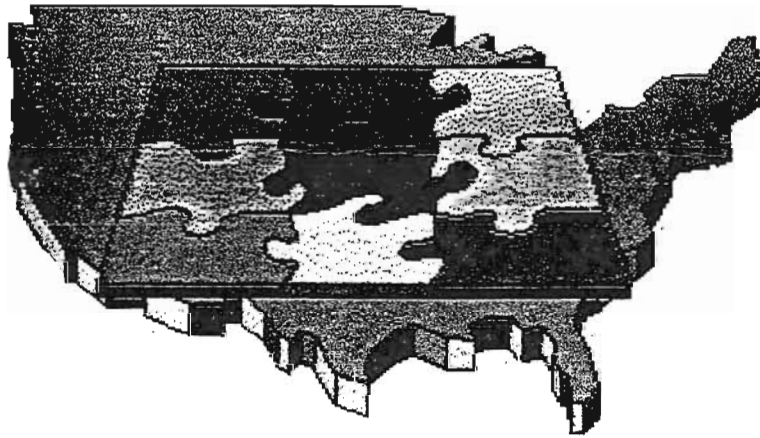


Vermily/e/a's...
Historically Speaking



"You are a piece of the puzzle"

Volume II, Number 2
April, May, June 1997

It has been nearly one year since The Vermilye/a Family Organization was begun. We have grown and learned and shared with one another. We continue to 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 all this research available, there still remain questions, perhaps even mysteries, and many, many yet-undiscovered relatives. 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

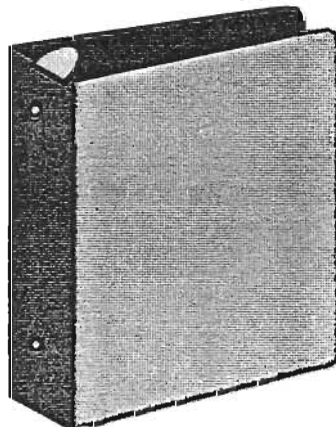
Memberships are \$12 per calendar year, made payable to
The Vermilyea Family Association.

FROM THE PRESIDENT:

Sandra, Joanne, and I have discussed that somewhere in the future there would be a need for a document to guide our organization after we had done our part. My feelings are that the organization and the concept is really bigger than the individuals, and if for what ever reason we would stop being a part of it, then the organization would continue. We would also like to think that it would continue pretty much as we had intended it. There are no guarantees of course.

I have been a part of organizations that when the leadership changed, an entirely new and different direction took place. The members had no recourse but to follow or quit. There was no rules set down for a democratic process to guide change when change was wanted by the majority. Bad feelings developed and the objectives that were originally set up suffered.

Enclosed please find a draft of a constitution and bylaws. Most of it was taken from another suggested form. I added what seemed appropriate. Many parts are left unfinished. That is where you come in. Someone else besides me needs to look at this, make suggestions, make corrections, and in general help finish the documents. Please? If you would mail your suggestions to me, I will attempt to compile and finish the documents. Somewhere in the future we would attempt to adopt the documents and eventually elect officers. The logistics of that has not been completely mapped out. Suggestions are welcome.





TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance as of January 1, 1997 _____ \$198.65

DEPOSITS:

January 27, 1997 Membership Renewal _____	\$12.00
February 7, 1997 Membership Renewal _____	12.00
February 12, 1997 Membership Renewal _____	12.00
March 3, 1997 New Memberships _____	24.00
March 5, 1997 Membership Renewal _____	12.00
March 12, 1997 Membership Renewal _____	12.00
March 31, 1997 New Membership _____	12.00

WITHDRAWALS:

March 5, 1997 Postage (Sandra) _____ \$6.40

BALANCE AS OF April 1, 1997 _____ \$288.25

BIRTHDAYS

April 5	John R. Todd, Jr.
April 9	Dayl Stout
April 30	Jon Vermilye
May 16	Joanne Vermilya MacArthur



CORRECTIONS:

Please note the following errors that were made in the January February March 1997 (Volume II, Number I) issue (corrected issue).

Pedigree Chart for Frederick J. Vermilyea: #9 Fanny Mead. Date of birth should read March 16 or 20, 1821. The date shown is her date of marriage. She was born at Roxbury, Delaware County, New York State.

Page 5, #6 Mehitabel (nickname Hetty). She was married and lived in Brownstown not Brownsville, Indiana. Also in the book titled David Benton, Jr. and Sarah Bingham, Their Ancestors and Descendants; and Other Ancestral Lines, by John Hogan Benton, Esq., nine children are reported born to Walter and Hetty (Vermilya) Banks Benton. On the 1850 Federal Census a child named Matilda is listed as a daughter age 5 years. Her name does not appear in the Benton book.
I do not know which accounting is correct.

Page 5 #6: Correct spelling line 2, Lapeer County, Michigan.

Page 5, #8 Jesse. His wife is incorrectly listed as Maria M. Taggert. This should read Maria McTaggert.

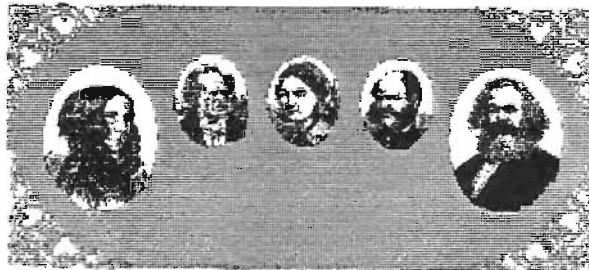
I regret these errors - PLEASE make the corrections in your copy.

Sandra

ANCESTORS

If you could see your ancestors
All standing in a row
Would you be proud of them or not
Or don't you really know?
Some strange discoveries are made.
In climbing family trees
And some of them I am afraid;
Would not exactly please.

If you could see your ancestors
All standing in a row
There might be some of them perhaps.
You would not care to know
But there's another question
Which requires a different view
If you should meet your ancestors
would they be proud of you?



~Author Unknown

Poem discovered by May Fiock during research at the
Library of Congress
Washington D.C., U.S.A.

SHERMAN S. VERMILYA

Sherman S. Vermilya⁷, (Edward⁶, Samuel⁵, William⁴, Abraham³, John², Johannes¹)
(Information provided by John R. Vermilya his great grandson, and Glenda Griswold Avery)
- Compiled by Sandra Vermilyea Todd.

Sherman S. Vermilya who is listed in the Atlas of Bradford County, Pennsylvania, by F. W. Beers, dated 1869 as a cabinet maker was a man of many interests and talents. He was born February 24, 1844 in the Town of Middletown, New York State. He married December 21, 1865 at Andes, Delaware County, New York State Augusta J. Scudder who was born February 3, 1847 in Delaware County, New York State.

They moved to Bradford County, Pennsylvania, sometime between 1865 and 1867. Their first son Charles Edward was born October, 1867, at Grover, Pennsylvania and their second child, also a son, David William, was born in 1869 and died in 1872.

By 1880, Sherman built and operated a general store in Grover, Pennsylvania while continuing to work as a cabinet maker. The general store was titled *S. S. Vermilya and Son*. It was a three story building with living quarters on one floor and his cabinet workshop on another floor.

In the late 1800's Sherman got a druggist license. He then developed a patent medicine which he called "Vermilya's Oil of Life". [The flyer for Vermilya's Oil of Life was included in the last issue of the newsletter.] He then began to market this medicine throughout the country through dealers and agents.

On April 24, 1883 Sherman was appointed Postmaster at Grover, Pennsylvania.

Sherman died June 10, 1902 at Grover, Pennsylvania; Augusta died in 1926. Both are buried in the Grover Cemetery, Grover, Pennsylvania.

REUNION

Hope to see you in Williamsport, PA June 21st! Don't forget I MUST have meal reservations and T-shirt orders by June 6th.

Some families have reported having a problem making reservations with Econo Lodge. **Be persistent!** They do have the *Vermilyea Family Reunion* in their computers - but they must look!

Rooms have to be reserved by June 7th to get the special rate.

~ Sandra

NEW MEMBERS

Joelle Vermilye Wheeler
Penny & Alan Massey
Webb H. Vermilya

IN PASSING:

Catskill Mountain News, Margaretville, N.Y. Wednesday, January 29,
1997

Obituaries: Earl Vermilyea



Earl Vermilyea, 85, of Dry Brook Road, Arkville died January 26, 1997 at Robinson Terrace in Stamford.

Born June 19, 1911 in Dry Brook in the Town of Middletown, he was the son of William Vermilyea and Myrtle Ford. He married Anna Hopkins June 25, 1938 in Delhi. She died September 7, 1992.

He was a retired dairy farmer and also worked for Kingdon Gould.

A lifelong area resident, he enjoyed hunting and fishing.

He is survived by a daughter, Faye Darst of New Bern, NC; two grandchildren, Ludvig Wm. Shirey of Mechanicsville, VA and Tonya Sue Borders of Duluth GA; one great-granddaughter, Lauren Ivy Borders of Duluth, GA and several nieces and nephews.

Services were held at 11 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 30 at Hynes Funeral Home in Margaretville with the Rev. S. Hayden Walsh officiating.

Burial will be in Wood Cemetery in Arkville.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Memorial Fund at Robinson Terrace Nursing Home of Stamford.

Uncle Earl was the last of his generation and will be missed. His death makes my cousins and myself the "Older Generation."

~ Sandra

What was going on in 1600?!

Life in Europe During the Time of Jean de Vermeille

What was it like when Jean de Vermeille decided to leave France at the close of the 16th century and emigrate to England? How did the family later get from England to Holland where they boarded ship for yet another emigration? This is what I intend to spell out as best I can.

We must begin with a little history review. This may be boring reading, and you may want to skip to where I talk about our early ancestors. But an awareness of history adds something to the story. You have to decide what to read!

Our roots lie in Europe, and specifically in that portion of northern France known as the Artois. The present border between France and Belgium is not far away; the English Channel lies about 60 miles to the West. In the 1500's there was a heavy presence of Spain in the area. The Spanish kings were in control of the seas, and Spanish navigators were exploring all over the world. They were very powerful politically and militarily. It was not until 1568 that there was a revolt against Spanish rule, and in 1580 the predominantly Protestant Northern provinces of this Spanish territory formed a Dutch Republic, the United Provinces. Spain did not acknowledge the existence of this new nation until 1648. But until the last half of the 16th century that area we now know as Holland and Belgium was Spanish. And Spain was very Catholic.

In the 1500's, Catholic England claimed the northern portion of what is now France where it bordered the Channel. In fact, King Henry VIII crossed the Channel in 1520 to meet with France's King Francis I. The place where they met became known as the Field of the Cloth of Gold. England retained its hold on the continent until 1558 when they lost Calais to the Duc de Guise, a powerful French nobleman (and a powerful Catholic). It was about this time that Protestants in France began to suffer persecution for their religious beliefs.

In northern France were the homes of nearly all the French refugees, mostly Picards and Walloons, who came to Haarlem. In most external, they were in advance of districts to the South. Artois and Picardy abounded in grains, grasses, and fruit. The area was called the granary of the Netherlands. Riker says that

“no class of Gallic blood was more remarkable than the Walloons. Extending eastward from the river Lys, beyond both the Scheldt and Meuse, embracing French or Walloon Flanders, most of Artois, Chambresis, Hainault, Namur, southern Brabant, parts of Liege and Luxemburg. The Walloons were a hardy, long-lived race, tall, stout and muscular. They were noted for plainness of tastes, manners and dress.

They spoke a crude French patois, unchanged for centuries. They were descendents from old Belgae - cool and pertinacious. They had a natural love of arms and courage.

Caesar describes them as the bravest of all the Gauls. Tenacious of their rights, litigious, hospitable, social. They were very devout Romans."

Towns in Northern France were mostly located on rivers or old Roman ways. Tiled houses, two or three stories high, were occupied by merchants and traders - the burghery - the enterprising and well-to-do middle class. The mansions were occupied by lords and gentry - the upper strata of society. Our ancestor probably lived in one of the squatty, cottage-like houses with low eaves, windows more like lookouts, admitting little air or sunlight - with no panes - a luxury too great for these artisans or toiling class. The clergy surpassed all often with well endowed rectories, monasteries.

More Riker:

"Some villages had generally sprung up either upon the estates and about the castles of the nobility, whose descendents still occupied them and were the Lords of the soil, or about ancient monasteries which held the fee of the ample domains on which they were seated. The inhabitants of these villages, mainly tillers of the ground, were largely tenants either of the nobility or the clergy. And many of these peasants, 'to the manor born,' were still under the old vassalage. In such cases, the poor ploughman or hedger sighed in vain for other employment or better wages; virtually tied to the soil, he was as much a fixture as his humble cottage, or the old village church where he had been christened; at whose altar he had so often bowed, and beneath whose shadow, with the forgotten of ages, his weak frame would rest at last. So oppressive were these bands, even in Picardy and Normandy, that, waiving the claim which birth and service gave him upon his lord for protection and support, the bondman would often abandon his home to carve out a fortune elsewhere."

It is probable that everyone in Vermeille village was involved in one way or another with the manufacture of linens: growing flax, carding flax, weaving.

Lille, about 50 miles to the east, was the capital of French Flanders, and the center of the Walloons. It was the chief emporium of cloth manufacture. Round about it, and in all Walloon Flanders, were Douay, and Tournay. Smaller cities were Orchies, Armentierres, LaBasse, St. Armand and 193 boroughs and villages. It is probable that Vermeille was one of these boroughs. They formed the heart of the great woolen and linen country.

Amsterdam, as the great commercial mart of Holland, and the seat of the principal chamber of the Dutch West Indies Company, had become the great point of embarkation for colonists going to New Netherlands. They came from all parts of the country; but not only the native Dutch and fugitives from France and Catholic Netherlands, but also refugees from the German and Scandanavian countries. They were not criminals; they were men persecuted on account of their love of civil liberty, or their devotion to their religious tenets. The Dyckmans came from the County of Bentham, part of Westphalia bordering on the Overysse. The Waldrons were from Amsterdam and were book printers. Each of these families married into the Vermilye family.

England first became an asylum for some settlers. Many persecuted refugees from France and Flanders took that direction. They landed principally at Dover, Sandwich and Rye. They set up manufactures, mainly those of cloth and linen. Many by invitation went inland to Canterbury, Norwich, etc., and still more up the Thames to London. Bound to their fellow refugees in Holland, there was free intercourse, and travel from one country to the other.

Protestantism and Huguenots

But how did Protestantism get to northern France? One factor was simply that the laity suddenly had access to the Bible, first printed about 1436 by a man named Johann Gutenberg in Mainz in Germany. The increasing availability of the Bible to ordinary people led to a religious ferment across all of Europe. The common mind ventured to roam in new channels of thought including science, religion, and human rights. Thus the society was ripened for the great moral reforms of the 16th century.

In 1517, the Austrian priest named Martin Luther started what became known as the European Reformation within the Catholic Church by posting on the door of the Cathedral in Wittenberg, Germany, a list of 95 demands that he claimed the Church had to honor to “cleanse” itself from what he saw as theological laxity and corruption. The followers of this man and his beliefs became known as Lutherans. Luther’s act, and his subsequent translation of the Bible into German, was to split the Catholic Church apart and give rise to several groups who protested (were protestants), as he did, the failings of the Catholic Church.

VERMILYA FAMILY ASSOCIATION

Address Correction Requested!

