

THE VERMILYEA FAMILY

(VERMILYA/VERMILYE/VERMILYEA/VERMILYER)

PLACES



BY
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* Places visited by the author

FOREWORD AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

When I was a teenager and became interested in our family's genealogy, my father told me that there was a Vermilyea Avenue in New York City. I recall being impressed and wondering how many other places might bear our surname. But those thoughts were soon lost in other pursuits. It took over 30 years before I had an opportunity to see that Vermilyea Avenue for myself.

In late 1995, I joined the newly formed Vermilyea Family Association (VFA). In the January-February-March 1996 edition of the association's newsletter, *Vermilye/a's... Historically Speaking*, there was an article titled "Landmarks of Interest" written by Sandra Helen (Vermilyea) Todd, a founder of the VFA and its historian, which mentioned a Vermilyea Road in Halcottsville, New York. In the article, she expressed an interest in finding more landmarks named for or after members of our clan. In the July-August-September 1997 edition, she published another article titled "More Vermilyea-Vermilya-Vermilye Addresses," which listed six more roads bearing the name Vermilya or Vermilyea. From the Internet and with help from Sandra and other members of the VFA, the list of places and information about them has steadily grown. Not content with just reading about them, I've attempted to visit as many as my travels have permitted (see asterisks in the table of contents).

In selecting places to include herein, I have used a rather liberal interpretation of the word "places." The primary criteria are that the places must be (or have been) recorded in public records as having one of the family's surnames and are (or could have been) commonly considered physical points of reference. They are landmarks such as roads, buildings or structures, wildlife areas, bodies of water, educational and social institutions, homes and farms that are listed in historical registers, and stores and hotels where the name of the business is also the name of the building in which it is housed. Not included herein are the many nonhistorically registered homes or farms locally referred to as the "old Vermily— place," "the Vermily— homestead," or like terms.

The text starts with a description of Vermelles, France, believed to be the birthplace or residence of our earliest known ancestor, Jean de Vermeille, and the source of his surname. New York State is covered next because it is there, in 1662, that our ancestors first entered North America, disembarking at Nieuw Amsterdam (the southern end of New York City) and settling in Nieuw Haarlem (Harlem, New York City) at the northern end of Manhattan Island. The immediate descendant of those first settlers migrated northward and westward within the state. Over the ensuing years, they moved to all parts of the United States and Canada. Rather than attempting to cover these other states and provinces by date of settlement by our ancestors, I have listed them alphabetically, first by state (in chapter 2) and then by province within Canada (in chapter 3).

A challenge has been to match each place name with the person for which it was named. In many cases, the connection has been found, and, to aid in identification, that person's ancestry back to Jean de Vermeille is shown in parentheses immediately after the person's name. Similarly, the ancestry of those who have provided information covering the location is provided.

In some cases, I have found that places named after one of our ancestors that no longer exist

for many reasons, including fire, flood, or sale. Chapter 4 reports what is known about such places.

If you have information that you would like to share about any of the places listed herein or know of other places not included, please send it to the VFA. If possible, the information should include a general description of the place and its environment (residential, agricultural, etc.), photos and information about how it came by the name — information that should be available at the local city hall or historical society. We'll add whatever you provide into an addendum to this publication.

Appreciation is extended to all who have provided information. Special thanks go out to Sandra Helen (Vermilyea) Todd (ancestors: Harold Herbert, William, William, Samuel, William, Abraham, John, Johannes, Isaac, Jean), who, through her adept research, initially discovered most of the places described herein, and to Dyckman Ware Vermilye (ancestors: Joseph Ware, Marion Hoagland, Isaac Dyckman, Thomas Baine, William, John, Isaac, Johannes, Isaac, Jean) for his reports covering Vermeille, France. Thanks are also extended to the many others, some family members and others not, who have contributed to this effort. They are credited in the text.

Carl Parker Vermilyea **
Keene, New Hampshire

** (ancestors: Rex Whitney, Earl John, John Knickerbocker, Avery, Abram, William, Abraham, John, Johannes, Isaac, Jean)

CHAPTER 1 - FRANCE

VERMEILLE (NOW VERMELLES)

We start off not with a place named for a member of our extended family but rather the place from which it is believed the family derived its surname.

According to James Riker in his 1904 book¹, the paternal ancestry of our family traces back to Jean de Vermeille and his place of residence, Vermelle (now Vermelles), France. About the town, Riker wrote: "... one of the ... towns bears the name Vermelle, being in Artois, southeast of Bethune, near a lake at the source of the Papegay" Although Riker did not specifically say so, his text infers that Jean took the name of the town when, under patronymic law, French citizens were required to adopt a surname.

In the early 1990s, Dyckman Ware Vermilye (ancestors: Joseph Ware, Marion Hoagland, Isaac Dyckman, Thomas Baine, William, John, Isaac, Johannes, Isaac, Jean), a diligent researcher of the family's earliest history, visited Vermelles, France, in search of additional information about our ancestors. Dyckman wrote several articles for the Vermilyea Family Association (VFA) newsletter, *Vermilye/a's ... Historically Speaking*.² Excerpts from three of them follow:

From the March 1996 newsletter: "... our name springs from a town in northern France. It is now known as Vermelles. I visited it in 1991 and was able to obtain ... reports prepared by the local historian on the town's history. It was in an area of Huguenots, many of whom fled to other countries to escape religious persecution in the 16th century. At that time, the town's name was spelled Vermeille, the same name used by Jean and his wife, Marie Roubley.... Jean is identified as 'Jean de Vermeille;' John from Vermeille. Patronymics were not universal at that time, and to take the name of one's village or town was not uncommon. Anyway, I'm convinced that this is the origin of our family name."

From the May 1997 newsletter: "Our roots lie in Europe, and specifically in that portion of northern France known as the Artois. The present border between France and Belgium is not far away.... The area was called the granary.... It is probable that everyone in Vermeille village was involved in one way or another with the manufacture of linens: growing flax, carding flax and weaving."

And finally, from the February 1997 newsletter: "I took a train into Lille (France) ... and caught a local train the following morning that I discovered would stop at Cuinchy, a town close to Vermelles. I assumed that I could walk to Vermelles from that station. I arrived on a Saturday close to mid-day. The station had long since been abandoned for passenger service, and there was no official to ask for information or directions. A few shouted requests of passing motorists at least pointed me in the direction of Vermelles. The distance was about four miles.... I turned off the main road when I thought I was close to Vermelles and walked between agriculture fields toward the church steeple that marked a village. The church was locked; the vestry next door was unoccupied. There was no police station. The town hall was closed.... I decided, reluctantly, to leave.... As I retraced my steps, I noticed that at least one shop was open. It was the French equivalent of a "Mom and Pop" business with Mom behind the counter.... The shopkeeper's

¹ *Revised History of Harlem (City of New York) -- Its Origin and Early Annals*, by James Riker, New Harlem Publishing Company, 1904, page 104.

² The Vermilyea Family Association's newsletter was first published in January 1996 and titled *Vermilye/a's... Historically Speaking*. In October 1997, it was renamed to *Vermilya/e/ea/er's... Historically Speaking*.

husband emerged from their living quarters and was interested in my quest. He volunteered to drive me to the home of the local historian, M. Brehon, the “seigneur” of the town. M. Brehon was, unfortunately, in the hospital, but his niece-by-marriage invited me inside to tell my story. Before I left, I had been loaned copies of two histories of the town, privately researched and printed in one instance by M. Brehon. The other report was prepared by a government researcher and printed at government expense. The private history included an early reference to the fact that the spelling of the town had changed over the centuries. Vermeille, Vermelle and Vermelles are all found in the records - Vermeille being the earliest.”



Vermelles, France

In 1999, when searching the Internet for information about Vermeille, Sandra Helen (Vermilyea) Todd found an interesting article that had been written by a descendant of a World War I soldier who was killed and buried in the town. This article also provides travel directions. Sandra quoted most of the article in the February 2000 edition of VFA newsletter. The part covering travel directions states, “We traveled north on the TGV, ...a bullet train ... from Paris..., trusting to public transportation to take us (from Bethune) to Vermelles.... The landscape soon becomes flat and unremarkable.... Needless to say, the place abounds in war memorials and graveyards....two vicious wars having being fought out upon the territory, many towns and villages having been razed and rebuilt two or three times over. Such painful experiences have produced a provincial populace of unparalleled generosity.... Arriving in Bethune, we quickly learned that there is virtually no public transport in northern France.... (We took) the Galaxie bus, Ligne 82, (which) ... goes all the way to Arras, about fifteen minutes beyond Vermelles. The bus will pass through Noyelles Les-Vermelles. Don’t get off. Be sure that the driver knows you are looking for Vermelles which is the very next stop. (If you travel by car) coming from Paris, head to Lens first and thence along the north western Route de Liaison to Bethune. Stop at Noyelles Les- Vermelles. Look closely for signs: Vermelles itself is five minutes away along a secondary road to the east. Vermelles, to quote the literature of the War Graves commission, is a village and commune in the minefield of the Pas-de-Calais, midway between Bethune and Lens.” (Parentheses added.)

Other information covering Vermeille, France, and the family's early ancestry may be found in *The Vermilyea Family (Vermilya, Vermilye, Vermilyea, Vermilyer), Descendants of Johannes Vermelje, New York, 1662-1998*, a two-part manuscript written by Sandra (Vermilyea) Todd in 1998 and 2001.



The Crest of Vermelles, France³

³ Source: Internet site: "International Civic Heraldry" (<http://www.ngw.nl/int/fra/v/vermelle.htm>).

CHAPTER 2 - THE UNITED STATES

NEW YORK

NEW YORK CITY: VERMILYEA AVENUE

Vermilyea Avenue in New York City is named after Isaac Vermilyea (ancestor: Jean de Vermeille)⁴, who brought his family from Holland to the Harlem settlement in New Netherlands in 1662. Sources indicated that Isaac always spelled his surname Vermeille; however, after immigrating, his son, Johannes, used Vermilje, presumably to better conform to the Dutch dialect used in Harlem. Johannes' descendants further changed the spelling to Vermilya, Vermilye, and Vermilyea, apparently with brothers who used two or more of those spellings. Thus, the avenue was not named until after several generations of the family had been born in the city. Historical records show that several of Isaac's descendants owned large parcels of land in the area from the late 1600s through the early 1800s and that the spelling Vermilyea first appeared in the early 1700s.

The December 17, 1942, edition of the *New York Times* contained the obituary of William Gerard Vermilye Jr. (ancestors: William Gerard, Jacob Dyckman, William W., William, John, Isaac Corssen, Johannes, Isaac, Jean). It stated, in part, "Vermilye Avenue and Dyckman Street in New York were named after his grandfather, Jacob Dyckman Vermilye who owned extensive property in the vicinity." (Parentheses added.) This may not be entirely accurate because, again, the spelling of the avenue's name is different from the spelling of Jacob's surname; nevertheless, the family connection is there.

Although I had been to New York City many times, the first time I went to Vermilyea Avenue was in September 1984. We visited the area again in October 1998. The following is an account of my observations.



Vermilyea Avenue looking north
from Dyckman Avenue.



Vermilyea Avenue looking south from
211th Street toward Dyckman Avenue.

Vermilyea Avenue is located at the northern end of Manhattan Island about two blocks east-north-east of the area known as The Cloisters. One block east of and running parallel to Broadway Avenue (Route 9), its terminal points are Dyckman Avenue in the south and 211th

⁴ *The Report*, James Renner, Director of Research at http://www.washingtonheights-nyc.com/news/archieves/ma99/history_ma992.html, and <http://www.washington-heights.us/history/archieves/000519.html>.

Street at the north. Along its stark, straight, 0.46-mile length are four- and five-story, walk-up, tenement (apartment) buildings of various shades of brown and rust-colored brick; a fire station; the Vermilyea Laundromat (named after the avenue, not the owner); and, on its southeast corner with Dyckman Avenue, a restaurant, the “Mirage.” The area is primarily inhabited by Hispanics and African-Americans.

In 1984, the neighborhood was very run-down and generally not considered safe for tourists. In 1998, we found a significant improvement. The area was relatively clean, the exteriors of buildings were in a better state of repair, and the people were friendly and helpful—a much more pleasant environment. Although it is still a tenement area, during the daytime tourists should have no problems.



The Dyckman House, Harlem, New York City (October 1998)

Of significant historical interest in the area is the Dyckman House on the corner of Broadway Avenue (Route 9) and 204th Street. It’s a short, easy stroll from Vermilyea Avenue. Built in 1764 by William and Maritie Dyckman, it is referred to as “Manhattan’s Last Dutch Colonial Farmhouse” and is one of a very few structures of 18th century vintage being maintained in their original state as a museum by the City of New York. On about an acre of land, it is an oasis of bygone-years’ tranquility in the otherwise bustling tenement neighborhood. The house and its grounds, including a vegetable garden and two outbuildings, are in near-original condition. In the picture of it below, note that the roof is typical of what is referred to as a Dutch Colonial design. Most of the rooms contain period furniture, and in the basement is a small display of military artifacts found on the property. In the museum’s office on the second floor is a copy of a Dyckman genealogy, which contains the names of several Vermilyes who married into the Dyckman family in the late 1600s and early 1700s. The genealogy may be read there at the house; copies are not available for purchase. The Dyckman House has limited open hours; therefore, it is best to call ahead (212-304-9422).

COXSACKIE: VERMILYEA LANE

Vermilyea Lane in Cossackie is the newest roadway named after a family member. The name was approved on July 14, 2005 by the Cossackie Town Council. The following is

paraphrased from the minutes of the Counsel's meeting:⁵ "The Greene County Industrial Development Agency (IDA) is a 'public benefit corporation' formed by the Greene County Legislature in 1972. Alexander Mathes, Executive Director of the IDA said he would like to honor local people for their leadership to benefit Greene County, the Town of Coxsackie and the Town of New Baltimore. Willis Vermilyea will be so honored by naming a road in the Technology Park Vermilyea Lane. A motion was made and passed to name the new road Vermilyea Lane." Guests at the meeting included Willis Vermilyea, Frank Vermilyea, Rebecca Vermilyea, Jeanette Vermilyea, and David Vermilyea. Willis (ancestors: Frank, Guy S., Frank S., George H., Abraham, Abraham, Peter Martin, Isaac Corssen, Johannes, Isaac, Jean) served as Greene County Treasurer and Greene County IDA Board Chairman.

HALCOTTSVILLE: VERMILYEA ROAD

In the first VFA newsletter (published in January 1996) Sandra (Vermilyea) Todd wrote, in part: "... The farm of my Great, Great, Great Grandfather William Vermilya (ancestors: Abraham, John, Johannes, Isaac, Jean) was located here (on Vermilyea Road in Halcottsville); I have been unable to verify where William, who died on April 12, 1803, is reported to have been buried on the farm...." (Parenthesis added.)

As I also descend from William, this Vermilyea place held a special interest for me. So, in June 1998, when my wife and I were in the area, we detoured from our destination so that we might see it firsthand.

Halcottsville is a very small, rural village located on the west side of the Catskill Mountains just west of Route 30 between Margaretville and Roxbury. Directions to Vermilyea Road: Take Bragg Hollow Road west from the center of the town. Approximately one mile from the village, Vermilyea Road branches off of it to the right.

The road ascends a long, steep hill. As you begin the climb, there is a fenced pasture on the right. It is believed this was part of a farm that once belonged to William Vermilya. At the top of the hill, there are four short roads extending from it. Each is a dead-end, essentially making Vermilyea Road also a dead-end. The area is being developed. At the higher elevations, there are several recently built seasonal and year-round homes of varying styles, some with magnificently scenic overlooks of the surrounding valleys and mountains.

Some historical documents published in the early 1900s report that William lived in Roxbury during the late 1700s and until his death in 1803; however, one account states that William died at his farm near Halcottsville. The latter is most probably correct, and it could be that Halcottsville was a part of Roxbury back in those days. Another William, William B. Vermilya (ancestors: Noah D., Solomon, William, Abraham, John, Johannes, Isaac, Jean), who was born in April 1871 and was the great-grandson of the above-mentioned William, was born in Halcottsville and is known to have lived and operated a farm in Bragg Hollow, Halcottsville. And records show that his brother, James Willard Vermilya, grew up on his father's farm in Bragg Hollow, Halcottsville, and worked the farm with his brother for most of his life. Thus, there is a strong inference that William B. and his brother James W. inherited their great-grandfather's (William's) farm from their father, Noah, and grandfather, Solomon, and that the road was named after the family as a whole rather than just one person. As the spelling of the

⁵ www.coxsackie.org/minutes.html. Minutes from the Coxsackie Town Board Meeting, June 14, 2005

road's name ends in "yea" rather than "ya," it is also possible that the road was named after a descendant of these men, perhaps as late as the 1930s when electricity was installed in the area.



Vermilyea Road, Halcottsville, from its junction with Bragg Hollow Road (June 1998). The road was paved in September 2001.

PLEASANTVILLE: VERMILYEA STREET

The information below about Vermilyea Street in Pleasantville is from my observations when my wife and I visited the town in October 1998 and from Harold Kuebler, husband of Dorothea M. (Vermilye) Kuebler (ancestors: Leonard Charles, Charles H., Benjamin Franklin, Nathaniel Drake, Philip, Peter Martin, Isaac Corssen, Johannes, Isaac, Jean). Harold and Dorothy live in the nearby town of Chappaqua, New York. Pleasantville, which was first settled in 1695, is located about 30 miles directly north of New York City at the junction of the Saw Mill River Parkway and Route 117.

From my observations:

To find Vermilyea Street, take either Tompkins or Martling Avenues south from Bradford Street (Route 117), the main east-west road through the center of Pleasantville. Drive two blocks. Vermilyea Street is an east-west, very short (9/100ths of a mile) road. It connects a light industrial area along Thompson Avenue on its west with a residential area to its east. At its junction with Tompkins Avenue are two commercial buildings. The building on the northeast corner is an old, brick, four-story factory housing two publishing companies: the Akadine Press, Inc., publisher of the *Common Reader*, and the Higham Press. The building on the southeast corner is of recent construction and appears to be a storage warehouse for a trucking firm. From the west, Vermilyea Street runs up and crests a small hill. The only buildings on its north side, after the factory, are three modest homes probably built in the 1940s. The first two are nearly identical, white, two-storied and of frame construction. The third is a brick-and-frame residence.



There are no buildings along the south side of the street. At its east end, Vermilyea Street terminates at Martling Avenue, along which is an attractive, well-maintained neighborhood of single-family, three-story, Victorian-style homes probably built in the 1920s and 1930s.

Vermilyea Street looking east from Thompson Avenue (October 1998)

Harold reported:

Pleasantville is a hamlet in the Westchester County town of North Castle. It is perhaps best known today as the headquarters of the *Reader's Digest*. In the mid-1800s, it was a small agriculture community that had just been made a stop on the New York Central Harlem Railroad. It was there that Samuel Shapter, of New York City, the son of Peter and Frances (Vermilyea) Shapter (ancestors: Philip, Peter Martin, Isaac Corssen, Johannes, Isaac, Jean), a young “distillers chemist and liquor and tobacco store owner,” moved after he had married Rebecca Pierce, a young Quaker girl from Pleasantville.

Jane Shapter Sanz wrote in her book, *Paternal Ancestors of John Hobson Shapter*, “In the 1860s, Samuel became involved in a large way in real estate in Pleasantville,” and, in a quote from a *Westchester County Historical Bulletin*, 1953, “The coming of Samuel Shapter to Pleasantville was to decide, to a great extent, the plan of the village.” Samuel, in fact, owned most of what is today the heart of the village.

When the land was surveyed in 1870 for development, Samuel donated parcels for the building of the railroad station and the Catholic church, and named one of the newly laid out roads Rebecca Street, in honor of his wife, and another Vermilyea Street to honor his mother’s family. Regretfully, Samuel’s real estate plans were not a success, and he had to declare bankruptcy in 1875. Rebecca Street was later downgraded to its present-day designation of Rebecca Lane, when the main road into town was rerouted. Vermilyea Street has remained unchanged.

FLORIDA

LANTANA: VIA VERMILYA

It is strongly suspected (not yet confirmed with local authorities) that Via Vermilya in Lantana was named in honor of Wright (“Ike”) Vermilya II (ancestors: Edwin L., Wright, Solomon, Edward, William, Abraham, John, Johannes, Isaac, Jean). Ike spent his life in the aviation business, lived in Lantana for many years, and organized and operated flight programs at the Palm Beach County Airport in the town.

Maps show two Via Vermilyas in the same vicinity in Lantana. They are split by a small tributary feeding nearby Lake Osborne. The first is located about 1 mile west of Route 95 along Lantana Road. It appears to be .05 miles long and runs south from Lantana Road directly across from entrance road to the Palm Beach County Park Airport. On the right of this Via Vermilya is an area of townhouses. On the left are what appear to be several three-story apartment buildings. There is a possibility that the entrance road to the airport may also carry the Vermilya name. The second Via Vermilya can be reached by continuing west along Lantana Road for .5 miles, taking a left (south) on Route 807 (South Congress Avenue) for .5 miles, and then taking another left (east) on Donnally Road for another .5 miles to where Via Vermilya branches off to the left, northerly. This Via Vermilya is a dead end and looks to be about .05 miles long. There are six single-family homes along its length, with space for two or three more.

INDIANA

ABOITE: VERMILYEA LOCK, VERMILYEA HOUSE AND VERMILYEA CEMETERY

Although places of distinctly different types, the Vermilyea House, a picture postcard estate, and the Vermilyea Lock and Vermilyea Cemetery, both things of the past, have interlocking histories as they were located within yards of each other along Redding Road in Aboite, Indiana. The three are in a bucolic setting of large produce farms, scattered woodlands, and a few homes. I encourage any descendant in or passing through the Fort Wayne area to take the time to visit the site.

Directions: From Interstate Route I-69 which runs around the west side of Fort Wayne, exit at Route 24 (Exit 102) and head west toward Ellisville. At about the 3.8-mile point on Route 24, on the right-hand side of the road is a sign for Aboite. Take a left onto Redding Road. (Note: Before you reach the Aboite sign, at about the 2.4-mile point along Route 24, you will see a Redding Road off to your left. Do not take this left; rather, continue along Route 24 until you see the Aboite sign.) The Vermilyea House is the second home on the left, brick, stately, and well back from the road. On the front lawn by the road is a large historical marker. The historical marker for the Vermilyea Lock is directly across the road from the house.

My wife and I visited the area in August 2003. As we exited I-69 onto Route 24, off to the right was a relatively new shopping complex with a couple of restaurants. It was about 2:00 p.m., and we needed a late lunch. We selected Sarah's Family Restaurant, which turned out to be a stroke of extraordinary good luck. After being seated, I asked our waiter if he knew the area well as we needed directions. He said no but that the hostess who had seated us had lived in the area for years. He asked her to come to our table—business was very slow. I told Mrs. Mona (Diss) Colclessor what I was looking for and why. With a big smile, she told us that she was born and raised on the large farm that abuts the south side of Redding Road directly across from the Vermilyea House. Mona is a delightful lady, energetic and enthusiastic, with a very warm personality. Her pronounced country accent left no doubt that she was a native of the area. As a genealogist for her own family, she understood and appreciated my quest. She said she was getting off work in about 20 minutes and told us to eat slowly so she could personally lead us to the Vermilyea House. I told her I didn't want to trouble her and just needed directions. She insisted; we ate slowly. She told us that the house had been sold within the past few years. As she wanted to try to get us into the house, a place she often visited when she was young, she made several phone calls. Unfortunately, she was not successful in making contact. After her shift ended, she led us out to the house, and, for the next hour-and-a-half, we had our own personal tour guide and local historian. She had many stories about the area, the house and the lock. At the end of our visit, Mona said that if any other Vermilyea descendants came to the area, they would be welcome to contact her at the restaurant, an invitation worth accepting.

The house, lock and cemetery were named for Jesse Vermilyea (ancestors: Edward, William, Abraham, John, Johannes, Isaac, Jean). Jesse purchased property abutting the Aboite Creek in Aboite and moved there in late 1832 or early 1833. He was among the first of seven families to settle in the area, which previously had been named Raccoon Village, an Indian settlement. Prior to making the move, Jesse had served as circuit court clerk and auditor of Grant County. In those positions, he obviously knew about the construction plans for the Wabash and Erie Canal; thus, it was not by chance that he selected for his home this particular piece of property, which would

border the canal at a point where barges would be required to stop and await traffic to clear a narrow point in the canal. He built a large log home, and not long afterward, the Wabash and Erie Canal was built along the southern edge of his property. He rented out rooms to canal construction workers and travelers. He built a warehouse and dock along the canal. Later, he built a brick home, and, subsequently, it became known or referred to at one time or another as the Vermilyea House, Vermilyea Hotel, Vermilyea Inn, and/or Vermilyea Tavern. In addition to running his hotel, he was active in farming and managing his dock and warehouse operation. He also was active in surveying the summit section of the Wabash and Erie Canal, a plank highway system, and was one of ten directors of the Branch Bank of Indiana. In a very few years, he became very wealthy and at one time owned more than 1600 acres (some sources say 2000 acres) in the area. He died in 1846, at age 37, of cholera. His wife died in 1848. They left behind four young daughters.

THE VERMILYEA LOCK

Following the directions given above, as you exit from Route 24 onto Redding Road, you will see Aboite Creek on your immediate right. In about a hundred yards, the road curves sharply to the left (easterly) en route to the Vermilyea House, and the creek continues on in a southerly direction. At that point, there is a place to pull off the road and park. I recommend doing so, as Mrs. Colclessor had us do. In 1833, an open-truck aqueduct, a bridge filled with water, was constructed at that location to enable boats plying the east-west running Wabash and Erie Canal, which was officially opened in 1835, to pass over the creek. From 1845 to 1848, the aqueduct was widened, and the original timber abutments on each side of the creek were replaced with stone abutments. Those abutments are still standing, and in the creek's bed are many large rotting timbers that were a part of the foundation for the entire structure.⁶

Continue driving down Redding Road. Historical documents report that between that aqueduct and the Vermilyea Lock site marker (pictured on the next page), which was several hundred yards ahead, there was a large basin that was part of the Canal system. The basin has since been filled in; its profile is not visible. An article from a 1930 edition of *The Huntington Harold* written by Frank S. Bash and covering his interview with a Mr. Daniel W. Simmers states,⁷ "The Vermilyea Basin: In the canal just below the house the channel widened out into a spacious basin in which the boats could be turned or docked for loading and unloading. Vermilyea built a warehouse there for the benefit of the entire neighborhood. Sometimes it was known down the line by 'Ruffner's Basin' for after the days of Vermilyea the Ruffners occupied the place for some years. The basin was clearly outlined until the traction line was built, at which time it was filled." Other sources mention the basin as "Vermilyea Dock" and state that this is where canal boats waited for others to clear the narrow aqueduct over the river, tow horses for the barges would be changed, and passengers would load and unload. Some of the passengers would stay overnight at the Vermilyea House, or, as some called it, the Vermilyea Hotel.

⁶ For more details about the construction of the aqueduct, go to Internet site: <http://www.terrypepper.com/w&e/aboitecreek.htm>.

⁷ Source: Internet Site: www.centralnet.net/jjosh/Vermilya.htm



This August 2003 photograph is of the Lock's historical marker. Behind it you can see what remains of the canal east of where the basin was located; essentially, there is a swale about four to five feet deep. The sign reads:

“The Wabash & Erie Canal.

The groundbreaking for the Wabash & Erie Canal was at Fort Wayne, In. on February 22, 1832. The first phase of this project, between Ft. Wayne, In. and Huntington, In., was opened to travel on July 4, 1835. This was a day of great celebration, pomp, and ceremony.

The Wabash & Erie Canal flowed from Ft. Wayne, In. to Evansville, In - America's Longest man made waterway - 432 miles.
Vermilyea Lock Site”

There is some doubt that a canal lock, as we envision a lock, was located where the historical marker stands. One Internet site⁸ states, “This is the location of the controversial Vermilyea lock that was said to have existed during the early years of the canal. Most historians discredit the existence of this lock because survey reports bear no mention of it.” Along the path of where the canal bed ran, the terrain is flat for miles; thus, there doesn't appear to be a geographic contour transition of sufficient height to warrant a lock. It is possible that the entrance from the relatively narrow canal into the wider basin may have been considered, by some, to be a lock. Official operation of the canal was discontinued in 1882.

THE VERMILYEA HOUSE

While approaching the lock's historical sign, you will see the Vermilyea House off to your left. As is sometimes the case when researching local history, there are slightly different versions of Jesse's settlement in Aboite. Below, under the picture of the house, I have shown the history as written on the large white historical sign in front of it.



This picture of the Vermilyea House, in the trees in the background, was taken in August 2003 from the center of the Vermilyea Lock, directly across Redding Road from House. The sign at the left is the historical marker for the Lock. The large white sign nearly center of the picture reads: “OLD VERMILYEA HOUSE. Jesse & Maria Vermilyea came to Aboite Township shortly after their wedding at Brownstown, Indiana on July 4, 1832. Their first home on the property was double log cabin. This brick home was completed in 1839, using the clay soil of the farm to mold

and fire the bricks. Jesse was appointed postmaster of Aboite Township in 1839, so in finishing the parlor, he had a walnut desk built in the southwest corner to carry out his postal duties. The Vermilyeas were blessed with five children. The first white child born in the Township, their son, was born in the spring of 1833 and departed this earth at 3 months of age. There were four daughters, Marietta - 1834, Adalene - 1837, Ann Elisa - 1840 and Jesse Maria - 1843. Both homes were inns for Wabash and Erie Canal travelers.” The small, red-brick structure to the right of the white sign is a monument to Jesse. Although not visible in this photo, on top of it is a large black bell similar to those mounted on old canal barges. The sign on its front reads: “In Memory of JESSE VERMILYEA 1809 – 1846.” The driveway to the house is off to the right, not shown. Aboite Road, which runs south from Redding Road, is just to the left of the picture.

⁸ Source: Internet Site: www.geocities.com/heartland/valley/7029/canal.html.

Following is information from other historical sources:

From *Ghost Towns of Huntington County*, by Doris M. Chambers⁹: The area where Vermilyea House and Vermilyea Lock now stand was an Indian village known as Raccoon Village. It "... originally consisted of a brick house with two rooms and a number of log cabins, all erected by the government for the occupation of the Indians. The place was named in honor of Chief Raccoon who occupied the brick house referred to. After the advent of the white people, the land was sold and the brick house passed into the hands of Jesse Vermilyea. When the canal was built, this place became a landing to which farmers hauled their produce for shipment, and spring usually found immense piles of logs and wood here ready for transportation. The place was also a favorite resort for idlers, and here on a pleasant Sunday in summer, a crowd of men and boys would generally be found smoking and discussing the topics of the day."

From *The Wabash and Erie Canal Through Huntington County, Indiana*¹⁰: "Vermilyea – The Maryland Settlement. William Holgate references 'Vermilliers (sic) 11 miles from Fort Wayne... log establishment ... six or seven different buildings point to the former 'Maryland Settlement' and one of its first residents, Jesse Vermilyea. The place was along the newly opened canal at the Aboite River in Aboite Township, Allen County, Indiana. ... The arrival of a colony numbering about thirty persons, in the spring of 1833, quite suddenly broke the solitude of the region, which had not been disturbed by previous settlers. They cleared an area, built early style round log cabins, cut roads and settled in. In July 1835, there were apparently only seven families here. ... Jesse Vermilyea lived in one of the seven log homes. His was a large double-log house where workers boarded during construction of the canal. Jesse had a small stock of goods from which he sold to the settlers and traded with Indians; it was not a store as such, just supplies which he kept on hand. Vermilyea is remembered as farmer, Indian trader, canal contractor, postmaster, pioneer plank road builder, and one of the original directors of the Fort Wayne Branch Bank, who later built the impressive Vermilyea house. Vermilyea invested heavily in land, purchased 1600 acres, consisting of seven different parcels. In the late 1830's and early 1840's, Jesse sold land to various Indians: to Chapine, land at Raccoon Village; to Shappen, land at the mouth of the Aboite River; to Mae-Shock-con-Wock-Qua, land opposite the mouth of the Aboite River. The soil underlying the area of the settlement is excellent for brick making and upon his farm in 1839, Vermilyea made bricks and built a new home. It was regarded as a veritable palace at the time, and still stands on Redding Road at the Aboite River."

The same sources contain the following quote from *Through Indiana by Stage Coach & Canal Boat, Indiana Magazine of History, LXXXV, 1989*: "Ten miles from Ft. Wayne, passed the residence of Mr. Vermilyea, a wealthy farmer. His dwelling house is a splendid one—a large two story brick building, painted white and neatly finished, inside and out. As they tarried here a short time to change horses, we took a strol [sic] about the grounds. We found the garden, shrubbery, fruit trees, ... finely arranged & in the best possible order. All of the inside wood work of the house is of black walnut, highly polished, and presents a very rich and beautiful appearance. There were three fine barns & other out buildings corresponding. Taking it all together, it was by far the most beautiful residence I had seen on the journey. Having obtained a drink of cold water, we returned to the boat, and proceeded on our journey."

⁹ Source: Internet Site: www.terypepper.com/w&c/racoon.htm.

¹⁰ Source: Internet Site: <http://www.terypepper.com/w&e/Vermilyea.htm>, a research effort by Terry Pepper. Also, much of the same information can be found at: <http://user.centralnet.net/jjosh/vermilyea.htm>.

Another Internet site¹¹ states: “The Vermilyea house, built in the early 1800s, served as an Inn for the canal travelers as they entered Allen County from the west. Ruffner’s basin was located at the base of this hill and served as a dock and service area. A warehouse was also located at this point for the storage of goods west of Fort Wayne.”

Mrs. Colclessor informed us that the house has a large root cellar that also was used as a part of the underground railroad to temporarily house slaves escaping from the south. The entrance to the cellar was from the home’s kitchen. She said that the cellar may be located under the large grassy knoll in front of the house.

The exact line of ownership of the house and property has not been determined; however, it is known that a Mr. Ruffner bought the property from Jesse’s estate. Mr. and Mrs. Darling owned the property from about the 1940s to about 1963 when Mrs. Colclessor was growing up. After that, the property was owned by Jim and Ruth Ellis for 38 years until 2001, when it was purchased by Mr. and Mrs. Todd Freeland.

The April/May 1994 edition of *Historic Preservation News* listed the Vermilyea House as being for sale. The advertisement read: “Fort Wayne, IN, 1839 Vermilyea House, Wabash & Erie Canal Inn, post office, completely restored. Recently re-decorated, black walnut woodwork, 7 fireplaces, 4-6 bedrooms, 2 baths, oil paintings of original owners remain with house, 12 ¼ acres, additional acreage available. 40x80-ft bank barn. 4 miles from SW I-69 & US 24 exit. \$696,000.” The home did not sell then as other information available indicates it was in the possession of the Ellis family until 2001.

In September 2004, Mrs. Colclessor sent me an article she had clipped from the September 7, 2004, edition of the *Fort Wayne Journal Gazette* titled *It’s All Aboite History* and written by Mr. Rick Farrant. The following is an extract from the article: “Todd and Cathy Freeland, new owners of the Old Vermilyea House, have returned the red-brick, hilltop building to its former splendor inside and out, and added living space on the east end. The house, built in 1839 by early settler Jesse Vermilyea and overlooking the depression of the defunct Wabash & Erie Canal, the wetlands and in the distance the village, has been refurbished with the closest attention to period detail. Todd Freeland ... says he stayed true to the mostly black walnut woodwork, had 88 cedar shutters made in the precise design of the originals, rebuilt some of the seven fireplaces to their intended form, and kept any visual hints of modern-day electrical systems to a minimum. Nineteenth-century furniture has been placed throughout the house, copies of regal portraits depicting Jesse and wife Maria Vermilyea and an original of their daughter Ann Eliza hang on the walls. The built-in desk Jesse Vermilyea used for his postmaster duties is intact in the south parlor and an elaborate floor-to-ceiling wall mural of the Vermilyea house as it might have appeared from the canal has been painted in a first-floor powder room. Even one of the smallest – and most notorious – details remains: A bullet lodged in a closet door just inside the rear entrance. Legend has it the bullet was fired during an altercation of some sort, but Freeland says he prefers to “think some idiot was cleaning his gun and it went off.” The Freelands, who bought the one-time inn in 2001 and live there with their two children, consider the structure more a community property than a personal possession, and they liberally allow school tours. “Sharing this place is great,” Todd Freeland says. “If we would keep this to ourselves, we would be keeping it away from the people who deserve to see it.”

¹¹ Source: Internet Site: www.geocities.com/heartland/valley/7029/canal.html



Another view of the house

More recently another article about the house appeared in the Fort Wayne's *New Sentinel, Journal Gazette*.¹² It states, in part, "Homeowners await Historic Register decision - The owner of the Old Vermilyea House in southwest Allen County felt a bit of buyer's remorse after purchasing the 166-year-old house almost five years ago. Now that Cathy Freeland and her husband, Todd, have added 2,000 square feet to the former 4,000-square-foot house and restored it to reflect the period in which it was built, she rests easier. She's also proud that the house has been nominated for the National Register of Historic Places and is eager to hear a decision on whether it's chosen. The National Register is the federal government's official list of prehistoric and historic properties worthy of preservation. The Indiana Historic Preservation Review Board conducted a hearing in October (2005) in Indianapolis to consider the nomination, but the Freelands have not heard the verdict. It was their idea to pursue the status with the help of ARCH, a local preservation group. 'We knew when we bought this house and started working on it this was something we were going to be sharing with the public,' Cathy said. 'We just definitely want to get the word out. We just think Fort Wayne's history, there's so little of it left that we want to save this.' Cathy, ... said she gives about 10 tours a year and allowed more than 300 students to visit the home this spring. The board evaluates buildings nominated for designation by whether they are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of history, are associated with significant people, or embody the distinctive characteristics of a period or method of construction. Cathy doesn't know when they will hear the final ruling. If it achieves historical status, the Old Vermilyea House may be eligible for federal grants. The Freelands would also have to allow the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation to comment on any projects affecting the property...."

On November 21, 2005, the National Park Service of the Department of the Interior entered in Volume 79, Number 223 of the *Federal Register* a notice that an application had been received nominating the Vermilyea Inn Historic District 13501 Redding Drive, Fort Wayne , 05001365, as a property for consideration in the National Register.

In September 2006, Mrs. Colclessor sent me another article about the house that announced that it was for sale. The article stated: "\$1,900,000. The Vermilyea House, 13501 Redding

¹² An article written by Kelly Soderlund for the *New-Sentinel, Journal Gazette*, Fort Wayne.com (Fort Wayne's home page) www.fortwayne.com/mld/fortwayne/13268804.htm

Drive, Fort Wayne, Indiana 46804. Historical estate! Allen County's 2nd oldest home. Only residential circa 1839! Registered in both state and federal registries in 2006! Old Vermilyea house. The original canal home and residence of Aboite township's 1st postmaster! The perfect blend of original architecture and today's brand new conveniences. 2 parlors of 1 large living room. 26 original black walnut doors. 7 fireplaces throughout, all windows replaced. New geothermal, 4 zone heating & cooling. Fabulous new kitchen with all the latest amenities including granite counters, special custom cabinetry, Viking range and much more! New master suite bath with gigantic closet and laundry area. 12.3 acres with ½ acre pond with beach! Total 5 car garages – one 3 car and one 2 car that is heated! New walk-out lower level is ready to finish, plumbed for full bath (all fixtures there), 2 large rooms—each plumbed for wet bar. Great barn with 4 horse stalls plus original summer kitchen! Bedrooms: 4; Full bathrooms: 2; Half bathrooms 2; Single Family Home; Square Ft. (approx): 2996.”

VERMILYEA CEMETERY

There was a Vermilyea Cemetery near the house and lock.¹³ It was established in 1833 at the junction of Redding Road and Aboite Road, which branches south from Redding Road directly across the street from the Vermilyea House. Records do not show if the cemetery was on the house side of the canal or across the canal from the house. The cemetery was closed in the 1860s, and the remains of those interred there, including those of Jesse and his wife, Maria, were moved to Lindenwood Cemetery, 2324 West Main Street, Fort Wayne. There was no evidence of the cemetery in 2003.

BLOOMINGTON: EAST VERMILYA AVENUE

My wife and I went to East Vermilya Avenue in Bloomington in August 2003. Directions: Take Route 37 (not Bus. Route 37) around the west side of Bloomington and exit it at Tapp Road toward the city (easterly). At about the 1.2-mile point, Tapp Road becomes Country Club Drive. Continue straight ahead on Country Club Drive for about another mile and take a left onto South Walnut Street (traffic light). Immediately after crossing the railroad tracks, E. Vermilya Avenue will be on your right.

At one time, East Vermilya Avenue (also known as Vermilya Avenue) was about 3/10ths of a mile long connecting South Walnut Street on its western end and Henderson Street on the east. For many years, the western half of the Avenue was a residential area and the eastern half was a trailer court named “Vermilya Mobile Village.” The trailer court has been razed, and in 2003, a large complex of subsidized, low income, two-story apartment buildings, named “Hoosier Court at Henderson,” was being constructed in its place. As did the trailer court, the new development has a nearly circular drive throughout with exits to both Vermilya Avenue and Henderson Street. From information I obtained at the Bloomington City Library, it appears that the new circular road may be renamed Melrose Avenue. If that happens, Vermilya Avenue will be about half its original length.

¹³ Internet site: www.rootsweb.com/~inallen/cemeteries.html#aboite.



East Vermilya Avenue looking east from Walnut Street (August 2003)

In 1987, the twenty or so homes along the western end of the avenue were described in a local newspaper article as “well kept framed homes.” When we were there, the neighborhood consisted of low-income, one-story, wood-framed, not-well-maintained homes set very close together. It appeared to be a development constructed in the 1930s.

In October 2003, Mr. James Hersh of the Bloomington City Engineer’s Office reported to me that plat records at the Monroe County Recorders Office show that two couples, Pavil and Mary Wilson and Joseph C. and Hazel D. Vermilya, owned the land in the 1920s where Vermilya Avenue is now located. The parcel faced Walnut Street and abutted, to the south, the Johnson Switch-Monon Railroad. On June 22, 1927, the two couples had the land platted for a subdivision under the title “Wilson-Vermilyea 1st Addition.” Mr. Hersh also reported that, typically, when land was platted for subdivision, the owners had the right to name any roadways that were to be constructed on the property, thus, Joseph Vermilya used his surname to designate the only street through the property.

Joseph Clyde Vermilya (ancestors: Wright, Solomon, Edward, William, Abraham, John, Johannes, Isaac, Jean) was born on April 26, 1872, in Brownstown, Indiana, and moved to Bloomington in 1903. The initial report of his arrival in Bloomington, published in the *Bloomington Telephone*, stated he was a doctor; however, city directories from 1913 through 1934 show he was a druggist, as does the 1920 Census report. He was married, but had no children. The last record of him in the city was 1934. There are no death or burial records for him in Bloomington.

BROWNSTOWN: WRIGHT-VERMILYA BUILDING

Linda Jean Vermilyea (ancestors: Kenneth Isaac; Joseph Kenneth; Josephine Nind Vermilyea, who married Charles W. Lord but used the surname Vermilyea for herself and her children; Isaac; Joseph; David; David; John; Johannes; Isaac; Jean) and her husband, Robert Stoddard, discovered the Wright Vermilya building in August 2003 when traveling along Route 50 through the downtown section of Brownstown, Indiana. The building is across the street from the Jackson County Court House. They took the pictures shown below.

The building was named after Wright Vermilya (ancestors: Solomon, Edward, William, Abraham, John, Johannes, Isaac, Jean), who was born on August 11, 1843, in Indiana, was a merchant in Brownstown and died on August 31, 1938, in Jackson County (probably Brownstown), Indiana.



The Wright-Vermilya Building



This is a close-up of the inscription on the plaque over the second-story windows of the Wright Vermilya building. On the cap to the left is inscribed 18, and on the right cap 96.

FORT WAYNE: VERMILYEA PASS

The area southwest of Fort Wayne, where Vermilyea Pass is located, has undergone an incredible amount of development since the early 1990s. The building surge was still in progress when my wife and I were there in August 2003. There are countless new housing developments, schools, churches, shopping centers, and roads throughout the area where once there were only large produce farms and some woodlands. Vermilyea Pass is now a residential street in a very upscale, well-to-do neighborhood within this extensively developed area.

Directions to Vermilyea Pass: Take Route 69 to Fort Wayne. Exit at Route 14 (Exit 105). Go west (away from the city) to the first traffic light and take a left on Hadley Road. At about .9 of a mile, take a right on Covington Road. Drive about 2 miles, and off to your right will be Scott Road. Take your next left (no street name sign) onto a short access road that ends at Bayless Lane. You may take a left or right on Bayless Lane, and eventually you will end up on Vermilyea Pass, which is one of four roads that make up a semi-rectangle off the access road. On the short sides of the rectangle are Bayless Lane on the north and Vermilyea Pass on the south. On the long sides are LaBalme Trail on the west and Covington Lake Drive on the east.

Street sign for Vermilyea Pass at its junction with Covington Lake Drive



Entering the development, we found a community of very fine homes in a moderately heavily wooded area. Whereas it is not gated, there is a sign along the access road that states that the neighborhood is patrolled. The four roads mentioned above have been realigned and are now narrow, twisting two-lane roads that meander through the complex and intersect with one another

so as to give the impression that they are all one road. Throughout the neighborhood, homes of various construction styles blend in attractively with their environs. All have professionally installed landscaping and manicured lawns and sit a good distance back from the roads on lots that appear to be three or more acres each. Vermilyea Pass is about 2/10ths of a mile long and has seven homes along its length. Usually, I attempt to take pictures of the Vermilyea-- streets and the buildings along them. Here, the homes are set back so far and the road curves so much that doing so was impossible; and, in any case, this is not an area where I was comfortable just driving into and taking pictures indiscriminately. Inside the area bounded by the roads is a lake that runs east to west and covers about 20 acres. As with the land around the homes, the banks of the lake have a manicured appearance.

This location is geographically not too far from the Vermilyea House in Aboite (described earlier). which was owned by Jesse Vermilyea (ancestors: Edward, William, Abraham, John, Johannes, Isaac, Jean). Jesse was known to have held vast amounts of land (about 1600 to 2000 acres) in the area; therefore, it is assumed that Vermilyea Pass is named after him. This has not been confirmed with local officials, however.

IOWA

CEDAR VALLEY: VERMILYA'S BLUFF

Vermilya's Bluff was found by Sandra Todd while scanning the Internet¹⁴ in April 2006.

The bluff is located along Shell Rock River in Cedar Valley, Cerro Gordo County, Iowa. The closest major city is Mason City, Iowa. The original of the picture below and a full description are filed and maintained in the Calvin Photographic Collection, Paleontology Repository, Department of Geoscience, University of Iowa.

It's likely (not yet verified) that the Bluff's namesake is George Vermilya (ancestors: Joseph, David, David, John, Johannes, Isaac, Jean). George was born in 1822 in Westerloo, New York. He moved to Cerro Gordo County, Iowa, in June 1855 and settled at Shell Rock, Falls Township. He bought 165 acres of land and became wealthy through farming and the purchase of additional land. He was popular in the area and entered public affairs, eventually being elected judge of Cerro Gordo County. Over the years, he held several community political offices in Mason City and at the county level.¹⁵ It could be that the bluff was part of his land.



Vermilya's Bluff. (Yes, that's a horse along the top of the bluff.)

¹⁴ Site: http://cdm.lib.uiowa.edu/cdm4/item_viewer.php?CISOROOT+/calvin&CISOPTR=110&REC=3.

¹⁵ History of Cerro Gordo County, Iowa, ed. and comp. by J. H. Wheeler. 2 vols. Chicago: Lewis Pub Co., 1910. Appears March 2006 at: <http://www.rootsweb.com/~iabiog/cerrogordo/h1910/h1910-v.htm>.

KANSAS

LAWRENCE: VERMILYA-BOENER HOUSE

In 1997, Sandra Todd discovered the Vermilya-Boener House while searching the National Registry of Historic Places on the Internet. She passed her findings to Thomas M. Vermilye (ancestors: Edward Arthur, Howard Joseph, Frederick, Edward Lyman, Edward Jr., Edward, Abraham, John, Johannes, Isaac, Jean), who resides in Kansas. Tom did some research at the Public Library in Lawrence, Kansas, and the Kansas State Historical Society. He then contacted the current owner of the home, Mr. Lance Burr, a lawyer in Lawrence, Kansas. In 1998, Tom wrote two articles for the VFA newsletter¹⁶ that contained information about the house. The information below has been paraphrased from those articles.

The Vermilya-Boener House was built by Elijah Wentworth Vermilya (ancestors: Edward, Jesse, William, Abraham, John, Johannes, Isaac, Jean), who was born in 1825 and died in 1888. Elijah was a territorial settler in Douglas County, Kansas, having emigrated from Illinois to Lawrence, Kansas - Nebraska Territory, between 1850 and 1852. He married Cynthia A. Leslie in Douglas County in 1852. In September 1865, the couple purchased the 140-acre lot, described as SE ¼, S.12, T.12S, R.19E, in Grant County, where the home now stands. The property contained some of the richest agricultural land in the Kaw River Valley and stood just less than a mile south of the Union Pacific crossing at Midland and just less than half of a mile west of a second Union Pacific crossing. They moved to the property in 1866 and lived in a log house for one year while Elijah worked with Swedish stonemasons to construct the imposing house that now stands on the property. The family moved into their new home in 1867, before it was completely finished. When Elijah passed away in 1888, Cynthia received the east 80 acres and the home. The remainder of the land was divided among their three living children, Milton, Ella Virginia, and Lois. After Cynthia died, her portion of the land was subdivided between Milton and Ella. Ella, who had married William Boener in 1890, received the house plus 26.33 acres. From then until 1948, the home served as the residence of members of the Vermilya-Boener family, thus the name. The home has remained vacant since the family sold it in the mid-1950s.

“The House is a restrained example of the Italian Villa style, exhibiting the asymmetry and large windows associated with the style but little of the textbook level of design associated with the style. The two-story home was built with locally quarried limestone that was dressed on site. *Building History*, Caviness, pages 7 and 19, 1991, states: ‘Limestone was burned at the site to make lime for mortar. The walls were laid up in quarry-faced ashlar, the courses being unequal and sometimes broken. Nearly two feet thick at the base, the walls rose two high-studded stories.... All the doors and windows were capped by stone lintels, dressed and gently arched. The sills were of cut and dressed limestone. The roof was gently pitched and tripped, rising to a flat square on top and terminating at the eaves with a deep cave-kick over a prominent modillioned cornice, concealing a copper-lined Yankee gutter. Four paneled, dentilled, and corbelled brick chimneys rose above the roof. Four porches were planned, one on each side of the house.... The shape, placement and detailing of the windows, the asymmetrical massing and the character of the stonework are squarely in the Italianate tradition, specifically the informal, rural variety sometimes called the Italian Villa style.

¹⁶ *Vermilya/e/ea/er’s...Historically Speaking*, Volume III, Number 1, January, February, March 1998, and Volume III, Number 2, April, May, June 1998.

“The building has suffered the losses and deterioration of many years of vacancy; the exterior of the house has lost its modillioned cornice and copper-lined, built-in Yankee gutter, and the interior of the house has lost its main staircase, some of the trim and hardware, and the plaster from its non-load bearing, stud walls. The stud walls themselves are extant and provide the original floor plan for the house. The condition of the stone walls is quite good and the workmanship of the remaining woodwork displays fine detail.”



The Vermilya-Boener House, Lawrence, Kansas. (Picture taken by Thomas M. Vermilye.)

Mr. Burr has owned the house since 1988. He reports that the only thing on the property is the house, as most of the land has been split up over the years within the Boener family. He plans to rehabilitate the entire building with the idea of bringing it back to the original condition. In December 2000, he reported that work is progressing slowly because of costs. He has put on a new wood shingled roof, replaced the chimneys, and done some landscaping to help protect the home's foundation.

MICHIGAN

In August 1998, my wife and I vacationed in Michigan. Before leaving home, I printed two maps from the Internet, one of Vermilya Avenue in Flint and the other of Vermilya Road in Columbiaville. The two places are not far apart; both can be visited in one day.

Because of our itinerary, we arrived in the area on a Sunday, not a good day to conduct historical or genealogy research as historical societies and town/city offices are closed. Nevertheless, we found the two Vermilya streets, and, much to our surprise and delight while in Columbiaville, we discovered two more places: Vermilya Park and the Vermilya School.

Upon returning home, I wrote to the Columbiaville Historical Society in hopes of getting more information about what we had seen and discovered. The reply came from a Vermilya descendant, Robert (“Bob”) L. Blue (ancestors: Arthur F. Blue, Ida M. Hollenbeck, Emily (Vermilya) Hollenbeck, Jonathan Vermilya, William, Abraham, John, Johannes, Isaac, Jean). Bob was born and raised in Columbiaville; the author of *Footsteps Into the Past, A History of the Columbiaville Area*, printed by the Frankenmuth News in 1979; and, at the time, a retired school teacher living in Saginaw, Michigan. He was a wealth of information for the three places in Columbiaville and Vermilya Avenue in Flint.

Bob sent me a copy of his book and wrote that the school, park, and both roads were named after descendants of Jonathan Vermilya (ancestors: William, Abraham, John, Johannes, Isaac,

Jean). 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, Anne, Elijah, and Emily, the latter Bob'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 in town 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 their homes and began farming. A trail into their property was later named North Lake Road.

The following is what we found in 1998 together with the information provided by Bob about the four Vermilya places.

COLUMBIAVILLE: VERMILYA PARK, VERMILYA ROAD AND VERMILYA SCHOOL

VERMILYA PARK

Columbiaville is a small, rural village about a 45-minute drive northwest of Flint. After we arrived there, it took only a short time to drive along most of its streets. Nearly across the street from the elementary school on Pine Street between Fourth and Fifth Streets we saw a park/athletic field that turned out to be Vermilya Park.

The park is named after Albert ("Bert") M. Vermilya (ancestors: Charles, Elijah, Jonathan, William, Abraham, John, Johannes, Isaac, Jean), who was born in 1893 and died in 1981. He was a sign maker and, with his brother Curt, owned and operated Vermilyea Brothers Florists for over 50 years. He served Columbiaville as village treasurer from 1926 through 1928, trustee in 1929 and 1930, and president from 1949 to 1956. He also was a charter member of the Columbiaville Historical Society and 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 a playground, band stand, and pavilion, and, with the town's approval, named it in honor of Bert.



Bert Vermilya, 1918¹⁷

VERMILYA ROAD

In Columbiaville, we were glad we had the map I'd downloaded from the Internet because Vermilya Road was outside the town and had no street name sign on either end.

To reach it from the center of Columbiaville, we drove westerly for 8/10ths of a mile along Columbiaville Road from its beginning at the junctions of Second and River Streets in the

¹⁷ The picture and information about Bert were extracted from *Footsteps Into The Past, A History of the Columbiaville Area*, by Robert L. Blue, 1979, Columbiaville Historical Society, page 179.

village. We then turned left (south) on North Lake Road, a hard-packed dirt road. After a mile, North Lake Road ends in a three-way junction with Pyles Road and Vermilya Road, also hard-packed 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 North Lake Road, was razed in about 1950.

In 1998, the north entrance 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 turned right (westerly) along Pyle Road for about one mile and took a left (south) on Catlin Road. In about .6 of a mile, we found that Vermilya Road branches easterly off Catlin Road. Again unknown to us at the time, we had driven around the boundary of the former homestead of Jonathan's son 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 roadside mailbox of the first home we passed. We traveled only about 4/10ths of a mile before the road narrowed to a two-tracked fire road, basically a trail. We went no further. From our map and what we could see, the trail meandered from there northeastward for another 8/10ths of a mile and then turned northward paralleling the Hollaway Reservoir for 4/10ths of a mile before intersecting with North Lake and Pyles Roads.

The land in the area is flat and has many young trees, obviously formerly farmland. We did not see a home that might have belonged to Edward. Perhaps it was located on the section of Vermilya Road we did not drive along, or perhaps it had been razed as had been his father's home. Along the short stretch we traveled, there were three modest homes of varying styles and the Vermilya School (covered below).

Bob Blue reported that 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, and when they did so, town officials were responsible for providing names for any road not previously named. In many instances, the names selected were those of the area's local pioneer families and/or original landowners. Jonathan and his son Edward were pioneers, having settled in the town in the mid-1850s; the road bordered, or cut across, land once owned by Edward, and the Vermilya School was located on it, hence the name.



Vermilya Road from its junction with Catlin Road

VERMILYA SCHOOL

As we entered Vermilya Road from Catlin Road, we noticed on the immediate left (behind the trees on the left in the above picture) an old, very weathered, nearly dilapidated building which, at first glance, looked like a small barn or farm out-building. My wife spotted a rusty, metal sign over the door. We stopped and walked to the building to get a better look. Much to our surprise, the sign read "Vermilya School." Next to the door were the numbers 5494, which turned out to be the street address. As there was no record of the school in any documents I had previously found, we were thrilled to make this discovery. Through cracks in the boarded-up windows of this once dark-stained, wood-framed, one-room schoolhouse, we could see it was empty save for storage of some old wooden boards and old farm tools.



Front of the Vermilya School



Back of the Vermilya School

Bob Blue reported that according to a county plat, the school was in existence in 1874. The land on which it stood was part of the 40-acre homestead that originally was settled upon by Edward Vermilya (ancestors: Jonathan, William, Abraham, John, Johannes, Isaac, Jean). Presumably, he donated the land to the town for the school, thus the school's name. It is believed that the original building was a rude log cabin, as was customary, and later replaced by the current building. One of the earliest, if not the first, teacher at the school was Porter Murphy, who married to Melissa Markle (ancestors: Rosanna (Vermilya) Markle, Jonathan Vermilya, William, Abraham, John, Johannes, Isaac, Jean), the daughter of Edward's sister Anne. Records show that in the mid-1890s, Methodist church services were periodically 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, which served Columbiaville and nearby towns. Thereafter, the building was not used for any other known purpose by the town and, most likely, ownership of was passed to the then-owner of Edward Vermilya's farm.

FLINT: VERMILYA AVENUE



The most prominent building along Vermilya Avenue in Flint is a large, stone-exterior Methodist church, which is located at the intersection of Vermilya Avenue and Fenton Road.

Located on the south side of Flint about one mile south of Route I-69 and one block west of Route I-475, Vermilya Avenue is an east-west, 0.9-mile long, two-lane city road in a large, very modest, residential area of small, single family, square, one-story, frame construction, nearly identical homes. The neighborhood gives the appearance of being a development built in the early 1950s primarily for families of workers in the nearby automobile factories. Vermilya Avenue was named in honor of Edward J. (Ned J.) Vermilya (ancestors: Harmon, Edward, Jonathan, William, Abraham, John, Johannes, Isaac, Jean), who was born in 1886. Ned served as the City Clerk of Flint circa 1930 to 1950. He died in 1953.

ONAWAY: VERMILYA HIGHWAY

The existence of the Vermilya Highway in Onaway was reported by Lester Dayl Stout, son of Charlotte (Vermilya) Stout (ancestors: Ned Eugene Vermilya, Reuben Dwight, John, Jesse, William, Abraham, John, Johannes, Isaac, Jean). Maps show that it is a country road running east to west for approximately 10.5 miles about 1.7 miles north of Onaway. Its eastern terminus is South Ocqueoc Road; on the west, it ends at Klieber Road.

Directions: From Interstate Route 75 in northern Michigan, exit at Route 68 toward Onaway. In the center of Onaway, take Route 211 north (a left turn) and travel about 1.7 miles. Vermilyea Highway intersects Route 211 at this point. You may go either left or right to travel along the highway.¹⁸

The highway was named after Ned Eugene Vermilya (ancestors: Reuben Dwight, John, Jesse, William, Abraham, John, Johannes, Isaac, Jean), who was born on March 31, 1877 at North Fairfield, Ohio. He moved to Michigan prior to 1910 and worked as a stage coach driver, log scaler, farmer, and, for many years, a conservation officer, for which he was given 10 acres on Tomahawk Lake for his efforts. Ned initially owned a farm of about 80 acres at the junction of Route 211 and Vermilya Highway. In about 1932, he purchased abutting parcels of land totaling about 1000 acres located along Vermilya Highway about 4 miles east of Route 211. The land is bisected, north to south, by the Rainy River Falls. There he built his new home, barns, and out-buildings. Ned died there on November 3, 1947. Some of his grandsons have inherited the land. In 2004, it was not being farmed.

MINNESOTA

DOVER: VERMILYA WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

The four pictures here of the wildlife management area were taken by Carl P. Vermilyea Jr. in August 2006. He reported that the area is surrounded by crop and grazing land of abutting farms. The only thing that separates it from farmland is that the area has been permitted to overgrow. The area is a sanctuary for birds and wild animals and used for hunting.

It is believed that the full, formal name of the area is the "James Irvin Vermilya's State Wildlife Management Area." The acreage was donated to the state by Hugh C. and Thersa F. K. Vermilya (ancestors: Ervin R., James Irvin, Avery, Abram, William, Abraham, John, Johannes, Isaac, Jean) in honor of their son, James Irvin and/or Hugh's grandfather, James Irvin. (Additional information is needed to confirm this.)

Directions to the wildlife area (see map that follows): From Interstate Route 90, take Exit 233 and go south toward Troy. Take your first right onto Route 36. Take your second left onto 195th Avenue SE. Continue straight through the intersection of 60th Street SE. The wildlife management area will be on your left.

¹⁸ Yahoo maps on the Internet show the name of this road as Twin School Road, perhaps an old designation.



Close-up of sign



From the southwest looking northeast



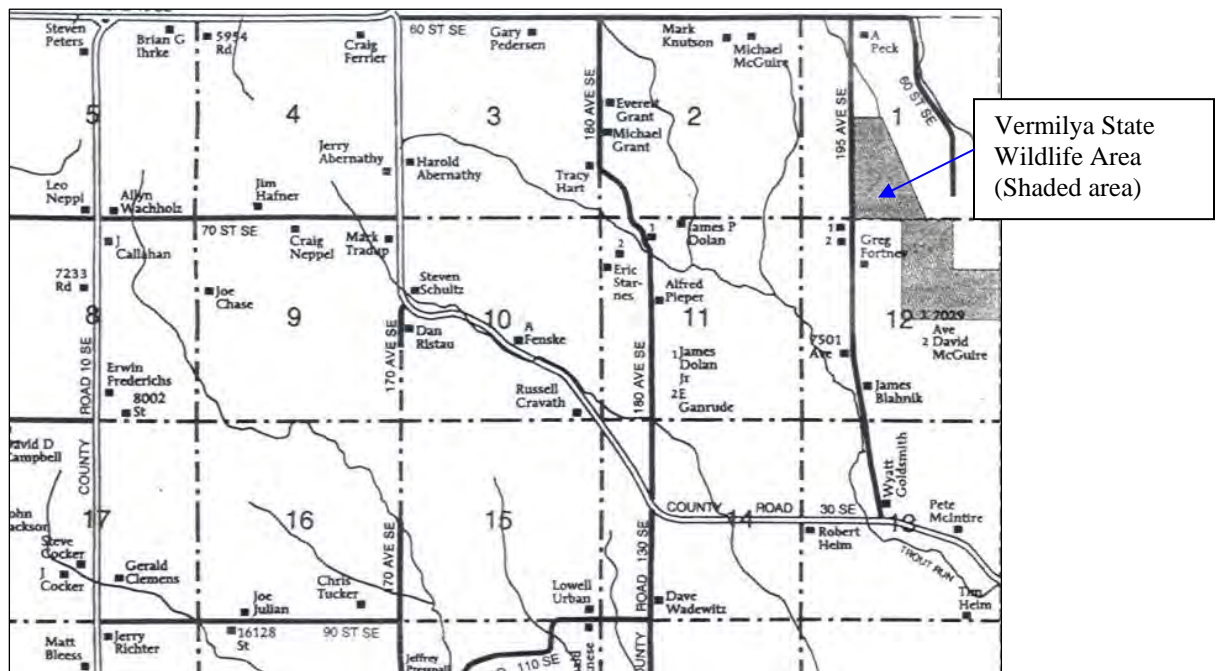
From the southwest corner looking northeast.



From the north border looking southeast.

Dover, MN

St. Charles, MN



The shaded area at upper right is the Vermilya State Wildlife Management Area, Minnesota
(Source: The Elmira Directory, 2006)

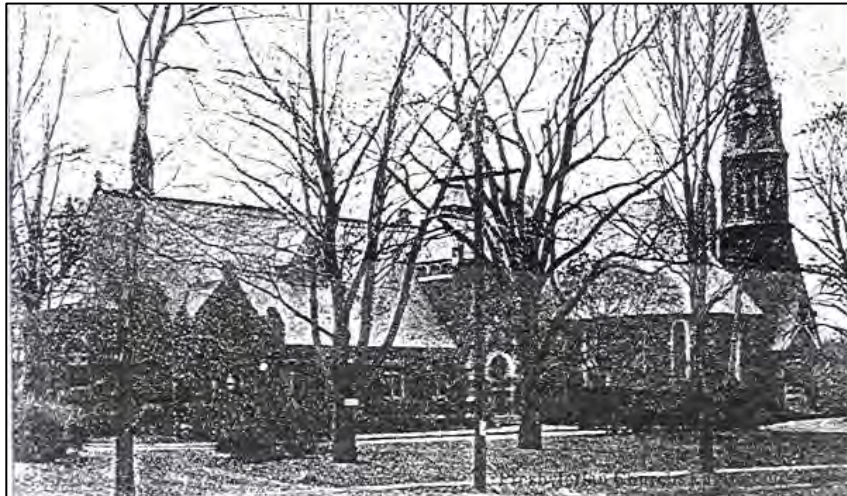
NEW JERSEY

ENGLEWOOD: VERMILYE MEMORIAL CHAPEL AND VERMILYE STREET

VERMILYE MEMORIAL CHAPEL

The Vermilye Memorial Chapel is located in the First Presbyterian Church, 150 East Palisades Avenue in Englewood. In December 2004, my wife and I visited the church and chapel en route to and from a Saturday family gathering not far from that city. Information has also been obtained from the church's excellent web site.

Directions to the church: From Interstate Route 95 in New Jersey, exit at its junction with Route 4 (just west of the George Washington Bridge) and proceed northwest. Exit Route 4 at the junction of Route 501. Go north (right) into Englewood on Route 501 (Grand Avenue). Stay in the right lane of this busy, two-lane, one-way, in-town, main street to the junction of E. Palisades Avenue (note: after E. Palisades Avenue, Grand Avenue becomes Engle Street). Take a right on E. Palisades Avenue. As you drive up the hill, the church will be on your right. Enter the first driveway in front of the church. As you past the east end of the church, you will see the office. Continue driving around to the back of the building for parking. Enter the church at the office entrance.



The First Presbyterian Church, Englewood, New Jersey
(The church office is on the far left, the Vermilye Chapel is next with its entrance nearly center in the picture, and the main sanctuary is on the right.)

We arrived at the church on Friday, December 3. Englewood was once known as “the Bedroom of Wall Street,” and the stately structure of this church exemplifies the wealth that abounded in the town. Annually, the church holds a Christmas concert performed by some of New York City’s finest professional musicians. The concert was scheduled for December 4, and, consequently, the church’s staff was extremely busy preparing for it. We were quickly shown the Vermilye Chapel and then given permission to explore the building and grounds by ourselves. The main building contains the sanctuary, the Vermilye Chapel, church offices, and numerous rooms for meetings, activities, Sunday school, and a nursery. The rectory is also on the grounds.

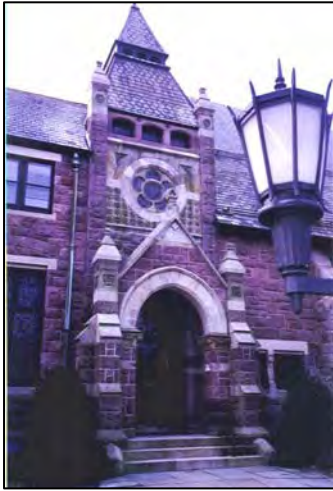
The sanctuary was built in 1870 of large, rust-colored, sandstone ashlar to form a uniquely distinguished exterior in the architectural High Victorian Gothic Revival style. The interior can best be described as a beautiful and warmly decorated, small cathedral. The floor plan is in the shape of a cross. It has ornate wood support and decorative beams; 19 stained-glass windows of various designs, three of which are rose windows (including one at each end of the transept); a blue painted ceiling about three stories high; a polished wood floor; long wooden, cushioned pews that seat about 1,000 people in the nave; and, in the simple but beautifully constructed and decorated chancel, huge organ pipes and three stained-glass windows. We were so impressed that we decided to return for Sunday services.



Sanctuary, First Presbyterian
Church (December 2004)

The church's web site¹⁹ includes a brief history of the town of Englewood, the church and Vermilye Chapel. About the chapel it states, "... In 1877-78, the Vermilye Memorial Chapel was built. Added to the east end of the 1870 building, it was the gift of Mrs. E. A. Brinkerhoff, in memory of her parents. Designed by architects Potter and Robertson, of New York, it was extensively altered in 1926; its red and white sandstone entrance tower is all that is easily recognizable of the original structure....The Englewood Architectural Survey, Bergen County Office of Cultural and Historic Affairs states, 'The 1877-78 entrance tower of the Vermilye Chapel with its bichrome finely carved stonework and interesting composition, is the finest example of High Victorian Gothic Revival architecture in Englewood and possibly in Bergen County'.... In 1926, alterations and additions were made to the Vermilye Chapel to provide a gym, auditorium, and classrooms to be used by the church and community for youth programs. On May 10, 1959...the Vermilye Chapel was converted into a small chapel to be used for weddings and youth services. At that time the membership in the First Presbyterian Church stood at over 1300."

¹⁹ Source: Internet Site: <http://www.EnglewoodPres.org/history>



Entrance to Vermilye Chapel



Interior of Vermilye Chapel
(Here, set up for post-Sunday service coffee hour.)

The exterior of the Vermilye Chapel, although architecturally slightly different from the structure of the sanctuary, was constructed of the same type of sandstone block and therefore is complementary to the rest of the building. The entrance to the chapel is unique and ornate, as can be seen in the picture on the previous page. It takes you into a long, narrow narthex from which there are, on the right, two hallways leading to the transepts of the sanctuary; straight ahead, a third hallway leading to the church's offices; and, on the left, two entrances into the chapel, each of which has a large, wooden double door with a small bronze plaque on which is engraved "Vermilye Chapel." As you walk down through the narthex toward the offices, look through the windows on the left to see the attractive inner courtyard, which borders the south side of the chapel.

In contrast to the sanctuary, the chapel is small (about 42 feet by 62 feet) and relatively plain in its décor. Although its ceiling is high, it's basically only one story. There are five identical stained-glass windows, three on its north side (to the left in the above picture) and two on the south. Also on the south side is a large plaque inscribed with a prayer and below it a small plaque engraved "Washington Romeyn Vermilye, Died Dec. 23, 1876, Elizabeth Dwight Lathrop, wife of W. R. Vermilye, Died April 11, 1874." The walls are painted white except for the area around the chancel, which is paneled in dark walnut. The white ceiling is broken up by huge, dark wood beams that add richness to the décor.

The parents of Mrs. E. A. Brinkerhoff (Emily Augusta Vermilye) were Washington Romeyn Vermilye (ancestors: William W., William, John, Isaac, Johannes, Isaac, Jean), who was born on in New York City on September 29, 1810, and married on October 2, 1833, Elizabeth Dwight Lathrop, who was born on March 3, 1813. Washington died in Englewood on December 23, 1876, and Elizabeth in 1874 at Saint Augustine, Florida. Their home was a huge mansion on Palisades Avenue, east of the church. Washington and his brother, William, founded the banking house of Vermilye & Company in New York City, and both men became very wealthy. Washington also was a colonel in the Seventh Regiment, New York Militia.

VERMILYE STREET

Directions to Vermilye Street: Follow the directions to the First Presbyterian Church shown above for the Vermilye Chapel. As you travel up Grand Avenue, pass straight through its junction with E. Palisades Avenue. You are now on Engle Street. Immediately after the Brookside cemetery, which straddles Engle Street, take a left on E. Hudson Avenue. In about 200 yards, there is a “y” in the road. Stay to the right, which will put you on W. Ivy Lane. At the next intersection (N. Dean Street), continue straight ahead on E. Ivy Lane and drive for about 0.4 of a mile. There, Sunnyside Park, an open, recreational field, will be on your right, and Vermilye Street will be on your left. To return to Route 4, drive back along W. Ivy Lane; take a right on N. Dean Street, which is Route 501A, a one-way road back through the center of Englewood. Follow it to its end and watch the signs for Route 4.



Vermilye Street, Englewood, New Jersey
looking south from Ivy Lane



Vermilye Street, Englewood, New Jersey
looking north from Pleasant Avenue

My wife and I went to Vermilye Street in Englewood in March 2003. It is located in a quiet, residential area about a mile north of the city's center. It's a very short (.04 to .05 mile) connector road that ascends a steep hill between W. Ivy Lane, on its north, and Pleasant Avenue, on its south. There are no homes facing along the street; however, the driveways of three garages do exit onto Vermilye Street. The houses in the area are middle-class, medium-sized, two-story, wood buildings that, according to a resident we met who has lived there for about 50 years, were built around 1900. Most of the homes have been updated and added to over the years, but, there are a few on Pleasant Avenue that have their original, narrow-but-deep footprint.

According to the obituary of William Gerard Vermilye Jr. (ancestors: William Gerard, Jacob Dyckman, William W., William, John, Isaac Corssen, Johannes, Isaac, Jean), which was published in the *New York Times* on December 17, 1942, Vermilye Street in Englewood was named after him. Interestingly, there is another street in Englewood, Sherwood Place, which was named after his wife's father. William was born in 1867 in Newark, New Jersey, and married Flora Sherwood on October 18, 1892. From 1890 until his retirement in 1932, he was associated with the banking house of Brown Brothers Harriman & Co. of New York. They had four children. William died on December 17, 1942, three days after Flora passed away.

OREGON

NEHALEM: VERMILYEA ROAD

In 1997, I met Dennis Avery Vermilyea (ancestors: Seth Robert, Joseph M., Avery, Abram, William, Abraham, John, Johannes, Isaac, Jean), who had traveled from his home in Oregon to attend the VFA reunion being held in Williamsport, Pennsylvania. I asked Dennis if he knew anything about the Vermilyea Road in Tillamook County, Oregon, which Sandra Todd had found on the Internet. He told me it had been named after his grandfather, Joseph M. Vermilyea, who was born on November 29, 1853, in Tioga County, New York, and had moved with his parents in April 1863 to a homestead in Olmsted County, Minnesota. In about 1883, Joseph moved his own family to a homestead in North Dakota, where he ran a wheelwright business until about 1893 when he returned to Dexter, Minnesota. In 1906, he moved again, this time to Oregon, where he eventually purchased land in the town of Nehalem and established his farm. The road leading into the farm became Vermilyea Road. Joseph died in Tillamook, Oregon, on April 26, 1936.

In June 1999, my wife and I attended the VFA reunion at Rockaway Beach, Tillamook County, Oregon, not far from Nehalem. We decided to try to find Vermilyea Road en route. A map of the area that I had printed out from an Internet site showed that it ran almost directly eastward from Route 101 in the small coastal town of Brighton, Oregon, to Foley Road in Nehalem. We attempted to find it in Brighton. After about 20 minutes of unsuccessful searching, we stopped and asked a local shopkeeper for directions. He was a long time resident of the area and informed us that many years before, a logging company had blocked all access to Vermilyea Road from Brighton. He recommended we attempt to find it from its western terminus. We left Brighton via Route 101 north, took a right on Route 53 toward Mohler, and then took another right onto Foley Road.

Foley Road, also known as Miami-Foley Road, runs north to south between Mohler to the town of Garibaldi. We found Vermilyea Road extending westerly from it. It is a one-lane, dead-end, hard-packed dirt country road. Our map indicated that it meanders westerly for about 6.75 miles through dense forest; however, when we drove along the road, we found that it is open for only about one mile, at which point there is a metal gate, erected by the Simpson Timber Company, to prevent public vehicles from entering. Before reaching the gate, there are dense woods all along its left (south) side. On the right are four farms.

The next day, we met Dennis at the reunion. I told him that we'd found Vermilyea Road. He informed us that Joseph's farm was the fourth (last one) in along the road and that it consisted of about 50 acres. He also mentioned that, in addition to farming, Joseph operated a cheese factory at the farm. He went on to say that after Joseph died, his son, Seth took it over. Then, when Seth's wife, Ona, died in 1991, the farm was willed to their children: Robert, him (Dennis), Bonnie, and Carol.



Vermilyea Road, Tillamook County, Oregon (June 1999)

VIRGINIA

VIRGINIA BEACH: VERMILYA COURT

Directions: From Interstate Route 64, which runs through Norfolk, Virginia, take Route 44/264 east, toward Virginia Beach. After traveling about 4 miles, take a right (south) onto Route 410, which is Independence Boulevard and then becomes Holland Road. Follow it for about 5.5 miles and take a left on Dam Neck Road. Drive about 4 more miles and take a right on Gallery Avenue. Vermilya Court is the third road on the left, a short cul-de-sac.

In August 2003, Carl P. Vermilyea Jr. (ancestors: Carl Parker, Rex Whitney, Earl John, John Knickerbocker, Avery, Abram, William, Abraham, John, Johannes, Isaac, Jean) visited Virginia Beach, took the picture below and provided this report:



Vermilya Court, Virginia Beach, Virginia (August 2003)

Vermilya Court is in a neatly maintained neighborhood of modest, middle-class, two-story, brick-and-frame, single-family homes of various styles such as capes, colonials, and split-levels. Located a short distance from both the Oceana Naval Air Station and the U.S. Naval Amphibious Base, many of the homes on and around Vermilya Court are owned and/or occupied by U.S. military service personnel. The company that developed the residential area, Dam Neck Properties, selected the names for the streets in the area. The company has not yet been contacted to determine why the name Vermilya was selected.

CHAPTER 3 - CANADA

BRITISH COLUMBIA

RICHMOND: VERMILYEA COURT

Map research shows Vermilyea Court as a short cul-de-sac extending south from River Road, just west of McClullan Road, in Richmond. According to real estate advertising²⁰, it is a neighborhood of six very upscale homes that have exceptional river and mountain views. In 2002, the homes were being sold for \$729,900.00 (Canadian). The ad did not mention the fact that the neighborhood was directly across the river from the Vancouver International Airport.

The Richmond City Council approved the court's name on October 22, 2001. Evidence indicates it was named after John Cronk Vermilyea. John (ancestors: Solomon, Peter, Peter Martin, Isaac Corssen, Johannes, Isaac, Jean) was born circa 1829 in Thurlow (now a part of Belleville), Ontario, Canada. In 1877, he moved his family, a wife and four children, from Ontario to San Francisco, California, where he remained for only a short time before moving north to Victoria, British Columbia. By 1883, he had settled in Richmond on Lulu Island (just south of Vancouver), British Columbia. One source refers to him as a pioneer in the area.

John was a farmer, land speculator, and developer. He came to own over 600 acres in Richmond. Vermilyea Court may be on some of that land. He also owned property in downtown Vancouver on which he had built two large buildings, one at 871 and the other at 925 Grandville Street, a main north-south artery through the city. At one time, that area was unofficially referred to as the Vermilyea Block. John died in 1913 at Marpole, a community within Vancouver.

MANITOBA

VERMILYEA LAKE

Having discovered Vermilyea Lake during a search of the Internet in 1998, Sandra (Vermilyea) Todd wrote to government officials in Winnipeg, Manitoba, asking for information about it. She received a reply from Ms. Jackie St. Clair, toponymist, saying the lake was named after T. B. ("Bruce") Vermilyea (ancestors: Horace, Peter, Peter, Peter, Peter, Peter Martin, Isaac Corssen, Johannes, Isaac, Jean). Later, in December 2000, Sandra made contact with Ross Vermilyea (ancestors: Orrin Horace, Peter, Peter, Peter, Peter, Peter Martin, Isaac Corssen, Johannes, Isaac, Jean), a nephew of the lake's namesake. The following is from them, map research and Internet sites covering recreational businesses in the area.

In the wilderness of central-eastern Manitoba, Vermilyea Lake is a place only the most adventurous are apt to visit. About 365 miles north-north-east of Winnipeg, the lake is located at coordinates north 54° 31' 23" and west 94° 46' 51", just west of Gods Lake and the Gods Lake Indian Reservation. Access to the area is limited to air travel, a flight of about 90 minutes from Winnipeg.

²⁰ Source: Internet Site: <http://www.stevestonrealestate.com/cgi-bin/projects/homepages/h0001.html>.

According to the publicity of recreation camps at Gods Lake, the area is well known for its excellent fishing and hunting.



Manitoba, Canada



Enlarged map. Vermilyea Lake and the Indian Reservation (“IR”) are in block 10.



Landsat image of Vermilyea Lake.
Gods Lake is to the bottom right.

“Bruce” Vermilyea was born in 1910 in, probably, Ameliasburg, Ontario, Canada, as his parents were living there about that time. By 1930, he was living in Winnipeg. In 1936, he was employed by a land survey team, owned by a Mr. Sharp, which was charged with surveying the “18th Base Line” in Manitoba, the area in the vicinity of God’s Lake. Bruce was a member of several such survey teams from 1934 to 1940 and later was employed by the Manitoba Government Forest Service, where he was responsible for all firefighting efforts in Manitoba. Bruce’s brother, Orrin, father of Ross, also conducted land surveys with Mr. Sharp’s surveying firm. Bruce died sometime before November 1986.

ONTARIO

BELLEVILLE: VERMILYEA ROAD

In August 2000 and August 2004, my wife and I vacationed in Ontario, Canada. While there, we visited Farley (ancestors: Arthur, Nathaniel, Solomon, Peter, Peter Martin, Isaac Corssen, Johannes, Isaac, Jean) and Vera Vermilyea, who resided in the city of Belleville. The information that follows was provided by Farley and is from my observations.

Vermilyea Road, so named in 1998 and previously known only as Route 31, is located in the Thurlow Ward of Belleville, Ontario. Directions: From Route 401, the main east-west highway through southern Ontario, take Exit 543 and travel north on Route 62 for 1.9 miles. At the traffic light, Vermilyea Road branches off to the left. The road runs from there, its eastern terminus, westerly for 2.6 miles to Wallbridge-Loyalist Road. It is a paved, two-lane, relatively flat country road passing through an area of large, old farms and relatively new homes of various styles on large lots of land. The residential section of Belleville is expanding northward into the Thurlow Ward section of the city, and, consequently, this is an area where farmland is being converted to home sites.



East end of Vermilyea Road as you approach it from the south along Route 62.



West end of Vermilyea Road – looking south from its intersection with Wallbridge-Loyalist Road.

Vermilyea Road is named after Solomon Vermilyea (ancestors: Peter, Peter Martin, Isaac Corssen, Johannes, Isaac, Jean), Farley's great-grandfather and one of the first settlers in the area. Solomon, who was born in 1795 in New York State, was the son of Peter and Mary (Jewell) Vermilyea, who, with their seven children (Solomon was youngest), moved to Canada in about 1800, one of the first descendant families to do so.

The then-English rulers of Canada apportioned land in Thurlow, Ontario, into 100-acre parcels for homesteading. Five of those parcels extended west from what is now Route 62 and were roughly bisected by the access way, which was Route 31 and is now named Vermilyea Road. Solomon obtained a homestead land grant from the English Crown for the fifth parcel in from (west of) Route 62. It was designated as Lot #1, 4th Concession, Thurlow. In today's terms, this land would have extended along Vermilyea Road from a point about 5/10ths of a mile to a point about 6/10ths of a mile west of Route 62. The barn originally built by Solomon on the farm was still standing in 2004, albeit no longer in the family and in significant disrepair.

Some years later, Solomon purchased the 100-acre parcel that abutted property to the east from his neighbor, Mr. Bird. When Solomon died, he passed the then-200-acre farm on to his son, Nathaniel. Later, Nathaniel purchased the next two abutting 100-acre parcels to the east from Mr. Finn and Mr. Knight, respectfully. Thus, the Vermilyea land holdings grew from Solomon's original 100 acres to 400 acres and extended from a point about 1/10th of a mile west of Route 62 to 6/10ths of a mile in along Vermilyea Road. Nathaniel, a farmer and school teacher-principal, gave the original 200 hundred acres to his son Clarence and the 200 acres east of that to his son Arthur. Nathaniel and his wife then moved into the city of Belleville. Clarence's widow sold off most of her property in the 1970s and the remainder in the 1990s. In the 1970s, Arthur's son Farley, having inherited Arthur's 200 acres, sold all but a few of his acres of that farm. Not sold was the home built by Mr. Knight and a few acres around it. In 2004, the home is the second building (first residence) in on the north side of Vermilyea Road from Route 62. It has been expanded in size and updated over the years. Occupants have been Arthur, who passed it on to Farley, who, in turn, passed it down to his youngest son, Than, the current (2004) owner-occupant.

CHAPTER 4 - PLACES THAT WERE OR NEVER WERE

Research has identified some “places” that, after further investigation, either no longer exist or never did exist. They are listed here in alphabetical order by state in the United States, then by province in Canada.

UNITED STATES

INDIANA

ABOITE: VERMILYEA CEMETERY AND LOCK

The Vermilyea Cemetery was established in 1833 and closed in the 1860s. The Vermilyea Lock of the Wabash and Erie Canal was constructed in 1833. Operation of the canal ended in 1882. Whereas the lock no longer exists, there is a historical marker at its former location. See chapter 2 under Indiana, Aboite, Vermilyea Lock, House and Cemetery for more information about both these places and the surrounding area.

IOWA

UNIONVILLE: MILLER-VERMILYA HOTEL

In 2001, Barbara Fernkopf (ancestors: mother, Beryl Baker; grandmother, Gertrude Vermilya; great-grandfather, Robert David Burr Vermilya; then, Robert Wright, Edward, William, Abraham, John, Johannes, Isaac and Jean) wrote an article for the January-February-March 2001 edition of the VFA’s newsletter about her great-grandparents, owners of the Miller-Vermilya Hotel in Unionville, Iowa. Extracts from her article follow:

In 1849, Mr. John Miller and his family arrived in Unionville from Tennessee. There were only five other homes in the town. They moved into a log home and began building their permanent house and developing their property. The house was finished in 1854 and stood as a monument to the fine lumber selected and the perfect workmanship of the builders. The weatherboarding was of black walnut. So well did the lumber hold paint, one coat lasted years.

The home stood on Main Street in Unionville in a large yard. Surrounded by trees of all kinds – built after the southern style – it resembled one of the plantation homes, with large pillars on the porch at the front of the house. Some time before the Civil War, a trumpet vine was planted by the front door and continued to grow until the dismantling of the building began. The main stem was large and gnarled. A striking feature of the home was the spacious hall running from the front to the rear door. There were two stairways, one from this hall and the other in the living room. Each led to a section of the upstairs, with no means of connection between the two sections. This was the first two-story house in this part of the county, and people came from miles to the see the mansion. Large fireplaces served for cooking and heating. The framework was of 10-inch hardwood beams and supplied with 4-inch, pinned and mortised braces. Only the finest timber was used and the workmanship was perfect.

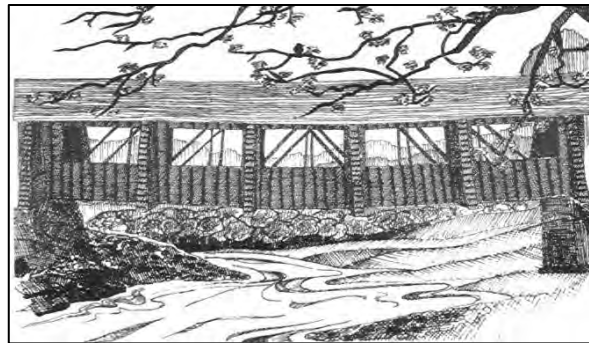


The Vermilya-Miller Hotel, Unionville, Iowa

After the death of the Millers, the property passed to their daughter Clementine, who had been born in 1842 in Tennessee. She died in about 1930. In 1864, she married Robert David Burr Vermilya when he came home on furlough from the Civil War. Robert, who was born in 1840, had moved to Unionville with his parents in 1850. He died in 1914. After he returned from service, they began keeping travelers. This marked the beginning of the Miller-Vermilya Hotel and it soon became known far and wide for its hospitality and was the mecca of travelers in the area. Unionville became a flourishing little town, and the hotel became a popular resort, being recognized as one of the best in Southern Iowa. Clementine lived in the home for 77 years. The hotel was torn down in 1963.

NEW YORK

ARKVILLE: VERMILYEA PLACE COVERED BRIDGE



Vermilyea Place Covered Bridge²¹

²¹ A pen-and-ink drawing by Scott McGlone (ancestors: Mary Ruth (Bellows) (Vermilyea) McGlone who was adopted by Harold Herbert Vermilyea, William Vermilya, William, Samuel, William, Abraham, John, Johannes, Isaac, Jean)

Edwin John (“Ed”) Vermilyea (ancestors: John Ford, William, William, Samuel, William, Abraham, John, Johannes, Isaac, Jean) of Arkville, New York, and Sandra (Vermilyea) Todd (ancestors: Harold Herbert, William, William, Samuel, William, Abraham, John, Johannes, Isaac, Jean), first cousins, provided the following information about this unique bridge, which was located not far from where they grew up and, if it were still standing, would be near Ed’s current (2008) home.

In 1914, the bridge was moved from the East Branch of the Delaware River in New York to Arkville, where it spanned the Dry Brook River connecting two pieces of property, one on each side of the river, owned by Sandra’s and Ed’s grandfather, William Vermilya, and provided access to the home and land of a Mr. Kenneth George that abutted William’s land. The road that passed through the bridge was not officially named, but because it linked property owned by William, it became known as the Vermilyea Place Covered Bridge. In 1950, flood waters washed away the river banks around it, causing the bridge to collapse. In 1964, it was dismantled.

Ed reports he remembers playing on the bridge some 60-plus years ago and that he now owns a picture of the bridge done by Mr. Ward Herrmann (see footnote 21). He also reports that William’s home and land, on both sides of the river, were sold to a Mr. Kingdon Gould; however, in recent years it was purchased by Jacob Rosa, a great-great-grandson of William, through his daughter, Della, who married Albert Charles Rosa.

DRESDEN: VERMILYEA-CHRISTENSEN AMERICAN LEGION POST



The building in Dresden, which formerly housed the Vermilyea-Christensen American Legion Post and is now a Baptist church.

The American Legion, familiar to us all as a social organization for military veterans, is organized into “posts.” Normally, an American Legion post has its own building in which members meet and conduct their many functions. When the post doesn’t own property, the members meet and conduct affairs in the facility of another organization in the community. The Vermilyea-Christensen American Legion Post is such a case. It had its own building for many years, but, because of dwindling membership, in about 1996 it was sold to a Baptist church. The post now has a very small membership and uses the proceeds from the sale of the building to support its functions. 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 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 into 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 of the sale of the building to the Good Samaritan Baptist Church and told us about the current status of the post, as mentioned above. She then directed us to the post's old building, which is about a block further down the road; go through the stop sign, and it is the second building on the right, a brick building painted gray.

Prior to our visit, Sandra (Vermilyea) Todd had communicated with Mr. William Updike of Dresden, who had been a past commander of the post. Whereas he didn't mention the sale of the building, he did say that the post is named after Sidney C. Vermilyea and Anton Christensen. Both men were killed during World War I. Sidney (ancestors: Herbert Smith, Isaac, Benjamin, Benjamin, Johannes, John, Johannes, Isaac, Jean) was born in 1887 in New York State. He became a doctor and served in the U.S. Army as a first lieutenant in the Medical Detachment of the 363rd Infantry. He died on November 2, 1918, from wounds received in action.

According to articles published in the *Penn Yan Cronical*, Penn Yan, New York, the site where the building now stands was the location of the local school for about 100 years. Circa 1887-1890, the old wood structure school was razed and replaced by the current brick building. Subsequently, it was purchased by the American Legion.

NEW YORK CITY: VERMILYE COLLEGE OF STENOGRAPHY AND VERMILYEA MISSION

VERMILYE COLLEGE OF STENOGRAPHY

All that is known about this college what is contained in the advertisement, below left, which appeared in the *Brooklyn Eagle* of March 11, 1895.

Typewriting.

We will teach you to typewrite and you will be able to earn considerable while learning.
Call or write VERMILYE COLLEGE OF

Stenography.

816 BROADWAY, NEAR 12TH ST. NEW YORK.

When in New York City on April 6, 2005, I went to 816 Broadway (between 11th and 12th Streets) to find out what might be at that location 110 years after the college occupied the site. As can be seen in the picture, right, it is a narrow, five-story building much smaller than the abutting buildings. Although difficult to see due to the scaffolding, there are three entrances. The two on the left serve the upper floors. Looking into them, I saw time-worn, wooden staircases that could well have been there for over 100 years. The third door, on the right, leads into the Place des Vosges, an antique store, the interior of which was being extensively remodeled.



816 Broadway, New York City

VERMILYEA MISSION

According to the *New York Times* of March 15, 1895, the Vermilyea Mission was located in the “Helping Hand” building on Fifty-Fourth Street between Ninth and Tenth Avenues in New York City. In 1895, the mission was maintained by the Forty-Eighth Street Collegiate (Dutch) Reformed Church and under the supervision of Dr. E. B. Coe. Its superintendent was the Reverend Moses Austin.

On April 6, 2005, while in New York City, I went to Fifty-Fourth Street to see what might be there. There was no evidence of a mission, a “Helping Hand” office, or any other social service organization. It is a rather drab, one-way street absent of anything worth highlighting.

OKLAHOMA

LAWTON: THE VERMILYE MEMORIAL CHAPEL (Also and now known as the Comanche Reformed Church)

While researching on the Internet in 2005, Sandra (Vermilyea) Todd found a document²² covering the Vermilye Memorial Chapel (also known as the Comanche Reformed Church) and the Comanche Lodge in Lawton. In May 2007, my son, Carl P. Vermilyea Jr., went to Lawton in an attempt to learn more about these buildings. Later in May, and as a result of Carl Jr.’s trip, Reverend Charles D. Spencer sent me a copy of the church’s centennial celebration booklet.²³

The Internet source covers two Indian Tribes, the Apache and the Comanche. The Apaches were held at Fort Sill, Lawton, Oklahoma, as prisoners of war from 1895 to late 1912, when they were finally freed by an Act of Congress. In 1895, missionaries, most of them women, from the Dutch Reformed Church established and supervised the building of the Apache Mission (a church) at the fort. They ministered to the tribal members and acted as a social service group to assist the Indians in coping with their captivity. Under the persistent encouragement of the missionaries over the ensuing years, almost the entire band of Chiricahua of the Apache Tribe became professing Christians. The Apache Mission was disbanded in 1916 when most of the Apaches moved on to New Mexico.

By 1897, a large Comanche encampment had been established just outside the boundaries of Fort Sill. They were not prisoners of war but, rather, had moved there on their own accord. They intermingled with both the Apaches and the soldiers and civilians at the fort. The missionaries serving the Apaches extended their services to these Comanche. At first, the Comanche people worshipped at the Apache Mission, but as time passed, they wanted a church of their own. In 1904, three Comanche leaders traveled to New York to meet with members of the Women’s Board of Domestic Missions of the Reformed Dutch Church in an attempt to obtain funds (donations). They were successful. Elizabeth B. Vermilye,²⁴ a member of the board, made the contribution to build the church in memory of her parents. Construction started in 1905, and the

²² *Chronicles of Oklahoma*, Volume 18, No. 4, December, 1940: The Missionary Work of the Reformed (Dutch) Church in America in Oklahoma; Part II: Comanche and Apaches; by Richard H. Harper; pages 331-334. On the Internet at <http://digital.library.okstate.edu/Chronicles/v018/v018p328.html>.

²³ *Comanche Reformed Church, 1907-2007, 100th Anniversary Celebration Booklet*, published by the congregation; Reverend Charles D. Spencer, M. Div., Pastor.

²⁴ Elizabeth B. Vermilye, ancestors: Ashbel Green, Thomas Edward, William W., William, John, Isaac Corssen, Johannes, Isaac, Jean.

building was named the Vermilye Memorial Chapel (and also known as the Comanche Reformed Church). The church was dedicated on May 6, 1906, and, with 63 members, the first communion service was held on July 19, 1906. It was formally organized under the Classis of New York of the Reformed Church on May 1, 1907. (The nearby Apache Mission was also so formally organized on the same date.) The church grew rapidly. In 1907 the Sunday school had 45 pupils; by 1910 it had grown to over 125.

In 1912, a "lodge," or parish house, was erected near the church and became known as the Comanche Lodge. Elizabeth B. Vermilye donated the first \$500 for its construction. Other financial donations were added to that initial gift, and the Indians helped with labor. The lodge ended up as a two-story edifice with a large room for group quilting sessions and social gatherings. It was equipped with sewing machines for the use of the church women and had a range, utensils, and dishes. It became an essential addition to the church's holdings.²⁵

The pastors of the Vermilye Memorial Chapel (Comanche Reformed Church) up until 1930 were white, American missionaries. In 1930, the Reverend Robert Chaat became pastor. He was born in Lawton in 1900 of Comanche Christian parents, attended the Cook Christian Training School in Arizona, and then became the assistant pastor of the church. In 1934, he became the first American Indian to be ordained by the Reformed Church in America. He retired from the position in 1969 and died in 1992.



Vermilye Memorial Chapel
(The original Comanche Reformed Church)



Comanche Reformed Church in 2007

In 1932, the original wooden church fell into disrepair and was torn down, marking the end of the Vermilye Memorial Chapel. Services then were held in the Comanche Lodge until 1941, when the present rock sanctuary was built. The steeple bell from the original church was installed in the new church but in 1971 was removed from there and now rests above a wishing well in front of the church.

(Added note: A footnote on page 333 of the Internet source reads, "The Comanche Mission has sometimes been called, locally, 'The Helen Gould Mission.' Mrs. Finley J. Shepard (nee Helen Gould) was a member of the Women's Board of Domestic Missions for many years, and helped generously in the support of Indian work, but was not such a giver to this particular mission as far as the records show, as to bring her name into prominence thereby. The official name is the Vermilye Memorial Reformed Church." Mrs. Shepard was the daughter of the well-known, railroad magnate and financier Jay Gould, whose residence, a mansion named Kirkside,

²⁵ From sources described at footnotes 22 and 23.

was located in Roxbury, New York. A Reformed Dutch Church member and generous philanthropist, Helen, who lived in the mansion after she married, donated funds for many projects to help Indians. After her death, the mansion was converted into a retirement home. Sandra (Vermilyea) Todd's mother, Margaret E. (Bellows) Vermilyea, resided at Kirkside for a period of time before moving to skilled nursing facility in 2007.)

OREGON

OREGON CITY: VERMILYA ROAD

In August 2003, Judith Vermilya, (ancestors: Carl Eugene, Carl Drain, William Burton, Sidney Smith, William J., William, William, Abraham, John, Johannes, Isaac, Jean) of Portland, Oregon, reported that she had found a Vermilya Road on a local map of Oregon City, Oregon. Later, she drove to and around the area where the road appeared on the map but was unable to find it. She said that the area was void of development.

It is possible that this Vermilya Road is reflected in land development plans that the current, or a past, owner of the property had submitted to the city's government. If this is the case, it is possible that the road may be constructed in the future.

Research has revealed only one descendant who has lived in Oregon City. She was Maude L. Grant, the third child of Delphine Vermilya (ancestors: Solomon, Abram, William, Abraham, John, Johannes, Isaac, Jean) and her husband, Ebenezer Grant. Maude, also known as Dolly, died on March 2, 1946, and is buried in Oregon City at Mountain View Cemetery. It is possible there may be a connection between her and the naming of this mystery road.

PENNSYLVANIA

GAINES: HOTEL VERMILYEA²⁶

Horace Clark Vermilyea (ancestors: John S., Benjamin, Johannes, John, Johannes, Isaac, Jean) was born on April 10, 1815, in New York State and moved to Tiogaboro, Pennsylvania, circa 1846, where he worked in the lumber business. In 1855, he moved on to Gaines, Pennsylvania, where he leased and managed the Benjamin Barse Hotel for five years. In 1860, he built the Izaak Walton House, a hotel, on the site of what would later become the Vermilyea Hotel. He owned and managed the hotel with great success for eight years before turning over management of it to his son, Adelbert. While retaining ownership of the hotel, he turned his attention to establishing himself in the mercantile business in Gaines and entering local and county politics.

Under Adelbert's management, the propriety and respectability of the Izaak Walton House continued to flourish and became known as a resort for hunters and fisherman. Many of the most prominent men of the county and the states of Pennsylvania and New York were among its

²⁶ Other sources: *History of Tioga County Pennsylvania*, W.W. Munsell & Co., NY, 1883; *Gaines Township History*; and, rootsweb.com.

guests. Sometime before his death on June 3, 1878, Horace sold the hotel to his youngest son, William. Adelbert continued to manage it until about 1887, when he moved away to Illinois.

In 1887, William retired from his primary occupation as a pharmaceutical salesman and became active in the day-to-day management of the hotel. In 1890, the hotel was destroyed by fire. The *Wellsboro Agitator*, Wellsboro, Pennsylvania, published the following article about the fire on October 14, 1890:

Large Fire at Gaines

“The Hotel Vermilyea Burned Last Saturday Night.

“Early last Saturday evening a chimney in the Hotel Vermilyea at Gaines burned out and about ten o’clock fire was discovered in the walls above the private apartments of Landlord William H. Vermilyea on the third story. Willing hands responded promptly to the alarm and worked heroically but vainly to save the large wooden structure. The flames burned fiercely and it was only by a hard struggle that the buildings across the street were saved.

“All the furniture on the third floor was lost and a part of that on the other floors. Some of the good which were saved are in a badly-damaged condition. The house had lately been remodeled at considerable expense and it was handsomely furnished throughout.

“The loss on the property is estimated at upwards of \$15,000. The insurance was \$5,000 on the building and \$2,000 on the furniture.

“The Hotel Vermilyea was formerly known far and wide to sports-men as the Izaak Walton House. It was built by the late Silas X. Billings and for many years was under the management of Mr. Horace Vermilyea who made it headquarters for trout fishermen.”

William proceeded to rebuild the hotel, erecting on the same site one of the finest and most complete hotels in the county and renaming it the Vermilyea Hotel. In 1894, William was killed in a horse and buggy run-away accident while traveling down a mountain road near Gaines. A report of his death was published in the *New York Times*, an indication of both his and his hotel’s fame. After William died, his widow leased the business to a Mr. W. L. Herron.

Hotel Vermilyea,

Gaines, Pa.

One of the Largest and best appointed
Hotels in Tioga County. ❖ ❖

Modern Improvements.

❖ ❖ Gas, Pure mountain spring water, Steam
Heat, Fish and Game in close proximity.

BEAUTIFUL DRIVES,

FAVORITE SUMMER RESORT..

A. F. VERMILYEA, Proprietor.

The date of this advertisement is unknown.



The Vermilyea Hotel circa 1899

GROVER: VERMILYA STORE

Descendants John R. Vermilya (ancestors: ancestors: Lynn H., Charles E., Sherman Streeter, Edward, Samuel, William, Abraham, John, Johannes, Isaac, Jean) and Glenda Griswold Avery (ancestors: Mary Esther Vermilya, Edgar, William, Samuel, William, Abraham, John, Johannes, Isaac, Jean) provided information about the Vermilya Store in Grover.

The store was built, owned and operated by Sherman Streeter Vermilya (ancestors: Edward, Samuel, William, Abraham, John, Johannes, Isaac, Jean), who was born on February 24, 1844, in Middletown, New York, and died on June 10, 1902, in Grover. He was industrious and an innovator. His primary occupation was a furniture and cabinet maker. Sometime after 1870, he built the three-story building that was to house his store on the first floor, his family on another floor, and, a workshop for his furniture-cabinet making business on the remaining level. Appointed postmaster of Grover on April 24, 1883, Sherman set up the town's post office in the store.



The Vermilya Store, "S.S. Vermilya and Son," Grover, Pennsylvania

In the late 1800s, Sherman obtained a druggist license and proceeded to develop a patent medicine, a cure-all made from coal oil, which he called "Vermilya's Oil of Life." He marketed it throughout the country through dealers and agents as the "Greatest Internal and External Remedy for Man or Beast the World has ever Known" and "Good for Rheumatism, Coughs, Sprains, Bruises, Stiff Joints, Ring Bone, Swellings, Colds, Strains, Corns, Galls, Spavin, Chapped Hands, Sore Throat, Chilblains, Flesh Wounds, Sweeny, Founder, Contractions of the Muscles, Inflammation of the Lungs, Sore Feet from Walking, Scratches or Grease, Cracked Teats in Cows, Burns and Scalds, Bites of Animals, etc. etc." It sold for 25 cents a bottle.

After Sherman died, the store was purchased from the family by a Mr. Browning who, in turn, sold it to Paul Griswold, whose wife was Mary Esther Vermilya, the parents of Glenda (Griswold) Avery. Although the store was renamed the "Grover Trading Company," the painted sign, "S. S. Vermilya and Son – Cash Store, Reliable Good at Honest Prices" remained on the side of the building for many years.

VIRGINIA

RICHMOND: VERMILYA COURT

Internet maps show a Vermilya Court in Richmond, Virginia, that branches off Shannon Hill Road, a street located few miles south of I-64 on the west side of Richmond, Virginia.

In 2002, Mary-Jo (Imholz) Lee (ancestors: Joanne Marion (Lock) Imholz, Mabel (Vermilyea) Lock, Benjamin Franklin Vermilyea, Nathaniel Drake, Philip, Peter Martin, Isaac Corssen, Johannes, Isaac, Jean), who lives in Richmond, went to the area but was unable to find a Vermilya Court street sign. Mary-Jo reported that about halfway down Shannon Hill Road is a short, unnamed road extending from it into an apartment complex. A chain barrier across this road prevents traffic from transiting between the complex and the single-family home, residential area of and around Shannon Hill Road. In an attempt to find a street name sign on the opposite end of the short road, she drove to the main entrance of the apartment complex. Once there, she found that none of the internal streets in the apartment complex had names, including the one with the chain across it.



The road extending south from Shannon Hill Road which may, at one time, have been designated in development plans as Vermilya Court.

In November 2003, my wife and I were visiting friends in Richmond, and I decided to see if we could find out more about this Vermilya Court. Armed with a printout of the Internet map and Mary-Jo's report, we retraced Mary-Jo's route and, of course, met with the same results—no Vermilya Court street sign anywhere in the area and the unnamed road with the chain across it extending south from Shannon Hill Road and into the apartment complex. Along the north side of Shannon Hill Road, and for several roads to the north of it, is the single-family home development mentioned by Mary-Jo that appears to have been built in the 1950s. There we met an elderly couple who live a block away from Shannon Hill Road. After explaining my quest, they informed us they had lived there for 47 years (since 1956) and that since their arrival there has never been a Vermilya Court anywhere in area.

As did Mary-Jo, we then drove around to the entrance of the apartment complex, which fronts on Three Chopt Road, and found the complex's rental office. An employee who had

worked there for about 12 years told us she had never heard of a Vermilya Court; the complex (about twelve, two-story, apartment buildings connected by several internal roads) was developed in the 1950s on what was previously farmland; and, to the best of her knowledge, the internal streets never had names. Later, we went to the local fire station to see if they might have a record, but, unfortunately, no one was there—a volunteer department.

In summary, there has been no Vermilya Court in Richmond in the vicinity of where it is shown on maps since at least the mid-1950s, probably never. It is possible that the developer of the apartment complex and/or single family homes in the area listed the name on construction plans that were submitted to and approved by the city circa 1950; however, to determine that would take a great deal of research in old city records.

CANADA

ONTARIO

BELLEVILLE: VERMILYEA COURT

In December 2000, Farley Vermilyea (ancestors: Arthur, Nathaniel, Solomon, Peter, Peter Martin, Isaac Corssen, Johannes, Isaac, Jean), who lived in Belleville, informed me that a new community of homes was being constructed in the city and bore the name Vermilyea Court. He reported that in searching for a name for the new area, the developer selected the name of the first recorded landowner of the property. That person was Farley's grandfather, Nathaniel Vermilyea, who was born on October 27, 1846, in Thurlow (now a part of Belleville) Ontario, Canada. Nathaniel, who had inherited his father's Thurlow farm, purchased a tract of land bordering Moira Street West in Belleville as an investment.

In August 2004, my wife and I visited Belleville. We went to both a real estate office and the city's planning board to determine the location of Vermilyea Court. Neither office had a record of it, either as a development or as a roadway. We then visited Farley and his wife Vera and, with Farley as a guide, drove to the development.

Farley said that when the area was being built, the developer erected a sign naming the area Vermilyea Court, but, obviously, that name was never officially registered with the city. After all the homes and internal roads in the complex were completed, the sign was taken down, and the homes became identified solely by their street address, just as they would be in any neighborhood. Evidently, this is a relatively common practice in the area. As we drove around the Belleville area, we saw two other housing complexes under development, and each had a temporary sign by its entrance designating the area by a certain name. Most probably, those names were merely for development purposes and were not officially registered.

Directions to the housing development: From Route 401, the main east-west highway through southern Ontario, take Exit 543 and travel south on Route 62 (Front Road). Take a right on College Street and then a left on Sidney Street. Go over the railroad bridge and take an immediate right (west) onto Moira Street West. Go about ¼ of a mile and take a left on Tripp Street. As you enter this street, the homes of the development are on your right. Then, take a right on Pepper Street. The development is now on both sides of the street. There is another internal road within the complex, a circular drive named Faraday Gardens. You may exit the area by taking a right on Butler Street, which leads back to Moira Street West.

CHAPTER 5 - ADDENDUM

This addendum has two parts, two purposes.

The first is to list the names of Vermilya/e/ea/er places that members of the VFA have read about in various sources but for which no details have been found. Some of them may have existed at one time but there's no evidence that they exist today under the Vermilya/e/ea/er name. And, some may have existed, or might exist today, but fall outside the definition of what a Vermilyea place is for the purpose of this publication, that is, business locations, homes and farms that change names when sold, or places referred to informally by a family as their homestead. In any case, we need to be alert for information about these places and, if valid and worthwhile information that would make them eligible to be listed herein can be found, include them in this chapter.

Second, we need a place/section to add newly found information about a Vermilyea place previously described in chapters 1 through 4. We will also do that in part II.

PART I

PLACES MENTIONED IN SOURCES RESEARCHED BUT FOR WHICH ADDITIONAL RESEARCH IS NEEDED

Indiana: Vermilyea Horse Farm west of Fort Wayne, Indiana, which bred and raised miniature horses in the 1990s and early 2000s. It is possible that this name was derived from the earliest land owner, Jesse Vermilyea (see page 9).

New York: The Vermilyea Homestead, Yonkers, New York.

Ohio: Vermilya Inn near Toledo, Ohio.

PART II

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT PLACES COVERED IN PREVIOUS CHAPTERS

Vermilyea Place Covered Bridge, chapter 4.

This picture of the bridge was extracted from the Internet (www.wardherrmann.com) and is considered the original rendition of it.

The Ward E. Herrmann Gallery
Vermilyea Place Covered Bridge



Signed and numbered print of an original acrylic

This bridge was moved from the East Branch of the Delaware to Dry Brook in 1914. In 1964, flood waters washed away the banks around it, and it had to be closed.

Print size: 20 x 15 inches
Original Medium: Acrylics
Price: \$400.00

UPDATES TO VERMILYEA PLACES

by Sandra Vermilyea Todd



Vermilyea Corner, Carlsbad, California

Vermilyea Corner was dedicated on February 20, 2010 with a host of California V's in attendance. In the background (including the area that houses the Liberty Tax Service) is a general view of the property's "street" side. These properties are family owned...

Shared by Joyce Vermilyea Stewart.....

Suzanne Vermilya and husband Richard McFaul visited Vermelles, France in September 2012 and shared these pictures and experiences.....

We took the train from Bruges to Lille, rented a car and drove to Vermelles. We found the town a bit depressing, we got there midday when everything was closed. There were some cute homes, but the downtown area was quite nondescript.

Honestly, short of standing next to the sign coming into town, I was looking for a more historical place to pose for a picture and the statue was the only thing I could find with Vermelles on it.



War Monument, Vermelles, France

There are huge mines in the area and the city of Bethune, which is close by, has a lovely square where we actually sat and ate.



St. Pierre Church, Vermelles, France

The church is St. Pierre and the statue, I assume, a tribute to WWI and rebuilding.

Here is a post card of St. Pierre when it was hit in WW1. Obviously, the church in my picture was rebuilt after WW1.

http://www.flickr.com/photos/november_song/3507484501/