

**FAMILY ASSOCIATION**

Winter 1988

Vol. 13 #2

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RENOWNED GENEALOGIST, WILIARD HEISS DIES

Willard Heiss of Indianapolis, IN., an internationally recognized genealogist died 10 August at the age of 67.

Heiss was an expert on Quaker history & Genealogy and a Fellow of both the National Genealogical Society & the American Society of Genealogists, author of a number of important reference books, was head of the Records & Microfilm Division of the City of Indianapolis for 25 years.

Heiss also edited the Indiana Historical Society publication GENEALOGY. He wrote columns and book reviews for the Genealogy Week section of the Tri-State Trader for six years (now named Antique Week). From 1977-1986 he wrote a column on genealogy in the Indianapolis News.

Willard Heiss was our guest speaker at the August 1982 VVV Reunion. It was also at this reunion I was elected your Newsletter Editor.

AAAS FELLOW

Burt L. Monroe, III, son of Dr. & Mrs. Burt Monroe, Jr. of Louisville, KY was an American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) Mass Media Science and Engineering Fellow this past summer. He worked at Cable News Network in Atlanta, GA.

AAAS Mass Media Science & Engineering Fellows are college and graduate students in science and engineering who work for ten weeks as reporters, researchers, and production assistants at newspapers and magazines and at television and radio stations across the country. Monroe was one of 12 students selected to participate in this program from 164 applicants, He was also a finalist for the 1988 Rhode Scholarship as one of two Kentucky state nominees.

Monroe received his B.S. degree in electrical engineering from the University of Louisville. He has also received a Hugh Hampton Young Scholarship for graduate study at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).

During 1986-87 Monroe was a student trainee for NASA, Langly Research Center where he worked in the computer systems, electronic and crew/vehicle interface branches. He is a student member of both the Institute for Electrical and Electronics Engineers and the Association of Computing Machinery.

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MEMORIAL

Wallace Read Vawter, died 24 June 1988 at his home in Ajijic, Jalisco, Mexico at age 85.

In 1928 he began a distinguished 35 year career with the US Federal Government which included eight years a Regional Director with the US Bureau of the Budget, four years as Senior Specialist in Engineering and Public Works for the Library of Congress, and five with the State Dept. in Thailand. He finished his career as Deputy Director of the US Aid Mission to Indonesia in Djakarta. Wallace Read was profiled in three editions of "Who's Who in America".

Following his retirement in 1963, he and his wife of 62 years, Helen (Cripe), moved to Ajijic, Mexico. He is survived by his wife, Helen, son Read; two daughters, Nancy & Jane, and four grandchildren.

Line of Wallace Read: John, David, Jesse, William, Philemon & Everett Bates Vawter, page 151 in: The Vawter Family in America by Grace Vawter Bicknell.

* * * * *

The Rev. Louis F. Meek, Ph D, b. 12 May 1915 in KS, d. 24 Sept. 1988 in AZ. He m. 17 May 1941 to Roberta (Bobbie)VAWTER. His schooling: Received his B.S. from Kansas State U., B Th. from Omaha Presbyterian Theological Seminary, MA from Adams State College and Ph D. from U. of Wyoming.

Rev. Meek had model railroading as a hobby since the 1950's. He was a Mason (32) and a charter member of the Sun Cities Art Museum.

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Charles E. Vawter, of Tacoma, WA, died 5 August 1988 at age 87. He is survived by two daughters, Mildred Ruud of East Olympia, WA and Grace Day of Bellevue, WA.

ADDITIONAL GENEALOGY

From: Aureline Vawter Slade, 2701 Hunting St., Monroe, LA 71201

Additional information for the genealogy in the Spring 1986 issue of the newsletter. This information is for child #7 found on p. 16 of Vol. 10 #3. This genealogy tells of the descendants of William & Mary Rucker compiled by E.B. Vaughters of Seattle, WA.

#7 EDGAR SOUTHER VAWTER, s/o Thomas Pierce Vawter

b. 8 June 1892, d. 1938, m. Gertrude Alexander. Edgar was nick-named "Red".

CHILDREN:

1. Helen Harwood, b. 1911 (DAR 438011), m. David Agnew - no issue
2. Emolove, b. 1915, m. A. Paul Cooper

CHILDREN: 1. William Hite, b. 1938

CHILDREN: 1. Kelly Ann, b. 1966

2. Dustin Alexander, b. 1969

2. Mary Ann, b. 1939, m. Robert Norvell

CHILDREN: 1. Jay Randall Reichman, b. 1960

2. Erik Reichman, b. 1964

3. Ada Aureline, b. 1920, m. Charles Slade - no issue

1989 REUNION

Start making plans for the 12th National VVV Family Reunion to take place August 4, 5, & 6 with early birds arriving Thursday (3rd) afternoon and evening. The location is Bloomington-Normal, Illinois. Past president, M. Glen Vawter is reunion chairman and host. Start working on your hand crafts for the door prizes. More about the hotel and location in the next newsletter.

You might start thinking about a donation to our "love" project. Past projects: Vawter Church in VA, Bethel Baptist Church Cemetery Fund, and Jacinto Foundation, Inc. which is doing the restoration of the historical village complex.

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MY VISIT TO AURORA COLONY IN OREGON

From: Beth Sabel, 931 S.E. 33rd Ave., Portland, OR 97214-4279

At long last I was able to go to Aurora to see where the colony from Bethel, MO settled (see Bicknell pp. 109-111 - John Taylor Vawter and family).

They first went into Washington state but the area they had planned to live in was too wet to farm, so they moved to Oregon and farmed 18,000 acres of land; which if I punched the right buttons on my calculator comes to 28.125 square miles.

The Historical Society had an excellent slide show and commentary about the colony history. They had but a few pictures that could be purchased. Shortly before the colony started west, Dr. Wm Keil, founder, promised his 19 year old son that he could drive the lead wagon. However, a few days before they were to leave the son died. A casket was made, lined with lead; the body placed in it and the casket then filled with alcohol, sealed and brought west on the lead wagon, and buried in Washington state.

They have two wheels in the museum from the wagon that made the trip west. They are huge! There were a lot of musical instruments, some by the colonists. The names of some, "brass", "tenor", "ophe clyde", and "tree bells". This was a triangle made of brass (I think) bells with a handle at the bottom for carrying.

The band was led by a tambourine band when on parade. Also, some of the musical instruments were carried so the sound came from over the shoulders to the back of the person playing it. The band played a concert in Portland in 1876. A band stand was built on the top of the hotel roof which had an ornamental wood railing around it.

In the Knause home, which has been restored and moved near the Ox Barn, they have 60 quilts done by the colony women. The quilting frame is hung from the ceiling on ropes & pulleys and is lowered when used and pulled up out of site when not in use.

There are a lot of chairs with leather strips woven for the seats. They now have loose cushions for comfort. In this house one room is roped off as it has the original hand loomed rug on the floor. The rug is room sized and was made of weaving several strips the length of the room & then the strips sewn together to cover the entire floor.

There is a wooden music box on a stand that can play (like a player piano only the roller is brass) 12 different songs. It automatically adjusts the roller at the end of each song - to start the next one - and shuts itself off when all twelve tunes are finished or can be shut off. There are six metal, beautifully painted butterflies that swing forward at certain notes and strike half-ball shaped bells that are on metal posts. Each bell has a different tone.

There was a medicine cupboard with a great number of small drawers and bins; and a heavy leather - as opposed to thin - box that opened like a cash or tool box. In the lid was a precise arrangement of medical instruments and in the box itself was a collection of glass bottles with glass stoppers, some still containing medicine, and at the end was a glass container for hypodermic needles. There wasn't an inch of waste space.

On display was a 12" square, 4" thick brick from the Missouri Colony. It was the grey of cinder blocks. There were also some white heavy cotton sacks printed in black, "Bethel, MO #16-1852. Hanging on one wall was a great long cross-cut saw. There was a turning lathe made by the members of the colony. It was large; man power-turned the cutter, and another man would hold the wood in place for the shape wanted.

You can tell I'm no carpenter!

There was a flat trunk that held carpenter tools. When the top was opened, the trunk had a glass framed in wood - cover - and in the lid was a smoothly finished board on hinges. It could be lowered over the glass top and used as a desk. The interesting thing about the space behind the lid board, it held the building plans!

Sometimes wooden shoes were worn, but they did have a "last" for making boots and shoes of leather, also children's high button shoes on display. In one room there was an enormous Bible with gold edged pages. It was printed in the German language.

They had brought with them a magnificent pump organ with a high back. In the center of the back was beautiful, clear mirror and on the sides of the mirror were shelves, ¼ circle, for lamps. The organ had great tone & was in excellent condition.

The furniture made by the colonists was also beautiful. They had made good use of the turning lathe and most pieces had shaped legs, not spool; but the same idea. They also used wooden pegs, not nails. The children's furniture, cradles, chairs etc. were of the same high quality. There was also a beautiful detailed doll house.

The furniture made in the Oregon colony didn't have the glossy finish that Eastern furniture had, but looked as if it was stained and perhaps waxed for a finish. They had one bed made up with a feather mattress & one with a corn husk mattress.

There was a herb garden, still intact with a collection of herbs for cooking and for medical purposes.

In the machine shed, with only the back (long) side and the roof covered; both ends and the front open, there was a steam driven tractor, thrashing machine, corn sheller, grind stone on a stand, and a sulky (type of buggy pulled by a horse).

Wash tubs were made by cutting wooden barrels in half so they had two deep tubs. These were also used for bathing. There was a small separate building for the communal laundry. They had several flat irons that were heated on the stove. The handles did not come off, so care had to be taken to keep from burning fabric and hands, usually a pad to protect the hands.

There was one wagon that had made the trip from Missouri in 1863. It is no longer used, but is in good condition. There is also a sleigh used by the doctor in bad weather. It has the medical doctor emblem on the back.

The Steinback house is a rough hewn log cabin. It was moved to the site and had to have some repairs after the move, but they were made with great care and hardly noticeable. The early houses were all log until the carpenters arrived from Missouri. Some of the houses built by the carpenters had vertical siding, others horizontal. It is not known why.

MEMBERSHIP DUES \$7.00 PER YEAR - DUE AND PAYABLE IN AUGUST TO: VVVF ASSOCIATION

Mail to: Hazel McCandless, Box 366, Cushing, TX 75760-0366

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The Ox Barn was originally built in 1862 to house the oxen that pulled the wagons from the East, but is now a museum. Before leaving I gave them some VAWTER family history - John Taylor Vawter and son Edward. Photo copies were made from pages of Bicknell and I gave them some pictures.

(Editors note: First article on Old Aurora is in Summer 1988 issue – Vol. 12 #4 p. 22)

HONORS TO COUPLE

By way of Alma Vawter Allen from the Hot Springs, AK paper Sentinel

Trudy & Vernon Vawter have been named "Artists of the Month" by the Traditional Art Guild of Hot Springs.

Trudy was born in Leitmerretz, Czechoslovakia. She attended a private Catholic school where she was introduced to the art of needlework. She now teaches others how to do needlepoint, knit, crochet & embroidery. She came to the US in 1958 and she and Vernon were married in 1959.

Trudy is active in the Traditional Art Guild and has been studying art from several teachers. Her paintings have been hung for viewing at the Downtowner Motor Inn, the Hot Springs Convention Auditorium and Brady Mountain Lodge.

Vernon is a native of Hot Springs, AK. He served in the US Navy during WW II in the South Pacific, New Guinea, South America, Italy, England, and Africa. He also served in the US Army in the Korean War. He worked as a barber for 10 years in Hot Springs. He enjoys playing his organ and gardening.

His interest in oil painting grew after attending art classes at the YWCA. He also studied art under several teachers. His paintings hang in many homes and businesses and have been on exhibit at the Downtowner Motor Inn and the Hot Springs Convention Auditorium.

Vernon is from the branch of Russell s/o Richard Vawter & Frances Towles. He is the son of the late Roy & Viola Vawter.

QUERY

Does anyone have knowledge of a JOHN VAWTER who was graduated from Sandcreek High School in 1942. He has a sister living in Indianapolis who would like information, also a friend in Arizona is interested in making contact. John was active in the Boy Scout organization. If you have any information, write to Beth Sabel. Her address is on the front page in the list of officers.

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