

This Newsletter, which rounds out 9 years of issues, is a little late this time. Veda and I were on a 7,500 mile, four week, automobile trip that included San Diego, California, for the meeting of the Board of Assistants of the General Society of Mayflower Descendants, and Tualatin, Oregon, where we visited with our son Tom, daughter-in-law Joan, and our three grandchildren. We traveled through 20 states and saw some very beautiful and interesting country. It was nice to get back home though, except for the mountain of mail awaiting our return. We got back the end of September, and two weeks later I am still 4 weeks behind on all the items that occupy my time.

Whenever the time and place was right, I tried to call the Almy cousins along the route. I stopped in to see Willard Almy (1252-9531-223) in Nashville, Tennessee, and found that he had passed away a month prior to my visit (see page 5).

One of the places we visited on our trip was Carlsbad Caverns, which is a beautiful and unique experience. As that was an overnight stop, we had a chance to visit with Adrian Lee Almy (1233-3252-311) and his wife Jutta, who live in Carlsbad, NM. While there, their son-in-law Max Merrell and grand-daughter Mindy Merrell stopped by. They all had a chance to see my Almy Family charts and we had a very enjoyable visit.

On the way back to Virginia, one of our night stops was in Lincoln, Nebraska. So we had a chance to visit with Mignon Almy (1407-1C74-1). We had a most enjoyable time discussing Almy genealogy and exchanging information.

I was sorry I could not visit other cousins on or near the route we travelled. We were on a very close schedule and could not take the additional time that would be required to go off our route.

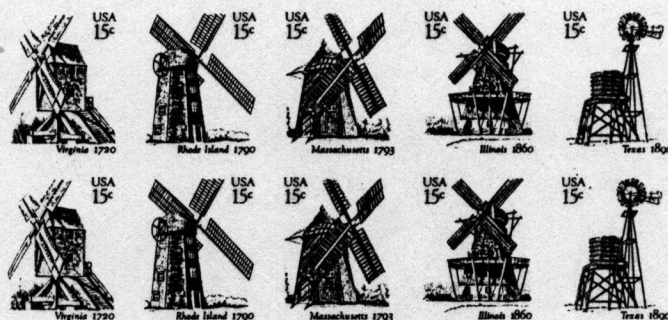
MORE ON THE SHARON TAYLOR "ALMY BOOK"

Elizabeth (Almy) Nerad (1233-3252-312) wrote that on the evening of July 5, 1983, the Consumer Affairs Reporter of station WKYC (NBC channel 3) in Cleveland, Ohio, announced that the Postal Authorities had investigated Sharon Taylor. They found that Sharon Taylor was a company and that there is no "Sharon" -- an employee posed for the picture. It was stated that a "special ruling" had been rendered against the company and that anyone who had purchased a copy of their book could return it for full refund. Elizabeth did not know if the station reporter was an attorney or not, and he did not go into the exact wording of the "special ruling", but she thought since he has done such a fine investigating job in the past that any "Almy cousins" who might have made such a purchase should know there is a refund available.

BOOK ON LITTLE COMPTON FAMILIES

The book "Little Compton Families" by Benjamin Franklin Wilbour has been reprinted (1983) in a limited quantity. Those of you that might be interested in this very good genealogy book on the families of Little Compton should write to the Little Compton Historical Society for further information.

WINDMILL POSTAGE STAMPS



The above booklet pane of 15¢ postage stamps, commemorating historic American windmills, was issued by the U.S. Postal Service in 1980. The stamps were printed in brown on yellow paper and each sheet contained 10 stamps, as above. Five designs, representing historic windmills in five states, were (from left to right):

Virginia -- The Robertson Windmill at Williamsburg, VA; a grist-type mill dated about 1720.

Rhode Island -- A replica of the Old Windmill at Portsmouth, RI; an octagonal smock grist mill three stories high with 60-foot sails. The original was built about 1790.

Massachusetts -- The Cape Cod Windmill at Eastham, MA; built about 1793 and Cape Cod's oldest windmill. It is of a type traditionally found in the Netherlands and brought to America by the Puritans.

Illinois -- The Dutch Mill at Fabyan Park Forest Preserve near Batavia, IL. Built around 1860, it is an example of a mid-19th century Dutch smock mill also brought to America by the Puritans.

Texas -- A Southwestern windmill, dated about 1890, of the type manufactured in large quantities around the turn of the century. Known popularly as wind machines, these mills pumped water for irrigation, drainage and domestic use, ground feed and ran light machinery.

Although I am a philatelist and the above pane of stamps is from my collection, the information about the stamps is from an article sent to me by Dorothy Hornus (1407-1C57-61). She also sent me a newspaper clipping wherein readers were commenting about the windmill depicted on the Rhode Island stamp. It seems that the windmill is known as the Almy/Thurston Mill which was built in Little Compton. In the 1890s it was purchased by Daniel Almy (probably 1407-264, son of David and Lucy (Babcock) Almy) of Portsmouth, who disassembled it, moved it to its Portsmouth location, and reassembled it. It was "being run by windpower at the present time" according to a 1922 news item.

This Almy Windmill was in the background in the picture I printed on page 3 of the April 1982 (No. 30) Newsletter. At that time I was not aware that it had been depicted on a U.S. postage stamp. I thank cousin Dorothy for sending these clippings and sharing her Almy memorabilia items.

AISTON-CHAMBERLAIN FAMILY HISTORY

I want to thank Louise Aiston Chamberlain (1112-3157-3113) for sending me a gift copy of this book she wrote on her family. I have added it, with pleasure, to my genealogical library.

MARION ALMY - ARCHAEOLOGIST

On return from a trip this Spring I had two letters from Almy cousins awaiting me. These two widely separated (both physically and genealogically) cousins had, by a strange coincidence, sent me similar articles about Marion Almy, the archaeologist. One article sent by Louisa (Almy) Barclay (1235-5792-21) was from the Sarasota Herald Tribune of 12 December 1982. The other article, sent by Dorothy Hornus (1407-1C57-61), was from the Tampa Tribune of 6 June 1979. The following is written from the above two articles.

Marion Almy (Mrs. Richard E. Almy), a Sarasota native, became fascinated by archaeology when she wrote a fourth-grade report on the excavations at Pompeii, and later decided to make it a career. Marion is president of the Florida Anthropological Society, a group of professionals and amateurs interested in learning about and preserving Florida's pre-history. Marion Almy also heads her own archaeological consulting firm, which identifies areas of historical value at the sites of proposed housing developments and highway projects. Marion pointed out that "most people don't realize that a portion of the Federal highway budget is set aside for archaeological research. This is done so that America won't be deprived of its historical resources. We can't stop a highway project, of course, but at least we do have the opportunity to save some valuable artifacts before they are destroyed by the bulldozers."

Prior to the construction of I-75, for example, Mrs. Almy uncovered arrowheads, pieces of crude pottery and other evidence of Indian hunting camps along the proposed highway route. "These were seasonal camps for the Indians who lived along the coast," she said. "They would move inland in the fall to hunt deer and other forms of wildlife. What's so fascinating is, by carbon dating the materials, we learned that the campsites were visited continuously for hundreds, in some cases thousands, of years. Evidently, the location of a good hunting spot was passed down from generation to generation."

Marion Almy says that Sarasota County is a terrific place to work as an archaeologist, better than most places in the United States. She says that the Indians have been living there for thousands of years, and they have left behind quite a lot for archaeologists to study. Although Marion's work for local governments and state and Federal agencies helps pay the bills, Marion admits she gets more satisfaction from her self-inspired (and usually unfunded) research.

Marion Almy's husband, Richard E. Almy, has not received an Almy number. He descends from Andrew Allison Almy who settled in Kentucky after 1850, and is one of the unsolved Almy lines.

LITTLE COMPTON COMMON

While attending the Mayflower Society Board of Assistants meeting in San Diego on my recent trip, one of the members handed me an article and pictures from the August 1983 Yankee magazine. The reason for giving me the article was an interesting picture of the Congregational Church on the Common. Prominent in the foreground of the picture (taken from the cemetery) was the tombstone of Doctor John Almy (1239-11). The following information is given for those who saw the article and picture and are wondering about the identity of this Doctor John Almy.

Doctor John Almy was born in Tiverton, Rhode Island, 3 March 1758, and died in Little Compton, 20 March 1844, at the age of 86. He was the son of Gideon and Sarah Almy. He married, 3 July 1796, Abigail Bailey; they had no children. He was a doctor in Little Compton for many years.

On my return home I found a number of letters from Almy cousins enclosing clippings of the same article. I thank you all for your thoughtfulness in keeping me informed. It is a beautiful color picture which I would have liked to put in the Newsletter, but it will not duplicate satisfactorily.

EXCERPT FROM THE WAR OF 1812

The following write-up is from a small booklet "Fragmentary Sketches & Incidents in Little Compton & Tiverton during the Revolution and the war of 1812", published in 1880. Dorothy Hornus (1407-1C57-61) sent this to me in response to my mentioning that I would like to include in the Newsletter information on Almys that served in the Revolutionary War. Other portions of the pamphlet and other articles telling about Almy experiences in this period of American history will be included in the Newsletter from time to time.

On 25 June 1813, a severe battle was fought at the John Woodman shore, near Almy's Creek, when a launch and barge from the British Brig "Nimrod" chased on shore a Nantucket sloop with a cargo of flour and corn. The launch and barge from the Nimrod followed the sloop from Seconnet Point, firing upon her all the way up the river. When the sloop was run on shore, the crew left her and hastened to Sanford Almy's (1407-1) to ask his sons to protect their vessel and cargo. Three of Mr. Almy's boys; Frederic (1407-14), Sanford (1407-15), and Pardon (1407-17) took their muskets, and furnished the crew with such weapons of war as was at hand. They started for the shore, but on their way, they were fired upon by the enemy, the cannon ball striking near them. The Captain and crew of the sloop turned and ran into the woods where they remained until all was over. The Almy boys resolutely proceeded to the bank wall where they were joined by others. They commenced firing at the British barge as it approached the sloop. While the launch lay off beyond the reach of musket balls, it kept up a continual fire from a 12 pound cannon to prevent our men from changing their position to a better advantage for crippling them. Notwithstanding this, our people kept up a brisk fire of musketry and when reinforcements arrived from Tiverton and Portsmouth, the enemy was compelled to leave after setting fire to the vessel. Our people suffered no loss; but the enemy's loss was reported to have been severe. Sanford Almy's boys performed a very creditable service.

VALENTINE ALMY SCHOOL

The school on Doric Avenue in Cranston first came into being in 1891 as a six-room wooden structure and was known as the Doric Avenue School. Since it is one of the first schools in the Cranston system, it is long and well remembered. A combination of a fire in the school and a need for enlargement closed the building in 1922-23, but it reopened as a ten-room brick structure in the autumn of 1924. It wore not only a new face but a new name -- The Valentine Almy School.

At the time of his death on March 4, 1917, Valentine Almy (1407-1426) was Deputy Commissioner of Education for the State of Rhode Island. Born in Little Compton, he received his education in that town's public schools and at the Rhode Island State Normal School, from which he graduated in 1890. After teaching in Massachusetts for two years, Valentine Almy returned to Rhode Island to become principal of the grammar school in Auburn, the Doric Avenue School. Three years later, he was appointed Superintendent of Schools in Cranston, a position he held for seventeen years until his appointment as Deputy Commissioner in September 1912.

His interest in the schools of Cranston continued, and in 1914 Valentine Almy became a member of the Cranston School Committee. His other activities included the National Education Association; secretary-treasurer of the New England Association of School Superintendents; offices in the Barnard Club, the Rhode Island Institute of Instruction and membership in many other societies both in Cranston and Providence.

According to his obituary, written for the Cranston Annual Report of 1917, "Mr. Almy was distinguished as a progressive leader, who, however, was never led astray by educational fads. He worked consistently for such beneficial measures as medical inspection, evening schools,

industrial education, closer sympathy between parents and teachers, higher pay for teachers, and more sanitary conditions for pupils. Unobtrusively and without thought of personal gain, he devoted his life to the welfare of the public schools."

Patricia (Almy) Forte (1407-1426-122) sent me the article, containing the above information, from the Cranston Herald of 29 August 1979. She says that the Valentine Almy School, named after her great-grandfather, was recently sold by the city of Cranston to a private firm. I thank Patricia for sending the article.

WILLARD PUTNAM ALMY (1252-9531-223)

Willard Putnam Almy, of Nashville, Tennessee, died on 6 August 1983 at the age of 72. He was born 18 April 1911 in Middleburg, New York, the son of Martin and Nina (Shenfielt) Almy. Willard married Margaret Hajduczky on 21 June 1942 in Cobleskill, New York. They have one son, Dudley M. Almy.

Willard has furnished pictures and articles for the Newsletter and I will miss corresponding with him. I know he will be missed by his family and many friends.

CONTRIBUTIONS

Since the last Newsletter, I have received monetary contributions from the following cousins to help defray the costs of printing and mailing the Almy Family Newsletter. I thank you all for this assistance; it is greatly appreciated.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Almy Number</u>	<u>Residence</u>
C. Joseph Gannon	1232-1272-521	New York
Constance (Almy) Danielson	1233-3252-412	New York
Lee (Almy) Harris	1233-3252-431	South Carolina
John Almy Rumsey	1233-5147-222	California
Edith (Almy) Atwell	1233-5180-33	North Carolina
Madeleine Anderson	1235-4131-1113	Ohio
Louisa (Almy) Barclay	1235-5792-21	Massachusetts
Robert R. Newman	1252-9532-412	Virginia
Ray Almy	1252-9532-741	New York
Nellie Hufford	1407-1C72-6	Nebraska
Mignon Almy	1407-1C74-1	Nebraska
Clara J. Almy	1407-5041-1	New Hampshire
Kenneth Almy	1408-6612-12	Pennsylvania
Brian Almey		England

Have a bountiful Thanksgiving!
 Pease, Joy, and Happiness in the Holiday Season.
 Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Your cousin (1408-3312-112),

Merwin

Merwin F. Almy
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 Springfield, VA 22151