

The New Palmer Vidette ◊

FOR THE PUBLIC IN GENERAL AND THE PALMERS IN PARTICULAR

VOL.9

NO. STONINGTON, CONN.

SPRING 2007-

NO.1

"Palmar Qui Meruit Ferat.

2007 ANNUAL MEETING

As plans are now, we will meet at 11 A.M., Saturday, August 11th, 2007 at Pauchunganic Farm, 812 Pendleton Hill Road (Route 49) North Stonington, Connecticut. We always used to meet there until the barn burned, and the owners hesitated to invite people for a meeting. But now we realize we should meet on Gershom Palmer's property (he was Walter's 11th child) which is just about as close as we can get to the founder of our family.

Most members know that Gershom never lived there, though he owned it. The first householder, who built the middle section of the present house, was William.

We have not engaged a speaker yet, but will announce one when the regular invitations go out. If you know of a worthy speaker you'd like to have us hear, let us know at Walter Palmer Society, c/o Anna N. Coit, 65 Denison Hill Rd. North Stonington, CT, 06359.

We lost our tents in the fire and will have to rent or buy some. We can probably get chairs and tables from the church as before. The Milk House where Col. Elmer Hall Palmer does his genealogical magic, is now pristine after repair of fire damage. The back of the ell at the end of the house is also fixed.

Visitors will enjoy inspecting these areas, touring the house, seeing the large cornfield at its best, the ponds and Tumble Rock. Col. Elias Sanford Palmer's graveyard off Wyassup Road is also on view.

We usually have the business meeting before lunch. Lunch is a pot luck for people who live nearby, the Society provides the basics and guests from afar contribute toward costs. Any descendant of Walter Palmer, member or not, is welcome, and we have to admit that we welcome friends as well. This is a beautiful place, the Palmers are friendly, and we hope very many will come. To that end we are carefully inviting even those who have forgotten to pay their dues.

DUES

Unless you are a life member (\$100) or a new joiner applying for membership (\$25) regular dues (\$5 a year) should be paid on or before the Annual Meeting. Send to Membership Chairman Dr. Jody Wren, 2013 Idlewild Dr., Richland, MI, 49083.

WALTER PALMER

Genealogical Record of Descendants

By Elmer Hall Palmer

\$60

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The Walter Palmer Society

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06359

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NEW MEMBERS

Membership Secretary Dr. Jody Wren provides this list and says she has more in the works. Some of the ones in the works have to tell her what initials stand for before she can issue certificates. All names should be spelled out.

476 Martin Haines Irons

477 Jeanne Felker

478L David M. Scott

479 Ronald J. Mason

480

481L Raymond W. Bergman

482A Sheila Lyons

483L James R. Weigand

484 Sharon Kay Weigand Burkholder

485 Roger Allen Pike

* L = Life, A = Associate

ABOUT THE VIDETTE AND ROB PALMER

The *Vidette* grew from the first Palmer meeting in 1881, the one with the special train from New York and the electric light with its technician from Providence, the meeting with a huge tent and people from all around showing off their horses and carriages.

Young Rob Palmer (Henry Robinson Palmer, 1867-1943), then only 14, created the little paper to cover these doings. He was a descendant of Moses. His father, Ira, owned the Wadawanuc Hotel in the middle of the square where the Free Library is now.

That branch of our family has lived around that square from day one and still does. Rob, a handsome, witty man, went on to become an editor of the *Providence Journal*. It's a shame he quit the *Vidette*. See the sample, next two pages.

The Palmer Vidette.

VOL. I.

STONINGTON, CONN., JANUARY 1882.

NO. 6.

FOR THE PUBLIC IN GENERAL, AND THE PALMERS IN PARTICULAR.

"Palman Qui Meruit Ferat."

EXTRA VIDETTES.

If any subscriber gets, this month, an extra copy or two of the VIDETTE in his package, will he or she please hand the extra ones to some other Palmer who, for all we know, is suffering for the want of it. There are perhaps thousands of Palmers in that suffering state. We stand ready to alleviate their condition "every day and every hour" by receiving their subscriptions. Do give them a chance to subscribe and be happy.

AFFAIRS OF THE WORLD.

[BY A SPECIAL REPORTER.]

The relief-expedition to the delta of the Lena river will arrive there probably about 1st July next. From St. Petersburg to the destination is some 7000 miles.

President Arthur spent the holidays at his home in New York city in a quiet manner.

The General Assembly of Connecticut assembled at Hartford, Wednesday, January 3rd.

By cable cometh news of the sealing schooners Thomas Hunt and Express, belonging to Stonington. They were sealing near Cape Horn.

The trial of the assassin Guiteau has been unprecedentedly peculiar in many respects.

FOR THE VIDETTE.

WALTER PALMER'S PILGRIMAGE.

CHAPTER I.

1. And it came to pass, during the reign of Queen Elizabeth, which was in the sixteenth century, that tyranny and persecution pervaded that portion of the British Isles known as England.

2. And among the inhabitants thereof, the bishops and priests persecuted, and even executed, many that were Puritanical in their religious belief.

3. And during those days, many of the tyrannized ones sought freedom in other lands; wherefore the ship Mayflower, of ancient renown, was chartered to convey many away from under the yoke of the Church of England.

4. And it was at Nottinghamshire, in the so-called England, that there resided one Walter Palmer by name, and by reason of the death of Mrs. Palmer, he became a widower, and his daughter Grace was daily at his side, ministering to his many necessities.

5. And by reason of the faith that was in his heart, the said Walter desired to live and enjoy liberty of speech and thought, gathered together his earthly possessions and the children he had begot, including his daughter Grace, and took passage over and unto a newly-discovered country known as 'Merica.

6. And it came to pass, that, after a tempestuous voyage, and the en-

11. And it was during his sojourn in the land of Rehoboth that there came unto him one Cheseborough, surnamed William, from the wilds of Wequetequock Cove, in the colony of Connecticut.

12. And by reason of the persistent entreaties of the man Cheseborough, and his great desire that Walter should join him with his possessions in settling the newly-discovered country at Wequetequock, Walter yielded, and, after much deliberation, resolved to leave the land of Rehoboth.

13. So it came to pass after many days that Walter, with his wife Rebecca, his sons, daughter Grace, and all his cattle, arrived on the shores of Wequetequock Cove.

[To be continued.]

CHAFF.

—The latest is, "You can bet on the Palmer Vidette! Have a cigarette? No, not yet."

—Gen. Carr is a good Indian fighter. He is no parlor Carr.—[Ex. No, but you're brave enough to desert a palace, Carr.—[Salem Sun.—] And when you see me, shall I have a big box, Carr.—[Sübenville Herald.] Your stock, Carr, is rising. —[Eli R'y Journal.] Give us your hand, Carr.—[Springfield News.] We hope you are not a flat, Carr.—[Palmer Vidette.]

—Did you ever see a cow-catcher? asked a gentleman, as he perceived a cow chasing a woman.

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duance of untold hardships, the good ship arrived at her haven, which was known as Charlestown, hard by the Tri-mountain City, now Boston, in the colony of Massachusetts.

7. And upon that stern and rock-bound coast the little band of pilgrims soon found shelter, and offered up their devotions with a freedom they were not wont to do in the land of their birth.

8. After a few short years of sojourn in the land of Charlestown, Walter, with his sons and his daughter Grace, left for a place known in those days as the land of Rehoboth, and bordering on the shores of Seekonk River.

9. And it came to pass that before occupying his new possessions and estate he took unto himself a second wife, which for short was called Rebecca, or rather, Rebecca Short.

10. Now that matrimonial cares, duties and perplexities were upon him,—and their weight and importance became obvious,—he, the said Walter, having the fear of the Lord before him, and knowing the certainty of death and taxes, and the uncertainty of life as is often spoken of, made his last Will and testament, a copy of which was given in the Christmas number of the family journal known as the VIDETTE.

The "Day" of New London, Conn., is now published daily for one cent. It's the largest penny paper printed in the United States, and has a large circulation. One of its directors is a Palmer.

D. P. Nichols, Treasurer of Connecticut, died at Danbury recently.

The N. Y., N. H. and H. R. R. are taking the initiatory steps to bridge the Thames river at New London, Conn.

Mr. Suckles, father of Gen. Suckles, has become a groom at 82, and his bride is only 48—not quite 2 to 1. He is said to be worth say \$12,000,000, so can afford to marry, even if he is "a little along in years."

Moodus (Conn.) Advertiser:—
"The first cargo of cotton (1620 bales) ever shipped from the South direct for Fall River, Mass., was by the barque *Charles C. Fowler*, then in command of Capt. Albert G. Palmer of this village. This was just twenty-five years ago. The entire cargo was the purchase of one firm in Fall River, and was shipped from Mobile, Alabama. The arrival of the barque in port on a Sunday morning was quite an event, and hundreds of visitors thronged the dock during the day."

WPS BOARD

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LAST YEAR'S ANNUAL MEETING

A glorious day, to be sure. The Road Church, where we had the business meeting, was pristine. President Wright Palmer called us to order. Business was as usual except that Anna Coit resigned as Registrar (but not from the board) leaving the registrar job to Katharine Palmer Smith.

At the Wequetequock Burying Ground (now called Burial Ground) Vice President Fred Burdick took charge. He began by handing out a 16-page research paper he has done on the Palmers buried there, which includes a map and a list giving important details of many lives. He conducted a tour and answered questions, greatly to the satisfaction of family members present. Only a few years ago such a tour and study would have been impossible because of the tangles of brush here and there and the broken or sunken gravestones. We should again thank the large association, Fred Burdick among them, which has restored this important cemetery

After that we went to the old Minor House of David Rathbun on Cove Road. With the help of his family and Marcie Porter he had made ready for us in style. A bright blue tent was full of tables covered in equally bright cloths, and in the middle of each was an Irish oatmeal can absolutely stuffed with multi-colored annuals picked and stuffed right there by Marcie who took just about all day to do it. The house was open for tours. The cats were friendly. Little children played on the grass. The food was excellent. The temperature was right. We are grateful to David, the Palmers, their friends and the weather.

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PAUCHUNGANUC FARM

As family members take a kindly interest in this place, here is the latest report:

So far, little hope of replacing the barn, and the house looks forlorn without it. A neighbor did tell us recently that he had the Mennonites build him a large post-&-beam barn. They did it in two days for \$75,000. Enough of that for now.

We have a new western red cedar roof on the back part of the big section of the house, where it doesn't show.

With no one to maintain it, the flowerbed on the north is disappearing. A few perennials from very long ago persist in there. One of our renters is fixing up a section where a former renter had made a graveyard for one of his dogs with a wall, etc. We have a knotweed problem which we tried to fix with Roundup, No luck.

The back apartment has been without a tenant much too long because contractors could not get around to fixing flooring, plumbing and electric wiring right away. In the meantime we had a chance to look in a back attic accessible only through rental space. (The new renter will let us through to really clean it.) When we opened the door to that, by now, unfamiliar space, the first vision was three beautiful baskets, one a local Mashantucket Pequot or Mohegan job, the other two from central Vermont. Perhaps there are more in there to partly make up for the 21 lost in the fire.

We are working to clear the title of the farm. It isn't clear because Julia Wells Palmer, who died in 1911, died intestate. You would think the present owners could claim eminent domain. The lawyer says no. When it's family you have to seek out every single heir. We're looking for some, each of whom owns a 720th, and who never heard of the place, probably.

NEWS ITEMS OF ALL SORTS

Mr. David Rathbun, who covered himself with glory at the 2006 meeting, has decided not to move into the barn after all.

Mr and Mrs Christopher Smith (she's our new registrar) whose house a-building we could see across Quiambaug Cove from Rathbun's, expect it will be ready some time this summer. For now, it's a vacation home.

Ms. Vivian Palmer Hansen is proudly helping her town, Philip, South Dakota celebrate its centennial. Her father and mother, Rolla and Elizabeth Palmer, settled on that dry, vacant prairie in 1907. She herself is the chief recorder of Philip's pioneering folklore.

As it happens, North Stonington, Connecticut is celebrating the bi-centennial of its incorporation as a separate entity from Stonington. The first selectman, Nicholas Mullane asked Ms. Anna Palmer North Coit, who is about half as old as the town, to speak, and she did it.

Dr. Jody Wren, membership secretary, who moved to Kalamazoo at the behest of her employer Pfizer, Inc., is still there even though, in downsizing, Pfizer eliminated or moved many Kalamazoo jobs. She travels a great deal for the company and, with a mother in Canada, a daughter in the east and a son in the south, for herself. Going on right now is a two-week vacation in Spain for the whole family plus several friends.

President and Mrs. A. Wright Palmer now have eight grandchildren, four of each. For the birth of the latest, Mrs. Palmer, who had just returned from her husband's annual fishing trip to New Zealand, took plane again to Lausanne, Switzerland to be with daughter SiSi and husband Francesco Sulima for the occasion. The new baby, Sylvia Allison Sulima, was born April 6th. After Mr. Palmer flew over to have a look, the Sulimas and Grandma went home to Naples and, at last, Grandma returned to Stonington.

Anna Coit, traveling north from Florida by train, had a three-hour layover in Washington's beautiful Union Station. Starting at 6:30 A.M. family members came to keep her company: Imogen Upton Saunders, Elizabeth Murtha Nuti and Daniel Nuti who was only one month old are all Palmers; and three in-laws showed up as well.

Col. Elmer Hall Palmer, back from Florida, is often in his office doing something or other on his computer which is working, for the time being. He doesn't say whether he is compiling a new genealogy or not, but, if not, why is he gathering so much detailed information about recent generations?

Ms. Kimberly Peters, who so graciously showed us the inner workings of the Mashantucket Pequot Museum two years ago, is now Kimberly Hatcher-White executive director of the museum. Ms. Meredith Vasta, who also welcomed us, has earned a PhD. in anthropology.

Scott Bill Hirst is president of the Hopkinton, RI, historical Society and Frederick Burdick is president of the Stanton Society.

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EDITOR'S SUGGESTION TO READERS

If you would like to read news from a larger area kindly send news to Mrs. Harlan J. Coit 65 Denison Hill Road, North Stonington, CT, 06359, tel: (860) 599-2998; email:

Also, we would like to run a series from time to time telling about notable ancestors with their pictures, if available.