

The  
1695 Letter  
and its meaning to the  
Allred Family

by: Linda Allred Cooper  
February 2020



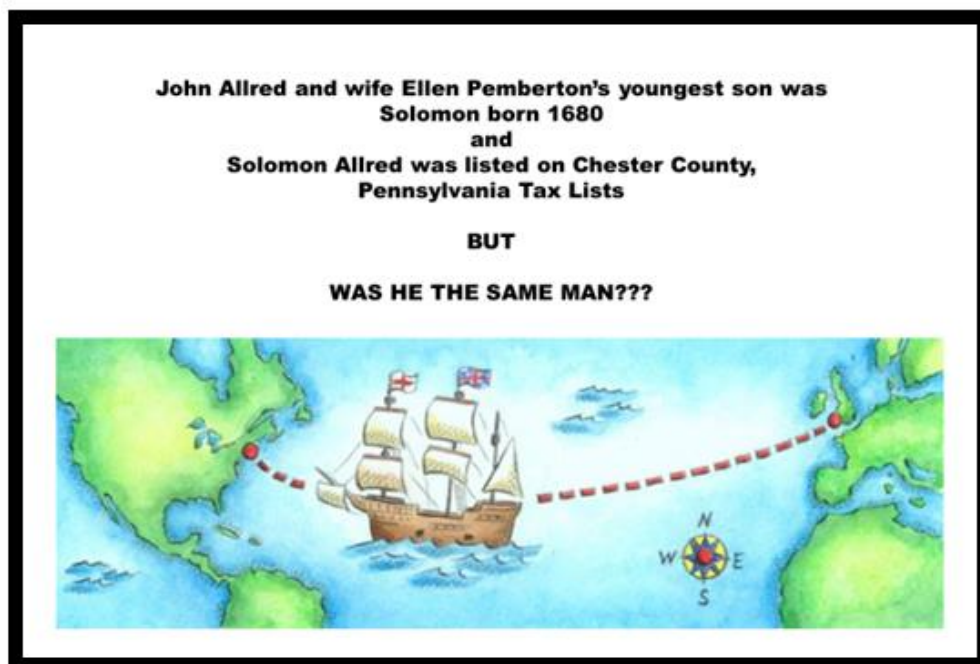
**This Presentation Dedicated with Love and Respect  
to my Genealogy Mentor and Sweet Cousin  
Dawnell Hatton Griffin  
She left this life February 26, 2020  
and is dearly missed**

manchester 11<sup>th</sup> mo<sup>th</sup> 1597

being cōsen my kind love to you & have bin  
 I pray that you sent to Ralfe Ridgham and  
 I resuiced too letters from you before  
 and sent answers to them but you y<sup>e</sup>re  
 resoued them this is to let you y<sup>e</sup>re  
 if we are all in good helth at this y<sup>e</sup>re  
 writing than be to god for it but my  
 eldest son y<sup>e</sup>re case is gon for a sould<sup>er</sup>  
 2 yrs ago and my neglecting coming  
 was becaus my mother was alive then and  
 I was not willing to have hur but now  
 me and my wife and my suns are all  
 willing to com to you adding god love  
 and desire you to send an answer to  
 Ralfe Ridgham with speed and y<sup>e</sup>re  
 let mee know howe I shall have youe  
 good sisters for I am not able to cum  
 of my self my sun awen is going of a we  
 20 yers of age and they shal be 13 y<sup>e</sup>re and  
 11 y<sup>e</sup>re of age for no more at  
 present I rest youe <sup>loving</sup> cōsen till do  
 John all<sup>re</sup>



When I started researching the Allred family in 1995, I quickly learned about the book *The Allred Family In America* by Dr. Rulon C. Allred. It contained a report written by Archibald Bennett that stated the American Allred family descended from the Aldridge family of Northumberland County, Virginia. However, a Genealogist and Allred Descendant named Dawnell Griffin had done further research and proved the Aldridge and Allred families were not related; they were two completely separate families except for a few marriages over the generations. Instead, research had led Dawnell to theorized the American Allreds descended from a man named Solomon Allred who was born in England and came to America around 1720. Dawnell had already found baptismal records proving John Allred and wife Ellen Pemberton Allred of Lancashire, England had a son named Solomon born 1680 in Eccles Parish, Lancashire, England.<sup>1</sup>



Note: I said THEORY! Dawnell was actively searching for documentation to prove her theory, but all she had found was circumstantial evidence such as a man named Solomon Allred was listed on the 1724 and 1730 Tax Lists of West

Nottingham Township, Chester County, Pennsylvania.<sup>2</sup> However, at that time, she had been unable to prove Solomon Allred of Chester County, PA was the son of John and Ellen Allred of Lancashire, England.

In January 2003, I led a group of Allred cousins on a Research Trip to the Pennsylvania Historical Society in Philadelphia. While there, we learned of a large collection of personal and business

<sup>1</sup> For more information about Solomon's parents, see my Presentation *John and Ellen* online at <https://myallredfamily.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/2014-Reunion-Presentation-John-Ellen.pdf>

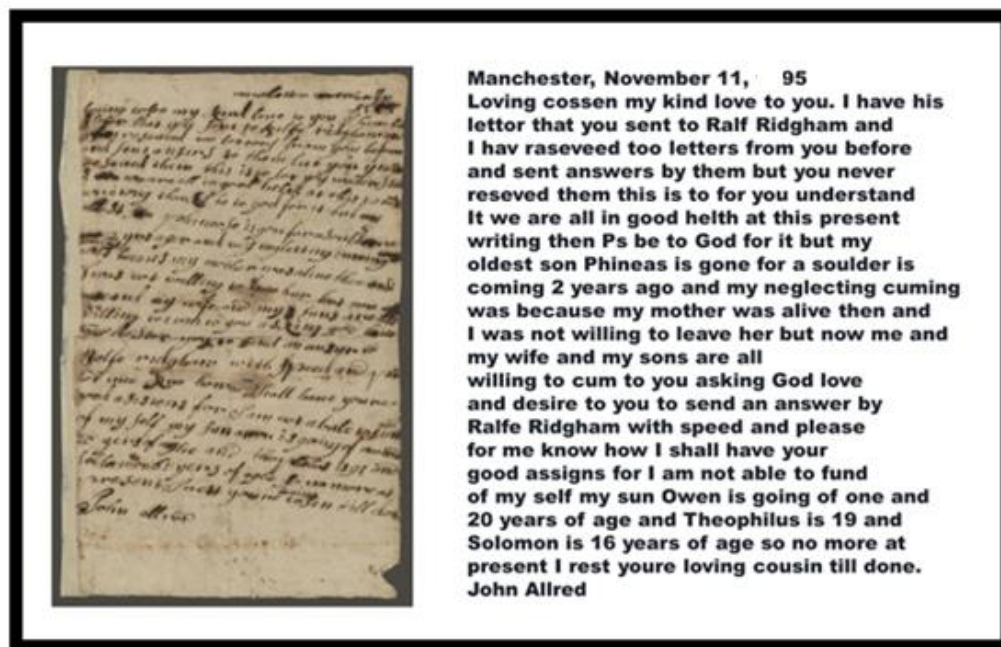
<sup>2</sup> For more information about Solomon and his migration from England to America, see my Presentation *Those Original North Carolina Allreds and Where They Came From* online at <https://myallredfamily.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/2017-Presentation-Print-Out-1.pdf>

papers once belonging to Phineas Pemberton.<sup>3</sup> Phineas was first cousin of Ellen Pemberton Allred. Ellen's father, John Pemberton, and Phineas' father, Ralph Pemberton, were brothers. Phineas had migrated from England to America in 1682<sup>4</sup> and settled near Philadelphia. West Nottingham, where Solomon Allred was living per the 1724 & 1730 Tax Lists was just 60 miles away. Coincidence? Or was Dawnell's theory correct? If correct, it seemed to make sense that two cousins, so far from their home in England, would remain in contact once in America. I immediately started going through the Card Catalogue, hoping to find any mention of Allred.



EUREKA!!! One card listed a Letter written in 1695 from John Allred of Manchester, England to Phineas Pemberton of Philadelphia. I immediately requested that letter so we could see it and everyone gathered around... YES!!! This letter proved Dawnell's theory was correct – John Allred had wanted to bring his family, including youngest son Solomon, to America. Our celebration began!! Happy Dance!!! Loud Cheers and Laughter!! High Fives!!!

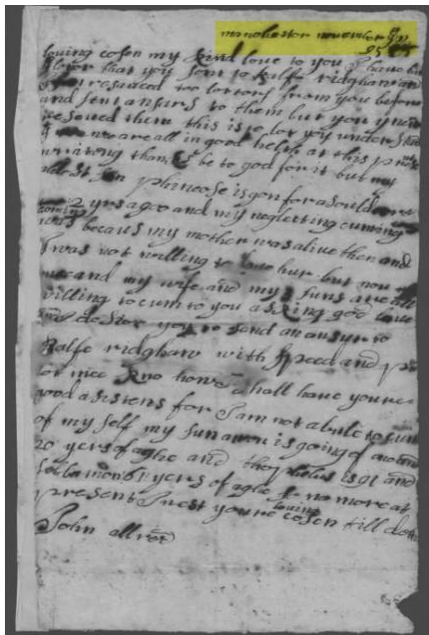
We quickly learned the Pennsylvania Historical Society, like most libraries and archives, disapprove of loud parties and celebrations. They hushed us (actually threatened to toss us out) and we got to work analyzing our find. First Step – Transcribe the Letter:



This letter contains so much significant information! Let's begin the process of analyzing the letter and its meaning to Allred Family History.

<sup>3</sup> Pemberton Family Papers, Pennsylvania Historical Society <https://discover.hsp.org/Record/ead-0484A>

<sup>4</sup> Ibid



**Manchester November 20 95**

John Allred was in Manchester, England when he wrote the letter dated November 20, 95. We know the year was 1695 because of the time period John was alive (1637-1701) and when Phineas Pemberton was alive (1650-1702).

However, England was still using the Julian Calendar when John wrote the letter. The Julian Calendar had been created/designed during the reign of Julius Caesar in 708 A.D.<sup>5</sup> Per the Julian Calendar, the year officially began on March 25th. For example, March 24, 1750 was followed the next day by March 25, 1751. In 1752 British Law changed and the Gregorian Calendar went into effect. Per the Gregorian Calendar, January 1<sup>st</sup> was the first day of the New Year.<sup>6</sup>



<https://www.swarthmore.edu/friends-historical-library/quaker-calendar>

Up to and including 1751 the Julian calendar was used in England, Wales, Ireland, and the British colonies overseas. In these places the year officially began on 25 March. As an example, 24 March 1750 was followed the next day by 25 March 1751.

In 1752 the law changed: the year 1751 began on 25 March 1751 and ended on 31 December 1751, to be immediately followed by 1 January 1752. It is important to note that in Europe and in Scotland the new calendar (the Gregorian) had already superseded the Julian calendar.

Today we use the Gregorian Calendar

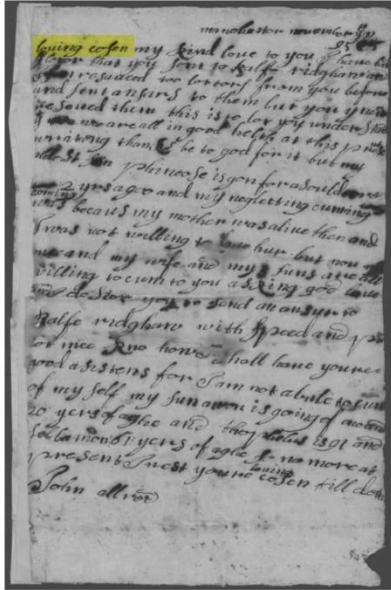


The Gregorian Calendar is used world-wide today. Thus, per today's calendar, John wrote the letter on January 20, 1695.

<sup>5</sup> Julian Calendar on Wikipedia at [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Julian\\_calendar](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Julian_calendar)

<sup>6</sup> The Quaker Calendar <https://www.swarthmore.edu/friends-historical-library/quaker-calendar>





## Loving Cozen

John Allred's wife, Ellen Pemberton, was Phineas' first cousin. Documents, including baptismal records, prove their fathers were brothers.<sup>7</sup> As with all marriages, when you marry your spouse, you also married his/her family.

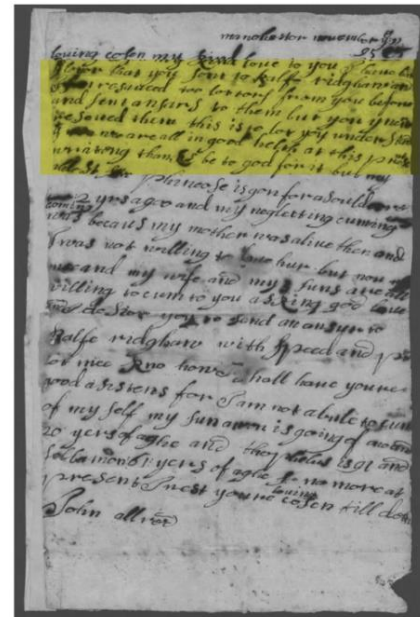
Phineas was a member of one of the first families to convert to the Quaker faith in the 1640's. They became leaders of the church, personal friends of Quaker Founder George Fox, Leader Margaret Fell and William Penn who brought Quakers to America to settle on land that became Pennsylvania.<sup>8</sup> Phineas sailed to America in the Fall of 1682 aboard the ship *Submission*. *Submission* was one of 22 ships commissioned by William Penn to bring the Quakers to America so they could settle the colony of Pennsylvania.<sup>9</sup>

Thus, John, who was living in Manchester, England in 1695, was writing to his cousin Phineas Pemberton who was living in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

## I have his letter...

...I have his letter that you sent to Ralf Ridgham and I hav raseved too letters from you before and sent answers by them but you never reseved them this is to for you understand It we are all in good helth at this present writing then Ps be to God for it...

Although the name was misspelled, this portion of the letter tells us Ralph Ridgway was acting as a courier between John Allred in Manchester and Phineas Pemberton in Philadelphia. There were no postal carriers or mail delivery to individual houses. Ridgway was a hosier living in Manchester when he converted to the Quaker faith. He quickly became one of the leaders and was instrumental in organizing East Hardshaw Monthly Meeting which met at his house many times. John Allred's wife, Ellen



<sup>7</sup> Documentation includes, but is not limited to, the Baptismal Records of Eccles Parish which names the child being baptized and the father.

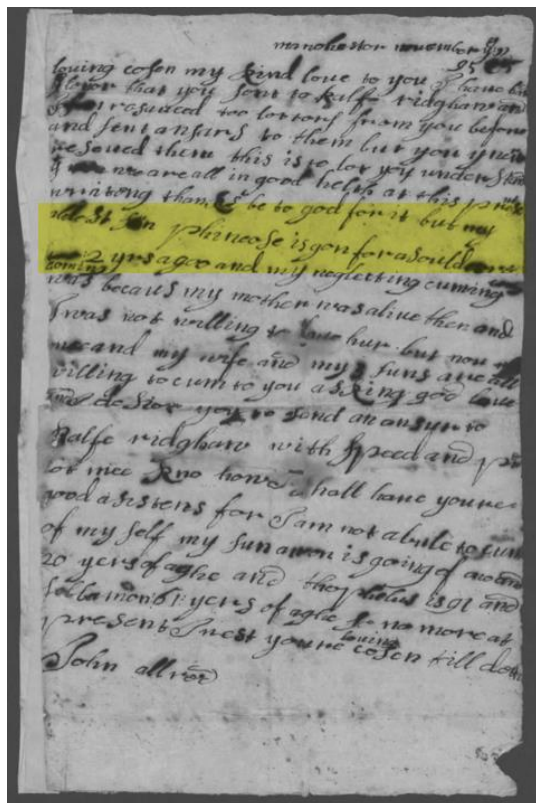
<sup>8</sup> *The History of the Pemberton Family* <https://boltonmansion.org/history-of-the-pemberton-family/> and *The Papers of William Penn*

<https://www.jstor.org/bookseries/j.ctt24h1jh?refreqid=excelsior%3Ad32972a653ed47e51dc0df75036ab202>

<sup>9</sup> Welcome Society Approved Ancestors <https://www.welcomesociety.org/ancestors-approved-memberships.html> and *The Pemberton Collection* held at the Pennsylvania Historical Society, Philadelphia, PA

<https://discover.hsp.org/Record/ead-0484A>

Pemberton, was a member of East Hardshaw MM so they would have known Ralph Ridgway.<sup>10</sup> When William Penn organized ships to bring his Quakers to Pennsylvania, Ralph Ridgway remained in Manchester where he acted as Penn's Agent and Courier.<sup>11</sup> By this portion of the letter, we know John and Phineas were exchanging letters which were being sent through Ridgway. In other words, Ridgway was making sure John's letters were put on a ship to Pennsylvania and when letters arrived in England, he notified John so he could retrieve them.



### Gon for a soulder

John wrote "...but my oldest son Phineas is gone for a soulder is coming 2 years ago...". Although baptismal records<sup>12</sup> document John and Ellen had at least 10 children, only 4 are mentioned in the letter. This leaves me to wonder if the other children died or perhaps had married and moved away. However, because son Phineas was mentioned in the letter when he was no longer living at home, having joined the military 2 years ago, I am inclined to believe the children not mentioned had died prior to the writing of the letter.

Note: the son, Phineas, the first child mentioned in the letter, most likely was named after Phineas Pemberton.

<sup>10</sup> Ellen is mentioned several times in Meeting Minutes of East Hardshaw and her death is recorded in their Burial Records. These records are in original form only, held in Manchester Archives and Local Studies, Manchester, England <https://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/r/9b943759-5b41-4d44-85c6-48dec90144a6>

<sup>11</sup> *The Fells of Swarthmoor Hall and their friends* by Maria Webb online at Google Books and research done in the original records of East Hardshaw MM by this author in Manchester, UK 2010 at the Manchester Archives and Local Studies <https://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/a/A13530787>

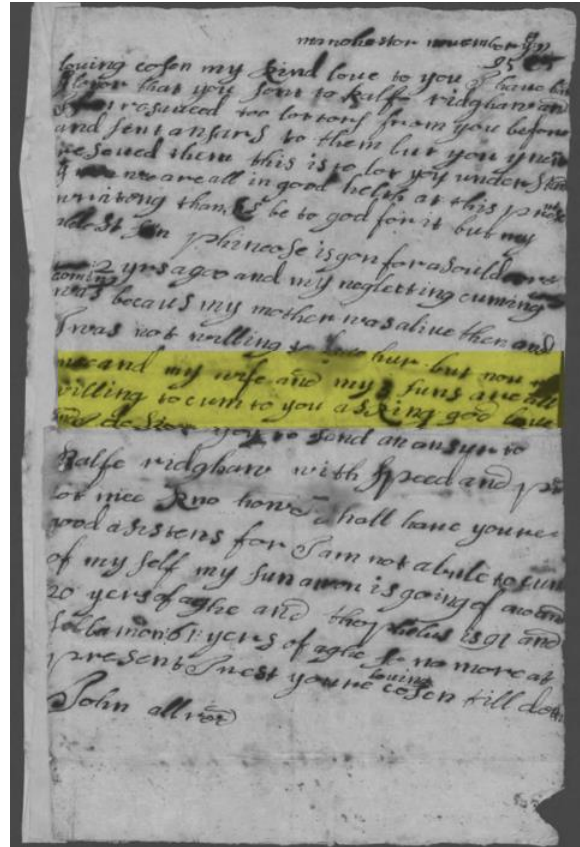
<sup>12</sup> Baptismal Records of St. Mary The Virgin Church, Eccles Parish Records now online at Ancestry.com



### And my neglecting cuming

"...and my neglecting cuming was because my mother was alive then and I was not willing to leave her..."

This tells us John and Phineas Pemberton had previously discussed bringing John's family to America, perhaps even made specific plans, but John was a faithful son and chose to remain in England and care for his elderly mother. However, by the time John wrote this letter, his mother had died. John was now ready to bring his family to America.



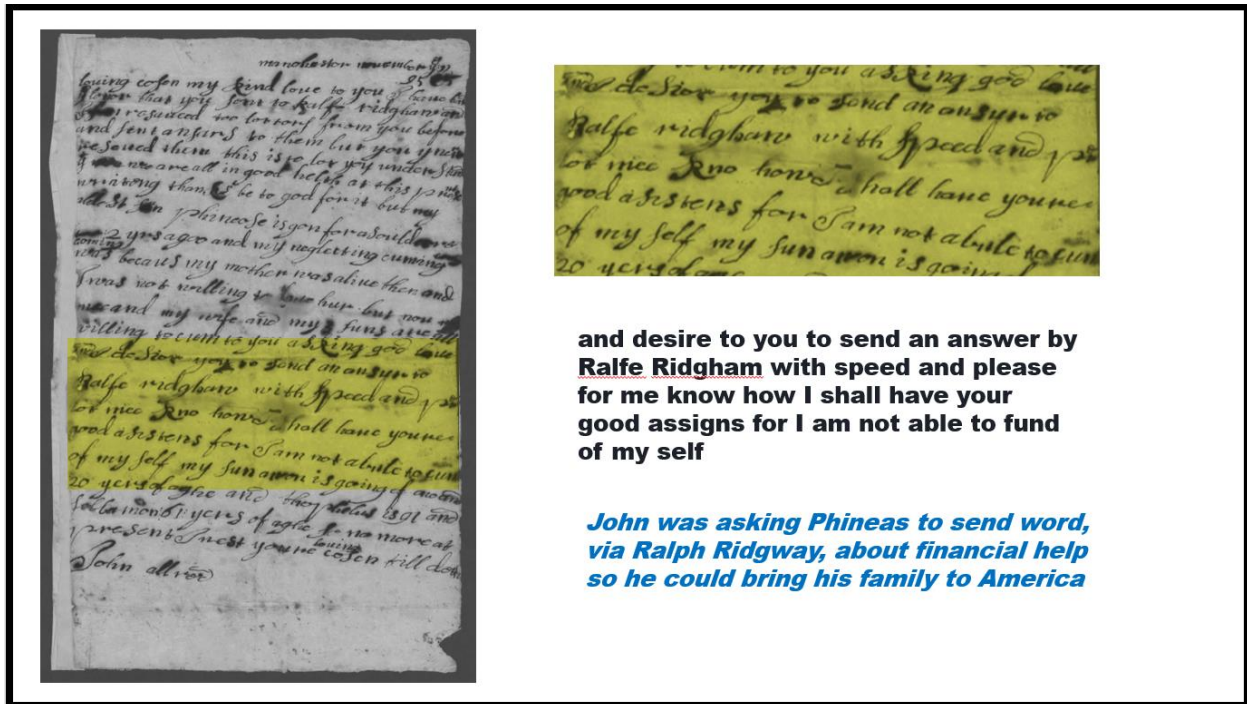
### now me and my wife and my sons

...but now me and my wife and my sons are all willing to cum to you asking God love...

This is an important statement. Ellen Pemberton Allred died in 1684, eleven years before the letter was written.<sup>13</sup> By this we now have proof that John remarried. This is not surprising considering, when Ellen died, John was suddenly left alone to raise a large family with several young children. Solomon, born 1680, was only 4 years old when his mother died. John would have needed help to raise these children while he worked to support the family. Custom and tradition of the time period would not have permitted John to hire or allow a woman, not related to him, to be in the house without chaperone. Besides, John was very poor and would not have been financially able to hire anyone. A second marriage was John's only choice if he wanted to keep his children safe at home and still be able to work to support the family. Although very poor, marriage to John would have been enticing to any single woman of similar financial means. Single women had no rights and marriage was the only way she could safely live outside of her father's home, especially if she was a spinster or widow. Unfortunately, the identity of this second wife remains a mystery at this time, but John clearly intended to bring her with him when the family migrated to America.

<sup>13</sup> East Hardshaw MM records, originals searched by this author in Manchester, UK 2010 at the Manchester Archives and Local Studies <https://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/a/A13530787>

and let me know how



**and desire to you to send an answer by  
Ralfe Ridgham with speed and please  
for me know how I shall have your  
good assigns for I am not able to fund  
of my self**

**John was asking Phineas to send word,  
via Ralph Ridgway, about financial help  
so he could bring his family to America**

John was asking if arrangements could be made for he and his family to come to America as Indentured Servants.

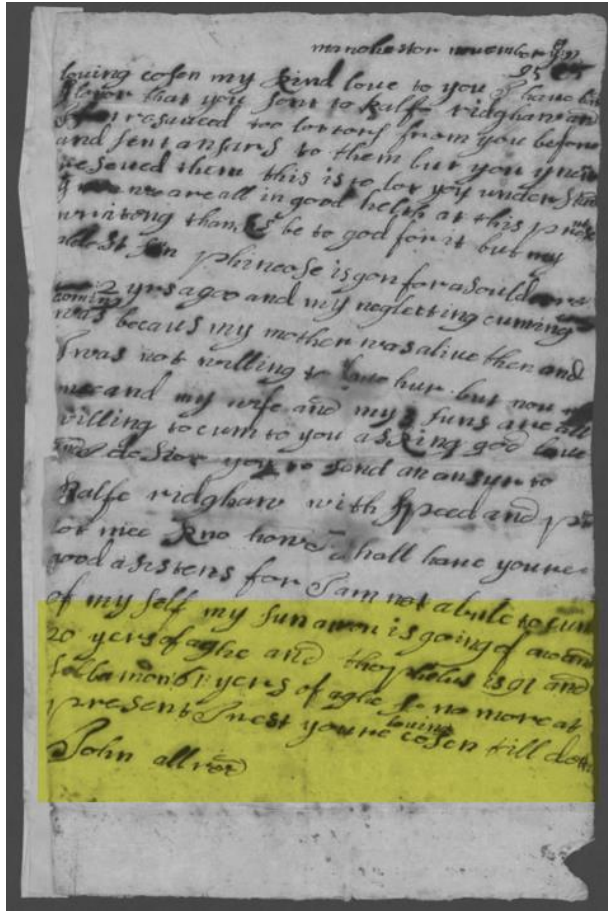
James Harrison was Phineas Pemberton's father-in-law. Harrison traveled to America in 1682 aboard the ship *Submission* with Phineas and other members of their family. Harrison was a close personal friend and business associate of William Penn and served as Business Manager and Overseer of Penn's summer estate, Pennsbury Manor, in Bucks County, Pennsylvania.

On January 16, 1686/7 (9 years before John wrote the 1695 Letter) William Penn wrote to James Harrison:

*"I have an eye to the man thou writt about with his family. But one John Aldred of Pendleton related to P. Pemberton that cam to me at Manchester to be helpt over on the terms I published for the poor. I may do what I can for him."*<sup>14</sup>

Penn's "terms published for the poor" were arrangements he had made for anyone too poor to pay the price of passage from England to America. Penn offered to either personally pay or arrange for payment of the passage in exchange for the passenger becoming an indentured servant. By this letter, from Penn to Harrison, we have proof John Allred had approached William Penn, asking for help; offering himself and his family as indentured servants.

<sup>14</sup> (Page 136, *The Papers of William Penn*, Vol 3, 1685 – 1700, Pennsbury Manor, Morrisville, PA)



In John's 1695 letter, he was once again asking for financial help so he could bring his family to America. He was once again asking to indenture himself and his family in exchange for ship's passage to America. This confirms Dawnell's theory that Solomon had come to America as an indentured servant.

**my son Solomon is 16 years of age**

...my sun Owen is going of one and 20 years of age and Theophilus is 19 and Solomon is 16 years of age so no more at present I rest your loving cousin till done.

John Allred

John ends his letter by talking about the 3 sons who still live with him. What happened to these sons?

Eccles Parish Baptismal/Marriage/Burial records tell us:

Phineas married and had a daughter who was baptized in 1703.

Theophilus married and had a son named Thomas in 1717.

Owen married and had 3 children born 1709 – 1711.

By this, and additional records, we know these 3 sons, Phineas, Theophilus and Owen, remained in England where they married and raised families. However, Solomon disappears from all Eccles Parish records.



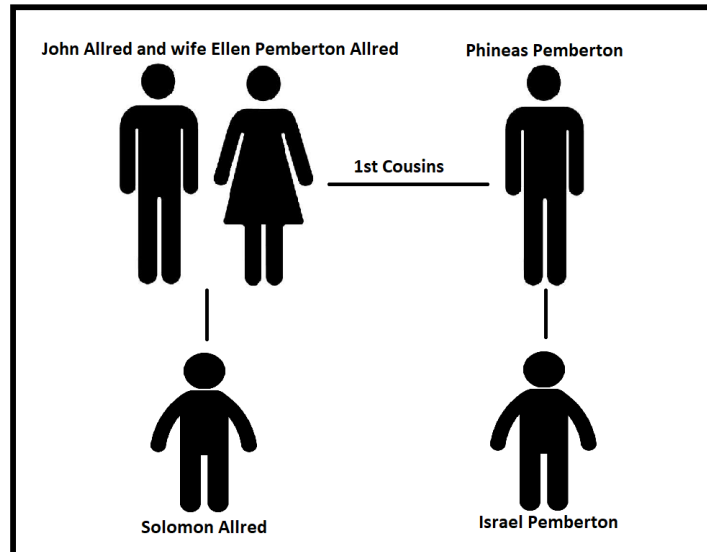
**The letter was full of information. Let's Review:**

- John wrote the letter while in Manchester, England on Nov 20, 1695 (January 20, 1695).
- John was writing to his wife's cousin, Phineas Pemberton, who was living in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
- John had received 2 letters from Phineas and had written back but Phineas had not received the replies. The person receiving and mailing the letters for John was Ralph Ridgway, personal friend of William Penn and Margaret Fell and leader of East Hardshaw MM where John's wife, Ellen, had been a member.
- John's oldest son, Phineas, left to join the military two years prior (1693). John and Ellen had at least 10 children by Baptismal Records but apparently only 4 were still living, Phineas being the oldest.
- John had delayed coming to America because he didn't want to leave his elderly mother.
- John's mother had died recently.
- John had remarried after his 1<sup>st</sup> wife, Ellen Pemberton, died in 1680. John, his new wife and his sons were ready to come to America.
- John needed financial help to pay for the ship's passage to America. William Penn had offered to help people come to America as Indentured Servants.
- John ends his letter by telling about the 3 sons still living with him: Owen age 21, Theophilus age 19 and Solomon age 16.

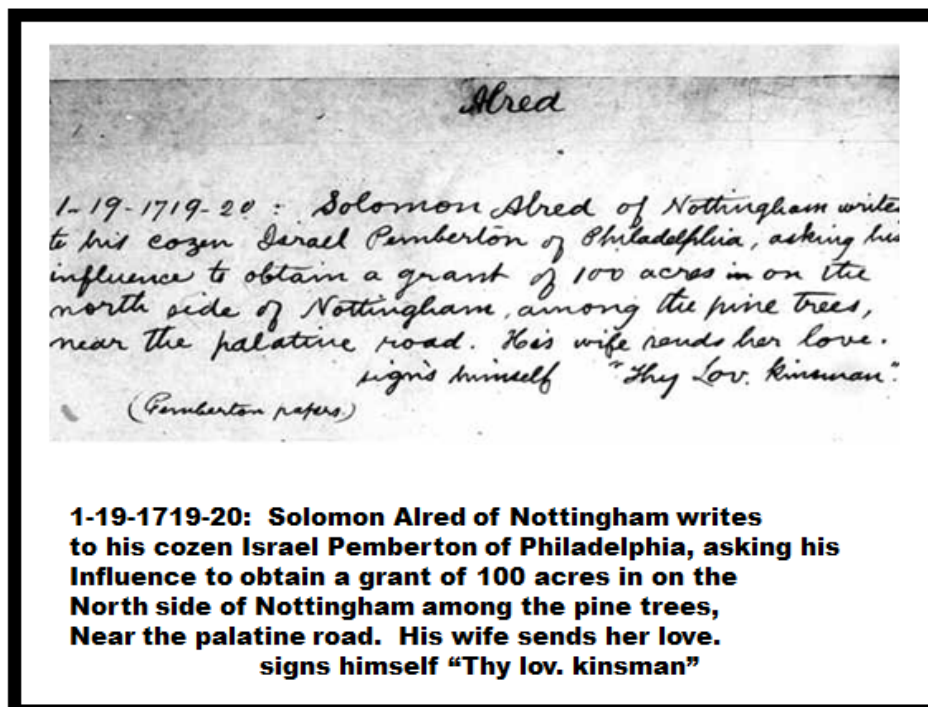
The 1695 Letter proves John Allred wanted to bring his family to America. This leaves us with the question – did John's youngest son, Solomon, finally migrate to Pennsylvania? Was he the man listed on the tax lists in West Nottingham, Chester County? The answer is YES!!



John Allred's youngest son was Solomon. Phineas Pemberton's son was named Israel.



An abstract of a letter written by Solomon Allred of Nottingham (Chester County, Pennsylvania) was found hidden away in the Gilbert Cope Collection in the Chester County, PA, Historical Society. This abstract proves Solomon Allred wrote a letter to his cousin Israel Pemberton on January 19, 1719/20.<sup>15</sup> (Remember the difference between the Julian and Gregorian Calendar. By today's Gregorian Calendar, the date is March 19, 1720)



<sup>15</sup> This letter abstract was found online in the Gilbert Cope Family Collection in the Chester County (PA) Historical Society by Beverly Allred Schroeder, niece of MyAllredFamily.com DNA Project Manager John Allred.

This letter proves the Solomon Allred living in Nottingham, Chester County, Pennsylvania was the son of John Allred and wife Ellen Pemberton Allred.

The 1695 Letter is extremely important to Allred Family History. It contains so much information about the family and John's struggles to bring them to America. It confirms the Allred and Pemberton cousins remained in close contact. The 2003 Research Trip to the Pennsylvania Historical Society was a huge success, giving us rock solid proof that Dawnell Griffin's theory was correct. Most American Allreds descend from Solomon Allred, born 1680 Lancashire, England who came to America.

You can find a recording of this presentation and much more on my website [www.MyAllredFamily.com](http://www.MyAllredFamily.com) This includes research reports written about John and Ellen and about their son Solomon and his children and their migration to North Carolina. Please keep in mind your donations help fund the cost of the website, ongoing research and this and future online presentations.

The screenshot shows the homepage of the My Allred Family website. At the top left is a crest with a shield, a crown, and a banner that says "ALLRED". To the right of the crest is the text "My Allred Family" in a stylized font. Further right is the tagline "Gather Research Share and Have Fun!". Below this is a dark navigation bar with links for "Home", "DonationsFinances", "About", and "Allred DNA Project", along with a search icon. The main content area is divided into several sections: a Facebook link with the text "Join in Great Allred Conversations on Facebook" and "Your Donations help keep this website online and Research ongoing"; a link to "What State Did Your Allred Ancestors Live In?" with a map of the United States; a link to "The York Family - Research and Info"; a "PayPal Donate Now" button with logos for VISA, MasterCard, DISCOVER, and AMERICAN EXPRESS; a "WHAT'S NEW" graphic with an arrow; and a "Reunions" section with a photo of a group of people in white shirts.