

April 9, 1951

Mrs U.S. Gunn,  
Crawfordville, Ga.

Dear Cousin Olive:

On my recent visit, though it was very short, I enjoyed every minute of the time spent with you and our browsing through your collection of family data. I commend you, again, for your interest and research into our family background. Between the two of us, I hope we can work out some scheme to preserve some or all of it for our posterity.

I did make a record, years ago, about some of the facts my father, Uncle Ben, my grand father Alford, and others told to me. Most of my notes, which I intended to complete, type and pass out to others, seems to have been most or misplaced. I know some of it was borrowed and not returned, as is often the case with private or personal history.

My memory is not like it was before I had my stroke, but I do remember many incidents and shall undertake to verify some of what I know plus digging into some potential sources I recall.

At the first opportunity I shall pay you another visit and have my points better organized, so that we can go right to the point and thus save a lot of time doing research and covering the same ground twice.

I have copied and am returning herewith the following papers you loaned to me:

- (1) The will of Lodwick Alford.
- (2) The will of James Alford.
- (3) The page of typed notes by Mrs Kirby Smith Anderson of Madison.
- (4) The four certificates of the North Carolina Historical Commission covering Revolutionary War Accounts of Lodwick Alford, James Alford and two for William Alford.

The book, Alford Family Notes, I want to keep a few days longer to reread and digest its contents more thoroughly. It is an interesting record. I shall return it to you shortly.

This, I believe accounts for the book and the papers you loaned to me.

I have several points I want to comment about in this letter and I shall sort of organize them and refer to them by a letter of the alphabet, (a), (b), (c), etc.

(a) It is one of my earliest recollections that our ancestor in North Carolina was a valient Revolutionary War hero and that he was one of a large family of sons. I have read something, somewhere in my reading, about Lodiwek Alford being an officer and leader in the army fighting against the British, etc. I have been through Ralieh several times, but was always on a rush schedule and could not stop and do any research, so I never go around to completing this research project. I may in the future, if my health permits me to travel that distance.

I have ran into Alford's in every part of the United States, in my travels while in the army. Many of these men, if from one of the Southern States, told me their ancestor once lived in North Carolina. They did not give me the name of Lodwick or any other specific name. Since your records, plus what I know, would indicate that these Alford's claiming North Carolina as the original home of their ancestor, accounts for Lodwick's descendants, James and Julius, came to Georgia. Lodwick, probably, was a brother of the ancestor of the numerous families claiming North Carolina as their ancestral home, is a conclusion I would like to verify. Now, here in Georgia, we have several Alford families and those I have talked with do not seem to know much, if anything, about who their North Carolina Ancestor was, that, is, going back as far as the Revolutionary War. (Some of these Georgia Alford, no doubt, are lineal descendants of Julius but there are two many, I believe, to be his.

In the course of time, I have personally talked with more than one Alford from North Carolina. They did not know about Lodwick. One or two of these men used to come to South ~~Georgia~~ Georgia during the tobacco as warehousemen or buyers of tobacco, for in North Carolina they lived in the tobacco region of that State. About twelve years ago a young man, connected with a contractor doing highway work here in Georgia, came by my office at Swainsboro to get me to prepare and witness a bill of sale to his automobile (he was prepared to leave for South America on some kind of an engineering project); we talked about the family and his family, he stated, had lived in South Carolina for generations; he knew nothing about Lodwick as an ancestor. I have, also, personally talked with several Alford from Florida, neither of whom seemed to be related or known to the other family. In miss. Alabama and Texas, I found them there. When I was discharged from the army hospital at San Antonio, Texas, I spent two or three days there waiting to get Pullman accommodations back to Georgia, and whiled away the time looking at points of interest around San Antonio. On the wall of the Alamo Memorial I read a handwritten order issued by a General Alford. That was during the Texan's War for Independence with Mexico. I could mention some other incidents. One, by the way, just comes to mind. I was looking over some old records in the Chatham County Courthouse, in the Ordinary Office, I believe. I found a reference to a Wm or Benjiman Alford's

will and inventory of his estate. He was a merchant, the record indicated. From his listed assets I concluded he was engaged in trade with the West Indies. I never got around to look into the facts about this man. So, I might go on relating some incidents that come to mind.

Undoubtedly, the Alford family has been a prolific one. I hold to the view that some research into the records in North Carolina would reveal many more things about the family than either of us in Georgia, at this late day, knows. It is my speculation that Lodwick Alford either a first or second generation American, that is, either his father or grandfather were the immigrant to the Colony, with North Carolina or one of the Colonies to the North. I may never know, but if my strength holds out I expect to think about this a lot more in my old age and try to satisfy my curiosity.

(b) Referring back to the N.C. Historical Certificates of Wm and James Alford, I wonder if you traced these to see if they were connected with Lodwick? Is this James the son of Lodwick?

(c) I am trying to get up a series of questions to send to some of grand father's descendants to bring out more information, if they possess it, and will send you a copy.

(d) It is my purpose, at some early date, to run down to Putnam County and contact some of Uncle Jack's descendants, as well as to look into the public records there.

ck  
(e) I want to visit Hance and Warren Counties, too. It is possible I might run into some kinsmen. My grandmother, Susan Bryant, was a native of Warren County, I understand.

(f) I think you told me you had compiled a manuscript about the history of the family as you know it. If so, when I next see you we can discuss supplementing it with what I have and you or I could have it typed into several copies or mimeographed and copies filed in some public place for the use of those who come after us. A book is an expensive project, but this character of history ought to be preserved for posterity.

(g) I am enclosing herewith a carbon copy of a letter I have written to my son, Winston. It mentions copies of the wills of Lodwick and James Alford and my own brief line back into Lodwick Alford. This is a tentative outline, as you will observe, and is not intended to be a permanent record, for it does not carry all of the facts about his and my immediate line, plus some other facts I want to record - what I know about the Alfords, my impressions, etc. When you read this, you may return to me or I can pick it up when I next see you; I don't suppose you would want this in your files, in its incomplete conditions

This letter and the enclosed copies, I must confess,

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contain grammatical and typographical errors. I should recopy or correct but I don't feel competent to do so now. Once upon a time I would have felt, and been able, to work at a project like this day and night until I finish it, so I shall do the best I can as I go along now. So, pardon these errors, please.

One more point: You gave me an idea and I shall use it, namely, get the oldest members of the family to give a letter setting forth the facts and traditions of the family as they know them. I have in mind preparing such a paper for you, a questionnaire rather than a letter, to save you time and to make it more convenient to fill in, etc. Will send or bring it along when I visit you again.

Olive and I are thinking about you and our wish is that you are getting along nicely. She is sorry she did not go along with me recently. Next time, she hopes she can. And when you are in Decatur again, let us know and come around and visit with us.

Winston and Evelyn's new baby, Sandra, is getting nicely, we are told in letters. I am anxious to get up there and visit with them.

Anticipating another visit with you soon, I am,

Cordially Yours,

Guy Alford