

# ENGLISH ALFORDS

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## ORIGIN AND EARLY MENTION OF THE NAME ALFORD IN ENGLISH RECORDS. THE RELATION OF THE AMERICAN ALVORD FAMILY TO THE ENGLISH ALFORDS.

In any consideration of the earliest data regarding the Alvord family, it must be remembered that the name is identical with Alford\* and that all the Alvord family ancestors in England were *Alfords* and not *Alvords*. There are a very few instances of the latter spelling in Co. Somerset, Eng. The transition to Alvord from Alford was a natural one since f and v are kindred letters. (The descendants of Alexander Alford, the progenitor of the American Alvord family have consistently spelled their name A-l-v-o-r-d. The descendants of the other Alford immigrants have used the original spelling). It therefore follows that in observing the early occurrences of the name in English archives and records, it is more important to note similarity to Alford than to Alvord. Hence, there is little reason to believe that there is a reference to the Alford name in the Domesday Book of William the Conqueror (1060), although one Alward and one Allured appear, each possessed of a hyde of land (about 100 acres).

It has been suggested that the name was originally Alfred, from King Alfred the Great, but evidence is lacking to support such a theory. Nor should it for a moment be thought that the name is derived from a place where "*all forded*" the river. The name is distinctly Saxon in origin rather than Norman and the true source or derivation of the name is furnished by Canon J. G. Alford of Bristol, England.

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\*The following variations of spelling the name occur on the early New England records: Alford, Allford, Alfred, Alvard, Alvart, Alverd, Alvert, Alved, Allord, Alloord, Alluard, Alluerd, Alburd, Olford, Olverd, Olvord.