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March 10, 1985

Lodwick H. Alford
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P. O. Box 742
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Dear Wick:

No, we were not a bit anxious about your response to our letters. We know about your cruises and figured you were away from us landlubbers and routine non-sea duty for awhile. No need for any apology.

I have not been away, and my routine correspondence backlog goes beyond January 15 right now. We do manage to keep up with what I consider priority mail on about a 24 hour basis.

You are never too late to renew the newsletter. The worse that could happen would be receiving an issue a little later than usual. We print extra copies which we have available for new subscribers should they wish to purchase back issues. You commented on our producing the newsletter for so little. What we charge covers just slightly more than the printing and mailing. The acquisition of data, and we do rent or buy an awful lot of resource material, the materials and equipment necessary for processing and filing the information and a myriad of other costs are not included in the subscription price. We lost several thousand dollars again in 1984. We must turn the trend around, but fear if we increase the subscription price we will loose some readers who enjoy the newsletter and deserve to have it, but could not afford a couple more dollars. It seems we have a lot of little ladies who are probably living on a small pension. I know there is one who pays by the quarter because she can't afford \$12 all at once.

so a late renewal would use one of the

The chart we sent is our standard descendancy chart, and we use an electronic spread sheet (computer program) designed for all kinds of number crunching and accounting to prepare it. I hope that someday we can have most of our Alford's charted ~~like~~ that these.

I asked an Alford descendant who lives in Michigan why she felt William was the father of James. She said it was because William received a land grant along the south side of Upper Rd. near the York, in New Kent County, VA and that James's Alford's sons were required to tithe along this road. I haven't checked each of her points out to see that they are documented, but it sounds good, and coupled with your reasons, gives us some circumstantial evidence anyway. Maybe we will eventually have

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enough to make a strong case.

Thanks for the comments on the Worth County History. Now I can understand it better. I have often been nauseated reading extracts from *MEN OF MARK*.

Yes, the directory is a tad different from most genealogical references, and it does take some getting used to. I must confess it was something I sort of stumbled into playing around with a computer program I had and data that was generally already available in my files. I am disappointed that we don't have lots more Alfs who tie together but was surprised that we had such broad coverage on many lines. I also found it interesting that I had as much as I do on my own Julius Alford line. My first cousins and close kin in Louisiana have been the least cooperative and supportive in this effort. In fact only one has provided any information at all. Maybe when we get our expansion effort going in Georgia we will turn up more of your cousins. Or, maybe we will find them in Florida.

Mary

I've made
no special
effort
Thank

We certainly do want to thank you for the invitation to the family reunion. We would like to give you a very tentative acceptance, with a strong caveat. We may have to cancel out at the last minute. Both of my parents are still living. Both are

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in their eighties and neither is particularly well. Mother was in the hospital for a couple of weeks last month. She has to use a walker to get around, and I'm afraid she has begun to get a little senile. Dad gets around and still drives, not very safe though, and is in pretty good health although he has had some heart problems. Anyway, I stay on a red alert to depart for Louisiana at almost a moments notice should they need me.

If we are able to make it we will combine it with a camping trip and bring along our ^{rusty old Van and} camping (folding) trailer. We have camped from coast to coast and from the Canadian border to the Mexican border and the Gulf, including ~~on~~ the Keys in Florida, and have never found better camping than we've had there in Georgia. We will spend most of our nights in the state parks, and probably get a motel in Tifton or Albany for the night of the 20th so we won't look like we just came off bivouac. The situation in Louisiana will sort of govern the length of our stay, but we certainly would like to spend some time with you before the reunion. We see several state parks that appear to be within about an hours drive of Sea Island where we could probably find accomodations.

I will be most happy to say a few words about our operation. The only problem will be keeping it to a few. I would appreciate a little recon information though. What is the scope of the family group that will be present. What is the extent of their general knowledge of the family history. In what type facility is the reunion held? ie a church, meeting hall, someones home or what? Finally, I'd appreciate a few suggestions as to what I might talk about. I would want to be as effective as possible, not just fill some time on the program or show the flag so to

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one other thing - What's the uniform of the day - Will there be a bunch of preachers in suits or ordinary folks in sport shirts & slacks

You probably know that Georgia ranks seventh among the states in Alford population (families). I'm not much on Texas, but that states is number 1, with about 1100 families. Florida and California are tied in second place with about 575 each. Louisiana and North Carolina come next in a fourth place tie with about 540 each. Mississippi is next with about 430 and then comes Georgia with about 370. A large percentage of those in Mississippi are black. Most of the blacks in Louisiana use the spelling Alfred or Alferd and are excluded from my count. That is not to say there are not significant blacks in Louisiana with our spelling. Texas seems to have relatively few black Alford. I've not gotten far enough into the other states, including Georgia yet to see anything. I'll try to do a little extra work on Georgia before I come down.

Neckties
I want
to bring
well
and so
go
an any
direction
Lynn new

Wow, I planned to keep this to one page and here I am on

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page 3. No wonder I don't ever get anything done. Thanks again for everything and we will keep you posted on making the trip. Just don't make any special plans or preparation for us because our coming is very iffy.

Sincerely,

Gil