

VERMILYEA/E/EA/ER'S...HISTORICALLY SPEAKING

Volume V, No. 2

April-May-June, 2000

We have again an article concerning **Vermilyea Place Names**, this time a street in New York City and the Dyckman House in Harlem.

Vermilyea Avenue, New York City, New York.

by Carl P. Vermilyea (#1774)

In this issue:

Vermilyea
Place Names
A History of
Harlem
Birthdays, New
Members &
more

Vermilyea Avenue is located at the northern end of Manhattan Island about two blocks east-north-east of the area known as The Cloisters. One block east of and running parallel to Broadway Avenue (Route 9), its terminal points are Dyckman Avenue in the south and 211th Street at the north. Along its stark, straight, 0.46 mile length are four- and five-story, walk-up, tenement (apartment) buildings of various shades of brown and rust colored brick; a fire station; and, on its southeast corner with Dyckman Avenue, a restaurant. The area is inhabited now by Hispanics and African-Americans; and, referred to as a part of "Spanish Harlem." When I visited the neighborhood in 1984, it was run-down and generally not considered safe for tourists. In 1998, I found a significant improvement.

The area was relatively clean, the exteriors of buildings were in a better state of repair and the people were friendly and helpful - a much more pleasant environment. During the daylight hours, tourists should have no problems. I have made no attempt to determine how Vermilyea Avenue came by its name; however, research has revealed that our ancestors owned large parcels of land in the area in the late 1600s and early 1700s.



Vermilyea Avenue, New York City, New York, 1998
(Looking north from Dyckman Avenue)

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From the Staff:

by Carl P. Vermilya

The 2001 VFA Reunion will be in the Amherst-Northampton area of Massachusetts; which, as you can see on your map, is just east of the Connecticut River. The exact date(s) and location have not been set. Our site coordinator, Pat Zukowski (Thanks, Pat, for volunteering!), is in the process of inquiring at the many hotels and motels in the area to find the best facilities for our needs. As more information becomes available, we will post it to our Web Site, and, of course, include it in upcoming editions of this newsletter.

One of the many goals the staff has set for itself is to improve the **Association's publicity tools**. This newsletter is one of them. Long-time members will notice the many format changes our publisher, Joanne Vermilya MacArthur, has made gradually over the past few editions. We hope you agree that these changes have enhanced both the appearance and effectiveness of the newsletter. Sandra Vermilyea Todd, our Secretary/Historian, is the one primarily concerned with providing the bulk of the articles published. She has done an outstanding job by providing a variety of interesting information and anecdotes covering our extended family. But, she needs the help of every member to ensure that we continue to include interesting articles. Please help us by sending Sandra information about your family and the results of your research. In the end, the newsletter will be only as good as you help make it.

Other publicity tools we use include the two **VFA Internet Web Sites** - one maintained by Joanne and the other by Sandra. Both have been updated and reformatted since the last newsletter; albeit, we recognize more work is needed and, thus, we will continue to make improvements. The sites are linked so that once you've reached one, it is easy to get to the other. Joanne has included at her site a copy of the membership application which can be easily printed out. She has also added a Guest Book in which folks can leave a message for all to read. I think you'll find that feature interesting. You may find there a message from a "long lost" relative to whom you can send an E-mail. Each message left in the Guest Book is acknowledged by Sandra Todd. Sandra, at her site, changes about once a month, the pictures of those who attended the 1999 Reunion in Oregon, and, she will be updating it periodically with information about the 2001 Reunion. We invite everyone to visit both sites - the addresses are on the inside back page of this newsletter. (For those without a computer, don't forget that most local libraries have computers which patrons may use to access internet websites.)

Where are all our artists? We were led to believe that there were many of you out there! In our last issue, we announced a "Tree Design Competition" aimed at creating a new tree symbol for the Association. As mentioned in the notice, the tree we are currently using is attractive and adequate; but, it is clip art. We believe it would be more meaningful and appropriate to have a tree designed and created by "one of our own." Only one response was received to our challenge. That does not make for a competition; so, we have canceled it for now. We intend to resurrect it in the future; perhaps next year. Those of you who are artists, or have artists in your family, please be thinking about a good tree design for our Association.

And, on a last note, Sandra has included in this newsletter information concerning the publications she is working on - the 2d printing of her 1998 edition of "**The Vermilyea Family**" and the update to the 1998 edition, which she aims to complete next year. If you are interested in obtaining either or both, I suggest you let Sandra know. That will enable her to better determine the number of copies to make. (Don't forget, these books make great gifts!)

BIRTHDAYS

April 9 Vivian Sladek,
May 2 Jo Vermilyea,
May 4 Kathlyn White Osmond,
May 8 Beverly Vermilyea Watson,
May 16 Joanne Vermilya MacArthur,
June 4 Madonna Vermilyea Stanovsky,
..... Jennie Stout,
June 18 John A. Holladay,
June 21 Carole Ann Vermilya Borkovec
July 8 Dyckman W. Vermilye,
July 11 Steven Andrew Russell,
July 13 Olive Vermilyea Miner,
July 14 John Ware Vermilye,
July 21 Edwin (Ed) Vermilyea,
August 9 Frederick J. (Fritz) Vermilyea
August 10 Barbara Fernkopf,

NEW MEMBERS

Phyllis Vermilye Waldo,
Vera Vermilyea Croley,
Sam and Jo Vermilyea,
Elizabeth Olsen,
Kathlyn White Osmond,

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST VERMILYEA

Word has been received that Pete (#876-421) and Jill Vermilyea of Bantam, Connecticut are the parents of new son Benjamin Charles Vermilyea born February 23, 2000. He is named in part for Benjamin Vermilyea (#64) from New York who fought in the Revolutionary War. Congratulations Pete and Jill!

“THE VERMILYEA FAMILY” BOOK

At this time I have requests for 14 copies of the next printing of “The Vermilyea Family”. It has been voted by the Board of Directors of the Vermilyea Family Association to extend the \$4.00 discount to include this printing. In order to qualify one must have paid for one full years membership (\$12.00). This will entitle you to one book at the discounted price of \$20.00. Shipping costs are \$3.50. It has also been voted that the offer will not be extended to future printings. Please contact me if you are interested in a book. Work has already started on “Book Two”. Please contact me with any updates to your family information. The cutoff date has been set for January 1, 2001 for new information to be received. We have many new families added, please contact your family members so that they may have the opportunity to be included.

~Sandra

OUR NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Tom Vermilye (#1672), Olathe, Kansas has been a member of the VFA for two years. He and his wife Cynthia have one child, Matthew, 19. We enjoyed meeting Tom and Cynthia at the reunion last year in Oregon.

Wilma Vermilyer (Unidentified - Barnabas Vermilyer, Illinois) I am a Vermilyer by marriage although after 35 years of marriage, I have been a Vermilyer longer than a Mitchell, (my maiden name).

Jim and I attended the same Jr. High and High Schools in Monterey, California. We graduated together in 1963 and married in 1964.

We have two sons. Our oldest son, Dan, made the candle holder that was raffled at the Reunion in Oregon last summer. Our youngest son, John, works for the power company and lives about 3 hours from us.

We have one grandchild, Dan's son who is almost eleven years old.

Jim works for the power company and in his spare time likes to fish in Monterey Bay or work on his 1940, Piper Cub, a J-4 airplane. He has spent many years restoring the plane and hopes to fly it someday. I prefer he continues working on it, on the ground, in the hanger!

My hobbies are many, which give me little time for each. I like to work with clay. I have a potters wheel and kiln. I enjoy hand building with clay as well. Once in a great while, I paint with acrylics. I love working with paint and photo programs on my computer. I have a few unusual plants in my yard and many roses. My bird aviary, built by Jim, gives me hours of pleasure. I have softbills, canaries, finch, pheasant, etc.

Jim and I have been trying to put the Vermilyer families together for many years. We realized that only 30 families had phones with that sir name throughout the United States. Our goal was to connect just that spelling. When we happened on the Vermilyea Web Site, we were very surprised to see the names were so closely connected. Little did we know that all the different spellings were from one man entering the United States.

I am on the board representing our spelling due to one simple fact; my husband loathes the computer! His brother doesn't have a computer. I was elected by default. That is fine with me and I still get their opinions. This is a very exciting time for research!

Jim and I will be making a trip to Illinois and to Indiana in the month of May. We are going on a mission of research. We are trying to find information on Charles B. Vermilyer and Barnabas Vermilyer with the hope of proving they are one in the same person, or prove they are two separate people and how they are related. If anyone reading this has any information please let us know. Harriet Keller is a name that may be helpful as well.

I was asked to write a profile. Perhaps some of this is correct.

In closing, we would like to say "hi" to all of you. We were very happy to meet so many at the Reunion in Oregon and hope to meet still others next year!

Wilma Vermilyer and James (Jim) Vermilyer

A PRAYER FOR MY COMPUTER




Dear Lord
 Every evening
 As I'm lying here in bed
 This tiny little prayer
 Keeps running through my head
 God bless my Mom and dad
 And bless my little pup
 And look out for my sister
 When things aren't looking up
 And God, there's one more thing
 I wish that you could do
 Hope you don't mind me asking
 But please bless my computer too?
 Now I know that's not normal
 To bless a motherboard
 But just listen a second
 While I explain to you My Lord

You see, that little metal box
 holds more to me than odds & ends
 Inside those small compartments
 Rest a hundred of my 'BEST FRIENDS'
 I know for sure they like me
 By the kindness that they give
 And this little scrap of metal
 Is how I travel to where they live
 By faith is how I know them
 Much the same as you
 I share in what life brings them
 From that our friendship grew
 PLEASE take an extra minute
 From your duties up above
 To bless this scrap of metal
 That's filled with so much love!
 ~"Anonymous"



TREASURER'S REPORT

1/01/00 thru 3/31/00

Beginning Balance	\$1186.66	
Deposits	\$304.50	
Withdrawals	\$99.50	
Balance as of March 31, 2000	\$1391.66	
<u>Deposit Summary</u>		
Membership	\$261.00	
Books	\$43.50	
<u>Withdrawal Summary:</u>		
Newsletter	\$48.00 (11/99 expenses)	
Books	\$51.50	

~Submitted by Jim Vermilyea, Treasurer

GOOD WORK!!!



James Vermilyer, grandson of James and Wilma Vermilyer of San Juan Bautista, California shows his school project, a clay rendition of the original San Rafael Mission which is located north of San Francisco. When the projects were chosen at James's school each child choose a California Mission, he was almost last to choose, with a name like Vermilyer. They started with A.

The small original mission no longer exists being replaced with a more

modern building. They used a drawing of the original building as their model, done from memory by a man in his 80's. With the help of his grandma, who is a talented worker of clay, they fashioned all the intricate pieces including trees, crosses and fence pieces for the cemetery, bells and their frame, even bulls and a man. All the parts were shaped, fired in Wilma's kiln, then assembled. Good work James, thanks for sharing it with us.



WHAT IS THE CORRECT WAY TO SPELL YOUR NAME?

Donald Lines Jacobus, in his *Genealogy as Pastime and Profession*, writes, "The correct way to spell your surname is the way you yourself spell it...every man is privileged to spell his own name as he sees fit. But because you and perhaps your father and grandfather spelled the name a certain way is no reason for being concerned to prove that your first American ancestor spelled it the same way.

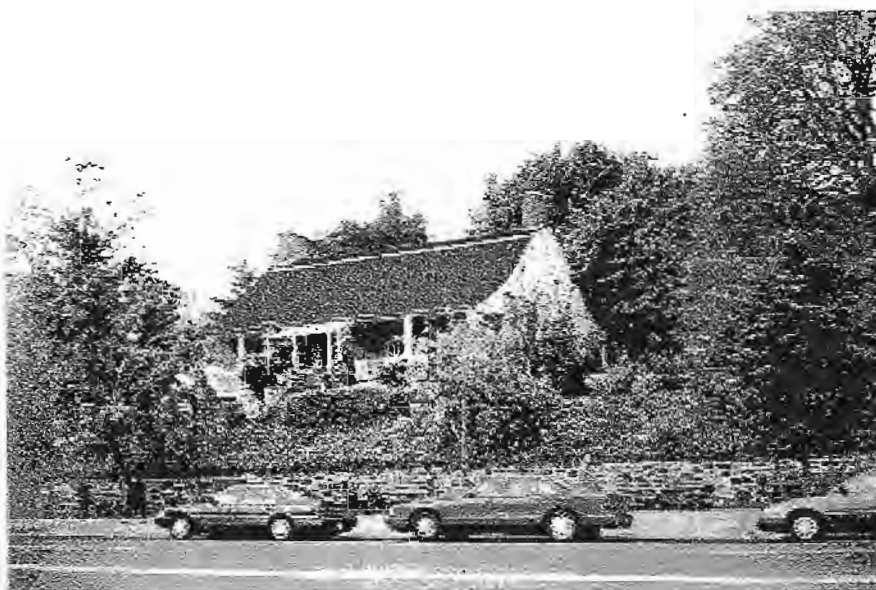
It is a matter of small importance whether he did or did not, and our first American ancestors were too much occupied with serious matters to worry much about how their names were spelled.

The spelling in vital records is not conclusive, since it may have been the error of a clerk. The spelling on gravestones is not always conclusive, for stonecutters made many mistakes. Even an autograph is not conclusive unless the writer was a person of some education, for often men spelled their names differently in different signatures."

THE END

The Dyckman House

Of significant historical interest in the vicinity of Vermilyea Avenue is the Dyckman House on the corner of Broadway and 204th Street. Built in 1764 by William and Maritie Dyckman and restored by two of their descendants in 1915, this museum is referred to as "Manhattan's Last Dutch Colonial Farmhouse." The House, which may not be much different than the ones built by our Vermilya/e ancestors, is one of a very few structures of 1800 century vintage which are being maintained in their original state by the City of New York. On about an acre of land, it is an oasis of bygone-years' tranquillity in the otherwise bustling tenement neighborhood. The house and its grounds, including a vegetable garden and two outbuildings, are in near-original condition. Notice, in the picture below, that the roof is typical of what we now refer to as Dutch Colonial design. One of the outbuildings is a restored log hut originally built and used by soldiers during the Revolutionary War when the property was occupied as a British encampment. Most of the rooms in the house contain period furniture and, in one, is a small display of military artifacts found on the property. The museum has a copy of a Dyckman genealogy which contains the names of several Vermilyes who married into the Dyckman family in the late 1600s and early 1700s. The genealogy may be read there at the House - no copies are available for sale. Unfortunately, my schedule at the time of my 1998 visit permitted only a quick scan of the genealogy's index. If any of you visit the House, please take paper and pen to record information from the genealogy; and, then, send it to our Historian. The Dyckman House has limited open hours; therefore, it is best to call ahead (212-304-9422) before visiting.



Dyckman House
 Broadway and 204th Street, New
 York City, New York, 1998

As a side-bar to this article:
 Our VFA member, Dyckman
 ("Dyck") Vermilye (#1320), who
 grew up in the New York City area, relates how his father wondered what a policeman's reaction might be if Dyck were stopped and asked for his name at the corner of Dyckman and Vermilyea Avenues. No doubt, Dyck would have a lot of explaining to do.

CORRECTIONS TO LAST NEWSLETTER

Robert Blue #429-II-2-a. Should be #429-II-2-a
 Glenda Avery #1165-11. Should be #1165-II.

NEW WEB PAGE FEATURE

In February Joame added a new feature to our Vermilyea Family Association Web Page. You will find a link from the main page to our Guest Book where messages may be left to be viewed by other family members. The hope is to establish communication with all our family that have access to the Internet and find our site. So far the following messages have been posted:



Dave G., in Massachusetts mentions that he enjoyed seeing the pictures at the Reunion site and the resemblances to his family; his grandfather Ralph Arnott Vermilyea in particular, brings back fond memories of him.

Tom Vermilye, Olathe, Kansas sends greeting to all our family.

Phyllis Vermilye Waldo, Windsor, Ohio mentions she is pleased to have found our site.

Lynnette May, Ogden, Utah mentions she has a manuscript researched by Charles Vermilyea and is doing research for her daughter. (This manuscript is Source Code #105 "The Vermilyea Family" book).

Ferold Rodrick Vermilyea Jr., Saint Joseph, Missouri says he descends from Roy Vermilyea and that he is contacting other relatives to let them know about our site.

Robert J. Ellertsen, Newton, Massachusetts gives his family line.

Christopher Bonn Jonnes, Stillwater, Minnesota gives us some information about his family.

Sylvia Fries, Martinsburg, West Virginia tells us that when she and her Mom travel the first thing her Mom does is look for Vermilyea's in the phone book. She is happy to know we are interested in preserving the history of the family. (I have had contact with Sylvia, and while it is to early to be certain, we are pursuing a connection for John Vermilyea, a West Virginia Unidentified listed on page 416 in "The Vermilyea Family".)

Take the opportunity to post your message for the family. Start at <http://members.aol.com/vfa95/vfa.htm>



THE SETTLEMENT OF NEW HARLEM

A Brief History with the Vermilya/e/ea/er Family Connection

The area now known as Harlem, New York City, New York, was first settled by Dr. Johannes de la Montagne who was of French-Flemish ancestry and educated in Leiden, Holland. In 1636, he and his family immigrated to New Netherlands landing at what is now known as the Battery in New York City, called "Capsee" by the first Dutch settlers. Dr. de la Montagne had been sent to New Netherlands to set up a hospital for the Colony at New Amsterdam; however, upon his arrival, the Colony's Governor Kieft would not permit him to do so. Staying in New Amsterdam only a short time, he set out in dugouts with his family and some farm hands and paddled up the East River to what is now the east end of 105th Street. There he found a creek running northwestward. Traveling along it, he stopped at a point that would now be in the vicinity of 124th Street and Seventh Avenue. He built a bark cabin and soon after

obtained a land grant of about 200 acres from the Governor. He is thus credited as being the pioneer of New Harlem. Other emigrants followed his lead and established homesteads east of his property. Indian uprisings forced all of them to move back to New Amsterdam twice; first from 1639 to 1645 and again from 1651 to 1655. After regaining their properties in 1655, they were successful in holding them. In 1660, the last of the Indians on Manhattan Island were driven north across the Harlem River by a militia force led by de la Montagne.

In 1658, 23 of the settlers petitioned the new Governor, Peter Stuyvesant, to establish a town. In March of that year, Stuyvesant passed an ordinance organizing the village and, in August, surveys set its boundaries; which encompassed the general area extending from what is now 125th Street and the Harlem River, southwestward to Fifth Avenue and 111th Street. Stuyvesant named the town Nieuw Haarlem (New Harlem). The 23 settlers, who had emigrated from France, Northern Germany, England and Holland (but none from Haarlem, Holland), were credited as town founders. Not listed among them was Dr. de la Montagne whose property was south and west of the patent area. The Doctor petitioned Stuyvesant to create yet another town. Stuyvesant denied the request; but, suggested to the Doctor that he petition New Harlem for permission to adjoin his property to that town, which the Doctor was successful in doing.

In October 1662, our ancestors, Isaac Vermeille, his wife, Jacomina, and their four adult children, Maria, Johannes, Abraham and Rachel, arrived at Capsee from Holland and moved on to New Harlem to join old acquaintances. Isaac purchased an erf (house lot) on Indian Trail, the main road through the town, and built his home. He started an orchard, which became his primary livelihood, and assisted his son, Johannes, with establishing and operating a brewery. He also became one of the town's most active citizens by accepting leadership positions in the militia, government and church (the Harlem Collegiate Dutch Reformed Church).

On May 1663, Isaac's daughter Rachel married Johannes von der Bosch, a farmer. On June 10, 1663, Isaac's eldest daughter, Maria, married Johannes de la Montagne Jr., son of New Harlem's pioneer. He was the community's school teacher and over the years served the town as clerk, magistrate, and constable. He also was the church's first deacon and its voorleser (the person who conducted services in the absence of a minister). The life of Isaac's son, Johannes, has been documented in previous editions of this newsletter and in "The Vermilyea Family" written by Sandra Vermilyea Todd in 1998. In summary, he owned a brewery and was very politically active at both the town and Colony levels. In 1670, he married Aeltje Waldron, daughter of Resolved Waldron who served the town as a constable and magistrate for many years. As the only son of Isaac to have sons, Johannes is considered the patriarch of all those who spell their name Vermilya/e/ea/er today. Very little is known about the second son, Abraham. He served in the New Harlem militia for a few years; but, otherwise, no information about him has been found in historical publications.

In September 1664, the English took control of New Netherlands from the Dutch. Governor Nichols, appointed by the King of England, officially recognized New Harlem and expanded the borders of the town as follows: on the west, north and east, the Hudson, Harlem and East Rivers, respectively; and, in the south, a line which meandered southeastward from what is now 130th Street on the Hudson River to 75th Street on the East River. Governor Nichols' successors, English and Dutch (the Dutch regained

control of Manhattan Island on August 10, 1673 and lost it again to the English on November 10, 1674), permitted residents to continue governing New Harlem. With the borders set and the population increasing, town officials sectioned off the town's area. The sub-dividing was done over time from 1664 through 1712 and generally from south to north. Both old and new families purchased land. Isaac Vermeille and his descendants came to own 9 lots during those years, the largest of which was a parcel of about 600 acres at the most northern end of Manhattan Island.

TWO APRIL T.V. PROGRAMS HAD TIES TO OUR FAMILY

Two T.V. programs which aired recently had connections to past members of our extended family. On April 1st, A&E Channel's "Guide to Historic Houses" ran a short (ten minute) piece on the Dyckman House, New York City. Those of us who watched the program and have been to the House, were a bit disappointed with the brief coverage; but, it did present an accurate, albeit quick, overview of its history and showed a few interesting parts of the House.

Also in April, the History Channel did a program about the Chindits. This was a unique, British led, brigade-sized, all volunteer, infantry, long-range, guerrilla warfare unit consisting of personnel from many allied countries which in February 1943 entered Burma from India to gather intelligence about and conduct sabotage missions against the Japanese Army. The unit, which stayed in the jungle until late May 1943, lived off the land and received some military supplies by air-drops. It suffered heavily from jungle-type sicknesses and maladies, as well as enemy action. The unit's senior medical officer was a Canadian, Captain (later Major) George Vermilyea Faulkner - son of Helen (Vermilyea) Faulkner (#614).

It has been suggested that we include complete mailing addresses for all members in the October, November, December issue of this newsletter. Please advise me if you do not wish your address to be posted.

People will forget what you said.
People will forget what you did, but
People will never forget how you made them feel.

THE VFA

The VFA (Vermilyea Family Association), a not-for-profit organization staffed by volunteers, was founded in August 1995. We have shared information about the descendants of Johannes Vermelje (the Vermilya, Vermilye, Vermilyea and Vermilyer lines), and thus together learned much about our small, unique, extended family. With the goals of increasing family unity, bonding and fellowship, we encourage you to submit your family research findings plus stories, histories and information about your family, ancestors and descendants to our Secretary/Historian. By doing so, we'll all learn more; and, from our consolidated records, you might just find that long-lost relative you've been wondering about for years.

BOARD MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

President: Carl P. Vermilyea,
Treasurer: C. J. ("Jim") Vermilyea,

Secretary/Historian: Sandra Vermilyea Todd,

Newsletter Publisher: Joanne Vermilya MacArthur

Other Board Members: Tom Vermilye.

Wilma Vermilyer,

MEMBERSHIP DUES - NEW MEMBERS AND RENEWALS

Annual membership dues are \$12.00. For those joining after February 15th of the year, the dues are \$9.00; after May 15th, \$6.00; or, after August 15th, \$3.00. Please make your check payable to: *Vermilyea Family Association*; and, mail it and, for new members, a membership application to: *Mr. C. J. Vermilyea, VFA Treasurer*,

THIS NEWSLETTER

"Vermilya/e/ea/er's ...Historically Speaking," published on February 15, May 15, August 15 and November 15, is the primary periodical of the Vermilyea Family Association (Vermilya, Vermilye, Vermilyea, Vermilyer). **The cost of a subscription is included in the membership dues.** Comments concerning distribution may be sent to the Publisher, Joanne V. MacArthur. Comments concerning the content and articles for publication should be sent to the Secretary/Historian, Sandra Vermilyea Todd.

DO YOU HAVE ACCESS TO THE INTERNET?

Check our VFA Web Page (maintained by Joanne MacArthur) at: <http://members.aol.com/vfa95/vfa.htm>

Check our Reunion Web Page (maintained by Sandra Todd) at: <http://members.aol.com/vermreun/fampage1.htm>

The Association's E-mail address (staffed by Sandra Todd) is:

