

# Alford Research

## The Alvord Line

by Gil Alford, #0019, Member, AAFA Hall of Fame

[This article is also being posted on the AAFA web site.]

In this issue you will see several "Alvord" items so it seems it is appropriate to provide a reminder about the name and a review of our "Alvord" effort.

You might say the "Alvord" effort began in "*About Alford's, issue #5*" in October 1983 with:

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Before you turn away from this line as one that does not interest you, look a little closer.

The English ancestors of this line were Alford's, and Thomas Alford, the immigrant and the father of the four immigrant children used the name Alford.

A genealogy and charts followed.

[We were not too smart in those days. Thomas was the father but he did not immigrate. At that time it was erroneously assumed that a William Alford of early New England was part of this family. The immigrants were Alexander Alvord, Benedict Alford and Joan or Joanna Alford.]

Our original database did not have a field for "surname" as all the early entries were named "Alford." It was not long before a surname field was added to distinguish between folks named Alford and those named Alvord.

It was sometime later that we discovered the existence of, and obtained a copy of, Samuel Morgan Alvord's "*A Genealogy of the Descendants of Alexander Alvord an Early Settler of Windsor, Conn, and Northampton, Mass.*" (Webster, NY: A.D. Webster, Printer, N.Y., 1908). The association has since purchased a copy of a reprint from Higginson Books.

The association also owns an original copy of John A. Boutelle's "*The Burke and Alvord Memorial: A Genealogical Account of the Descendants of Alexander Alvord of Windsor, Conn.*" (Boston: H.W. Dutton & Son., 1864)

When the Association was organized the decision was made that we would include "Alvord," "Halford," and about 100 other spelling variations. Now you will find those names in the census listings, obituaries, and other such listings.

In AAFA ACTION, Jun 1990, we began a series of installments based on the 1908 book as follows:

- #9 June 1990, pg 46, "*From The Descendants of Alexander Alvord.*" AAFA Introduction and "Preface" including "How Shall We Pronounce Our Name"
- #10 September 1990, pg 36, "*Part 2: The Descendants of Alexander Alvord.*" English Alford's Origin and

Early Mention Of The Name Alford In English Records. The Relation of The American Alvord Family to English Alford.

- #11 December 1990, pg 48, "*Part 3: The Descendants of Alexander Alvord.*" "*Windsor, Connecticut Alford/Alvords,*" "*The English Connection,*" and "*Thomas Alford.*"
- #12 March 1991, pg 32, "*Part 4: The Descendants of Alexander Alvord.*"
- #13 June 1991, pg 40, "*Part 5: The Descendants of Alexander Alvord.*" "*Arms of Quarterly of Eight*" and "*Early Alford Wills in Somerset House, London.*"
- #14 September 1991, pg 38, "*Part 6: The Descendants of Alexander Alvord.*" "*Other Settlers of the Alford Name in America.*"

At this point we had published all of the preliminary part of the book and were staring at the first generation of the genealogy. We could not decide upon what to do. Almost two years later the late Willie M. Alford, AAFA #0128, agreed to do the computer input of the genealogy using a word processor and not a genealogy program. He held to the format used by Samuel M. Alvord except for the "+" added to denote for applicable descendants that there was more family information in the next generation. The effort continued slowly:

- #22 Fall 1993, pg 43, "*Part 7: Descendants of Alexander Alvord.*" "First Generation."
- #23 Winter 1994, pg 48, "*Part 8: Descendants of Alexander Alvord.*" "Second Generation."
- #26 Summer 1994, pg 46, "*Part 9: Descendants of Alexander Alvord.*" "Third Generation."
- #28 Spring 1995, pg 33, "*Part 10: Descendants of Alexander Alvord.*" "Third Generation - continued."

Illness and the subsequent death of Willie Alford brought this effort to a close. Sometime later we began entering the genealogical data into a genealogy program. While this input was true to the original book in that all of Samuel Alvord's data was included, additions and corrections were being made. Where possible descendant lines of females are now being included. Location expressions now include the county name as well as town or city when known. Additional data reported by descendants or found in the census is also being added to the original data. We have been reluctant to resume publication of the genealogy, wanting to be certain that we could continue the work on a regular basis. We believe we have reached that point. Our Alvord data will be posted on the web site <<http://www.alfordassociation.org>> as well as in the quarterly\*, and the "Table of Contents" will be used on the web site as the menu for the book's content. Our plan now is to update and extend the 1908 genealogy, posting it on the web site and publishing parts of it in the quarterly. Unless there is an overwhelming demand we do not plan to publish a book as such; however, we may make it available on CD when finished.

In the meantime several other interesting Alvord pieces were published in the quarterly:

- #26 Fall 1994, pg 14, "*Henry D. Alvord, 1823-1910*"
- #31 Winter 1996, pg 56, "*William Brewster Alvord of CT, NY, OH, and MO*"
- #34 Fall 1996, pg 18, "*Burt Alvord, Outlaw Sheriff—Part 1*"
- #35 Winter 1997, pg 39, "*Burt Alvord, Outlaw Sheriff—Part 2*"
- #37 Summer 1997, pg 60, "*Burt Alvord, Outlaw Sheriff—Part 3*"
- #38 Fall 1997, pg 65, "*Elmus Freeman Alvord, Civil War Letter*" [Includes a web site, not AAFA, where the original letter and envelope can be viewed: <<http://www.firedragon.com/~kap/History/alvord.html>>]
- #39 Winter 1998, pg 62, "*Elisha Alvord of CT*"
- #47 Winter 2000, pg 43, "*Letters of Allen McLain Alvord, 1840-1864*" transcribed by Alice Buck Ashley.
- #48-#51 "*Letters of Allen McLain Alvord, 1840-1864*" transcribed by Alice Buck Ashley

AAFA has 23 members who are descendants of Alvords, and we have been, or are, in touch with many others who are "Alvords."

Two popular Alvord sites on the Internet are the forum and surname board provided by [genealogy.com](http://genealogy.com) and [Ancestry's Rootsweb.com](http://Ancestry'sRootsweb.com) respectively. Links are provided from the AAFA site.

*Descendants of Alexander Alvord*  
(1627 England - 1687 Massachusetts)  
Submitted by Gil Alford, #0019, Member AAFA Hall of Fame

[See separate article with AAFA's work on Alvord to date on page 14]

**Generation One**

1. **Alexander Alvord** b. Oct. 15, 1627, Bridport, Dorset Co., England, baptized: Oct. 16, 1627, Bridport, Dorset County, England, (son of Thomas Alford and Joan or Joanna Hawkins) m. Oct. 29, 1646, in Windsor, Hartford Co., CT,<sup>1</sup> Mary Vore, b. July 6, 1617, England, (daughter of Richard and Ann Vore) d. before 1683, Northampton, Hampshire Co., MA. Alexander died Oct. 3, 1687, Northampton, Hampshire Co., MA.<sup>2</sup>

[ AAFA Note: There are conflicting reports on his birth. The LDS-IGI has three listings- all for Bridport, Dorset County, England. One shows him christened Oct. 15, 1627, another says born Oct. 15 and the third says born Oct. 16. The published Alvord genealogy says he was baptized Oct. 15 - probably in Bridport. His sister, Joanna, according to the LDS-IGI was baptized Dec. 8, 1622 in Whitestaunton, Somerset County. Benedict, his brother, was not mentioned in the 1988 LDS-IGI. The Alvord and Burke Memorial shows that Alexander was born Somerset County (?) England, probably about 1620. His brother Benedict's birth is not mentioned. Benedict was a sergeant in the fight against the Pequots in New England, he was reported in Connecticut in 1637 but was recorded as back in England in 1639 and then back in New England by 1640. This suggests that he was born before Alexander.]

*Children:*

- + 2. i **Abigail Alvord** b. Oct. 6, 1647.
- 3. ii **John Alvord** b. Aug. 12, 1649, Windsor, Hartford Co., CT, m. in Northampton, Hampshire Co., MA, Abigail Phelps, b. Apr. 5, 1655, Windsor, Hartford Co., CT, (daughter of Nathaniel Phelps and Elizabeth Copley) d. Aug. 16, 1756, Northampton, Hampshire Co., MA. John died Mar. 17, 1727, Northampton, Hampshire Co., MA.
- + 4. iii **Mary Alford** b. July 6, 1651.
- + 5. iv **Thomas Alvord** b. Oct. 27, 1653.
- + 6. v **Elizabeth Alvord** b. Nov. 12, 1655.
- + 7. vi **Benjamin Alvord** b. Feb. 11, 1658.
- + 8. vii **Sarah Alford** b. June 24, 1660.
- 9. viii **Jeremiah Alvord** b. May 9, 1663, Northampton, Hampshire Co., MA, m. (1) \_\_\_\_\_ 1691, in Deerfield, Franklin Co., MA, Mehitable Frary, b. January 1664, (daughter of Sampson Frary and Mary Daniels) m. (2) Mercy Gull, b. June 27, 1668, Hadley, Hampshire Co., MA, (daughter of William Gull and Elizabeth Smith- Foote). Jeremiah died Hatfield, Hampshire Co., MA.
- + 10. ix **Ebenezer Alvord** b. Dec. 23, 1665.
- 11. x **Jonathan Alvord** b. Apr. 6, 1669, Northampton, Hampshire Co., MA, occupation Tailor, m. Jan. 12, 1693, in Northampton, Hampshire Co., MA, Thankful Miller, b. Apr. 25, 1669, Northampton, Hampshire Co., MA, (daughter of William and Patience Miller) d. Mar. 30, 1738, Northampton, Hampshire Co., MA. Jonathan died Aug. 13, 1727.
- 12. xi **Stillborn child Alvord** b. January 1671, Northampton, Hampshire Co., MA, d. January 1671, Northampton, Hampshire Co., MA.

<sup>1</sup> Boutelle, John A, *THE BURKE AND ALVORD MEMORIAL, A Genealogical Account of the Descendants of Alexander Alford*. 1864: Boston. "Windsor Connecticut Church Records." p 218

<sup>2</sup> Boutelle, John A, *THE BURKE AND ALVORD MEMORIAL, A Genealogical Account of the Descendants of Alexander Alford*. 1864: Boston. Printed Book in Possession of Dea Williams of Northampton, p 215

The following deeds are from the Windsor, Conn., town records :

"Alexander Alford (Alvord) hath granted by virtue of purchase his home Lott six acres more or less, ye bredth is eighteen rods, bound west and nor-west by John Warham & there is in length fifty Two rod, bounds East South East by Thomas Barber, and is there in length Sixty six rod, and North, North East bounded by John Belier" (This lot had been previously, 1645, purchased by Alexander Alvord of Thomas Barber, and the above was a confirmation by the town.)

"Also six acres of Swamp on the Mill Brook in length by ye bank ( threscore ) ; (blotted) rods, in bredth at the South--twelve rods in ye midst twenty rod, bounds south by John Drake."

"Also by Gift from his Father Richard Voar, in the woods forty Two acres, in length six score rod, in bredth fifty seven rod--Bounded South by Jonathan Gillet North by Thomas Bascomb." (About 1646.)

"Alexander Alford of Windsor unto Humphrey Hyde."

"Know all men by these presents that I Alexander Alford of Windsor in Conn. have sold and upon good Considerations to me secured, do Allienate etc. unto Humphrey Hide of Windsor aforesaid, one parcell of land, Containing four acres more or Less being in bredth sixteen rod more or Less as it lyes Bounded East by the Land of Nathan Gillett, North by a highway, South by the mill brook, etc. Signed May 27, 1645. Witnesses, Bray Rosseter, Daniel Clark."

Jan. 2, 1653, Alexander Alford, John Strong, et al., grant a petition for a highway to Poquonock through their wood-lots. J an. 18, 1660 he had a pew in the Windsor church among the short seats, paid 7s.

The residence of Alexander Alvord in Windsor was on a highway, running southwest from the rivulet, which formerly intersected the Poquonock road at right angles above the old mill. Alexander Alvord sold his place in 1654 to Josiah Ellsworth, who four years later sold it to Cornelius Gillett. Recently it has been known as the Oliver S. Gillett place. In 1661 he moved to Northampton, Mass.

From the Town Records of Northampton, Mass.:

"At a Legal Town meeting, Feb-r 20, 1661. Voted & agreed the day and year above written that Alexander Alvord was granted that portion of land that lieth in the Little Rainbow which was sometime George Alexander's & was upon a public-k consideration given it to Mr. Mather, did surrender it up to the Town, & the Town granted it to Alexander Alvord," etc.

His land in the First Division was No. 57.--Second Division, No. 16.

"The Record of Alexander Alvord's Land which he hath purchased and which was granted to him by the Town of Northampton which was given to him and to his heirs and assigns to have And to hould forever. ffeb 1:1661 Proprietor's Record viz."

"Imp-r A p'cell of Land with a house upon it which the sd Alexander Alverd Bought of Zachariah ffeild, lying within the Common fence which is thus bounded, the ends butting on the fence, westerly and on the west swamp, easterly, the sides Lying against the Lands of Samuel Wright Jun. Northerly, and A bushy swamp southly containing five Acres More or Lesse."

"More Another p'cell Bought of Lieut wilton Lying at the upper end of Little Rainbow which is thus bounded Lying Against the great River Northerly And Butting on the highway westerly and Agnst ye Lands of sd Alexander Alluerd southerly and running to A point easterly containing one Acre more or Lesse."

"More Another pcell of upland which the sd Alluerd Bought of Zachariah field sen-r which is thus Bounded, the ends butting Against William Jones' land Westerly and against his owne easterly & Against Samll. Wright's land Northerly, the side Lying Against the Land of Zachariah field and Thomas Bascom Southerly containing two Acres."

"More another pcell Lying at upper end of Little Rainbow wch I ye sd Aluerd had given him by the Towne as is Above expressed which is thus bounded the ends Butting Against the high way westerly and the Great river Easterly the sides lying against the Lands of David Wilton Northerly and Nathaniel Dickerson Southerly containing three Acres & one rood & seven rods more or Lesse."

"More Another pcell of upland at the easterly end of Thomas Bascom Sen his Lot which is thus bounded, the ends Butting on ye Lot of sd Thomas Bascom westerly And Allexander Aluerd and easterly Lying Against the Land of Samuel Wright Jun-r northerly and Robert Lyman and sd Allverds Land Southerly containing three roodes be it more or less."

"More a Little piece of Land wch sd Alverd had of James Bridgeman at the easterly end of his Lot three rods deep containing thirty-six rods more or less for which the towns allowed sd Bridgeman that parcell of land by his house on the westerly side of the highway by the brooke."

"More Another Little parcell of Land that the sd Aluerd had of Robert Liman lying at the easterly end of sd Limon's lot thre rods deepe containing thirty-six rods more or less in Lieue of wch the towne gave Robert Limon that piece of land by his house lying on the westerly side of the highway and to the brooke."

"More Another small piece of Land which was granted to the said Alex Ander Aluerd By the towne of Northampton in the time of the Indian warr which began in the year 1675 granted as is Above expressed, and laid out by a committee appointed there unto which land Lies on the westerly side of the street opposite to the hom Lots which was some times John Brottons and Joseph fiches their Land and is bounded viz, fronting on the street or high way westerly And the breadth there six rods & 3/4; southerly bordering on the land of Nehemiah Allyn: the west-ly on the land of John, Weller."

"More another pr-cell of Land with a house on it which the sd Allexander Aluerd Bought of Increase Turner As Appears by a deede baring date Agust 10, 1684 which is thus bounded Butting on the high way or street westerly And on the Land of said Alex Ander Alluard Easterly Bordering on the Land of Thomas bascom southerly An the Land of John brotton northerly containing one Acre more or Lesse with the house which is on it and every appurtenance thereunto belonging."

April 13, 1680, an agreement was made between Thomas Lyman, John Bridgman and Alexander Alvord for maintaining the Common fence at the rear of their home lots.

In 1682 Alexander Alvord had the largest number of rods of fence to be built except John Stebbins: "A list of each man's proportion of fence which they now possess and own according as it was measured in 1679."

In King Phillip's War, 1676, the buildings of Alexander Alvord were burned—probably in the vicinity of what is now known as Pomery Terrace—outside the palisades. He received a war grant of land on Hawley St. in 1676 near the site of Chicago Beef Co's warehouse.

Alexander Alvord in Northampton, Mass., lived near the meadow where the Phillip's place now is. Later he probably resided on Hawley St., near John Broughton.

The following references to Alexander Alvord have been gathered from various records:

“Alexander Alluard” signed a petition against imposts Nov. 4, 1668; signed a petition to Mass. Legislature to form a society at Northfield, May 31, 1671; was admitted to the Northampton church after 1672; subscribed to Harvard College 4 lb. flax, -04s, 1672-3; took the oath of allegiance at Northampton, Mass, Feb. 8, 1678; was admitted as freeman in 1684. A local historian speaks of him as an “early settler and possessed of large means for the times.”

Mrs. Mary (Vore) Alvord was one of the original members of the First Church of Northampton, Mass. She signed the church covenant, 1661, 4th, 18. Her father, Richard Vore settled in Dorchester, Mass., probably in 1630 with Rev. John Warham. He was a member of Mr. Warham's church in Dorchester and was one of the company that migrated to Windsor in 1635. Rev. John Warham requested the privilege of building a small house upon his land for Mary Jones:

“Whereas Richard Vore upon Mr. John Warham's request, formerly gave him liberty to build a little house upon his land joining the north end of his (Vore's) then and now dwelling house for the use of his kinswoman Mary Jones to dwell in during her life, and at her death to give it to the said Richard; and the said Mary Jones being now deceased; this is to testify that I John Warham do hereby alienate assign and set over the said house I builded as aforesaid to Richard Vore of Windsor in the County of Hartford, Conn. Etc. Dated Dec. 15, 1666.”

Item from Richard Vore's will, July 1, 1683: “I give Thomas Alvord, son of my daughter Mary Alvord, dec'd, 5 shillings.”

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