

## 1988 ALMY FAMILY REUNION

NOW is the time to send in your reservation for the 1988 Almy Family Reunion. This may be the last of the current series of Almy Family Reunions; at least for many years. So, if you have any desire to meet with your near and far Almy cousins, this is the year to do it. Details of the arrangements and activities are presented below and the last page is the registration form for you to fill out and return to me.

Please don't put this off any longer. We need to have a count of the number attending so to assure adequate facilities and order the number of each meal entree desired.

The 1988 Almy Family Reunion will be held on Saturday and Sunday, 20 and 21 August 1988 in Seekonk, MA, and Tiverton and Little Compton, RI. The Saturday activities will be at Eileen Darlings' Restaurant, 1105 Fall River Ave., Seekonk, MA 02771. This location is about 5 miles East of Providence, RI, and is the same location as the 1982, 1984, and 1986 Almy Family Reunions. The Sunday activities will be at the "Old Stone Church" in Tiverton, Country Harvest Restaurant in Little Compton, and the Chase-Cory House in Tiverton. Patricia Almy Forte has helped tremendously with the arrangements this year and she planned all the Sunday activities.

This should be the best Reunion ever. We will have 3 Almeys from the United Kingdom attending. Fred and Joyce Almey from Cardiff, Wales, and Stephen Almey from Kings Lynn, Norfolk, England. The three of them will be Veda's and my house guests from 8 August until they return home on 1 September. Veda and I have visited Fred and Joyce in Cardiff in different years and I know the reunion attendees will enjoy talking with them. Stephen Almey is their 17 year old grandnephew who has many interests. He is the one I wrote about on page 4 of the January 1986 (No. 45) Newsletter who wanted Almy pen pals in the States.

Following are the Reunion details.

Saturday meetings - As presently planned, all our Saturday activities will be in the Runnin Board Room of Eileen Darling's Restaurant. Our meetings will start as soon as two people are gathered together shortly after breakfast. Our morning activity will consist of getting acquainted or reacquainted with cousins, "show and tell" of Almy history items, pictures of Almys, scrap books, genealogical charts, and any other activities that attendees may think of or want to do. This type activity has been the most popular at the three previous reunions. So bring whatever you may have to share -- also questions about Almy history and genealogy you would like to discuss.

When you arrive at the meeting room on Saturday, please check in, pick up your name tag(s), and obtain other information about the reunion.

Saturday lunch - Nothing is planned for Saturday lunch. Everyone will be on their own, but at the last Reunion, about 25-30 of us ate together on one side of one of the dining rooms of the restaurant. Other eating establishments are also nearby.

Saturday afternoon - We will continue with our getting acquainted with cousins, and sharing of information. During this time I would also like to have the Biography Exchange papers put out on our tables. In this regard, I would like everyone (or each family) to bring a one page biography of any Almy (an ancestor, parent, etc.). It can be a personal account or based on research. (Biographical sketches from the Almy Family Newsletters should not be used.) Each person should bring 25 copies and we will exchange biographies. Those unable to make 25 copies may send the biography to me and I will make the copies and deliver them to the Reunion.

Saturday Dinner - 6:30 p.m. - We will have our own private dinner in our meeting room at approximately 6:30 p.m. There is a choice of three entrees. The meals include choice of potato and two vegetables served family style, chef's salad with French dressing, and choice of some delicious deserts. Please indicate on the registration form the number of meals of each entree.

Following dinner, the meeting will be open for all Almy cousins, and friends, to ask questions about or discuss Almy history and genealogy. I will also tell what I know about our English ancestry and the Almy/Almeys in England. At the prior Reunions we have had these informal discussion periods and they have been tremendously successful.



## FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

"THE OLD STONE CHURCH"

TIVERTON, RI

ESTABLISHED 1680 A.D.

ERECTED 1841 A.D.

Sunday Morning - 10:30 a.m. - Church service at the historic First Baptist Old Stone Church, Stone Church Road, Tiverton, RI. This church is situated on land left to the church by Job Almy (No. 140) in his will. Following the service we will view memorabilia that honors the 300 year history of the church.

Sunday Buffet Brunch - 12:30 p.m. - A buffet brunch has been arranged for us at the Country Harvest Restaurant, 67 West Main Road, Little Compton, RI. The price is \$8.50 per person, which includes tax and gratuity. This price may seem expensive, but the food and service are excellent. The restaurant is on the former John Edwin Almy (1407-1C) farm and overlooks Almy Marsh. Be sure to include this on your registration form.

Sunday Self-Guided Tour and Almy Exhibit - 2:00 p.m. - At the Chase-Cory House. Headquarters of the Tiverton Historical Society, Main Road at Four Corners, Tiverton, RI. This self-guided tour will include a display of genealogical and historical information concerning the Almy Family. This will include the items left by Alice Bateman Almy to the Society.

Motel Rooms - Following are the room rates for the three motels located in Seekonk. These are AAA motels operated by the Darling Family.

	<u>1 Person</u>	<u>2 Persons 1 Bed</u>	<u>2 Persons 2 Beds</u>
Town 'N Country Motel 1105 Fall River Ave. Seekonk, MA 02771 Phone (617) 336-8300	\$ 37.00	\$ 37.00	\$ 40.00
Esquire Motel Route 6, Seekonk, MA 02771 Phone (617) 336-9000	38.00	38.00	41.00
Ramada Inn 940 Fall River Ave. Seekonk, MA 02771 Phone (617) 336-7300	75.00	80.00	85.00

(Ramada Inn offers a discount for AARP and AAA - the rates being \$60.00, \$65.00, and \$70.00 respectively.)

The Town 'N Country Motel and Eileen Darling's Restaurant are adjacent to each other. I suggest early reservation to assure obtaining desired accommodations. Send your room request and payment for the first nights lodging direct to the motel. Mention that you are attending the Almy Family Reunion. Some suites and rooms for the handicapped are available at the Ramada Inn. The Esquire Motel is across the street from the Town 'N Country Motel and has a campground.

Early arrivals - Those arriving on Friday afternoon or evening should look me up (I will be staying at the Town 'N Country Motel) or find other Almys at the motels. There will be informal get togethers for Friday dinner and evening socializing.

Registration - The registration fee will be \$5.00 per adult to cover costs such as name tags, coffee, reunion arrangements, and other incidentals. The last page of this newsletter mailing is the registration form. Please return this form to me as soon as you can. We need to know the number attending the two days to be sure we have adequate facilities, the meals desired so that the restaurants can be informed, and the name tag information so that they can be made up ahead of time. Please do not wait until the last minute as many plans have to be made. If you find on short notice that you can attend, but haven't made a reservation, come anyway; some kind of arrangement can always be made.

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Remember when the family vacation was going camping in a tent with all the gear on top of the car, in the trunk and on the running boards?

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 seventh installment, continued from page 5, Issue No. 53, January 1988.)

As automobile usage increased, people became interested in automobile racing. A race track named Naragansett Race Track was built not far away and my father would take us there when such famous drivers as Barney Oldfield and Ralph DePalma were racing. Many of the spectators, including myself, were amazed and thrilled when the racers reached a top speed of sixty miles per hour.

When my Dad first bought an auto around 1900, no drivers license or registration was required. A few years later the first registration plates came out and he obtained plates numbered 350 which he kept for over fifty years. In addition to his interest in autos and other mechanical things, my father decided he needed a tractor and bought an early model made by the Ford Motor Company. It was used primarily for plowing and harrowing the vegetable garden. I was allowed to drive it on occasion and was greatly impressed by it's power and deafening noise. This tractor had a great basic defect. If it became stuck in mud or the plow became lodged against a large root or stone, the front with the engine would rear up like a horse and fall backward. If the driver didn't get out of the way instantly he would be crushed under the engine. A number of people were killed or injured before Ford changed the design to prevent such accidents.

About 1921, my mother decided that Simmonsville was no longer an attractive place to live. She persuaded Dad to sell the property to one Jesse Tartaglia who formerly worked in the greenhouses. After looking at other properties for sale they decided to buy another house on one acre in North Providence at No. 576 Fruit Hill Avenue. This story comes to an end in 1922 when we moved to a new house built on the one acre. We found out later that the other house on this property originally belonged to the Chief Engineer of the Corliss Engine Company which made the large reciprocating steam engines that were largely responsible for the failure of many of the small water powered textile mills. It was said that when steam turbine powered electric generators made Corliss type engines obsolete, the Corliss Company failed and the Chief Engineer became so depressed that he committed suicide with the result that his heirs sold the property. It seems that progress in the type of power used in textile and other mills had a strong bearing on where my parents were destined to live. Needless to say, my early life in Simmonsville made a vivid and lasting impression on me.

(This concludes the Simmonsville Saga.)

JOSEPHINE F. PECKHAM (1407-1196-1)

Josephine F. Peckham, 84, died 17 April 1988 at the Grace Barker Nursing Home in Warren, RI. Miss Peckham was an executive secretary at the New York University Law School for more than 15 years before retiring. Josephine was born in Washington, DC, the daughter of Henry Lincoln and Harriet (Almy) Peckham. Her mother Harriet was the daughter of Warren Washington and Sarah L. (Gray) Almy. Josephine leaves two brothers, Henry L. and Felix A. Peckham, and a sister, Margaret B. Gottschalk.

DR. RAYMOND CHARLES ALMY (1232-1274-21)

Raymond C. Almy is a direct descendant of James Dorrance Almy (1232-127) who migrated from Almyville, near Sterling, Connecticut after the war of 1812 to Benton Township (Yates County, NY) with his mother and several brothers and sisters. Two of his sons, Charles W. (1232-1274) and Elisha Otis (1232-1272) established farms in Jerusalem Township and moved to the northern part of Starkey, in Yates County, NY, prior to the Civil War. Charles located on what is now Huff Road and Elisha Otis on Sproat Hill Road backing up to that of Charles.

Raymond was born on 24 May 1882 and attended the little country school that was on the north east corner of Huff Road and the Preemption Road. At the same time his future wife Mima Bassett, whose parents lived on the Preemption Road, attended the same school.

In the years 1896-1900, Raymond attended the Keuka Institute. Mima Bassett attended the Institute during the years 1898-1900. Raymond graduated from Keuka College in 1902 and went on to Syracuse University, where he graduated from the College of Medicine. He married his old schoolmate Mima and for many years conducted a very extensive and popular medical practice in the city of Auburn, NY. They had two sons, Richard Bassett Almy, born 15 July 1912, died 28 Oct 1981; and Charles Raymond Almy, born 16 June 1916, died 1977. Dr. Raymond C. Almy died in 1942 and is buried on his family plot. His stone in Hillside Cemetery, Dundee, simply states "a beloved physician." Mima died in 1960, her stone "wife of Raymond."

In my senior year at Syracuse University (1920) my finances ran out and Dr. Raymond C. Almy helped fill the gap in my budget. So I have retained a very special place in my heart for the memory of a very fine doctor, a gentleman in every sense of the word, a friend and a cousin.

Clarence Joseph Gannon (1232-1272-521)

The above biographical sketch was written and sent to me in 1987 by Clarence. I have edited his submission, adding genealogical information from my files. It is the type of sketch I would like Reunion attendees to have at the Reunion. Of course, I would like to receive these sketches at anytime for inclusion in the Newsletters.

CONTRIBUTIONS

Following is a listing of those cousins 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 each of you.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Almy Number</u>	<u>Residence</u>
Mrs. George W. Culler	1232-1218-411	Ohio
Floyd Almy	1233-4692-413	New York
Ruth Almy	1233-5143-224	Florida
Dean J. Almy, Jr.	1235-5792-112	Maine
William A. Knowlton	1252-9773-34	Virginia
Philip W. Almy	1407-1532-1	Rhode Island
Lois B. Almy	1407-1532-3	Rhode Island
Mrs. William S. Randall	1408-3832-51	Rhode Island

Your cousin (1408-3312-112),

*Merwin*

Merwin F. Almy  
7703 Elgar Street  
Springfield, VA 22151

See you at the Reunion!