

Vermilya/e/ea/er's...
Historically Speaking



"You are a piece of the puzzle"

Volume IV, Number 2
April, May, June 1999

The Vermilye/a Family Organization 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 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.

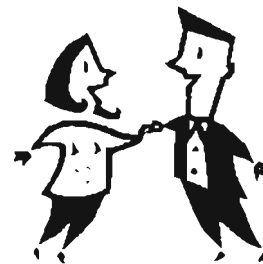
President: Joe Vermilye
Record Keeper/Treasurer: Sandra V. Todd

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.

Greetings!



Cousins, Family, and Friends:

It is hard to describe my excitement about the upcoming reunion of our great family. This might give you just a small idea of what seems to happen and how much fun it is. The invitations are included in this news letter, but there are also websites where information about our gathering has been displayed for some time, such as <http://members.aol.com/vermreun/fampage1.htm>. Reservations are starting to come in good numbers and it looks like we are going to have representation from all over the US and possibly further.

Not too long ago I had the great pleasure of being contacted by Wilma Vermilyer and her Husband James Earl. First, this is the exciting because I have never ever had the pleasure of meeting or being in contact with Wilma and her husband. Our organization and gatherings do this: we are able to meet new cousins and relatives, something that's fun and interesting. Second, this is exciting because they have a special spelling of our name that I'm not as familiar with. I have come to believe no matter how you spell it, we are in fact all related. Would it not be fun to be able to go back and investigate the reasons for the variation in spellings? Third, this is exciting because she appears to have information that Sandra (Vermilyea) Todd does not have. (I didn't know there was any that Sandra didn't have! - *JVM*)

Now that is what we are all about: filling in all the pieces of the huge puzzle. It is so exciting when we are able to identify and place on the tree their names and history. This is just one small example of the fun and excitement that this years reunion will bring. Please join us and come together to share and celebrate our great family.

My address (as well as some others) is on the invitation and registration. Please feel free to let me know how I can help you. There are several people working on this, of course, and they will all be recognized and thanked there in Twin Rocks. See you there!

~Joe Vermilye, Pres. VFA

TOLER & NUTTING,
COUNSELLORS AT LAW
EXCHANGE COURT, (ROOM 3),
EXCHANGEPLACE,
NEW YORK.

WILLIAM PENNINGTON TOLER,

HARMON DE PAU NUTTING.

TELEPHONE CONNECTION.

May 1, 1903.

MY DEAR SIR or MADAM:

(1.) As a descendant from one of the twenty-three grantees in the Patents and Grants Herein described, you are directly interested in lands and properties, many millions in value, situated within the limits of the present City of New York, together with rights, privileges and franchises connected therewith.

(2.) Between 1664 and 1699, under Grants and Charters from the King of England and his brother the Duke of York, through Governors Nicolls and Dongan, twenty-three men were created a Corporation known as the "Town of New Harlem," and said body corporate, under such Grants and Charters, became owner of certain lands on Manhattan Island (now forming a part of the City of New York), together with certain rights, privileges and franchises, among others, those incident to the constitution and government of a town, as more particularly set forth in said Grants and Charters.

(3.) The names of the twenty-three grantees (including your ancestor) follow:
John Delaball, Peter Van Oblinus [Oblenus], Resolved Waldron, Jan Dykeman [Dyckman], Joost Van Oblinus [Oblinus], Jan Nagel, Daniel Tourneur, Arent Harmanse [Bussing], Adolph Meyer [Myer], Cornelis Jansen [Kortwright], John Spragge, Jacqueline Tourneur, Jan Hendricks Brevoort, Hester Delamater, Jan Delamater, Johannes Verveelen [Van Valen], Isaac Delamater, William Haldron [Holdrum], Barent Waldron, Abraham Montaine [De La Montanye], Johannes Vermilje [Vermilje], Peter Parmentier, Lawrence Jansen [Low],

(4.) All lands on Manhattan Island east and north of the line between New York and Harlem, and certain other lands outside of said Island, were given, granted and conveyed by said patents to the twenty-three grantees above named, and to their "heirs, successors and assigns forever."

(5.) As such descendant, as aforesaid, you are a member of said Corporation and entitled to participate in its government, including, among other powers, the right to reduce to possession and to dispose of all lands and properties belonging to said Corporation not heretofore lawfully alienated.

(6.) Certain of the lands so granted were divided by the Town among the twenty-three original members of the Corporation; certain other of such lands remain today undivided, either unoccupied or in the possession of unlawful occupants.

(7.) All previous efforts to recover these lands, rights and properties have failed, because based on the theory that in law said properties vested in the individual heirs of the original twenty-three grantees named, instead of in the Corporation, the "Town of New Harlem," as is now known.

(8.) It therefore becomes necessary, in order to exercise control over or disposition of such lands and properties so belonging to the "Town of New Harlem," that the Town, as such, in its corporate capacity, take the initial action in any such proceedings.

(9.) The "Town of New Harlem" Corporation, being now dormant, must therefore hold a Town Meeting for the purpose of electing proper officers, adopting a common Seal and taking such other corporate action as may be found necessary to enable it to resume the exercise of its corporate functions.

(10.) A little less than two years ago Mr. Henry Pennington Toler undertook: I. To trace the living descendants and prove their descent from the said twenty-three original grantees, by means of church and public records, ancient manuscripts and other sources of information and evidences which at this time it is not deemed advisable to disclose. II. To secure proof of the location, extent and present condition of the lands and properties Conveyed by said Grants and Charters. III. To investigate and determine through counsel the requisite legal methods for the recovery of said rights and properties—involving an exhaustive research of all facts and law bearing on the subject.

(11.) It is needless to add that these efforts have been successfully carried on without the aid of the "Harlem Records," which records, as is well known, were several years ago abstracted from the New York City Archives.

(12.) The primary purpose of this communication is to secure authority to legally call a Town Meeting of the "Town of New Harlem" (of which notice will be hereafter given)—a meeting of the successors—the living descendants of the twenty-three original grantees herein described. To this end and purpose, a document, duplicate of the one enclosed, granting the necessary authority for calling such meeting, is being forwarded to each member of such Corporation traced and located as above indicated. You are requested to sign and acknowledge before a Notary Public "Authority to Call a Meeting" herewith enclosed.

(13.) It is manifest that with the thousands of members of said body corporate, widely scattered as they are, it is inexpedient and impracticable, if not impossible, for them to unite, recover, control and govern the vast properties and interests involved as a body aggregate, except in one way, viz.: by the appointment of an attorney in fact—one head—one duly authorized representative or sole agent—to act for and in the place of said body and its numerous members.

(14.) When a meeting of the Corporation shall have been held, and its proper officers duly elected from among its members, Mr. Henry Pennington Toler will present to such meeting a offer to commence and prosecute; for and on behalf of said Corporation and its members, suits in equity or other appropriate actions to recover the lands and properties now belonging to said Corporation unlawfully withheld from its control, to the end that such Town may make proper division of such lands, properties and rights among the members thereof. Mr. Toler, in consideration of his undertaking the recovery of said lands, and of the cost incurred and to be incurred by him, having acquired, at his own expense, the necessary proofs and evidences for this purpose, will ask of said Corporation a sum equal to one-quarter of the net proceeds of the properties upon the recovery, division and disposal of same. It is expressly understood and agreed that you are not held responsible or liable for any expense heretofore or hereafter incurred by Mr. Toler in this matter, nor shall he be liable to said Corporation, or the members thereof, for any costs or expenses incurred by the Town or such members.

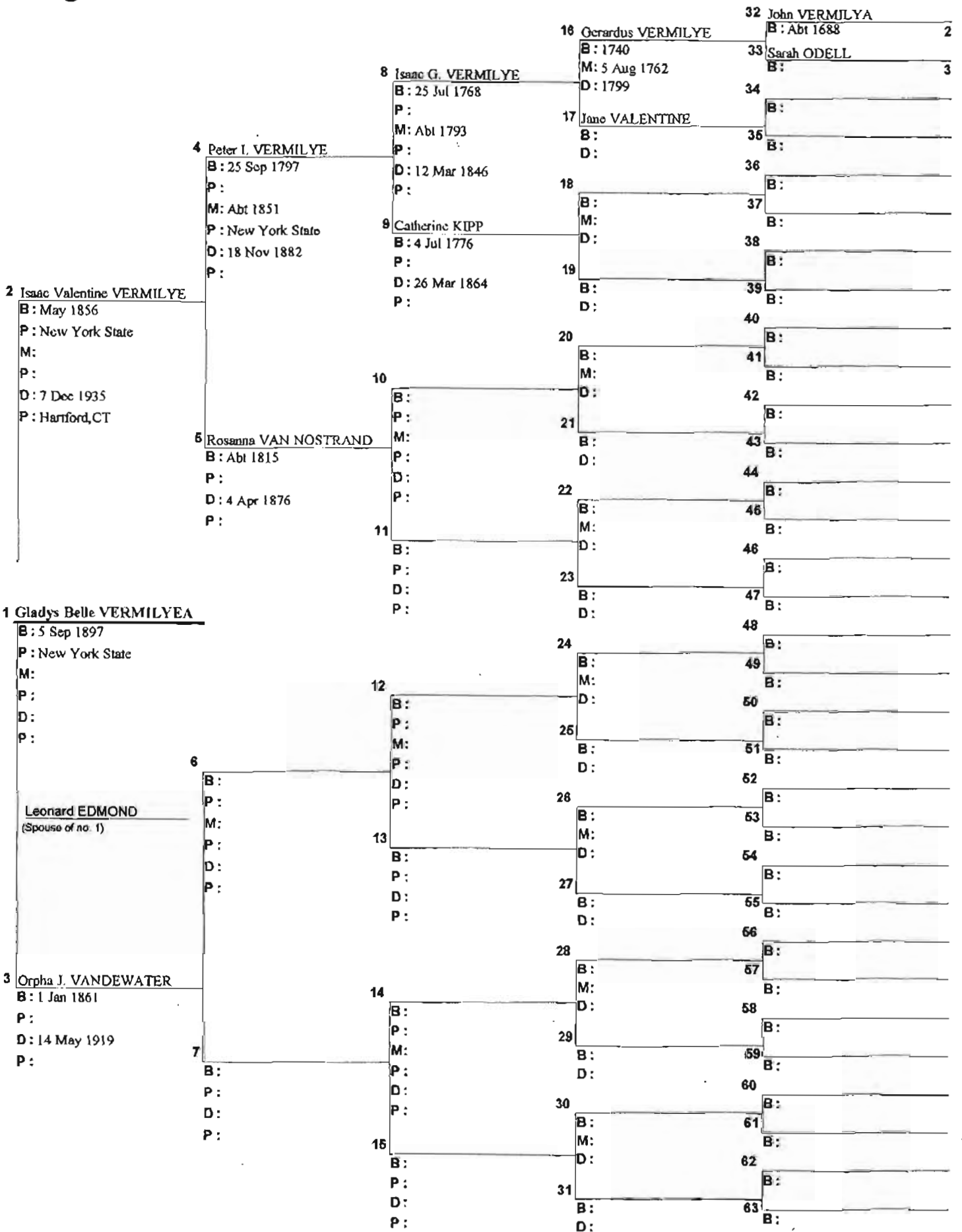
(15.) To insure the largest possible representation at such meeting of the living members of said Corporation, we are counting upon the assistance of yourself and all other members, and would respectfully urge upon you the importance of duly acknowledging the enclosed "Authority to Call a Meeting" of the "Town of New Harlem," and returning same at once.

(16.) The genealogical work we have been preparing for publication is in print, and when completed will constitute a "Membership Roll" of said body corporate.

(17.) If any members of your family (who are in the same line of descent as yourself) have not received copies of this letter, please send us their full names and postoffice addresses at once. Bear in mind that all descended directly from the twenty-three original grantees through the male

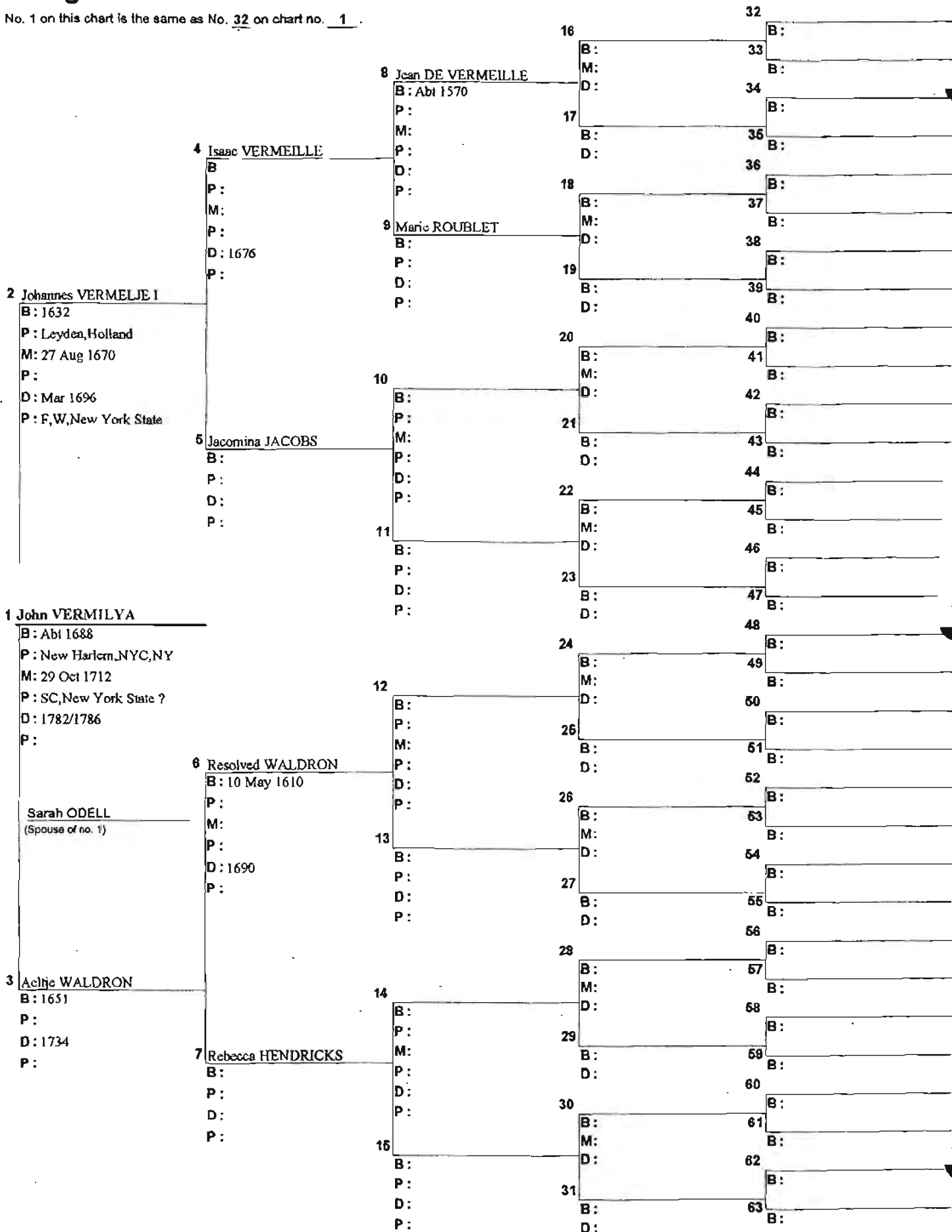
Pedigree Chart

Chart no. 1



Pedigree Chart

No. 1 on this chart is the same as No. 32 on chart no. 1



line, or collaterally by marriage through the female line (keeping in mind that the blood of the twenty-three original grantees only is being traced) are members of the Corporation.

(18.) All descendants over fourteen years of age are asked to execute the "Authority to Call a Meeting."

(19.) If any descendant has at any time signed any quit claim deed or similar document affecting his supposed interest in any Harlem lands as an "heir," it is of no effect in a proceeding of this nature, and need not deter him from signing the enclosed "Authority to Call a Meeting" of the Corporation above described.

(20.) To anticipate inquiry regarding Mr. Henry Pennington Toler, we beg to say that he is a graduate of Princeton University; a member of the New York Stock Exchange, and senior member of the firm of Toler & Higgins, Bankers and Brokers, of No. 7 Wall Street, New York City.

(21.) The lapse of time since the issue of the Grants and Charters mentioned, and the occupancy of said lands adversely, need not cause apprehension; the rights and privileges under said documents being conclusively, protected by leading and controlling decisions of the Supreme Court of the United States, as well by the Constitution of the United States and of the State of New York.

(22.) We cannot too strongly emphasize the importance of having the enclosed "Authority to Call a Meeting" duly signed, executed and returned to us at your earliest convenience, as the institution of any proceedings looking to the recovery, control and distribution of the vast properties involved, in which you are vitally interested, is dependent upon concerted action of the members of the Corporation—the "Town of New Harlem."

Very truly yours,

TOLER & NUTTING,

Counsellors at Law,

Exchange Court (Room 3),

Exchange Place, N. Y.

To

*The Members of the
Corporation—the "Town of New Harlem."*



AN EXPLOSIVE TALE

My father, John Fuller Vermilya (Bowling Green, Ohio) son of John Victor Vermilya, only recently shared this story with me - after all these years! ~ *Joanne V. MacArthur*



"Your grandpa (*John V.*) once made wine. No, that's not quite right; he bottled some beer for some workers who were living in the chicken shed. Oh, we made the shed up real nice, cleaned it and everything. They were field workers; don't remember the name. It was sometime in the '30's. So anyway, they made a batch of beer and asked Dad to bottle it for them. They said to put a teaspoon of sugar in the bottle, then cap it off. Well, Dad wanted to give them good measure, so he put a heaping tablespoon of sugar in each bottle!"

"The tenant took his bottled brew back to their chicken shed living quarters, and, perhaps several weeks later went to try a bottle. He pried off the cap, and the beer blew sky-high! Nothing was left in the bottle! He decapped another, and the same thing happened! Frustrated, he took the next cap off practically in his mouth. The blow-off nearly killed him! He coughed and wheezed and choked for fifteen minutes."

"Finally, in a desperate attempt to save his [probably illegal] bottlings, the tenant, with your Granddad's help, cleaned out a wash tub really good, and decanted every bottle into it, then rebottled the lot. It really was preferable to having them blow up under the bed."

~~~~~

### Email Addresses:

Slowly but surely, we are creating an internet contact list of Vermilye/a/er email addresses. The following will be added to as you send yours to us. :-)

Joanne V. MacArthur  
Sandra V. Todd  
Joe Vermilye  
Tim Vermilye  
John Fuller Vermilya  
Judy Bockstahler

It was brought to my attention that the clever exercise of the last newsletter entitled "Which Day of the Week" inadvertently was incomplete, without the final step! I reproduce the page, complete this time. (Note Step 7 at the bottom.) ~Joanne

## WHICH DAY OF THE WEEK WAS THAT?

by Carl P. Vermilyea (#1774)

On occasions, I've had a need to determine the day of the week on which a specific date fell. For example: I found an obituary that had been clipped from a newspaper and put in an old scrapbook. The name and date, but not day of the week, of the newspaper was written in the margin. The obituary did not show the date of death but did say he died "on Tuesday." To get the exact date of death, I had to determine the day of the week of the date written in the margin and, then, backtrack (and, assume that the obituary was published not more than six days after the death). Another example: one of my children asked me: "On which day of the week was I born?" Of course, my wife knew; but, as much as I don't like to admit it, I had no idea.

A few years ago, I found a booklet, *Metric Conversion Guide and Daily Planner, 1975, Jones and Swazey Inc.*, containing a formula for determining the day of the week for any date since September 1752. Below is the formula as written in that reference. TRY IT!

This formula is correct for any date after September, 14, 1752.

Example: What day of the week was January 10th, 1946.

### Formula

- |                                                                   |    |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| (1) Take the last two digits of the year.                         | 46 |
| (2) Add a quarter of the number at (1), neglecting any remainder. | 11 |
| (3) Add the date in the month.                                    | 10 |
| (4) Add, according to the month:                                  | 1  |
| Jan:           1   (or in leap year: 0)                           |    |
| Feb:           4   (or in leap year: 3)                           |    |
| Mar:           4   Aug:           3                               |    |
| Apr:           0   Sep:           6                               |    |
| May:           2   Oct:           1                               |    |
| Jun:           5   Nov:           4                               |    |
| Jul:            0   Dec:           6                              |    |
| (5) Add for the 18th century: 4                                   |    |
| Add for the 19th century: 2                                       |    |
| Add for the 20th century: 0                                       | 0  |
| Add for the 21st century: 6                                       |    |

- (6) Divide the total by 7 and the remainder gives the day of the week as follows:

- |              |              |
|--------------|--------------|
| 1= Sunday    | 4= Wednesday |
| 2= Monday    | 5= Thursday  |
| 3= Tuesday   | 6= Friday    |
| 0 = Saturday |              |

(7) 68

63

5 = Thursday

$\overline{) 68}$   
63



## Third Annual USA/International Vermilya/e/ea/er Family Reunion Rockaway Beach, OR: June 12, 1999

Dear Cousins,

You are invited to a special reunion, gathering, and celebration of *FAMILY*. The last two have been held on the East Coast. Several of us felt that since we have so many cousins out here on the West Coast, that we wanted to host this one. **Registration must be received by May 15, 1999** to allow us plenty of opportunity to prepare. Many will be arriving Friday, June 11 with Sat. June 12 being scheduled with displays, raffles, door prizes, visiting, sharing, and of course the meeting and main dinner. On Sun. June 13 there will be opportunities for sight seeing and tours.

The reunion will be held at the **Twin Rocks Conference Center** on Hwy 101 at the South end of the small resort town of Rockaway Beach, OR. Cost of registration includes the use of the meeting hall and the dinner meal on Saturday. We plan to offer a souvenir T-shirt with appropriate logo and labeling and we want to take a group picture. To help defray costs not covered in the registration we will have a raffle of donated items.

Those of us that live out here on the West Coast are a bit biased, but we feel the beautiful Oregon Coast offers some of the most beautiful scenery in the world. The fun of the Oregon Coast is you never know what the weather man will provide. It has been known to be chilly in June, especially in the evenings. However, those of you that have attended previous reunions and have T-shirts or visors from them, be sure to bring and wear them.

Please **bring family memorabilia** such as pictures, family records, albums, news clippings, and anything that tells about our family. Display tables will be provided and sharing is the main emphasis of these gatherings. We want to have a raffle, so donations of items to be raffled will be welcomed.

**Lodging:** Rooms at the conference center are very limited. Call either Joe or Sandra if you want to try for one of those rooms otherwise here are some names and numbers of possible places to contact for lodging. The closest town to Rockaway Beach is Garibaldi. The biggest town closest to Rockaway Beach is Tillamook. Both are an easy and relatively short drive to Rockaway Beach.

### Rockaway Beach, OR:

Ocean Locomotion Motel  
Tradewinds Motel

503 355 2093  
503 355 2112

### Garibaldi, OR:

Bay Shore Inn, L.L.C.  
Western Royal Inn

503 322 2552  
503 322 3338 also 1 800 624 2912

### Tillamook, OR

Best Western Inn and Suites  
Shilo Inn

503 842 7599 also 1 800 299 4817  
503 842 7971 also 1 800 222 2244 (note Shilo states 10% senior discounts)

Western Royal Inn

503 842 8884 also 1 800 624 2912 (note Western Royal Inn states \$5 off for seniors)

### For those wanting RV camping hook ups:

### Rockaway Beach, OR

Shorewood RV Park  
Barview Jetty Park (county)

503 355 2278  
503 322 3522

### Garibaldi, OR

Biak Trailer Court  
Old Mill Marina Resort

503 322 0111  
503 322 0324

### Tillamook, OR:

Pacific Campground & RV Park  
Trask River Mobile Home & RV Park  
Tillamook Chamber of Commerce

503 842 5201  
503 842 6142  
503 842 7525

Check out the Vermilyea Family Reunion Web Page: [www.members.aol.com/vermreun/fampage1.htm](http://www.members.aol.com/vermreun/fampage1.htm)

# REUNION REGISTRATION FORM

Please complete and mail with your remittance to:  
Mrs. Sandra Vermilyea Todd

REGISTRATION AND FUNDS MUST BE RECEIVED BY **May 15, 1999**

I will be attending the Vermilyea Family Reunion on June 12, 1999, at Rockaway Beach, OR. (note if you can not attend but still wish to be informed of future plans, then return name and address to stay on mailing list)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Other family members that will be attending with me. (This information is needed for name tags.)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Members \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$15.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

T-shirts \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$14.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

sizes \_\_\_\_\_ medium \_\_\_\_\_ large \_\_\_\_\_ X large

I am enclosing \$ \_\_\_\_\_ total to cover Family Reunion Day (includes dinners and T-shirts as indicated)

Note on lunch: The Conference Center will provide lunch at an approximate cost of \$5 to \$6. If you wish to have lunch with those staying at the lodge you will be able to buy it there. We will need a count of those wanting to buy lunch. Please indicate the number of lunches you feel you would like to buy.

Total lunches \_\_\_\_\_

Any questions about additional lodging or accommodations at or around Rockaway Beach, please write or call me at :

Joe Vermilye

**VERMILYA FAMILY ASSOCIATION**

*VHS, Vol. IV, No. 2*

**Address Correction Requested!**



Sandra V. Todd

