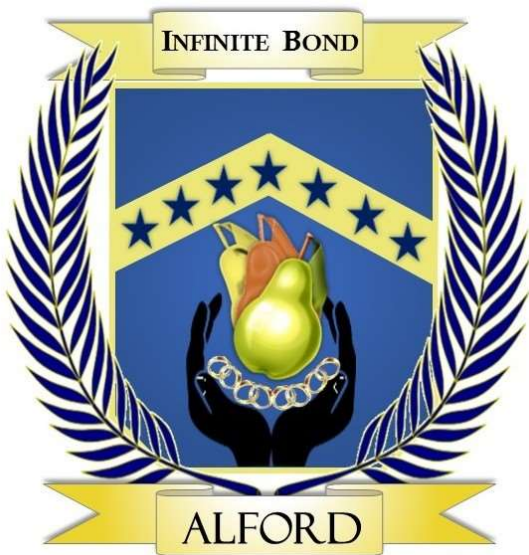


# Alford Family Crest

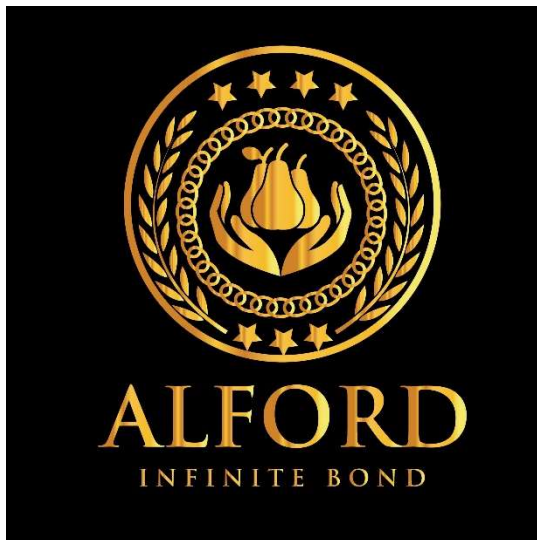
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Old Crest 1



Crest 2



Crest 3



Crest 4

## Alford Family Crest

On September 11, 2013, three members of the Solomon Alford family, Emmett R. Roberts, Willie O. Alford and Mytia R. Green, conducted a telephone conference to discuss matters concerning the Alford family. During that call, a discussion ensued regarding the need to uniquely identify our particular lineage of the Alford family. The three decided to conduct research to determine if an Alford Crest was already in existence.

In a subsequent teleconference held on September 25, 2013, Mytia presented her findings about the British Alford and The Alford American Family Association code of arms.

### ALFORD Family Crest / ALFORD Coat of Arms

The surname of ALFORD was a locational name 'of Alford' parishes in counties Lincoln and Somerset. The name meant 'the dweller by the old ford'. The name was brought into England in the wake of the Norman Invasion of 1066. Local names usually denoted where a man held his land, and indicated where he actually lived. Early records of the name mention Robert de Aldeford, 1184 County Lancashire. John de Aldeford was documented in County Hereford in the year 1273. Thomas Alforde of County Somerset, was documented during the reign of Edward III (1327-1377) and William Allforde of Yorkshire, was listed in the Yorkshire Poll Tax of 1379. Thomas Ruston and Betty Alford were married at St. George's, Hanover Square, London in 1763. The associated arms are recorded in Sir Bernard Burkes General Armory. Ulster King of Arms in 1884. Between the 11th and 15th centuries it became customary for surnames to be assumed in Europe, but they were not commonplace in England or Scotland before the Norman Conquest of 1066. They are to be found in the Domesday Book of 1086. Those of gentler blood assumed surnames at this time, but it was not until the reign of Edward II (1327-1377) that it became common practice for all people. Prior to the Invasion of William the Conqueror in 1066, no one had surnames, only christian or nicknames in England. Based on this, and our physical attributes, we were given surnames incorporating tax codes to show trades, areas in which we lived, as today we have street names and numbers. Surnames were used in France and like speaking countries from about the year 1000, and a few places had second names even earlier.



Official blazon

Arms : Barry wavy Argent and Azure a Lion rampant queue fourchee and on a Chief Sable a Windmill Sail of five arms Or between two Lincoln Red Shorthorn Bulls' Heads caboshed proper ringed Argent.

Crest : On a Wreath of the Colours in front of a demi Lion Ermine holding between the paws a Book Or charged with a Rose Gules charged with another Argent barbed and seeded proper seven Mascles conjoined Gules.

Motto : 'FOURSQUARE TO ALL WINDS'

#### Origin/meaning

The arms were officially granted on October 1, 1965. Transferred to the Town Council on April 16, 1975.

The black lion is that of William de Welle, Lord of the Manor of Alford, who obtained the market charter in 1283. The blue and white waves represents the ford that gave Alford its name. The bulls' heads and five armed windmill sail symbolise the importance of agriculture, the town's annual bull fair and its cattle market.

The ermine lion comes from the arms of Lord Burghley, who helped Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School obtain its charter in 1576, and holds, appropriately, a gold book with a Tudor rose on it. The seven red mascles or voided lozenges are traditionally associated with St. Wilfrid, to whom the church is dedicated.

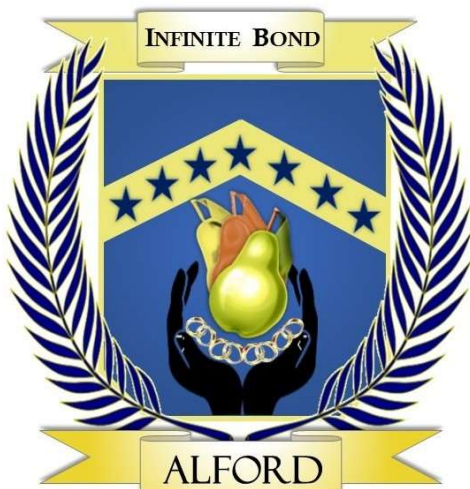
The motto is adapted from Ode on the Death of the Duke of Wellington by the Lincolnshire poet Alfred Lord Tennyson.



The Alford American Family Association assert that many African American's bear the name Alford because the owned by plantation owners with have Alford surnames. Collectively the three agreed that descendants of Solomon Alford are unique because of their African American and British origins. During that discussion, the threesome mutually agreed that we should design our own unique code of arms to set ourselves apart and to honor the legacy of our unique heritage.



After completing the research, the trio decided a unique family crest was necessary. After multiple iterations, Emmett, Willie and Mytia agreed upon this initial design. The crest still honors the original elements of the British Alford heraldic and The Alford American code of arms. However, it uniquely signifies the seven stars that denote the African American children of Solomon Alford. The team decided to present the designs at the 2014 Alford Reunion in Oklahoma City.



The crest was never presented at the 2014 Alford reunion. However it was used for marketing the 2016 reunion by the Alford communications committee.

In 2016 the crest was redesigned. The new crest possessed a circular design and was done in a single color, making it more cost effective for printing. The 2018 reunion hosts, Mytia Black and Gloria Carr decided to use it to market the 2018 Alford family reunion.



On July 7, 2018, the redesigned crest was presented at the Alford business meeting. It was during this business meeting that the crest was unanimously voted as the official Alford Family crest by the descendants of the Solomon Alford family.

### **What is the origin of family crests:**

Family crests, or coats of arms, began in Europe during the Middle Ages as ways to distinguish families and friends from foes when spotted on battlefields. It is the proper symbol for use by members of a group who want to declare their relationship and allegiance to one another.

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Read more: [http://www.ehow.com/list\\_6724484\\_plants-used-family-crests.html#ixzz2fyMpTUSr](http://www.ehow.com/list_6724484_plants-used-family-crests.html#ixzz2fyMpTUSr)

### **Colors of the original Alford Crest**

The **blue** shield denotes strength, truth and loyalty

The **gold** accent denotes generosity

The **blue** stars denotes hope

The argent **silver** chain denotes peace and sincerity

### **New Crest**

The **gold** accent denotes generosity

The argent **gold** chain denotes peace and sincerity

The **black** constancy and grief

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### **Emblem patterns**



The gold angled crest pattern denotes wisdom. The gold color denotes generosity.



The straight crest pattern denotes honor. The gold color denotes generosity.

**Chain** – the connection of our endless familial lineage

**Stars** – The 7 stars (or mullets) represent the children of Solomon Alford. The star symbolizes honor, achievement and hope.

1. John Henry Coffey, b. 1849
2. Matilda Ann Alford, b. 1858
3. Matthew Solomon Alford, b 1860
4. Mary Alford, b. 1861
5. Rosie Lee Alford Gammill, b. Oct 1867
6. Lafayette "Fate" Alford, b. Oct 1868
7. Major Clemon Alford, b. Mar 1880

**Pear** - Denotes liberality, felicity and peace according to ancient heraldic authorities

*\*\*Def. Felicity: great happiness. Alford's are joyous people, who also enjoy being together.*

*\*\*Def. Liberality: open to ideas not widely accepted Alford's are not afraid to be different.*

*\*\*Def. Peace: harmony and the absence of hostility. Alford's are a peaceful people.*

**Olive or Laurel Leaves** - Peace and concordance

*\*\*Def. Concordance a state in which things agree and do not conflict with each other*

**Hands** - Denotes union, alliance and peace.

**Rings/Circle** – A circle has no beginning or end and is therefore a symbol of infinity.

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### **Motto**

1. Never Ending Bond
2. Infinite Bond

*\*\*Def. Infinite: having no limits, extremely large or great*

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### **Emblem Values**

1. Love
2. Faith
3. Strength
4. Wisdom