

Elijah Alford, Jr., 1757-1832

Revolutionary War Claim

Extracted from the microfilm "Summary of Revolutionary War Pension File," MICRO COPY 804-31, MA CT, Pension # R-92. Notice that the claim was rejected. If "need" was a requirement for a pension, it is probable that it was determined he really did not need the pension.

Elijah enlisted as a minute man in October 1771 and marched to Boston 22 April 1775. He served in Captain Thomas William's company, Colonel John Patterson's regiment. He remained in service the balance of the year.

He enlisted in Captain Moses Ashley's company, Colonel John Patterson's regiment, and marched to Montreal. He was at the Cedars on the St. Lawrence River and was captured by the British and Indians.

He resided in Becket, Berkshire County, Massachusetts, and later moved to Portage County, Ohio.

His claims were rejected and no pension was granted.

Biographical Sketch

Based on data contained in The Higleys and Their Ancestry an Old Colonial Family, by Mary Coffin Johnson. Note that this is the ancestor of one of AAFA's newest members, #395 James Allen Alford, Jr.

Elijah Alford, Jr., the oldest son of Elijah Alford and Hannah Higley, was born 13 April 1757; married 11 October 1779 to Olive Higley, the widow of his cousin, Michah Higley, who met his death by accidental shooting the preceding December. They united with the Becket church, 12 March 1786. He was a man of sound,

substantial character and about the beginning of the present century was useful in church matters and prominent in public affairs. He served the town of Becket (Berkshire County), Massachusetts, as surveyor, 1805; as juror, 1806; and was on the committee for visiting and inspecting schools. On 3 September 1807 he was chosen deacon of the Becket church.

On 2 May 1811 he and his wife Olive were prominent among the eleven individuals who, with Colonel Benjamin Higley, the son of Olive Higley by her first husband, formed a church organization in Becket, which was afterwards established permanently at Windham, Portage County, Ohio; on their removal there, later in the season, he was made its first deacon. It is now known as the First Congregationalist Church of Windham, Ohio.

Four months afterward, Mr. Alford says, in a letter addressed to Judge Erastus Higley of Castleton, Vermont, bearing date August 30, 1811: "I have now begun my journey with my family for the wilderness of New Connecticut, having exchanged my land for land in Township No. 4, in the 6th range of the Connecticut Western Reserve. I have 1167 acres of land in the aforesaid township."

The emigrants arrived at Windham after a long and perilous journey in carts, on the 12 October 1811. Mr. Alford with his family settled on lot No. 57. Here he and his wife brought up a family; many of their descendants still reside in the same locality, well-to-do and highly respected citizens.

Deacon Elijah Alford died at Windham, Ohio, 11 April 1832. His wife, Olive (Higley) Alford, died 16 September 1827 aged seventy-three years. They were interred in the Windham cemetery. They had children, all born in Becket (Berkshire County), MA. ❖

Williams, daughter of John Williams), got a job as boilermaker for the Seaboard Railroad at Raleigh, and as the years went by, he gave up his job with the Seaboard and moved in 1901 to Biscoe, N.C., a very small town.

A good friend of his, since boyhood got him to come and work for the Aberdeen and Asheboro Railroad. During visits, Dad and mother made back to Raleigh to visit their people, I, being a kid, would stay in Raleigh with the other children, and mother and Dad would make the rounds back over the old place, visiting with their people, and consequently, I knew nothing of the Ghost until I became a grown boy.

I was about thirty years of age (1930) when I saw the site of the old place for the first time. I stopped over one day to see my half brother (William Ladd Williams) who at that time lived in the vicinity of the High House, and he drove me over to where the house once stood. All that was left of the old place were big rocks used for the chimney and pillars of the house. A short distance away was the Family Cemetery where my Great Grandfather (Nathaniel Green Alford) and Great Grandmother (Nancy Liles Alford) along with other members of the family, and also a few of the slaves, were buried. As I walked around the place, we were thinking of the Ghost and I felt as if I was there living in the past, and believe-me, I was on the lookout for the Ghost of HIGH HOUSE. ❖

It was announced at the 1989 meeting that AAFA would no longer issue membership cards bearing an expiration date and that cards would be effective for an indefinite period. Members who desire replacement cards may request them from the Missouri address. Identify the specific family members for which cards are required.