



Whitestaunton Parish, Co. Somerset, Eng.

Home of Ancestors of Alexander Alvord.

Manor House, left of Church. Rectory on the right in forest.

A GENEALOGY
OF THE DESCENDANTS OF
ALEXANDER ALVORD

AN EARLY SETTLER OF WINDSOR, CONN.
AND NORTHAMPTON, MASS.

COMPILED BY
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PREFACE.

Interest in a genealogy of the Alvord family antedates that of most New England families. In the early "sixties" William Alvord Burke of Lowell, Mass., became interested in the genealogy of the families of his father and mother and published the "Burke and Alvord Memorial." (Published by Henry Dutton and Son, Boston.) Mr. Burke engaged John A. Boutelle of Woburn, Mass., to gather and arrange the data. No attempt was made either on the part of the Burke or the Alvord family to make it a complete record. Only those families of Alvords were taken up that resided in Northampton, Mass., and vicinity, excepting Mr. Burke's own line. The notes on the origin of the name and the antecedents in England were of practically no value.

Shortly after the publication of the "Burke and Alvord Memorial" Coridon A. Alvord, a prominent printer of New York City, became interested in the matter and desired that a complete genealogy of the Alvord family should be published. He at once engaged Mr. Boutelle, who proceeded to further carry on his genealogical work on the Alvord family. From 1866 until 1868 Mr. Boutelle was apparently devoting a good share of his time to this work. Mr. Alvord alone met the full expense of this undertaking, which was considerably over one thousand dollars. When it seemed that the work was nearing completion and would soon be in press, Mr. Alvord met with sad affliction which affected his business relations, so that he did not see his way clear to carry out his plans for publication. Mr. Boutelle's health also began to fail about this time. Both these men died a few years later and the manuscript was packed away with Mr. Alvord's papers. And so it happened that for twenty-five years what had been gathered at great labor and expense was laid away and almost forgotten. We can scarcely overestimate the value of Mr. Alvord's unselfish effort and everyone interested in the history of this family owes him a debt of gratitude. While the facts and records thus gathered were far from complete,—surprisingly so along some lines—, the present work could scarcely have been made so thorough and

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satisfactory except for the aid that has been afforded by it, especially since it preserved for us the testimony of men of a previous generation. It might be added that the present work is about triple the size of the Alvord-Boutelle collection.

About the year 1897 my uncle, Rev. Frederick Alvord, being much interested in the family history and knowing of Coridon Alvord's work, desired to learn if the manuscript was still in existence. After some search he found that George M. Alvord, son of Coridon, was living in Hartford, and he learned from him that he had the manuscript and was willing to give it to anyone who would complete the work and publish it. Thus the manuscript came into possession of Rev. Frederick Alvord, who at once began to plan for its publication. Disappointment in securing financial support and advancing years led him reluctantly to give up the plan and in the fall of 1901 he came to my house and requested that I take the manuscript with the understanding that I should complete and publish it at some favorable time.

It was not my intention to proceed at once with the work, but letters from various members of the family led me to believe that the time was ripe for its publication. I therefore began to revise what had already been done and to add new matter. Mr. Boutelle had been unable to trace many families that had migrated to New York State soon after the Revolutionary War. Through the aid afforded by the Pension Bureau, Adj. General's Office, U. S. Census Dept., County Clerks and Surrogates, and the recollections of private individuals of advanced years, these families have been traced almost without exception. I confidently believe that there exists in the country no branch of the Alvord family whose annals do not appear in this volume—I except some isolated instances of individuals bearing the name, which will be noted in the appendix. The work, covering a period of seven years, has been accomplished in the midst of the confining duties of a teacher's life, but it has been my aim to neglect nothing that would add to the interest and completeness of the work.

Our relations to the family in England had been in a large measure worked out through the personal efforts of John W. Alvord of Chicago, who most generously contributed what he had gathered at his personal expense. This contribution was of great value and served as a basis for the later and more complete researches, making it pos-

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sible to at once strike at the very heart of things. The services of C. A. Hoppin, Jr., an experienced specialist in searching English records, were engaged and he has added materially to the value of the data gathered by Mr. Alvord. I am convinced that this part of the work has been thoroughly done, and that all records have been searched with care in the vicinity of the home of our ancestors in England. The sum of one hundred and fifty dollars for engaging the services of Mr. Hoppin was contributed by the following persons: John W. Alvord of Chicago, Ill., John F. Alvord of Torrington, Conn., Dean Alvord of Brooklyn, N. Y., Clinton Alvord of Worcester, Mass., E. C. Alvord of Washburn, Wis., Geo. B. Alvord of Torrington, Conn., Andrew P. Alvord of New York City, Chas. H. Alvord of Torrington, Conn., Samuel M. Alvord of Hartford, Conn., Mrs. E. J. Brown of New York City, H. B. Alexander of Geneva, Ill.

I desire also to express my appreciation to all those who have so readily given their support and coöperation in this task. Letters have in general been promptly, and always courteously, answered, even though demands were repeatedly made upon time and patience. In the Alvord homes that I have visited, whether in Vermont or California, the greatest hospitality and courtesy have been shown me, so I have been made to feel that the tie of kinship is indeed very strong in the family.

I cannot close without acknowledging my special obligation to the late Hon. William Alvord of San Francisco, who by his generous financial support and kindly words of encouragement materially lightened the burden of the work. It was my privilege to meet Mr. Alvord in San Francisco in Sept., 1904, and the pleasure he took in driving through the city and explaining the points of interest was only surpassed by my own pleasure in his delightful companionship. Three months later his earthly career was closed and the sight of the city that was the pride of his heart, almost in total ruins, never came before his mortal vision.

Rev. J. G. Alford (now Canon Alford) of Bristol, Eng., is about to publish pedigrees of the early Alford families in England and he has willingly contributed from his notes.

Errors are inevitable in a work of this kind, though every effort has been made to avoid them. Readers are requested to send corrections to the author where errors are observed. Such corrections

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will be made in a copy of the book in the library of the Conn. Hist. Soc., Hartford. Conn.

SAMUEL MORGAN ALVORD,
Hartford, Conn., July, 1908.

HOW SHALL WE PRONOUNCE OUR NAME?

There is clearly a lack of uniformity on this point and many inquiries have come to me from those who are uncertain whether they ought to give the first syllable of the name the sound that it has in *Al-fred*, or in *al-ways*. I am convinced after careful inquiry and investigation that the latter was the original sound of the first syllable of our name and is based on the best authority. The transition to the former is a late development, but in some localities, especially in the West, it has become quite general.

The first syllable of the name, being derived from the German *al-de* (awl-der), must obviously have had the same sound. The same German word appears in the first two syllables of *Alderman* and the Germanic sound is retained. Again, if we note the pronunciation of the name in localities where the family has continued to live from the time of the early settlement, as in Northampton, Easthampton and South Hadley, Mass., it will be observed that the name is invariably pronounced Awl-vud.

EXPLANATION AND ABBREVIATIONS.

By the system of numbering on the margin one may easily trace his line back to the progenitor of the family. Every child, born Alvord, is given a number. If he married, his name will appear in the succeeding generation as the head of a family with the same number prefixed.

The usual common abbreviations are used for states, months, etc.; also b. for born, bapt. for baptised, d. for died, mar. for married, unnm. for unmarried, res. for residence, prob. for probably, int. for intention, i. e., marriage intention.