

1612. John Alford mentioned as curate pro tempore at Bickenhall (a parish which adjoins Broadway Parish on the North).

1615. John Alford "clerk" buried at Bickenhall 12th of Nov. (Bishop's transcript).

1622. Joanna Alford daughter of Thomas Alford of Whitestaunton baptised December 8th.

1628, 1629, 1636. Richard Alford in the subsidy rolls of Whitestaunton.

1636. 27 May, Joane Alford, widow, was buried.

1650. Richard Alford and Alexander Alford appear in the Royalist Composition Rolls as being residents at Whitestaunton, Co. Somerset and being described as yeomen.

1657. Will of Richard Alford of Whitestaunton "yeoman" mentions wife Mary, house at Whitestaunton. my son Alexander Alford, to Christian, wife of my son Alexander, my house at Chard, Co. Somerset.

It is probable that among the above names are the ancestors of Thomas Alvord and his children, and it is very probable that the line runs to Rev. Alexander Alford, who died in 1576. If this is true, there is surely one generation intervening between him and Thomas Alford. The names of the four sons of Rev. Alexander Alford are mentioned in the will of his wife Agnes, viz.; Salaman, William, John and Bartholomew, but since no records of their marriages or children have been discovered it cannot be determined which, if any, was the father of Thomas.

It is most unfortunate that the manor court rolls of Whitestaunton are missing. All other records of the period of the exodus to America, relating to Whitestaunton and neighboring parishes, have been thoroughly searched. These include the parish registers, Bishop's transcript, wills at Somerset House, London, the Taunton Probate Registry, the Blandford Probate Registry and the Prerogative Court of the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Subsidy Rolls and Deposition, and Proceedings in Chancery.

The Nurton (Newton) family, into which Benedict Alford married, was an established family of Broadway, Co. Somerset. The Hawkins family, from which came the wife of Thomas Alford, was numerous, and is found both at Ashill and Broadway. The Brett family have been lords of the manor in Whitestaunton for many generations and in the 16th and 17th centuries the name Alexander was a favorite name in that family (letter from Rector at Whitestaunton). The custom of naming children for the lord of the manor is an ancient one and may account for the use of the name in the Alford family at that time and in that locality.