

START OF NINTH YEAR

As I started to outline the contents of this issue, which starts the ninth year of these Almy Family Newsletters, I was curious to know how many had been on the mailing list during the past eight years. I thought you all might be interested in what I found in my records.

Currently, there are 235 on the mailing list and I believe each has (or has had) a complete set of the Newsletters. Another 50 have been on the mailing list at one time or another, but have been dropped due to death or failure to provide me with their change of address.

The total of 285 on the mailing list doesn't sound like much, but it amounts to 46,000 sheets of paper (92 reems) that I have copied, folded, stapled, addressed, stamped, and mailed. I am not complaining -- it has been worth it. I have received beautiful letters in return and my wife and I have made many wonderful friends; my cousins.

NEW NEWSLETTER HEADING

I wanted to start this new year off with a new heading for the Newsletter. This I have done, but I am not satisfied with it. I just don't have the supplies, tools, or artistic ability to come up with a heading that I like. I will keep working on it.

CHRISTMAS LETTERS

I get a number of Christmas letters from Almy cousins each year which chronicle the writers' activities over the past year. These I enjoy very much. The 1982 Christmas letter from Ruth and Wes Almy (1408-6524-11), which they title *The Almy Almynac*, started off this year as follows. "So,- here we are again, all of us facing the coming of the Christ Child in the same kind of an angry, hurtful world He came into. Come to think of it, every generation has faced that sort of a mixed-up 'civilization'. We recall old people, when we were kids, bemoaning the fact that 'the world is sure going to the Devil.'

The letter went on to point out that the world is not going to the devil, and that there are many things to be thankful for. This coming year on April 7, Wes will have his 90th birthday; sixty years ago on April 26, he graduated from Mc Cormick Seminary; and he was ordained on May 4, sixty years ago. On June 19, he and Ruth will have been happily married for 60 years. Wes has been retired for 20 years and they are really enjoying it.

Another letter I enjoy receiving each year is the one from Ray and Dorothy (Almy) Johnson. Dorothy (1408-3822-11) and Ray travel a lot and her Christmas letters are usually 4 to 6 typed pages of interesting first person accounts of their travels. She has told of travels to South America, Central America, the Caribbean, and Europe. This year's 6 page letter told of their tour through Russia.

I also look forward each year to the letter from Molly (1235-4131-1113) and David Anderson. Their letter this year told of their three marvelous weeks in Greece and of Molly's two weeks

of birdwatching in Costa Rica. Their letter also told of the whereabouts and the interesting activities of their children.

This year's letter from Kenneth (1233-5143-421) and Crystelle Wickett had to cover all their activities since 1979 when their last Christmas letter was written. The letter was crammed full of information on their children and grandchildren. It will take time for me to check all the genealogical information in the letter to my records. The letter also covered their attendance at the 1980 Almy Family Reunion. They said they missed the second reunion this year in Tiverton/Little Compton, Rhode Island, but hoped to attend the next one.

The letter from Donald (1407-1C74-31) and Louise Almy told the whereabouts of their parents and children and of their activities during the year. Camping in Sequoia National Park for ten days sounded wonderful. They also told of going together with another family to buy a steer at auction to fill their freezers -- but added that they wished they hadn't been sent a picture of the animal they bought.

While I am on the subject, I want to thank all of you that sent Christmas cards and letters. I love to read them and find out about your activities. I really appreciate your thoughtfulness in sending them. Needless to say, I cannot send cards to all those on the Newsletter mailing list. Once again, many thanks.

TWO ALMYS ARE VICTIMS

In December, I received newspaper clippings of two different cases where members of our Almy Family fell victim of foul play while acting as Good Samaritans. One was Alice B. Almy (1407-5023) who lives in Rhode Island. She, and a woman she lives with, were robbed of jewelry when they offered assistance to a woman who said she lived nearby and had locked herself out of her house. When the woman walked into the apartment, another woman also came in. In the ensuing conversation, one of the women dropped a handful of change on the floor and the other woman took advantage of the distraction to purloin the jewelry.

Meanwhile, at the other end of the continent, Arizona to be exact, the Reverend Donald Almy (1252-950D-14) was beaten and robbed by a hitchhiker while returning from a pastors' conference. He suffered head injuries and bruises. Rev. Almy said he picked up the hitchhiker on his way to Arizona where he had planned to vacation. "He seemed very clean-cut and was well-spoken," said Donald, "I told him I was a clergyman and did a lot of counseling and he began to relate some of his problems." When they neared Phoenix, Donald stopped the jeep. "All of a sudden he went from a nice guy to a very belligerent individual," Donald said. The hitchhiker hit Donald and then pulled a knife and threatened him. Donald had gotten out of the jeep. The hitchhiker knocked him to the ground. Donald managed to get away and walked four and one-half miles to get help.

Rev. Almy was taken to the hospital where he was diagnosed as having a concussion. The jeep was found the next day with more than \$2,000 worth of damage done to it. About \$1,600 worth of clothing and equipment was stolen or destroyed. "It left me dumbfounded," Donald said. "I'm just happy to be alive. I could have been a statistic found in the desert." So far, the police have not reported any progress in finding the hitchhiker.

Cousins, please be cautious!

I thank Lois B. Almy (1407-1532-3) for the clipping from the Providence Journal-Bulletin about Alice B. Almy. I also thank Mrs. Frances Almy Culler (1232-1218-411) for the article from the Lutheran Magazine about the Reverend Donald Almy.

NUMBER 1235-5792-2 GEORGE OLNEY "DOC" ALMY

George Olney Almy was born in Boston, Massachusetts, on 16 May 1875, the son of Edward and Annie Dean (Olney) Almy. George (Doc) Almy died 9 December 1953 at the age of 78. Born in Boston's South End -- not far from the boyhood home of John L. Sullivan, he attended the River Primary School in the Hub, and later moved to Newton, where he attended the Hancock School in Auburndale and Newton High School, class of 1895.

Doc Almy started in the newspaper field in 1897, when he worked as a district man in Newton for the Herald. In 1904 he moved to The Post and, after several months at The Post, he accepted the position as sports editor of the Traveler. He returned to The Post in 1907 and, before he concentrated on boxing, he worked as police reporter, copy editor, and general assignment reporter. One of the most famous illustrations of Doc Almy's boxing background happened 26 Dec. 1908. The Post had hired famed writer Jack London to cover the Jack Johnson-Tommy Burns fight in Sydney, Australia. Something went wrong with the cables, and the frantic Post editors called upon Doc Almy to remedy the situation. Drawing on his knowledge of the styles of both boxers, Doc proceeded to write an imaginary account of the 14-round fight, predicted the winner correctly and enabled The Post to gain an eight-hour "beat" on the rest of the Boston papers.

When Doc Almy retired, he was considered one of the foremost ring experts in the world and he was the possessor of one of the largest and most complete collections of boxing literature in existence. He covered all of the major boxing events in his 44 years with The Post, a colorful career which extended from the era of John L. Sullivan to Rocky Marciano. Doc's collection included a silver buckle from a championship belt John L. Sullivan had given him as well as boxing gloves, boxing trunks, and yellowed brittle-looking autographed pictures of fighters in the grim poses of the early 1900's.

Doc first became interested in boxing when as a youth he idolized the great John L. Sullivan. In later years, he and John L. became fast friends. Doc was recognized and respected by boxers, managers and promoters as one of the best informed boxing figures in the United States.

Doc Almy married on 5 September 1899, Winefred C. Jennison. They had one daughter, Louisa Knowlton Almy, the present Mrs. Melvin Barclay who furnished the newspaper clippings from which I wrote the above account of an outstanding Almy.

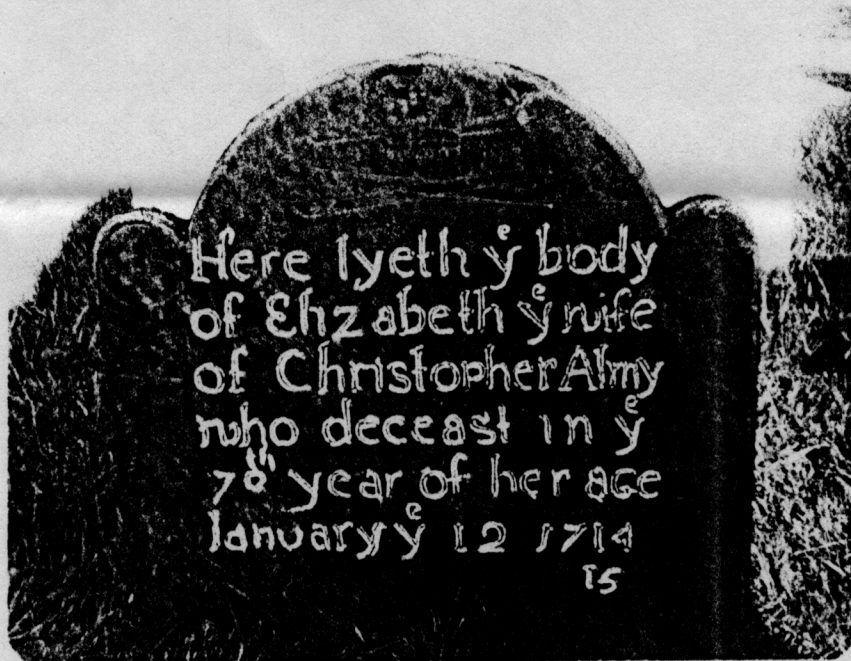
HISTORY OF TIVERTON, RHODE ISLAND

Attendees at the 1982 Almy Family Reunion had an opportunity to buy *A Patchwork History of Tiverton, Rhode Island* published in 1976 by the Tiverton Historical Society as a Bicentennial Edition. The book was written by a committee of the Society and John Berg and Edna Snell, who presented the slide show of Tiverton and surrounding areas at the 1982 Reunion, were members of that committee and instrumental in its publication.

The book is 168 pages, soft cover, and approximately 8 by 11 in size. The book not only contains the interesting history of the area, but many pictures and maps to illustrate the history. In the January 1979 Newsletter (No. 17, page 4) I told about some of the Almy houses pictured in the book. I recommend this book to all Almys because all Almys, except those whose first three digits in their number is either 125 or 128, have ancestors who lived in Tiverton. And even for those, the book contains the illustrations of the life and times of our New England ancestors. The book can be obtained by mail for \$5.00 plus \$1.50 for mailing and handling, from the Tiverton Historical Society. Send your check to Mrs. Clara Harrison, 1690 Main Road, Tiverton, RI 02878.

PICTURE OF ELIZABETH ALMY'S GRAVESTONE

Christopher Almy (No. 12) married on 9 July 1661, Elizabeth Cornell, the daughter of Thomas and Rebecca (Briggs) Cornell. She and Christopher had a large family and spent most of their years in Portsmouth, Rhode Island, where both died and were buried. Elizabeth died on 12 January 1714/5. Following is a picture of the gravestone.



Picture by Lois B. Almy (1407-1532-3)

JOHN JOSEPH ALMY (1252-9532-742)

John J. Almy, Sr., of Binghamton, New York, died on Saturday, 16 October 1982, at the Paoli Memorial Hospital, Paoli, PA. He was 67 years of age. For a short period of time he had been living with his son Michael in Exton, PA, a short distance from the hospital. John was born on 19 November 1914 in Binghamton, the son of Harry Erskine and Catherine Elizabeth (Gahan) Almy. John married Grace Marie Mc Cormick on 19 November 1940. They had two sons: John, Jr. and Michael. During his business career, John worked primarily as a salesman, although he also did office and warehouse work, being a partner in the wholesale firm of The Washington Distributing Company which later became the Almy Brothers of Binghamton, New York.

Before his death, John signed papers for his body to be used for medical research. It went to the Upstate Medical in Syracuse, NY and in due time the remains will be cremated and returned to Binghamton where services will be held, including burial. He requested his ashes be buried alongside his wife, Grace. John is survived by two sons, five grandchildren, two brothers, and several nieces and nephews. John's brother Richard died in June (see Newsletter 32, page 5). John and his son Michael, and his brother Richard and Richard's wife Margaret attended the 1980 Almy Family Reunion. John could not attend the 1982 Reunion, but his son Michael and family and his brother Raymond and sister-in-law Margaret were there. We know that John will be greatly missed by his family and friends.

XEROX COPIES OF ALMY - RAPPLEYE BOOK

At the 1980 Almy Family Reunion, Betsey Miller (1233-5147-234) offered to make xerox copies, at cost, for Almy Family members, of the book *Historic Families of America: William Almy of Portsmouth, Rhode Island, 1630 / Joris Janssen De Rapalje of Fort Orange (Albany), New Amsterdam and Brooklyn, 1623*. This book was published in 1897 by Charles Kingsbury Miller (1233-3118-2), and published copies are no longer available. See January 1981 Newsletter, (No. 25, page 2), for more details about the book.

Betsey sold all those offered before, but has now put together additional xerox copies of the book, with corrections, which she will send you for \$5.00, which covers her copying and mailing costs. Her address is: Mrs. Josiah B. Miller, 214 E. Upland Road, Ithaca, NY 14850.

CONTRIBUTIONS

Following is a listing of those cousins who have sent in contributions to help defray the expenses of printing and mailing the Almy Family Newsletters. Many thanks to you all.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Almy Number</u>	<u>Residence</u>
Alice B. Keith	1233-4666-12	New York
Millie Almy	1233-4666-21	California
Stafford Almy	1233-518A-52	Rhode Island
Hulda Almy Freda	1233-6668-11	North Dakota
Constance M. Price	1235-4131-1111	Ohio

NEWSLETTER WRITTEN ON COMPUTER

For those of you that may have computers or are familiar with them (and more and more households are acquiring computers), this Newsletter was written with my new word processing software program called Superscriptsit. I used a wider line in this issue, and with proportional spacing I get many more letters to each line. So the total information in the Newsletter is greater than before. My computer is a TRS-80, Model III, 48K, with three disk drives. The printing is done on a Daisy Wheel II printer. The mailing labels are also done on the computer and printer using a Profile software program.

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May 1983 be Fulfilling and Kind to All the Almy Family

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



Merwin F. Almy
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