



# The Alford American Family Association

Serving the Alford community over 25 Years  
We Are Family!!

**Capt. Lodwick Houston Alford, U.S.N. (Ret)**

**AAFA #0011**

**Founding Member**

April 27, 1914 – December 19, 2007



## Obituary



**BRUNSWICK** - Captain Lodwick Houston Alford, U.S.N. (Ret), 93, of Sea Island, GA, died December 19, 2007, in Sylvester, GA.

Born in Sylvester, Worth County, in 1914, he was the seventeenth child of William Leorus Haywood Alford and the sixth child of Lucy Melvina (Overby) Alford.

Captain Alford enlisted in the Navy in 1932 and entered the U.S. Naval Academy in 1934. After graduation in 1938, he was commissioned as an Ensign and embarked on a long and interesting career covering three wars and varied service in battleships, cruisers, aircraft carriers, destroyers, and staff duty ashore. In senior ranks, he commanded a Fletcher class destroyer in the Korean War, a division of four destroyers in the Atlantic Fleet, a squadron of eight destroyers in the Sixth Fleet, and an 18,000 ton destroyer tender in the Atlantic Fleet.

Captain Alford holds the following decorations: Bronze Star for combat performance in the Iwo Jima and Okinawa campaigns; Navy Commendation Medal for combat in Gilbert, Marshall and Solomon Island campaigns; a second Bronze Star for combat performance in the Korean War; Armed Forces Commendation Medal; and twelve campaign and service ribbons. He retired from the Navy in 1967 after 35 years of service.

His education includes: BS, U.S. Naval Academy; Diploma, U.S. Naval War College; Diploma, The National War College; Diploma, The American University; MA, The George Washington University.

Captain Alford published a book, "Playing for Time: War on an Asiatic Fleet Destroyer" that gives a firsthand portrayal of the conflict in Asian waters during the first few months on World War II. The book is available at the G.J. Ford bookstore on St. Simons Island.

Captain Alford founded the Civil War Round Table of Coastal Georgia in 1980. The group represents Civil War buffs from all over the coast.

Captain Alford was preceded in death by his first wife of 53 years, Katherine Kirkland in 1993 and a grandson, Scott Kirkland Alford in 2005.



Surviving are his second wife, Frances Du Priest Park Alford; her son, John Mack Park and his wife, Deborah; her daughter-in-law, Faye Park; a sister, Louise Parker; a son, Lodwick Kirkland Alford and his wife, Jerilyn; a grandson, Brett Allan Alford and his wife, Jordin; a daughter-in-law, Heather Coker Alford; a great-grandson, Tristan Kirkland Alford; a daughter, Andrea and her husband, Charles Fantacci; and two granddaughters, Victoria and Carol Fantacci.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorials to the St. Simons Methodist Church Building Fund.

A memorial service will be held on Monday, January 7, 2008 at the St. Simons Methodist Church at 11 a.m. Interment at Arlington National Cemetery will be on Wednesday, February 6, 2008 at 3 p.m.

Edo Miller and Sons Funeral Home, Brunswick 912/265-3636.

Published in the Albany Herald, Albany, GA on 5 Jan 2008.

Information copied from a letter addressed as:

Subject: Obit for Capt. Lodwick Houston Alford, O.S.N. (Ret)

From: D.R. Lewis

Date: Sun 6 Jan 2008 17:46:48 -0500

To: AAFA

Signed: Donna in SW GA

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## WICK ALFORD, 1914-2007

Wick Alford, AAFA #0011, one of the founding members of AAFA, passed away on December 19. He actively supported association activities well into his later years. From his ahnentafel:

**Lodwick Houston Alford** b. Apr 27 1914. Sylvester, Worth Co., GA, m. (1) Aug 10 1940, in Sylvester, Worth Co., GA, **Mary Katherine Kirkland**, b. Sep 3 1919, Baconton, Mitchell County, Georgia, d. Feb 14 1993, Brunswick, Glynn Co., GA, buried: Arlington National Cemetery, Virginia, m. (2) **Frances DuPriest Parks**. Lodwick died Dec 19 2007, Sylvester, Worth Co., GA, buried: Arlington Cemetery, VA.

Deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Capt. Lodwick H. Alford.

From the Albany Herald, 21 Dec 2007 – Published in Albany, GA

Sylvester: Lodwick H. Alford, Captain, U.S. Navy, Retired, 93, of Sea Island and Sylvester, GA died Wednesday (20 DEC 2007) at Phoebe Worth Medical Center in Sylvester.

Funeral arrangements to be announced by Edo Miller Funeral Home in Brunswick. Banks Funeral Home Sylvester, GA 229-770-2055.

## Personal Data

Birth 27 Apr 1914  
Sylvester, Worth County, GA, USA  
Death 19 Dec 2007 (aged 93)  
Albany, Dougherty County, GA, USA  
Burial Arlington National Cemetery  
Arlington, Arlington County, VA, USA  
Plot Sec: 8, Site: 10110  
Memorial ID 48998838



Inscription:

CAPTAIN  
UNITED STATES NAVY



Photos added by:

[Paul Hays](#)

## Family Members

- Parents
  - William Leorus Haywood Alford, 1863-1931
  - Lucy Melvina Overby, 1881-1953
- Spouses
  - Mary Katherine Kirkland, 1919-1993, (m. 1940)
  - Frances Anita DuPriest Parks, 1915-2012
- Siblings
  - Ernest Haskell Alford, 1908-1967
  - Walter Hoyle Alford, 1908-1997
  - Sara Beatrice Alford Parramore, 1909-2001
  - William Leorus Alford, 1911-1985
  - Nell White Alford, 1913-1913 (1 day)
  - Lucy Melvina Alford Sumner, 1915-1985
  - Mary Marjorie Alford, 1919-1988
  - Marvin Floyd Alford, 1921-1989
- Half Siblings (Children of Eleanor Frances Norris)
  - Harvey Benton Alford, 1888-1961
  - Eleanor Rebecca “Ellie” Alford Veazey, 1891-1948
  - Sadie Estelle Alford Godwin, 1893-1925
  - Maggie Eugenia Alford, 1895–1973
  - Dewey Leorus Alford, 1898–1979
  - Joe M. Alford, 1900-unknown
  - Columbus Myers Alford, 1900–1968
  - Jack Haywood Alford, 1901–1963
  - Alton Sloan Alford, 1903–1977
  - Blanche Alford, 1906-1906 (49 days)
  - Beulah Alford, 1906-1906 (63 days)

Information copied from the [Find-A-Grave](#) and [Ancestry](#) web pages.

## AAFA Notes:

1. Wick’s Alford lineage: Lodwick Houston 1914 GA<sup>1</sup>, William Leorus Haywood 1863 NC<sup>2</sup>, Green Haywood 1820 NC<sup>3</sup>, Green 1787 NC<sup>4</sup>, James Lodwick 1749 NC<sup>5</sup>.
2. Wick was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 1993 in St. Francisville, LA based on being an AAFA Co-Founder and its first President, 1987-1991.
3. Wick was on the Board of Directors 1987-1997 and 1999-2000.

## Getting to Know

AAFA ACTION #51

Winter 2001

Getting to Know . . . Page 79

### **Getting to Know . . .**

#### **Lodwick (Wick) H. Alford, AAFA #0011**

*Those who have read the past several issues of the quarterly have read some of the work of the subject of this "Getting to Know..." Those who were members back in the "early days" of the association will remember his "President's Precept" that graced the front page of the quarterly for many years.*

*If you have not read the following you might want to read them in addition to this article.*

*"Papa Struck It Rich-But Then" Summer 2000, #49, page 18*

*"Eureka: Proving An Ancestor In Wake County, NC" Spring 2000 #48, page 58*

*"It's Our 13<sup>th</sup> Anniversary" Winter 2000 #47, page 47*

*When the Association was organized he answered the call and became our first president, and chairman of the board. When we needed help editing the quarterly he answered the call with an article each time as he has once again here with his own biography.*

#### BIOGRAPHY of LODWICK HOUSTON ALFORD

Captain Alford was born 1914 in Georgia, grew up and attended the public schools in Sylvester, Worth County of that state.



In 1932 he enlisted in the Navy and served in two battleships before he was appointed in 1934 to the US Naval Academy by the Secretary of the Navy. He entered and graduated with the Class of 1938.

Commissioned ensign in 1938 he was assigned

briefly to the light cruiser HONOLULU before reporting to the new light cruiser PHOENIX for a two year tour of duty. After a brief assignment to the Naval Air Station, Pensacola, Florida he was ordered to the Asiatic Fleet. Upon arrival in Manila, P.I. he was assigned to the old four stack destroyer STEWART reporting on board in late December 1940. He was

gunnery officer of that ship then anchored peacefully in the harbor of Tarakan on the east coast of the island of Borneo when hostilities started with Japan early on the morning of 8 December 1941.



Fresh caught Ensign Alford equivalent of shavetail lieutenant attached U.S.S. Honolulu 1938.

In a wild-melee night battle with Japanese forces landing on the south coast of the island of Bali early on

## AAFA ACTION #51

Page 80 *Getting to Know . . .*

Winter 2001

20 February 1942, STEWART was superficially damaged. Proceeding to the Dutch naval base at Surabaya, Java for quick repairs, the ship entered a floating dry dock only to keel over at about a 40 degree angle which did considerably more damage than the enemy shells and requiring months to repair. Because of the imminent capture of the city by the enemy, the ship had to be abandoned to avoid the crew being made prisoners of war. The ship was later raised, repaired by the Japanese and served in their navy for the remainder of the war. At the end of the war her Japanese skipper committed hara-kiri and the ship was found anchored near Hiroshima, again abandoned but afloat. Ex-STEWART was recovered by the US Navy, repaired, recommissioned and brought home to San Francisco only to be sunk for target practice a few months later.

Ltjg Alford escaped from Surabaya on board the sistership PARROTT and later from Java on the yacht/gunboat ISABEL. After a harrowing voyage in the Indian Ocean, she narrowly avoided overwhelming enemy forces and arrived at Fremantle, West Australia in early March, 1942.

Later that year Mr. Alford was promoted to full lieutenant and reassigned to the staff of Commander Patrol Wing Ten, with HQ in Perth, West Australia. Lieutenant Alford was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with the Combat V device authorized for combat service in the Asiatic Fleet.

In early 1943 he returned to the states for a glorious reunion in San Francisco with his bride of only two months when he left her two years and two months earlier. Lieutenant Alford was then assigned to



"Suave" Lieutenant, man about town, bon vivant, connoisseur of fine cars, fine cigars, fine wine and fine women attached to U.S.S. Mobile taken at officers club Pearl

the new light cruiser MOBILE as assistant gunnery officer. The ship participated in the raids on Wake and Marcus Islands, the Gilberts-Tarawa campaign, the Solomons and the Marshalls campaigns. In the Tarawa assault his ship was located just a few hundred yards off the beach at Betio Island and he witnessed the terrible carnage of the marines before Betio was taken. Indeed the six inch guns of his ship MOBILE proved to be ineffective against the concrete defenses and battleships with bigger guns had to be brought in. In the Solomons campaign near Guadalcanal his ship engaged enemy aircraft in an all-night battle and as air defense officer Lieutenant Alford was awarded the Navy Commendation Medal with Combat V authorized for effective defense characterized by fire discipline.

In the spring of 1944, Lieutenant Alford was again returned to the United States where he was promoted to lieutenant commander and reassigned to the new construction aircraft carrier BENNINGTON as gunnery officer. The ship was then building in the New York Naval Shipyard and after completion of fitting out and shakedown cruise the ship joined the Pacific Fleet in early 1945. BENNINGTON participated in the Iwo Jima and Okinawa campaigns characterized by fierce kamikaze aircraft attacks upon the carriers. All the carriers were hit except the BENNINGTON and Lieutenant Commander Alford was again awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Combat V device authorized for effective defense in shooting down several enemy planes. While aboard BENNINGTON his only son Kirkland was born in May 1945.

Returning home in mid-1945 he attended a short course at the Naval War College, Newport, RI. In early 1946 he was promoted to the rank of commander and reassigned as personnel officer for the Commander Destroyer Force, Atlantic Fleet home ported at Portland, Maine but shortly changed to Newport, Rhode Island. In mid-1947 Commander Alford was reassigned to the Fleet Training Group at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. As damage control officer he assisted in the shakedown training of new ships and refresher training of ships completing shipyard overhauls. In the summer of 1949 he was ordered to Washington, DC for duty in the Navy Department Bureau of Naval Personnel. As officer detail for destroyers and small combatant ships, his responsibility was keeping the ships manned by right numbers of competent officers. Upon the outbreak of the Korean War in mid-1950, the Pacific Fleet was

## AAFA ACTION #51

Winter 2001

Getting to Know... Page 81

almost doubled requiring hundreds of ships coming out of mothballs and recall to active duty of thousands of reserve officers. Amid the doubled workload, eighteen hour days and sleepless nights, his only daughter Andrea was born to him and wife Katherine.

In 1952 Commander Alford was ordered to command of the Pacific Fleet escort destroyer RENSHAW (DDE 499) home ported at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. Deploying to Task Force 77 in the Far East, the ship participated in attacks on the Korean peninsula, shore bombardment at Wonsan and plane guarding for a British Royal Navy aircraft carrier. Returning to Hawaii RENSHAW participated in the 1954 atomic bomb tests including the first hydrogen bomb at Bikini Atoll. For service as captain of RENSHAW, Commander Alford was again awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Combat V device.

Returning to Washington, DC in the summer of 1954, Commander Alford was assigned to the Pentagon in the readiness and training section of the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations. In 1956 he was directed to attend the year course at the National War College, also in Washington. Upon completion of the course he was promoted to captain and reassigned as assistant chief of staff and operations officer of the Commander Destroyer Force, Atlantic Fleet, home ported at Newport, Rhode Island. In this capacity he planned and executed for the US Navy, the grand opening of the St. Lawrence Seaway to Navy ships, attended by President Eisenhower and Queen Elizabeth. Subsequently he commanded Destroyer Division 202 home ported in Newport, RI which consisted of four destroyers engaged in anti-submarine hunter/killer training operations in the Atlantic and Mediterranean.

Returning to Newport Captain Alford took command of the 18,000 ton destroyer repair ship YOSEMITE, cruising to Norfolk, Charleston, Jacksonville, Key West, Guantanamo Bay and Bermuda. In 1961 he returned to the Pentagon in Washington and directed the Reserve Fleet for the office of the Chief of Naval Operations. In this capacity he disposed of surplus ships—some sold for scrap, some given to states or cities as museums such as USS ALABAMA at Mobile, AL and USS NORTH CAROLINA at Wilmington, NC. At one time it was no

idle boast that he had disposed of more battleships than the Japanese did at Pearl Harbor.

On completing his Masters Degree in International Affairs at the George Washington University, Washington in 1963, Captain Alford returned to his beloved deep blue sea as Commander Destroyer Squadron 22 consisting of eight destroyers home ported at Norfolk, VA. Operations were almost entirely in the Sixth Fleet in the Mediterranean Sea with many exotic ports of call in France, Greece, Italy, Malta, Portugal, Gibraltar and North Africa. It was the crowning sea duty assignment of his career with spouse Katherine joining at some ports for official rounds of receptions, parties and entertainments.

But alas, there was keen competition for these choice sea duty assignments and inevitably he had to give way to another aspirant bucking for promotion to admiral flag rank. In 1964 Captain Alford returned to the Pentagon for the last time in the Office of the Secretary of Defense, International Security Affairs. It was an unhappy time of trying to convince Secretary McNamara and his whiz kids that Vietnam was no way to fight a war. In 1967 and not having been selected for admiral he decided to hang up his suit, cash in his chips, sell the farm, retire or however one describes the act of getting the hell out of there. It appeared it would only get worse. It did. On 1 October 1967 Captain Alford retired from active duty after twenty-nine years commissioned service, two years enlisted service and four years at the Naval Academy, totaling thirty-five years in the Navy.

On retirement Captain Alford went with Diners Club, Travel Division and set up a franchised travel agency in downtown Washington just a few blocks from the White House. The agency was an immediate success but after four years and increasing illness of close relatives down in Georgia, it was decided to sell interest in the travel agency and return to his native state. In 1973 Captain Alford and wife Katherine moved from their home of twenty years in Chevy Chase, Maryland to their newly built home "Laughing Place" just one block from his beloved ocean on Sea Island, near St. Simons and Brunswick on the coast of Georgia.

In retirement Captain Alford indulged in less than satisfying game of golf but soon found it interfered with his surf fishing and gave up the golf. A great event of the Alford's was the acquisition in early 1978 of a 38 ft. sailboat which was named GANYMEDE. Long cruises of three or more months were made on both coasts of



## AAFA ACTION #51

Page 82 *GettIn to Know*.

Winter 2001

Florida, two voyages up the east coast to Newport, RI for the America's Cup races, two voyages to the Bahamas and numerous short trips. But the illness of wife Katherine curtailed any more long voyages. After her death in 1993, lack of available crewmen and increasing age further reduced sailing. With lack of use and increased docking and maintenance costs, the boat was disposed of in 1999. Sadness and tears!

In 1994 Captain Alford married a high school classmate and sweetheart Frances DuPriest Parle who had been a widow for thirty years back in the old hometown for both of us, Sylvester, GA. Those who have met her can attest she is a magnificent and gracious lady, elegant, patrician, and beautiful. Captain and Frances Alford continue in retirement reveling in the joys and heartaches of their children. He has two grandsons and two granddaughters. She has one granddaughter and two grandsons. They are members of the St. Simons United Methodist Church where he teaches the Men's Bible Class. Captain Alford is a member of the Retired Officers Association, US Naval Academy Alumni, George Washington University Alumni, The New York Yacht Club, The Alford American Family Association, the High Family Association, the National Genealogical Society, the North Carolina Genealogical Society, the Georgia Genealogical and the Wake County(NC) Genealogical Society, the Antique Automobile Club of America, the Civil War Round Table of Coastal Georgia and the Mercedes-Benz Club of America.

Pesce!

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*Continued from page 78*



Alford Reunion  
April 1959  
Shingler, GA



Lodwick H. Alford  
US Navy 1932



Ensign Lodwick H. Alford  
Academy Graduate  
Class of 1938



Lieutenant Lodwick H. Alford  
During WWII 1943

1989 AAFA Meeting, Houston, TX  
Capt. Wick Alford, President  
Flanked by  
Landon Alford, AAFA #0002 (left)  
Gil Alford, AAFA #0019 (right)





1990 AAFA Meeting, Raleigh, NC  
Capt. Wick Alford, President, AAFA #0011 (standing)  
(sitting, L to R)  
Julius M. "Poole" Alford, AAFA #0013, Treasurer  
Pamela Alford Thompson, AAFA #0030, Editor  
Juanita Alford, AAFA #0382, Wick's Sister-in-law  
Victor Alford, AAFA #0225



1997 AAFA Meeting, Pleasanton, CA  
Capt. Wick Alford, AAFA #0011  
(At the podium)



2002 AAFA Meeting  
Salt Lake City, UT  
Ghost of Lodwick H. Alford  
AAFA #0011



2003 AAFA Meeting  
Little Rock, AR  
Lodwick H. Alford  
AAFA #0011  
And Daughter  
Andrea, AAFA #0319



2003 AAFA Meeting, Little Rock, AR  
Wick and Nephew



2003 AAFA Meeting, Little Rock, AR  
Lodwick H. Alford. AAFA #0011  
And Family



2003 AAFA Meeting, Little Rock, AR  
Wick, Earline and Max

On Next Page:

**Playing for Time, by Capt. Lodwick H. Alford [No Rating]**

13 May 2006 by Andrea Fantacci

I wanted to be the first to post a review of this book, but I have to admit that I have only read short passages of it in my stolen glances at it on the desk in his study. He always told me to "wait until it's published". He once said, "You know, I had to wait for a lot of people to die before I could write this book." Well, I can tell you that certainly got my interest piqued! So, they must be gone because here's the story, finally!!!!

Dad, here's to you and your wonderful talent!!! Love, Tandy

I most heartily advise everyone who can get their hands on a copy to do so, especially at a booksigning by the author.

# Playing for Time

## War on an Asiatic Fleet Destroyer



Lodwick H. Alford



## SC MEMORIAL REMEMBRANCE

This past year we lost one of our three founding members, so I would like to begin this year's Memorial Remembrance in honor of him.

After joining AAFA, the first meeting I attended was in Decatur, AL. I remember thinking how nice the meeting was and how much fun I had. One of the people who stood out in my memory was a very distinguished gentleman dressed to the nines, thinking he must own a men's clothing business with all his brightly colored dinner jackets and white slacks which made the jackets look even brighter. He always sat near the front row during the daytime sessions and would always correct anyone who might not remember things which happened in previous meetings as well as he did. He made sure the correction was heard and it did not slip by un-noticed or not corrected. After the conclusion of the Saturday night banquet, he would proudly announce he was going to the cocktail lounge for a fine cigar smoke and invited any member, ladies included, who wished to join him for a smoke and after dinner conversation.

I found out the next year he was one of the three founding members of AAFA and Captain Lodwick "Wick" Alford, US Navy Retired. That answered my question about why he wanted all the "i's" dotted and the "t's" crossed properly. Wick, Pooley and Gil had corresponded for several years prior about Alford Ancestry. Thus, these three men became the founding members of AAFA. Twelve people attended the 1987 first meeting in Atlanta, GA where Lodwick "Wick" Alford became the first President of AAFA.

Born on April 27, 1914 in Sylvester, Worth Co., GA and Died on Dec 20, 2007 in Sylvester, Worth Co., GA, he was buried in Arlington National Cemetery. He spent 29 years of commissioned service, two years enlisted service and four years at the Naval Academy, Graduate Class of 1938 totaling thirty-five years. In senior ranks he commanded a destroyer in the Korean War, during WWII division four destroyers in the Atlantic Fleet, a squadron of eight destroyers in the Sixth (Mediterranean) Fleet and an 18,000 ton repair ship. A well decorated Naval Officer during WWII, he was awarded the Bronze Star Medal three times and a Commendation Medal, all for service in combat. He was married 10 August 1940 to Mary Katherine Kirkland, two children Lodwick Kirkland and Andrea Elizabeth. After the 1993 death of Mary Katherine, he married a high school classmate Frances DuPriest Parks who has survived him now living in Sylvester, GA.

As the years moved forward, "Wick" attended the annual meetings along with his colorful dinner jackets and lovely wife' Frances at his side. I learned to appreciate his eloquent way with words as he presented the Hall of Fame Certificates and Honorable Mention Awards for each year. His gift with words was like no other.

At the meeting in Baton Rouge, Wick was unable to attend, so Sally and Dick Stoewer found a red dinner jacket at a garage sale. Dick came into the meeting modeling the jacket in likeness of Wick. The jacket hung in our meeting room during the two days along with a package of fine cigars, just in case someone would want to have a smoke. If I remember correctly, this was the first meeting Wick had not attended since the beginning of AAFA.

Wick's leadership and memory will continue for those of us who have been lucky enough to have known him. For those who have not had the pleasure, you missed a very interesting member who brought leadership to AAFA.

We will miss you "Wick" you brought us much fun and many memories. Once again we have a red jacket and some cigars for those who would like a smoke in the bar after the banquet in honor of Wick. In the words of another great person of leadership and character, "Thanks for the Memories, Wick"!

*Written and delivered by Ramona Darden, Meetings Chairperson, on Oct 11, 2008 in Columbia, SC.*

## **Additional Remembrance**

CAPTAIN LODWICK HOUSTON (WICK) ALFORD, 93, son, brother, husband, father, grandfather, great grandfather, farm hand, store clerk, cotton warehouseman, seaman, Annapolis cadet, naval officer, graduate of Naval and National War College, Masters degree from George Washington University, participant in three wars, (WWII, Korea, Vietnam), decorated hero of the "Greatest Generation that ever lived", commander of a Destroyer ship, a Division of four Destroyers, a Squadron of 8 Destroyers (over 800 men), proud wearer of the Bronze Star (3 of them!) and 12 campaign ribbons, plus the Navy Commendation Medal, 35 year veteran, author, avid reader, letter writer, fisherman, yachtsman, historian, Civil War authority, travel agent, Rotarian, Genealogist, Sunday School Teacher, Life Long Methodist, Christian Gentleman, friend.

Wick Alford was born in Sylvester, Georgia, the 17 child of his father and the 6th child of his mother. He helped support his family by working after school as a farmhand, store clerk, and cotton warehouseman. He became interested in the sea when one of his half-brothers visited the family wearing his navy uniform, At age 18 he enlisted in the U.S. Navy and served for two years on the Battleships Idaho, Mobile, & Mississippi. At age 20 he enters the U.S. Naval Academy, graduating at age 24, At 26 he married his first wife, Kay. When Wick was 31 they had his son Kirk and five years later their daughter, Andrea.

The Alford's lived in numerous places including: Florida, California, Rhode Island, Maine, New York, Virginia, Washington D.C., Hawaii & Cuba.

At age 53 Wick retired from his distinguished Naval career and ran a Travel Agency in the Washington D.C. Area. In the mid 1970's Wick and Kay moved to St. Simons Island. They had fallen in love with the area after visiting Max Noah, her college music teacher at the Max Noah Reunion Choir with Barbara Meadows. In retirement, Wick enjoyed fishing on the north end of the Island, driving his antique 19653 Mercedes, and making sailing trips up and down the East Coast and to Bermuda in "Ganymede" (his West Indies 38 sailboat).

Wick founded and was president of the Civil War Roundtable. He and George Stapleton shared the leadership of this group of Civil War buffs for many years.

He also founded the Alford American Family Association through which he shared his intense interest in his family's genealogy

His wife of 53 years, Kay, died. Wick soon returned to Sylvester and courted Frances, his classmate and valedictorian. Frances says he wrote her every day! They shared 13 years together in their Sea Island home. Wick had a wonderful talent for choosing good wives and he found Sylvester, Georgia as a good place to look for them.

Wick was a lifelong Methodist. He loved the Lord and his Church. He taught Sunday School. St. Simons United Methodist he found a nest of like minded men in the Older Adult Sunday School Class. Many of them were retired military men like himself - Sam Finney, Bob Crouch, John Gruver, and others. He was a leader! And he wanted everything done "Decently and in Order" - one mark of a "Good Methodist" I

He wrote his book "Playing For Time, War On an Asiatic Fleet Destroyer" so the story of that era of history could be told Decently and in Order. He wrote letters to the editor of the Wesleyan Christian Advocate urging that all things be done Decently and in Order. He wanted his children to live decently and in order and at least once got out the broom to remind them to live up to their responsibilities.

Yes, 93 years of life lived decently and in order. A good and meaningful life. A life which ended where it began 93 years ago in Sylvester, Georgia when Wick, suffering with double pneumonia, simply closed his eyes and went to sleep.

May each of us have such a peaceful death. May each of us have such a meaningful life - everything done decently and in order.

## Correspondence

**Alford American Family Association**  
Post Office Box 1586                      Florescent, MO 63032-1586

November 6, 1987

Lodwick H. Alford, CAPT USN Ret  
P. O. Box 742  
Sea Island, GA 31541

Dear Wick:

Well, I think I have finally gotten past my bottleneck with the association. I had to rewrite the constitution or articles of incorporation to conform to Missouri statues and the IRS requirements.

I need three persons to act as incorporators and at least three to act as members of the board of directors. Since you, Julius Alford of McComb and myself seem to be the three most interested. I'm asking you and Julius to join with me as incorporators and to serve on the initial board of directors.

I would appreciate if you would review the package and if all meets with you approval sign on the top line on the back page of the Missouri "Articles of Incorporation" and then have your signature notarized. I'll need two signed copies back. I have cleared it with the secretary of state's office to have the signatures on three different copies and to have the purpose of our organization (item# 5) on separate pages.

I have enclosed a copy of the pages from the Missouri Corporation Laws and the instructions I received from them. I've studied this damn stuff until I'm blue in the face, but you know from your experience with me on your book, I can overlook some of the most obvious things. If you make changes in the "constitution" I think you can still sign and notarize the form. I'll make the changes and if they are substantative I'll have to coordinate them with Julius. Correction of the minor administrative boobo's for which I'm noted can be done without any trouble. I have no pride of authorship and did these only because I didn't know who else to get to do it. If you wish to make any major changes it will not upset me.

According to Missouri law and the "new" constitution the board of directors can appoint the first slate of officers. Based on the responses we have received from members thus far I would suggest the following be appointed for the reasons cited. If you and Julius agree then I'll check with the other officers to see if they will agree,

*Lodwick H. Alford November 6, 1987 Page 2*

President: Lodwick H. Alford.

Because you have been at the job of chasing our ancestors longer and more actively than any other member, I cannot think of a better name for the first president than "Lodwick", probably the most noted of all our ancestors. You are also the only "published" member to the best of my knowledge and with being a retired Naval Captain will not hurt things.

Vice President: Weston Adams.

We want to be careful that we don't give the impression that all members must be Alford's or that only Alford's can expect to hold office. Weston has expressed an interest and offered to serve. As an attorney and having been the ambassador to Malawi won't hurt in his case. He is very busy at this time getting back into his practice, but I think there will be little for the VP to do in our first year or so.

Secretary: Nancy T. Alford.

I do not know what her fields of expertise are, but most people should be able to handle this job, although it does require the **annual** report. I'll see if I can work this out with her.

Treasurer: Julius M. Alford.

This will require some slight but regular attention. At the present time I have the check book and am the only one who can write a check on our account which is not good for several reasons. I expect that there will be greater need for direct and personal coordination between myself and the treasurer than any other officer. It will be more convenient for Julius and I to meet than for me to meet with any other member. I go within a mile or so of his office several times each year.

Genealogist-Historian: Nancy Alford Dietrich.

Of all those who agreed to serve in this role and who are not already lined up above, she is probably best qualified.

Researchers: Dennis Bybee and Lee Ann Turner.

Until we get further into things I doubt that there will be little need for this person. In fact the Genealogist and the researchers will have to sort of figure out where they ought to be going.

*Lodwick H. Alford November 6, 1987 Page 3*

Publications Editor: Pam Thompson.

She is most qualified and best equipped to do this. Of all the members she has access to by far the best computer and printing equipment Needed for this job. Some decision will have to be made on the publication. I don't intend to give up "About Alford's" right away, but eventually plan to give it to the association. In the mean time the association will need something for a communication vehicle.

Executive Assistant: Gil Alford.

In this role I can help each and every officer with their job, even doing some of their more routine day to day work until we get better set up. I can also act in behalf of the officers (executive committee) collectively. I think I can serve best in this job to eventually transfer all my functions from my past operations to the appropriate officer of the association.

The only folks who offered to serve who were not selected were: Michael L. Alford (trustee), James M. Edwards (trustee) (membership committee), Jack F. Eisenlauer (trustee) (annual meeting committee) and M. E. (Mike) Alford (committee not specified).

The board of trustees gave way to the board of directors in the evolution of things and we are not to the point of establishing any committees. We also are not ready for assistants to several of the officers. We don't have a volunteer for the Legal Advisor and if I succeed in getting these papers through, hopefully, we won't need one for a while.

The initial officers will serve until the annual meeting sometime next year or early the following year. Once in office they will decide about the meeting.

I am sending a similar letter to Julius, but he is living it up on long cruise, I believe he said from the west coast through the canal and will not be back home until Thanksgiving. I'll wait until then to send him the package so it won't get buried in all his mail that arrives in his absence. So if you wish to make some changes in the constitution I might even get it revised before I send his copies. I'm not trying to rush you though, take all the time you need.

I've probably overlooked something and if so let me know. I certainly do appreciate all your help and support.

Sincerely,

Gilbert K. Alford, Jr.  
Acting Executive Assistant

**LODWICK H. ALFORD**

Captain, U. S. Navy, Retired  
 P. O. BOX 742  
 SEA ISLAND, GEORGIA 31561

20 April, 1983

Dear Cousins,

It would be difficult to tell you now surprised and delighted I was to get your letter of 18th March, 1983 with copies of your first two newsletters. My apologies for this late response but we have just returned from cruising the Florida keys in our sailboat and found your letter when we got back home.

I am looking forward to your feature on Lodowick in the next issue of your newsletter. I am sorry I did not get your letter in time to be able to contribute to the feature.

As you will note we do not use the middle o in the name although I am sure it is quite correct. The name is right out of Shakespeare and appears to have first been given to the one you are writing about-b.ca.1710 in Va. Some people mistakenly assume it is an anglicised version of the German Ludwig. Not so. It is more likely that Ludwig is germanized version of the Italian Lodovico.

So far in my research I have turned up 11 Lodwicks in the family but I am not sure which one is my ancestor. As far as I know I am the first to bear the name in this century. I was named for James Lodwick b.1749, d.1820 Wake County, N.C. which family tradition holds is my ancestor. But we can't prove it yet, at least to the satisfaction of the DAR. The problem is we can't find proof that my great grandfather Green Alford, b.1787 d, 1848 in Wake County, NC was indeed the son of James Lodwick. My research indicates that my James Lodwick was the son of James, Jr. b.1713 who was the brother of the first Lodowick b.1710 VA.

I was delighted to find the names of Tressie Bowman and Charles Sleight on your list of correspondents. I had corresponded with Tressie for years and had visited her once. But when her bulletin No.10 did not come, I could get no response to my letters. Similarly, no response from her co-editor Stuart Blakely whom I note you are also trying to locate. Anyhow I need bulletins 10, 11, 12. Charles Sleight is also a descendant of my James Lodwick but we had lost track of each other for 27 years. I have written him today.

**LODWICK H. ALFORD**

Captain, U. S. Navy, Retired  
 P. O. BOX 742  
 SEA ISLAND, GEORGIA 31561

30 Dec. 1983

Dear Cousin -

Here is \$10 and I hope I am not in arrears. Also hope I have not missed anything.

My apologies for not being more responsive to your requests for information. I was gone four months on my sailboat and when I got home in late October, I had a lot of fence mending to do. Now hope to get back to family research and try to solve some of the riddles.

You might want to see if my brother is interested in getting the quarterly. His address is;

W. Leorus Alford  
 201 Monk Street  
 Sylvester, Ga. 31791

Also my niece who is quite interested in family history, over.



I am working on the pedigree chart you sent me and will send it soon.

Here is \$10 and I am looking forward to the next newsletter. Let me praise you to the skies for doing it.

Also thanks for new address on Randall Alford. I will write him today and thank him for giving you my name. The association you said he mentioned is the W. L. H. Alford (my father) Family Reunion and Lucy Mell Overby Alford (my mother) Memorial. We met last Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> in our old hometown Sylveste, Georgia and there were about 110 present. One of my nephews is president now. More about this later.

Thanks again for your letter and again apologize for late reply -

Sincerely yours.

Lodwick V. Alford

The address is:

Mrs. Caroline Chambliss  
4253 Verona Avenue  
Jacksonville, Florida 32210

Hope you had a good Christmas -  
Happy New Year to you and  
Mary -

Sincerely -

Wick Olford

**LODWICK H. ALFORD**

Captain, U. S. Navy, Retired  
 P. O. BOX 742  
 SEA ISLAND, GEORGIA 31561

8 Nov. 1984

Dear Lil -

Many thanks for your letter of 27 October and another opportunity to give you some information on my ancestors. The sheet is enclosed with my check for a copy of the directory.

It is I who should apologize to you. A long time ago you asked me to send family information to you and I kept putting it off in hopes of finding just one more piece of information to make it more complete. I should know by now we rarely ever can wrap up family history in a neat, completed package.

I hope you can get my data in the directory this time but if you can't I will understand and have no one to blame but myself.

Please feel free to omit or change my data where you find errors of any kind - spelling, dates, places or anything. All that I have on this

back sheet is the result of long study and thought about writing of Boddie, Harlee, Hugh Alfred, Treacie Bowman and others. I know some of it differs from what I have read in your Quarterly. What I have been trying to do is sort out the many Lodwicks (I have counted 11 so far). A lot of people confuse my ancestor James Lodwick b. 1749 with ole Lodwick b. 1709 and his son Lodwick, Jr. b. 1743 - all of whom had war service.

Spec, Charles Sleight knows I have the cane. I have been hoping to show it to him but have not as yet. I have not seen the article about the cane in the Wake County Genealogical Society publication. I must subscribe to it. Can you give me their mailing address?

Thanks again and my apologies to you.

Sincerely -  
Wick

See "family\_data" for a copy of the sheet he enclosed.

**LODWICK H. ALFORD**

Captain, U. S. Navy, Retired  
 P. O. BOX 742  
 SEA ISLAND, GEORGIA 31561

5 March, 1985

Dear Gil:

You must think I have quietly expired or dropped off the deep end. The date of your letter, 15 January, I sailed on my boat for my annual winter cruise. Kay did not go with me this time and forwarded most of my mail. Somehow your letter did not get to me until my return a few days ago. Anyhow my profuse apologies.

And I hasten to add, my renewal dues for About Alford's is enclosed herewith. I hope it is not too late. I don't see how you produce it for so little but I am glad and hope you don't lose money on it.

I AM TREMENDOUSLY impressed (am using our new typewriter for the first time and just learning how to use it) with the chart you sent me showing my family information. Will start to flesh it out immediately. But it will take some time. Please don't hesitate to question any of the info I send. The early history is quite vague and I credit Hugh Edwin with causing me to lean towards William as the father of James Sr. That and also the appearance of a James William Zion in several places indicating that there was a James and a William.

Don't put too much faith in the Worth County History as far as the early Alford's go. The dear old lady who wrote it was one of my teachers and a great historian but she got the information from my father and he got it from W.J. Northen's "Men of Mark", published about the turn of the century. It was a compilation of biographies of successful men who paid to be included. It contained a lot of just plain puffery and unsubstantiated information.

Yes, Charles Sleight and I agree that our common ancestor James Lodwick was Major TANNER. Here is the exact inscription on his old walking stick, "1770 WAKEFIELD JAMES LODWICK ALFORD OR MAJOR TANNER ALFORD". The inscription is on gold band around the cane. Since I was named for him I take it as pretty good authority that Lodwick is the correct spelling for me. I also accept as correct the additional "o" for ole Lodowick Sr. and believe he was named after Lodovico, a character in Shakespeare's Othello.

The directory is marvelous and I can't think of enough praise for you. It took a little while to learn how to use it. But I must say I was disappoint-

ted with so few Alfs with the same common ancestors as myself and Charles Sleight. Hope fully more will turn up later.

No I have no plans for publishing anything and have no objection to your publishing the data I sent or will send.

About getting together, here is a suggestion and an invitation to you and your missy. On 21 April this year we are having our annual Alford Family reunion in Sylvester, Worth County, Georgia and would dearly love for you to come. But if you do I warn you that we will ask you to make a 10-15 min. talk on your operation. I will bring the cane and I think it will be a good opportunity for video taping. Perhaps you could come a few days early to Sea Island and we could drive over to Sylvester on the 21st, about 150 miles. If you fly I could pick you up at Jacksonville or Savannah. If you drive there are good motels in Albany, Cordele, Ashburn and Tifton but not Sylvester. But I hope you will come over here first so we can talk and swap lies about family history.

Again my apologies and I promise to be a better Alf in the future.

Best regards,

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

## Wakefield's Walking Cane

By Lodwick H. Alford, AAFA President (Member #0011)

[This article was originally published in *AAFA ACTION*, Issue #2, September 1988.]

In 1770, James Lodwick and Susannah (Ross) Alford settled in a section of Granville Co., NC, which had been formed from Edgecombe Co., in 1746. This section was to become the eastern part of Wake Co., close to the Franklin Co. line, and became the town of Wakefield. An interesting legend has arisen about the founding of the town. According to Alford family traditions, the legend says that when Wake Co. was formed in 1771, the new boundaries took in the home of James Lodwick Alford and newly acquired undeveloped property. On riding through the forests of his property on horseback, he stopped, got off his gorse, cut a sapling, and said, "This will be my Wake Field." To honor the occasion, he had a walking cane made from the sapling. The origins of the legend and the whereabouts of the walking cane were subject to much conjecture until early 1914.

An article appearing in a 1914 edition of the *Raleigh Times* said:

Mr. G.B. Alford of Holly Springs, who was in the city yesterday was presented with a walking stick that is 150 years old, and which was the property of his Great Grandfather, Mr. James Lodwick Alford. It was presented by Mr. W.P. Robertson, who is a Great Great Grandson of the first owner of the stick.... The stick in question, which has a Deer Horn handle, is of Hickory, and was made from the first tree ever cut on the land on which Wakefield, Wake County, N.C. is now located. Mr. Alford then a land owner of a large tract of land lying in eastern Wake County, desired to establish a Negro Quarter, and upon arrival on the place, dismounted from his horse, and cut down a Hickory, and remarked, "It may always be said that I was the first man to cut down a tree in Wakefield." He made the stick which at his death, was left in charge of his daughter, Delanie, who married a High, and at her death it became the property of John Andrew Green High. Upon his death, it became the property of his niece, Clara Ann Griffin, who gave it to her nephew, Mr. W.P. Robertson, sometime about 1875. Mr. Robertson, finding that Mr. Alford was closer kin, and of the same name, decided to present him with the stick. This he did in the office of the Register of Deeds yesterday afternoon.

At the death of George Benton Alford in 1924, the walking stick became the property of his son Green Haywood Alford III. This was done with the stipulation that if his son had no heirs, the stick was to be given to his cousin Lodwick Houston Alford [author of this article], who was born in 1914 shortly after the publicity about the stick and who was given the name Lodwick after his great-great-grandfather James Lodwick Alford. Green Haywood Alford III had no heirs, and in 1977, two years before his death, he did give the walking cane to his cousin Lodwick H. Alford, where it is now proudly displayed at his home on Sea Island, GA. The stick has a gold band with the following inscription: "1770 Wakefield James Lodwick Alford or Major Tanner Alford." (The mystery of why he was called Major Tanner is as yet unsolved.)

An article on this subject appears in *The Heritage of Wake County, North Carolina, 1983*, edited by Lynne Belvin and Harriette Riggs (Winston-Salem, NC: Wake Co. Genealogical Society with Hunter Publishing Company, 1983).

LODWICK H. ALFORD  
CAPT. U.S. NAVY RET.  
P.O. BOX 30742  
SEA ISLAND, GEORGIA 31561

6 June, 2006

Dear Max,

Greetings from cousin Wick. I hope you know and appreciate how much satisfaction and comfort it is to know our family association is in good hands.

Say, Max - under separate cover I am sending you a soft-back copy of my book, recently published, about my harrowing experience in the early months of the big war. I have a lot of money in the project and hope you will keep the book. This one is \$35. Hardback copies are also available from me at \$35 each. Also please tell your friends & relatives about the book. I am also sending one to Hil.

Frankie and I send love and best regards to you and your missy.

Wick



LODWICK H. ALFORD  
CAPT. U.S. NAVY RET.  
P.O. BOX 30742  
SEA ISLAND, GEORGIA 31561

4 Aug. 2006

Dear Carlivi -

Great to hear from you! It is a splendid idea to have a copy of my book as a raffle prize.

A copy will be enroute to you pronto. This will be a hardback which retails for \$39.95 which I believe is a nice prize.

I will try hard to make it to Tenn. this year. But please refresh my memory as to when and where the reunion will be. My memory is getting real bad. We send love and best wishes.

Wick Alford

LODWICK H. ALFORD  
 CAPT. U.S. NAVY RET.  
 P.O. BOX 30742  
 SEA ISLAND, GEORGIA 31561

5 March 2007

Dear Earline,

I have before me your usually sassy letter of 17 July 2006 and for the life of me I cannot remember whether I ever responded to you.

And cannot remember if I donated a book to be used as a raffle prize. After all I am 92 and pushing 93 (April 27) so make some allowance for our old folks.

Doctors will not let me drive at all and Francee at 92 is allowed to drive only a few miles in daytime only. Doubt if we will ever be able to attend many more meetings of AAFA.

Let me know about the book if you want me to will gladly send one or more to be used as raffle prizes.

Love -

Wick Alford

LODWICK H. ALFORD  
 CAPT. U.S. NAVY RET.  
 P.O. BOX 30742  
 SEA ISLAND, GEORGIA 31561

Sun. 14 Oct. 2007

Dear Hil - Thanks for sending along the letter of Pat Springer about my book. I must say altho' Ya Hoo Maul-Ya Hoo Group's Party line stuff is strange stuff to me. I don't know what the hell they are talking about.

I'm sorry you missed your first meeting at Vicksburg. I just knew you would be there and I planned to go myself right up to the day I had to start traveling - damn near 600 miles. Finally realized I just could not do it - with necessity of going to a bathroom every two hours or so.

Dammit - why can't they plan an annual meeting in Georgia or Florida - Atlanta, Augusta, Macon, Savannah or St. Simon Island or some other place close by??

Thanks again -

Wick