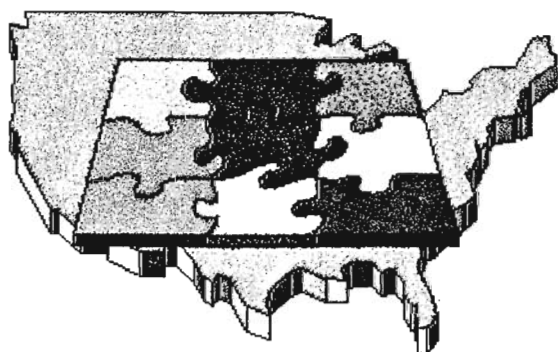


Vermily/e/a's...

Historically Speaking



"You are a piece of the puzzle"

VOL. 1 Number IV

OCTOBER NOVEMBER DECEMBER 1996

We encourage your participation and your contributions to this newsletter. We are all part of one great historic family, a family which fought in all wars from the American Revolution to the present; a family which has helped to populate the nation; a family which, although rooted in Europe, can still lay claim to being ultimately "American." With the phrase "Many hands make light work" resounding in our ears, we ask that you share knowledge of your immediate Vermilyea family origins, stories and history with the rest of our clan.

"Vermilye/a's ...Historically Speaking" is a newsletter publication put out by The Vermilye/a Family Association, a non-profit organization staffed by volunteers.

President: Joe Vermilye
Record Keeper/Treasurer: Sandra V. Todd
Newsletter Editor: Joanne V. MacArthur

Correspondence, articles for consideration or request for membership may be sent to: Sandra V. Todd

Member ships are \$12 per calendar year, made payable to The Vermilyea Family Association.



to here from there

It is commonly understood that the beginning of the Vermilye(a) Family Tree here in the USA began in the state of New York. So to discover that Jacob Vermilyea was born in Fishkill, Dutchess, NY, 15 Oct, 1804, does not come as a surprise. How is it possible for me, Joel Vermilye, to come to be here on the West Coast almost as far west as one could be from New York?

Johannes and his family arrived in this new country in the mid 1600's. For very close to 200 years my branch of the Vermilyea Family Tree was pretty much confined to the New York Area. We did have a Revolutionary War to help win, but for the most part it appeared that no one had got the message, "Go West Young Man !"

Jacob Vermilyea, a member of my branch of the tree, did in fact make a bold move and arrived in Wisconsin April 1854 to farm 160 acres. One can only speculate what prompted his move. Very close to this same time an invention by John Deere made a big impact on settling the prairies of the Midwest. This invention was the steel blade plow. The previous wood blade plow was not strong enough to endure the hard prairie sod. It could very likely have been that steel blade plow that enabled Jacob to make that first step towards the West Coast.

William Henry Harrison Vermilyea born in Fayetteville, Onondaga, NY on 4 March, 1842, came with his father Jacob and began his family in Wisconsin. William H. H. must have helped his father on the farm in Metomen not far from Reeds Comers. William's Son was born there in Ripon, Fond Du Lac, WI.

William and his family left Wisconsin a few years after his father Jacob died to travel to Denver, Colorado. Francis Vermilye was born 15 July, 1867, at Ripon, Wisconsin, and traveled with his father to establish a home in Montrose, Montrose, Colorado. Denver, Colorado has a history associated with the minerals that were found there. Again one can imagine that the desire to find a better life brought Francis and his father to Colorado. In one biographical sketch it states that William was, "thought of as a pioneer," in that part of Colorado.

Lester Harrison was born 5 Nov, 1905, at Montrose, Colorado but spent most of his childhood at Baker, Oregon. My father Lester often spoke of the farm at Baker and the homestead type environment. Eventually, my father like many before him would find a reason to move even further west. In the early 1900's the forests of the Pacific Northwest were important to new



cities being built. For example, much of the old growth cedar in and around Grays Harbor County in Washington was shipped to San Francisco to help build that city. My father came to settle in Cowlitz County in Washington. There he would work in the Long

Bell Lumber Mill.

I was born 8 Jul, 1941, at Longview, Cowlitz, Washington. I have pretty much raised my family here next to the Columbia River. I have thought about my ancestors and their migration west. I often feel maybe I need to continue that migration. The only problem is when I travel west from my home, I always run into this large body of salt water they call the Pacific Ocean.

REMEMBER VFA memberships make wonderful and different
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PERSONAL, INFORMATIVE AND FUN - And the price
is right!

NEW BABY IN THE FAMILY? INTERESTING FAMILY
STORIES? PICTURES?

SHARE THE NEWS! WERE FAMILY AND WERE INTER-
ESTED!

1996 MEMBERS

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lina
John and Sherry Todd
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Joe and Shawna Vermilye
Jon Vermilye
Carl P. Vermilyea
Dennis and Winona Vermilyea
Ed & Janet Vermilyea
Frank and Becky Vermilyea
Fritz and Viola Vermilyea
Silas R. Vermilyea, Jr.

Our Thanks to all of you for your support. This is the last
newsletter for our first year. Yes, we would have liked many
more members, but all good things start small. We hope you will
plan to join us again next year, and encourage other family
members to do the same. Memberships are due January 1, 1997.
We are just getting started, and we have many plans and much
more information to share.

Sandra



THANKS

Many thanks to all of you who wrote, called, e-mailed and prayed for my husband and I during our encounter with [Hurricane] Fran on September 6th. We have been very lucky, no damage to our home or vehicles and we are safe. Our yard with the many trees we loved so much is another story. At least twenty large trees fell, six across our driveway, one crushed our doghouse.

John's 100 foot communications tower with his ham radio antennas and equipment is a twisted tormented mess. The nearly eleven inches of rain that fell with the storm flooded both roads we use to get out for the first day and we were without power for about 38 hours. Our son John, who had scheduled a business trip to our area, was able to make it to our house Friday night and was a tremendous help. He was able to purchase a generator for us on a trip to the western part of North Carolina on Saturday so we were able to run our water pump, fridge, freezer, and some small appliances and lights by Saturday evening. We were very surprised when the power came back on late Sunday afternoon.

The massive clean up in this area is amazing. Many people came from all over the county to assist the power company as well as serve meals and haul the many truck loads of debris away. People stood in lines for hours for water, ice, chain saws, generators and batteries. Full power was not restored to many for two weeks. We are slowly removing the trees, and are fortunate to have the equipment and strength to deal with them. At least we will be able to enjoy many toasty evenings by our fireplace this winter!

- Sandra

TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance as of June 30, 1996 \$114.65

DEPOSITS:

September 30, 1996 Two Memberships 24.00

Balance as of October 1, 1996 \$138.65

Sandra Vermilyea Todd

The following is a biographical sketch relative to my ancestor Jacob Vermilyea, b. 15 Oct, 1804. The author was Butterfield and the copy I received was from Wisconsin. There seems to be a series of entries over a period of time. The following is taken pretty much as I found it. - Joe Vermilye

Vermilyea, Jacob:

A native of Fishkill, Dutchess Co, NY, born in 1804, a son of William and Cynthia Vermilyea; in the lumber industry in early years; in 1831 located at Troy, NY. He was employed in construction of the Railroad from Schenectady to Albany, and was in various pursuits until 1853, when he settled on an 160 acre farm in Metomen near Reed's Corners in this county, where he resided until 1875; then he retired and came to Ripon city to live; m. Oct 6, 1835, Miss Lydia , daughter of William and Mary Miles of Dutchess Co., NY.

Their children: Nellie, wife of Truman Blossom of Winona, Minn.

Caroline, wife of David Morley at Minneapolis

Mary, wife of George Lour of Blue Earth Co.

Libbie, wife of Wallace Bolsley at Nashua, Iowa

Amanda, wife of Dyer Bell of Minn.

Cynthia, wife of James Walker of Kasson, Minn.

Eliza, deceased eife of William Whitman of Minn.

William H. Harrison, now a merchant in Roapon,

m. Miss Anna, daughter of Patrick and Katie (Phelps) Hefron of Omro, Wisconsin in 1865 and they have one son, Frank. Members of the congregational church.



Francis E. Vermilye and
William H. H. Vermilye, son of
Jacob and father to Francis/
Frank

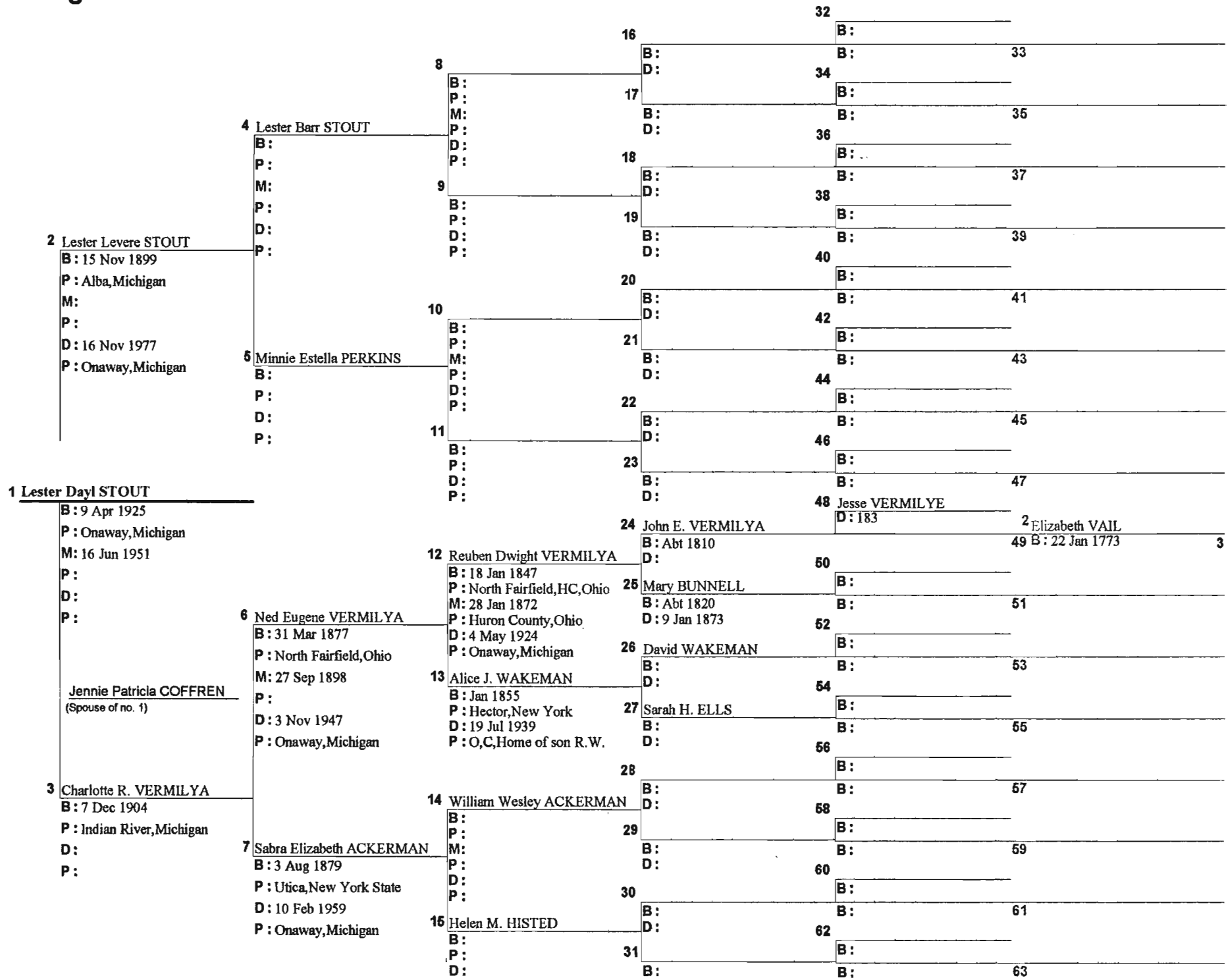
6-10, 1834, 1411 1/2 St. Denver.

Lydia and Jacob Vermilye -
Jacob was born in 1804



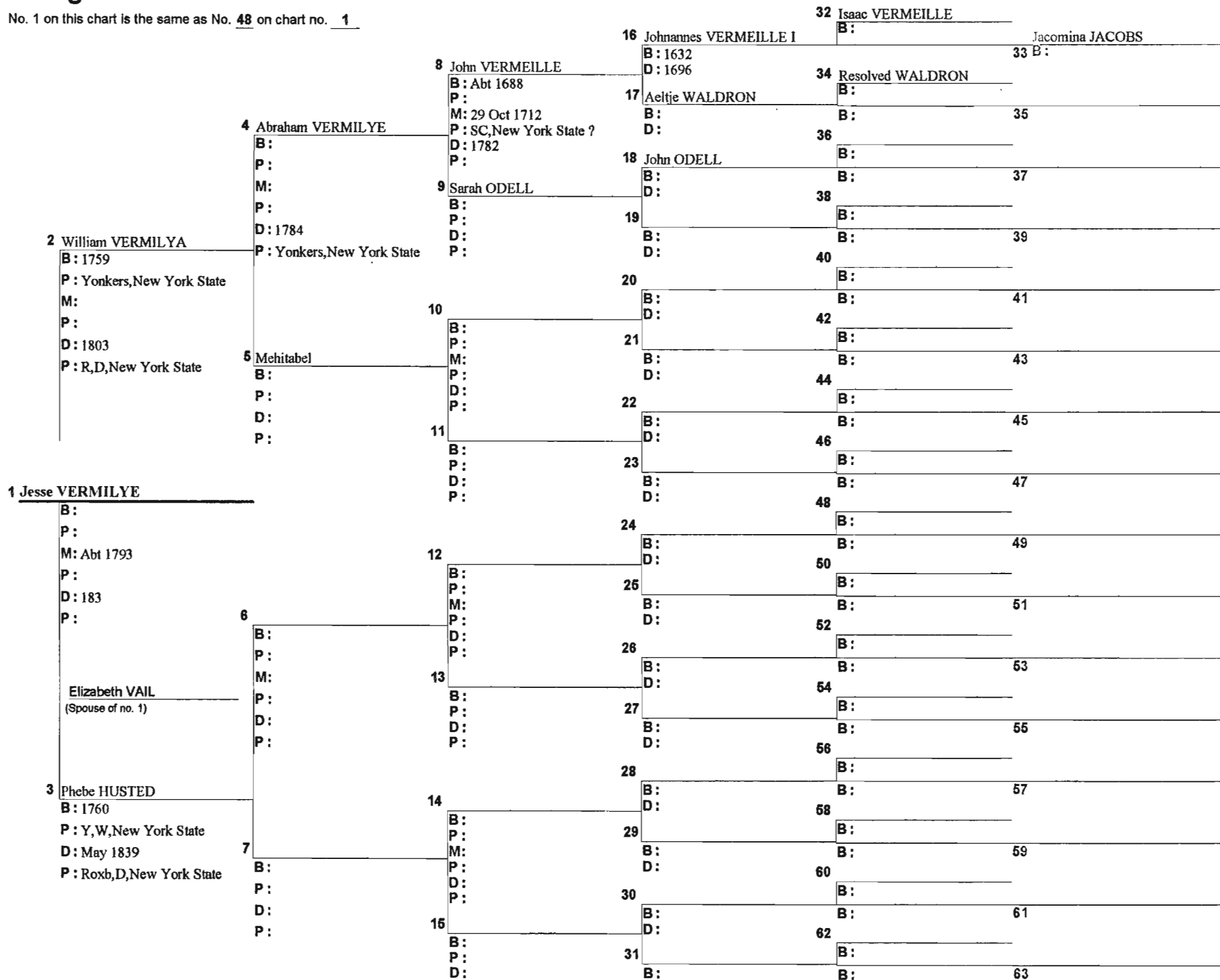
Pedigree Chart

Chart no. 1



Pedigree Chart

No. 1 on this chart is the same as No. 48 on chart no. 1



BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

October 26	John R. Todd, Sr.
November 6	Jocelyn MacArthur
November 8	Sandra Vermilyea Todd
December 2	Mavis Vermilyea Kyle
December 19	Sherry Robinson Todd
December 24	Judy Budd Bockstahler
December 28	Frank E. Vermilyea

FAMILY QUERIES:

The following queries have been submitted by family seeking information on one or more ancestors. If you have material or ideas where missing information is located please respond to:

Sandra Vermilyea Todd

Anyone have information as to when and where a Vermilyea Family Reunion was held on the East Coast?

Thanks Dayl for responding with information on Patience Leavens.

FAMILY REUNION PLANS

Sometimes you have these nutty thoughts that start turning into good ideas, at least you hope they do! For sometime I have been wanting to attend a Vermilyea Family Reunion. It almost happened this past summer. I got to the point of making airline reservations to attend the Vermilye Family Reunion at Rainier, Oregon, when Joe told me attendance looked scanty and that many that had attended in the past were not going to be able to make it this year. Since this trip was being made with the idea of meeting many cousins in a short time, my husband and I decided to make it another year.

I have not heard of any Vermilyea Family Reunions in the East so I started planning one in my mind and finally called Joanne and asked if she would be interested in joining me in the plan. So far we have discussed a possible date and place. Nothing is set yet, but we are looking at the Williamsport, Pennsylvania area since it seems to be a central location for those that have shown an interest in such a event. Currently we are looking at June 21, 1997. On September 12th I was in Williamsport and checked out several locations. The best place I could find that could accommodate us is the Econo Lodge at 2401 E. Third St. in Williamsport. By the time you read this newsletter a decision will have been made. We have started making inquiries, we are working on ideas, and if all works out we hope to have a reunion organized by the first of the year. Watch here for details.

SANDRA

We have received good comments on the articles submitted by Dyckman Vermilye and Pat Vermilye Smith.

Everyone is encouraged to contribute to this newsletter. Watch for articles and pictures provided by other family members in upcoming issues. Many thanks to Dyckman and Pat!

THE FAMILY CHEST

(Dedicated to Lester Harrison Vermilye, my Dad.)

As far back as I can recall there was the "home made" wooden chest. Stained dark and measuring about 16 x 24 x 16, the edges were reinforced with narrow strips of a light sheet metal. Although quite heavy, it had four roller casters to enable one to move it from one place to another. There were strong leather handles mounted on each end. It held more treasure than a pirate chest to me.

Dad would drag out the chest, take out the thinly worn key and insert it into the heavy Master lock. After removing the lock, the tarnished hasp would be opened with a faint squeak. When the lid was lifted open there was a distinct and strange smell. It is difficult to find smells that compare with the smell from inside that old chest. It was the smell of things very old. When one goes into an antique shop or an old second hand store, there is a slight comparison.

The first things one saw were the several strips of leather tacked to the inside of the lid. "At one time a pair of dueling pistols were mounted right there," Dad informed. Dad would go through the contents of the chest with me closely observing everything he uncovered.

As a child, I was very impressed by that old chest. I could look into it only when Dad was present, and that piqued my interest. The colorful jockey silks along with the stories of Dad's horse racing and the old coins that I could look at and hold were some more of the reasons that I was drawn to this strange chest. There was a very old pair of shoes that once were worn by Dad's Grandmother. Faded white and a bit of lace with pointed toes, they were so very tiny. It was hard to imagine anyone's feet being that small.

I was not too happy with the fact that I was expected to endure the task of looking at all of those old and smelly pictures. "This is a picture of my mother, Addie Bray," Dad would point out. "This is your Grandfather Frank, and this

is Grandma Cooley, and this is" The people in the pictures certainly looked different, and I had seen them too many times. I knew I had to sit through the pictures because only then would the old coins come out. With the coins were some very old marbles that Dad had used when he was a boy. That was the fun part.

Now Dad is gone, but I still have those pictures and I understand it was not the pictures at all, it was family. I now understand the very

deep love that my Dad had for his family and his ancestors. I now share that love and desire to know more about my ancestors.

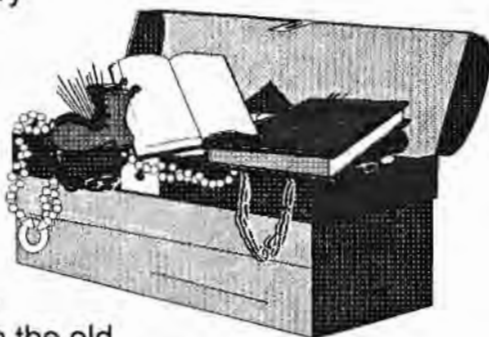
My desire to learn as

much about my ances-

tors as I can came from the old wooden chest and my Dad's pictures. From my genealogy research I have discovered many things that my Dad apparently never knew. Very much like my Dad, I have this desire to share what I know with my generation and the next. I only hope that my children and their children will enjoy the family as my Dad and I have.

I still open the old wooden chest occasionally. I have some of my mementos and "treasures" in that chest now. I still notice the place where the dueling pistols were mounted. That special smell is still there, although more faint. I have framed many of those old pictures and others are kept in a more appropriate holder. I have written down the stories I have researched and I continue to look for more. Family and the history of the family is a wonderful thing.

Thanks, Dad, for the old chest and for family.



MINI REUNION

Friday the 13th turned out to be a lucky day! My husband and I decided to go ahead with a scheduled trip to New York and get away from all the mess for awhile. Actually, I had called my Mother and my Pennsylvania cousins and told them there was no way we could leave home with no power etc., but when Sunday night came and things were looking up I called to change plans, our trip was on again.

We spent the night at Williamsport checking out locations for the reunion. While there I called a cousin James Vermilya. He remembered me calling the year before while we were in Williamsport. (I have this habit of calling Vermilyeas listed in local telephone books when I visit a area) We had a very nice visit, and thanks James for your help with the suggestions for the reunion location. On Friday we drove to Grover, Pennsylvania where we had lunch with cousins John Griswold, Ed Vermilya and his wife Mary, Joyce Vermilya Wheeler, Marlene (Mrs.

Glenford) Vermilya and Lyle Vermilya and his wife Virginia. We had met John and Ed before, but it was the first time to meet the rest. Had a very nice time even took some pictures.

While we were in New York we visited my cousin Ed Vermilyea and his wife Janet. Got to see a picture of Taylor their new grand daughter, a real doll! We spent a day in Greene County, New York doing some family research and while there dropped in to meet Frank and Becky Vermilyea owners of Vermilyea's True Value Hardware in Cocksackie. It is always fun to meet new family, and Frank and Becky was no exception, we had a very nice visit and shared family information.

Well, back home and to the trees - both FAMILY and FALLEN!

Sandra