

I have so much information that should go in this Newsletter that I have decided to print this issue on both sides of the paper. I don't want to set a precedent though -- I may not have enough material each time for the additional pages.

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1984 ALMY FAMILY REUNION

The 1984 Almy Family Reunion will be held on Saturday, 30 June 1984, at Eileen Darling's Restaurant, 1105 Fall River Ave., Seekonk, MA 02771. This location is about 5 miles East of Providence, RI and is the same location as the 1982 Almy Family Reunion. The formal (structured) activities are only planned for Saturday this year, but attendees will find many places and people to visit before and after the Reunion day. Reunion information follows.

Motel Rooms - Following are the room rates for the three motels located in Seekonk. These are AAA motels operated by the Darling Family.

| | <u>2 Persons 1 Bed</u> | <u>2 Persons 2 Beds</u> |
|--|------------------------|-------------------------|
| Town 'N Country Motel 1105 Fall River Ave., Seekonk, MA Phone (617) 336-8300 | \$ 28.00 | \$ 31.00 |
| Esquire Motel Route 6, Seekonk, MA Phone (617) 336-9000 | 28.00 | 31.00 |
| Ramada Inn 940 Fall River Ave., Seekonk, MA Phone (617) 336-7300 | 45.00 | 49.00 |

The Town 'N Country Motel and Eileen Darling's Restaurant are adjacent to each other. I suggest early reservation to assure obtaining desired accommodations. Send your room request and payment for the first nights lodging direct to the motel. Mention that you are attending the Almy Family Reunion as a block of rooms has been set aside for us at the Town 'N Country. Some suites and rooms for the handicapped are available at the Ramada Inn. The Esquire Motel has a campground.

Saturday meetings - As presently planned, all our meetings will be in the Runnin Board Room of Eileen Darling's Restaurant. Our meetings will start as soon as two people are gathered together shortly after breakfast. Our morning activity will consist of getting acquainted or reacquainted with cousins, "show and tell" of Almy history items, pictures of Almys, scrap books, genealogical charts, and any other activities that attendees may think of or want to do. This type activity has been the most popular at the two previous reunions. So bring whatever you may have to share -- also questions about Almy history and genealogy you would like to discuss.

When you arrive at the meeting room on Saturday, please check in, pick up your name tag(s), and obtain other information about the reunion.

Nothing is planned for lunch -- everyone will be on their own, but small groups will probably eat together in Eileen Darling's Restaurant. Other eating establishments are nearby.

ALICE B. ALMY CELEBRATES 100TH BIRTHDAY

I failed to announce ahead of time the 100th birthday of Alice Bateman Almy (1407-5023) on 16 November 1983. However, I now have the newspaper article from the Bristol Phoenix of November 10, 1983, which I will use extensively for the following article about Alice.

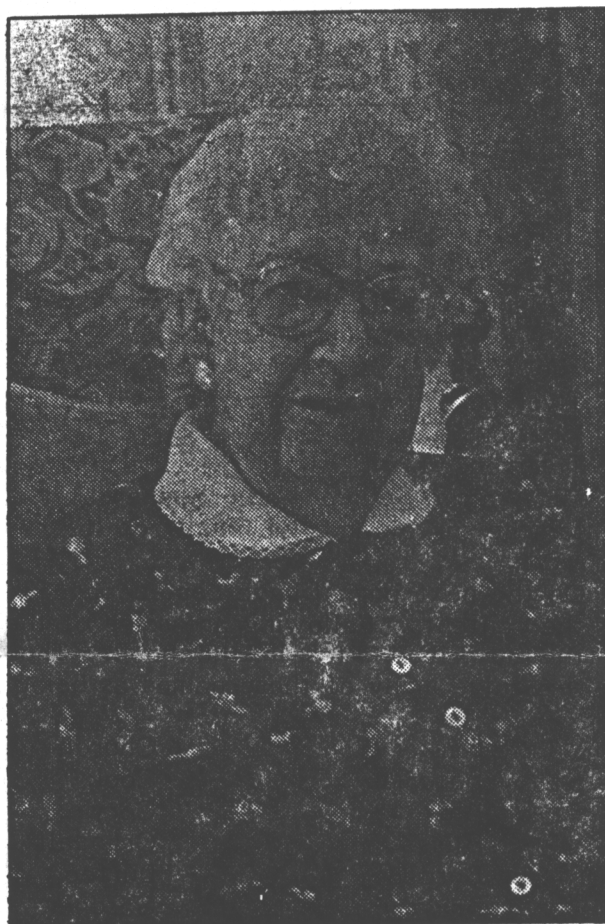
Alice received birthday congratulations from President Reagan, the Rhode Island Governor, Senators, Representatives, Town officials, and the DAR President General. In fact, the Bristol Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution took out a full page ad in the DAR Magazine to honor Miss Almy, a member since 1925.

Alice, listed in the town's tricentennial book as a "venerable citizen," has been involved with the DAR, the Children of the American Revolution, the Bristol Historical and Preservation Society and other such groups nearly all her life. "I come naturally by it, I guess," Miss Almy said of her interest in history. Having traced more than 30 of her lines of descent, she lists four governors of Colonial RI (Coddington, Sanford, Clarke, and Greene) as being among her ancestors. She is also a descendant of Thomas Hutchinson.

Alice B. Almy, who says her secret to long life is living in the present, has, ironically, spent most of her 100 years delving into the past. She began tracing her family tree long before "Roots" made it a fad, and has spent countless hours researching the ancestry of other individuals, also.

Alice graduated from Miss Moss's private school in Bristol when she was 16 or 17, then took up painting, painting landscapes and decorating furniture. But she does not think of herself as a painter. Alice says that she is a genealogist -- genealogy is her profession. She researched not only her own family tree but also traced the ancestry of others, especially in the course of certifying people for membership in the DAR. But although her profession required her to immerse herself in the past, she advises people not to live in it.

Alice says that time changes, and that she goes along with it. She tells people not to look backwards and don't think of the past. And don't worry too much about the future, either, she adds. She has always preached to live today as tomorrow never comes. Alice looks like she has plenty of tomorrows to look forward to. She doesn't get out of the house much now, but enjoys visitors. Every week the current curator of the Bristol Historical and Preservation Society drops in to tell her what has been happening at the Society. Alice is curator emerita.



Alice always wanted a historical society in Bristol. So when she heard one was being organized, she became a charter member. In addition to serving as curator for many years, she served as president of the local society from 1941 to 1944. The local DAR chapter was instrumental in obtaining for her a flag that was flown at the Capitol in Washington, DC on her birthday. She is obviously proud of that flag. Alice knows that a lot of men, mostly military men, prominent men, have them, but she doesn't know of any other woman in Bristol who has received one. The chapter is always doing something nice for her, but that is not surprising, considering her years of devotion to the chapter.

The war years were busy ones for Alice. She was state registrar of the DAR from 1941 to 1944. And, as a special project, she scanned area newspapers every day for articles on local participants in the war. The clippings are preserved in a bound volume. Many soldiers wrote letters to their home-town papers. "You know, you really have a history of the war, reading those letters. That project was what I did for my country, besides the Red Cross. The job was interesting, but sometimes tedious. I used to get so tired of reading the newspapers," she said.

Alice calls herself very much a Rhode Islander, and although she has been around, she never saw anyplace she likes as well. However, she does not like to see things change. She had only nice things to say about what changes have taken place in Bristol during her lifetime. Alice says that Bristol is the prettiest town in the state because it has the water and wide streets. The town has been pretty well kept up, too, Alice said, and does not have the "slums" some older towns do. She says that fortunately they've saved a lot of the old residences." The main changes she's seen in town have been in its size and in the adding of improvements such as electricity. But overall, she said she remembers the Bristol of her childhood as being the same as it is now. Bristol hasn't changed very much. Except, of course, for the people. Alice has outlived all the members of her immediate family, and has seen her neighbors come and go. But she does not dwell on that. She has a lot of friends, and since she's outlived her contemporaries, her friends are young people, which she is happy to say have been nice to her.

Although Alice was born in Bristol and has lived all her life there, she fondly remembers her girlhood summers at her father's (Albert S. Almy) homestead on Fogland Road in Tiverton. This homestead is the old Cook Almy farm and the family burial lot is on this property. (See page 6.)

HISTORIC AND ARCHITECTURAL RESOURCES OF TIVERTON

In January this year, Mr. John Berg (our speaker at the 1982 Almy Family Reunion) sent me a copy of *Historic and Architectural Resources of Tiverton, Rhode Island: A Preliminary Report*. The book is paperback, 102 pages, size 8½ x 11, and is crammed full of information about Tiverton historical sites. It contains pictures, maps, and write-ups on the houses and historical locations. It is a must for those wanting to drive around and view the historical sites of Tiverton. I am truly thrilled with the book. It is an excellent reference and guide to Tiverton. Mr. Walter Nebiker, our speaker at the Reunion this year, was the surveyor and photographer for the survey and the author of the report.

On the next page I have copied page 37 from the book to give you an idea, of at least some of the contents. Following are some of the names in the book, in addition to Almy, associated with the described sites in the book. Those of you who have done their own genealogy probably recognize many of these names as being in your ancestry.

| | | | |
|-----------|----------|------------|----------|
| Barker | Church | Hicks | Sanford |
| Bateman | Cook | Howland | Seabury |
| Bink | Cory | King | Simmons |
| Bliss | Crandall | Lake | Slocum |
| Borden | Durfee | Lawton | Soule |
| Brayton | Gardner | Macomber | Stafford |
| Briggs | Gray | Manchester | Tripp |
| Brightman | Grinnell | Nickerson | Waite |
| Brownell | Hammond | Osborne | White |
| Chase | Hart | Pierce | Wilcox |

This book will be on sale by the Commission at the Reunion for \$6.00. Those wishing copies before that time may get them for \$6.00, plus \$2.00 shipping, by sending their order to the Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission, 150 Benefit Street, Providence, RI 02903. Please mention that you heard about the book in the Almy Newsletter.

- 3-A. Cook Almy House (1808; 58 Fogland Road): A 2½-story, wood-shingled, Federal style house, with paired, interior, brick chimneys; a central, pedimented entry in a 5-bay facade; and a 2-story ell at the left rear. The house is set behind a fine, fieldstone wall, with a view of the river and the ocean to the southwest. It is one of several Almy houses in the district. Between 1937 and 1975 it was used as a summer home by Dr. Blough, one of the founders of the Aluminum Company of America. (1850- Cook Almy.)
- 3-B. Almy House (c. 1750; 103 Fogland Road): A 2½-story, wood-shingled house with paired, end interior, brick chimneys; a 6-bay facade; and a simple, Greek Revival entry with transom side lights. The house occupies a fine site along the Sakonnet shore, with a grand view to the west and northwest. The large lot includes a wood picket fence in front, stone walls, and several wood-shingled outbuildings. The house originally was located at the corner of Neck and Fogland roads. Moved here about 1800 by 20 yoke of oxen, the house was enlarged and its roof was raised. William Almy, who lived here until 1940, was the last of the Almy family to occupy the property. Across the road is an old Almy burying ground with some noteworthy 18th-century headstones. (1850- Frat...Almy.)
- 3-C. John Almy House (c. 1760; 148 Fogland Road): A 2½-story, wood-shingled residence, with a brick center chimney, a central entry, with a transom light, in a 5-bay facade, and an addition at the rear. The house is sited on a simply landscaped lot bounded by stone walls in front and along the west side of the property. It was the residence of John Almy, a Revolutionary War soldier, who in 1768 was visited by Dr. Ezra Stiles, a Congregational minister from Newport and later president of Yale University. The house was owned by the Almy family until about 1920. (1850- Cook Almy.)
- 3-D. Site of Fogland, or Almy's Ferry Landing (c. 1715; Fogland Point): The site of Fogland Ferry landing, near the northern end of Fogland Point, is indicated by two sections of rock extending out into the shallow water, and by several barnacle-encrusted timbers near the water.

Fogland Point, a sandy promontory extending into the Sakonnet River, is the closest point in this part of Tiverton to Portsmouth on the opposite shore. The Tiverton landing site offered a lee shore, away from the prevailing, strong, summer sea breezes. In 1706-07, Captain Thomas Townsend asked that a ferry be established between Puncatest Neck and Aquidneck. A ferry license was granted to William Almy in 1715, and a ferry was subsequently operated by William's cousin, Job Almy. Later, the ferry was owned by John Almy and operated by Thomas Wilcox. The history of Almy's Ferry after the Revolutionary War is uncertain.

ALMY BURIAL LOT ON FOGLAND ROAD, TIVERTON, RI

Following is a listing of those buried in the Almy Lot on Fogland Road, Tiverton, RI. This listing, compiled by Alice Bateman Almy (1407-5023), was sent to me by John Berg who lives in the old Deacon Frederick Almy (1235-573) house across the road from this burial lot.

| <u>Almy Number</u> | <u>Name</u> | <u>Birth</u> | <u>Death</u> |
|--------------------|-------------------|---------------|---------------|
| 140 | Job Almy | 3 March 1681 | 1767 |
| 140W | Bridget Sanford | | 1766 |
| 1407 | John Almy | 18 April 1720 | 20 April 1808 |
| 1407W | Hannah Cook | 1 April 1737 | 25 Oct 1765 |
| 1407-5 | Cook Almy | 24 Sept 1765 | 25 Feb 1861 |
| 1407-5W | Charlotte Cook | 12 Sept 1773 | |
| 1407-51 | Eliza Almy | 1795 | 1891 |
| 1407-54 | Clarinda Almy | 1798 | 1885 |
| 1407-55 | Samuel Elam Almy | 1800 | 1889 |
| 1407-55W | Susan Bateman | | |
| 1407-554 | Frank L. Almy | | |
| 1407-56 | Deborah Almy | 1801 | 1887 |
| 1407-58 | Hannah Almy Davis | 1805 | 1897 |
| 1407-50 | Isaac Cook Almy | 1813 | 1868 |
| 1407-50W | Alice Bateman | 1809 | 1867 |

Lemuel Church, a Revolutionary soldier killed on Fogland during the war is buried here. Also, a number of children and some slaves, without stones, are buried here.

JAMES R. "BOB" ALMEY

Bob Almey, a distant Canadian cousin, sent me a copy of the 1984 *Prairie Garden*, published by the Prairie Garden Committee of the Winnipeg Horticultural Society. Bob developed the Almey Crab Tree which I wrote about in the October 1977 (No. 12) issue of the Newsletter. We have corresponded since I located him in Winnipeg, Canada. The book he sent contains the following nice article on Bob.

"There are few horticulturists who have contributed as much and for as long a time to horticultural education and development of the prairies as J. R. "Bob" Almey. The *Prairie Garden*, first published as the *Winnipeg Flower Garden* in 1937, knew Mr. Almey, both as a frequent contributor of articles and also as a long time board member of the publishing committee. The reader is invited to view a profile of this noted horticulturist.

"Bob Almey was a lad of 16 years when he accompanied his parents to Canada from Leicester, England. On his arrival, he started a long and useful career in his chosen field with Johnson Brothers, orchardists near Forest, Ontario. He soon became a student of horticulture at the Ontario Agricultural College at Guelph. During his summer holidays, spent with the Horticultural Department of O.A.C., he worked alongside Isabella Preston, noted originator of many new plant varieties. In September 1917, during his third year of studies at Guelph, he joined the Royal Flying Corps as air cadet. The First World War ended in November 1918, and Bob was discharged with the rank of Second Lieutenant in December of that year. He returned to O.A.C. and graduated in 1921 with the degree of Bachelor of Science in Agriculture.

"The Manitoba Department of Agriculture created the position of Extension Horticulturist in 1921 and hired Bob Almey that year. He filled that position from 1921 to 1928. His duties in the first year included the distribution of two carloads of certified Irish Cobbler potatoes to farmers. He worked closely with market gardeners and the hobby horticulturists of the Manitoba Horticultural Association.

"He left the Manitoba Department of Agriculture to become Chief Horticulturist, Western Lines -- Thunder Bay to Vancouver Island -- of the Canadian Pacific Railway. As such, he was in charge of the railway's park and garden work, advising officials and employees on station garden plantings and on tree shelterbelts along the railroad's right-of-way. Oldtimers will remember the well landscaped prairie stations and the beautiful parks in larger centres that resulted from his work. Bob was made General Agricultural Agent, combining both horticulture and agriculture, and continued in that post until his retirement in 1960.

"Bob Almey was an organization man. He joined the Manitoba Horticultural Association as soon as he came to Manitoba and was its Secretary-Treasurer from 1922 to 1928. In 1931, he became a Director of the Association and served in that capacity for many years. In 1938, he became President of the M.H.A. In 1956 he was made an Honorary Life Member. Bob is a life member of the Stevenson Memorial Board. For many years he was a judge of the Provincial Home Grounds Competition and also the Provincial Slide Competition. Bob also served the Association as Ex-Officio Director and finally as Honorary President, a position he relinquished in 1981.

"The Winnipeg Horticultural Society and the Winnipeg Gladiolus Society value Mr. Almey's contributions to their programs. He served both as Director and President of the two organizations and was honored with Honorary Life Memberships by both of them. He is a charter member of the Western Canadian Society for Horticulture, its president in 1952, and recipient of its Honorary Life Membership in 1961. The Manitoba Institute of Agrologists and the Agricultural Institute of Canada both honored him with honorary life memberships. In 1972, the Canadian Horticultural Council presented him with a Merit Award.

"Three awards are especially dear to Bob and his wife Olive. In 1970, the Hon. Philip Peturrson, Minister of Cultural Affairs, made J. R. "Bob" Almey a Captain of the Order of the Buffalo Hunt. This Order was instituted in 1957 specially to honour those who have made distinctive contributions to life in the province of Manitoba. The widely famed Almey Rosybloom crabapple was fittingly named in Bob Almey's honor. Just recently, the American Gladiolus Society honored Bob with its Gold Medal Award.

"Despite all the activities in which he was involved, Bob and his wife Olive found time to garden. This gladiolus expert grew a thousand and more glads at his little farm in Libau. He named several varieties. He loved to grow potatoes and Spanish onions. But both of them also loved to show at the annual flower shows, winning many a prize and ribbons.

"Today Bob and Olive live in their pretty home in Winnipeg. Both are alert and well. They still attend horticultural meetings and Bob still presents an occasional lecture.

"The Prairie Garden salutes this grand old horticulturist and his wife. All of us prairie gardeners are indebted to them."

A few additional facts about Bob: He was born 25 March 1895 at Broughton-Astley, Leistershire, England. He and his wife Sadie (deceased) have a daughter, Patricia Mae (Almey) Woodward. He married second, Olive Mary Wright in 1964.

I plan to have my copy of the above Prairie Garden book at the Reunion for cousins to see.

BIRTH OF CHRISTOPHER HAMPTON YOUNT

As I was typing this Newsletter I received the news from Mildred Yount (1233-5143-311) that she had a new great-grandson. Christopher Hampton Yount (1233-5143-3111-13) was born in Atlanta, Georgia, on 19 December 1983, to Barton Kyle and Henrietta Yount. Congratulations from the Almy Family.

DONALD COMSTOCK ALMY (1235-4131-123)

Donald C. Almy, who at age 67 jogged 3,100 miles across the United States after retiring from the Air Force because of heart problems, died on 20 January 1984 in a Honolulu hospital of a heart ailment. He was 71.

After retiring as a colonel in the early 1970s, he vowed to improve his health with a fitness program and a strict diet. He lost 50 pounds, lowered his blood pressure and was able to stop taking the four prescription medicines he had been required to take daily. In 1979, Don Almy began his cross-country jog in Los Angeles and took a southern route before ending in Washington. During the trip, his wife, Camille, drove a motor home bearing the sign, "Don Almy, the Happy Jogger from Hawaii, 67, and still jogging -- L.A. to D.C." I had an article on this in the April 1980 Newsletter (No. 22).

On June 23, 1980, Don Almy dashed up the steps of the Capitol, where he was greeted by Sen. Spark Matsunaga, D-Hawaii. The senator called Don Almy a national treasure and declared him proof that life does not grow old. Along the journey, the jogger spoke to senior citizens groups and ran in eight races. Don once said that he recovered from old age at 63 when he started to exercise.

Before making the journey Don received a degree in gerontology from the University of Hawaii. He earlier received master's degrees in psychology and business administration. Besides his wife, he is survived by three daughters and four grandchildren.

CONTRIBUTIONS

Following is a listing of those cousins who have sent in contributions since the last Newsletter 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> |
|---------------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| Helen I. Beamer | 1232-1218-322 | California |
| Paul E. Almy | 1232-1283-24 | Ohio |
| Floyd C. Almy | 1233-4668-15 | Washington |
| John Almy Rumsey | 1233-5147-222 | California |
| Florence A. Whitford | 1239-2145-281 | Rhode Island |
| Frank W. Knowlton, Jr. | 1252-9773-32 | Florida |
| Patricia (Almy) Forte | 1407-1426-122 | Rhode Island |
| Philip W. Almy | 1407-1532-1 | Rhode Island |
| Lois B. Almy | 1407-1532-3 | Rhode Island |
| Donald G. Almy | 1407-1C74-31 | California |
| Thomas B. Almy | 1407-2512-21 | Massachusetts |
| Harriet Mae (Almy) Bishop | 1408-4668-15 | Washington |

* * * * *

Hope to see you all at the Almy Family Reunion on June 30, 1984 in Seekonk, Massachusetts.

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

Merwin
Merwin F. Almy
7703 Elgar Street
Springfield, VA 22151

1 9 8 4 A L M Y F A M I L Y R E U N I O N

R E G I S T R A T I O N F O R M

(Please fill out and return to Merwin F. Almy)
(7703 Elgar St., Springfield, VA 22151)

I (we) plan to attend the 1984 Almy Family Reunion on Saturday, June 30, 1984.

My check for the following is enclosed:

Registration fee of \$5.00 per adult: _____ x 5.00 = \$ _____
(No.)

Dinner, Saturday evening.

Please indicate number of meals of each entree.

_____ Roast top sirloin of beef au jus

_____ Baked breast of chicken

_____ Baked stuffed filet of sole with Newberg sauce

_____ Total meals at \$8.50 each _____

Total check enclosed for registration and dinners \$ _____

Please send your motel reservation direct to the motel with payment to reserve room.

Please list names, including children, of those covered by this registration form. This information is needed for name tags.

Your name and address (if not on reverse of this sheet):

