

*Kenneth Lee Alford*

*Apr 11 1921 - Dec 2 1999*

*AAFA #0934*

KENNETH LEE ALFORD

AAFA #0934

1921-1999

*HONOLULU STAR-BULLETIN*

Honolulu, Honolulu Co., HI

Friday, 3 December 1999

Ken Alford, 79, tuned isles in to Dixieland

By Harold Morse

Ken Alford—Honolulu band leader, musician and television personality—died yesterday in Straub Hospital. He was 79.

After his 1949 Hawaii arrival, he became an announcer-writer with radio station KULA from 1949 to

1951 and with KGU from 1951 to 1953.

He made daily TV appearances on KGMB-TV as Sheriff Ken in "Sheriff Ken's Posse" from 1953 to 1958 and from 1958 to 1965 on KONA-TV.

Musically a trumpet player, he and his Dixie Cats band performed at a number of Hawaii hotels. During World War II Army service, Alford played with jazz bands and was an entertainment director for USO camp shows.

He organized his own Dixieland group here in 1950 and enjoyed a record-breaking 16-year Sunday evening run at the Moana Hotel Banyan Court.

He performed at Hawaii arrivals of four presidents—Truman, Eisenhower, Johnson and Nixon.

Louis “Satchmo” Armstrong not only attended the wedding of Alford and Donna Nance, Satchmo also made a rare sit-in appearance with Alford’s band. Another highlight was Benny Goodman’s sitting in with the group to play his big hits of the 1930s.

Alford’s band performed for the 1959 Hawaii Statehood celebration in Waikiki, also for the 125th anniversary of Parker Ranch; and he played for a three-day grand opening of Lawrence Rockefeller’s Mauna Kea Beach Hotel in 1965.

Another highlight was a 1977 Dixie Cats gig at Hawaii Theater downtown for the 80th anniversary of the first Consolidated movie showing here.

Tony Todaro, chronicler of Hawaiian musical entertainment, summed up Alford’s contribution: “Ken Alford gave Hawaii a Dixieland beat to its favorite Island melodies.”

He was named entertainment “Father of the Year” in 1960 by the Honolulu Chamber of Commerce.

Born in Santa Cruz, Calif., he attended San Jose State. He joined New York Life Insurance Co. in 1965 and later became a member of its “Million Dollar Round Table.”

He is survived by wife Donna; sons Ken Jr., Thomas and John; daughter Nancy Alford; sisters Dorothy Smith [AAFA #0918] and Myra McWhinney [AAFA #0930]; and one grandchild.

Services are pending.

*In another article:*

*HONOLULU STAR-BULLETIN*

Honolulu, Honolulu Co., HI

Saturday, 4 December 1999

Kenneth L. Alford, 78, of Honolulu, band leader for the Dixie-Cats, will be remembered in a Mass 12:30 p.m. Wednesday at Star of the Sea Church. Call after 11:30 a.m. Inurnment: National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, Punchbowl. Aloha attire. No flowers. He died

Thursday in Straub Hospital.

He was born in Watsonville [Santa Cruz Co.], Calif.

He is survived by wife Donna; sons Ken, Tom and John; daughter Nancy; sisters Dorothy Smith and

Myra McWhinney; and a grandson.

*AAFA NOTES: SSDI records show that Kenneth L. Alford (SS# issued in CA, last residence Honolulu, HI) was born 11 April 1921 and died 2 December 1999.*

CENSUS

1920

Watsonville (District 250), Santa Cruz Co., CA

Dwelling #61

Fred H. Alford	head	34	CA	railroad switchman
Sarah	wife	34	NE	
Warren	son	13	CA	
Eugene	son	11	CA	
Leroy	son	8	CA	
Dorothy	dau	2-5/12	CA	

It is not clear why the head of this family is listed as Fred H. Alford when his name was apparently Harry Newton Alford. His brother (see 1910) is named Fred. Fred is listed separately in 1920:

San Francisco Assembly District 24 (District 316), San Francisco Co., CA

Dwelling #181

William. Ballinger emigrated 1866	head	53	Can, Eng, Eng	street sign writer,
Marie E.	wife	57	CA AR VA	
Alice	daughter	11	CA Can CA	
Fred Alford	stepson	31	CA IL CA	fireman, single

Harry N. Alford years, RR painter	stepson	25	CA IL CA	first marriage 4
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**1910 [parents living apart]**

Redwood City, Santa Clara Co., CA

Dwelling #157

W.C. Purviance	head	65	OH KY OH	first marriage 31 years
Almira	wife	49	NE IN IN	4 children, 4 living
Dorsey	son	18	NE OH NE	
Alvira Alford children, 2 living	daughter	24	NE OH NE	first marriage 4 years, 2
Warren	grandson	3	CA CA NE	
Eugene	grandson	1	CA CA NE	

San Francisco Assembly District 33 (District 68), San Francisco Co., CA

Dwelling #40

Wm. V. Ballinger	head	44	Can, Eng, Eng	first marriage 6 years RR sign painter emigrated 1866
Marie E.	wife	47	CA AR VA	second marriage 6 years 9 children, 6 living
Fred Alford	stepson	22	CA IL CA	RR brakeman

Harry N. Alford	stepson	25	CA IL CA	first marriage 4 years
				RR painter
Alice M. Ballinger	adopted	2	CA CA CA	
	daughter			

AAFA records and Ancestry.com records—Family Trees, California Birth Index 1905–1995, California Death Index 1940–1997, and SSDI—provide further information on this family:

Harry Newton Alford; m. Sarah Lavina Purviance (6 Sept 1885, NE–17 Apr 1965, Santa Clara Co., CA, mother's maiden name Wyne); daughter of Warren C. Purviance and Elmyra Teresa Wyne.

On Harry Newton Alford's WWI Draft Registration Card, he is age 33, a chief engineer for Geo. W. Pennington & Sons, living in San Francisco. He provides his birth date, 15 Feb 1885, and names his wife Sarah Lavina Alford.

#### Children:

- i. Warren Newton Alford, b. 7 May 1906, Santa Clara Co., CA, mother's maiden name Purvianc [Sarah's maiden name is consistently misspelled in the CA Birth Records]; m. Kathryn Lund. He d. 12 July 1993, last residence Campbell, Santa Clara Co., CA.
- ii. Eugene William Alford, b. 3 Oct 1908, Santa Clara Co., CA, mother's maiden name Purviaha; m. Paula Bondi. He d. 10 July 1989, last residence Phoenix, Maricopa Co., AZ.
- iii. Edward Leroy Alford, b. 9 July 1911, Santa Clara Co., CA, mother's maiden name Puroianc; m. Lora Monning. He d. 29 Sept 1974, Los Gatos, Santa Clara Co., CA.
- iv. Dorothy Lavina Alford, b. 21 July 1917, Santa Clara Co., CA, mother's maiden name Suroianc; m. Burton Smith.
- v. Kenneth Lee Alford. His birth record has not been located.

- vi. Elmyra Elizabeth Alford, b. 27 Sept 1924 in Santa Clara Co., CA, mother's maiden name Puriranc.

See "[Known Descendants of Charles Alford \(1790 NC–1858 IL\) & Mary Elizabeth Tipton](#)" for more information on Kenneth's ancestors.

His lineage: Kenneth Lee 1921 CA<sup>1</sup>, Harry Newton 1885 CA<sup>2</sup>, John Wesley 1853 IL<sup>3</sup>, Matthew Nelson 1819 AL<sup>4</sup>, Charles 1790 NC<sup>5</sup>.