

HAPPY NEW YEAR



COLONIAL VESSELS

Richard R. Almy, Sr. (1233-5143-242) started looking some time ago for information about the sailing ship *Abigail* on which our ancestor William Almy was a passenger, together with his family, in 1635. He is interested in drawings, pictures, or descriptions of the ship. Richard has contacted mariners museums in this country and England without learning anything about this vessel's size or appearance.

The Maritime Information Center in London gave him the name of a book called *Colonial Vessels* by William A. Baker, apparently published in Barre, Massachusetts in 1962 that might shed some light on what type of vessel the *Abigail* was. Richard has been unable (in Virginia) to find a copy of this book and is requesting the assistance of other Almy descendants, especially those in New England, of finding and reading this book to see if there was any interesting information in it. It may be that you could find a copy of this book in the libraries in Boston, Worcester, or Providence.

The *Abigail* sailed from London under Richard Hackwell, Master; and sailed from Plymouth, England, as her last port of departure about August 1st with two hundred and twenty persons aboard and many cattle. She arrived at Boston about October 8th infected with small pox.

Richard wrote that this must have been a fairly large ship of that time period and was surprised at the large number of passengers and crew. If you uncover any information on the above, you may write to Richard R. Almy, Sr. at 334 Grand Ave., Front Royal, VA 22630.

CHRISTMAS CARDS

As usual, Veda and I received many Christmas cards and letters this year from the Almy Family. We want to thank each and everyone of you for sending them. We appreciate your greetings and the family news contained in the letters and notes. We are unable to send cards to you in return, so the Newsletters will have to serve as our greetings to you. Thank you very much.

WICKETT - ALMY - ROBERT
FAMILY MUSEUM
AND RESEARCH LIBRARY
FORT WORTH, TEXAS

Crystelle Wickett (maiden name Robert), widow of Kenneth L. Wickett (1233-5143-421), wrote that "for many years I have kept family mementos and paid rent on trunks filled with family clothes, wedding dresses, etc. I also inherited quite a collection of art objects, fine china, rare laces and embroideries, silver, etc., from the descendants of the Almy family."

"We have established the Wickett-Almy-Robert Family Museum and Research Library. It was my responsibility to take care of many items from the Almy family. The Almy silver has been given to Linda Wickett Allison, eldest child of Kenneth. His aunt, Mrs. Elizabeth Wiswall Kerr had several trunks and I have given the bridal dress of Martha Frances Almy (married to Austin Wiswall) to the Thistle Hill Cattle Barons Mansion in Fort Worth who is using the latest methods of restoring and displaying clothing and items from the 80's."

The Wickett-Almy-Robert Family Museum and Library contains documents, books, clothing, and other memorabilia from the three families.

Crystelle reports that the family is very cooperative in this project and now the family wants to know more about their ancestors.



Items from Almy Family Trunks



View of Research Library

A STOP IN S'CUNNET'S ALMY LAND

Following are excerpts from an article in the *Providence Journal* in 1957. The Phil Almy in Almy No. 1407-1532, born 1872, died 1961. Phil married Grace Bourne 12 December 1898 and had three children: Phillip, Charles, and Lois.

"On some of our trips down S'cunnet way, we like to drop in and see Phil and Grace Almy. Grace has been in a wheelchair since she had a bad fall six years ago, but she likes to talk about old times, especially the years she and Phil spent in the steamboating business."

"They live right in the heart of Almy Land. Let me tell you -- because this is important -- the better way to see Almy Land. If you go down the Great West Road, just before you get to the S'cunnet town line you come to a fork in the road at the foot of Windmill Hill. Be sure not to follow the new road that goes straight ahead up over the shoulder of the hill. Take the old road off to the left that climbs up right over the top. In the days of Nattie Church's stagecoach, that was the only way over Windmill Hill and it was a pretty stiff climb for Nattie's horses, especially the one with the heaves."

"It is too bad they have let the alders and such grow up along the stone walls so that you can't see off over the marshes and river like you once could. But on the top you come to a spot that is clear and that is the old Almy burial ground. From there you can look in almost every direction over farms that were once owned by Almys. Some of them still are."

"I wanted to talk mostly about Phil and Grace in their steamboating days, but first I think you will be curious to know why in the old days the Almys clumped up so in this part of S'cunnet. It was because Phil's great grandfather happened to settle there and gave a farm to each of his five sons. These sons were Oliver, Frederick, John, Pardon and Sanford. Now Pardon was Phil's maternal grandfather and Sanford was his paternal grandfather, so that his parents were first cousins, which makes Phil an inbred Almy if ever there was one. In those times S'cunnet was far away over Windmill Hill from the rest of the world, few strangers got there, and so most people married a cousin of one sort or another and over the years got themselves quite thoroughly inbred."

"Phil is 85 now and three years ago he gave up the turkey business and retired. Now he and Grace, from her wheelchair, spend a good deal of time watching TV. So does their daughter Lois, when she gets home from teaching the first grade in the centralized school at the Commons."

"When Grace herself started in teaching, there were only the old district schools in most country towns. It was in January, 1897, a couple of years after she graduated from East Providence High, that she got a teaching job in Tiverton. A year from the next December she married Phil."

"Nowadays, when you go up the old road and stop at the top of Windmill Hill, it is only a phantom steamboat that you can see in the blur of dusk plowing her way down river from Almy's Wharf to the S'cunnet breakwater."

**MARRIAGE OF DOUGLAS C. MATHISON
(1232-4151-3822)**

Douglas Campbell Mathison and Deborah Ann Sullivan were married on September 28, 1992, in Conway, Massachusetts. The Rev. Donald Mathison, father of the bridegroom, and the Rev. Jerry Bricker officiated at the ceremony.

Douglas received a degree in mechanical engineering from Worcester Polytechnic Institute in 1991. He is now a field engineer with Schlumberger Wireline Testing Services in Mount Pleasant, Michigan. The couple will live in Mount Pleasant.

NEW ARRIVAL

Evelyn Patricia Bower (1233-4668-1232-3) was born February 24, 1992, in Riverside, California, to Patrick and Madaline Bower. Grandmother Marian Bower reported the above news and wrote that Evelyn is beautiful with lots of black hair.

**TALES OF MY GRANDFATHERS
(Continued from Almy Newsletter No. 72)**

(This is a paper read October 14, 1915, by Francis Almy (1407-1714) before the Thursday Club, of Buffalo, New York)

Because this paper contains very interesting genealogical information, and because it is of interest to many Almy descendants, I am going to include it in serial form in the Almy Newsletters as space permits.

The author, Francis Almy (1407-1714) was a twin. He and his brother Frederick were born 28 November 1858 in New Bedford, Massachusetts. Neither of them married.

I will footnote additional information from my files for you to better understand Francis' talk. Herewith is the next installment.

But to get back to my subject; and I will begin with myself. I was born , in excellent company, in New Bedford, Mass., on the 28th of November, 1858. I possess, as some of you may remember, the doctor's bill rendered for bringing us into the world. My father, Charles Almy, was born June 8, 1819, on Seaconnet Point, Rhode Island, in the town of Little Compton, which is on the Sakonnet River opposite the township of Newport.

He came to New Bedford in early life, attracted by the profits made in the whaling industry. At one time he owned a number of whalers, among which I remember the "Seaconnet", the "Emily", the "Mary Wilder", the "Napoleon", and the Bark Helen W. Almy, named after my sister. The papers of the different ships were kept each in a little wooden chest, lettered on the front with the name of the vessel.

I remember my father as wearing always a gray stovepipe beaver hat, and usually a military cape. He was one of the last in New Bedford to give up wearing on the street a blue broadcloth dress coat with gilt buttons, and ruffled shirt; and some of the waistcoats owned by him now do duty in private theatricals. He long dried the ink on his letters with a sand box, disliking the new fangled blotting paper. The quill pen he was slow to give up, and I have often seen him pointing them.

He was four times the prohibition candidate for governor of Massachusetts, and was for many years president of the New Bedford Lyceum, in that capacity introducing, and often entertaining, the many celebrities who came to New Bedford in the days when the Lyceum flourished.

He enjoyed excellent health all his life and up to the month of his death, at the age of 67. He never had occasion to go to a dentist, and this he evidently inherited, for his father also never went to a dentist, and in a long obituary notice of his grandfather, Sanford Almy, I find it stated that "Mr. Almy had no experimental knowledge of dentists, as he had a perfectly sound and unbroken set of teeth at the time of his death (aged 85)".

His youngest brother was named Pardon Almy, was put through Harvard by my father, died at Bull Run, and my Uncle Pardon is among those whose names are immortalized on the tablets in the Harvard Memorial Hall. My father and mother were among those present when Lowell delivered his famous Harvard Commemoration Ode, and I have heard my mother say that almost every woman there was in mourning. Whether my mother wore mourning I do not know. I think of it, because I have often heard my father, who was an optimist, say that he would like to see it made a capital offense for women to wear mourning on the streets.

My father, the oldest of eight children, was, as I have said, born in Little Compton, R.I., on a part of the same lands on which were born his father, Pardon Almy, in 1792 (a 14th child); his father, Sanford Almy, in 1759; his father, John Almy, in 1720; his father, Job Almy, in 1681; his father, Job Almy, who died in 1684, and on which died, in 1676, his father, William Almy, who was born in 1601 (I wish it had been two years earlier, so as to get into the 1500's) at Bevenden, Kent,¹ on the S.E. coast of England, and who is the original Almy from whom all the American Almys descend, our William the Comeoverer.

This William the Comeoverer, as we sometimes call him, our progenitor, was two years old when Queen Elizabeth died, and to follow the method of some of our eminent historians, it may well be that as a babe he was held up to behold her. He was 15 when Shakespeare died, and so, following the same method, we may assume first it is possible, and then that it is probable, and finally that we may well believe, that he witnessed the first productions of "The Tempest" and "A Winter's

Tale". John Bunyan was 27 years younger than he, Cromwell two years older. He was 21 years old when Charles I died and was succeeded by his ill fated son Charles II.

It was in 1635 that Almy made his last trip to this country (his first trip seems to have been made prior to 1631), and it is certain that his English life was lived in stirring times. It was in 1629 that the third parliament was dissolved by Charles, and that he entered upon his career of personal government. Milton's "Allegro" and "Penseroso" appeared in 1633; his "Comus" in 1634. In 1628 Laud was made Bishop of London, and in 1633 Archbishop of Canterbury.

It was Laud who made war on puritanism without mercy, and at that time, says John Richard Green in his Short History, nine-tenths of the English people were puritans. The Puritans identified the Lord's Day with the Jewish Sabbath, and transferred to it the strict observances required by the Jews. "Little things became great things in the glare of religious zeal, and the godly man learnt to shrink from a surplice, or a mince pie at Christmas, as he shrank from impurity or a lie. The relics of the old ritual, the cross in baptism . . . the giving of a ring in marriage, were to many not merely distasteful; they were idolatrous and the mark of the beast".

(To be continued.)

Footnote 1:

The birthplace of William Almy was not Bevenden, Kent, as given in this paper. Other old genealogies give the birthplace as Belinden or Benenden Parish, Kent County, England. How this error originated is not known. In 1917, two years after this paper was presented, the New England Historical and Genealogical Register published an article on the English Ancestry of William Almy which clearly established with genealogical evidence that our William Almy was born at Dunton-Bassett or South Kilworth, County Leicester, about 1600.

IT'S A GIRL!

Rebecca Leah Almy (1252-9512-9234-1) was born 21 November 1992 in Syosset, New York, to Lisa Anne Almy, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert T. Almy of Centereach, New York. Rebecca weighed 7 lbs, 4 ounces, and was 20½ inches long at birth. Lisa sent me the announcement on Prodigy.

(Both Lisa and I use the Prodigy Interactive communication service on our respective computers. We are able to send written messages to others on the service through use of a modem connected to the phone system. It is a local phone call that connects me through Prodigy to any other member in the United States.)

CONTRIBUTIONS

Following is a listing of those cousins who have sent in contributions since the last issue of the Almy Family Newsletter to help defray the costs of printing and mailing. This help is most appreciated. I thank each and everyone of you.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Almy Number</u>	<u>Residence</u>
William B. Barnes	1232-1218-3211	California
Frances (Almy) Culler	1232-1218-411	Ohio
Donald S. Mathison	1232-4151-382	Massachusetts
Iris M. Bachand	1232-4013-462	Rhode Island
Mrs. Arthur B. Harris	1233-3252-431	Florida
Marian Bower	1233-4668-123	North Dakota
Harold D. Almy	1233-4668-132	Washington
Mrs. Robert T. Almy	1233-5147-53W	Rhode Island
Ernestine Benson	1233-5147-531	Florida
Constance Price	1235-4131-1111	Ohio
Phyllis Stearns	1235-4131-1114	Massachusetts
Donald R. Almy	1252-9531-711	New York
H. Raymond Almy	1252-9532-741	New York
John J. Almy	1252-9532-7421	New York
Mrs. Raymond G. Johnson	1408-3822-11W	Arizona
Brian Almey	England	England

Your cousin (1408-3312-112),



Merwin F. Almy
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SNOW CAN BE BEAUTIFUL !