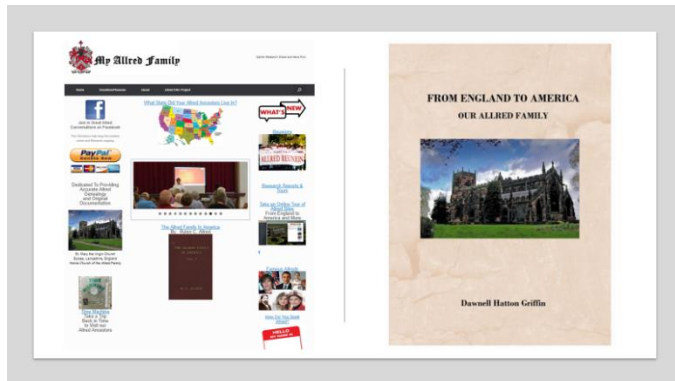


2019 Reunion Presentation

By: Linda Allred Cooper



I began researching the Allred family around 25 years ago. My goal has always been to find accurate and documented information. After all, if it can't be documented, it is only a Good Story that MAY or MAY NOT be true. As my skills grew and as technology improved, I began posting my genealogy collection online. My current website is MyAllredFamily.com<sup>1</sup> I also highly recommend Dawnell Griffin's book *From*

*England to America, Our Allred Family.*<sup>2</sup> Both contain documented information about our Allred family.

Over the years, I have heard many stories about how the Allred family and its name originated. One of my Uncles told me the family and name originated with an American Revolution soldier who was found badly wounded on a battlefield. He was the only survivor from his Unit, had amnesia and couldn't remember his name. Since no one knew his name, and he had been covered with blood when found, red blood, he became known as All Red. Following the war, he married and fathered several children and the Allred family was created.



Another story, perhaps my favorite story, came to me about 20 years ago when my phone rang. The caller was a very elderly lady from Oklahoma. I could tell she was very elderly from the sound of her voice. She had called to "straighten me out"! She was "sick and tired" of reading my articles and reports about how the Allred family descended from ancestors in Pennsylvania and England. That simply WAS NOT TRUE and she wanted to make sure I heard the truth! Now, I don't know how many of you have ever been in a discussion or disagreement with a little old lady, but if you have, you already know you've lost the battle before it ever began. You are wasting your time trying to change her mind.

She continued by explaining that her grandmother, "God Rest Her Soul", had told her the TRUE story of how the Allred family came to be. Once upon a time, maybe the mid 1800's, a white family had found a little orphaned Indian boy. This little boy had no idea what happened to his parents and had nowhere to go, so the white family "took him to raise". But they could not pronounce his Indian name. Since all Indians have Red Skin, they decided to name him All Red.

---

<sup>1</sup> www.MyAllredFamily.com

<sup>2</sup> Dawnell's book is available for sale at <https://exemplarpress.com/products/from-england-to-america-our-allred-family>

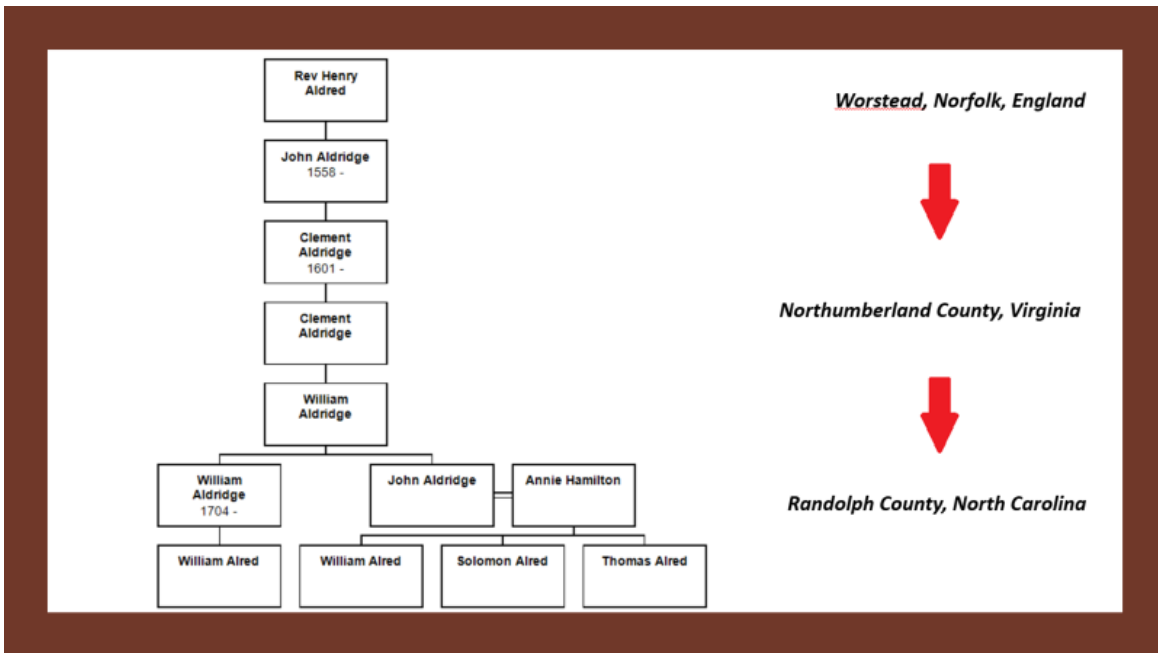
Eventually little All Red grew up, married, fathered children and that is how the Allred family came to be.

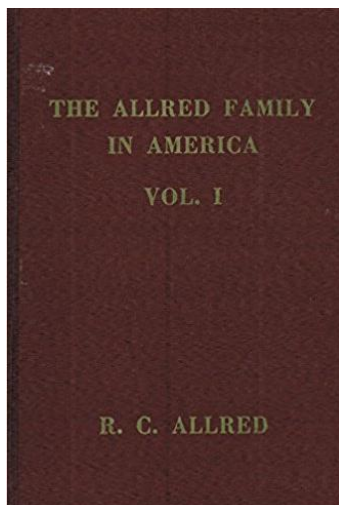
“That’s a wonderful story” I replied, “And I’m sure there is some truth there somewhere. Maybe a family really did adopt an Indian orphan. But we have found court records, land records, church records, wills, etc. that document the family descends from ancestors in England.” There was silence. A long silence. Then I could hear her take a deep breath....and she said “Are you calling my grandmother a liar?” “NO!! NO MAM!! I would never call your grandmother a liar!!! But....” She cut me off and, as the expression goes, *Chewed Me Up and Spit Me Out!* By the time she got through, I was agreeing to everything she said and begging for forgiveness!! And I waited a very long time before telling that story, living in fear that she would find me and beat me with her walking stick if she ever heard me disagree with her or her grandmother.



I feel part of the confusion about where our family originated comes from the wide variety of ways our surname is spelled. Some examples are Allred, Alred, Alrid, Aldred, Alread, Allread, Aldred, Aldread, Aldridge, Aldridge, Aldredge, Alldridge, Alldredge, Arledge, Ardredge, Eldridge, Eldred, Elrod, Elrid, Elred... I’m sure you have seen these spellings and more.

One of the most popular theories or stories floating around the internet and repeated in many family trees is that the Allreds of Randolph County, NC descend from the Aldridge family of Northumberland County, Virginia who descend from Rev. Henry Aldred of Worstead, Norfolk County, England.





This family tree and story originates with a book published around 1965. This book, *The Allred Family in America* by Dr. Rulon C. Allred, is a fabulous collection of information. It truly amazes me that anyone was able to research, compile, organize and create this collection without the help of computers, the internet or other technology we have today. It is no longer in print and copies are hard to find, but it is available on my website in pdf form if you would like to read it or print out your own copy.<sup>3</sup>

Dr. Allred never claimed this book was perfect. At the very start of his Introduction, he states *"we know that mistakes are evitable, notwithstanding every possible effort on our part to avoid them. At times we have received information in that is in error...Sometimes the information is incomplete, though if we had waited longer and tried harder, we might have made it more complete. However, were we to wait for the perfection of the records, this work would never come to press."*<sup>4</sup>

Dr. Allred continued his Introduction by saying the first section of the book was *"...prepared from a draft by Archibald F. Bennett, who was retained at the instance of Louis E. Allred to do this research (much of which was done by Brother Bennett while he was in England). We secured permission to use this thesis in the Introduction."* *"Archibald F. Bennett, Secretary of the Genealogical Society of Utah, has over a period of many years, given the Allred Family Organization a most capable assistance; and it is to him that we owe the first part of this work."*



Bennett's report covers pages 1-105 and concludes the Allred family who settled in central North Carolina descend from the Aldridge family of Northumberland County, Virginia. This presentation explains why Bennett's conclusion was wrong. The Aldridge and Allred families are NOT the same family.

**Disclaimer:** I have no knowledge or opinion of Bennett's research into the Aldridge family. Once I realized the Allreds were not related to the Aldridge family, my focus was Allred.

Let's begin with Page 1-83 of Mr. Bennett's report wherein he states:

---

<sup>3</sup> A link to the book in pdf format is available on the Home Page of my website at [www.MyAllredFamily.com](http://www.MyAllredFamily.com)

<sup>4</sup> Page i of the Introduction to the book.

A list of Orange County Taxables, made in the year 1755, include these names:

THOMAS ALLRED	2 whites	JOHN ALRED	1 white
WILLIAM ALDRIGE	1 white	WILLIAM ALRED	1 white
SOLOMON ALRED	1 white	WILLIAM ALRED	1 white

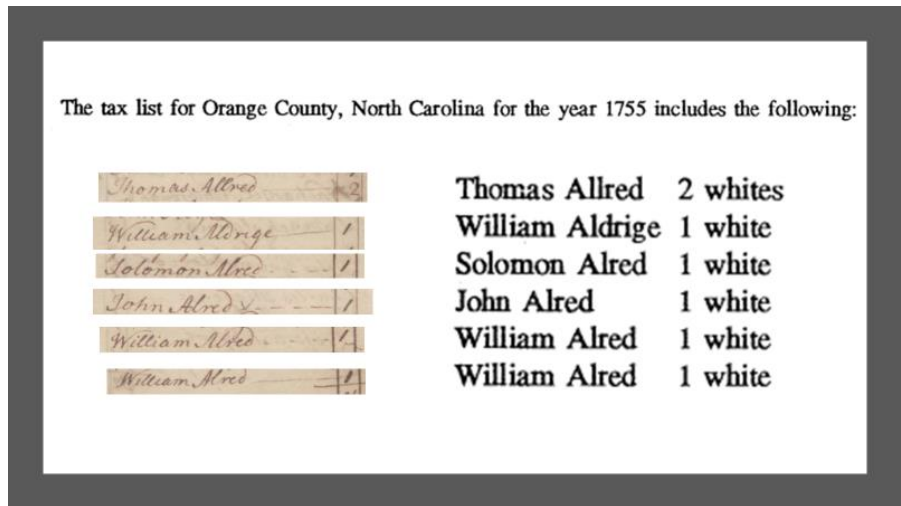
(Film, No. Carolina Rec., No. 15, Pt. 2)

These are evidently WILLIAM ALDRIDGE and his brother JOHN, (who with his descendants in North Carolina most frequently used the spelling ALDRED or ALLRED, with numerous variations) and the older sons of these two brothers. Each brother had a son William; both here being listed as ALRED. Solomon and Thomas were sons of John, judging by later deeds and family traditions, and other evidences.

**Were the sons and grandsons of William Aldridge of Northumberland County, Virginia listed on the 1755 Orange County Tax List?**

Yes, 6 men named Aldridge and/or Alred were listed on the 1755 Orange County Tax List.<sup>5</sup>

Thankfully, the tax list is still legible, and the handwriting is neat and easy to read. There is no mistaking the names or their spellings. (Note Thomas was listed with 2 White Polls meaning there were 2 white men living within his household who were at least 18 years or older. One obviously Thomas but who was that other man? Hmmmm...but that will have to wait until another report and presentation at another time..)



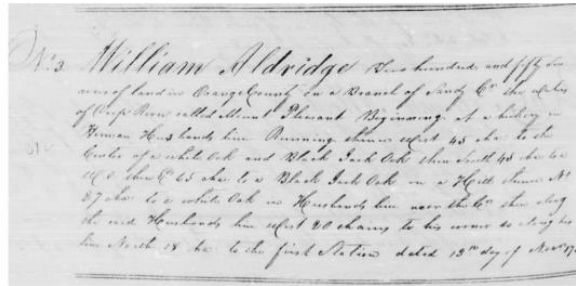
<sup>5</sup> The original 1755 Orange County, NC Tax List is housed in the North Carolina State Archives and is available online at <http://digital.ncdcr.gov/cdm/ref/collection/p16062coll33/id/604>

Yes, that portion of Bennett’s statement was correct. There were Aldridge and Alred men listed on the 1755 Orange County Tax List. But...

Were they really the sons and grandsons of William Aldridge of Northumberland County, VA?

Let’s start with William Aldridge. Was he the father of William Alred?

County: Orange
Issued: 13 Nov 1756 <a href="#">*Book: 14 pg: 328</a> Grant no.: 3
Entered: (no date)
Other Identifiers: File no.: 312 MARS: 12.14.95.309
Subjects (in archivist order): Aldridge, William Sandy Creek

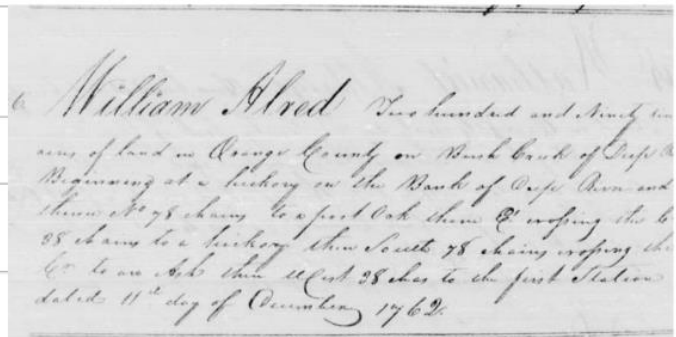


“...land in Orange County on a Branch of Sandy Cr the waters of Deep River called Mount Pleasant...”

A man named William Aldridge did receive a land grant in 1756 for land in Orange County.<sup>6</sup> The land grant process was a time consuming one and could take up to 10 years to fully finalize<sup>7</sup> so it is reasonable to assume the William Aldridge who appeared on the 1755 Orange County Tax List was the same man who received a land grant in 1756.

A man named William Alred also received a land grant in 1762 for land located in Orange County, NC.<sup>8</sup>

County: Orange
Issued: 11 Dec 1762 <a href="#">Book: 14 pg: 330</a> Grant no.: 76
Entered: (no date)
Other Identifiers: File no.: 319 MARS: 12.14.95.316
Subjects (in archivist order): Alred, William Deep River Bush Creek



“...land in Orange County on Bush Creek of Deep River...”

Once again, because of the length of time required to finalize a land grant, it is reasonable to assume this is one of the men named William Alred who appeared on the 1755 Orange County Tax List.

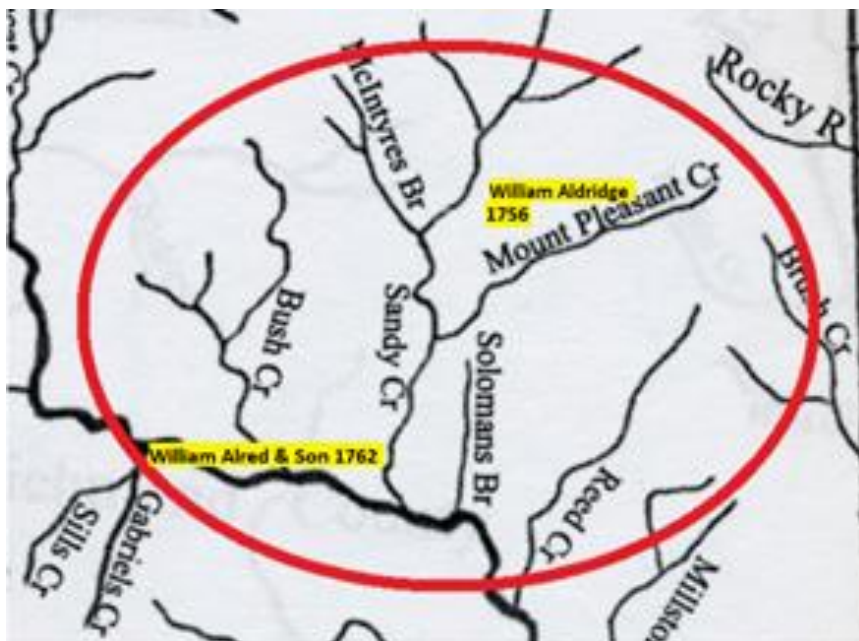
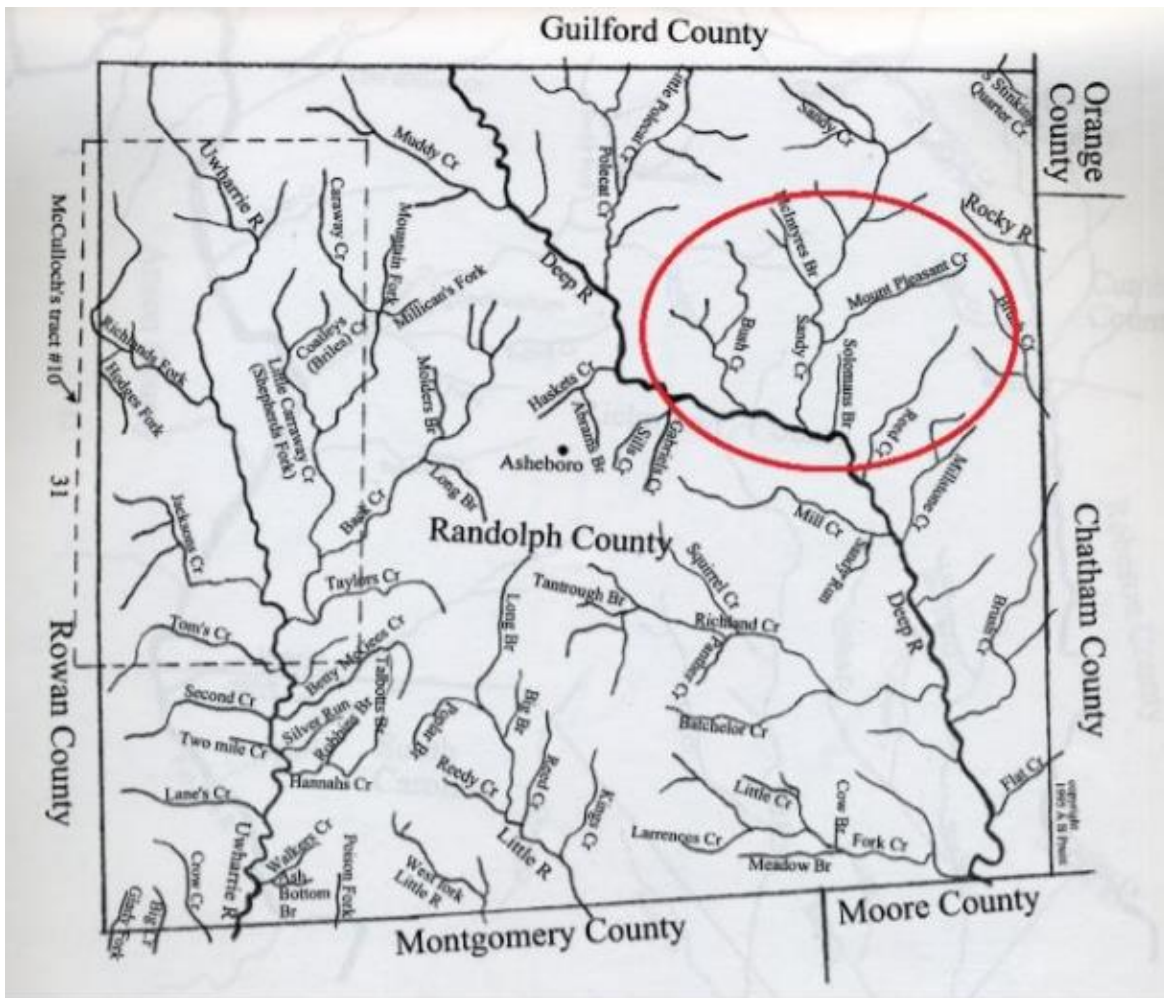
The map below shows Randolph County’s waterways<sup>9</sup> which were used as descriptions in both William Aldridge’s and William Alred’s land grants.

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.nclandgrants.com/>

<sup>7</sup> An excellent and easy to understand guide to North Carolina Land Grants is available at <http://statelibrary.ncdcr.libguides.com/nclandrecords1783/grants>

<sup>8</sup> <http://www.nclandgrants.com/>

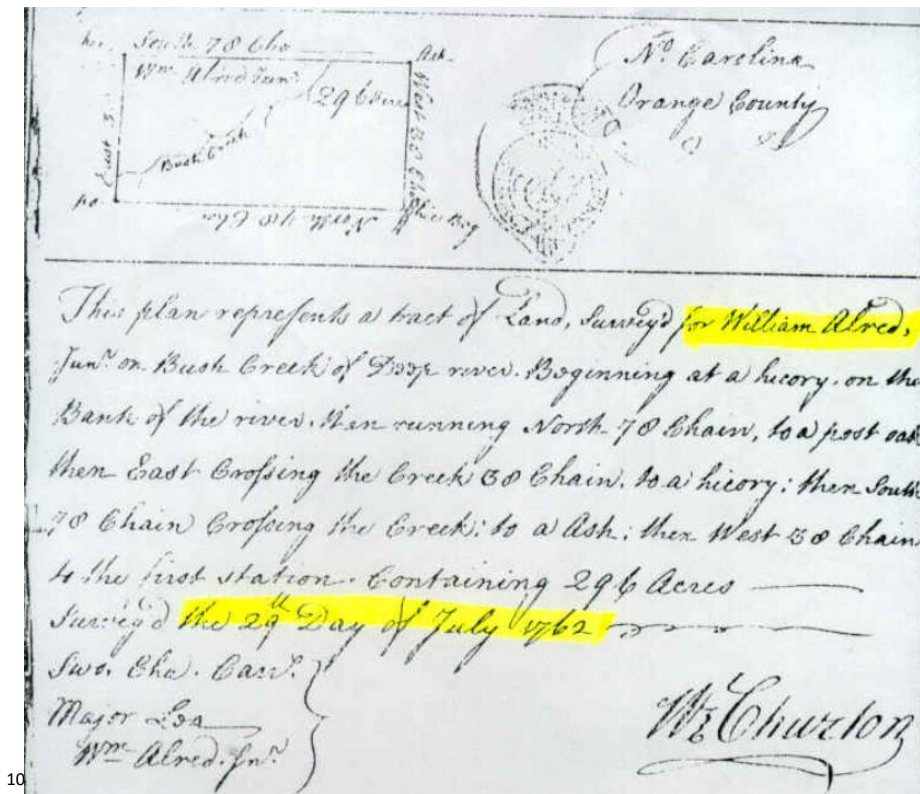
<sup>9</sup> <http://marshamoses.blogspot.com/2012/08/nc-quaker-family-jacob-and-elizabeth.html>



The close-up view of the section of map where William Aldridge's and William Alred's land was located. William Aldridge's land grant describes the land being located "...in Orange County on a Branch of Sandy Cr the waters of Deep River called Mount Pleasant..." As you see on the close-up map, Mount Pleasant Creek runs southwest into Sandy Creek which empties into Deep River.

William Alred's land grant describes his land being "...in Orange County on Bush Creek of Deep River..." Again, you can see on the close-up map how Bush Creek empties into Deep River. Thus, we know the location of these two land grants and where these men lived.

Note the yellow highlighted "William Alred and Son". A closer look at the survey created for this land grant shows William Alred Jr received the land and William Alred Sr signed as a witness to the survey.



Now we have William Aldridge, William Alred Sr and William Alred Jr. But Mr. Bennett stated William Aldridge had a son William Alred and surmised the 3<sup>rd</sup> William Alred listed on the 1755 Orange County Tax List was the son of John Allred. If, as Bennett surmised, the youngest William Alred was the son of John, why was he listed as "Jr" a survey witnessed by William Allred Sr?

So who were William Alred Sr and William Alred Jr? Could this possibly be William Aldridge and his son William Aldridge Jr.? Let's look at William Aldridge's will.

Bennett stated William Aldridge died and left behind a will dated 1789.<sup>11</sup> This is true and, in this will, William left 5 Shillings to his son William, thus documenting this son existed.

<sup>10</sup> The Granville District of North Carolina, 1748-1763 by Margaret Hoffman, page 181

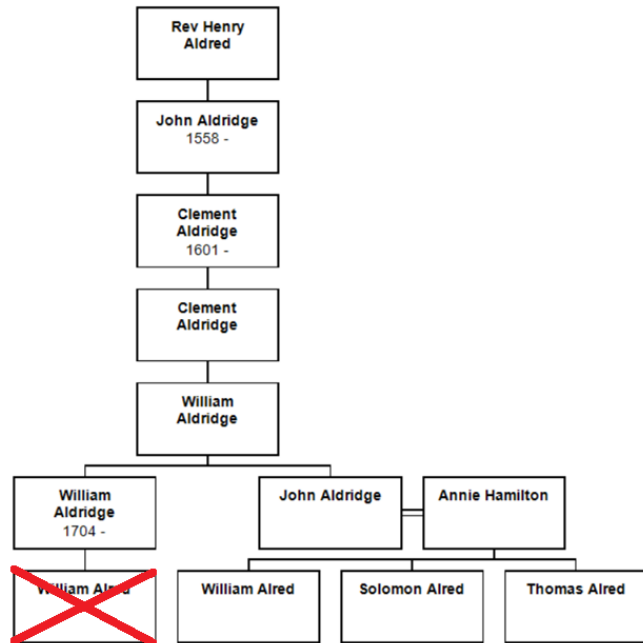
<sup>11</sup> Pages 1-90- and 1-91 Bennett Report contained in the book *The Allred Family in America* by Rulon C. Allred



Bennett further states that William, son of William Aldridge was born 1755.<sup>12</sup> BUT, by law, a man had to be at least 21 years old or older to own land or receive a survey for land. The survey was dated 1762 when the younger William Aldridge, per Bennett's report, was only 7 years old. A 7 year old could not own land in 1762.

**William Alred and his son, William Alred Jr, were not related to William Aldridge as surmised by Mr. Bennett.**

**Draw a Red X through that part of the Aldridge family tree.**



Let's look at John Alred who appeared on the 1755 Orange County Tax List. Per Bennett's report, John Allred was really John Aldridge, the brother of William Aldridge. He also stated John was the father of Solomon Alred, Thomas Alred and William Alred.

Mr. Bennett stated on page 1-85 of his report that he wasn't sure what happened to John Aldridge. He continued to state he had found a marriage record in Stafford County, Virginia that he thought was a match.<sup>13</sup> Remember, per Bennett's report, the Aldridge family lived in Northumberland County, Virginia. This brings into question why a man would travel to another county to meet and marry? Was this was the same John Aldridge or just someone who had a similar name – but Bennett felt comfortable stating it was the same person. For those of you who have seen family trees online or in various libraries that claim John Allred was married to Annie Hamilton, this is where that story originated.

Bennett then stated John Aldred received a land grant in 1755 for land located on both sides of Mt. Pleasant Creek. This is partially correct. The grant was dated 1756 and the surname was spelled Alred.<sup>14</sup>

<sup>12</sup> Page 1-92 Bennett Report contained in the book *The Allred Family in America* by Rulon C. Allred

<sup>13</sup> Page 1-86 Bennett Report contained in the book *The Allred Family in America* by Rulon C. Allred

<sup>14</sup> <http://www.nclandgrants.com/>

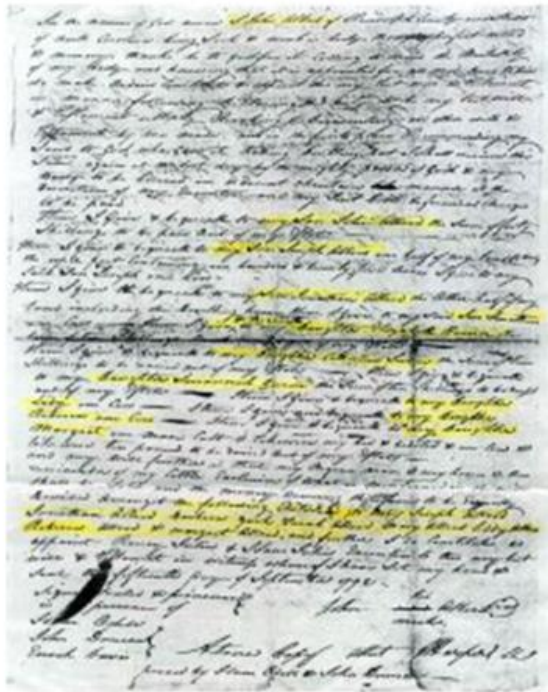


It is probable that JOHN ALDRIDGE (ALDRED or ALRED) died before the formation of Randolph County in 1779. The incompleteness of some of the records of Randolph's parent Counties leaves the date uncertain.

Children of JOHN ALDRIDGE or ALDRED or ALRED:

- x I THOMAS, b abt 1730, prob Northumberland Co., Va; will proved May 1810; mar ELIZABETH .....
- x II WILLIAM, b abt 1732, prob Northumberland; will proved May 1825; mar ELIZABETH
- x III SOLOMON, b abt 1734, prob Northumberland; living 1790; mar MARY .....
- x IV JOHN, b abt 1736, prob Northumberland; d 1792; mar MARGARET CHENEY.

However, John Allred who lived on land located along Mt. Pleasant Creek died in 1792<sup>16</sup> and left behind a will that clearly states who his children were. Land records document how the land was divided among his children, further clarifying who they were.



Children:

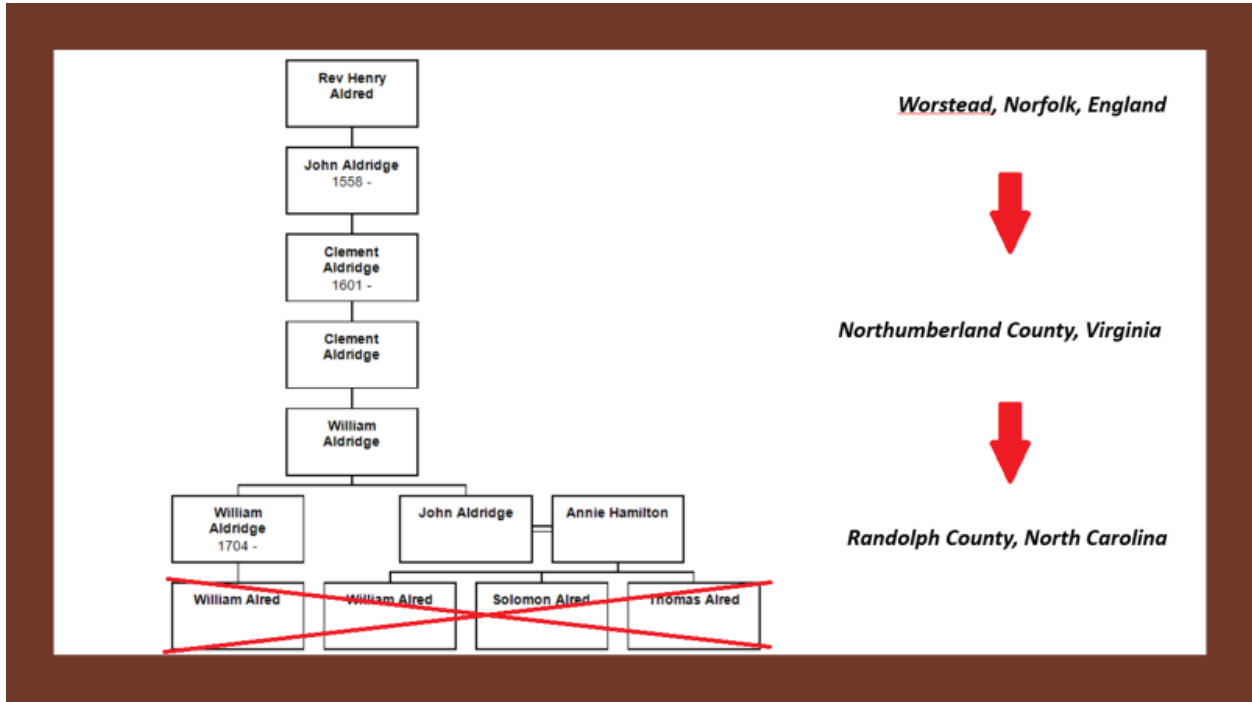
- John
- Joseph
- Jonathan
- Elizabeth Horner
- Catherine Julian
- Susannah Guren
- Lidy (Lydia)
- Rebecca
- Margaret
- Sarah
- Mary
- Barbara York

**NOT  
Thomas, William, Solomon and John  
As Bennett stated.**

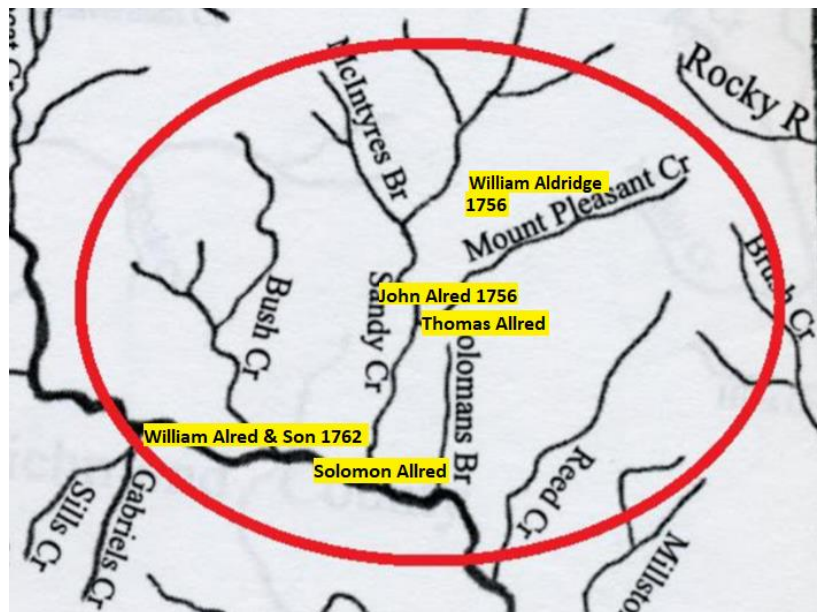
Cross these names off the Aldridge Family Tree

<sup>16</sup> Randolph County, NC will book 1, page 121

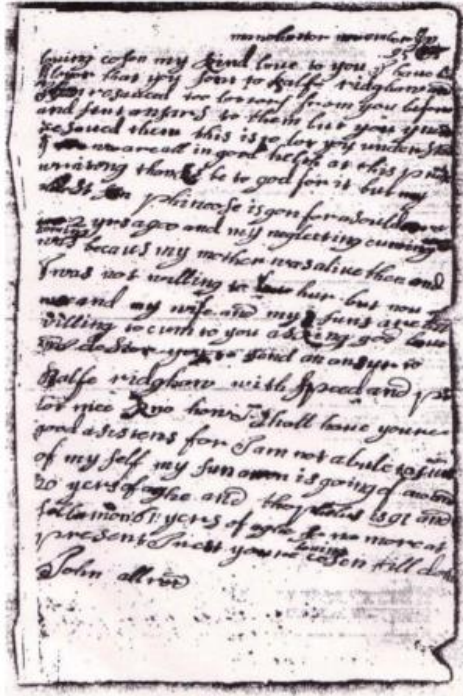
Thus, John Alred/Allred was not John Aldridge. The Allreds of Randolph County, North Carolina did NOT descend from the Aldridge family of Northumberland County, Virginia or Rev. Henry Aldred of Worstead, Norfolk, England.



Additional land grants, deeds, court records, etc. show where Solomon Allred's and Thomas Allred's land was located – very close to William Aldridge, William Alred and John Alred.



A lot of time has passed since Mr. Bennett did his research and wrote his report. Since then, additional research has uncovered wonderful documentation that proves the Allred family of Randolph County, NC descend from the Allred family of Lancashire, England. This documentation includes a letter written in 1695 by John Allred who, living in Manchester at that time, wanted to bring his family to America.<sup>17</sup>



1695  
John Allred of Manchester, England

Wrote to his cousin Phineas Pemberton of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

"...my neglecting cuming was because my mother was alive then and I was not willing to leave her but now me and my wife and my suns are all willing to cum to you... my son Phineas is gon for a soulder... my son owen is going of one and 20 yers and Theophilus is 19 and Solomon is 16 yers of age so no more..."



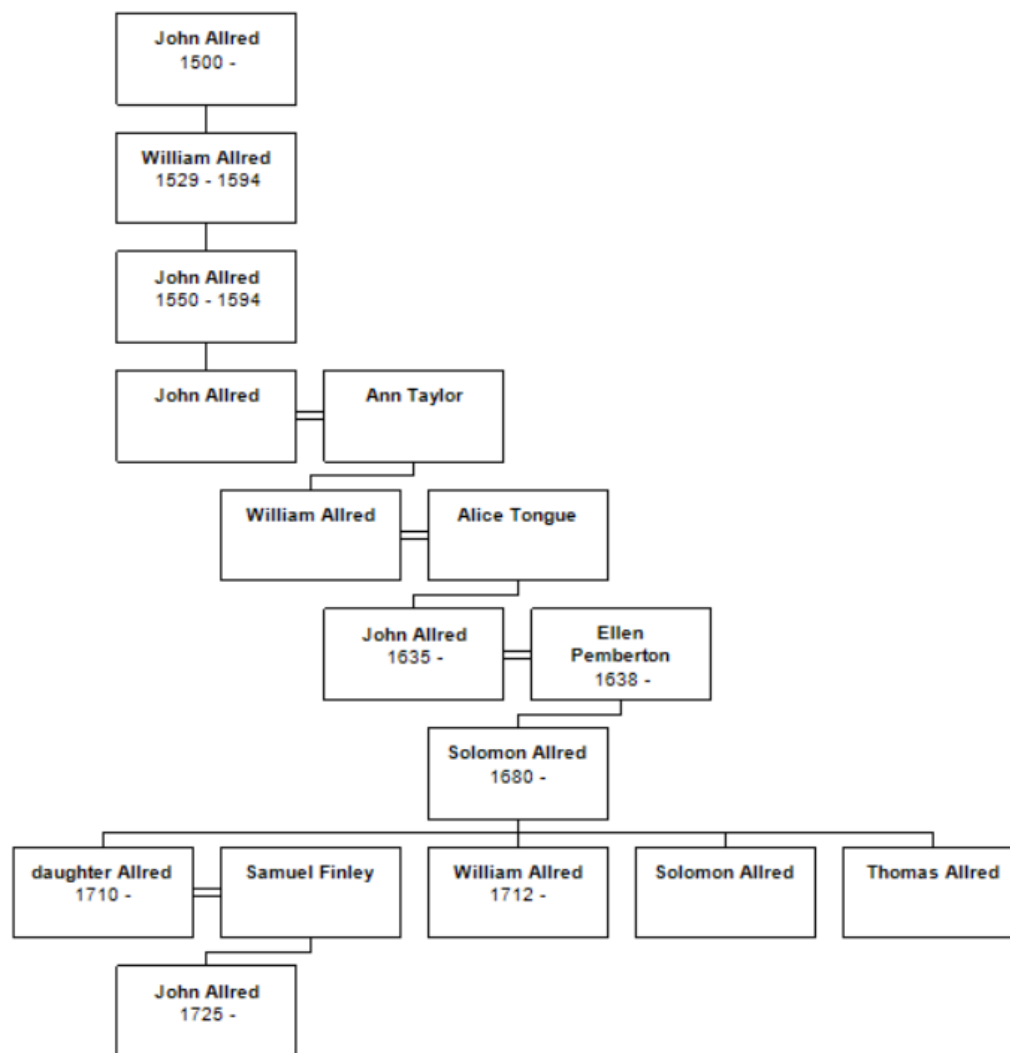
Y-Chromosome DNA  
Results  
CONFIRM  
Aldridge and Allred  
are two DIFFERENT  
Families

In addition, DNA tests results from Aldridge and Allred descendants prove they are two different and totally unrelated families.<sup>18</sup> Unrelated, that is, except for a few marriages along the way.

<sup>17</sup> This letter is part of the Pemberton Family Collection housed in the Historical Society of Pennsylvania <https://hsp.org/>

<sup>18</sup> Allred DNA Project available online at [www.MyAllredFamily.com](http://www.MyAllredFamily.com)

Based on current research and documentation found To-Date, the Allred Family Tree looks like this:



As I end this report, I want to repeat I have not done any research on the Aldridge family of Northumberland County, Virginia. I have not tried to prove or disprove any other portions of Archibald Bennett's report including his findings and conclusions about the Allred (and other spellings) family of 13<sup>th</sup> Century Norfolk or Suffolk Counties, England. I do not know if this is accurate or not. What I do know, and what I do have documentation for is the Allreds of Randolph County, North Carolina descend from Solomon Allred born 1680 Lancashire, England. Solomon was living in Pennsylvania by 1719 and his family eventually migrated to North Carolina. Most American Allreds can trace their family tree back to Solomon. You can read more about my research by visiting my website. It is a young website, still growing, so if you don't see what you are looking for now, contact me or check back in a few months. I'm posting information there as quickly as possible. I also recommend purchasing and reading a copy of Dawnell Hatton Griffin's book *From England to America, Our Allred Family*.

[www.MyAllredFamily.com](http://www.MyAllredFamily.com)

<https://exemplarpress.com/products/from-england-to-america-our-allred-family>

The screenshot shows the homepage of MyAllredFamily.com. At the top left is the logo for MyAllred Family, featuring a crest with a red and white design. Below the logo is a navigation bar with links for Home, Classifieds, About, and About This Project. The main content area includes a Facebook social media link, a map of the United States with the text "What State Did Your Allred Ancestors Live In?", a "WHAT'S NEW" section with a red arrow, a "PayPal Donate Now" button, a section titled "Dedicated To Providing Accurate Allred Genealogy and Original Documentation" with a photo of a church, a book cover for "The Allred Family in America" by Susan C. Allred, a "Research Reports & Tools" section, a "Take an Online Tour of Allred Roots From England to America and More" section, a "Genealogy" section, and a "How Do You Spell Allred?" section.

