

"The Green and Pleasant Land"

A visit to an English Village and a Norman Castle named "Alford."

In this issue, the Charles H. Alford of Palm Harbor, Florida (AAFA #0187 ISH7649NC) tell of their trip in July 1998 to the ancestral "home" of many American Alford. After a two-week "home exchange" in London, they continued their travels across Great Britain. Foremost in their plans was a two-night stopover at Chester. They needed one full day to visit the ruins of two ancient medieval Norman castles where the family name of Alford is believed to have originated. One is Aldford Village, where the only remains of the Castle de Aldford are the earthworks of the castle motte and bailey system.

The second group of ruins is that of the Castle of Holt at the Town of Holt, where the ruins still remain, but in an advanced state of decay.



Old Iron Bridge spans the River Dee connecting Eaton Estate of Duke of Westminster with the one-time medieval, but now mid-Victorian Village of Aldford. The tower and spire of Aldford Church rises in background. Also two flat-topped hills; the motte and bailey earthworks of Aldford Castle.

In the late afternoon of July 5th, we arrived from Conwy, Wales by train at Chester and claimed our reservations at a nearby hotel.