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Alford-Nielson House

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April 1985

Alford-Nielson House
1299 Main Street
Ferndale, Calif.

Chain of title for original lot on Main Street in downtown
Ferndale:

H:769 (3 Oct. 1870) H.S. Waterman to E.J. Dodge for \$300.00.
Beginning 19 and $3/4$ links west of $\frac{1}{4}$ section post on line between
sections 2 and 11, thence N 89° E on the line between sections
2 and 11, 4.68 chains; thence S $43\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ W $3.28\frac{1}{2}$ chains; thence
N $46\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ W 3.36 chains to the place of beginning with the party of
the first part reserving for his own use all the crops and fruits
now growing there.

L:797 (6 Sept. 1873) E.J. and Semantha E. Dodge to James E.
Brown for \$200.00. On west side of road, commencing on the line
of said road 17' from the corner of the lot now owned by P.F.
Hart and known as the E.H. Guptill lot; thence westerly and parallel
with the north line of the Guptill lot and 17' therefrom a
distance of 100'; thence northerly 60'; thence easterly 100';
thence southerly 60' to place of beginning, bounded on south by
lot of P.F. Hart, on west and north by lands of E.J. Dodge,
and on east by road.

U:50 (26 March 1877) James E. and Eva H. Brown to Hannah
Lewis of Ferndale for \$1000.00. Commencing at the northeast
corner of a lot now owned by P.F. Hart on west side of Main;
thence northerly 60'; thence westerly 100'; thence southerly
60'; thence easterly 100' to place of beginning being lot 5
in block 14 of Herrick survey, bounded on the north by a lot
owned by Ferndale Lodge of F & A M No 193 and on the west by
land owned by E.J. Dodge, on the south by land owned by P.F.
Hart and on east by Main Street.

9:14 (15 June 1883) Hannah Roberts, formerly Hannah Lewis,
by her attorney to W.B. Alford for \$1200. Commencing at the
northeast corner of a lot now owned by P.F. Hart on the west
side of Main Street; thence northerly 60'; thence westerly
100'; thence southerly 60'; thence easterly along north boundary
line of lot owned by P.F. Hart 100'; being lot #5, bounded on
north by a lot now owned by Ferndale Lodge of F & A M No. 193,
on west by land of E.J. Dodge, and on south by land of P.F.
Hart and on east by Main Street, the same being conveyed by
Dodge to James E. Brown, except portions conveyed by Hannah
Lewis to Alford's 6 Sept. 1877 (V:33) and such as conveyed by
Hannah Roberts to the Alford 18 Dec. 1880 (2:339).

V:33 (6 Sept. 1877) Hannah Lewis to Frank A. Alford and William
B. Alford in Ferndale. Lot #5 in Block 14 in Ferndale being
21' by 60' on west side Main Street, beginning at northeast corner
of lot owned by P.F. Hart; thence northerly 21' along west side
of Main; thence westerly 60'; thence southerly 21' to north
boundary line of lot owned by P.F. Hart; thence easterly along
northerly boundary of Hart's lot to westerly boundary line of
Main Street 60' to place of beginning. Bounded on north by
Ferndale Lodge No. 193 of F. & A. M.; on west by land owned by
E.J. Dodge; and on south by land owned by P.F. Hart; on east by
Main Street, same lot conveyed by Dodge to James Brown.

2:339 (18 Dec. 1880) Hannah Roberts to F.A. and W.B. Alford. Commencing on the northerly line of a lot now owned by P.F. Hart upon the west side of Main at a point 60' west from the westerly line of Main Street; thence northly 21'; thence westerly 40'; thence southerly 21'; thence easterly 40' to beginning, being the southwesterly fractional part of lot 5, block 14 of Herrick survey.

43:44 (20 June 1892) William B. Alford to Mary Alford. Commencing at southeast corner of a lot now owned by IOOF Hall on west side of Main Street; thence westerly 100'; thence southerly 39'; thence easterly 100'; thence northerly 39' being north part of lot #5, block 14.

48:316 (8 June 1893) Mary Alford to Herman J. Mueller. North fractional part of lot 5 in block 14 in Herrick survey in Ferndale, commencing at southeast corner of a lot owned by IOOF on west side Main Street; thence westerly 100'; thence southerly 39'; thence easterly 100'; thence northerly 39'.

Chain of title for present lot:

54:119 (11 April 1895) James and Fannie Smith to Serena C. Mueller for \$300. Lot 1 in survey 46 by Joseph Shaw .

122:258 (20 March 1912) Serena C. and H.J. Mueller of Tulare County to Maurice Nielson, Lot #1 in survey 46 by Joseph Shaw.

193:113 (22 July 1916) Maurice Nielson to Laura Frances Nielson, lot #1 (deed filed 9 Oct. 1929).

446:223 (1 Sept. 1936) Laura Frances Nielson, widow, to Leland H. Nielson, Sidney M. Nielson and Darrel E. Nielson, Lot #1, of survey 46.

485:268 (7 April 1958) Decree of distribution for Sidney Maurice Nielson to widow, Verne P. Nielson, undivided 1/3 interest in lot #1, survey 46.

976:248 (14 August 1968) Verne P. Nielson of Santa Barbara to Eleanor Clogston of Kalispell, Montana undivided 1/3 interest in lot #1, survey 46.

(there are other deeds in here)

1452:554 (10 Oct. 1977) Eleanor N. Clogston and Jamie Ruth Nielson to James E. and Mary I. Daly.

1735:651 (30 March 1984) James E. and Mary I. Daly to Thomas B. and Maura-Anne Eastman.

Notes of interest:

West Coast Signal (18 April 1877) "Ferndale and vicinity show rapid improvement---... Dr. Alford is manifesting his public spirit in the shape of a commodious drug store where we can find an abundance of bitter and sweet for our physical needs.

WCS (8 May 1877) Birth of a daughter to Dr. and Mrs. F.A. Alford on April 30.

WCS (24 Oct. 1877) "Several of our merchants are in the City after new goods....Dr. Alford is going to bring up several pianos, organs, and other musical instruments. Alford Brothers are nicely fitted up in their Drug and Variety store, and have a good commencement for a prosperous business."

Ferndale Enterprise

4 May 1878: Ad: Alford Bros, druggists on MainStreet.

18 May 1878: F.A. Alford, M.D., physician, and surgeon, office at Ferndale Drug Store.

9 Aug. 1878: From this date and until further notice, I will neither give advice, prescribe, nor attend professional calls. the dental office will remain as before. F.A. Alford, M.D.

20 Dec. 1878: Mrs. Lewis has returned home from the City.

~~20 June 1879: Dr. Alford resumes medical practice. W.B. Alford to run Drug Store alone.~~

17 Jan 1879: Alford Bros. have had the carpenters at work for a few days building a substantial sidewalk in front of their property on Main Street.

Dr. Alford fills teeth with gold and silver and warrants all work done to be desirable and first-class.

7 March 1879: Alford Bros. desire to annex neither Mexico nor the Post Office, but simply what the public owes them. Shell out.

18 April 1879: Will Alford returns from San Francisco. Made large purchase of all goods in their line--books, stationery, drugs, perfumes, and sheet music. Cheaper than cheapest in Humboldt Co.

20 June 1879: Dr. Alford resumes medical practice. W.B. Alford to run Drug Store alone.

29 August 1879: Dr. Alford has added additional beauty and tone to the front door of his residence by adorning it with his name in gilt letters.

5 Sept. 1879: It will be seen by reading our new ads that Alford Bros have dissolved the copartnership heretofore existing between them and that Mr. William Alford will continue the business in his name.

17 February 1882 Mr. Cook, the artist for Elliott and Company's History of Humboldt, began work here Tuesday. He has 'taken down' the Enterprise office, Drug store, hotel, etc. Many fine views in this vicinity, residences, business houses, etc. will be sketched.

19 April 1884 Dr. Alford making good progress with his new house.

31 May 1884: Dr. Alford has leased the upstairs of theFerndale Drug store for a suite of office rooms.

5 July 1884; Will Alford is a father of a daughter. His cup of bliss is now full, (born June 27, 1884).

23 August 1884: House warming for Dr. and Mrs. F. Alford's new house.

22 Nov. 1884: The business house of W.B. Alford, druggist and apothecary, Ferndale, was closed by attachment Wednesday evening. The assets of the firm will more than settle all liabilities.

5 Dec. 1884: W.B. Alford has disposed of his drug business to H.S. Case of Hydesville who will hereafter conduct the same. We are informed that the business will be under the immediate supervision of Dr. F.A. Alford.

9 June 1893: W.B. Alford this week sold his residence property adjoining Michel and Sons drug store to H.J. Mueller, who, we understand, intends replacing the dwelling with a building suitable for his furniture business.

16 June 1893: It is the intention of H.J. Mueller to shortly move to some place not yet determined upon, the Wm. B. Alford residence purchased by him last week. On the lot on which the dwelling now stands Mr. Mueller will erect a building this summer for his furniture business.

23 June 1893: The work of moving the W.B. Alford residence lately purchased by H.J. Mueller began Tuesday morning and the house is now well along toward the end of its journey. Messers Wittmann and Burns are doing the moving and the future location of the dwelling will be between the residence of P. Coombe and Judge Smith. Mr. Alford and family are occupying the house while it journeys.

30 June 1893: The W.B. Alford dwelling, lately purchased by H.J. Mueller, has arrived at its destiny on the lot adjoining the residence of Judge Smith. Mr. Mueller opened bids last evening for the construction of his new store building.

28 July 1893: Mrs. F.A. Alford and daughter Bertha are moving to Palo Alto to live with her mother. Notice saying she was in need of money and asked people to pay bills owned to the late Dr. Alford.

8 Sept. 1893: Contractor Bert Matthews and crew expect to commence work Monday on H.J. Mueller's fine new building next to Michel and Sons' drug store, and Thos. Johnston and Howard Gay will begin the construction of the concrete foundation today. A several days' delay in operations has been caused through difficulty experienced in ascertaining a correct knowledge of street lines.

22 Sept. 1893: The carpenters are hard at work on H.J. Mueller's new building next to Michel and Sons' drug store and the sound of hammer and saw are to be heard throughout the day. James Thompson of Fortuna assisted by Thos. Morrison have completed the concrete foundation..

6 Oct. 1893: W.B. Alford and family will move into Mrs. Hubbell's residence this week; H.J. Mueller and family will occupy their residence about a half-mile out of town....

27 Oct. 1893: Mueller's new building is progressing very rapidly under Contractor Matthews. It is all framed and will be closed in before the end of the coming week. It will be a great addition to the town when completed.

19 Jan 1894: H.J. Mueller moved his furniture business into his elegant new quarters this week.

W.B. Alford has opened a drug store in the building formerly occupied by H.J. Mueller's furniture business. A large stock of goods will arrive as soon as the ferry is working.

2 Feb. 1894: W.B. Alford, who now has his new drug store in the Hart Building, lately vacated by H.J. Mueller, in running order, inserts an advertisement in our columns this week to which particular attention is called. His establishment is fitted up very nicely, and the center partition which was torn out a year or so ago to make the building one room, has been replaced. The other part of the building is now occupied by the New York Racket store.

Great Register of 1884

William B. Alford, 28, Ohio, Druggist in Ferndale, register 1880.
Frank A. Alford, 31, Ohio, Physician in Ferndale, registered 1880.
James E. Brown, 33, Missouri, blacksmith in Ferndale, reg. 1880.

Humboldt Co Marriage Records

James E. Brown and Eva H. Robinson, 30 April 1871.
Frank A. Alford and Mary E. Lewis, 1 Jan. 1876.

Ferndale Enterprise, 13 Jan. 1893, Obituary for Frank A. Alford, M.D.: Died Sunday, January 8, 1893. Funeral at Congregational Church where he had sung in the choir. He was member of Odd Fellows and Knights of Pythias who conducted ceremony at cemetery. Health began to fail two years before, died of diabetes. Born in Ohio, age 42 years, 11 mos. 8 days. Graduated from Bellevue Medical College in New York in 1870. In 1872 with his mother (Sarah Alford), Mrs. R. Hubbell, and his brother William B. Alford, he came to California and located in this valley where he has resided continuously ever since. Married Mary Lewis in 1876, one child, age 15. Practiced medicine except for three years when he was editor of paper, Nov. 1880-Sept. 1883. "When summoned to the bedside of the sick, it mattered not whether the patient was financially able to compensate him for his services. Loved, honored, and respected, the name of Dr. Alford will long be cherished in the memories of our people, and the place that is left vacant in the community will be exceedingly hard to fill."