

Part 20: Josiah Alford's Alford Family Notes

From Josiah George Alford's *Alford Family Notes Ancient and Modern* (London: 1908), pp. 156–170. Part 19 was in the Fall 1993 issue of *AAFA ACTION*.

THE ALFORDS OF CURRY RIVEL, etc., SOMERSET

2. **Samuel Alford** (the second), eldest son of the foregoing Samuel and Mary Alford, of Heale, was born at Curry Rivel, and baptized there 25 March 1776. After some years at the then celebrated Ilminster Grammar School he matriculated in 1794 at Queen's College, Oxford, proceeding B.A. in 1797, and M.A. in 1800. Taking Holy Orders, he served as chaplain to Lady Chatham, and afterwards became vicar of Muchelney. Inheriting the Heale Estate on the death of his father, he lived at Heale House, where, having married, in 1802, "Rebecca, daughter of Thomas Shute, esquire, of Charmouth, Dorsetshire," he brought up a family of thirteen children. These were:

- i. Samuel Alford, of whom hereafter (6).
- ii. Thomas Alford, of whom hereafter (7).
- iii. Henry Alford, of whom hereafter (8).
- iv. Walter Alford, of whom hereafter (9).
- v. Rebecca Shute, born 1810, married, 1842, William Francis Morgan, surgeon, of 2, Berkeley Square, Clifton. She died in 1891.
- vi. Frances Oke, born 1811, married, 1835, Henry Alford, afterwards Dean of Canterbury. She died in 1878, in Kensington Palace.
- vii. Mary Bush, born 1813, married, 1841, Henry Charles Trenchard, of Taunton, solicitor. She died in 1893.
- viii. Anne Octavia, born 1814, died, unmarried, at Weston-super-Mare, 13 October 1860. Buried at Curry Rivel.
- ix. Richard Alford, of whom hereafter (10).
- x. Harriet Jane, born 1817, married, 1844, Henry Burford Norman, surgeon, of London and Southsea. She died in 1847.
- xi. Eliza Shute, born 1819, married, 1846, Charles Millett Foster, solicitor, of North Curry, Somerset. His sister, Susanna, married Thomas Alford. She died in 1856.
- xii. Stephen Shute Alford, of whom hereafter (11).
- xiii. George Alford, of whom hereafter (12).

Mr. Samuel Alford added considerably to the Heale Estate, raising it to a total of 315 acres.

Samuel Alford died at Heale in 1854, and his widow the year following. His Will, and their monumental inscriptions

are here given:

"The Reverend Samuel Alford, of Heale House, within the parish of Curry Rivell, Co. Somerset, Clerk.....To my dear wife Rebecca all my household furniture, cows, horses and carriages, and 700 pounds. All my lands and tenements to my wife, my brother the Rev. Henry Alford, and John Frederick Norman of Taunton, upon trust, to divide among my twelve children. Whereas I have advanced to my children certain sums as in the Schedule, I wish these sums to be considered as part of their portion.....my sons Samuel, Henry, Thomas, Walter.....my son Richard.....My daughters Rebecca Shute wife of my nephew William Francis Morgan, Frances wife of my nephew Henry Alford [afterwards Dean of Canterbury], Harriet Jane wife of Henry Burford Norman, Mary Bush wife of Henry Charles Trenchard, and Eliza Shute wife of Charles Millett Foster.....My son Stephen Shute Alford.....my son the Rev. George Alford..... The trustees above mentioned to be also the Executors." Dated 20 August 1846. Proved by Rebecca Alford, widow, and John Frederick Norman, surviving Executors, 2 June 1854.

(Prerogative Court of Canterbury.)

Curry Rivel, Somerset (in the churchyard):

"Underneath are deposited the remains of the Rev. Samuel Alford, M.A., of Heale in this Parish, and formerly for many years Incumbent of Muchelney. He died March 22nd 1854, aged 78 years."

"Also the remains of Rebecca Alford his widow, who died February 2nd, 1855, aged 72 years."

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3. **Henry Alford** (senior), the third and youngest son of Samuel Alford, senior, and Mary Bush his wife, was born in Curry Rivel Vicarage, December 3rd, 1872. He was educated at Blundell's celebrated school at Tiverton, matriculating at Wadham College, Oxford, in 1800, and graduating B.A. in 1804, and M.A. in 1811. He became a Fellow of Wadham, studied law, and was called to the Bar. In 1809 he married Sarah Eliza, daughter of T. Bradley Paget, banker, of Tamworth, by whom he had a son:

- i. Henry Alford, of whom next (4).

In 1811 he lost his wife; was ordained in 1813, at Quebec Chapel, London, to the Curacy of Steeple Ashton, Wilts;

travelled with Lord Calthorpe to the field of Waterloo in 1817, and on to Rome. He held the livings of Ampton, Wingfield, Ampton (a second time), and Aston Sandford. In 1831 he married (secondly) Susannah, daughter of John Barber, of Denmark Hill, by whom he had a son:

- ii. Bradley Hurt Alford, of whom later (5).

The Rev. Henry Alford died in 1852, and was buried at Curry Rivel, where the following inscription may be seen:

“Under neath are deposited the remains of  
Henry Alford,  
late Rector of Aston Sandford in the Co. of Bucks:  
and third son of Samuel Alford, A.M.,  
formerly Vicar of this Parish.  
He was born in the adjoining Vicarage House Dec. 3, 1782,  
and died at Tunbridge, Sepr. 23, 1852.”

“Also of Susannah his wife, who died  
May 31, 1869; aged 72 years.”

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4. **Henry Alford**, eldest son of the above Henry Alford, by Sarah is first wife, was born in London in 1810. He went to school, first at Charmouth and afterwards at Ilminster, spending his holidays at Heale House with his uncle and cousins. Entering at Trinity College, Cambridge, he became “Bell” Scholar, took a double-first degree in 1832, and B.D. and D.D. later. He was elected a Fellow of Trinity in 1834. Taking Holy Orders, he became Vicar of Wymeswold, then incumbent of Quebec Chapel in the West End of London, and in 1857 was appointed Dean of Canterbury. Marrying his cousin Frances Oke, daughter of the Rev. Samuel Alford, of Heale, their children were:

- i. Ambrose Alford, born 1840, died 1850.
- ii. Clement Alford, born 1843, died 1844.
- iii. Alice, married the Rev. William Thomas Bullock, Prebendary of St. Paul’s; Chaplain of Kensington Palace.
- iv. Frances Mary, married Rev. Henry Edmund Tilsley Cruso, Assistant Master, King’s School, Canterbury, now Rector of Tunstall, Kent. She died in 1905.

Dean Alford was “a man of varied attainments and refined scholarship”. Several books, poetry and prose, are the fruit of his authorship, but he is especially remembered as the writer of Alford’s *Greek Testament*. He died in 1871, and was buried with public honours in the churchyard of St. Martin’s Canterbury, where the following inscription marks his grave:

“Henry Alford, D.D.
Dean of Canterbury.
Born Oct. 7, 1810; Died Jan. 12, 1871.
Deversorium viatoris Hierosolyman proficiscentis.”*

“Also of Frances Oke Alford, his widow,
Born 19 August, 1811; Died 18 November, 1878.”

**“The lodging place of a traveller journeying toward Jerusalem.”
—The Dean’s own choice of words.

A stained glass window, as a memorial to the Dean, was placed in the south choir Transept of Canterbury Cathedral, above which are two smaller windows in memory of his widow, while in the triforium are two others which the Dean gave as memorials to his two sons. A brass under the larger window bears this inscription:

“In memoriam Henrici Alford, S.T.P., Decani, qui ob. xii die Jan. mdccclxxi. Hanc vitream P.P. Amici.”

Another, close by, runs:

“In piam memoriam Francisæ Oke, Henrici Alford Decani vidvæ, duas quæ supra sunt vitreas posuit A. Bullock filia natu major, ob. die Nov. xviii. A.S. mdccclxxviii.”

A marble bust of the Dean stands in the Cathedral Library, and a large portrait hangs in the Deanery.

The Life of Dean Alford, edited by his widow, was published by Rivingtons, 3rd edition, 1874.

An abstract of his Will here follows:

“The Very Rev. Henry Alford, D.D., Dean of Canterbury. To my wife Frances Oke Alford absolutely all my real Estate, and also all my personal Estate, including all monies and property over which I have any power of disposition or appointment, subject to the Settlement made on the marriage of my daughter Alice with the Rev. William Thomas Bullock... .. and also subject to the Bond executed on the marriage of my daughter Frances Mary with the Rev. Henry Edmund T. CrusoI appoint my said wife Executrix.”

Dated 21 Aug. 1869. Proved 1871. Witnesses, Benj. Harrison, Archdeacon of Maidstone; J.O. Robertson, Canon of Canterbury.

From Original Will.

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5. **Bradley Hurt Alford**, younger son of the Rev. Henry Alford, by Susannah, his second wife, was born at Ampton, Suffolk, 28 Aug. 1837. He was educated at Tonbridge

School, and became a Scholar of Trinity College, Cambridge, graduating with classical honours in 1859. Taking Holy Orders in 1862, he was successively Curate of St. Michael's, Chester Square; Incumbent of Leavenheath, Suffolk; Curate in charge of Holy Trinity, Hoxton; and Vicar of St. Luke's, Nutford Place, Hyde Park; retiring in 1903. He was frequently a special preacher in Westminster Abbey; was Editor of *Greek Testament with Notes* (1879), abridged from Dean Alford's larger work, and of Nutford Place Sermons.

The Rev. B.H. Alford married, in 1865, Caroline Alexa, daughter of Charles James Lyall, of Westbourne Terrace, Hyde Park, and has two daughters:

- i. Dorothy, who took a first-class in the Nat. Science Tripos, Cambridge, 1888; and in 1894 married William H. Banks, banker, of Kington, Herefordshire.
- ii. Margaret, who took a first class, first division, in the Classical Tripos, Cambridge, 1890; and is now Lecturer in Latin at Bedford College, London.

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We now return to the sons of Samuel Alford (the second) of Heale House, and Rebecca his wife.

6. **Samuel Alford** (the third), their eldest son, was born at Heale 30 Oct. 1803, and baptized in Curry Rivel Church Dec. 29. Having been at the Ilminster Grammar School, he prepared in Bristol for a legal career, but later on entered Queen's College, Cambridge, graduating in 1841. He was ordained in 1842 to the curacy of Wymeswold, moving to Glasbury, Herefordshire, where he remained in sole charge till 1872, when the Lord Chancellor appointed him to the rectory of Upper Helmsley, Yorks. He married Henrietta Whitter Tickell, of Scone, Cornwall, and had eleven children:

- i. Eliza Mary, born at Chiddcock, Dorset.
- ii. Catherine Sarah, born at Glasbury; died in infancy.
- iii. Charles Edward Alford, born at Glasbury, 29 August 1848; educated at Crewkerne Grammar School, and University College Hospital, London; a medical practitioner, and District Medical Officer of Crewkerne, Somerset; married, 24 June 1879, Mary Ann Griffin, their children being:
 1. Ethel, born at Crewkerne.
 2. Mabel, born at Crewkerne.
 3. Basil Alford, died in infancy.
- iv. Frederick James Alford, born in 1849, died in infancy.
- v. Sarah Gundry, born at Glasbury.
- vi. Agnes Oke, born at Glasbury; married William Alford, of Crewkerne and of Clifton, solicitor.

- vii. Lucy Shute, born at Glasbury; married, 1891, the Rev. Thomas Kerby Eaton, Vicar of Merriott, Somerset.
- viii. William Henry Alford, born 2 August 1854; settled in Montreal, in the service of the Canadian Pacific Railway; married a Canadian, but died in 1891, leaving no children.
- ix. Francis Alford, born 22 Dec. 1855; of Charlton, Kent; Commander of the Telegraph ship "Monarch"; married Mary Elizabeth Leegood, their children being:
 1. Jessie Whitter.
 2. Henrietta Mary Oke.
 3. Samuel Francis Alford.
 4. Robert George Freer Alford.
 5. Edgar Stephen Alford.
 6. Hilda Beatrice.
 7. William Henry Alford.
 8. Frederick Leonard Alford.
 9. Gertrude Lucy.
 10. Cecil Jasper Alford.
- x. Catherine Tickell, born at Glasbury.
- xi. Ernest Hender Alford, born 20 Sept. 1860; settled in Canada, and died, unmarried, aged 43.

The Rev. Samuel Alford died at Upper Helmsley in 1886, where a marble cross marks his grave in the churchyard, with the following inscription:

"In memory of
the Rev. Samuel Alford
15 years Rector of this Parish
Died Nov. 10, 1886; aged 83."

"Also Henrietta Whitter Alford his wife
who died Jan. 8, 1887; aged 69."

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7. **Thomas Alford**, second son of Samuel and Rebecca Alford, was born at Heale, 24 April 1805, and baptized in Curry Rivel Church 16 September the same year. He married Susanna, daughter of John Hopkins Foster, of Newport, North Curry, solicitor, and, living a quiet country life in Heale Cottage, brought up four children, viz.:

- i. Herbert Alford, born 12 October 1838; bank manager at Weston-super-Mare; he married Maria Louisa Jones, and left three children, viz.:
  1. Charles Mitlett Alford, born 26 March 1870; now living in Leicester.
  2. Herbert Thomas Marmaduke Alford, born 24 July 1873, medical practitioner, of Weston-super-Mare. He married Edith Violet Clay, by whom he has a son,

Richard Marmaduke Alford, born 17 August 1906, and two daughters—Una Violet and Kathleen Iris. Herbert Alford died in 1893, and was buried in the cemetery at Weston-super-Mare, where the following inscription is on his grave:

“In loving memory of  
Herbert Alford,  
who departed this life  
on Sunday, the 29th September, 1893,  
in the 55th year of his age.”

- ii. Clement Alford, born 1840, passed from Crewkerne School to Corpus Christi, Oxford, in 1859, graduated B.A. in 1863, and M.A. in 1866. He took holy orders, and after holding several curacies became Vicar of Westbury-sub-Mendip, where he died, unmarried, in 1891.
- iii. Rose, who now occupies Heale Cottage.
- iv. Martin Alford, born 19 June 1846; baptized at Curry Rivel Church. He took holy orders in 1877, and after holding some curacies, including Atworth, Wilts, and Brent Knoll, Somerset, became Vicar of Long Sutton, and, later, Rector of Treborough. Retiring, he now lives at Minehead, Somerset. He married, 7 June 1887, Freda Annette, daughter of Andrew Bushell of Atworth, Wiltshire, and has three daughters, viz.:
  1. Frances Rose, born at St. Briavel’s.
  2. Daisey Oke, born at Curry Rivel.
  3. Dorothy Freda, born at Long Sutton.

Mr. Thomas Alford died in 1884, and his widow two years later. They were buried in the Curry Rivel churchyard, where is this inscription:

“Thomas Alford  
of Heale in this Parish  
died 13 October, 1884,  
Aged 79 years.  
Susannah, his wife,  
Died 30 July, 1886, aged 77 years.”

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8. **Henry Alford**, third son of Samuel Alford, of Heale, was born at Heale in 1806, and after studying in Bristol and St. Bartholomew’s, entered the medical profession. Settling in Taunton in 1830, “he practised there with conspicuous success for over half a century.” On retiring professionally he did much public work, serving as “Bailiff” of the borough, and Churchwarden of the grand old parish church of St. Mary Magdalene, Taunton. He was twice married; first, in 1835, to Elizabeth Jane Pring, by whom he had six children; and secondly, in 1846, to Mary Andrews Norman

(whose brother, Henry Burford Norman, had married Harriet Jane Alford). Henry Alford’s children were:

- i. Henry James Alford, M.D., of Taunton, Medical Officer of Health, born 1836, who married, first, Matilda Micklethwaite, by whom he had:
 1. Edward Henry Micklethwaite Alford, born 1859, now of Napier, New Zealand, married, and has one son and one daughter.
 2. Henry Stacey Alford, born 1861, now in the United States.
 3. Arthur Powell Alford, born 1865, now in Massachusetts.
 4. Francis William Alford, born 1873, now in Canada.
 5. John Micklethwaite Alford, born 1875, now in Canada; married, has one son and one daughter.
 6. Sophia Matilda, born at Taunton.
 7. Anne Pring, married Gordon Walsh, solicitor, of Oxford; died 14 May 1904.
 8. Mabel, married Walter Morris, now a widow.
 9. Ethel, born at Taunton.
 10. Edith Maud, married Walter James Hill, surgeon, of Clevedon; Surgeon-Captain R.G.A. Volunteers.
 11. Lilian Maud, married Arthur Mundy, of Cardiff.

Dr. Henry Alford married, secondly, in 1886, Marian King, by whom he has children:

12. Bernard Trevor Alford, born 9 Dec. 1888.
13. Thomas Alford, born 21 Dec. 1889.
14. Leonard Alford, born 16 Nov. 1891.
15. Maria Victoria, born at Taunton.

- ii. Henrietta Elizabeth, born 1837, died at Taunton 1905. A zealous Christian worker; for twenty-five years Superintendent of the St. Mary Magdalene, Taunton, Sunday School. She had also considerable literary talent, especially in verse.

- iii. Daniel Pring Alford, born 28 Nov. 1838, matriculated at Exeter College, Oxford, in 1857, graduating B.A. with honours in 1861, and M.A. in 1864. Ordained in 1862 he became Chaplain of the Scilly Isles, Rector of Apsley Guise, and Vicar of Houghton Regis, Bedfordshire, and finally Vicar of Tavistock. Retiring, he lives in Taunton, much occupied with literary work. He is the author of *A Tale of Tresco*, *The Retreat*, and other poems, *The Abbots of Tavistock*, etc. He married in 1864 Charlotte Elizabeth Toncock, daughter of a former Vicar of Tavistock, their family being:
 1. Henry Powell Alford, born and died 1868; buried at St. Mary’s, Scilly Isles.

2. Reginald Pring Alford, born 13 Oct. 1869, now of Red Deer, Alberta; married Helen Smith, and has daughter Mildred. A son died in infancy.
 3. Bertram Pring Alford, born 30 April 1871, of Red Deer, Alberta; married Elsie Sibbald, having sons: Henry Charles Alford, born 1898, and Geoffry Daniel Alford, born 1899; and daughters: Vera, Gladys, Sybil and Winifred.
 4. Charles Morris Pring Alford, born 1872, died 1888, and buried at Tavistock.
 5. Alfred Henry Pring Alford, born 1880, now of Pine Lake, Alberta.
 6. John Houghton Pring Alford, born 1883, died 1901, and was buried at Trull.
 7. Emma Beatrice, born at Tavistock.
 8. Mary Geraldine, born at Tavistock.
 9. Winifred Kate, born at Tavistock.
 10. Edith Marion, born at Houghton Regis.
- iv. Elizabeth Mary, born 1840, died at Taunton 1905. She wrote many romances, e.g., *The Fair Maid of Taunton*, *Honor*, *Stanhurst*, *The Modern Don Quixote*, also stories in the *Quiver*, the *Argosy*, etc. *Sunday Sonnets* appeared in 1887, and in 1901 a second volume of *Poems*.
 - v. Samuel Alford, born 22 Feb. 1843, entered the medical profession, and practised at Southsea. He married, in 1872, Mary Augusta Wolrige, and died 21 Jan. 1882, leaving two children:
 1. Cyril Wolrige Alford, M.D., of Chelmsford, born 7 April 1873.
 2. Constance Mary.
 - vi. John Alford, born and died at Taunton, 1844.

Mr. Henry Alford died in an honoured old age in 1898, and was buried with public manifestations of respect.

Monumental inscriptions are as follows:

In the Taunton Cemetery:

“In loving memory of
Henry Alford, F.R.C.S.
Born at Heale House, Curry Rivell,
17 July, 1806
Died at Mountlands, Taunton,
29 June, 1898, in his 92nd year.”

“Also of Mary Andrews his wife,
Born 26 Dec. 1802. Died 29 July, 1873.”

In the churchyard of St. Mary Magdalene, Taunton:

“Elizabeth Jane
the beloved wife of
Henry Alford, Surgeon, of Taunton.
Died March 5, 1845, aged 34 years.”

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9. **Walter Alford**, fourth son of Samuel and Rebecca Alford, was born at Heale, March 5th, 1808. He was educated at Ilminster School, and matriculated at St. Edmund Hall, Oxford, in 1826, graduation B.A. in 1830, and M.A. in 1833. He took Holy Orders, becoming Incumbent of Muchelney in 1843, and in 1848 Vica of Drayton, Somerset. He succeeded his father in the possession of the Heale Estate, and for some years occupied the house. Later, however, he lived in the Vicarage house at Drayton, which he had rebuilt. He was twice married; first to Martha Harris, whose only son died in infancy, while she died in 1840; and secondly to Lydia, daughter of Robert Goldin, R.N., by whom he had three sons and three daughters viz.:

- i. Lydia Rebecca, born at Stonehouse, Plymouth, 4, March 1843; her grave at Drayton bears the inscription:

“Lydia Rebecca, eldest daughter of  
the Rev. W. Alford, Vicar of the Parish,  
who died 1st June, 1884, aged 41 years.”

- ii. Walter Goldin Alford, born at the Court House, Muchelney, in 1845, entered St. John’s College, Cambridge, taking his degree in 1867. He was ordained, and became Vicar of Henton, Somerset. He died, unmarried, and was buried at Drayton.

“The Rev. Walter Goldin Alford,  
Vicar of Henton, near Wells, Somerset,  
who died 26th January, 1889,  
Aged 43 years.”

- iii. Robert Alford, of Heale House, J.P. for the Co. of Somerset, eldest surviving son of the Rev. Walter Alford, was born at the Court House, Muchelney, 15 March 1848, and brought up at Heale. Educated at Marlborough, and at Wadham College, Oxford, where he took an honours degree in 1870. For twenty-seven years he was an assistant-master at Marlborough, and during the latter part of that time house-master of Summerfield. He married in 1890 Henrietta, daughter of the Rev. Charles Grueber, Vicar of Hambridge, Somerset, and becoming the owner of the Heale Estate on the death of his father, made it his residence in 1904. Some interesting notes on Heale House and the Powell family will be found later.
- iv. William Powell Alford, youngest son of Walter Alford and Lydia his second wife, was born at Drayton Vicarage in 1859. He was educated at Sherborne School, and at Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, graduating B.A. in 1882 and M.A. in

(Continued on p. 34)

*(Alford Family Notes, cont. from p. 26)*

1885. He was one of the sixth generation (in unbroken line) to take Holy Orders; and having held the curacy of Exmouth, was appointed Vicar of Dawlish, South Devon, in 1895. He was also Rural Dean. William Powell Alford married in 1897, Louisa Caroline, youngest daughter of Jonathan Stables Harrison, esquire, of Brandesburton Hall, Yorkshire.

- v. Jane Bush, born at Muchelney; now lives at Dawlish.
- vi. Emily Ann, born at Muchelney; now lives at Dawlish.

The Rev. Walter Alford lost his second wife in 1877, himself surviving her fifteen years. Both died at Drayton, where the east window of the church he served so faithfully, and loved so well, is beautifully filled with stained glass in his memory, and the window on the south side of the church in hers. Their grave in the churchyard bears the inscription:

“Sacred to the memory of Lydia Alford the beloved wife of the Rev. W. Alford; who died January 27, 1877, aged 60 years.”

“Also of her husband Walter Alford, 44 years Vicar of this Parish, who died 14 December, 1892, aged 84 years.”

“The last Will . . . of Walter Alford, Vicar of Drayton, Somerset . . . all my property . . . land, money, mortgages, plate, books, household goods, horse and carriage, . . . to my children living at the time of my decease in equal shares. The Heale Estate shall not be sold for the purpose of the above division. . . my son Robert to be allowed to purchase it at what shall be estimated its fair value, including the timber. . . My sons Robert Alford and William Powell Alford, executors.” Proved 1892.

From original Will. ❖