

Guy Alford, Part Four

In the last issue of *AAFA ACTION* we provided most of Guy Alford's "Foreword—Caution." This Foreword is concluded below with 24 numbered paragraphs. These were written in 1952 before copy machines and computer programs and word processors that check spelling and grammar. Most of his material is either pencil notes on tablet paper or carbon copies on onion skin. He died shortly after writing these notes and did not do the things he promised to do.

Except for page 1, all of his pages are done on the Form 1 he mentions in the foreword. This form is a note-gathering tool devised to extract material from sources. Gil Alford is copying the faded, fragile, yellow paper and will be summarizing it in narrative form for *AAFA ACTION*. He will also be tabulating some of it in a data base.

Some of the 24 paragraphs have been omitted, with only a brief summary included here, because they are somewhat rambling general comments. Also, spelling and typographical errors have been corrected.

Several of our members, including Nancy T. Alford our recent secretary, are part of the branch emphasized in his work. Guy's files include correspondence from Nancy's grandparents.

Foreword (continued)

Now, back to the original thought behind this foreword and the purpose of this temporary or tentative compilation of these notes:

1. I have been collecting notes and memorandums for a long time. I found I was duplicating efforts because they were not organized. I have started typing my data and I elected to use these notes as the basis upon which to make a study of where I stand and to

give me an idea or plan to follow in the future.

2. Something like an index is essential. I have hurriedly made one and will alter, add to or amend and rewrite as I type out my present data and add new facts.

3. Several members of the family are interested. These particular facts will help them to help me in the pursuit of this project.

4. [Carbon copies have been made and distributed.]

5. [Hurried typing has led to spelling and typographical errors.]

6. I think, too, I have a few errors in dates or other facts or there are better sources, in some instances, and will eliminate the errors and recheck all records, to be sure.

7. The form I used to type these notes on was devised by me as a convenience in making notes and to send to others upon which they could supply requested information.

8. I have two other forms, No. 2 and No. 3. I have called them, for want of a better designation or for reference. My temporary notes, Form No. 1, will be retyped, some in narrative form, on 8 1/2 x 14 inch paper, attached to or bound in loose leaf binder with Form No. 2. Form No. 2 and these typed sheets are the supporting proof of each family (Form No. 2 being a chart for each family). Form No. 3 is a chart showing each generation, in a line, and references to the supporting facts carried in Form No. 2. Form No. 3 shows, at a glance and on one page, as many as 10 generations backward, if you have that much proof.

9. [Collecting information on all

Alfords, related or not, helps preserve information and may be helpful in later research.]

10. [Always make more than one copy of your genealogical work to prevent loss.]

11. [Forms will be sent to family members to fill out and return.]

12. [Three points: Completion is impossible. Names are repeated from generation to generation. Collateral lines are informative.]

13. [No book will be printed because it's too expensive.]

14. [Alternate records have been used where census records are missing.]

15. [Church records are important sources of information.]

16. I have not included in this batch of typed notes, particular data about my brothers and sister, my parents (except to identify my father's parents), reserving this information for notes to be typed and added to this working book of notes. I have planned to wait and have these newer generations copied on my Forms 2 and 3, to avoid unnecessary typing for me (a job this is exhausting to me, in view of my handicap).

17. . . . Further investigation may lead me to another conclusion, after I finish my research, but I do want to pass on to several members of the family who are interested in the progress I have made. . . . Keeping in mind the reservations I have made, I am inclined to believe that this is my line of ancestry (and yours where it fits into the line). . . .

(a) Guy Alford, son of Lorenzo Dow (Bud) Alford and Anna

(Hart) Alford; b. Dec 15, 1890, at Buckhead, Morgan Co. Ga.

(b) Lorenzo Down Alford, son of William and Susan (Bryant) Alford; b. July 30, 1857, Morgan Co. Ga.

(c) William ("Billie") Alford, son of William (William B.?) Alford and Mary (Mason) Alford; b. Putnam Co. Ga., 1823; died, Garfield, Emanuel Co. Ga.; buried Bethesda Church Cemetery, near Dublin, Ga.

(d) William (William B.?) Alford, son of James (James W.?) Alford and Lurena (Boykin) Alford; b. Wake County, N.C.; died, Putnam Co. Ga. 1882.

(e) James (James W.?) Alford, son of Lodwick Alford and Rebecca (Ferrell, Terrell or Therrell) Alford; b. N.C. 1741; died, (N.C. or Ga.), 1813.

(f) Lodwick Alford, son of ?? ; b. N.C., 1715; died, N.C. 1789.

(g) And beyond Lodwick, I believe a local research in N. C. and Va. will reveal something about his parentage.

I have set down question marks after each name seems to offer an apparent conflict. There may be no conflict, further research may reveal. I don't know, hence I am inclined to the side of cautioness. For instance, if "(d) William and William B. are not one and the same person, then my tentative theory falls flat; the same can be said as to "(e) James and James W. If they are one and the same, both James W. and William B. must have dropped the use of an initial, for they did not sign their wills with an initial. If it were not for the projection of these initials, in each case, I would not be confused at all, for I see other factors that would get my tentative theory out of adjustment. I

may say further that I am holding to another view, namely, that my research will finally show that William and William B. are not one and the same person, and that James and James W. are different persons or that they abandoned their initials.

18. My forward is rather lengthy, but I want to be on safe ground, to repeat. It is always a good rule to read an author's preface or foreword, I suggest.

19. [Read the Index before reading the notes.]

20. After reading, I am hopeful that those who are so interested will be good enough to let me have their reactions and such facts as will help me to correct any known or apparent facts and to supply new facts or leads for me to pursue.

21. I have not had time to complete the index by indexing the names other than Alfords.

22. One of the reasons for my rush in typing out these particular notes, now, is that my aunt, Mrs. Martha Jane (Alford) Farthing, widow of late Reuben Theodore Farthing and daughter of Wm and Susan (Bryant) Alford, will celebrate her 91st birthday Sunday, June 20, 1952. I plan to attend and discuss this projected genealogy with many who will attend this reunion.

23. [Foreword is so long because many people have asked many questions.]

24. Finally, I have noted that some of these carbon copies are dim. Carbon paper wears out quickly and I have tried to do the best I could under the circumstances. Later, we will have access to a more rounded and better edited genealogy. I can't make a promise as to its completion, since this depends upon quite a bit of travel, and my health will largely govern that point.

July 15, 1952 Guy Alford

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Page 1

Excerpt from a Census Bureau Study and Publication: "A Century of Population Growth in the United States - 1790." Data below from Section entitled: "Nomenclature, Dealing with Names Represented by at least 100 White Persons. By States and Territories, at the First Census, 1790."

[Guy's original version was tabulated in columns.]

Alford, Allford

Aggreg. size of Family 6.3

Total Heads of Families 50
All other persons 266

Heads of Families

ME 1, VT 0, NH 0, MA 2, RI 0, CT 12
NY 1, PA 3, MD 7, VA 9, NC 14, SC 1

Alvord, Alvard, Alverd

Aggreg. size of Family 6.1

Total Heads of Families 41
All other persons 208

Heads of Families

ME, NY, PA, MD, VA, SC, RI: 0
VT 7, NH 1, MA 21, CT 11, NC 1

Comment: The reason .GA, NJ, and other States and Territories are not included in this table is this: The British Army Destroyed the Capitol in Washington 1814 and the Census records of these areas were burned. If we had the GA Census Enumeration for 1790, we would see several Alford's on it, for we see, by other records, that those bearing this name had migrated into GA during or immediately after the close of the Revolution in 1783. James Alford and family, for example, was established in Georgia in the early 1880's, according to the old State Land Grants. [ED- He probably meant 1800's.] By this Table we see the States in which those bearing this family name was located in 1790. And we see here five forms of spelling. ♦