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REUNION HIGHLIGHTS

THURSDAY

The eighteenth annual reunion of the VVV Family Association was held August 3-6, 1995, in Ashland, Virginia. Members and friends from throughout the United States, Canada and Kenya gathered to join the fellowship and learn more of their heritage.

The event began on Thursday evening with a bountiful pitch-in meal. As with the fish and loaves of bread of the Bible, there was more than enough food to go around. In fact, there was enough to provide lunch on Friday. The remainder of the evening was spent visiting and sharing news of the past year.

FRIDAY

President Lowell Vaughters called the Friday morning session to order, and the reunion was officially opened with the ringing of the cowbell. Having that honor this year was Kristy Glasgow, daughter of Steve and Cheryl Glasgow. The invocation was given by John H. Vawter, and the pledge to the American flag was led by cousins, Frederick Cummings and McDaniel Wicker. Greetings were given by Rose Ann Shalf, representing the Ashland Town Council, and Barbara Franklin of the Visitor's Center. Recognition was given several who were present for the first time.

Fred Wicker, chairman of the nominating committee, reported the committee recommended Beth Melton serve as vice-president,

Melinda Vawter as secretary, and all other officers to remain in office. The nominations were unanimously approved.

Ralphe Vawter, who serves as genealogist as well as archivist, stated that he has had several requests for help the past year. He spoke of doing research at a Family History Center in Pensacola, and recommended that everyone visit a Center near their home. Ralphe also asked for the names of those who have their Vawter material on computer. Discussion was held regarding genealogy book "scams," and many of those present shared their experiences with these books. Following his report, Ralphe and his wife, Caroline, left to return to their home in Florida, as they had learned that morning that considerable damage had been done to their home by Hurricane Erin.

In the Fall 1992 newsletter, we told of a quilt made in 1910 by Maggie Dora Vaughters, grandmother of Charles Burt. This quilt had won 1st prize in the 9th District Fair in Gainesville, Georgia. The Georgia Quilt Guild will be including this quilt in a book they are publishing, and there is a possibility the quilt will be on display in the Atlanta History Center.

John T. and Aggie Vawter visited Trematon Castle in England, and had pictures and information on display.

After lunch, a trip was made by car caravan to "Scotchtown," home of Patrick Henry during his most active political years.

At 6:30 p.m., a catered dinner was served in the conference room. Speaker for the evening was to have been Congressman Roger Wicker, but he was detained in Washington. Entertainment was provided instead by Roger's father, Fred Wicker. Ken and Norma Wicker, assisted by many of the children, distributed some of the door prizes.

SATURDAY

A car caravan left at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday to travel to Vauter's Church near Port Royal. Greetings were given by Karen Woodruff, Priest-in-charge of Vauter's Church. She gave a history of the church, and stated that they have 95 members with an average attendance on Sunday of 20-25. A delicious lunch was served by the ladies of the church. Several Vawter descendants not attending the reunion in Ashland joined the group at the church.

In the afternoon, a tour was made of Linden House Bed and Breakfast, owned by Vauter's Church members, Kenneth and Sandra Pounsberry.

Following the Saturday night banquet in the conference room, Robert L. Vawter spoke of our contributions to Vauter's Church. The Association's gifts to the church in the past were: 1980 - \$1900; 1985 - \$1500; and 1990 - \$1400. At the end of the evening we had a total of \$1821 to be given, and more was donated on Sunday at the church.

A memorial service was conducted by Fred and Wordna Wicker, assisted by their granddaughters, Caroline Wicker and Rebecca Cummings. The service began with a violin solo, "Finally Home," by Ila Vawter, accompanied by Bonita Welch. As each name and a brief obituary was

read, those close to that person stood, and a carnation was placed in a vase in remembrance.

Entertainment was by the Vawter Family Singers, under the direction of Ellen Cummings. Sixteen singers, from ages 4 to 18, made up the group this year. Soloists were Jackie Hudson and Kristy Glasgow, and a duet was sung by Margaret Wicker and Rebecca Cummings.

Special recognition was given the following:

Oldest: Virginia Wooten Modell, age 86

Youngest: Kelsy Roberts, age 22 months

Traveled farthest: Summer Taylor, Nairobi, Kenya

Longest married: Emery and Clarice Mayer, 62 years

Two other couples, Evert and Maxine Joling and Virgil and Aletha Weidner were recognized for having been married over 50 years.

The roll call of states found there to be 25 states represented, plus Canada, Kenya, and the District of Columbia.

Donna Vawter donated three enlarged and framed pictures of Trematon Castle in England. Chances were sold on these pictures, with the proceeds going into the Association treasury. Winners were: Noel Moreland, Summer Taylor, and Courtney Vaughter.

The evening concluded with the distribution of the remaining door prizes. Again this year, the door prizes were numerous and varied.

SUNDAY

Because of distance and travel time, not everyone was able to return to Vawter's Church on Sunday for the 11:00 a.m. service. Those who did were treated to lunch compliments of the church.

THANK YOU

Planning a reunion for the Association is not an easy task. It takes many months of planning and considerable time and effort. This year's event was organized by Ellen Cummings, and to her we say, "Thank you!"

1996 NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Named by President Lowell Vaughters to serve as the 1996 nominating committee were: Fred Wicker, Chairman; Shirley Beasley; Joe Melton; Robert L. Vawter; and Norma Wicker.

Watch future newsletters for information about the 1996 reunion of the VVV Association to be held in Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin. Evert and Maxine Joling, with help from their family, are already making plans, and promise a great time in the land of cheese, dairy farming, cranberry marshes and paper mills.

MEMORIAL SERVICE

These VVV members and friends were remembered:

1. Ron Vawter, 45, New York City, d. 16 Apr 1994
2. Annabelle Vawter Dunaway, 92, Lebanon, TN, d. 29 Jun 1994
3. Mary Vawter Carlson, 94, Elberton, GA, d. 29 Aug 1994
4. Robert Clayton Vawter, 81, Newaygo, MI, d. 7 Aug 1994
5. Leon Dale Goldsmith, 77, Olney, IL, d. 3 Apr 1994
6. Frank O. Vawter, 55, Cathedral City, CA, d. 16 Aug 1994
7. Wilfred Clarkson, 91, Greensburg, IN, d. 8 Mar 1994
8. Frederick K. Cox, 79, Beachwood, OH, d. 10 Feb 1994
9. Belva Vawter Gilstrap, 81, d. 24 Jun 1994
10. Robert M. "Pete" Vawter, 67, Milan, TN, d. 7 Apr 1995
11. Carmen Vawter James, 73, Memphis, TN, d. 15 Apr 1995
12. Mabel Anna Rowan, 90, Denver, CO, d. 16 Mar 1995
13. Carolyn S. Vaughtner, 81, Austin, TX, d. 16 Jun 1995
14. Bill Shattuck, Alto, TX, d. 30 Jun 1995
15. James S. Corbitt, 87, Martin, TN, d. 31 Jul 1995
16. Charles Vawter, d. 14 Jan 1994
17. Betty Sue Waters, Dawsonville, GA
18. James V. Waters, 55, Dawsonville, GA, d. 22 Jun 1995
19. Mabel Rose
20. Dorothy Vawter Robb, 80, Ft. Myers, FL, d. 18 Jun 1993
21. Donald Engle, 59, North Vernon, IN, d. 2 Apr 1995
22. Gladys Wray Cross, 97, St. Petersburg, FL, d. 28 Mar 1995
23. Lydia Vawter, 87, Thornton, CO, d. 15 May 1995
24. Alan S. Vaughters, 29, Lithonia, GA, d. 24 Oct 1994

THE GLEBE

The glebe was the house and (usually) 200 acres provided by colonial parishes for their ministers. Rev. Robert Rose's house, built c. 1731 during his tenure at St. Anne's Parish, is believed to be the oldest brick glebe still standing in Virginia. Two stories high and one room deep, the house's exterior brickwork of Flemish bond and glazed headers is similar to that of Vauter's Church erected in the same year sixteen miles to the north. On the plantation were a frame schoolhouse, a wharf on Occupacia Creek nearby, a grain mill, a spring and probably several outbuildings. Today, only the glebe-house remains. It is located in Essex County, Virginia, and is listed on the Virginia Landmarks Register, and the National Register of Historic Places. Several people visited the house following the trip to Vauter's Church on Saturday, and others went on Sunday. Because of the similarity to Vauter's Church, it is thought by some that the house was built by Edward Vauter.

Source: The Diary of Robert Rose
Edited and Annotated by Ralph E. Fall, 1977

HURRICANE HAPPENINGS

"Immediately after my genealogy report, Caroline and I drove to our home in Gulf Breeze, Fl. (outside Pensacola). We approached it with fear and trepidation. While quite a mess, 'they say it can always be worse.'

We had three trees on our roof causing six holes and two trees on our garage. Most of these were massive oaks and pines - 80'-100' high and the same age, 80-100 years. It will probably cost \$4,000 to \$5,000 to remove them with insurance only covering a pittance. Interior damage was relatively minor, although in addition to 100 mph winds there was a tornado effect which impaled a substantial piece of lumber through the roof, through the living room ceiling and ending in the fireplace wall.

Our 24' pontoon boat with a 60 hp Mercury engine was torn from its lift mooring and sailed through the air to a neighbor's house 3 lots away, ending upside down in the water, motor and all its parts. It's a shambles.

So when you go to your next VVV Association meeting, guard your valuables at home. We'll see you next year."

Ralphe Vawter

[Ed. note: This was Hurricane Erin; we've not heard from Ralphe and Caroline since being hit by Hurricane Opal.]

IN THE NEWS

The Summer 1995 issue of DePauw Magazine has a story "The Vawters: A DePauw Family." This story is about Paul E. Vawter and his experiences of attending school while also caring for three younger siblings following the untimely death of their parents. Paul is a 1929 graduate of DePauw University, located in Greencastle, Indiana. He had a long career as a manager with Illinois Bell, and now lives in a retirement community in Hightstown, New Jersey.

Joshua Taylor recently appeared with his band, Thicket Grove, at Jam III in Huntsville, Alabama. Josh is the son of Tom and Diana Taylor of Nairobi, Kenya, and the nephew of VVV news editor, Bonita Welch. He has lived in Smyrna, Tennessee, since graduating from Earlham College in Richmond, Indiana, in 1993.

Congratulations to Ernie and Bess Shoemaker of N. Richland Hills, Texas, who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on 4 August 1995. A reception was held in honor of the occasion by their children and grandchildren. Bess is descended from the Vawters of Monroe County, Kentucky. Her great-grandfather was James Jefferson Vawter; her grandfather, Joseph Thomas Vawter; and her mother, Eva Lena Vawter Hardin.

IN REMEMBRANCE

Walter Bachmann Vawter, 87, died 4 Jan 1988 in Temple City, California. He was born 2 Jul 1900 in Evansville, Indiana, the son of Alfred T. and Minnie Vawter.

Survivors include sons, James S. Vawter of Pebble Beach, California, and A. Thomas Vawter of Aurora, New York; a daughter, Margaret Siegel of Santa Ana, California; sisters, Ruth V. Oles and Martha DuSault, both of Alhambra, California; and seven grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his wife, Alice Singleton Vawter.

* * * * *

Col. James Stitt Corbitt, 87, of Martin, Tennessee, died 31 July 1995.

He earned a bachelor of science degree in civil engineering from the University of Tennessee - Knoxville in 1931, and was among the first engineering faculty members at the University of Tennessee - Martin. Recently, he had been named a founding member of the university's Academy of Engineering. From 1935 - 1962 he worked with the Soil Conservation Services of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Prior to its acquisition by TDS Telecom, he was owner of the Humphreys County Telephone Company, which had been started in 1896 by his great-uncle, Charles Morehead Stribling. Retired in 1962 from the National Guard with the rank of colonel, his active military service spanned 1940-1946.

He served on the board of the West Tennessee Area Council of Boy Scouts of America, and was active with the UT Martin Alumni Association.

Survivors include a daughter, Betty Callis of Martin; a son, Jim S. Corbitt; a sister, Juanita Crockett; a brother, P. S. Corbitt, New Johnsonville, Tennessee; five grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren. His wife, Allene Jenkins Corbitt, preceded him in death in 1993.

The funeral service was held at First United Methodist Church in Martin.

* * * * *

Carolyn Smith Vaughter, 81, died 16 June 1995 in Austin, Texas. She was born 5 April 1914 on Deer Creek Farm, near Guthrie, Oklahoma. In the fall of 1930, she married Paul Hiram Vaughter, who preceded her in death 23 January 1994. She was a secretary, and had traveled the world with her husband during his 30-year career with the government. Carolyn was also a writer, and had several short stories and a novel - *West Wind Wild* - published.

Survivors include two sons, Dr. Paul H. Vaughter of St. Cloud, Minnesota, and Phil Vaughter of Austin; a sister, Marilyn; four grandsons; two granddaughters; and six great-grandchildren.

Another son, Patton Courtney Vaughter, preceded her in death in 1968.

A memorial service was held at College Park Baptist Church in Houston, Texas.

VVV MEMBERS AND FRIENDS ATTENDING THE 1995 REUNION

ALABAMA

Al and Ann Montgomery

ARIZONA

Bobbi Vawter Meek

DELAWARE

Robert L. and Donna Vawter
Mary and
Robert L. Vawter II;
Robert L. III, Amanda,
James Jesse

FLORIDA

David and Marie Vaughter
Ralphe and Caroline Vawter

GEORGIA

Charles and Betty Burt
Claude D. Foster
Cheryl Glasgow;
Timothy, Kristen
John Carlson, Jr.
Vivian Stephens
Lula Vaughters Thompson
Flara Vaughters Waters

ILLINOIS

Shirley K. Beasley
May Vawter

INDIANA

Bonita Welch

MARYLAND

Joel Greer and Annie Storr;
Eli, Jesse Vawter Greer
Doug and Judy Thorpe;
Emily
Virginia Wooden Modell

MASSACHUSETTS

Gabriele Vawter

MICHIGAN

Patricia Vawter Klein
Margaret Vawter

Robert L. and Ila Vawter

MISSISSIPPI

Judith Crawford
Cliff Daniel;
Brittany
Jackie Hudson
Martha Hudson
Emery and Clarice Mayer
Lowell and
Allyson Vaughters
Norma Vaughters

MISSOURI

Bruce Vawter;
Jason Benson
Fred and Wordna Wicker
Ken and Norma Wicker
Roger and Gayle Wicker;
Margaret, Caroline,
McDaniel

NEW JERSEY

Dary1 and Joyce Smith

NEW YORK

Richard and Dorothy Vawter

NORTH CAROLINA

Lisa Vaughter Strandberg;
Eric, Meredith

OHIO

Virgil and Aletha Weidner

OKLAHOMA

Bill M. and Virginia Vawter

OREGON

John T. and Aggie Vawter

PENNSYLVANIA

Calvin and Glee Krapf

TENNESSEE

Bill and Judy Blanks
Mel and Caroline Scarlett
Lynn Weekley

TEXAS

Joe and Beth Melton
Noel and
Mace Vaughter Moreland
Phil and Peggy Vaughter;
Courtney
John H. and Sue Vawter
Melinda Vawter

VIRGINIA

Richard and Judith Brown
Ned and Ellen Cummings;
Rebecca, Frederick
Ann Martin Harpole
John M. Martin, Jr.
James and Korbi Roberts;
Kelsy
Elisha and Lera Triplett
Karen Woodruff

WASHINGTON

Esther Anderson

WEST VIRGINIA

Charles and
Elizabeth Czompo

WISCONSIN

Evert and Maxine Joling

WASHINGTON, D.C.

James G. Vaughter

CANADA

Virginia Vawter Storr

KENYA

Summer Beree Taylor

ABOUT DUES

Membership in the VVV Family Association is \$7.00 per year. Dues paid at the reunion is for the coming year, and if not paid at that time, please remember to send your dues to the treasurer in January. A renewal form is usually enclosed if you owe dues.

Any changes of name or address can be sent to either the treasurer or the news editor.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Items are always needed for inclusion in the newsletter. Some suggestions for things you can send to be considered for use are:

Obituaries (current and past)
Engagement and/or marriage announcements

Birth announcements

Family news - graduations, anniversaries, retirements, awards, etc.

Other Vawter reunions news

Family charts and group sheets

Research updates

Gleanings from publications

Family traditions

Queries

T-SHIRTS

Considerable interest was shown by those present at the reunion in having T-shirts made with the family crest on them. This has been done in the past with success. Ralphe Vawter has been in contact with a company about making the shirts.

The shirts he can get are white, 100% cotton, and will have the crest in color with "Valletort" above, and "Vawter, Vaughter, Vauter" below the crest. The cost is \$10.00 for sizes small, medium, large, and extra large; and \$11.50 for extra-extra large. This price is postpaid.

A form is enclosed for ordering shirts from Ralphe. Please order as soon as possible, as the price is based on getting a large number at one time.

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