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Dues - \$7.00 per year

1995 REUNION NEWS

FROM ELLEN CUMMINGS AND WORDNA WICKER

Ashland, Virginia, promises a slightly different environment for the 1995 reunion. Located 15 miles north of Richmond and just off I-95, the Comfort Inn offers a complimentary breakfast, pool, exercise room and sauna. It is situated in a shopping center containing two other large motels and about a dozen eating places, all within easy walking distance. The VVV Association will have exclusive use of the motel's convention center for the entire time, with all three evening meals being served buffet style in the same facility.

A few blocks away, the heart of the old town of Ashland offers a glimpse into another century, having been built along the railroad tracks where trains still stop at the station that also serves as the Visitor's Center. Across from the station, a replica of the old Henry Clay Hotel offers food and lodging to visitors who want to absorb a bit of the past. A variety of shops plus an "old tyme delicatessen" provide pleasant enjoyment.

Historic Randolph-Macon College and the birthplace of Patrick Henry give an added dimension to the area. Civil War battlefields abound; Kings Dominion Theme Park is six miles away on I-95; and Vauter's Church is only 35 miles away.

Again this year, the reunion is the first weekend of August, beginning on Thursday, August 3, with early registration and an informal gathering. The next newsletter will give details of events planned and costs. We will also provide a phone number for the Comfort Inn so room reservations can be made.

Ashland offers something for everyone. Don't miss the 1995 Reunion!

## VAUTER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Vauter's Episcopal Church, built in Essex County, Virginia, in 1731, is still in active use today. However, the church almost didn't survive the 18th century. During England's reign over the colonies, the Episcopal Church was the official church, and people were required to attend and pay tithes. After the American Revolution, Vauter's Church fell into disuse.

Around 1800, a group of farmers banded together to tear down Vauter's Church and use the building materials on their farms. Mrs. Muscoe Garnett, of nearby Elmwood, heard of their plan and stationed herself in front of the church so they wouldn't carry it out. The church remained unused until about 1822 when services again started being held there.

Vauter's is constructed of reddish-orange brick and glazed headers laid in the Flemish bond pattern typical of colonial Episcopal churches. The floor is made of English flagstones purchased from a Tappahannock merchant. The builder was probably Edward Vawter.

In 1827, the building was renovated, and the altar was moved from one of the transepts to the front of the church. A high pulpit was built, and the handmade box pews were rearranged. Those pews are still in the church today.

There is some evidence that troops rode their horses in and out of the church during the Civil War, and some of the original pieces of communion silver were stolen. It was discovered in 1907 that an antique dealer in New York had two pieces of the silver, and another Mrs. Garnett of Elmwood was asked to donate \$400 to buy it back. Today, the pieces are kept in a vault and used occasionally.

Vauter's Church got a complete overhaul in 1969, and a controversy was cleared up in the process. One theory had been that the main section was built in 1719 with a wing added in 1731. The work done in 1969 included stripping the ceilings and walls down to the bare bricks, and this showed that the church was built totally at one time. A brick over the door bears the date 1731.

From:

The Free-Lance Star, Historic Garden Week, 16 April 1981  
(Interview with the Rev. Ralph E. Fall, Rector 1962-1982)

## LOVE OFFERING FOR VAUTER'S CHURCH

As is the custom when holding the reunion in Virginia, we will be traveling to Vauter's Church, and will also give a "Love Offering" to the church. If you are unable to attend the reunion, but still want to contribute to this cause, donations can be sent to the VVV treasurer, Charles Burt. The offering in 1990 amounted to \$1400.00, and was greatly appreciated. Perhaps we can give even more generously this year.

1850 VIRGINIA FEDERAL CENSUS

Roll M432-937 Buckingham County District No. 1 3 Oct 1850  
 Page 366 Elijah G. Haynes age 52 male School Teacher  
 Judith Haynes age 51 female  
 Benjamin Vawter age 18 male Student \*\*  
 [several other students are listed]

Roll M432-961 Monroe County Division No. 39 ½ 17 Jul 1850  
 Page 373 James Vawter age 34 male Surveyor b. VA  
 Hugh P. Bare age 21 male Tailor b. VA  
 Pembroke Peck age 21 male Merchant b. VA

Roll M432-957 Louisa County 29 Nov 1850  
 Page 441 Robert G. Downer age 43 male Farmer b. VA  
 Frances A. Downer age 38 female b. VA  
 William Downer age 18 male Carpenter b. VA  
 Lucy F. Downer age 15 female b. VA  
 Mary B. Downer age 14 female b. VA  
 Ruben Downer age 12 male b. VA  
 Phebe G. Downer age 10 male b. VA  
 Robert Downer age 7 male b. VA  
 M ? age 3 female b. VA  
 William Vawter age 26 male ? b. VA

Roll M432-960 Mercer County 42nd District 22 Aug 1850  
 Page 179 Moses E. Kerr age 53 male Farmer b. PENN  
 Mary Kerr age 40 female b. VA  
 Sarah B. Kerr age 17 female b. VA  
 Margaret A. Kerr age 9 female b. VA \*\*  
 James V. Kerr age 7 male b. VA \*\*  
 Elizabeth J. Kerr age 5 female b. VA \*\*  
 William E. Kerr age 3 male b. VA  
 Margaret Vaughter age 80 female b. VA

Roll M432-960 Mercer County 42nd District 17 Sep 1850  
 Page 192 Eleot Vaughter age 38 male Merchant b. VA  
 Julia A. Vaughter age 37 female b. VA  
 Mary Vaughter age 9 female b. VA \*\*  
 Rebecca A. Vaughter age 7 female b. VA \*\*  
 Julia E. Vaughter age 4 female b. VA  
 Cynthia Vaughter age 1 female b. VA

\*\* Attended school within the year

1850 VIRGINIA FEDERAL CENSUS

Roll M432-958 Madison County 14 Nov 1850

Page 85 Martha Vaughter age 25 female  
 Dolly Vaughter age 2 female  
 Martha Vaughter age 1 female

Roll M432-942 Essex County 7 Sep 1850

Page 85 William Vawter age 32 male Wheelright b. VA \*  
 Mary Vawter age 30 female b. VA \*  
 Caroline Vawter age 13 female b. VA  
 James Vawter age 11 male b. VA  
 Hiram Vawter age 10 male b. VA  
 Martha Vawter age 8 female b. VA  
 Leonard Vawter age 6 male b. VA  
 William Vawter age 3 male b. VA

Page 85 Posha Vawter age 55 female b. VA \*  
 Alamander Vawter age 40 male b. VA

Roll M432-974 Rockingham County 56th District 16 Oct 1850

Page 194 James Vawter age 48 male Shoemaker b. VA  
 Frances Vawter age 48 female b. VA \*  
 Lemuel Vawter age 20 male Shoemaker b. VA  
 Margaret Vawter age 17 female b. VA \*\*  
 Sarah Vawter age 15 female b. VA \*\*  
 Dorothy Vawter age 13 female b. VA \*\*  
 William Vawter age 11 male b. VA \*\*  
 Darian Roberts age 18 male Shoemaker b. VA

\* Unable to read/write \*\* Attended school within the year

NOTE: . Please be aware that these census extracts, are one person's interpretation of unfamiliar handwriting using what is sometimes poor quality microfilm. The names of heads of households were taken from an index, and it is possible that some were missed when the index was compiled. Any additions or corrections are welcomed.

THANK YOU!

Grateful thanks is extended to all who have sent news of their families. Compiling this newsletter would be very difficult without the help. If you sent something, and it is not in this issue, watch for it next time.

### VAWTER FAMILY SINGERS

Many of you are probably familiar with the Von Trapp Family Singers. This August will mark the debut of another family group; the Vawter Family singers. For several years, a highlight of the reunions has been the performance of the VVV Children's Chorus under the direction of Ellen Cummings. Have you noticed that many of our children are growing up? That is the reason for the change of name.

### THE VAWTER FAMILY IN AMERICA

Once again, we want to make you aware that the reprint edition of The Vawter Family in America, written in 1905 by Grace Vawter Bicknell, can be purchased from the VVV Association. The book was republished in 1969 by Edna Reynolds and her sister, Vera Wheatly, with a supplement update of their O'Conner family.

We are still able to send those with only minor defects, such as one or two pages missing or having faint print. We send the best available and enclose replacement pages for you to insert. When these books are gone, it will be necessary to have the remaining ones repaired and that will add to the cost.

The books are softbound and have 442 pages including an index, plus the supplement. Cost is \$20.00 plus \$2.00 shipping. Order from: Bonita Welch, 4145 N 900 W, Scipio, IN 47273.

### THE FAMILY OF ALBERT AND JOSIE VAWTER

Another book available is The Family of Albert and Josie Vawter, published in 1985 by their daughter, Shirley Vawter Byler. Section one of this book tells about the descendants of Albert and Josie Vawter, and the second section has much information about Albert's ancestors.

Albert's grandfather, William Vawter (son of Jesse and Elizabeth Watts Vawter), kept notes for many years, writing on the backs of letters and on any other type of paper he happened to have. Most of his notes were dated and signed. Those letters and notes were loaned to Shirley by Wallace Vawter, and are included in this book. Some examples are: "23 January 1835, Received of Achilles Vawter in full for the pork I let him have and the book balances." "13 May 1843, I went to town and got some antimonial wine and gave Jesse Vawter a puke. I planted some corn in the garden. Come thou Font of every blessing, tune my heart to sing thy praise." "2 June 1846, I trimmed some of my cedar trees and mowed my turnip patch."

The book is hardbound and has 539 pages with an index. Cost is \$40.00, plus \$3.00 shipping.  
Order from: Shirley Byler, Route 1 Box 319, Sweeny, TX 77480.

#### WEDDING ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mary Dee MacIntosh and Jon Craig Vaughters were married 28 November 1994 in Frederick, Maryland. She is the daughter of Dolores Pearl Feick MacIntosh of Aurora, Colorado, and the late Wilson Royer MacIntosh, and is employed as a flight attendant with United Airlines. The groom is the son of Margaret Adele Rook Vaughters of Seattle, Washington, and the late Elmer Boyer Vaughters, and grandson of the late George Elmer and Ella Mae Boyer Vaughters, who lived in Portsmouth, Ohio. He is employed as a pilot for USAir Airlines.

Jon Craig Vaughters' father was known to most of the VVV members as "E.B." and was always extremely helpful to those doing research.

Susan Marie Freeman and Chad Alan Bugos were married 4 June 1994 at the Park Ridge Presbyterian Church, Park Ridge, Illinois. The daughter of Mary and Dave Freeman of Des Plaines, Illinois. Susan is a graduate of the University of Iowa with a BBA, and is employed by Production Analysts, National Computer Systems. Chad is the son of Connie and Paul Bugos of Farmington, Illinois, and grandson of Harry and Edith Vawter of Farmington. He graduated from the University of Iowa with a BS in Pharmacy, and is employed by the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics as a staff pharmacist. The couple reside in Coralville, Iowa.

#### ANNIVERSARY CONGRATULATIONS

Harry and Edith Vawter, 598 W Fort Street, Farmington, IL 61531, will celebrate their 60th Anniversary on 27 April 1995. They were married in Bevier, Missouri, and have three children: Harry Richard Vawter, Donald Vawter, and Connie Vawter Bugos; eight grandchildren; ten great-grandchildren.

Harry is a descendant of Jennings County, Indiana, pioneers, William and Frances Vawter, through their son Jesse R. Vawter. Harry's grandfather, John S. Vawter, was the son of Jesse R. and Sarah Parks Vawter.

#### "100 HOMEMADE HEARTS"

Woman's Day 21 February 1995 - "Before Valentine's Day last year, I asked each of my students and their families to contribute five homemade valentines to give to the residents of a senior citizens' home in Catoosa, Oklahoma. The children, working with their parents, were very creative and used magazine pictures, discarded ribbon, lace and buttons to create 100 cards. The children delivered the cards to the very pleased residents and learned about respect for the elderly, counting to 100 and recycling in the process." Connie Connely, Tulsa, Oklahoma

Connie and her mother, Wilma Connely, attended the 1993 reunion in Oklahoma City.

\*\*\*NOTICE\*\*\*

Is there a renewal form enclosed with your newsletter? If so, you probably need to pay dues. To avoid missing any issues, send your check to the treasurer, Charles Burt.

IN REMEMBRANCE

Frederick Kingsley Cox, 79, died 10 February 1994 in Beachwood, Ohio, a suburb of Cleveland. He was born 22 January 1915 in Cleveland, the son of Ernest Harper Cox, M.D. and Eva Jean Hunter Cox, He was a lawyer, banker and businessman, and had earned his undergraduate and law degrees at Case Western Reserve University. Mr. Cox was an elder of the Presbyterian Church, and a Navy veteran of World War II.

Memberships included the Cleveland, Ohio and American Bar Associations, Reserve City Bankers, Sigma Chi, Phi Delta Phi, National Society of Sons of the American Revolution, and Neighborhood Progress, Inc. He was an honorary trustee of the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, and of CWRU, where he was a major supporter of the law school.

Surviving are his wife, Betty Cox; a daughter, Elizabeth Aldrich Cox of University Heights; a brother, Arthur Hunter Cox of Tucson, Arizona; and several nieces and nephews.

Mr. Cox's descent from Bartholomew<sup>1</sup> and Winifred Hodgson Vawter is: John Vawter<sup>2</sup> m. Margaret Noel; David Vawter<sup>3</sup> m. Mary Rucker; Jesse Vawter<sup>4</sup> m. Elizabeth Watts; Julia Vawter<sup>5</sup> m. Matthew Wise; Copeland Wise<sup>6</sup> m. Huldah Jane Hall; Jennie Wise<sup>7</sup> m. Charles Edgar Hunter; Eva Jean Hunter<sup>8</sup> m. Ernest Harper Cox, M.D.; Frederick Kingsley Cox<sup>9</sup>.

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Belva Berniece Vawter Gilstrap, 81, died 24 June 1994 at her home. She was born 21 August 1912 in Bevier, Missouri, the daughter of Alva Elroy and Pearlle Cornelison Vawter, and was married to Raymond Gilstrap.

Survivors include four sons; two daughters; a brother, Harry L. Vawter of Farmington, Illinois; a niece, Connie Vawter Bugos of Farmington; 20 grandchildren; 24 great-grandchildren. One son preceded her in death.

Mrs. Gilstrap's father was the youngest child of John S. and Elizabeth Grinstead Vawter, who moved from Jennings County, Indiana, to Keota, Missouri.

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Robert M. "Pete" Vawter, 67, died 7 April 1995 at his home in Milan, Tennessee. "Pete" had been active in the Association, and was a past president. A complete obituary will appear in the next newsletter. Survivors include his wife, Norma Jean.

IN REMEMBRANCE

Dorothy Fuller Vawter Robb died 18 June 1993 at the age of 80 in Fort Myers, Florida. She was the granddaughter of William Arthur Vawter, who invented the loose leaf ledger and other devices that helped revolutionize business accounting practices around the turn of the century. Mr. Vawter was a founder, with his half brothers, of the Baker-Vawter Company, one of the nation's largest manufacturers of business forms and other business aids at the time it was absorbed by Remington Rand under the auspices of Mrs. Robb's father, William Arthur Vawter II, in the 1930's. The junior William Arthur became secretary of Remington Rand at that time. William Arthur, Sr. was the oldest brother of Grace Vawter Bicknell who authored *The Vawter Family in America* and whose line of descent runs through Achilles and William Vawter back to Jesse Vawter-Elizabeth Watts.

Dorothy Vawter Robb was the wife of John Edward Robb, a career Army officer who died in 1981. Both graduated from Stanford University in 1933, she in three years, just in time for the Great Depression. Col. Robb completed the ROTC program at Stanford and entered the Illinois National Guard. He served as an Artillery officer in the Pacific, rising from Captain to Lt. Colonel by the end of the war. Besides leading the active and varied, cosmopolitan life of a military wife, Mrs. Robb found time to earn her Masters of Library Science at Catholic University in Washington, DC, and she was able to put this degree to use in Florida after Col. Robb's retirement from a brief second career in the State Department overseeing the US AID logistics program in the Far East.

Mrs. Robb is survived by her sister, Virginia Vawter Storr, of Willowdale, Ontario; and sons, John Robb, Concord, California, and Gaylord Robb, Bonita Springs, Florida. Both Virginia and John are members of VVV, and John is an active genealogist.

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Donald Wayne Engle, 59, of North Vernon, Indiana, died 2 April 1995 in a traffic accident near his home. He was hit by a drunk driver. Born 21 January 1936 in Jennings County, Indiana, he was the son of Samuel Winton and Pearl Frances Clarkson Engle. He was a U.S. Air Force veteran, and retired from Cummins Engine Company in 1988. He married Lois Faye Ruble on 14 February 1981, and she survives. Burial was at the Vernon Cemetery.

Surviving with his wife are two sons, Jeffrey Engle of North Vernon and Kevin Mark Engle of Ladson, South Carolina; a stepson, Jack Koenig of Bakersfield, California; two daughters, Jennifer Engle and Lisa Bissonette, both of North Vernon; a stepdaughter, Gina Scott of Butlerville, Indiana; a brother, Leslie Engle of Vernon, Indiana; a sister, Ruth Estes of Hayden, Indiana; and eight grandchildren.

Don's great-grandmother was Elizabeth Vawter Clarkson, daughter of Jesse R. and Sarah Parks Vawter.

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