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MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS BOSTON 15, MASSACHUSETTS



April 21, 1966

Dear Mr. Moore:

May I ask your advice re: your Probate Court ?

In 1930 this museum purchased a tankard by Samuel Casey which bears on the handle the initials I^AB. The seller was Mrs. Mary Almy Richmond-Pressly of California who wrote: "The initials AB on the curve of the handle were for Anna Brownell who in 1765 married Nathaniel Richmond...my great-grandparents."

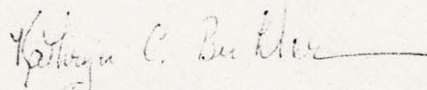
With her middle name fitting the surname initial, I checked at the New England Historic Genealogical Society to find Job Almy of Newport (1681-1767) marrying in 1705 Bridget, daughter of Governor Peleg and Mary Sanford. Their son Job married no fitting initial, but their son Holder in 1765 married Hannah Brownell who might have been a sister of Anna ! Later we bought from another source the Tanner creampot (Fig. 51, catalogue 302, in Hugh Gourley's exhibition when I had the pleasure of meeting you !) along with three Casey teaspoons initialled as is the tankard (and Dale owns a matching one !)

IF Job Almy made his money late in life (actually we have a Vernon tankard of unknown provenance with the same I^AB which is tantalizing) these might all be his.

The summation of my query, is there a Newport Probate Court so set up that I might hope to find his (or her) will and inventory ? Occasionally, I have been successful in Suffolk, Middlesex, and Essex County Courts.

Knowing your interest in silver, I think you will forgive my asking.

Sincerely


(Mrs. Yves Henry Buhler)
Fellow for Research in
American Silver.

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