

Virginia Alford's – The First 100 Years

By Gil Alford, Executive Director

Following our established practice of expounding on the Alford's in the state in which we are about to meet it is time to look at the Alford's of Virginia. Since it was Virginia where an Alford first set foot on American soil, and in view of the fact that Alford's still live there today, it is unlikely I will do much justice to the Alford's who have been present there for the 370 or so years. We have titled this the "first 100 years" but I am going to leave things rather loose in the period at the end 1600's—when the first Alford record appeared in the St. Peter's Parish Register—and 1724 which is the end of the first 100 years of Alford presence. In the next segment I will begin with the Alford's of St. Peter's Parish, thus stepping back into some of this first 100 and not include them in this segment.

Don't try to figure out the specific arrangement of the information that follows. It is not alphabetical, chronological, or geographical. Some effort was made to keep Alford's with the same name together and within the group arranging them by time, but that concept was not always followed.

I'd like to recognize two members from whom you might not have expected the support I had for this piece. Most of the source records for this article came from research done and extracts prepared by Pamela Alford Thompson #030, our editor, and Henry G. Alford #057, our Maryland Representative. Without their support this article would not have been written.

Perhaps the first Alford in America was a young boy. English records, dated February 27, 1619 show that a JONAS ALFORD was one of a group of "boys and wenches appointed to go to Virginia." One source showed him as only nine years old. If he made it there is a strong probability he did not reach manhood—at least in the colonies.

The next earliest known Alford would have been RICHARD ALFORD. In 1624 he was identified as age 26 and part at Captain Smith's Plantation in James City during "The Muster of Capt Roger Smith's men Over Ye Watter."

Another source reporting on this muster shows that Richard had "10 bushells of corn, a peece and armour." The published Minutes of the Council, and General Court of Colonial Virginia mention "Richard Alforde" at "A Courte held the 25th of Aperill 1625" and "Rychard Allforde" at "A Courte held the sixth of december 1625." At "A Courte held at James Cittie the XXIth of Awgust 1626," "Whereas Richarde Allford was warned by the p(ro)vost marshall on Saturday the 19th of Awgust to appeare before the Gouvernor and Councell this p(re)sent Courte day to answere to such

matters as by Robert Marshall should be alleged against him, wch the said Allforde hath nott donne, yt is ordered he shall pay for that contempt 20 li of Tobacco." At "A Court at James Citty the 21st of January 1627," "Richard Alford Committed prisoner at the suit of Mr. Gill for 500 (weight of) Tobacco. Ellmor Phillips gent. sworne and examine sayeth that he was in place when Richarde Allforde did acknowledge that he did owe Robert Marshall XI dayes woork whereof he p'mised to do the said Marshall 4 dayes woork and to scale him a bill for the other VII dayes woork. The bill beinge made and the saide Richard Allforde required to scale the same he refused to do it, sayinge Marshall shall com by it as he can." On November 11, 1626, the Council of General Court, James City, Virginia, authorized Captain Smith - with a crew - and Captain Mathews - with a crew - including RICHARD ALFORD, to go trading with the Indians into any part of the Bay of Chesapeake, and indicated that the Governor should give them a Commission for this purpose. Minutes of the Privy Council and General Court 1622-1629. "Yt is ordered on the testimony of Richarde Alford that Robert Marshall according to agreement hold and enjoy halfe the ground wch Thomas Grubb beinge newly fencit in."

Richard Alford's wife, Mary, died May 18, 1706 and she was buried May 20th in Christ Church, Middlesex County. Richard Allford married Mary WILLIAMS May 29 1707 in Middlesex County. Mary Allford administered the estate of RICHARD ALFORD in Middlesex County, September 7, 1714. MARY ALFORD married John PENDERGRASS May 2, 1716 in Middlesex County.

March 31 1722 ELIZABETH ALFORD married Robert WALKER in Middlesex County.

Mary Alford was identified as a step-daughter in the Lancaster County, January 25, 1678 (proved February 14, 1678) will of William White. This is the William White stated to be a minister and the father of Jeremiah White by his second wife, a Mrs. Alford. Another Reverend William White died 20 years earlier.

1661-2—"Upon the complaint of colonel Edmond Scarburgh, late high sherriff of Northampton county on his majesties behalfe against JOHN ALFORD and Elizabeth his wife, Teige Miskell and William Jump for rebellion and disobedience which this committed examining, and after a full hearing of all parties, doe report that wee find the said JOHN ALFORD and Elizabeth his wife, both by sufficient testimony, their owne confession and ill behaviour before us to be rebellious and insolent persons, and guilty of wounding the said coll. Scarburgh, late high sherriff on the head,

and Teige Miskell and William Jump disobedients, it is therefore ordered by this grand assembly for refrominge the like disorders, that the said Alford and Elizabeth his wife, with Tiege Miskell and William Jump be returned by the same conduct that brought them to the county of Northampton, and there to be delivered to the high sherriff who is to take security of them for the good behaviour, and at the next court held for the same county, that the said JOHN ALFORD shall receive thirtie lashes on his bare back, and Elizabeth his wife twentie lashes, and Teige Miskell and William Jump tenne lashes a peece, and the said JOHN ALFORD pay all costs and charges for himselfe, wife and servants.

JOHN ALFORD received grant of 40 acres in Warwick County April 5 1664.

YORK COUNTY, January 24 1667/8—"Mr. Thomas Shelston who entered Mr. Thomas Kerby's security for his appearance being arrested at the suite of JOHN ALFORD is ordered to satisfy the sd ALFORD for 23 days work being carpenter's work, and also to pay costs unless he produce the sd KIRBY to the next Court."

February 24 1667/8—"Upon petition of Thomas Shelston, Attorney of Thomas KIRBY it is ordered that Enoch Mackintosh and Robert Penrice view the work done by JOHN ALFORD and report the same to the next Court for a clearing of the difference between the sd Kirby and ALFORD."

April 10, 1668—"Whereas the Court was pleased to request Enoch Mackintosh and Robert Penrice, carpenters, in the view of a job of work done by JOHN ALFORD unto Thomas Kirby as followeth: - One partition across a twenty foot house; a couch making very slight; 2 windows removed; one small partition removed a little out; one bedstead; this is all work done by the sd ALFORD which we judge to be worth 150 lbs. of tobacco."

"Upon balance of account between JOHN ALFORD plaintiff and Thomas Kirby defendant, the defendant is ordered to pay unto the plaintiff 150 lbs, of tobacco."

JOHN ALFORD and Thomas Hardy were witnesses to Richard Riddlehurst's sale of a horse to George Wilkinson January 2, 1673 in Isle of Wight County.

JOHN ALFORD, Wm. Stone and Wm. Millington received 410 acres in New Kent County, South Side Yorke River April 20, 1682. JOHN ALFORD and Wm. Millington received 350 acres near there September 22, 1682. JOHN ALFORD and Gregory Barnet received 150 acres in the same area September 22, 1682.

JOHN ALFORD and wife Lettice, baptized their daughter SARAH ALFORD April 18, 1689 at the Upper Chapel in Middlesex County.

JOHN ALFORD with 240 acres was listed under New Kent County Rent Roll: "A Rent Roll of the Lands held of her Majtie in the Parish of St Peters and St Paulls, Anno 1704". JOHN ALFORD with 200 acres was listed under "A True Account of the Lands in King & Queen County as it was taken by Rob't Bird Sherriff in the Year 1704"

We find a number of different Alford's in Accomack County in a list of tithables for the period 1663-1695. They are listed below showing the year, the precinct (person's name) and number of tithables.

	<u>Year and Precinct</u>	<u>Tithables</u>	
John Alford	1664 non listed	4	
	1687 Bally's	1	
	1688 Scarburgh	1	
	1689 Robinsons	1	
	1690 Robinsons	2	
	1691 Robinson's	1	
	1692 Robinson's	1	
	1693 Robinson's	1	
	1694 Broadhurst	2	
	1695 Scarburgh	1	
	Wm. Alford	1686 Bailey's	1
		1688 Baylys	1
		1689 Robinsons	1
1690 Bally's		1	
1691 Bally's		1	
1692 Robinson's		1	
1693 Robinson's		1	
David Alford	1694 Broadhurst	1	
	1695 Scarburgh	1	
	1691 William Custis	1	
	1693 Robinson's	1	
	1694 Burtons	1	
	1695 Burtons	1	

The only known connection between the Alford's of Virginia and the Alford's of New England took place between June 6 1701 and April 23 1702 on the James River. The connection then was very remote. BENJAMIN ALFORD and Andrew Belcher were the owners of the WILLIAM AND MARY of Boston. It was a 35 ton brigantine built in New England in 1693 and the master on this voyage was Thomas Sill. There is no evidence that Benjamin Alford was on board. It was common for ships of New England to make port in Virginia.

According to a record in *First Settlers in the Colonies of North America*, WILLIAM ALFORD sailed from Bristol, England for Virginia between 1654 and 1663.

WILLIAM ALFORD was recorded as a witness: January 12 1660/61 Charles City County, April 22, 1661 Charles City County, October 29, 1661 Charles City County, June 7, 1662 Charles City County.

WILLIAM ALFORD acted on numerous occasions as the Deputy Escheater. (In Virginia at this time when the "owner" of land died, the land did not go to family heirs but was escheated back to the state or king. The escheater and his deputies made sure the king got his land back.) There are a number of references in *CAVALIERS AND PIONEERS*, VOL II, for the period 1667 to 1673 (see Booklist). All of these occurred in Elizabeth City, Nansemond, and Lower Norfolk.

WILLIAM ALFORD is mentioned in the minutes of the Council and General Court of April 20 1670 as a member of the jury. He is mentioned in the minutes of October 17 1670 among those for whose importation a certificate for land had been granted to another person. On May 26 1671 judgement was rendered against him in a civil suit. On September 27 1671 a judgement was rendered in favor of "Mr. Wm. Alford."

WILLIAM ALFORD obtained an order against Marke Warkeman in Elizabeth City County in 1671. (May be the same as one of the above.)

WILLIAM ALFORD signed a power of attorney to Alexander Moore in York County in 1671 with one of the witnesses being JAMES ALFORD. Major WILLIAM ALFORD sued John Mackclanaham in 1674.

On September 26 1674, in an order against MAJOR WM

ALFORD, it was "Ordered that the said

Major Alford pay

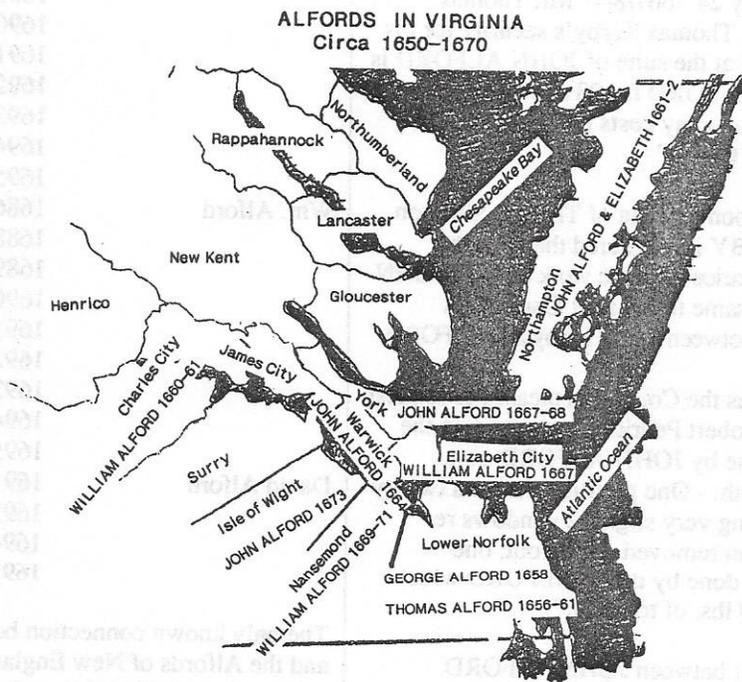
Damages According to Act of Costs (of) sute." On March 4, 1674/5 "Robert Gilbert being indited for murdering Lt. Col. Wm. Alford, the Grand Jury brought in their Virdict, billa vera, then a Jury of Life and Death was impannelled according to law, who bringing their Virdict, Homecide by misadventure, and said Robt Gilbert was therefore acquitted by p(ro)clamation." WILLIAM ALFORD's widow had married John Hurst by 1675.

March 1671/2 Zachariah Paddy now resident of Isle of Wight is bound to pay unto WM. ALFORD of Eliz. City, gent, 1653 Lbs. of tbc. in consideration of a servant named John Duffy and a boat sold by said Alford—Now makes over to WM. ALFORD the said servant—John Duffie, Sedia Roberts.

WILLIAM ALLFORD married Herodias SHIBLEY May 1, 1708 in Middlesex County.

"William Giles, 100 acs. Henrico Co., 28 Sept 1681, p. 108. Escheate land of HENRY ALFORD; inquisition under William Byrd, Esch'r, &c."

In his *IN SEARCH OF MY ALFORD ANCESTORS*, HUGH EDWIN ALFORD mentioned several Alfords of this period but did not cite the source of his information. We would like to find the source and learn more about them. There is a record of a GEORGE ALFORD in Lower Norfolk County in 1658. There are records of a THOMAS ALFORD in Lower Norfolk during 1656-61. JOHN ALFORD was included in list of migrants from Bristol to Virginia between 1663 and 1679.



CAVALIERS AND PIONEERS, Vols I - III makes frequent mention of land granted for "transporting" Alfords. Depending on when the person was transported the person responsible received either 200 acres or 50 acres for each person transported. In the introduction to the publication we find "... fraud and deception were by no means uncommon." The person listed as transported may have come before or after the date shown, they may not have come at all, or they may have come more than once.

There is absolutely no reason to relate them to the county in which the land was granted so the county is not even listed in the following. At least they were Alfords whose name and a date are recorded in early Virginia history. A WILLIAM ALFORD is listed in 1662, 1666, 1667, 1670, and 1692. A THOMAS ALFORD is listed in April and September of 1674 and in 1682. A JOHN ALFORD is listed in 1674.

That is most, if not all, the Alfords of that period for which we have information. Can you help us find more? We have not proved a single connection between any of the Alfords listed in this article and Alfords of subsequent periods, although the JOHN ALFORD who received the nearly 1000 acres of land in New Kent County might prove to be the progenitor of many of us. ❖