

THE 1787 VIRGINIA TAX LISTS
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The 1787 Virginia Tax Lists are a good substitute for the lost 1790 Virginia Census. Part of a law passed by the Virginia General Assembly in October, 1786, made the 1787 Virginia tax lists unique. Three items required in this taxation make it particularly valuable to genealogists:

1. For the first time, the tax commissioner had to call on the persons subject to taxation (starting on March 10, 1787 until his area was completed) rather than have taxpayers come to him **and** he had to record the date on which he visited each taxable individual giving us an indication of neighbors as well as close kin who lived near one another. Out-of-county taxpayers may have been listed if they owned property, but they were exempt from taxes except where they were residents. However, often the county or state where they lived was recorded.

2. For the first time, names of **all** white males tithables over 21 were required to be listed, not just heads of households. Often when several males over 21 were living in the same household, their relationship was noted by the tax commissioner.

3. Listing the number of white males aged over 16 but under 21 was required and sometimes their names were also recorded. These were tithables whose fathers usually paid their taxes.

Of equal importance to the content of these lists is the fact that almost all of them have survived intact--84 counties and 6 cities. These have now been published and in the few instances where the 1787 tax lists were lost, contemporary records were used to reconstruct a substitute list. In 1787 all of present day West Virginia (8 counties then) and all of Kentucky (7 counties then) were part of Virginia.

The 1787 tax lists are available as a complete set or by individual county. The individual county listings are better in that two complete lists are given: one in alphabetical order and another by dates on which the taxables were visited. The complete set only has the alphabetical listings.

ALFORDS IN VIRGINIA IN 1787
(INCLUDING KENTUCKY AND WEST VIRGINIA)

VIRGINIA

County	Males over 21	Males 16-21	Slaves	Horses	Cattle
		Blacks above 16 and under 16 were combine.			
ALBEMARLE	St. Ann's Parish, Tax List "B"				
	Jacob Alfred	0	1	1	5
	James Alfred	0	0	1	1
	<i>(not tithable)</i>				

AMHERST	Parish of Amherst, First Dist., Tax List "A"				
	John Alford	0	2	2	11
	William Alford	1	0	3	14
	(son Thomas 16-21)				
FAUQUIER	Tax List "B"				
	James Alford <i>tax paid by Jerimiah Darnol</i>				
	Jerimiah Darnol	0	13	8	21
	Tax List "A"				
	Rachael Alford	0	0	2	1
	(<i>not tithable</i>)				
	William Alford	0	0	2	0
LANCASTER	Zachariah Alford	0	1	0	0
MONTGOMERY	Tax List "B"				
	Thomas Alford	1	?	?	?
			(missing or torn)		
ROCKBRIDGE	Tax List "B"				
	Jacob Helford	0	0	3	5
ROCKINGHAM	Tax List "B"				
	John Alford (Mil.Co.3)	0	0	3	7
	John Alford (Mil.Co.4)	2	0	4	4
	William Alford	0	0	6	9
SPOTSYLVANIA	Tax List "A"				
	Thomas Alfred <i>tax paid by Mann Page</i>				
	Mann Page	0	120	30	107
WASHINGTON	Tax List "B"				
	Robert Alford	0	0	0	3
<u>WEST VIRGINIA</u> (part of VA until 1863)					
GREENBRIER	Tax List "A"				
	George Alfred	0	0	1	0
RANDOLPH	Tax List "B"				
	John Alford	0	0	6	11
<u>KENTUCKY</u> (part of VA until 1792)					
MERCER	1787 Tax List missing; Contemporary records used-- from Andrew Beall's List of Tithables for 1787				

Charles Alford

2 tithes but did not pay;
Sworn Constable??

Hansel Alford

1 tithe

[Anselm?]

AAFA NOTES:

- 1) Those in Albemarle Co. VA and Mercer Co. KY/VA were Alford's originally from Goochland Co. VA.
- 2) Those in Amherst Co. VA and Montgomery Co. VA were originally Frederick Co., VA Alford's.
- 3) The Jacob Halford in Rockbridge Co. was possibly a TELFORD.
- 4) The West Virginia Alford's were sons of one of the Rockingham Co. VA John Alford's (the one in Mil. 4) whom we call IRISH JOHN.