



The Alford American Family Association

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

Dr. James McDonald Edwards

AAFA #0008

Founding Member

April 15, 1914 – December 4, 1992

Obituary



Covington, Ga. --- The funeral for James M. Edwards of Covington, a retired personnel director for General Motors, will be at 10 a.m. Tuesday at Westminster Presbyterian Church, with burial at Jackson City Cemetery in Jackson.

Mr. Edwards, 78, died of a heart attack Friday at his home.

He was past president of the Gwinnett Historical Society and the Georgia Genealogical Society.

There were no immediate family members among the survivors.

Published in The Atlanta Constitution, Atlanta, GA on Monday, 07 Dec 1992.
Information copied from the [Ancestry](#) web page.

Dr. James MacDonald Edwards of Covington died Dec. 4 at his home. Funeral services were held Dec. 8 at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Atlanta with Dr. Oliver Claassen officiating. Interment was in the Jackson City Cemetery with Rev. David Robinson officiating.

Dr. Edwards was born April 15, 1914 in Butts County, son of James Lane Edwards and Florrie Alamo Harp Edwards. He received a bachelor degree in commercial science, a bachelor of business administration degree, and a doctor of journalism degree, along with several honorary degrees. He also received several prestigious military honors. Dr. Edwards was a member of numerous civic and social organizations and was named on many Who's Who registers. There are no immediate survivors.

Published in the Jackson Progress Argus, Jackson, GA on 09 December 1992.

Dr. James MacDonald Edwards, son of James Lane Edwards and Florrie Alamo Harp, was born in Jackson, Georgia. A retired General Motors executive, he earned his Bachelor of Business Administration and Bachelor of Commercial Science degrees at the University of Georgia. He was a member of Delta Sigma Pi, Kappa Sigma Kappa, and Gamma Delta Phi fraternities. During his lifetime he was awarded five honorary doctoral degrees including a Doctor of Science degree from Holy Trinity College, a school of the Southern Episcopal Church. During WWII Dr. Edwards' service entailed military intelligence and psychological warfare. For many years he was a member of the Consular Corps – District of Columbia.

Dr. Edwards was highly regarded in the hereditary society world as a leader and dedicated officer. His efforts resulted in his being recognized with awards that included: the Patriot Medal, Silver Good Citizenship Medal, Bronze Good Citizenship Medal and Certificates of Appreciation from the SAR; the Gold and Silver Jefferson Davis Awards, and the Jefferson Davis Chalice with the designation "Mr. Confederacy" from the SCV; Gold and Silver Jefferson Davis Awards from the Daughters of the Confederacy; Gold and Silver Jefferson Davis Awards from the Children of the Confederacy; the Legion of Merit from the MOSB; the Honor Medal from the DAR; and a Plaque of Appreciation from First Families of Georgia, 1733-1797. He was an officer in the Gwinnett (Past President), Dekalb, and White County Historical Societies, the Federation of Genealogical Societies (Region 4 VP) as well as the Georgia Genealogical Society (Past President). Dr. Edwards was also interested in Heraldry being an Honorary Member of the Instituto Heraldico – Barcelona Spain and received a grant of Arms from the Cronista Rey de Armas - Kingdom of Spain.

Dr. Edwards achieved, during his lifetime, the distinction of being one of only five living Commanders in Chief of both the Sons of Confederate Veterans and Military Order of the Stars and Bars with SVC and MOSB Awards named in his honor.

Dr. Edwards was an international traveler and made many friends around the world. His friendships resulted in his becoming interested in and a member of numerous International Orders. Dr. Edwards was active in multiple charitable, civic and cultural causes in the United States which resulted in his being honored as an Honorary Admiral in the Texas, Alabama, Georgia, and Nebraska Navies; a Kentucky Colonel, an Honorary Captain of the Belle of Louisville, and an Honorary Lt. Col. Of the Alabama Militia.

He was a life long member of the Presbyterian Church.

Information copied from [The Hereditary Society Community](#) web page.

Personal Data

Birth: 15 Apr 1914
Jackson, Butts County, Georgia, USA
Death: 4 Dec 1992 (aged 78)
Covington, Newton County, Georgia, USA
Burial: Jackson City Cemetery
Jackson, Butts County, Georgia, USA
Plot: Section 2, Row 1, Marker 109
Memorial ID: 64677963



Photo added by: [EmptyL](#)

Inscription: SON OF FLORRIE ALAMO HARP & JAMES LANE EDWARDS
DAR MARKER

Family Members

- Parents
James Lane Edwards, 1881-1971
Florence Alamo Harp, 1894-1987
- Sibling
Alma Mayne Edwards, 1916-1991

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

AAFA Notes:

1. James' Great Grandmother's Alford lineage: Nancy Ann Elizabeth 1827 GA¹, James Alford 1804 GA², Cullen 1775 NC³, James 1740 VA⁴, Lodwick 1710 VA⁵, James 1687 VA⁶, John 1645 VA⁷.
2. Jim was instrumental in starting the AAFA and was helpful in getting it started.

Miscellaneous Data

Information copied from [The Hereditary Society Community](#) web page.

Memberships

- National Gavel Society (former Secretary)
- Colonial Order of the Acorn
- Hereditary Order of Descendants of Colonial Governors
- Sons of Confederate Veterans (former Commander in Chief)
- Military Order of the Stars and Bars (former Commander in Chief)
- National Society Sons and Daughters of the Pilgrims (Honorary Governor General)
- First Families of Georgia, 1733-1793 (Honorary Governor General and one of the three founders of the organization).
- Continental Society Sons of Indian Wars (Honorary Governor General)
- National Society of Washington Family Descendants (Honorary President General)
- Order of Americans of Armorial Ancestry (Past 2nd Vice President General)
- Society of Descendants of Knights of the Most Noble Order of the Garter Windsor Castle
- National Society Sons of the American Revolution (First Vice President of the Atlanta Chapter; former President of the Georgia Society; former National Trustee, National Awards Committee Chairman)
- Aztec Club of 1847
- Order of Lafayette (former Captain)
- Military Order of Foreign Wars in the US
- National Society Sons of the American Colonists
- National Guild of St. Margaret of Scotland (Protector)
- National Society Descendants of Early Quakers
- British American Society of London
- St. George's Society of Jacksonville, Florida
- Burns Club of Atlanta

Chivalric Orders

- Hospitaller Order of Saint John (former Grand Marshal; Knight; and Bailiff; Recipient of the Grand Cross of Justice)

Listed In

- Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities
- Who's Who in Finance and Industry
- Who's Who in the South and Southwest
- Community Leaders of America
- Personalities of the South
- Who's Who in the Bicentennial
- International Biographies



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



13 March 1987

Dear Gil:

Thanks for the receipt, membership card, and the information sheet.

Thought I had enclosed one when I shipped the material back to you.

Use whatever amount of the \$22 to cover 1988 membership fees, and dues, the balance on the researching. Nothing else is required from me on this.

At the present time have no idea what I might be able to undertake other than what I presently am doing. Being a VP of a Division would require a listing of all members, addresses, telephone numbers, etc., that would fall in my district, hopefully Georgia only. Due to my Mother's condition have no idea when I might be able to attend a general meeting, and unless I knew several weeks in advance, even a quarterly meeting might not prove advantageous for me being in a position that would require attendance.

I would prefer simply to continue sending in material as I get new books, citing author, name of book, etc., page, and "copy" of the material in the book. Also obits of people with the Alford name or kin to Alford.

Did I not send you at one time a copy (photograph in color) of the Alford coat-of-arms I have. I will gladly donate it to the Society during 1988 if such will be of benefit. I had planned when I could get down stairs to my Alford file, look up the material that came with the arms, and outline the motto they used, etc. I have no particular reason for it being used as the Society's arms. We may, down the road need to have our own made up, and accepted by the American College of Arms. Assume, since spinning or spinners were used in the manufacture of cloth, that the Alford's were originally millers.

I will gladly work on any committee that will require a minimum of time, and at a job I can do at home between hours of not having to cook, clean, wash up, and attend to the many things my Mother needs during her daylight hours of being up. Once she is in bed, then I begin my typing.

Best, and thanks,

Dr. James M. Edwards
1941 Twin Falls Road
Decatur, Georgia 30032
(404) 288-1409