

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

Volume VIII, No. 3

July, August, September 2003

SOME INTERESTING FINDS AT THE FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY – AND ELSEWHERE

by Sandra V. Todd

Check out these spellings of our surname.....

My personal favorite: 1850 Federal Census New York, Onondagua County, Syracuse, Ward 4: Judson Voonillus, age 31, born New York; Jane, age 31, born New York; Hellen E., age 10; Mary L., age 5, all born New York. This is Judson Vermilyea who has been identified as #139A.

Some spellings from the 1920 Federal Census Vermilye, Vermyler, Vermilgye, Vermilyes, but most popular is Vermillia.

The 1930 Federal Census has some interesting ones also - Vernilia, Vernllia, Vermillie and Vermyler to mention a few. There are several confirmed surnames that are spelled very close to ours, these include Vermillion, Varanelli, Vermule, Vernillo and Vermeulen. These families are not related. One only needs to spend an afternoon going through a list of 5000 Soundex listings to appreciate this – right Day! It is interesting to note that there are three Vermilyen families listed on the 1920 census but not one Vermilyen shows up on the 1930. The Vermilyen families listed in 1920 are definite errors for that census, as the family names are correctly Vermilyea. One was our Nebraska family the other two New York City families. The Vermilyen families listed in current telephone listings are indeed using that spelling, and are not errors.

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Vermilye Places

Salt Lake City

John and I made a trip to Salt Lake City to visit our son and daughter-in-law in April. While there we made our annual visit to the Family History Library. One would think that with all the genealogical information now available on the Internet the library would not be as busy – not so. They still have plenty of visitors. However they have recently cut their hours. The library has many more computers than when we made our first visit back in the early 1990's, but the books available are still hard to find elsewhere. The first floor of the library contains many shelves of books written for particular areas covering cemeteries, local histories, etc. One of the main attractions to the computers is the free use of Ancestry.com which has all the 1920 and 1930 Federal census indexes which link to the actual images. This is a greatly improved method, but I have found the spelling of our surname to be even more outlandish than ever. Previously the indexes have been available only at certain libraries across the country as cards that are viewed on microfilm. You then use the information found on these cards to locate the actual microfilmed census page on another film.

I have had Philip Vermily who was first listed on the 1850 Federal Census in Henrico County, Virginia, in the unidentified files for some time. During this trip I tried to trace him back with no luck. He apparently was in Virginia before 1840 as his oldest son Charles is listed as being 12 years old on the 1850 census and born in Virginia. In 1850 Philip is 34 years old, a blacksmith and states he was born in Connecticut. There is no one on any records that I can locate in Connecticut with the surname Vermily. For that matter I don't find that surname anyplace ever again!!! In 1860, Philip becomes Philip Vermilry and reports he was born in New York. His

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FROM THE STAFF

by Carl Vermilyea

I'm writing this during breaks from packing our bags for our cross-country flight to California and the VFA reunion in Gilroy. Linda and I are looking forward to the opportunity to meet extended family members we've never met and renewing friendships with some we've met before. Among those attending will be one of my first cousins. I haven't seen Earl for about 50 years and have never met members of his family. We'll have a lot to talk about.

After the Gilroy reunion, we, along with Sandra Todd and her husband John, will be traveling south to Carlsbad, California, to attend a family reunion being held by one of the Vermilyea branches. Although we have researched the family and have corresponded with some of its members, neither Sandra nor I have met any of them. It should be an interesting and, from a genealogy standpoint, rewarding experience.

We hope to get some information about the Gilroy Reunion into this newsletter. As our "window" between returning from California and the publication date for the newsletter is tight, there's a chance we may not be able to make the publication deadline. If we can't, please be assured that you'll see write-ups about both the Gilroy and Carlsbad reunions in November's edition.

The VFA Board of Directors recently had a Board Meeting. Two subjects of interest to all VFA members were discussed and approved: (1) The Board approved the date and location for the 2004 Vermilyea Family Association Reunion which were submitted by the reunion sponsor, Darla Vermilye Young. The Reunion will be held on Saturday, July 31, 2004 in Madison, Ohio, at a park on the shore of Lake Erie. (Please mark your calendar.) Madison is east of Cleveland, and thus the airport is nearby; the park has all the facilities we'll need including a building for cover if we have inclement weather and a swimming pool; and, lodging in the area is plentiful. More detailed information will be published in future newsletters. And (2), the Board voted to continue membership dues at the current rates for the next two years. For 2004 and 2005, the annual VFA membership dues for those residing in the United States will be \$12.00 (U.S. Dollars) per year. For those residing in Canada, the dues will be \$17.20 (Canadian Dollars) per year (a membership year runs from 1 January to 31 December). We will continue our policy which provides for those who join during the year to be sent copies of that year's newsletters published before they joined.

On a final note, the VFA Staff was deeply saddened to learn recently of the passing of Pat Vermilyea of Oregon. (Please see her obituary in this edition.) Pat and her husband Jack have been VFA members for the past five years and attended the VFA Reunions held in Oregon and Massachusetts. Our sympathy goes out to Jack and all other members of her family.



Newark Manufacturer Makes Serious Allegations Against Firm of W. R. Vermilye & Co.

An alleged bucket shop, operated under the firm name of W. R. Vermilye & Co., at 52 Broadway, Manhattan, was raided at noon yesterday by Detective Sergeants McConville, Murphy and Savage of Captain Titus' office, on warrants issued by Magistrate Olmsted in the Center street police court, on information lodged with Captain Titus by Charles T. Pomeroy, an ink and glue manufacturer of 52 Broad street, Newark, who alleged that he had been swindled out of sums aggregating almost \$13,000 in bogus stock and cotton transactions.

The prisoners taken were James E. Carter, 39 years old, stock broker, married and residing on Morningside avenue, and Arthur L. May, clerk, married and residing at 331 Hudson street, Hoboken. George F. Newcomb, 30 years old, a broker, unmarried and residing at the Criterion Hotel, was arrested at the same time at that place, where the firm had a branch office. The men will be arraigned in the Center street court this morning.

The specific complaint was that, operating under the name of W. R. Vermilye & Co., the firm received \$500 from Mr. Pomeroy to purchase January cotton, giving him a slip representing that the purchase had been made from Leighton & Foulke of 3 William street, but that the transaction did not appear on the books of that firm.

On August 3 Mr. Pomeroy ordered the purchase of 5,000 bales of cotton, depositing a margin of \$5,000 with W. R. Vermilye & Co., and when his profit amounted to \$6,000 he gave an order to sell, but the brokers persuaded him to hold on, and a few days later he received word from them that he had been sold short at an alleged loss of his entire margin. Captain Titus found that the firm had purchased only 1,000 bales of cotton on this order, and that most of their trades were on paper.

Captain Titus says that the operations of the firm of W. R. Vermilye & Co. are simply an effort to make investors believe that they are dealing with an old house, that of Vermilye & Co., which has been doing business in Wall street for seventy-five years. At first, he says, they posed as Vermilye & Co., but when threatened with suit by the old firm they put the initials "W. R." in front of the title, having in their employ a W. R. Vermilye, who is related to the old Vermilye family, and who, Captain Titus says, receives \$50 a week for the use of his name.

The firm asserts that it has branches in Boston, Philadelphia, Williamsport, Altoona, Harrisburg and Hartford, and also at Salisbury House, London, E. C.

Captain Titus says that these offices have been investigated, and that they are merely fake offices for the purpose of obtaining victims, the operators pretending to give confidential information to investors and in reality working in league with bogus investment companies and brokers. The London office, Captain Titus says, was found to be none other than the Bankers and Manufacturers' Mercantile Agency. The London office, Captain Titus says, is run by W. C. Hickman, whom Carter met last August.

October 6, 1901

LOCAL REUNIONS AND GATHERINGS

We understand that some of you will be organizing or attending Vermilya, Vermilye, Vermilyea or Vermilyer family reunions in your local area this summer. Please don't forget that we'd like to receive information about your reunion/gathering for our historical records and this newsletter. Please send us a report of your event with the names of attendees, and pictures too.

TRAVELING THIS SUMMER?



Now that we are in the summer months, many of us are taking vacation trips. If you are among those, we ask that you check telephone books as you go from place to place for Vermilya, Vermilye, Vermilyea and Vermilyer listings. If you find any, please send a note (e-mail or regular mail) to Sandra Todd or Carl Vermilyea with the name and address of the person(s) you find. We'll add the names to the VFA master file.

C I A “Comments, Inquiries and Answers”

This column includes research tips, comments entered at our Web Site Guest Book, inquiries received from members and answers to questions from both members and non-members. All Guest Book entries and questions are acknowledged by Sandra Todd.

From the VFA Guest Book:

1. 04/13/03:

What is your name? Ronald Dean Hewitt-Vermilyea

Where are you from? Sioux City, IA.

How did you find this Web Site? Surfing.

Who is your earliest Vermilyea ancestor? Harry Lewis Vermilyea

Do you have any comments? I would like to know more about my Vermilyea roots.

Editors Note: Ronald is VFA #1345; his father was Harry Lewis Vermilyea, #1020.

2. 04/20/03:

What is your name? Mary R. Johnston

Where are you from? International Falls, MN.

How did you find this Web Site? Doing a search.

Who is your earliest Vermilyea ancestor? Erwin Vermilyea, born 1807, Ostego, NY.

Do you have any comments? Erwin gggrandfather; Charles Emmet ggrandfather. Nina Rebecca

Vermilyea, my grandmother, married Jesse Kennedy. I know she had a sister Hattie and a brother. I

believe his name to be William or Willie. I met him once when I was very young. I am sure William and

David who posted a message 01/27/02 are my cousins and may have met them once in the Falls. I would

like to hear from them and also find out any info anyone can share about my earlier ancestors. Thank you so much for this site.

Editor's note: Mary descends from Nina Rebecca Vermilye, #1075.

3. 04/29/03

What is your name? Gene E. Vermilyea

Where are you from? Shell Lake, WI.

How did you find this Web Site? My son found it.

Who is your earliest Vermilyea ancestor? Stefano Vermigli from Perugia, Italy.

Do you have any comments? I have a family history traced back to the middle fifteenth century (1460-1485) to the province of Perugia, Italy.

Editors note: Gene is VFA #1550.

Researching:

Some previously free Internet genealogy web sites are now charging a membership fee of anywhere from about \$25 for limited access to \$190 per year for full access. However, there are still many sites that are either entirely free or provide some free research capability.

One of the best no-charge sites is the LDS (Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints) web site. It a great place to start your research. Check it out at: www.familysearch.org.

Another good site, which has some free information, is the Rootsweb web site: www.rootsweb.com.

Looking for information on ancestors for a particular state? We are informed that the following might help:

Delaware: www.state.de.is/sos/dpa

Illinois: www.library.sos.state.il.us/departments/archives/databases.html

Maryland: www.mdarchives.state.md.us

Michigan: www.mdch.state.mi.us/pha/osr/gendisx/index.htm

Virginia: www.lva.lib.va.us

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members to the VFA!

Gerard (Jerry) L. Vermilye,

George and Alice Schottler,

II).

Ronald Dean Hewitt, Bellingham, Washington (VFA #1345).

BIRTH

Congratulations!!!

Kimberly (Vermilye) (#687B-6221) and Brian Gander are proud to announce the birth of their first child, a daughter, **Holli Nichole Gander** on April 20, 2003 at Madison, Wisconsin.



Continued from page 1

oldest son Charles, who is now 21 and married, remained in Henrico County and is listed as Vermiliea. Philip is no longer found on census records after 1860, but his children (he had a total of six) continue to show up. Starting in 1880, the name shows as Vermillera - most of the time with a few Vermillion, Vermilbra and Vermildern listings. I checked the current Social Security Death list, telephone listings and several other lists and found a number of families using the surname Vermillera today. I called about six different families, but unfortunately none knew where the name originated or had any genealogical information about their family. Philip who was born about 1815 in Connecticut or New York still remains anonymous.

IN MEMORY

Our sincere condolences are extended to all those who have recently lost loved ones.

RUFUS LEE VERMILYE, JR. (VFA #687B-62), 79, April 25, 2003. Pocahontas, Ark. — Services for Rufus Lee Vermilye Jr., 79, who died Friday in Randolph County Medical Center, will be at 11 a.m. Monday in McNabb Funeral Home, P.O. Box 207, Pocahontas, Ark. Burial in Thomas Cemetery, Attica, Ark. Source: Rockford Register Star On Line

GEORGE D. VERMILYEA (VFA #876-2), 97, of Original Leisure Village, Lakewood, NJ, died Friday, May 2, 2003, at Kimball Medical Center, Lakewood. He was a meat manager for 43 years at A&P in New York City before retiring in 1967. He was a member of St. Thomas Lutheran Church, Brick, NJ. Born in New York City, he lived in Paramus before moving to Lakewood 10 years ago. He was predeceased by a brother, Charles Russell and two sisters, Hazel Petrick and Frances Gingling. Surviving are his wife, Edna Gross Vermilyea of Lakewood; a son, George Vermilyea of Redding, Conn.; a daughter, Joan Johansen of Bradenton, FL; five grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren. A memorial gathering will be held from 1 to 2 pm Tuesday, with a service at 1:45 pm at Laurelton Memorial Funeral Home, 109 Pier Ave. at Route 70, Brick, NJ. A graveside service will be held at 10:30 am Wednesday at George Washington Memorial Park, Paramus, NJ. Source: Asbury Park Press, NJ, Page AA7. May 3, 2003. Thanks to Pam Rutan Coryell Walling

PAT VERMILYEA (VFA #1524), November 11, 1933 - June 28, 2003



SALEM - Born in Kansas, Pat was raised in Oregon, primarily in the Forest Grove area. She married Jack Vermilyea on August 12, 1956. A retired dental hygienist, Pat enjoyed traveling and spending time with friends and family. She is survived by her husband, Jack; daughters, Cyndi Wickham; Denise Vermilyea; son, Joe Vermilyea; sisters, Jo Vermilyea, and Kay Hancock; grandchildren, Kelsey, Sean, Jessie, Jarod and Amanda.

Memorial services 1:00 p.m., Thurs., July 3, at City View Funeral Home Chapel. In Lieu of flowers, donations are requested to the Locks of Love, 2925 10th Ave. North, Suite 102, Lake Worth, FL 33461.



VFA PUBLICATIONS

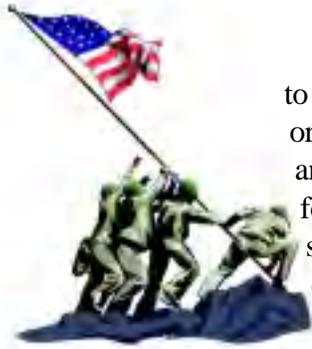
by Sandra V. Todd

Attention All Members!

The Vermilyea Family Association publications (books) are available to VFA members via PDF. If you would like copies, please contact me at vermreun@earthlink for details.

VETERANS

by Carl Vermilyea



In the *From The Staff* column of the last newsletter, I mentioned that we are attempting to collect information about descendant military veterans and asked that our members send me, or Sandra Todd, the names of current and former veterans. We have received very little input and, therefore, again ask that you consider sending us the names of veterans together with the following information, if known: full name; branch of service; years (or approximate years) served; rank at discharge; unit to which assigned; where service was performed; and, if any part of the service was during a war or conflict, the name of that war. Any additional information covering the period of service is also welcomed.

From the information in the VFA files, we have been able to come up with a list of those with the “V...” surname who died while in the military. We suspect this list is not complete, but thought you might be interested to see what our current records show. The number after each name is the VFA number assigned by Sandra Todd as of June 2003.

Descendants Who Have died While in Military Service

Indian Wars in the West

Solomon Vermilyea, Jr. (#820)

The Civil War

Charles Herbert Vermilya (#860)

Commodore Chauncey Vermilya (#735)

John C. Vermilya (#EE-1 (not yet linked into the family tree))

George W. Vermilyea (#863)

Isaac Vermilyea (#248)

Peter Vermilyea (# Unknown (not yet linked into the family tree))

World War I

Leo J. Vermilya (#1136)

Sidney C. Vermilyea (#1068)

World War II

Daniel B. Vermilyea (#1437)

Gerald Penn Vermilyea (#1058A)

William E. Vermilyea (#VV-5-2-3 (not yet linked into the family tree))

CHRIS JONNES PUBLISHES HIS SECOND BOOK

Christopher Bonn Jonnes (VFA #1516-I-3) has recently published his second book. Like his first, *Wake Up Dead*, this new book, *Big Ice*, is a mystery/suspense thriller.

Of the book, Don Mitchell, Amazon’s #2 reviewer says: “Wow! Brilliant. More interesting content than 99% of all thrillers.” And Booksnbytes reports: “Author Jonnes knows his stuff. A thoroughly enjoyable read.”

For those interested in a synopsis, excerpt and/or ordering a copy, please contact Chris at: <http://www.BonnJonnes.com/bigice.html>. The ISBN for the book is: 1-59286-587-9.



JAMES VERMILYEA (VFA #1295-1-1)
SELECTED IN BASEBALL DRAFT

(extracted from the GOLOBOS Web Site)

Baseball: Vermilyea Signs With Toronto Blue Jays — Junior Pitcher Will Forego Senior Season At University of New Mexico - Tuesday, May 06 2003 — Albuquerque, N.M.

UNM junior James Vermilyea, one of the most prolific pitchers in UNM baseball history signed with the Toronto Blue Jays organization, which drafted him in the 9th round (260th pick overall) of the first-year player draft Tuesday. Vermilyea said his Major League career would begin at either the Single-A Auburn Doubledays in Auburn, New York, or at the Single-A Charleston Alleycats in Charleston, West Virginia.

Vermilyea leaves an indelible mark on the UNM record books in just three years. His 18 games started in 2002 are a UNM record and his 16 starts this season are tied for 3rd-highest in UNM history. This year, Vermilyea pitched 126.1 innings, the second-most in a season to his own 131.1 innings from a year ago. Vermilyea is fourth on the UNM list in career strikeouts (251). This season, he led the Mountain West Conference in strikeouts (112) and innings pitched and was second in total ERA (4.27).

“I have a lot of respect for the organization,” Vermilyea said. “They’re moving up and getting better. So it’s definitely an honor to be picked by them.”

MORE “UNIDENTIFIEDS” IDENTIFIED

by Sandra V. Todd

In Section II of VFA Book II, I listed several families which we were unable to link into the family tree. In the last two editions of this newsletter, we announced the identification of several of those families. Research since then has solved more mysteries, and, as is sometimes the case, added challenges. Research findings since the last newsletter:

#A: Archibald Roderick Vermilyea. He is the son of James E. Vermilyer and Nellie C. Hill. James E. is Unidentified #F1, son of Barnabas (Charles Barnabas) Vermilyer.

#N: Francis Vermilya. Francis W. Vermilya is the son of #1251 Harry Vermilya.

#Q1: George Vermilye. George is the second son of Richard Vermilyea, #EE (see, below).

#EE: Richard Vermilyea. Richard is #303 in Book I. His father, #133 Peter Vermilyea, has been removed as the son of #58 as another Peter Vermilyea has been found in Canada who is the son of Peter Vermilyea #58. Thus, we have solve one mystery only to have created another. Research continues.

#JJ: Judson Vermilyea. Judson is the son of Simeon Vermilyea who was recently identified as #139A.

ARTICLES FROM THE BLOOMVILLE MIRROR

by Sandra V. Todd

I found this while searching the *Bloomville Mirror* which is on microfilm at the Stanford Public Library, Stanford, New York. Edition dated November 3, 1863: Vermilya, Orville C. Death. At Middletown, Sept. 17th; 1y 21d. Son of Noah D. and Emily Vermilya. Noah Vermilya is #413.

Memorial Poem

Mourn not parents for your baby,
He has left this world of woe;
Would you wish your precious treasure
Back to suffer here below?
One short year to him was given,
Ere the message from on high,
Called him from this earth to heaven,
Where the blessed never die.
Though the parent love you bore him
Twines like cords around your heart,
Yet 'twas best, so saith our Father,
Best that now you thus should part.

Day by day you fondly watched him,
Cherished every winning grace;
Watched the bud as it unfolded,
Through the measure of his days.
Now no more he'll need the watching,
Hushed and still the little voice;
Ne'er again his childish prattle
Will your lonely hearts rejoice.
All the hopes you fondly cherished,
Now are laid low in the tomb;
But your little one is summoned,
To a brighter, fairer home.
Where the wicked cease from troubling,
And the weary are at rest,
May you there both meet your loved one,
In the mansions of the blest. L.

Also from the *Bloomville Mirror*, October 24, 1867 editon: ACCIDENT AT GRIFFIN'S CORNERS
— A correspondent of the Walton Chronicle, over date of Oct. 17th, says: —

“I have just received the particulars of a very sad accident at Griffin's Corners, on Wednesday evening last. Edgar Vermilya and DeWitt Griffin were firing a salute over the Republican successes in Indiana and Ohio. They were using for that purpose an anvil, the hole in which was filled with powder and then a wooden plug driven in on top. Griffin was holding a lantern while Vermilya was in the act of driving the plug, when the charge exploded, probably caused by friction in driving. Vermilya was thrown backwards against a fence, the wooden plug making a bad wound between the knee and thigh on one leg. One side of his face and both eyes were seriously injured by the powder. Griffin also had one side of his face filled with powder, and his eyes are somewhat injured, but loss of sight is not feared in his case.”

Griffin Corners (currently Fleischmanns, New York) was the home of Edgar Vermilya #419, a well know character in the area at the time. He was a Civil War veteran, and his parrot who could sing “Marching Through Georgia” was a celebrity. Apparently the anvil device used was a common “toy” for the men in our family. Many of you will recall the article *Fourth of July, Turn of the Century*, along with illustration submitted by Reub Vermilyea of Oregon in our July August September 2000 issue.

The “Good” Old Days

By Carl Vermilyea

Some time ago, my niece called me for some help with a school project. One of her teachers had given her the task of writing a paper about the life-style of teenagers in the 1950s. She thought I might be able to give her some idea about what things were like “way back then.” I did my best to give her the highlights of the social, economical and political environment of the ‘50s and how those things impacted on and influenced the life-style of teenagers growing up in New England at the time. And, I sent her a piece of “junk” e-mail which had been circulating around the internet. As the e-mail put a whimsical smile on my face, I thought I’d share it here.

Comments Made in the Year 1957

- (1) “I’ll tell you one thing, if things keep going the way they are, its going to be impossible to buy a week’s groceries for \$20.00.”
- (2) “Have you seen the new cars coming out next year? It won’t be long when \$5000 will only buy a used one.”
- (3) “If cigarettes keep going up in price, I’m going to quit. A quarter a pack is ridiculous.”
- (4) “Did you hear the post office is thinking about charging a dime just to mail a letter?”
- (5) “If they raise the minimum wage to \$1, nobody will be able to hire outside help at the store.”
- (6) “When I first started driving, who would have thought gas would someday cost 29 cents a gallon. Guess we’d be better off leaving the car in the garage.”
- (7) “Kids today are impossible. Those ducktail hair cuts make it impossible to stay groomed. Next thing you know, boys will be wearing their hair as long as the girls,”
- (8) “I’m afraid to send my kids to the movies any more. Ever since they let Clark Gable get by with saying “damn” in “Gone with the Wind”, it seems every new movie has either “hell” or “damn” in it.”
- (9) “I read the other day where some scientist thinks it’s possible to put a man on the moon by the end of the century. They even have some fellows they call astronauts preparing for it down in Texas.”
- (10) “Did you see where some baseball player just signed a contract for \$75,000 a year just to play ball? It wouldn’t surprise me if someday that they will be making more than the President.”
- (11) “I never thought I’d see the day all our kitchen appliances would be electric. They are even making electric typewriters now.”
- (12) “It’s too bad things are so tough nowadays. I see where a few married women have to work to make ends meet. It won’t be long before young couples are going to have to hire someone to watch their kids so they can both work.”
- (13) “I’m just afraid the Volkswagen car is going to open the door to a whole lot of foreign business.”
- (14) “The drive-in restaurant is convenient in nice weather, but I seriously doubt they will ever catch on.”
- (15) “There is no sense going to San Francisco or LA anymore for a weekend. It costs nearly \$15.00 a night to stay in a hotel.”
- (16) “No one can afford to be sick any more, \$35.00 a day in the hospital is too rich for my blood.

THE PRICE OF OUR PAST

by Jan Philpot, unicorn@sun-spot.com

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Not so long ago, I wandered the aisles and rooms of an antique mall, gazing with appreciation at the aged bits and pieces of long ago lives, wondering at the circumstances that had torn them from a family that now might not even remember they had ever been a part. Nearby, two well-heeled matrons were having an animated conversation over something one of them held in her hands, and curious, I turned to see what was going on.

“Well it has a \$40 price tag,” stated the silver-haired lady, a hint of something dubious in her manner.

“I think it is well worth that,” replied her companion, “I once saw one like it auctioned and going for a good deal more.”

Suddenly I recognized exactly what it was that had captured the ladies’ attention, and before I could think what I was doing, the words popped out, “Oh! I have one exactly like that! I never saw another!”

The two matrons turned immediately in my direction, and one’s eyes narrowed speculatively. “You have one of these?” she asked, holding up the tiny oil burning lamp, with the word “Handy” raised on the bowl of its surface.

“Yes,” I replied, “It was my father’s when he was a little boy. I am told it rested on a table beside his bed at night, and that he used it to find his way to the outhouse after dark.”

In my mind’s eye, I saw a picture I had long envisioned. It was a summer night in a place I knew well, where lightning bugs lit tiny quick stabs in the darkness, and whippoorwills called mournfully. A little boy slipped barefoot through the night with only a tiny lantern to light his way, gazing a bit fearfully this way and that, but struggling to be brave and a “big boy.”

“What would you take for it?” the lady continued, far less interested in my story than in the fact that there was indeed another like it in the world and if at all possible, she intended to have it. It was the story behind the lamp that was important to me, and I was upset at the realization that this lady wanted to place a price tag on it. I was dismayed, and wishing very much I had thought before speaking. “Oh, I couldn’t sell it,” I replied and had to repeat again and again when pressed, before I quietly slipped out the door and back to my car.

I realized my mistake, of course -- impulsive speaking. I had, after all, been in an antique mall where pieces of the past were for sale, and where I myself had purchased such before and would again. What the ladies had asked was quite reasonable in terms of where I had been and the information I had volunteered. Perhaps one of the ladies actually was trying to do what I myself had done before -- purchase back a piece of her own past that had been lost, but which she remembered as my father had, resting beside her bed on long ago nights. For lack of the actual piece, she searched for another like it. And I considered those pieces “lost” to our families, and what they meant when they had never been “lost.”

I really did not care what the tiny lamp was worth in terms of cash, had never even considered that aspect, and no amount of money could have purchased it, not \$40 and not \$400. The lamp was an investment all right, and an investment I was saving for my children, but I figured the dividends not in cash, which is here today and spent tomorrow for things we little remember in years to come, but in terms of the heart and in terms of roots. *(continued next page)*

Roots are both here today and here tomorrow, stories to be told and retold, imprinting upon succeeding generations their family of the past they never had the opportunity to know or to love.

There were folks I wanted my children and grandchildren to have a bit of, a memory of, and a tiny lamp was the very vehicle for opening the door to questions. Questions were really invitations to tell the stories and stories are priceless.

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PICTURES FROM THE VERMILYEA FAMILY REUNION, GILROY, CALIFORNIA



Door prize winner - Linda Vermilyea Stoddard



Raffle
winner
Eleanor
MacNiven



Raffle winner Judith Vermilyea ▽



Raffle winner Jim Hatch ▽



VFA REUNION GILROY, CALIFORNIA ATTENDEES



Those Attending (in alphabetical order) :

Fernkopf, Wayne and Barbara
Hatch, James E. and Alice
MacNiven, Eleanor and Murry Braun
Stoddard, Bob and Linda Vermilyea
Todd, John and Sandra Vermilyea
Vermilya, Alice
Vermilya, Jim
Vermilya, Judith
Vermilya, Tom and Mei Lei and children
Vermilyea, Carl and Linda
Vermilyea, Earl and Ruth
Vermilyer, Dan
Vermilyer, George
Vermilyer, Jim and Wilma

MORE PICTURES FROM THE VFA REUNION



Name Tags made by Wilma Vermilyer

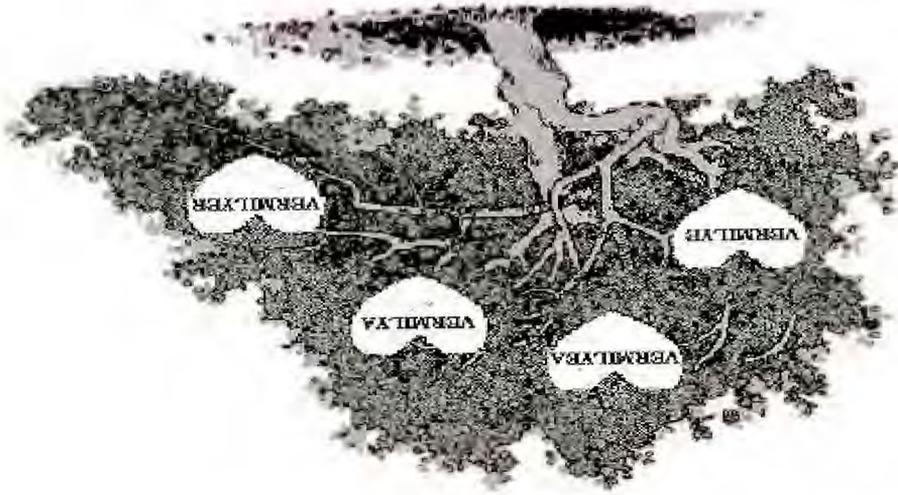
Jim Vermilya entertains

Tom and Mei Lei Vermilya



Jim, Wilma and Dan Vermilyer

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



VERMILYA/E/EA/ER'S ...
HISTORICALLY SPEAKING, VIII.2.
Joanne V. MacArthur, Publisher

