

VAWTER
VAUTER
VAUGHTER(S)

FAMILY ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

April 1981

Issue No. 12

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This being Issue No. 12 of the Newsletter, a STATE OF THE FAMILY message seems in order.

The Vawter/Vaughter Family Association came into being July 30, 1977 at Lake Murry Lodge, Oklahoma in the presence of 55 beaming family members, and a slightly skeptical hotel staff. The blessed event warranted publicity and your editor, being the only one present with notebook and thereby deemed to be literate, was commissioned to draft an announcement which would go out to the then-known Vawter/Vaughter world. Amid a wave of wild abandon, an offering of \$25.43 was collected to defray the expense. And so it was that the family association and the newsletter were born.

The first newsletter went out to some 50 households in 6 states. The results were phenomenal. Each V/V knew another one, and the word spread. The first nationwide reunion, held at Brady Mountain, Arkansas in August 1978, brought 100 V/V from 12 states. The \$25.43 multiplied itself like the proverbial loaves and fishes, and finances were never a problem. By the date of the second reunion, held at Lake Murry in 1979, the newsletter circulation had reached 174, going into 24 states, Mexico, and Belgium.

For the third reunion, the clan gathered in June 1980 at Vauter's Church, Port Royal, Virginia, the family shrine. In anticipation of this pilgrimage, it was decided to add the spelling "Vauter" to the official name of the family association. This, notwithstanding the fact that the Church, built in 1731 by Edward Vawter, carries its name in error. The newsletter circulation had reached 220 by the 1980 reunion.

As of April, 1981, newsletter circulation (and family membership) had reached 250, extending to 37 states, Hawaii, Canada, Mexico, Belgium, and Saudi Arabia. Attention is focused on the fourth reunion scheduled for Hot Springs, Arkansas August 7, 8, & 9. The family is looking ahead toward the fifth reunion, scheduled for 1982 in the Vawter stronghold of Indiana. The family now boasts a healthy bank account, as a result of dues of \$5.00 per member levied each year; and there is a long-range plan for up-dating the Vawter family history, published in 1905 by Grace Vawter Bicknell.

DIAGNOSIS: The state of the family is sound.

1981 Reunion: Reservations should be made immediately at the Downtowner Motor Inn, 135 Central Ave., Hot Springs, Ark. for August 7, 8 & 9. Collect calls for reservations will be accepted. Call (501)624-5521. Tourist information will be mailed shortly, courtesy of the Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce, with the assistance of Alma Vawter Allen and Roy Hays in hand-addressing 250 postage labels.

NEW ADDITIONS TO THE FAMILY: Sandra V. Robinson, Rt. 1, Box 132, Atwood, Tn. 38220, kinswoman of Vice President Robert (Pete) Vawter, Milan, Tn.

James Richard Greene, P.O. Box 973, Cartersville, Ga. 30120, descendant of James and Jane Vaughters. He has recently provided the family association with a copy of the Will of Jane Vaughters, written in Lumpkin Co., Ga. in 1857, and probated in Dawson Co., Ga.(created from Lumpkin Co.) in 1884. The will gives a fascinating account of that family's history.

Mrs. Robert R. Moore, 211E. Third St., Keene, Tx. 76059, whose husband's great grandfather was Richard David Mullins, who married Sarah E. Vaughter 11 Oct.,1855; Sarah's sister, Mary Jane, married John D. Leach, who is also related to Mr. Moore. The mystery is compounded by the marriage of Oscar Lee Vawter to Willie Annie Brooks, yet another kinswoman of Mr. Moore. All of these from the area of Carroll Co., Tn. Help will be appreciated in spotting these three on the family tree.

Mr. & Mrs. Orman Baker, 1111 Misty Glen Lane, Dallas, Tx, 75232, whose lineage was not supplied the editor. Proper identification will be given later.

Mr. & Mrs. John C. Carmack, 400 North Oak, Ponca City, Okla. 74601; he descending from the marriage of Matilda Vawter to Anderson B. Reid 24 Feb. 1840 in Tishomingo Co., Ms. (Further reference to this family in VVVL No. 9, P. 3)

Jerry D. Young 14560 Mondoubleau Lane, Florissant, Mo. 63034, who claims near Vawter kinship. He descends from the marriage of Memory F. Mabry to Sarah Anna Mitchell of Franklin Co., Ga.; Memory Mabry having been first married to Lucinda Vaughters, daughter of Hiram and Elizabeth (Glenn) Vaughters. Jerry will be happy to supply information on the descendants of Lucinda Vaughters Mabry to anyone interested in that line.

From James C. Read, Pres. Harp & Thistle, Ltd., Post Office Box 2072, Warner Robbins, Ga. 31099 comes the word that a number of Vawters are named in his LOVING FAMILY IN AMERICA, which sells for \$33.00, postage included. He is currently putting together a COMPENDIUM OF FAMILY NAMES, which will cover the origin and derivations of American family names. The Compendium will sell for \$36.50, on advance orders. Mr. Read is still scratching his head as to the name "Votaw", and whether or not it is a derivative of Vawter. We await his verdict. Mr. Read also mentioned his Bourland Awards for the best family history published since July 1, 1978; \$500.00, first prize; \$200.00, second prize. Those interested should send SASE to Mr. Read for full details.

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The 1980 Christmas mail contained a handmade card from Wm. S. Vawter, Donna and Rafie, P.O. Box 10527, Riyadh, Saudi, Arabia. The editor's first knowledge that the newsletter coverage extended into Asia. The envelope netted a handsome stamp for the editor's collection - one of the bonuses of the newsletter.

WITH PARDONABLE PRIDE: Alma Vawter Allen of Hot Springs has forwarded a photo and clipping of her son, Ron Johnston, who won last season's Dramalogue Critics Award in Theatre for his "Merton of the Movies" performance. This clipping will take its place in the Vawter scrapbook being compiled by Ora Wicker. LIKEWISE, a photostatic copy of the Herbert Gordon May Award awarded to Bruce Vawter in November, 1980 by the Society of Biblical Literature for his outstanding contributions to the field of Biblical Studies through the editing of periodicals.

Tennessee Bible Records by Acklen, p. 256, lists the following from the Family Bible of Miss Fannie Blackman Batey, Rutherford Co.: Jackson Woods Smith, b. Feb. 5, 1848; died Feb. 17, 1906; married Mary Watkins Vawter. Thomas Everett Smith, b. Feb. 20, 1856, married Jennie Vawter. On p. 248 of the same volume, the identical information is listed again, except that the women's names are shown "Vorters". Identification of these names will be appreciated.

LOST AND FOUND In VVVNL no. 10, p. 3, para. 5 is found a query on John Vawter of Hillsboro, Ill., who married Claudine Fowler and had a son named Monroe Vawter. This family is listed on page 376 of the Vawter History by Grace Bicknell. It is continually amazing to witness the thoroughness of the Bicknell book, done in the days before microfilm and photocopies. It will be a challenge to the Family Association to seek to do as well when the Vawter Supplement is published.

Lest we give too much attention to South and Midwest, our West Coast correspondent and Associate Editor, Esther Vawter, has provided some gleanings from the History of Oregon, Vol. III, 1922, by Carey; and from the Medford, Oregon Mail Tribune, December 10, 1967, to-wit:

WILLIAM IRA VAWTER (1863-1916), son of Cyrus and Sarah A. (Finley) Vawter, (Bicknell p. 333) was born in Linn Co., Oregon, and married Etta M. Hill Feb. 10, 1889. A graduate of the University of Oregon, he taught school in Eugene, Oregon for a time. Later being admitted to the Bar, he moved to Medford in Jackson Co. where he practiced law and established the first bank in the county. He was Chairman of the County Republican Committee; a member of the school board; a one-term Mayor of Medford; served three terms in the Oregon Legislature; and served as Chairman of the Oregon-California Land Grant Commission. At the time of his death in 1916, he was being mentioned as a candidate for Congress. He was the father of two sons, William Ira Vawter, Jr. and Vernon Hill Vawter.

VERNON HILL VAWTER, son of Wm. Ira Vawter and Etta Hill, was born Nov. 13, 1890 in Medford, Oregon. After graduation from the University of Oregon, he became cashier and chief executive of the Jackson County Bank of Medford, of which his father was founder and president. He served on the public library board; was president of the Chamber of Commerce; Treasurer of the Elks Club of Medford; treasurer of the Big Bend Milling Company; and was on the committee for improving Crater Lake and Crater Lake National Park. He was the youngest member to serve on the Board of Regents of the State University. Though a member of the Republican Party, he steadily declined to become a candidate for office. In 1915, he was married to Miss Aletha Emerick of Boise, Idaho.

THE VAWTER MANSION OF MEDFORD, OREGON, built in 1905 by Wm. Ira Vawter was three stories, with a full basement; an outstanding example of Greek Revival Architecture, located on the corner of Holly and Main Streets. Following Mr. Vawter's death in 1916, Mrs. Vawter deemed it prudent to give up the mansion, and rented it to the Rogue Valley University Club of which her husband was a charter member. During the days of prohibition, the club offered benevolent shelter to ranchers and prominent men of the city. In 1933, the dwelling was taken over by Mr. and Mrs. Wm. I. Vawter, Jr., and operated for a time as the Colonial Club, where private dinner parties were held. Following this brief endeavor, the mansion was to become an apartment house, divided into four spacious apartments, until fire damaged the third floor in 1935. In 1941 the house was purchased from the heirs,

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and, in the interest of progress, slowly inched eight blocks to the corner of Holly and 8th Streets by horse and donkey; the move requiring some four weeks and being the subject of a daily commentary in the Mail Tribune. Following the move, the house was used as a dwelling until 1966, after which it was sold to new owners, and afterwards remained vacant. It has since been razed."

Our thanks to Esther Vawter for providing us with this insight into this branch of the Vawter family, plus the account of the Vawter mansion. If you felt a twinge of sorrow at the ignominious decline and death of the mansion, you are not alone. A photostatic copy of the feature section of the Medford Mail Tribune, December 10, 1967, showing pictures of the mansion, has been provided by the Southern Oregon Historical Society. It will be added to the collection of Vawter memorabilia.

The Canadian Connection: E.B. Vaughters has provided us with a copy of a page from the Toronto phone directory showing the names "Vater(s)", "Vautier" and "Vautour" as coming closest to the common VVV spellings. E.B. promises that his daughter, a Toronto attorney, will endeavor to determine if these are branches of the same family tree as our own.

Winding Down: Laboring late over the typewriter, your scribe lapsed into a reverie and envisioned a Utopia inhabited with a super race; all possessed of qualities rendering them both ethereal and yet earthy. There was evidenced;

- the VISION of Paul Vaughter, Sr.;
- the AFFABILITY of Pete Vawter;
- the DEDICATION of Bill Vawter and Hazel NcCandless;
- the ENTHUSIASM of Jimmy Corbitt;
- the I.Q. of Marv Vawter and Paul Vaughter, Jr.
- the COMPETENCE of Beth Sabel;
- the TENACITY of Shirley Byler;
- the SAVOIR-FAIRE of Dave Vaughter;
- the SMILE of Ted Vawter;
- the CHARM of Clara James;
- the ENERGY of Edna Reynolds;
- the SOPHISTICATION of Beverly Callegos;
- the EFFERVESCENCE of Betsy Miller;
- the GENTILITY of Hal and Jack Chaille;
- the VERSATILITY of Vernon Vawter;
- the READY WIT of Phil Vaughter;
- the STEEL-TRAP MIND of E.B. Vaughters;
- and the CALM ASSURANCE of our President, Jim Vaughters.

Alas, the dream faded, and there was no Utopia and no super race. But wait! There will be the VVV Reunion at Hot Springs in August.

Join me there.

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