

1982 ALMY FAMILY REUNION

It will be around the first of June before I will be able to firm up the Reunion plans. I plan to issue the next Newsletter (July issue) as soon as the reunion plans are firm, even if the Newsletter is a month early (and I hope it is). The July issue will contain the required reservation forms and information about registration, dinners, lodging, etc.

But you can set aside the reunion dates now. We will start registering and have an informal get-together on Friday afternoon and evening, August 13, 1982. Formal activities have not been planned for Friday because it is a work day for the many of you who will be coming from the New England States.

The main reunion activities will take place on Saturday, August 14, 1982. Meetings, talks, and visits to Almy sites in the Portsmouth/Tiverton/Little Compton area will be during the day and a Reunion Dinner will be in the evening. We will continue our activities on Sunday, August 15; possibly going to a church service where our ancestors worshipped, having lunch together or in groups, and then ending the reunion activities with a farewell meeting in the afternoon.

I want the Reunion to have some structured activities, yet be flexible enough so that those with special interests will be accommodated with free time for that purpose. As always, I am open to suggestions.

Remember, August 13-15, 1982.

MORE ALMYS IN ENGLAND

In January of this year, Veda and I went on a Carribbean Cruise on the Queen Elizabeth 2. We visited Puerto Rico, Grenada, Barbados, Martinique, St. Thomas in the Virgin Islands, and Caracas, Venezuela. In one of my free times on board ship, I went to the ships library and found a lot of England phone books (most of them 1972 and 1976). I, of course, looked up the Almy/Almey names and addresses.

After returning home, I wrote letters to 14 previously unknown addresses. To date I have received one phone call from Norfolk, England, and 4 letter replies. One very interesting letter was from Cardiff, Wales. He turned out to be a distant relative of Jane (Almey) Gregson with whom I have been corresponding.

Veda and I are going to England in April on a Pilgrim John Howland Society (Mayflower Descendant) tour. After the tour we will be driving on our own for a week. We hope to visit Almys with whom I have been in contact. It is a long range hope of mine that all Almys, world-wide, can be genealogically tied together. Whether or not I succeed, it will be very interesting meeting and talking with many distant cousins.

NUMBER 1408-626 JOHN JAY ALMY

John Jay Almy was born in Rhode Island on 24 April 1815, the son of Samuel and Phebe (Irish) Almy. He entered the Navy as a midshipman in 1829, and rose through the successive grades to be commodore on 30 December 1869 and rear-admiral on 24 August 1873. He was retired in April 1877 after 46 years and eleven months of service.

As midshipman and lieutenant he cruised all over the world in the old sailing Navy. He was at the surrender of William Walker, the American adventurer who in 1853 made the Mexican governor a prisoner and proclaimed a new regime in Lower California. He commanded the ship "Fulton" in the expedition to Paraguay, was at the siege of Vera Cruz and the capture of Tuxpan during the Mexican War. As commander, he had charge successively of the gunboats "South Carolina," "Connecticut," and "Juniata." While in command of the "Connecticut" he captured four noted blockade-runners with valuable cargoes, and ran ashore and destroyed four others. As captain, he commanded the "Juniata" which was in the South Atlantic squadron, until 1867. John Jay was then assigned to the Brooklyn Navy Yard, then the Signal Corps, and after a cruise in the Pacific he was retired 24 April 1877.

John Jay Almy married first on 2 February 1854, Sarah Ann (McLean) Gardner who was born 6 July 1827 in Washington, D.C. She died in 1871. John Jay married second on 1 August 1878, Alida Armstrong Gardner, daughter of Col. Charles K. Gardner. John Jay and his first wife had five children: (1) Charles Gardner, born 13 December 1854; (2) William Ellery, a twin, born 9 November 1856; (3) Augustus Craven, the other twin, born 9 November 1856, who was named after a Navy colleague of John Jay's; (4) Ann Eliza, born 30 August 1861; and (5) Sarah Gardner, born 14 December 1870. John Jay died 16 May 1895.

John Jay Almy's line is Samuel⁶, Job⁵, Job⁴, Job³, Job², William¹.

MARTINS

In working on my genealogical data I come across interesting facts. For instance, I have a Paul Almy Martin and a Paul Martin Almy on my charts. Their common Almy ancestor is No. 1, William Almy. Paul Almy Martin (1407-1C71-11) is the son of Everett T. and Winifred (Almy) Martin. Paul Martin Almy (1252-9531-6173) is the son of David and Margaret (Martin) Almy. Insofar as I know, the Martin lines are not related.

ALMY FAMILY TREE INFORMATION

I am in the process of reorganizing my Almy Family data and entering the information into my computer so I can retrieve it in any manner I want. When I find that I am missing information, I write my questions to the family member most likely to have the answers. Many of you will be receiving inquiries from me and I would appreciate your cooperation in furnishing the information needed.

ALMY MILL

In addition to the newspaper picture of the Gideon Almy Meat Market in the last Newsletter, Warren O. Almy (1408-3832-41) also sent the newspaper picture below showing the Almy windmill in the background.



THE MELVILLE BRANCH of the Newport Post Office on East Main Road, Portsmouth is pictured in the late 1920's. Almy's windmill is in the background at right. The house still stands just north of the Citgo Station on East Main Road. The mill was near the present site of Transcom. Photo provided by James E. Garman of Portsmouth.

Warren wrote that "the mill was about a mile from the store and we sold the meal at the store. The corn was stone ground, and of course, it makes good johnnycakes. The flint corn is hard to come by now as there are very few places that grind it."

On Veda's and my visit to Little Compton last autumn, Lois B. Almy (1407-1532-3) made johnnycakes for breakfast. They were extremely good. She also gave us some old-fashioned Rhode Island johnnycake corn meal, made from pure Rhode Island corn, to bring home. Even though it is hard to find these days, those attending the reunion next summer will be told where it can be obtained.

WEDDING BELLS

I am pleased to announce that Charles Grinnell Almy (1407-1C74-311), son of Donald and Louise Almy, and Teresa Ann Dittmar, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Dittmar, were married on 2 January 1982. The couple were married in Culver City, California and now reside in Los Angeles. The Almy Family send their congratulations and Best Wishes to Grinnell and Teresa.

FEELINGS

There are a number of unique feelings that one experiences in a lifetime. Unfortunately, not all persons get to experience these feelings. One such occurrence is seeing your first grandchild. Another is the feeling of "going home" when visiting the home of an ancestor for the first time. Two have written me in the past few months of these "going home" experiences, and these have been regarding visits to England:

Paul Almy Martin (1407-1C71-11) wrote "I spent a very brief visit to England last fall on business, my first visit ever to that country and I had the strangest feeling when I stepped off the plane that I'd returned to my ancestral homeland. It was really true, but I hadn't really expected such a feeling so it was really a surprise. I was only in the country 3 days but now feel I must go back again."

Jennifer Schmoller (1408-3398-212) wrote "Since we saw you last we have been to London twice * * * I can't begin to tell you what an emotional experience that was for me - I just loved England. Had that feeling of coming home again. We had some wonderful experiences there. The organ rehearsal at St. Pauls; seeing the changing of the guard with a retired Queen's Horseguardsman describing exactly what was going on; a tour on the other side of Thames to visit the Mayflower Pub and the church where Captain Jones gathered his crew for the Mayflower voyage -- needless to say I could go on and on."

I wonder how many who attend the 1982 Almy Family Reunion this summer, August 13-15, in the Portsmouth, Tiverton, Little Compton area of Rhode Island, will experience the "going home" feeling?

NEW ARRIVALS

In the July 1981 (No. 27) issue of the Newsletter, I started listing the new arrivals to the Almy Family. That list contained five 1980 arrivals. Following are three additional 1980 arrivals as well as two for 1981 for whom I have received the information.

<u>Almy Number</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Birth Date</u>
1232-4149-4163	Heather Kathleen Sissom	9 Feb 1980
1232-4151-3111-41	Crystal Joy Cheney	22 Jul 1980
1233-4668-1341-1	Jessica Lorina Reagan	23 Nov 1981
1235-5792-1143	William Rhea Almy	20 Aug 1981
1408-6612-1231	Joshua Graham Clingenpeel	29 May 1980

Please keep the information coming in.

ALMY GENEALOGY BOOK

I have received a number of inquiries about whether or not I plan to write an Almy Genealogy book. I have decided, because of this interest, to explain at this time what has transpired and the current status.

Over the past three years a number of my correspondents have told me about Almy genealogical inquiries received from Mrs. Chatigny in California. Generally, they inquired as to why two persons were apparently collecting identical data. When Mrs. Chatigny and I first corresponded, her plans were to write about the Almys that went West and settled on the Pacific Coast. (See Newsletter No. 3, July 1975, page 2.)

When I realized that she had expanded her field of interest and that we were in fact duplicating our efforts, I wrote to her and suggested that we collaborate and jointly write an Almy Genealogy. We tentatively agreed on a plan whereby we would each draft 50 percent of the material, but because of poor communication and misunderstanding, that plan fell through. Last December she wrote and suggested we try again. After an exchange of letters, it turned out that her plan was for me to draft all the material, which she would edit and return to me to put in my computer. I could then prepare the final camera ready copy for printing. Her plan would have me doing all the drafting, all the typing, as well as paying all the costs associated with the computer. Of course, this plan of hers was totally unacceptable.

I then proposed again that we each draft one-half the material, that she do the editing, and that I do the typing on the computer which will provide copies for review and editing as well as a final copy for printing of the book. In my opinion, this would mean that I would do over 50 percent of the total hours of work and pay most of the cost for paper and computer supplies. This I was willing to do. Mrs. Chatigny called me on March 25th, and after a long discussion, we agreed to attempt again the joint writing of an Almy Genealogy, each doing one-half the initial write-ups of the family genealogies. I will keep you all posted, through the Newsletter, as to the progress on the book.

DEATH OF MARK GREGSON

Mark Gregson, 24 year old son of Mark and Jane (Almey) Gregson, died in an automobile accident on 17 February 1982 while travelling from Oxfordshire to Leicestershire, England. I have been corresponding with his mother, who lives in Clacton On Sea, Essex, England, since 1976, and have been very interested in Mark's career. Mark attended St. John's College, Cambridge, and majored in archeology and anthropology.

A memorial service is to be held for Mark on 24 April 1982 in St. Johns Chapel, St. Johns College, Cambridge. The College has agreed to have a memorial tree planted in the autumn in the Fellows Garden at St. Johns. The Gregsons have chosen an Almey Crab tree and the College seems quite happy with the choice. (See page 3, Newsletter No. 12, October 1977, for information on the Almey Crab tree furnished by Mrs. Gregson.) We know that Mark will be greatly missed by his family and friends throughout England and the United States. We send them our heartfelt thoughts and prayers.

ALMYS AND THE DUKE OF MARLBOROUGH LINE

In reviewing my Almy data recently, I came across an interesting ancestral connection for some of the Almy Family. Two sons of Cook Almy (1407-5), Samuel Elam Almy (1407-55) and Isaac Cook Almy (1407-50) married Susan and Alice Bateman, respectively, the daughters of William Bateman and Susannah Spencer, a direct descendant of the Duke of Marlborough.

This information was furnished me some years ago by Alice Bateman Almy, long before Diana Spencer met Prince Charles. Alice is an Almy Family Newsletter recipient who celebrated her 98th birthday last November.

CONTRIBUTIONS

Since the last Newsletter, I have received contributions from the following cousins to help defray the printing and mailing costs.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Almy Number</u>	<u>Residence</u>
Marian Hayes	11A3-3111-242	Rhode Island
Thomas P. Almy	1233-4657-11	New Hampshire
William C. Durbin	1233-4668-122	California
Harold D. Almy	1233-4668-132	Washington
Mildred Yount	1233-5143-311	District of Columbia
Stephen O. Almy	1235-5792-113	California
David O. Almy	1235-5792-114	Maryland
Robert A. Du Hamel	1239-2145-2D4	Massachusetts
Frank W. Knowlton, Jr.	1252-9773-32	Florida
William A. Knowlton	1252-9773-34	Virginia
Robert J. Almy	1252-9943-21	Pennsylvania
Philip W. Almy	1407-1532-1	Rhode Island
Lois B. Almy	1407-1532-3	Rhode Island
Paul Almy Martin	1407-1C71-11	New York
Thomas B. Almy	1407-2512-21	Massachusetts
Charles S. Gifford	1407-556X-XXX	Virginia
Jennifer Schmoller	1408-3398-212	New York
Warren O. Almy	1408-3832-41	Rhode Island
Janice Almy Hill	1408-3833-1121	California
L. Wesley Almy	1408-6524-11	New Mexico
Jane Gregson		England

Many thanks to all of the above. Your assistance is greatly appreciated.

Have a beautiful spring!

Love and Blessings from
Your cousin (1408-3312-112)



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