

## Service and Pension Information

**Alford, Alexander Marshall**, reported in Company D of Captain Cooper's Georgia Home Guards; service record undetermined.

Alford's service record could not be found on the Microfilmed Confederate Service Records. However, his father-in-law, John A. Shank, served in Captain William W. Cato's Company K of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Georgia Cavalry (State Guards) and enlisted at LaGrange, Georgia in Aug 1863. Alford frequently mentioned Cato in his pension file. Alford probably enlisted in a similar unit the next year under Captain Cooper since Cato had advanced in rank to Colonel. However, Alford was not found in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Georgia Cavalry or any other Georgia or Alabama unit.

The 1850 Troup County, Georgia Federal Census recorded Alexandria Alford was born in Georgia about 1848 son of S.W. and Caroline Alford.

The 1860 Troup County, Georgia Federal Census recorded Alex Alford was born in Georgia about 1848 son of C.M. Alford. [Caroline Missouri Alford]

Alexander M. Alford married Frances Elizabeth Shank 1 Nov 1874 in Troup County, Georgia.

The 1880 Winston County Federal Census recorded Alexander Alford was born in Georgia about 1851; Fannie e. was born in Georgia about 1856.

On his Confederate pension application of 1899, Alford claimed he enlisted as a Private in Company D on 29 Mar 1864 at West Point, Georgia; honorably discharged 1 Mar 1865; application witnesses included J.H. Burkes and S.W. Alford, both of Chambers County, Alabama; pension was approved.

The 1900 Winston County Federal Census recorded Alexander M. Alford was born in Georgia in Mar 1849; Fannie E. was born in Georgia in May 1855.

Alford was enumerated on the 1907 Winston County Confederate Census where he reported he was born at West Point in Troup County, Georgia on 1 Mar 1849. He claimed he enlisted in Company D of the Georgia State Soldiers at West Point on 3 May 1864 and continued service until he was discharged at West Point.

Alford was originally approved for a pension about 1897, but was dropped when the rolls were examined in 1913. The reason given was that Alford belonged to a State Militia group and not the regular Confederate States Army. Alford spent the rest of his life attempting to get the pension reinstated, but the pension department was unyielding.

*A.M. Alford. Oral Examination. Upon an oral examination of this applicant we find that the value of his property is about \$325, that his family consists of a wife and a boy, 12 years of age, that is somewhat deficient mentally and works with very little judgment. He is able to do some work, but, in the opinion of the board, can not make a living by manual labor and should be allowed a pension. (signed) E. Blanton and W.R. Bonds, Board. Physical Examination. Upon a physical examination of this applicant I find that he is almost a non compos mentis and not competent to work with judgment. He can not make a living in any way. (signed) W.R. Bonds, M.D.*

The State Pension Bureau found in 1913: *The name A.L. Alford has not been found on the rolls on file of Company D, 29<sup>th</sup>, Ala. Inf. CSA and no record has been found of the capture or parole of a man of that name and organization.* (The Pension Bureau misread Alford's original 1899 application and mistakenly thought he might have been in the 29<sup>th</sup> Alabama Infantry).

Note to Mr. H.Y. Brooke, Examiner of Public Accounts, State of Alabama, dated 26 May 1913: *The name A.M. Alford has not been found on the rolls, on file in this office, of Company D, 29<sup>th</sup> Alabama Infantry, Confederate States Army, which covers periods from February 29 to December 20, 1862, and from March 1 to August 31, 1863, and no record has been found of the service, capture, or parole of a man of that name and organization. (signed) George Andrews, The Adjutant General.*

Note to A.M. Alford dated 24 Jul 1913: *Dear Sir: I am sending you a copy of the Examiner's Report on your pension. You will also find a copy of the Auditor's letter to me. You must at once furnish explanations of the Report or your name will be dropped from the pension rolls. You can file same with me of the State Auditor. (signed) John S. Curtis, Probate Judge*

Letter to Hon. John S. Curtis, Judge of Probate, dated 28 Jul 1913: *Dear Judge: Hon. H.Y. Brooke, Examiner of Public Accounts, is in Washington examining the pension rolls pursuant to the Governor's*

*instructions. I enclose a copy of a report mailed by him on our county. Please examine this carefully at once and investigate same. These reports will be submitted to the State Board of Examiners who meet here in August. I officially have nothing to do with this as it will come before the State Board who will either authorize the retention or rejection of pensioners. I merely forward this to you in order that no worthy confederate veteran may be dropped from the pension roll and shall ask you to report to this office as early as possible that I may submit same to the State Board of Pension Examiners. Yours Truly, (signed) C.B. Smith, State Auditor*

*Letter to A.M. Alford dated 18 Sep 1913: You are hereby notified that a charge has been duly preferred against you to the effect that you are ineligible to a pension under the laws of this State, because, the name A.L. Alford has not been found on the rolls on file of Company D 29th, Alabama Infantry, C.S.A. and no record has been found of the capture or parole of a man of that name and organization. Within twenty days from this date you can appear before me, at my office in the State Capitol, in person or by counsel, and offer testimony by witnesses or the affidavits of witnesses in explanation or refutation of said charges. In case you make your defense by the affidavits of witnesses, those affidavits must be made and signed and sworn to before the Probate Judge of your county, and duly attested by his official signature. In the event that you fail within twenty days to make answer or defense to said charge, the charge will be taken as confessed, and your default will be duly reported to the State Board of Pension Examiners for final determination. Witness my official signature, this the 18th day of September 1913. (signed) F.S. Ferguson, Committee of State Board of Pension Examiners.*

*General Ferguson ruled on 8 Oct 1913: This man offers an unsworn letter of his own to establish his military record. It is herewith submitted and is not sufficient in law. I report that he is not eligible to a pension.*

*Letter to A.M. Alford, dated 8 Nov 1915: Under section 36 of late pension law all applications for pensions or reinstatement must have the certificate of the tax assessor that you do not own \$2,000 worth of property. Your application for reinstatement has been returned to me and Mr. John B. Weaver has this day made the proper certificate and I return the same to the Auditor for action by the Pension Board. So you need not do any thing until same is acted upon then I will notify you and if the action is against you, in three months from said action you can again apply before me and I will transmit to State Board who acts on all applications under the new law. Very truly, (signed) John S. Curtis*

*A.M. Alford. A search of all records of Co. D. 29th Alabama Infantry fails to show this man's name on the roll. His own statement as to time of his enlistment in the present application varies from his sworn statement as furnished old pension board.*

*Soldier's Application for Confederate Pension dated 3 Mar 1920: To the State Board of Confederate Pension Examiners: The following answers to the queries propounded are respectfully submitted in support of my application for a Confederate pension under Act of the Legislature of Alabama, approved Sept. 23rd, 1919.*

1. What is your full name? **A.M. Alford**
2. What is your present post office address? **Houston**
3. What is your exact age? **71 years, 3 days**
4. How long have you lived in this state? **35 years**
5. Did you actually serve as a soldier or sailor? **Yes**
6. What date did you enlist in the service of the Confederate States? **March 29, 1864**  
Where did you enlist? **West Point, Georgia**
7. What branch of the service were you in? **Stationed at West Point**
8. What was your rank? **Private**
9. Company? **Co. D.**
10. Who was captain? **Frost**
11. Regiment? **Can't remember regiment or battalion**
12. Who was colonel? **W.W. Cato**
13. How long did you see actual service? **To March 1, 1865**
14. Were you ever wounded? **No**
15. In what engagements?
16. When?
17. In what way?

18. Were you ever taken prisoner? **No**  
19. If so, under what circumstances?  
20. Where were you captured?  
21. Where were you confined as a prisoner?  
22. Under what circumstances were you released?  
23. Were you paroled? **Was furloughed home**  
24. When? **March 1, 1865**  
25. Where? **West Point, Georgia**  
26. Why? **To go home**  
27. If not attached hereto, where is your parole? **Same was burned up when dwelling was burned**  
28. If you were not paroled, when and where, and under what circumstances did you leave the service of the Confederacy? **As above, they captured town before returned to duty**  
29. Did you take the oath of allegiance to any other government than the Confederate States before April 9th, 1865? **No**  
30. Were you transferred from the company in which you first enlisted? **No**  
31. Give Company, Regiment, to which transferred, when and where?  
32. Have you resided in any other State than Alabama? **Yes**  
*If so, give state and counties and years of residence?* **State of Georgia, Troup County until coming to Alabama**  
33. What is the actual value of the property of yourself? **\$982**  
34. Of your wife? **None**  
35. Have you any income such as salary, or any other whatever? **No**  
36. If so, what does it amount to annually?  
37. Are you married? **Yes**  
38. When were you married? **Nov. 1874**  
39. What is the age of your present wife? **66**  
40. If you have any living children, what are their ages, names, and what is each doing?  
Name: Dessa Wilson; Age: 40; Occupation: Farmer  
Name: Dayse Blake; Age 37; Occupation: Farmer  
Name: Jno. W. Alford; Age 35; Occupation: Farmer  
41. Was your name taken as a Confederate soldier in the last census made by the State? **Yes**  
42. If not, why?  
43. Do you belong to a Camp of United Confederate Veterans? **No**  
44. If so, which?  
45. Have you ever made application for a pension before, in this State, and been rejected? **Yes, drew and was taken off books**  
46. When? **About 1914**  
47. Why, and by whom? **Can't tell by State Examiner**  
48. Have you ever made an application for a pension in any other state and been rejected? **No**  
49. If so, give name of state, and reason assigned for rejection?  
50. Where are you registered as a voter? **Winston County, Alabama**  
51. With whom are you living at the present time? **Keeping house on my son's place**  
52. Have you ever been on the pension roll of this State before? **Yes**  
*If so, give years when you drew pension, when dropped, and reason for being stricken from roll?* **Several years to about 1914**

*I hereby solemnly swear that I have answered the foregoing questions truthfully and fully to the best of my knowledge and recollection. (signed) A.M. Alford Sworn and subscribed before me this Third day of February 1920, Jno. S. Curtis, A Probate Judge in and for said State and County.*

*We, Lee F. Dodd and Jas. W. Curtis our post office addresses being Double Springs and Double Springs, Ala., respectively, do solemnly swear that we have known A.M. Alford whose name is signed to the foregoing application 10 years and 15 years respectively, that we consider him to be a truthful and reliable person and do not believe that he would make a false statement for the purpose of securing a pension.  
(signed) Lee F. Dodd and Jas. W. Curtis. Sworn and subscribed before me this Third day of February 1920, Jno. S. Curtis, A Probate Judge in and for said State and County.*

*I, Jno. B. Weaver, the Tax Assessor of Winston County, hereby certify that I have examined the assessment books of Winston County and that I find that the assessed value of the property of applicant and his wife including exempt property, to be \$610. (signed) John B. Weaver, Tax Assessor, Winston County.*

*Records show Cato was Colonel of 37th District Georgia Militia. Pension Law of 1919 prohibits State Pension Board from placing in pension roll names of men whose service only was with State Troops, State Militia, or Home Guards.*

*Note from John S. Curtis, Probate Judge, dated 5 Apr 1920: Dear Sir, You (say) you was in state organization and they will not allow you no pension. Thanks, (signed) Jno. S. Curtis*

*The State of Alabama, Chambers County: To the State Board of Confederate Pension Examiners: The following answers to the queries propounded are respectfully submitted in support of my application for a Confederate pension under Act of the Legislature of Alabama, approved Sept. 14, 1923.*

1. What is your full name? **Alexander Marshall Alford**
2. What is your present post office address? **Houston, Alabama**
3. What is your exact age? **76 years, 2 months, 28 days**
4. How long have you lived in this state? **about 40 years**
5. Did you actually serve as a soldier or sailor? **Yes**
6. What date did you enlist in the service of the Confederate States? **Spring of year, 1864**  
Where did you enlist? **West Point, Georgia**
7. What branch of the service were you in? **Infantry**
8. What was your rank? **Private**
9. Company? **B**
10. Who was captain? **Captain Cooper**
11. Regiment? **37**
12. Who was colonel? **Colonel Cato**
13. How long did you see actual service? **About 1 year**
14. Were you ever wounded? **No**
15. In what engagements? **Not wounded**
16. When?
17. In what way?
18. Were you ever taken prisoner? **No**
19. If so, under what circumstances? **Not taken**
20. Where were you captured?
21. Where were you confined as a prisoner? **No where**
22. Under what circumstances were you released? **Furloughed, war ended**
23. Were you paroled? **No**
24. When? **Not paroled**
25. Where?
26. Why?
27. If not attached hereto, where is your parole?
28. If you were not paroled, when and where, and under what circumstances did you leave the service of the Confederacy? **Furloughed and war ended during that time**
29. Did you take the oath of allegiance to any other government than the Confederate States before April 9th, 1865? **No**
30. Were you transferred from the company in which you first enlisted? **No**
31. Give Company, Regiment, to which transferred, when and where?
32. Have you resided in any other State than Alabama? **Yes**  
*If so, give state and counties and years of residence? Born in Georgia - Troup County*
33. What was your post office address in the county and State where you last lived before coming to Alabama? **West Point, Troup County, Georgia**
34. With whom did you live in such State? **My own house**
35. What was the exact year and month you came to Alabama? **January 1880**
36. Are you married? **Yes**
37. When were you married? **November 1st, 1874**
38. What is the age of your present wife? **70 years**

39. If you have any living children, what are their ages, names, and what is each doing?

Name: Odessa Wilson; Age: 49; Occupation:

Name: Daisy Blake; Age 45; Occupation:

Name: John Alford; Age 40; Occupation: Farming

40. Was your name taken as a Confederate soldier in the last census made by the State? Yes

41. If not, why?

42. Do you belong to a Camp of United Confederate Veterans? Yes

43. If so, which? Lawpkins

44. Have you ever made application for a pension before, in this State, and been rejected? Yes

45. When? 1911

46. Why, and by whom? State Board

47. Have you ever made an application for a pension in any other state and been rejected? No

48. If so, give name of state, and reason assigned for rejection? Never applied

49. Were you ever on the pension roll of any other state than this? No

If so, give county none, and state none.

50. Where are you registered as a voter? Houston, Winston County

51. With whom are you living at the present time? my home

52. Have you ever been on the pension roll of this State before? Yes

If so, give years when you drew pension, when dropped, and reason for being stricken from roll? Prior to Governor O'Neal's administration. Don't know reason

I hereby solemnly swear that I have answered the foregoing questions truthfully and fully to the best of my knowledge and recollection. (signed) Alexander M. Alford. Sworn and subscribed before me this Fifth day of June 1925, Elbert K. Tidwell, A Notary Public in and for said State and County.

Certificate as to Service by a Confederate Veteran:

53. Do you know of your own personal knowledge that the above applicant performed actual service as a soldier or sailor of the State of Alabama or Confederate States, and that his command was not an organization only of Home Guards or State Militia? Yes

54. Do you know positively that the above applicant concluded his service as states? Yes

55. Who was his captain? Captain Cooper

56. Who was his colonel? Colonel Cato

57. What branch of service was he in? Infantry

58. What was your Company and Regiment? Co. B, 37 Regiment

59. Who was your Captain? Captain Cooper

Colonel? Colonel Cato

60. Do you draw a pension from this State? No

Do you draw a pension from any other state? No

61. Do you belong to a Camp of Confederate Veterans? No

62. If so, give name and location?

63. What is your post office address? Welsh, Ala.

64. State in detail what you know of the service, capture or parole of this applicant.

(signed) J.H. Burkes. Sworn to and subscribed before me this 30th day of May, 1925, H.D. Lee, a Notary Public in and for State of Alabama, County of Chambers.

We, F.G. Scogin and M.D. Cooper our post office addresses being Houston and Houston, Ala., respectively, do solemnly swear that we have known Alexander M. Alford whose name is signed to the foregoing application 17 years and 35 years respectively, that we consider him to be a truthful and reliable person and do not believe that he would make a false statement for the purpose of securing a pension.

(signed) F.G. Scogin and M.D. Cooper. Sworn and subscribed before me this Fifth day of June 1925, Elbert K. Tidwell, A Notary Public in and for said State and County.

I, Jno. B. Weaver, the Tax Assessor of Winston County, hereby certify that I have examined the assessment books of Winston County and that I find that the assessed value of the property of applicant and his wife including exempt property, to be \$610. (signed) John B. Weaver, Tax Assessor, Winston County

Winston County. Alexander M. Alford. 23 Jun 1925: This applicant states that he was a private in Co. B., of Captain Cooper's Company, Colonel Cato's 37th Alabama Regiment and that he enlisted at West Point, Georgia in the Spring of 1864. It is shown by the age given on June 5th, 1925 as seventy-six years, two

*months, and twenty-eight days that he was fifteen-years-old at the time of his enlistment. These facts were submitted to the War Department at Washington and from them we have a report that W.W. Cato was Lieutenant Colonel of the 37th District Georgia Militia, but that the name of Alexander Marshall Alford cannot be found on any of the rolls of that company or regiment. It being shown that the organization to which this applicant claims to have belonged was a State Militia organization. This Commission would be without any authority to place his name on the pension rolls of this State for the pension laws absolutely prohibit the Pension Commission from placing the name of any person or the widow of such person on the pension roll of Alabama, whose only service is shown to be that of State Troops, Home Guards, or State Militia. Witness to the application is J.H. Burkes of Welsh, Alabama who states that he belonged to the same organization, but he is not on the pension roll. The application is rejected.*

Note to Hon. John B. Weaver, Double Springs, dated 24 Jan 1928: *Dear Sir: Your letter of January 21, requesting that a blank be mailed to Mr. A.M. Alford, Houston, Ala., on which he might make application for a pension in Georgia, has been received. The State of Georgia only pays pensions to those Confederate veterans or their widows who are bona fide residents of the State, and, therefore, it will not be possible to accept an application from a veteran who is a resident of the State of Alabama. With kind regards, Very truly yours, (signed) John W. Clark, Commissioner of Pensions, By Margaret W. Arnold, Clerk. Note in pencil at bottom of letter: Mr. John Alford will you please give this letter to your father. It seems that we will not be able to ever get your father on the Pension Roll. Yours Truly, (signed) John B. Weaver*

Letter to Mr. A.M. Alford, Houston, Alabama, dated 15 Aug 1929: *Dear Sir: I am enclosing you herein letter from the Secretary of the Alabama Pension Board which I am sending you for your information and guidance. If you can furnish them the information requested in this letter I suggest that you have some one write them direct at Montgomery. It seems that it will also be necessary for you to fill out another application, blanks for which are enclosed. I am sure that Judge Weaver at Double Springs will be glad to assist you. With best wishes, Yours truly, (signed) W.B. Bankhead, 10<sup>th</sup> District Alabama, Congress of the United States, House of Representatives*

Letter to Hon. W.B. Bankhead, Jasper, dated 13 Aug 1929: *Dear Mr. Bankhead: Replying to your letter of August 9<sup>th</sup>, we beg to advise that the records of this office show that the name of A.M. Alford was placed on the pension roll of Winston County in 1899, and he claimed when filling his application for pension that he served as a private in Co. D, having enlisted at West Point, Georgia. He did not give the number of his regiment. When the pension board in 1913 was engaged in investigating the records of all Confederate soldiers then drawing pensions, with the information on hand, no record of his service could be established and his name was stricken from the pension roll. If Mr. Alford can inform us in what regiment he served, or the name of his colonel; or when and where he was paroled, we will be glad to investigate this matter further, and if possible establish his right to be placed on the pension roll. We are enclosing herewith the proper form for him to fill out should he desire to again file his claim for pension. (unsigned copy)*  
*Secretary.*

*Application made To the State Board of Confederate Pension Examiners dated 20 Aug 1929: The following answers to the queries propounded are respectfully submitted in support of my application for a Confederate pension under Act of the Legislature of Alabama, approved Sept. 14, 1923.*

1. What is your full name? **A.M. Alford**
2. What is your present post office address? **Houston, Alabama**
3. What is your exact age? **80 years, 5 months, 19 days**
4. How long have you lived in this state? **45 years**
5. Did you actually serve as a soldier or sailor? **Yes**
6. What date did you enlist in the service of the Confederate States? **Some time during 1864**  
Where did you enlist? **West Point, Georgia**
7. What branch of the service were you in? **Infantry**
8. What was your rank? **Private and Orderly Sergeant**
9. Company? **Co. D.**
10. Who was captain? **Cooper**
11. Regiment? **37th Ga.**
12. Who was colonel? **Kato**
13. How long did you see actual service? **1 year and over**
14. Were you ever wounded? **No**
15. In what engagements?

16. When?
17. In what way?
18. Were you ever taken prisoner? No
19. If so, under what circumstances?
20. Where were you captured? No
21. Where were you confined as a prisoner?
22. Under what circumstances were you released?
23. Were you paroled? No
24. When?
25. Where?
26. Why?
27. If not attached hereto, where is your parole?
28. If you were not paroled, when and where, and under what circumstances did you leave the service of the Confederacy? Furlough home in 1864. Started to West Point, Ga. and bridge was burned and could not get there
29. Did you take the oath of allegiance to any other government than the Confederate States before April 9th, 1865? No
30. Were you transferred from the company in which you first enlisted? No
31. Give Company, Regiment, to which transferred, when and where?
32. Have you resided in any other State than Alabama? Yes  
If so, give state and counties and years of residence? In Troup Co., Ga., from (illegible) to 45 years ago
33. What was your post office address in the county and State where you last lived before coming to Alabama? West Point, Georgia
34. With whom did you live in such State? With my Grandfather Cotton
35. What was the exact year and month you came to Alabama? 1884
36. Are you married? Yes
37. When were you married? 1875
38. What is the age of your present wife? 75
39. If you have any living children, what are their ages, names, and what is each doing?  
Name: Odessa Wilson; Age: 52; Occupation: Farmer  
Name: Dazye Blake; Age 48; Occupation:  
Name: J.W. Alford; Age 45; Occupation:
40. Was your name taken as a Confederate soldier in the last census made by the State? Yes
41. If not, why?
42. Do you belong to a Camp of United Confederate Veterans? Yes
43. If so, which? Camp Hunter (Hilton?) Jasper, Alabama
44. Have you ever made application for a pension before, in this State, and been rejected? Yes
45. When? Can't remember year
46. Why, and by whom?
47. Have you ever made an application for a pension in any other state and been rejected? No
48. If so, give name of state, and reason assigned for rejection? Never applied
49. Were you ever on the pension roll of any other state than this? No  
If so, give county \_\_\_, and state \_\_\_.
50. Where are you registered as a voter? Beat C., Winston County
51. With whom are you living at the present time? On own farm
52. Have you ever been on the pension roll of this State before? Yes  
If so, give years when you drew pension, when dropped, and reason for being stricken from roll? 1899 to 1913. Claimed they found no record of my service

I hereby solemnly swear that I have answered the foregoing questions truthfully and fully to the best of my knowledge and recollection. (signed) A.M. Alford Witnesses: J.B. Weaver, Asa A. Rose. Sworn and subscribed before me this 20th day of August 1929, John B. Weaver, A Judge of Probate in and for said State and County.

We, T.M. Blake and M.D. Wolf our post office addresses being Double Springs and Double Springs, Ala., respectively, do solemnly swear that we have known A.M. Alford whose name is signed to the foregoing application 40 years and 30 years respectively, that we consider him to be a truthful and reliable person

*and do not believe that he would make a false statement for the purpose of securing a pension. (signed)  
T.M. Blake, M.D. and M.D. Wolf. Sworn and subscribed before me this 20th day of August 1929, John B.  
Weaver, A Probate Judge in and for said State and County.*

*A.M. Alford. 30 Aug 1929: This applicant states that he was a private in Co., D. 37th Georgia Infantry commanded by Colonel Cato. That he was furloughed home in 1864 and started to West Point, Georgia and found a bridge burned and he could not get back to his command. The War Department at Washington states that W.W. Cato was colonel of the 37th, District Georgia Militia. Statements in the file further show that A.M. Alford was a member of a Home Guard organization. The Pension Commission prohibits placing on the roll the name of any person whose only service was that of Home Guards, State Troops, or State Militia, and under the law he is not entitled to a pension and his application is rejected.*

*Letter to Miss Lillian Henderson, Georgia Soldier Roster Commission, dated 2 Jun 1931: Dear Miss Henderson: We are endeavoring to establish proof of the service of Alex M. Alford as a Confederate Soldier. He states that he enlisted at West Point, Ga., in 1863 or 1864, as a private in Co. B (or Co. D) of the 37<sup>th</sup> Georgia Infantry Regiment; that his Captain was Cooper and his Colonel was W.W. Cato. He says he served one and one-half years and was at Macon, Ga., when the war ended. Please inform us what the records on file in your office show relative to the service of this man. Yours very truly, (unsigned copy)  
Pension Clerk*

*Letter to the Alabama Pension Commission, Montgomery, dated 8 Jun 1931: The name Alex M. Alford has not been found on the muster rolls on file in this office of Company B, 37<sup>th</sup> Regiment Georgia Infantry, Confederate States Army, which cover in part the period from January, 1864 to April 1, 1864; nor of Company D, same organization, which cover the period in part from January, 1864, to April 1, 1864. Nor has any record been found of his service, capture, or parole as a member of these organizations. William W. Cato served as Colonel of the 37<sup>th</sup> Regiment Georgia Militia, for which there are no muster rolls on file, and no record has been found of the service of a man named Alex M. Alford as a member of that organization. (signed) C.H. Bridges, Major General, The Adjutant General.*

*Letter to Honorable John Brandon, State Auditor, Montgomery, dated 10 Aug 1931: Dear Sir: Mr. A.M. Alford of Houston, Winston County, Alabama is an Ex-Confederate Soldier. His regiment is 37<sup>th</sup> Georgia, his Captain was Captain Cooper, his Colonel was Colonel Cato and his General was General Tyler. He was on the pension roll about 10 years ago but was dropped and he thinks he is entitled to receive it now. He made proof of his service but was not put back on. This old man is a good Democrat and I have known him for years. He is honest and worthy and if there is any chance to have put back on I would like to have it done. I do not know who is in charge of the pension business in Montgomery and I would be glad if you'd turn this over to the proper party in charge and let him write to Mr. Alford and see if he can be reinstated. Thanking you and with best wishes, I am, Yours very truly, (unsigned) St. John and St. John, Attorneys At Law.*

*Letter to Mr. A.M. Alford, Houston, Alabama, dated 12 Aug 1931: Dear Sir: We are today in receipt of a letter from the firm of St. John and St. John, Attorneys at Law, Cullman, Alabama, relative to having your name reinstated to the pension roll. Acting on the information you gave us when you were in this office on June 2nd, we wrote to The Adjutant General, War Department, Washington, and give him the information you furnished us, that you served as a private in Co., B, or D, of the 37th, Georgia Infantry Regiment, under Capt. Cooper and Col. W.W. Cato. We were informed by The Adjutant General that no record could be found of your service as a member of the above named company. We then wrote Miss. Lillian Henderson, Superintendent of the Georgia Soldier Roster Commission, Atlanta, Ga., requesting an investigation of the rolls on file in that office of Co., B or D, of the 37th Georgia Infantry Regiment, and of the 37th, Regiment Georgia Militia, but we have not had a reply to this letter. We are again writing Miss. Henderson and will notify you as soon as we hear from her. As stated to you when you were in the office, records on file here show that your name was placed on the pension roll of Winston County in 1899, and you stated at that time that you served as a private in Co., D, and that you enlisted at West Point, Georgia. In 1913 when the Pension Board was engaged in investigating the records of all Confederate soldiers then drawing pensions, no record of your service could be established and your name was stricken from the pension roll. Assuring you that it will be our pleasure to assist you in that matter, we are, Yours very truly, (signed) Jno. D. Elliott, Pension Clerk, Alabama Pension Commission. cc - Messrs. St. John & St. John Attorneys at Law, Cullman, Ala.*

*Letter to Miss Lillian Henderson, Georgia Soldier Roster Commission, dated 12 Aug 1931: Dear Miss Henderson: Under date of June 2<sup>nd</sup>, we wrote you the following letter to which we have had no reply: We*

*are endeavoring to establish proof of the service of Alex M. Alford, as a Confederate soldier. He states that he enlisted at West Point, Ga., in 1863, or 1864, as a private in Co., B (or Co. D) of the 37<sup>th</sup> Georgia Infantry Regiment; that his Captain was Cooper and his Colonel was W.W. Cato. He says he served one and one-half years and was at Macon, Ga., when the war ended. We are informed that William W. Cato served as Colonel of the 37<sup>th</sup> Regiment Georgia Militia. Will you please have the rolls of the 37<sup>th</sup> Georgia Infantry Regiment and of the 37<sup>th</sup> Georgia Militia examined to see if any record of the service of Alex M. Alford can be found? Thanking you for your attention to this matter, we are, Yours very truly (unsigned copy) Pension Clerk*

*Letter to Mr. John D. Elliott, Pension Clerk, Montgomery, dated 17 Aug 1931: Dear Mr. Elliott: When the Confederate Reunion was at Montgomery in June we wrote you that Judge J.B. Strong was there and was the only member of the 37<sup>th</sup> Regt. Georgia Militia whom we knew to be living. We suggested that you get in touch with him and get his affidavit as a witness for the application concerning which you wrote us. Judge Strong died about two weeks ago. We have never seen a roll of the 37<sup>th</sup> Regt. Georgia Militia nor have we any information relative to it except the colonel's name, W.W. Cato. The name Alex M. Alford is not borne on any company of the 37<sup>th</sup> Regt. Ga. Infantry and this regiment was in no way connected with the 37<sup>th</sup> Regt. Georgia Militia. We know it is difficult to locate anyone at a Reunion, but since Judge Strong was Superintendent of the Soldier's Home here we knew all the Georgia soldiers knew him and thought, for this reason, he could be located at Georgia headquarters without much trouble. Regret that we know of no one who could be of assistance now. Very truly yours, (signed) Lillian Henderson, Georgia Soldier Roster Commission.*

*Letter to Mr. A.M. Alford, Houston, Alabama, dated 18 Aug 1931: Dear Sir: With further reference to our letter of August 12th, we wish to advise that we are today in receipt of a letter from Miss. Lillian Henderson, Supt., Georgia Soldier Roster Commission, in which she states that there are no rolls of the 37th, Georgia Militia, and that the only information she has relative to it is that the colonel's name was W.W. Cato. She further states that your name is not borne on any company roll of the 37th, Regiment Georgia Infantry, and that this regiment was in no way connected with the 37th, Regiment Georgia Militia. She further states that she knows of no soldier living who served in the 37th, Georgia Militia. The War Department also informs us that no record can be found of your service as a member of Co., B, or D, of the 37th Georgia Infantry Regiment, and that they have no rolls on file of the 37th, Regiment Georgia Militia. We regret that we have been unable to establish any proof of your service such as would warrant the Pension Commission in reinstating your name to the pension roll. In the absence of such proof the Commission would not be warranted in rescinding the action of the old Pension Board, and we are therefore without authority to reinstate your name to the roll. Yours very truly, (signed) Jno. D. Elliott, Pension Clerk, Alabama Pension Commission. cc - Messrs. St. John & St. John, Attorneys at Law, Cullman, Ala.*

*Letter to Mr. A.M. Alford, Houston, Alabama, dated 13 Sep 1932: Dear Sir: I have just received your letter relative to having you placed on the pension roll of the State. In order to get this done, it will be necessary for you to furnish some proof as to your service in the Confederate Army and if you will do this at once and send to me, I feel like we will have no trouble in getting you reinstated on the pension roll. Awaiting your reply and with best wishes, I am, Yours truly, (signed) B.J. Cowart, Senate Chamber, Montgomery, Senator 3<sup>rd</sup> District, Blount, Cullman, and Winston.*

*Letter to Mr. Alexander M. Alford, Houston, Alabama, dated 1 Dec 1932: Dear Mr. Alford: With reference to your application to be placed on the pension roll of the State of Alabama, I will state that in 1913 your name was stricken from the pension roll by an action of the then Pension Board of the State composed of Gen. Ferguson, Col. Webb and Dr. Woods, three Confederate soldiers. Your original application shows that you stated that you served in Co., D, without giving the name of any regiment or the name of any officers under whom you served. The law required, then as now, that in order for a person to be entitled to receive a pension from Alabama, that such person must show actual service as a soldier or sailor of the Confederacy, that he was regularly enlisted in a regular Confederate States organization, that he faithfully served and was honorably discharged from such service. Since your name was stricken from the pension roll you have applied to the Pension Commission to have your name again entered on the roll, but in your application you stated more explicitly with regard to your service by giving the letter of the company, the name of your captain, the number of the regiment and the name of your colonel. You stated that your colonel's name was W.W. Katro, which no doubt is intended for the name of W.W. Cato, and that you belonged to the 37th, Georgia Infantry. Col. Cato was Lieutenant Colonel of the 37th, Georgia Militia.*

*This is shown by the records on file in the War Department at Washington and in the Georgia Soldier Roster Commission, Atlanta, Georgia. Under the pension laws of Alabama as evidenced in section 2970 of the Code of Alabama, found in Vol. 1, page 1318, the State Pension Commission is expressly prohibited from placing on the pension roll the name of any person whose only service is shown to be that of a member of a Home Guard, State Troops or State Militia organization. The organization to which you claimed to have belonged was a Georgia Militia organization. This is shown, as stated above, by the records both at Washington and at Atlanta, Georgia, and it is shown in your application that you belonged to the 37th, Georgia organization commanded by Col. Cato. The Pension Commission therefore would be without any authority to place your name on the pension roll and would be acting contrary to the provisions of the law in placing your name thereon. In regard to your application, I wish to state that the Senator from your District, Hon. B.J. Coward, has been sincerely interested in endeavoring to clear up this situation for you. We have endeavored to render full co-operation to see if there was anything additional that might be done to change the situation as the facts confronted us, but acting on the facts stated in your application and on the records as referred to above, you will realize that, under the law, the Pension Commission cannot grant your application. Yours respectfully, Chas. E. McCall, Assistant Examiner of Accounts, Alabama Pension Commission.*

Letter to Mr. J.W. Alford, Houston, Alabama, dated 27 Dec 1932: *My Dear sir: I am writing you about your Father's application for State Pension. Your son told me the other day that he had not heard from me about the investigation I made at Montgomery. Sorry he did not get my other letter--as I was in Montgomery on Dec. 1st and went into this matter carefully and had Judge McCall who is Chairman of the Pension Board to write your Father a letter (and) tell him all about the situation. I had him give me a copy of the letter and am enclosing this copy now to you, which will explain all the reasons why the Pension has not been paid etc. Only wish I could do more about it but from what the records show and the law governing such pensions I feel like there is nothing else to be done. Regretting the fact that my other letter and the letter from Judge McCall did not reach you and with best wishes, I am, Yours truly, (signed) B.J. Cowart, Senate Chamber, Montgomery, Senator, 3<sup>rd</sup> District, Blount Cullman, and Winston.*

The *Unionists of the Hill Country* book by Joel Maze incorrectly reported Alexander Alford's father. His actual parents were Spire Warren Alford and Caroline Missouri Cotton. Spire was son of Zaddock Alford and Perrene Parsha Ann Sherrill. Spire was born 11 Sep 1816 in Green County, Georgia and died 23 Jul 1854 in Cass County, Texas. His wife Caroline was born 10 Jun 1819 in Putnum County, Georgia daughter of William Gee Cotton and Cynthia Smith. Caroline died 20 Feb 1907. She was buried in the Bethel Baptist Church Cemetery in the Welch Community in Chambers County, Alabama. Spire and Caroline married 12 Jan 1837 in Troup County, Georgia.

Monuments in the Houston Baptist Church Cemetery recorded Alexandrew M. Alford was born 1 Mar 1849 and died 23 Mar 1934. A CSA monument was placed for Alford on 17 Apr 2008. Fannie E. Alford was born 13 May 1855 and died 2 Jan 1941. Frances "Fannie" Elizabeth Shank was daughter of John Alexander Shank and Sarah Ann Hogan.

*The Winston Herald*, 6 Apr 1934

**In Memory.** In memory of Mr. A.M. Alford. He departed this life here on this earth March 23, 1934. Oh, how much we miss him. It seemed so sad to give him up, but we hope to meet him in a better world. He has been ill for about 6 months. Has been so he could not even lie down for over 3 months. Oh, how empty and lonesome that big chair does look. His suffering has been so much it seems as though we can hear him yet. But, thank God, instead of a frown from suffering, when he departed this life a smile came over his face.

He was 85 years, 22 days old. He was an old Confederate soldier. He leaves to mourn his death his wife, Mrs. Fannie Alford, Houston, Ala.; three children, Mr. J.W. Alford, Houston, Ala., Mrs. Daisy Blake, Double Springs, Ala., Mrs. Odessa Wilson, Townley, Ala.; fourteen grandchildren and sixteen great grandchildren, one brother, Mr. S.W. Alford, of Roanoke, Ala., and several nieces and nephews of South Alabama and Georgia.

His body was put away in the Houston cemetery, Rev. Lewis Hunter conducting the services. A number of the Densons, with the Denson Trio, Mr. O.A. Parris and Otto McCoy did the good singing. Pallbearers were his grandsons, Owen Alford, Marshall Alford, John T. Blake, Lacey Blake, Marlin Wilson, and Wanda Wilson. The flower girls were: Alice Wilson, Laura Davis, Eunice Wilson, Mary Alford, and Peggy Jean Alford. The Brown Service Funeral Home Insurance Co., having charge. Some day the good Lord is going to call us away just as he did Grandfather

and may I beg that everyone be ready to go, for we know not what hour the call may be ours.  
Written by his granddaughter, Mrs. Wakie Davis.