

Notes & queries for Somerset and Dorset, Volume 5

1896

Alford Family

26. ALFORD FAMILY OF co. SOMERSET.—Alexander Alford, Benedict Alford and Joan Alford, their sister, left Somerset between 1630 and 1633—presumably 1630—and probably sailed on the ship "Mary and John"—400 tons burden—Captain Squeb, Commander,—from Plymouth, England, the 20th March, 1630, for New England.

The descendants of Benedict Alford (called in America after 1660 "Alvord") are not numerous, but it is estimated that the descendants of Alexander Alford or Alvord number in the neighbourhood of 62,000 in the present generation, their descent being carefully traced and recorded up to the present time.

The following deed throws some light upon the question as to their derivation :—

"The third of September 1640. The Record of the deed shewed in Court betwixt Richard Standewick and Nicholas Nurton."

"KNOW all men by these prnts that I, Richard Standewick, of Broadway in County of Somerset, in Old England, clothyer, for and in consideration of the sume of 12 pounds of loyal money of England, paid unto me by Nicholas Nurton of Waimouth in New England, have graunted, bargained and sould, and by these prnts do freely and absolutely graunt, bargaine and sell unto the said Nicholas Nurton, all the cattell whether coves, steers or caues whatsoeu' I have with Mr. Hull in New England."

"In witness whereof I the said Richard Standewick 'ave hereunto set my hande and seale the 20th day of February in the year 1639."

"RICHARD STANDEWICK. HIS SEAL. Sealed in the prnts of us

John Hawkins Peter Pliny John Dwelly X sign
Benedict X Alvord John Purchase."

"Benedict Alvord and John Purchase of these witnesses have taken their oaths before me, Thomas Dudley, Governor of Massachusetts, that they saw Richard Standewick above named seal and deliver this bill to the use of the above named

Nicholas Nurton and subscribed their names or marks as witnesses hereon. Their oaths were taken the 25th day of August, 1640, before me, Thomas'Dudley, Governor of Massachusetts."

From the above it would seem that Benedict Alvord, after volunteering to assist the Connecticut colony against the Pequot Indians, returned to England probably for his espoused, Joan Nurton or Newton, for in 1637 he was one of the 30 who went from Windsor in Connecticut to the Pequot War ; on the 20th February 1639 he must have been in Broadway, Somerset, England ; while on the 25th August, 1640, he had returned to Massachusetts, and on November 26th, 1640, he was married in Windsor, Connecticut, to Joan Nurton, as is shown by the records there.

Further information, or hints as to where information may be found, of the descent of Alexander Alford, is desired by JOHN W. ALVORD, C.E., n40 "The Rookery," Chicago, Illinois, U.S.A.

[The Rev. R. G. Bartlett, Corfe Castle, also desires to receive notes respecting the Alfords of Swell, Somerset, previous to 1650. John Alford of Swell, will dated 4 September, 1592, pr. 15 September, following; children John, Alice; residue to wife Julian.']