

May 19, 1951

Mr Roy S. Alford,
P.O. Box 201,
Milledgeville, Ga.

Dear Roy:

After finishing at the clinic Thursday morning last, I went out to the State Department of Archives and History, on Peachtree Road, to browse around among the old records there and kill the balance of the day.

I was out there to run down some of the DAR records, for one thing. I did not finish what I had in mind, but I did run into a point or two that will, I think, clear up a point that had always confused or lead me into a dead end street. For the first time, I definitely found on the records that there were, undoubtedly, three William Alfords.

In manuscript form, and bound as a book, the DAR had compiled a list of the old wills of Hancock County, Georgia. And it is from the compilation of the Will of William Alford I got this information:

Recorded in Will Book 23, P. 286.

Date: 31 July 1822.

Probated: May 2, 1825.

Sons: Jacob Alford
John Alford
William Alford, Jr
Owen Alford

Daughters: Milly Reed
Jane Ellis
Martha Newsome
Elizabeth Driskill

Others: Micajah Middlebrooks
Joshua Grance
Alford Middlebrooks

Grandson: Cannon Grace

Granddaughter: Ann Vinson

Executors: Joel Newsome
Hardy Junigan

Witnesses: Henry Dortch
Levi Cobb
James Harshman

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In his will, we see he refers to his son as William, Jr. Pursuing my research a bit further, I find he uses the Senior on his 1802 Tax Return. From this 1802 Hancock County transcript of tax returns, I am giving you what I saw there:

Captain Tucker's District

William Alford, Sr.

Slaves 11

Land, 200 acres

Water course, Ogeechee

Whom Adjoining, Alford

To Whom Granted, Self.

Dollars and cents, 0.61 $\frac{1}{2}$

By way of parenthesis, I can't refrain from commenting about the amount of tax a man paid in that day, 150 years ago. And a dollar was so valuable that our forebears reckoned values in fractions of a cent. Times do change!

Now, in this same 1802 Hancock County compilations of tax returns, James Alford, the father of William, Sr., (Willie in the will of James, a copy of which I mailed you) I get these facts about our common ancestor:

Captain Slaughter's District:

James-Alford

Slaves, 19

Land, 1000 acres - Hancock County

Water course, Ogeechee

Whom Adjoining, Rogers

To whom granted, self.

Dollars and cents, 17.35 $\frac{1}{2}$

And on second transcript, immediately following above:

Land, 300 acres - Jackson County

Water Course, Coconee

Whom Adjoining, McDaniel

To whom granted, Aflin

Dollars and cents, 25.22

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As I have indicated, the missing link, to me, has been something to distinguish between William Sr. and William, Jr. William, Jr., I conclude, must be our common ancestor. He was the father of Jack, William, Greene and Caroline. Thus, your ancestor was Jack and mine was William. Uncle Greene, whom I knew in my youth, never married. I heard Aunt Caroline mentioned often, in my immediate family circles. At the moment, I do not recall enough about her to be sure; she married, I believe, a man named Avery, as I heard my father mention that name often.

My grandfather, I may add here and for the record, was called Billie by everyone who knew him. But he and my father and others said his name was William and his father was named William. My father also told me that he saw the Family Bible of William, Jr. in his youth and that it was in the possession of Avery (he called his first name but I just can't recall what I was. I do presume, for one reason, that he must have married Aunt Caroline.)

If I have not asked you this question in my former letter, I will do so again: Do you happen to know anything about this old family Bible?

I have heard this repeated many times and by my father and his brothers and sisters: His grand father, William, Jr, was an old man and too old to do service in the Confederate Army; that he remained at home and looked after the families and children left at home. At the close of the War, a party of mounted Federal Soldiers visited every home in their section. Grandpa, as my father refered to him, stood his ground; that these soldiers destroyed some property, made a lot of threats and otherwise tried to bluff him, thinking he was withholding information about his property. They insisted that he had some gold; that he had buried it. That, finally, they surrounded him, said they were going to blow him up, then to carry out their threat they poured a ring of powder around his feet, and repeated their threat. Unafriad and not to be intimidated, the old man said: "blow, blow, blow, damn you; it will blow you too."

I shall persist in my search. Thursday, in my browsing through the records mentioned, I got some other leads that will take more time to run down. I was certainly glad to run into this proof that there was a William, Sr and William Jr on the records.

So, to my listing of tentative information mailed to you a few days since, William, Jr. should be added as our immediate common ancestor. As soon as possible, I plan to visit, Putnam, Hancock and Warren Counties, among other places. I have a notion, too, to try to visit North Carolina, to determine, if possible, any leads that might give us the name or other forebears of Lodwick Alford.

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To record here another point that is on my mind: I believe with the uncovering of a William Sr and Jr. that William Alford, Dr. was also a Soldier of the Revolution, in North Carolina. I have several facts pointing to this conclusion. It has been established by Mrs U.S. Gunn that James Alford, his father, was a Soldier of the Revolution.

I must end this letter. I wanted to correct the information, tentative though it was, that I sent to you, hence this communication today.

I have just talked with your daughter, Mrs Howard, on the phone. She and her husband and son will drop around to see us one day before he graduates June 2.

And she also said you planned to be here June 2, so let me know your plans, to the end that we may get personally acquainted and swap experiences and information.

Anticipating the pleasure of meeting and know you and others in your family, I am,

Cordially yours,

Guy Alford