

A Dr. Wallace Alcorn  
508 T. C. Hill Rd. Ft. Lauderdale, FL  
Ameti: [redacted]  
508 [redacted]  
[redacted]

---

5 September 2003

Dear Robert,

Thank you for your August 28<sup>th</sup> letter. I think of you often and should write more frequently. Please note my current address here. We moved out of a four level old house into a newer two level condo, but also in Austin, a year ago. Our thought was to move before we became disabled, and then we became disabled by moving.

I wouldn't settle on another place until we found one that would accommodate most of my books. I have had in excess of 10,000, but a good number I gladly surrendered with some puzzlement as to why I ever picked them up.

Thank you for your kind words on the review of Rod Andrew's book. I had effectively forgotten I had written it, because I had submitted it so long ago and have written so many other things since.

I had not seen reference to "W.H. Brisbane, Jr." in the Bankless article. I had skimmed the article and missed the name, despite the fact such usually jumps out at me. I suppose I would have gotten back to read it, but I appreciate your drawing this to my attention. *See Am 2003*

The entry is in some kind of error, which is the puzzle. W.H. Brisbane, Jr. was never a U.S. Tax Commissioner and, so, either the name should read without the "Jr." or it was Junior but he should not have been noted as a commissioner.

X Although Junior after leaving the Union Army lived most of the time in West New York (apparently Brooklyn) and his father spent most of the summers with him while writing his reports, Junior was on occasion in Beaufort. I have some recollection he may have worked for his father. It would be problematic that he was there long enough to have taken out a loan or had enough money to make a deposit. Father of my grandmother that he was, he was of quite a different character from his father. He served very briefly as a company officer in the 2d Wisconsin Cavalry (of which his father was chaplain and in which his brother Benjamin was a battalion adjutant) and in the New York home guard, he had no significant military service. Yet, his principal occupation following the war (Chicago, Arena, and Milwaukee) was petitioning anyone he could for a pension based on claimed disability. His journals frequently record complains that his son, Willie, hadn't found work so as to support the family.

Junior must still have been in Beaufort in January 1871 (after his father had left), because his two-and-a-half-year-old daughter died this month. Benjamin was also there, in that he attended at the delivery.

The entry could mean:

- 1) Junior defaulted on a defacto loan, but was mistakenly identified as a commissioner rather than an employee of the commission (or, perhaps, passed himself off as a commissioner—although one would think a bank officer would know better).
- 2) Senior defaulted on a loan.

I cannot tell from the article if this was actually a loan default. The whole thing was managed poorly and one cannot now be certain what was the actual agreement between the bank officers and the depositors. WHB left South Carolina in 1870, four years before the bank closed, and returned to Wisconsin. It had been a long time since he had very much money, and very likely unable to cover the overdraft at the time of leaving. It would appear the bank never went after the money owed. I shall be watching for references to the bank in his journals.

Well, you have directed me down an ally I hadn't known was there. We shall see what ash cans I can kick on the journey.

As to the Society. Yes, of course, I should be a member and wish to become one. I guess what has discourage me is not knowing what data I must provide to establish the relationship and, especially, how I would document this to the satisfaction of the genealogist. Perhaps you can give me some guidance on this.

OK Moreover, I would need a second sponsor. How could this be accomplished?

Your Heritage Library looks great. The next time I am in the area, I should like to visit it. Will you be leaving your own papers to it?

I had made tentative plans to attend the Lawton Family reunion and even offered to read a paper on WHB. The program had been developed to the point that the only time available was before the reunion itself and only thirty minutes then. I did not feel it to be a good use of time and money to make the trip for just this. Perhaps another year there would be a more substantial opportunity.

I was especially interested to meet Janet Shane who attended, with whom I have corresponded frequently. She is descended from Benjamin, if I recall correctly. Her husband formerly practiced medicine with another physician whom I knew as a young boy in Milwaukee. In point of fact, his father was my scoutmaster. Janet said everyone treated her well, and I know I would enjoy just meeting the other cousins. But it would be all the better if I could combine the two aspects.

Apparently you did not make this reunion. I was not aware of your WWII service or ministry as a National Guard chaplain. I respect these things.

Thank you, again, for writing. I shall look forward to your response to the question about First Families.

Love, joy, peace.

Wallace

# Acceptance is a matter of honesty

Of all the arguments advanced to recognize a gay man as a bishop of the Episcopal Church, the one that most favorably impresses me is the question of simple honesty. It is dishonest, his advocates argue, for a person to be homosexual and to pretend otherwise. Therefore, they claim, when the Episcopal Church recently recognized an openly gay man as a bishop, it was simply an act of honesty. On the contrary. The Episcopal Church's acceptance and affirmation of homosexuality is a disgraceful act of egregious dishonesty.

Mind you, I am not here denying gay rights, getting into the morality of homosexuality, or challenging the right of the Episcopal Church to make its own choices. I raise only the issue of honesty and turn their



argument from honesty back upon itself.

This church, as many if not most, has asserted homosexuality to be morally wrong, a sin. It may be mistaken in this, and many people think it is. Nonetheless, homosexuality is not the specific issue here—honesty is.

Honesty is the issue because the church's self-formulated theology has always held that marriage is the union of male and female and that sexual activity is within the marriage of male and female. It has, further, also accepted the series of specific biblical prohibitions against homosexuality. Male-female marriage and the disallowance of homosexuality, then, is the theology and teaching of the Episcopal Church. It always has been and still is.

What the Episcopalians have now done, consequently, is to approve and even celebrate an open, straightforward violation of its own standards and teaching. This just is not honest.

What should have been attempted by those who proposed this man as bishop is to have petitioned the Episcopal Church to change its theology and to give moral approval to homosexuality per se. It could have proposed a doctrine that homosexuality is accepted by God, perhaps even a sacred act. Then — but only then — would it become honest to propose acceptance of a gay as bishop.

I respect this now-bishop's honesty about being gay, but I do not — because neither ethics nor logic allow it — respect his dishonesty about violating teaching his ordination vows oblige him to hold, defend, and propagate.

His supporters are correct: the issue here is honesty. But honesty requires adherence to what the Episcopal Church declares it believes. It is, indeed, a matter of simple honesty.

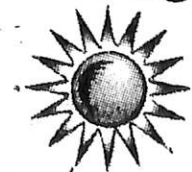
*Dr. Wallace Alcorn's commentaries appear in the Herald on Mondays.*

50¢

MONDAY

August 25, 2003

Volume 111, No. 197  
Copyright 2003 · Austin  
Newspapers Inc.



[www.austindailyherald.com](http://www.austindailyherald.com)

Weather

Tonight's

low: 75°

Tomorrow's

high: 83°