

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

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October, November, December 2004

## A TRIP TO CANADA – TO RESEARCH AND VISIT

By Carl Vermilyea

In August, Linda, and I went north to Ontario, Canada, for a week to research, sightsee and visit Farley and Vera Vermilyea (VFA #615-1; ancestors: Arthur, Nathaniel, Solomon, Peter, Peter, Isaac, Johannes) and their family. Although our research efforts ended with mixed results, it was a most enjoyable trip; something I thought worth sharing.

Our first destination was Belleville, Ontario; Farley and Vera's hometown and where Farley, now 86 and a 7th cousin, twice removed to me, was born and raised. Over the past several years, Farley has provided a great deal of information covering his ancestors all the way back to his 2nd great grandfather, Peter, one of the first of our clan to migrate to Canada. Linda and I first met Farley and Vera in 2000 while on a research trip to the Marilyn Adams Genealogy Center in Ameliasburgh, Ontario; a small town about 10 miles south of Belleville. Farley had recommended during that visit that in addition to visiting Ameliasburgh, we also should do some research at the Belleville Public Library. So, that's where we started on the Thursday morning of this trip.

One of my goals was to try to find the lineage of the Vermilyer clan. As those of you who have been long-time readers of this newsletter are aware, Sandra Todd, Jim and Wilma Vermilyer and I have been frustrated for many years by the lack of documentation which would enable us to verify the names of the parents of Barnabas Vermilyer (previously listed as VFA #F in the "Unidentified" section of the VFA master file). Barnabas was the ancestor of all those who, today, spell their surname with the "yer" ending. We have enough evidence to indicate his parents most probably were William and Rachel (Ruttan) Vermilyea (VFA #128) of Adolphustown, Ontario. We know William had children, but cannot find anything which shows, unequivocally, that Barnabas was one of them. I was hoping to find something at the Belleville Library which might do that. After spending a day and a half at the Library, we came away empty handed as far as Barnabas is concerned; but, did find information covering many Vermilyeas who have lived in the area. I have forwarded those findings to Sandra and she has added them to the VFA master file. (Editor's note: Also see page 5 for information about Barnabas.)

In late 2001, Farley phoned me and mentioned that a new housing development of about 25 homes was being constructed in Belleville and the developer had named the site "Vermilyea Court." The name had been selected because Farley's grandfather, Nathaniel (VFA #337), was the first owner of the land on which it was being built. As I'm particularly interested in gathering information about places that bear one of the four surnames, after lunch on Friday we went to the Belleville City Hall to determine its location and obtain any other information about it that might be in City records. Unfortunately, there was no record of a "Vermilyea Court" at City Hall.

From there, we drove to our scheduled visit with Farley and Vera. They had arranged for all of us to have dinner at their daughter-in-law's farm in Napanee, Ontario, a drive of about 45 minutes away. Before leaving for Napanee, I told Farley about our visit to City Hall. He said that we could drive by Vermilyea Court en route to Napanee. We did. The development consists of about 25 very attractive, upper-middle class homes in a very well maintained neighborhood. But, there was no sign or other indication that the area was named Vermilyea Court. Evidently, the name, chosen by the developer, was merely a temporary, unregistered

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title which had been used during construction. As soon as the project was completed, the developer removed the Vermilyea Court sign; and, since then, the homes have been designated by their street address, just as homes in any neighborhood would be. Thus, my hope of finding and adding another place to my list of “Vermilyea Places” was dashed.

Farley and Vera had four sons: Jack, the eldest; William (“Bill”); Blake; and, Than. The youngest three are still with us; however, Jack passed away in 1995 from brain cancer at the young age of 56. He owned a dairy farm in Napanee, Ontario, and was very bright, progressive and a savvy farmer and business man. Over the years, he added to the original farm by purchasing several large farms which bordered his and installed the most modern dairy equipment available, including computers. His widow, Delores, and their two sons, Robert and Blake, now run the farm and have made many significant improvements to it since Jack passed away. With about 1600 acres of land, over 400 head of Holsteins and extensive automation, the farm is now one of the largest and most efficient dairy operations in Ontario. Upon arrival, I was overwhelmed by the size of the place. The terrain in that part of Ontario is nearly flat and the farm seemed to go on for as far as I could see. No photo could adequately portray its magnitude; albeit, I did make an attempt in the picture, below right. The farm is known as Veryea Farms - which is an interesting side-story. Farley grew up on his father’s, Arthur’s (VFA #615), dairy farm in Belleville. When Farley was still in his teens, the government mandated that all cattle be registered with a code name. Farley recommended that they use the first and last syllables of their surname – Veryea. His father agreed. Years later when Arthur sold off his cattle, the registration code was abandoned. Then, when Jack purchased his farm, he adopted the name for both his farm and as his own cattle registration code.

Delores is an absolutely delightful lady. After touring the farm operation, she prepared a huge dinner for us, her sons and her three grandchildren. With us all around the large dining room table, it was a most enjoyable meal and gathering. There is nothing like a farm cooked meal and great fellowship. If you plan to travel to Ontario and are interested in farming, I suggest that you contact Delores beforehand and see if you can set up a time for a visit.



On Saturday morning, we visited Farley’s youngest son, Than, and his wife, Dawn. They live in a farm house originally built around 1820 by a Mr. Finn on what is now Vermilyea Road in Belleville (the January-February-March 2001 edition of this newsletter included an article describing Vermilyea Road). In the early 1800s, Mr. Finn and Farley’s great grandfather, Solomon Vermilyea (VFA #134) obtained neighboring land grants from the English Crown, and, thus, were among the first settlers in the area; originally in the town of Thurlow, but since been annexed by the town of Belleville. Solomon’s son, Nathaniel, who inherited his father’s land, bought Mr. Finn’s farm and farm house and gave it to his son Arthur. Arthur and his son, Farley

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with a great deal of help from his wife Vera) and, now, Than and Dawn have updated and added to the home. Despite its age it is in immaculate condition.



Than is an independent truck driver. That's him with his big rig in the picture to the left. If you are traveling through Ontario, Quebec, New York State or Michigan, you might just pass him on the highway while he is hauling telephone poles or other large cargo. With its bright red color, his name emblazoned on the door and his CB call sign, "Pole Cat," on the cab, he is easy to spot.

Saturday evening, Linda and I attended a Military Tattoo held at Ft. Henry in Kingston, Ontario. Ft. Henry, located adjacent to the Canadian Royal Military College, was constructed by the British during War of 1812 and is a magnificently majestic citadel with thick,

stone walls; parapets; redoubts; a wide moat; and, still functioning, early 1800-era cannons. It's a place well worth a visit if you are in the area. The Tattoo was a pomp display of military precision and music. The U. S. Armed Forces were represented by the U. S. Marine Corps' Drum and Bugle Corps and Silent Drill Team from Washington, D. C. Kingston itself is an interesting, historic, old city; a popular tourist destination and, at one time, the seat of the Parliament of Canada.

On Sunday, we traveled on to Mountain, Ontario, to visit Farley's son Bill. Mountain is a few miles southwest of Ottawa. We enjoyed the next two days with him sightseeing in the Ottawa area and in eastern Quebec where our feeble attempt to speak French impressed no one but did get us a couple of very good meals. Bill, who is a salesman for a large farm equipment company, owns a beautiful log home (pictured). Like the others in his family, he is a great host and we were pleased to have a personal guide to show us the sites in the area.



Whereas Linda and I have always enjoyed meeting and talking with Vermilya/e/ea/er kin, both those closely and not so closely related, this trip was most enjoyable thanks to the hospitality of Farley, Vera and their children. A wonderful family. We look forward to future contacts with them.

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**WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS!!**

We welcome the following who have joined the VFA as Subscribing Members since the first of August

- Kay and Ralph Lamaitis (#727-II-5)
- Laura and Malcolm Thayer (#727-II-1)

## CHANGES TO THE VFA MASTER FILE

By Sandra V. Todd

### **VERMILYER FAMILY OFFICIALLY ADDED TO OUR TREE:**

***Barnabas/Charles Barnabas Vermilyer Family added to 6th generation as VFA #318A, son of William and Rachel (Ruttan) Vermilyea.***

We have always known that Barnabas (later known as Charles Barnabas) Vermilyer was part of the Vermilya/e/ea family, however that connection has never been confirmed with documentation. We are still unable to do that. Barnabas was born March 15, 1824 in Canada, and died February 8, 1903 at Mill Creek, La Porte County, Indiana. He married first (according to The Marriage Register of Upper Canada/Canada West Volume 7 Part Newcastle District 1810-1848) August 4, 1841 Mary Cummings or Cummins. He came to the United States (information recorded on the 1900 Federal Census) in 1843. Mary and Barnabas divorced in 1870 in Illinois; they were the parents of at least four children. Barnabas married, second, Harriet Keller Roath who was also born in Canada. They made their home at LaPorte, Indiana, the parents of eight children.

Born long before birth certificates, no record can be found of Barnabas's birth. Many people have done research on this family over a long period of time. The earliest record that can be found is the marriage record mentioned above. A copy of the death certificate is in my possession, however his parent's names are not listed. A time-line was prepared which included all the families known to be in the Ontario, Canada, region in 1824 and analyzed by several members of the Vermilyer family and myself. The conclusion is that Barnabas is the son of William and Rachel (Ruttan) Vermilyea (VFA #128, 5th generation). William and Rachel appear on the 1819 Loughborough, Portland Township, Frontenac County, Ontario, Canada Census. Unlike early U. S. Census records, this census lists the given names of all members of a household under the headings of "Males" and "Females." William and his known sons, Peter and William, as well as Rachel and their two daughters Jemina and Mary are listed. A couple years ago while researching Barnabas, I came across a marriage record for a Nancy Vermilyea who was born circa 1820-1822. She listed her parents as William and Rachel Vermilyea, so we know that William and Rachel were living after the 1819 record and had at least one child after that date. No record can be found of the deaths of William and Rachel; however, we do know from research done by the Henry family that Rachel married Peter Henry sometime in, or after, 1830. She is listed in LDS records of Nauvoo Baptisms, dated September 12, 1842. She was baptized on this date, listed as Rachel Henry, father Peter Ruttan, brother Peter Ruttan. Mary Massey and Jemina Ferguson are listed as her daughters. Experts on Nauvoo records at the Family History Library in Salt Lake City tell me that the relatives listed in these baptismal records were deceased at the time.

Many more details will be available when the Generation Files are updated at the Reunion Web Site. My intention was to do this in November, but since John and I will be in Salt Lake City for the Thanksgiving holiday, a visit to the Family History Library is on our list of things to do. Hopefully we will have some more new information to include, so the plan is to update in early December.

**ANOTHER FAMILY IDENTIFIED:** One other person listed in the Unidentified files has been cleared in much the same manner – David Vermilya of Elmira, New York, who was born about 1786 in New York State, died June 4, 1867 at Aurora, Illinois, has been identified as VFA #201.

**A NEW FAMILY FOUND, NOW BEING RESEARCHED:** One new person has been added to the Unidentified file: Charles H. Vermilyea born June 1828 in New York, married before 1858 Mary E. \_\_\_\_\_ who was born about 1831 in New York. He probably died between 1900 and 1910 in Missouri. She probably died after 1910 in the state of Washington. Research has just begun on this family. The only records in which they appear are census records from 1860 to 1910. They were the parents of five children. The children recorded on census records were, Cora, who was born about 1858 in Wisconsin; Fanny M., who was born about 1864 in Illinois; and Arthur who was born about 1860 in Missouri. The other children do not show on census records, but Mary reported on the 1910 Federal Census that she was the parent of five children, two were living at that time, one being Fanny. Mary is living with her and her husband at that time in Washington State. Fanny married Wade H. Lusk who was born December 1857 in Virginia. They had one child Nellie, who was born in 1880 in Missouri. This family lived in Missouri, Washington State and, in Colorado in 1920. I suspect that Cora lived until at least 1910. Arthur who was listed in 1860, age 4/12 is not listed on the 1870 census record. Anyone recognizing any of this family please contact me.





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who was born August 19, 2004 at Plant City, Florida. Corey and Tania (Weber) Baker are the proud parents. Congratulations!

### WEDDING ANNOUNCEMENT

Our member Lynn Vermilyea (#1457) and Carmen Seijo were married on August 21, 2004 at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Orlando, Florida. Congratulations!

### IN MEMORY

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

**JEAN V. CEDERGREEN** (#1490) passed away Friday, September 17, 2004, after a prolonged illness. Jean was born in Wenatchee, Washington, on December 13, 1914 to Jay and Lillian Vermilya. She attended school in Wenatchee, and she graduated from the University of Washington in 1938. While a sophomore at the University, Jean received the President's Medal for Academic Excellence. Jean married Clarice R. Cedergreen in Wenatchee on New Year's Eve 1938. They moved to the family farm in Snohomish and lived there together for 54 years until Clarice died in 1992. Jean loved to raise flowers in her beautiful gardens on the farm. She also spent many years serving in St. John's Episcopal Church. Jean moved to Emerald Heights, a retirement community in Redmond, in 2000. She is survived by two sons, Jay and John, and two daughters-in-law, Susan and Gretchen. Jean adored her seven grandchildren, Kate, Crissy, Steve, Emily, Erin, Charlie, and Jay. Jean's brother Jay lives in San Diego. Services for Jean will be 10:00 A.M. Saturday, September 25, at St. John's Episcopal Church 913 2nd Street in Snohomish. The family has requested in lieu of flowers a memorial to St. John's Episcopal Church 913 2nd Street, Snohomish, WA 98290. Burial will be at G.A.R. Cemetery. Arrangements under the direction of Bauer Funeral Chapel, Snohomish. (Published in the Seattle Times on 9/22/2004.)

*(Editor's note: Note: Those attending the Vermilyea Family Reunion in Oregon in 1999 will remember meeting Jean. Our condolences go out to her family, several of who also attended that Reunion.)*

**MARIE B. VERMILYEA** (#1293), 80, of East Hartford, Connecticut, died Sunday, September 26, 2004. She was born in Hartford, daughter of the late Abram and Emma (Miller) Vermilyea. She was employed for 21 years at Stanadyne where she was a machine operator. She was a member of the Stanadyne Retirees Club. She is survived by a brother and sister-in-law, George and Kathleen Vermilyea; as well as several nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by a sister, Florence Birtles. Funeral services and burial are private. There are no calling hours. The Newkirk and Whitney Funeral Home, 318 Burnside Ave., East Hartford has charge of the arrangements. (Published in the Hartford Courant on 9/28/2004.)

**BERNICE J. VERMILYEA** (spouse of #1503, Lowell Vermilyea), 91, of Austin, Minnesota, died Saturday, October 16, 2004, at the Austin Medical Center. She was born Feb. 9, 1913, in Frost, Minn., to Martin and Ella (Savig) Halverson. Her husband, Lowell, preceded her in death in 1974. Bernice was a member of St. Olaf Lutheran Church. Funeral services will be held Tuesday, October 19, 2004, at 11 a.m. at Clasen-Jordan Mortuary Chapel with the Rev. Kristin K. Wee officiating. Interment will be at Grandview Cemetery in Austin. She is survived by sons, Dale (Kit) Vermilyea of Denver, Colo.; Brian Vermilyea of Austin, Minn.; five grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; nieces and nephews; special nieces, Vikki Blom and Karen Pedersen of Austin, Minn. She was preceded in death by her parents, husband, four sisters and one brother. (Published in the Austin Daily Herald On-Line, October 18, 2004.)

**HENRY CHARLES FISHER** (#1423-II), 79, of New Berlin, New York, passed away on Oct. 8, 2004 in Oneonta. Born in Jewett on Jan. 7, 1925, he was the son of Charles and Hettie (Vermilyea) Fisher. He is affiliated with the Jehovah's Witness Kingdom Hall Church, Norwich. He has been a resident of New Berlin since 1963. Henry is survived by his sisters, Mildred Hattie Fisher Rappleyea of Lexington and Minnie Roseland Fisher Lance of Florida along with several nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his parents; sisters Jean Fisher Roe in 1971 and Irene Louise Fisher, along with a baby brother Frederick Robert Fisher. Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. Wednesday at the Dakin Funeral Home, New Berlin with Rev. Duane Golden officiating. Interment will be in the Columbus Corners Cemetery, Town of Columbus. Friends may call from

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10 to 11 a.m. Wednesday preceding the funeral service. (Published in the Norwich Evening Sun, Norwich, New York, week of October 18, 2004.)

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## 49TH ANNUAL VERMILYER FAMILY REUNION

AUGUST 28, 2004, LAPORTE, INDIANA

By Nancy McIntrye



Thirty-five members of the Vermilyer Family gathered at the First Baptist Church Hargrave Fellowship Center, at LaPorte, Indiana, on Sunday afternoon, August 29th.

A delicious meal was served followed by an afternoon full of activities, which included taking a group picture.

Officers were elected; Lewis Vermilyer will be President for the 2005 Reunion, the 50th Annual! Lewis and his mother were the organizers of the first Vermilyer Family Reunion held back in 1955.

Awards were given to the youngest, oldest and the one traveling the farthest as well as numerous other door awards. An auction was held and bingo was played. Everyone enjoyed getting together with family and look forward to celebrating the 50th Reunion next year.

### Those Who Attended

Bill and Nancy McIntyre  
David Zeitz  
Dick Lidgard  
Gary Miller  
Orma J. VanSchoyck  
James L. Henock  
Delores Henock  
Kenny Veal  
Felicia Miller  
Pat Spahn  
Jessica Miller  
Alex Miller  
Aimee Valentine  
Kenneth and Vesta Reeder  
John Curry

Florence Swanson  
Carol Snyder  
Ron and Phyllis Miller  
Margaret and O. W. Capshaw  
Lewis N. Vermilyer  
Lori Hamlin  
Jerry Hamlin  
Mark Miller  
Katie Miller  
Bob and Brenda Miller  
Al and Patty Miller  
Brad Miller  
Victoria Rose Valentine  
Kathy Trowbridge

## VERMILYEA/E/EA/ER PLACES

### More "Places That Were"

By Carl Vermilyea and Sandra Todd

Research has turned up some "places" which, after further investigation, have been found to no longer exist. In the April, May, June 2004 edition of this newsletter, we covered two: Vermilyea Road in Oregon City, Oregon; and, Vermilyea Court in Richmond, Virginia. Here we add three more to our 'Places That Were' List. All these were in New York State.

### THE VERMILYEA-CHRISTENSEN AMERICAN LEGION POST, DRESDEN, NY

The American Legion, familiar to all of us, is a social organization for military veterans and organized into "Posts" which are located throughout the country. In most cases, an American Legion Post has its own building in which members meet and conduct their many functions. However, in some instances, a Post does not have a building and meets and conducts its affairs at the facility of another organization in the local community. The Vermilyea-Christensen American Legion Post in Dresden, New York, had its own building for many years; but, because of dwindling membership, sold it in about 1996. The Post now has a very small membership and uses the proceeds from the sale of the building to support its functions and as rent for meetings in other facilities in the town. Members participate in local parades and in other community events.

Unaware that the building had been sold, in July 2004 my wife and I went to Dresden to take some pictures of it. To reach the town from the New York Thruway (I-90), we took Exit 42 and went south on Route 14 for about 21 miles. At the junction of Route 54, we took a left and entered Dresden. A short way down the road, Main Street, we found the local post office and went in to ask for directions. The Postmistress informed us that the building was about a block further down the road; go through the stop sign and it was the second building on the right, a brick building painted gray. She also informed us of the sale of the building by the Post to the Good Samaritan Baptist Church and told us about the current status of the Post, as mentioned above.



The building in Dresden, New York, which formerly housed a school, later the Vermilyea-Christensen American Legion Post and, now, a Baptist Church.

Prior to our visit, Sandra Todd had communicated with Mr. William Updike, a Past Commander of the Vermilyea-Christensen American Legion Post. Whereas he failed to mention the sale of the building, he did say that the Post is named after Sidney C. Vermilyea and Anton Christensen and that both men had been killed during World War I. The VFA master file shows that Sidney C. Vermilyea (VFA #1968; ancestors: Herbert Smith, Isaac, Benjamin, Benjamin, Johannes, John, Johannes, Isaac, Jean) was a doctor who served in the U. S. Army as a 1st Lieutenant in the Medical Detachment of the 363rd Infantry. He died on 2 November 1918 from wounds received in action.

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## SCHOOL PRINCIPAL DIES AT HIS DESK

By Sandra V. Todd

*(Editor's note: The below article was reproduced from the New York Times (1857-Current file); April 12, 1912, page 9; ProQuest Historical Newspapers; with permission of the copyright owner. Further reproduction prohibited without permission.)*

### SCHOOL PRINCIPAL DIES AT HIS DESK

#### Evander Childs Stricken as He Tries to Answer the Bell for Morning Exercises

#### HE HAD SERVED FIFTY YEARS

Evander Childs, Principle of Public School 10, Eagle Avenue and 163rd Street, the Bronx, was going over his mail in his office yesterday morning at 9 O'clock, when the bell rang through the building to call the pupils to the assembly room for morning exercises. Mr. Childs started to rise, telling his secretary, Miss Alice Stear, that he was going to the assembly room. But before he was on his feet he fell forward with a cry and struck heavily on his desk.

Miss Stear screamed and attracted the attention of several teachers who were passing by the office door. Word was immediately sent to the Principal's daughter, Miss Ella Childs, who is a teacher in the school. While pupils were sent out for a physician, efforts were made to revive him by rubbing his temples. Dr. Vincent Quinn of 889 Cauldwell Avenue arrived a few minutes later and found that the Principal was dead.

In the meantime, the pupils, of whom there are 3,589 enrolled at this school, had gathered with many of the teachers in the assembly room and were waiting for the exercises to begin. They did not know what had happened until a teacher came from the office with word that the Principal was dead. To this announcement it was added that school was adjourned for the day. The school flag was soon at half mast and the children were filing out. The order to adjourn was given by Egerton I. Winthrop, President of the Board of Education, who had been notified immediately of the Principal's death.

Mr. Childs was 72 years old. He had been associated with the city schools for more than fifty years.

Mr. Childs was born in New York City, where members of his family have lived for many generations; one of his ancestors, Francis Childs, having been on of New York City's first newspaper editors. He was a graduate of City College and shortly after graduation began his career as a teacher. He was Vice Principal of Public School 51 for many years. He lived at 68 West 119th Street.

I realize that most of our membership would not have a connection to Evander Childs or the Evander

Childs High School in Bronx, New York, but there is an interesting family connection. Evander Childs, III, was the son of Evander Childs, Jr. (VFA #85-II-3) and Sinche Vermilyea Clark (see VFA # 37-I). His grandparents are Mary Vermilye (VFA #85) and Evander Childs, Sr.

The cornerstone for the school, which is still in operation today, was laid May 6, 1915. Shortly after the death of Evander Childs, III, who is described as a great educator, an organization was established known as the Evander Childs Association. It is noted in an article printed in the New York Times, dated June 21, 1913 that this association received an endorsement from the Association of Women Principals to name the new school being organized in the Bronx as the Evander Childs High School. In articles dated an early as April 27, 1912 it is mentioned that discussions were held to name a school in the Bronx after Mr. Childs. In an article dated July 15, 1915 headed Teaching Staff Changes it notes a number of teachers being transferred to the Evander Childs High School, so while no article can be found stating the actual starting date of the school, one might assume it could be the school year starting in 1915. In an article dated June 19, 1919 it states that the formal dedication of the new Evander Childs High School will be held this fall. "The noble service rendered by Evander Childs will live in the memories of his pupils, the boys of old P.S. 51 in Manhattan, and the boys and girls of old P.S. 61 in Morrisania, and P.S. 90, afterward know as P.S. 10, the Bronx."

## A TRAGEDY IN BROOKLYN IN 1922

*(Editor's note: The below article was reproduced from the New York Times (1857-Current file); May 6, 1922; ProQuest Historical Newspapers; with permission of the copyright owner. Further reproduction is prohibited without permission.)*

### DIVES IN VAIN FOR SON AFTER MAN SAVES TWO

#### Father's Stay Under Water Alarms Crowd and He is Restrained --- Mover Rescues Other Boys

Cries that three boys were drowning brought Fred Becker, 25 years old, to the porch of his home at Shell Road and West Sixth Street, Coney Island, at supper time last night. In the twilight Becker saw a canoe overturned in midstream of Coney Island Creek, seventy-five feet wide and fifteen feet deep. Three boys were clinging to the canoe.

"Hold the supper; I'll be right back," shouted Becker to his wife, as he ran down to the shore and plunged in. House moving had made Becker strong and his powerful strokes soon put him alongside the canoe. Harry Hoffman, 12 years old, of 2728 West Fifth Street, grasped Becker around the waist and was soon ashore. Halfway to the shore with Harry Shapiro, 11, of 2224 West Fifth Street, Becker was relieved of his burden by a man in a rowboat.

Then the swimmer started back to the canoe for Louis Vermilyea, 12, of 2,713 West Second Street. Paying no heed to the shouts of encouragement from Becker and the man in the rowboat, the boy, tired or frightened, released his grip on the craft and sank. A call to the Coney Island station brought Sergeant James Reid and six policemen; the hook and ladder contingent attached to Engine Company 245 also came to the scene. About fifty boats, manned by Becker's neighbors, took to the water in the search for the boy.

At this point, Nathaniel Vermilyea, taxicab owner, father of the missing boy, came up in his automobile. He had heard of his son's plight and ran from his machine, the engine still drumming, to the bank. Before anyone could stop him he jumped into the water, swam out near the canoe and dived. The minutes passed and the man failed to reappear.

Tension among the group on the bank, about 500 persons in all, increased and three women fainted. Just as Dr. Rubin of Coney Island Hospital reached the creek, Vermilyea came to the surface. Before he could again dive, Sergeant Reid shouted to him that his son had been saved and was on shore.

Vermilyea turned toward the bank and swam in. As he stepped out, Police Reservist Daniel Hazelett seized him and prevented him from returning to the water. Two hours after he sank, the boy's body was recovered by Harry Emmon and John Bader.

Lewis, shown as Louis in the above article, was the third child of Nathaniel D. (VFA #579; ancestors: Benjamin Franklin, Nathaniel Drake, Philip, Peter, Isaac, Johannes) and Leota M. (Goff) Vermilyea.

### Victorian Stone Symbols and Meanings

Published in The Atlantic County Historical Society Yearbook October 1998

(I don't know where Atlantic County Historical Society is, this came from a file at the Family History Library, Salt Lake City, Utah. Sandra)

Anchors – Hope

Angels/Cherubs – Heavenly messengers, guides

Bouquets – Condolences, mourning

Doves – The soul, purity, Holy Ghost

Handshakes – Spritual union, farewell

Lambs – Innocence, Christ Sacrifice

Sheaf of wheat – Bounty of the earth, a full life

Broken Columns – Life cut down

Inverted torches – Death

Urns – Mortality, the container of the soul

Willows – Gospel of Christ; mourning

Wreaths – Victory over sin and death

Broken Flower Stem – Life cut off in bloom  
(especially regarding youth)

Hour glass – Passing of time

## INDIAN SUMMER

A poem by Wilma D. Vermilyea, Forest Grove, Oregon

*(Editor's note: This poem appeared in the last edition of this newsletter.  
We copied it directly out of a newspaper and the print was so small it  
was barely readable. Therefore, we are reprinting it here.*

The night was fair, the moonlight's beam  
Danced on the ripples of the stream;  
Beneath the roots the gray trout slid;  
Beneath the fern the woodcock hid;  
The brown owl hooted from the trees,  
And from afar, borne on the breeze,  
Faintly was heard the panther's shrill  
And piercing scream, and all was still.

Then to the silvery stream's dark brink  
A timid deer came down to drink.  
From the wood a maiden stepped,  
Yet to the darker shadows kept;  
Her dark hair hung in two long braids,  
That rivaled the woodland's deeper shades;  
Her eyes were dark as the leaves are brown  
That the rough autumn wind has blown.

Down to the graveled bank she came  
And stood and softly called a name.  
From the farther shore's protecting dark,  
Arrow-like there shot a barque,  
A frail thing of bark and bough.  
With a dog's head carved on the lifted prow.  
The steady hand that held the oar  
Guided the light craft to the shore,  
And steadied it, and held it there  
Until the dark-eyed lady fair  
Had entered. Then the boat sped forth  
Up the stream, toward the north.  
To the south an Indian village lay,  
And slept the summer night away.

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**WE WISH EVERYONE A  
HAPPY AND SAFE HOLIDAY SEASON**

## THE VFA

The Vermilyea Family Association (Vermilya, Vermilye, Vermilyea, Vermilyer), or VFA for short, a not-for-profit, social club staffed by volunteers, was established on November 27, 1995. We have shared information about the descendants of Johannes Vermelje (the Vermilya, Vermilye, Vermilyea and Vermilyer lines) and, thus, together, learned a great deal 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 genealogy research findings plus stories, histories and information about your family, ancestors and descendants. By doing so, we'll all benefit by learning even 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,

Other Board Members:

Tom Vermilye,

Wilma Vermilyer,

### DUES FOR 2005

Anyone who has been a VFA subscribing member and paid dues for any year from 1995 through 2004 will not be charged dues in 2005. Of those, anyone who was not a Subscribing Member in 2004 is required to submit a new membership application.

Anyone who has never been a subscribing member (will become a first-time member in 2005) must submit a membership application and pay annual dues of \$6.00 (US) or \$7.50 (Canadian).

Membership applications and dues must be sent to the Treasurer. Please make your check or money order payable to **Vermilyea Family Association**, and, mail it to: **Mr. Dayl Stout**,

If a subscribing membership application is received by the Treasurer after February 15, 2005, the applicant will be sent all issues of the newsletter which were published in 2005 prior to their application being received.

All subscribing memberships will expire on December 31, 2005.

### 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 should be sent to the Historian, Sandra V. Todd.

Articles which appear in the newsletter may be reproduced if credit is given.

**For those who want to submit articles for publication:** You may send manuscripts, pictures and documents to Sandra Todd by regular or e-mail. As material cannot be returned, please do not send originals. The VFA reserves the right to publish information received in a media of its choosing.

**To order prior issues of this Newsletter:** For those without internet access, you may order back-issues of this newsletter by sending a check or money order, made payable to "Vermilyea Family Association," in the amount of \$3.00 (US) or \$4.30 (Canadian) for each copy to Carl Vermilyea (see address above).

### DO YOU HAVE ACCESS TO THE INTERNET?

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

The VFA's **E-mail address** (staffed by Sandra V. Todd) is: [VERMREUN@earthlink.net](mailto:VERMREUN@earthlink.net)

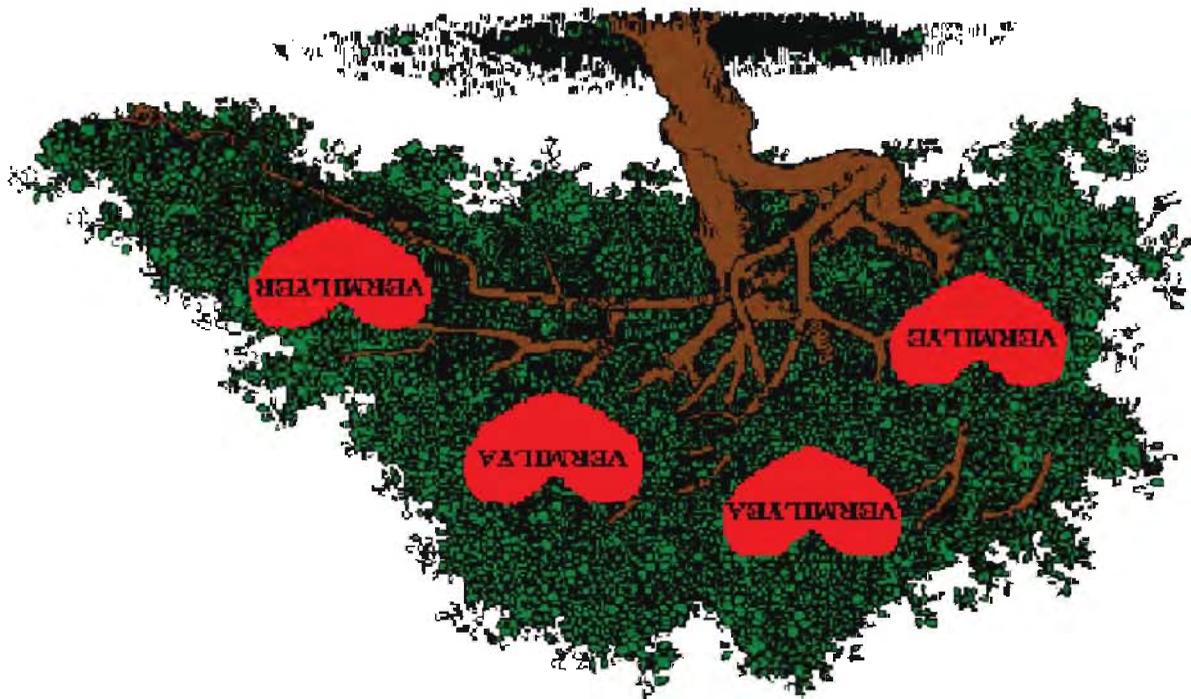
### OTHER WEB SITES OF INTEREST

Sandra V. Todd maintains a private, non-VFA affiliated/sponsored web site at:

<http://freepages.family.rootsweb.com/~vermilyeareunion/index.html>

At this site, Sandra reports on family reunions and lists members of the early generations of the Vermilya-Vermilye-Vermilyea-Vermilyer family.

VERMILYEA FAMILY ASSOCIATION  
(VERMILYA, VERMILYE, VERMILYEA, VERMILYER)  
Founded in 1995



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