

3404 Morningside Drive
Raleigh, NC 27607
March 21, 1986

Mr. Lodwick H. Alford
P.O. Box 742
Sea Island, GA 31561

Dear Mr. Alford:

Your query in the March issue of the Wake County Genealogical Society Bulletin attracted my attention.

I am descended from both Lodowick and Julius Alford through Julius Alford's son Issac who married Mary Alford, daughter of Lodowick Alford. Their daughter Elizabeth Alford married my great great grandfather Willie Clifton.

I am sorry that I cannot give you any answers to your questions about the Alfords. The Norris family is an old Johnston County one. My great great grandfather Samuel Mitchner settled in that county and married a Frances Norris in 1799, but she did not live long and he married my ancestress Patsy Lockhart in 1802.

The thing that intrigued me was your statement that Lodowick Alford Sr. of New Kent County was not the Lodowick Alford who died in Franklin County, NC about 1801. I had always assumed that they were one and the same man. I have a copy of the St. Peters Parish, New Kent Co. Va. Vestry Book and have assumed that Julius and Lodowick Alford were brothers and sons of one James Alford.

There are so many land grants to Lodowick Alford that, as I look at my own records, I can easily see that there could have been several Lodowick Alfords. I have just assumed that Lodowick of Wake County was a son of Lodowick of Franklin County and have never made any effort to separate the the different LODOWICK ALFORDS.

One of the reasons that I did not do very much years ago when I was younger was that I just couldn't determine just whom my ELIZABETH ALFORD, wife of WILLIE (Wiley) CLIFTON was. After thirty years of off and on research I finally pinned down the proof of her ancestry through an estate settlement of her uncle Bailey Alford and the offspring of that slave which Lodowick Alford of Franklin County left his daughter Mary Alford, Elizabeth Alford Clifton's mother.

Lodowick Alford came to this area from Virginia soon after he disappears from the New Kent records. Halifax and Edgecombe Counties were parent counties of Granville before 1746 and Lodowick is mentioned. Then he is in Granville the parent of Bute until 1764 and Franklin after 1779.

I suppose you have the information on Alfords which is in the Wake County Heritage Book. Julius M. Alford who sent in one article may have been your son, since he denotes his father as Lodowick Alford.

See Gil Alford comments after Mr. Mitchner's signature.

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I had assumed that Lodwick Alford of Franklin County, being so old by the 1790s, became senile and needed a guardian. This was the case with people in earlier days, there being no institutions to take care of people who needed care. I can recall a relative whom the census taker called an idiot in 1850, 60, 70, 80, 1900 and 1910. He was my grandfather's first cousin, could read and write, but was a little "slow", and needed some guidance.

I don't recall ever having checked the Rev. War Pay Vouchers at the Archives for Rev. War service of any Alford~~s~~s, but they are not listed in Roster of "Soldiers From NC in the Revolution" which I have here at home.

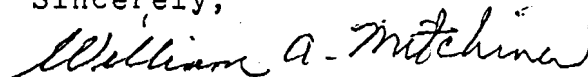
A man named Judge Thomas M. Pittman took many of the Bute County loose papers home with him and they found their way back to the Archives. I have checked them many times for other names, but I have in my notes the following: "1778 - Goodridge, John, Isum and Isaac Alford took the oath of allegiance to the United States". This may mean that the family was sympathetic to the crown, but were forced to make a decision. I have seen this in the court records before.

Do you have some kind of documentary proof that Lodowick Alford of Franklin County was the son of Lodowick Alford of New Kent? I would like to have the reference if you have it or the line of thought which led to this conclusion. I am enclosing a stamped and self-addressed envelope and would appreciate your letting me know how you came to this conclusion.

Some of the branches of the Alford family were very poor when I was a child growing up in Franklin county and were share croppers. These were the ones who had stayed in the Crooked Creek area. But they had probably fallen upon lean times. Descendants are now some of the nicest and best citizens of the county now. It was when I became interested in family research in the middle 1940s that I learned that the Alford~~s~~s were some of the "First Families" among the earliest settlers. This may account for their evident Loyalist tendencies during the Revolution.

At the present time I am busy with the writing and compilation of a Mitchiner genealogy for publication. However, if I can look up something in the Archives for you, please call on me. I would be happy to take small bits of time to do so when I am in the Archives.

Sincerely,



William A. Mitchiner

AAFA Notes by Gil Alford: I believe that Wick Alford may have a different view on this matter of Lodwick's death in Franklin Co., NC, as I write this in 2007. Wick based his ideas at that time (1986) on the fact that a DAR publication had shown old Lodwick Alford died 1789 in Washington Co., GA. I suspect DAR got that from some inadequately documented input from a member. There is a similar situation regarding the reported wife Rebecca Ferrell which is in some DAR lineages. AAFA has never been able to find any shred of evidence of such a death or marriage.

We do have records indicating a Federal Judge in Georgia sent U.S. Marshals out in search of Lodwick Alford and his son Julius. (They were apparently way in arrears on a loan.) The marshals were unable to find Lodwick but they did find Julius.

We do have proof that the Julius Alford and Lodwick Alford who moved from New Kent Co., VA to NC were brothers, and sons of James Alford.

Wick and I still differ on the relationship between the Lodwick Alford of Franklin Co. and the Lodwick Alford of Wake Co. Without any documentation I believe they were father and son. After decades of research Wick believes otherwise.

The Julius M. Alford who sent the article to the Wake County Heritage Book was our own Julius M. "Pooley" Alford. He and Wick joined me in founding the Alford association in 1987. "Pooley" was the first AAFA treasurer and regrettably he died in 1995.
– Gil Alford, October 2007.