

## ALMY COAT OF ARMS

For years I have been looking for information on the origins of the various Almy coats of arms that members of the Almy Family have used. So far, I have not come across information on the year they were first used or what the source of any of them might have been.

I have read that armory (coats of arms on armor) was created as a practical device during the Medieval times to enable soldiers to distinguish one another. The upper classes, who asserted nobility of birth, were the land holders from whose land the military units were recruited, and upon whom the leadership in battle obviously fell. During the time of warfare, however, the armor which the brave soldiers wore, so completely concealed the face and otherwise hid the identity of the individual that the Feudal Lords were confronted with the necessity of imposing an emblem, represented in colors, on the shield and other armorial bearings, by which the illiterate followers could be distinguished.

Consequently, these somewhat prestigious devices, which were intended to be hereditary in nature, became recognized as signs of nobility of blood and as emblems of the upper, privileged classes. To prevent the duplication of design, the College of Arms was created in England in 1484. In 1530 a Royal Commission was given

authorization to Officers of Arms to visit the various counties in England with the objective of registering arms and pedigrees of the nobility and gentry, and to reprove and control those who laid claim to the use of arms they had no right to possess. The tours of inspection took place at least three times throughout the 40 counties, commencing in 1530 and continuing to the year 1688. When these officers of arms conducted their visits, they were empowered to deface any monuments which bore arms without authority.

We frequently are in contact with heraldic devices here in America; some are legitimate, others are not. In most cases the arms used by families in

America have been purchased from one of a number of Heraldic companies. Contrary to what these firms would like you to believe, Coats of Arms have never been granted to surnames. There simply is no such thing as a "family" coat of arms. *Armorial bearings are granted, along with their proper marks of difference, to individuals for use by his direct descendants only.*

Review of the various Heraldic publications in England and other European countries do not list an Almy or other derivation or spelling of our name. I therefor conclude that there is not an Almy Coat of Arms to which we might be entitled to use by right of descent.



Tree. He is Almy No. 1233-31S (for supposition). This can be changed, if necessary, if and when his true identity is known.

I thank the following Almy Family members who contributed their research efforts that went into the above article.

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I hope by making the above information available, some reader will be able to shed more light on the subject.



### RHODE ISLAND'S CHAMPION OF THE RHODE ISLAND REDS

The following is a continuation from the last Newsletter (No. 80) of the article that appeared in the Providence Sunday Journal of December 12, 1915, transcribed by Patricia Almy Forte (1407-1426-122). The article is about Frederick W.C. Almy, born January 22, 1872 in Little Compton, Rhode Island, the son of Oliver and Elizabeth (Howland) Almy.

"Not far away was the farm upon which the Rhode Island Red had been developed by Capt. Tripp. Frederick Almy admired these birds and purchased several settings of eggs from the Tripps, and with the meager capital at his command, practically all the money he had laid away to give him a start in the outside world, he erected two poultry houses.

"As the chickens grew their appetites increased and he soon found that a poultry farm upon which all the stock was young chickens was not a paying proposition. Financially it was all outgo and no income and while the grain bills were not excessive they were considerably greater than could be

met forever by a person that had invested practically all his savings in stock and equipment.

"But he expected to meet just such obstacles. In the fall he procured a position as a teacher in the public school. In this way he was assured of sufficient money to support himself and pay for grain that had to be purchased and he did the work on the farm before and after school hours.

"The coops that he built were substantially although cheaply constructed. They were 8 by 10 feet with a door and single window and built upon a foundation that protected the fowl from the damp ground.

"The second spring he built six more. He used hens for hatching and set them so that the chickens would come off on a Saturday or Sunday when he would be free from his school duties. By planting some of the grain needed he was enabled to cut down his expense and the two or three score chickens hatched the first year helped in paying the expenses.

"His experience the second year was practically a repetition of the first. To properly care for the chickens he was compelled to get up before daylight and to work until long after dark. At the end of the second year he had 250 fowl and was looking forward to the time when the number would be increased to 1000, the income from which would be sufficient to support a man. The third year he added a dozen more houses, each being modelled like the original and providing room for 40 birds.

"Largely to save the expense of inclosing runs he adopted the colony plan. Land was cheap and he learned that utility birds on a free range might be crowded closer together in coops than when closer confined.

"Three years after beginning the experiment he had 600 fowl. He found a ready market for eggs and dressed poultry and that spring he began the supreme effort for putting the farm on a paying basis. Practically all the income from the poultry as well as that saved from

### SEARCH FOR PARENTS OF SENECA ALMY

I have been reviewing information in my files trying to solve the mystery of who Seneca Almy's parents were. I asked about this in Newsletter No. 60 (October 1989) but have not received further information.

A little background: A group of Almys are found in Vincennes, Knox County, Indiana, in the 1820, 1830, and 1840 Federal censuses. Research there indicates that two Almy brothers, Seneca and Chauncey, are reported as being born in Ovid (now in Seneca County, New York) in 1794 and 1806, respectively. According to a 1873 biographical sketch in a Vincennes newspaper, Chauncey W. Almy came with his parents to Vincennes in June 1807. Records in Vincennes failed to indicate their parents. The article states that his brother Seneca was Sheriff of Knox County for several years. Seneca and his descendants account for 115 Almys in the Family Tree.

I already had the information that Samuel Almy (1233-311), born in Dartmouth, Massachusetts in 1778, had come to the area on the West side of Cayuga Lake and married there in 1801 Jane Rapple. Samuel was one of the first settlers of Seneca County and founder of Almy, New York, later Farmersville, and now Interlaken, New York. He and Jane had eight children. I knew from Samuel's age and marriage that he could not be the father of Seneca, but I felt sure he was related. Because I could find no evidence of other Almys in that area of New York, Seneca and his parents must have stayed with Samuel around the time of Seneca's brother Chauncey's birth in 1806.

Samuel Almy's father, Thomas (1233-31) and uncle, John (1233-32) were both married in Dartmouth in 1769. According to recorded birth information, both had

their first children in 1775 and 1778. So either or both could have had a son born during the first five years of their marriages and that one of these sons could have fathered Seneca, who was born in 1794.

I knew that Samuel (1233-311) came to the Seneca area of New York by way of Cambridge in Washington County, New York. The 1790 Federal Census for Washington County lists households for Samuel Almy (1233-3) and his two sons, Thomas (1233-31) and John (1233-32). The households for Thomas and John indicate that they had 3 males and 2 males, respectively, that were born between 1774 and 1790. So Seneca could easily have been the son of either Thomas or John.

A number of years back a descendant of John Almy (1233-32) sent me a copy of a deed for land in Cayuga County bought in 1803 by Samuel Almy (1233-3), then of Rensselaer County. Samuel's will, said that the land on the west side of Cayuga Lake (now Seneca County) was bequeathed to his son John.

Genealogies identified six children of John Almy (1233-32). Sale of the above property by John's heirs identified nine additional children. No mention was made in these sales of a Seneca Almy or a son of John that had gone West, although the residence of the heirs was indicated for a number of them that were not living in Washington County. Because Seneca's father was not identified with John's heirs, it is reasonable to assume that Seneca's father was a son of Thomas (1233-31) and not a son of John (1233-32).

I have included Seneca's father as unknown in the family of Thomas Almy and so identified him in the Almy Family

his meager salary had been invested but he was given the opportunity of earning some extra money when he was appointed teacher of the little school for an entire year instead of merely for the winter term.

"More houses were built the next spring and before the end of the year he had the desired number, 1000 fowl. From the beginning his object was to produce utility rather than show birds. Premiums and awards of merit, as such, pay few grain bills and it was Frederick's aim to procure the best laying birds in the shortest possible time. His admiration for the Rhode Island Red, however, induced him to select the best formed, best colored and most productive birds for his breeding pens.

"In the late '90s the reputation of the birds had begun to spread abroad. He noticed that late in the fall fanciers from other sections began to take an unusual interest in his farm. Many of those who visited the farm purchased live stock and he became curious to know what disposition was being made of them.

"He learned that the fowl that he had been selling as common utility birds were being exhibited by the purchasers at various poultry shows and many of them were winning premiums and thus gaining a reputation for other fanciers. In 1901 he decided that if the birds were good enough to win prizes for others they ought to be good enough to win prizes for him and after adopting the name of the Red Feather Farm he sent four birds to the Providence show. With these four he was awarded three first prizes. He sent them to Boston, where he won more premiums and since that time there has been scarcely an exhibit in this city, Madison Square, New York, or Boston, at which the Red Feather Farm has not been a successful competitor. He has shipped birds to all parts of the United States and to foreign countries and has become recognized as one of the foremost breeders in America.

"When the Journal cup was offered in 1913 it caused Frederick Almy to sit up and take notice. He has won other trophies but that

which had been donated to the Providence show was considerably more elaborate than the common run. Other breeders, of course, would be eager to win it and this knowledge caused him to exercise considerable care in selecting his birds.

"At the time he had upwards of 2000 fowl and from the large number he was afforded unusual opportunities in selecting his best. He felt when the cages left Little Compton that the display was as good as it could be and the fact that the judges awarded the cup to him demonstrated that he was not mistaken in his judgment. Last year he had no difficulty in winning and the cup became his property when it was won this year for the third time.

"In discussing his experience with a reporter of the Sunday Journal a few days ago Mr. Almy expressed the opinion that there are excellent opportunities for the young man in the poultry business in this State. 'When I started I was handicapped by the lack of capital, and perhaps it is a good thing for me that I was,' he said. 'There is such a thing as having too much capital and I would not advise anyone to start raising poultry on a large scale. If the person had experience, if he was sure of his ground he might succeed, but for the inexperienced the only road to success is that of building up a business gradually.'

"It is not a business in which the inexperienced can depend upon hired brains. The expert capable of supervising the work of a large poultry farm will demand more wages than the owner can afford to pay. If the man is willing to work for less he is very apt to lack the necessary training and skill and hence is too expensive at any price. Hundreds of young men have discussed this question with me. Many of them feel that they would like to go into the business. They admit that they know nothing about it and my advice invariably is for them to begin with a few fowl. If they find pleasure in the work the flock may be increased gradually."

*This concludes the story of Frederick W. C. Almy and his champion Rhode Island Reds.*

**NEWS FROM GENE ALMY  
(1407-1C73-41)**

Gene wrote "our Almy family had a unique and interesting summer. Rosanne and I with the help of our four adult sons and daughters, our son-in-law, two cousins, and several friends spent seven weeks building the floor and erecting the log walls of our cabin in Grand Lake, CO. Model Log Homes provided the precut logs and taught us how to stack and seal them. We've turned the project over to a local builder for completion. Hopefully, it will be ready for occupancy by next summer."

"And one other bit of news. Andrew, who was about 6 when you met him, has just

graduated from Texas A&M. We now have a complete set, all four of our children have graduated from college."

**CHRISTMAS CARDS**

We received many Christmas cards and letters this year from you all, the Almy Family. We thank each and everyone of you for sending them. We appreciate your greetings and the family news contained in the letters and notes.

As we are unable to send cards in return, the Newsletters will have to serve as our greetings to you.

**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. This help is most appreciated. Many thanks to each and everyone of you.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Almy Number</u>	<u>Residence</u>
Frances Almy Culler	1232-1218-411	Ohio
Hazel V. Almy	1233-4655-11W	South Carolina
Harold D. Almy	1233-4668-132	Washington
Constance M. Price	1235-4131-1111	Ohio
Phyllis Stearns	1235-4131-1114	Massachusetts
Mrs. William F. Almy	1235-4131-122W	Virginia
David O. Almy	1235-5792-114	Maryland
Paul Almy Martin	1407-1C71-11	New York
Gene H. Almy	1407-1C73-41	Texas
Mrs. Raymond G. Johnson	1408-3822-11W	Arizona
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