

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!