

## Alford Punished!

The following was published in *Virginia Magazine of History & Biography*, V. 8 67-435 (Virginia Historical Magazine, pp. 30-32). The extract was included in a collection of Alford information given to AAFA by Howard Alford of Progress, MS. (Alford in uppercase added.)

Letter from Sir John Harvey  
to Viscount Dorchester,  
Secretary of State

2 April, 1631.

Right Honorable:

I have written unto their Lordships of the boorde concerning the state and condition of the Colonie, as alsoe of the Publique Cabbell, in two letters, the copies whereof I have sent to your Lordships perusal, humble entreating the continuance of your noble favoures towards me and that you will be pleased to take Notice of the perticulers followinge, and more especiallie of the daylie grieft that perplexeth me through the waywardnes and oppositions of those of the Counsell against me, I seekinge onlie his Majesties honor and the advancement of this country, for instead of givinge me assistance, they stand contesting and disputinge my authoritie, averringe that I can doe nothings but what they shall advise me, and that my power extendeth noe further then a bare castinge voice, notwithstandinge his majesties gracious letter for the strengtheninge of my commission, which I have often shewed them, and that by his majesties speciall command I should doe justice to all men, nor sparinge those of the Counsell that in my judgement I should finde to be offenders. A coppie of which letter I formerlie sent your Lordship. I can conceave noe other reason of their Malignite against me but that I studie to avoid such misproceeding of self will Government as formerlie have bin practised amongst them, for I can discern nothinge in them

but factions seekinge to carrie all matters, rather for their owne ends then either seekinge the generall good or doinge right to particuler men, and for that it much concerneth the Justice of the Colonie, I will instance one perticuler to your Lordship, which is this:

There was latelie a difference handled in Courte, touchinge a cow calfe given by Captain William Pierce to a servant and cowkeeper of his, which guift was proved by divers witnesses; and one ALFORD deposed it was in parte of the wages of the said servant, where upon an order was made that whereas the said calfe then given, was since growen to be a cove and hath had two Calves; that the said Captain Pierce should deliver the said cove with her encrease. This cause beinge again reviewed, the last courte, the said ALFORD beinge called thereunto, he was questioned by Captain Mathewe (who takes upon him to speake more than cometh to his share), how he knewe that that calfe was given in parte of the said servant's wages; ALFORD made answer that the said servant told him soe; and that when Captaine Pierce hired his said Servant, the said ALFORD beinge in a kitchinge adjoininge neere the Róome where Captain Pierce was at the bargaine makinge, he hearde Captain Pierce say (then I will give the a Cowe calfe); upon which the said Captaine Mathewe reviled the said ALFORD and told him he had committed wilfull perjurie; and without asking my opinion, or anie of the rest of the Counsell whether it were perjury or not, required the boorde to give their censures upon ALFORD, for that he had committed wilfull perjurie. Those of the Counsell then at the boorde, without anie examination or consideration of the cause or the inabilitytie of the said ALFORD beinge not able to expresse himself or speake in his owne behalfe, which one voice censured him to stand on the Pillorie with his eares nayled; and an inscription of his faults. At this I was

forced to silence. Yet consideringe their rashness and aimes, the disabilitie of ALFORD to speake for himselfe, and howe much it concerned the justice of the Countrey for the Investigation of the truth, beside the taking away the good name and reputation of the said ALFORD for ever, I caused a case thereof to be drawne and delaid to punish him accordinge to their censures untill better consideration might be taken.

Of manie like rash proceedings of theirs I might acquaint your Lordship but I have bin (I feare) to troublesome in this, I therefore forbear the rest. Humble beseeching your Lordship if in this or any parte thereof I faile in Judgement, to assist my weakness, not being bred a lawyer. I hope your Lordship since you first pleased to take notice of me, never held me to be ambitious or vaine glorious, as that I should desire to live here as Governor to predominate or prefer mine owne perticular before the generall good, or in the least measure neglect anie of his Majesties commandes or the instructions of their Lordships (if anie or which might justlie be laid to my charge) I were not worthe to be either pitied or respected. I have herein (as presuminge upon your Lordship's honorable favoures always confere upon me), emboldened myself to make knowne unto you the miserable state wherein I live, chiefly through the aversnes of those from whom I expected assistance, for (as God is my record), I have often earnestlie desired those of the Counsell that there might be perfect amitie betwixt us, and that not by respects or private ends might breede discention or misconcerte amongst us, but that with an unanimous consent we might with alacritie perform his Majestie's Service.

But all are to noe purpose, for all the comfort I found was to be scorned for

(Continued on p. 35)

Co. C. 4th LA Infantry  
Present on Rolls to Dec. 1861.

**Thomas Alford Private**

Entered: May 11, 1861; New Orleans  
Co. A. 2nd LA Infantry  
Rolls from Nov. 1861, to Jun, 1862.  
"Detached to Q. M. Depot at Young's  
Mills" Roll for July and Aug., 1862,  
"Discharged Aug 18th 1862, under Act  
Entitled Conscription Act."

**Thos. R. Alford Private**

Entered: May 17, 1861; New Orleans  
Co. B. 3rd LA Infantry  
Present on all Rolls to Dec., 1861. Roll  
for May and June 1862, "Absent.  
Wounded. In Hospl. at Columbus,  
Miss." Rolls from July 31, 1862 to Feb.  
1863. "Present." Federal Rolls of  
Prisoners of War Captured at Milldale  
Hospl., MS, May 20, 1863. "Sent to  
Memphis, Tenn., May 25th, 1863.  
Forwd. to Delaware, Del. June 15th,  
1863. Died in Hospl. at Fort Delaware  
Aug. 6th. 1863.

**W. B. Alford Private**

Entered: Apr. 7, 1862; New Orleans  
Co. G. 26th LA Infantry  
Present on Rolls to Oct., 1862. Federal  
Rolls of Prisoners of War Captured and  
Paroled Vicksburg, MS, July 4, 1863.  
On Rolls of Prisoners of War Paroled  
Natchitoches, LA June 14, 1865. Res.  
Sabine Par. LA

**W. H. Alford 3rd Sergt.**

Entered: May 17, 1861; New Orleans  
Co. C. 3rd LA Infantry  
Present on all Rolls to Oct. 1861.

**W. H. Allford Private**

Entered: Not recorded / reported  
Co. A. 14th LA Infantry  
Federal Rolls of Prisoners of War.  
Captured at Gettysburg, PA July 4, 1863.  
Sent to Fort Delaware, DE. Paroled and  
Transfd. to City Pt. for Exchange March  
7, 1865.

**W. J. Alford Private**

Entered: Dec. 11, 1861; Camp Moore  
Co. C. 19th LA Infantry

Present on Roll to Dec. 31, 1861. Roll  
for May and June, 1862. "Absent.  
Promoted from Ranks May 8th, 1862 to  
1st Corpl. Absent. Sick." Roll for July  
and Aug. 1862. "Absent. Sick at Hospl.,  
Since June 10th 1862. Age 21." Rolls  
from Sept., 1862 to Aug 31, 1864, state  
"Present." Roll for Sept. 1, 1864 to Feb.  
28, 1865. Deserted Oct 30, 1864, near  
Florence, AL.

**William Alford Private**

Entered: Jul 27, 1861; New Orleans  
Co. A. 14th LA Infantry  
Roll dated Aug. 31, 1861. "Absent. Sick.  
Knoxville, Tenn." Rolls from Nov 1861  
to Feb. 1862 "Present. Extra Duty at  
Sawmill Since Nov. 1st 1861." Rolls  
from June 1862 to April 1863. "Absent.  
Wounded June 27th." Federal Rolls of  
Prisoners of War Captured and  
Wounded at Gettysburg, PA, July 4,  
1863. Recd. at Fort Delaware, DE, Aug  
— 1863 from Fort McHenry, MD.  
Paroled and Forwd. to City Pt., Va. for  
Exchange March 7, 1865. Recd. at  
James River, VA, March 10 to 12, 1865  
and Exchanged.

**William Alfred Private**

Entered: Aug 19, 1861; New Orleans, LA  
Co. D. 3rd 21st LA Infantry (Kennedy's)  
Present on Rolls to Oct. 31, 1861.

**William B. Alford Private**

Entered: Nov 10, 1862; Covington, LA.  
Co. C. Miles Legion LA Vols.  
Rolls of Prisoners of War Captured at  
Greensburg, LA, Nov 10, 1864. Sent to  
New Orleans, LA, Nov. 23, 1864. Recd.  
at Ship Island, MS, Dec. 13, 1861.  
Transfd to Vicksburg, MS, May 1, 1865.  
Paroled at Camp Townsend May 6, 1865.

**Alfred Drummer**

Entered: Not recorded / reported  
Co. F. Orleans Grds, Regt. LA Militia  
On Roll not dated. ♦

*(Alford Punished, cont. from p. 32)*

my good meaninge, as this bearer can  
acquainte your Lordshipp, who knoweth  
and hath seen my troubles. I therefore  
humble beseech your Lordshipp  
accordinge to your wonted nobelness to  
me ward, that you will vouchsafe to  
acquainte his Majestie with the  
perticulers hereof and entreate his  
highness on my behalfe, that he will be  
tratusly pleased to strengthen my  
commission accordinge to his said  
Majestie's gracious letter, and signifie the  
same under his private seale. That the  
place of Governor and the oath of  
Councillors may be made known and  
distinguished. And whereas I formerlie  
humble intreated your honour to move  
his Majestie to compassionate my  
wantes, which at this time doe oppresse  
mee more grievouslie, I beinge thereby  
made contemptible soe that (my miserie  
pressing mee), I am inforced more  
earnestlie to implore your Lordshipp's  
aid in regarde towards all my charges in  
coming hither and my being here. I have  
not received on farthing for my relief.  
Thus having laid open to Your  
Lordshipp the depth of my afflictions  
and the true state of things here, I  
humble begg your Lordshipp's assis-  
tance, and craving pardon for my  
boldness, I rest,

Your Lordshipp's humble Servant,  
readie at your Comandes,

(Signed) JOHN HARVEY.

Virginia, Apriles 2, 1631.  
S.P.O., Colo., Vol 6, No. 11. ♦

Welcome to  
30  
New Members  
This Quarter!