**David Vawter3, (John2, Bartholomew1)**

David Vawter was the son of John Vawter and Margaret Noel of Essex Co., VA. It is believed that John and Margaret were married by the time of John’s father’s, Bartholomew, death in 1717.

In the will of John Vawter dated 1748 and proved 1752 Culpeper Co., VA : *that one third part be my loving wife’s, Margaret Vawter and the rest to be equally divided amongst my children, namely: Winfred, Bartholomew, Richard, Margaret Rucker, Angus and David Vawter.*

*6thly. To my son David Vawter three hundred and eighty acres of land adjoining the old Ct. House tract in Orange County to him and his heirs forever.*

(Note: this is the 380A willed to son David, which he sold 300 A in 1763) Book- *English Duplicates of Lost Virginia Records* by Louis des Cognets, Jr. Pub. 1981 Virginia Book Co., is found a list of patents granted in the forks of Rappahannock River and Westwood of Sherrando River. John Vawter & Philip Stogdale, 580 Acres, on the Mountain Road dated 8 Nov 1734.

David is thought the oldest son by some Vawter researchers, but the deed of John to his oldest son “Bartholomew” clears this account. David was the only child to not have his land deeded to him prior to John’s death and would lead to the possibility that David was the youngest child of John’s. He is listed last in the will list of children. David’s birth is unknown but if he was age 25 to 30 when his first son, Jesse, was born in 1753 he would be born ca 1725-1733 and this matches with the will and military records as most men were in their 40’s and 50’s when they served as guards. David probably d. ca 1779 as the military records might indicate but was deceased bef Nov 1782 when a marriage record of daughter Margaret shows permission to marry by Mary Vawter, which generally indicates the father in deceased. Mary Vawter again gave permission in 1784 for son William to marry so she had still had not remarried at that time.

*Marriages Records of Virginia 1722-1850* by Terese A. Fisher, marriage of Stapp, Achilles & Margaret Vawter, d/o Mary Vawter; 27 Nov 1782.

There is much controversy surrounding the wife of David. In *The Vawter Family in America,* by Grace Vawter Bicknell, Hollenbeck Press, Indianapolis, 1905, it was thought that David married his niece Mary Rucker, although no proof was given. Many Rucker and Vawter researchers have tried to confirm his wife’s maiden name, knowing only her name is Mary. It is commonly believed at this time that she may have been Mary Offitt (Offeld/Offott/Offill/Aufil), daughter of William Offill and Mary Rucker. This Mary Offott would have been David’s first cousin. Mary Rucker, dau. of Peter Rucker, was already married to William Offill/Offott by the time of the writing of Peter’s will in Jan 1742/43, as she is referred to therein as Mary Offott. It has been proved that the Mary Rucker of the Bicknell Book, married David’s son, William Vawter.

Found in *Virginia Magazine of History* Vol. 23, pub. 1968, year ending 1920 p. 79. Will Book 1, p. 248, Orange Co., VA is will of John Rucker, date “XI”Jan’y 1742, proven, 28 Jan’y 1742; names his wife Susannah and his 12 children and among them Peter. Appts. Wife Susannah, son Peter Rucker and friend George Taylor exors.

In the same Will Book p. 299, is will of Peter Rucker dated 18th Jan’y. 1742/43, proven 23 Feb 1743, Orange Co., VA; *lends to wife Elizabeth Rucker, all estate, real and person during life, and after her death gives certain personal property to daughter Margaret Tinsley and son in law Isaac Tinsley; son Ephraim Rucker and to daughter Ann Cook and son in law Shem Cook, and balance to be sold and divided amoung his children by name as follows: Thomas Rucker, Elizabeth Pearce, Wm. Rucker, Mary Offott, James Rucker, Ephraim Rucker and Ann Cook. Appts. James Rucker and Ephraim Rucker Exors.*

Book “*The Underwood Family from Madison Co., Va*.” by Ben H. Coke pub 1986 argues that David Vawter did not marry Mary Rucker, his niece, but married Mary Offill/Offott, the daughter of William Offill and Mary Rucker. Mary Rucker was the daughter of the immigrant Peter Rucker and his wife Elizabeth Fielding and the sister of Ephraim Rucker who married Margaret Vawter. The Vawter/Offill marriage argument is based on the fact that Jesse Vawter, son of David and Mary Vawter, apparently mentions his Uncles Offill and Coper in an autobiography. Mary Offill/Offott did have a brother William and one of her sisters married a Mr. Cofer.

In the book, *History of the Rucker Family*, no author or date, chapter eight. Item 7.

Mary Rucker (Peter) m. William Offill. Her brother John deeded 100 A of land to her. William Offill patented 2000 A of land in Orange, Rockingham and Page Co., VA.

In 1752 after the death of Elizabeth, William Offill received a negro out of Peter Rucker’s deceased estate, DB 1 p400, 21 Feb 1752 Culpeper Co., VA

4 Nov 1755 William Offill & wife Mary of Bloomfield Parish, Culpeper Co., VA sold to John Offill for 10 pounds sterling, 100A part of the patent made by John Rucker and bounded by the lines of Ephraim Rucker, Isaac Findley, Richard Vawter, Jeremiah Early and Peter Rucker. Signed William Offill and Mary Offill Wit: James Archer, Thomas Lampton, Mary Holt. Adm. Ephraim Rucker, Issac Tinsley, Richard Vawter, Jermina Early & Peter Rucker. Deed Book B p 301, Culpeper.

Cl.Cur., Library of Virginia, Will Book A, 1749-1770 Culpeper Co, VA Reel 31, pages 215-217 Will: William Henderson, Brumfield Parish, Culpeper Co, VA (1760)I leave to be equally divided among and between my son John Henderson and my three grandsons Joseph Henderson, John Henderson and William Henderson to them and their heirs forever when they come of age. Signed, sealed and delivered this 2nd day of November 1759. William Henderson  (L.S.)(witnesses)William McDonaugh, James Rucker, David Vawter, William Bates

Orange Co. Deed Book 2 p251 1736 100 acres William Pierce to Wm. Rucker

Orange Co. Deed Book 4 p181 1739 100 acres William Rucker to John Powell Sr of Caroline

Culpeper Co Deed Book B p253 1755 100 acres John Powell to Bartholomew Vawter

Culpeper Co Deed Book C p112 1755 100 acres Bartholomew Vawter to David Vawter (below)

Culpeper Co Deed Book E p118 1765 100 acres David Vawter to Wm Twyman

This land became part of 505 acres sold by Wm Twyman to Ephraim Rucker in Book G p107 in 1773, Culpeper Co., VA

26 Dec 1755. Culpeper Co., VA Deed Book pg 112-15. Bartholomew Vawter of Culpeper Co., to David Vawter of same. For 15 pd. Current money…100 acres….line of a patent granted to John Rucker…corner to John Rucker and William Eddins…corner to George Eastham..Thomas Rucker’s line.. Signed Bartholomew Vawter. Wit: Richd. Vawter, Ephraim Rucker, James Archer, Richd. Bryan.

17 June 1756 proved by Ephraim Rucker and David Vawter

16 March 1758 proved by Richard Vawter

In the early 1900’s, Henry Strother, a Vawter researcher went to VA and copied from some old Order Books of Orange Co. This material was sent to William Snyder Vawter who was doing research during the 1920’s and 1930’s for an update on the Grace Vawter Bicknell book. His research was never published but contains more than 2000 pages of information.

Old Order Book of Orange Co., VA (no book number)

page 375, May 1752 Richard Vawter

page 251 Aug 1756 Bartholomew Vawter

page 9 May 1763, David Vawter by his deed in 14, p. 16 conveys to McFarland 300 acres in Orange Co. in full for patent granted John Vawter and Philip Slagdale.

page 447, July 1767 David Vawter was granted a road from Benj. Head and Richard Durrett to the river at Crawford’s Ford

page 48, Nov 1779 David Vawter

page 140, Sept 1774 Richard Vawter.

Notes of Henry Strother from original records, copied between 1910-1918, Orange County DB 13 p 60 deed dated 1759 to Angus Vawter of 179 ½ acres in Orange Co., in same book p 272 Angus Vawter & wife, Ann convey to one Rucker and witnessed by David Vawter.

Orange County Virginia, Tithables 1734 - 1782 Part One. by Barbara Vines Little. 1988, (publisher not clearly stated)   
p. 32 - 33 " County court Judgements February 1754, box 25 .... Elliot Vuorter 4 [tithes] "  
p. 84 - 85 " A list of the number of Tithes in my Precincts August 1st 1766....

David Vauter 2 [tithes] .... Richard Bruce "  
p. 90 - 91 " [1767] A List in my bounds and Number of Tiths pr. me Jeremh. Bryan ....

David Vaughter 2 [tithes] Thos. Dohoney 3 [tithes] "  
p. 98 - 99 " 1768 Jeremiah Bryan his List of Sucker hunting tiths ....  
Thos. Doughonney 4 [tithes] David Vautor 3 [tithes] "  
p. 100-101 " County Court Judgements November 1769 , Box 37 ...  
William Prics list for the yr 1769 ....Phillip vawters 1 [tithe] "   
p. 104 [John Whites list for 1769] " David Vawter 2 tiths "  
p. 108 " A list of the Tithables in the Precincts Wherein I John Griffen am Constable for the year 1769 ....Thomas Ballord 1 [tithe] William Vawters 1 [tithe] "   
on page 114 is a list for 1782 that has William Vawter and Mary Rucker.

The Tinsley and Ruckers were an important family intermarriage connection with the Vawters. The Margaret shown in these deeds is Margaret Rucker, another daughter of Peter.

14 Nov 1759. Issac Tindsley and Margaret his wife of Amelia County to Issac Tindsley Junr. of Brumfield Parish, Culpepper County. For natural love and paternal effection for their son and 5 shillings sterling 100 acres in Brunfield Parish on the Rapidan River...William Crawfords line.. William Rucker’s line... Issac (T) Tindsley Margaret(X) Tindsley

wit. Ephraim Rucker, Rich. Vawter, David Vawter

17 april 1760 proved by Ephraim Rucker and David Vawter

15 may 1760 proved by Richard Vawter

10 Nov 1759 Issac Tindsley and Margaret his wife of Amelia County to Ephraim Rucker of Brumfield Parish, Culpepper county...for £25 current money..100 acres in Brumfield Parish and on the branches of Elk Run in the fork of the Rappidan and Robinson rivers...corner to John Offill and Richard Vawters line...Jerrard Banks line...Ephraim Ruckers line.....

wit. Richard Vawter , David Vawter, Issac Tindsley

17 april 1760 proved by David Vawter

15 may 1760 proved by Issac Tindsley Junr and Richard Vawter

*Abstracts of the Co. Court Minute Book of Culpeper Co., VA 1763-64* shows that David spent some of his free time in Court. (Note: this is only a 1 year period)

March 1763. P 297. David Vawter v. Samuel Young. Cont’d.

p 298. David Vawter v. Richard Stanton. Cont’d.

April 1763. P 313. James Walker, Assignee of William Walker v. David Vawter, James Rucker & Ephriam Rucker. Judgt for Plf.

David Vawter v. Samuel Young. Cont’d.

July 1763. P 371 David Vawter v. Job Breeding. Dft. surrendered & so discharged sureties: David Jackson & Mary his wife & John Collins.

P 384 Davie Vawter v. James Yancey. Dismissed agreed.

David Vawter v. Richard Stanton. Dismissed agreed.

David Vawter v. Job Breeding. Judt for Plf.

P 401 David Vawter v. Thomas Pierson. Cont’d.

David Vawter v. Thomas Jollet. Cont’d with William Batte surety.

Aug 1763. P 410. David Vawter v. Thomas Jollet. Judgt for Plf.

P 412 David Vawter v. Thomas Maxwell. Judt. For Plf.

P 422 David Vawter v. Thomas Pierson. Judgt against Dft. & William Robinson, Security.

Aug 1763. P 432 David Vawter v. Ursulla Knight. Process awarded.

Culpeper Co., VA Deeds Vol III, pages 274-75.

5 Mar 1763. Thomas Stanton junr. of Culpeper county to David Vawter, merchant, of Orange County. For 25.16.5 pounds current money, all my part of the crop of tobacco in my father’s stands, Vawter having received one hogshead already in Royston’s warehouse, two mares, one being a sorrill branded M on the near buttock, the other a black colt paces naturally, seven head of cattle, one bed with all the bedding, furniture, one shed cart, one rifle gun, one smooth bored gun, and two pistols, one sword, two iron potts, four pewter dishes, and one dozen plates, one chest, one box and two trunks. Signed Thos. Stanton, junr. Wit: W. Vawter, Mary Offille. 15 Sep 1763 proved by William Vawter.

Note: this is Mark Finks, father of Andrew Finks who married Lucy Vawter. Lucy the dau. of Richard Vawter (witness).

*The will of Mark Finks Culpeper Co., Will Book A p. 361-62 dated 17 Oct 1763, proved 15 Mar 1764.*

*Mark Finks of Culpeper Co., in the Colony of VA. To my loving wife Elizabeth Finks, my bay mare and my horse Buck that I bought at David Vawter’s sale.*

*Wit: Richd. Vawter, William Eastham, Michall Wilhoit.*

Listed on the Culpeper Co., 1764, Rent rolls David Vauters, Richard Vauters and Elizabeth Vauters. (This is likely Elizabeth Finks, as Mark Finks d. 1764 and she is shown on the tax rolls likely as a widow. No Elizabeth Vawter is known at this time. The only other Vawter in Essex is Augustine whose wife was likely Mary. No final information has been found)

Culpeper Co., VA Deed Book III

15 Aug 1765 pg 18-21 David Vawter of Orange County to William Twyman of Culpeper county. For 30 pd current money, 100 aces being a patent granted to William Pearce in 1765 in the fork of Rappidan River…line of a patent granted to John Rucker…corner to Rucker and William Eddings…corner to George Eastham..to Thomas Rucker’s line.. David Vawter

ORANGE COUNTY ROAD ORDERS 1750-1800. 23 July 1767, Page 447 (O.C.M.B. 1, Page 140) On the Motion of David Vawter to have a View for a road to turn out at the dividing Line

Between Benjamin Head and Richard Durrett and to keep the Line of the said Heads &

Durretts to the River at Crawfords foard .

Book - *Orange Co. VA Families Vol. III* by William Everett Brockman Minneapolis , MN copyright 1959. Pg. 12. Chancery Suits of Orange Co., VA, an index

Sept 1772 David Vauter vs. Wm Kendall.

Larry Wilcox, 913 Franklin Ave., Harahan, LA 70123 has extensive information on Vawter military history. He adds the following:

David Vawter (SAR/DAR) 17 June 1775, enlisted for 90 days.  
Private: Guard duty for Torrie & British prisoners of war.  
1st Virginia Foot Infantry Militia--serving under Captain Ambrose Madison, under Colonel Francis Taylor. 1st Virginia Foot Infantry Militia at Battle of "Great Bridge" -  
David Vawter Private; William Tinsley Drummer; Richard Quinn Corporal; James Goodall Sergeant; John Wayt Sergeant; John Goodall Ensign; James Burton 1st Lt; Ambrose Madison Captain. By orders given by Colonel Woodford, Colonial Army the 1st Virginia Foot Infantry Militia, as guards escorted British prisoners of war under command of Captain Fordyce’s company, British army troops to prisoner of war camp.

*Virginia Historical Magazine Page 458, 459*: Revolutionary War Battle of Great Bridge:

9 December 1775, British Commander Captain Fordyce Royal Army AGAINST: Colonel Woodford Colonial Army; Captain Fordyce RA Killed in Battle.  
Muster Roll Captain Ambrose Madison Company, 1st Virginia Foot Regiment Infantry  
Captain Ambrose Madison, Lieutenant James Burton, Ensign John Goodall, Sergeant John Snow, Sergeant John Wayt, Sergeant John Goodall.  
Lists Corporals & Privates: David Vawter Private: Enlisted 17 January 1775 Discharged 15 June 1775-Served in Albermarble, Culpepper County, Virginia under Colonel Francis Taylor.

(Note: Ambrose Madison was the brother of President James Madison)

*Virginia Magazine of History* pub. 1893-94. Muster roll of Captain Ambrose, Madison Co., of Foot in the Regiment of Vol. Guards at the barracks in Albemarle Co., Col. Francis Taylor, Commander 1 June 1779. “Private David Vawter enlisted 17 Jan 1779, discharged 1 June 1779.

Valley Forge muster roll, these are 2 of the sons of David Vawter. David (son) died in service and William went on to achieve officer rank and serve during the full duration of the war.

Vauters David, Private 1st VA Brigade, state of VA, regiment 1 VA, Capt. John Camp, 5th division

Dec 1777 sick present Jan 1778 thru Feb 1778, sick, absent. Apr 1778 thru Jun 1778 NO record

Vauter, William Private state, 1st VA Brigade, state of VA, regiment 1 VA, Capt. John Nicholas, 5th division. Dec 1777: on command, Jan 1778 thru June 1778, fit for duty, achieved rank of Private and Sergeant.

*The Virginia Genealogist Vol. 27 # 3 July-Sep 1983* p. 206, British Mercantile Claims 1775-1803:

T79/91 Reports of William W. Hening p. 205-206 [Pp. 55-58] David Vauter, Orange. Died at the Albemarle Barracks during the war, worth nothing at all. He lived near to William Lucas of Orange and his widow lived near him for several years after the death of her husband in great distress.   
(GJNote: the following deed indicates that William Lucas was dead by 1763, as his heirs sold some of his land in Orange Co.)

Culpeper Co., VA Vol III, pages 301-04. 20 Oct 1763.

Francis Lucas and Elizabeth his wife of Culpeper Co., to John Amburge of same. For 12 pounds current money. 82 acres, being part of 400 acres granted to William Lucas by the Right Honorable Thomas Lord Fairfax, proprietor of the Northern Neck of Virginia, by deed 28 Sep 1748 and by the death of William Lucas the land fell to Francis Lucas as heir at law…in Bromfield parish on the branches of Devil’s run….corner now to James Sims….near the fork of a path a former corner to Thomas Houison…in Fairfax’s line. Signed Francis and Elisabeth Lucas.

Culpeper Co., VA Deed Vol. IV

19 Aug 1766, pg 172-73. Margret Jackson of Orange Co., widow and relict of Thomas Jackson, to James Collins of Culpeper Co., Wit: David Vawter, Richard Giffin, William Pearce.

*The Virginia Genealogist V 30, No. 2, April-June 1986*. British Mercantile Claims 1775-1803.  
T79/93 Reports of William W. Hening

p. 137 Claim of Heslop & Blair p.30: David Vauter, Orange. Lb 7.16.10(1/2). He died in Albermarle Barracks during the War totally insolvent

p. 140 Claims of Robert Jardine p. 47 David Vauter, Orange. See previous reports. He died in Albermarle Barracks during the war worth nothing at all. On a judgement of Heslop and Blair against him in Orange County in 1773, the Sheriff returned " no effects "

Mary, widow of David, and her son William are shown still in Orange in 1782: List of Taxable property taken by Thos. Barbour, Gent., 1782, Orange. As shown on back of the original return paper itself, in the Clerk’s office of Orange.

William Vawter Tythes 1 Negroes Cary 1 Horses 3 Cattle 0

Mary Vawter Tythes 0 Negroes John 1 Horses 4 Cattle 5

From Virginia Soldiers Listings:  
Major Lawrence Washington, Captain Ambrose Madison, Captain John Camp, Captain Angus   
Rucker & other American officers were authorized to enlist men over 50 years of age for guard duty of Torrie & British prisoners. This term of enlistment was for 60 to 90 days only. Several regular Virginia commands had men of age 45 & older, these soldiers were transferred for this type of duty. These Revolutionary War soldiers saw little if no action against the British. Many of these men were used for time elements of 30 to 45 days & sent home. From June 6, 1776 until September 15, 1776 was when most of this type guard duty was accomplished. At various times torrie prisoners were moved from place to place. The Old Home Guard was called for this duty until mid 1778. A Regimental Captain would order a Sergeant, 2 Corporals, 4 Privates to accompany the Home Guard as escorts for transport of prisoners. After the Revolutionary War was in full swing, many of these men over 50 became teamsters for the Continental Army, delivering supplies & beef to Washington’s army. Many women were patriots at this time being teamsters.  
Albemarle Barracks (1779 - 1780), Charlottesville

A VA state militia supply depot and POW encampment for 2,577 British and 1,882 Hessian troops that were captured at Saratoga, NY in 1777. They were previously kept in Boston, MA, but were moved to a warmer climate. The officers were quartered in private houses within a twenty-mile radius of town. Aside from log huts for the winter, no permanent facilities were built. As the British army under General Cornwallis moved northward from North Carolina, the remaining prisoners (about 2,000 after death, desertions and exchanges) were moved to Frederick Barracks in Hagerstown, MD, via Winchester. No remains of the encampment site are left. Located northwest of downtown, north of Ivy Creek. Period graves were discovered in the early 1980's on Ivy Farm Road when the area was developed for upscale single-family homes.

After David’s death, according to family tradition, Mary married James Renfro (Rentfrow), probably in KY and she d. in KY ca 1797. From Richard & Theresa Renfro, 9107 Wendy Dr. SE, Olympia WA, email renfro@home.com comes some information on James Renfro.

James Renfro b. 1727 Jamestown, James City Co., VA d. 11 Jul 1801 Lincoln Co., KY. His father was William Renfro b. 1702 d. 1789 VA and mother Elizabeth Cheney b. 1704 d. 1789.

James m (1) Lydia (nee?) Her maiden name is given from Dale Gerboth as Harris, but no proof known. Their first son Joseph b. Jul 1766 VA so this would indicate their marriage date.

From Dr. Donald Ott Manshardt, Renfro family papers: James Renfro bought 300 A of land 17 Apr 1781 Lincoln Co., KY on the Rockcastle River. This later became Rockcastle Co., where Renfro Valley is now located. In 1801, James Renfro granted land to Lewis Renfro for 100 pounds, both of Lincoln Co., KY. It is located where Boone's Trace crossed Renfro's Creek, crossing of Roundstone below the mouth of Renfro's Creek. Wit: Reuben and James Menefee, and Absalom Renfro. Bk D p231.

James lived in Woodford Co., KY from 1788 to 92 and Lincoln Co., KY from 1797 to 1800. Abstracts of deed show James transferred property in Henry Co., VA Deed Bk, page 189, 181. 5 Nov 1778 to John Rentfro for the sum of 300 pounds, 300 A more or less. Land on both sides of the Pigg River. Signed, James Renfro, Wit: Peter Vardman, Isaac Barton, Darby Ryan.

Pages 181-182. Nov. 1778: We John Rentfro, Moses Rentfro, Isaac Rentfro and Joshua Rentfro are held firmly bound unto James Rentfro in the sum of 300 pounds for a tract of land lying on the Pigg River that he had formerly conveyed to John Huski, but now sold to John Rentfro. Wit: William Rentfro, Isaac Rentfro, Moses Rentfro, John Rentfro, James Rentfro, Joshua Rentfro and George Ritture.

(These above are all brothers of James, it appears this is the time he was preparing to leave VA)

James acquired some 4000 acres of land from Woodford Co., KY to Rockcastle Co., KY.

The last will and testament of James Renfro b. 1727 d. 1801, copied from James Renfro’s Estate papers which are in the Clerk’s office of Lincoln Co., KY.

*Calling to mind that it is appointed to man once to die, I do make and ordain this my last Will and Testament, and after the payment of all my just and lawful debts and funeral charges, I give to my son, Joseph, 1700 pound 10 shillings that he is in debt to me and to my son, Absalom $100 and to my daughter Susannah, one dollar. The rest of my estate that is not otherwise (illegible) will be sold to the best advantage and equally divided among my three sons, James Jr., Isaac and Lewis and my daughter Hannah Jones. And I give my niece, Jemima Menefee one ewe and lamb and the bedstead she use to lye on when living with me, and I do make and ordain my sons, James and Absalom whole and sole executors of this my last will and testament as witness my hand and seal this 22 day of April in 1801. James Rentfro (seal) Test: Jesse Scott, Turpin Rentfro, Jacob (X) Troup.*

The will is believe to have been probated in 1807. Turpin Rentfro was the son of Moses Rentfro and Elizabeth Turpin. Turpin married Sarah Troup.

James, Reubin, Joshua and Achilles Stapp came from Orange Co., VA to Woodford Co., KY Achilles bought land on North Elkhorn from James Rentfro of Woodford Co., KY. In 1790, Stapp sold this land on the Elkhorn to Joshua Stapp and wife Hannah and in 1792 sold the land to Joseph Anderson.

From notes of William Snyder Vawter ca 1928, a letter; “There was no will left by David Vawter: At a Court held for Orange county on Thursday 27th Day Mar 1785. William Vawter granted Admr. of estate of David Vawter dec’d where upon he with Bartlett Bennett his security entered into Bond for the same in the sum of £400.” Copy: Test: Josephone H. Neal, Deputy Clerk, Orange Co., VA

Much of the material on David’s female children comes from Carol Tikka, 14690 SW 106th Av, Tigard, OR 97224 with material also contributed by Jean Hough. In 1986, E.B. Vaughters, 12015 1st Ave. NW, Seattle, WA 98177 sent the genealogy of this line to be published by the VVV Association. The combination of all these researchers, along with the Vawter Book, The Vawter Family in America by Bicknell gives a thorough history of this line.

E. B. listed an additional child for David and Mary named David who died single, possibly from an illness during the Rev. War. It seems “if” there really was a seventh child, David, a lot of questions are answered about service and dates and places (see David4 file)

Attached here is some of the newer research of the Ruckers and Vawter to determine the right Mary, wife of David Vawter.

Book- *History of the Rucker Family* (no date or author given). Mary Rucker was the dau. of Elliot Legrande Rucker b. ca 1730 d. 19 Mar 1832. Married (1) Nancy Smith (thought to be dau. of Isaac Smith of VA). Elliott was Rev. War soldier and received land in KY in 1794. He married (2) Mary Burton of Orange Co. (KY or VA?) in 1809. Children of Elliot were Merial Rucker m. John E. DeNeal of KY, LeGrande Rucker b. 1790 m. Harriet Davis of KY, John Ephraim Rucker b. abt 1795 m. --- Wright and Mary Rucker who married her cousin, Wm. Vawter. (GJ Note: this information is incorrect on Mary and William)

Another scenario: Peter Rucker in his will had many children but two of his sons, James Rucker who married Elizabeth Elzaphan and Ephraim Rucker who married Margaret Vawter had a son and dau. who married each other (they would be first cousins). Augustine Rucker, son of James Rucker and Tomagen Rucker, dau. of Ephraim Rucker. Augustine and Tomagen Rucker then had nine children, their oldest dau. was named Mary Rucker. It is this Mary who married William Vawter in 1784. Augustine and Tomagen Rucker moved to KY as did many of the Rucker family. So the Mary Rucker who married William Vawter was the granddaughter of Margaret Vawter, wife of Ephraim Rucker.

A third scenario is found in the *Rucker Family Genealogy* by Sudie Rucker Woods pub. 1932 in possession of Carla Orcutt of WA. This seems to have some documentation. Page 289:

Mary Rucker, dau. of Lt. Col. Ephraim Rucker m. 4 Jun 1784 to William Vawter son of David Vawter. Marriage bond in Orange Co., VA Security James Staples, William Vawter b. 1758 d. 27 Nov 1823.

They moved to Woodford Co., KY in 1788 then to Burlington, Boone Co., KY. In 1803, William and Mary sold land in Fayette Co., KY bet. the years of 1805 and 1809 they also had land in Jessemine and Gallatine counties. William Vawter was appointed by Angus Rucker (brother of Mary) of Madison Co., trustee for his dau., Jane Minor, wife of Elliott Minor, of Boone Co., KY. William Vawter refused to act. William Vawter served in the Revolution. Enlisted 17 Jan 1779, under Capt. John Champ, of the 1st VA Reg., under Colonel George Gibson. Later became a lieutenant. At a court of appeals held at the Capitol of Richmond, VA Sept 1791, in a suit, the Commonwealth against William Vawter, late Lieutenant of the 1st VA Reg. Case was dismissed. So now we know Lt. Col. Ephraim Rucker and Margaret Vawter’s dau. Mary Rucker married William Vawter not David Vawter who was Margaret’s brother. Mary Rucker and William Vawter were cousins.

To further complicate the above matter, we have Jean B. Robinson from a letter 30 Apr 1991, granddaughter of Sudie Rucker Wood who has been compiling primary and secondary information to clear this problem. In a letter to Doris Edwards, 2017 43rd SE U-2, Grand Rapids, MI dated 1992 much of the above is disputed and dispelled. While long it is important to add as much information as possible to stop errors from continuing to occur.

1. The Vawter Family in America, by Grace Vawter Bicknell, 1905 offers no primary evidence for any of the information on David Vawter, son of John and his connection of Mary Rucker. Unfortunately this information was used for the following: 1. Maxwell Genealogy and History 2. Stepp/Stapp Families of America by Henry P. Scalf and 3. Forks of the Elkhorn Church by Ermina Darnell, 1980. So none of these secondary records can be used for primary proof at this time.
2. Edythe Whitley, History of the Rucker Family 1927 stated David Vawter m. Mary Rucker, da. of Ephraim Rucker and Margaret Vawter with no primary proof again offered. Sudie Rucker Wood showed primary proof that Mary Rucker m. William Vawter her cousin, not David, her uncle. Additionally the dates do not match. If you examine the dates for David (1720-1785) and William (1758-1823) you will see that David would have been 64 years old in 1784 and too old to have married in 1784. And there is no way he could have had five children by the time he died the following year. (GJNote: we now have proof he died before 1782 so he could not have married in 1784-see marriage record of daughter Margaret) William, born in 1758, would have been 26 in 1784 and the right age to marry. Most important is a found marriage record for William Vawter and Mary Rucker in Orange Co., VA
3. Mary Snyder, in Rucker Ruckus, Vol. 3 Issue I, p 87 states: Ephraim, father of Elliot Rucker and wife Nancy Smith had a dau. Mary who married Wm. Vawter. This could not be possible as Elliott and Nancy Smith married 6 Mary 1789 (Marriage Bond, Orange Co., VA) and it would have been difficult for a dau. to have been married five years before her parents. Plus, no other primary record states Elliott Rucker even had a daughter named Mary.
4. The Underwood Family by Ben Coke 1986 p 88 suggests that David Vawter married Mary Offill (Offitt/Offield, Aufil, etc). He wrote Wm. Offill m. Mary Rucker dau. of Peter Rucker 1743/4. Wm and Mary Rucker Offill had several children inc: 1. Mary Offill m. 1st David Vawter b 1720 and m. 2nd James Rentfrow. Their son William Vawter m. 1784 Orange Co., VA to Mary Rucker (Prob. dau. of Ephraim Rucker & Margaret Vawter, sister to David Vawter b. 1720) The problem with this is: 1. Ben Coke only guessed that Wm. Offill and Mary Rucker had a dau. Mary, no proof is found. 2. His reasoning came from the Vawter Book and autobiography by Jesse Vawter who mentioned Uncle Oppill (ie Offill), Uncle I Coper (ie J. Coper) and Aunt Underwood. Ben Coke’s first sentence is prob. true and Jesse Vawter’s statements about aunts and uncles make sense only if Jesse’s mother was Mary Offill, So Jesse’s mother was Mary Offill and it was her mother who was Mary Rucker. However, he could have been referring to them as such because his aunt Margaret Vawter was married to Ephraim Rucker, sister of Mary Offill, so no solid proof is yet found. Ben Coke in a letter 6 Dec 1985 said everyone always assumed that John Vawter (1782-1862) would know his grandmother’s maiden name. No primary proof exists on this material and historically only 10% of the population can name the maiden name of grandmothers.
5. Sudie Rucker Wood, The Rucker Family Genealogy 1932 p 289 states Mary Rucker m. 4 Jun 1784 William Vawter (Marriage Bond of Orange Co., Security James Staples). Wm. b. 1758 d. 27 Nov 1823. The children of William Vawter and Mary Rucker were: William Jr., George M., Herman, Edmond, Thomas and Virginia. Wood on page 512, gives the following dates for David Vawter b. 1720 d. 1785 m. ca 1755 Mary of Culpeper Co., (no maiden name). The following evidence is used for Primary Proof of William Vawter and Mary Rucker. (GJ Note: again the death date has since been proven to be prior to 1782)
6. Proof of parentage of Ephraim Rucker, Peter Rucker immigrant lists son, Ephraim Rucker in will (WB1, p 299 Orange CO, VA dated 18 Jun 1743, rec. 23 Feb 1743/4)
7. Proof of parentage and marriage of Ephraim Rucker and Margaret Vawter. Will of John Vawter 23 May 1748, Culpeper Co., VA leaves his dau. Margaret Rucker 150 acres at the Great Mountains. This 150 acres was deed by John Vawter to Ephraim Rucker 7 Feb 1750 Culpeper Co.
8. Proof that Ephraim Rucker and Margaret Vawter had a dau. Mary. She was mentioned in the will of her father, Ephraim Rucker, WB1, p 348 Madison Co., VA dated 24 Sep 1796 prob. 28 Dec 1797. 1/7 of my estate to dau. Mary Vawter.
9. Proof that Mary Rucker m. William Vawter. Marriage Bond 4 Jun 1784 Orange Co., VA

The children of David Vawter and Mary (Offitt/Offil)l:

+ 1. Jesse Vawter b. 1 Dec 1753 Culpeper Co., VA d. 20 Mar 1838 Jefferson Co., IN m. 29 Mar 1781 Elizabeth Watts

+ 2. Winifred Vawter b. ca 1755 VA d. 2 Mar 1818 KY m. 23 Feb 1775 Orange Co., VA James Dehoney (Dabony)

+ 3. David Vawter d. single (possibly illness) during Rev. War. (This child is not listed by Bicknell)

+ 4. William Vawter b. ca 1760 m. 19 Jun 1784 VA to Mary Rucker

+ 5. Philemon Vawter b. 16 Oct 1762 Culpeper Co., VA d. 15 Apr 1814 Madison, IN m. ca. 1779 Anne Vawter, his cousin, dau of Richard and Frances Vawter

+ 6. Margaret Vawter b. 11 Oct 1763 VA d. 29 Apr 1813 KY m. 27 Nov 1782 Orange Co., VA Achilles Stapp

+ 7. Mary (Polly) Vawter b. ca 1769 m. 1790 Fayette Co., KY John Gatewood