

H A P P Y N E W Y E A R

This issue starts the 10th year of these Almy Family Newsletters. There are a lot of little news items in this issue which have accumulated during the past year. I try to have a mix in the type of contents and still have the Newsletters both interesting and informative. But I need your assistance, so please keep sending me information about Almy related activities, both past and present. The Newsletters are intended to be an exchange of information between Almy descendants. I think we have done a good job so far. Keep it up!

60TH ANNIVERSARY FOR REV. L. WESLEY AND RUTH ALMY

The Reverend and Mrs. L. Wesley Almy celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on June 19, 1983. "Wes" and Ruth (Brownell) Almy were married in the Ravenswood Presbyterian Church in Chicago, Illinois, on 19 June 1923. Wes and Ruth now live at the retirement center of the Presbyterian Church in Santa Fe. The accompanying picture is from *The New Mexican* newspaper of Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Before retirement, Dr. Almy was executive secretary of the Synod of Colorado. He was graduated from Lake Forest College, Illinois, and McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago. He received an honorary doctor's degree in 1944. On 7 April 1983, Wes celebrated his 90th birthday.

Ruth Almy studied at the Art Institute and the Academy of Design in Chicago. She was a commercial artist and freelance designer before her marriage to Wes. In her ministry she became an authority in Christian education and the visual arts in worship, as well as the technique of stained glass. She is author of *Stained Glass for Amateurs*.

Wes and Ruth: The entire Almy Family sends their congratulations. The happiness in your marriage comes through in your correspondence.



THE REV. AND MRS. ALMY

ARRIVAL OF GARETH DAVID ALMEY

Clive and Susan Almey, our United Kingdom cousins, are the proud parents of Gareth David Almey who arrived at 4:20 p.m. on 10 November 1983. Fred and Joyce Almey are the paternal grandparents. I visited Fred, Joyce, and Clive at their home in Cardiff, Wales in 1982. See July 1982 Almy Newsletter (No. 31, p. 3). Clive was born in Wales and is proud to be a Welsh Almey, as you can tell by the Welsh names given his son. Congratulations to Clive and Sue.

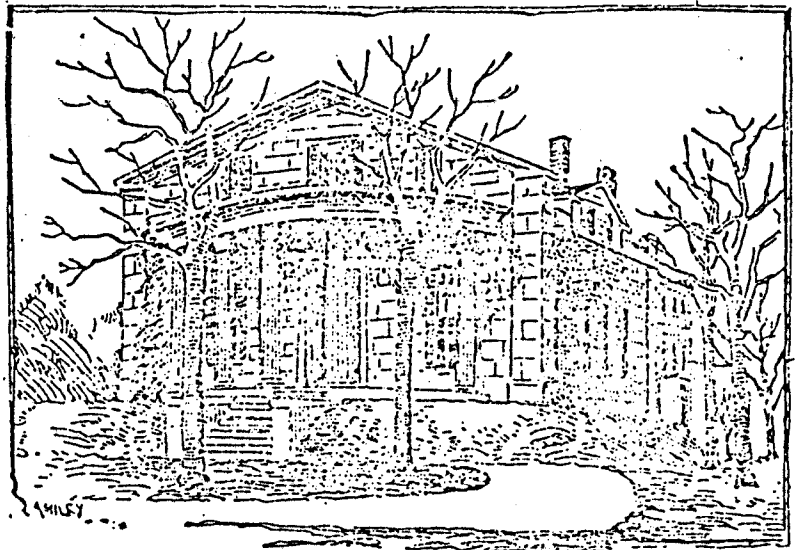
GREYSTONES
Residence of Benjamin R. Almy (1233-5143)
in New Bedford, Massachusetts

"Greystones," one of the most elegant mansions of New Bedford for over half a century, no longer exists. Because it was an Almy residence during part of its life, I thought it proper to include a write-up about it in the Newsletter.

Greystones, as the old mansion was most favorably known, was a remarkable establishment in many ways. Its four walls embodied all that was ideal and perfect in architectural and domestic ideas 150 years ago, and its planning and construction absorbed the best conceptions of its first owner.

Greystones was erected in 1836 by Thomas R. Robeson, at the corner of County and Robeson streets. So far as aristocracy could see in those days, the fashionable center of New Bedford was destined to be along County street, between what is now the Common and Weld street. Therefore, Mr. Robeson planned his house to stand for generations as a model home of wealth and refinement. The same principles actuated and guided the erection of two other mansions, since demolished. These three residences marked the limits of fashionable New Bedford, as the future disclosed it at that time. But the cupidity of land owners thereabouts defeated their own ends. Property was held at such exorbitant figures that the wealthy classes located elsewhere, leaving them stranded, to await the slow but sure encroachment of the mill tenements.

Mr. Robeson had spent much of his time abroad just previous to building Greystones, and naturally had lofty ideas of residential splendor. His wealth enabled him to indulge every fancy in this direction to the fullest extent. The completed establishment was a source of infinite satisfaction to Mr. Robeson. Few houses possessed the comfort, brightness and general homeliness of Greystones. Its large windows allowed the sunlight to pour into the spacious rooms, while in summer the broad verandas and the big hall extending entirely through the house, gave the place all the elements of absolute comfort. The interior arrangement was admirable; though the rooms were 15 feet high their area was such that perfect proportion was preserved. The big hall was 43 feet long and 13 feet wide.



"GREYSTONES."

The most remarkable feature of the house, however, was its closets. The practical designer let no nook or corner escape his notice and all possible space was used. Even the space under the eaves was finished into lockers and cupboards. Every chamber had its dressing room, every dressing room its closets, and every closet its chest of drawers and lockers. There were closets within closets everywhere, till their number was simply bewildering. There were over 300 closets of one sort or another in the house, and later occupants actually had to close some of them to prevent losing articles. But with all its elegance, Mr. Robeson spent only a part of his time in New Bedford, preferring foreign travel to home comfort. In fact, he lived only two years after building Greystones, but the place was still retained in the family till 1853.

In the winter of that year, Benjamin R. Almy (1233-5143) of Providence, who had mill interests in New Bedford, became impressed with the beauties of Greystones and opened negotiations with the Robeson heirs, which resulted in his purchasing the estate. Up to this time the place had not been known by this name. The designation was given by Mrs. Almy (Emily M. Cummings) when the family moved to New Bedford in April 1854. Benjamin Almy was a man of extensive means; was president of the Continental Bank of Providence (later the Fourth National) and heavily interested in manufacturing. Under his ownership, Greystones was one of the most hospitable residences of the city. Its latchstring was outside, and its halls and parlors rang with the laughter of young people, and shone with the brilliancy of fashionable receptions and musicales. Many were the notable musical events which took place within its walls, and it was seldom that guests did not enjoy the hospitality of its roof.

Benjamin Almy died very suddenly, at Greystones, in 1861, of apoplexy. His family continued to live at Greystones 10 more years, until it was sold to its last owner. The mansion has since been demolished and the estate divided into house lots and new streets cut through.

NUMBER 1233-4657-11 DR. THOMAS P. ALMY

The following article about Dr. Thomas P. Almy was in *The Sunday Rutland Herald and The Sunday Times Argus* of January 30, 1983. The article was sent to me by Ruth Almy (1233-5143-224) of Daytona Beach, Florida. She didn't say how she obtained the Vermont paper.

Thomas P. Almy, M.D., was recently appointed "distinguished physician" at the Veterans Administration Medical and Regional Office Center. His appointment is significant as only 13 of 174 VA hospitals awarded this position. Thomas P. Almy was born in New York in 1915 and received undergraduate and M.D. degrees from Cornell University. He served as chief of gastroenterology at New York Hospital from 1943 to 1954, and from 1954 to 1968 served as director of the Cornell Medical Division at Bellevue Hospital. In 1968 he moved to Hanover, N.H., where he was appointed Nathan Smith professor of medicine, chairman of the department of medicine at Dartmouth Medical School, and served as director of medicine at the Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center until 1974.

In 1974 Dr. Almy was appointed to the position of third century professor of medicine at Dartmouth Medical School. He now holds appointments in the departments of medicine and community and family medicine at Dartmouth. He served on the National Commission on Digestive Diseases and is a member of the National Digestive Diseases Advisory Board, both U.S. Congress-chartered agencies. He has also served on the editorial boards of the *Journal of Clinical Investigation* and *Gastroenterology*. Dr. Almy is a member of the Association of American Physicians and the American Society for Clinical Investigation, a master of the American College of Physicians and former member of its board of regents, a past president of the American Gastroenterological Association and is the author of more than 120 scientific publications.

KATHERINE L. ALMY GRADUATES FROM HIGH SCHOOL

This past summer I received an announcement that Katherine Louise Almy (1407-1C74-314) graduated from the Huntington Beach (California) High School on June 16, 1983. Katherine is the daughter of Donald Grinnell and Louise (Saxe) Almy. Many of the Almy Family met Katherine at the 1980 Almy Family Reunion in Virginia -- she was there with her parents and two brothers.

CHRISTMAS CARDS

I want to thank all of you that sent Christmas cards and letters to me this year. There are just too many for me to reciprocate in kind, but be assured that I appreciate receiving them. The Newsletters will have to serve as my greetings to you all.

DR. JOHN HULL ALMY (1407-1426-1)

Dr. John Hull Almy, who practiced dentistry in Providence and Tiverton, Rhode Island, for 39 years, died on 7 October 1983, at the age of 86. John was born in Cranston, Rhode Island, on 30 January 1897, the son of Valentine and Clara (Hull) Almy.

John married Minona Rogers in 1925. She died in March 1967 and John married second, Lucia (Bliss) Harvie. John lived in Barrington for 13 years, and before that in Cranston for over 30 years. He had a summer home in Little Compton since 1936. Dr. Almy practiced dentistry in Providence from 1923 to 1958 and in Tiverton from 1958 until he retired in 1962. He graduated from Cranston High School in 1915, from Brown University in 1919, and from Tufts University Dental School in 1923.

An Army veteran of World War I, he served in the Balloon Corps. A member of the American Dental Association, he served as a draft board examiner during World War II. In his younger days, John played the cello at various New England resorts.

Besides his widow, Lucia, he is survived by two sons, Dr. Rogers H. Almy (1407-1426-11) and Richard C. Almy (1407-1426-12); a daughter, Mrs. Leon W. (Ruth) Brower (1407-1426-13); a sister, Mrs. Warren (Emma) Kent (1407-1426-3); a stepdaughter and stepson; seven grandchildren; six stepgrandchildren; three great-grandchildren; a step-great-grandchild and two nieces.

I know that John will be greatly missed by his family and many friends.

I want to thank those that sent me newspaper clippings about John's death from the *Fall River Herald*, *Sakonnet Times*, and the *Providence Journal*.

RICHARD J. DEVER (1407-1712-61W)

This year's Christmas card from Sydnor (Almy) Dever (1407-1712-61) contained the sad news that her husband Richard died three days after Christmas in 1982. His death was sudden and, of course, left a big void in Sydnor's life. The Almy Family extends their deepest sympathy.

ALMY POND PROBLEMS

Hugo Key & Son, Inc., the financially troubled developer of the Almy Pond subdivision in Newport, Rhode Island, sold some of the Almy Pond real estate last summer to pay off creditors. The corporation sold its Coggeshall Avenue headquarters to a New York real estate investor. The \$320,000 purchase price paid off many debts, including three years of back taxes owed to the city. In addition, a half-dozen Almy Pond subdivision lots were sold to pay off the mortgage with the Newport Savings & Loan Association. The corporation still owes interest and part of the principal on a \$350,000 loan with the Small Business Administration it took out in May 1976. The loan was taken out under a special SBA program — called the Base Closing Economic Injury Loan program — created to buffer the economic impact of the pullout of the Navy fleet.

90th BIRTHDAY PARTY

Hulda (Almy) Freda (1233-4668-11) wrote that she had a wonderful 90th birthday celebration on 25 September 1983. There were about 200 at the party including her brother Floyd, 2 sons, and their wives. There were 52 at the house for supper. As her granddaughter said, she had a "blast" of a day.

BIRTH OF HANNAH REBEKAH CLINGENPEEL

Hannah Rebekah Clingenpeel (1408-6612-1232) was born 5 June 1983, the daughter of Ronald H. and Lucinda T. (Almy) Clingenpeel. Congratulations to the happy parents.

1984 ALMY FAMILY REUNION

I have not had time as yet to make any firm arrangements for the 1984 Almy Family Reunion. However, I plan to have it in Seekonk, Massachusetts, at the same place as the 1982 Reunion. Because of the motels available, it is the best location for visiting the Little Compton/Tiverton/Portsmouth area of Rhode Island and is fairly close to many other locations of significance in Almy history. I do not know what weekends the facilities are available, but I would like to have the Reunion on either Saturday, June 23 or June 30, 1984. School will be out, so the young Almys can attend. If anyone knows why either of the above dates would not be satisfactory, please write me about it soon. I want to make firm arrangements this month.

COPIES OF ALMY BOOK STILL AVAILABLE

Betsey Miller (1233-5147-234) writes that as a result of the notice in the July 1983 Newsletter (No. 35, p. 4), she has mailed out 27 xerox copies 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, p. 2) for more details about the book.

Betsey made copies after the 1980 Almy Family Reunion and sold out. This past year she xeroxed additional copies from her original copy of the book. Betsey still has 12 copies left and they will be available on a first come basis. If you are interested you had better write to her now. She will send a xerox copy of the book, with corrections, for \$5.00, which covers her copying and mailing costs. Her address is: Mrs. Josiah B. Miller, 214 E. Upland Road, Ithaca, NY 14850. Betsey wrote that the letters with orders have been most cordial and the purchasers grateful for the opportunity to get a copy.

CONTRIBUTIONS

Following is a listing of those cousins who have sent in contributions, since the last issue, to help defray the costs of printing and mailing the Almy Family Newsletters. Many thanks to you all. Your help is appreciated.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Almy Number</u>	<u>Residence</u>
Hazel V. Almy	1233-4655-11W	South Carolina
Millie Almy	1233-4666-21	California
Hulda (Almy) Freda	1233-4668-11	North Dakota
Harold D. Almy	1233-4668-132	Washington
Betsey Miller	1233-5147-234	New York
Constance Price	1235-4131-1111	Ohio
William Seabury	1407-1C55-3	Rhode Island
Robert S. Almy	1407-1C61-3	New York
Charles Gifford	1407-5561-22	Virginia
Dorothy Johnson	1408-3822-11W	Arizona
Janice (Almy) Hill	1408-3833-1121	California
L. Wesley Almy	1408-6524-11	New Mexico
Edwina (Almy) Gill	1408-6504-23	Georgia
John R. Almey		Canada

Your cousin (1408-3312-112),

Merwin F. Almy
7703 Elgar Street
Springfield, VA 22151

