

18 June 1996
5518 Revere Drive
Salt Lake City, Utah
84117

Lt. Scott Kirk
1907 Oakshire,
San Antonio, Texas, 78232

Dear Lt. Kirk:

Thank you so much for the lovely post card received recently from you with your wedding picture in color on it. Thank you for sending me one of these cards. You looked very nice in that kilt and your wife is beautiful. That was very special that you were married in Scotland and in traditional attire. Let me wish you and your lovely wife every happiness in your marriage and life together.

Also I wish to acknowledge receipt of your latest funds dated 5/28/1996 for \$50.00, thank you. It was received with our end of month bank statement and this time was covered as stated to you as part of my last report.

My jury duty was cancelled the week before I was scheduled to appear in court the following Monday. However, I was also informed I may be re-scheduled for a later session before the summer is over. I will therefore proceed with any plans I have with client's on the assumption that unless notified I will not be going in to serve. However, I have been requested during the summer to serve extra hours at the family History Library at the U. S. and Canada reference area counters because some of other volunteers are ill and they are short handed.

It is my pleasure working with you on your family lines and I will sometime this month put in some additional time for you before breaking in July for some additional vacation time.

In the meantime I browsed the shelved indexes for books regarding some of your new family names that I have uncovered to see if additional clues might be found on these lines. One book Antecedents and Descendants of James Lodwick Alford, 1749-1820 compiled by Lodwick Houston Alford (book no. 929.273A128Aj) indicated earliest emigrant to south one James Alford of St. Peters Parish, New Kent county, Virginia. There was no data showing any Arkansas descendants in that book. Should I eventually trace your line back to Virginia, then will review that reference again.

Your Virginia Lee Billingsley, who married George W. Brazel, had parents, Jesse Granville Billingsley and Julia Ann (July Ann) Alford. Jesse and Julia Ann married 14 Oct 1860 in Sevier county, Ark. She was reported in census of 1880 to have been born in Ark.

In the 1880 census Juliann (July Ann, Julia Ann) reported that she was born in Ark., her father born in Tenn. and her mother in Ark. She was born about 1842/3 (from her age in three census years from 1860 through 1880.) Therefore, I had started previously to checking censuses in 1850 in Ark. in the hopes of finding her with her parents in that census

I rechecked the index to 1850 census for Ark. and looked up some additional counties cited with Alford names that I hadn't had time to check previously. I am happy to report in the 1850 census of Bradley county, Ark. on film 002479 on page 112 in Hurrigan twp. I located the following and enclose for your records a copy of original filmed copy of the original census:

Hugh B. Woolridge age 28, farmer born Ark.
Cynthia " " 28, born Ark.
Bradley Price age 8 born Ark.
Julia A. Alford age 7 born Ark.
Hugh Woolridge age 1 born Ark.

This Julia A. could well be your ancestor, additional checking will help us to determine that. I then checked the index to 1840 census by McLane and Cline (976.7X22m) looking for Alford names in that area but didn't find one in that county cited. Robert Alford and John Brazel cited in Pulaski county. William Alford cited in Conway county. In Saline county Moses Brazel Jr., Moses Brazel Sr., R. Brazel, Richard Brazel Jr., Richard Brazel Sr., Robert Brazel. In Benton county S. and W. Brazel. In Union county Gordon and Hensly Brazzell. In Hampstead county S. B. Marsh. In Wash. county Robert Marsh. In Franklin county Edwin Marsh. In Jackson county Noah Marsh.

Index 1830 census Ark. by Mrs. Leister Presley (976.7X2p) checked for Marsh and Alford names. Pg. 2 in Conway county one John Alford, a young man 20/30 and wife same age, no children. I read all Sevier county abstracts of original census and found no family names. Read all of Miller and Hempstead counties, no family names. Little River county was not organized as a county at this time. In St. Francis county pg. 3, there was a Richard G. Marsh, 50/60 and wife about same age. They had children - two males 20/30; 1 male 15/20; 1 male and 1 female 10/15; nad one female 5/10.

Since I had found a Julia A. Alford in the 1850 census in Bradley county, Ark. I checked the 1860 census for see if she would still be there and she wasn't. Noted Woolridge families and looked them up and she wasn't there. (1860 census Bradley county, Ark., 803038)

Next checked a book, Ark. Land Patents Bradley county, Ark., published by Ark. Research, book no 976.763R22a and prepared by Allen and McLane. No Alford or Marsh names at all. This was disappointing.

Civil war Soldiers of Bradley county, Ark. compiler Beverly Jann Woodard, book number 976.763M2w, pg. 129 9th Ark. Infantry composed of people from Union, Bradley and Drew counties, nothing. Pg. 2 enlisted in company A., Ripley's Texas infantry(?), T. B. Alford. Wife, Emily. He died 26 June 1900.

Checked library catalog for Bradley county, Ark. early marriages and found there were none before 1856 which was disappointing.

In case another Alford Family would also have a possible Julia A. in about right age I looked up some other Alford families in early census in Ark. In Hempstead county in 1860 (Borders Sevier county) on film 803,042, pg. 836 there was a Green Alford age 34 born in Kentucky with no other family listed with him.

I next did the 1850 census for Pike county, Ark. on film 002483 for Alford families from statewide 1850 census index. Pg. 185 M. E. Alford, 34, farmer born Alabama and family. Next door D. W. Alford age 26 born Ala. and family. Pf. 188 listed with Joseph McMenas 29 born Tenn. and wife Nancy 29 born Ala., with children was older couple David Alford 65 born Va. and wife Polly 60 born S. Car. No families with a daughter named July A., Julia, etc. I then looked up original 1860 census for Pike county on film 803,347. Looked up all Alford families. None fit our requirements.

Also looked up 1860 census Polk county, Ark. on film 803,048. Pg. 595 C. H. Alford 47, merchant born in North Carolina, wife Mary 39 born Ala. and children. Pg. 648 Guthrie Alford 35, born Ga., wife Martha 34 born Ark and children.

Since I had previously found some Alford references in Union county, Ark. census did some other checking on other types of records for that county since it bordered Bradley county where the Julia A. Alford about right age in 1850 census was listed and whose reference from original census I have enclosed.

Union county, ark. marriage bonds and ministers returns compiler Annie Laurie Spencer, book no. 976.761V25s pg. 2
Christefer Alford Tabitha Jester marr 30 Dec 1858
S. L. Alfred(their spelling) Miss Martha Teague 28 Jan 1857
pg. 82
E. D. Marth age 20, Susan Brock age 15, marr. at Lewis Brack's home Union county, 31 May 1854.

Ark. Land Patents, Union county, book no. 976.761R22a
pg. 16 John H. Alford 1 Sep 1860 Doc #10993, NW SE section 27, twp 19 s, range 15 w.
pg. 17 William Alford 1 Sep 1860 NESW section 14 twp 18 S, range 15
pg. 80 Edmond D. Marsh 1 July 1859, NNW section 19, twp 18 south, range 14 west.

I need to check now with this new clue about a Julia A. living with a Woolridge family to see if his wife had been married previously to a Price or Alford, or if children are orphans? Since there is some records destructions of earliest records I may not be able to prove for certain but will certainly try. Will also check for that family of Woolridge's in 1860 census index and see where they are then since they are not in Bradley county in 1860. If they are in Sevier county that would be signifigent and helpful to our circumstantial case.

Since you requested no gifts I will consider this additional report at this time as my wedding gift to you, for no additional charge. I hope that this new clue will net us some additional data on the Alford line for my next search.

In the meantime I have been following threads on the Peele and Kirk lines in North Carolina counties mentioned from references in the Kirk book or materials in Georgia references found to date. When I have all of those references completed will report on my complete findings there. Also have some wills in South Carolina to look up that I have written down films numbers to check.

In reviewing some books of abstracts from the court records for Halifax county, North Carolina I have found some threads which sound like members of older families that might be related to your last known Stephen Kirk and his wife, Anna.

The Deeds of Halifax county, N. Car. 1758-1771, volume one
book no. 975.648R2b #777 deed bk. 8
Thomas Tucker of Halifax county sells to Lewis Kirk,
4 Jan 1764, 220 acres on Great Creek
#1303 Deed bk 10 Lewis Kirk of Halifax sells to John
Cartright of Granville county, Jan 1768, 220 acres joining
Great Creek, signed Lewis and Sarah Kirk. She relinquishes
her dower rights to land.(1/3)
#1614 deed bk 11
William Pike and Elizabeth sell to Isaac Kirk, 20 Dec 1770,
200 acres joining Rocky Swamp. signed William and Elizabeth Pike.

Halifax county, N. Car. marriage bonds compiled by Utah Gen. Society
book no. 975.648V25h
No Kirk male marriages
pg. 25 Elijah Braswell marr Lucy Firs 30 Sep 1817.
bondsmen William Furs.

Halifax county, N. Carolina, abstract of Wills, Halifax county, N. Car.
1758-1824 compiler Margaret Hofmann, bk. no. 975.648F2h
No Kirk probates
pg. 105 Samuel Smith will dated 1 Mar 1797 pr Aug court 1797
executors son, Thomas, Benjamin Doles, Isaac Kirk
children cited, none married to a Kirk.
pg. 110 Thomas Smith will dated 9 May 1794 pr. Nov 1798
Wife Rebecca; children names, none married to a Kirk.
witnesses J. Kirk, John Saxon, Henry Saxon
pg. 95/6 James Qualls will dated 23 Nov 1794 pr Feb ct. 1795
wife Milla, son Alfred
executors Isaac Kirk, Benjamin Doles
Several wills naming Braswell's as married daughters in this book
pg. 103 Hermon Strickland will dated 13 Sep 1795, among children
names a Mary Braswell
pg. 69 Peter Bruce sr., will dated 4 Jan 1760 pr Mar ct. 1762,
wife Mary. Among children Sarah Brasswell

Northampton county, N. Car. deed abstracts compiler Dr. Stephen
E. Bradley Jr., bk. no. 975.649R28b, vol 1 1759-1774
Well indexed no Kirk names; Many Brassell, Braswell names
Many Peal, Peele, Paells names in this index
pg. 377 Hosea Newsom of Northampton county sells to Robert Peele
Jr. 18 Dec 1762, 136 acres, land from his father, Joel Newsom, dec'd.
Part of two patents, one to William Braswell and another to James
Douglass. Witnesses Arthur Bryant, Robt Peelle, Christopher Peele,
Feb court 1763
pg. 62 William Whitfield and wife, Memina to John Lawrence 12 Sep 1769
land on Licking Root branch joining Benjamin Braswell, Ephriam Daniel
and Thomas Horn, adjoining Earl of Granville's land. Other land reference
to a Benjamin Braswell in 1769, 1772.
Vol 2. of this series of Northampton abstracts pg. #909
Stephen Kirk of Orange county sells to Daniel House of Northampton
2 Nov 1785. Selling a negro woman, Pat.

This Stephen Kirk is too old to be yours but could be a possible relative
in next generation, father or uncle, cousin etc.?

I have original filmed records for the counties in North Carolina of Halifax, Northampton and Orange counties to complete before I can tell you what my final findings about these threads will be and then coupling the South Carolina probates and the Georgia, Ala. and Ark. research.

Once again thank you for your thoughtfulness in sending me the picture and news of your wedding. When I complete the rest of these threads will then take some time off for the summer to complete some needed repairs and work about my house while the weather allows before the cold and blow returns again.

Sincerely yours,



Mrs. Lola Sorensen/AG

encl/1 filmed page of 1850 census original Bradley county, Ark. county map Ark. showing counties where Alford families located to date. Note where Bradley county is in relation to Sevier and Little River counties.

lls/AG