

Pilgrim suburbs on Cape Cod

From an article by Robert C. Thompson in the *Mayflower Log*, the newsmagazine of the Society of Mayflower Descendants in Arizona

"Although Cape Cod was where Pilgrims first trod on American soil, the Cape remained virtually uninhabited, except by Indians, for the next seventeen years. The Pilgrims simply had not found the Cape sufficiently attractive for their settlement.

"But then, about 1637, the Colony government suddenly reached back along the Cape, authorizing creation of three new settlements: Sandwich, Barnstable, and Yarmouth - in that geographical order.

"At first glance, it would seem odd that the first grant for a settlement went to a group from Massachusetts Bay Colony, not Plymouth. John Winthrop, governor of the Bay Colony, recorded the event in his journal: *Another plantation was begun (called Sandwich) about fifteen miles beyond Plimouth, towards Cape Cod, by many families, which removed from Sagus otherwise Lynn.*

"Perhaps nearly as odd is that the adjacent settlement, Barnstable - originally inhabited by only fifteen families - was soon overtaken by a larger group from Plymouth Colony's most northern - and thus most distant - community of Scituate. And odd that the settlement of Yarmouth was more or less spearheaded by an individual who,



with his wife, were sole survivors of a shipwreck off Marblehead in Massachusetts Bay Colony.

"But this seemingly strange circumstance was the product of several factors: first, the Bay Colony on the Pilgrims' northern exposure had grown tremendously - eclipsing the very modest growth of their own colony - thus looming as a competitive threat to their own survival and potential prosperity. Second, a "use it or lose it" perception emerged as a recognition of this situation; for Cape Cod was not only major coastal property but represented a significant portion of Colony land. Third, since the population of Plymouth itself was deemed insufficient to render a viable

migration and occupation of the entire Cape, it seemed necessary to allow outsiders to come in - subject, however, to some prudent 'conditions'.

"Some of the 'conditions' that were laid down: (1) there could be no absentee land ownership, (2) persons 'unfit for church society' were excluded, and (3) those individuals who were acceptable had to be persons 'of good note'. Further, a very tight control over land division within a settlement would be imposed.

"Although some sixty families were involved with the migration from Saugus to Sandwich, the principals were WILLIAM ALMY, John Carman, Richard Chadwell, Thomas Dexter, Sr., Edward Dillingham, Henry Feake, Edmund Freeman, Sr., George Knott, Thomas Tupper, and William Wood."

I thought another reference to our common ancestor, William Almy, would be of interest to everyone. The plaque in the Sandwich Town Hall honoring the founding "Ten Men from Saugus" is shown on page 3 of Almy Family Newsletter No. 35 (July 1983).

TALES OF MY GRANDFATHERS

(Continued from Almy Newsletter No. 74)

In the last Newsletter I wrote that the Tales would be continued. However, I find that the remaining material consists of lengthy wills which contain little of interest, and accounts of female ancestors which do not relate to other members of the Almy Family.

This series is therefore concluded.

FAMILY HISTORIES

From time to time I have written that persons should write down information about their families. This information should include, but not be limited to: full names and relationships; birth, marriage, and death dates; known medical information; education; occupation; hobbies; successes and failures; humorous happenings; etc.

Sylvia Nichols (1233-5147-233) has written such a family history which she has called *History of Our Ancestors as I see it as of 1991*.

There are chapters on her and her husband's parents; their ancestry, brothers and sisters, and their descendants. There are also chapters on their children and their families. There are also chapters on the different phases of their lives, where they lived and what they did.

Following are excerpts from her chapter on the Almy Family.

"My grandfather, Edward Clarence Almy, was the owner of several thriving men's and women's clothing stores in Rhode Island and Massachusetts. The women's stores always had separate entrances.

"From what Mother told me of her childhood, her family had everything and lived a very happy, good life with servants, beautiful clothes, secondary education or college. Grandfather Edward Almy gave his wife, Helen Maria Almy, his first cousin, beautiful jewelry; he loved fine horses and enjoyed driving them very fast. Mother said she used to be afraid to ride with him. Grandfather traveled quite a bit on buying trips for his stores and from what Mother told me he was considered a "High Stepper".

"In 1895 my grandmother, Helen Maria Almy (Mrs. Edward C. Almy) died and their home was broken up at this time. My mother was sent to Syracuse, New York at age 16 to live with

Aunt Adelaide Almy Cory (Mrs. George W. Cory). Mother's older sister Maude, 18 years, was about to enter Wellesley College, Massachusetts. Mother's younger sister, Helen, age 14, went to live with Aunt Laura Almy in Providence, Rhode Island. Aunt Laura was a grade school teacher in Providence.

"Soon after the home was broken up, Edward C. Almy married his secretary, Norma Smith. To me she was always 'Gramma Norma', but to Mother and her sisters, their stepmother was always referred to as 'Mrs. Almy'. I saw Gramma Norma many times during my three years in Boston.

"Aunt Laura Almy, my Great Aunt and my Godmother, came to live with our family in 1925, the year I went to school in Boston. She was a wonderful person and I loved her dearly. She died in December 1925 and left me her bedroom set which in time I gave to Kathy, my granddaughter, as a wedding gift. At present, my daughter Lucia has this bed, using it in her home, also the washstand and chair.

"My Mother, Florence, was a dancing school teacher and graduate of Syracuse Normal School. She taught kindergarten at Orchard School. Florence Elizabeth Almy Littlehales was very active in church work, Altar Guild, Women's Auxiliary, school programs, and was a member of 'What So Ever Circle' and Guild Hall Auxiliary. During World War I she was an active driver in the Red Cross Motor Corp. She also was a 'farmerette' and went into the fields to pick beans and strawberries when help was so scarce for farmers during the war I.

"Mother was a wonderful housekeeper, a seamstress and made all my clothes through grade school and was always willing to make costumes for school plays and dancing class programs. She was a typical New Englander from Boston but did not make friends as easily as Dad did. She was a very good looking woman and was loved by many people.

"In the spring of 1920, mother fell down our back stairs just two months before Ned was born and broke her coccyx, which had to be broken again when Ned was born. She had lots of back pain and shoulder pain from that time on in life. While visiting me in New Jersey, she fell in the bath tub and broke several ribs and suffered agony with this accident.

"My dad, CWL, was a very well person and a very dear person and loved people. He was always doing for other people and in turn was loved by many. Dad had a lovely baritone voice and sang in St. Mark's Church choir for many years. He loved his home and had a beautiful big garden when I was young.

"He made it possible for us to attend the Saturday A.M. children's concerts of the Syracuse Symphony Orchestra. He also enjoyed, in the early radio period, listening to the City Service Program every week. I can see him, sitting in his chair, his eyes closed, listening to the classic music of the City Service Program. My dad died in 1940 with cerebral hemorrhage.

"Mother lived on at the home in Syracuse, New York, until 1945, when she sold her house and went to live with Betsey, her daughter, my younger sister, and Betsey's husband in Ithaca, New York. She visited Ned and me each year until her death of natural causes in 1965 in a nursing home, Binghamton, NY."



ALMYS BEWARE

Early this year members of another family association received offers of a "genealogical book." The offer came from Scottsdale Family Treasures Inc. of Phoenix, Arizona. The sales pitch was the same as that used by the Bath, Ohio people. (See my warning article on page 2 of Newsletter No. 35) A request was made by that association for a statement of their "sources for research" which they stated was not just a collection of family names from the phone books in our country, "like other books." They did not bother to respond. Sounds like the "Bath Ohio book makers" have moved to Arizona this time.

Following are excerpts from an article written by Lois B. Almy (1407-1532-3) about her mother.

GRACE B. ALMY
Postmaster, Little Compton, RI
December 1933 - December 1948

"On December 12, 1933, Mrs. Philip W. (Grace B.) Almy started to work at the Little Compton Post Office. It was her 35th Wedding Anniversary, but that did not stop her from reporting to work for the first day of which was to become 15 years on the job.

"Mrs. Edmund (Mabel) Carton had just been killed in an automobile accident in Tiverton and Mrs. Almy went in the Post Office as an assistant to help Mrs. Warren (Faley) Wordell who was the Assistant Postmaster with Mrs. Carton. Mrs. Wordell fully expected to be appointed Postmaster. However, within two weeks she became ill and died, leaving Mrs. Almy alone until she passed the Civil Service examination and was appointed to the job of Postmaster.

"The Post Office was open from 7 A.M. to 7:30 P.M. and the Postmaster was usually there all those hours. In 1945, permission was granted to close the office on Saturdays at 3:30 from October 1st to May 1st.

Besides the main office, the Postmaster had to supervise two delivery routes, and the star route operated by her son, Philip W. Almy, Jr. The star route took the mail from the Post Office in Little Compton to Tiverton. Later Fall River was Added to the route. The two R.F.D. routes serviced the outlying areas. The Postmaster had to ride with the rural carrier on a regular schedule to inspect the boxes and roads travelled.

"There was a coal stove to keep the Post Office warm. Many mornings the fire was out even though Mr. Peckham, who lived nearby, went in after hours to bank the fires

for the night. If it was out in the morning, Mrs. Almy would have to start it again. They would wear coats until the place got warm. The Government allowed \$74 for heat and electricity which was enough to buy 3 tons of coal and pay the electric bills for a year. In 1947, Grace asked to have the allowance raised to \$94 so she could buy an extra ton of coal. They always ran out of coal before warm weather arrived. She felt the extra ton would allow them to burn half a ton in the Spring and the other half in the Fall, thus extending the length of time they could have a fire burning and be comfortable.

"The *Providence Sunday Journal* of December 26, 1948 had an article about Mrs. Almy's retirement. The following is a quote from that article. 'A motherly-looking grey haired woman, Mrs. Almy looks as though she would be more at home in an old-fashioned New England kitchen whipping up a batch of doughnuts or an apple pie, than sitting in her caged-in office in Little Compton's tiny post office. But Mrs. Almy, apparently, is just one more proof to the domineering male world that brains and ability have no sex.'

"Mrs. Almy was a familiar figure to many townspeople as she sat on her stool behind the heavy grating, which some jokingly called a cage.

"On October 6, 1947 the Postmaster reached 70 years of age, which was the official Government retirement age. So she was forced to retire although she felt she was capable of doing the work and was very unhappy to have to retire.

"December 31, 1948, Grace B. Almy cancelled her last letter and retired. Just two weeks before, on December 12th, she and her husband celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary."

IT'S A BOY!

Kyle Thomas Jones (1239-2165-1713-1) was born May 16, 1993, in Bishop, California, to Randolph (Randy) and Cynthia (Cyndi) Jones. He weighed 8 lbs., 5 oz. at birth.

Congratulations!

(Reported by the proud grandmother, Marion Jane Almy Jones of Woodland Hills, California.)

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION

Cornyn "Cory" Almy (1408-6612-1213) sent me her high school graduation announcement. She graduated from Point Loma High School (San Diego, California) on June 16, 1993. She wrote that she will be attending Western Washington University in the Fall.

ANDREW ERNEST ALMY
(1933-3116-1)

COLLEGE GRADUATION

Jennifer M. Almy (1408-6612-1211) graduated from Mary Washington College in Fredericksburg, Virginia, on Saturday, May 8, 1993.

The Almy Family wishes her success and happiness as she puts her education to work.

Best Wishes and Good Luck!

Andrew Ernest Almy, 75, of Hopkinsville, Kentucky, died December 2, 1992. He was born in Hopkinsville on May 20, 1917, the son of John Franklin and Dovie Pearl (Whittaker) Almy. He married Ibyl Lerne Goode and they had two sons: Richard and Gerald. Andrew will be greatly missed by his family and friends.

CONTRIBUTIONS

Following is a listing of those cousins who have sent in contributions, since the last issue of the 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>
Marguerite Wightman	1233-3251-282	New York
Floyd Almy	1233-4692-413	New York
Betsey Miller	1233-5147-234	New York
Everett Atwell	1233-5180-33W	North Carolina
Mrs. William F. Almy	1235-4131-122W	Virginia
Dorothy Hornus	1407-1C57-61	Hawaii
Donald G. Almy	1407-1C74-31	California

Your Cousin (1408-3312-112),

Merwin

Merwin F. Almy
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