

"Alde was an ancient form of old as in alderman. Aldeford was the old ford across a river, and Robertus Dominus de Aldford was master, lord or governor of a military station (Aldford Castle) commanding the old ford across the Dee above Chester. The changes then followed:

Richard Dom. de Aldford
 Radulf de Aldford
 Henry de Aldford

Robert de Alford (a descendant of "Bigot" who came over with William the Conqueror. He was *miles* [Knight] in 1160).

Thomas Alford
 Alexander Alvord.

(The above is not to be taken as a direct line of ancestry.)

"This comes from the oldest pedigree of the name, and the connection of the Somerset family with the Aldford Castle in Cheshire is early but distinct. The northern Alford's gradually died out or sank in position, while the Somerset Alford's became land-owners (though not extensive ones) about 1560, and have maintained their position as professional gentlemen."

The following are very early occurrences of the name:

"Middleton or Milton (Clivedon), Fol. 48, No. 114. Grant by William de Clyveden for the good of his soul and those of his parents and friends to the canons of Bruton of the church of Middleton.

Testibus:

Roberto, Archidiacons Ilberto et Servasio decanis, Rogero de Alderforda, etc.

"Folio 14, 15. No. 35, A. D. 1256. Agreement made in the Lady Chapel of Bruton between Sir William, Prior of Bruton, and William de Careville before Sir H. Lovell. Sir Ralph sine Averio (Sansaver) Hugh his son Knights, Master Thomas de Alde the ford (Alford) John Rufus of Lamy, etc. Richard Landres, William Pincema Mathew de Beteville, etc. The said William de Careville released to the prior all right which he had in the paths and foot stiles above the Barn of the said Prior in the field which is called Hyde toward Begwode.

Testibus:

Wittelmo de Plescey,
 Wittelmo Hurcarl,
 Robert de Crudenhulle,
 W. de La Lade,
 Henrico de Campoflorido,
 Wittelmo de la Coume,
 Thomas de Dike.