

**WASHINGTON SLEPT HERE**

This article has to do with a handsome bed quilt owned by Anstiss Ellery, wife of John Almy (No. 1232), and aunt of William E. Ellery, signer of the Declaration of Independence.

The quilt, finished in 1684, was made of a rich piece of heavy blue silk on one side, while the other side was chintz beautifully stitched with thousands of evenly set stitches. When George Washington visited Rhode Island in 1790, perhaps on the occasion when William Almy (No. 1239) headed the Quaker deputation and bade "Friend Washington" welcome, this quilt was made historical by having been spread on the bed slept in by President George Washington in the home of Benjamin Almy (1232-4) in Newport. So impressed was General Washington with the beautiful handiwork that he sent a servant for a large sheet to cover it lest it be damaged by accident.

In 1877, when President Rutherford B. Hayes was entertained in Providence by the Governor of Rhode Island, Mr. Conrad Ellery lent the quilt for the President's use. General Hayes, fully as careful as the "Father of Our Country", had the quilt carefully covered to preserve it on the second occasion of its use.

In an effort to find the present whereabouts or what happened to this quilt that had been in the possession of two Almys and used by two presidents of the United States, Elizabeth "Betsey" Miller (1233-5147-234) wrote an inquiry in the Yankee Magazine in 1976. However, no information on this historic quilt was forthcoming. If anyone reading this knows anything about the history of this quilt after 1877, please let me know.

**GOLDEN WEDDING ANNIVERSARY FOR THE E. GRINNELL ALMYS**

Mr. and Mrs. E. Grinnell Almy (1407-1C74-3) will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on Saturday, September 6, 1980. A large reception is being planned and many relatives from all over the United States will be attending.

This is the same weekend as the Almy Family Reunion. However, as Wilmington, Delaware and Washington, D.C. are only 110 miles apart, those attending the reception can take in the reunion activities on Sunday before heading for home or vacation trips. I can also plan activities for the Friday before for those who cannot attend on the Saturday or Sunday.

### RETIRED AIR FORCE OFFICER RUNNING FOR HIS LIFE, OTHERS

So read the heading on a newspaper clipping from the Fort Worth Star-Telegram of December 19, 1979, sent to me by Gene H. Almy (1407-1C73-41).

The article is about Donald Comstock Almy (1235-4131-123) who retired from the Air Force as a colonel in 1965 and after a bout with bad health decided that it was in the cards for him to tell people, especially older citizens, that they can improve their lives through proper diet and exercise.

Donald is jogging across the United States, stopping to speak before civic, community, and church groups about the importance of a disciplined diet and a personal physical fitness program. He felt that the best way to get media coverage to bring his fitness program to the attention of senior citizens was to jog across the country. He left Los Angeles on May 1, 1979 and plans on reaching Washington, D.C. in July 1980.

Donald runs for six days, then takes a day off for rest and recuperation. He is accompanied by Camille, his wife of 37 years, in their motor home. A cold spell early in December in Texas was the worst weather he had encountered since his jogging trip began, although he weathered an ice storm in Breckenridge, Texas, and a sand storm with freezing temperatures in California. His jogging has also taken him through Arizona and New Mexico.

The accompanying picture is from the newspaper and does not reproduce as well as I would like. I would appreciate receiving newspaper clippings (including name and date of paper) and other news about Donald's run for health.



—Star-Telegram Photo

**DON ALMY . . . 67-year-old retired Air Force colonel promotes physical fitness.**

### WHO DID NOT RECEIVE THEIR JANUARY 1980 NEWSLETTER ?

A couple of days after mailing the January 1980 Newsletter, the Post Office returned one of the Newsletters which had a large section torn off including the address label. So I do not know which one of you did not receive your copy. Whoever it was, please let me know.

**PICTURE OF JOHN SIMMONS ALMY, NUMBER 1407-142**

A few years ago, Mrs. Everett Martin (1407-1C71-1) sent me the picture shown here which she said should belong to someone in John S. Almy's direct family.



Shown in the picture are John Simmons Almy (born 1815, died 1904) and three of his six children: Martha (b. 1845, d. 1935), Aravesta (b. 1849, d. 1920), and Frederick Greene Almy (b. 1851, d. 1936). According to information furnished me, Martha and Aravesta did not marry. Frederick married in 1894 Annie Mary McFarland, but did not have children.

John S. Almy's son Valentine (b. 1863, d. 1917) is the only one of his children to have descendants. I contacted one of these, a Dr. John Hull Almy of Barrington, R.I., and told him of the picture. Dr. Almy is 83 years old and a pleasure to talk with. After this issue is printed, I am sending the above picture to him (which is of his grandfather and aunts and uncle). The picture must have been taken 90 to 100 years ago.

**ALMEY'S LANE**

James Almey in England sent me a picture of the "street sign" for Almey's Lane in Earl Shelton, Leicestershire. It is a color photograph and does not duplicate well enough to put in the Newsletter. Thanks for sending it, Jim.

### ALMY FAMILY REUNION

Plans for the 1980 Almy Family Reunion on September 6 and 7 are progressing. Plans to date include:

**Reunion location** - Charter House Motor Hotel, 6461 Edsall Road, Alexandria, Virginia 22312. This is a postal address. The motel is actually located closer to Springfield than Alexandria. It is close to routes I 95, I 395, and I 495. Let me know if you need directions. My wife and I received a guided tour of the facilities and found them very satisfactory. We will be able to reserve, at a reasonable price, attractive motel rooms grouped in close proximity for getting better acquainted. The meeting rooms (size we get depends on number attending reunion activities) and banquet facilities are also nice. We are very pleased with the arrangements made. This is a AAA approved motel.

**Meetings** - We will have a meeting room available Saturday morning, afternoon, and evening; and on Sunday morning and afternoon. For those unable to attend on Saturday or Sunday, I will arrange a meeting on Friday. Specifics will be determined after I receive your reservations and know number involved. Tentative reunion activities will include getting acquainted, "show and tell" of Almy history items by attendees, pictures of Almy trips, genealogical charts, and other things I hope you all will suggest.

**Banquet** - We will have our own private banquet (buffet) in our meeting room at approximately 8:00 p.m. on Saturday evening, September 6, 1980. Cost will be \$8.50 per person plus tax and gratuity.

**Motel rooms** - We have obtained special group rates for those attending the reunion. The regular room rates and our reunion rates, including taxes, are:

	<u>Regular</u>	<u>Reunion</u>
Single room	\$ 37.10	\$31.80
Double room	45.58	39.22
Triple room	51.94	45.58
Quadruple room	57.24	49.82

Please indicate on the reservation form the type accommodations you desire. Send me your check, payable to the Charter House Motor Hotel, for one nights lodging so that I may reserve your room. Reservations are made through me to obtain the special rate and group rooms together.

The Charter House Motor Hotel consists of a five story hotel unit and six two story multi-unit buildings for the motel portion. Those desiring (because of physical or other reasons) to be in the hotel building where we will meet and have our banquet, should indicate this on your reservation.

**Registration** - We will have to have a registration fee of \$5.00 per adult. There will be certain costs, like name tags, coffee, use of meeting room, et cetera, to be taken care of. The meeting room cost fluctuates according to the number of motel rooms occupied and the number of banquet meals provided. I have stuck my neck out that a sufficient number will stay at the motel and attend the reunion banquet so that the registration fee will cover all costs.

If attendance is large and funds are left over, a refund will be made.

Please register as soon as you can so that I can reserve the appropriate size room and make other necessary plans. I have attached as the wrapper (unnumbered page 6) the reservation form for the 1980 Almy Family Reunion. Please fill it out and return with a check made out to Merwin Almy for the registration at \$5.00 per adult and another check made out to the Charter House Motor Hotel to reserve your motel room if you plan to stay there. In this regard, if you plan to be in the Washington, D.C. area for sightseeing before or after the reunion, I suggest you stay at this location. It is convenient, and the special rate we have obtained cannot be beat. Just note on the reservation form the dates you want reserved.

### CONTRIBUTIONS

The following cousins have sent in contributions since issue 20 of the Newsletter went to press about six months ago. I appreciate very much, this help in defraying printing and mailing costs.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Almy Number</u>	<u>Residence</u>
Mrs. Helen I. Beamer	1232-1218-322	California
Francis (Almy) Culler	1232-1218-411	Ohio
Heide G. Almy	1232-1218-4123	Massachusetts
Mary (Almy) Channing	1233-3252-321	Maryland
Olaline (Almy) Harris	1233-3252-431	South Carolina
Harold D. Almy	1233-4628-132	Washington
Floyd C. Almy	1233-4628-15	Washington
Kenneth L. Wickett	1233-5143-42?	Texas
Marion D. Almy	1233-5144-75	Rhode Island
Elizabeth "Betsey" Miller	1233-5147-234	New York
Constance M. Price	1235-4131-1111	Ohio
Cynthia A. Almy	1252-9531-6131	Illinois
H. Raymond Almy	1252-9532-741	New York
William A. Knowlton	1252-9773-34	Belgium
Winifred (Almy) Martin	1407-1071-1	Iowa
Gene H. Almy	1407-1073-41	Texas
Mrs. Raymond G. Johnson	1408-3822-11w	Arizona
Warren O. Almy	1408-3832-41	Massachusetts
Gideon W. Almy	1408-3832-422	Virginia
Edwina (Almy) Gill	1408-6504-21	Georgia

Have a beautiful Spring. Love and Blessings,

Your cousin,

*Merwin*

Merwin F. Almy  
7703 Elgar Street  
Springfield, Virginia 22151

# ALMY FAMILY REUNION

## RESERVATION FORM

(Please fill out and return to Merwin F. Almy)

I plan to attend on the following reunion days:

- Friday, September 5, 1980  
 Saturday, September 6, 1980  
 Sunday, September 7, 1980

My check for the \$5 registration per adult is enclosed. \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(No.)

Payment for the banquet will be made at the reunion.

Accommodations (check one)

- Rooms not needed as I (We) plan to commute. Includes campers.  
 I (We) plan to stay in the Charter House Motor Hotel and will make reservations later  
 I (We) plan to stay in the Charter House Motor Hotel. Please make reservations for me (us).

For those planning to stay in the Charter House Motor Hotel and who wish to make reservations at this time (which can be canceled 48 hours in advance for full refund), please indicate accommodations desired and submit as a deposit, your check payable to the Charter House Motor Hotel, equal to one nights lodging. These rates include sales tax.

- |   |         |                               |
|---|---------|-------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Single room    | \$31.80 | Date of arrival _____         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Double room    | 39.22   | Time of arrival _____         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Triple room    | 45.58   | Expected departure _____      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Quadruple room | 49.82   | I desire: Hotel ___ Motel ___ |

I will send a Charter House Motor Hotel brochure to those making reservations. This will serve as your confirmation.

Your name and address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please send me your suggestions for reunion activities.