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March 13, 1985

Lodwick H. Alford  
Captain, U. S. Navy, Retired  
P. O. Box 742  
Sea Island, GA 31561

Dear Wick:

Just a note to tell you that I have thought further about my acceptance of the offer to join you at the reunion, and to say I would like to renege before it causes you any embarrassment.

Immediately after sending you my March 10 letter I began to prepare for the trip. Because of the program we have undertaken we suspect that there will be some who think we believe we are an authority on the subject of Alford. First of all, we don't feel we are an authority and secondly, for sure we are not. Nevertheless we would not want to attend some Alford function without at least having done our homework, and that was the preparation we began on the 10th. It was also then that I discovered just how little I knew about Georgia Alfords.

I have since pulled up a 371 page list of Alfords with Georgia addresses, most of whom we will contact in the next few weeks. We have ordered all the census data we can think of from 1800 through 1910 that will provide Alford data. I have searched out and loaded the names and addresses of 25 or 30 societies and libraries in the state that I suspect might be able to help a little. I am now searching to see who the columnists are who may have genealogy columns printed in Georgia. I have ordered several reference books from the New England Historical Genealogical Society and the National Genealogical Society on Georgia. I have combined all our contacts on our other surnames, actually just 6 Chapman contacts along with the 7 Alford contacts we have in Georgia, and will be sending them a letter requesting some assistance in a few weeks.

Well, needless to say as all this began to unfold, I realized I could never pull it off by April 21 this year. I'll proceed on something just slightly less than a crash basis to be sure I don't do it too fast, but to insure that I have it well in advance of April 86. If you will give us a rain check until next year, we will be well prepared. We will also agree to remain in the area for as long as necessary in the event any of your group want to delve into our data or talk to us more than is possible during the crowded agenda of a one day meeting. If all goes as we hope, we will come down early and try to video tape some cemeteries, historic places and maybe some people before the meeting. That way we will even have some raw video records for

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viewing if any are interested.

At this years meeting you might mention something of our plans and find out (1) if there is anything special any of them would like for us to be sure and include in our Georgia Alford study and (2) if any of them would like to help in any way. They can help by going to cemeteries to record data from headstones and telling us about the data and how to find the cemetery so we can visit and video tape it. They can help by checking marriage listings in libraries, genealogical societies, and the archives. They can help by reviewing local county death, marriage and land records at the court houses. They can help by sending all information recorded in Alford family Bibles. They can help by providing information about the validity of the addresses we have on this 371 person list. They can help by giving us addresses on other Alford's and telling us of the descendants of Alford's who are beyond our view under another surname. They can help by providing funds to assist in financing this venture which I have undertaken thus far entirely on my own, and which will cost me several hundred dollars before I finish. The census data I have ordered has so far cost almost \$100. The mailing of inquiries to 371 +/- persons will cost fifty cents each or about \$185. I hesitate to even mention the subject of funds as it usually turns others off, so if you think it would be better not to mention this to any of your group, use your discretion. And I darn sure am not hinting at some donation from you.

When I send the letter to our other contacts in Georgia asking for their assistance, I'll be sending one to you. It will not include all of the items mentioned in the previous paragraph, just a few of these plus some others.

When we come next year, we will come with a greater assembly of Georgia Alford information than has ever before existed as one set of information. I know that we agreed in previous correspondence that the excuse of waiting until you get *your chart or data finished* is not a good one. I also know that as each day passes we lose an opportunity to get information as one more person passes away or one more record is destroyed. I don't think our rushing down there this year would do much to change the latter, but I think our staying here until next year will get us much closer to *finishing* our data.