

From: "Ruth M. Brandon" <aremb@javanet.com>
Date: September 11, 1999 03:14:24 GMT+00:00
To: nodnarb@sover.net, abrandon@global2000.net
Cc: abulsme@abulsme.com, schurlburt@earthlink.net

Hi - I am just back from a fine trip to Middlebury and Weybridge, VT where some kind of cousin, Dorothy Elmer, showed me family things. Sam probably has no clue about any of this but your older family - Paul, David, Sid - probably know all this.

I, however, found it rather moving and generally exciting to visit two cemeteries within about two miles of each other and discover all my grandparents and great-grandparents on mother's side were from such a small part of Vermont. I knew mother's and Uncle Rod's grandparents were from Weybridge and that grandpa Hurlburt (their father) had been a pastor nearby - but somehow I had always heard stories of his growing up in Bennington and I had no idea that in the town next to Weybridge were the gravestones for two Hiram Harvey Hurlburts and their wives - Helen Herendeen in one case and Susan Bullard in another - and various other Herendeens and Alfred Nutt, And a variety of Wrights (Ebenezer and Rebekah "pioneers 1783"; Samuel & two wives (Wealthy, then Nancy); Charles & Ruth; asnd also Daniel and Bathsheba Wright (both born in 1780); and Abiogail Wright, wife of John Child The main Hurlburt stone was beneath a fine sycamore tree (or something similar) full of bluish berries

Back in the main cemetery in the center of town, the main Wright stone for our branch of the family is flanked at either end by a young maple - near it are buried or ashes scattered: Samuel O Wright & Olive Souler; George H. Wright and Crucy Elmer; Sarah E. Wright, Elmer L. Wright and Nellie S. Wooster; Donald P. Hurlburt and Sarah O. Wright; Sarah E. Wright. A Jewett/James plot with six names flanks it on one side and a Bingham/James plot on the other side. At the entrance to this cemetery are Silas Elmer/Harriet Jewett (& Edward, Horace etc) Elsewhere in the cemetery are lots more Jewetts, James, Wrights and Elmers. Wrights include Samuel and Electra; Samuel and Margaret; Loyal and Olata (? can't read my note!); Silas and Arvilla; Edwin; Silas and Eleanor; Emmeline; Chester and Eliza

Elmers include two Chester Elmers, son and grandson of original Elmer who came to Weybridge from Amherst or Northampton, MA area

James include Curtis & Catherine (she was Jewett); Samuel and Susan

Jewetts include Philo and Eliza; Samuel and Lucy; Silas W. & Ellen

We also drove to Rt 17 and looked out into a pasture toward the original graveyard where the original Edward Elmer and probably others are buried. And looked at "the original Elmer house in the area" - etc.

As for the question whether mother's ashes could go there - I think they could and should. There is a whole plot by her father's marker and his were ashes so there is clearly space for hers there also. I have the name address phone of the person in Weybridge who manages the cemetery - have not talked with her. Our dad's grave in Versailles might also allow the small hole needed for ashes or Sid and Rod, I know you might consider the option of adding that where your parents are in Southampton - but to me today Weybridge felt like our family area and the right place.

I must admit the visit made me feel very rooted - felt good to know I came from somewhere - have always fudged the question "where are you from?" with "I grew up in Vermont" or "my mother and her parents were born in Vermont" or "I'm from Westfield" where I live always being a real answer also - but after today - with an understanding that both Brandons and Van Tilbergs came from Versailles area in Ohio - I rather feel like "My family is from Weybridge, Vt and Versailles, Ohio" - even though I have no house or land to call my own or place I grew up in that feels like "home" except Kurn Hattin and the buildings I lived in there have been torn down

and the landscape even re-arranged. Paul and David and Sid - you are from where you have property so I'm guessing this question is not so hard for you! Sam, of course, still has to figure out his own answer to this question and there are many possibilities!

Anyway - today was good for the soul. Paul - it was good to see you and Ernest and Marjorie on the way up - I stayed on Rt 7 all the way to Pittsfield on the way back because it was dry and the radio said Windham County was still under flood watch and likely to have heavy rains!