

William Almy:

Good men and women of Sandwich, I am William Almy. It is good to return to the town where I lived so briefly early in my life.

I was born in South Kilworth, England in 1600. South Kilworth is in Leicestershire, around the geographic center of England. In 1635 I sailed to the Massachusetts Bay Colony on the good ship, *Abigail*. There were others on the ship whom you might know: Edmund Freeman, who a few years later led us to this fine town, Thomas Tupper and Benjamin Nye.

I only stayed in Sandwich for a few short years. I moved to Portsmouth, in the Rhode Island Colony, in 1641, and then sold my sandwich lands to Mr. Freeman the following year.

Like many others of the early settlers of Sandwich, I came here in part because of the rigid religious regulations of the Bay Colony. It was also the quest for free worship that later attracted me to the Rhode Island Colony. In Rhode Island I practiced the Quaker faith as a member of the Society of Friends. As far as I know, I was one of the earliest people in the colonies to practice the Quaker faith.

My wife, Audrey, and I had five children: Annis, Christopher, John, Job, and Catherine. The first two were born in England. One of the great sources of honor for my family was that my son, Christopher, was elected Governor of Rhode Island, although upon his election he declined to serve in that post.

While I was only in Sandwich for a short time, and unlike my neighbors, Freeman, Dexter, Dillingham, Knott, and Tupper, I did not leave behind a host of descendants in this fine town; a few of my descendants have held places of note or notoriety in subsequent history. Among my descendants are three Presidents of the new American nation (perhaps not the best of Presidents, but Presidents nonetheless): Warren Harding, Richard Nixon, and Jimmy Carter. Perhaps the most noted of all my descendants was a woman who bore the name, "Norma Jean Baker," known better to all of you as "Marilyn Monroe."