

Margaret Simons Alford

(1930-2008)

By Jerry Long
c.2026



Margaret S. Alford



Margaret Love Simons was born in Hopkins County, KY. She was the only child of Royce Evans Simons (1894-1996) and Daisy Love Shelton (1900-1991), who were married in Hopkins County, KY on 25 August 1925 (see [Shelton family data in the Kentucky Family Records](#), West-Central Kentucky Family Research Association, Owensboro, KY, Vol.4, pp.44-51). Both of Margaret's parents were teachers. Margaret is listed in the 1940 federal census of Hanson, Hopkins County, KY and 1950 census of Bowling Green, Warren County, KY.

Margaret Simons married Henry Cecil (H. C.) Alford, Jr. on 25 August 1959 in Warren County, KY. The son of Henry Cecil Alford & Flora Irene Childress, he was born 14 September 1932 in Warren County, KY. He died 17 February 2020 Bowling Green, Warren County, KY. They had three children – Brenda Sue (born 9 January 1961 Warren County, KY; Linda Carol (born 26 October 1963 Lee County, AL; and Steven Royce (born 20 May 1967 Daviess County, KY.



Daily News, Bowling Green, KY, Friday, 20 June 2008, p5A:



Margaret S. Alford

Margaret S. Alford, 77, of Bowling Green died at 9:17 a.m. June 19, 2008, at The Medical Center. The Hopkins County native was a homemaker. She was a teacher at Western Kentucky University and Auburn University in Auburn, Ala. She was a member of Ray's Branch Church of Christ, a help-meet to her husband and a loving mother to their three children. She was a member and co-founder of the West Central Kentucky Family Research Organization, a secretary and treasurer of the Green River Union Cemetery and a member of Richardsville Homemakers. She was a daughter of the late Royce E. Simons and Daisy Shelton Simons.

Funeral is at 2 p.m. Sunday at J.C. Kirby & Son Funeral Home, Lovers Lane chapel, with burial in Green River Union Cemetery. Visitation is from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday and begins at noon Sunday at the funeral home. Expressions of sympathy may take the form of contributions to American Cancer Society, Greenwood Courtyard, 2425 Scottsville Road, Ste. 123, Bowling Green, KY 42104-4457. Online condolences may be made at www.jckirbyandson.com.

Survivors include her husband, H.C. Alford; two daughters, Sue Martin and her husband, John, of Berea and Linda Baker and her husband, Ken, of South Lake, Texas; a son, Steve Alford and his wife, Kelley, of Lexington; and seven grandchildren, Evan, Amanda, Andrew, Sky, Danny, Daisy and Jake.



Daily News, Bowling Green, KY, Friday, 21 February 2020, p.5A and
Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Friday, 21 February 2020, p.2C:



H. C. Alford, Jr.

Bowling Green – It is with heavy hearts that the family of Dr. H.C. Alford, Jr. announces his unexpected passing on Monday, February 17, 2020, at the age of 87 years.

Born September 14, 1932 in Richardsville, Kentucky, he grew up on a rural farm, acquiring a vigorous work ethic. He served in the Korean War, and with his leadership and typing skills, was precociously promoted to a US Army Supply Sargent. After returning home, H.C. graduated from Western Kentucky University where he met and married his WKU Biology teacher Margaret Simons. They then moved to Auburn University where she taught microbiology and he matriculated with a Doctor in Veterinary Medicine. Known as "Doc" in Owensboro and befriending all, he treated thousands of large and small animals at Kentuckiana Animal Clinic and at local farms. A lifetime Christian and elder, H.C. was a long-time member with his family of South Side and Westside Church of Christ in Owensboro, and later a member of the Bowling Green 12th Street Church of Christ, Ray's Branch Church of Christ, and more recently, Parkway Church of Christ. After losing Margaret in 2008, he found love again and married Jean Vinson in 2013, with whom he rekindled his life-spark and reshaped his hoe. Known for his mental brilliance, his pranks and his love of God, nature, and gardening, H.C. leaves behind a legacy of his wooded farm in Richardsville that is home to hundreds of hummingbirds, deer, and wild turkey which he shared with his dear family and many close friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents Flora Russell and H.C. Alford, Sr., his siblings Dorman, Norman, Mary, and Demp, and his first wife, Margaret (Simons), mother of their three children.

He is survived by his second lovely wife, Jean (Vinson) and her two daughters Sarah Vinson and Amanda Paris as well as his three children with Margaret, Sue Martin (John), Linda Baker (Ken), and Steve Alford (Kelley), and seven grandchildren, Evan, Sky, and Daisy Martin, Amanda (John Logan) Thomas, Andrew Baker, and Danny and Jake Alford, and siblings Ray Alford and Frank Alford.

Memorial services will be held at J.C. Kirby Funeral Home on Broadway, Bowling Green, KY. The funeral service will be held on Sunday 2/23/2020 starting at 2PM with interment to follow at Green River Union Cemetery in Richardsville, KY



Margaret & H. C. Alford were buried in the Green River Union Cemetery at Richardsville, Warren County, KY.



Margaret S. Alford received a Bachelor of Science degree from Western Kentucky State College in Bowling Green, KY in 1952. While a student at Western she was a member of the Talisman yearbook staff. In 1952-1954 she was a science teacher at Lloyd High School in Erlanger, KY. She taught one year at Charleston Township High School in Charleston, Indiana. She attended the University of Kentucky, beginning her master's program in 1955. She was a graduate assistant in the department of bacteriology at U.K. She received her M. A. degree in 1958 from the University of Kentucky. In August 1958 she joined the staff at Western Kentucky State College. She was a biology teacher at Western and at Auburn University in Auburn, Alabama. She is a member of the Society of American bacteriologists.



Margaret Alford, Western Kentucky State College, Bowling Green, KY, faculty – biology department, 1960

In 1965 H. C. and Margaret moved to Owensboro, KY, where she was a member of the faculty at Kentucky Wesleyan College. H. C. Alford, veterinarian, for many years practiced at the Kentuckiana Animal Clinic, at 18th and Mill, Ave., in Owensboro. Margaret Alford was a member of the Woman's Club of Owensboro, the Masonville Homemakers in Daviess County and the Richardsville Homemakers in Warren County. In Owensboro they lived at 5215 Veach Road from 1970 until 1994, when their home was lost in a fire. They then moved to 1434 Hickory Lane in Owensboro. Her husband retired in March 1998 and in October of that year they left Owensboro to a house they had built on their farmland in the north part of Warren County (1520 Youngs Ferry Road), twelve miles from Bowling Green. After returning to live in Warren County Margaret was secretary and treasurer of the Green River Union Cemetery, Richardsville, KY (2002-2008). Many members of their family were interred in this cemetery where she was subsequently laid to rest.



WCK:FRA

Margaret Alford was one of the four founding members of the genealogy society, West-Central Kentucky Family Research Association (WCK:FRA for short). Margaret, along with Michael James Edgeworth (1927-1981), Thomas William Westerfield (1926-1980) and Elizabeth Smith Cox (1901-1999), organized the association at a meeting at the home of Mr. Westerfield, 2517 Lewis Lane in Owensboro, in May 1968. Until Mrs. Alford's death in 2008 she was the cornerstone and backbone of the organization.

Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Sunday, 23 June 1968, p.4C:

Genealogical Society Is Formed Here

A genealogical society has been formed in Owensboro.

The first meeting was held in the Blue Flame Room at Western Kentucky Gas last Tuesday night. Fifteen persons were present.

An organizational committee was appointed consisting of Tom Westerfield, chairman, Mrs. H. C. Alford, secretary, Michael Edgeworth, Mrs. Edgar Cox, and William P. Iler.

The group will be called the West-Central Kentucky Family Research Association.

Its purposes will be:

- A. To bring together persons who are researching family history.
- B. To share ideas, information, methods and practices in family research.
- C. To collect, preserve and make available material on family histories with emphasis on families in the counties of Breckinridge, Hancock, Grayson, Ohio, Butler, Muhlenberg, Logan, Todd, Christian, McLean, Webster, Henderson and Daviess.
- D. To encourage preservation of public records and make them readily accessible to interested persons.
- E. To encourage respect for the preservation of the family unit.

The next meeting is scheduled for July 12 at 7 p.m. in the Blue Flame Room, and is open to anyone interested in the purposes of the association.

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Margaret Alford served WCK:FRA in many capacities. At various times she held the offices of president, vice-president and secretary. The society's newsletter-periodical, The Bulletin began publication in August 1968 with Mrs. Alford as its editor. The Bulletin (quarterly) contained articles on genealogical research, program and seminar announcements, queries, book reviews, list of new members, and new acquisitions by the association, annual surname index, etc. Mrs. Alford continued as editor of The Bulletin until her death, a span of thirty-nine years.

WCK:FRA published a wealth of genealogical data in their co-publications, The Bulletin and the Kentucky Family Records. They also published over forty books of census, cemetery, family bibles and county records. Mrs. Alford contributed many records to these publications. She

also presented several programs at WCK:FRA's meetings and conducted a "Beginning Genealogy Research" class at the Owensboro Community College. For several years WCK:FRA held an annual seminar that was attended by as many as 150 genealogy enthusiasts. Mrs. Alford was the chairperson who spent many hours preparing and organizing the seminars.

Since the inception of WCK:FRA Margaret Alford served as its librarian and record acquisition chairman. The donations, membership dues and seminar fees collected by WCK:FRA were used by Mrs. Alford to acquire books and genealogical materials for the Kentucky Room at the Daviess County Public Library in Owensboro.

Beginning in September 1971 the Kentucky Room at the Daviess County Public Library in Owensboro became the repository for the books purchased by West-Central Kentucky Family Research Association (WCK:FRA). In 1985 Mrs. Alford reported that the group had donated about \$30,000 in books to the Kentucky Room. A count by Jerry Long, Kentucky Room librarian, in 2006 of WCK:FRA books added to the Kentucky Room's showed a total of 1,712 volumes (a WCK:FRA label had been placed on the inside cover of each volume). In addition to this they also had placed 495 hardbound and 51 loose bound volumes of periodicals (many of the periodicals had been acquired in an exchange engineered by Mrs. Alford with other organizations). The total cost of these materials would be in excess of \$50,000 (see "Notes on the Ancestry of the Kentucky Room, Daviess County Public Library, Owensboro, KY", by Jerry Long, Kentucky Family Records, Vol. 31, West-Central Kentucky Family Research Association (Utica, KY: McDowell Publications, 2007), p.16; "History of Kentucky Room at Daviess County Public Library" and "West-Central Kentucky Family Research Association (1968-2014)", by Jerry Long, on website, West-Central Kentucky History & Genealogy (<https://wckyhistory-genealogy.org/>)).

On 20 September 2002 Jerry Long wrote Margaret S. Alford and asked if she could estimate how many books had been placed in the Kentucky Room by WCK:FRA. She replied later the same day saying:

"I do not know the total value of the books and periodicals which WCK:FRA has placed in the KY room. We have a card file, but even it may not be complete. We formerly had a running total of what had been voted and spent in book purchases, but that was discontinued some years ago. That did not reflect the total value anyway, as it would not have included gift books by individuals and publishing companies or the value of exchange publications, binding, etc. It is a record which needs to be made, but I probably will never have time to ever do it."

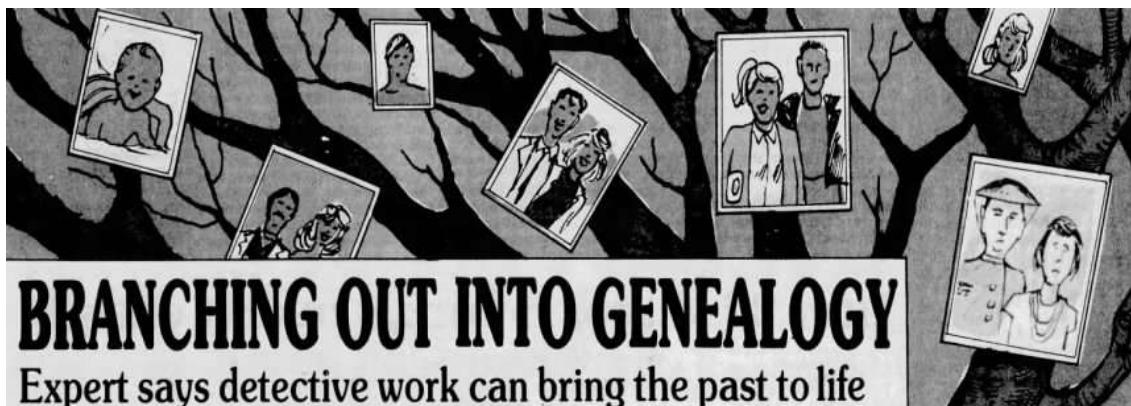


Dot Smithson, (left) and Margaret Alford, 2004, at WCK-FRA research library, 3133 Commonwealth Court, Owensboro, KY; library was maintained by Mrs. Smithson.

In December 2010 West-Central Kentucky Family Research Association moved from Owensboro, KY to Calhoun, McLean County, KY. The move resulted from a lack of volunteers and expenses of operating a library room at 3133 Commonwealth Court, in Owensboro. In addition to the group's files, the collections of the Society of Kentucky Pioneers and of the McDowell Publications (materials of the late Samuel McDowell) were relocated to Calhoun. In 2014 these collections were merged with the McLean County Research Center and became part of the McLean County History & Regional Family Research Center, 540 Main Street, P.O. Box 291, Calhoun, KY 42327 (see McLean County News, Calhoun, KY, Thursday, 2 September 2021, "Lasting Legacy: Rickard, museum co-founder, remembered for her passion" p.1A; and "Museum Notes" p. 3A). At the time of WCK:FRA's disbanding the group had an cumulative membership of over 2,600.



Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, 7 April 1985, p.1E:



By Catherine Behan Messenger-Inquirer

Digging up family roots might not divulge a link to a huge inheritance, but for the curious and for closet sleuths, researching family history can bring the past to life.

"It's just a puzzle that pieces are always missing from," said Margaret Alford of Owensboro. "When you find one answer, there's always another two more waiting."

Mrs. Alford has been one of those sleuths for 30 years, digging through reams of paper searching for ancestors.

She has traced the Simonses and the Sheltons past Virginia, where two branches lived next door to each other, back to England, Scotland, Germany and Ireland.

She found several American soldiers in her family, and one ancestor who followed George Rogers Clark down the Ohio and survived an Indian ambush, only to be imprisoned by the British.

Genealogy, one of the most popular hobbies in the country, brings people together, she said, and can be addictive.

"It makes the past more real to you," Mrs. Alford said.

"You can get real excited when you find a little piece of something.

Occasionally, finding that little piece can be difficult, however. Mrs. Alford, who has adult education classes in genealogy, says much of her time now is spent trying to help people find out about their families' pasts.

She was a co-founder of the West-Central Kentucky Family Research Association, which has grown to 650 members since 1968, when it was set up to help people find out about families from the Owensboro area.

Daisy Elliot of Owensboro and her daughter, Carol, joined the club soon after it formed. Carol had come home with an assignment to find out about her family, and her questions about her mother's family, the Graveses, spurred Mrs. Elliot's own' questions and the search was on.

"Oh, it's interesting and it's enlightening," she said about her hobby. She has traced her family about as far as she can, back to England. Once the track moves across the ocean, it can be harder to find information, she said, and now she works to help others trace their roots.

A lot of people are interested in genealogy, but not in taking time such to dig up the information. Groups such as the West-Central Kentucky Research Association help those people and those doing their own research.

The group publishes a quarterly booklet with Kentucky family records. It has donated about \$30,000 in books to the Kentucky Room of the Owensboro-Daviess County Public Library, which is largely devoted to such work.

To begin, Mrs. Alford said, those interested in finding out about their families should ask relatives what they remember. And whether accurate or just a little off, that information is enough to get a genealogist started.

The best time to begin is when you are young, she said, when a lot of relatives are alive to tell you what they remember.

Mrs. Alford, in fact, began on her quest when she was 19 and she was assigned the project for a class.

Her family, mostly from Muhlenberg, Hopkins, Henderson and Logan counties, was a bit easier to trace than those whose families have traveled far and wide.

By using state vital statistics information for deaths and marriages, court records, for criminal or civil cases, deeds and wills, U.S. government records, especially military records, as well as Census data from probable states will help diggers locate that information.

"It's important to check every trail, no matter how small it seems," she said.

Researchers will hit stumbling blocks and wrong leads sometimes, she said.

"They all left records, but sometimes houses were burned," Mrs. Alford said. "People who moved from state to state are more of a problem."

Besides coming over from England in the 1600s, one of the biggest moves her parents' families made was from Virginia to Kentucky.

And as more branches were added to the family tree, Mrs. Alford found out a few interesting common denominators in her family.

On one side, her father's ancestors, all but one generation served in the war of their day.

Gabriel Shelton and his five brothers, who were enlisted in the Pittsylvania County, Va., militia in the early 1780s, fought in the ill-fated Guilford Courthouse, N.C., battle against general Charles Cornwallis in the Revolutionary War, Mrs. Alford said. Cornwallis was on his way to surrender at Yorktown.

Shelton was a relative several generations behind Mrs. Alford's mother, Daisy Simons.

William Roark, on her father's line, was with the group following George Rogers Clark down the Ohio. When the group landed at the mouth of the Little Miami River near Cincinnati, they were ambushed by Indians and only 30, including Roark, survived.

He was captured and taken to a British prison in Canada. When he was released in about 1780, he wrote in his pension records that he heard music in New York City after he left Canada – and was told he was hearing the St. Patrick's Day celebration.

After his release, he moved to Muhlenberg County.

His son, William Jr., was in the war of 1812. William Jr.'s daughter, Amanda Boyd Roark, married William Lamb, who fought in the Civil War. Their daughter, Alice Anne Lamb, married Hiram Simons, was the only member of the line so far not to have to serve in a war. But the tradition resumed with their son, and Mrs. Alford's father, Roy Simons. He fought in World War I with the U.S. Navy. Her husband, H.C. Alford, fought with the Army in the Korean War.

John Ewing, a relative on her mother's line, fought in the battle of Point Pleasant, which predated the Revolutionary War.

Mrs. Alford would like to pull together the information she has filed at home by family to publish a book. She has already written several chapters in the book "**Goodloe Genealogy*," about Hopkins and Fayette counties.

A branch of her family moved in 1790 to Fayette County and then to Hopkins County in 1819.

Going through a professional genealogist for information on the past can be expensive, she said. And some people who dig on their own can spend a lot of money. But mostly people can find out about their past with just some paper, a pencil and a few stamps, she said.

Some people worked to find out about their ancestors to find out if they were related to famous people.

Mrs. Alford said she thought average people were more interesting.

"It just makes ordinary people more real," she said.

She hasn't found any real horrors in her past. But it is very possible that people will find things they'd rather not know instead of an old tie to the British throne.

"I tell my classes that if you're afraid of skeletons, stay out of closets."



Getting Started in Genealogy

Messenger-Inquirer:

If you've thought about researching your family tree, but don't know how, here are a few suggestions from the people in the Kentucky Room of the Owensboro-Daviess County Public Library, where many of the documents you'll need are located.

- Start with the obvious – yourself. Then your parents and grandparents. Write down everything you learn.
- Talk to someone who is already doing genealogy.
- Look for old family Bibles, which may contain names and dates of births, marriages and deaths.
- Search for birth, death and marriage certificates.
- Call, write or visit relatives and ask questions.
- Keep materials in order, organize with divided notebooks and folders. Use pencils until proven, then write the information with a pen.
- Visit special collections sections of libraries – places like the Kentucky Room. But remember that most libraries have a minimum age limit – 14 at the Kentucky Room – for those using their special collections.
- Visit cemeteries, hunt for tombstones with information about your ancestors on them.
- Visit courthouses. Wills, land records and marriage records may contain information about your family.
- Look for church records of your family. The Catholic church keeps very good records.
- Visit county health departments. They have birth and death records.
- For birth and death records in other parts of Kentucky, try the Bureau of Vital Statistics, Division of Vital Records, State Department of Health, 275 E. Main St., Frankfort, Ky. 40601.
- Use the Inter-Library Loan Service as a way to get out-of-state information.
- Consult professional genealogists.
- Don't get discouraged. Researching a family tree can take years.
- The people at the Kentucky Room also suggest that you help your descendants with their research by tape recording a family history.
- Get each generation still living to talk about traditions, what it was like when they were growing up, vacations they've taken, jobs they've held, where they live and go to church, organizations they belonged to.
- Don't forget to give each person's name and the date at the beginning of each recording.

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Daily News, Bowling Green, KY, Sunday, 18 August 2002, p.4 (Mailbox):

Cemetery fund needs donations for upkeep

On behalf of the trustees of the Green River Union Cemetery Fund, I would like to express our heartfelt sympathy to the families of Clarence Miller, a former trustee, and Doris Ann Clark, our former secretary-treasurer.

They volunteered time and labor to preserve the beauty of Richardsville's oldest cemetery.

I would like to encourage anyone who has relatives buried out at Green River Union Cemetery to send donations for the upkeep of the cemetery grounds to Margaret Alford, the new secretary-treasurer, at 1520 Youngs Ferry Road, Bowling Green, 42101.

Cindy Duckett-Taulbee, Bowling Green



Daily News, Bowling Green, KY, Tuesday, 24 September 2002, p.6A:

Richardsville contemplates I-66

By Robyn L. Minor, The Daily News

Margaret Alford said constructing Interstate 66 would be good for Warren County, but she wants to make sure historic sites are protected.

Alford, who lives just north of Richardsville, points to a map with potential corridors for the road that would be a loop around Bowling Green and possibly part of an east-to-west new interstate. She was one of about 50 residents gathered at the Richardsville Volunteer Fire Department on Monday night to discuss the project.

"It looks like that most northern route goes right over the area where there is a historic church," she said.

The Green River Union Church, which was constructed in 1830, is fallen in and abandoned.

"But there is a huge graveyard with more than 1,100 graves there," she said. Some of them are family members.

Her husband, H.C. Alford, points to a stream that runs through the same area.

"That's Indian Creek and there Indian artifacts all up and down, there," he said. "... It's awfully close to Green River, too."

It's comments like those of the Alfords that consultants are gathering, according to Jason Dupont of Bernardin Lochmueller & Associates.

Larry Moore is concerned how the project might affect him.

He has two farms on Anna Sandhill Road where one potential route crosses.

"I moved a half mile off the road to get away from everything," Moore said. "And this looks like it would take my house and farm."

Dupont cautioned the residents that there are 50 different potential route combinations, which are months away from being rowed to a few. The state says construction is eight to 10 years away and that depends on funding.

Derrick Young said he was excited about the potential of an I-66 interchange near Richardsville.

A dairy farmer who travels to Owensboro frequently, Young said an interchange would cut 30 miles off his trip.

"Now I have to go all the way back into Bowling Green and get on the parkway," he said.

The next community meeting is at 7 p.m. Monday at the Chalybeate Volunteer Fire Department.



The Bulletin