

ALMY BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES

The series of biographical sketches on members of the Almy Family continues in this issue with a number of different type articles. A short sketch on William Almy, number 1408-9, is on page six. Sketches of this type included in Newsletters are selected at random from those on which I have sufficient information. I have a number written up which are of varying lengths and the one selected is generally the one best fitting the space available.

Many of the obituaries contain this same type information, such as the article on Martin Almy, number 1252-9531-22, on page two. Also, the article on pages three and four on an art exhibit contains sketches on Samuel Almy, number 1235-4131, and his son William Comstock Almy, number 1235-4131-1. All these types of biographical sketches enhance our knowledge of the history of the Almy family and I hope you enjoy them. I welcome all corrections or additions to the information I include about the individuals. I also welcome write-ups about you or your Almy ancestors. So, if you feel like it, write up your own personal history and send it to me.

VISIT TO TIVERTON, RHODE ISLAND

In July 1980, my wife and I attended the annual meeting of the Warren Cousins (I am a descendant of Richard Warren of the Mayflower) held at the Chase-Cory House in Tiverton, Rhode Island. After the business meeting, a slide show was given by Mrs. Frank Snell, a retired school teacher, local historian, and a moving force in the community of Tiverton. Although not designed to emphasize Almys, I was amazed at the number of times the name Almy came up in the development and history of the area. If we have an Almy reunion in the Tiverton area, maybe we can get Mrs. Snell to be one of our speakers.

PICTURES IN THE LAST NEWSLETTER

I am sorry about the quality of the Reunion pictures in the last Newsletter. The pictures are in color and they just do not reproduce satisfactorily. I had to run the pages through the copier twice -- on the lightest setting for the pictures and then on a darker setting so that the printing would show. But even the lightest setting did not produce satisfactory pictures.

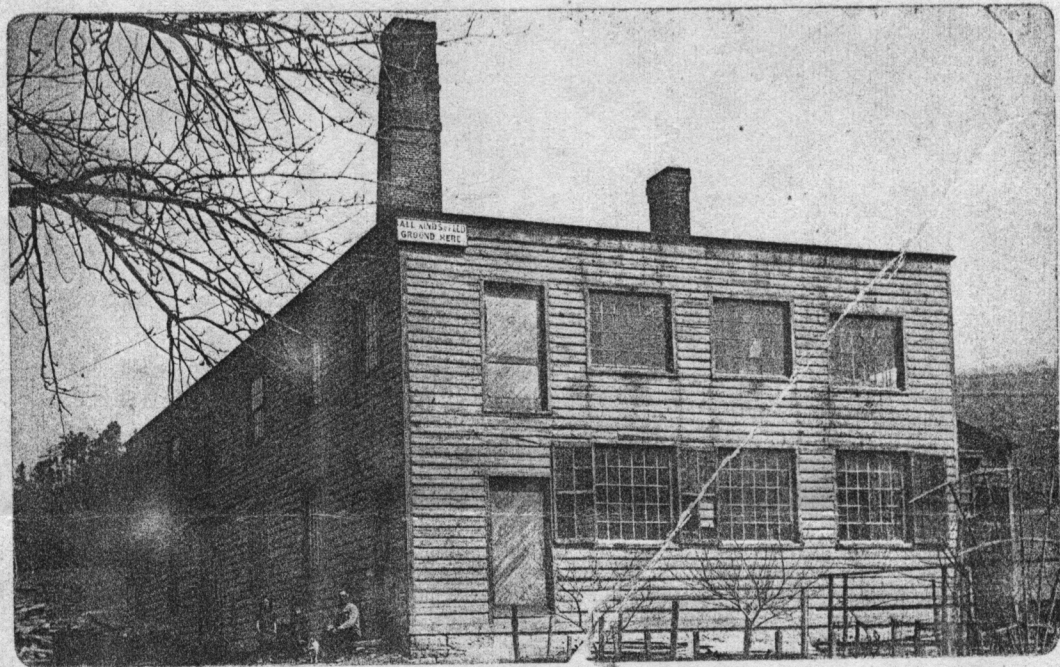
I am including copies of color pictures again in this issue (page five), but I will not put printing on the page which would require two passes through the copier. I wish these pictures were better, but I guess they are better than no pictures.

MARTIN ALMY (1252-9531-22)

Martin Almy, formerly of Middleburgh, New York, died on 13 March 1980 at the age of 94. He was born on 10 November 1885 in Central Bridge, New York, the son of William and Elnora (Scutt) Almy. Martin married Nina Shufelt, who died in 1964.

Martin was a former chief of the Middleburgh Fire Department and a retired carpenter. He is survived by two daughters: Hazel Scofield and Betty Hobbie; two sons: Willard and George; eleven grandchildren; twenty-six great-grandchildren; and five great-great-grandchildren.

Before 1900, Martin's father William purchased the Rockefeller Sash and Blind Company in Middleburgh. Willard Almy (1252-9531-223) wrote that the company was located in a two story building; the top floor was used in the making of blinds, ten pins for bowling, rake and broom handles, and all different sizes and shapes of moldings. The first floor housed the table saws, joiners, shapers, planers, sanders, and other heavy equipment. They had an 18 inch drive belt that ran the entire length of the plant which was powered from a huge boiler fired by use of the saw dust and slabs from the saw mill operation. Also in the building was a cider mill that pressed cider not only for all the local people for miles around, but also for a vinegar plant in the town of Schoharie five miles away.



The above picture of the factory was sent to me by Willard Almy. He wrote that the two big chimneys were the largest and tallest in the area. The mill was also used to grind all types of feed. The picture was taken about 1915. Although not visible in this printing, the picture shows Willard, age three; his sister Hazel, age seven; their grandfather (Martin's father) William Almy; and their dog Skip. Willard said that this factory built most of the town of Old Middleburgh, New York.

Martin<sup>10</sup> Almy's line is: William<sup>9</sup>, Arnold Thomas<sup>8</sup>, John<sup>7</sup>, Christopher<sup>6</sup>, John<sup>5</sup>, William<sup>4</sup>, Christopher<sup>3</sup>, Christopher<sup>2</sup>, William<sup>1</sup>.

**ANCESTORS ART EXHIBIT**  
**ALLEN MEMORIAL ART MUSEUM, OBERLIN COLLEGE**

Our cousin, Molly Anderson (1235-4131-1113) of Oberlin, Ohio was one of two guest curators who organized and conducted an ancestors art exhibit at the Oberlin College Art Museum from 14 May to 7 September 1980. Molly sent me the very interesting catalogue of the exhibit which contained the portraits of two of her Almy ancestors. The two pages containing her ancestors are copied directly below with her permission.



UNKNOWN ARTIST

8 *Samuel Almy, 1810-1856*

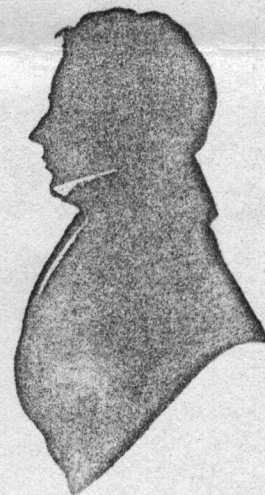
Ink and watercolor on paper, 6.3 x 5 cm., ca. 1835  
 LENT BY MR. AND MRS. DAVID ANDERSON

Samuel Almy, father of William Comstock Almy (no. 12), was married in 1835 in Providence, Rhode Island, to Mary Winsor Comstock, whose father, William, was a steamboat captain. Samuel, too, was involved in transportation. He was probably connected with the rise and fall of the Providence and Stonington Connecticut Railroad. In 1837 this line was completed, thus extending service from Boston and making possible the connection with steamships operating within Long Island Sound to New York City. It was a period of intense competition for the fastest and most economical means of transportation. By the end of the next decade, Stonington had been bypassed as a transfer point due to further extension of the railroad and by other steamship lines.

In the 1830s, the miniature portrait, silhouette and profile paintings were still popular art forms. The daguerreotype, which was to replace them, did not appear until 1839. Samuel Almy had his portrait made by two of these techniques. The silhouette (ill. below, not exhibited) may be the product of the physionotrace, a mechanical device for making exact profiles, and the pantograph, which reduced the size. The resulting outline profile was in this case painted black, with touches of gold and white.

Although identical in pose, the Almy silhouette and watercolor appear to be independent of each other, the features in the latter somewhat more exaggerated and idealized. To the delicate drawing of the head, the artist added the costume in watercolor, using crosshatch brushstrokes for large shadow areas. The size and shape of the portrait were one of the most common to the miniature technique.

Samuel was the maternal great great grandfather of the portrait's present owner.





UNKNOWN ARTIST

12 *William Comstock Almy, 1836-1915*

Oil on canvas, mounted on masonite, 92.1 x 78.8 cm.,  
ca. 1840

LENT BY MR. AND MRS. DAVID ANDERSON

The son of Samuel (no. 8) and Mary Winsor Comstock Almy, William was about three and one-half years old when this portrait was painted. He was born in Providence, Rhode Island, but the family moved to Stonington, Connecticut shortly thereafter.

While still in his teens, William was apprenticed to jewelry makers, the firm of Richardson and Hicks of Providence. In the Civil War, he enlisted in Company A of the First Rhode Island Regiment and participated in the second battle of Bull Run. Later, he made more than one trip to California to seek his fortune, but returned to Providence and his wife, Sarah Elizabeth Greene, whom he had married in 1863.

There is no signature on the Almy portrait and no attribution has been made on the basis of style, although several artists, among them Isaac Sheffield and Phineas Stanton, Jr., are known to have painted portraits of Stonington residents about this period. The various landscape elements suggest that the artist was inspired by eighteenth-century engravings. They contrast greatly with the doll-like stance and awkward hands of the figure and the poorly executed perspective. Nonetheless, it is a portrait of great charm and freshness and indicates no little sensitivity on the part of the artist.

William Almy was the maternal great grandfather of the portrait's present owner.

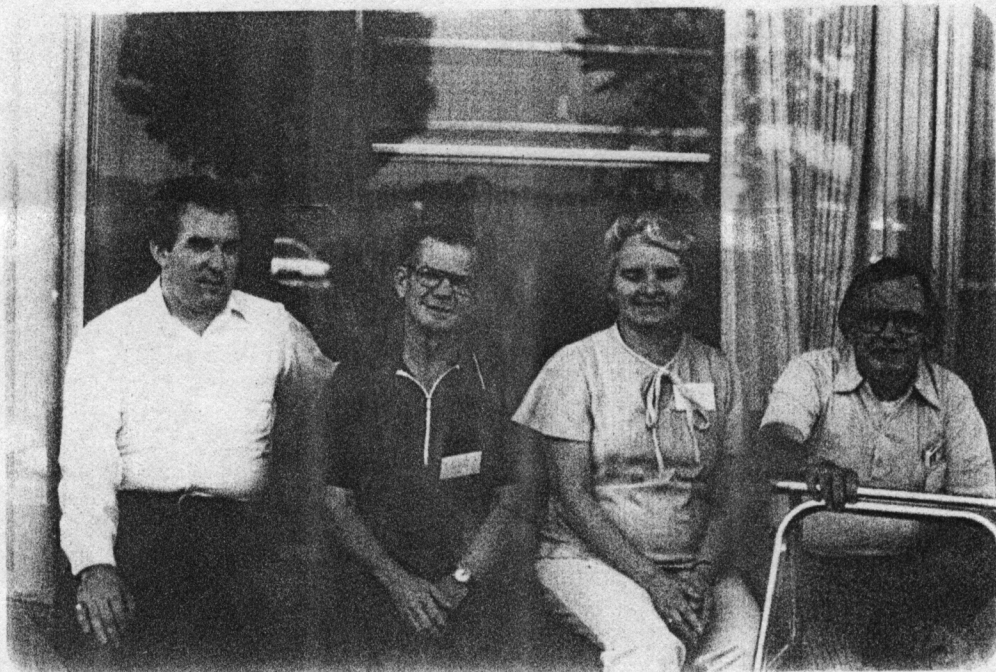
Samuel Almy (1235-4131) was born 4 August 1810 in Westport, Massachusetts. He and his wife Mary had three children: William Comstock, Samuel A., and Caroline H. He died 25 December 1856 at the age of 46 and was buried in Swan Point Cemetery in Providence, Rhode Island.

William Comstock Almy (1235-4131-1) was born 1 August 1836 in Providence. He and his wife Sarah had two children: Arthur C. and William F. He died 23 November 1915 at the age of 79 and was buried in Swan Point Cemetery. William<sup>9</sup> Almy's line: Samuel<sup>8</sup>, Samuel<sup>7</sup>, William<sup>6</sup>, Peleg<sup>5</sup>, Samuel<sup>4</sup>, William<sup>3</sup>, Christopher<sup>2</sup>, William<sup>1</sup>.

PICTURES ON THE NEXT PAGE

The top picture on the next page is of the Almy Silver Anniversary Bowl written about on page four of the last issue (No. 25, January 1981).

The bottom picture is from the 1980 Almy Family Reunion and shows (left to right): Michael T. Almy, 1252-9532-7422; John J. Almy, Sr., 1252-9532-742; Margaret Almy; and her husband Richard J. Almy, 1252-9532-744.



NUMBER 1403-9 WILLIAM ALMY

William Almy, son of Job and Katherine (Slocum) Almy, was born 1 or 17 February 1761 in Providence, Rhode Island. William was a teacher and a member of the Society of Friends, and became wealthy through marriage with the only daughter of Moses Brown and resulting business arrangements for the manufacture of cotton goods.

One of his most important charities was the establishment of the New England yearly meeting boarding-house in Providence, where he educated at his own expense eighty young persons selected by him. He devoted large sums to other charitable purposes and was a well known philanthropist in his time.

Additional information on this William is contained in the article on the Old Slater Mill in the October 1980 Almy Family Newsletter (No. 24, page 1).

William<sup>5</sup> Almy's line is: Job<sup>4</sup>, Job<sup>3</sup>, Job<sup>2</sup>, William<sup>1</sup>.

CONTRIBUTIONS

Since the last Newsletter was mailed, contributions have been received from the following cousins to help defray printing and mailing costs. Costs of print and mailing are going up. In fact, this issue is being written and mailed a little early in order to beat the anticipated postal rate increase.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Almy Number</u>	<u>Residence</u>
Mrs. Helen I. Beamer	1232-1218-322	California
Mrs. Milford A. Cowley	1232-1218-421	Wisconsin
Millie Almy	1233-4666-21	California
Mrs. Barton K. Yount	1233-5143-311	D.C.
Mrs. Constance M. Price	1235-4131-1111	Ohio
H. Raymond Almy	1252-9532-741	New York
Duane K. Dye	1252-95A6-436	Michigan
Gen. William A. Knowlton	1252-9773-34	Virginia
Mrs. Israel T. Almy	1407-2512-2W	Massachusetts
Warren O. Almy	1408-3832-41	Massachusetts

Many thanks. I appreciate this help.

Spring is beautiful. Enjoy.

Love and Blessings from

Your cousin (1408-3311-112),

*Merwin*

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