

Inquiries

This inquiry was submitted by Richard A. Alford, AAFA #0917. Richard recently read "Vicksburg, 47 Days of Siege", A. A. Hoehling, 1969, and noted a part in particular that caught his eye. It refers to a Lt. Alford and he wonders if anyone might know of him.

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"The two men who came in reported the capture of Stockton and art of the picket, and that the post was in the hands of the Federals [Blue]. Lieutenant Alford [Gray] of our company was then ordered to go out with a detachment of ten men and dislodge the enemy. He proceeded with this squad, and a revolver in each hand to execute the order. Having been on duty out there before, he knew the situation of the picket posts, and approached this one very guardedly. When within six steps, he was ordered to halt and surrender. Leveling a pistol in each hand, he commenced firing into the ambuscade. The enemy [Blue], not expecting such a result, returned the fire in a very random manner, and Alford still continued to pour double shots, in rapid succession, upon the astonished Federals [Blue], and succeeded in routing them and clearing the post. Upon

turning to his men, he found that all had run except Tip Marders, who still remained by his side. Returning to the regiment he got the guard that had just retreated, and posted it at the disputed position. He was not aware that any of his men had left until the firing was over, and he called for the guard to come forward, and his mortification was equal to his surprise, on finding that they had deserted him at so critical a moment. Alford's gallant conduct on the occasion showed the true and genuine stuff of which he was made – a better soldier or braver man never lived. Supported by a single man, by his rapid fire and undaunted courage, he drove the put to fight a force at least six times his number, and continued mast of the field. He received the applause of the regiment and the thanks of Colonel Cockrell for his soldierly bearing."

Richard is wondering if anyone knows of this Confederate Lt. Alford and his lineage. On pps. 274 and 275 of this same book is the last Confederate version and a small box "Note" (Union version) of "The [Vicksburg] Daily Citizen (a newspaper) printed on July 4th, 1863, by Lt. Adelbert Bernard Crampton, Sr. (USA) ["Dell"], as appointed to do so by Gen. U.S. Grant. Lt. Crampton was in civilian life a newspaperman and was also the husband of Lovisa Emeline (Alford) Crampton, a daughter of Rev./Dr. Loyal Adolphus Alford. "The Daily Citizen" of Thursday, July 2, 1863, as Lt. Crampton found it to be laid out on the print frame, contained Proprietor J[ames]. M. Sword's box which read as follows:

That the great Ulysses – the Yankee Generalissimo, surnamed Grant – has expressed his intention of dining in Vicksburg on Sunday next, and celebrating the 4th of July by a grand dinner and so forth. When asked if he would invite Gen. Joe Johnston to join he said "No! For fear there will be a row at the table." Ulysses must get into the city before he dines in it. The way to cook rabbit is "first to catch the rabbit, ... etc." Lt. Crampton's (Gen. Grant's) "Note", which followed the above box read: "Two days bring about great changes. The banner of the Union floats over Vicksburg.

Gen. Grant has "caught the rabbit," he has dined in Vicksburg, and he did bring his dinner with him. The "Citizen" lives to see it. For the last time it appears on "Wall Paper." No more will it eulogize the luxury of mule meat and fricasseed kitten – urge Southern warriors to such diet nevermore. This is the last wall-paper edition, and is, excepting this note, from types as we (Union forces, Gen. Grant/Lt. Crampton – added by Richard Alford) found them. It will be valuable hereafter as a curiosity.

Because of the privations of the siege, the newspaper had used up its supply of newsprint, but had made do with some stocks of wall-paper which one of the Vicksburg merchants had among its stocks in trade. The author - of the

book, Hoehling, did not know of this story of the July 4, 1863, edition of "The Daily Citizen", or if he did, he did not include it in the book.

I'm seeking information on ancestry of Sarah Minerva Alford, b.1/3/1814, m. William Harrold Borland in Indiana County, PA 4/4/1833. Her father, John Alford is head of household in 1830 census of Armstrong County, PA. The census lists 1 m 10 under 15, 1 m 15 under 20 (Andrew B.) 1 m 40 under 50, 1 f 5 under 10, 1 f 15 under 20 (Sarah M.) and 1 f 40 under 50. My confidence that this is Sarah's family is bolstered by the proximity of Armstrong and Indiana Counties.

John was b. 1776 or 1777, and d. 12/18/1871. He m. Mary -?-, b. 1782 or 1783 and d. 10/4/1835. John is listed in the 1840 census in Indiana County with 1 m 20 under 30, 1 m 50 under 60 and 1 f 15 under 20.

William H. Borland and Sarah Minerva Alford Borland moved shortly after they married, to Hardin County, Ohio, where they established a frontier home and courageously raised a dozen children there in the wilds. My Grandfather, John McCracken Borland, was the eighth. When the children were grown, William and Sarah migrated west to Nebraska and they are buried on a farm cemetery southwest of the community of Vesta (a farm now owned by M/M Dale Eltriste.

Andrew B. Alford, probably Sarah's brother, was born 1815. He died in Sterling, NE where he had operated a hotel, it was reported in the Indiana, PA newspaper.

Who were John's parents? Where was he born and where did he spend his childhood? What was his wife's (Mary) maiden name? Where did she grow up? What was the European origin of this part of the Alford family? When did they come to America?

Robert S. Slemmons
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(Continued from page 90, Publications for Sale at the AAFA Store)

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