

Vermilya/e/ea/er's
Historically Speaking



OCTOBER NOVEMBER DECEMBER

1997

Volume II, Number IV
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The Vermilyea Family Association was organized in August of 1995. 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 Vermilya/e/ea/er family origins, stories and history with the rest of our clan.

Vermilya/e/ea/er's "Historically Speaking" is a newsletter publication put out by the Vermilyea Family Association a non-profit organization staffed by volunteers.

President: Joe Vermilye
Record Keeper/Treasurer: Sandra Vermilyea 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 (January through December), prorated at \$6 for six months or less, made payable to The Vermilyea Family Association.

REMINDER 1998 MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS ARE DUE JANUARY 1, 1998. (Still a bargain at \$12.00 a year)
Memberships in the VFA make great Christmas (or any occasion) gifts. Everyone enjoys learning more about FAMILY!

Dear Family,

Yes, the look is different and I must explain. When I heard from Joanne that her husband Charlie had surgery the first part of October I volunteered to help out by doing the newsletter this time. Charlie is now recuperating at home - our Best Wishes for a speedy recovery.

In this issue is the complete list of our 1997 members including our newest members. Thanks to all of you for your support and encouragement. We are looking forward to sharing our family information and news with you again in 1998. Please remember we need to hear from you - your suggestions as well as your contributions to this newsletter are needed to make it successful.

Our thanks to Carl Vermilyea - or is it Vermilya or..... We all have a interest in the history of the different spellings of our surname. My grandfather William who was born in 1861 and died in 1943 was born Vermilya and died Vermilyea. What caused him to change the spelling? Or did he? Could he be like me, getting sick of changing the spelling on my drivers license I finally decided to ignore the latest spelling VERMILLYEA - it's a losing battle. His brothers and sister kept the Vermilya spelling for their life time. As you may know if you have researched the Vermilyea family, William is a most common Vermilyea name. When the spelling of the last name changes -well much time is spent sorting out who is who. One time I found my grandfather with the middle initial O. (Orville?) on the 1892 New York State census. This was in the early stages of my research and I thought it to be a great discovery, however that was the only time I ever saw it.

My apologies to our long time members who have not yet seen their chart in the newsletter. They are coming. I have a few problems printing complete charts for some members with the computer program I am currently using - I am working on this. Included in this issue is the chart for Judy Bockstahler, Arlington, TX.

I have a very interesting file on the Vermilya Boener House sent to me by Tom Vermilye of Olanthe, Kansas. Tom and his wife Cynthia did much research on this home which is on the National Register of Historic Places and located in Lawrence, Kansas. Look for this report on the house and the family that built it in up coming issues.

John and I had the pleasure of joining several of our Pennsylvania cousins for lunch the early part of September in Pennsylvania. The Vermilyas - Marlene, Ed and Mary, Lyle and Ginny and John Griswold meet us in Grover as we were passing on our way to New York. Had a nice visit and discussed the reunion plans. Ed and Mary visited us later in the month and we made the final plans for June 1998. That afternoon Jim and Cheryl Vermilyea came over and we enjoyed viewing the reunion video.

After a dry summer here in North Carolina we are finally getting rain - just in time for the State Fair. Oh well, at least its cooler.

Much Love and Happiness at this special time of year.

Sandra

VERMILYEA FAMILY BOOK

I have started to research the publishing of a updated version of the Vermilyea Family book that I self published in September of 1995. This is not something I planned to do, but as many of you know I now have nearly double the family information I had at that time, and I still get requests for the book. I stopped printing it over a year ago since it is so out of date. I have made an effort to get the corrections and new information out in the form of a new page to each person that has a book, but it has become impossible to include all my new research and the information provided to me by you.

I have set a goal to have this project completed in time to distribute the books at the Wellsboro Reunion June 1998, of course they would be available by mail also. With this in mind I would need all family information for the book by March 30, 1998 so that I could have it ready for the printer no later than May 15, 1998. Please advise me of any updates and changes you would like included. Vermilyea Family Association members who have submitted their family information to the association need to contact me if they **DO NOT** want their information included in the book. Even though we distribute basically to our members and families, what they do with this information is beyond our control. In affect the information in the book will in fact become public information and could reappear most any place. Anyone having family photos of good quality and would like to have them included please contact me for instructions on how to submit them - **DO NOT SEND ANY ORIGINAL PHOTOS**. Your suggestions and comments are appreciated.

Sandra



TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance as of June 30, 1997 _____ \$348.25

DEPOSITS:

July 3, 1997 Membership _____	12.00
July 21, 1997 Membership and Donation _____	6.50
August 6, 1997 Donation from Vermilyea Family Reunion (newsletter postage) _____	16.00
August 8, 1997 Donation (Carl Vermilyea over payment for pictures) _____	5.00
August 11, 1997 Membership _____	6.00
September 12, 1997 Seven Memberships _____	84.00

BALANCE AS OF October 1, 1997 \$477.75

Sandra Vermilyea Todd

CHECK US OUT

The VERMILYEA FAMILY ASSOCIATION is now on line! We have created two web pages for the viewing pleasure of anyone who cruises the Internet, but especially for Vermilyeas. Joanne has done a wonderful job designing and maintaining our web page at <http://members.aol.com/vfa95/vfa.htm>. Its a general overview of the history and purpose of the Vermilyea Family Association.

The end of July I placed a VERMILYEA FAMILY REUNION Web Page on the Internet. The address is <http://members.aol.com/vermreun/fampage1.htm> This is an effort to keep everyone interested in the East Coast Vermilyea Family Reunion informed about plans for next years reunion. It's updated each time new information is available. I will be glad to notify you when updates are made. Either e-mail me _____ or just click on my name at the bottom of the Home Page and send me a message with your request. Be sure to check out the group picture that was taken at the reunion while you are there. We can also link to the VERMILYEA FAMILY ASSOCIATION Web Page.

Next years reunion will be held at Wellsboro, Pennsylvania June 27, 1998. Thanks to Ed and Mary Vermilya many of the arrangements have already been made. If you don't have access to the Internet, invitations will be mailed sometime after the first of the year with all the details, or contact me anytime for information.

If you have access to the Internet via a computer, please visit these web sites and send your comments our way.

VERMEILLE TO VERMILYE/A

by Carl P. Vermilyea

Ever since I learned how our ancestor Isaac Vermeille spelled his surname, I've been curious about how I ended up with Vermilyea. Research has provided some answers, but questions remain.

It seems the more I read about our ancestors, the more spelling variations I find. Most of the inconsistent, incorrect and/or unique spellings are in Federal and State censuses. I suspect those resulted from census takers writing down what they thought they heard rather than asking the respondent to spell the name. What has surprised me, though, is that genealogy authors were similarly guilty. For example, when discussing Isaac's son, Johannes Vermelje, John Benton¹ used the spellings Vermilje and Vermilya while James Riker² used Vermelje, Vermilye and Vermilyea. From what I've found, it appears that Isaac Vermeille never changed his surname -that was his father's surname and he used it after he immigrated to New Harlem (New York City).³ The spelling changes started with his son, Johannes (Isaac's only son known to have had heirs), and continued with Johannes' sons. Evidence indicates they changed the spelling several times so it would correspond to its pronunciation in the predominant dialect in their environs. This premise is validated by Mr. Riker. He wrote (on page 642 of his book): "The letter j (with Hollanders) having the sound of our English y when the latter begins a word or syllable; Johannes only conformed to the Dutch mode of writing his name, without changing its terminal pronunciation, which is well-preserved the modern spelling Vermilye, but better (since e in Dutch, as in French, takes the sound of a) by Vermilyea." It's a safe assumption that Johannes was born Vermeille in Holland. We know he used Vermelje after immigrating,⁴ and, if Mr. Riker is correct, he may also have used other spellings.

Johannes had only two sons who became heads of families, Isaac and John. References point to them and their children as the sources of the modern spellings of Vermilya, Vermilye and Vermilyea. Mr. Riker's statement, above, is a reasonable explanation of approximately when and why changes were made, Mr. Benton wrote (on page 70 of his book): "...the branch to which their descendants belong may generally be determined by the terminal letter of the name: those of Isaac's line ending with e or ea, and John's with a." I have been collecting information on branches of our extended family for many years. Between the references I've used and the superb research done, and shared, by Sandra V. Todd, it appears that Mr. Benton was correct. Well, maybe. I descend from John and am a yea; not a ya. Most records indicate that all my ancestors from John down to my great grandfather used Vermilya. Then, for some reason, records covering my line after the year 1900 show the terminal ending of yea. Could Mr. Benton have been wrong about the ea tying only to Isaac? Or, perhaps, did my great grandfather change the spelling? I think the latter; but, that's a mystery yet to be solved.

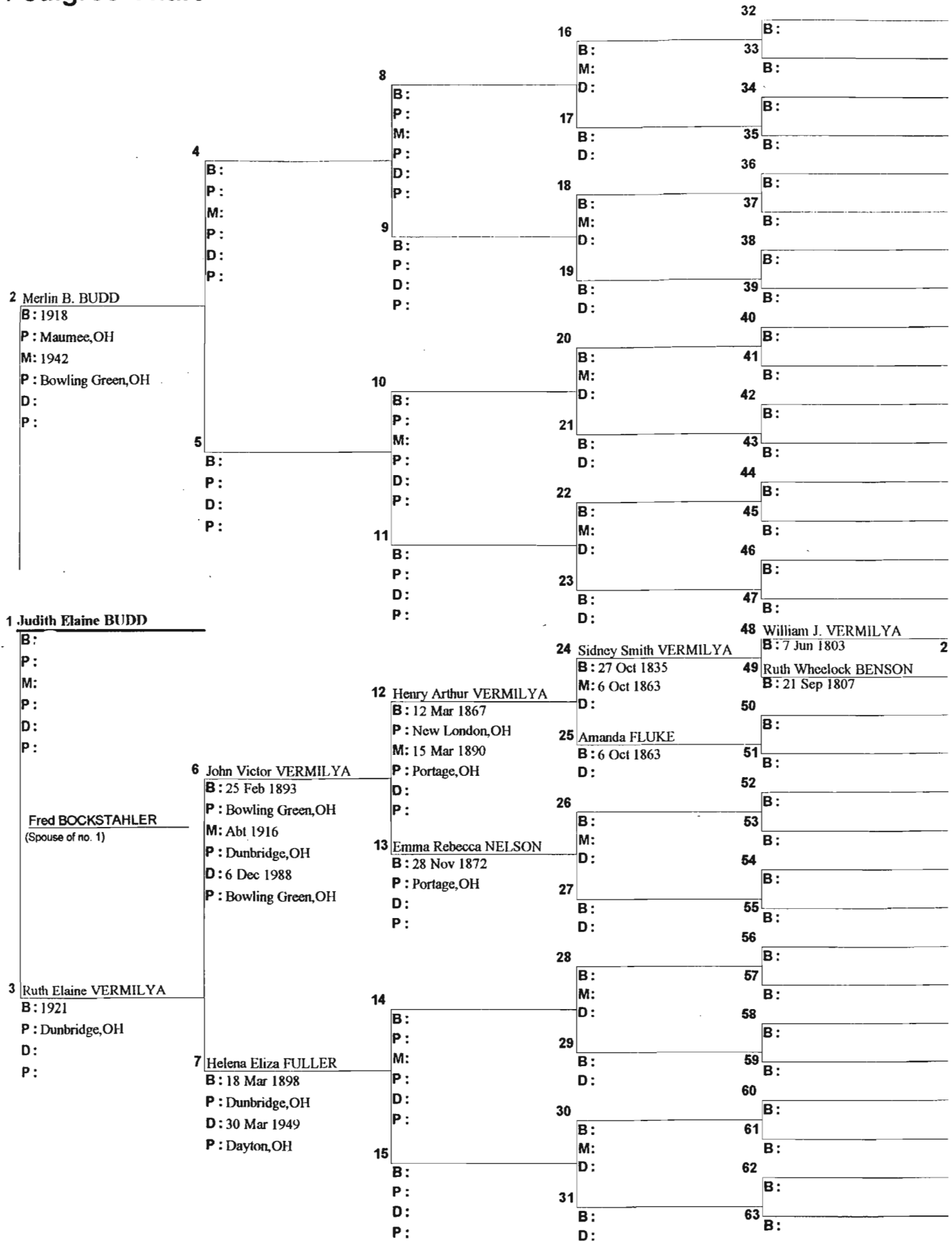
¹ "David Benton, Jr. and Sarah Bingham, Their Ancestors and Descendants; and Other Ancestral Lines" by John Hogan Benton, Esq. of Washington, D.C.; Boston; Press of David Clapp & Son, 1906.

² "Revised History of Harlem (City of New York) Its Origin and Early Annals" by James Riker, New Harlem Publishing Company, 1904.

³ In the publication "John Dyckman of Harlem and His Descendants" by H. Dorothy Romer and Helen B. Hartman, 1981, there is a copy of a list of signatures of early residents of New Harlem. The signatures of both Isaac and his son, Johannes, are included in the list.

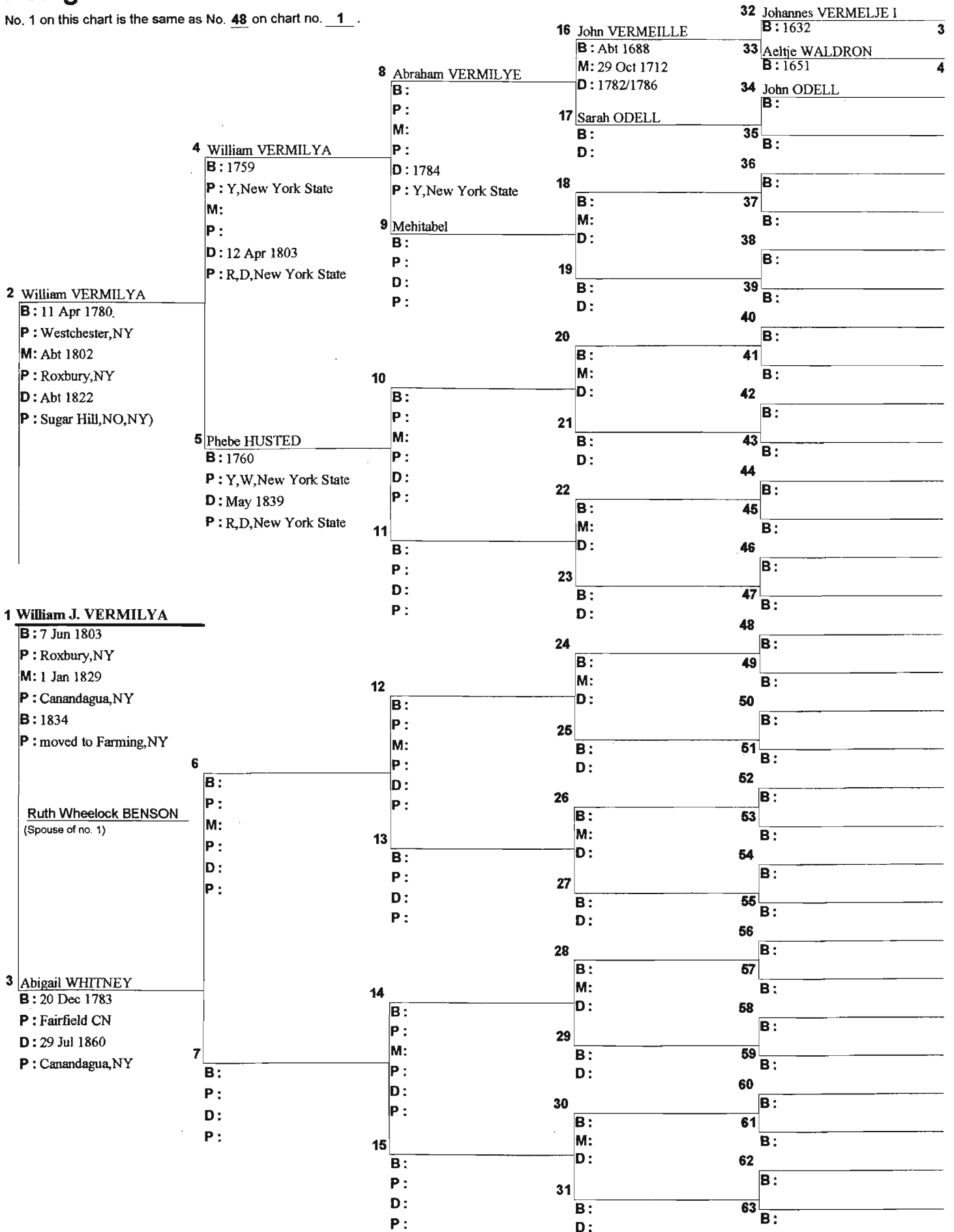
⁴ Ibid.

Pedigree Chart



Pedigree Chart

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



OLD-TIME OCCUPATIONS

I recently came upon a list of old-time occupations and thought I would share some of my favorites with you.

ANKLE BEATER: young person who helped to drive the cattle to market.

BANG BEGGAR: officer of the parish who controlled the length of stay of any stranger to the parish.

BANKER: dug trenches and ditches to allow drainage of the land, placing the surplus earth in banks around the edge.

BELLOWFARMER: responsible for the care and maintenance of the church organ.

BELLY BUILDER: person who built and fitted the interiors of pianos.

BONE PICKER: collected rags and bones aka Rag and Bone Man.

BULLWHACKER: oxen driver.

BUNTER: female rag and bone collector.

EARTH STOPPER: person who plugs up animal holes.

NOB THATCHER: wig maker.

LAVENDER: washer woman.

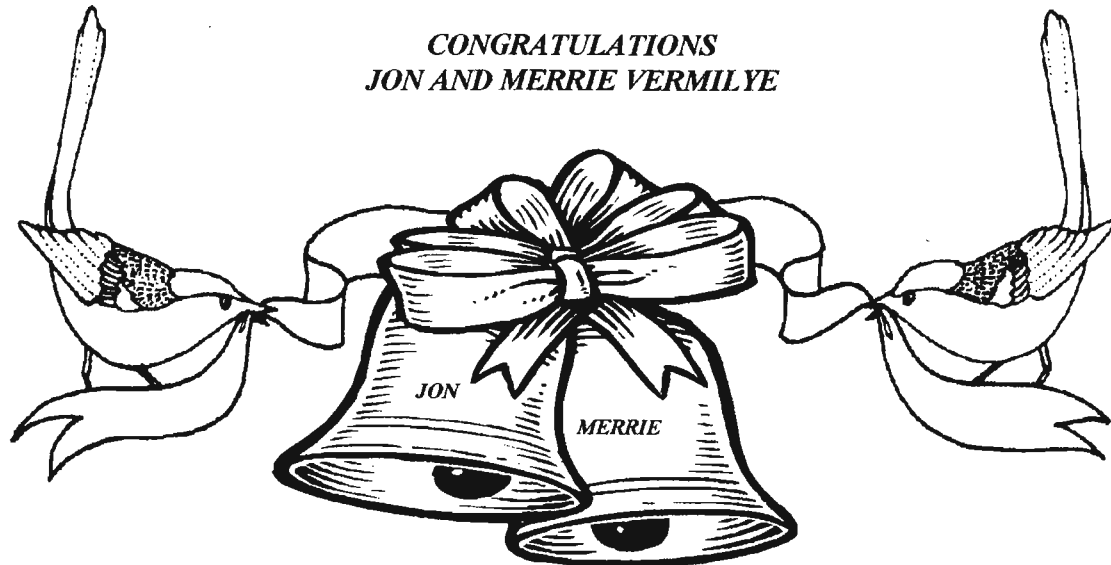
SANDWICHMAN: wears a sandwich billboard for advertising.

RATONER: rat catcher.

TAPLEY: One who puts the tap in an ale cask.

WANTER: mole catcher.

Sandra




September 26, 1997 Jonathon (Jon) Lee Vermilye married Merrie Christmas Bartlett. Joe Vermilye had the honor and great pleasure of being a groomsman in the wedding. Jon is the son of Joe and Shawna Vermilye of Rainier, OR and of Linda Vermilye of So. Bend, WA. Merrie is the daughter of Russell and Pamela Erbstoesser of Castle Rock, WA and Marie Bartlett of Clarendon Hills, Ill. The couple is living in Kelso, WA.

RIKER'S BOOK AVAILABLE

I have received many inquiries about Riker's Revised History of Harlem, Its Origin and Early Annals, by James Riker, New Harlem Publishing Co., New York 1904. Dayl Stout informs me that reprints of this book are available and can be ordered from Clear Field Company Inc., 200 E. Eager St., Baltimore, MD 21202. Telephone: 410-625-9004 — FAX 410-752-8492. Dayl has ordered from this company with good results and suggests ordering a catalog.

LOOKING FOR INFORMATION

As some of you who were at the Williamsport, PA, reunion may remember, I have a black-and-white photo of a painting that I discovered at the Dayton (Ohio) Art Institute. The painting itself is a primitive, early 19th century, of "Mrs. Leland Vermilya as a young girl." It is now in storage there, but when it was displayed, I seem to remember that the tag said, "Joanna Vermilya as a child." I am therefore looking for information about Leland Vermilya or his wife, who may have been named "Joanna." If you or a relative has such information, you may send it to me via the VFA address, i.e. Sandra V. Todd's address, or email me at



BIRTHDAYS

October 10	Eva G. Clark,
October 12	Mark Vandersteen (Shawna's son)
October 14	Shawna Vermilye
October 22	Frank Edgar (Ed) Vermilya, Amanda Giffiths (Shawna's daughter)
October 26	John R. Todd Sr.
November 6	Jocelyn MacArthur
November 8	Sandra Vermilyea Todd
November 9	Steve Vermilya
December 19	Sherry Robinson Todd,
December 23	Dennis Vermilya,
December 24	Judy Budd Bockstahler
December 25	Merrie Christmas Vermilye
December 28	Frank E. Vermilyea
December 31	Lynn D. Vermilyea
January 2	Helen Vermilya

HAPPY BIRTHDAY EVERYONE!

1997 MEMBER LIST

Barbara Balluff
Judy Bockstahler
*Norvell & Paula Burkholder
Eva G. Clark
Debra Vermilyea Hardy
*Linda Vermilyea Kincaid
Penny & Allan Massey
Joanne Vermilya MacArthur
*Olive Vermilyea Miner
Madonna Vermilyea Stanovsky
Dayl & Jennie Stout
John R. Todd Jr.
Sandra Vermilyea Todd
*Dennis Vermilya
*Ed & Mary Vermilya
Helen Vermilya
*John R. Vermilya
*Lyle & Ginny Vermilya
*Suzanne K. Vermilya
*Marlene Vermilya
*Steve & Judy Vermilya
Webb H. Vermilya
Dyckman Vermilye
Joe & Shawna Vermilye
Jon & Merrie Vermilye
Timothy Vermilye
Carl Vermilyea
Dennis Vermilyea
Ed & Janet Vermilyea
Frank & Becky Vermilyea
Fritz Vermilyea
Jim & Cheryl Vermilyea
Lynn & Nancy Vermilyea
Silas Vermilyea
Joelle Vermilye Wheeler

* Indicates New Member

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

VERMILYEA FAMILY ASSOCIATION

Address Correction Requested