

Guy Alford, Part 9 Notes from DAR Records

Compiled from Guy Alford's work by Willie M. Alford, AAFA Florida Representative, and Gil Alford, AAFA Executive Director. [See "Guy Alford," p. 30, AAFA ACTION March 1991 for background on Guy Alford.] It is worth restating here, because of the tone and content of this article, that Guy Alford had undertaken this work, similar to some of the AAFA work, pretty much alone well over 40 years ago. It is interesting to note that he was wrestling with some of the same problems then that we are today. The following, particularly Mr. Alford's comments and discussion, will be more meaningful if you have read "Part 7: Lodwick Alford Will" p. 54 AAFA ACTION March 1993 and "Part 8: James Alford's Will" p. 53 AAFA ACTION Summer 1993.

Keep in mind that Guy Alford was not stating the information below as fact but rather noting what he had found in various papers referring to DAR applications or notes.

The following is verbatim from Mr. Alford's work except for AAFA commentary added by Gil Alford which is in brackets. He cited as his source, "Mrs U S Gunn notes copied from records of Mrs. Kirby Smith Anderson (Madison, Ga) Sun PM Mch 14, 1937" and listed the primary subjects as "Alford, Lodwick and Julius."

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I copied Mrs. Gunn's notes as follows:

Mrs. Susan Cunningham Bucknell pp. 55-85 in Atlanta Library files. National DAR Number 54199. Home, Fulton County, Ga. Wife of Howard Bucknell.

Descendant of Lodovick Alford, Rev. Sol. Daughter of John Daniel Cunningham and his wife Cornelia

Butler Dobbins.

Granddaughter Josephus H. Cunningham and his wife Emily L.P. Alford born 1908.

Great-granddaughter of Cullen Alford and his wife Pheriba Wooten.

Great-great-granddaughter of James Alford 1741-1813 and his wife Lurania Boykin, married 1769.

Great-great-great-granddaughter of Lodovick Alford and Rebecca Terrell his wife.

Also National Numbers 13250 and 52473, Mrs. Mary Louise Cox Wright born in Georgia. Wife of William Wright, Descendant of Abraham Cox, Joined on Lodovick Alford of N.C. Daughter of Judge Albert Ewing Cox and Juliette Warren Alford his wife. Granddaughter of Dr. Zachariah Cox and Margaret Ewing Morrow his wife. Also granddaughter of Julius Ceasar Alford and his wife Eliza Cook. Great-granddaughter of William Cox and Melinda ...?... his wife. Great-granddaughter of Lodovick Alford Jr. and Judith Jackson his wife. Great-great-granddaughter of Julius Alford and Rebecca Jackson his wife. Great-great-great-granddaughter of Lodovick and his wife Rebecca Terrell.

Kinchen Alford Jr. born May 9, 1812; died July 26, 1891. Kinchen Alford Jr. born in N.C. in 1778 and his wife Cynthia.

James W. Alford born in N.C. 1741; died in 1813 in N.C. and his wife, Lurania Boykin. M. 1769.

Lodovick Alford born 1715 N.C.; died 1789 in N.C. and his wife Rebecca Ferrel or Terrell.

Lodovick Alford's children were:

Julius Alford; married Rebecca Jackson

James Alford; married Lurania Boykin in 1769.

Comment: This note to be read in connection with the wills of Lodwick Alford and James Alford.

This is about all the information I have about the DAR membership applications of Mrs. Gunn and those named. I assume they carry more detailed information. Anyway, I am attempting to supply what, to me, appear to be missing links. At least I would like to have more details about these Alford forebears.

1. Assuming the applicants in these membership applications, and as I have seen it spelled in several other places, were referring to Lodwick Alford who signed the will, others have used Lodowick and Lodovick, on other records I have read. In his will, he used Lodwick. I suggest we keep that point in mind, to be consistent in our records. When I have finished my notes, I think I will be able to give a short history of the names and how or why he got it as a forename.

2. If we rely on Lodwick's will, dated June 21, 1792, where is the proof that James and Julius were the children of Lodwick and his wife, Lurania [*sic*—she was the wife of James]? They are not mentioned in the will. I assume supporting proof was filed with the membership applications. [St. Peter's Parish Church records combined with the will of Julius Alford, brother of Lodwick Alford, proved that James is a son of Lodwick. A North Carolina tax record proves that Julius was the son of Lodwick.] It's true Julius had a son named Lodwick and we see this Lodwick's name on many Georgia

records. But between the death of a man and the probate of his will, but that period elapse was not always true. [There appears to be something missing here but Guy's original work was double checked and he typed it just as written here.] If we put the death of James Alford about the end of 1813, it would be a good guess at this distant day. If he was born in 1741 and died in 1813, he would have been in his 72nd. year. His will is dated July 29, 1812. [AAFA has a newspaper article that proves his death in Georgia in November 1812.] He was, by the facts, an elderly man. The note says he "died 1813 in N.C." and this is chiefly the point that raises a question in my mind as to the identity of James W and the James whose will was probated in Feb 7, 1814. If we look at the facts we gather from most of the wills of that era and before, we observe this: sometimes, it appears from the old records, the maker of a will made his will one month and died the next, or rather, the record shows it as probated about a month or so after it was made. If more than a year elapsed, we need a better connecting link, I think. And it is available somewhere in the N.C. records. At the first opportunity I will do some research there. [He died before he could carry through with this.]

3. Looking at Mrs. Anderson's records (Mrs. Gunn's notes) I have wondered if James Alford, the brother of Julius, and James W. Alford are one and the same person. [The initial "W" did not appear in all records—just some of the DAR applications.] It's both possible and probable, to be sure. First, James' Hancock Co. will tells us that his wife was Lurena. The note says James W. and Lurania Boykin married in 1769. This difference in spelling is not sufficient to create a doubt. Second, this note says: "James W. Alford, born 1741, N.C. died 1813 in N.C." and this leads me,

without more proof, to wonder if our James Alford of Hancock Co. Ga. died in N.C. rather than Ga.? Undoubtedly, James Alford died sometime before Feb. 7, 1814, the date his will was probated and admitted to record. I have not, as yet, had an opportunity to see the whole of this probate proceeding, the petition for probate, for example, which ordinarily would show when it was filed in court, etc. Usually, where there is an estate affecting land, there is notice to the heirs, normally at least 30 days. Of course legal proceedings in that early era were less formal than our laws of today require, but from the outset the state Georgia has followed the Common Law of England and I think the customary formalities were observed in Hancock in 1814; it was then one of the state's most advanced counties. Without more background knowledge of the Hancock County records, my guess is that he must have died around or before the first of January, 1814. Having observed the handling of administration of estates in that era, the records often show two, three or four months elapsing between the date of the will and the date of probate that indicates, to me, that the maker, man or woman, was seriously ill and anticipated death and that he or she probably recuperated and lived on a few months longer. James Alford's will indicates that it was drawn by a person skilled in the preparation of legal documents, probably a lawyer. The disposition of his property also indicates that he was a prudent man as well as successful and that he had, prior to the date of his will, made ample provisions for most of his sons and daughters, The 'fifty dollars' bequests, to be sure, plus the statement of what he or she 'has already received', proves this point. More numerous bequests to a smaller number of his children means, to me, that he was trying to equalize and treat all of his children justly and

fairly. And I also believe the facts gathered from the will, alone, plus what we know about human nature and what happens when a successful man dies, would lead us to believe that James Alford had made other wills, to take care of the changing circumstances as his children matured, married and started out in life. Having had experience as a lawyer in matters of this kind, I must say that James Alford was, undoubtedly, a steady, successful and prudent man. He sought, as many fathers and mothers fail to do, to anticipate what may and often does happen after death. In every set of children there are the selfish, the spendthrifts, the thoughtless, and those who always 'depend' upon their parents, never making use of their opportunities, etc.

Assuming that James Alford was 72 or thereabouts, and the facts would justify us to conclude that he was living in the 'sunset' of his life, why should he, at this old age, go back to his old home in N.C.? If we put ourselves back in that era and consider the hardships incident to travel, would an old man in his seventies have made this journey by horseback or probably by one of the few stagecoaches available? There were only trails; no improved roads. No doubt he had visited his old boyhood home back in N.C. in his earlier days. All I can conclude is this: If our James Alford of Hancock County died in N.C., it was because of the ill effects or hardships endured or suffered in making such a trip.

On the other hand, his father was long since deceased. And his mother too, no doubt. His father's estate, too, had been administered. A search in the records in N.C. may reveal that he owned property in N.C., but his will makes no mention of it. He was long since at an age when sentimental whims such as visiting the scene of his boyhood, played any part in

the maturity of his life. As I have pointed out, it is possible that he did leave his home in Hancock County to visit the scene of his boyhood and young manhood days, but I just can't believe that this was probable.

Nevertheless, I can see, somewhere in my research, a reason for an old man to make such a journey, particularly one in the circumstances and surroundings of James Alford.

My view is that the genealogist who compiled the notes mentioned on Mrs. Gunn's memorandum probably got her notes mixed. That is possible, I can say out of my own experience. And that's why I take a skeptical view of what I read and see and hear and jot down, until I get convincing facts and recheck my notes. It's human to make mistakes and I am just an average human being.

As an afterthought and before ending this comment, I think it will appear, when all of my notes are typed and indexed, that the sons of Lodwick Alford, those named in his will, also came to Georgia. Without trying to locate these particular notes, I do recall taking down notes, from the Georgia records, the names of Anselm Alford, Warren Alford, Goodrich Alford, Wiley Alford, Baley Alford, Kinchen Alford, Samuel Alford, sons and grandsons. And the records show several Mary Alfords. In addition to naming his executors, he added "& Trustees for my children," which to be sure, indicates that several were under the age of 21. Were these Alfords Lodwick's children? Probably all or most of them were?

And right here, as a cross reference, I have a note to investigate the Register of the Church in which Lodwick Alford was a Vestryman. If we can locate this old Parish Register, we will know more about Lodwick Alford and his family. ♦

The series being published in the quarterly ended here without any announcement.

Canterbury Cathedral was unveiled 17 Oct. 1871. ♦

Cruso Hencken, AAFA #330 (daughter of Frances). ♦