

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

Volume VI, No. 4

October, November, December 2001

VERMILYEA PLACES - MICHIGAN

By Carl Vermilyea with Robert Blue

In this issue:

"CIA"

Vermilyer Reunion
2001 Members

In the July-August-September 1997 edition of this newsletter, Sandra Todd published an article titled "More Vermilyea-Vermilya-Vermilye Addresses." It was a listing of six roads bearing the name Vermilya or Vermilyea. Included on the list were Vermilya Avenue in Flint, Michigan, and Vermilya Road in Columbiaville, Michigan.

In August 1998, Linda and I went to Michigan to attend the wedding of one of her relatives. Hoping we might have some time to hunt down those road while there, before leaving I printed out two maps of the area from my computer. On Sunday we found some time and, armed with the maps, headed off on our quest. We found the roads; and, much to our surprise, we also discovered two more places, the Vermilya School and Vermilya Park.

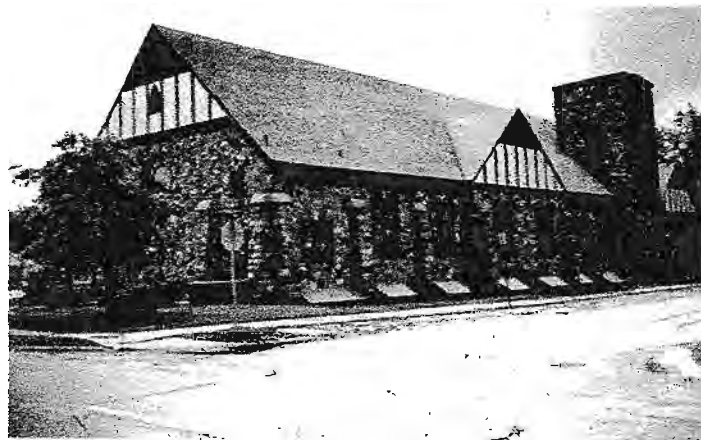
Often, historical or genealogy research on a Sunday is not very productive because libraries, historical societies and town/city offices are closed. That was the case here. In the small, rural village of Columbiaville, we found a helpful convenience store clerk who gave us the address of the local historical society. Upon returning home, I wrote them. The reply came from Robert ("Bob") Blue (VFA #429-II-2-a), a "shirt-tail" cousin and retired school teacher living in Saginaw, Michigan. Bob had been born and raised in Columbiaville and was the author of "A History of the Columbiaville Area," published in 1979. In a word, jackpot! He turned out to be a wealth of information.

Bob informed me that the school, park and both roads were named after descendants of Jonathan Vermilya (VFA #179). Jonathan, born in 1795 in New York State, moved to Brantford Township, Ontario, Canada, where in 1820 he married Margaret Petrie. Around 1855, the couple with most of their 13 children, including Edward (#421), Anne (#423), Elijah (#427), and Emily (#429) who was Bob Blue's ancestor, moved to Columbiaville and settled on a farm about a mile west of town. At the time, Columbiaville was heavily forested; the principal occupation was logging. Cleared areas became farms. Within a few years, Jonathan and Edward staked abutting 40-acre homesteads about a mile south of their first residence where they built homes and began farming. A trail into their property was later named North Lake Road. Jonathan passed away in 1870.

With that general background, following is what we found in 1998 together with the information provided by Bob about the four Vermilya places.

Vermilya Avenue, Flint, Michigan: Vermilya Avenue in Flint was named in honor of Edward J. ("Ned") Vermilya (#1176) who was born in 1886 and passed away in 1953. Ned, who served as the City Clerk of Flint from about 1930 to about 1950, was the son of Harmon Vermilya (#779) one of Edward's four children.

Located on the south side of Flint, Vermilya Avenue is easy to find. It is located a block west of Route I-475, about 1.3 miles south of the junction of Route I-69. It is an east-west, 0.9 mile long, two-lane, city road, in a large, fairly-well maintained neighborhood-development of nearly similar, very modest, single, small, almost square, framed, one story homes which appear to have been built primarily to house factory workers after World War II. The most prominent building along the Avenue is an



(Continued on page 13)

FROM THE STAFF

by Carl Vermilyea

The tragic events and devastation of September 11th and the anthrax threat now confronting us have stunned us all. Individual's emotions, reactions and opinions vary; but there has been a common impact on us all. Change. We have changed and our country has changed. And, some have experienced the ultimate change. We lost at least one member of our extended clan, Michael Clark who was a firefighter in New York City. I know I speak for all of us in extending our utmost sympathy to Michael's immediate family and close relatives. And, some lost friends and/or associates in New York City, Pennsylvania and/or the Pentagon. To those of you, we also extend our heartfelt sympathy. I pray that we all accept the changes as a base from which to build a better nation, and world, for the generations to come. We owe that to the thousands who perished.

November 27, 2001 marks the anniversary of the official founding of our Association. Those of you who have been with us since the beginning recall that Joe Vermilye, Sandra Vermilyea Todd and Joanne Vermilya MacArthur met via the Internet in the summer of 1995. During the months that followed they discussed the possibility of organizing a family association that would have a quarterly newsletter. They announced their proposal to relatives. The word spread rapidly. Many indicated an interest in joining. By the 27th of November, dues from 8 people had been received and on that date Sandra opened a VFA bank account; thus, officially marking the beginning of the Vermilyea Family Association. Now, as we recognize our 6th anniversary and enter our 7th year, we find we have 93 families subscribing to our newsletter. Not bad for a small family like ours. Can we make it 100 members in 2002? We can if you help by further spreading the word.

This is the last issue of our newsletter before annual memberships expire for most of us. We'd like to receive your renewal as soon as possible. Why not take a minute now and write your check for next year's dues. But first, please read the article in this edition about membership. There you'll find a listing of members who have already paid through the next two years.

Recognizing that there are many descendants in Canada who might join our Association if we made paying dues easier for them, the Board of Directors, after taking in consideration the exchange rate and newsletter postage difference, has set dues in Canadian currency for 2002 at \$17.20. Now, Canadians may write checks on their personal Canadian banking accounts or purchase Canadian money orders for that amount and mail them off to our Treasurer, Daly Stout. (Note: Dues in 2002 for USA residents are \$12.00, just as they have been in past years.)

Thanks to the efforts of Veronica Theodorakis, we are now able to provide back issues/editions of this newsletter. This new service enables the VFA to set one dues rate for the year and, for anyone whose membership is current, to order any back issue of the newsletter. Please look for details in this issue.

The 2002 Reunion previously scheduled to be held at the St. Francis Retreat in San Juan Bautista, California on August 19-21, 2002 has been canceled. Understandably with the untimely events of September 11th, we did not receive sufficient reservations to reserve the Retreat. We are exploring other options and, if an alternative is found, we will post information at our web site and in the next edition of this newsletter.

OBITUARIES

Eugene Ward (Steve) Vermilyea (#1337). Murray County News, August 29, 2001: Steve Vermilyea was born on April 3, 1925, on a farm near Bronson, Iowa to Robert and Bessie Cisne Vermilyea. He grew up on the family farm, attended country school and graduated from Climbing Hill High School in 1943. He was drafted into the U.S. Army and served in the European and African Theaters during WWII. Following his discharge, he returned to Sioux City and worked for Charlie Miller Body Shop. He married Helen Holmes on November 11, 1950, in Elk Point, South Dakota. Steve continued working at the body shop for a short time before they moved to Sloan, Iowa. He owned and operated Vermilyea Body Shop until his retirement. He also farmed for several years. Steve and Helen spent summers at their home on Lake Shetek at Slayton, Minnesota. Following Helen's death in April 1981, Steve made Lake Shetek his permanent residence. On December 15, 1984, he and Karen McClain were married and they continued to make their home there. Although his health was failing, Steve was able to stay at home. He was a resident of the Slayton Manor for a few days before he passed away there on August 21, 2001 at the age of 76. He was a member of the Currie American Legion Post. Steve enjoyed fishing, playing cards and restoring his old cars. Survivors include his wife Karen Vermilyea; four daughters and their husbands: Patricia and Jerry Johnson; Christine and Art Drossel; Pamela and Jeff Crull and Joan and Lloyd Tresham; eight grandchildren; one great-grandson; and three sisters: Ruth Klasey; Ardith and her husband Bob Anderson and Joyce Binns. He was preceded in death by his parents; his first wife Helen; two brothers: Dale and Ray Vermilyea and a sister Wanda Steckermeier.

Funeral services were held at the Southern Baptist Church in Sioux City, IA on Saturday, August 25, 2001. Interment is in Memorial Park Cemetery, Sioux City, IA.

Charles R. Vermilyea, Sr. (#876-4) Father of our member Charles R. Vermilyea, Jr. (#876-41), and the uncle of our member George J. Vermilyea (#876-21).

Charles R. Vermilyea, Sr., 89, of 221 Chestnut Grove, New Milford, husband of the late Florence DeFlorio Vermilyea, died Wednesday, September 19, 2001 at New Milford Hospital after a brief illness.

Mr. Vermilyea was born in Brooklyn, N.Y., October 18, 1911, a son of the late George and Anna Hewitt Vermilyea. He was a veteran of World War II, serving in the U.S. Navy. He had been awarded a Battle Star for his participation and invasion landing on Tinian Island in the Pacific with the 92nd Naval Construction Battalion, 4th Marine Division.

He was a retired butcher, having worked at Gristede's in Greenwich, CT. Later he was employed at the Old Greenwich Food Mart. Before moving to New Milford, he had lived in Greenwich and Farmington, CT. He was a member of the Andrew B. Mygatt Post #1672, VFW of New Milford and the CT Chapter of the 4th Marine Division Association.

He is survived by two sons; Peter G. Vermilyea and his wife, Kathleen and Charles R. Vermilyea, Jr.; *a nephew, Peter C. Vermilyea and his wife Jill; a nephew, Jon C. Vermilyea; two nieces, Megan L. Vermilyea, and Elizabeth Vermilyea; four grandchildren and a great grandson, Benjamin C. Vermilyea.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated, Saturday, at 9:30 a.m. in Our Lady of the Lakes Church, New Milford. Interment in St. Mary's Cemetery, Greenwich CT.

Friends may call at the Lillis Funeral Home, 58 Bridge Street, New Milford, CT on Friday, 2 to 4 p.m. and 6 to 8 p.m.

Contributions in Mr. Vermilyea's memory may be made to the Salvation Army, P.O. Box 269, 615 Slaters Lane, Alexandria, VA 22313

*The nieces and nephews listed are actually his grandchildren.

FROM THE VFA GUESTBOOK

10/25/01

Howard Batsford

Baldwin, New York (Long Island)

Santje Vermilyea, who married Timothy Hunt

My Vermilyea connection is now 8 or 9 generations old. Santje's and Timothy's great granddaughter, Frances Louisa Hunt, married Edwin Thomas Batsford (Utica, NY). If you need information from that point to the present, let me know.

Historian's response: We do have Cynthia (Rosine?) Vermilye (#52) who married Timothy Hunt in our files. We would be happy to have additional information on her children.

08/24/01

Sarah Edith Vermilya

Whitney Point, New York

Have been at this site many times. Originally it was via www.ancestry.com

William Vermilya, father of John Drake Vermilya. John Drake Vermilya was father of my Grandfather Howard Vermilya. Howard Vermilya was Father of my Father. My Father is Wilber Allen Vermilya

08/11/01

Tammy Lynn (Colunio) Vermilye

Canastota, NY

E-mail from Sandra Todd

This picture was sent in by Hugh and Thersa Vermilya of Dover, Minnesota. Hugh says it was taken at a family reunion, but the only ones he knows are James I. and Mary Ann Vermilya. James is the second man that is kneeling and Mary is the next lady. Can anyone help identify the rest?



RESEARCHING

Looking for out-of-print, rare or used books to help you with your genealogy research? The following web sites may help you.

www.amazon.com

www.bookfinder.com

www.abebooks.com

www.alibris.com

VERMILYA/VERMILYE/ VERMILYEA/VERMILYER FAMILY BOOK



I am getting a lot of requests for books, so they will be reprinted again, probably next summer. All books from the June 2001 printing are gone. Please remember to send in corrections, a correction page will be available by PDF file in May. I have also started the next update, so send new information and updates anytime.

Sandra

REUB REMEMBERS

..... ANOTHER STORY ABOUT DAD.

By Silas (Reub) Vermilyea, Portland, Oregon (#1529)



My Dad, Silas R., Sr. (#1229), told me one time about a thing he and a cousin once pulled off. This may interest someone in Dexter, Minnesota because that is where it happened. I do not know the cousin's name but here goes:

My dad and this cousin got to looking at an old muzzle loading shot gun hanging on either my grandfather's (Joseph #827) or my unknown uncle's wall and decided it would be a wonderful adventure to shoot that gun. One day when no one was around they took it down from the wall along with the powder, caps and shot and took it out back of the barn where they proceeded to load the thing clear to the front sight (I guess) with all the stuff to make it go.

I don't remember how they decided who was to shoot the thing, but dad won - or lost as the case maybe. Dad said he put the stock to his shoulder and pulled the trigger. I guess the blast resembled Hiroshima because dad said it knocked him flat on his back and as he was laying on the ground wondering what hit him when his cousin shouted "Si, look at your gun!" Dad said he looked behind him and the shot gun was standing up in the mud, muzzle down!!!

When I was in the Army Air Force in about 1945 I saw a movie in which a couple of kids acted out this whole scenario. Dad had told me about this fiasco before I went into the army and I have always wondered if there was any connection or if it was an incredible coincidence.

Anyhow, don't stuff your muzzle loader too full, you may regret it!!!



***FF Michael Clarke
Manhattan
Div. 03 Bat. 08***

Firefighter Michael J. Clarke (#566-16-12) grandson of Irene Vermilyea (#566-16) died tragically in the collapse of the World Trade Center in New York City on September 11, 2001. His body was recovered on October 3, 2001.

He is the son of John (Jackie) and Eileen Clarke. Born January 11, 1974, Michael was a member of the New York City Firefighters Engine Company #230 which was sent to the scene immediately after the first attack. He was unmarried and leaves behind a brother and father.





Standing L to R: Michele Minor, Susan Namboodiri, behind - Florence Swanson, front - Donavea Maddox, Richard Vermilyer, Kenneth Reeder, O. W. Capshaw, Gary Miller, Ronald Miller, Lori Henoach, Jim Henoach, Bill McIntyre, Carol Snyder, behind - Lewis Vermilyer, Orma J. VanSchoyck, Nancy McIntyre, Richard Snyder.
 Seated L to R: Bessie Reeder, front - Patricia Spahn, Barbara Vermilyer, Vesta Reeder, Madge Capshaw, Elma Freeland, Phyllis Miller, Delores Henoach, Lillian Palen..
 Front: Donald Minor, holding his son Richard.

VERMILYER FAMILY REUNION

reported by Nancy McIntyre (#F78-I)

The 46th Annual Vermilyer reunion was held August 26, 2001 at the First Baptist Church, Hargrave Fellowship Center, La Porte, Indiana. There were about 40 attendees. The reunion started at 12:30pm with lunch. Family members brought a covered dish and table service, meat and drinks were donated or provided by funds collected from the auction that is held at each reunion.

A meeting where the discussion of funds, attendance, and next years reunion was held after lunch. It was decided that the 2002 reunion will be held August 25, 2002 at the Hargrave Fellowship Center. It is hoped that there will be enough interest so that the reunion can continue to celebrate the 50th Anniversary. Since attendance has dropped in recent years, family members were encouraged to add names to the mailing list to be contacted for next years reunion.

Copies of the "Vermilyea Family" Book I and Book II were available to view. Family members were requested to check for additions or corrections to be sent to Sandra Todd. The dates and location of the National Vermilya/e/ea/er Family Reunion which is to be held in California in 2002 were announced. Officers were elected and a group photo was taken. The meeting adjourned and the auction was held, bingo followed.

Awards were won by Bess Reeder and Ronald Miller for being the oldest woman and man attending. The youngest was Richard Minor, age five months. Those traveling the farthest were Bijoy and Susan Namboodiri. Door awards were won by Lewis Vermilyer, Delores Henoach, Gary Miller, Michele Minor, Donavea Maddox, Madge Capshaw, Elma Vermilyer, Phyllis Müller and others. Pat Spahn, Carol Snyder and Jim Henoach were also game winners.

Those attending were: Richard and Carol Snyder, Lori Henoach, James Henoach, Delores Henoach Doug and Lisa Adams and daughter Danielle, Bessie Reeder, Kenneth and Vesta Reeder, Gary Miller, Ronald and Phyllis Miller, O. W. and Madge Capshaw, Lewis Nelson Vermilyer, Orma J. VanSchoyck, Richard and Barbara Vermilyer, Donald and Michele Minor and baby Richard, Annette McIntyre, Nancy and Bill McIntyre, Florence Swanson, Lillian Palen, Bijoy and Susan Namboodiri and children Rachael and Adam, Elma Freeland, Donavea Maddox and Patricia Spahn.

MEETING FRIENDS AND RELATIVES

(These pictures were to go with the paragraph below, reprinted from the last newsletter.)



Elizabeth Olsen and Sandra Todd



Sandra and Kathy White

Salt Lake City, Utah

John and I had the pleasure of meeting VFA members Elizabeth Olsen (#133-1-11-I-10) of Magrath, Alberta, Canada and Kathy White Osmond (#152-1-I-a-aa), of Bountiful, Utah in April while we were in Utah visiting our son and daughter-in-law. Kathy is a Utah native and Elizabeth was also visiting family in Utah. We meet on separate days at the Family History Library, enjoyed "family talk" and lunch.

~Sandra

BACK ISSUES OF NEWSLETTER NOW AVAILABLE

Thanks to the efforts of our Secretary, Veronica Theodorakis, the Board of Directors is pleased to announce that back issues of this newsletter are available.

As you know, in the past dues were set up on a "tiered" system where new or renewing members paid either \$3 per quarter, \$6 semi-annually, or \$12.00 for the entire year. The tiered system was not only confusing for members but also difficult for the staff to administer. Without the capability to produce back issues of the newsletter, it was the only way we could equitably link our newsletter and dues.

From now on, dues will be one set amount for the calendar year regardless of when a new member joins or a previous member rejoins; and, any newsletters they missed during that same calendar year will be sent to them automatically. All dues will expire on December 31st each year.

Additionally, we will be able to provide members any newsletter from a previous year, or extra copies of the current year. The cost for each issue is \$3 US or \$4.30 Canadian. Only those whose VFA membership is current at the time their order is received are eligible for this service. If you know which copy(s) you want, send a note which designates/identifies the issue(s) you want; includes the name and address you want the newsletter(s) sent to; and, a check or money order for the appropriate amount made out to "Vermilyea Family Association" to: Mrs. Veronica V. Theodorakis, 19 Shore Oaks Drive, Stony Brook, NY 11790.

Veronica is in the process of compiling an index of the contents of previous issues. The index will be published in a future edition of this newsletter. She is also designing a web site which will be linked to our VFA web site. The site will include both the index and ordering instructions. She hopes to have the site up and running before the end of November. For those of you with internet access, please be on the lookout for this new link.

CHRISTMAS GIFTS

Having difficulty in thinking of a Christmas gift for a hard-to-buy-for relative? Suggestion: A one-year membership in the Vermilyea Family Association.

FAMILY REUNIONS

Many of you attend local (geographically) family reunions each year where the central family is Vermilya, Vermilye, Vermilyea or Vermilyer. If you are planning such a reunion and want some publicity about it, please send us the time, date and place of the gathering and the name of the coordinator so that we may announce it in one of these quarterly newsletters. And, after the event, we'd also like to include a report about it in the newsletter. Please send a narrative and some pictures, if available, to Sandra Todd, by either e-mail or regular mail.

MEMBERSHIP

Renewals:

It's that time of year again. For many of us, our memberships will expire in December. If you are one of those, please send in your annual membership dues (\$12.00 US or \$17.20 Canadian) for next year before January 1st. Dues must be sent to Dayl Stout, our treasurer.

As many of the membership applications we have on file are very old, we appreciate it if you would send in a new membership application with your dues.

Members Who Have Paid Dues For 2002 and 2003:

As of October 15th, the following members had prepaid their dues as indicated:

Through March 2002:

Elizabeth Olsen

Through June 2002:

Sam and Jo Vermilyea

Through September 2002:

Ruth and Merlin Budd

Through December 2002:

Novell and Paula Burkholder

Patty Dunlap

Nancy McIntyre

Bon & Virginia Russell

Doug and Dorothy Seims

Fern Sobolewski

Through December 2002 (continued):

Veronica and Michael Theodorakis

Ed and Mary Vermilya

Marlene Vermilya

Suzanne Vermilya

Edith Vermilye

Carl Vermilyea Jr.

Carl and Linda Vermilyea

Fritz and Viola Vermilyea

Jim and Cheryl Vermilyea

Lynne and Nancy Vermilyea

Silas R. Vermilyea Jr.

Joyce Wheeler

Darla and Arthur Young

Through December 2003:

Bob and Eileen Perks

VFA Members In 2001

Overly	Glenda Griswold
Baldwin	Timothy and Edith (Vermilya)
Balluff	Barbara
Bartchy	Valerie
Beechel	Laura Jeanne (Vermilya)
Bockstahler	E. Fredric & Judith
Borkovec	Carole Ann(Vermilya)
Brinkman	Gloria (Vermilye)
Budd	Merlin & Ruth (Vermilya)
Burkholder	Norvell & Paula
Bush	Richard L
Cedargreen	Jay Alan
Cedergreen	Jean (Vermilya)
Cedergreen	John Reuben
Croley	Robert & Patricia
Croley	Vera (Vermilyea)
Dunlap	Patty (Rethmel)
Edmond	Gladys Belle & Janet
Endress	Steve & Maribeth (Vermilya)
Fernkopf	Wayne & Barbara
Gerencer	Jan & George
Griswold	John & Ann
Holladay	John A.
Imholz	Joanne M.
Jonnes	Beverly B.
Kuebler	Harold
Lee	Gary and Mary Jo
MacArthur	Joanne (Vermilya)
MacNiven	Eleanor F.
Maxwell	Timothy & Peggy (Vermilyea)
McIntyre*	Nancy
Miner	Olive (Vermilyea)
Olsen	Elizabeth
Osmond	Kathlyn (White)
Perks	Robert L. & Eileen
Quella	Susan K.
Radigan	Jennifer
Russell	Bon & Virginia
Russell	Steven A.
Schottler, Jr.	Kenneth, Christy and Jeffrey
Seims	Douglas & Dorothy
Sobol	Fern (Vermilyea)
Stanovsky	Madonna (Vermilyea)
Tout	Dayl & Jennie

Theodorakis Veronica (Vermilyea)
 Todd John & Sherry
 Todd John R. & Sandra (Vermilyea)
 Vermilya Clifford Roy
 Vermilya Ed & Mary
 Vermilya* Hugh C.
 Vermilya* James A.
 Vermilya Jay
 Vermilya Jay Jeffrey
 Vermilya-Nabor, Joan Elaine
 Vermilya Joe & Helen
 Vermilya John B. & Ruby
 Vermilya John R.
 Vermilya Linda S. & Michael
 Vermilya Lyle & Ginny
 Vermilya Marlene
 Vermilya Sarah Edith
 Vermilya Suzanne
 Vermilya Webb H.
 Vermilya* Wilbur, Jr. and Rosanne
 Vermilye Dyckman Ware
 Vermilye Edith L.
 Vermilye Elisabeth
 Vermilye Isaac Dyckman
 Vermilye John W.
 Vermilye Michael L., Linda J.
 and Lindsey Jean
 Vermilye Tom & Cynthia
 Vermilyea Carl P. & Linda R.
 Vermilyea Carl P. Jr.
 Vermilyea Charles Russell
 Vermilyea Dennis & Winona
 Vermilyea Ed & Janet
 Vermilyea Fritz & Viola
 Vermilyea George & Eileen
 Vermilyea Jack & Pat
 Vermilyea Jim & Cheryl
 Vermilyea Lynn & Nancy
 Vermilyea Paul H.
 Vermilyea Sam & Jo
 Vermilyea Silas Reuben Jr.
 Vermilyer George L. & Judith
 Vermilyer James E. & Wilma
 Vermilyer Lewis Nelson
 Waldo Phyllis (Vermilye)

Watson	z	Beverly (Vermilyea)
Webb		William P.
Wheeler		Joyce (Vermilya)
Young		Arthur & Darla

*Indicates new member.

(Continued from page 1)

attractive, large, stone-exterior, Methodist Church located at its intersection with Fenton Road.

Vermilya Road, Columbiaville, Michigan: Columbiaville is a small, rural town about 45 minutes drive northwest of Flint. We were glad we had the map from the computer. It not only helped us find Columbiaville but also Vermilya Road which, as it turned out, had no street name sign on either end.

To reach Vermilya Road from Columbiaville, we drove westerly for .8 of a mile along Columbiaville Road from its beginning at the junctions of Second and River Streets in the village. We then turned left (south) on North Lake Road, a dirt road. At the one-mile point, North Lake Road ends in a three-way junction with Pyles Road and Vermilya Road, flat, hard packed, all-weather, dirt roads. Although we did not know it at the time, we had just passed through the homestead once owned by Jonathan Vermilya. His home, which had been located on the west side of the road, was razed in about 1950.

In 1998, this north terminus of Vermilya Road was posted with a large, foreboding, black-on-white hand-painted sign saying: "Road Closed." Although tempted to drive along it, I decided to try entering it from its other end. We drove westerly along Pyle Road for about one mile and took a left (south) on Catlin Road. At the .65 mile point, we found that Vermilya Road branches easterly off Catlin Road. Again unknown to us at the time, we were driving through, or around, the former homestead of Edward Vermilya. On the Catlin Road end of Vermilya Road, the town had installed a dead-end sign, but no street name sign. Despite the sign, we drove in. We knew we were in the right place when we saw the road's name printed on the road-side mail box of the first home we passed. We traveled only about 0.4 of a mile before the road narrowed to a two-tracked trail (a fire road). We stopped there. From our map and what we could see, the trail meandered from there northeastward for another .8 mile and then turned northward paralleling the Hollaway Reservoir for .4 of a mile where it terminates at the above mentioned junction with North Lake and Pyles Roads. The land in the area is flat and has many young trees; obviously formerly farm land. We did not see a home which might have belong to Edward. Perhaps it was located on the section of Vermilya Road we did not drive along or maybe it had been razed as had been his father's home. Along the short stretch we did travel, there were three modest homes of varying styles and the Vermilya School (see below).



Roads in the area were not named until the Rural Electrification Administration (REA), formed under President F. D. Roosevelt, encouraged utility companies to extend their services into rural areas.

In the 1930s, Detroit Edison installed lines in Columbiaville. The company conferred with local town officials for advice in naming roads and, in many instances, the roads were named after early land owners. In this case, Vermilya Road ran through Edward Vermilya's homestead and beside the road was the Vermilya school; hence, the name.

Vermilya School, 5459 Vermilya Road, Columbiaville, Michigan:

As we entered Vermilya Road from Catlin Road, we immediately noticed on the left an old, nearly dilapidated building which, at first glance, looked like a small barn or farm out-building. Linda spotted a rusty, metal sign over the door. We stopped and got out to read it. Much to our surprise, the sign read Vermilya School. Next to the door were numbers, the street address. As there was no record of the school in any genealogy documents the VFA had, we were thrilled to make this discovery.



The once dark-stained, wood-framed, one-room schoolhouse is very weathered and in major disrepair. Through cracks in the boarded up windows we could see it was empty save a few old pieces of wood and some old farm tools. According to Bob Blue a County Plat shows that the school was in existence in 1874 and definitely was on part of Edward Vermilya's farm. Presumably the land was donated by him to the town for the school. It is believed that the original school building was probably a rude log cabin, as was customary, and later replaced by the current building. One of the earliest, if not the first, teachers at the school was Porter Murphy who was married to Anne (Vermilya)



Markle's daughter, Melissa (#423-I). Town records show that in the mid-1890s, Methodist Church services were held in the building. The school closed in 1954 when rural schools throughout the area consolidated with local village schools to form the Lakeville School District. Thereafter, the building was not used for any purpose by the town and, most likely, ownership of it reverted to the then owner of what was originally Edward's farm.

Vermilya Park, Columbiaville, Michigan: Having found Vermilya Road and School, we returned to the village of Columbiaville. Within a short period of time we had driven along most of the streets. We saw the closed library and town offices, the elementary school and, nearly across the street from the school on Pine Street between Fourth and Fifth Streets a park/athletic field which turned out to be Vermilya Park.

The Park is named after Albert ("Bert") M. Vermilya (#1177) who was born in 1893 and died in 1981. Bert was the grandson of Elijah Vermilyea and son of Charles Vermilya (#788). He was a sign maker and, with his brother Curt, owned and operated for over 50 years Vermilyea Brothers Florists. He served Columbiaville as village Treasurer from 1926 through 1928, Trustee in 1929 and 1930 and President from 1949 to 1956. He was a charter member of the Columbiaville Historical Society and also of the Columbiaville Rotary Club which was established in 1947. In 1976, the Rotary Club rejuvenated a former baseball field owned by the village by constructing on it a playground, band stand and pavilion; and, named it in honor of Bert.



**Bert Vermilya
for whom
Vermilya Park
is named served as
Village President
from 1949 to 1956.
Photograph was
taken circa 1918.**

Our visit to these four Vermilya places took only about three hours. I'd recommend the trek to anyone living in or passing through Michigan. If you do go to Flint and or Columbiaville, the VFA would appreciate a report of your observations covering any of these places, especially an update on the status of the school.

THE VFA

The Vermilyea Family Association (Vermilya, Vermilye, Vermilyea, Vermilyer), or VFA for short, a not-for-profit, social club 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 to our Historian your family research findings plus stories, histories and information about your family, ancestors and descendants. 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

Historian: Sandra Vermilyea Todd,

Newsletter Publisher: Joanne Vermilya MacArthur,

Treasurer: Dayl Stout,

Secretary: Veronica Vermilyea Theodorakis,

Other Board Members:

Tom Vermilye,

Wilma Vermilyer.

MEMBERSHIP DUES - NEW MEMBERS AND RENEWALS

Annual membership dues are (US) or \$17.20 (Canadian). Please make your check or money order payable to **Vermilyea Family Association**, and, mail it to:

Mr. Dayl Stout,

New members are requested to include a completed membership application, family chart and information to help our Historian place them in our family tree.

THIS NEWSLETTER

"Vermilya/e/ea/er's...Historically Speaking," published on or about February 15, May 15, August 15 and November 15, is the primary periodical of the Association. **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 Historian, Sandra V. Todd. To order issues of this Newsletter published in prior years or extra copies of issues published in the current year, send a check or money order, made out to "Vermilyea Family Association," in the amount of \$3.00 (US), or \$4.30 (Canadian) for each copy to the Secretary, Veronica V. Theodorakis.

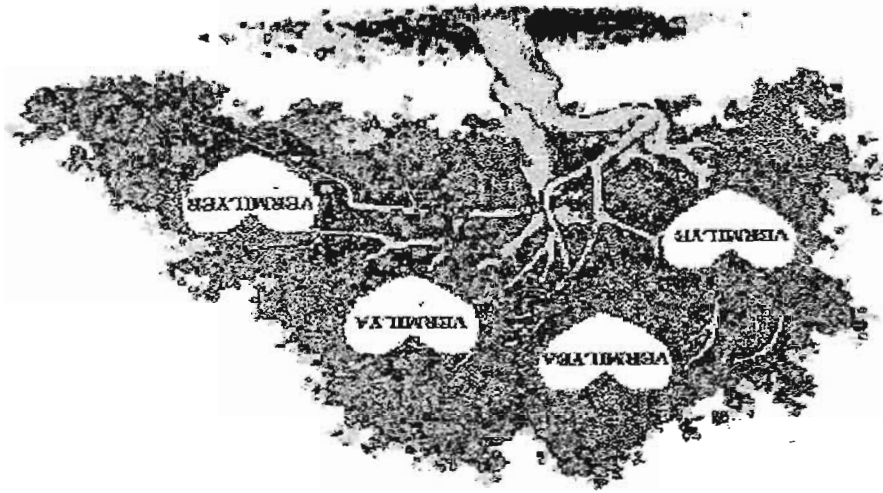
DO YOU HAVE ACCESS TO THE INTERNET?

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: VERMREUN@aol.com

VERMILYEA FAMILY ASSOCIATION
(Vermilya, Vermilye, Vermilyea, Vermilyer)
Founded in 1995



VERMILYA/E/EA/ER'S ...HISTORICALLY
SPEAKING, VI.4.
Joanne V. MacArthur, Publisher

