

FOREWORD -- CAUTION

This is not to be taken as a completed compilation of the mass of notes I have jotted down, from time to time, in my efforts to set down, later, some facts about my lineal forebears and collateral lines.

As I caution or warn in my comments set down on these notes, I want to stress in this 'foreword' to the notes I have typed and included here that my conclusions now, and until I complete my research are tentative and subject to change, in many instances.

For instance, I have not had the time or physical capacity to hurry along and complete my research in the Hancock County, Georgia, background. It takes time and patience to build an adequate or proveable genealogy, is a point I want to stress upon members of the family.

Patient and diligent research will, in time, uncover missing links or open up new leads. New leads to seemingly hidden facts often turn up, unexpectedly as a reward for patience and diligence in this research.

I will appreciate it if any member of the family, or any one outside the family, will cooperate with me in constructing this Alford genealogy.

Bear in mind, too, that all who bear the name of Alford or who are descended from an Alford are related. That is true in England as well as in the United States. The word 'ford' is a common name in England and 'ford' is an element used in many family names. Space and time, at the moment does not permit me to discuss the evolution,

or development of our Family Name System. I will say something about this subject and add it to my completed compilation of this genealogy of Alford and allied lines. It is enough to say, now, that our name simply means 'Old Ford' and it was, at times gone by, spelled Alderford, Auldforde, etc. with letters being dropped until most of us now use this spelling: Alford. Some even substituted a v for the f and use the spelling: Alverd. That, I think, is due to the influence of the old dialectal accents used in the various sections of old England. I am no expert on this subject but I had the good fortune of serving in the army in Europe in World Wars I and II and, since the origin of names always fascinated me, I utilized some of my spare time reading and talking with informed Englishmen. I shall, in the end, set down some of my impressions of what I heard or learned on this subject. Some have asked me about this point or I would not have mentioned it here.

In addition, I want to add this conviction of mine: I have not, and do not expect, to find any man bearing the name of Alford has been or is a saint or one of the plaster saints fastened up on a wall for decorative or worship, purposes. They stack up about like the general run of humanity, no worse or better. Our forebears are sound, dependable old Anglo-Saxon stock - a race of people I think are on a par with or the equal of any other race of mankind, past or present. I am what I am because of my forebears. I inherited some of my characteristics. Environment played a part, a substantial part, to be sure. We see these things all through the generations past. It is an interesting and fascinating

study, for me.

I am not trying to build a genealogy that is tied to the fame of some great general or a governor or a president or some king, or noblemen. Those of us who bear this family name can, if they wish, get into kind of a background. But I am just an ordinary mortal and proud of my family name, and the family names allied with it, and will be content to record the facts, leaving out the glamour, romance and unproveable legends. Every Alford I personally know feels the same way about this subject, I believe.

Now, back to the original thought behind this foreword and the purpose of this temporary or tentative compilation of these notes:

1. I have been collecting notes and memorandums for a long time. I found I was duplicating my efforts because they were not organized. I have started typing my data and I elected to use these notes as the basis upon which to make a study of where I stand and to give me an idea or plan to follow in the future.

2. Something like an index is essential. I have hurriedly made one and will alter, add to or amend and rewrite as I type out my present data and add new facts.

3. Several members of the family are interested. These particular facts will help them to help me in the pursuit of this project.

4. I have made a couple of carbon copies of these notes, to pass along to others for study and suggestions. The original copy I will keep and use as my basic foundation, in order to have a system and my project before me at all times..

5. I have made some grammatical and typographical errors in this hurried typing. Before I study and put together my completed notes, I will have my copy typed by a professional typist as well as having it proof read by a competent proofreader. (A person can't read and correct his own errors, to be sure).

6. I think, too, I have a few errors in dates or other facts or there are better sources, in some instances, and will eliminate the errors and recheck all records, to be sure.

7. The form I used to type these notes on was devised by me as a convenience in making notes and to send to others upon which they could supply requested information.

8. I have two other forms, No. 2 and No 3, I have called them, for want of a better designation or for reference. My temporary notes, Form No 1, will be retyped, some in narrative form, on 8½ x 14 inch paper, attached to or bound in loose leaf binder with Form No. 2. Form No. 2 and these typed sheets are the supporting proof of each family (Form No. 2 being a chart for each family). Form No 3 is a chart showing each generation, in a line, and references to the supporting facts carried in Form No. 2. Form No 3 shows, at a glance and on one page, as many as 10 generations backward, if you have that much proof.

9. Some may ask: why collect all notes about any Alford name or association with an Alford or allied family name? The answer: I do not know if related or not, but it is worthwhile and interesting for some one to collect such data; it may help me or you in ferreting out something

about your particular line. And it will preserve, may be, an essential fact for some other interested person who may come after us. And it may save these noted facts from destruction by the normal wear and tear of age. Nothing is permanent. Courthouses and other public places of record are destroyed, too. Family records, I may say, have a way of disappearing in a generation or two. They just get into the hands of a person who is unconcerned or they may be accordingly destroyed or lost, and this includes old family Bibles.

10. I suggest to all who make a family record, or possesses any worthwhile fact, they they made more than one copy, always. Otherwise, your evidence can and will become lost in due time. If that fact, alone, is appreciated by all of us, you and I would not now have to be researching and digging back to ascertain who our grand parents were, or may be, if we know their name, we would not have to search for the names of their wives, children, brothers and sisters, birth, marriage and death dates.

11. My forms No. 2 and 3 are now in the hands of the printer. I will have them in a few days and send them on to interested members of the family to fill out and return, after they make up their respective family records.

12. Another question, some have asked me: When you complete your research, what will you do with it? First, it is a physical impossibility for anyone to compile all data about any one family. I doubt if one had the support of an endowment fund, he could accomplish that feat.

Next, It is a must, generally, to take note of any fact or incident touching upon a given name, generation to generation, if we are to get a well rounded picture. For instance, we see the forenames of William, John, Benjamin, Jacob, Ledwick, James, etc. in every generation back to early Colonial times. Senior and Junior is not often seen on the record, is another case in point. Unless we follow this course we may not get a sound genealogy (I have personally examined several cases where a genealogy fails because some one else comes along and digs up the facts and upsets those who rely upon such hastily built records). And the third reason, speaking for myself personally, it is interesting and/infermative to know some facts about collateral kinship, as well as lineal. It gives us a better picture of our ancestry, to be sure.

13. I do not plan to print a book. That's expensive, but I may be able to work out a plan whereby the basic facts might be printed by the Planograph printing method could be used - this is a photographic process to use typed pages in lieu of typesetting. I will get to this bridge, in due season. I will be happy to get the facts and arrange them so that others, lineal and collateral kin, can take these collected facts and expand into a genealogy such as will suit their own personal wishes. My loose leaf forms No. 2 and 3 can be expanded or otherwise used to suit most any kind of a situation.

14. As to the U S Census records. When the British Army burned the Capitol in Washington 1814, Georgia's Census reports were destroyed for 1790, 1800 and 1810. In

Georgia, in lieu of such official records, we have to resort to such records as the county tax digests, the old land grants, etc. I have many more of such records in my notes, to be typed.

15. Church records are important sources of information, if they have been preserved. On my mother's side of the family, I have found several old church minutes that are indispensable to settling some doubtful questions or connecting links. On the Alford side, I ran into the old St Peter's Parish records that give us a good lead into Colonial times. I have a note in my data, also, that Lodwick Alford, and I assume he is the Lodwick mentioned here in my notes, was a Vestryman in his church in North Carolina. That was, of course, the Established Church of England (which was a semi-government institution before the Revolution and when we separated Church and State). That is one local source I want to investigate in North Carolina. We ought, I think, if we locate this old Church Register, get some invaluable facts about him and his family.

16. I have not included in this batch of typed notes, particular data about my brothers and sister, my parents (except to identify my father's parents), reserving this information for notes to be typed and added to this working book of notes. I have planned to wait and have these newer generations copied on my Forms 2 and 3, to avoid unnecessary typing for me (a job this is exhausting to me, in view of my handicap).

17. As you will understand as you read my comments

on several of the attached notes, I seem to be a "doubting Thomas", at two or three places. Lawyers often have the rug pulled from under them, so to speak, by relying too much upon what a client or witness assumes to be a fact; hence, we always want to check and recheck our facts. And that is true here, as this is just another form of practicing law, to me.

I would not have you blindly accept what I say or cast aside this tentative or probable conclusion about my notes and the facts stated therein.

Further investigation may lead me to another conclusion, after I finish my research, but I do want to pass on to several members of the family who are interested in the progress I have made. Let's be patient and sure of our steps. Personally, I don not want to be the father of any legend or tradition; we can't get the facts, if we are diligent.

Keeping in mind the reservations I have made, I am inclined believe that this is my line of ancestry (and yours where it fits into the line). There are other points, I may say, to support this theory, but until I can get to Hancock County and research all of my leads, I will not include them in this batch of notes.

(a) Guy Alford, son of Lorenzo Dow (Bud) Alford and Anna(Hart) Alford; b. Dec 15, 1890, at Buckhead, Morgan Co. Ga.

(b) Lorenzo Dow Alford, son of William and Susan (Bryant) Alford; b. July 30, 1857, Morgan Co. Ga.

(c) William ("Billie") Alford, son William (William B.?) Alford and Mary (Mason) Alford; b. Putnam Co. Ga., 1823; died, Garfield, Emanuel Co. Ga.; burried, Bethsaida Church Cemetery, near Dublin, Ga.

(d) William (William B.?) Alford, son of James (James W.,?) Alford and Lurena (Boykin) Alford; b. Wake County, N.C.; died, Putnam Co. Ga. 1882.

(e) James (James W.,?) Alford, son of Lodwick Alford and Rebecca (Ferrell, Terrell or Therrell) Alford; b. N. C. 1741; ~~1741~~; died, died, (N.C. or Ga./?), 1813.

(f) Lodwick Alford, son of ?? ; b. N.C., 1715; died, N.C. 1789.

(g) And beyond Lodwick, I believe a local research in N.C. and Va. will reveal something about misparentage.

I have set down question marks after each name seems to offer an apparent conflict. There may be no conflict, further research may reveal. I don't know, hence I am inclined to the side of cautionness. For instance, if "(d) William and William B. are not one and the same person, then my tentative theory falls flat; the same can be said as to (e) James and James W. If they are one and the same, both James W. and William B. must have dropped the use of an initial, for they did not sign their wills with an initial. If it were not for the projection of these initials, in each case, I would not be confused at all, for I see other factors that would get my tentative theory out of adjustment. I may say further that I am holding to another view, namely, that my research will finally show

that William and William B. are not one and the same person, and that James and James W. are different persons or that they abandoned their initials.

18. My foreword is rather lengthy, but I want to be on safe ground, to repeat. It is always a good rule to read an author's preface or foreword, I suggest.

19. And in this instance, you are dealing with a strictly private project. To get a better understanding of this tentative outline of a genealogy project, I suggest that you read the Index before reading the notes, to get a better picture of this raw and hastily put together group of notes.

20. After reading, I am hopeful that those who are so interested will be good enough to let me have their reactions and such facts as will help me to correct any known or apparent facts and to supply new facts or leads for me to pursue.

21. I have not had time to complete the index by indexing the ~~names~~ names other than Alford's.

22. One of the reasons for my rush in typing out these particular notes, now, is that my aunt, Mrs Martha Jane (Alford) Farthing, widow of late Reuben ^h Theodore Farthing and daughter of Wm and Susah (Bryant) Alford, will celebrate her 91st birthday Sunday, June 20, 1952. I plan to attend and discuss this projected genealogy with many who will attend this reunion.

23. At the outset, I intended to use only a page or so as the foreward, but, as I proceeded, I recalled that many have asked me questions and as they came to mind I have sought

keep this in sight as well as anticipating what others might want to know. I, therefore, converted this foreword into a sort of chain family chat.

24. Finally, I have noted that some of the carbon copies are dim. Carbon paper wears out quickly and I have tried to do the best I could under the circumstances. Later, we will have access to a more rounded and better edited genealogy. I can't make a promise as to its completion, since that depends upon quite a bit of travel, and my health will largely govern that point.

July 15, 1952

Guy Alford