

H A P P Y   N E W   Y E A R

LITTLE COMPTON MUNICIPAL TRUST

The following information is from an article in the Sakonnet Times of January 12, 1984.

"The Little Compton Municipal Trust has made its first contribution of \$500 to the town's Public Library and \$100 to Historic Lighting on the Commons. The action was taken when the directors recently met at Town Hall for their annual meeting. Carlton Brownell, secretary of the directors and a noted historian who lives in Little Compton, notes that many Sakonnet area residents do not know what the Tiverton/Little Compton Municipal Trusts are. How the trust came into being, and its present purpose, is explained as follows by Mr. Brownell:"

"In the 1860s, leading citizens of Tiverton and Little Compton, mostly farmers, as were the majority of inhabitants, decided that their buildings and livestock should be insured. Fire insurance was known to merchants and city dwellers, but had not come into wide use in rural areas. Joseph Osborn, Job Wordell, Isaac B. Richmond, Oliver C. Brownell, Isaac C. Wilbour, Gideon H. Durfee, and others, established the Tiverton and Little Compton Mutual Fire Insurance Company, receiving a state charter in 1865 and commencing business in 1866."

"The company was a true mutual, in the sense that policy holders owned the company and elected directors. Salaries paid to officers were no more than expenses. At no time in its 120 years did the company own a building or employ a staff. Meetings were held in the general stores and town halls of the two towns, and agents conducted business from their homes. After establishing a reserve fund against losses, profits were used to lower rates. Directors usually served for 20 or 30 years." Among the many well known Tiverton and Little Compton people who were directors was Horace L. Almy (See note at end of article).

"The company enjoyed an excellent reputation with its policy holders, for the directors personally surveyed every fire and set losses in consultation with owners. While frugal in all expenditures, they could also be generous, as when a farmer who forgot to list a horse among his livestock received payment when the animal died in a fire. An 1870 account book lists sums of money that seem incredibly small. A bill for serving on the executive committee for six months was \$2.50. By the 1950s, Tiverton and Little Compton were no longer farm communities. Insurance had become a specialized and complicated business which could not be carried on without a trained staff. People now wanted much more than simple fire insurance. There was a demand for automobile, liability, theft, vandalism, and other forms of insurance. Policy holders no longer had personal relations with directors."

"There was almost no precedent for a mutual company going out of business while still solvent. If one did, its reserves reverted to the state. After many years of careful planning, The Tiverton and Little Compton Mutual Fire Insurance Company was able to have the state legislature amend its charter so as to establish separate municipal trusts in each town, with trustees appointed by the town councils. The trusts will ultimately receive equal shares of the company's reserve. By terms of the charter, disbursements can be made only for the benefit of the inhabitants of the town involved. Grants must be for non-profit purposes which are not of a political or religious nature and grants will not be made to individuals.

Note: The Horace L. Almy in the above article is No. 1235-5773. He was born in December 1844, the son of Horace and Hannah (Seabury) Almy. He died 9 September 1921 and was buried in Tiverton Four Corners. He married Mina H. Dodge and they had nine children.

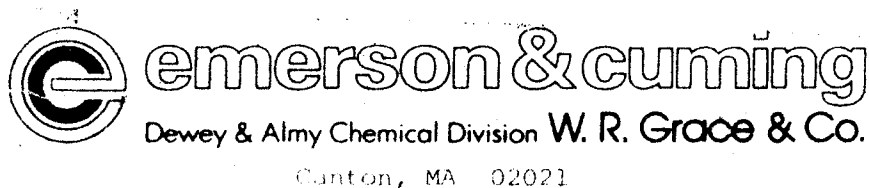
THANKS FOR PICTURES

I want to thank Louis Hornus (husband of Dorothy (Seabury) Hornus, 1407-1C57-61) for the very fine color pictures he sent of Veda and I with other attendees at the 1984 Almy Family Reunion. I wanted to share them in the Newsletter but they do not copy well enough.

DEWEY & ALMY CHEMICAL COMPANY

In the past year two Almy/Almey cousins wrote me about their encounters with the name of Dewey & Almy Chemical Company (now a Division of W.R. Grace & Co.).

Fred Almey, of Cardiff, Wales, wrote me that at his job he came across a package of Eccofoam made by the Dewey & Almy Chemical Division of W.R. Grace & Co. He sent me the following label from one of the packages they were using. He hoped I could find out information about this Almy.



ECCOFOAM® -EFF-14-FR  
NET WT. 1# 8oz  
BATCH NO. 26300019  
USE BEFORE 5/19/84  
STORE IN COOL AREA AWAY FROM  
DIRECT SUNLIGHT.  
BEFORE EACH USE SHAKE WELL IN  
PLASTIC BAG.

Earlier in the year, Richard R. Almy (1233-5143-242) sent me a copy of a stock certificate from the Dewey and Almy Chemical Company that he had in his possession. I found that the photocopy of the certificate would not reproduce well (all the fine engraving was lost), so Dick kindly loaned me his original certificate for reproduction in this Newsletter (on the next page).

A friend recently wrote me that "the recent Almy Newsletter has an item of interest as it mentions the Dewey and Almy Company. You may recall that I worked there as their first employment manager in 1945-1949. I knew Bradley Dewey and Charles Almy who founded this active business in Cambridge, Massachusetts. At that time we had about one thousand active employees, and one new product Cryovac was developed." I thought I had more information in my files on the Dewey and Almy Chemical Company, but I could not locate it. I do know that the company's Charles Almy was No. 1407-1712-4.

Charles<sup>9</sup> Almy (Charles<sup>8-7</sup>, Pardon<sup>6</sup>, Sanford<sup>5</sup>, John<sup>4</sup>, Job<sup>3-2</sup>, William<sup>1</sup>) was born on 6 April 1888 in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and died 22 January 1954 in Boston, Massachusetts. He received degrees from Harvard in 1908 and M.I.T. in 1910. On 10 June 1926, in New York City, he married Mary Elizabeth Gardner. I am happy to say that Charles' widow, Mary, is on my mailing list and receives copies of all the Almy Family Newsletters. Although Charles and Mary had no children, many nephews and nieces, and their families are on the Almy Family Tree.

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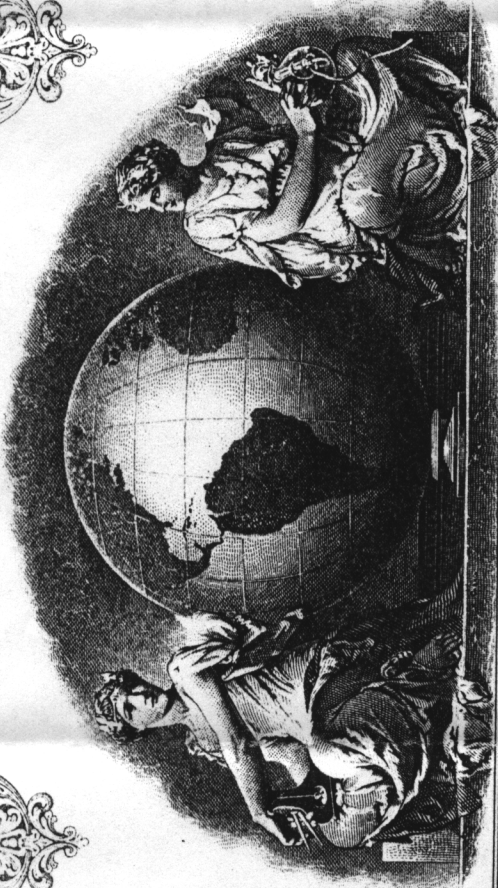
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INCORPORATED UNDER THE LAWS OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

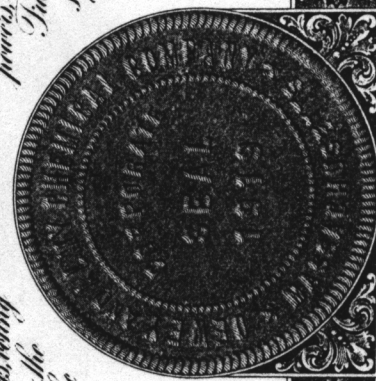
# DEWEY AND ANGLY CHEMICAL COMPANY

THIS CERTIFICATE IS TRANSFERABLE IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK OR IN THE CITY OF BOSTON.

COUNTERSIGNED:  
STATE STREET TRUST COMPANY,  
(BOSTON) TRANSFER AGENT,  
By *[Signature]*  
AUTHORIZED OFFICER.

This Certifies that

is the owner of **ONE HUNDRED** fully-paid and non-assessable shares of the common stock (par value \$1) of Dewey and Angly Chemical Company transferable on the books of the corporation by the holder hereof in person or by duly authorized attorney upon presentation of this certificate properly endorsed. The books of Corporation are amended favoring the preferences, voting powers, restrictions, and qualifications of all classes of Shares filed in the Office of the Secretary of State at Boston, Massachusetts, and a statement of said preferences, voting powers, restrictions and qualifications is on file with the Transfer Agent. This certificate is not valid until countersigned by the *[Signature]* (Witness) the seal of the Corporation and the



Dated JUN 1 1951

By *Alexandre T. Daigraunt*  
TREASURER

By *Bradley Dewey*  
PRESIDENT

REGISTERED!  
THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF BOSTON  
(BOSTON) (REGISTER)

NUMBER 1239-2126 THOMAS ALMY

No article on the lives of men who have contributed to the upbuilding of the social and material growth of Fall River, Massachusetts, would be complete without mention of the late Thomas Almy. His name, more than any other citizen, must always be associated with the history of journalism in Fall River. His life spanned almost the entire period in which Fall River journalism grew from fitful and spasmodic ventures into a permanent and powerful influence in directing the thought and energies of the community.

Thomas Almy's life was spent in Fall River, or within a few miles from it. He was born in the neighboring town of Tiverton, RI, on 28 February 1819. His parents were Deacon Thomas and Lydia (Bailey) Almy. His early life was spent on a farm in his native State, where he developed that strong character and sturdy manliness which distinguished him in his mature years. He enjoyed such advantages and education in his youth as substantial New England fathers there gave to their children. His affectionate disposition and amiability of temper made him popular with his youthful associates, and many of the friendships made when he was a lad were maintained all his life. His willingness to work and unwillingness to shirk his just share of the labor such as was then incidental to the life of a boy on a farm were exhibited throughout all his boyhood and youth, and afterwards, even under trying conditions and in ill-health, were distinguishing characteristics all his life.

When Thomas left the farm he went to Bristol, RI, where he became apprenticed in the printing business at the office of the *Bristol Phoenix*. In this establishment he learned thoroughly the printers trade. His next change was made by a removal to Providence, RI, where he was engaged as a compositor at the office of the *Providence Journal*. The country lad soon was recognized as having much promise. His fidelity, integrity, and energy were manifested in both cities, and in later years he would speak with affectionate admiration of his early employers and those who befriended him in his youth. After Thomas attained his majority he decided to start in business for himself, and his attention was called to Fall River, which had then acquired some prominence as a manufacturing town. He came to this city before 1840, and after working for a short time in the office of the *Patriot*, a small weekly paper, he associated himself in business with Louis Lapham, and commenced the publication, in 1841, of the weekly *Archetype*. This journal was subsequently followed by the *Weekly Argus*, of which Thomas Almy and Jonathan Slade were the publishers, but, like its predecessor, this paper had a fitful existence, and the young publisher had the misfortune of losing his office and material in the great fire of 1843. He was not disheartened by his loss, and soon after commenced the publication of the *Mechanic*, and still later the *Wampanoag*. In all these ventures there was much hard work and anxiety, but the earnest, ambitious young printer was not easily discouraged and was constantly making friends. In 1845, when the Whig and Democratic parties were wrestling for control of the country, a number of leading Democrats in Fall River decided to start a weekly newspaper which was to represent the principles of that party in that city. These gentlemen employed Thomas Almy and John C. Milne, also a young printer at that time, to manage the printing and publication of their paper.

In this way was born the *Weekly News*, with which paper all of Thomas Almy's subsequent years were most intimately associated. The enterprise was arduous, laborious, and difficult. One by one the original proprietors sold their interest to the firm of Almy & Milne, until they became the sole owners of the journal. The *Weekly News* remained an adherent of the Democratic party until that organization became fatally entangled in the uses of slave power, and the publishers, after adopting the principles of the anti-slavery movement, became identified with the rising and growing Republican party. The increase of population in Fall River demanded a daily paper, and in 1859, the year before the outbreak of the Civil War, the *Daily News* was started.

The partnership of Almy & Milne was never dissolved until the death of Mr. Almy. In 1864, it became Almy, Milne & Co., by the addition of Franklin Lawton Almy (1233-518A), who had been an employee in the office from the very beginning. On 1 October 1846 Thomas Almy married Hannah T. Almy (1252-7713) and according to my records, they had three children.

With gathering years Thomas Almy's character became rounded and he constantly grew into the universal respect and esteem of the community, and became known as a stanch, earnest, and true laborer in every good cause. He identified himself with the manufacturing interests of Fall River, and served as a director in the Osborne and Wampanoag Mills. He was also a director of a number of banks.

Thomas Almy's death occurred at the house of his brother, Judge Joseph Almy, at San Rafael, CA, on 7 May 1882. In search of health and needed rest, and in fulfillment of the dream of years, he, with his wife and his partner, Mr. Milne and wife, had joined an excursion party for California, the month previous. Mr. Almy's health had been feeble for some time, and the long journey was too much for his weakened physical condition. He died shortly after reaching his brother's house. His remains were brought to Fall River and interred in Oak Grove Cemetery.

### OUR VACATION

In October, Veda and I went on a tour to Greece, Turkey, Egypt, and Israel. The tour included a four day cruise from Athens to the Greek islands of Mykonos, Rhodes, Patmos, Heraklion (Crete), and Santorini, and to Kusadasi, Turkey, for an excursion to Ephesus, the ancient Ionian city of the Bible. Back to Athens and on to Cairo and Luxor, Egypt. Our hotel room in Cairo looked out on the Pyramids and the Sphinx. In Luxor we visited the Karnak and Luxor Temples and crossed the river Nile to visit the Valley of the Kings and the Valley of the Queens. In a narrow passageway in one of the tombs we "bumped into" some of our friends: a couple from California and a couple from Washington State. What a small world! From Egypt we went to Israel and toured practically the whole country. This entire trip was interesting, adventurous, inspiring, educational, full of unexpected experiences, fun, and exhausting.

Trouble with being away from home for extended periods of time is the volume of mail (correspondence, bills, and junk) to take care of on return. I thank you all for your Christmas cards. There are just too many for Veda and I to reciprocate in kind. We enjoy the Christmas letters many of you write. These and your notes contained information that I will study later and reply to or put in future Newsletters.


### 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>
Mary L. Almy	1233-3252-413	California
Millie Almy	1233-4666-21	California
Hulda (Almy) Freda	1233-4668-11	North Dakota
Constance M. Price	1233-4131-1111	Ohio
Robert R. Newman	1252-9532-412	Virginia
Charles S. Gifford	1407-5561-22	Virginia
Dorothy Johnson	1408-3822-11W	Arizona
Brian Almey		England

I hope you all had a lovely Christmas season and may you all have nothing but joyous happenings in the New Year.

Your cousin (1408-3312-112),

Merwin F. Almy   
7703 Elgar Street  
Springfield, VA 22151