

The Alford's of Hereford, London, and Clarendon Park, (con't)
pp. 52–58

John Alford married Judith Claxton, and besides the above daughter had a son Edward Alford, and other children. He died in 1678 at Clarendon Park, and was buried at Wilton. His will here follows:

John Alford of Clarendon Park in the County of Wilts, Gent., 1678, "to be buried on the north side of Wilton Churchyard. . . . My sister Tilsley. . . my sonne in law John Clarke. . . my daughter Johanna his wife. . . their children. . . . Unto all the rest of my children. . . All the rest of my estate unto Judith my loving wife, whom I make sole Executor."

P. C. C. 10 *Reeve*

5. **Edward Alford**, son of John Alford and wife Judith his wife, was born in 1632, and appears to have been the father of John Alford and Charles Alford.

In the British Museum, *Add. MSS.* 33,084, f. 102, is this letter, dated 1689, from John Alford to the Hon. Thomas Pelham:

"Good Sir, The Bearer is my brother, Mr. Charles Alford, whom you were pleased to allow the favor and liberty to wayte on you. He is going shortly into Barbadoes, where he hath lived five yeares, and in Antigua five yeares more. He is a good accountant and writes a good hand, and will acquaint you what places are in the power of the Commissioners of the Customes to dispose off in that Island. If it does lye in your way to countenance him in some preferment, it will be owned as a very friendly obligation to

"Sir, your most humble servant,
[Insert signature copy here]

"London, July ye 24th, 1689."
(Crest on seal, a Boar's Head.)

Another letter from John Alford to Mr. Pelham, *Add. MSS.* 33,084, f. 65, is of less interest.

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Foster's *Alumni Oxonienses* records the matriculation of "Walter Alforde of county Worcester, at Exeter College in 1581, age 18." Also that of "Robert Alford of London, at Christ Church in 1595, age 28; M. A., 1607", who became vicar of Downe Ampney, Gloucestershire, in 1603, and died in 1653.

The following, perhaps, were of this family:

Edward Alford, died in 1701 at Woolwich. His monument, bearing the Alford arms—Six pears, three and three, as for Berks and Bucks—was in the chancel of the parish church.

Edward Alford, who died in 1754 at Kensington, was buried in the chancel of that parish church, since rebuilt. A flat stone in the floor of the chancel marked his grave. In the same year, Mrs. Alford, no doubt his widow, gave a benefaction of £100 to the schools of that parish.

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As might be expected, some connection with London is found in each branch of the Alford family, and is distinctly apparent here. The Appendix contains several Wills of Alford's settled in London, and these, together with the following extracts from *London Registers* and *London Marriage Licences*, give information worth recording, although not necessarily belonging to this Branch.

Grove's *Dictionary of Music and Musicians*, p. 53, mentions "John Alford a lutenist in London." He published there in 1568 *A Briefe and Easye Instruction unto the Lute*.

In 1634 William Alford, a member of the Skinners' Company, with Mary his wife, left London for America, and settled in Salem, Mass, U. S. A. From them descended one branch of the present Alford family in New England (see American notes later).

"Theophilus Alford was vicar of St. Stephen's, Coleman Street, London; and afterwards, 1661, of Southweld" (see Devon notes).

In 1711 the marriage is recorded at Alverstoke, Hants, of Rebecca Alford to Francis Tooley, surgeon.

In 1793, also at Alverstoke, that of Charity Alford to Richard Haskell, Commander of the "Duke of Portland".

ST. PETER'S REGISTERS, CORNHILL (LONDON).

1688, Jan. 3. Benjamin, son of Thomas and Ann Alford, baptized. 1689, Feb. 13. John, son of Thomas and Ann Alford, baptized.

1691, Aug. 4. James, son of Thomas and Ann Alford, baptized.

1691, Aug. 12. James, son of Thomas Alford, buried.

1693, July. 11. Mary, daughter of Thomas and Ann Alford, baptized.

1693, July, 23. Mary, daughter of Thomas Alford, buried.

1694, July. 4. Edmund, son of Thomas and Ann Alford, baptized.

1696, Mar. 23. Elizabeth, daughter of Thomas and Ann Alford, baptized.

FROM LONDON MARRIAGE LICENCES.

1566, Dec. 1. The son of John Alford was baptized at St. Thomas the Apostle, London.

1575. Richard Alford married Jane Bryggs, widow, of St. Anne's, Blackfriars.

1620. Thomas Alford married Margaret Harrison, at St. Mary's, Whitechapel.

1623. Mary, daughter of Thomas Alford of London, was married to William Lloyd of Melverley, Shropshire.

1631, Edward Alford of Christ Church (Southwark), London, married Sarah Harding of St. Faith's, London, at All Hallows, Barking.

1651, July. 13. Thomas Maynard and Margaret Alford, married, London.

1667. John Alford of St. Andrew's, Holborn, Esquire, married Mistress Sarah Jackson at St. Martin's in the Fields.

1691. Joseph Alford of London, bachelor, 36, married Mary Dod of Hinton, Northampton, spinster, 26, at St. Anne's, Westminster.

1704, Nov. 23. Alexander Alford of Stepney, married to Mary Moncke, at St. Mary Aldermary, London.

(The above are chiefly from Foster's *London Marriage Licences*.)

THE ALFORDS OF WILTSHIRE, ETC.

The early records of the Alfords of this county, commencing in 1509, are obtained from wills. Many of these wills of Alfords are to be found in the Principal Registry at Somerset House, and some few of them are given in abstract below.

The town of Mere was a centre of Alford interests, the name often appearing in the old parish documents. The list of "Reeves" includes:

1573 Christopher Alford

1575 Thomas Alford

1581 Christopher Alford
1585 Thomas Alford

The Reeve was the guardian of the common lands; and the farm lands are still called after the names of former owners, "Alford's" among others.

The Churchwardens' book at Mere contains a record of a dispute concerning tithes, the name of Christopher Alford being included in a commission appointed to decide the same. "A Commysyon was a wardyd owet of the Honorable Courte of the Exchequer berynge date the xij daye of february in the xxij yere of Queene Elyzabeth [1581]," etc.

The Church Plate includes a silver Chalice, 8-1/4 inches in height, inscribed:

Ex dono Jacobi filii Thomæ Alforde Mear, 1630.

The following served as Churchwardens of Mere:

1621 Thomas Alford, of Hyncksmyll.
1638 Thomas Alford.
1674 Robert Alford.
1680 James Alford.
1720 Thomas Alford.
(*Wiltshire Arch Magazine*)

The marriage is recorded, early in the sixteenth century, of Thomas Awbrey, of Chadenwick, Wilts, with Dorothy, daughter of Thomas Alford, of Mere, Wiltshire. (*Harl. Soc.*) His will follows:

Thomas Alford of Mere, Wilts: 1551. To be buried in the church yard of Salisbury Cathedral. My wife Katherine. . . . Richard my sonne, . . . Thomas my youngest son. . . . to every serving man and woman. Thos. Awbry and Thos. Alford my sonne Executors.
P. C. C. 28 Bucke.

The Mere Registers commence only in 1651. There are many Alford entries, and some of the name are still living there.

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From the Alfords of Mere descended those of Stourton, who apparently fell into poor circumstances.

The family interest in this Parish arises from a different source. Alice Stourton, of Stourton Park, married John Sydenham, of Brympton, Somerset, and became the direct ancestress of Betty Sydenham, who was Bishop Alford's grandmother.

Burke's *Royal Descents*, vol. ii, p. 170, 1851, states that the Stourton family are "in direct descent from King Edward I, and entitled to quarter the Plantagenet Arms".

The Manorial House at Brympton—which manor came to the Sydenhams from their ancestor, John Stourton—was enriched with the insignia of Henry VIII, having in the centre the royal arms in a shield. This house was built by John Sydenham, who being—through Stourton—of blood royal could venture to set up the royal arms." (*Batten's Descriptive and Historical Notes.*)

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