

## 1988 ALMY FAMILY REUNION

As I noted on the last page of the last issue of the Newsletter, the 1988 Almy Family Reunion will be on Saturday and Sunday, August 20 and 21, 1988. The Saturday activities will be at Eileen Darling's Restaurant in Seekonk, Massachusetts. We will be in the Runnin Board Room as in prior years. Saturday activities there will include registration during the day, other activities to be planned, and dinner in the evening. Patricia Almy Forte (1407-1426-122) is currently planning a lot of interesting activities for both Saturday and Sunday. These will include activities in Tiverton and Little Compton, Rhode Island. As final commitments have not been made for these activities, you will have to wait until the next Newsletter for details as well as the information on the motels and their rates. I will also include registration forms in the next issue.

Fred Almey and his wife Joyce, of Cardiff, Wales, are planning to attend. This will be a most exciting experience for us all. I know you will enjoy meeting this lovely couple, our cousins from Great Britain. I plan to present information on the England Almeys and how they relate to the Almys in the United States.

If you know of some activity that you would like included in the Reunion, please write me about it and I will pass it along to Patricia. This promises to be the best reunion yet, so please mark your calendars now and plan to attend. This one weekend will make 1988 a great year.

### CHARLES BROOKS ALMY (1233-3252-322)

Capt. Charles B. Almy, USN (Ret.), died in San Diego, California, on 25 August 1987. He was 66 years old. Charles was born in Los Angeles, California, on 18 August 1921, the son of Edmund Darrow and Eleanor (Brooks) Almy. He married Mary Louise Smith and had two children: Jo Ann (Almy) Pass of Potomac, Maryland; and William Darrow Almy of Fryeburg, Maine.

Charles entered the Naval Academy in June 1940 and graduated with the Class of 1944. Capt. Almy's first sea duty was in the USS PENNSYLVANIA (BB-38). He attended Submarine School at New London, Connecticut in 1945 and was assigned to new construction on board the USS COCHINO (SS-345). He served on various submarine and shore-based staffs and commanded the USS POMODON (SS-486) and the Fleet Oiler KENNEBEC. He attended the Postgraduate School, Annapolis, from 1949 to 1951 and was awarded a B.S. degree in Mechanical Engineering; he attended the Armed Forces Staff College, Norfolk, Virginia in 1959-1960.

Charles' awards included the Legion of Merit and the Navy Unit Commendation with bronze star. He was a member of the Naval Academy Alumni Association and The Retired Officers' Association. He retired in 1972 and worked for Gould, Inc., in Cleveland, Ohio, until 1975. He spent his retirement years between Sea Ranch and Coronado, California.

Information above on Charles' naval career is from the December 1987 Shipmate magazine furnished me by Kenneth Almy (1408-6612-12), whose son is now in the submarine service (See page 4 of Almy Family Newsletter No. 47 (July 1986)).

ERNEST GRINNELL ALMY (1407-1C74-3)

Ernest Grinnell Almy, Ph.D., a former patent agent for Atlas Chemical Industries, INC., died 25 October 1987 in Wilmington, Delaware. Grin was born in Ewing, Nebraska, 24 September 1906, the son of Billings Grinnell and Ada (Marks) Almy. He married 6 September 1930 in Lincoln, Nebraska, Ruth Simmons Bobbitt. They had two children: Donald Grinnell Almy who now resides in Huntington Beach, California, and Alison Ruth (Almy) Kenworthy of Simsbury, Connecticut.

Grin joined Atlas Chemical Industries Inc., now ICI Americas Inc., in 1934 in the chemical laboratory at Tamaqua, PA. He moved to Wilmington in 1944 when the plant was relocated there. He was a registered patent agent, admitted to practice before the U.S. Patent Office. He held several chemical patents. He was a 50-year-member of the American Chemical Society, and he was honored by the Society in 1985.

Grin was a member of Sigma Xi, a scientific research society, Lambda Chi Alpha, Phi Lambda Upsilon, Alpha Chi Sigma, and the Philadelphia Patent Law Association. He was a member of Grace United Methodist church, the General Society of Mayflower Descendants, and the Retired Men's Luncheon Club.

Grin received a bachelor's degree in physical chemistry in 1926 and a master's in physical chemistry from the University of Nebraska, where he was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. In 1932, he received a doctorate in physical chemistry from the University of Michigan, and in 1948 he received a patent agent degree from Ursinus College, Collegeville, PA.

Besides his wife and children mentioned above, Grin leaves a brother, Loren B. Almy of Olympia, Washington; a sister, Mignon Almy of Lincoln, Nebraska; and seven grandchildren. Grin was a quiet, reserved man, deeply loved and respected by all those who had had contact with him. He will be greatly missed by his family and many, many friends.

CHARLOTTE AUDRA YOUNG (1407-5012-2)

Miss Charlotte A. Young, 94, of Bristol, RI, died on 18 May 1987. She was born in Bristol on 25 February 1893, the daughter of Jeremiah H. and Audra Mehitable (Corthell) Young, and granddaughter of Charlotte Almy (1407-501) and James H. Corthell. She and her cousin, Alice Bateman Almy lived together in Bristol for many years. (See page 3, Almy Newsletter No. 46, April 1986, on Alice Bateman Almy.)

HENRY CALHOUN ALMY (1233-4671-11)

Henry C. Almy, 91, died 6 August 1987 in Syracuse, New York. Henry was born 28 December 1896 in Auburn, New York, the son of Claude Eugene and Frances Lockwood (Calhoun) Almy. Henry married first, Alma Talladay; and second, Ruth Lathrop. He had no children. Notice of his death was furnished by his brother, Robert Leroy Almy (1233-4671-12) of Hartsdale, NY.

CHRISTMAS CARDS

I received many Christmas cards and Christmas letters this year and I want to thank each and everyone for sending them. I appreciate your greetings and the family news contained in the letters. I am unable to send cards in return to each of you, so the Newsletters will have to serve as my greetings to you. God Bless!

### ANOTHER BUSY YEAR FOR VEDA AND MERWIN

Veda and I have had another busy year. I just added up our travels in 1987 and find that we were away from home a total of 133 days. In the April Newsletter (No. 50, page 2), I told of our trip to the South Pacific. In the July Newsletter (No. 51, page 2), I told of our three weeks in England and Wales. In November and December, Veda and I went on a two week cruise that included Acapulco, Mexico; Caldera, Costa Rica (where we had a nine hour tour by bus and train to visit the capital city of San Jose); Cartagena, Columbia; St. Thomas, Virgin Islands; Philipsburg, St. Maarten, Netherlands Antilles; and ending in San Juan, Puerto Rico. In between Caldera and Cartagena we had a day-long transit of the Panama Canal on a beautiful day.

We had many other trips during the year, but the one with the greatest affect on our lives was our visit in October to our son Tom and family in Oregon. While there, we unexpectedly bought a house (across the street from our son and family) and so we will be moving to Tualatin, Oregon, sometime in the next year or so. Since buying a house was totally unplanned, we have a lot to do before we will be ready to move. We figure it will be the Fall of 1988 or the Spring of 1989 before we finally do it. I will keep you all posted as to when an address change is made. I hope to continue the Newsletters on schedule, but forgive me if their issuance does become erratic.

### NUMBER 1407-2B3 MARY CATHERINE ALMY FALES

This biographical sketch was submitted by Nancy Peirce Lantz (1407-2B31-11) and Rebecca Peirce (1407-2B31-12) at the 1986 Almy Family Reunion in response to the request made to those attending to bring a one page biography of any Almy (an ancestor, parent, etc.). We may have a biographical exchange for the 1988 Reunion. I have taken the liberty to make certain editorial changes.

Mary Catherine Almy, our great grandmother, was the last person in our family to carry the Almy name. She was born in Portsmouth, RI, 7 September 1841, the daughter of Edward W. and Rebecca Goddard (Weaver) Almy. She was the eldest of three children born to Edward and Rebecca; the others being Edward B. Almy, born 21 May 1844, and George Weaver Almy, born 3 January 1846. Her father had two other wives; first, Maria L. Sullings by whom he had two children; and for his third, Elizabeth Matthews by whom he had three children.

Mary Catherine, called Kate by her family, was born on the Almy-Hall Farm on Union Street. Her mother and other family members are buried in a graveyard northwest of the homestead, still standing. On 24 December 1864 Kate married in Portsmouth, Edmund W. Fales, born in Newport 1 December 1840, the son of William B. and Sarah Elizabeth (Norton) Fales. Edmund Fales was sworn in to the Ninth R.I. Volunteers on 2 May 1860 and was commissioned lieutenant of Company K, 12 Regiment, 13 October 1862, age 22.

They had one child, Rebecca Elizabeth Fales, born 30 September 1865 at Bailey Brook Farm, near Two Mile Corner, Middletown. Rego Road was the laneway to the house which was standing in the 1920's. Edmund Fales died in New York City, April 1879. His daughter, called Reba, married Charles C. Peirce, September 1888. Their only child, George Peirce, was born 3 July 1889 at the Fales House at the far end of the farm on the land now on the northwest corner of Valley Road and East Main Road. This three story summer home burned down in the 1920's. Mary Catherine died in 1898 at her daughter's home in Brookline, MA, and is buried in the Fales Lot at Island Cemetery in Newport.

Note your calendar now for the ALMY FAMILY REUNION, Saturday & Sunday, 20-21 Aug 1988.

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 newspaper to run his article in the Almy Family Newsletters. This is the sixth installment, continued from page 5, Issue No. 52, October 1987.)

In addition to the vegetable garden, my grandfather had planted a large pear orchard and numerous apple trees such as Porters, Sapsons, Russets, and Baldwins. Also, there were six Italian chestnut trees which produced several bushels of large good tasting nuts suitable for roasting or eating raw. I was given the job of collecting the chestnut burrs and removing the nuts therefrom. As there were many more chestnuts than the family wanted, the surplus of several bushels was taken to market in Providence and sold for around \$15.00 or \$20.00 a bushel, which was nothing to be sneezed at in those days. Unfortunately, this profitable mini-business came to a sudden end around 1918 or 1919 when the European Chestnut blight arrived in New England and wiped out all edible chestnut trees, including the large magnificent native chestnuts which were around four feet in diameter. These native chestnuts were much smaller than the Italian chestnuts and considerable sweeter. I spent many hours collecting them in nearby woods after the first frost had opened the burrs and the nuts had fallen to the ground.

One summer I became interested in tree houses and immediately started to collect discarded pieces of lumber around the property. I selected a swamp maple tree about half way between our house and my father's mill as a suitable site and proceeded to build a crude ladder up the trunk by nailing short pieces of wooded "steps" to the tree up about ten or twelve feet to a place where the trunk branched out where I installed a "floor" about 4' x 6'. Then board walls were built (with two open windows) and finally a flat roof topped off with a sheet of tar paper. After finishing this project and showing it off to my parents, sister, and any one else whom I thought might be interested in seeing this engineering feat, I soon found that there was nothing much you could do with it other than ascend into it and meditate. It dawned on me that it was not suitable for winter use as there was no heating system nor any practical way of installing a stove or fireplace.

I therefore decided to build a small cabin or shack on the ground. This took a little more time and material, but it was much more satisfactory in the long run. The finished structure was about four feet by eight feet. It had a glass window, a door, tar paper sides and roof, wooden floor, a crude table and a small cast iron pot bellied stove which I found somewhere on the place.

My friend Jimmy Ballou, a classmate at Technical High, came out from Providence on some winter week-ends and we kept a fire in the stove, chopped wood, smoked our pipes (now using real tobacco) and occasionally did some school homework at the table.

By this time another one of my Technical High classmates by the name of Dorrance Cook had become interested in camping, canoeing and skating. We camped a lot in the summer on an island in Simon's upper reservoir. I had acquired an Old Town canoe which would hold three people and our camping gear. The island was an ideal location and we had it all to ourselves as no one else apparently had a boat of any kind at this pond. There were plenty of fish and blueberries available. The only habitation was a small pig farm at the north end, run by two brothers named Langford.

In the winter we did a lot of skating at the reservoir. I remember one late winter skating expedition in particular. The three of us were skating near the island with Jimmy Ballou slightly ahead of Dorrance Cook and me when suddenly Jimmy came to a thin spot where the ice broke and he fell through. He came up and tried to climb out, but the ice kept breaking and he couldn't get out. It was still cold in the air and icy in the water, and we realized we would have to get him out quickly. Cook skated to the island to look for a long pole or log to push to him but didn't find anything right away. I decided I would have to see what I could do. I took off my long sleeved sweater and inched out on my stomach toward shivering and shaking Ballou until I was about six feet away. I then grasped one sleeve of the sweater and swung it toward Jimmy so he could grasp the end of the other sleeve. I dug the toes of my skates into the ice and pulled him out of the hole toward me. Fortunately, the ice was strong enough where I was to hold both of us. We got him up onto his feet and with Dorrance on one side and me on the other we headed to Langford's pig farm. The Langford's had a good warm wood stove in their cabin so that we got Jimmy warmed up and dried out enough so that we could head back home. A narrow escape.

In the summer, blueberry picking was an important item in the Simonsville area. There were three kinds of blueberry bushes; a dwarf variety, a medium sized one two or three feet tall, and high bushed ones five to eight feet tall. The best berries seemed to be on the high bushed plants. Many of the Italian immigrants and children picked berries to sell in the markets in Providence and were able to earn considerable amounts of money during the summer by this means. Blueberry bushes grow best in open sun rather than under trees and some people found out that by burning woodland, new unshaded blueberry bushes would come up and produce heavy yields in a few years. Deliberate setting of fires was practiced in the forests around the village even though it was illegal to do so. Many times in the spring the air would be heavy with the odor of wood fires and the night skies would be illuminated by distant flames that no one tried to put out. There were no volunteer fire departments in the vicinity in those days, and the nearest full time fire department was in Providence.

(To be continued.)

### 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
Mary Almy Merrell	1233-3252-3111	Virginia
Hulda Almy Freda	1233-4668-11	North Dakota
Edith (Almy) Atwell	1233-5180-33	North Carolina
Constance M. Price	1235-4131-1111	Ohio
Alexandra Almy Kohlhoff	1235-5792-1121	Texas
Donald R. Almy	1252-9531-711	New York
Mrs. Raymond G. Johnson	1408-3822-11W	Arizona
Mrs. L. Wesley Almy	1408-6524-11W	New Mexico

Your cousin (1408-3312-112),

*Merwin*

Merwin F. Almy  
7703 Elgar Street  
Springfield, VA 22151

HAPPY NEW YEAR !!