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Dues - \$7.00 per year
IF A RENEWAL FORM IS ENCLOSED, YOU NEED TO PAY DUES

**5-8 August 1999
NASHVILLE, INDIANA**

Brown County Inn, located in Nashville, Indiana, has been chosen as the site for the 1999 reunion of the VVV Family Association. The event begins with early registration on Thursday evening, August 5, and concludes Sunday morning, August 8, with an informal worship service.

Nashville offers something for almost everyone, and is among Indiana's best known tourist destinations. There are scenic views, stage shows, antiques and art. More than 300 shops, galleries, studios and entertainment venues can be found in the village.

Around the turn of the century, the views and the people who populated Brown County attracted artists to the area. Those early artists became the "Hoosier Group", and today their works can be found in museums and private collections all over the world.

One of the early artists was Will Vawter, who moved to Brown County from Greenfield, Indiana, in 1908. He lived and had his studio in Nashville from then until his death in 1941. Will Vawter is known not only for his paintings, but also as an illustrator for the books of poetry by his good friend, James Whitcomb Riley.

Make plans now to attend the 1999 VVV Reunion.

REUNION INFORMATION

The Brown County Inn is located on State Road 46 within walking distance of the shops and galleries in Nashville. There is also a shuttle service available to the downtown. Among the recreational features of the inn are a covered pool, tennis and volleyball courts, miniature golf and horseshoe pits.

A large meeting room will be ours from noon Thursday, August 5, until after the dinner on Saturday night. There is space for displays, so bring memorabilia and research information to share with other members. We hope to have the wall charts on display again this year.

Thursday will be an informal time to visit and renew friendships from past years. Registration begins in the afternoon and continues throughout the evening.

Following the opening session on Friday morning, we will travel by caravan to Jennings County to visit Vernon, a town founded by John Vawter. We will also visit the old Vawter Cemetery near North Vernon where many members have ancestors buried. The cemetery is located on what was once the property of William and Frances Vawter, and is now Selmeir State Forest. Those who attended the 1982 reunion in Madison, Indiana, may remember going to this cemetery. Friday evening finds us back in Nashville for dinner, entertainment and door prizes.

Saturday morning is to be spent at the Brown County Art Gallery, where we will have the opportunity to view several Will Vawter paintings. Two Vawter drawings owned by a VVV member will also be on display. The rest of the day is free time. Some may want to shop, others may want to explore Brown County, still others may want to stay at the inn discussing genealogy. Saturday evening is the traditional dinner, memorial service, meeting, entertainment by the Vawter Family Singers, and of course, the door prizes.

On Sunday morning there is to be an informal time of worship before departing for our homes.

Ten rooms have been reserved for Wednesday night, and 50 for Thursday, Friday and Saturday. The rates are: Wednesday and Thursday, \$68.00 single/double, \$74.00 triple; Friday and Saturday, \$99.00 single/double, \$105.00 triple, plus tax. There is a two-night minimum with Saturday. All other rooms in the inn are booked for that time, so please be sure to specify that you are with the Vawter reunion when making reservations. Otherwise, you will be told there is nothing available. Reservations must be made before July 4. After that date, the rooms will be released and reservations will be accepted on a space available basis only. It is important to call early, as all the inns and motels in Nashville are usually filled during the summer and fall. The number at the Brown County Inn is 1-800-772-5249.

The approximate cost of the Friday evening meal is \$13.50, and the Saturday dinner is about \$17.50. This includes tax and gratuity. For children ages 5-12, it is ½ price and for those 4 and under there is no charge.

Please remember that staying at the Brown County Inn is optional, as are all the meals. Campgrounds and other motels are in the area. If you are planning to attend, but will be staying elsewhere, notify Bonita Welch so we can know how many to plan on.

REUNION TRADITIONS

Among the traditions that have been established over the years at the VVV Reunions are the Vawter Family Singers, the memorial service and the door prizes.

The Vawter Family Singers began several years ago as the VVV Children's Chorus. As the children grew, the name was changed and anyone, regardless of age is invited to be a part of the group. Once again, the singers will be directed by Ellen Wicker Cummings. The inn is providing a piano, and the place and time of rehearsal will be announced at the Friday morning meeting.

The memorial service will be held on Saturday night following dinner. This service is a time to remember VVV members and friends and will be led by Fred and Wordna Wicker. Those whose obituaries have appeared in the past year's newsletters will be included. If you have names to add, please give that information to Wordna.

The door prizes have been a favorite feature of the reunions for many years. Because the quantity increased so much, we suggested last year that each family provide only one item. This allows more time for other events. The door prizes will be given out on Friday and Saturday nights.

If more information is needed about the reunion, please contact Bonita Welch at 812-392-2149 (home), 812-346-3977 (work, Monday-Thursday 8:00 - 3:00) or e-mail bwelch@seidata.com.

REGISTRATION AND DUES

Registration per adult is \$5.00. This helps us cover miscellaneous costs of the reunion. The dues of \$7.00 is per household and is for the quarterly newsletter. Dues paid at the reunion is for the coming year.

RETURNED NEWSLETTERS

Several newsletters have been returned this spring for various reasons. Some were because the forwarding time had expired, and in those cases the new address was on the envelope. Please remember to let us know when you move so we can change our mailing list. We need help with the other newsletters that were returned. They are:

Velma Tidweil, 609 Cedar Avenue, Yukon, OK 73099
"Undeliverable as addressed"

Martha Fishel, 8226 Morgantown Road, Indianapolis, IN 46217
"Addressee unknown"

Mary F. Parry, 1802 E 54th Street #24, Indianapolis, IN 46220
"Not at - return to sender"

The following article is from a book written by Lydia Nix Massey, a great-granddaughter of James and Jane Vaughters and granddaughter of Thomas and Lydia Vaughters Nix. The book was found in the library at Commerce, Georgia, by Richard Greene of Cartersville, Georgia. Richard is also a descendant of James and Jane Vaughters through their daughter Delila Vaughters Anderson. This is a portion of chapter one.

THIS IS MY STORY, THIS IS MY SONG
by Lydia Nix Massey

"I was named after my Papa's mother, Lydia Malinda Vaughters, who married Thomas Titsworth Nix in 1844. They were both reared back up in the mountains of North Georgia. He was born in 1822 and grew up in White County, but we have been unable to trace his parents. Lydia Vaughters was born April 27, 1829, and was reared in Dawson County. Her parents were James and Jane Vaughter (some of their children added the 's' and some didn't.) Jane Vaughter was born one year before the start of the American Revolution. She had nine children and was 83 years old when she figured it was time to make out her will, but that woman just kept on living another 27 years. Not too many years ago my sister Mary and I hunted up her grave in the churchyard of the Bethel Baptist Church outside Dawsonville. She lacked exactly eight weeks of being 110 years old, and that has given me an inspiration. I thought if she lived to be that old in her day, then I should be able to reach 110 in mine. If I can make it, why that will be fine, but if I don't, I ought to be commended for trying!

"How my grandparents happened to leave the mountains and come down into the Piedmont, I do not know. They were living in Jackson County by the time of the U.S. Census of 1850, which counted 28-year-old Thomas T. Nix, "Lidia" M. Nix, and their two young children. He was just a farm laborer then, but by 1859 he was able to purchase several hundred acres in Apple Valley from William L. and Barnabus C. Barron. The farm is located between Borders Creek and the Oconee River. Their house is still owned and occupied by my half-cousin, Hank Davis.

"Four girls and two boys were born to Thomas and Lydia Nix - Julia, Dilmus, Sarah Jane, Delila, Mary Etta, and my father, John Morgan. Papa was the youngest, born June 7, 1862. Later that same year, his daddy joined the state militia to defend the Confederacy. He was camped two and one half miles southwest of Atlanta when William Tecumseh Sherman crossed the Chattahoochee River on July 17, 1864. Two days later, Thomas penciled this letter to Lydia:

July the 19th 1864

Camp 2 ½ miles southwest of Atlanta

Deare wife i seate myself to Drop you a few lines to tel you now that i am about as well as common, hoping that these few lines will come to hand and find you all well. Lydia, I have nothing of any greate importance to wright you, only we have hard times out heare, nothing to eat - only a little fat meat. Yesterday we had nothing to eat but bread. We drawd a little meat last night.

Lydia, you must send me something to eat if you hav any chance. It won't do

to send too much at a time for we might hav to march and lous it. If you have any chance send me two loves of light bread and some ginger cake. Whenever i think it will doo, i will send you word to exprefs me a box.

Lydia i want you to wright me if you hav got the wheat and oats al savd and how much wheat you savd. Sun it all good before you put it up and dry one bushel good and way it then you can giv it in by weight.

If tha yankees comes you just doo the best you can with them. If you can hid your mel you had better do it. I want you to send me word whether you had that old wheat ground or not. If you have not you had better hav it done because tha yankees might burn up all of the mills about you. If thare comes any torys through thare a prefsing horses and takes yourn, you get C.W. Hood or G.B. Jackson to try...if buddy (Dilmus) won't tend to it, I will come home myself and tend to it.

We have no chance out heare. Tha won't give us a pafs to go to Atlanta. We don't have the chance of a negro out here...i have just binn out and washd my shirt.

Lydia i can't tell you nothing about this old war, only we are into it and as for any thing els you now about as much about it as i doo. Tha are afigting a little every day in places. Lydia i don't want you to be uneasy about me for I will take the best care of myself that i can. I don't want you to greave about Bud (Dilmus) having to go for thare is a hir power that can take better care of him than you can. Thare for content yourself the best you can. You must fix him off the best you can. If he comes to me giv him a blanket and 2 shirts and pare drawers. If he goes to youngs batalion he can ride scott. While i think he will be safer till he gets up to it, then he can ride peet.

....i remain your loving husband
T.T. Nix to L.M. Nix

``Grandma probably never saw him again. The Battle of Atlanta was fought three days after he wrote the letter, and he died of typhoid fever the following fall. He is buried in a Confederate cemetery near Columbus, Georgia. Papa went down there years ago. He hunted and hunted and walked for hours and hours until he found his daddy's grave. Thomas T. Nix left quite a large estate for that day and time, over \$13,000 in grain, livestock, and farm tools.

"A few years after the war, at age 38, Grandma surprised practically everybody when she married her field hand, Walton Cicero Davis, a civil war veteran who was only 24. Nothing certain is known about his background, except that his family lived in or around Gainesviile. He fought in Co. C, 18th Georgia Infantry, according to the inscription on his tombstone, but the only W.C. Davis in that company is a William C. Davis. Where ever he fought, he was captured in a corn field near the end of the war and walked all the way home.

"Uncle Walton - as the Nix children were taught to call him - was a hard worker, and he soon bought out the shares of Thomas T. Nix's farm that had been divided among the children. He and Grandma had two children. Rosa, born in 1869, married Cage Arthur. Luke, born in 1873, married Bertha Potts.

"When I was coming along, we children would cross over the Oconee River to visit

Uncle Walton and Grandma Davis. She kept peppermint and lemon stick candy in a beautiful little pocket book that we called a thanky poke. We never went to her house or saw her anywhere that she didn't give us some little something out of her thanky poke.

"Grandma was hard of hearing, which used to provide some merriment. One time my mother had her over for dinner, and when she finished eating I asked her if she wanted a toothpick. "No, honey," she answered, "I've had aplenty."

"Grandma was a devout Baptist. She joined the Cabin Creek Baptist Church at Nicholson in 1863 and was a charter member of both the First Baptist Church of Commerce - organized in 1874 - and the Apple Valley Baptist Church, founded in 1887.

"My grandmother's house was a great, rambling place. Rooms were added onto the original log structure as the children came along. The whole house was put together with homemade nails and pegs, and at night the steps would crack one at a time as the boards cooled off and contracted from the heat of the day. It sounded just like someone walking up and down the staircase, and since my grandmother didn't want us playing upstairs anyway, she would give us a knowing look and warn, "Better not go up those stairs, 'cause old Rawhead and Bloody Bones will getcha!" That pretty well kept us downstairs most of the time.

"There were grownups, though, who really thought the place was haunted. Papa vowed he used to hear a clock strike that hadn't been wound in years, and it is true that strange things have happened there. One of Cage and Rosa Arthur's daughters, Cleo, was upstairs one snowy day in 1914, reading a letter with her back to the fire, when the flames caught her gown. She ran and burned to death before anyone could catch her.

"Uncle Walton was a real character. Bearded and heavy set, he stood over six feet tall and was strong as a bull. He was high tempered as the devil but was an extremely attentive husband. He paced the yard when Grandma was sick and was so concerned about her comfort that he installed the first indoor plumbing in Apple Valley. He hired Henry Williamson of Commerce to build a windmill that ran a water pump. He ran one line to a lavatory in her bedroom and another to a bathtub on the back porch, which he enclosed.

"Uncle Walton was a fierce looking man, but he was afraid of thunderstorms. They made him extremely nervous. While the lightning flashed, he paced back and forth, and Grandma would rock calmly and admonish him, "Trust in the Lord, Walton, trust in the Lord."

"Lydia Malinda Vaughters Nix Davis died August 31, 1917, at the age of 88. Walton Cicero Davis was 81 when he died November 2, 1924. They are buried at Apple Valley cemetery."

A VAUGHTERS REUNION

From Charles Burt: There is a reunion at Bethel Baptist Church in Dawsonville, Georgia, on 13 June 1999. This is for descendants of James and Jane Vaughters and anyone else who would like to attend.

CONGRATULATIONS

Kristy Glasgow, 11, of Buford, Georgia, is known to many of the VVV members for her solos with the Vawter Family Singers. She is now playing the trumpet, and recently received a superior rating on a trumpet solo at a solo and ensemble contest. She has been chosen to participate in the District Honors Band. Kristy is the daughter of Cheryl Kelley, and the granddaughter of Charles and Betty Burt of Dawsonville, Georgia.

WILL VAWTER ART COMPETITION

Greenfield, Indiana, Parks and Recreation held the 1999 Will Vawter Art Competition on April 24, 1999, at Riley Park Shelter House. This is a juried show of framed, original works of art.

QUERY

From: Sue Maxwell, 23615 N 58th Drive, Glendale, AZ 85310 smaxwell@doitnow.com

Sue descends from Sabrina Vawter b. 9 Jan 1815, d. 18 Aug 1881, married June 1830 John Lewis Tutt. Sabrina was the daughter of Elliott Vawter and Anna Gray. She would like to hear from anyone working on these families.

JULIAN VAUGHTER

Charles Burt has sent an obituary for Julian Vaughter, who died 1 March 1999. Many members will remember Julian and his brother, Swift, from visiting them in Elberton, Georgia, in 1988. Charles has also sent a copy of Swift Vaughter's will. Both will be printed in the next newsletter.

IN REMEMBRANCE

Edna "Babe" Vawter, 90, died 24 Feb 1999 at Trenton Health Care Center in Trenton, Tennessee. She was born 9 Apr 1908 in Gibson County, Tennessee, the daughter of Robert Lee and Evie C. Lowery Bell. She lived most of her life in Milan, Tennessee.

She was a homemaker and a member of Main Street Church of Christ in Milan.

Mrs. Vawter is survived by a son, Sonny Vawter of Memphis; a daughter, Syble Culbreath of Trenton; two sisters, Ruth Davidson of Obion and Sue Richmond of Memphis; six grandchildren, Christian Culbreath, Andy Culbreath and Katherine Dement, all of Jackson, and Barbara DeFur, Bobby Vawter and Lee Vawter, all of Memphis; and sixteen great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Andrew Minor Vawter; and a son, Robert M. "Pete" Vawter.

Mrs. Vawter's son, "Pete," was a past president of the VVV Family Association.

IN REMEMBRANCE

Terry Lynn Vawter, 56, of Las Vegas, Nevada, formerly of Washington, DC, died 7 April 1999 in Los Angeles, California. She was born 23 Sept 1942 in Los Angeles.

She was a graduate of Bakersfield High School, and a member of the Order of Eastern Star and the Ladies Home Culture Club. She owned several travel agencies and had traveled all over the world.

Mrs. Vawter is survived by her husband, Glenn Vawter; a daughter, Kathy Vawter-Beaird of Keystone, Colorado; a son, John Vawter of Seattle, Washington; and four grandchildren, Matthew, Andrew and Patrick Beaird of Keystone, and Sydney Vawter of Seattle.

Funeral service was held at All Saints Episcopal Church in Las Vegas. Graveside service was at Municipal Cemetery in Grand Junction, Colorado.

This obituary was sent by Mary Winningham of Chevy Chase, Maryland. It appeared in *The Washington Post*.

* * * * *

Glenn I. Vawter, 85, of Norwalk, California, died 14 Nov 1998 in Palm Springs, California. He was born 19 June 1913 in Anacon, Missouri.

Glenn was a member of the International Union of the Operating Engineers Local #12 for 58 years. He retired in 1974 as the Recording Corresponding Secretary. He was also a member of the Masonic Lodge for 55 years.

Survivors include his wife, Marjorie; two sons, Dale Vawter of Mt. Carmel, California and Garry Vawter of Norwalk; two daughters, Glenadene Swinburn and Freda Munkvold; a brother, Robert L. Vawter of Middletown, Delaware; 13 grandchildren; 20 great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild.

Burial was at Forest Lawn in Glendale, California.

Glenn and Marjorie, along with their son Garry, had attended the VVV reunions for many years. Several times they were honored for being the longest married couple at the reunion and also for traveling the farthest to attend.

* * * * *

Harry A. Crouch, 89, of Chatham, Illinois, died 14 Aug 1998 at Sunrise Manor Health Care Center in Virden. He was born 29 June 1909 in Chandler, Oklahoma, the son of Arch and Minnie Waters Crouch.

Before retiring in 1973, he was employed for 45 years for City Services, Panhandle Eastern and Michigan-Wisconsin Natural Gas Companies. He was a member of St. Joseph's Church in Chatham and Knights of Columbus.

Survivors are a son, Charles W. Crouch of Amarillo, Texas; two brothers, including Garlin Crouch of Chatham; two sisters; a grandson; and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by three wives. He married Ruel Jones in 1930; she died in 1931. He then married Mildred Grupe in 1934; she died in 1939. In 1951, he married Ella Zigman, and she died in 1979.

Harry and his brother, Garlin, are longtime members of the VVV Association. They are the grandsons of Henry Alfred and Winna Juliann Vaughters Waters.



5 - 8 August 1999
NASHVILLE, INDIANA

This is a reminder that the 1999 reunion of the VVV Family Association is 5 - 8 August at the Brown County Inn in Nashville, Indiana. If you have not yet made a reservation, it is very important to do that today, as the rooms reserved by the association will be released on July 5. All other rooms at the inn are booked, so be sure to specify that you are with the Vawter reunion when making your reservation. If you are planning to attend but will be staying elsewhere, you need to call early, too, as all inns and hotels in Nashville are usually filled during the summer and fall.

The rates at the Brown county Inn are: Wednesday and Thursday, \$68.00 single/double, \$74.00 triple; Friday and Saturday, \$99.00 single/double, \$105 triple, plus tax. The number is 1-800-772-5249.

The approximate cost of the Friday night meal is \$13.50, and the Saturday dinner is about \$17.50. This includes tax and gratuity. For children ages 5-12, it is ½ price and for those 4 and under there is no charge. Lunch on Friday will probably be about \$6.00.

Thursday is an informal time to register and renew friendships. Although a full meal will not be provided, food and soft drinks will be available in the hospitality room.

Following the opening session on Friday morning, we travel by car caravan to Jennings County for lunch and a tour of Vernon, a town founded by John Vawter, son of Jesse. A visit will also be made to the old Vawter Cemetery, located near North Vernon on the site of the William and Frances Vawter homestead.

On Friday night, after a poolside cookout, Jim Vaughters is giving a presentation on Julian and Swift Vaughter. Jim recently returned from a second trip to their house in Georgia and has letters, photos and family information to share.

Saturday morning is to be spent at the Brown County Art Gallery, where there will be an exhibit of Will Vawter paintings. The remainder of the day is free time. Some may want to discuss genealogy, others may want to explore the hills of Brown County or visit the many shops in Nashville.

Saturday night is the traditional dinner, memorial service and entertainment by the Vawter Family Singers.

The meeting room is ours from noon Thursday until after the dinner on Saturday night. There is plenty of room for displays, so bring memorabilia and research information.

Don't be disappointed, make plans now to attend the 1999 VVV Reunion.

To help us finalize plans, please complete this form and return it as soon as possible, It is important to have an approximate count of those attending, especially for the meals.

_____No, I will not be attending the reunion.

_____Yes, I am attending the reunion.

If you are attending, but will be staying somewhere other than the Brown County Inn, please tell us where.

Friday Dinner: number of adults _____(including children over 12)
number of children ages 5 – 12_____

Saturday Dinner: number of adults _____(including children over 12)
number of children ages 5- 12_____

Will you be going to Jennings County on Friday? _____

Your name and the names of others attending with you:

Thanks so much for the help! I'm looking forward to seeing everyone!

Return the form to:

Bonita Welch
4145 N 900 W
Scipio, IN 47273

Phone: 812-392-2149 (home)
812-346-3977 (work)
Fax: 812-346-1442
Email: bwelch@seidata.com

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