

ica, since it may be presumed that the above refers to the mother of the settlers. If this be true, the father, Thomas Alvord, had died previous to 1636, and the children, Benedict, Alexander and Joanna, were left orphans at an early age; Alexander at the age of nine, Joanna fourteen and Benedict a few years older. As their home was now broken up, the children must seek employment and opportunities of self-support, hence they were drawn into the tide of immigration which was pouring into the "New World," perhaps in company with friends or relatives, or it is not improbable that Benedict, being the eldest, migrated alone in 1636, soon after his mother's death. The following year he was in Windsor, Conn., and served in the Pequot War. He returned to England in 1639 when he witnessed the deed in Broadway parish, and late the same year or the following year brought his younger brother and sister back to America with him. This theory is of course altogether imaginative, but it is certainly plausible.

It is more difficult to make connection with the generations previous to Thomas Alford. No record of the baptism of Thomas Alford is found on the parish registers of the Whitestaunton vicinity, nor is the name mentioned in any Alford wills of his time and locality. A most exhaustive search has been made without definite results.

The following references to the Whitestaunton Alford family prior to 1650 have been gathered from parish registers, wills and subsidy rolls:

1530. John Alford a witness to a Whitestaunton, County Somerset will of John Batley (or Bayley), 4th of July, 1530.

1538. Wm. Alford a witness to a will of Thomas Sylvestre of Hinton, St. George, Co. Somerset.

1550. Alexander Alford mentioned as living at Whitestaunton.

1558. Rev. Alexander Alford mentioned as living at Whitestaunton.

1576. Will of Alexander Alford of Whitestaunton "Clerke" 22nd of December.

1577. Will of widow Agnes Alford of Whitestaunton, children: Mary, Alice, Elinor, Salaman, William, John, Bartholomew and Bridget.

1578. Agnes Alvord, wife of Alexander Alford, of Whitestaunton, buried at West Moncton, Co. Somerset.

1586. George Alford born Whitestaunton.

1606. John Alford and Phylis Gibbs were married at Whitestaunton June 10.

1608. Johannes Alford son of Thomas Alford of Whitestaunton baptised 9th Oct.