

THE ALFORDS OF ASHILL, ETC., SOMERSET

This senior line, commonly called "The Bishop's Branch", of the Alfords of Somersetshire, descended from Weston Zoyland stock through the second son of the Rev. Thomas Alford, vicar of that parish, whose eldest son Richard died without issue.

1. **Thomas Alford**, son of the above Thomas Alford and Mary his wife, was baptized at Weston Zoyland on Christmas Day 1742. He matriculated at Brasenose College, Oxford (where his father had been before him), in 1761, aged 19, as "fil. Cler.", and graduated B.A. in 1765. Taking Holy Orders he became rector and vicar of Ashill (Until 1858 Ashill was a Peculiar.), and also vicar of Chard. By the death of his brother Richard he became head of the family, and held the property both at Weston Zoyland and at Ashill. Thomas Alford married in 1781 Sarah, daughter of John Coles, vicar of Bridgwater.

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COLES—The Rev. John Coles, A.M., was vicar of Bridgwater from 1742 to 1785, and family tradition says that he possessed only thirty sermons, which he preached in his grand old parish church over and over again, annually, through nearly the half century. He was, nevertheless, "highly esteemed as a parson", and it is recorded that "he was exceeding busy and clamorous during Parliamentary elections", receiving an adverse deputation "with a stream of cold water"—literally—from the parish fire engine, which was kept at that time in the porch of his church! His portrait (painted in 1774), in gown and bands, has descended to the compiler. The late General Thomas Gordon Coles and his son "Pasha" Charles Ed. Coles, C.M.G., continued this family, through which also a connection was made between the Alfords of Somerset and the Bullers of Devon. Another daughter of Mr. Coles, Susannah, married John Symes, surgeon, of Bridgwater, and became the mother of John Coles Symes, a well known London lawyer of the last century, of 31, Fenchurch Street, and The Cedars, Clapham. Some notes on the Symes family will necessarily follow.

The children of Thomas Alford and Sarah his wife were:

i. Letitia, baptized at Ashill 9 July 1782. She died, unmarried, at Up-lyme, in 1869, and was buried at Ashill, where the following inscription is to be found :

"In memoriam Letitia Alford,
who died at Lyme Regis,
19 June 1869, aged 86.
The daughter of
The Reverend Thomas Alford
Formerly vicar of this Parish."

ii. Edward Wynne Alford of Bridgwater, baptized at Ashill 30 November 1783. He was "weak in mind and body", and dying unmarried in 1839, was buried 29 November at Ashill.

iii. Charles Alford, of whom next (2).

iv. Frances, born 1788; married, 1811, at Bleadon, Somerset, Morley Chubb, merchant, of Bridgwater. She died in 1850.

Thomas Alford's signature, as here given, is taken from a letter addressed to Mr. Richard Symes, solicitor, of Bridgwater (brother of the John Symes mentioned above), whose daughter afterwards married Mr. Thomas Alford's son.

Footnote at bottom of page:

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CHUBB—Morley Chubb, merchant, of Bridgwater, had by his marriage with Frances Alford, eight sons and four daughters. The eldest son, John Chubb, solicitor, of Cirencester, married Caroline Tudway, and died s.p. in 1859. Of the other sons, Hammond Chubb was for thirty years secretary to the bank of England, and died s.p. in 1904; while

Thomas Alford Chubb, the third son, was secretary, and afterwards treasurer, to the South Eastern Railway Company. He married Margaret Lyon, and died in 1883, leaving four sons, the youngest being John Burland Chubb, F.R.I.B.A., of London.

The letter concerned money arrangements with the Rev. John Coles. Thomas Alford "died of gout in the stomach", and was buried at Ashill 18 July 1805, his wife surviving him seventeen years. The abstract of his Will runs as follows:

"Thomas Alford of Ashill, in the co. of Somerset, clerk in holy orders, 1805 Richard Alford of Exeter and Sarah his wife my nephew and godson Samuel, son of my brother Samuel Alford my nephew Thomas, second son of my said brother my niece and god-daughter Maria Catherine Ann Vere, second daughter of the late Mr. Nicholas Vere of Up-Lyme, in the co. of Devon, clerk my sister Fanny his wife."

(From the original will.)

Monumental Inscriptions. Ashill, Somersetshire:

"Underneath lies the body of the
Rev. Thomas Alford, M. A.,
Rector and Vicar of this Parish,
and Vicar of Chard in this county for 35 years.
He married Sarah, elderest daughter of
John Coles, A.M., Vicar of Bridgwater,
by whom he had four children
who are left to bewail his severe loss.
He departed this life July 18, 1805,
Aged 63 years."

"Also the body of Sarah, wife of
the aforesaid Thomas Alford,
who departed this life February 6, 1822.
They lived respected, and died lamented."

2. **Charles Alford**, second son of the above Thomas and Sarah, was born at Ashill 24 January 1787. He was matriculated at Balliol College, Oxford, in 1805, the year of his father's death, and took his B.A. in 1809. He was ordained to the curacy of Bleadon, Somerset, and in 1814 was presented by Miss Balsh to the rectory of St. Audries', West Quantockshead, which living he held fifty-five years. The year following he married Elizabeth, daughter of Richard Symes, solicitor, of Bridgwater and of Cannington.

The Rev. Charles Alford and Elizabeth his wife had issue:

- i. Charles Richard Alford, Bishop of Victoria, of whom next (3).
- ii. Thomas Alford, of whom hereafter (4).
- iii. Mary, born 1820, died 1896; married Edward Freeman, merchant, of Manchester.
- iv. Frances, born 1822, died 1890; married George Okell, merchant, of Manchester.
- v. Eliza, born 1823, died 1874; married Benjamin Weall, gentleman, of Wood Hall, Pinner, Middlesex.
- vi. Henry Alford, of whom hereafter (5).
- vii. Sarah, born 1826, died 1860; married Charles Price, M.D., of Swansea.
- viii. Lucy, born 1827, died 1893; married John Moulding, warehouseman, of Manchester.
- ix. Susan, born 1828, died 1839.
- x. Samuel Alford, of whom hereafter (6).

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SYMES.—Mr. Symes was a descendand of the old Somerset family of Symes of Poundisford Park, near Taunton, through the second son of Thomas Symes of Winterbourne, near Bristol, who had married into the Brydges family. By this marriage with Elizabeth Symes a connection was also formed with the ancient family of Sydenham of the

same county, Mr. Richard Symes having married Betty, only child and heiress of John Sydenham of the Westowe Manor branch of that family, of which the Brymton line came to an end by the death, s.p., of Sir Philip Sydenham, bart., in 1739, and the Orchard Wyndham line by that of George Francis, Earl of Egremont, in 1845. A plot of ground called Sydenham's Marsh, which was held by Humphrey Sydenham in 1581, has thus descended to the compiler, together with some portraits and many interesting relics of both the Symes and Sydenham families.

Charles Alford inherited the Ashill property from his father, but was obliged to sell it, owing in a great measure to his love for a mail-phæton and pair of high-stepping horses, which is a youthful recollection of the compiler.

In his younger days he frequently drove a tandem, and once having a horse that was a bad crib-biter he sold it, of course at a loss, and a month or so later bought a taking animal at the Bridgwater Fair. A good price was given for the new purchase, and the rector drove it home with pride. Next morning his groom greeted him with the cry: "If yer baint been and bought the same old crib-biter over again." And so it proved! At an increased price he had bought back the same horse, clipped and docked, and disguised for the Fair.

Growing infirm in his later years Mr. Alford put a curate into his rectory, and retired to Exeter. He died there intestate, some two years afterwards, aged 84, and was buried at St. Audries, 13 November 1869. The grave is immediately outside the south wall of the chancel, and on the wall within is a small brass, bearing the arms and inscription:

On a chevron azure between three roses proper, three fleurs-de-lys.

"In memory of
the Rev. Charles Alford, B.A.,
Balliol College, Oxford;
fifty-five years Rector of this Parish.
Born 1786; Died 1869;
and buried beneath.

The widow died at Clifton, Bristol, eight years later. Her will and inscription follows:

"Elizabeth Alford, widow of the late Rev. Charles Alford, rector of St. Audries', West Quantlocks-head, in the co. of Somerset my son the Lord Bishop of Victoria my silver stand bearing the family arms my daughter Mary Freeman my daughter Fanny Okell my daughter Eliza Weall my daughter Lucy Moulding my grand-daughter Mary Freeman Okell residue to my said son Charles Richard Alford, Bishop. My said son, and my brother the Rev. Richard Symes, of Cleeve, Yatton, Somerset, Executors." Dated 17 March 1870. Witnesses, James N. Haggett and Jane Stone. (Proved 1877.)

From Original Will.

At Arno's Vale Cemetery, Bristol:

"Elizabeth Alford,
widow of the
Reverend Charles Alford,
Rector of St. Audries, Somerset.
Died at Clifton, 18 Oct. 1877.
Aged 90.
'At Evening-time it shall be light.'"

3. **Charles Richard Alford**, eldest son of the above Charles and Elizabeth Alford, was born at St. Audries Rectory, 13 Aug. 1816. At the age of eight he was sent to London, and placed under the care of John Coles Symes, who was first-cousin to both his father and his mother. Having been entered at St. Paul's School, he passed in due time, with "the Candem"—a valuable scholarship—to Trinity College, Cambridge, taking his B.A. in 1839, M.A. in 1842, and D.D. in 1867. Ordained by the Bishop of Lincoln to the curacy of Fingleton, he became successively Incumbent of St. Matthew's, Rugby, Vicar of Christ Church, Doncaster, and then for ten years Principal of the Metropolitan Training College at Highbury. On 2 February 1867, he consecrated, in Canterbury Cathedral, Bishop of Victoria, Hong Kong, an appointment of the Foreign Office. Retiring in 1872, he afterwards administered for a time the

Diocese of Huron, Canada, settling in his later years at Kensington, and finally at Brighton.

"Bishop Alford in the advanced years of his retirement was a very regular member of the C.M.S Committee, where he was noted for his geniality, and for the rather unusual combination of decided Protesantism with a vigilant guardianship of the rightful position of a Bishop."

(History of C.M.S., Vol. iii, p. 796.)

Charles Richard Alford married first, at St. Margaret Pattens, London, 21 July 1841, Sarah Jacosha, daughter of John Fleet, of Fenchurch Street. She died 22 October 1876, and is interred in the Bidstone Cemetery, Cheshire, where is the following inscription:

"Sarah Jacosha Alford,
the beloved wife of
The Right Reverend Bishop Alford, D.D.,
Sometime Bishop of Victoria.
She fell asleep in Jesus on 22nd of
October 1876; in the 60th year of her age."

The children of Charles Richard Alford and Sarah his wife were:

- i. Sarah, born and died 1842; buried in the chancel of St. Matthew's, Rugby.
- ii. Charles John Alford, of whom hereafter (7).
- iii. Harriet, born 1845, died at Doncaster 1847.
- iv. Josiah George Alford, of whom hereafter (8).
- v. Robert Gervase Alford, of whom hereafter (9).
- vi. Edward Fleet Alford, of whom hereafter (10).

Footnote at the bottom of page:

FLEET—These Fleets were of the Buckinghamshire and London family, of which Sir John Fleet, Lord Mayor of London 1692, was the most notable member. John George Fleet, brother of Mrs. Alford, died at Chiswick in 1902 "in an honoured old age", having been one of the founders of the Church of England Sunday School Institute, and closely associated with much religious work. He married Esther Faithfull, a lady of remarkable talents, both literary and artistic. John Faithfull Fleet, C.I.E., Admiral Henry Louis Fleet, and Rutland Barrington Fleet, are their sons; and Admiral E. J. Fleet, their nephew.

Bishop Alford married, secondly, September 26, 1877, Emma, daughter of Edward Sheardown, solicitor, formerly of Doncaster, who survives him.

Bishop Alford died at Tunbridge Wells, June 13, 1898, in his 82nd year, and was buried in the cemetery there, under a recumbent cross of polished red granite, on which is the following inscription:

"Charles Richard Alford, D.D.,
Sometime Lord Bishop of Victoria,
Born at St. Audries Rectory, Somersetshire,
August 13, 1816,
Died at Tunbridge Wells,
June 13, 1898. Aged 81 years,
'Waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ!'"

His will in abstract was as follows:

"Charles Richard Alford, Doctor of Divinity, sometime Bishop of Victoria, dated 15 April 1896. Proved 1898. My wife Emma Alford sole Executrix. My debenture stock in the Green Western Railway To my son Charles John Alford money in the hands of Messrs. Thompson, of 38, Mincing Lane, in the city of London my son the Rev. Josiah George Alford my son Robert Gervase Alford my son Edward Fleet Alford my sister Mrs. Frances

Okell my niece Constance Annie Fleet the silver plate presented to me and engraven with a mitre to Josiah George Alford and Edward Fleet Alford, my two sons who have children to inherit it. My wife shall have during her lifetime all the remainder of my silver plate Teapot with inscription Silver soup ladle and twelve table spoons to my son Robert. To my son Edward my sapphire ring, being a memorial ring of Daniel Wilson, Bishop of Calcutta, formerly the property of my cousin John Coles Symes, and given by him to his cousin, the Rev. Richard Symes, who gave it to me, his nephew. My gold watch, given to me by Miss Anne Mary Fleet, and engraven with a mitre and initials C.R.V, to my grand-daughter Marion Grace Alford. The gold watch chain formerly worn by my father, the Rev. Charles Alford, with four seals attached, to my son Robert. The portrait of his great-great-grandfather John Coles, Vicar of Bridgwater, to my son Josiah. My books and manuscripts Residue to my wife."
(From Original Will)

Bishop Alford died head of his family; and through his mother Elizabeth Symes, and through his grandmother Betty Sydenham—there being no male heir in either case—was the direct lineal representative of the Bridgwater branch of the family Symes, and of the Westowe branch of the ancient family of Sydenham. All three families were of the co. of Somerset, in which county Bishop Alford was a landowner, holding the farms of Budleigh and Powell's, near Taunton, at the time of his death, which passed by entail to his son Josiah George Alford. The north transept window in Cleeve Church is filled with stained glass as a memorial in his native county, while a canopied episcopal throne in the Cathedral at Hong Kong was erected as a memorial in his Colonial Diocese.

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It will now be convenient to deal with the other sons of the Rev. Charles Alford, of St. Audries.

4. **Thomas Alford**, second son of Charles Alford and Elizabeth his wife, was born in St. Audries Rectory, 16 Sept. 1817, baptized privately Oct. 1st, and received into church May 10th in the following year. With his elder brother he was taught in childhood by a governess at home, and, following his brother to London in due time, lived in 31, Fenchurch Street, with John Coles Symes and his sister Mary Symes, and attended the "Merchant Tailors", a celebrated London Public School.

An incident of this London life is worthy of record. The two boys, pining for their country freedom, surreptitiously and laboriously carried stores of earth up the many stairs to of the tall city house, and gaining access through a window to a small lead flat, made there a garden on the roof. Their terribly dangerous journeys to and fro were at length observed by an opposite neighbour, a message was sent across the street, and a stern prohibition brought the boys' *rus in urbe*, with its perilous joy, to an end.

His school days over, Thomas Alford bade farewell to England, never to return. Sailing for Australia, he made his way to Queensland, and settled at length at Toowoomba, on the Darling Downs. There he prospered, and marrying (7 Aug. 1839) Elizabeth, eldest daughter of George Boulton of West Maitland, brought up a large family, who are spreading and prospering in Queensland and New South Wales. Thomas Alford died at Toowoomba when only forty-seven years of age, 9th Jan. 1864, his widow surviving him forty-one years, and passing away at Toowoomba 12th Oct. 1905.

The family of Thomas Alford and Elizabeth his wife is as follows:

- i. Elizabeth, born 9 June 1840, at Paterson; married at Toowoomba, 1860, William Benjamin Green, of Mondure, Burnett; and, leaving six sons and four daughters, died at Toowoomba, 25 October 1905, a few days only after the death of her mother.
- ii. Mary, born 7 May 1842, at Clifford; married at Toowoomba, 25 June 1861, the Rev. Vincent Frederick Ransome, who, returning to England, became rector of Compton Bassett, Wiltshire. She died in 1875, leaving six sons and one daughter, and was buried at Chetnole, Dorset, where they had lived (Mr. Ransome being the curate in charge), on their return from Australia.
- iii. Thomas Alford, eldest son, born at Drayton, 11 October 1844. "Holds a good position in Brisbane." He married, 3 January 1872, Sarah Margaret, eldest daughter of Edward Ogg, J.P., of Ipswich, Queensland. Their children are:

1. Thomas Edward Alford, born 26 January 1873.
2. Ernest Henry Alford, born 16 March 1875.

3. George Vernon Alford, born 1 June 1877.
4. Florence Mary, born 29 July 1879.
5. Violet Elizabeth, born 30 December 1882.
6. Leslie Gerald Alford, born 18 April 1885.
7. Constance Isabel, born 15 May 1887.
8. Robert Dudley Alford, born 4 April 1893.

iv. Frances, born 8 August 1846, at Drayton; married at Toowoomba, 29 December 1868, Francis Sutherland Homfray; died in India, at Peshawar, 18 March 1886, leaving two sons and four daughters. Mr. Homfray died in Calcutta, 18 Oct. 1888.

v. Charles George Alford, second son, born 23 May 1848, at Drayton, co. Aubigny, New South Wales. He married at Bundaberg, 2 December 1873, Elizabeth Crofton, youngest daughter of John Nott, of Bundaberg, and settling in Sydney became a chief in the Bank of New South Wales. Their children are:

1. Ethel Marianne, born at Mount Perry 23 September 1874.
2. Herbert Lionel Somerset Alford, born at Warwick, Queensland, 5 November 1876.
3. Leofrie Crofton Alford, born at Toowoomba, 23 January 1882.
4. Alan Charles Windermere Alford, born at Bundaberg, 20 July 1883.
5. Gordon Beresford Alford, born at Toowoomba, 18 February 1885.

vi. Henry King Alford, third son of Thomas Alford, then of Toowoomba, and Elizabeth his wife, was born there, 22 July 1852. He is a banker in Brisbane, and married, at Allora, 20 November 1883, Augusta Florence, only daughter of Francis Kates, of Hendon, Allora. Their children are:

1. Clifford Somerset Alford, born 23 April 1885, at Allora, Darling Downs, Queensland.
2. Linda Marm, born at Allora, 9 July 1887.
3. Francis Somerset Alford, born at Allora, 24 March 1889.
4. Ethel, born at Roma, 14 February 1893, died 14 March 1893.
5. Ronald King Somerset Alford, born 20 February 1898, at Roma.

vii. Richard Symes Alford, twin son of Thomas and Elizabeth Alford, was born at Brisbane, 16 October 1854. He married at Normanby, 2 December 1893, Rachel [illegible middle name], daughter of Edward Ogg, J.P., of Ipswich, Queensland, and widow of Charles Warner. Their children are:

1. Rachel Gordon, born 12 September 1894;
2. Doris Symes, born 3 October 1895;
3. Jean Elizabeth, born 2 April 1898;

all three [born] at Yeronga, Brisbane.

viii. William Boulton Alford, twin son Thomas and Elizabeth Alford, was born at Brisbane, 16 October 1854. He settled at Roma, and married at Cooktown, 27 June 1884, Kathleen Carlton, youngest daughter of R.A. Fitz-Gerald. Their children are:

1. Alma Fitzgerald, born at Brisbane, 19 April 1885.
2. Kenneth Fitz-Gerald Alford, born at Roma, 12 June 1887.

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We now return to:

5. **Henry Alford**, third son of the Rev. Charles Alford and Elizabeth his wife, was born at St. Audries Rectory, West Quantockshead, 16 February 1825. He received a business training, and after some years in the clerical department of the Great Western Railway Company, entered the government service in Somerset House. He married 11 January 1847, Julia Emma Oborn, of Wincanton, Somerset; and dying at New Farm, Ealing, 3 July 1906, was buried at the St. George's Cemetery, Hanwell, Middlesex. The children of Henry Alford and Julia his wife were:

- i. Lousia Emma Amelia, born at Bayswater, 28 March 1848.
- ii. Richard Symes Alford, of Hanwell, Middlesex; born at Wincanton, Somerset, 12 October 1849; married Miss Kirby.
- iii. Henry Thomas Alford, of Harlesden; born 28 November 1852; married Miss Stevens.
- iv. Elizabeth Mary, of Bayswater; born 25 December 1855.
- v. Emma, born 25 April 1859; married 15 October 1887, Leonard Samuel Guy, of West Ealing.
- vi. Arthur Benjamin Alford, of New Farm, Ealing; accountant to the Brentford Gas Company; born 9 October 1861; married 18 March 1885, Susan Augusta Simmonds, of Worcester. Their children are:

- 1. Claude Percival William Alford, born at Chiswick, 1 July 1886.
- 2. Arthur Norman Alford, born at Chiswick, 15 September 1887.
- 3. Elsie Marguerite Lucy, born at Chiswick, 8 September 1889.
- 4. Charles Ronald Alford, born at Chiswick, 23 April 1892.

- vii. Lucy Ann.
- viii. Georgiana, born 24 February 1867; married 29 September 1890, Walter Arthur Hughes, artist, of Harlesden.
- ix. Charles Chubb Alford, of Wealdstone, Harrow; born 25 November 1874; married Elizabeth Worsley.

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6. **Samuel Alford**, fourth and youngest son of Charles and Elizabeth Alford, of West Quantockshead, was born at St. Audries Rectory in 1830. Following the example of his brother Thomas, though not with equal future success, he too emigrated early in life. He married a Miss Cassen, and settled in New South Wales. Their children, so far as the compiler has been able to ascertain, are:

- i. Charles Alford,
- ii. Mary Ann,
- iii. John Alford,
- iv. Samuel Alford,
- v. Arthur Alford, and
- iv. Henry William Alford; all of New South Wales.

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We now return to the direct line of the family, through the sons of Bishop Alford and Sarah his first wife.

7. **Charles John Alford**, eldest son, was born at Rugby, 2 August 1843. He was educated at the Doncaster Grammar School, and later at a London School of Science, gaining some early mining experience in Wales. After some years in the Peninsular and Oriental service he became a mining Inspector and Engineer, in which profession he has gained considerable repute, being spoken of as "one of the best-known of our mining-engineers". He is the author of several technical works, amongst others: *Engineering Notes on Cyprus* 1880; *Geological Features of the Transvaal*, 1891; *Ancient and Prospective Gold Mining in Egypt*, 1900. He is a great traveller, a Fellow of the Geological Society, and a member of the Society of Engineers.

Mr. C.J. Alford married, in 1871, Mary Helena, daughter of the Rev. William MacDermott, formerly of Montrose, N. B., and afterwards Chaplain of the Westminster Hospital. They have no family.

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8. **Josiah George Alford**, second son of the Bishop, was born at Doncaster 1 January 1847, and educated at the Islington Proprietary School and at King's College, London. He matriculated at Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, 1866, and proceeded B.A. in 1869, and M.A. in 1873. Ordained at Chichester to the

curacy of St. Leonard's-on-Sea, he shortly moved to Cleeve, Somersetshire, and in 1873 to Bristol, as Minor Canon. In 1880 he became Vicar of St. Nicholas', Bristol, serving for one year also as Chaplain to the Lord Mayor, Sir Robert Symes. In 1895 he was presented to the Vicarage of Stoke Bishop, near Bristol, and in 1897 was appointed an Honorary Canon of Bristol Cathedral, and in 1905 Rural Dean of Stapleton. Serving since 1878 as Chaplain to the Gloucestershire Volunteer Artillery, he was awarded the Long Service Medal in 1896, and the Volunteer Decoration in 1899. Canon Alford is the compiler of these family notes, and the author of several items of church music.

Josiah George Alford married at St. Leonard's-on-Sea, 26 September 1871, Catherine Mary, third daughter of Colonel John Thomas Leslie, C.B., Bombay Horse Artillery, afterwards Commandant at Warley. Their children are:

- i. Marion Grace, born and baptized at Cleeve Somerset; married 8 May 1900, Henry Lawrence Ormerod, M.D., of Westbury on Trym.
- ii. George Leslie Alford, born at the Old Deanery, Bristol, 21 August 1875, baptized in the Choir of the Cathedral; died at 98, Marina, St. Leonards's-on-Sea, 23 October 1876, and buried in the Hastings Cemetery.
- iii. Agnes Mary, born at the Old Deanery, Bristol; baptized in the Cathedral—the first baptism in the new Baptistery and Font.
- iv. Violet, born in Berkeley Square, Bristol; baptized in St. Nicholas' Church.
- v. Charles Symes Leslie Alford, born in St. Nicholas' Vicarage, Bristol, 7 February, 1885; baptized by his grandfather, Bishop Alford, 6 April, in St. Nicholas' Church—Dr. Cornish, now Bishop of Grahamstown, being a sponsor. Educated at Marlborough. Matriculated 1903 at Corpus Christi College, Cambridge; Captain and instructor of Musketry in the University Volunteers; B.A. 1907. He is of the seventh generation of University-men of his family, and is preparing for Holy Orders.

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Still continuing the family of Bishop Alford we come to:

9. **Robert Gervase Alford**, third son of the Bishop, was born at Doncaster 25 July 1848. He was a scholar of King's College, London, and trained as a civil engineer under Mr. Henry Carr—then engaged in rebuilding Blackfriars Bridge. Going out to China with his father in 1867, he entered the Colonial Service as Assistant-Engineer at Hongkong; and later, after ten years of private practice in the East, was employed at Portsmouth for the Torpedo Range works, and at Dover for the Harbour of Refuge Survey. In 1886 he was appointed Assistant-Surveyor of Works to the Prison Department in Scotland, living in Edinburgh. In 1902 he was moved to London, to a post under the Prison Commission at the Home Office, and lives at Hampstead. He became F.R.G.S. in 1878, M. Inst. C.E. in 1884, and F.R.S.E. in 1894.

Mr. R.G. Alford married, 6 Nov. 1979, at Chirst Church, Claughton, Cheshire, Marion, eldest daughter of James Ashburner of Fernleigh, Oxton. They have no children.

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The last of Bishop Alford's family:

10. Sir **Edward Fleet Alford**, knt., was born 30 June 1850 and baptized 13 August at Christ Church, Doncaster. He, too, went out with his father to China in 1867, and entered the service of Jardine, Matheson and Co., at Hongkong, becoming later a partner and representative of the firm at Shanghai, where he was also a Justice of the Peace. He retired in 1900, and lived in Kensington. In 1901 Lord Lansdowne, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, asked for his assistance at the Foreign Office and Board of Trade with reference to a new commercial treaty with China. In August that year the London "Times" stated:

"We are informed by the Foreign Office that Sir Alfred Bateman and Mr. E.F. Alford, late Chairman of the Shanghai Chamber of Commerce, are engaged in revising the duties of the Tariff for the forthcoming negotiations with the Chinese Government."

The Treaty was signed in the autumn of 1902, and the Birthday Honour List, Nov.9, stated:

"His Majesty has been pleased to confer the honour of Knighthood upon E.F. Alford, Esquire."

The notification was published that:

"Mr. Alford has received his knighthood on the recommendation of the Foreign Office, for important services in connection with the China Tariff."

The King's Speech on the prorogation of Parliament, 18 December 1902, contained the following paragraph:

"I have concluded with his Imperial Majesty the Emperor of China a commercial treaty, which promises to secure not only for this country, but for the commerce of the world, valuable facilities and advantages."

Edward Fleet Alford married, 2 Sept. 1886, at St. Matthew's, Ealing, Middlesex, Jane Eliza Helen Nathalie, daughter of the late John Shand, Lieut. Colonel Madras Staff Corps; and left issue:

- i. Loelitia Helen, born at Bowdon, Cheshire.
- ii. Edward John Gregory Alford, born 3 April 1890, at Bowdon, and baptized 3 June at Bowdon Parish Church by Archdeacon Gore. Educated at Tonbridge School, and entered at King's College Cambridge.

Sir Edward Alford died, 18 March 1905, at the Boltons, South Kensington, and his remains were buried at Cleeve, Somerset, where a polished grey granite cross marks his grave.

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EXTRACTS FROM REGISTERS.

Ashill, Somerset.

- 1618, May 11. Thomas Alford and Joan Hawkins, married.
1763, Jan. 18. Mary, the wife of the Rev. Thomas Alford, buried.
1770, Mar. 30. Nicholas Vere, bachelor, parish of Ilminster, and Fanny Alford, spinster, married by licence.
1777, Feb. 26. "The Rev. Mr. Thomas Alford was buried."
1782, June 4. Mr. Richard Alford, buried.
1782, July 9. Letitia, daughter of Rev. Thomas Alford and Sarah his wife, baptised.
1783, Nov. 30. Edward Wynne, son of Rev. Thomas Alford and Sarah his wife, baptised.
1787. "Charles ye son of the Rev. Thomas Alford and Sarsh his wife, was born on ye 24th January 1787, was privately baptised on the Sunday following and admitted into the Church on ye 5th day of July in the same year."
1805, July 18. "The Rev. Thomas Alford was buried."
1822, Feb. 6 [?] Sarah Alford of Bridgwater, buried.
1839, Nov. 29. Edward Wynne Alford, of Bridgwater, buried.

St. Mary's, Bridgwater.

- 1781, Sept. 18. "Thomas Alford, clerk, of Ashill, and Sarah Coles of Bridgwater, married (licence) by John Coles, Vicar."
1815, Nov. 27. "Charles Alford, clerk, of West Quantockshead, and Elizabeth Symes of Bridgwater, married (licence) by W. Wollen, Vicar."

St. Audries, West Quantockshead, Somerset

- 1816, Aug. 19. (Privately) Charles Richard, son of Charles and Elizabeth Alford, Rector of the parish, baptised. (Received publicly October 18.)
1817, Oct. 1. (Privately) Thomas, son of Charles and Elizabeth Alford, Rector of the parish, baptised (10th of May 1818, received into Church.)
1869, Nov. 13. The Reverend Charles Alford, Rector of this parish, aged 84 years, buried.

St. Margaret Pattens, City of London.

1841, July 21. Charles Richard Alford, Clergyman, son of Charles Alford, Clergyman and Sarah Jacosho Fleet, daughter of John Fleet, of 141, Fenchurch Street, married (licence) by Josiah Pratt, B.D.

St. Stephen's, Coleman Street, City of London.

1847, Feb. 25. Josiah George (born 1 Jan.1847), son of Charles Richard and Sarah Jacosho Alford of Doncaster, baptised by Charles Richard Alford, Incumbent of Christ Church, Doncaster.

Christ Church, Doncaster.

1850, Aug.13. Edward Fleet, son of Charles Richard and Sarah Jacosho Alford, baptised by Charles Richard Alford, Incumbent.

St. Leonard's Church, St. Leonard's-on-Sea, Sussex.

1871, Sept.26 Josiah George Alford, son of Charles Richard Alford, Bishop of Victoria, and Catherine Mary Leslie, daughter of John Thos. Leslie, C.B., Colonel (deceased), were married by Charles R. Victoria.

St. Nicholas', Bristol.

1885, April 6. Charles Symes Leslie Alford, son of Josiah George Alford, Vicar, and Catherine Mary his wife, baptised by Chas. Rich. Alford, D.D., Bishop.

St. Matthew's, Ealing, Middlesex

1886, Sept. 2. Edward Fleet Alford, son of Charles Richard Alford, Bishop, and Jane Eliza Helen Nathalie Shand, daughter of John Shand (deceased), Lt.-Colonel Madras Staff Corps, were married by Charles Richard Alford, D.D., Bishop.

Bowdon Parish Church, Cheshire.

1890, June 8. Edward John Gregory, son of Edward Fleet Alford and Jane Eliza Helen Nathalie his wife, baptised by A. Gore, Vicar and Archdeacon.