

Wordna Wicker, Editor  
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**BULLETIN:**

As VVNL # 4 goes to press, all systems are "go and counting" for the V/V REUNION August 8 and 9. Your editor, along with husband Fred, visited the Vernon Vawters at Royal, Arkansas during Memorial weekend and pronounced Brady Mountain and Lake Ouachita a worthy setting for the first NATIONWIDE VAWTER/VAUGHTER REUNION. Vernon Vawter is hereby dubbed Knight of the First Order for his efforts in making these arrangements for the V/V. More about the reunion later.

**FAMILY HISTORY:** A word of clarification on the various V/V Family Histories is in order. Most V/V are aware of the VAWTER FAMILY IN AMERICA, by Grace Vawter Bicknell, published originally in 1905; reprinted and updated in 1969 by Edna Wilson Reynolds and Vera Wilson Wheatley. This book begins with the three immigrant brothers, John, Bartholomew, and Angus, who reportedly came to Virginia from Plymouth, England about 1675. It primarily traces the descendants of David Vawter, the Rev. soldier, who was the son of John II. David's descendants migrated to Indiana and points westward.

In THE VAWTER FAMILY, printed in 1977 by Hazel Vawter McCandless, the line of Richard, son of John II, was written into the Vawter scenario. John III and Russell, the sons of Richard, migrated into North Carolina and Georgia, and ultimately their descendants covered the deep South.

Segments of Vawter history have been recorded by the Rutherford, Rucker, Towles and Stepp/Stapp families, as well as in various other historical writings, including the DIARY OF ROBERT ROSE, published by the Rev. Ralph Fall, Rector of Vawter's Church in Port Royal, Va. Some of the written accounts jibe, others serve only to muddy the water. There is a need for a giant computer brain which would digest all of the family histories, along with deed, probate, parish, and census records, and come up with a comprehensive record of the Vawter family. There is also need for a means of curbing inflation, and a cure for the common cold.

**NEW ADDITIONS:** Like the price of postage stamps, the V/V mailing list continues to increase. As of this writing, the number stands at 120. Since the last issue, the following names have been added:

Charles E. Vawter, 1609 Jackson, Corinth, Ms. 38834, descendant of the Rev. soldiers, William and William, Jr.

Opal Vawter Herndon, 9102 W. 100 Terrace, Overland Park, Kansas 66212; sister of Vernon Vawter, and descendant of Russell I.

Shirley Vawter Bylar, Route 3, Box 148 T, Sweeny, Texas 77480, who

has the distinction of descending from three of the children of John II and Margaret Noell, i.e. David, Richard and Margaret.

You will recall that the early Vawters intermarried to an unbelievable degree, thus enabling Mrs. Byler (and others) to claim multiple Vawter lineage. She reports that her grandfather, John Taylor Vawter, lived to be 92.

Lewis L. Harman, 3406 Bellaire St., Shreveport, La. 71109, whose grandmother, Margaret Vawter, married Robert Rutherford, Jr.

Kenneth Rutherford, P.O. Box 85, Lexington, Mo. 64067, likewise a descendant of Margaret Vawter and Robert Rutherford, Jr.

Erma Vawter Johnson, 301 Plymouth St., Houston, Tex. 77022, descendant of Russell I; double-cousin of Vernon Vawter, with Vawter blood on both her mother and father's side.

Martin Vawter, 813 Lane St., Irving, Tex. 75061, nephew of Vernon, and probably the newest newly-wed on the mailing list. Congratulations are in order.

Brenda Pike Scott, 103 Brewer St., Boonville, Ms. 38829; descendant of John IV, through the marriage of Mary Jane Vawter to James T. Pike.

V. D. Vawter, 1713 Merkley Ave., W. Sacramento, Calif. 95691, nephew of Shirley Byler.

Col. (ret'd) Jas. S. Corbitt, 118 Gardner Ave., Martin, Tn., 38237;

descendant of Jesse, son of David, the Rev. soldier.

Robert M. "Pete" Vawter, 509 Oaklawn, Milan, Tn. 38358, who has not as yet been located on the family tree. His line: (1) Andrew Minor Vawter; (2) Ambrose Jackson Vawter; (3) Andrew Jackson Vawter; (4) Edward Buchanan Vawter. Edward Buchanan Vaughtner and Thomas L. Vaughtner came to Carroll Co., Tn. from Va. in 1847; they married sisters, Martha and Agnes McCune. Pete also reports an aunt, Annie Vawter, very much alive at 93.

Nancy Vawter Ritchie, 49 Claremont Ave., N.Y., N.Y. 10027; cousin of Henry A. Vawter of Maryville, Tn.; descendant of William Jr. and Sr.

Mrs. Bettie Nash, 2320 Sunny Lane, Killeen, Texas 76541; descendant of William Jr. and Sr.

Mrs. Allie B. Grimes, 802 E. Ida Ave., Opp, Ala. 36467, whose maternal grandmother was Sarah Julia Vawter, descendant of David, the Rev. soldier. Mrs. Grimes reports three sets of twins; her grandmother, Sarah Julia (Vawter) Stetrett had twins; her mother, Mary A. (Sterrett) Marshall had twins; and she has twin daughters, Mary Julia and Martha Anna, born Aug. 31, 1944.

Wallace R. Vawter, Apartado Postal # 94, Ajijic, Jalisco, Mexico; his line as set out in the Bicknell book is (1) Everett B. (2) Philamon (3) William (4) Jesse and (5) David, the Rev. soldier. According to the book, William had a twin named James.

The remaining new additions will be presented in the next issue.

E.B. Vaughters of Seattle, mentioned in VVNL #3, has tentatively traced his line from John who married Catherine Masson, to Richard who married Sally Vaughan, to Bartholmew, the son of John II. It is his further opinion that this Bartholomew had a son named David, who was killed in the Rev. War; and that Elizabeth (mentioned in Issue 3, Page 3) was the wife of this David. Thus we would have at least two Davids credited with Rev. service.

Still listed among the unidentified are Virginia Scholz of Roanoke, Va. and James Vaughters of Memphis, Tn., both mentioned in VVNL #3.

In a listing of Early Virginia Quit Rents, appears Bartho "Vanters", Essex Co., Va., 1717. From our enlightened point of view, we have no problem in determining that that this was Bartholomew Vawter, who married Winifred Hodgson, and whose will was probated in Essex Co., 17 Sept. 1717. With early handwriting being so difficult of interpretation, it would be well to take a hard look at any Vanters found in early records.

LATEST FROM CONFUCIUS: "He who troubles graves of honored ancestors will find skeletons". On advice of counsel, your editor declines to elaborate. However, if the descendants of Edward, the builder of Vauter Church, wish to make private contact, a case in point will be forthcoming.

No verification as yet on the Vawter Plantation in Louisiana. Mrs. Willard Nixon of Iuka, Ms. writes that the recipe for molasses cookies has been in her family for generations, and is delicious. Perhaps she will treat us to a batch at the reunion.

Which brings us neatly back to discussion of the-first nationwide V/V Reunion.

Lodging at Brady Mtn. Lodge is nearing capacity. Royal Kitchen Motel, mentioned in VVNL #3, has since gone out of business. Spillway Landing Motel, Mtn. Pine, Ark., still has vacancies; as does Crystal Springs Fishing Village, Royal, Ark., and Ski Motel, Hwy. 270 between Little Rock and Royal. Contact Vernon Vawter if you need assistance with lodging, or if you need camping space reserved.

Royal, Ark. is situated 12 miles West of Hot Springs on Hwy. 270, and consists of two grocery-service stations and a post office. Approximately 1/4 mile past the "downtown" area is a 27 foot sign which reads "Brady Mtn. Lodge - Lake Ouachita". Turn at the sign and follow your nose past the ghost-town of Bear, up the picturesque winding road through Ouachita Nat'l Forest, where mountain streams flow across the pavement, some six miles to the top of Brady Mountain. The Lounge at Brady Mtn. Lodge will serve as Reunion Hdqs. Registration will begin at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday August 8. A Registration Fee of \$1.00 per adult will be charged. Name tags will be provided, hopefully color-coded by tribes.

A quick check of Robert's Rules of Order reveals no rules for conducting nationwide family reunions. In the absence of any such rules, the rules of Family Law are hereby adopted. In a well-ordered family, each member shares the responsibility and the work. Accordingly, (1) each V/V is hereby appointed a member of the Welcome Committee; (2) each tribe is assigned the responsibility for one meal.

Beginning with the evening meal on Tuesday, August 8, and continuing through breakfast on Thursday, August 10, all meals will be eaten

together. Weather permitting, they will be served out-of-doors, probably at the open-air pavilion on Brady Mtn., overlooking Lake Ouachita. A nominal price will be charged for each meal, and will be collected at registration. It will be up to the resourcefulness of each clan to determine what is served. One request - keep it simple. The V/V do not live by bread alone, and the ones spotted at last year's reunion had been eating far too much.

KP Schedule and price are as follows:

Tuesday - Evening Meal....Price \$1,00

Hosts: Tribe of Russell I

Tribe of John IV, Eastern branch

Social Committee: Vernon Vawter, Royal, Ark.; Opal Vawter Herndon, Overland Park, Kansas; Helen Carr, Berryville, Ark.; Fred Wicker, Pontotoc, Ms.; Bill Wiley, Nettleton, Ms.; Clarice Vawter Mayer, Hickory Flat, Ms.

Wednesday breakfast, 7:00 - 8:00 a.m....Price \$1.00

Morning Devotion: 7:45 a.m.

Host: Tribe of James, son of John III

Committee: James Vaughters, 1233 Elmira St., Aurora, Col. 80010;

Paul Vaughter, Jr., R. 2, Box 6, Sauk Rapids, Mn. 56379;

Mary Vaughter Oxford, 323 C Street SE, Ardmore, Ok, 73401.

Wednesday lunch, 12:00 - 1:00, Price - \$1.00

Host: Tribe Of John IV, Western branch

Committee: LaVerna Murray, 7616 NW 25 Terr., Bethany, Ok. 73008;

Silas Vawter, 3212 Eastman Dr., Ok. City, Ok. 73112;

Arlene Vawter Cardwell, 202 N. Peach, Midwest City, Ok. 73110

Wednesday Evening Meal, 7:00 p.m ..... Price \$2.00

Hosts: Tribe of Richard II

Tribe of William Jr. & Sr.

Committee: L.G. "Bill" Vawter, 3019 Conway St., Houston,

Tex. 77025; Hazel Vawter McCandless, P.O. Box 366,

Cushing, Tex. 75760; James Lanier Vawter, P.O. Box 665,

E1 Campo, Tex. 77437; Bettie Nash, 2320 Sunny Lane,

Killeen, Tex, 76541; Charles Vawter, 1609 Jackson,

Corinth, Ms. 38834

Thursday, Farewell Breakfast, 7:00 - 8:00..Morning Devotion, 7:45

Hosts: Tribe of David I

Any remnants of tribes, or unidentified tribes.

Committee: Shirley Vawter Byler, R. 1, Box 148 T, Sweeny, Tex. 77480;

James Corbitt, 118 Gardner Ave., Martin, Tn. 38237; Robt. M. "Pete"

Vawter, 509 Oaklawn, Milan, Tn. 38358

Assuming all meals are eaten with the V/V, the cost including registration, will be \$7.00. Please arrange to pay this amount in cash. The caterers and concessionaires will look askance at personal checks from all over the U.S.

Two-hour cruises aboard the Ouachita Lady embark at 2:00 P.M. each day, at the cost of \$3.00. A V/V Special Cruise can be arranged.

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