

ALMEY CRAB APPLE TREE

There was considerable interest in the Almey Crab Apple Tree at the Almy Family Reunion in June because it was named after J. Robert Almey of Winnipeg, Canada, who attended the Reunion.

Many Almys have written me that they have this tree in their yards. I thought others might be interested in obtaining this tree and Patricia Forte sent me the adjacent ad from the Miller Nurseries catalog.

Patricia says they are a reputable company and that she orders from them every year. Their address is:

J.E. Miller Nurseries
5060 West Lake Road
Canandaigua, NY 14424

Too bad I cannot reproduce the beautiful crimson color of the blossoms.

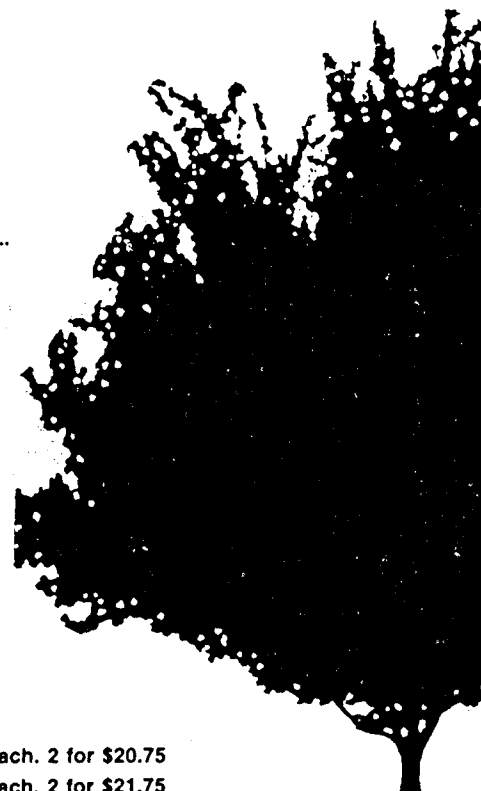
Our Scarlet Crabapple Colorful Sensation!

Fiery Crimson Blossoms Each Spring...
Then Scarlet Fruit Until Snow Files

MALUS ALMEY

Glistening fiery crimson blossoms as large as silver dollars cover the branches to the tips. One of the most beautiful flowering trees anywhere! After the spring show, autumn brings another spectacle of beauty. The leaves fall to reveal small scarlet fruits clinging to the branches for a highlight of color carried into winter. Very early blooming habits. Our trees start blooming in the nursery row, so you can look for blossoms the year after you plant them. Grow 12-15 ft. high, even in poor soil. Very hardy, beautiful trees for small gardens or anywhere you want a show of brilliant color.

(OT 108A) 2 year, 3 to 4 feet \$10.95 each. 2 for \$20.75
(OT 108B) 2 year, 4 to 5 feet \$11.65 each. 2 for \$21.75



KENNETH L. WICKETT (1233-5143-421) CELEBRATES 90TH BIRTHDAY

Kenneth L. Wickett, oil man, poet, Almy Family Member, and supporter of many good causes in Fort Worth, Texas, was 90 years old on 31 January 1986. Kenneth, whose poetry has earned him the acknowledged title of poet laureate of Fort Worth was honored by the *Fort Worth News-Tribune* at a birthday party on that day in the newspaper's city room. Kenneth's poetry has appeared regularly in the *News-Tribune* and he has never missed a deadline. He began working in the oil business at 23, cleaning tanks in one of his father's refineries. His interest in poetry, like oil production, might be considered hereditary. His parents liked poetry, his aunt was a poet and William Cullen Bryant, a famous 19th Century poet, was his great-uncle. Kenneth is a member of the Texas Society of Mayflower Descendants, the Navarre Chapter of the Huguenot Society, and the Society of Colonial Wars. His poems have been published in three bound volumes. Kenneth and his wife Crystelle attended the 1980 Almy Family Reunion. Attendees at the Reunion will remember meeting and talking with these very interesting Almy cousins.

CHANGE OF COMMAND CEREMONY

I received the following invitation to a United States Navy Change of Command Ceremony from Commander Gideon Wilcox Almy III (1408-3832-422).



*The Commanding Officer
USS Edson DD-946
requests the pleasure of your company at the
Change of Command Ceremony
at which
Commander David R. Scheu, USN
will be relieved by
Commander Gideon Wilcox Almy III, USN
on Saturday, the ninth of August 1986
at ten o'clock
on board USS Edson DD-946
Pier Two
Naval Education and Training Center, Newport, Rhode Island*

*RSVP
Card Enclosed*

*Uniform:
Service Dress White*

My wife and I were just getting back from a Canadian Rockies - Expo 86 - Alaska Cruise and it was impossible to get to Newport, RI, to attend this ceremony. Our travel schedule is so full that we just cannot attend all those activities we wish. We know that it was a beautiful ceremony and we wish Gideon a very successful command.

ALMYVILLE T-SHIRT

In August, Iris (Almy) Bachand (1232-4013-462) sent me a beautiful blue T-shirt with the following in white on the front: "Almyville" across the top and "Package Store, Moosup, CT," across the bottom. She said that she "heard of a place in Moosup, Conn., where a small section, approximately 2 blocks, is called Almyville. It includes about 50 houses (if that) and a liquor store." I thank Iris for the T-shirt. It is an interesting and useful novelty item.

ALICE G. (ROSE) BROW (1239-2145-27X)

Alice G. Brow, 70, of Sakonnet Point Road, Little Compton, RI, died in Fall River, MA, 12 July 1986. She was born in Tiverton, RI, the daughter of Alonzo and Sarah Louise (Almy) Rose. Alice was a former employee of Gray's Ice Cream Stand at Tiverton Four Corners during the 40's and 50's. She married Franklin E. Brow, Sr. and they had 5 sons. She is also survived by one brother and five sisters.

STAFFORD ALMY (1233-518A-52)

Stafford Almy, 79, of Little Compton, RI, died in Fall River, MA, 20 July 1986. Stafford was born 15 April 1907 in Fall River, the son of Frank Stratton and Marian (Stafford) Almy. He married 10 October 1942, Sarah Morton. She died 8 Jan 1972 at age 69. They had one son, Stafford Almy, Jr., who lives in Underhill Center, VT. Stafford enjoyed attending the Almy Family Reunions. He will be greatly missed by his family and many friends.

REGINA M. ALMY (1252-9531-61W)

Regina M. Almy, widow of Arnold William Almy, and resident of Binghamton, NY, died 5 April 1986. Regina Margaret Biemer was born 21 September 1891 in Meadville, PA. She married Arnold W. Almy in Meadville on 4 October 1916. They had ten children. Her picture at her 90th birthday party with some of her over 90 descendants was on page 3 of Newsletter No. 29 (January 1982). We send our heartfelt thoughts and prayers in this time of loss.

A SIMMONSVILLE SAGA

By Richard R. Almy, Sr. (1233-5143-242)
of Front Royal, Virginia

(This article appeared in serial form in the *Providence Journal-Bulletin Newspaper*, starting in the issue of December 11, 1985. I have permission from both Richard and the *Journal-Bulletin* to run his article in the Almy Family Newsletters. This is the Newsletter's first installment.)

I was born on November 27, 1903, in my grandfather's house in the Village of Simmonsville, Town of Johnston, State of Rhode Island. Simmonsville was at one time a thriving village during the period when water powered textile mills were prosperous in New England before the time when steam engines became the dominant source of power for driving mill machinery. Simmonsville was located on a small clear stream at a point where there was a rapid drop in elevation so that dams could be constructed to form ponds to supply water for the two stone mills and water wheels which were built in the village to power textile machinery in the early 1800's. Another mill was added later.

My grandfather was Benjamin Franklin Almy who was born June 10, 1834. He died at Simmonsville, July 11, 1911. Early in his business career he was a dealer in wool waste in Providence. Following the death of his brother William, he took over the cotton mills in Simmonsville. Here he continued through the Civil War period. William Almy also owned a large tract of land in Simmonsville which he had purchased from General Bliss. William Almy had no children and his property became that of Benjamin F., who continued the manufacture of cotton waste at the Johnston Mills and resided there at the home place until his death in 1911.

My grandfather Almy was married to Ellen M. Baylies of New Bedford, Mass., and they had two sons: (1) Howard, and (2) Benjamin F., both born at what was then the family home on Angell St., Providence. Howard was educated at Mowry & Goff Academy in Providence and Brown University, Class of 1886. He was married in 1900 in Boston to Dorothy Cutts, a Trained Nurse, and they were the parents of my first cousins, Eleanor Baylies, Dorothy Leavitt, John Cutts, and Ruth Farley. My grandfather had built on the land six large greenhouses (which at that time cost \$100,000) for my uncle Howard to operate as a Florist. I remember that these were still in operation around 1918. My uncle Howard was a poor business man and he spent most of his time (my father said) playing his violin. The business finally failed and uncle Howard bought a dairy farm at Woodstock, Vermont. He spent the winter months in Daytona Beach, Florida.

My father, Benjamin Franklin (2nd) Almy, was born at the Angell Street home, in Providence, RI, August 18, 1873. He attended Mowry & Goff academy but did not graduate. My father told me that the Mowry & Goff Headmaster politely told him that he was not well suited to school-

astic endeavors, or words to that end. After leaving Mowry & Goff, he went to live with his Aunt (Annie Almy) on the Island of Prinkipo, in the sea of Marmora at Constantinople, Turkey, where he spent two years. For a time after returning to Simonsville, he worked as a Florist with his brother Howard, but later he restored one of the old stone mills on the property and operated it for the manufacture of cider and vinegar. He was quite talented mechanically and also built a water powered saw mill on the property. My father married Emily Cutts, a sister of his sister-in-law, in Boston, May 15, 1901. Besides me, their children were: Helen (she died at the age of 8 months of an intestinal infection), Esther, and Benjamin Franklin (3rd) Almy.

Simonsville in the early days of the 20th century was a small village of only 100-200 inhabitants and was located five or six miles west of downtown Providence. The people were mostly of Italian ancestry. I have been told that Benjamin F. Almy, Sr. went to New York City and hired Italian immigrants to work in his mills. They were all quite poor, but hard workers who managed to save much of what they earned. They were very emotional and there was much shouting, hollering and screaming going on. Apparently Italy had many Saints who were remembered on holidays. These seemed to occur at frequent intervals at which times there was much eating, drinking, shooting of aerial bombs and other fire works, all followed by a deathly silence the following day.

During the prosperous early mill period in Simonsville quite a number of substantial stone houses and frame houses were built to house the workers and supervisory people. Apparently after the Civil War a combination of a serious depression in 1873 and the development of steam power for mills caused the failure of the out dated mills in Simonsville and elsewhere in New England. Many of the houses were abandoned but later repaired and taken over by second generation Italians. Two of the old mills fell into ruins, but my father managed to save the one that became his cider and vinegar operation. There was a nice small mill pond about six feet deep at this site. During the summers my cousins and I learned to swim there. We built a small raft to paddle around and fish from. We had little parental supervision at this site for some reason, and it is a wonder none of us drowned. I remember that one time a boy from the village joined us and said he was a good swimmer. He dove off the dam and about half way across he started to get winded and began to thrash about in obvious distress. I decided I must help him. I swam out and got a hold of his head or hair and towed him to shallower water so he could walk to shore. I don't think he ever came back to try it again.

There were many other ponds in the area and two of them (the upper and lower Simmons reservoirs) were fairly good sized. There was a gate house and a raisable gate or outlet at the lower reservoir so that when the stream to the mills was low during periods of drought or low rain fall, water could be drained from storage. My father had charge of this gate house. I frequently went with him to raise the gate and again when it needed to be closed. The gate was made of wood planks and moved up or down in vertical guideways. Dad decided he could eliminate all the trips to close the gate. He arranged a large stone above the gate so that when it came down it pushed the gate closed. A rope and pulleys were used to raise the stone in it's vertical track. An alarm clock was the timer for setting the closing. When the alarm went off it's spring winding knob rotated and raised a small gate holding back a large glass agate in a sloping slide. The agate rolled down the slide at rapidly increasing velocity and when it reached the bottom it hit a trigger arrangement which held up the large stone. Then the heavy stone came down with a thud on the gate, which promptly closed.

My cousin, John Almy and I became interested in exploring Simmons lower reservoir having somewhat outgrown the smaller pond at my father's mill. My uncle Howard had an old wood and canvas canoe which we "borrowed" for use at the Simmons pond. There was a good sandy beach to swim at and also useful for launching the canoe. This site was only about one quarter of a mile from home so it was not too difficult for us to carry the canoe with one at the bow and the other at the stern. There was an island a few hundred yards from the shore and we stored the canoe in the bushes there rather than haul it home. This worked fine for several months until someone discovered the canoe and made off with it. Uncle Howard never inquired concerning it's disappearance.

(To be continued.)

RICHARD W. ALMY (1239-2165-183) WEDS

Richard Wright Almy of Severna Park, MD, son of Willard D. and Elizabeth H. Almy, married on 24 January 1986, Susan Kirby Wenzel. Susan wrote me that Richard's wedding ring is a hand engraved copy of the Almy coat-of-arms. Hers was a combination of diamonds and emeralds. They had a wonderful skiing honeymoon in Vail, Colorado. Best wishes to the newlyweds from the Almy Family for a long and happy marriage.

I. T. ALMY ASSOCIATES

Patricia Forte recently sent me an article about the renovated and restored Union Public Library in Tiverton from the *Sakonnet Times* of August 1, 1985. The article stated that I. T. Almy Associates, Architects of Somerset, Massachusetts, designed the renovation plans. For those who read the article and wondered about the Almy name; I. T. Almy stands for Israel T. Almy (1407-2512-2, who died 14 October 1963. His widow, Amy (Weeden) Almy receives the Almy Family Newsletters.

CONTRIBUTIONS

Following is a listing of those cousins who have helped defray the costs of printing and mailing the Almy Family Newsletters since the last issue was published. Many thanks to each of you.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Almy Number</u>	<u>Residence</u>
C. Joseph Gannon	1232-1272-521	New York
Paul E. Almy	1232-1283-24	Ohio
Ruth F. Almy	1233-5143-224	Florida
Kenneth L. Wickett	1233-5143-421	Texas
Mrs. Robert T. Almy	1233-5147-53W	Rhode Island
Ernestine (Almy) Benson	1233-5147-531	Puerto Rico
Louisa (Almy) Barclay	1235-5792-21	Massachusetts
Richard W. Almy	1239-2165-183	Maryland
H. Raymond Almy	1252-9532-741	New York
Brian Almey		England

REMEMBER OUR FOREFATHERS ON THANKSGIVING!

HAVE A HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S HOLIDAY SEASON!

I WILL BE IN TOUCH WITH YOU ALL NEXT YEAR.

Your cousin (1408-3312-112),



Merwin F. Almy
7703 Elgar Street
Springfield, VA 22151