

13 November 2009

Dear Gil:

Though I am several years late, here is the Alford map I promised you. When I suggested writing it up for AAFA ACTION, your response was discouraging. So I put my project aside, and only recently retrieved it from my "on hold" file. Instead of composing it for the magazine, I decided to send it to you as a research paper.

During my investigation, I found some information that differs from the conclusion of other researchers. It has been said by some that John Alford, a carpenter by trade, was wealthy at the time he acquired his first plantation, and he transported his headrights from England. Both statements are doubtful, for he not only required two partners pooling their tobacco in order to purchase nine servants, who were most likely bought from either a merchant or a sea captain at the port in York County. With few exceptions, this was the most common means of obtaining headrights during that period of time.

I remember years ago Jim Alford wrote an article after researching names for possible Alford wives. When he discussed the Goodrich name, I do not recall he included the Lightfoot family as a potential source.

John Lightfoot married Anne Goodrich. He was about the same age as John Alford senior, and his children were about the same age as John junior and James Alford. Only his youngest daughter Alice was recorded in the St. Peter's birth/baptismal records on 25 September 1698. It is known he had at least two sons, Sherwood and Goodrich, and possibly other children including daughters.

Of interest, Stephen Crump and his wife Anne, brother of Susanna Crump, the wife of Robert Cade, also had a son Gutrich, born 22 May 1709.

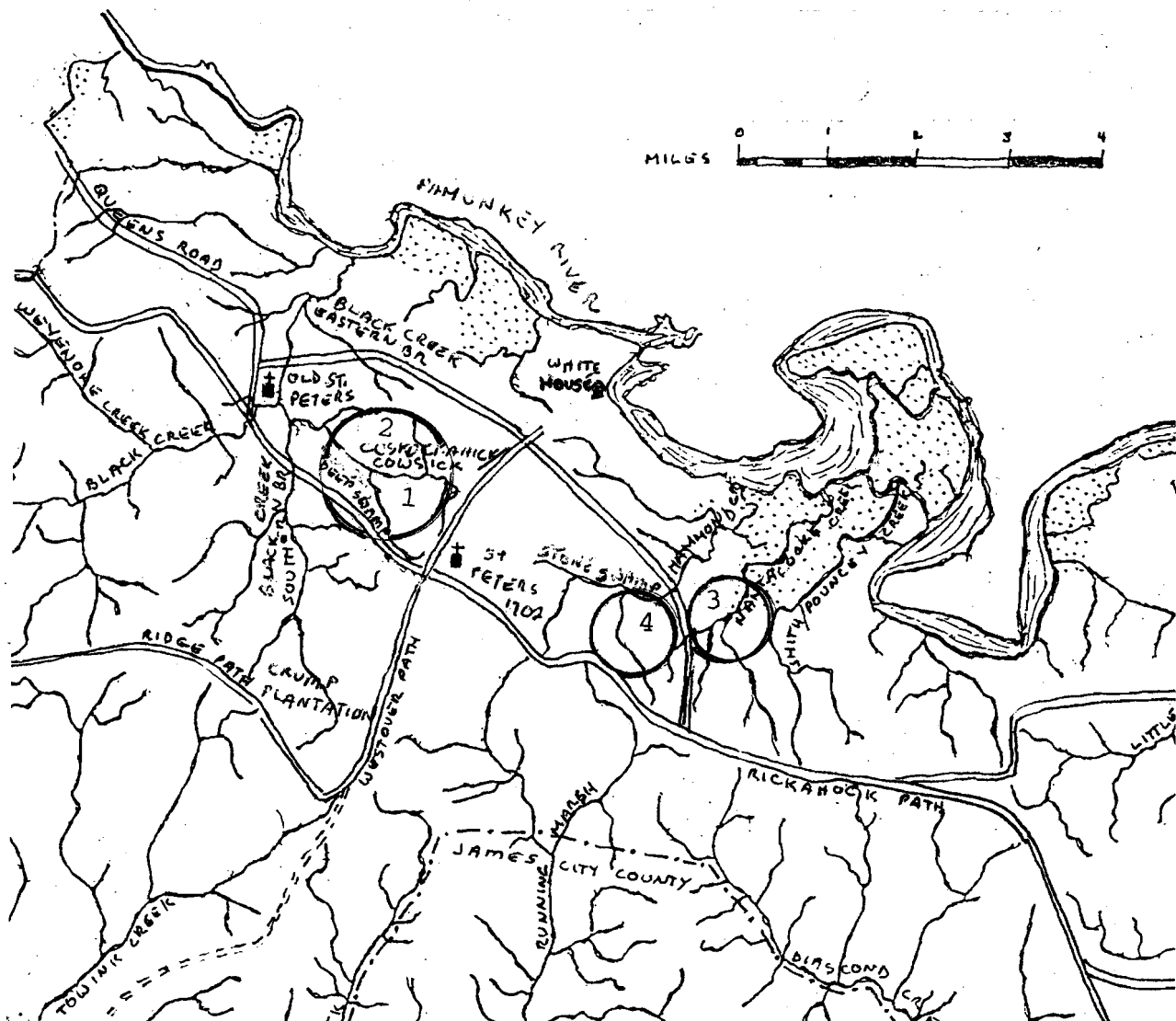
As far as I know there is no proof of a connection, however the close proximity of both families to the Lightfoot plantation, and the probability there were daughters whom both James Alford and Stephen Crump may have married is an intriguing idea.

Best wishes to you

Sincerely



OLD NEWKENT COUNTY



LOCATIONS OF JOHN ALFORD'S LAND

- 1 John Alford, William Millington and William Stone: 410 acres, dated 20 April 1682.
- 2 John Alford and William Millington: 350 acres, dated 22 September 1682.
- 3 John Alford and Gregory Barnet: 150 acres, dated 22 September 1682. Escheated.
- 4 John Alford and Gregory Barnet: 1682, acreage unknown. Home of the Alford family

**THE ALFORD LANDS IN SEVENTEENTH CENTURY,
NEW KENT COUNTY, VIRGINIA**

Submitted by CDR Joan McNair, USN, Ret. AAFA #265

All of the land in New Kent granted to John Alford and his partners was first owned by Manneringe Hammond, also spelled Hammon, when in 1648, he was granted 3760 acres, called Fort Royal. It lay along the Pamunkey River from Black Creek, to and including a neck called Nantacocke, and extended to the mountains. Later Hammond added additional acres to his plantation, and when he died, the property was escheated. The land along the river was acquired by John Lightfoot and his wife Anne Goodrich. The remainder, which was south of Richahock path towards the mountains, was parceled out by the State in smaller lots. Following John's death in 1707, his estate was divided, with son Sherwood receiving the land along the road, and son Goodrich the land along the river, including the White House and Nantacocke neck.

On 20 April 1682 John, William Stone and William Millington were granted four hundred and ten acres:

To all &c Whereas &c Now Know yee that I the said s^r Henery Chicheley Kn^t, his Majesties Deputy Governour &c Give and Grant unto John Alford W^m Stone and W^m Millington fouer hundred and ten Acres of land ___; lying and being in new Kent County, on the south side of Yorke River behind sd as foll Beginning att a corner white oake being a corner tree of a dividend of land formerly surveyed and pattented by Colo Hammon standing in the slashes of Coskockahick running thence south west half a point southerly sixty two po thence south west three quarters marking ninety three po: thence south west half a point south one hundred twenty eight po: thence south west thirty two poles to a white oake Corner being a corner tree of Mr Napiers land the mountains in sight of Wm Peaslies Plantation thence running a long the said Napiers line north west by north one hundred ninety three; thence north west half a point west one hundred eighty eight poles to a Corner Hickory in the said Napiers line, thence north East sixty three Degrees ^M/42 eighty nine po to a Corner red oake thence East south east half a point East two hundred twenty po: to a hickory, on Casockahich thence north East down the run thirty po: thence East upon the said Run twenty eight po thence south East sixty two degrees to the place where it first began, being bounded on all sides by mark trees and the land of Mr Napier and Coshackahick Run, The said land being due unto them the said John Alford, Wm Stone and Wm Malington of and for Transportation of nine persons &c To have and to hold &c To provided &c Dated the 20th Day of April - 1682.

This grant was located near the corner where Rickahock and Westover paths meet, and lay directly across the road from the new St. Peter's Church built in 1702-1704.

John's second land patent was with his partner William Millington, and was northwest and adjacent to the first grant:

To all &c Whereas &c Now Know yee That I the said S^r Henery Chicheley Kn^t Deputy Govern^r &c give and grant unto John Alford and William Millington three hundred and fifty acres of land lying in New Kent County on y^e south side of York River and is y^e remainder of a Dividend of land formerly pattented by Col^o Hammond, joining to a tract of sd Hammonds land called Fort Royall being bounded as followeth Viz: Beginning att a Corner Hickory standing in a line of mark't trees of M^r Napiers and is a corner tree of a Dividend of land belonging to ye said Alford and Millington, running from thence north west by west along ye said Napiers line one hundred seventy five po: to a gum standing in a Branch in ye sd line, from thence north by East seventy two po: to a horning spanish oake, thence north twenty degrees East thirty six po: to a red oake being a line tree of M^r Walter Hucksteps, soe bounding upon ye s^d Hucksteps line south eighty two deg: East two hundred and sixteen po: to a red oake corner in ye sd Jerickstons line thence south forty four deg: East forty four po to a red oake, thence south twenty one deg: East forty eight po. to a white oake thence south fifty five degrees East seventeen po to a white oake in a line of mark^d trees of Col^o Hammond afore^d soe bounding on ye s^d line East seventy four po to a hickory by ye head of a Branch thence south fifty five Deg: East thirty four po: to a red oake by a branch call'd ye Deep branch, thence south twenty seven deg: East forty one po to a corner ash being a corner tree of Alford and Millingtons other tract thence bounding upon ye s^d tract south west thirty po: to a hickory thence north west by west halfe westerly two hundred and twenty po: to a red oake corner, from thence to ye first station being bounded on all sides by ye land of M^r Napier, M^r Huckstepe, & Royall Fort Dividend and of ye s^d Alford and millingtons land and mark'd The s^d land being due by and for ye transportation of seven persons &c To have and to hold &c To be held &c Yeilding and Paying &c Provided &c Dated ye 22^d - day of 7ber 1682

The Napier land separated the Alford grant and the Crump plantation, which lay a few miles south on Westover Path. It is believed Robert Cade, who married Susanna Crump, may have lived there with his in-laws.

The Alford-Stone-Millington lands has significant historical interest, for it is believed the Custis family acquired the Huckstep property, and the adjacent Alford land. John Parke purchased the White House and adjoining land from Goodrich Lightfoot, who inherited it from his father. Daniel Parke Custis, who married Martha Dandridge of Blissland Parish, New Kent, inherited the Parke land, and after his death, it passed to Martha, who married George Washington at the White House in 1759.

Prior to the above patent, date unknown, John and Gregory Barnett was either granted, inherited, or purchased a plantation on Rickahock path near Nantacocke Creek, about four miles to the

East of John's other possessions. It was here he made his home. No patent or deed has been found for this property, but was mentioned in a grant to John and Barnet on 22 September 1682:

To all &c Whereas &c now Know yee that I y^e s^d Sr Henery Chicheley Kn^t Deputy Govern^r &c Give and Grant unto John Alford and Gregory Barnet one hundred and fifty acres of land lying in New Kent County on y^e south side of York River and is reputed Colo Hammonds land call'd by y^e name of Nantacocke Necke bounded as followeth Beginning att a corner white oake of y^e s^d Hammonds standing by y^e side of a creek called nantacocke Creek, from thence bounding upon y^e Creeke downwards by severall courses to y^e Forke of y^e Creek, where it meetes with Stones swamp; from thence bounding upon y^e s^d swamp upwards by severall courses to a live oake being a corner tree of y^e s^d Alford's and Barnetts from thence south south East Easterly to y^e s^d Hammonds white oake being y^e first station, being bounded on all sides by y^e Creek, swamp afores^d and Gregory Barnetts land; The said land being due by and for y^e transportation of three persons &c To have and to hold &c To be held &c Yeilding and Paying &c Provided &c Dated y^e 22^d - day of 7ber 1682.

This property was deserted, and was then granted to William Major on 16 October 1704, with the patent issued on 2 May 1705.

Without the New Kent court and deed records, which were destroyed in a fire, it is difficult to prove what became of the other Alford lands. Though it was not a common practice, when land was acquired in partnership, the co-owners sometimes went to court to divide the property, or sold their share to the other party. If this did not occur, then the last survivor inherited the land.

There were several generations of men named William Stone, and to distinguish between them is near impossible. This family owned numerous plantations, with grants dating as early as 1662, and there were at least two Stone swamps in the area. Though Stone was apparently still living on 22 September 1682 when John and Millington received their patent, his name was not recorded as co-owner of the adjacent plantation. This suggest he may have sold his share to his partners. He was not recorded on the 1704 Roll, and presumably had died.

John's partner William Millington died on 14 June 1710, a few months after John, and was recorded on the 1704 Roll for New Kent with 200 acres, and his son with 450 acres.

Gregory Barnet, who also owned land near the Alford-Barnet property, died on 22 December 1687, and his land was escheated, and sold to John Askew on 2 November 1705. In 1704 John appeared on the Roll in New Kent with 240 acres. There is no doubt this was the tract near Nantacocke creek, and by that time he did not own any of the land from the first two grants. On the 1689 processioning list for St. Peter's parish, it began with the men

living near the border of Blissland parish, and then continued west along Rickahock to present day Hanover County. John was in the fifth group, with his neighbors William Ross, George Smith, William Major, and John Lightfoot, all of whom owned land on Rickahock path. In March 1702 his neighbors were John Wilson, John Lightfoot, William Major, Daniel Parke and William Millington.

When John Alford died on 14 March 1709/10, it is not known if he left a Will. If he did not, then the land passed to his eldest son, presumably John. In John Junior's Will, written on 1 May 1726, he named his six year old daughter Elizabeth heir to his plantation in New Kent. His wife Grace married Michael Harfield on 14 February 1726/7, and they apparently resided on the Alford land, along with the sons of James Alford. In October 1735 Harfield, Lodowich, Goodrich and Julius Alford were assigned to William Paisley's work crew on the High Road from the Old Church to Mr Chamberlaynes Ordinary. The location of the Ordinary is not known, but is believed to be on the border of Blissland Parish.

The map included in this article was drawn in 1990, after finding eight maps dating from the 1600s to modern day. The author of this article was able to identify several streams, paths, and a few land ownerships. With the help of the New Kent Historical Library, they were able to add Deep and Coskackahick, now called Cowsick, Creeks, and Nantacocke Neck. The location of Rickahock and Westover paths remained unchanged through 1860. Modern maps show Rickahock veering north at Nantacocke Creek, and Westover with only a few minor changes. It should be noted, that there was no single High Road, for all major paths were given that name in the Vestry minutes. The identity of which road they were referring to can only be identified by the names of the road crew, processioning lists, and patents. The author spent a year tracing land owners of Old New Kent, utilizing excerpts from Nugent's *Cavaliers and Pioneers*, and obtained several photocopies of original patents.