

family of the priesthood, six successive generations, in two diverging but unbroken lines, having taken Holy Orders." (Canon J. G. Alford.)

Henry Alford, D. D., late Dean of Canterbury was a descendant of the Somerset Alfords.

Benedict, Alexander and Joanna Alford were early settlers in Windsor, Conn. From Alexander Alford the whole Alvord family of the United States is descended, from Benedict it may be estimated that nearly three-fourths of the Alfords are descended (Their descendants at present in America are about equal). The date of their coming to America, and the ship on which they came must remain in obscurity. It is not unlikely that they were minors and came from England in company with and under the charge of friends or relatives. This seems very probable in the case of Alexander and Joanna. Windsor, Conn. was settled in 1635 by a party from Dorchester, Mass., many of whom had come to America in 1630 in the ship "Mary and John." It is very visionary to believe that the Alfords were among these, for the Alford name does not appear on the early Dorchester records nor in the list of passengers on the "Mary and John", who have been quite fully identified. The earliest date that any of the Windsor Alford family is mentioned in America is May, 1637, when "Sarg." Benedict Alford was a soldier from Windsor in the Pequot Indian War. In 1640 the town of Windsor granted him his home-lot. (No mention is made of Alexander Alford in America until 1645, when the town of Windsor granted him a home-lot.) He received, however, a grant of land from the town which bears no date, but the circumstances attending the grant seem to indicate that it was about 1644. No mention is made of Joanna Alford until her marriage to Ambrose Fowler in 1646.

The kinship of these three Alford settlers is a most important factor in determining the parentage in England, and it is a most fortunate circumstance that this is reasonably well established. The early local historians and genealogists agree that Benedict and Alexander Alford were brothers and that Joanna Alford was their sister. As a further evidence of this it may be noted that the three are found together in the same settlement in the "New World", that the dates of their marriages (1640, 1646, 1646) and their deaths (1683, 1687, 1684) indicate that they were of about the same age, and that Jonathan Alford, son of Benedict, accompanied Ambrose Fowler, Joanna's husband, in his removal to Westfield, Mass., their names