

1403 Kingsford Drive
Florissant, MO 63031

DRAFT

April 11, 1983

Mr. James M. Edwards
1941 Twin Falls Road
Decatur, GA 30032

Dear Mr. Edwards:

We just received a letter from Dr. Randall Alford in which he enclosed a copy of a letter you wrote to him June 7, 1974. In that letter you alluded to a book you planned to publish.

Our purpose in writing is to inquire about the book, its price and availability.

Last year we began tracing our Alford ancestry and became so involved that today we maintain a Alford information exchange in our home computer and we publish a quarterly newsletter, *ABOUT ALFORDS*. Although we have a subscription charge for the newsletter, these are rather simple and small scale operations. We follow-up with every potential Alford "cousin" we hear about, and we correspond with anyone interested in Alford, providing them bits of information of interest to them in return for whatever they may have for us. We are doing this on our retirement income to give you some appreciation of the scope of our operation. We are in touch with about 100 persons and have a "circulation" of just about 50 readers.

In our last newsletter we devoted about 15 pages to "A Look at Lodowick". We found one of the most perplexing things about his situation to be the wills, and their dates etc. The very thing that you mentioned in your June 1974 letter. Should your book be available we would like to have a copy and have your permission to quote from it and to use brief excerpts in our newsletter. We would also like to have your permission to quote several paragraphs from your 1974 letter.

Assuming you did get your book published, and that it does contain reasonable Alford coverage, we will probably "review" it in a future issue of the newsletter. We would like to know what to tell the readers about ordering a copy, should they be interested.

Thank you for your kind attention to this matter, and we hope to hear from you in the near future. Enclosed is a stamped, self-addressed envelope for your convenience in responding.

Sincerely,

Gilbert K. Alford, Jr.



Military Order of the Stars and Bars
Sons of Confederate Veterans
Past Commander in Chief



April 24, 1983

APR 27 1983

Mr. Gilbert L. Alford, Jr.
1403 Kingsford Drive
Florissant, MO
63031

Dear Mr. Alford:

I have started, but have not completed a chapter in my book, "How I got to be Me." Illness in the family, my own illness last year, and retirement, and with an 89 year old Mother still with me, I have my hands full. I do hope to get the job done. I have all of the material in files, and 250,000 indexed cards that carry the spots where the material was found. There's a lot of work involved in putting a book together, not to mention indexing it, and I would not in anyway prepare one that does not contain a full name-index. I've been this route too many times before, and even while editing the Georgia Genealogical Society Quarterly for five years, tried hard to get an index prepared, but as you known, a seperate index runs into money. This was achieved within the last two years due to a workshop that paid off good dividends.

You are welcome to use any items I've transmitted to Dr. Randall Alford in your newsletter on the Alford Family. I will be happy to be added to your Alford Family newsletter membership if you will advise the cost, and too, if back copies are available.

I think I have unraveled the Lodowick Alford, Sr. will. I do know that I have all three of his wives, and 21 of his known children. I am now most interested in connecting Lodowick's father, William Zion to the Massachusetts Benedict & brother, Alford. The Alford that seem to stem from this family came to Virginia via New Kent Co. Va. Lodowick Sr. was in Georgia at the time of his death and was visiting one of his eldest sons, James (my line). His death is listed in one of the early Georgia newspapers from Athens, Ga. James was in Washington Co. Va., then it later became Greene, then Wilkes, and finally Hancock. (Powellton Community, near Sparta, Ga.).

In order to build up any missing links I would be glad to correspond with Alford kin provided they include self-addressed stamped envelopes and full reference material.

Have you the Harrillee King book on the Edwards land. I have checked all of the material out from Virginia to Montgomery, Alabama, and have
Dr. James P. Edwards
941 Twin Falls Road
Decatur, Georgia 30032
(404) 288-1409

yet to find any terrible errors. Kinfolks has most of the Warren Alford line in it.

I will be out of the city from the 28th until May 2, and if you will advise me the cost of your publication, I'll remit a check to cover two year's issues.

Any time I may be of help, let me hear from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jim".

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COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF
H. PAUL PORTER
601 SOUTH LEE STREET
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22314



ADJUTANT-IN-CHIEF
BRIG. GEN. WILLIAM D. McCAIN
SOUTHERN STATION, BOX 1
HATTIESBURG, MISSISSIPPI 39401

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
Sons of Confederate Veterans
WAR MEMORIAL BUILDING
JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI

June 7, 1974

LIEUTENANT COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF
JAMES M. EDWARDS
1941 TWIN FALLS ROAD
DECATUR, GEORGIA 30032

HISTORIAN-IN-CHIEF
REV. DR. JAMES B. BUTLER
BOX 1055
JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI 39205

CHAPLAIN-IN-CHIEF
RT. REV. MSGR. ANTON J. FRANK
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ALICE, TEXAS 78332

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EARL F. HARVEY
705 GRANDVIEW DRIVE
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22305

DUROC JONES BATTE
2928 BRYAN STREET
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22305

WARREN S. WOODWARD
2412 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE, NW
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20008

My dear Randy:

Since your letter of January 18th has reached me, and you have since had a reply, I have kept it before me constantly, and I have planned all week to get a note off to you. I have read and reread it several times.

In regard to the family, let me first give you some data on what my research has revealed. Harrillee's "Kinfolks" in three volumes with Index is the best source of Alford information I have come across. I have checked it out from Virginia to Alabama (Columbia, Ala.). I have found no error in any of the listings. I have gone through rugged fields in North Carolina, visited in South Carolina with living kin, and have checked the book out. There is one problem - the Lodwick who died and is listed in the book as having died about 1820 is not Lodowick Alford, Sr., the progenitor of the many families of Alford, who came south and went west from Virginia. He is Lodowick's son, who married Sussanah Ross. Lodowick was born in Kent Co. Va., in 1715, he died in Hancock Co., Ga. in 1789 while visiting his second oldest son, named for his father, James. The will in N.C. is his, but, was probated some years later, thus making researchers feel that his death occurred in N. C. in 1820. I have a newspaper accounting of his death in Georgia. This is not known to anyone, as it came about when I was searching for records in our Georgia library in Athens in closed record accounts.

* The following I would not like to have you release to anyone until I get my book published. Lodowick Sr. married (1) Elizabeth Cade, dau. of Robert Cade, Sr., who died shortly after giving birth to Benjamin. His second wife, was Susannah Hartley, daughter of John, deceased at birth or shortly after birth of daughter, Elizabeth. His third wife was Rebecca Ferrell, daughter of RS John Ferrell of Wake Co. Lodowick had 21 children by the three wives. James was the first son by the third wife, and my grandfather, and he was a Captain in the RS. He married Luraner (Lurania) Boykin, daughter of Thomas Boykin. Cullen (Collin) was his son, and he married Fereby Wooten, daughter of James and Tabitha Wooten, and had James. James' children were mostly girls, of which I descend from Nancy Ann Elizabeth Alford, who married the McDonald.

Back to page one, I noted that Lodowick who died in 1820 I had listed as Lodowick's son, but he was Lodowick Sr.'s ^{*}nephew. Lodwick Jr. came to Georgia, married in Clarke or Green County, and his son Julius Alford removed to Troupe County, and then to Montgomery, Alabama, where he had a factory during the Civil War, and died in Montgomery.

I will do my best to send you a chart if you think you descend from this line of Alford's. I feel that you descend from some of Cullen's line, who removed to Hancock County, then on to Alabama, and Texas.

I was somewhat startled when I hurriedly read Mercers in your letter. One of my cousins married a Mercier, and I have a copy of the lineage on the Mercier family, as well as the O'Kelley's.

Boddie's book should be used only as a check of source. Many errors are in the books, all of them, ten or twelve volumes. Too, you must remember that people are too anxious to get their lines into print, and often put material into print that takes years to undo. I have been reading where the Gaines family has had problems with Roberts, Richards, and Thomas, and one genealogist said it would take a 100 years to undo some of the damage done previously by persons wanting to put into the record a fact that was not a fact, just to get it printed.

I have a lot of data on Julius, as I copied it when I first began researching thinking it would be one of my grandfather's families, and I would need it in proving back generations. Then the family cousins corporated, and I soon learned my data was needed more from Virginia, than elsewhere. I have been as far north as Delaware, and as far south and west as Montgomery, in my search and recording sessions.

Now about memberships. The Pilgrim membership has been raised to \$10 with yearly dues at \$5. The Order of St. John is \$130, but such is not required until you begin the climb from serving brother to Companion. From the Companion grade to the time you are elevated to Knighthood the fee is \$130, and no dues, until you are knighted. Yearly dues are \$30. The Pilgrims meet normally twice a year in the Branches, March and September. The St. John group meets once a year in each Priory. The higher you go the more invitations to formal business and functions you receive. Just this month an investiture is to take place in Houston on the 24th, and in Toronto on the 28th. So it means two invitations I have turned down due to being in Baltimore during that time on SAR congress work.

As I get in some orders, and you want to be a member let me know. Magna Charta Barons is \$100, and from this you can go to the Plantaganet Society, Order of the Crown, Order of Washington, Americans of Royal Descent, etc., and the fees range from \$65.00 to \$100 each, and the fee is a lifetime fee.

The Order of Lafayette is based on your own military service, and whatever rank you hold while on active duty will be your rank in the organization. Membership fee \$10. Dues vary as they have functions and ask for donations.

I have not yet joined the War of 1812, nor the Colonial War Societies, but have invitations. Just need time to complete the applications.

The SCV is (sons of confederate veterans) and service in it is based on collateral or lineal descent from one who served in the Confederate Army. For the Stars & Bars, the applicant must descend from an officer who served honorably, and the lineage can be collateral or lineal. Dues to each varies, and the initial enrollment fee is \$12.50 each.

Will be happy to recommend you anytime you are ready for any of them. Will send you Pilgrim papers anytime you will let me know you are ready to work on them.

I don't want to push too hard to get you into these groups, but I find them stepping stones to other things, and too, you have a wide range of friends, with the age group going from 18-80. They can be called challengers too.

Well for now, this will have to do. Hope things are going nicely with you, and that rather than go to college during the summer, you will rest up, and enjoy yourself.

Overlook the typing errors. I have tried to get this off to during my pre working hours, and with having a bad week with a cold, my typing is not the best.

Best wishes,

Your Georgia Cousin,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Jim', written in a cursive style.