

## SEARCH FOR PARENTS OF SUSAN ALMY (1408-331W)

By Merwin F. Almy

According to published Rhode Island Vital Records, my great-great-grandfather, Joseph Almy (1408-331), married Susan Herd on 29 Mär 1821 in Smithfield, RI. I started searching for Susan's parents in 1970, shortly after I started the genealogical search for my ancestors.

I searched the published vital records for all of New England and could find no birth recorded for a Susan Herd, including all spellings of that name (Heard, Hird, Hord, Horde, Hourd, Hurd, etc.). I also searched card catalogs in numerous genealogical libraries for the numerous types of genealogical information (wills, land records, etc.) that might give information about her parents, without finding a clue. I did find in the 1850 Federal Census in Smithfield, RI, two male Herds listed in adjacent dwellings -- a Dean Herd, age 54, with wife Patience and family; and Oliver Herd, age 56, with wife Edna and family. As Susan was about 52 years old at that time I thought these might be her brothers or other close relatives. These two Herds did not show up in subsequent Rhode Island censuses.

In my review of Quaker records I found that Joseph Almy was temporarily disowned membership in the Society of Friends in September 1819 because "he has for some time past been in the practice of an illicit intercourse with a married woman and that he has confessed the same." The woman was not identified, but it could have been Susan.

I knew Susan's date of death, so I looked at the record of deaths in Smithfield and found it recorded as being on April 25, 1867, in Smithfield; she was 69. For parents it had: ...../Eddy. I found that the 1865 Rhode Island census had Susan E. Almy, age 68, born in Scituate, Rhode Island. These two items indicated that her maiden name was Eddy.

Published RI vital records were searched for this Susan Eddy. I also reviewed the published Eddy genealogies but could find no mention of a Susan Eddy birth or marriage.

I am a long-time member of the Rhode Island Genealogical Society and this January I saw in their publication *Rhode Island Roots* a listing of researchers. The Society has organized a team of Volunteer Town Researchers. Their services are for members of RIGS only, and are limited to simple requests, to provide on-the-spot help for their distant members. I wrote to the volunteer researcher for Smithfield, who was also the researcher for Scituate, and asked for help. I pointed out the above information and wrote that the possibility exists that Susan may have been an illegitimate daughter of Elkanah Eddy or one of his relatives. Also, that Susan may have divorced someone by the name of Herd, but that I can find no marriage for any Herd (all spellings) marrying a Susan. I further pointed out that if Susan is the same woman as Joseph was kicked out of the Quakers for, then she must have

obtained a divorce in the 18 month period between September 1819 and March 1821.

A month later I received a most interesting and informative reply from the researcher. She had contacted the archivist for the Rhode Island Judicial Records and obtained copies of the documents whereby Susan Eddy obtained a divorce from Oliver Hurd in September 1820. The record indicates that a Benjamin Almy (1408-66) helped Susan obtain the divorce. The documents included a statement by Dean Hurd of Mendon, Massachusetts, that Oliver Hurd (his brother) and Susan Eddy were married about 1815, and lived together nearly twelve months in the neighborhood of John Slater. He left her without a house or home, destitute of every comfort of life and never returned to the best of his knowledge. There is also a statement by John Slater of Smithfield, dated 23 September 1820, saying that Oliver and Susan Hurd were married in "this village a few years since", then they moved Eastward. He went to Boston and saw Oliver "steal a chair from a waggon for which theft he was committed to prison."

There was a copy of Susan's own petition [signed], filed August 21, 1820, in which she states that she had been a "loving and dutiful wife always having regard to her marriage contract." That they lived together two years when her said husband left her and went to Boston "and then influenced by an evil Spirit committed the crime of theft and after conviction and punishment left this part of the country and went to points unknown to your Petitioner, leaving her to labor for the support of herself and her young child. Later Oliver was seen in Hartford in Connecticut and was requested either to return to your Petitioner or to afford her the means of subsistence but he utterly refused to do either and positively declared that he never would return to live with your petitioner again or afford her any

support whatever." She ends with "Therefore, your petitioner prays your honor to consider her unhappy situation and pass a ---- annulling the bonds of Matrimony now subsisting between them."

So now I knew that Susan Herd's maiden name was Eddy and that she was born in Scituate around 1797. I then reviewed the 1800 Federal Census for Rhode Island and found there were 50 Eddy families. Of these, 28 had females under 10 years of age (Susan Eddy would have been 2 or 3 years old at that time). I reviewed those families in the Eddy genealogy and found that only two were in Scituate, RI, at that time. These two families were headed by Elkanah Eddy who married Mary Hopkins in 1782, and Luther Eddy who married Mary Bussey before 1807.

Luther Eddy's children were born in Scituate around 1790-1800, but did not contain a Susan and the one female child under 10 in the census was Hazel born in 1796. The information in the genealogy book for Elkanah Eddy did not list a Susan, but the book also stated that all of his children were not known and most birth dates were missing.. It did list an Abigail Eddy who married Benjamin Almy in Smithfield in 1817. The 1800 census information for Elkanah Eddy indicated that he had 3 females under 10 years of age at that time. It appears from the census information and the Eddy genealogy that Elkanah Eddy was the father of Susan.

Although the above is not proof that Susan was the daughter of Elkanah Eddy, all the evidence points to that conclusion and no evidence points otherwise. Also, it is only logical that Benjamin Almy would help his wife's sister in obtaining the divorce to marry his cousin Joseph Almy (Benjamin and Joseph were 1st cousins, once removed.).

## LIZZIE BORDEN CONNECTION

In the last Newsletter I wrote that Reverend Donald S. Mathison (1232-4151-382) had asked about the Lizzie Borden relationship to the Almy Family. I knew that Sylvia Nichols (1233-5147-233) had Borden ancestry so I called her. She sent me the Almy/Borden connection and the related genealogical lines. She also sent some recent newspaper clippings on this subject.

In June of 1893, worldwide attention was focused on Massachusetts as a verdict of not guilty was given in the case against Lizzie Borden. Miss Lizzie Andrew Borden was tried for the brutal hatchet murders of her father, Andrew Jackson Borden, a prominent businessman, and her stepmother, Abby Durfee (Gray) Borden, which happened in Fall River, Massachusetts, on August 4, 1892.

Following is an Associated Press release printed in the Charlottesville Daily Progress of July 13, 1995. "BOSTON -- To sleep where Lizzie Borden `took an ax,` you'll have to pay a hotel tax. The owners of the house where Borden's parents were hacked to death 103 years ago are planning to turn it into a bed-and-breakfast inn."

"Look at today how many people are following the Simpson case," said Ronald Evans, co-owner of the Greek revival-style house and a printing company next door. Evans and his business partner, Martha McGinn, plan to decorate their inn with Borden-era antiques and artifacts, Ouija boards, a library of books related to the case and a video collection of movies it inspired. They also plan the occasional murder mystery dinner."

"On Aug. 4, 1892, Abby and Andrew Borden were killed with an ax -- Abby in her bedroom and Andrew in the sitting

room of the house in Fall River, 46 miles south of Boston. Abby was hacked 18 times; her husband was struck 10 times in the head. An analysis of the contents of their stomachs showed that she was killed at least an hour earlier than he was. Lizzie, then 32, was accused of the murders but acquitted on June 20, 1893, after a sensational trial. She died in 1927 at the age of 67, unmarried and ostracized. The crime was never solved, but the accusations against her were memorialized in doggerel:

Lizzie Borden took an ax  
And gave her mother 40 whacks.  
When she saw what she had done,  
She gave her father 41."

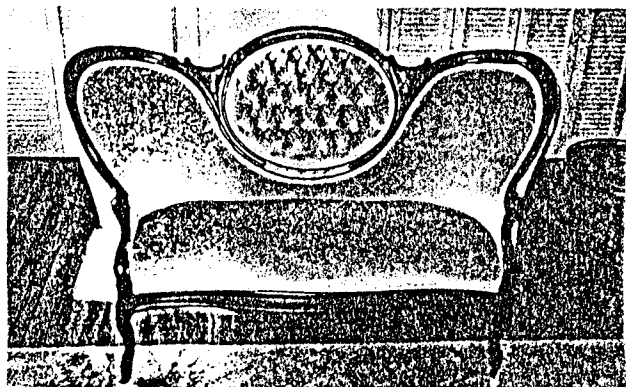
Sylvia Nichols wrote "my mother washed out my brother's mouth for singing that ditty. My children and grandchildren get a great kick out of telling people we are 12th cousins, once removed from Lizzie."

Now for the genealogy. Lizzie was a 9th generation descendant of Richard Borden (1601-1671). Her line is Lizzie 9, Andrew Jackson 8, Abraham 7, Richard 6, Richard 5, Thomas 4, Richard 3, John 2, Richard 1 Borden. Hope Borden, in the inquiry that started this research, who married William Almy, No. 123, was the daughter of John 2 and Mary (Earl) Borden. So the common ancestor was John Borden in the second generation.

There are many Borden/Almy connections. I have identified 5 Borden/Almy marriages and there are countless other marriages between the descendants of Richard 1 Borden (1601-1671) and William 1 Almy (1601-1677).

Following is another interesting item about the trial of Lizzie Borden. General William A. Knowlton (1252-9773-34) wrote that the

wife of the man who tried her, Hosea M. Knowlton, was Sylvia Bassett Almy (1252-9773). In the papers Sylvia Nichols sent was an advertisement from the Fall River Historical Society about "The Knowlton Papers", a collection of previously unpublished letters and documents from the files of Prosecuting Attorney Hosea Morrill Knowlton. This book was published in 1994 and probably can be obtained today from the Fall River Historical Society for \$49.95 plus \$3.50 shipping and handling. (Plus sales tax for Massachusetts residents.)



The above picture is of a Victorian Love Seat made by the Borden-Almy Furniture Company of Fall River, Massachusetts. I believe the Almy in the company was William Franklin Almy (1233-5142) who married 28 July 1840, in Fall River, Sylvia Weeks Borden.

### R. I. REDS ACROSS THE OCEAN

Fred Almey of Cardiff, Wales, (see page 1, Almy Newsletter No. 83, July 1995) wrote that he had an addition to the story on Rhode Island Reds. He said that his father, Henry Almey, always kept this breed; not that he knew or had any idea of a connection with Almy in the United States. He said that it was good stock for laying eggs and in the wartime ration it was a feast for a Sunday meal.

### BILLINGS ALMY JOURNAL

Louise Almy (1407-1C74-31W) wrote me last summer that she and her husband Don found among their Aunt Mignon's things, the journal that Mignon's father wrote while he and his brother John spent two years in Europe studying. Louise is typing it for easier reading and is sending me a copy as she completes pages. It starts in July of 1898 and is very fascinating reading, especially to those that have seen the places they go to and describe. I plan to include the journal in future Newsletters as it becomes available to me and as I have the space in the Newsletters for it.



The following cartoon is to remind us of the upcoming holiday.



"Every Thanksgiving it's the same old thing. After they stuff their bellies with food, they have to watch that darn Bears-Redskins watermelon game."

## IN MEMORY OF

## JOSEPHINE M. DAY (1407-2551-2W)

Josephine M. Day, 84, of Tucson, Arizona, died July 19, 1995, the wife of Richmond Almy Day. She was born in Providence, Rhode Island, the daughter of Dr. Walter E. and Lillie L. (Scholfield) McIntire.

Josephine was a 1931 graduate of Brown University, receiving her master's degree from Mount Holyoke College. She was a life member of the Appalachian Mountain Club, Phi Beta Kappa, Sigma Xi, the Environmental Defense Fund, Friends of the Tucson Library, the International Airlines Passenger Association, the Tohong Chul Park in Tucson, and the World Wildlife Fund.

Our heartfelt condolences are extended to her husband and family.

## MIGNON ALMY (1407-1C74-1)

Mignon Almy, 93, of Lincoln, Nebraska, died August 12, 1995, the daughter of Billings Grinnell and Ada (Marks) Almy. Mignon was born June 6, 1902, in Ewing, Nebraska. She never married.

Early in my research into the Almy Family, Mignon gave me a copy of *History of the Family of Horace Manchester Almy* which she wrote in June 1974. Horace was her grandfather and it is a very interesting history of the family's move westward and the activities of all her relatives.

I corresponded with Mignon over the years and in the summer of 1983 I visited her in Lincoln, Nebraska. We had a very enjoyable time and I know that Mignon will be greatly missed by her family.

## 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>
Iris M. Bachand	1232-4014-462	Rhode Island
Jo Ann Morgan	1233-3252-3221	Maryland
Hazel V. Almy	1233-4655-11W	South Carolina
Marian Bower	1233-4668-123	North Dakota
Floyd C. Almy	1233-4668-15	Washington
Sylvia Nichols	1233-5147-233	Virginia
Donald C. Almy	1239-2145-2312	Maine
Donald R. Almy	1252-9531-711	New York

HAPPY HOLIDAYS !



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