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"We must think backward if we are to travel forward. Surely the roots of the present lie deep in the past. It is fitting that we should pause once in a while and take an inventory of the distance we have come and how the journey has been made.

A century ago our people were not so careful about preservation and retention upon paper of their achievements. They were more concerned about carving their records upon the land and upon the lives of men and women. . ." (Extract from foreword of INVENTORY OF CHURCH ARCHIVES OF VIRGINIA, Dover Bapt. Assn)

New additions to the list of V/V seeking to establish a link between present and past are:

Arleigh R Kerr.Jr., 3747 Regal Vista Drive., Sherman Oaks, Calif. 91403, whose grandmother was Effie Vawter Kerr. His line traces back to David, son of John II and Margaret (Noell) Vawter, i.e., the line of Rev. Bruce Vawter, mentioned in VVNL # 2. Arleigh joins Jim Vawter of El Campo, Tex. and Bob Vawter of Tampa, Fla. in the effort to trace the family back to the French Valletorts.

Bill Vawter, 4612 Walker Ave., Houston, Tex. 77023; likewise traces back to the Tribe of David (above).

William Thomas Vawter, P.O.Box 261, Mineola, Tex 75773; Tribe of David.

Keith Pike, Box 51, Castiac, Calif. 91310, descendent of Mary Jane Vawter (dau.of John IV) and James Tilford Pike, of Tishomingo Co. Ms.

John H. Pike, Rt. 12, Box 18, Deval St., Houston, Tex. 77040; and

Pat Pike Michel,. 23407 Decker Prairie -Rosehill Rd., Magnolia, Tex. 77355; brother and sister, also, Tribe of John IV.

Joan C. Hudgins, 808 Sharon Cir., Lawrenceburg, Tn. 38464; descendant of Mourning Vawter (dau.of John IV) and James Robinson.

Henry Alexander Vawter, III 217 Mtn. View Blvd., Maryville, Tn. 37801, who traces his line to William Vawter, Jr..and Sr., who migrated to West Virginia Territory; both purportedly fought in Rev. War; William, Sr., a son of Edward Vawter, alleged builder of Vauter (Vawter) Episcopal Church of Essex Co., Va. (More about the Vauter Church later)

E.B. Vaughters. 12015 First Ave. N.W., Seattle, Wash. 98177. His line:

(1) Geo. Elmer Vaughters, (2) Thos. Graham Vaughters, (3) Wm. H. Vaughters, (4) John Vawter; who married Catherine Mas(s)on ca. 1813, Caroline Co., Va. Following the death of her husband, ca. 1829, Catherine Mas(s)on Vawter migrated with her children to.Scito Co, Ohio. No "Vaughters" are shown in early Virginia records; obviously the change in spelling occurred when the family came to Ohio. Help is needed in connecting this family with the proper tribe in Virginia,

Virginia Scholz, 1619 Bluemont Ave.S,W.,Roanoak Va.24015. Her line: (1) Bess Vawter, (2) J.W. Vawter (3) Lemuel Vawter, (4) James Vawter, who married Grace ..... .' All of these in the area of Montgomery or Augusta Co., Va. Help is needed.

James Vaughters, 1872 Valley Blvd., Memphis, Tn. 38106. Dog lovers among the V/V will identify with James, who owns 9 purebred bulldogs and is a regular Judge on the dog show circuit. His line: (1) Tobe Gordon Vaughters, and (2) Tobe Vaughters, Tate Co., Ms. Help.is needed.

**VAUTERS CHURCH:** The Rev. Ralph Fall has been Rector of Vauter's Church in Essex Co., Va. since 1962. His recent book, **THE DIARY OF ROBERT ROSE**, was released in December, 1977. Parson Robert Rose was the Rector of St. Anne's Parish when Vauter's Church was built in 1731, purportedly by Edward Vawter, son of one of the three immigrant brothers. The Diary covers a 5-year period, 1746-1751, and gives an insight into cultural and church life in colonial Virginia. It contains many references to Vawters and Vawter-connected families, and will be of both sentimental and historical interest to V/V. The name of the Church, it is said, was misspelled in early records. The book sells for \$15.00, plus 90¢ postage-handling, and may be ordered directly from Rev. Ralph E. Fall, Port Royal, Va. 22535. Honorary membership in the Order of V/V has been extended Rev. Fall for his 12-year labor in transcribing and annotating this delightfully unique work.

**MISSING LINKS SUPPLIED:** Since the last issue, Vernon Vawter, Royal, Ark., has been identified as belonging to the Tribe of Russell, brother of John III, and son of Richard and Frances (Towles) Vawter. (More about Vernon later in connection with the V/V Reunion. Woodford C. Vawter, of Ponca City, Okla, and sisters of Ark., have been identified with the same Tribe of Russell, being descendants of Russell's son, Joseph Early Vawter, and Nancy Smith.

This writer takes no credit for the identification, but is careful to give the praise to Billy Mack Vawter and Hazel Vawter McCandless.

**TWINS:** Omitted in VVNL # 2 was a 3rd set of twins in the family background of Vernon Vawter, his aunt and uncle, Lillie M. Vawter and Willie James Vawter, b. 1904. E.B. Vaughters of Seattle reports twin grandsons, Ian and Brooks, b. May 30, 1975 to Michael and Suzanne (Vaughters) McClennan.

**LONGEVITY:** Although many of the V/V have exceeded their allotted threescore and ten years, only three thus far have been clocked at exceeding fourscore and ten:

- (1) Jesse Franklin Vawter, Eagle Lake, Texas, age 91, mentioned in VVNL #2;
- (2) Elizabeth (Betty) Vawter Reid, who died in Oklahoma City in 1972, at 94,
- (3) Emma Vawter Wiley, who died in New Albany, Ms. in 1974, at age 93.

The latter two were sisters, daughters of Wm. Jasper Vawter, Granddaughter of Allegany Vawter; Tribe of John IV.

**OKLAHOMA PIONEERS:** James Wesley Vawter, Minister, teacher, landowner, and pioneer leader, was born in Tippah Co, Ms. Dec. 26, 1869, oldest child of Wm. Jasper and Rebecca Jane (Sanford) Vawter. He attended public school in Union Co., Ms.; migrated West at an early age to join relatives, and continued his education at Pilot Point, Texas and Grayson College, Whitewright, Texas. In 1894, while employed by the U.S. Government to teach English to the Choctaw Indians near Howe in Eastern Oklahoma Territory, he married Martha McCasson, who was 3/4 Choctaw. Subsequently, he taught school and preached at Damron, Monroe, Wilburton, Franklin, Erin Springs and Lindsay, Okla. While at Wilburton in 1899, he and D.L. Wood began publication of the **WILBURTON GAZETTE**. While at Lindsay, 1906-1908, he was instrumental in building a combination School - Church. After moving his family to Oklahoma City, he and two other ministers, in 1909-1910, are credited with the organization of the town of Bethany, outside of Oklahoma City, which town was named for the Biblical community of Bethany, adjoining the city of Jerusalem. Later moving his family to Bethany, he was instrumental in the organization of Oklahoma Holiness College there, which after 1920, was known as Bethany-Peniel College; providing

monetary as well as moral support to the college for the balance of his life. He met an untimely death Dec. 14, 1933 as a result of a car-streetcar accident. He is buried in Bethany Cemetery. Surviving him at his death were his widow, Martha, and the following children: Eula; Eunice; Ethel; Florence; Alice and Beatrice, twins; Albert and Elbert, twins; Zona; Silas; and Lillian. Two brothers and three sisters followed Rev. Vawter to the Oklahoma Territory. His brother, Hubert Vawter, and sister, Emma Vawter Wiley, eventually returned to Ms. His brother, Asa, and sisters, Betty Vawter Reid and Adelia Vawter Parker, lived out their lives in Oklahoma. (SOURCES: Manuscript of Ethel Vawter Stow; interview with Florence Vawter Fitzgerald; Hubert Vawter Family Bible; 1870 Census of Tippah Co., Ms.; 1896 Census of Sugar Loaf Co., Choctaw Nation, Okla.; Okla. Imprints by Foreman, 1835-1907, p. 172; Okla. Name Places, by Shirk, p.22; Okla. Chron. XXVIII p. 77; Vawter Family Tradition)

LOUISIANA PLANTATION: From ROMANTIC RECIPES OF THE OLD SOUTH, copyright 1950 by Imperial Sugar Co., Sugar Land, Tex., comes the following: "The VAWTER PLANTATION in Louisiana was a center of hospitality, as were many of the plantations of the South. Governors, senators, writers and artists were among its guests. All were enthralled by the unusual foods prepared by the wrinkled colored cook. They especially complimented the *Sorghum Molasses Cookies* and often asked for them on subsequent visits. (Recipe follows)

1 cup molasses	1 cup boiling water	2 teaspoons salt
1 cup sugar	1 tablespoon ginger	6 cups flour (or enough to make
1 cup butter	4 teaspoons soda	dough stiff enough to handle)

Combine molasses, butter and sugar in sauce pan; place over low heat until mixture begins to boil. Add 1 cup boiling water and then ginger. Pour into large mixing bowl and stir in 2 teaspoons of the soda. (This makes a foamy mixture) Add flour sifted with salt and remaining 2 teaspoons of soda mix well. Chill dough. Roll thin and cut into desired shapes. Place 1 inch apart on greased cookie sheet. Bake in moderately hot oven (375) 10-12 min. Makes 7 dozen 3-inch cookies.

(EDITORS NOTE: This recipe has not been personally kitchen-tested. Neither has the existence of the Vawter Plantation been verified. Results of experimentation and/or research will be appreciated, and will be reported to V/V.

REVOLUTIONARY SOLDIER: Effort will be made to identify the V/V who fought in the Rev. War. Help is needed in assuring an accurate count. An enigma at present is Wharton Vawter, Rev. soldier, who was in N.C. at the time Russell and John III were there. Later he was in Screven Co., Ga. at the time John III was in adjoining Elbert County. Enigma #2 comes from Winston Woolfork, Pres. Caroline Co., Va. Hist. Soc.: "In 1780, Elizabeth Vawter was granted a pension for husband in armed service." Who was her husband?

SPELLING, PHONETICS & PERSEVERANCE: Diligent search had been made to locate John Vawter, IV, in 1850 census. Last record of him in Tishomingo Co., Ms. was his marriage to Peachy Hazel (3rd wife) Jan. 28, 1849. He was not listed in 1850 Tish. Co., Ms. census, nor could he be located in Indexes to 1850 Ms., Ala. or Tn. census.

LOGICAL CONCLUSION: John IV died sometime after Jan. 28, 1849 and before taking of 1850 census. Not true! A re-check of deed records of Tish. Co. revealed a deed from Eliz. Ann Vawter Doss (dau. of John IV) signed in Marion Co., Ala. in 1853. Careful reading of 1850 census of Marion Co., Ala. showed:

District 14 - Dec. 27, 1850; #425 John Vorters	70, M, Farmer, b. N.C.
Peachy "	42, F      b. Ala.
Eliz.A."	17, F      b. Tn.

Moral: In searching for ancestors, check every possible phonetic spelling. In various records, John's name has been spelled Vawter, Vauter, Vaughter, Votter, Vatter and Vorter(s).

V/V REUNION: Confucius might have said, "He who shakes branches of honorable family tree will find large gathering of nuts". Ah, so! accordingly, those of us who have been vigorously shaking the family tree have decreed a "gathering of the nuts" on August 8 & 9, 1978 at Brady Mountain Lodge, Ouachita State Park, Royal, Arkansas. This will be the first nation-wide V/V Reunion. It probably should not be called a reunion since many of us will not have met before. It will be more of a V/V Family Gathering. Perhaps it was phrased correctly the first time.

Housing accommodations available for the Gathering are as follows:

Brady Mtn. Lodge, Royal, Ark. 71968; phone (501) 767-3422; 2-bedroom cabins, 2 double beds in each room; \$14.00 per day per couple; \$2.00 for each additional.

Royal Kitchen Motel, Royal, Ark. 71968; phone (501) 767-5540; rooms \$18.00 a day for two people; \$2.00 for each additional occupant.

Spillway Landing Motel, Mountain Pine, Ark. 71956; phone (501) 767-2997; mobile units with 2 bedrooms, bath and kitchen; \$17.50 per day per couple; \$2.00 for each additional occupant.

All of the facilities require first night's lodging with reservation, all will give refunds if written cancellation is received 2 weeks in advance.

Camping space and electrical hook-ups are available at \$3.00 per night. Swimming, skiing and fishing are available to those interested. Also available are three-hour cruises aboard the OUACHITA LADY @ \$5.00 per person. The open-air pavilion at the Lodge will serve as registration center and general headquarters for the Gathering. A Registration Fee of \$1.00 per adult will be charged. Name tags will be provided. The group will meet together for the evening meals, with some sort of program arranged. Daytime activity will be flexible.

August 8 and 9 will be at peak vacation season. Mark the date now on your calendar; arrange your vacation accordingly; make early reservation for housing.

VERNON VAWTER and wife, TRAUDL, live 2 miles from the Lodge, and have made these arrangements for the V/V. Contact them if, you need help with reservations. Vernon will have camping spaces reserved if he is notified. His address: Rt. 1, Box 335-C, Royal, Ark. 71968; phone (501) 767-9698.

Royal, Arkansas is located on Hwy. 270 approx. 12 miles West of Hot Springs. You will receive tourist information concerning other attractions in the larger Hot Springs area. A special Reunion Issue of VVNL will go out in June with last-minute instructions.

The present V/V Newsletter mailing list contains 95 names and covers 20 states, ranging from East Coast to West Coast, and from Minnesota to Texas.

HE WHO FAILS TO MAKE EARLY RESERVATION MAY FIND  
ONLY STANDING ROOM AT HONORABLE FAMILY GATHERING

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