

**George M. Alford
Andersonville Prisoner of War**

George M. Alford is one of four "Alfords" who were imprisoned at the P.O.W. Camp in Andersonville, GA during the Civil War. He was one of the two who died there.

George, the son of John Alford and Nancy C. Hunter of Louisa Co., VA and Lincoln Co., KY. George was born about 1823 in Kentucky and he died Apr 22, 1864 in Andersonville, Prison, GA. He married Ailcey Frances Yocum Dec. 4, 1849 in Lincoln Co., KY. They had five children all born in Kentucky: Rosa Bella, Andrew Jackson, Lucinda Ellen, George Alex., and Nancy.

Some of his record can be found at <http://www.montezuma-ga.org/chamber/plookup.htm> on the Internet. For George there are 17 pieces of information provided, much of which can be found in his military record at the National Archives. AAFA obtained a copy of both his Military record and his Pension record. An image of a copy of the request for his Military record as processed by the archives is shown in figure 1.

Each soldier has a code number which is not explained—George's is 10674. We do know the "1" denotes he died at Andersonville and the 674 is his grave number which was also listed separately. It is also found in his military records.

It gives his first and last name as well as his rank. George's rank is listed as private, but his military records show he was mustered in as a corporal. His company, regiment, state, and branch of service are given separately and are D, 11th, KY, Cavalry.

His date of death, 4/22/1864, and cause of death is listed. When AAFA first became aware of this site several years ago his cause of death was "Syphilis." After reviewing the records it was apparent the cause of death more likely "Erysipelas." Most folks know what syphilis is. Erysipelas is a strep infection that involves breakdown of the connective tissue which allows the bacteria to invade more tissues than would normally be involved (caused by beta-hemolytic strep). It could have been caused by an infection of a wound during the war or even a simple scratch from barbed wire or any other type of minor injury. Unless erysipelas is promptly treated, death may result from extension of the process and systemic toxicity, particularly in the very young and in the aged. Gangrene could have set in during the 1860s which could have further complicated the issue. AAFA advised the National Park Service, responsible for the information, and it was changed on the web site.

A "remarks" is "George Alford, Company B [3]. The "3" is the source of information which is "List of Union Soldiers Buried at Andersonville," Dorence Atwater, 1865. Next comes a "reference" which for George is "p 13 [3]; p 284 [432]. "3" is identified above and "432" is Report of Adjutant General of Kentucky, Vol I. The latter reports: "George M. Co. D, 11th KY vol. Cav Pvt Mustered in Sep 22, 1862 for 3 years, captured Nov. 14, 1863 at Marysville, TN; died at Andersonville, GA Apr 12, 1864 of erysipelas"

The web site shows place of capture, Marysville, TN; date of capture, 11/14/1863; status, died at Andersonville and an entry labeled "More Info Available." shows "yes." That information may be obtained by writing to National Park Service, Andersonville National Historic Site, Route 1, Box 800, Andersonville, GA 31711. Since AAFA has the military and pension record from the National Archives no contact was made for the additional information.

The image shows a National Archives form titled "ORDER FOR COPIES OF VETERANS RECORDS". The form is filled out for George M. Alford. Key information includes: Name: GEORGE M. ALFORD; Service Number: 10674; Date of Birth: 1822; Date of Death: 1864; Branch of Service: CAVALRY; Component: 11th KY VOL. CAV. The form also includes a section for "PLEASE PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, IF KNOWN" with handwritten entries: "1. PLACE OF BIRTH: KY VA, PAU" and "2. PLACE OF DEATH: ANDERSONVILLE, GA". There is a handwritten note "10674" and "11th KY Vol. Cav". A stamp on the right side of the form reads "THESE ARE THE COPIES YOU ORDERED FROM THE FILE IDENTIFIED ABOVE." and "DO NOT SEND ADDITIONAL PAYMENT." There is also a handwritten note "Computer file" at the bottom right.

Figure 1 Order for copies of veterans records

Co. D, 11 Kentucky Cav.	
Corporal	Private
CARD NUMBERS.	
8994352	
8994454	
8994568	
8994672	
8994777	
8994878	
8994968	
8995056	
8995143	
8995229	
8995316	
8995403	
8995489	
8995576	
8995663	
8995749	
8995836	
8995923	
8996009	
8996096	
8996183	
8996269	
8996356	
8996443	
8996529	
8996616	
8996703	
8996789	
8996876	
8996963	
8997049	
8997136	
8997223	
8997309	
8997396	
8997483	
8997569	
8997656	
8997743	
8997829	
8997916	
8998003	
8998089	
8998176	
8998263	
8998349	
8998436	
8998523	
8998609	
8998696	
8998783	
8998869	
8998956	
8999043	
8999129	
8999216	
8999303	
8999389	
8999476	
8999563	
8999649	
8999736	
8999823	
8999909	

Figure 2 List of muster roll records 1863.”

Sept & Oct 1863
Pvt George W.(sic) Alford present

Nov & Dec 1863
George M. Alford absent. Missing at Battle of Maryville Nov 14, 1863.

Jan & Feb 1864
Pvt George M. Alford absent. Missing in action at Maryville Nov 14/63.

July & Aug 1864
Pvt George W. [or W.] Alford
Prisoner of war since Nov 14 63. Died Apl 22 Andersonville. Stamped “From Second Auditor;’s Roll.” A partially illegible note near the bottom: “..... on roll in red ink”

Sep & Oct 1864
Priv George M. Alford absent. Prisoner of War since Nov 14, 1863.

The “complete file” of his Military record contained an index sheet that listed all of the muster records by a record number as shown in Figure 2. There are 11 listed and AAFA received copies of 11 muster records although no record number is visible. The index sheet is headed Alford, George M. Co D, 11 Kentucky Cav. Corporal - Private followed by a list of the card numbers.

The record of the muster roll is the basic record of the Civil War Union Soldier. Images of two will be included but the eleven are summarized below:

George M. Alford,
Company muster-in Roll. See Figure 3.
Cop'l; Capt. Bell's Co., 11 Reg't Cav. Age 39
Louisville, KY Sept. 22 1862.

All of the other 11 cards are “Company Muster Roll” except for the last which is “Co. Muster-out Roll” The next ten are:

Sept 22 1862 to Oct 31 1862
2 Corp'l George M. Alford present

Nov 1 - Dec 1862
Pvt George M. Alford present

Jan & Feb 1863
Pvt George M. Alford present

Mch & Apr 1863
Pvt George M. Alford absent.
Absent paroled by the Enemy.
Stamped “Next Roll on File, Oct

A | 11 Cav. | Ky.

George M. Alford
Capt., Capt. Bell's Co., 11 Reg't Ky. Cav.*

Age 39 years.

Appears on

Company Muster-in Roll

of the organization named above. Roll dated

Louisville, Ky., Sept. 22, 1862.

Muster-in to date Sept. 22, 1862.

Joined for duty and enrolled:

When Aug 9, 1862

Where Washington G.

Period 7 years.

Valuation of horse, \$ 100

Valuation of horse equipments, \$ 100

Remarks:

* This organization subsequently became Co. D, 11 Reg't Ky. Cav.

Book mark:

(266) Washington Copy.

Figure 3 Muster-in Roll

Stamped "From Second Auditor's roll. Next roll on file muster out."

Co. Muster-out Roll See Figure 4.

Louisville, KY; July 13 1865

Pvt George M. Alferd, age 39; last paid to Apl 30, 1863.

Bounty paid \$25, due \$75.

Captured Nov 14, 1863 at Maryville, Tenn. Died at Andersonville, GA

Apl 12/64 of Erysipelas.

The other group of records in the Military file were covered by a transmittal sheet, inventory form or some such record as shown in the image Figure 5. It shows the record is for Geo. W. Alford, P. Co. B, 11 Reg't, Ky. Cav. with 3 enclosures: 2 Pris. of War Record and 1 Casualty Sheet.

<i>Alford, Geo M</i>	
<i>P. Co. B, 11 Reg't, Ky. Cav.</i>	
<i>3</i> Enclosures.	
Bed Cards	Final Statements
Burial Records	Furloughs or L. of A.
Certs. of Dis. for Discharge	Med. Certificates
C. M. Charges	Med. Des. Lists
Descriptive Lists	Orders
Discharge Certificates	Pris. of War Record <i>2</i>
Enlistment Papers	Resignations
Other papers relating to —	
Admission to Hosp'l	Furlough or L. of A.
Casualty Sheet <i>1</i>	Med. Examination
Confinement	Misc. Information
Contracts	Pay or Clothing
Death or Effects	Personal Reports
Desertion	Rank
Discharge from Hosp'l	Transfer to Hosp'l
Discharge from Service	Transfer to V. R. C.
Duty	Transportation

Figure 5 Transmittal cover or inventory sheet

The two "pris. of war records" were supposedly the same records set up for cross filing, one under name of Elfert G. M. with note "see Alford" and the other under name of Alford, G.M. with note to "see Elfert."

While the data on both records is similar the content is not exactly the same. Both records appear to have been truncated in the copy process at the archives.

The "Elfert" record, seen at Figure 6, shows he was captured at Marysville, Ten. Nov 14, 1863, confined at Richmond, VA., Dec. (truncated) Andersonville Ga. Feby 15, 1864.

The "Alford" record, seen at Figure 7, which appears to have been in two parts in the archives, agrees with the "Elfert" record but shows the confinement in Richmond was on Dec 7 and that he was hospitalized in Andersonville Apr 17/64 and that he died Apr 22 1864 of Syphilis. It also shows his grave is 644 - 714-a.

The other enclosure was the "Casualty Sheet" with front and back. It was apparently completed by different people at different times using different pens and different ink. Some is so faint on the copy as to be illegible. None of the information is of great significance given what is already known. Perhaps the most revealing thing is the "Nature of Casualty" which is "death." See the images of the form at Figures 8 and 9.

In summary we know that George M. Alford entered service in September 1862 and a little over a year later was captured in the battle at Marysville, TN November 1863 and taken to Richmond, VA and confined December 1863 then moved to Andersonville, GA February 1864 where he was admitted to the hospital April 17, 1864 and died five days later April 22, 1864.

<i>A</i>	11 Cav.	Ky.
<i>George M. Alford</i>		
<i>Pvt. Co. B, 11 Reg't Kentucky Cav.</i>		
Age <i>39</i> years.		
Appears on Co. Muster-out Roll, dated <i>Louisville Ky., July 13, 1865.</i>		
Muster-out to date, 186 ..		
Last paid to <i>Apr. 30, 1863.</i>		
Clothing account:		
Last settled, 186 ; drawn since \$..... 100		
Due soldier \$..... 100; due U. S. \$..... 100		
Am't for cloth'g in kind or money adv'd \$..... 100		
Due U. S. for arms, equipments, &c., \$..... 100		
Bounty paid \$..... <i>25</i> 100; due \$..... <i>75</i> 100		
Valuation of horse, \$..... 100		
Valuation of horse equipments, \$..... 100		
Remarks: <i>Captured Nov 14, 1863 at Marysville Tenn. Died at Andersonville Ga. Apr 22/64 of Erysipelas.</i>		
Book mark:		
<i>E. B. Thompson</i>		
(861) <i>Copyist</i>		

Figure 4 Muster-out roll

MEMORANDUM FROM PRISONER OF WAR RECORDS

Elfert

NAME	RANK	DATE	REGIMENT	COMPANY	ARM	STATE	REMARKS
Elfert, G. M.	Pvt	11	87	6	Miss	Mo	

Checked at *Manassas, Va. Nov. 14, 1915*, certified at *Richmond, Va. Dec. 15, 1915*

Admitted to Hospital at _____

Discharged at _____

Reported at Camp Parole, Md.

Copied by *A. G.*

Figure 6 Elfert, Memo from POW records

MEMORANDUM FROM PRISONER OF WAR RECORDS

Alford

NAME	RANK	DATE	REGIMENT	COMPANY	ARM	STATE	REMARKS
Alford, G. M.	Pvt	11	87	6	Miss	Mo	

Checked at *Manassas, Va. Nov. 14, 1915*, certified at *Richmond, Va. Dec. 15, 1915*

Admitted to Hospital at _____

Discharged at _____

Reported at Camp Parole, Md.

Copied by *A. G.*

Figure 7 Alford, Memo from POW records

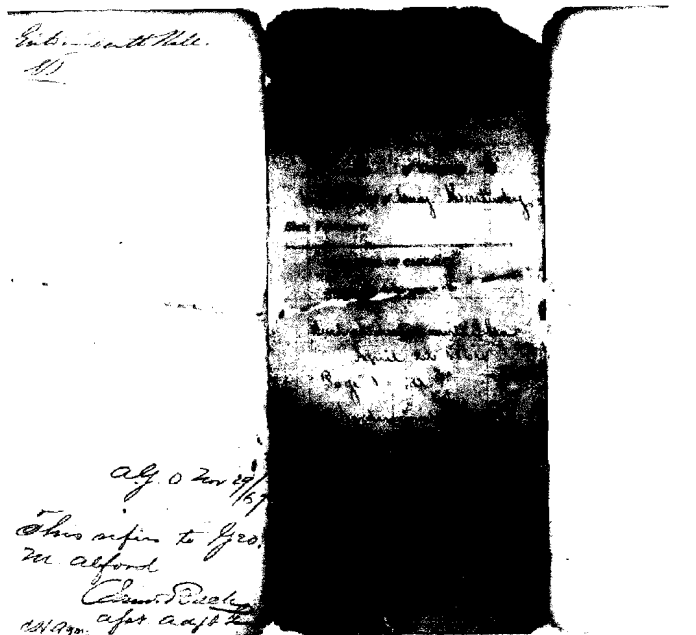


Figure 8 Casualty Sheet (outside)

CASUALTY SHEET.

Name: *George Alford*
 Rank: *Private* Company: *B* Regiment: *11*
 Arm: *Heavy Artillery* State: *Kentucky*
 Nature of Casualty: *Death*

CAUSE OF CASUALTY—(Name of Disease, Ac.)

BY WHOM DISCHARGED.

DEGREE OF DISABILITY.

FROM WHAT SOURCE THIS INFORMATION WAS OBTAINED.

BY WHOM CERTIFIED.

REMARKS.

Dr. H. J. Hasty, A. C. S.

DATE OF DISCHARGE, DEATH, &c.

PLACE OF DISCHARGE, DEATH, &c.

G. H. Lamb
 Clerk
John P. ...

Figure 9 Casualty Sheet (inside)