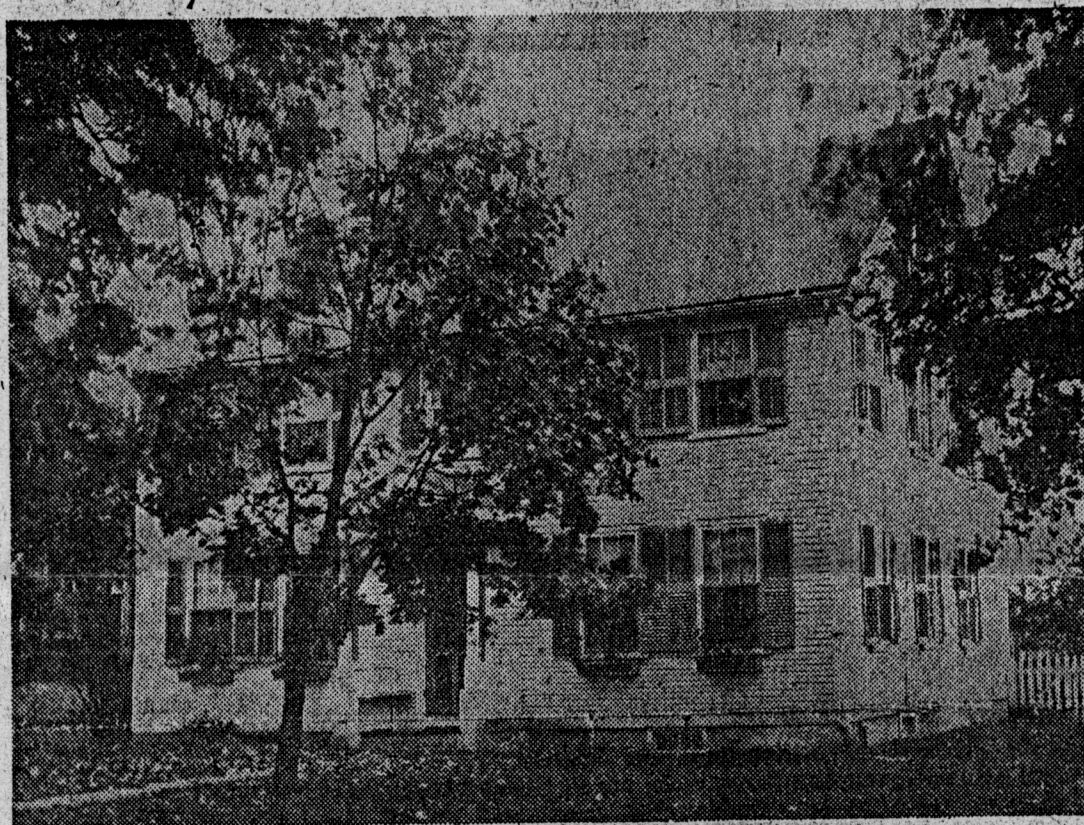


## The Almy-Marble House



**THIS NORTH SMITHFIELD HOME** . . . on Great road, originally consisted of a kitchen, pantry, brick oven and fireplace and a bedroom. It was built by Christopher Almy, first postmaster of Woonsocket.

## *Almy-Marble House Served Long As Area Post Office*

The above picture and headline and some of the following information is from an article in the Woonsocket Call of May 3, 1950. This picture has special interest to me because the house's builder, Christopher Almy, was my great, great, great, grandfather (1408-33).

"The very small cottage, at what is now 178 Great Road, as it was originally built by Christopher Almy, consisted of a large kitchen in front, with a brick oven and fireplace on the back. On each side of the chimney was a large pantry. One of these, used as a milk room, had its shelves worn so smooth by much scrubbing that they appeared polished. In each pantry a window gave a fine view of the western hills. Two large Norway spruce trees added to the beauty of the front lawn, but  
(Continued on next page.)

these had to yield to progress. There was a bedroom on the side toward the Zeuner Jenks home, with an attic above. The kitchen was later used as a dining room when more rooms were added. The new kitchen was built around a well which was enclosed, with a window through which water could be drawn."

The additions to the house were made while it was the property of Phebe Almy Marble (1408-330) who inherited it from her father, Christopher Almy, who was Woonsocket's first postmaster. After the death of Phebe Marble in 1906, the heirs sold the property. The house at different times is said to have been a milliner's shop, a men's hat manufactory and a post office. In this house, Christopher Almy served as postmaster until the post office was moved to the village of Woonsocket in June, 1844.

Until her marriage to Herbert Shedd, Sarah Marble (1408-3302), born 1847, lived with her mother in the house built by her grandfather. She taught reading, chemistry and minerology for many years in the old Rhode Island Normal School on Benefit Street, Providence. Every morning she took the early stage at her home for Woonsocket and then the train to Providence. She was a devout member of the Friends Society and a woman of great personal charm and was respected by all.

In April 1976, I received a letter from a Mrs. Altieri who wrote "I have no connection with your family but happen to live in a historic district called 'Union Village' in North Smithfield registered in the National Register of Historic Places. My house is the Christopher Almy House. It is one of 16 historic homes and I am trying to trace the early history of the builders and its occupants. During the colonial days this was a bustling compact crossroads devoted to the stagecoach trade."

She asked me questions about Christopher's genealogy and what I knew about his activities as she had found some of his children born in Portsmouth and some in Newport. I was able to furnish her a lot of information and we planned to get together for further discussions. We both recognized that much more research had to be done and preferably while some of the older generation were around to provide needed information. But before my next visit to Rhode Island, I learned that she had passed on. This was a great loss as she had the interest and time to research the history of this old house. Too bad that these things are not done while the people that have the knowledge are around to tell about it.

#### WINTHROP WOMAN

About ten years ago I read the historical novel "The Winthrop Woman" by Anya Seton. It is a very fascinating story about seventeenth-century New England. The author did four years of research before writing the story. What was of special interest to me was that the story was about so many of my ancestors.

This past year, Dorothy Johnson (1408-3822-11W) wrote saying that she had just read "The Winthrop Woman" and recommended that I read it. She said I would be terribly interested in the names and places in the book. Of course, I agreed with her. "The Winthrop Woman" is a very interesting book and I would highly recommend it, especially for those who know their ancestry in Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut between 1630 and 1700. It is available in paperback and also in your public library.

90th BIRTHDAY, 90 DESCENDANTS

Regina M. Almy, widow of Arnold William Almy (1252-9531-61) sent the following picture from the local newspaper, taken at her 90th birthday celebration, showing how her branch of the Almy Family Tree has grown.



**Three generations of children got together recently to mark the birthday of Regina Almy in the basement of St. Catherine's Church on Chenango Street in Binghamton. Mrs. Almy celebrated her 90th birthday. She moved to Binghamton in 1916 from Meadville, Pa. with her late husband, A. William, contractor. Mrs. Almy of Hillcrest has 10 children, 52 grandchildren and 28 greatgrandchildren.**

Congratulations Regina on your 90th birthday and on your 90 descendants. We all wish you many more of both.

ALMY IN SCOTLAND

I have recently been in correspondence with an Almey descendant in Scotland. She is researching a number of Almey lines in England; one of them being the Almey in Earl Shelton, Leicestershire, mentioned on page 3 of Newsletter No. 22 (April 1980). I hope to get together with her and exchange information on my next visit to the United Kingdom. My wife and I are tentatively planning on going on a tour to England and Scotland this coming Spring.

WHERE THE FIRST FOUR GENERATIONS OF ALMYS LIVED

With the 1982 Almy Family Reunion coming up this August in the Portsmouth/Tiverton area of Rhode Island, I thought it would be interesting and informative if I pointed out where the first four Almy generations in America lived. This will show that all Almys descend from Almys that lived for generations in this area.

The following information has been put together hurriedly and does not represent an in-depth study. I know that Christopher Almy (12) and Job Almy (14) bought land in Monmouth County, New Jersey, and probably had their main residence there for a short period of time. Also, some of the Almys had extensive land holdings in many Rhode Island vicinities, and I have not attempted to list these here. In the following chart I have listed under each family head, first where he was born, then known places where he established residence.

1 WILLIAM  
Lynn, MA  
Sandwich, MA  
Portsmouth, RI

--- 2nd Generation ---

12 CHRISTOPHER  
England  
Portsmouth

14 JOB  
Portsmouth  
Warwick  
Portsmouth

--- 3rd Generation ---

123 WILLIAM  
Portsmouth  
Tiverton

125 CHRISTOPHER  
Portsmouth  
Newport

128 JOB  
Portsmouth  
Portsmouth

140 JOB  
Portsmouth  
Tiverton

--- 4th Generation ---

1232 JOHN  
Tiverton  
Newport

1233 JOB  
Tiverton  
Dartmouth, MA

1235 SAMUEL  
Tiverton  
Tiverton

1239 WILLIAM  
Tiverton  
Tiverton

1252 WILLIAM  
Portsmouth  
Newport

1282 CHRISTOPHER  
Portsmouth  
Newport

1407 JOHN  
Tiverton  
Tiverton

1408 JOB  
Tiverton  
Portsmouth

The above shows that of the eight fourth generation Almy families, three lived in Newport, three lived in Tiverton, one was in nearby Dartmouth, Massachusetts, and one had gone back to Portsmouth where his father was born.

THREE PRESIDENTS DESCEND FROM WILLIAM<sup>1</sup>ALMY

On page 2 of issue No. 19 (July 1979) of the Almy Family Newsletter, I gave you the line of descent of Richard M. Nixon from William<sup>1</sup>Almy, which information was furnished by Gordon M. Connelly (1222-3763-243). Recently, Gordon sent me the following chart showing the descent of three presidents from William Almy.

William<sup>1</sup>Almy-Audrey Barlowe

Anne <sup>2</sup> Almy		Christopher <sup>2</sup> Almy
Phillipa <sup>3</sup> Greene		Elizabeth <sup>3</sup> Almy
Caleb <sup>4</sup> Carr, Jr.		Richard <sup>4</sup> Morris
Patience <sup>5</sup> Carr	Sarah <sup>5</sup> Morris	Job <sup>5</sup> Morris
Sarah <sup>6</sup> Slocum	Jacob <sup>6</sup> Burdg	Lydia <sup>6</sup> Morris
Phoebe <sup>7</sup> Tripp	Jacob <sup>7</sup> Burdg	Ann <sup>7</sup> Ansley
George Tryon <sup>8</sup> Harding	Oliver <sup>8</sup> Burdg	Littleberry Walker <sup>8</sup> Carter
Charles Alexander <sup>9</sup> Harding	Almira Park <sup>9</sup> Burdg	William Archibald <sup>9</sup> Carter
George Tryon <sup>10</sup> Harding	Hannah <sup>10</sup> Milhaus	James Earl <sup>10</sup> Carter
Warren Gamaliel <sup>11</sup> Harding President of the U.S.	Richard Milhaus <sup>11</sup> Nixon President of the U.S.	James Earl <sup>11</sup> Carter President of the U.S.

The source of the above information is Gary Boyd Roberts, professional genealogist and collaborator, Burke's Presidential Families of the United States, Second Edition, 1981.

It hardly seems possible, but the above chart indicates that Nixon and Carter were sixth cousins.

NUMBER 1408-383 LEVI ALMY

Levi Almy, son of Captain Jacob and Charlotte (Sherman) Almy, was born in Portsmouth, Rhode Island, 12 September 1808. He lived in New Bedford with his mother while his father followed the sea, the family returning to Portsmouth after the father's death.

Levi made one trip on a whaling voyage around Cape Horn, but after his marriage he settled down to farm life in Portsmouth, where he spent the remainder of his life, dying there in July 1884. He was a member of the Society of Friends, and was buried in the Friends cemetery. For some years he served as a preacher for the Society of Friends, and he was known as a thoroughly good, Christian man, devoted to his home, and temperate in his habits. He was a Republican in political faith.

(Continued on next page.)

Levi Almy married, 15 November 1832, in Portsmouth, Rhode Island, Susan Hannah Hazard Wales (born 25 January 1815), the daughter of Atherton and Elizabeth (Hazard) Wales, and grand-daughter of Dr. Peter Thatcher Wales and of Samuel and Hannah (Perry) Hazard, and great-granddaughter of Benjamin and Elizabeth Perry. Mrs. Almy died at her home, 13 January 1898, aged eighty-three years, and was buried in the Friends cemetery.

Levi and Susan had five children: (1) Charlotte, born 27 May 1835, married Christopher S. Southwick; (2) Jacob, born 26 April 1839, married first, Annie L. Almy (1408-6543), second, Annie L. Wilcox; (3) Henry Wales Almy, born 15 January 1841, married Mary E. Bemis; (4) Robert Barclay Almy, born 7 August 1843, married Margaret L. Grinnell; and (5) Holder Almy, born 2 October 1845.

Levi Almy's line is Jacob<sup>6</sup>, Holder<sup>5</sup>, Job<sup>4</sup>, Job<sup>3</sup>, Job<sup>2</sup>, William<sup>1</sup>.

#### CONTRIBUTIONS

I have received contributions to help defray rising printing and mailing costs from the following cousins since the last Newsletter was issued.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Almy Number</u>	<u>Residence</u>
Gerald R. Almy	1232-1212-1511	Virginia
Frances Almy Culler	1232-1218-411	Ohio
Lee Almy Harris	1233-3252-431	South Carolina
Hulda Almy Freda	1233-4668-11	North Dakota
Richard R. Almy	1233-5143-242	Virginia
Richard R. Almy	1233-5143-2421	Illinois
Robert B. Almy	1233-8618-132	Massachusetts
Constance M. Price	1235-4131-1111	Ohio
Earl E. Almy	1407-2C24-2	Nevada
L. Wesley Almy	1408-6524-11	New Mexico
Edwina Almy Gill	1408-6504-21	Georgia

I thank each of the above for their assistance.

I also thank all my cousins who sent Christmas cards. I cannot possibly reciprocate by sending cards to each of you, but that doesn't mean my wife and I do not appreciate them. Even though you did not receive a card from us, our Love and Best Wishes flow out to you.

May life in the New Year bring you the most lovely of experiences along the way.

Love and Blessings,

Your cousin (1408-3311-112)

Remember -- start your planning now to attend the 1982 Almy Family Reunion in the Portsmouth, Tiverton, Little Compton area of Rhode Island on August 13 and 14, 1982. More information and reservation form in the next Newsletter.

*Merwin*

Merwin F. Almy  
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