

*ander son of Thomas Alford was baptised."* There are the best reasons for believing that this is Alexander Alford, the brother of Benedict and Joanna, and the progenitor of the Alvord family of the United States. It is not hard to imagine Thomas Alford a temporary resident of Bridport, a flourishing town near the coast. His name does not appear in the subsidy rolls of Somerset and Dorset at that period, which indicates that he was not a holder or lessee of any land or goods subject to taxation, but an employee, preferably with respect to merchandise, in which capacity he may well be thought as residing temporarily at Bridport. While it is true that there was an Alford family resident at Bridport, distinct from the Whitestaunton family, yet the pedigree of that family has been so carefully wrought out that it is evident that Thomas Alford and his son Alexander are not of that family. There is nothing so far as discovered in the age of Alexander Alford to preclude his being the one baptised at Bridport in 1627. His marriage occurred in 1646 which would make him nineteen at that time, somewhat younger than the average marriage age, but it may be observed that two of his own children married at the age of nineteen. The birth of a child to him in 1671 would also indicate that he and his wife were born at least not much earlier than 1627. In his will, drawn in 1686, he speaks of himself as "well-stricken in years." If born and baptised in 1627 he would have been in his sixtieth year, when a man may well refer to himself as "well stricken in years," and furthermore it is not infrequent that such expressions are used in wills as mere matters of form. *This work then will accept the baptism of Alexander Alford of Bridport in 1627 as that of the progenitor of the Alvords of the United States.*

At Ashill, eight miles from Whitestaunton, there is on record the marriage of Thomas Alford and Joan Hawkins, May 11, 1618, and it is believed that these are the parents of Benedict, Alexander and Joanna Alford, since the parishes are almost adjacent, the date of the marriage conforms, and a mother would naturally give her own name to her daughter. It will also be remembered that one John Hawkins was a co-witness with Benedict Alford in the Standerwick deed.

The following burial is recorded at Whitestaunton: "1636, 27 May Joane Alford, widow, was buried." A thoughtful consideration of this entry will suggest a theory regarding the departure of the brothers and sister from England and their settlement in Amer-