

we have visited. She is an older sister of the late Eulon Alford AAFA #213 who is perhaps better known in AAFA. Haidcc, AAFA #210, was inducted into the Alford Hall of Fame at the meeting in Springfield.

Mrs. Elizabeth Alford Williams—Liz proved to be a dear friend. She was AAFA #040, present among the dozen or so in the first AAFA meeting in Atlanta in 1987, and she attended every other meeting until cancer prevented it. Of course she is no longer with us.

Folks frequently ask me “why do you do this?” and when I reflect on these things and review our correspondence I’d have to respond “how could I not do it?” There are so many fond memories and real blessings among the pages in these notebooks in this basement. ♦

(Burt Alvord, cont. from p. 40)

An intriguing aside to the legend of the train robbery emerged in a 1988 story in the *Tucson Citizen* that quoted B.A. Gardener, a lifelong Willcox resident, now deceased: “I’ll tell you something about Downing that nobody around here knows. Downing would take his cash from the saloon and whorehouse [the Free and Easy, which he owned in Willcox] and convert it into gold coins every day early in the morning.”

But in 1908, after Ranger Speed shot and killed Downing while trying to arrest him for assaulting a saloon girl, \$212.55 was taken from the body. This caused Gardener to wonder what happened to Downing’s cache of gold coins. “There’s a pile of loot,” Gardener told the *Citizen*, “buried some-place.”

As in most tales of vanished fortunes, though, it’s the location of the money that gets lost in telling.

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Texas Confederate Pensions

The Winter 1996 issue, p. 57, lists Alford's found on the Internet file of the index to Confederate Pension Application Files in the Texas State Archives. No spelling variations were found at that time, but a second search yielded one Hallford:

Claimant: Hallford, D.H.L.
Pension Number: 08625
County: Bexar

Additional information about the pension file list:

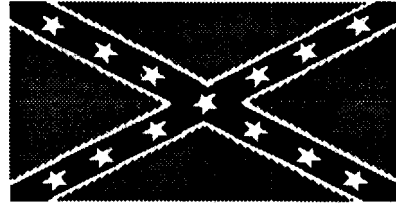
The Index provides the names, county of residence, and pension number of some 54,634 approved, rejected, and home pensions issued by the Texas government between 1899 and 1975. The listing for a widow's pension includes her husband's name as it appears on her application form. If the husband also applied for a Texas Confederate Pension, the number of that pension (or the specification “Rejected” or “Home”) is noted as well.

Confederate veterans and their widows were dependent upon the generosity of the already impoverished former Confederate states for any postwar pension benefits. In awarding pensions for Confederate service, Texas, like most other southern states, confined its relief payments to veterans or their widows resident in Texas since 1880 who were disabled or indigent.

Therefore, the index of applicants for Confederate pensions in no way represents a complete roster of Texas residents who had fought for the Confederacy. If you do not immediately find the name you are researching it might be because the person did not

submit an application for a pension.

The application forms and their attached records and correspondence are on file in the State Archives Division of the Texas State Library. [See Winter 1996 issue for ordering info.] To obtain an approved pension, give the applicant's name and pension number. If the Index lists the pension application as a Rejected or a Home pension, give the applicant's full name as it appears in the index, the county of residence, and “Rejected” or “Home,” whichever is appropriate.



Each file will vary in number of pages and content; therefore, the State Archives staff will copy each complete file requested and bill you for the total number of pages reproduced.

The State Archives Division has a number of other Civil War-related records that might give additional information about a Confederate veteran or his family. These records include the Confederate Home Roster, the Confederate Muster Roll Abstract Cards, Confederate Service Records, and the Confederate Indigent Families Lists. While these records are all available for on-site use by patrons, researchers may request staff searches of any of these resources by mail, phone, or E-mail.

AAFA NOTE: If one of the people on the list is your ancestor, please try to obtain a copy of the pension file and send AAFA a copy for our files. If you haven't already sent whatever other information you have about your ancestor, please submit that as well. We'll publish further information about these Civil War veterans as we accumulate information about them. ♦