



ALFORD
INFINITE BOND

Alford Family News

September 2018 Issue

Reunion Recap

**IT IS DONE! THE OKC TAKEOVER IS COMPLETE!!!!
EXTRAORDINARY JOB EVERYONE!!!**

“Shoot!! We forgot to do that!” This is something you won’t hear about the 2018 Alford Family Reunion. We Came – We Conquered. It was truly an OKC takeover!!! I think we can agree that the reunion was a huge success, and after such a fun weekend we were energized and proud to have family members, both immediate and extended, that we enjoy so much.

At 4 pm on 7/4/2018 the co-hosts arrived in OKC to commence “Ordinary Family, Doing Extraordinary things.”

What do you get when you cross a family reunion with live entertainment, balloon art, Moonjump, Video Game Truck, selfie booth, and the world’s most awesome family? The ALFORD FAMILY TAKEOVER!!!! 166+ people showed up on Friday, July 6 – July 8 in Oklahoma City, OK for the biggest takeover to date! This epic event brought relatives from around the world to Oklahoma City, Oklahoma for a family reunion weekend of grand activities.



Joyce Borskey, Burney Jennings, Keyona Goff, Robert Goff, Robert Goff Jr., David Jennings, Tammy Jennings, Tyra Jennings, Jariah Goff, Kaidance Goff, Jakobe Goff

The Montellano Event Center proved to be the perfect place to bring family and friends together in one place for an unforgettable family reunion experience. It was easy to

get around, comfortable, beautiful accommodations, gracious hosts, and awesome amenities, etc. There was something for everyone!!!

Friday (July 6, 2018)

Registration started promptly at 4:00. Approximately 162 family members registered wearing the attire for the day, college fraternity/sorority gear. There was a meet and greet from 6:00 – 11:00PM in the Beverly Room. Dinner was provided by Sterling and Melissa Alford. The menu consisted of a delicious spaghetti dinner with salad, drinks and dessert. And, of course, awesome and lively conversation throughout the Beverly Room. Great fellowship and renewing of acquaintances!!



Sheila Saddler, Montria “DeeDee” Alford, Hedy Jackson, Violet Alford Patterson, Deontria “RaeAnn” Bruner

In addition, the younger kids were invited to a “swim party” in the hotel pool. What fun!!! Meanwhile, the teens seemed to have hit the jackpot. The Video Game Truck hosted in the hotel parking lot was a huge hit for the young AND the more mature. Everyone had a blast and wished it could have lasted longer!!

Saturday (July 7, 2018)

The Business Meeting was conducted. Proceedings were presided by the family council and included: President - Emmett R. Roberts, Secretary - Shani B. Alford, Communications - Gloria Alford-Carr & Mytia Green, along with the Alford family attendees. Meeting highlights included:



Edmond & Sharon Brown

- Voting and Unveiling of family crest
- Copies of Wesslyne Alford Simpson book “Promises” provided by Uncle Allan
- Old and New Business
- Site Selection (Volunteers)
 - 2020 (Oklahoma)
 - 2020 (Dallas, TX)
- Vice President position filled for Council by Dr. Lee Patterson
- Committee Reports
- Genealogy
- Health and Wellness
- Scholarship – Eddie is transitioning the duties and responsibilities to Erika Alford-Dooley of Dallas, TX. Our sincere thanks and appreciation to Eddie for a job well done!!
- Technology
- Time and Place

Day Party

The family-friendly reunion Saturday Day party included a red carpet graced with the names of our ancestors and an indoor stage fit for the Alford royalty. The midday act was a loud, competitive game of Family Feud. A family that plays together will feud together!!! It was hilarious and so competitive!!!

The event had a full line up of entertainment and speakers, with one of the highlights being Dr. Rap aka Dr. Emily Patterson-Harris performing “All THE WAY UP.” She had everyone turned up – young and old.



Emmett Roberts, Sydney Scott, Emily Patterson Harris, Violet Alford-Patterson, Anthony Jones, Kim Smith, Kendall Wilson, Gwynell Wilson, Krista Dooley, Gabby Dooley, Antoine Dooley, James Patterson

It was important to document this large reunion, so all the “relatives” came together for one big family photo. The family photo was simply awesome! To see that many Alford’s in one photo. Beautiful!!!



Alford Family Reunion
OKC 2018
Jodan L. Alford & Anthony Jones



Alford Family Reunion
OKC 2018
Austin Johnson & Chelsea Hayes



Alford Family Reunion
July 9th, 2018
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma



The evening ended with a young adult outing to Dave and Buster's. It was a great time for the millenials to connect and spend more time with just their peers.

Alford Store

The Alford Store was the brainchild of MyTay Green and what a great idea!!!



Catreva Alfred & Montria "DeeDee" Alford

The Alford Store opened its doors for the first time July 7, 2018 at the Montellano. What a huge success. The 2018 inventory consisted of Alford T-Shirts, Alford Hoodies, Alford Aprons, Wine by the "Alford Brothers" (Marquis & Sterling); Snaps by DeeDee (Montria Denise Alford); personalized make up bags and cups by Stacey M. Williams-Carr. A 2nd edition of the Alford Cookbook (created by Gloria Alford-Carr) was sold with all proceeds going to the "Alford Scholarship Fund." The talents of this family continue to amaze us all. The family "shopped Til They Dropped" all in the name of family support.



We had a children's corner where the budding family historians in the making could draw to their hearts content. They had their fill of toys, gift certificates, etc.

Proceeds obtained on Saturday (Day Party):

Aprons (12)	\$ 180.00
Cookbooks (24)	\$ 420.00

Hats (32)	\$635.00
Hoodies (23)	\$275.00
T-Shirts (33)	\$270.00
Total for Cookbooks to date:	\$640.00

Scholarship

We thank you for your interest and support of our children. (Balance as of June 30, 2018)

Balance Brought Forward:	\$1,521.49
Contributions since June 30, 2016	\$1,175.00
Total Awards (2 - \$300 each)	(600.00)
Balance as of 6/30/2018	\$2,096.49

** There is \$200 earmarked for the study of Nursing

2018 Alford Family Reunion Awards



Sterling & Melissa Alford – Alford's of the Year 2018

The First to Register Award for 2018 Alford Family Reunion
Jo Ann Alford of San Jose, CA

The Alford Innovator Award 2018
Marquez Alford of Edmond, OK

The Furthest Traveled Award 2018
Brandon Brown of Chico, CA

The Longest Married Award 2018
Celestine & Wylly Remson of Moreno Valley, CA

The Newlywed Award 2018
Kyra & Geoffrey Young, Oklahoma City, OK

The Largest Group In Attendance Award 2018 - (30
Gloria Alford-Carr of Spring, TX

The Youngest in Attendance Award 2018
Robert Goff, Jr. Of Wichita, KS



The Extraordinary Alford Award 2018

Jimmie Lee Pickens of Weleetka, OK

The Extraordinary Alford Award 2018 for Entrepreneurial Participation to the Alford Family

Montria Denise (DeeDee) Alford of Wewoka, OK

The Extraordinary Alford Award 2018 For Extraordinary Academic Achievement:

Christopher Dunlap Harris, M.D. of Edmond, OK

The Alford of the Year Award 2017

Willie O. Alford of San Jose, CA

The Alford-in-Law of the Year 2017

Ken Morgan of Sacramento, CA

The Alford of the Year 2018

Sterling Alford, Sr. of Edmond, OK

The Alford-in-Law of the Year Award 2018

Melissa Alford of Edmond, OK

The Alford-in-Law Legacy Award 2018 for Tireless Support of the Alford Family

James Allan Simpson of Langston, OK

The Alford Legacy Award 2018 – Awarded Gift Basket

Violet Patterson of Tulsa, OK



Violet Alford Patterson – The Alford Legacy Award 2018

Memorial Service

The 2018 Memorial/Commemoration Service was held Sunday Morning in the Thompson Room of The Marriott Hotel promptly at 10am. It began with an enthusiastic welcome by Hedy Alford-Jackson. The uplifting music was provided by Cheryl Thompson-Brooks (Congregational Number: “Woke Up This Morning” and solo (I Won’t Complain). Old and New Testament scriptures by Rev.

Michael Brooks (Psalms 121; 1 Cor. 13:4-13). The message was delivered by Rev. Larry Payne of Ebenezer Baptist Church of Seminole, Oklahoma (Message from 1 Cor. 15:58).



Gloria Alford-Carr facilitating the Commemoration Service

The Commemoration Service consisted of 21 departed. Memorial candles were provided as keepsakes to relatives of the departed. Candles were created and designed by Stacey Williams-Carr.

Our Beloved Family Members



- Adam “Pen” Anderson, Sr. (Jul 15, 1925 – Aug 19, 2016)
- Anthony DeShawn Penn (Mar 20, 1987 -Sep 13, 2016)
- Debrylan Eurell Bell (May 7, 1998 – Oct 5, 2016)
- Ruth Irene Green-Alford (Dec 27, 1925 – Oct 17, 2016)
- Lillian Anita Patton (Jul 30, 1944 – Oct 25, 2016)
- Elizabeth “Doll” Patton (Apr 2, 1949 - Dec 17, 2016)
- Zenobia Alford-Washington (Nov 3, 1940 – Dec 25, 2016)
- Jeanette “Lil Auntie” Lowe (Sep 16, 1920 – Jan 25, 2017)
- Eva Ponder McGough (Nov 4, 1933 – Mar 16, 2017)
- Amos Alford (Sep 13, 1966 – Apr 20, 2017)
- Booker Taliaferro Alford (Jun 5, 1917 – May 22, 2017)
- Eileen Taylor Alford (Feb 25, 1946 – Jul 26, 2017)
- Andre White (Feb 15, 1958 -Aug 16, 2017)



Nyla Jewel Weldon	(Dec 25, 1934 – Aug 23, 2017)
Sylvester Joe Keith Alford, II	(Sep 14, 1942 – Sep 12, 2017)
Laverne Meeks Alford	(Apr 9, 1934 – Oct 12, 2017)
Alphretta Minnie Starks	(Sep 13, 1932 - Oct 17, 2017)
Kenneth Ray Alford	(Aug 16, 1965-Jan 9, 2018)
Samuel Whitfield	(Nov 28, 1953 – Jan 19, 2018)
Edward O. McNeal	(Nov 16, 1943 – Jan 27, 2018)
Reginald D. Alford, Jr.	(Jul 31, 1986 – May 2, 2018)

While the internet certainly provides an opportunity for those of us interested in genealogy to confirm names and date, there's something really special about a group of people with a shared history exchanging family stories in person.

Thank you to everyone for their support and willingness to work tirelessly for a well-deserved family!!!

Committee Members

Marquiz and Sheryka Alford
 Montria (DeeDee) Alford
 Sterling and Melissa Alford
 Erika and Antoine Dooley
 Brylon and Stacey Carr
 Ashley and Zack Christopher
 Freddy, Loren, Peyton & Jared Green
 Ruthie and Walter Wagner

First Time Attendees

Milton Alford of Oklahoma City, OK
 Donnell Alford, Jr of Oklahoma City, OK
 Aquila Emery Cofield of Lawton, OK
 Joan and Stanley Standifer of Omaha, NE
 Darlene and Alfred Taylor of Detroit, Michigan

Future Reunion Sites

2020: Oklahoma City, OK
 2022: Dallas, TX
 Until 2020, we pray God holds each of you in the palm of his hands. Be blessed!

Until 2020, we pray God holds each of you in the palm of his hands. Be blessed!

~2018 Alford Reunion Chairs
 Gloria Carr & MyTay Green

Louis Alford inducted into Oklahoma African American Educators Hall of Fame



Former Tulsa educator **Amelia Louis Swain Alford** will be inducted into the Oklahoma African-American Educators, Inc. Hall of Fame. The induction ceremony will be held at 7 PM on September 28, 2018 at the Oklahoma History Center in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Mrs. Alford was born in Clearview, Oklahoma on November 30, 1923 to Lloyd V. and Rosie Swain. She attended Clearview Elementary School and graduated from Clearview High School. She enrolled at Langston University in Langston, Oklahoma where she earned a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education in 1945.

At 22 years old, she was assigned to her first teaching job in 1945 at Waurika Elementary School in Waurika, Oklahoma. She taught there for two years followed by a two-year stint at Davis Elementary School. She was then assigned to Tullahassee Elementary and she remained there for six years. Again, she was assigned to a new school, Bartlesville Elementary, where she taught six years. Her next teaching jobs were at IXL, Slick, and Tulsa Dunbar Elementary Schools. After integration, she accepted her final teaching assignment at Mark Twain Elementary in Tulsa, Oklahoma. She remained there until she retired in 1984 after 39 years of service in her profession.

She continued to be an integral part of her community post retirement. In 1981, she and her (late) husband, Romeo Alford, Sr. founded the Clearview Rodeo. Their goal was to revitalize the community and bring former and current residents together in an annual event. The rodeo continues to be a major draw for visitors to join with residents and promote the town of Clearview. Mrs. Alford is the business manager and continues to work diligently each year to ensure its success. She also advises concession vendors and assists with producing the rodeo brochure.

She is a member of Flipper Chapel A.M.E. Church in Sapulpa, Oklahoma, where she has served in various capacities during her 60-year membership. Some of her duties have included secretary, treasurer, trustee, choir leader, and Sunday School Teacher. She is also a member of the Order of the Eastern Star, Omega Chapter #106.

The majority of her career was spent instructing in all-Black schools with antiquated teaching materials that were often passed down after the all-White schools had used them. She made the best use of the materials and supplemented when necessary; it was often necessary.

She believed that most of her students' learning was the result of peer-to-peer social interactions. Therefore, she designed her classroom to facilitate cooperative learning in the classroom setting. She ensured that learning was not competitive; instead, it was collaborative – allowing for all students to achieve and excel.

Her classroom management skills were unsurpassed. Her colleagues often sought her out for advice on classroom management. She willingly advised and mentored her fellow teachers whenever and wherever she could.

She and her (late) husband, Romeo J. Alford, Sr. were married for 47 years. To their union was born a son, Romeo J. Alford, Jr. She is also mother-in-law to Brenda and grandmother to Jordan.

Amelia Louis Swain Alford is considered by many to be a trailblazer in her profession. She entered the profession during an era when African-American teachers faced challenges and circumstances unparalleled to their white counterparts. She graciously accepted the challenges and overcame the circumstances.

Oklahoma African American Educators Hall of Fame President, Dr. Donnie L. Nero, Sr., encourages the public to attend this prestigious event, especially community leaders and former students of this influential inductee.

Reprinted from Okemah News Leader, September 3, 2018

Alford's Graduates

Shani Alford



We celebrate **Shani Bernice Alford** who obtained her Masters of Science from the University of California, Davis on June 14, 2018. Shani is a Cal State University Sacramento alum and a dedicated member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Her

plans are to continue her career in community development and urban planning. She also serves as the Secretary for the Alford Family Council.

Shani is the daughter of Jo Ann & Willie Odell Alford; Granddaughter of George & Bernice Alford; G/Granddaughter of Wesley Dow Alford; and G/G/Granddaughter of Matthew Solomon Alford.

Congratulations Alford's!

Congrats – Wessylyne Kaye Mitchell

On June 20, 2018 our own **Wessylyne Kaye Mitchell** was awarded for meritorious service at the National Congress of Christian Education annual meeting. Kaye is the Assistant Endorser for chaplains serving in all branches of the military and other organizations such as hospitals.



We salute Kaye and her husband Dr. Nevalon Mitchell, Jr. for their tireless service, commitment and dedication to community service.



Kaye is the mother of Kim Smith; Daughter of Sunshyne & Fenton French; Granddaughter of Emily & Wesley Dow Alford; and G/Granddaughter of Matthew Solomon Alford.

McGough; G/Granddaughter of George & Bernice Alford; G/G/Granddaughter of Wesley Dow Alford; and G/G/G/Granddaughter of Matthew Solomon Alford.

Melissa & Don Griffin



Clearview Rodeo 2018

Congratulations to **Romeo J Alford, II** and **Jordan L. Alford** for another successful year of hosting the 38th Annual Open Rodeo. This year's rodeo boasted several exciting



events, including only one bull rider left standing at the end of the show. With a packed crowd in the stands, more than \$4,200 was awarded to rodeo participants from all over.

Although the temperatures were high, it was great time for regular and new attendees. I heard the food was fantastic! Next year, they hope to see more cowboys, friends and Alford's in attendance.

Major Alford Weds Michele Hassan Alford



Cheers to love birds and newlyweds Michele and Major Alford. The two were joined in matrimony on July 14, 2018, at the Treasure Island Wedding Chapel in Las Vegas, NV.

Michele & Major



Major Leonard Alford, Sr. is the son of Major D. Alford, Jr.; Grandson of Major "Datey" Alford, Sr. and G/Grandson of Matthew Solomon Alford.

Toasting Our Newlyweds

Presenting Mr. and Mrs. Don Griffin

Melissa Free is now Mrs. Don Griffin! The beautiful couple exchanged vows on July 14, 2018, at Mediterranean Villa in Arlington, TX. We wish them many years of wedded bliss.

Melissa is the mother of John Free; Daughter of Olga & Kevin Free; Granddaughter of Ellis Alford & Eva Ponder



Our Growing Tree

Leani Street Madison



A star is born! Welcoming little **Leani Street Madison** who was born on June 25, 2018 at 12:57 a.m. She weighed in at 6lbs and measured 19in long. We can tell that she already has daddy wrapped around her finger.

Leani is the daughter of Leon Madison and Tiffany Mitchell; Granddaughter of Sherry Madison Whitfield; G/Granddaughter of Audrey Heath and James Madison; G/G/Granddaughter of Odessa Cootey Alford; G/G/G/Granddaughter of George & Bernice Alford; G/G/G/G/Granddaughter of Wesley Dow Alford; and G/G/G/G/G/Granddaughter of Matthew Solomon Alford.

Aria Sanae Lewis



Alford family, we have been blessed with another bundle of joy. **Aria Sanae Lewis** was born June 16, 2018 at Honor Health Shea in Scottsdale, Arizona. She weighed in at 6lbs 10.9oz and 20" long. Aria made her grand entrance

on the birthday of her Great-Great-Grandfather the late Major "Datey" Alford.

Aria is the daughter of Andrea and Billie Lewis; Granddaughter of Darlene & Alfred Taylor; G/Granddaughter of George Alford; G/G/Granddaughter Major Alford; and G/G/G/Granddaughter of Matthew Solomon Alford.

Caiden Sanders

We welcome another Alford Prince! On June 17, 2018 the Sander's family was blessed for the fourth time with the arrival of Mr. **Caiden Cleo Vaughn Sanders**. He made his grand entrance weighing in at 6lbs and 13oz and measuring 18.5in.



Caiden is the son of Brandon & Carin Smith-Sanders; Grandson of Tammy & Pastor L.V. Gibbs; G/Grandson of L.C. & Erma (Alford) Emery; G/G/Grandson of Charlie & Asalee Alford; G/G/G/Grandson of Wesley Dow Alford; and G/G/G/G/Grandson of Matthew Solomon Alford.

Aria Nicole Free

We are elated about the arrival of **Aria Nicole Free**, who was born on June 28, 2018. Princess Aria weighed in at 9lbs



3oz and measured 20 inches long. Congratulations to the proud parents, Kristin & Joel Free. Aria is the daughter of Kristin & Joel Free; Granddaughter of Olga & Kevin Free; G/Granddaughter of Ellis Alford & Eva Ponder

McGough; G/G/Granddaughter of George & Bernice Alford; G/G/G/Granddaughter of Wesley Dow Alford; and G/G/G/G/Granddaughter of Matthew Solomon Alford.

Prince Kaiden DeWayne Grace

Prince Kaiden DeWayne Grace made his grand entrance on June 12, 2018 in San Antonio, Texas. The handsome Prince weighed in at 6lbs 7in and measured 20in. long. His



mom, dad and big brother Jayden King Grace are thrilled and spoiling him rotten. Cheers to KaDeisha Carter and Javon Grace. Prince Kaiden is the son of KaDeisha Carter; Grandson of Dana Carter & Fred

Carter; G/Grandson of Nathaniel Alfred, G/G/Grandson of Major "Datey" Alfred; and G/G/G/Grandson of Matthew Solomon Alfred.

Nicolas Jacobi Henderson

Introducing our latest Alford family arrival, **Nicolas Jacobi Henderson**. Handsome Nicolas made his debut on September 17, 2018 as a special birthday present for his mommy. He weighed in at 7lbs 13oz and measured 20 ½ inches long. Congratulations to Shynell Lucas and TJ Henderson.



Nicolas Jacobi Henderson
September 17, 2018
7lbs 13oz ~ 20in

Nicolas is the son of Shynell Lucas; Grandson of Bridget Alford-Spencer; G/Grandson of

Augustine & Donnell Alford, Sr.; G/G/Grandson of Louis Milton & Ethel Patton-Alford; G/G/G/Grandson of James Willie Alford; and G/G/G/G/Grandson of Lafayette Alford.

Boston Lynn Ray

The wait is over and a new king has arrived! Please join us in welcoming **Boston Lynn Ray** who made his grand entrance on September 20, 2018. Mr. Handsome weighed



in at 7lbs and 9oz and measured 20in. His mommy and daddy are overjoyed over their new arrival.

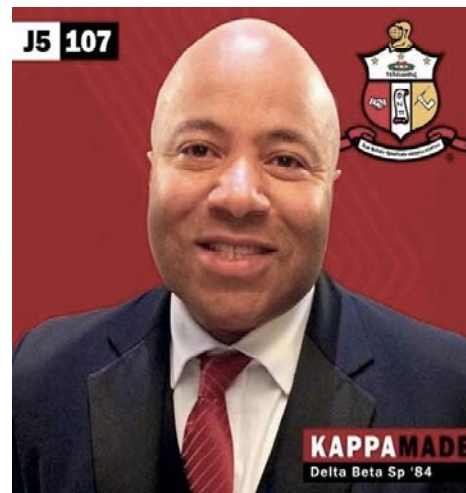
Boston is the son of Timeka Alford & Gregory Ray; Grandson of Reginald Alford, Sr. & Tonya

Alford; G/Grandson of J.W. Alford & Venita Hicks; G/G/Grandson of George & Elizabeth Alford; G/G/G/Grandson of James Willie Alford; and G/G/G/G/Grandson of Lafayette Alford.

Going Greek

Kip Jackson Polemarch

Congratulations to **Edward "Kip" Jackson, II** who was recently elected Polemarch of the Jersey City Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.



He is celebrated by his fellow Alford Kappa brothers: Bryan Bird, Will Tibbs, Bill Tibbs, John Tibbs, Joe Tibbs, Emmett Roberts, Antoine Dooley, Chris Alfred, Erick Harris and Daniel Marshall.

Kip is the son of Hedy & Edward Jackson, Sr.; Grandson of Maggie & Major Grant Alford; G/Grandson of Wesley Dow Alford; and G/G/Grandson of Matthew Solomon Alford.



Violet Alford Patterson 70th AKA Anniversary

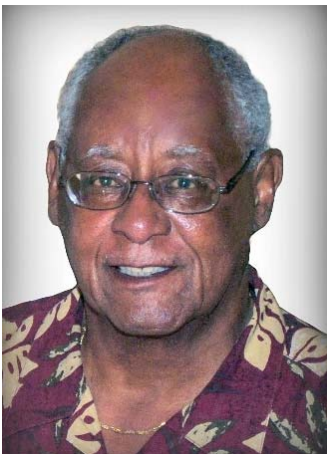


Violet Alford Patterson celebrated her 70th anniversary as a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. On September 16, 2018, she was honored at Morning Star Baptist Church for her years of dedication and commitment as a Life Member of the sorority.

History was made on April 14, 2018, when she became of a charter member of the Alpha Alpha Alpha Omega chapter, in the City of Broken Arrow, Oklahoma, along with her daughters **Gwynell Wilson** and **Emily Patterson Harris**. This is the first four letter chapter of the AKA organization.

SJA II Family Connect Day

On September 14, 2018, we celebrated the late **Sylvester**



Alford's commitment to and love of the Alford family. Together we honored our beloved family member who gave so much time, energy and love to maintaining the history and legacy of the Alford family and the Alford Family Reunion.

This is an annual event every September 14th, so those who are able and willing; call, text, or write a family member (any family member—Alford or otherwise) you haven't 'connected' with in the

past year. It was a great way to reconnect and honor his memory. Spread the word and spread the love. Family connection – one of the values Syl cherished!

Sylvester Joe Keith Alford, II
September 14, 1942 – September 26, 2017

Alford Family Scholarship Donations

Please consider donating to the Alford Family Scholarship Fund. Proceeds are used to assist Alford family members who seek to further their education. To make a donation or for more information please contact our scholarship chairpersons:

Erika Dooley &
 5700 Seneca Drive
 Plano, Texas 75094
 214-862-4560
note2erika@gmail.com

Honoring our Alford Legacy

Solomon Alford fathered seven mulatto children in rural Mississippi from 1849-1880. Six of those children born on the Alford plantation to a slave girl named Lussie; while their brother resided on the nearby Coffey plantation. These seven stars, along with their mother, endured countless hardships and overcame tremendous adversity so that we may live. We stand on their shoulders and honor their Alford legacy.

- ★ Lussie
- ★ John Henry Coffey
- ★ Matilda Ann
- ★ Matthew Solomon
- ★ Mary
- ★ Rosie Lee
- ★ Lafayette
- ★ Major Clemon

Questions?

Email: thealfordreunion@gmail.com
 Call or Text: **281-773-6756**

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 Via Facebook: **Alford Family Reunion 2018**