

Research Letters: From Jim Alford

The following letters were written by Jim Alford, AAFA #115 (14106 Pinerock, Houston, Texas 77079), in answer to some inquiries directed to him by Lynn Shelley, AAFA #484 (104 Lakeside Drive, Morgantown, WV 26505) and Dr. W. Dean Steward, AAFA #387 (Box 206 Sky Valley, Dillard, GA 30537). We're publishing them here because a good amount of research that is no doubt of interest to other members goes into these letters.

February 1, 1992

Dear Lynn,

Gil Alford in St. Louis forwarded your letter, Wick's letter, and his letter to me! I'm the "associate" Gil mentioned. Actually, I'm the Board member who is least content with the D.A.R.'s interpretation of Alford history!

I traveled to Troup County in March, 1989 and read the Administration records for the estate of Isham Alford and agree with your interpretation. In fact, I would say that you have confirmed what I already suspected! Where did you find the July 29, 1812 marriage information for Elijah Davidson and Alice/Ann Alford?

Historians and genealogists in the Troup County area have published several works about the early families in the area. You mentioned Forrest Clark Johnson III's work. Clark is a professor at the local junior college by day and County Historian by night. His original interpretation of the Alfords was hopeless and prompted my 1989 trip. He has promised a revision in the near future.

The administration of Isham's estate is abstracted in Estate Records of Troup County, Georgia. [Booklist entry: Allen, Randall A. and Danny Knight, comps.

ESTATE RECORDS OF TROUP COUNTY, GEORGIA 1827-1850. LaGrange, GA: Family Tree, 1987. Isham, 2 (inventory and sale 1833.) May 14, 1833 was the date Elijah Davidson reported back to the Court on the results of the Estate Sale.

A notice of the upcoming Estate Sale was published in the *Columbus Weekly Inquirer* October 27, 1832 by Elijah Davidson, Administrator. This information plus a wealth of other data on descendants of Isham Alford is found in *Old First District of Meriwether County, Georgia and Its People* by Gilbert and Daniel (1981). This is a local work dealing with families settled along the Flint River about 30 miles east of LaGrange in an area that once was part of Troup County. This book is in the Troup County Archives in LaGrange. [Editor's note to Jim: Why don't you send me copies so I can enter on the Booklist?]

Of particular interest, this book states that Brittain Alford was Isham's son and that Brittain moved to Meriwether County from Monroe County about 1829. Brittain had sons Brittain W. and Isham.

It further states that Brittain Alford's tombstone is inscribed "Son of Isham and Anna Alford". This source, plus the daughter's being named Anna F. Davidson (anyone want to bet the F. stood for Ferrell?—read on) certainly clarifies a lot for me. Oh, disregard the information about Lodwick Alfords, though. Lodwick Sr. never served in the NC Assembly—it was Lodwick Jr.—and Lodwick Jr. never lived in GA. (It was Lodwick Cade, grandson of Lodwick Sr.)

Not only was Elijah Davidson the Administrator of Isham's estate but, he and Brittain Alford were buyers at the estate sale! There was a Spier Alford

there too, but it is less certain if he was a son of Brittain or possibly Isham. There was an older Spier floating around in 1805 before Brittain's son was born. Among the possessions auctioned that day were three slaves: Peter, Bob and Happy. It would be interesting to see if the slaves' names could be connected with Davidson at a later date.

Gil made reference to my believing that Isham Alford was a son of Goodrich Alford.

Let me explain that theory:

1. Isham was born no later than July, 1753 and I would bet it was only a short time before then. We can assume this because he witnessed a Deed in July, 1754 and according to our legal experts he was required to be 21. In fact, Deed witnessing seemed to be a Rite of Passage and on their 21st birthdays, young men sought a Deed to witness.
2. Goodrich Alford, a brother of Lodowick Sr., died late in 1753. We only know for sure of some daughters he had years earlier. It stands to reason that he likely had more children and likely had sons. His wife was named Sarah.
3. Lodowick Sr. was Administrator of Goodrich's estate.
4. Lodowick Sr.'s third wife was named Sarah. The first reference to Sarah, wife of Lodowick, was in 1758, five years after Goodrich's death. My ancestor, Susannah Cade, was his second wife and died about 1750. My line is liberally sprinkled with Cades.
5. Lodowick Sr. likely raised Isham. We can infer this from close association with the known children.
6. Lodowick Sr. did not mention Isham

in his Will yet included children older and younger. The oldest one listed was Warren who was born about 1751. He was also Executor.

- 7. There are no other records proving that Isham was a son of Lodowick Sr.
- 8. The only other Alford family around was that of Julius Alford, a brother of Lodowick and Goodrich. He died in 1770 and his will excludes Isham, yet mentions children both older and younger.

The descendants of Isham frequently bear the name Ferrell. This has been attributed to Rebecca Ferrell, supposed third wife of Lodowick Alford Sr. There is simply no proof of this marriage. A much more likely explanation is that Isham was married to Ann(a) Ferrell, a daughter of John Ferrell. John Ferrell was a next door neighbor of Lodowick Alford Sr., and his Will lists daughters "Polly Alford", "Rebecker Alford" and "Ann Alford". Note that the first two daughters' names are nicknames or corruptions. Why couldn't Ann be a corruption of Anna? What about daughter Rebecker who was married to an Alford?

I have toyed with the idea that she might have been a wife of Lodwick Alford Jr. who lived a few miles away in Wake County, but that's another story for another time.

I'm going to enter your letter as a resource in my database. I've preached for a long time that there is a goldmine of genealogical data to be found by studying related lines.

Enclosed is a dump of my database records on Isham Alford and a copy of a pamphlet put out by the Troup County Historical Society detailing the good places to dig. They seem to be the center for research for the surrounding counties, too.

On the database listing is an 1820 Land

Lottery award to Isham Alford of Jasper County who drew land in Early County. I assigned this to the elder Isham since his grandson was about 14 years old. Since Alice/Ann/Anna Alfred married Elijah Davidson in Jasper County in 1812, it seems highly probable that this was the elder Isham.

Jim Alford
cc: Gil Alford
Wick Alford

ADDENDUM FOR GIL AND WICK:
James Alford was at least the third one to arrive in Georgia. I pulled this list:

William Alford and Drury Cade served together in a GA Continental Regiment of Horse, no dates given, presumed 1775-1781. Drury was a Captain and William a Private. Drury Cade appears to have been the one from Wake County, NC. Who was this William? How about another son of Goodrich or perhaps a son of the elusive James we can't pin down?

Archibald Offert bought 100 ac in Georgia in 1782. Which Baldy was this?

James Alford arrived in 1784.
Isham Alford arrived 1787-88.
Julius Alford arrived 1789.
John Alford arrived 1789.
William Alford arrived in 1789. Was this the same William returning?

March 20, 1992

Dear Lynn,

This letter has been in production over four weeks and day to day affairs have repeatedly prevented its completion! Now, Gil has sent copies of your letters to him and asked me to comment. He said something like we're birds of a feather.

Are you really a left-handed Capricorn with an obsession for detail and a passion for generating pages of speculative prose at a moment's notice? Do you

have tombstone rubbings and copies of ancient documents framed on your office walls? Do you routinely type at 5:00 am and leap tall buildings in a single bound?

Thank you for all the Alice/Ann/Anna Alford information! Brides aren't indexed in most of Maddox and Carter's work and I missed that one.

You jumped right on William Alford arriving in Georgia before James Alford. I had compiled this list earlier from my information:

William Alford and Drury Cade served together in a GA Continental Regiment of Horse, no dates given, (1775-76 seems reasonable). Drury was a Captain and William a Private. Drury Cade appears to have been the one from Wake and Franklin Counties, NC who was born about 1741. William was likely a son of either Lodwick, Goodrich, or the elusive James we can't pin down.

Archibald Offert bought 100 ac in Georgia in 1782. He was likely called "Baldy". I don't know whose son he was.

James Alford arrived from Wake County in 1784. I say that he is the James Lodwick Alford that Wick mentions in his book and that Major Tanner Alford was really his brother, Lodwick Jr. Isham Alford arrived from Franklin County in 1787-88.

Julius Alford arrived from Franklin County in 1789.
John Alford arrived from Wake or Franklin in 1789. I think he was the son of Julius who died in 1770.
Another William Alford arrived in 1789. He could have been the same William returning. Or he could have been a cousin of the first. We can't really identify either one.

Some Georgia Thoughts

On the subject of names: Yes, Jabez was an Alford name but, its owner lived a century earlier in coastal North Carolina and never married. I feel sure he was not

closely connected to our family line. Just to be safe I'm copying Gil with this letter because he may have additional information. Green and Spire/Spier are definitely from our branch.

I have harbored a theory for some time that the "B" boys in early Georgia, Brittain, Bynum, Burtis and Bias Alford, might have been sons of Isham and Anna. Your 1860 Louisiana Census record showing 5 year old Binum Baker in the home of Anna F. Davidson tends to support one of those names. I'm supposing that 39 year old Belinda Baker was a widowed daughter of Anna F. Davidson who brought her flock home to mom. That could probably be verified.

About counties: After 1830 the western reaches of Monroe County, Georgia were partitioned into Pike, Upson and Lamar Counties. Similarly the eastern half of Troup County became Meriwether County. There wasn't as much family movement as there was a moving of county boundaries around them. As a point of reference, it took 7-10 years to "cotton out" land and families remained in their homes as long as they had new land nearby to clear.

About age discrepancies in the Census: Women "adjusted" their ages between 30 and 60 years of age apparently because they feared that neighborhood biddies would peek at the census-taker's book or that the census-taker might gossip about them. They also "adjusted" their husband's ages to a lesser degree (No man was ever home when the census-taker came.) Anna F. Alford/Davidson was certainly no exception. In 1830 she was five years younger and in 1840 was ten years younger! By 1860 vanity was no longer a concern and she was in a new place so she "fessed up" to her true age.

About Alford Religion: The ones who lived in Greene County and later Troup County were Methodist. The early Georgia Methodists were quite charis-

matic and were led by a man named Lovic Pierce who is the purported namesake of my great great grandfather Lodwick Cade Pierce Alford. Early books say that they "got happy" and shouted a lot. Some of the Troup Countians switched to the Baptist Church in the 1850's. Those in Meriwether County (the Cove) were Baptist, I believe. They were all Protestant except for the few who emigrated to Texas before 1836. One requirement the Mexican government imposed there was conversion to Roman Catholicism.

About Rebecca Alford: You have an interesting thought about Rebecca Jackson Alford being the Greene County widow who drew for land lots in 1821 and 1827. The problem is that the June 1820 Census shows no Julius Alford Sr. household while the Julius Alford Jr. household has a male over 45, a male 27-45 and a female 27-45. We think that Rebecca had died and Julius Sr. was living in the household of Julius Jr. and his new wife. Julius Sr. stipulated in his Will that the house went to Junior after the death of Rebecca.

About Passports, Indians and Georgia Territorial Claims: Let me add two cents worth of semi-accurate observations. I don't think Georgia ever seriously claimed territory to the Mississippi River. Spanish Florida did since they could patrol the Gulf coast. Georgia instead signed a series of treaties with the Indians defining specific boundaries that crept westward to the present state line by 1826. Before 1803, passports were issued into Indian Territory. After 1803, passports were issued through Indian Territory to Louisiana.

Miscellaneous

About Alford participation in the Revolutionary War: Almost all my data is on the sons and near-sons of Lodwick Alford Sr. Lodwick Jr. rose to Major of Militia; Jacob, James, Julius and Warren to Captains of Militia. Julius was later a Captain of the Continental Line. William

served in the Continental Line until 1778 and then as a Provisioner under the district Quartermaster. He may too have been an Officer. The remainder were rank and file.

Speaking of Julius, I'll take you up on one of those genealogical inquiries! Especially the Middle Tennessee. See if you can drum up proof that Captain Julius Alford of Bute/Franklin County, NC, sold middle Tennessee bounty grants to someone else. Original land grant certificates should have been endorsed and transferred by the recipient thus leaving a paper trail in Tennessee Courthouses. Julius was a known son of Lodwick Alford Sr. and was just a few years older than Isham. They were either brothers, half brothers, step-brothers or first cousins. Our challenge is to prove that: (1) Julius served for an extended period as a Continental Line Captain (for Society of The Cincinnati eligibility) and (2) that he is the one who emigrated to Georgia about 1789. . . .

About Ferrells: John Ferrell had both a wife and daughter named Rebecca. He apparently never left NC after settling there about 1739. You apparently read the published genealogy mentioning William Ferrell from Ireland. I don't think the author knew of John Ferrell or he would have realized that his William Ferrell was a mighty close relative! John's will dated 1786 in Franklin County, NC mentions sons Bryant, John and William Ferrell and a slew of daughters including Polly Alford, Rebecca Alford and Ann Alford. Ansel Ferrell was probably an older son not mentioned in the will. Ansel was a Bailey name and may indicate that Rebecca the wife was a granddaughter of Ansel Bailey.

John Ferrell (ca1710-ca1787) and Lodwick Alford Sr. (ca1710-1801) very likely grew up together in New Kent Co., VA and moved to NC in 1739. John was probably a son of Daniel and Elizabeth Ferrell who are mentioned in the St. Peters Parish records in New Kent

County. Daniel in turn was probably a son of Bryan and Elizabeth Ferrell who had been in Virginia since the 1660s. Oh, the William Ferrell featured in the book was an "Irish Quaker" who supposedly lived in South Carolina and later Virginia. He was never in North Carolina or Georgia. It all sounds far-fetched to me.

You mentioned Ansel Ferrell having a son named Ludes. Could that name have been Ludy? Ludy was a nickname for Lodwick.

More later!

Jim Alford
cc: Gil Alford

June 8, 1992

Dear Dr. Steward,

Your letter finally surfaced in my reply stack! If I had anticipated this Spring's "workload" I might have run for the hills and gone fishing! However, genealogy is fun and Bynum Alford has turned out to be an interesting chap to trace. Earlier this year I had boldly written the following passage to Lynn Shelley:

"I have harbored a theory for some time that the "B" boys in early Georgia, Brittain, Bynum, Burtis and Bias Alford might have been sons of Isham and Anna. Your 1860 Louisiana Census record showing 5 year old Binum Baker in the home of Anna F. Davidson tends to support one of those names."

Now, I have to regroup and introduce a new possibility for Bynum. In developing evidence that he might be a son of Isham Alford, I discovered a better connection to Baldy (Archibald) Alford! Nothing is definite and it simply calls for more research.

This is a hurried letter and to save time I have omitted identifying those references that are commonly found in published

abstracts.

About Morgan County:

Morgan County was formed between Greene County and Jasper County from Creek Indian tribal lands in 1805. Like Jasper, the area was originally a portion of Baldwin County and was distributed in the 1805 and 1807 Land Lotteries. Morgan appears to be in original land districts 3, 4, 15, 19 and 20, while Jasper lies in districts 12 through 16. I'm basing this on an examination of a faded copy of Hall's Original County Map of Georgia plus published works on the 1805 Georgia Land Lottery and the 1807 Georgia Land Lottery. What is worth noting is that no Alfords won land in Morgan County.

About Bynum Alford:

My database is growing monthly but contains surprisingly little on Bynum/Binum/Byans/Byron/Bryan Alford at this time. I mention the Byans, Byron and Bryan variants because different abstractors have translated the same records with considerable diversity. This is what I presently have that may be of interest:

Bynum Alford did not enter the 1805 Land Lottery.
Bynum Alford was not drawn in the 1807 Land Lottery.
Bynum Alford does not appear on the 1810 Morgan County tax roll.
Bynum Alford was a Private in Alexander's Battalion of Riflemen in the War of 1812.
Byron Alford married Lucy Harvey Mar. 11, 1813 in Morgan County.
Byans Alford married Suckey Harvey Mar. 11, 1813 in Morgan County.
Byron Alford married Nancy Thompson Apr. 23, 1814 in Morgan County.
Bynum Alford married Nancy Thompson Feb. 27, 1814 in Morgan County.
Bynum Alford bought land in neighboring Jasper County in 1819.
Bynum Alford was 26-45 years old in

the 1820 Census.

Bynum Alford was 50-59 years old in the 1840 Census.

Bynum Alford's estate probated Jan. 12, 1852 in DeKalb County.

Bynum Alford died intestate, Elijah Stewart, Administrator Jan 12, 1852 in DeKalb County.

About Other Alfords in Morgan County:

The 1810 Morgan County tax roll shows only two Alfords, Baldy and Robert. Here are the meager records I have recorded about them:

Archibald Offert bought 100 acres on the Kiokas River in 1782.

Robert Alford married _____ Mason Dec. 23, 1806 in Hancock County.

Tying It Together:

This is the part I love because you can take scattered facts and spin the best tales from them. However, don't quote my "interpretation" as fact! There are already too many half-cocked theories being passed off as gospel today!

Bynum was born in 1790 or just a little earlier. Archibald was possibly his father and Robert his brother. He was unmarried, landless and living in one of their homes in 1810. His first wife was possibly a widow with two sons (see older children in the 1820 Census) who promptly died and left him with a ready-made family to raise. That's why he remarried so quickly. (Liberated women today decry the role, but survival then dictated a large family and prompt replacement of the woman in the home.) He was a younger son and basically was out of the inheritance picture. He had a choice of striking out on his own or sharecropping with his daddy and brother until he had saved enough to buy his own farm. Looks like he sharecropped until 1819 when he bought

nearby land in Jasper County. Poor guy never did get lucky in the many land lotteries and had to slug it out through life.

That's it! I'm copying Gil Alford of St. Louis because he has the largest database around and may have more information. I'm returning your SASE so you can reuse it for some, as our Chairman of the Board says, "money-grubbing person who does genealogy for pay."

If I dig up any more data in the future, I'll send you a copy. If you run across anything, especially data that ties Alford's to related lines, send me a copy.

More later!

Jim Alford

P. S. I just received a lengthy letter from Lynn Shelley! I'm copying her with this letter too, since it covers some of her questions. She indicated you are already a member of AAFA so I won't enclose an application. Good luck digging out more Bynum data and watch the traffic in DeKalb County! ♦

Are You Missing Pages?

Margaret Windham, AAFA #31 from Albuquerque, NM, wrote to say she was missing page 14 of her September 1992 AAFA ACTION. If you are missing that page, or if any other irregularity appears in an issue you receive, write a note to Publications Director Pam Thompson; she'll print what you need and mail it. If the problem is really bad, we'll send you a new copy of the issue. We like to know about such printing problems because we need to inform the printers. A few issues back some pages were out of order in the copies Gil and Pam got, but we don't know how many more were bad because no one wrote about it!

Halfords in England

By Executive Director Gil Alford

AAFA does not consider HALFORD to be an off shoot of the ALFORD family. While both the HALFORDs and ALFORDs might have found their origin in England, we have no evidence to suggest that the families were related.

We decided to include the HALFORDS as part of our genealogical effort because of the many occasions where official records keepers, census enumerators, or maybe just illiterate Halfords or Alford's, corrupted one name or the other resulting in both names being used interchangeably for the same family. We do not want to take a chance on missing a person who was really named Alford but recorded as Halford. The only apparent option seemed to be including them both in our work.

The following was extracted from page 559 of an unidentified book that obviously described early English lineages.

HALFORD, OF PADDOCK HOUSE
HALFORD, RICHARD, esq of Paddock House, in Kent, b. in 1766, m. first, Sarah, daughter of Robert Tournay BARGRAVE, esq. of Eastry Court, and had by her an only son, Robert Bargrave, who d. at the age of twenty.

Mr. Halford wedded, secondly, Charlotte, relict of George DENNE, esq. late of Chislett Court, in the same county, but has no issue.

The Halfords of Kent derive either from the son or brother of Sir Richard Halford, the first baronet of Wistow, but, owing to the loss of some family documents at the time of the revolution, the precise fact cannot now be ascertained. The house of Halford, one of great antiquity, was originally seated in Warwickshire, at a place called Halford, where the branch of the family continued to reside until a century and a half ago.

Dugdale, in his history of that county, mentions, a ROBERT de HALFORD, of Halford, who held half a knight's fee under the Earl of Warwick, temp. HENRY III. The senior branch, the Halfords, of Wistow, maintained for several generations a leading position in the county of Leicester, until the decease of SIR CHARLES HALFORD, in 1780, when Wistow passed, under his will to his widow, who bequeathed the estate to her nephew, Dr. Vaughan who was subsequently created a Baronet, and assuming in 1815 the surname of Halford, is the present SIR HENRY HALFORD.

RICHARD HALFORD, esq. son of the Rev RICHARD HALFORD, who held the living of Lyminge, in Kent, a scion of the Wistow family, married Mary CREED, niece of Sir James Creed, M.P. for the city of Canterbury, about the year 1760, and left, with two daughters, Mary and Sarah, a son, RICHARD HALFORD, esq. of Canterbury, who wedded in 1775, Elizabeth, only daughter of Thomas STAINES, esq. grandfather of Sir Thomas Staines, K.C.B. of the Isle of Thanet, and had issue, RICHARD, his heir, GEORGE, major in the 59th regiment of infantry, who distinguished himself in several engagements, and was abroad under the Duke of Wellington, in all his campaigns, until sent to join the first battalion of the regiment at Calcutta, where he d. unmarried in 1826.

Mr. Halford was succeeded by his elder son, the present RICHARD HALFORD, esq. of Paddock.

Arms Arg. a greyhound passant sa. on a chief az. three fleurs-de-lis or.

Crest A demi greyhound, sa. collared or.

Motto Virtus in actione consistit.

Estates Wingmore Court and Alkham, in Kent.

Seat The Paddock House, near Canterbury. ♦