

Archaeologist Almy is preserving the past for the future

The following was copied from an article in the *Sarasota Herald-Tribune* of December 16, 1992. Marion Almy is Mrs. Richard E. Almy of Sarasota, Florida. Marion Marable and Richard Almy (1933-3116-11) were married June 22, 1968 in Sarasota and have two daughters, Miranda and Rachael.

"Ethel and Eddie Marable's daughter, Marion, knew what she wanted to be the day her teacher at Southside Elementary School, Mrs. Blackwell, assigned her a report on the city of Pompeii. Poring through the glossy World Book Encyclopedia, the little girl discovered the word 'archaeology' for the first time, and its meaning opened up a whole new world."

"I loved the mystery of it,' a grown-up Marion Marable Almy beams. 'Doing the research for my assignment was like a treasure hunt. I was fascinated by the thought that lost civilizations were buried in the earth and that there were people whose lives were devoted to searching for them.'"

(Continued.)



PHOTO COURTESY OF MARION ALMY

Marion Almy examines artifacts at Historic Spanish Point with her daughter, Miranda.

"Marion was one of the baby-boomers born at Sarasota Memorial Hospital in 1946. There were so many babies born that week, causing a shortage of receiving cribs, she was placed in a handy dresser drawer."

"After Marion graduated from Sarasota High School in 1964, she received her B.A. in anthropology from Florida State University in Tallahassee, completed a graduate study in archaeology at the University of Missouri at Columbia and, finally, obtained a master's degree in anthropology/public archaeology from the University of South Florida in Tampa. Marion studied ancient history and its classical ruins at FSU, but it was while she was doing grad work at the University of Missouri that she discovered her true feeling for the early civilizations of Florida itself. She went on her first digs in Panacea, in Waukulla County."

"Uncovering a burial ground level by level is the most exciting experience in the world!" Marion exclaims. "You remove the earth inch by inch and when you finally discover the "grave goods," the skeleton and accompanying artifacts, you forget about your soiled hands and broken fingernails. In essence, you are touching the past."

"There's plenty of history right here, Marion informs us. Florida is covered with ancient Indian burial grounds offering evidence of people living in Sarasota County more than 10,000 years ago. Towering middens of discarded shells mark the remains of generations of Indian tribes, their everyday tools, household goods and weapons. And the long-time resident is concerned with preserving them. 'They're non-renewable resources,' she explains. 'Destroying a site is like taking a page out of a rare book and burning it.'"

"Marion's love of archaeology, her intensive studies and her impressive employment record makes her well qualified for the position of president of her own archaeological consultant firm, which she organized with her partner in 1976."

"I started at the kitchen table with a typewriter, a camera and a few shovels,' she laughs. 'Joan Deming joined me a couple of years later as a valued partner.'"

"Because of the new environmental laws initiated in the '70s, both state and federal, historical and archaeological studies are now required before construction to prevent the destruction of important historical or archaeological sites."

"Aside from her business, Marion feels strongly about giving to the community, which is why she has served as an active volunteer in the following capacities: chairman of the Florida Preservation Advisory Council, appointed by the Secretary of State; chairman of the Sarasota County Historical Commission; Historic Preservation Board member; Sarasota Soil and Water Conservation District supervisor; and City Planning Board chairman, appointed by the Sarasota City Commission.

"The native Sarasotan has shown a 20-year commitment to 'preserving the past for the future,' which has resulted in significant changes on the local and state level, and is extolled by the Time Sifters Archaeological Society, a local chapter of the Florida Anthropological Society, as one of its most dedicated members."

"Over 4,000 visitors have benefited from just one of the state-of-the-art interpretive exhibitions at historic Spanish Pointe alone, the Society proclaims. By her example she has educated the public at large and, through her dedication, preserved sites for us all."

"But one of Marion's most treasured moments occurred when her daughter, Miranda, accompanied her on a dig one day in a swamp in Lee County. The little girl picked up an interesting fragment that proved to be a piece of a stone tool. Further digging uncovered a small Indian site, which is now on record in the State of Florida as "The Miranda Site.'"

COMMENT ON PRECEDING ARTICLE

I find the archaeology work being done by Marion Almy very interesting and very important. Last September, Veda and I went on a 10 day archaeological tour and seminar in the Four Corners area (Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, and Utah). We visited many Anasazi and Pueblo Indian archaeological sites, some restored, some untouched, and some active digs. Besides the ruins, we saw spectacular prehistoric art drawn on huge rock faces by the Anasazi culture which flourished between 500 BC and 1300 AD.

FAMILY NEWS

Ruth Almy (Mrs. L. W.) sent the following update information on the L. Wesley Almy (1408-6524-11) clan.

Kelsey Leah Hicks (1408-6524-1123-2) was born March 19, 1991, in Riverside, California, to Kenneth and Karen (Almy) Hicks.

Bryan Dewitt Clark (1408-6524-1121-2) was born May 15, 1992, in Riverside, California, to James R. and Kyle Jean (Almy) Clark.

Matthew Syslo-Seel (1408-6524-1112-2) was born June 13, 1991, in Denver, Colorado, to Robert and Mary (Syslo) Seel.

Ruth also reported that she is still working on her Almy Heritage scrapbooks and she is determined to finish them in 1993.

MORE ALMY FAMILY BIRTHS

Daniel Kenneth Omer ("K.O.") Nunes (1232-4013-4623-1) was born January 22, 1993, in Providence, Rhode Island, to Daniel and Barbara (Phillips) Nunes.

Christian Kirby Almy (1239-2165-1831) was born August 18, 1992, in Annapolis, Maryland, to Richard W. and Susan (Kirby) Almy.

TALES OF MY GRANDFATHERS

(Continued from Almy Newsletter No. 73)

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 including 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.

It was in 1620 of course that the Pilgrim Fathers emigrated, but their progress was very slow, and at the end of 10 years they numbered only 300 souls. When Charles dissolved the third parliament, in 1629, he at the same time granted the charter which established the Colony of Massachusetts, and by the puritans at large the grant was at once regarded as a providential call. "Emigration began on a scale such as England had never before seen. The 200 who first sailed for Salem were soon followed by John Winthrop with 800 men, and 700 followed ere the first year of the king's personal rule had run its course. Nor were these emigrants, says Green, like the earlier colonists of the south, broken men, adventurers, bankrupts, criminals; or simply poor men and artisans, like the Pilgrim Fathers of the Mayflower. They were in great part men of the professional and middle classes; some of them men of large landed estate, some zealous clergymen like Cotton, Hooker and Roger Williams, some shrewd London lawyers or young scholars from Oxford. The bulk were God-fearing farmers from Lincolnshire and the eastern counties. They desired 'only the best' as sharers in this enterprise."

When William Almy, our ancestor, came over for the first time we do not know. There was a William Almy who on June 14, 1631, was fined 11s. by the Court at Boston "for taking

away Mr. Glover's canoe without leave"; and on July 1, 1634, he was fined 10s. "for not appearing at last court, being summoned, and was enjoined to bring to next court an inventory of goods he had received of Edward Johnson, duly prized by interested parties". It is wholly probable that these entries, of 1631 and 1634, refer to my ancestor; but what is certain is that on June 2, 1635, he presented to the Commission of Emigration (of which Archbishop Laud of Canterbury was the President) his certificates from his parish minister and a justice of the Peace, of his conformity to the Church of England and his loyalty to the Government, which, being approved and accepted, he was permitted to embark for America with his family in the ship Abigail, of London, of which Capt. Robert Hackwell was master, bound for Boston. An enrollment of the passengers containing their names and ages was made by the commissioners, and is now deposited in the Rolls Court in London.

I seem to have inherited my interest in simplified spelling, for the entry upon the ship's roll is William Almond, aged 34 years; Audry Almond, his wife, 32 yrs.; Annis Almy 8 yrs.; Christopher Elmie, 3yrs., - their children. The ship arrived at Boston in the fall of 1635 and Wm. Almy located first at Saugus, near Lynn. Later, he, with a few others, was granted by Gov. Bradford of Plymouth liberty "to view a place and have sufficient land for three score families" at the place which was subsequently called Sandwich. Among a dozen items of record concerning him I note only that on Dec 4, 1638 he was fined 11s. for keeping swine unringed. A deed for the sale of his house and land in Sandwich bears date June 22, 1642.

In 1641 he removed to Portsmouth, R.I., owning the same lands on which my father was born and raised, 200 years later. He became a prominent man in Portsmouth, and was frequently appointed to official stations. He was a deputy to the General Court at Newport in 1650, acted as moderator (delightful title) at town meetings, as Commissioner to the General Assembly, and in various public capacities. There is a record that in 1652 he shipped from Pardon Tillinghast's

wharf in Providence a ton of tobacco for New Foundland. He became a member of the Friends' Society, as have been many of his descendants.

His will was dated February 28, 1676, and was proved April 23, 1677. I find nothing of general interest in the will save possibly the reference to a malt house, which was "not to be divided but held in equal shares and kept for a malt house every season". One point may however be of interest to our lawyers. He left to his wife, Audrey, all his estate to have thruout her life. At her death one half of the farm was to go to his eldest son Christopher, while his son Job was to have the other half of the farm, with dwelling house, two orchards, etc. His intention clearly was to leave this half to Job and his heirs; his widow, Audrey, so testified Sept. 4, 1677, less than a year after her husband's death and 40 years before the deposition was used in evidence, saying that "she knows her husband's intention was that the bequest to his son Job was intended to be to his heirs as well as to himself, and that her husband spake to her son Job saying to him to take the will and show it to any person to see whether there be anything in it not so formal, and get it mended, and I will sign to it, for sayed he I know Christopher is very cunning and if there be any advantage to be had in the land he will take it". The daughter, Anne, testified on the same day to the same effect. The courts however held that in as much as the will read merely "to my son Job" and not "to my son Job and his heirs" the will gave Job a life interest only, and at his death the property all reverted to Christopher, under the law of primogeniture.

This son Christopher, whom his dying father had described as "very cunning" became quite an important personage in the new colony. In 1688 he was appointed by the Assembly to go to Boston, and in an issue with the neighboring Colony of Massachusetts "make our claims and rights appear unto the aforesaid lands before his Excellency the Governor of Boston". For his services he received £4. In 1690 (Feb 27) he was elected Governor of Rhode Island, the first election for governor since the deposition of Governor Andrus of Massachusetts. Christopher refused to serve

as governor "for reasons satisfactory to the Assembly", but consented to act as an assistant, and as such virtually exercised the powers of Governor.

In 1692 he was sent by the General Assembly to England to present to their majesties a complaint on behalf of Rhode Island against the encroachments of Massachusetts, and memorialized Queen Mary saying that he had come 4000 miles to lay the grievances of her neighbors before her; obtained a decision from the Royal Council in favor of R.I. on every point at issue, and remained in London for some four years as the representative of R.I., returning in 1696, aged 64, and being granted by the Assembly Oct. 28, 1696, for his charge and expense in England, apparently for the four years, £135, 10s. He died in 1713, aged 81.

I find nothing in his will over which I need detain you save that it is perhaps interesting to find a New Englander owning slaves. To his son Job he left his negro Ned, and "to my wife Elizabeth negro man Cumbo and woman Margaret for life, and one year after wife's death said negroes to be free, and then to have a bed, cow, and use of 20 acres in Pocasset for their lives". I note also that the codicil of the will, executed (the codicil) June 17, 1711, provided that children not accepting the will should lose their shares.

His son, William, who died in 1747, aged 82 years, left an estate inventoried at £7,560, 19s, 6d. and including 2 negro men (£ 200) negro woman and girl and three boys (£ 460). An interesting item is "Books, apparel and cane £ 146, 10s. 7d."

These two Almys, however, - Christopher and his son William, - though direct ancestors, are not ancestors in the direct Almy line, but through my mother's grandmother, who was Mary Almy. My descent on my father's side, in the direct Almy line, is from the more trusted son Job, fourth child (Annis, Christopher, John, Job, and Catherine) of William the Comeoverer, and born in this country. It was next to him that William the Comeoverer desired to be buried, and not next to cunning Christopher, the eldest son. Of Job I will state only that his wife was named Mary Unthank

(daughter of Christopher and Susanna Unthank), that on July 15, 1660, he was on a jury in Plymouth County in case of James Pierce of Boston who "died by an immediate hand of God, by thunder and lightning," etc. May 7, 1673 he was appointed on a committee to treat with the Indian Sachems, Mawsup and Ninecraft of Narragansett; Philip, of Mt. Hope; Wetamoe, of Pocasset; and Awashunks of Seaconnet "and with them seriously to consult and agree of some way to prevent the extreme excess of the Indians' drunkenness, etc." He died in 1684, and he also left negro servants, two, inventoried at £ 42, and Indian servants (number not stated) inventoried at £ 35. He left to his eldest son John all land and buildings in Portsmouth, only reserving best room for wife, while widow; and to his son John lands across the river at Pocasset. My descent however is not from the eldest son, John, but from the namesake son Job, Jr., who was born in 1681, but three years before his father's death, and died in 1767, aged 86 years. I fear I have a long life to look forward to, as length of years runs in my mother's family also, she living to 88 years, and her mother to a few months over 100 years. (To be continued.)

DEATHS IN THE ALMY FAMILY

Mildred I. Almy (1233-5147-53W) 101, of Middletown, Rhode Island, wife of the late Robert Tillinghast Almy, Jr., died February 14, 1993. Mildred was born July 22, 1891, in Lynn, Massachusetts, daughter of Ernest H. and Lizzie J. (Leavitt) Thielscher.

Earl Eugene Almy (1407-2D24-2) 79, of Sparks, Nevada, died in November 1992. Earl was born January 27, 1913, in Oso, Washington, the son of Zachary Taylor and Hilma E. (Carlson) Almy.

Amy (Weeden) Almy (1407-2512-2W) 87, of Somerset, Massachusetts, wife of the late Israel T. Almy, died December 30, 1992. Amy was born October 18, 1905, in Swansea, Massachusetts, daughter of Robert H. and Esther (Arnold) Weeden.

UNCALLED FOR REMARK

Gary Boyd Roberts is director of publications for the New England Historic Genealogical Society in Boston. He recently published *Ancestors of American Presidents*.

An article in the *Boston Herald* of January 12, 1993, had the following statements.

"Former Presidents Richard Nixon and Jimmy Carter are sixth cousins. Roberts said the two men can trace their ancestry to William Almy, a 17th century Portsmouth, R.I. settler."

"Almy, Roberts said, may be responsible for 'the bad gene in American politics.'"

CAUSES OF DEATH

I recently came across a genealogical article on what has been given on death certificates for the cause of death. Explanations have included:

"Died suddenly, nothing serious."

"Don't know. Had never been fatally ill before."

"Went to bed feeling well, but woke up dead."

"Worn out."

And on a headstone in a New England cemetery: "My wife lies here/ All my tears cannot bring her back/ Therefore I weep."



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>
Iris M. Bachand	1232-4013-462	Rhode Island
Hazel V. Almy	1233-4655-11W	South Carolina
Millie Almy	1233-4666-21	California
Stephen B. Brown	1481-2385-2331	Kentucky
Philip W. Almy	1407-1532-1	Rhode Island
Lois B. Almy	1407-1532-3	Rhode Island
Donald W. Martin	1407-1C71-12	California
Mrs. L. Wesley Almy	1408-6524-11W	New Mexico

Your cousin (1408-3312-112),

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SPRING IS HERE ! HAVE A GOOD ONE