

**THEY SHALL BE KNOWN BY THE COMPANY THEY KEPT
AND THE LAND UPON WHICH THEY LIVED:
ALFORDS, BOYKINS, CADES, ROGERS AND WOOTENS**

PART TWO OF A SERIES

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James Alford, son of Lodwick and Susannah Cade Alford, was Roberta Alford Folds' fourth great-grandfather. James married Lurana Boykin about 1768-69 in North Carolina, probably in Johnston County. Despite years of searching for the identity of Lurana's parents nothing was found that would prove, conclusively, who they were.

There was no shortage of Boykins in Eastern North Carolina at the time of Lurana's marriage to James Alford. The Boykins moved to Bertie County, North Carolina from Virginia before November 1724. Edgecombe and Northampton counties were carved from Bertie in 1741 and Boykins were still found in those counties several years later. Johnston County was created from Craven in 1746; Dobbs from Johnston in 1758; Granville from Edgecombe in 1748; Halifax from Edgecombe in 1758; Bute from Granville in 1764. At one time or another Boykins were found living in each county. We initially focused our search on records of all of these counties and compiled considerable Boykin information but made no firm connection to Lurana Boykin and her parents.

From time to time we put our Boykin search on the back burner returning, periodically, when new information came to our attention. Ultimately our concentration was narrowed to the Boykins found in Edgecombe, Johnston, and Northampton counties. We learned that James Alford lived in Johnston County by 1769 and it was unlikely that he would have traveled to either Northampton or Edgecombe counties to court and marry Lurana Boykin. We needed to find records/evidence that put the future bride and groom living near each other before their marriage. We further narrowed our concentration to the Boykins of Johnston County.

The old genealogy adage: "... in a courtship, remember that the male would have likely worked himself and his horse/mule/oxen in the field from sun up until sundown; went home; fed his animal and himself; bathed and got into his courting clothes; walked or rode his work animal to his intended's home; courted her and then returned home early enough that man and beast could get sufficient rest to be back in the field at sun up the next day." How far was it from his home to that of his intended? Probably less than five miles! The other admonition of vital importance was: FOLLOW THE LAND RECORDS! We did exactly that and, ultimately, it paid off big time!

Our major land break came when a Cade friend (a descendant of Robert Cade) sent us a copy of a Northampton County deed which, if found 20 years earlier, would have saved both of us years of work and frustration. But that is the nature of genealogical research. I am deeply indebted to him for his sharing such vital information. It was invaluable to our search for Roberta's third great-grandmother's parents and enabled us to confirm that we were, at last, on the right track.

The Northampton County deed we received:

"This indenture made the 27th of June 1781 Between Michael Rogers, James Alford and Drury Cade of the County of Wake and State of North Carolina of the one part and Benjamin Branch of the County of Northampton of the other part. Witnesseth that the said Michael Rogers, James Alford and Drury Cade for and in consideration of the sum of one hundred and seventy pounds Ten Shilling true money to them in hand paid by the said Benjamin Branch. The receipt whereof of the said Michael Rogers, James Alford and Drury Cade who intermarried with Celia Boykin, Winifred Boykin and Susannah Boykin Co heirs with Thomas Boykin do acknowledge hath granted Bargained and sold aliened Enfroffed and Confirmed and by these presents doth grant Bargain and sell alien Enfroff and Confirm unto the said Benjamin Branch his heirs and assigns forever one certain tract of land lying and

being in the County of Northampton on the South side of Meherrin River Containing by Estimation four hundred and twenty Acres by the same more or less and Bounded as followed Beginning at a gum in the Low grounds Rebeccah Braswells old corner tree then along this line South 65 degrees East 320 poles to the center of two pines and a red oak in his line 55 degrees West 466 poles to a white oak in Mayes Branch thence along the Branch North 38 West 68 poles to a pine in the Mays line then along his line North 5 East 160 poles to a cypress on the River side Mays corner thence running the remainder of the River to the first station with all trees wood underwood profits advantages Heridataments whatsoever to the plantation or tract of land belonging or in any wise appertaining and also the Revision and Revisions Remainder and Remainders Rents services of the premises and Every part thereof and also all of the Estate Right Title Interest alain and Demand whatsoever of them the said Michael Rogers James Alford and Drury Cade their heirs..... and Every part thereof against them and their heirs and against all and every other person or persons whatsoever unto the said Benjamin Branch his heirs and assigns shall and will warrant and forever defend by these presents.

In Witness Whereof we have hereunto set our hands and affixed our seals the day and year first above written.
Signed Sealed & Delivered in the presents of us

Michael Rogers seal

Drury Cade seal

James Vaughn James Sikes

Northampton County December Court 1781 This Deed was proved by James Sikes & ordered to be Reg. Test: Jeph Atheron C. Ct. This deed was registered March 10th day 1782. Test: James Dancy P.Register.”

This single page document revealed that: (1) James Alford, Michael Rogers and Drury Cade were married to sisters and therefore brothers in law; (2) it was the first confirmation that Lurana Boykin Alford was named Winifred (not surprising that she had passed on the name to one of her daughters) in addition to, or instead of, Lurana; (3) by 1781 the three families were living in Wake County and not Johnston County; (4) Susannah, Winifred and Celia had either a brother, father or other close relative named Thomas Boykin who also lived in Wake County; and (5) the land in question was located on the South Side of the Meherrin River in Northampton County; Rebeccah Braswell was, or had been, an adjoining property owner; and the reference to a Mayes Branch and Mays Corner could indicate that a family by that name was, or had been, an owner of adjoining property

Finding the name of the previous owner or owners of this more than 400 acre tract could prove to be the answer we had searched for and, hopefully, lead us to the parents of the Boykin sisters. FOLLOW THE LAND! Suddenly my genealogy cup runneth over!

We welcomed the opportunity to learn more about James Alford and his family, prior to their move to Georgia about 1783-84. This prompted research efforts to switch to Wake County’s extant Court records. I found an active Thomas Boykin but no reference to his father or other relatives. I concluded that it was best to first focus on the records of the Alford’s of Wake County and then return to Edgecombe, Johnston and Northampton counties and look for connecting links to Thomas Boykin. A report on the results will be offered at a later date. Reporting on Alford mothers, wives, and daughters will continue to be my main interest. I want to put as much “meat on the bones” as possible. Birth, marriage and death records are vital but reveal only a very small portion of their lives

Prior to the discovery of this Northampton County deed we knew that Michael Rogers had married a Celia Boykin and Drury Cades’ first born son was named Drury Boykin Cade. But, heretofore, had found no evidence to suggest a connection with James Alford’s marriage to Lurana, (now Winifred) Boykin. Land records and wills confirmed that James, Michael, (son of Joseph Rogers); Drury, (son of Robert Cade, Jr., and cousin of James Alford) were neighbors in Johnston County living on, or near, the Neuse River. James and Michael lived on adjoining properties, proven by the will of John Rogers, Michael’s father. We also knew that a Thomas Boykin had, at one time, lived on the Neuse River and suspected that it might be in that same area of Johnston County. We had long ago stopped

believing in coincidences! We had, in essence, been searching records from 1770 forward in the right church but wrong pew!

We had known for many years that James Alford's son Collin Alford, Roberta's second great-grandfather, had married Phereba Wooten, daughter of James Wooten and Faith Rogers. Collin's brother Kinchen married Faith's sister Asenath. We long suspected that Faith and Michael Rogers were brother and sister but did not have evidence to determine identity of their parents. Collin Wooten, brother of Phereba and Asenath married Phereba Alford, Collin's sister. I was somewhat overwhelmed in reading the records of the very first session of the Wake County Court, held June 4, 1771, that Thomas Wooten was chosen as Justice of the Court; Michael Rogers was chosen as Sheriff and James Alford was named Michael's deputy. Speaking of a stacked deck! All three had been friends and neighbors in Johnston County. It was tempting to expand my search and include the Wootens, but recognizing that my primary reason for searching early Wake County records was to learn as much as possible about James Alford and James Lodwick Alford, I concluded that I would include the Wooten connections in another story mentioned earlier. However, since Drury Cade was a part of the important revelation of the marriages to the Boykin sisters I do believe that his connection should be expanded upon.

Earlier records stated that Drury Cade "...went back to North Carolina from Georgia when his grandfather Robert Cade, Sr., died in 1769 but had returned to Georgia soon thereafter". The Wake County records would confirm that he lived in Wake County until he returned to Georgia in the mid to late 1780s. It is quite possible that he actually returned to Georgia with James Alford, Michael Rogers and the Wootens when they moved from Wake County. Drury and James never returned to North Carolina from Georgia to live but Michael Rogers returned to Wake County and lived there until his death about 1793. James and Drury died in Georgia.

When my attention turned to Wake County, I recalled that years earlier we visited the late Captain Lodwick "Wick" Alford at his home at Sea Island, Georgia. Soon after our arrival at Sea Island Wick took great pride in permitting us to examine a walking stick whose original owner was, purportedly, his third great-grandfather James Lodwick Alford. He told us that this grandfather was a pioneer of Wake County, North Carolina and the walking stick was, in his judgment, genealogical proof that his third great-grandfather was named James Lodwick Alford. The walking stick in question was encircled by a brass band inscribed with the name James Lodwick Alford. We believed the inscribed band alone would not be considered of great genealogical value by a professional genealogist. After all, anybody could put a brass band around a walking stick. He made no reference to any other genealogical data that would confirm/support his claim.

Wick urged us to help him find additional "evidence" proving to AAFA "skeptics" that a James Lodwick Alford had lived in Wake County, North Carolina and was not the son of "Old Lod" Alford. In later correspondence with Roberta, Wick again urged us to "help find the evidence," before the next annual meeting of AAFA, which could silence his naysayers. We agreed to take a look "if we ever had reason to search Wake County records". The unexpected turn of events on the Boykin search was, at long last, taking me to Wake County looking for James Alford and other Alford's, including James Lodwick. Sadly, Captain Wick Alford and my Roberta are now both deceased.

A friendly bantering went on for several years between Gil Alford and his late dear friend Wick Alford on the true identity of James Lodwick Alford. I now welcomed the opportunity to explore Wake County records for evidence that might shed light on the subject. Wick's "naysayers" were convinced that his great-great-great-grandfather was none other than Lodwick Alford, Jr., son of "Old" Lodwick. Wick was just as convinced that his James Lodwick was not the son of "Old" Lodwick but of another James Alford. The only James Alford proven to be in North Carolina at the time was "Old" Lodwick's son (Roberta's ancestor), who was born in 1740. Wick's James Lodwick Alford was born about 1749.

The following narrative will cover those records which are considered relevant to James Lodwick Alford and other Alfords. They cover the extant Court records beginning in 1771 and ending in 1802. Not every reference found will be included herein but only those which appear to provide further insight into the James Lodwick Alford story, as well as to other Alfords, and their role/s in the early days of the new County of Wake.

THE ALFORD RECORDS OF WAKE COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

Wake County was created in 1771 from portions of three existing North Carolina counties: Johnston, Orange and Cumberland. The area taken from Johnston County included land along the Neuse River where James Alford lived. This James was already proven to be the son of Lodwick Alford, Sr. and he did not move from Johnson County to Wake County but like his neighbors, was “annexed by law” from Johnston County to the new County of Wake.

It is often said that it takes a whole community to raise a child. In genealogical research, that same adage can, and should, be remembered. Many times it becomes as important to learn as much about your ancestor’s neighbors as you do for the ancestor. It is good to remember that in Colonial days the families married “kith and kin” or friends and family. When they moved from one area to another, they rarely traveled alone but with “kith and kin”. The Alfords confirmed the importance of this adage many times over. In early Wake County the Boykins, Cades, Rogers, Popes and Wootens are among the families most often connected to the Alfords, all coming to Wake from Johnston County and ultimately on to Georgia.

MINUTES OF THE COURT OF PLEAS AND QUARTER SESSIONS

The first Wake County Court Session was convened on June 4, 1771. Michael Rogers was selected, or appointed, Sheriff of the new county. James Alford and Michael’s brother John were appointed as his Deputies. Thomas Wooten was named as a Justice of the Court. These families all came from Johnston County. The Alfords and Wootens became very close with several marriages between the two families after both moved to Georgia. Subsequent records prove that the Alfords, Boykins, Rogers and Wootens were respected and important citizens of Wake County for many years. But that is, possibly, another story.

In the May Court Session of 1773 James Alford was appointed as a juror in the case of Thomas Higgins vs Dempsey Speirs; Dempsey Powell was appointed Constable in the room (meetings were often held in the home of participants, thus “the room”) of Thomas Boykin. Lodwick Alford appeared in a case brought against John James. This was the first appearance of Lodwick Alford in the Court records. I suspect that he had lived in the county for some time before this case appeared, possibly living with James Alford. He would have been about 24 years old at the time.

In this same May Court Session of 1773, Michael Rogers was sworn as Justice of the Court; a deed from Robert Rabun to Lodwick Alford was duly approved by the oath of James Alford; a deed from Mosias (?) Jones and his wife to LODWICK ALFORD, JR., was approved by the oath of James Alford and ordered to be registered; James Alford applied for leave to keep a Public House in “this county” which was granted on his giving bond agreeable to law; and James Alford was appointed as Juror to attend Hillsboro Court. A “public House” was, in essence, an Ordinary and was likely a continuation of James Alford’s Ordinary on the Neuse River in Johnson County. Most Ordinaries of the period were located on or near a river since many settlers used the river for transportation. There is some previous evidence which suggests that Lodwick Alford, Sr., and/or James kept an Ordinary on the Tar River.

In the December Court Session of 1774, The Court named those to serve on the Grand Jury, including Drury Cade, Burwell Pope, John and Aaron Rogers. The latter two being brothers of Michael Rogers. A deed from Nathan Grimes to James Alford and Thomas Crawford was presented in open court and proved by Drury Cade.

At the March, 1775 Session of the Court, James Alford named as juror; Lodwick Alford and Josiah Crudup were appointed "Processioners" in Captain Fowler's District and James Alford was named same for Captain Michael Roger's District.

At the June 1775 Session, the Court ordered James Alford, LODWICK ALFORD, JR., Burwell Pope, Josiah Crudup, Aaron Rogers and John Rogers to serve as jurors. Lodwick Alford was appointed "Patroler" in Captain Fowler's District; James Alford and Thomas Crawford were appointed same in Captain Roger's District. In a suit versus Travis Harper, James Alford was awarded 10 pounds and five shilling..

At the September 5, 1775 Session of the Court, reports of the Processioners were received. Such reports were listed numerically from 1 to 122, suggesting that there were only 122 land owners in Wake County at the time. Lodwick Alford was listed at No. 97 with 100 acres, likely the property he bought from Robert Rabon in September 1774. He was also listed as LODWICK ALFORD, JR., at number 110. He had processioned this parcel himself. Number of acres was not given but returned as a "tract". This tract was in Captain Fowler's District. Josiah Crudup's land was Number 109, likely making him the next door neighbor of Lodwick.

It is significant to note that Lodwick Alford processioned his own land, reported 100 acres and named "owner" as LODWICK ALFORD, JR. This might well prove to be the most important reference in that he named himself LODWICK ALFORD, JR.

At the December 5, 1775 Session of the Court a deed from James Alford and Thomas Crawford to Richard Robertson was approved and entered; Drury Cade posted bail for a defendant before the Court and James Alford was appointed overseer of road in the room of George Grimes.

Records for 1776 thru 1789 were not found in abstracted Wake County Court records. The North Carolina Archives have been contacted requesting their assistance in determining whether or not records are extant for this period. However, in Francis Holloway Wynne's 1985 edition of ABSTRACT OF RECORDS OF WILLS, INVENTORIES AND SETTLEMENT OF ESTATES, 1771-1802, WAKE COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA, there is important and relevant information on the Alford and collateral families.

In Book D, page 30, May 1797 Governor Speight appointed Lodwick Alford Sheriff of Wake County. On June 15, 1792 Isham and Warren Alford were "paid" in account of Thomas Lee Carpenter by Administrator Burwell Carpenter.

In Book E, will of Frederick Spane, January 20, 1793 and May 1798, Executors named were "Friends" Michael Rogers, Thomas Hines and LODWICK ALFORD, JR. Thus, some 25 years after Lodwick Alford, Jr., first appeared in Court records he was still known as Lodwick, Jr., in Wake County!

In Book A, October 20, 1783, Mary Kimborough, orphan of Nathaniel Kimborough, Julius Alford apparently purchased a horse from the estate and was listed as a "buyer" at the estate sale of James Hillsman, Registered, July, 1785.

In the will of Willis Jones, reg. January 28, 1780, "Friend LODWICK ALFORD, JR., named as Executor. In Book A the will of Edward Earp, reg. May 8, 1784, LODWICK ALFORD, JR., named as witness. Again, in Book A, January 24, 1784, LODWICK ALFORD, JR., named Executor, in the will of John Cannon.

Michael Rogers' will was found in Book D, naming his wife and ten children, two given same names of the children of his brother-in-law, James Alford: Allen and Sarah. Genealogical research often turns on the naming of children. James Alford's daughter, Sarah Hart Alford is considered a vital clue to finding the parents or

grandparents of Winifred Lurana Alford. It appears that two of the Boykin sisters, Winifred and “Celia” made certain that a beloved mother, or grandmother, was remembered by naming daughters after her.

In Book C, reg. April 27, 1793, the estate of Joshua Spain, deceased, paid Lodwick Alford, Esq., Warren Alford, Esq., and Drury Alford. April 4, 1789, no monetary amount given. The title “Esq” suggests that each named held some kind of public office, probably Justice of the Court.

In Book C, in report of his father’s estate, Cullen Earp, “current account” January 11, 1794 “paidWarren Alford, Esq. and Lodwick Alford. Lodwick was reported as Guardian.

CONCLUSIONS:

One of the puzzling aspects of this search was finding that James Alford never served as a Justice of the Court of Wake County but certainly had the political clout, through family and friends, to have received such had he wanted to serve. What makes this the most puzzling is that a James Alford served as Justice of the same Court in Bute County for several years. Ample evidence proves that James Alford of Wake County was the son of Old Lodwick but was he the same James who served in Bute County?

Conversations were held with the late Captain Wick Alford, most often at the annual AAFA Membership Meetings, and the subject never really changed: James Lodwick Alford! Circumstances did not afford an opportunity to spend longer periods of time with him and get more closely acquainted. He was retired and I was still gainfully employed. At the time he was unequivocally convinced that his third great-grandfather was not the son of “Old Lodwick Alford”. In retrospect, it might be best that I did not study the Wake County records before his death. It was not easy to change Wick’s mind, no matter the facts, especially when the subject was his third great-grandfather! However, Gil recently reviewed old AAFA correspondence and came upon a letter from Wick which seemed to indicate that maybe his “naysayers” were correct all along.

I have enjoyed the pleasure of teaching genealogical research to seniors at my church for the past 10 years and Wick’s belief in the genealogical value of the banded walking stick is typical of persons who have no previous genealogical research experience. They want to start their family search with a story or document that has been handed down from generation to generation (most often from the family bible) and considered, without doubt, the absolute truth. Often it has been difficult to convince them to begin with themselves, work backwards in time, generation by generation and prove each along the way.

To this end, one member of the class, a retired medical doctor, was convinced that his great-grandfather had abandoned his family and was never heard from again He had no interest in searching for a man who was guilty of such conduct. He knew it was true because his father and grandfather had told him the story. He was reluctant to even share the name of his ancestor. Finally, he gave his name to me but insisted that he had no interest in finding anything about him. He was certain that should anything be found it would be the names of a second family. Research determined that his great-grandfather had served as an officer in the Confederate Army, died in battle, left a will and his widow never married again. She ultimately received a widow’s pension. The doctor’s grandfather might have been left out of his father’s will.

I am convinced that there is more than a grain of truth about the history of the walking stick. The first owner was, most likely, Lodwick Alford of Wake County, North Carolina. When Lodwick died about 1820 the stick was not mentioned in his will. It was possibly left in his personal possessions, without the brass band, until his wife, Susannah, either gave it to one of their children or it was found in her possessions after her death and one of the children claimed it. It was handed down though one or more generations until reaching Captain Lodwick “Wick” Alford. Along the way the brass band was attached so to identify it for future generations. If they first looked in

Wake County records it may have been confusing to find records of a James Alford and a Lodwick Alford and concluded they were one and same person.