

Letters: Concerning the Early Lodwicks

In 1989, Jim Alford of Houston, Member #115, began a correspondence with Executive Director Gil Alford and then-President Lodwick Alford discussing several research issues pertaining to the lines of the various early Lodwick Alford. Since many AAFA members are descended from these lines, we think that publication of these interesting letters will be helpful and enlightening. The letters below are the first ones we can locate.

December 9, 1989

Gil,

... I've routinely accepted that Cousin Minnie did her research well and that Susanna Cade died in 1738 after bearing two children—Elizabeth and Jacob, and that Lodowick the First then married Rebecca Farell from whom I am descended.

Try this on for size:

1. The names Cade, Lodowick and Julius appear repeatedly down my line. The name Farell does not. The same pattern occurs down the Lodwick (Jr.) of Wake County line.
2. The name Farell appears down the Isham line which means to me that at least that child was mothered by a Farell.
3. The name Hartley doesn't appear down any line that I've seen. Until someone can show that the name Hartley reappears in some line, I cannot accept that Lodowick ever sired children by a Hartley, especially considering that none lived in New Kent County. What proof is there for this? FLASH! READ THE END OF THIS LETTER ABOUT HARTLEY.

All this says to me that Susanna Cade

lived thru the 1740s and died in North Carolina. Then, Rebecca Farell was his wife through the 1750s. What happened after that is anyone's guess. . . .

Late-breaking News!:

Capt. Wick's story about James Lodwick being called "Major Tanner" has really stuck in my mind. It's akin to you being called "Gil Alford Jr." and Joe Jones Jr., too! In other words, It doesn't make sense and I can't leave something alone that doesn't make sense!

So, I did some research.

The Colonial and State Records of North Carolina, Vol. 4, pp. 615, 764, mention a gentleman named Lodowick Tanner who received two land grants in Edgecombe County, 1742-1745. Whether he was ever a major is not recorded in those volumes. However, it appears that he might have had several children, Benjamin, Jennings, and Margaret, who did serve in the militia. The index of Tanners shows a few other people plus a church and a mill that could be investigated, too.

Now, for the good one!

"The Susanna Hartley Story" comes from the same source and appears to be an ill-drawn conclusion reached by retired housewives-turned-researchers.

The Colonial and State Records of North Carolina, Vol. 1, p. 398, contains a petition from a minor, Jabell Alford, to be able to choose his guardian (obviously the kid's an orphan). In response, the court appoints Mrs. Susanna Hartley, a widow to be his guardian and admonishes her to maintain him until he is 21 and to train him as a carpenter or joiner. This took place August 8, 1693/94. You can readily see where someone who was

not too swift would determine that Susanna Hartley was the "mother" of North Carolina Alford! Later, they would say that she must be the Susanna who married Lodwick in New Kent County.

... More later,

Jim

Editor's comments

The entry below is from the Booklist and is another source for the Susanna Hartley information:

• Parker, Mattie Erma Edwards. *NORTH CAROLINA HIGHER-COURT RECORDS 1670-1696*. Raleigh, NC: State Department of Archives and History, 1968. Title page, Index for Alford, and the following pages that list Alford: **Jabel/Jabell, 392-393** (bound to Mrs. Susanna Hartley, widow, until he is 20 to learn the trade of carpenter or joiner). Listed in Index but we don't have: **Jaber/Jabus, 272; John, 90, 279, 431; Joseph ALLFORD, 379.**

The Colonial and State Records of North Carolina is not listed on the Booklist yet. Perhaps someone with copies could send me all the Alford entries (with the title page) so I could enter it!

December 31, 1989

Gil,

... I've been upgrading my source material and reentering it where necessary. Most of the problem has come in North Carolina where I have been working with other people's notes. When people transcribe records, they just plain introduce their own bias!

For example, they leave off or add "Jr." and "Sr." according to their feelings about the facts, or they omit facts that seem contradictory to them. You can't believe the errors I'm culling out and in every case, it's been from hand-written notes or transcriptions of transcriptions!

.... Now for several research topics:

1. Ferrell wills mention three daughters married to Alford—Polly, Rebecca and Anne, right? Okay, (1) Isham Alford had a wife named Anna _____ according to the source I have. (2) Volume XV, p. 461, of *The Colonial and State Records of North Carolina* discusses John Ferrell, Isham Alford and Robert Melton being abducted by Tories in 1781. (3) One of Isham's grandsons is named Ferrell. Flimsy conclusion: Isham was married to Anne Ferrell! Incidentally, Robert Melton was later Executor of Lodowick Sr.'s estate. All of them were pretty close.

2. Earlier I mentioned Lodwick Tanner as the possible "Major Tanner" that Wick thinks was really Lodwick Alford. I ran across a whole slew of Lodwick Tanner references in Johnston county during the 1760s. It seems that he was a judge and proved some of Lodwick and Sarah's deeds! Maybe I can find a reference to "Major Tanner" yet! Tanner Alford apparently existed, but I can't find anything that indicates he was ever significant enough to be a Major.

3. I reread your article on Lodwicks of New Kent County, Virginia, Franklin County, North Carolina, and Wake County, North Carolina (finally!), then compared your conclusions to my ever-growing Facts Database—found an error, an omission and a contribution:

- About the family of Goodrich

Alford of New Kent County, you state "Goodrich and Sarah had two children born in New Kent County, Lucy born February 25, 1736, and Susannah October 5, 1739. Family tradition says there was a daughter, Sarah, born about 1735." Page 511 of *The Vestry Book and Register of St. Peters Parish* mentions Sara, daughter of Goodrich and Sarah Alford. The page is dated 1733 and appears to be a Birth and Death register. Sarah apparently was one of those born.

- About Lodwick of Wake County, there are two direct references and four associated references to him in *The State Records of North Carolina, Vol. XII, as Lodwick Jr., both as a Wake County Representative to The House of Commons and as Second Major of Wake County Militia. There is also a reference to Capt. Lodwick Alford in Johnston Co., March 4, 1770 along the Nuese River. This was just before Wake Co. was formed from the northwest portion of Johnston Co. It seems very likely that Lodwick Jr. was a Captain before he became a Major.*
- About whether any source states that Lodwick of Franklin Co. had sons named Julius and Warren, *North Carolina Taxpayers 1701-1786*, by Clarence E. Ratcliff, has this entry on page 3:

"Lodwick s. Julius & Warren FWV 1771"

In the shorthand of the book, this means Lodwick and sons Julius and Warren, Franklin-Warren-Vance Counties, 1771. According to the Preface by the author, he copied this data from the *Journal of North Carolina Genealogy Vol. 11*, pp. 1499-1515.

4. Then I sorted and cross-referenced my growing Facts Database. I've

created a more complete picture of North Carolina, but the same old nagging questions are still here:

- a. Why wasn't Sarah in either Lodwick of Franklin Co.'s or Lodwick of Wake County's will? Your point is well taken on her absence from Lodwick Sr.'s will. (Answer: She was possibly the widow in Wayne County in 1800. If so, this can only mean another Lodwick.)
- b. Why wasn't Lodwick Jr. in Lodwick Sr.'s will? For that fact, why weren't William, Jacob, James, Julius and Isham in the will? (Answer: Lodwick Sr. was mad at them for leaving North Carolina! After all, he was a senile old lunatic.)
- c. The available genealogies say that Green Alford was the son of Lodwick and grandson of James. Yet no references to Green appear in Franklin Co. (Answer: The tales about James William Zion, brother of Lodwick Sr., must be substantially true. I think his son Lodwick arrived in Johnston Co. by 1758.)
- d. Why was a Lodwick Alford a juror in Johnston Co. and sued by the State there if he didn't live there? (Answer: It's the mysterious third Lodwick.)
- e. Which Alford married which Ferrells? (Answer: Lodwick Sr. married Rebecca; Isham married Anne; and somebody else married Polly.)
- f. Why can't we decide if Samuel or Lemuel is the correct spelling for Lodwick Sr.'s youngest son? (Answer: Because the flourishes on 18th and 19th century L's and S's are so similar, or Samuel and Lemuel were twins.)

(Continued on p. 50)

Queries

FRANK O. ALFORD

Frank O. Alford is supposed to have been born March 1875 in Mississippi and died 1919. Myrtis is supposed to have been born October 1877 in Louisiana and died 1911. Published data on the Osyka, Pike County, Mississippi, cemetery shows Frank born 1886 and Myrtis born 1880. Such birth dates, especially for Frank, seem impractical since Pike County, Mississippi marriage records show that F. O. Alford married Myrtis McElvin July 30, 1892 [Marriage Book D, Page 245]. There are records of several Alford boys of this area marrying McElvin/McElveen girls.

[Editor's note: Gravestones aren't always correct. See p. 47, this issue, for the discrepancy between the published cemetery data for Halcut Alford in the Sharon Methodist Church and the actual gravestone.]

(In Search, cont. from p. 49)

ment that the brothers tithed along this road seems significant. This James could well have been born 1680-90, as he was first recorded in the records in 1710, when he was paid for looking after a Parish Child. However, he does not appear to have been of considerable wealth, and certainly could not have migrated from New England to North Carolina about 1730. Sufficient to say that his sons, Lodowick, Goodrich, and Julius—with their offsprings—did so migrate shortly after the last Alford record in New Kent County in 1739.

[Gil Alford comment: AAFA researchers have been unable to find the land grant for William Alford along the south side of York River, but there was such a grant to John Alford.] ♦

Efforts to find Frank in the 1880 or 1900 censuses of Mississippi and Louisiana have been fruitless. In 1910 the family, enumerated in Pike County, Mississippi, consisted of Frank, Myrtis, Ethel b. 1894, Noel b. 1897, Georgianna b. 1900, Edith b. 1902, Murial b. 1905 and Nona born 1907. All children were shown as born in Mississippi.

Family tradition says that Frank was a butcher who lived in Amite or Independence, Tangipahoa Parish, Louisiana, and operated a meat market there.

Put on your thinking caps and come up with some information. Send it to POB 1586, Florissant MO 63031-1586.

NANCY ANN ALFORD

The following inquiry, sent by Member #13 Julius Alford, was published in *THE CLARION-LEDGER* (Jackson, MS) column "Family Trees." Gil Alford reports that Nancy Ann Alford is not in AAFA records yet.

Mark Jamieson (994 Hamakua Court, Bay St. Louis, MS 39520) seeks information on the family of Jasper N. Green (Greene), born in 1854, and Nancy Ann Alford (1861-1943). They were married in 1877. Jasper was in the 1880 Green County census, but may have lived in Wayne County, as well. Their children included: J.E. (born in 1878); Liday (born in 1883); Matty; Lilly; Tom (changed his last name to Stevens); and Hetti (born in 1894). Jasper's parents were Joel Greene (born in South Carolina in 1805) and Easter Baxter (born in Georgia in 1812). Joel owned 293 acres in Green County, according to the 1846 Land Book. Nancy's parents are unknown. ♦

(Letters, cont. from p. 43)

... More later,

Jim/Houston

 Editor's comments

The entry for *North Carolina Taxpayers* mentioned in Jim's letter is on the Booklist as follows:

• Ratcliff, Clarence E., comp. *NORTH CAROLINA TAXPAYERS 1701-1786*. Baltimore, MD: Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., 1984. Title page, explanatory Note, and page 3, the only page that lists Alford's (no variations):

Bute Co. 1771:
 Goodrick, Julius, Lodwick, Lodwick Jr.

Dobbs Co.:
 Benjamin 1769, Benjamin 1779, Wm 1769, Wm 1779

Franklin-Warren-Vance Cos. 1771:
 Goodrich, Julius & son John,
 Lodwick s. Julius & Warren,
 Lodwick Jr.

Granville Co. 1755:
 Jacob s. of Lodwick, Julius, Lodwick

Pitt Co. 1762: Wm

Now we need the appropriate pages from *The Vestry Book and Register of St. Peters Parish* for the Booklist! ♦

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