

H A P P Y N E W Y E A R

1986 ALMY FAMILY REUNION

Mark your calendars! The date has been set for the 1986 Almy Family Reunion. It will be on Saturday and Sunday, June 28 and 29, 1986. The 'Runnin Board Room' at Eileen Darling's Restaurant in Seekonk, Massachusetts, has been reserved for our Saturday daytime activities, evening dinner, and further socializing. This is the same room that has proved so satisfactory for our last two reunions (1982 and 1984).

Tentative plans are to use the room at Eileen Darling's for our Saturday activities and then have Sunday activities at other locations such as churches, historical sites, etc. Details of the Saturday and Sunday activities are being planned for us by Patricia (Almy) Forte. If you have any suggestions you would like to make concerning reunion activities, please write to her at:

Mrs. Michael Forte
West Main Road
Little Compton, RI 02837

It is too early to know motel room rates or dinner selections and their prices. However, everything will be similar to what was available for our 1984 Reunion. See the Newsletter for April 1984 (No. 38). I plan to have all this information in the April 1986 Newsletter, together with motel reservation information and the reunion registration form to be filled in and returned to me.

Please mark your calendars now and plan to attend the 1986 Almy Family Reunion. Also, be thinking about the memorabilia and stories you can bring to the Reunion to share with your cousins.

GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH TRIP TO NEW ENGLAND

In November, Veda and I traded two of our time-share weeks in the Bahamas for two weeks in Newport, RI. The weather was cold, windy, with a good bit of rain most of the time. However, our days were spent in libraries, historical societies, town clerk's offices, court houses, or travelling between them, so our research was not hindered.

I have a number of places in my ancestral lines that I have been unable to solve and I concentrated on these in this trip. Sorry to say, I solved none of the problems, but did eliminate a lot of possibilities. Most of these will never be solved, but everyone has ancestral lines that cannot be solved. I did solve one of the Almy ancestral lines, which I tell about on the next page.

I took all my Almy charts and my Newsletter mailing addresses with me and planned to see as many of the Almy cousins as I could. Sorry to say, I was unable to see any of them although I did call a few on the phone. On most of our days we found ourselves returning to our Newport apartment in the rain and in the dark -- not conditions for finding places we had never been. For those of you that know I was in the area and did not stop to see you, I am sorry that time and conditions did not permit it. I hope to do better on the next trip. Better still, let's get together at the 1986 Almy Family Reunion.

NEW LINE AND CHANGED ALMY NUMBERS

While on my genealogical research vacation in New England, I was able to solve one of the unknown Almy lines. In New Bedford, Massachusetts, I found the birth record of Leonard S. C. Almy. He was the son of George L. Almy and his wife, Sarah J. Tripp. I had on my charts one other child of this first marriage, plus the children of his second marriage. Sarah died soon after the second child was born, and apparently the children of the first marriage were raised by the grandparents or other relatives.

It appears that the knowledge of Leonard and his descendants was lost because of the divided family. I stopped to see Leonard Almy of Charlestown, Rhode Island, a descendant of the Leonard S. C. Almy, a number of years ago. He furnished his line back to this Leonard S. C. Almy, but could not go back further. On my way home this trip I stopped by to tell him of my find, but he had passed on about two years ago. I did talk with his father-in-law, though.

The above find adds 10 Almys to my charts, and decreases the number of unsolved lines. However, because the above adds a new descendant in the middle of the Almy numbering of that family, some numbers have to be changed. Those whose first nine digits were 1232-4013-3 will now have 1232-4013-4 as their first nine digits. This pertains to the following on the Almy Family Newsletter mailing list:

George Burgess	1232-4013-421
Iris Bachand	1232-4013-462
Edward Fisher	1232-4013-4632
Ruth Silva	1232-4013-474

Generally, the finding of a new Almy line does not involve changing Almy numbers. This only occurs when a new older child is found within a family that has already been assigned numbers.

HOW DID RHODE ISLAND GET ITS NAME ?

Almy is really a Rhode Island family. William¹ Almy, although born in England and one of the founders of Sandwich, Massachusetts (see Newsletter No. 35, page 3), was one of the early settlers of Portsmouth, Rhode Island, and made his permanent residence there. Of his fourteen male descendants through the fourth generation, 13 were Rhode Island residents and only one went over to nearby Dartmouth, Massachusetts, to establish residence. We, as members of an early Rhode Island family, should therefor know how Rhode Island got its name. I wonder how many of you know.

I have often wondered about the name, but the reference books in my own library do not give the answer. On my last trip, while doing genealogical research at the Rhode Island Historical Society, I finally was able to find an explanation.

It seems that the 1524 visit of Italian navigator, Giovanni Verrazzano, was the first verifiable visit to Rhode Island by a European adventurer. Verrazzano made his famous trip in search of an all-water route through North America to China. After landing at Cape Fear, North Carolina, about March 1, 1524, he proceeded up the coast to the present site of New York City to anchor in the Narrows, now spanned by the giant bridge which bears his name. From there, according to his own account, he sailed in an easterly direction until he discovered an island in the form of a triangle, which he described as being about the bigness of the Island of Rhodes. This was Block Island, but Roger Williams and other early settlers mistakenly thought that Verrazzano had been referring to Aquidneck Island and they changed that Indian named island to Rhode Island, and so Verrazzano inadvertently and indirectly gave the state its name.

MORE ON BEATRICE BAYLEY'S HERITAGE BOOK

Some of the heritage societies that I belong to have recently warned their members again about the Beatrice Bayley Heritage Book. The Wall Street Journal for November 4, 1985, had an article titled "'Heritage Book': Family History or Phone Book?". The following is excerpted from that article.

Last year at least 10 million people got postcards urging them to pay \$29.85 for a "Family Heritage Book" from Beatrice Bayley Inc., based in Sterling, PA. How many bought one isn't known. But law-enforcement authorities say that many takers quickly discovered that the book contains not their lineage but simply a list of people with the same last name. "I'm a genealogist, and there's no genealogy in that book," snaps Elizabeth White. "This is like a telephone book."

That same conclusion has sparked investigations and complaints by the U.S. Postal Inspector and state officials in Wisconsin and Pennsylvania. Similar investigations took place in 1980. What raises consumers' expectations, investigators say, is the personalized postcard. "It gives people the impression that their book is about their specific family --- when in fact it's a general genealogy guidebook" unrelated to a particular family, says Barbara W. Tuerkheimer, a Wisconsin assistant attorney general.

William P. Rice, for instance, a Chicago artist and amateur genealogist, says he had hoped the book would provide information on a Virginia branch of his family. After all, the postcard promised to guide him through the discovery and documentation of your personal and family heritage, and assured him that "thousands of dollars and months of work went into researching 70 million families. Instead, Mr. Rice says the book listed 40,000 Rices and their addresses, sandwiched between such general information as the development of family crests and the origin of family names. "It's almost totally meaningless," says Mr. Rice. Mr. Rice also complains that his card claimed: "Only about one citizen for every quarter million Americans belongs to the Rice family." But a card received by his roommate, Michael Teuschler, also cited the same ratio -- one Teuschler for every 250,000 citizens. Says Mr. Rice: "That's impossible. Rice is the 127th most common name in the U.S. and there's 40 or less Teuschlers."

Befitting its business, the company is a family affair, started in 1978 by Kurt Schneider and his mother, Beatrice Bayley Schneider. There are no employees. Mr. Schneider says the company buys lists of names from research firms, which use such sources as telephone directories and automobile-registration and drivers-license records. A computer company then sorts out individual names. Mr. Schneider's mother plays a big role in the postcard. "Since retiring from school teaching," it says, "I have researched the locations of my own and other families across these United States."

Timothy Mahoney, a Postal Inspection Service attorney, says, "You picture this little old lady school teacher sending the book out to you." In fact, Mrs. Schneider lives much of the year in Florida and doesn't research any family's heritage. Mr. Schneider says that in the postcard, his mother is speaking on behalf of the company. But last month the Postal Inspector filed a complaint before an administrative judge seeking to halt that practice and other alleged misrepresentations (including claiming that the book deals exclusively with one family). Talks to settle the complaint are being held.

In July, a Wisconsin circuit court judge fined the company \$1,500 for violating a 1980 consent agreement that prohibited various claims, including that it spends a certain amount of dollars and time on research. Mrs. White, the genealogist, says an average-length family search done by a certified genealogist costs about \$3,000. But even at \$29.85, she said the Beatrice Bayley book was only taking advantage of peoples' natural curiosity about where their family came from.

NEWSLETTER INDEX

I have prepared a six page (3 sheets, 2 sides) index of the first 44 issues of the Almy Family Newsletter. The index contains reference to 419 subjects, including Almy descendants, contained in these first issues. However, it does not include reference to the over 1,000 persons contained in the list of Almy descendants, contributions, Almy Family Reunion attendees, or the listing of Almy descendants with the middle name of Almy.

Those who file the Newsletters and have a complete set should have this index. I will send it to all those that write me for it. Contributions to help with the costs for this index and the Newsletters will be gratefully accepted.

DR. THOMAS ALMY (1233-518A-6)

In September 1985, Edith (Almy) Atwell (1233-5180-33) sent me a newspaper clipping and picture from the Fall River Herald News of April 1945. The article told about the cancer clinic at the Fall River Union Hospital and of Dr. Thomas Almy being chief of the clinic. The clinic is now named in his honor.

Edith wrote that Dr. Tom Almy delivered both of her children and that during high school she worked in his office a couple of afternoons a week answering the telephone, etc. She said that he was way ahead of his time.

The mother of one of my son's closest teen-age associates here in Springfield, Virginia, told us that this Dr. Tom Almy was the doctor that delivered her. Small world! I planned to include the newspaper picture in this Newsletter, but it just doesn't reproduce well enough.

Dr. Thomas Almy was born 7 March 1883 in Fall River, Massachusetts, the son of Franklin Lawton Almy and Charity R. Buffington. He married Katherine Eddy on 16 November 1912 in West Newton, Massachusetts. They had no children and he died 6 September 1946 in Fall River.

INTERESTED IN AN ENGLISH PEN PAL ?

Stephen Almey, nephew of Fred Almey who has sent me information on English Almeys including the clipping on his chess playing grand nephew included in the last Newsletter, wrote me for information on his American cousins. He also asked if any of his American relations would like to be pen pals with him and his 18 year old sister.

Those interested should write to:

Mr. Stephen Almey
10 Lynn Rd., Ingoldisthorpe
Kings Lynn, Norfolk
England

I would like to hear the results of this pen pal procedure.

JENNIFER ELISE CORTU (1239-2145-2311-11)

Sandra Jean Almy (1239-2145-2311-2) wrote me in October that her sister Judy and husband William Cortu had a beautiful baby girl, Jennifer Elise Cortu, born on 5 October 1985. We congratulate the happy parents, William and Judith Ann Cortu.

DAVID ALMY IDENTIFIED

On page 1 of the last Newsletter (No. 44), I put the question raised by Gene Almy on the identity of David Almy, associate editor of Flying magazine.

William Almy (1239-2165-181) called me from work after reading the newsletter to say that the David Almy is his son who has a BS degree from Rochester Institute and is currently going to Colgate University. See Newsletter No. 35, page 4, for information on the writing award received by David in April 1983. William works in Silver Spring, Maryland, which is just around the beltway (I 495) from where I live.

Gene (1407-1C73-41), your question is answered.

ORIENT TOUR

For those of you who might be wondering, Veda's and my trip to Hong Kong, China, and Japan in October was most interesting, enjoyable, and educational. If you visit us, we can show you 560 slides taken during the three weeks.

CHRISTMAS CARDS

I thank all of you that sent Christmas cards and Christmas letters this year. There are just too many for me to reciprocate, but be assured that I appreciate your greetings. The Newsletters will have to serve as my greetings to you all.

CONTRIBUTIONS

Following is a listing of those cousins and friends who have sent in contributions, since the last issue of the Almy Family Newsletter, to help defray the costs of printing and mailing these Newsletters. This help is most appreciated. Many thanks to you all.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Almy Number</u>	<u>Residence</u>
Frances (Almy) Culler	1232-1218-411	Ohio
Iris M. (Almy) Bachand	1232-4013-462	Rhode Island
Hulda (Almy) Freda	1233-4668-11	North Dakota
Richard R. Almy, Jr.	1233-5143-2421	Illinois
Katherine Kalbfleisch	1235-5773-52	Massachusetts
Sandra J. Almy	1239-2145-2311-2	Rhode Island
H. Raymond Almy	1252-9532-741	New York
Rosemary (Almy) Snyder	1407-1426-123	North Carolina
Brian Almey		England

I hope you all had a lovely Christmas season and may you all have nothing but joyous happenings in the New Year.

IF YOU'RE HAVING COLD WEATHER; TOUGH IT OUT, SPRING WILL SOON BE HERE!

Your cousin (1408-3312-112),

Merwin

Merwin F. Almy
7703 Elgar Street
Springfield, VA 22151