



NEWSLETTER

*FAMILY ASSOCIATION*

Summer 1991

Vol. 15 #4

FAMILY ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

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REUNION

Our FOURTEENTH Annual VVV Family Association Reunion will be soon upon us. It will take place at the Best-Western - Mid-Way Motor Lodge, 2434 Old Dorset Road, Maryland Heights, Missouri. This is a suburb of St. Louis located at interstate 270 and Dorset Road.

Our host, Bruce Vawter makes a guess that it is located approximately seven (7) miles from the airport and 15 miles from train and bus.

The national reservation number is: 1-800-223-0516. Their local number is (314) 291-8700. When making reservations be sure and tell them you are attending the VVV Family Reunion in order to receive our special rates.

Room cost will be \$52.00 per room - plus tax. Same price for 1-4 people.

Friday, August 2, will be an outing to Grants Farm and the Bush Family Estates. Friday night there will be a pig-roast in a park approx. 10 miles from hotel.

There will be additional details in the President's letter in July.

Remember the date - the night of August 1 - the early birds, Friday, August 2 officers breakfast - activities, Aug. 3 activities plus banquet on Saturday ending with our Memorial time and a chapel service Sunday morning by one of the VVV ministers.

Don't forget to bring your arts, crafts or gifts for our door prizes.

A TREASURE

In 1969 after I had found out about "The Vawter Family in America" by Grace V. Bicknell I wrote to Goodspeed's Book Shop Inc. asking if they had a copy. They said "no" but would keep my name on file.

In April, 1991 I heard from them saying they had a copy for sale. I was told it was scarce and that they have 24 requests on file for this book.

The price is \$200.00 (plus \$4.00 delivery).

What a shock it was to me to find out that this book has become so valuable. I'm glad to pass the word on to you.

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DR. MARVIN L. VAWTER

Sent by Bobbie Meek of AZ and written by Assoc. Editor Sally Brown with added research.

Dr. Marvin L. Vawter was granted a leave of absence in 1973 from the University of Illinois, English Department to become the Executive Director of the newly formed Illinois Humanities Council. This Council of 19 persons was made up of university executives, professors of humanities, and representatives from the private sector.

Dr. Vawter believes that professional humanists should speak out on every public issue in order to broaden the understanding of out-of-school adults in this country. His goal for the Council was to test to see if professional humanists could foster greater understanding about issues facing the public and he intended to encourage statewide activities to test this thesis. He also wanted the Council to contribute to dialogue on public policy issues. Dr. Vawter says that every public issue -poverty, racism, taxes, pollution, highways - has a philosophical basis to it, a historical background, and a rhetorical part of it which can help the public's understanding of the issues that are of real concern to them.

He says that we all work as humanists when we face questions such as where to put a highway or how to distribute tax monies by deciding what is just and fair, defining community goals, setting human priorities, and emphasizing quality over quantity of life. He felt that better decisions could be made if people think and talk about decisions together with people whose job it is to know the questions behind the immediate questions and how they affect them.

Dr. Marvin L. Vawter was born in Kentucky and he went to Southern Baptist College for his undergraduate work. His masters degree was earned at the University of Cincinnati and his Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin. Dr. Vawter's specialty is Shakespeare and his avocational interest is in local politics.

As a result of six years of outstanding work as the director of the Illinois Humanities Council Dr. Vawter was given a sabbatical to go to Harvard Business School to become the National Director of the Humanities Councils. After his experience at Harvard Business School he decided to leave academia and move to Savannah, Georgia. There he and his wife, Kathy, have founded a very successful advertising and marketing firm called "Vawter and Vawter".

(Editor's note: Where does this Vawter fit into the VVV family tree?)

Note from a reader - Elizabeth H. Czompo

I was interested in the profile of CHARLES ERASTUS VAWTER as he was my great uncle. I would like to know who wrote the profile. Interested in finding new relatives.

Editor; This profile information came from Dictionary of American Biography Vol. X 1936 - page 240.

Note from a prospective member - Ann Montgomery

Please send info about VVVFA - My ancestor Harriet Vawters married Willis L. Allman. I hope to find someone else who is researching her.  
Ann Montgomery, 409 Paddock Lane, Montgomery AL 36109, Ph. (205)271-1687

## CHURCH HISTORY OF VIRGINIA - MADISON COUNTY

Everyone who lived in a parish was required to attend the parish church or else pay a fine. A tax was levied on everyone who lived within the parish, just as county taxes are assessed today. One reason why everybody had to attend the parish church was to pay these taxes; but there were other reasons also. All marriages, deaths, and births were recorded in the parish church as they are recorded in the clerk's office today.

Some parishioners lived a great distance from the church. Where this distance was very great, provision was made to relieve the people from the duty of attending church. This was accomplished by building what was called "A House of Ease". This was similar to a branch church and was placed where the people could attend easily. Attendance here relieves one of attending the parish church.

When Madison was a part of St. George's Parish it was necessary for a "House of Ease" to be built near Wolfstown. Some years later St. Mark's Parish was formed in what is now Culpeper County. Again, after the formation of Bromfield Parish where a church was built and called "F.T." after Mr. Frank Thornton. There was also another Episcopal Church four miles below the present Madison Court House. This church was called "South Church". It was a frame building and stood on the land of Richard Vauters. Both the F.T. and South Church buildings were old at the beginning of the Revolutionary War.

The Episcopal families around these churches were: Ruckers, Marbours, Beales, Keartleys, Lewises, Bladfords, Vauters, etc.

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### CHURCH FOR SALE

Bromfield Parish in Madison County, VA. was cut off from St. Mark's Parish by the act of Assembly in 1752.

St. Mark's Parish was taken from St. George's in 1731; Orange County from Spotsylvania in 1734; Culpeper County from Orange in 1748, and in 1752 Bromfield Parish was taken from St. Mark's. In 1792 Madison was taken from Culpeper. The chief church was called Vawters, which must not be confounded with Vawter's in Middlesex County, or Essex County. It was standing in 1798 in which year the following advertisement appeared in the Fredericksburg Herald:

"To be Sold - A house built for a church, the main body 26 X 24 feet, well framed of white oak timber. The interior adorned with pulpit, type, pews, railing and two galleries with seats and aisles. The time of payment will be agreed upon at the day of sale.

(Signed by) Richard Vawters. Madison County

### ESSEX COUNTY, VA

With formation of the county in 1692, it was divided into two parishes of the Established Church, St. Anne's and South Farnham; North Farnham Parish being across the river in Richmond. The two churches were Upper and Lower Piscataway.

Vauter's was the church of upper St. Anne's Parish and survived the other Colonial Churches of Essex. The northern half of the structure was built in 1719 and the southerly wing in 1731. There is still preserved a communion set presented by Queen Anne.



### NAMING PATTERN

The old naming pattern has been used in many families; this was usually called the "Dutch System". The German system used the middle name as their "everyday name", for example- a father named John had sons named John George and John Henry. They used their father's name as their first name and went by their middle name.

The first son was named after the  
father's father.

The second son after the mother's  
father

The third son after the father.

The fourth son after the father's  
eldest brother.

The first daughter after the  
mother's mother

The second daughter after the  
father's mother.

The third daughter after the mother

The fourth daughter after the mother's  
eldest sister.

(From: Ancestors Unlimited, Southwest Gen. Soc. DeKalb Co., IL.)

### MEMORIAL

Florence R. Beeman (Miss.), b. 18 Aug. 1906, died 16 April 1991 at Columbus, IN.

Florence was a charter member of the Muscatatuck Chapter DAR. She worked with numerous organizations and held offices in many of them. She was also active in the First Baptist Church of North Vernon, IN. See Bicknell p. 139 for line. She was the daughter of Oscar & Grace (Holsclaw) Beeman.

John Mendenhall of Toledo, Ohio died 5 April 1991. His grandfather is James George Vawter son of Jesse R & Sarah (Parks) Vawter, and is listed on p. 134 of Bicknell. John and his wife, Bernice, have been members and attended the two reunions in Indiana.

Richard D. Vawter of Fremont, NB. b. 6 Aug. 1915, died 30 May 1990 in Omaha. His parents were Edward & Anna (Flowers) Vawter. He owned the Vawter Variety Store at North Bend, NB. until 1948. Richard married Adella Pojar 3 April 1945 who is still living. He was preceded in death by a sister, Ethel Doerr, and two brothers, Robert Vawter and Guy Vawter.

This information sent by Bobbie Meek of AZ who says, "My grandfather and Edward were brothers."

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MEMBERSHIP DUES \$7.00 PER YEAR - DUE AND PAYABLE IN JANUARY TO:  
VVVF ASSOCIATION

Mail to: Sue Vawter, Rt. 6, Box 370, Nacogdoches, TX 75961-9687

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## GLEANINGS

From: A History of Monroe County, West Virginia

Confederate Soldiers of Monroe County: P. 429

Charles Vawter - Captain Monroe Guards

Lewis Vawter - Guard & Vawter's Company, Captain Chapman's Battery

William Vawter - Private Monroe Guards

Monroe County Justices - Appointed

William Vawter - 1799

John H. Vawter - 1845

Monroe Voters in 1800

The list is of interest because the suffrage at that time was very restricted. The voter was a person of some property and consequence.

William Vawter was a qualified voter in the presidential election of Nov. 3, 1800.

William Vawter was the first tax commissioner for Monroe, and his list of personal property owners is the earliest list of citizens of which we have any knowledge.

## NEWS

From: Magazine "Spy" a New York Monthly magazine, issue March 1990, p. 71.

Ron Vawter, star of the IBM ad campaign "Solutions".

(An ad campaign guaranteeing him endless network - TV residuals and life-size head shots in THE NEW YORK TIMES MAGAZINE.)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Beth Sabel of Portland, OR - our circulation editor has resigned as circulation editor because of ill health. She will be missed on this job because she was so conscientious and dependable. She also went the second mile - doing extras. We wish the best for you Beth.

Bonita Welch will be mailing out the newsletter this quarter. Thank you Bonita for filling in for us.

I, Esther Vawter, handed in my resignation at the 1990 reunion to be effective August 1991, I will have completed my 9th year of writing your VVVFA newsletter. It has been a pleasure and I have enjoyed the job. I have come to the place where I feel "burned-out" and feel someone else with new thoughts should take over. I have felt in communication with all of you when writing up the newsletter. I will miss that most of all. You will have a new editor for the next issue of the newsletter.

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