

Guy Alford, Part 7: Lodwick Alford's Will

Compiled from Guy Alford's work by Gil Alford, AAFA Executive Director. [see "Guy Alford," p. 30, AAFA ACTION March 1991 for background on Guy Alford.]

In the last issue we published through page 40 in Guy's workbook, but we are going to deviate from the practice of following page by page. Pages 41-41e are extracts from the St. Peter's Parish, New Kent County, VA Register and Vestry Book. We will not reprint this data because it is already in AAFA computer files and is planned for publication as part of another series in the next few months.

Pages 42-42d (which contain two pages numbered 42a and two numbered 42d) in Guy's workbook deal with the will of LODWICK ALFORD. Guy identified his source as a copy in the possession of Mrs. Uley S. Gunn (née Olive Alford). Guy writes on the second page 42a: "I am copying a copy of the Last Will and Testament of Lodwick Alford, borrowed from Mrs Uley S Gunn of Crawfordsville, Ga. In so doing, she emphasized to me that it was not an officially certified copy but one she obtained by a lady for a fee."

We are going to deviate again in that instead of printing a transcription of Guy Alford's workbook pages on which he copied the will, we will substitute a verbatim transcription of our copy, which was acquired from the NC State Archives by BILL MITCHINER AAFA #10. He gave a copy to CHRISTIE ALFORD BALDWIN AAFA #6, who gave a copy to AAFA. We should have published it long ago. It is identified as "N.C. Archives, Franklin County Wills, #CR039.801.1" It was certified as a true copy October 24, 1804 by the County Clerk of Franklin County. He further certified that the probate entry was made on the minutes of September Session (court) 1801. Keep in mind, however, that the original will that Lodwick wrote or dictated was copied by a clerk and could easily contain errors and omissions. It is a photocopy of this handwritten clerk's copy that we have.

Part of the confusion we have with the Lodwick Alfords is from the several will versions. Since AAFA does not have a copy of Mrs. Gunn's version, we can't determine whether the transcription that Guy made is accurately copied. We do know that his transcription differs from our handwritten copy in spelling and in a few key words. (None of this should be construed as criticism of Guy Alford's work. Keep in mind that his research was done about 1951 and that was twenty years before the work done by the late Mrs. Tressie Bowman and the late Lucy Shull Stevens as well as Hugh Edwin Alford. He was 30-40 years ahead of many of us in our research.)

The introductory abstract in italics below is from Guy's papers.

Page 42

Alford, Lodwick (born 1715), Will of

Dated: June 1, 1792

Probated: Franklin Co., N.C., Recorded Will Bk B, pages 82-83

Witnesses: Allen Jones, Sarah Jones, Werrendy Metton [probably Melton]

Executors: Robert Metton, Warren Alford (son)

Legatees: Winny Rogers, daughter

Mary Alford, daughter

Baley Alford, grandson

Sussanna Hobbs, daughter

Wiley Alford, grandson

[names above are not necessarily as spelled in will]

Page 42a (first)

Anselm Alford, son

Samuel Alford, son

Kinchen Alford, son

Lany Freeman, daughter

Susannah Freeman, daughter

Sarah Cloe, daughter

Goodrich Alford, son

[Lany, Susannah, and Sarah are NOT named as daughters in will, and "Cloe" is clearly "Cole"]

Additional facts used by Mrs. Gunn in her DAR membership application:

Lodwick Alford born 1715 in North Carolina and died 1789 in North Carolina.

Lodwick Alford married Rebecca Ferrell or Therell?

James and Julius Alford, who settled in Georgia, were also sons of Lodwick Alford.

Regarding the "Additional facts": There is no proof on the birth or death date of Lodwick. He was probably born before 1715, and how could Mrs. Gunn say he died in 1789 when his will was written in 1792? And why didn't Guy comment on this? Also, Lodwick was born in Virginia, which may not have been known in 1951, and there is not a single bit of evidence to support a Ferrell marriage.

In the transcript that follows we have tried to be as faithful as possible to the spelling, punctuation, and capitalization in the copy. Speaking of "copy"—this copy has to represent what the transcriber thought he saw in the original. It may or may not be exactly as the original.

LODWICK ALFORD'S WILL

In the name of God, Amen. I Lodwick Alford Senr being sickly & weak, but in perfect mind & memory, my Soul to God I freely give, and my Body to some silant grave to be buried at the discretion of my Executors, & what is please the Almighty God to bless me with on this Earth I give as follows after death—

Item I give unto daughter Winney Rogers one Negroe nown by the name of Charles to her & her Heirs forever

Item I lend unto daughter Mary Alford one negro girl nown by the name of Dafna, as also my old mill Land on the Cypress Creek joining Robert Butler & others during her Natril life, and after her death my will and desire is that her son Baly Alford should have it, to him & his Heirs forever, and also my Will and desire is that the said Negroe and all her increase be equally divided amongst all said daughters Children after her death, to them and their Ears forever.

Item I give daughter Susanah Hobbs one Negroe garl nown by the name of Appica to her and her Ears forever, and my Will and desire is that the two first Children the said negroe brings that lives that said daughters Olds son Wyley Alford should have them and all the stock of cattle James Porch now has on stock to him & his Ears forever, as also I lend my said daughter Susanah one Negroe Woman nown by the name of Hanner during her natril life, and after her death my Will and desire is that the Said Negroe nown by the name of Hanner may be set free

Item I Give unto my son Anslem Alford One Hundred Acres of Land joining to John Alford, and one Negroe Woman nown by the name of Nan, and One large still to him & his ears forever

Item I give unto my son Samuel Alford all the Land on the North Side of Tarr River Joining lines between the Cypress Creek and River, with One Feather Bed & firture and one breeding Mare and three Cows & Calves to him & his ears forever

Item I give unto Son Kinchen Alford all the rest of my Land on the South Side Tarr River joining Anslem Alford, and One Negroe named Jack to him & his Ears forever

Item I Give unto Lany Freeman two Cows & Calves to her & her ears forever

Item I Give unto Susannah [handwriting not clear—could be Sussanah] Freeman one Cow & Calf to her & her Ears forever

Item I Give unto Sarah Cole One feather Bed to her & her ears forever

Item I Give unto my Son Goodrich Alford One Certin Track or parcel of Land joining Hickman Williams's lying on the Waters of Crooked Creek to him & his ears forever, as also my

Will and desire is that all the rest of my Estate be Sold and the money arising thereof to be equally divided amongst Lamuel Alford, Kinchen Alford, daughter Mary Alford Susannah Hobbs & Lany Freeman

I do nominate and appoint Robert Melton and my son Warren Alford Extrs of this my last Will and Testament & Trustees for my Children, in Witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand & Seal this 21st day of June 1792.

Witness by us

Allen Jones - Jurat	Lodk Alford (Seal)
Sarah Jones Jurat	Franklin County September Session 1801
(by mark)	The foregoing will was proved in open
Merendy Melton	court by the oaths of Allen Jones & Sarah
(by mark)	Jones and on motion ordered to be Recorded

EDITOR'S COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

(many probably asked before!):

1. Although the L in Lamuel is clearly not an S in the Goodrich "Item," and the S in Samuel is clearly not an L in the Samuel "Item," could the clerk have miscopied the original on one of these? Guy Alford's transcription has it as "Samuel" in both places.
2. Why is Warren named only as Executor?
3. Rarely are children listed randomly in wills. Traditionally, they are listed in order of birth, or sons in order of birth followed by daughters in order of birth. Since Lodwick clearly did not do the latter, why would he insert three females, with no relation given, between all his other children and his son Goodrich? Were they grandchildren, children of deceased daughters born between Kinchen and Goodrich? I've seen this exact situation in another will of someone with many children, some of whom had died. Has anyone researched the area for Freemans or Coles?
4. Why does Lodwick include Lany Freeman in the division of "all the rest of my Estate"? This whole section is puzzling, with the issue of Lamuel, the inclusion of Lany, and the fact that the only relationship called out is the word "daughter" before Mary. I wish we could have seen the original.
5. In the June 1990 issue of *AAFA ACTION*, p. 49, we published a list of Lodwick Alford's Verified and Unverified Children, compiled by Jim Alford, AAFA #115. This list shows Lamuel but not Samuel. Jim also lists Sarah Cloe (unverified). Since both of these are attributed to Lodwick's will, I'm curious to know which will version Jim was using!
6. Jim Alford's list also names the following as verified children, although they were not mentioned in Lodwick's will: William, Elizabeth, Jacob, James, Lodwick Jr., and Julius. The first three are proved by parish records, and the last three by tax roll, according to Jim. ♦