



FAMILY ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

Spring 1990

p. 15

Volume 13 #3

FAMILY ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

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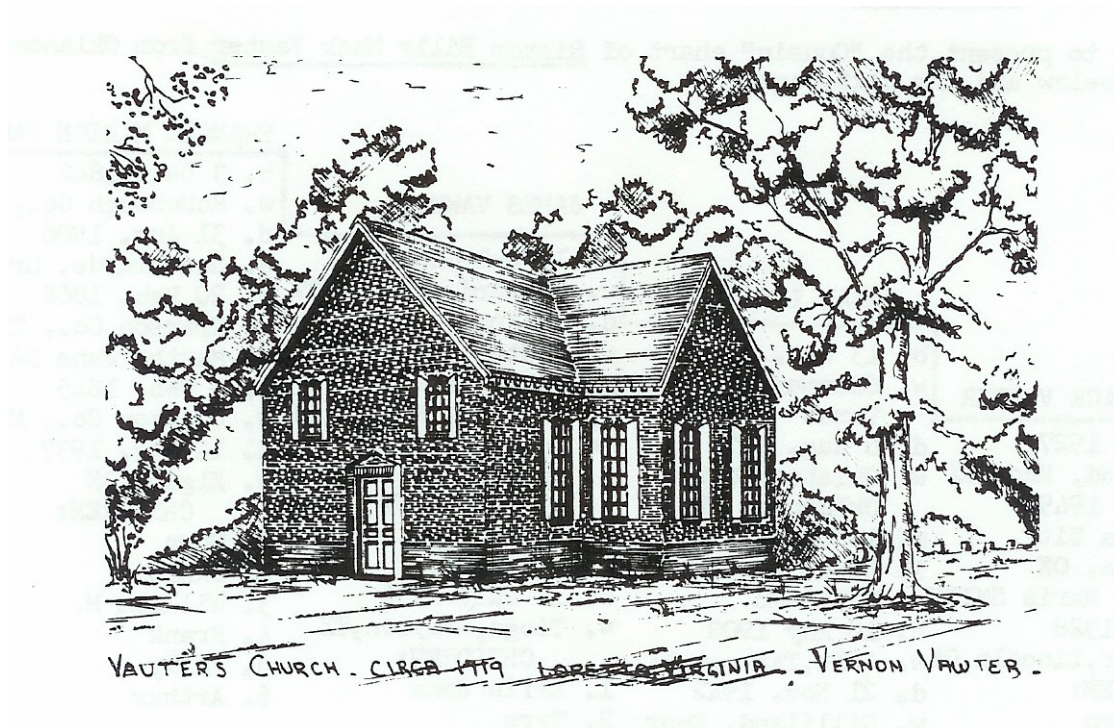
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EXCHANGE EDITOR: Bonita Welch, R. R. #1, Box 227, Scipio, IN 47273

MAKE PLANS FOR THE 1990 VVVFA REUNION

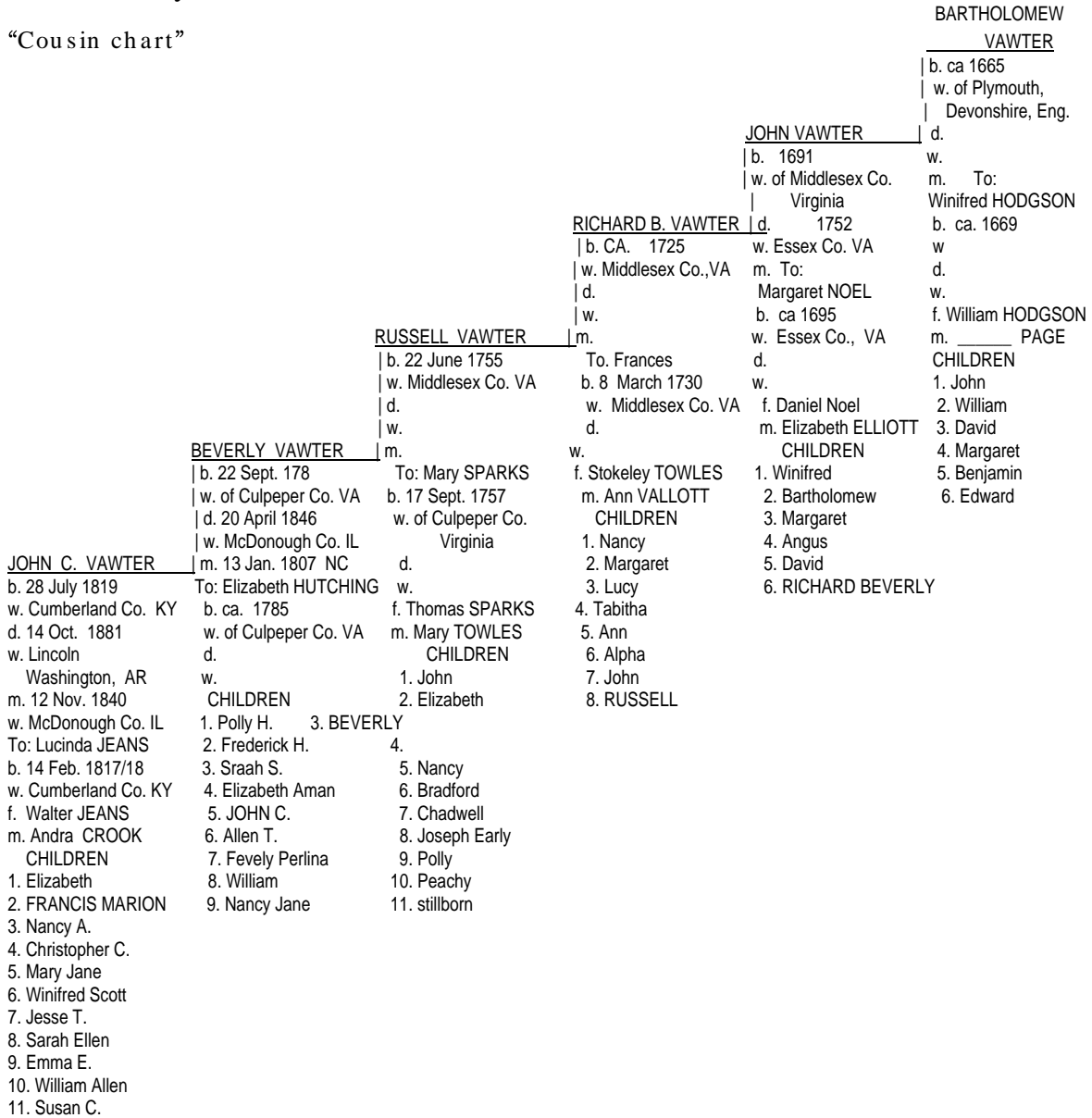
The 1990 reunion will herald the 13th annual VVVFA reunion which will be held in Richmond, Virginia, August 3, 4 and 5 in the Holiday Inn Downtown. Once again we will be meeting near the site of the "Vauter" church. See the president's letter for a list of the points of interest. The rooms will be \$45.00 plus tax for any number. Come Thursday afternoon to visit with your "early bird" cousins. Officers breakfast will be early Friday morning. Come one come all VVV's.



The above sketch of the "Vauter" church was made by Vernon Vawter. If interested, note paper with the above picture may be purchased from him as well as having the print framed with matte alone or with additional framing. Write: Vernon Vawter, 1822 7th St. Hot Springs AK 71913-5150.

Ancestors of:
Bishop Billy Mack Vawter
3618 S. W. 39th
Oklahoma City, OK 73119-2918

“Cousin chart”



EXCERPTS FROM WILLIAM SNYDER VAWTER GENEALOGY

Historical Society of Montana

David Hilger, Librarian
Room 106, Capitol
Helena, Montana
July 13, 1931

William Snyder Vawter
83-10 35th Avenue
Jackson Heights, New York

Dear Sir:

Answering your letter of July 8 there has been but one family of the name VAWTER in Montana or Helena of much prominence.

Col. J. Vawter for whom Vawter Street of Helena was named came to Montana in 1864 and to Helena in 1865. He had large business interests in the city until his death on May 9, 1877 which took place on the steamer, "Far West", on the upper Missouri River. Col. Vawter went to Marengo, Illinois to California in the Gold Rush of 1849, then returned to Winterset, Iowa, from there to Denver and from Denver to Montana in 1864.

He left two sons, Cornelius L. and John G., and one daughter. Cornelius died in Los Angeles, Dec. 29, 1926, age 76 years. He came to Montana with his father in 1869, lost his fortune in the panic of 1893. In 1898 he was appointed federal marshall for Nome, Alaska and from that time until 1922 was connected with the federal courts of that territory.

In 1926, John G. Vawter was living in Cooke City, Montana. At the time of his death in 1877 was 58 years old and while prominent in the territory of Montana had not held any public office.

Very truly yours,

David Hilger, Librarian

* * * * *

GEORGE W. VAWTER
b. 23 Nov. 1840, Culpeper Co., VA
d. 18 Sept. 1887
m. 24 Dec. 1861
To: Mary SIMPSON
b. 14 Nov. 1839
d. 13 April 1885

- CHILDREN:
1. Emma O.
 2. Samuel T.
 3. William M.
 4. Ada A.
 5. Ida Bell
 6. Smith
 7. Cora Ellen (Cory)

GEORGE TAYLOR VAWTER
b. 10 Sept. 1817 Culpeper Co., VA
d. 2 April 1894 Tipton, IN
m.
To: Charlotte VOGLER
b.
d. 16 Aug. 1893 Tipton, IN

- CHILDREN:
1. GEORGE W.
 2. John M.
 3. Samuel M.
 4. Rosalie A.
 5. Emma S.
 6. Ada (Ady-Elly)
 7. William (Bill)

MEMORIAL

Virgil M. Clarkson, Indianapolis, died Friday, 20 October 1898 (1989?). He was born in Butlerville, Indiana, on 27 March 1911 to Thomas O. and Lena Miles Clarkson. He was an Army veteran of World War II and retired on 1970 from Central Motor Parts in Indianapolis. His wife and two infant children preceded him in death. Surviving are two nephews and four nieces, including Bonita Welch.

* * * * *

Thomas M. Clarkson, Butlerville, Indiana, died 16 November 1989 of injuries received about four hours earlier in a traffic accident. His wife was seriously injured. He was born in Butlerville on 18 March 1909 to Thomas O. and Lena Miles Clarkson. He was a retired poultry and egg dealer and had also owned and operated a cattle trucking business. An avid sports fan, he and his wife attended most of the Jennings County High School sports activities. He had a portion of his barn loft fixed so young people could use it as an indoor basketball court. Surviving are his wife, Ada Klayer Clarkson; two daughters, Marilyn Detraz of Milan, and Majorie Roseberry of Columbus; three grandchildren; two nephews, and two nieces, including Bonita Welch.

* * * * *

M. Duane Vawter, 54 of Indianapolis, died 28 November 1989. He was a self-employed electronics technician, and an Army veteran. Survivors: wife Carol Derbin Vawter; sister, Diane Lawrence; brothers, Nelson G. & Raymond G. Vawter Jr.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Beth Sabel would like to locate two books she has loaned out: The Family of Albert & Josie Vawter by Shirley Byler and her book on Castles. If you have either of these two books, please let her know.

Don't forget to bring your "door prize" donations of hobby or craft work. We all look forward to the fun of these door prizes.

From your Editor Esther Vawter - The DEADLINE for sending me stories and genealogy material for the Newsletter is by the 20th of the months of: Feb., May, Aug. & Nov. We should have a variety of items in our newsletters, which we can have if you will send me stories. I can only print what you send to me.

Our VVVF Association voted to give up the idea of up-dating the book, The Vawter Family in America by Bicknell. It was felt the job would be too big and we would end up with too many volumes costing too much. In its place it was decided to include genealogy in each issue of the newsletter. This is especially important when Bicknell left out of her book all the VVV's with the Vaughter(s) spelling. This is also important because copies of our newsletter is mailed to libraries, historical and genealogy societies.

I challenge each of you to be a newsletter reporter for your own family and branch.

MEMBERSHIP DUES \$7.00 PER YEAR - DUE AND PAYABLE IN AUGUST TO: VVVF ASSOCIATION Mail to: Sue Vawter, Rt. 6, Box 370, Nacogdoches, TX 75961

A FAMILY MEETING

The Vernon Banner - Vernon, IN., 16 April 1863

From: Bonita Welch, Exchange Editor, R. R. #1, Box 227, Scipio, IN 47273

The remaining members of the family of Elder Jesse Vawter, who died March 20 1838, in the 83rd year of his age, met many of their relatives and friends, seventy four in number, at the residence of James Vawter, Sen., near North Madison, the 2nd day of April, in honor of the 80th birthday of Elder William and James Vawter, twin brothers. The united ages of the only survivors, two brothers and two sisters, amounted to 299 years. Seldom have we ever witnessed a gathering of so many very aged persons, among whom we will mention the names of our esteemed christian friends, Elder Wm. T. Stott, age 75, Elias Stapp 77, Mathew Wise 74, and A. Moncrief 66 years. There were also present many friends and relatives from Vernon, among whom was the widows of Achilas Vawter and Elder John Vawter.

It was indeed good to be there and look upon the faces of those aged ones, who, like the sturdy forest oaks, have weathered the storms of many winters. Truly the scenes witnessed upon that occasion will not soon be erased from memory. We were forcibly impressed with the words of the prophet, "Behold ! this day I am going the way of all the earth."

One remarkable circumstance was the meeting of all the children (nine in number) of James Vawter and their wives (one excepted) and children, numbering in all twenty-six, another thing which gave us great pleasure to witness, was the union and good will existing among the family and friends, and we were led to exclaim, "Behold, how good and pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity !"

One thing alone cast a shadow o'er the flitting mind, was one whose counsels we often had, and whose voice mingled with ours, since last we met one year ago in Vernon, was not with us. His voice (Elder John Vawter's) was hushed in death, and another had shortly previous (Achilas Vawter) gone to the spirit land. Two brothers and two sisters of that once large family stood alone, like aged forest trees, reminding us that even the age of an octogenarian is but short, and their words seemed almost like those from the dead. Oh how our hearts beat in love as we remember that perhaps in a few months they too would be slumbering with the silent dead.

Friend after friend departs,
Who hath not lost a friend?
There is no Union here of hearts,
That finds not here an end.

And again as we thought of the future our hearts beat with joy when lifes toils are over, we all may meet and have a glorious reunion "where the wicked cease from troubling and the weary are at rest."

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR VVV PRESIDENT

Dear VVV Cousins:

Your president spent last November 8 thru 13 in Richmond, Virginia making plans for your 1990 VVV REUNION, to be held August 3,4 & 5. Robert M.(Bobby) and Donna Vawter, from Delaware, joined me on Friday, November 10, and we were able to make most of the arrangements necessary for a great family gathering. We decided on a hotel which is close to downtown Richmond. It is 12 blocks from Capitol Square, site of the Virginia State, Capitol, the Governor's Mansion, and the Old Bell Tower, a tourist information center, a half block away is the Virginia State Library and Archives, with it's excellent genealogical and historical records, and the Old City Hall. Two blocks away is the John Marshall House, and just across the street is the present City Hall where, from the sky walk at the top, you get an excellent bird's eye view of Richmond. Another three blocks and you are at the White House of the Confederacy and the Confederate Museum. Within 5 miles of the hotel is St. John's Church, where Patrick Henry gave his, "...give me liberty or give me death," speech. There are also 8 more museums within this radius. You are within a 60 mile radius of Vauter's Church, Fredericksburg, Tapahannock, Williamsburg, Yorktown and Petersburg. Whee ! I must sound like the Richmond Chamber of Commerce.

The hotel, Holiday Inn Downtown, is charging us \$45.00, plus tax, per day for a room with one to four occupants. They have nice, large rooms, large convenient meeting rooms and free valet parking. Breakfast will be on your own, but they will have a breakfast bar buffet to speed up our morning routine.

Friday, August 3, after our opening session, we will hear Mr. Charles Kalbe, of the Virginia State Library and Archives, who will explain to us what material is available and how to find it. After lunch, we will go to Capitol Square where we will have a guided tour of the Capitol Building, then you are free to tour whatever you desire on your own. Friday night is our informal dinner, which will be served buffet style. After dinner we will have a speaker, an open discussion and door prizes.

On Saturday, August 4, we will travel by chartered bus to Vauter's Church and then 3 miles away to the Wheatland Plantation, where the ladies of the church will serve us a picnic lunch in the garden. Nearby, is Wheatland's dock and wharf, it is the only original steamboat wharf remaining on the Rappahannock River. Wheatland is owned by Mr. Fielding Lewis Dickinson, whose great, great grandfather, Fielding Lewis, was the husband of Betty Washington, a sister of George Washington. Those of you who attended the reunion in 1985 at Fredericksburg may have toured Kenmore, The Fielding Lewis home with the ornately decorated ceilings. If you tour the Virginia Capitol Building, be sure to pay close attention to the magnificent Houdon statue of Washington, the only statue of Washington ever sculptured from life. When you meet Mr. Dickinson, note the facial features. The Washington genes apparently go far, far back. The Saturday night dinner will be a sit-down meal. After dinner we will have our election of officers, memorial service for those who have departed, the youngest and oldest persons present, who traveled furthest, door prizes, etc..

Sunday August 5, you will be on your own. If enough interest is shown, we will try to arrange for a special 11:30 morning church service at Vauter's Church. Transportation to this service would have to be by private auto. Please let me know as soon as possible if you are interested in going to such a service, since it will take some time to make these arrangements.

As you know, in the past, we have always given a love fund to the church. We will do the same again this year. I hope you will be generous and open your hearts and purses wide. Also, will you begin to think of something you can donate for a door prize. Any item of craft or hobby will be appreciated.

I am looking forward to seeing each of you in August. Bobby, Donna and I have tried to make this reunion educational, interesting and thoroughly enjoyable. We realize that it will be more expensive than some of the others because of the distance traveled, the necessity of chartering busses and the fact that it is in a larger city. But, remember that this is the region from which we all descended and is the fountain-head which produced our glorious nation. More of our history, both family and national, originated from this area than from any other place. Let us strive to have a record attendance this year.

Long live VVV,

Marvin D. Vawter
11205 Wornall Road
Kansas City, MO, 64114-5342



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NEWSLETTER

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VAWTER - SONG WRITER

From the book Sacred Solos & Duets No. 1, compiled by J.E. Sturgis, published in 1925 by The Standard Publishing Co., of Cincinnati, OH you will find the song: "Sometimes", copyrighted in 1913 by C. R. L. Vawter. His line descends from Philemon & Ann Vawter (See Bicknell p. 329).

BIG REVIVAL IS BEING HELD AT CHRISTIAN CHURCH

From: North Vernon Sun, North Vernon, IN 24 June 1910 (C.R.L. Vawter)

The revival meetings in progress at the Christian church are now engrossing the attention of the christian people of N. Vernon. These meetings which began Sunday are being led by VAWTER, Tuttle and VAWTER of Kansas City, MO., who are among the leading evangelists working among the Christian churches. They have just closed a very successful campaign at Middlesborough, KY., and their time is now taken until the first of February.

C. R. L. VAWTER, the evangelists, is the head of the party and a native of Kentucky having been born near Maysville in that state. He is a graduate of Transylvania University, which is the oldest college west of the Alleghenies. He has held meetings from the great lakes to the gulf and from coast to coast. In several states he has broken the record for accessions in a single church meeting.

Mr. Vawter has his work well in hand. He never lags nor do his helpers. There are no dry moments in his sermons; no going to sleep before him. He preaches the gospel in love and constantly appeals and asks men to appeal to the bible. He has no quarrel with those who differ from him, but believes that the thing to do is to remember that the other may be honest and may love God sincerely and is therefore entitled to respect and consideration. He uses no notes and has no stand in front of him.

The meetings as conducted by Mr. Vawter are very spiritual and while doctrinal differences are discussed it is not done in a partisan way. The evangelist says: "I will tell you what I believe and why I believe it. Let's talk the matter over."

Wallace Tuttle, the director of music, Mrs. Vawter, the accompanist of the party, is a daughter of the south and possesses a very charming personality. She received her musical education under the best instructors in Louisville, and is a master of her work. She has a rich, mellow contralto voice which she uses very effectively in solo and duet work. A large share of her husband's success in his work is due to her assistance.

The closing meeting was held at the Philbarg theatre which was packed both at the afternoon and night meeting.

The evangelists left this city for Bennington Gap, VA.

This story has been written up by Sally Brown of OK - Associate Editor

VELMA READ TIDWELL of Yukon, Oklahoma, who is 91 years young, wrote to Esther Vawter to tell her about a happy time in her life. This letter was in response to Esther's request for family stories in the last newsletter.

In the 1930's Velma and her husband Robert, and their son, Don, lived in a number of places in California. They particularly enjoyed living in Danville because it was the place where a number of movies were filmed. A movie company had many filming stages there with all the props and equipment needed for picture making. Robert Tidwell was hired by the movie company to be the caretaker. Velma, Robert, and Don were often hired by the movie company to be extras in films. Velma especially enjoyed being in films about the frontier days. She treasures a picture of herself dressed in her costumes for one of those films.

Velma's parents, Margaret Elizabeth Vawter Read and John Robert Read, had moved by covered wagon to Lindsay in Indian Territory when Velma was a very small child. Then when she was about fifteen years old they moved to Bethany, OK. where she and Robert met. Much later after living in California for a number of years, the family moved back to Oklahoma in 1941. Velma hopes to come to the VVV Reunion in Virginia.

(Note: Sally phoned Velma to ask her the name of her grandparents, but she didn't remember. However, she did know that she is a double cousin with Ora Wicker. Can someone come up with her line?)

QUERY

From: Jennifer J. Taylor, 2322 - 169th Place S.E., Bothell, WA 98012

My 5th g-grandmother, Mary Ann Vawter, b. in Essex Co., VA in Aug. 1761 d. in Clermont, OH on 4 June 1841. She married Christopher Chaffin in Powhatan Co., VA on 22 Aug. 1778. Who are the parents of Mary Ann Vawter?

NOTICE

It has been the policy of the VVVFA that all VVV's age 80 or over are eligible for free membership and newsletter.

Beth Sabel, 931 S.E. 33rd Ave., Portland, OR 97214-4279 (who is our circulation Editor) wants ALL members who receive this newsletter to reply by letter or postcard with your TYPED return address or a return address sticker. If you are 80 or over also state that. Many people are receiving the newsletter at no charge. We, your officers council, will meet in August to go over the roll. We want those who are eligible to receive their newsletter. So, please answer.

NEW MEMBER

Joyce Carter, 5810 Par Four Drive, Houston, TX 77088 Line: Bartholomew & Winifred (Hodgson/Hodges) Vawter, Benjamin, Richard, Edward, Hiram & Mary (Polly)(Good)Vawter.

VVV TRIVIA

According to a recently published book, The Rating Guide to Life in America's Small Cities, our annual VVV reunions have been held in three of the top 30 cities. Fredericksburg, VA. (1985 reunion) is listed as #3; Gainesville, GA (1988) is 15th and Columbus, IN., (1987) is 27th. Hmmm.....Which came first, the VVV's or the quality?
From: Bonita Welch of IN.

I Russell VAWTER
II Beverly VAWTER
III Allan Taylor VAWTER
b. Nov. 1830 Cumberland Co., KY
d. 4 Nov. 1904 Macomb, IL
m. 4 March 1854 Macomb, IL
To: Florinda Elizabeth Kellogg
b. 8 June 1836 Ohio
d. 1925 Macomb, IL

CHILDREN:

1. Lemuel Ervin b. 11 July 1855
d. 19 May 1925
2. Ada b. 1856, d. 1857
3. George Allan b. 4 Jan. 1858
4. John N. b. 1859, d. 1887
5. Annie b. 1861, d. 1861
6. Thomas b. 1862, d. 1862
7. Harry Milton b. 1864

I Russell VAWTER
II Chadwell VAWTER
b. 14 Sept. 1790
m. Susan Taylor

CHILDREN.

1. George T.
2. Pauline
3. Beverly S.
4. William
5. Matilda
6. Sophronia
7. Josiah

(All born about the 1830's)

William Henry Black, son of Henry Black and Mary Allison b. 28 Nov. 1846, IL., d. 15
Jan. 1920 Macomb, IL m. 11 Jan. 1874 Macomb, IL
To: Elizabeth Jane VAWTER, daughter of William Bradford VAWTER and Emma
Stevenson b. 9 March 1854 Macomb, IL

CHILDREN: 1. Charles LeRoy b. 1 March 1880 Macomb, IL
2. Bertha Ellen b. 12 Feb. 1882 Macomb, IL
3. Jessie Blanch b. 21 March 1884 Macomb, IL
4. Ruth Jane b. 31 Jan. 1886 Macomb, IL

Anderson Tinsley Blanton, son of David Blanton and Lucy Johns
b. 1794 d. 26 March 1832, Cumberland Co., VA
m. Elizabeth Pitt VAWTER, daughter of Edward VAWTER and Sarah Lee
b. 1774 Buckingham Co., VA
d. TN

CHILDREN: 1. Sarah b. 1812, m. John M. Hammeltree
2. Mary Frances b. 1813, m. Seymour Reynolds
3. George Wyatt b. 1 April 1814, d. 1870
4. Edward Anderson b. Jan. 1815 Cumberland Co., VA
d. 10 Jan. 1900 Richmond, VA
5. Alexander Monroe b. 1816, d. 1859

Emily Kyle VAWTER, daughter of John Elliott VAWTER and Emily Kyle Rudisill
b. 1 Aug. 1888 Powellton, W. VA m. 29 Oct. 1916 Ansted, W. VA
To: Dr. L. O. Fox, son of Dr. G. W. Fox and Ada Hess Fox
b. 1888 Fayette Co., W. VA

CHILDREN: 1. Lorah Otho b. 7 April 1919
2. George b. 27 April 1923

MEMORIAL

B. (Bessie) E. Van Osdol-Schneider, born 19 August 1911 near Epworth, MO died 25 March 1990 in Wichita, KS at age 78. She was a school teacher for 42 years, 39 of them in KS. She retired in 1976 having taught the last 13 years as an instructor of Journalism and English. Survivors include her sisters, Mrs. A. L. Keck, Mrs. Marvin W. Brigman and Mrs. Rex Bowman as well as her brothers, Perry H. Van Osdol and Elton and a half-brother George.

B. Van Osdol-Schneider designed flyers for two of our reunions which were mailed out to History and Genealogical Societies as well as newspapers to announce our reunion. She also illustrated Volume I and II of our VVV Vital Vittles cook books.

* * * * *

Hubert B. Vawter, 79 of Hot Springs died 13 October 1989. He was a member of Westminster Presbyterian Church. Survivors include two daughters, Patsy Poole and Charlotte Tillman, one brother, Lester Vawter and one sister, Alma (Vawter) Allen, all of Hot Springs.

* * * * *

Dr. Gordon Fuller Vawter, a pediatric pathologist and medical school professor of MA died at age 67. Dr. Vawter was Associate Pathologist In-Chief at Children's hospital, at which he worked for more than three decades, also was a professor of pathology at Harvard Medical School.

Dr. Vawter was born in Benton Harbor, MI. He is survived by his wife, the former Gabriele Meyer, a daughter, Dorothy Vawter of Minneapolis; two sons, Wm Vawter of Salt Lake City and Thomas Vawter of Natick, MA.; and two sisters, Dorothy Robb of Captiva, FL., and Virginia Storr of Toronto.

(Sent to me by Paul E. Vawter of N.J. who says he saw the obituary in many papers including The New York Times. Paul believes he is related to the Vawter family who owned and operated the firm of Baker-Vawter who mfg. bookkeeping forms etc. since they were located in Benton Harbor, MI)

* * * * *

Vivian Elizabeth Thompson, 88 died 12 Jan 1990 in Annapolis, MD. She was a former resident of North Vernon, IN where she and her husband, Albert B. Thompson, owned and operated the Park and Ritz theaters.

Mrs. Thompson was born in Madison, IN., the daughter of William D. & Daisy Wooden. Survivors are two children, Judith Thorpe and Richard Thompson; a brother, Paul Wooden. She was preceded in death by her husband. Her line: Jesse & Elizabeth (Watts) Vawter, Sarah (Vawter) & Thomas Stribling, Artemecia (Stribling) & Michael Wolf, Elizabeth Wolf & Milton H. Wooden, William D. Wooden & Daisy. (See Bicknell p. 219 & 236)

MEMBERSHIP DUES \$7.00 PER YEAR - DUE AND PAYABLE TO: VVVV ASSOCIATION
Mail to: Sue Vawter, Rt. 6, Box 370, Nacogdoches, TX 75961

FINAL REUNION NOTES

Remember to bring your craft items for our drawing.

Come prepared to take part in all the activities.

If you want to do research, the Holiday Inn Downtown is located ½ block from the Virginia State Library and Archives.

Saturday you will enjoy visiting "Vauter's Church" and then on to Wheatland Plantation for a picnic lunch. Nearby is Wheatland's dock & wharf, the only steamboat wharf remaining on the Rappahannock River.

Hope to see you there !!!

FLASH

I, Esther Vawter, your news editor would like to share room and expense with a single lady coming to the reunion, to take in Thursday night thru Saturday night. Please write or phone me: 1713 Merkley Avenue, West Sacramento, CA 95691 (916) 371-9156.

SHIRLEY BYLER'S "VAWTER" BOOK

Her book "The Family of Albert & Josie Vawter" is divided into two sections. Section I provides information on the descendants of Albert Vawter, son of John Taylor Vawter.

Section II begins on page 234 and goes thru 522 providing information on the early Virginia families connected with the Vawters, such as: Noel, Page, Gibs, Stokley, Vallott, Towles, Tucker, Hodgson, etc. Also, in this section you will find the Vawter line down to Jesse Vawter & Elizabeth Watts and Philemon Vawter & Anna Vawter. Many VVVFA members descend from these two couples.

If they are still available, the cost was \$40.00 plus \$2.50 for postage and handling. Contact Shirley Byler, Rt. 1, Box 319, Sweene, TX 77480

E.B. VAWTER'S GENEALOGY NOTES

For a long time now, I have been researching the family of William & Mary (Rucker) Vawter – the brother of Bicknell's Jesse & Philemon – who had settled in Woodford Co. KY. I recently found the marriage bonds, signed by William Vawter and Elliott Rucker and witnessed by an unknown son of William, John R. Vawter. They name William's daughter, Maria Vawter married George W. Rucker and his son David Jameson Vawter married to Harriot Rucker, children of Elliott Rucker.

I also found Winifred Hodgson (Hodges) grandparents to be Thomas & Elizabeth (Allen) Page. This makes two more generations to her ancestors.

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR VVV PRESIDENT

Dear VVV Cousins:

With the approach of summer, my excitement over the forthcoming VVV Family Reunion increases, and I hope that yours does too. I just received a letter from Mrs. Muscoe Garnett, and she tells me that the ladies of Vauter's Church met on May 14 to plan for their role in our reunion. The menu on Saturday, August 4, is to be an old fashioned "Country-Style Virginia Picnic." It will feature barbecued meat, home grown-vegetables from the ladies gardens, cantaloupe and watermelon, pastries and soft drinks. On Sunday, August 5, the ladies look forward to our attending the 10:30 A.M. services at Vauter's Church. After services, They are planning a special coffee party in the parish house in our honor.

In my last "President's Message," I neglected to mention that there is a riverboat tour that goes from Tappahannock, up the Rappahannock River for 20 miles to Leedstown. From there, busses take you to Ingleside Plantation Winery, which is a National Historic Registered place. An optional lunch, at extra cost, is served there. On the return trip, the boat stops at the wharf at Wheatland Plantation, where our picnic is being held on Aug. 4. This is not a part of our planned activities because it takes from 10:00 A.M. until 5:00 P.M.. Any of you who may be interested in taking this trip on your own, can obtain more information from the address listed below. It is advisable to make reservations early since this is a very popular cruise.

Rappahannock River Cruise
Warsaw, VA, 22572
Telephone: (804) 333-4656

Because this is the end of my second term as president, and probably the last opportunity I will have to address many of you directly, I want to take this occasion to thank all of you for allowing me to have the honor of being your president. If I have been derelict in my duties, or have slighted anyone, I assure you that it was unintentional and only the result of my ignorance. My sincere wish is that each and every one of you could come to the 1990 reunion so that I could tell each of you personally how I feel.

Long Live VVV

Marvin D. Vawter
11205 Wornall Road
Kansas City, MO, 64114-5342b

(Summer 1990)



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- ASSOCIATE EDITOR: Sally Brown, 3016 S. Madison, Tulsa, OK 74114
- CIRCULATION EDITOR: Beth Sabel, 931 S. E. 33rd Ave., Portland, OR 97214-4279
- EXCHANGE EDITOR: Bonita Welch, R. R. #1, Box 227, Scipio, IN 47273
- MEMBERSHIP: Bobbie Meek, 20025 106th Dr., Sun City, AZ 85373-1010

REUNION MEMORIES

Thursday the Early Birds met in the hospitality room and were hosted by Bobbee & Donna Vawter of DE.

Friday 9:00 a.m. Officers meeting - It was decided that dues were to be from January to January for the sake of keeping the books. Those who pay at the reunion will be paying five months in advance, or getting five months free however you want to look at it.

It was decided to appoint a Membership person who would take charge of the address labels and keep track of those who are not paid up. A one year grace period will be given after you receive a statement that your membership dues are due. The treasurer, Sue Vawter, will go through the membership list and drop all those who have not paid their dues for more than one year.

There will be another printing of the Volume 1 & 2 of the VVV Vital Vittles (cookbook). You may order from Bonita Welch and the cost is \$7.00 each, which includes packaging and mailing. Bonita's address is above.

The VVVFA is working on Incorporation papers and looking into liability insurance.

10:00 a.m. Official opening of the 13th annual VVVFA by Vice President, John H. Vawter in the absence of President, Marvin Vawter. We were sorry to hear he was having eye surgery. We all wish him well.

After the ringing of the "cow bell" by John Vawter, Bobbee Vawter of DE led us in the pledge to the U.S. flag and Bishop Billy Mack Vawter gave the invocation. A letter from our President, Marvin Vawter was read by John Vawter. The minutes of the last reunion were read by secretary, Beth Melton of TX.

The speaker for the morning was Mr. Charles Kolbe of the Virginia State Archives and library. The various things we could check were:

- | | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Personal Property Taxes | Patents & Grants |
| Real Estate Taxes | Vital Statistics 1853-1898 |
| Military | Church records - Registrars |
| Public Service Claims | Northern Neck Surveys etc. |
| Civil War Material | Tithable (Tax) list - white males 16 or older |

Bruce Vawter of MO volunteered to host next years VVVFA Reunion to be held in St. Louis, MO. (Marvin had to drop his invitation to Kansas City, MO. because of health.)

Future reunions are tentatively --Hot Springs, AR and Oklahoma City, OK

Friday Afternoon

On your own with suggested tours within 18 blocks of the hotel:

1. Virginia State Archives and Library
2. Virginia Capitol Building
3. John Marshall Home
4. White House of the Confederacy
5. Confederate Museum

Friday Night - Buffet

Following dinner Jean Vawter Robinson of NC gave a talk about her trip to England and her visit to Trematon Castle and about a surprise Valletort. Jean's talk elsewhere in the newsletter.

Later a "sort of" story of the Southern Migration of VVV's by Wordna & Fred Wicker with Fred telling a number of his famous tales.

The evening meeting closed with the giving out of the door prizes. Glen, as usual brought one of his famous home-made clocks; there were several perpetual calendars, one of wood and one needlepoint and many other gifts.

The genealogy chart was put up on the conference room wall, with all VVV's signing in.

Saturday Morning

Two buses were loaded to visit the Vauter Church and grounds, where a lovely picnic was served to everyone.

This was followed by a visit to the Wheatland Plantation, Mrs. Garnet proving a beautiful hostess in a tour of her home.

From there we walked down to the wharf which is still in use by a tour stop on the Rappahannock River. It is the only original steamboat wharf remaining on the Rappahannock River.

Saturday Night

Banquet - Recognition of:

Youngest attender -Philip Scott Russell, son of Mike & Cindy Vawter Russell of Canton, IL

Oldest attender: John Taylor of Memphis, TN

Traveling the Farthest: Larry & Jacque Vaughters from Woodland, CA

According to the registration, Texas had top attendance with 18.

Other top states: IL with 15, MS with 13 and TN, OK tied with 12.

In all there were 138 present with 25 first timers. Twenty three states represented.

Report from the Nominating Committee composed of:

Bill Vawter of TX

Bobbi Meek of AZ

Norma Jean Vawter of TN

Billy Mack Vawter of OK

Sally Brown of OK

Election:

John H. Vawter - President

Bishop Billy Mack Vawter - Vice President

Secretary - Beth Melton

Treasurer - Sue Vawter

Historian/Archivist - Norma Jean Vawter

Newsletter Editor - Esther M. Vawter

Circulating Editor - Beth Sabel

Exchange Editor - Bonita Welch

Membership - Bobbi Meeks

From 6:00 p.m. through the evening everyone had their individual & family pictures taken to be put into a Memory Album. Taking of the pictures were free and if you wanted an album you could sign up for it. Those not attending may send a picture to be included to: (Cost of Album \$10.00)

1990 VVV Reunion

Peach State Enterprises

506 South 7th Street

Cordele, GA 31015

At the last reunion, Bill Vawter of Houston, TX was named "Outstanding Vawter" of the year. At this reunion a plaque was presented to Bill Vawter.

MEMORIAL SERVICE

A Memorial Service was conducted by Wordna Wicker with her two granddaughters assisting by putting red and white carnations in vases as names were called. If when a name was read and you were related, you were requested to stand as remarks were given. Ellen Cummings, daughter of Wordna, sang a beautiful medley.

- 1 - DEBRA KAY MARTIN - Birmingham, AL, formerly of Martin, TN. Descendant of Thomas & Drucilla (Vawter) Martin. Kinswoman of Jimmy Corbitt.
- 2 - WALTER SPINK - Boring, OR. His wife is the former Eleanor Marie Vawter, sister of Beth Vawter Sabel, our Circulation Editor.
- 3 - MALCOL GORDON VAUGHTERS, JR., Byhalia, MS. He was the nephew of Jimmy & Norma Vaughters of Memphis, TN
- 4 - PAUL E. VAWTER, Indianapolis, IN. He was a tool and die maker; a Navy veteran and a member of the Catholic Church. He leaves his wife, Rosalie; two sons Mark & Michael Vawter; and a daughter, Cheryl Sears.
- 5 - VIRGIL M. CLARKSON, Indianapolis, IN. He was a retired employee of Central Motor Parts and a WW II Army veteran. His wife and two infant children preceded him in death. He is survived by two nephews and four nieces, one of who is Bonita Welch, our Exchange Editor.
- 6 - THOMAS CLARKSON, Butlerville, IN. He was a retired poultry & egg dealer; avid sports fan. He is survived by his wife Ada; two daughters and three grandchildren, Uncle of Bonita Welch.
- 7 - M. DUANE VAWTER, Indianapolis, IN.; self-employed electronics tech.; and Army vet. Survived by his wife, Carol; sister, Diane Lawrence and two brothers, Nelson & Raymond Vawter.

Fall 1990 p.

MEMORIAL SERVICE (cont.)

- 8 - B. VAN OSDOL-SCHNEIDER, Wichita, KS. She was a retired school teacher with majors in Journalism & English. She is survived by three sisters; two brothers; and one half-brother. She attended a number of our reunions, designed two mail out flyers about our reunions and did the art work for our two VVV Cookbooks.
- 9 - HUBERT B. VAWTER, Hot Springs, AR. He attended several of our reunions and his family helped to host our first reunion in AR.
- 10 - LAVADA VAWTER, Hot Springs, AR. Wife of Hubert B. Vawter died six months after death of her husband.
- 11 - PATSY VAWTER POOLE, Hot Springs, AR. She died one month ago and was the daughter of Hubert B. & Lavada Vawter.
- 12 - DR. GORDON FULLER VAWTER, MA. He was a pediatric pathologist and professor at Harvard Medical School. He and his wife attended the 1987 reunion in Columbus, IN. He is survived by his wife, a daughter Dorothy, two sons William & Thomas.
- 13 - VIVIAN ELIZABETH THOMPSON, Annapolis, MD. She was a former resident of North Vernon, IN and related to the Vawters of that area. Her line is found in Bicknell pp 219 & 236.
- 14 - WILLIAM MURRAY WICKER, Memphis, TN. He was a retired teacher and guidance counselor. He is survived by his wife May; mother, Ora Wicker of Tupelo, MB; bros. Ken & Fred and uncle Reece.
- 15 - HENRY ALEXANDER VAWTER, Winchester, VA. James Henry & Lillian Vawter attended reunion 10 years ago. His sister, Clara Vawter James was present at the 1990 reunion.
- 16 - LEWIS BEARDEN, Dawson Co, GA. He and his wife, the former Helen Vaughters attended the Georgia reunion. They will be remembered by those present as being the one who won the hand-made quilt.
- 17 - ROBERT BURROW VAWTER, Jackson, TN. He was a retired carpenter and leaves his wife Lillian: three daughters and two sons.
- 18 - NELL STITT WARREN, Denver, TN. Died 3 July 1990 at age 97. She was married to the late David L. Warren and was the daughter of the late Andrew C. & Nelle Corbitt Stitt, first cousin of Jim Corbitt. Line p 224 in Bicknell.
- 19 - WILLIS MAC VAWTER, Saskatoon, Saskatawan, Canada. He was the son of Charles Ralph & Elizabeth Goodwin Vawter. He is of the line of Glen Vawter of IL.
- 20 - PAUL EUGENE VAWTER, Indianapolis, IN. died 13 Oct. 1989. He is of the Scyler Beverly Vawter line. He was the brother of Maxine Vawter Joling in attendance at the reunion.
- 21 - PATRICIA ANN VAWTER, Indianapolis, IN. She was a sister of Paul Eugene Vawter and also of Maxine Vawter Joline.
- 22 - THEODORE ROOSEVELT VAWTER, Denver, CO. died 1 Aug. 1990 at age 86. He was an electrician by trade; son of Calvin & Josie Vawter. He is survived by his wife Lydia; two sons and one daughter; one sister, Shirley Vawter Byler. He was known officially to those of us in the VVVFA as Ted. He and his wife attended the first reunion in AR. and had his own reunion with his sister, Shirley for the first time in 25 years. Thereafter they both attended the VVVFA reunions until health prevented them in recent years. He was the uncle to Beth Melton and Beth Sabel.

The evening closed out with the drawing of the rest of the gifts. Total was 61 items.

SUNDAY

Caravan to service at the Vauter's Church 10:30 a.m. The "Love" offering to the church amounted to \$1,400. Communion was served using the original Silver chalice and plate.

Lunch was served by the church members, a delightful ending to the 1990 VVVFA reunion.

A TRIP TO TREMATON CASTLE, CORNWALL, ENGLAND

By Jean Vawter Robinson - May 1990

Six of us traveled for a week around Cornwall, England. It is the most Western county of England jutting out into the Atlantic. Our first two stops are the ones which may be of interest to you. In a rented mini-van we crossed on a ferry from Plymouth to Cornwall and the peninsula location of Mount Edgcombe Country House and Park. Touring the house I found paintings of WILLIAM HENRY VALLETORT (1832-1917), 4th Earl of Mount Edgcombe, father of Viscount Valletort; and Viscount Valletort (1865-1944) on his 21st birthday, later the 5th Earl of Mount Edgcombe. (I do not know when the prefix "de" was dropped from the name). These two Earls are part of our on-going relatives in England.

Our next stop was Trematon Castle, west from Plymouth across the River Tamar to Saltash and southwest of the little town of St. Stephens. We had help from three different people through narrow lanes and hedgerows and saw our first view of the castle across a pasture opening.

Your Vawter (Vauter, Vaughter(s)) ancestry in America stems from the early deValletorts who came from Normandy (northern France) with William, Duke of Normandy and conquered England at the Battle of Hastings in 1066; now known as the Norman Conquest. The Duke became William the Conqueror or William I of England.

William claimed the Monarchy of England as promised by Edward the Confessor years earlier. But on his death bed, January 5, 1066, Edward chose Harold Godwinson, 2nd son of Godwin, his powerful advisor. Harold was crowned the following day.

The Duke of Normandy in France sent several messages to Harold saying that he was coming within the year to take England for himself. He did so ten months later at the Battle of Hastings and Harold was killed. William promised land to all who fought with him. The largest grant was given to his half-brother, Robert of Mortain. In turn Robert assigned Trematon Castle and 33 other holdings to Reginald deValletort as chief tenant in 1068. This area included much of the counties of Cornwall and Devon and east across to Kent, much of southern England. England at that time was made up of small agricultural towns with London being the center of government. Reginald deValletort was responsible for protecting and developing this area all the rivers and harbors in between.

Trematon Castle was really a hill site location surrounded by a bailey wall of stone and wood. It was a Roman site of earlier centuries. Reginald deValletort built a high stone circular keep (a typical Norman Castle) to house the defenders, their armor, spears and all other defense weapons of the period. A stronger bailey wall was built. It is thought that the gatehouse with two iron gates to be raised and lowered (portcullises) was built in the mid-thirteenth century. An apartment on the 2nd and 3rd floors has been occupied in the past. The 3rd floor now serves as a dovecote.

A man living in a small cottage at the entrance of the castle driveway secured permission for the six of us to see the castle. The people who lease the manor house (built in 1807) were very gracious to let us walk around the property. Four

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of us climbed to the keep and went inside. There are no interior walls or roof remaining, only natural grasses. My husband climbed a ladder up the interior wall of the keep and took pictures of the view. It was a thrill for me to have the privilege of seeing it all.

Background history of Trematon Castle:

1. Roman lookout fortification until 462 AD
2. Norman Conquest, 1066
3. Robert of Mortain gave tenancy to Reginald deValletort, 1068
4. Edward III of England awarded Trematon Castle to his son Edward, the Black Prince in 1336 and established the Duchy of Cornwall.

This is the beginning of granting properties for the personal income of the crown prince. Today the same property holdings are the income of Charles, Prince of Wales who is also the Duke of Cornwall.

References;

1. Ordnance Survey- Pathfinder 1356 (map) Plymouth 45/55 Crown copyright 1988
2. 1066 The Year of the Conquest, David Howarth, The Viking Press, New York 1977
3. The Monarchs of England, Jean Morris. Charterhouse, New York 1975
4. Ancient Trematon, Its Ties to the Present, visited by Dorothy I. Vawter, Text by B. Van Osdol-Schneider, Jan. 1982, copy available from files of VVVFA.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE 1990-91

Betty Bert of GA

Duncan Brown of OK

Bill Vawter of TX

Bruce Vawter of MO

Wordna Wicker of MS

QUERY

From: Nancy Foley Johnson, 1097 Chinoe Road, Lexington, KY 40502-3009

Who was Margaret Vawter who married Robert Hill Sr.? Robert was b. 3-10-1750 Culpepper Co., VA., moved to KY 1789 and d. 7-28-1833 Bourbon Co. KY. He lived in later years in Bourbon Co., KY and evidently did not leave a will. He is a Revolutionary War soldier 1778 - discharged Aug. 1780 - pension application 1 April 1833. If anyone can help her, please fill me in also.

From Karen Bowman, 3900 W. 126th Street, Leawood, KS. 66209

I have the first three pages of "I Descend From Some Of the Planters of Old Rappahannock, Virginia" by W.T. Vawter which appeared in the Northeast Texas Genealogical Society Quarterly, Volume V, June 1974, Number 2.

I would like to have the remaining pages as I would like to have the references for the information included in this article. I would like to know the documentation of the marriage of Thomas Page & Elizabeth Allen. If anyone has this documentation I would appreciate hearing from them.

I included excerpts of this article in issue #18 for Spring 1983 of the VVVFA newsletter. I had only the first three pages also. (Esther Vawter)

QUOTE - Every man is a bundle of his ancestors - Emerson

Fall 1990

These are the names of those on the register attending some or all of the 1990 VVVFA Reunion at Richmond, Virginia. There was a total of 138 present from 23 states.

ARIZONA
Bobbi Meek

CALIFORNIA
Glenn & Marjorie Vawter
Garry & Glenda Vawter
Larry & Jacque Vaughters
Esther M. Vawter

DELAWARE
Robert & Donna Vawter
Raymond & Marlyn Holder
Robert & Mary Vawter
Their children, Robert,
Amanda & Jessie

WASHINGTON, D.C.
James G. & Elinor Vaughter

FLORIDA
David C. & Marie Vaughter
Becky Guinagh

GEORGIA
Charles & Betty Burt
Cheryl Glasgow
Bud & Vivian Stephens
Flora Vaughters Waters
Lula V. Thampson
John Carlson
Margie Provine

ILLINOIS
Paul A. & Connie Bugos, Tad Bugos
Edith & Harry L. Vawter
Donald & Alice Vawter
Candy Vawter Russell
Glen & May Vawter
Roger Vawter
Shirley Beasley, Mark
Wilma Schapmise

INDIANA
Bonita Welch

KENTUCKY
Mike & Michelle Alexander

MARYLAND
Mary G. Winningham

MICHIGAN
Robert & Margaret Vawter
Robert & Ila Vawter
Gary Vawter

MISSISSIPPI
Martha Hudson
Emery & Clarice Mayer
Fred & Wordna Wicker
Roger & Gayle Wicker
Karen Vaughters Tatum
Mary Reese
Ken & Norma Wicker
Randall E. & Blanche Murff

MISSOURI
Bruce & Linda Vawter

NEW YORK
A. Thomas & Cathryn Vauter

NORTH CAROLINA
Jean Vawter Robinson

OHIO
Harold & Venie Vawters

(over)

MEMBERSHIP DUE \$7.00 PER YEAR - DUE AND PAYABLE IN JANUARY TO: VVVF
ASSOCIATION Mail to: Sue Vawter, Rt. 6, Box 370, Nacogdoches, TX,
75961-9687

OKLAHOMA

Oscar & Erma Vawter, Jr.
Edna & Woodrow W. Bowers
Bill & Dorothy Vawter
Bill & Diane Loch
William D. & Diana Vawter
Duncan & Sally Brown

PENNSYLVANIA

Ann Raack Dome
Clara V. James

TENNESSEE

Norma Vaughters
James & Alliene Corbitt
Betty Callis
Lynn & Paul Weekley
John & Hazel Taylor
Robert M. & Norma Jean Vawter
Jim & Barbara V. De Fur

TEXAS

John H. & Sue Vawter
James E. & Mary Vawter
Juanita M. Baker
Bill & Sally Vawter
Bess Shoemaker
Beth & Joe Melton
Bill & Thelma Shattuck
Mildred Childers
Jo & Larry Lacy
Mace & Noel Moreland
Phil Vaughter

UTAH

Kenneth & Anna Marie Vawter

VIRGINIA

Ned & Ellen Cummings
Harry C. & Emily Dunlap
James H. Vawter, Jean, Ralph & Lisa

WISCONSIN

Wayne Vawter
Maxine Joling, Bill Cook, Larry Aue
& Dale Aue.



FAMILY ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

Winter 1990

p.7

Volume 15 #2

FAMILY ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

PRESIDENT: John H. Vawter, Rt. 6, Box 370, Nacogdoches, TX 75961
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EXCHANGE EDITOR: Bonita Welch, R. R. #1, Box 227, Scipio, IN 47273
MEMBERSHIP: Bobbie Meek, 20025 106th Dr., Sun City, AZ 85373-1010

TV

In a recent TV docudrama "Insanity on Trial", based on the 1881 case of Charles Guiteau, RON VAWTER played the part of Charles Guiteau. Guiteau claimed he had been instructed by God to assassinate President James A. Garfield. Guiteau participated in his own defense during the 72 day trial. There were also comments from historians.

Mount Edgcumbe - Valletort

(Editor/Esther Vawter - After hearing about the travels of Jean Robinson and seeing the Valletort at Mount Edgcumbe in England I wrote to my valuable Valletort source of family history, James L. Vawter of El Campo, TX 77437 for an explanation. Below is what he believes to be essentially the information I requested.)

Devonshire Pedigrees by John Tuckett display various genealogical charts, among which is that of Champernons.

Temp. Edward I, Richard Champernon married Joan, daughter of Joan Valletort. Joan brought the manor of Modbury to this marriage, and the Champernons became known, as of Modbury.

Two generations later another Richard Champernon married Elizabeth, daughter of Hugh Valletort, of North Tawton. Some generations later Richard and Elizabeth's descendant Jane Dernford, daughter of Stephen Dernford of Rome, married Piers Edgcumbe, the father of Sir Richard Edgcumbe, Earl of Mount Edgcumbe, and Viscount Valletort. Jane brought Mount Edgcumbe to their marriage before it was known as Mount Edgcumbe. Its Ante-Mount Edgcumbe name was Vaultershome.

The Crown probably extended the Viscount Valletort title on the basis of part descendancy, and part landholdings. Vaultershome was in the Manor of Maker which was given to the ancient Valletorts by King Henry I. The gift also included the ancient Royal manors of Sutton, and Kings Tamerton. Sutton later became known in part as Sutton Vawter. These manors along with the Island of St. Nicholas, (now known as Drakes Island) which they also held just about took in all the land area around what is now known as Plymouth Harbor.

Mount Edgcombe- Valletort cont.

However, the Edgcombes; even though related to the Valletorts by blood are not Valletorts. They only hold the Viscount Valletort title. A modern parallel to this situation would be the Duke of Norfolk. The Queen might call him Norfolk when speaking to him and he would respond, but his true name is Howard. Norfolk is only his title name,

QUERY

From James H. Vawter, Route #1, Box 293, Kinsale, VA 22488 - Ph. (804) 472-2599 My father was James Samuel Vawter. I have very little information on his brothers and sisters.

One brother, *William Alfred Vawter, lived in Roanoke, VA. He, his wife, Mable, and his two children are buried there.

Uncle Alfred's one daughter, Agnes, married a Pat Patterson. I understand Agnes has a married daughter living in Virginia. I would like to locate her. Should anyone know of her, please let me know.

Genealogy of James H. Vawter

I Bartholomew Vawter, II Edward Vawter, III William Vawter, IV William Vawter, V John Henderson Vawter, VI John William Vawter b. 30 Sept. 1834, d. 5-22-1914
m. 25 Sept. 1866 To: Elizabeth Dew Kean

CHILDREN

1. John Alexander 8-29-1867, 4-30-1868
 2. Nelson Carlyle 12-23-1868, 12-10-1935
 3. Clara McDonald 1-23-1870, 4-24-1894
 - *4. William Alfred 5-7-1872, 6-16-1955
 5. Charles Kean 9-14-1873
 6. Andrew Elliott 2-1-1876, 6-9-1898
 7. JAMES SAMUEL
 8. Henry Alexander 10-21-1880, 6- -1948
- VII JAMES SAMUEL VAWTER b. 23 Feb. 1878, d. 22 July 1957, m. 28 Nov. 1900
To: Sophie Pile at Green Spring, Abingdon, VA

CHILDREN

1. Ray Alexander b. 6 March 1902, d. 9 Sept. 1945
m. 28 Aug. 1930 Methodist Episcopal Church, South Savage, MD
To: Francis Lillian Felton b. 24 June 1908, d. 18 Feb. 1989
- CHILDREN
1. Robert Henry 5-11-32
 2. John William 2-15-36
2. Margaret Elizabeth b. 27 May 1904, d. 18 June 1909
 3. Virginia Dare b. 13 July 1906, m. 6 Aug. 1935 Mt. Zion Church, Highland, MD
To: Paul Hicks Groseclose b. 11 June 1906, d. 8 April 1975

CHILDREN

1. William Taylor 1-21-37
 2. Keith Thomas 10-1-40
 3. Paul Douglas 10-8-45
4. Mary Elinor b. 14 April 1912, m. 13 Jan. 1938 Laurel, MD
To: James Wilson Shipley b. 1 Sept. 1914
- CHILDREN
1. Thomas Alan Shipley 8-29-41
 2. Patricia Lynn 5-4-45
5. James Henry b. 28 July 1913, m. 19 June 1938 at bride's home Fairview Farm,
To: Mary Evelyn Cissel b. 10 Aug. 1912 Howard Co., MD
- CHILDREN
1. Shirley Jean 11-28-45
 2. Ralph Courtney 11-13-47

NEW MEMBERS

Becky Edwards Dinkins, Route #1, Box 51, Freeburg, IL 62243 (cousin of Fred Wicker)

Jerry Edwards, 262 Suburban Avenue, Concord, N. C. 28027 (cousin of Fred Wicker)

BIRTH

The grand-parents, Larry William & Jacqueline May Reimer Vaughters, of Woodland, CA. wish to announce that their son Lance William Vaughters and daughter-in-law, Sigrid Elizabeth Kohler Vaughters are the proud parents of Lucia Jacqueline Reimer Vaughters was born 18 September 1990 at 10:25 p.m.

MEMORIAL

Patsy Vawter Poole died Tuesday, July 31 1990 at age 52. Patsy is the youngest daughter of Hubert B. Vawter and a niece of Alma V. Allen. She leaves her husband Orville Poole, five sons, five grand-children, sister, Charlotte Tillman, and an uncle, Lester D. Vawter.

Scott Vawter age 82 died Thursday, 27 October 1990 in Indianapolis, IN. He had been a machine repairman at Allison Transmission Division of General Motors Corp. for 25 years, retiring in 1969. He was the widower of Josephine Bowers Vawter, survivors: sons, Steven L. and Donald Scott Vawter; sisters, Catherine Rasdall and Martha Fishel; brother, George Vawter, eight grand-children and five g-grand-children.

BRIDGEPORT CHRISTIAN CHURCH

This church was established in the late Autumn of 1846 in the village of Bridgeport. For many years they had been members of the South Benson Baptist Church. On the beginning pages of the original record of this church appears the following: "We whose names are hereunto subscribed, being Disciples of Jesus Christ, do this day form and constitute ourselves into a church of Christ to be known by the name of The Church of God at Bridgeport. Given under our hands this 7th day of November, 1846". Twenty five names are listed.

Land was given to this church by Mary Bailey Jenkins, a charter member, a tract between the Farmdale Road and South Benson Creek, and on this the first Christian Church of Bridgeport was erected at a point about 450 yards south of the Frankfort-Shelbyville road. (Hopkins Co., KY)

Forty pastors have served the Bridgeport Christian Church through the 109 years (1846-1955) of its existence one of whom was J. M. VAWTER. (Editor - Does anyone know where this Vawter fits in?)

JAMES VAWTER HOME

From: The Early Architecture of Madison, IN by John T. Windle & Robert M. Taylor, Jr. p. 73 #31 - Vawter - Coleman House

The land occupied by this house at 1534 Crozier Avenue was given to the city of North Madison by James Vawter for a school and meetinghouse. Probably built shortly after 1843, it shows many of the characteristics of Georgian architecture, such as the dormer windows, the slope of the roof, and the short windows on the first floor. In the interior there is a baseboard but no cornice, a chair rail, and a twisting staircase rising in one corner of the living room. The fireplace at the east end of the building has disappeared. The entire building is crude in its construction, giving credence to the idea that it was built by volunteers. The present owners are Perry and Virginia Coleman. (Published 1986)

From: David M. McDonald, 405 Bernard Dr. Buffalo Grove, IL 60089-3409

HISTORY OF SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS

P. 454 under the title, Eighth Annual Meeting

Cantrall's Grove, in the north part of the county, was the place selected for the eighth annual meeting, and the Menard county old settlers had been invited to meet with the old settlers of Sangamon. The meeting was late in being called to order. Rev. Mr. Vawter of Cantrall delivered the address of welcome and prayer.

p. 992 under the title, Second Rochester Christian Church:

In September 1877 our new meeting house, thirty-six by fifty-six feet was ready for use, and the dedication sermon was preached by Elder W. W. Everest, President of Eureka College. In December 1877, Elder P. Vawter held a protracted meeting, which resulted in sixteen to twenty additions to the church.

p. 1049 under the title, Religious:

The Christian Church of Williamsville had as pastors,Philemon Vawter, July 1873-1874.

p. 1050 under the title of Barclay:

The Barclay Christian Church was organized in 1837 and was known as the Wolf Creek Christian Church. The name of Elder Vawter is on the list of ministers.

GLEANINGS

In The Virginia Genealogist Vol. 20, #1 Jan. - Mar. 1976, p. 34, Heading: Cumberland Co.

A list of Insolvents & Removals Returned by John Lee, Deputy Sheriff for Henry Skipwith of Cumberland for the year 1788.

At the bottom of the list appears, Elliott Vawter, insolvent.

In The Virginia Genealogist Vol. 27, #3 July- Sept. 1983

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 several years after the death of her husband in great distress.

In The Virginia Genealogist Vol. 27, #2 April - June 1983

Peter Rucker, Culpeper. Removed to New Orleans about the commencement of the American Revolution.

In the Journal of the Greenbrier Historical Society, Vol. III, #5 1979 (W. VA.)

Marriage Licenses in the MARRIAGE RECORD 1 A

William Vaters and Peggy Henderson 12 Feb. 1795 by J. Kobber

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

ASSOCIATION Mail to: Sue Vawter, Rt. 6, Box 370, Nacogdoches, TX 75961

Winter 1990 p. 12

WILLIAM VAWTER - MARY RUCKER

The original Marriage Bond of WILLIAM VAWTER & MARY RUCKER, with James Stapp, surety, of date, 19 June 1784, with the following note to the clerk - - - -

Sir.

Be pleased to grant a license for wedlock between Wm Vawter and Mary Rucker and this shall oblige me to keep you harmless and indemnify you for so long.

MARY RUCKER
June 18th, 1784

To the Clk. Orange Ct.

Test: Achilles Stapp
James Stapp

The following license is with said papers

Orange County Ct.

Whereas there is a marriage suddenly intended to be solemnized between William Vawter and Mary Rucker, spinster, both of the aforesaid County, I do hereby certify that the said Mary Rucker is of lawful age (unreadable) and at the time the said William Vawter with James Stamp his surety entered into bond in my office in the sum of fifty pounds current money payable to the Commonwealth, with condition that there is no lawful cause to obstruct the said marriage. Given under my hand this 19th day of June 1784

Test:
James Taylor C.O.C.

To JAMES MADISON Gent. First Justice
Com. of the peace for said County.

(This would indicate William Vawter & Mary Rucker were married by James Madison later the 4th President of the U. S.)

All of the above From: E. B. Vaughters of Seattle. WA

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1991 VVVFA Reunion - St. Louis Aug. 2, 3, & 4 - Bruce Vawter Host.

VVVFA cook books, Vol. 1 & 2 VVV Vital Vittles available for \$7.00 each which includes postage and handling. Order from: Bonita Welch, R. R. #1, Box 227, Scipio, IN 47273-9761.



NEWSLETTER

FAMILY ASSOCIATION Spring 1991 Vol. 15 #3

FAMILY ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

PRESIDENT: John H. Vawter, Rt. 6, Box 370, Nacogdoches, TX 75961-9687
V.P.: Bishop Billy Mack Vawter, 3618 W. 39th, Oklahoma City, OK 73119-2918
SECRETARY: Beth Melton, 1211 Casa Vale, Dallas, TX 75218-3141
TREASURER: Sue Vawter, Rt. 6, Box 370, Nacogdoches, TX 75961-9687
ASSIST. TRES: John Vawter
HISTORIAN/ARCHIVIST: Norma Vawter, 509 Oaklawn, Milan, TN 38358-9655
NEWS EDITOR: Esther M. Vawter, 1713 Merkley Ave., W. Sacramento, CA 95691-3201
ASSOCIATE EDITOR: Sally Brown, 3016 S. Madison, Tulsa, OK 74114-5231
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EXCHANGE EDITOR: Bonita Welch, R.R. #1, Box 227, Scipio, IN 47273-9761
MEMBERSHIP: Bobbie Meek, 20025 106th Dr., Sun City, AZ 85373-1010

From: George F. Perkins - What Genealogy means to me.

SHARED TRADITIONS

We are all a product of our own experiences, times, character and traditions that have been past down to us from our ancestors through our parents.

No matter how great or small, or how long or short a man may live; he has made his contribution to the character of mankind through his relationships and actions with the people he has come in contact with. A child may only live a very few seconds and yet his life has left its imprint on his parents. Every ancestor therefore has played a role in shaping the world in which they lived, passing their personalities, character and traditions down through the generations. We choose from among these traits, add to them our own personal experiences to create the individual we are.

Our family consists of a conglomeration of different blends of cultural, sociological, religious, economic, and ethnic backgrounds. Through the study of our family genealogy we bring to life the hidden legacy that is our own ancestral identity. An ancestry that lives deep within us. The deeper we get into our genealogy, the more compassion, appreciation, and understanding we have for our ancestors as well as ourselves.

We represent a proud heritage; yet our vanity must never cloud our eyes. As with any family, ours has had its triumphs as well as its failures. Ours is not to judge. The influence on our lives differ greatly from the influences that effected our forefathers.

p. 14 Spring 1991

IN MEMORIAM

ORA WILEY WICKER died December 15, 1990 at her home in Tupelo, Mississippi at age 91. A native of Union County, MS., she had lived in Oklahoma when it was Indian Territory, and in West Texas when it was frontier. She was the oldest child of Thomas Street Wiley and Emma Ellen VAWTER.

She was married to Thomas Murry Wicker, who predeceased her in 1946. They were the parents of five children: Thomas Frederick, William Murry, James Kenneth, Charles Gibson and Mary Reese; four of whom survive her.

Denied a formal education in her youth, she insisted upon it for her children. At the age of 29 she realized her lifelong ambition for herself by entering nurses training at Baptist Hospital, Memphis, TN. Twenty-five years of hospital and private duty gave zest to her life at the stage when many women are settling back into the rocking chair. A second dream was realized when she was able to take art lessons at this time of her life.

Forced by arthritis to sell her Memphis home in 1984, Ora moved to Tupelo, MS. to be near her family. She was able to maintain semi-independence in her own home until the time of her death.

When the forerunner of the present VVV Family Association was attended in 1977 by Bill Vawter, Hazel McCandless, Paul H. Vaughter, Sr., the Wickers, and others, Ora wrote 25 post cards to her Oklahoma cousins who she has known and loved since her childhood. The result of that first encounter with the Vawter/Vaughters has resulted in a phenomenon which has lasted 14 years and shows no sign of stopping.

The 1986 VVVFA Reunion in Tupelo, MS. was dedicated jointly to Ora Wiley Wicker and Paul H. Vaughter, Sr.

Obituary From Days Gone By

James Mavity Vawter, Christian gentleman, minister, friend, was born of a family of preachers, in Jefferson Co., IN over three score and ten years ago, and for more than 40 years preached the unsearchable riches of Christ.

Brother Vawter began his education for the ministry at the college of the Bible, Lexington, KY. His first pastorate began at Miami, MO. in 1882. Then followed many fruitful ministries in Marion, IA.; Winfield and Salina, KS.; Poplar Bluff, Monroe City. Slater, Liberty, Lawson and Windsor, MO.; Charleston, IL., Omaha, NB.; and Sullivan, Jeffersonville and Corydon, IN. While at Charleston and Sullivan he led in building enterprises and left them with fine church homes. Time was often found in a busy life to do much evangelistic work.

In Corydon, his last work, he fell on sleep after a few days waiting for the end causes by a stroke of apoplexy. His body was laid away December 11, 1926 in the Jeffersonville cemetery where he served the congregation three different times for a total of 20 years.

His Christian courtesy, scholarly ability, unfailing humor, were finely shown last year at Bloomington, IN where he was the president of the Indiana State Convention of our churches.

To Mrs. Vawter and three children; Fred and Mary of Louisville, KY; and Richard of Des Moines, IA., we know that the words of hope and encouragement given to others in like bereavement by Brother Vawter, will return as doves to their windows.

By Fred R. Davies

GLEANINGS

From a publication giving Bible records contributed by Mrs. J.T. Wilson of GA

Names and ages of HENRY VAUGHTER'S children:

Dealy - - - - -	12-8-1885
Deely	11-?-1887 (d. 1964, invalid)
Mary	6-22-1888
Lovey	2-22-1892
Awthar	11-18-1893

Linzey Vaughters was married 5-14-1857 to Kesiah Marinda Hicks in Lumpkin Co., GA

Jane Vaughters, the wife of James Vaughters was born 3-9-1794

Children:

William (J) - - - - -	9-24-1812
Hiram (s)	11-?-1814
Lucinda	5-13-1816
Elizabeth	2-21-1818
Linzy	6-28-1820
Viny	8-13-1823
Delia	2-26-1825
Lydia	4-27-1827
Jane	4-27-1829
Eliza (A)	4-13-1831

Jackson Bennett was born 3-24-1848 (son of Jane Vaughters)

Kisiah Marinda Hix was born 10-24-1835

Henry Vaughters b. 5-13-1864

Hiram Bennett Singleton Vaughter b. 4-20-1866

Information taken from marriage records of Lumpkin & Dawson Co. tombstones and application for 12 months support of widows.

Elizabeth m. 12-28-1846 Robert Stone and William C. Anderson who d. 4-5-1868

ANDERSON issue: Tabbitha m. 7-4-1870 Rev. Wm J. Hyde

Ireny d. 1922, m. 1-27-1866 James Lewis Green, s/o a Union soldier

Mary Jane d. 1-5-1929, m. 10-19-1867 William Andrews

Sealy Caroline m. 12-23-1869 James Kelly

Jordan L. b. 8-12-1864, d. 9-17-1942, m. Elizabeth Kate Kelly

James Robert b. 3-16-1860, d. 9-28-1931, m. 12-6-1877

Sarah Frances Burt m. 2nd Mamie Nelms

George (Bud) m. 11-26-1882 Emily Jane Cohlins (Collins)

Names and ages of George and Epsey Vaughters children:

George R. - - - - -	5-29-1860
Epsey Catherine	8-7-1861, m. 9-1-1880
William Asker (Oscar)	7-6-1881
Linzey	10-12-1883
Homer C.	4-4-1885
Anis Docia	11-1-1887
Hiram Solomon	6-28-1891
Erva M.C.	9-25-1892
Pearlie Jane	11-25-1894, d. 9-18-1895
Lela	11-28-1895
Coa	3-2-1898

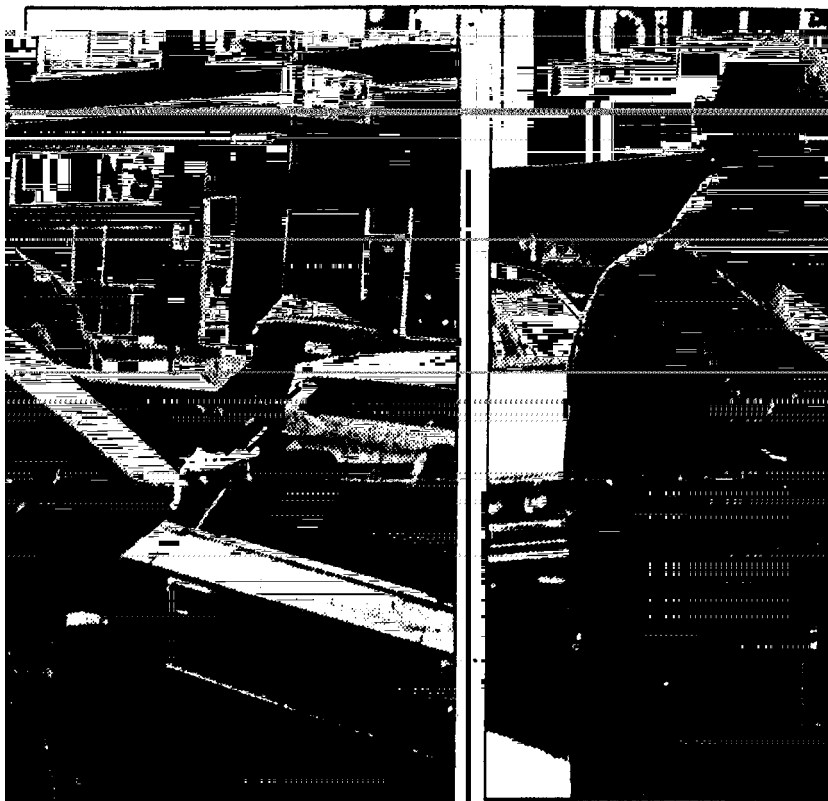
Lydia m. Thomas Nix

Jane m, 1-5-1847 Robert Bennett, she d. 7-25-1912

Eliza m. 2-7-1857 Elijah Blackburn, who d. 9-2-1862

Spring 1991 p. 16

From John Carlson Jr. , Colbert, GA



Staff Photo By Kay Shiver

A Christmas keepsake

Herbert Hoover was President of the United States and Charles Lindbergh had made his historic transatlantic flight three years before John Carlson, Jr. received this all-metal replica of the *Spirit of St. Louis* as a Christmas gift from Santa Claus. Mr. Carlson keeps the 60-year-old plane as a keepsake and has had it repainted once in its lifetime.

NEW MEMBERS

Joyce Carter, 5810 Par Four Drive, Houston, TX 77088

Cecil M. Cupp, 1213 Luhe Street, Orangeburg, S.C. 29115

REUNION

I hope many of you out there are working on craft items for door prizes, if you are not gifted along craft lines you are permitted to purchase, something and bring it along. We had many beautiful items last year.

Which state will have the most attending the reunion; Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, Tennessee or Texas? Last year it was Illinois (maybe because it was held there). Will Missouri have the most this year? I am anxious to see.

PROFILE

CHARLES ERASTUS VAWTER, Born 9 June 1841 in Monroe County, VA (now W. VA.), d. 27 October 1905; son of John Henderson and Clara (Peck) Vawter.

His father, a farmer and civil engineer, at the age of sixty joined the Confederate army with his four sons, and all five in time became captains.

Charles, who entered Emory and Henry College in 1858, left upon the outbreak of the war to enlist in the Monroe County Guards, a part of the "Stonewall Brigade." He soon proved himself a leader; he was appointed a captain of sharpshooters in 1862 and served in the field until March 1865, when he was captured and imprisoned in Fort Delaware. Released in June, he returned to Emory and Henry, where he graduated in 1866 and in July of that year married Virginia Longley, daughter of Prof. Edmund Longley. Seven children were born of this union, all survived their father.

After teaching for a year, he entered the University of Virginia, graduated in mathematics with distinction, was elected professor of mathematics and teacher of Hebrew at Emory and Henry. Taking office in 1868, he served this institution for ten years.

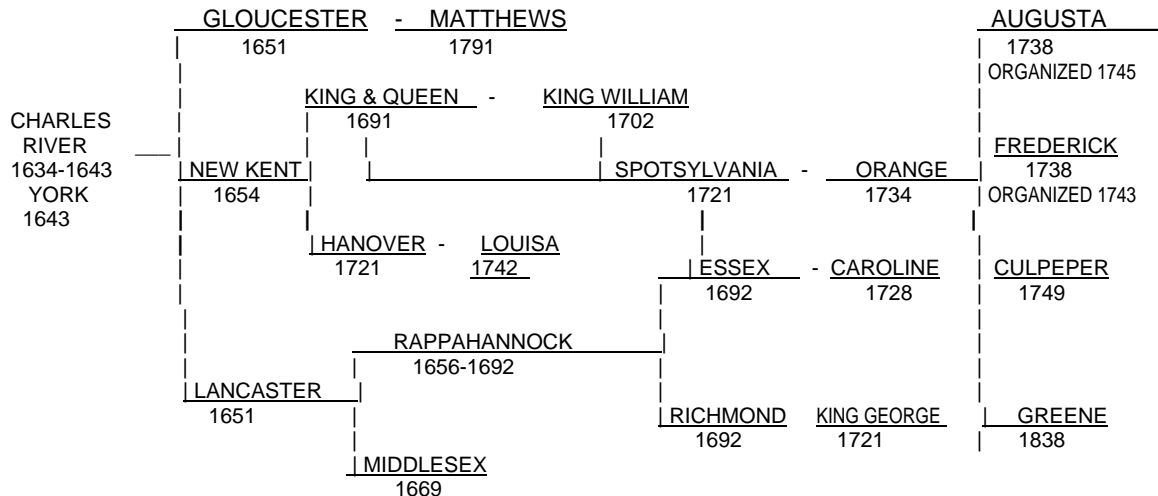
In 1878 Vawter was selected to build and organize the Miller Manual Labor School of Albemarle County, VA. This school was founded by a bequest of Samuel Miller of \$1,250,000 in Virginia state certificates; Vawter persuaded the legislature to pass an act which preserved its endowment to the school and aided other schools in Virginia holding similar certificates.

Vawter came to his task with enthusiasm, rich experience, and clear views on education. The Miller school, an institution for orphan boys and girls, established on a farm, with buildings and shops especially erected and equipped, offered him a rare opportunity to realize his ideal of a school that would train the mind and hand together. He made it his life work to build here an industrial school which became a model for all the South and caused him to be recognized as a leader in the new education. He had great influence in promoting the development of industrial education in the public schools throughout the country.

He was a member of the state board of education and rendered valuable service in organizing the public schools of Virginia; he served as chairman of the board of trustees of the Normal and Industrial School for girls at Farmville, VA., which became a State Teachers' College; he was also chairman of the board of the Normal and Industrial Institute for Negroes at Petersburg and of the state board of charities and corrections. For a number of years he was rector of the board of trustees of the Virginia Polytechnic Institute, and aided President J. M. McBryde in shaping the policies of that institution. He took great interest in the work of the Conference for Education in the South, which he helped to organize in 1898, taking a part in all of their meetings and speaking wherever he could help. He had also a large part in the educational work of the Methodist Episcopal Church (South); he was a trustee for Emory and Henry College, and president for many years of the Virginia Sunday School Association.

MEMBERSHIP DUES \$7.00 PER YEAR - DUE AND PAYABLE IN JANUARY TO: VVVF ASSOCIATION Mail to: Sue Vawter, Rt. 6, Box 370, Nacogdoches, TX 75961

DESCENT OF COUNTIES
IN THE
DIOCESE OF SOUTHWESTERN VIRGINIA
FROM
CHARLES RIVER - YORK COUNTY



NOTE: LANCASTER COUNTY, SOUTH OF THE RAPPAHANNOCK RIVER, WAS TAKEN FROM YORK COUNTY; AREA NORTH OF THE RIVER WAS TAKEN FROM NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1991 VVVFA Reunion - St. Louis Aug. 2, 3, & 4 - Host, Bruce Vawter

Bobbee Vawter of DE says the reunion Memory Album will be mailed out the latter part of March. The company are late because of equipment problems.

Birthday - Mary Carlson will be 91 on June 15. Her address is: Herdmont Health Care Center, Elberton, GA 30635.

Birth - Esther & Virgil Vawter of W. Sacramento, CA wish to announce the birth of a grandson born 15 January. The proud parents are Brian L. & Tammie Vawter of Fresno, CA.

Report all change of address to: Bobbie Meek, 20025 106th Drive, Sun City, AZ 85373-1010

We no longer have someone to prepare an index of peoples names in our newsletters. If anyone who has a computer feels like taking on this job notify president, John H. Vawter of Nacogdoches, TX.



NEWSLETTER

FAMILY ASSOCIATION

Summer 1991

Vol. 15 #4

FAMILY ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

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MEMBERSHIP: Bobbie Meek, 20025 106th Dr., Sun City, AZ 85373-1010

REUNION

Our FOURTEENTH Annual VVV Family Association Reunion will be soon upon us. It will take place at the Best-Western - Mid-Way Motor Lodge, 2434 Old Dorset Road, Maryland Heights, Missouri. This is a suburb of St. Louis located at interstate 270 and Dorset Road.

Our host, Bruce Vawter makes a guess that it is located approximately seven (7) miles from the airport and 15 miles from train and bus.

The national reservation number is: 1-800-223-0516. Their local number is (314) 291-8700. When making reservations be sure and tell them you are attending the VVV Family Reunion in order to receive our special rates. Room cost will be \$52.00 per room - plus tax. Same price for 1-4 people.

Friday, August 2, will be an outing to Grants Farm and the Bush Family Estates. Friday night there will be a pig-roast in a park approx. 10 miles from hotel.

There will be additional details in the President's letter in July.

Remember the date - the night of August 1 - the early birds, Friday, August 2 officers breakfast - activities, Aug. 3 activities plus banquet on Saturday ending with our Memorial time and a chapel service Sunday morning by one of the VVV ministers.

Don't forget to bring your arts, crafts or gifts for our door prizes.

A TREASURE

In 1969 after I had found out about "The Vawter Family in America" by Grace V. Bicknell I wrote to Goodspeed's Book Shop Inc. asking if they had a copy. They said "no" but would keep my name on file.

In April, 1991 I heard from them saying they had a copy for sale. I was told it was scarce and that they have 24 requests on file for this book.

The price is \$200.00 (plus \$4.00 delivery).

What a shock it was to me to find out that this book has become so valuable. I'm glad to pass the word on to you.

p. 20 Summer 1991

DR. MARVIN L. VAWTER

Sent by Bobbie Meek of AZ and written by Assoc. Editor Sally Brown with added research.

Dr. Marvin L. Vawter was granted a leave of absence in 1973 from the University of Illinois, English Department to become the Executive Director of the newly formed Illinois Humanities Council. This Council of 19 persons was made up of university executives, professors of humanities, and representatives from the private sector.

Dr. Vawter believes that professional humanists should speak out on every public issue in order to broaden the understanding of out-of-school adults in this country. His goal for the Council was to test to see if professional humanists could foster greater understanding about issues facing the public and he intended to encourage statewide activities to test this thesis. He also wanted the Council to contribute to dialogue on public policy issues. Dr. Vawter says that every public issue -poverty, racism, taxes, pollution, highways - has a philosophical basis to it, a historical background, and a rhetorical part of it which can help the public's understanding of the issues that are of real concern to them.

He says that we all work as humanists when we face questions such as where to put a highway or how to distribute tax monies by deciding what is just and fair, defining community goals, setting human priorities, and emphasizing quality over quantity of life. He felt that better decisions could be made if people think and talk about decisions together with people whose job it is to know the questions behind the immediate questions and how they affect them.

Dr. Marvin L. Vawter was born in Kentucky and he went to Southern Baptist College for his undergraduate work. His masters degree was earned at the University of Cincinnati and his Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin. Dr. Vawter's specialty is Shakespeare and his avocational interest is in local politics.

As a result of six years of outstanding work as the director of the Illinois Humanities Council Dr. Vawter was given a sabbatical to go to Harvard Business School to become the National Director of the Humanities Councils. After his experience at Harvard Business School he decided to leave academia and move to Savannah, Georgia. There he and his wife, Kathy, have founded a very successful advertising and marketing firm called "Vawter and Vawter".

(Editor's note: Where does this Vawter fit into the VVV family tree?)

Note from a reader - Elizabeth H. Czompo

I was interested in the profile of CHARLES ERASTUS VAWTER as he was my great uncle. I would like to know who wrote the profile. Interested in finding new relatives.

Editor; This profile information came from Dictionary of American Biography Vol. X 1936 - page 240.

Note from a prospective member - Ann Montgomery

Please send info about VVVFA - My ancestor Harriet Vawters married Willis L. Allman. I hope to find someone else who is researching her.
Ann Montgomery, 409 Paddock Lane, Montgomery AL 36109, Ph. (205)271-1687

CHURCH HISTORY OF VIRGINIA - MADISON COUNTY

Everyone who lived in a parish was required to attend the parish church or else pay a fine. A tax was levied on everyone who lived within the parish, just as county taxes are assessed today. One reason why everybody had to attend the parish church was to pay these taxes; but there were other reasons also. All marriages, deaths, and births were recorded in the parish church as they are recorded in the clerk's office today.

Some parishioners lived a great distance from the church. Where this distance was very great, provision was made to relieve the people from the duty of attending church. This was accomplished by building what was called "A House of Ease". This was similar to a branch church and was placed where the people could attend easily. Attendance here relieves one of attending the parish church.

When Madison was a part of St. George's Parish it was necessary for a "House of Ease" to be built near Wolfstown. Some years later St. Mark's Parish was formed in what is now Culpeper County. Again, after the formation of Bromfield Parish where a church was built and called "F.T." after Mr. Frank Thornton. There was also another Episcopal Church four miles below the present Madison Court House. This church was called "South Church". It was a frame building and stood on the land of Richard Vauters. Both the F.T. and South Church buildings were old at the beginning of the Revolutionary War.

The Episcopal families around these churches were: Ruckers, Marbours, Beales, Keartleys, Lewises, Bladfords, Vauters, etc.

* * * * *

CHURCH FOR SALE

Bromfield Parish in Madison County, VA. was cut off from St. Mark's Parish by the act of Assembly in 1752.

St. Mark's Parish was taken from St. George's in 1731; Orange County from Spotsylvania in 1734; Culpeper County from Orange in 1748, and in 1752 Bromfield Parish was taken from St. Mark's. In 1792 Madison was taken from Culpeper. The chief church was called Vawters, which must not be confounded with Vawter's in Middlesex County, or Essex County. It was standing in 1798 in which year the following advertisement appeared in the Fredericksburg Herald:

"To be Sold - A house built for a church, the main body 26 X 24 feet, well framed of white oak timber. The interior adorned with pulpit, type, pews, railing and two galleries with seats and aisles. The time of payment will be agreed upon at the day of sale.

(Signed by) Richard Vawters. Madison County

ESSEX COUNTY, VA

With formation of the county in 1692, it was divided into two parishes of the Established Church, St. Anne's and South Farnham; North Farnham Parish being across the river in Richmond. The two churches were Upper and Lower Piscataway.

Vauter's was the church of upper St. Anne's Parish and survived the other Colonial Churches of Essex. The northern half of the structure was built in 1719 and the southerly wing in 1731. There is still preserved a communion set presented by Queen Anne.

The old naming pattern has been used in many families; this was usually called the "Dutch System". The German system used the middle name as their "everyday name", for example- a father named John had sons named John George and John Henry. They used their father's name as their first name and went by their middle name.

The first son was named after the
father's father.

The second son after the mother's
father

The third son after the father.

The fourth son after the father's
eldest brother.

The first daughter after the
mother's mother

The second daughter after the
father's mother.

The third daughter after the mother

The fourth daughter after the mother's
eldest sister.

(From: Ancestors Unlimited, Southwest Gen. Soc. DeKalb Co., IL.)

MEMORIAL

Florence R. Beeman (Miss.), b. 18 Aug. 1906, died 16 April 1991 at Columbus, IN.

Florence was a charter member of the Muscatatuck Chapter DAR. She worked with numerous organizations and held offices in many of them. She was also active in the First Baptist Church of North Vernon, IN. See Bicknell p. 139 for line. She was the daughter of Oscar & Grace (Holsclaw) Beeman.

John Mendenhall of Toledo, Ohio died 5 April 1991. His grandfather is James George Vawter son of Jesse R & Sarah (Parks) Vawter, and is listed on p. 134 of Bicknell. John and his wife, Bernice, have been members and attended the two reunions in Indiana.

Richard D. Vawter of Fremont, NB. b. 6 Aug. 1915, died 30 May 1990 in Omaha. His parents were Edward & Anna (Flowers) Vawter. He owned the Vawter Variety Store at North Bend, NB. until 1948. Richard married Adella Pojar 3 April 1945 who is still living. He was preceded in death by a sister, Ethel Doerr, and two brothers, Robert Vawter and Guy Vawter.

This information sent by Bobbie Meek of AZ who says, "My grandfather and Edward were brothers."

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

Mail to: Sue Vawter, Rt. 6, Box 370, Nacogdoches, TX 75961-9687

Summer 1991 p. 24

GLEANINGS

From: A History of Monroe County, West Virginia

Confederate Soldiers of Monroe County: P. 429

Charles Vawter - Captain Monroe Guards

Lewis Vawter - Guard & Vawter's Company, Captain Chapman's Battery

William Vawter - Private Monroe Guards

Monroe County Justices - Appointed

William Vawter - 1799

John H. Vawter - 1845

Monroe Voters in 1800

The list is of interest because the suffrage at that time was very restricted. The voter was a person of some property and consequence.

William Vawter was a qualified voter in the presidential election of Nov. 3, 1800.

William Vawter was the first tax commissioner for Monroe, and his list of personal property owners is the earliest list of citizens of which we have any knowledge.

NEWS

From: Magazine "Spy" a New York Monthly magazine, issue March 1990, p. 71.

Ron Vawter, star of the IBM ad campaign "Solutions".

(An ad campaign guaranteeing him endless network - TV residuals and life-size head shots in THE NEW YORK TIMES MAGAZINE.)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Beth Sabel of Portland, OR - our circulation editor has resigned as circulation editor because of ill health. She will be missed on this job because she was so conscientious and dependable. She also went the second mile - doing extras. We wish the best for you Beth.

Bonita Welch will be mailing out the newsletter this quarter. Thank you Bonita for filling in for us.

I, Esther Vawter, handed in my resignation at the 1990 reunion to be effective August 1991, I will have completed my 9th year of writing your VVVFA newsletter. It has been a pleasure and I have enjoyed the job. I have come to the place where I feel "burned-out" and feel someone else with new thoughts should take over. I have felt in communication with all of you when writing up the newsletter. I will miss that most of all. You will have a new editor for the next issue of the newsletter.



Nacogdoches, Texas
12 July 1991

Hello Cousins, Friends, and Friends of Cousins,

The 1991 reunion of the Vawter, Vauter, Vaughter(s) Family Association is going to be held in St. Louis, Missouri; Maryland Heights, to be exact. The dates are August 1-4, and the location is the Best Western Midway Motor Lodge, 2434 Old Dorset Road.

There is still time to make a reservation by calling (314) 291-8700 or 1-800-223-0516. Be sure to mention the VVV Family Reunion, or you may not get the special room rate of \$52.00. This is for 1-4 people per room.

Bruce and Linda Vawter are hosting the event and are taking us to Jefferson National Expansion Memorial Park (the River Front) and Grant's Farm. They have said that these are popular places that all of their visitors want to see.

The reunion gets under way on Thursday, August 1, with early registration at 5:00 p.m. and a reception at 7:00 p.m. A VCR will be available if you have tapes of past reunions to share. The officers will meet at 8:00 p.m.

Friday registration begins at 8:00 a.m., and also at this time the officers are to meet for breakfast. Call to order for the annual business meeting is at 10:00 a.m., followed by lunch "on your own." At 1:30 p.m. we will depart for an afternoon at Grant's Farm, and a pig roast to be held at McDonnell Park at 6:00 p.m. Transportation is by auto caravan.

Busses will load at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday for a day at the River Front. Among other things, everyone will have the opportunity while there to visit museums or to go for a boat ride. Busses will return to the motel at 4:00 p.m.

The Saturday Banquet is planned for 6:30 p.m. at Joe Hanon's, located in the Best Western. Child care will be provided during the banquet.

The reunion will close with a chapel service at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday at the motel.

A new attraction at the reunion this year will be the VVV Children's Chorus, under the direction of Ellen Wicker Cummings and Sandra Robinson.

This is for children ages 12 and under. They will rehearse at times when business sessions of the larger group are being held and will provide diversion for the children during those times. The Chorus will perform for us at the banquet on Saturday night and at the Sunday morning Chapel Service.

Costs for the planned events are as follows:

\$ 5.00	Registration
7.00	Pig Roast
4.00	Bus Transportation
<u>19.00</u>	Banquet
\$35.00	

Don't forget to bring your arts and crafts or other items for door prizes to be given away on Friday and Saturday nights.

If you have a special question about the reunion, call Bruce Vawter at home, (314) 849-8727, or at work (314) 694-6240. You will probably get an answering machine, but leave a short message and he will call back.

My sincere appreciation to each person who is working on this year's reunion.

"Meet You in St. Louis"

John Vawter

President



FAMILY ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

PRESIDENT: John H. Vawter, Rt. 6, Box 370, Nacogdoches, TX 75961-9687
VICE.PRESIDENT.: Billy M. Vawter, 10640 Steppington, Apt. 2128, Dallas TX 75230
SECRETARY: Beth Melton, 1211 Casa Vale, Dallas, TX 75218-3141
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY: Bobbie Meek, 20025 106th Dr., Sun City, AZ 85373-1010
TREASURER: Sue Vawter, Rt. 6, Box 370, Nacogdoches, TX 75961-9687
ASSIST. TREASURER: John Vawter
HISTORIAN/ARCHIVIST: Norma Vawter, 1075 Oaklawn, Milan, TN 38358-9655
NEWS EDITOR: Bonita Welch, R.R. #1, Box 227, Scipio, IN 47273-9761
ASSOCIATE EDITOR: Sally Brown, 3016 S. Madison, Tulsa, OK 74114-5231

1991 REUNION

The fourteenth annual reunion of the VVV Family Association was held in St. Louis, Missouri, on August 1-4 at the Best Western Midway Motor Lodge. The reunion was planned by Bruce and Linda Vawter, who did a great job with all of the arrangements. Some early birds arrived on Wednesday, July 31, and spent time visiting and catching up on family news of the past year. We will try to bring you a few of the highlights of this year's event.

THURSDAY

Registration began on Thursday afternoon and a reception was held that evening in the poolside area of the motel. At this same time, the hospitality room was opened and all were encouraged to visit the room to look at VVV memorabilia. Among the items on display were James Whitcomb Riley books, illustrated by Will Vawter; pictures of Vawter's Church in Virginia and of Trematon Castle in Cornwall, England; the Valletort Place sign that Donald D. Ritchie had rescued from the rubble in Plymouth, England during WW II; and a hand-painted sign, commemorating Vawter's Church, which had been donated by Mrs. Ralph E. Fall in 1982. These, and several other items, belong to the Association and will be on display at all future reunions. Also shown were two original Will Vawter pencil drawings that had recently been purchased by one of the members. Another member had made a video tape showing a Will Vawter seascape he had bought.

On the walls of the hospitality room were the ancestor charts which were started a few years ago by Esther Vawter. These charts have been color-coded by Sally Brown, with each child of Bartholomew and Winifred Vawter being represented by a different color. It is hoped that these colors can be used on name tags at the 1992 reunion.

FRIDAY

The meeting was called to order on Friday at 10:00 a.m. by the president, John H. Vawter, who also gave the invocation. Col. James S. Corbitt led the pledge to the American flag. The secretary's report was given by Beth Melton, and the treasurer's report by Sue Vawter. Following this, all present were asked to stand, introduce themselves, and tell of their relationship to the Vawter family.

After lunch, a car caravan made its way to Grant's Farm, which is owned by the Busch family and named for Ulysses S. Grant, who once owned a portion of the grounds. The 160-acre game preserve is home to about thirty different species of birds and animals, including the world-famous Clydesdale horses.

At 6:00 p.m. a pig roast was held in McDonnell Park. After the delicious picnic, the first of many door prizes were awarded. The creativity and imagination of VVV members is always evident in the variety of items donated.

SATURDAY

Saturday was spent visiting the St. Louis Riverfront. This is the area where the city began in 1764, and is the location of the Gateway Arch. Riding to the top of the Arch, viewing exhibits at the Museum of Westward Expansion, going for a riverboat cruise, and shopping at Laclede's Landing are just some of the activities and attractions that were available. One couple, who shall remain nameless, was seen indulging in giant banana splits at Victoria's Ice Cream Parlor. Shuttle busses provided transportation from the motel to the Riverfront.

SATURDAY EVENING

On Saturday evening, a buffet dinner was served, which was followed by a business meeting and memorial service. This meeting also marked the debut of the VVV Children's Chorus, directed by Ellen Wicker Cummings.

Special recognition was given the following:

- Oldest present - Bill Vawter, age 83, Houston, Texas
- Youngest present - Whitney Walker, age 19 months, Deland, Illinois
- Traveling the farthest - Esther M. Vawter, W. Sacramento, California
- Married the longest - Robert C. and Margaret Vawter, Newaygo, Michigan
- Past presidents in attendance - Robert M. (Pete) Vawter, Milan, Tennessee
- Robert L. Vawter, Middletown, Delaware
- M. Glen Vawter, Normal, Illinois

The report of the 1991 Nominating Committee was given by Bill Vawter. He reported two resignations; Esther Vawter, as News Editor, and Beth Sabel, as Circulation Editor. The offices of Exchange and Circulation Editors were eliminated, with those duties to be assumed by the News Editor. Bonita Welch was elected to serve in that position. All other officers were re-elected.

John H. Vawter, president, named two committees:

1992 Nominating Committee- M. Glen Vawter, Normal, Illinois, Chairman
Duncan Brown, Tulsa, Oklahoma
Charles Burt, Dawsonville, Georgia
Robert M. Vawter, Milan, Tennessee
Fred Wicker, Pontotoc, Mississippi

By-Laws Committee- Beth Melton, Dallas, Texas, Chairman
Connie Bugos, Farmington, Illinois
Cheryl Glasgow, Buford, Georgia
Robert M. Vawter, Milan, Tennessee
Ken Wicker, Tupelo, Mississippi

Because of lack of action, the Constitution Committee, which was selected in 1989, was discontinued.

Melissa Vawter, daughter of John H. and Sue Vawter, issued an invitation to hold the 1992 reunion in Nacogdoches, Texas, and this was unanimously accepted.

MEMORIAL SERVICE

Preceding the memorial service, a piano and violin duet, "Near to the Heart of God," was presented by Ila Vawter and Ellen Cummings. The service was conducted by Fred and Wordna Wicker, assisted by their granddaughters, Rebecca Cummings and Caroline Wicker. Those remembered were:

1. Scott Vawter, age 82, died 27 October 1990 in Indianapolis, Indiana
2. Albert Grant Vawter, age 66, died 6 August 1990 in Chesterton, Indiana
3. Ora Wiley Wicker, age 91, died 15 December 1990 in Tupelo, Mississippi
4. Lester D. Vawter, age 84, died 1 July 1991 in Hot Springs, Arkansas
5. Florence Beeman, age 85, died 16 April 1991 in Columbus, Indiana
6. John Mendenhall, died 5 April 1991 in Toledo, Ohio
7. Richard D. Vawter, age 75, died 30 May 1990 in Omaha, Nebraska
8. Royce L. Burt, age 51, died 20 September 1990 in Athens, Alabama
9. Keith L. Evans, age 23, died 20 April 1991 in Dawsonville, Georgia
10. Clifton B. Reid, age 94, died 6 June 1991 in Corinth, Mississippi
11. Helen Corbitt Byrn, age 85, died 26 October 1990 in Dickson, Tennessee
12. Edna Vawter Pinson, age 83, died 2 May 1991 in Milan, Tennessee
13. Carl David Vawter, age 55, died 3 August 1990 in Atwood, Tennessee
14. Mattie B. Edmondton, age 97, died 17 July 1991 in Nashville, Tennessee

SUNDAY MORNING

On Sunday morning, a worship service was led by the Rev. Wayne Vawter. The text used for his message was Joshua 24. Wayne and his wife, Carol, closed the service with a duet, "Lord, I Give My Life to Thee."

RESIGNATIONS

It was with regret that the resignations of Esther Vawter and Beth Sabel were accepted. Esther had served as News Editor for nine years, and was Associate Editor before that. Beth had served as Circulation Editor since August 1979.

Much of the success of the VVV Association is due to the newsletter keeping people in touch. To Esther and Beth, and to Wordna Wicker who first started the newsletter, we say "Thank You."

Charles Eldon Burt, Sr
 Rt. 5, Box 5475
 Dawsonville, GA 30534

					John Vawter, Sr. (<u>J OHN III</u>)
					b. VA
				<u>JAMES VAUGHTER</u>	d.
				b. ? 8 Mar 1794	w. Elbert Co. GA
				w. Stokes Co. VA	To: (1) Franky Ward
				d. 2 May 1836	b.
				w. ? Franklin Co. GA	w.
				m. To: Jane	d. 1791 or 1792
				b. 9 Mar 1794	w.
				w.	CHILDREN
				d. 12 Jan 1884	1. John
				w. Dawson Co. GA	2. Richard
				CHILDREN	3. JAMES
				1. William	4. Franky
				2. Hiram	5. Elizabeth
				3. Lucinda	6. Nancy
				4. Elizabeth	7. Richard (II)
				5. LINZY	To: (2)
				6. Viny	Joanna Vernon
				7. Delia	b.
				8. Lydia	w.
				9. Jane	d.
				10. Eliza	w.
					m.
					CHILDREN
					1. William
					2. Linsey
					3. Russell

				<u>LINZY VAUGHTERS</u>
				b. 28 June 1821
				w. GA.
				d. 1 Oct. 1866
				w. Dawson Co. GA
				m. 14 May 1857
				To: Marinda Hicks
				b. 24 Oct 1835
				w.
				d. 20 July 1926
				w. Dawson Co. GA
				CHILDREN
				1. Eliza Catherine
				2. Mary Eliz
				3. GEORGE ROBESON
				4. Martha Jane
				5. Winna Julia
				6. Henry
				7. Hiram Bennet Singleton

				<u>George Robeson VAUGHTERS</u>
				b. 29 May 1860
				w. Dawson Co. GA
				d. 30 Mar. 1936
				w. Dawson Co. GA
				m. 1 Sept 1880
				To: Epsy Catherine Bennett
				b. 7 Aug 1861
				w.
				d. 18 July 1916
				w. Dawson Co. GA
				CHILDREN
				1. WILLIAM OSCAR
				2. Linzy
				3. Homer Charles
				4. Anis Docia
				5. Hiram Solomon
				Andrew Jackson
				6. Eva M.C.
				7. Pearlle Jane
				8. Lela
				9. Coa
				To: (2) Minnie McClure
				b. 15 June 1888
				w.
				d. 6 June 1952
				w. Dawson Co. GA
				m. 3 Sept. 1921
				CHILDREN
				1. Iva
				2. George Wesley
				3. Lloyd Flem

				<u>William Oscar VAUGHTERS</u>
				b. 6 July 1881
				w. Dawson Co. GA.
				d. 13 Mar 1964
				w. Cumming, GA
				m. 3 Sept 1905
				To: Maggie Dora Brice
				b. 6 July 1872
				w. Dawson Co. GA
				d. 23 Jan 1946
				w. Gainesville GA.
				CHLDREN
				1. Infant
				2. ANNIE MARIAN
				3. George William
				4. Silvey Brice
				5. Grace Pauline
				6. Flora May

				<u>Annie Marian Vaughters Burt STOVALL</u>
				b. 13 Feb 1908
				w. Dawson Co. GA
				d.
				w.
				m. 28 Aug 1927
				To: (1) Elbert Henry Burt
				b. 14 May 1906
				w. Dawson Co. GA
				d. 15 Jan 1957
				w. Gainesville, GA
				CHILDREN
				1. CHARLES ELDON
				2. Royce Lane
				To: (2) William Stovall

VVV CHILDREN'S CHORUS

Certainly a highlight of the Saturday night meeting was the first appearance of the VVV Children's Chorus, under the direction of Ellen Wicker Cummings. Accompanist was Margie Vawter. The children sang several songs, including "The Bible Tells Me So" and "The Happy Wanderer." Krista Glasgow, age four, sang a solo, "Oh, How I Love Jesus." She is the daughter of Steve and Cheryl Glasgow and grand-daughter of Charles and Betty Burt. Everyone enjoyed the children's performance and we were all happy to learn that this is planned to be an annual event.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

As you know by now, the VVV Association has a different news editor, and she needs your help! Here are some suggestions of things you can send to be considered for inclusion in the newsletter:

- Obituaries (current and past)
- Engagement and marriage announcements
- Birth announcements
- Family news - graduations, awards, etc.
- Family charts and group sheets
- Stories from the past and family traditions
- News of other Vawter, Vauter, Vaughter(s) reunions
- Gleanings from books and newspapers
- Queries

The list is endless. Just remember we do not accept "items for sale" unless it is VVV related.

ABOUT DUES

For some time now, we have been attempting to correct and update our mailing list. Please check the way your newsletter is addressed and notify us of any changes that should be made. If a red "X" appears on your address label, you need to send dues in order to avoid missing future newsletters.

It is not necessary for those who paid dues at the reunion to pay again in January, as that was for the coming year. All others should try to remember to pay in January. Anyone over the age of 80 is entitled to complimentary newsletters, but we are not always aware of a member's age so we do need to be notified.

Corrections in addresses should be sent to the news editor, Bonita Welch, and dues should be sent to the treasurer, Sue Vawter. Addresses for both can be found at the beginning of the newsletter.

This issue is being sent to several of the family who have been members of the Association in the past. We hope their interest will be renewed.

VVV MEMBERS AND FRIENDS WHO ATTENDED THE REUNION

CALIFORNIA

Omer and Helen Johnson
Esther M. Vawter

DELAWARE

Raymond L. and Marlyn Holder
Marcella McAlpin
Jackie McAlpin
Mary Vawter
Robert L. III
Amanda
Jesse
Robert L. and Donna Vawter

GEORGIA

Charles and Betty Burt
John Carlson Jr.
Cheryl Burt Glasgow
Timothy
Krista
Lula Thompson
Flora Vaughters Waters

ILLINOIS

Gerald and Shirley Beasley
Connie Vawter Bugos
Todd
Garlin and Elma Crouch
Harry A. Crouch
Sister Lynette Crouch
Harry and Edith Vawter
M. Glen and May Vawter
Roger and Margie Vawter
Rhonda Walker
Christopher
Whitney

INDIANA

Bonita Welch

KENTUCKY

Mike and Michelle Alexander
Mark Beasley

MICHIGAN

Jeannine Cook
Robert C. and Margaret Vawter
Robert L. and Ila Vawter

MISSISSIPPI

Fred and Wordna Wicker
Caroline Wicker
McDaniel Wicker
Ken and Norma Wicker
Tom and Pearl Wiley

MISSOURI

Wanda Gould
Roy and Kate Harrell
Carolyn W. Merritt
Anne E. Vawter
Bruce and Linda Vawter
Lori Vawter
Jason Benson

OKLAHOMA

Woody and Edna Bowers
Duncan and Sally Brown
Oscar L. and Erma Vawter
Shirley Troyer

TENNESSEE

James S. and Alliene Corbitt
Robert M. and Norma Vawter
Paul and Lynn Weekley

TEXAS

Danny and Renae Chaviers
Eric
Stephanie
Joe and Beth Melton
Bill and Sally Vawter
Billy M. and Dorothy Vawter
James E. and Mary Vawter
John H. and Sue Vawter
Melinda Vawter

VIRGINIA

Ellen Cummings
Rebecca
Frederick

WISCONSIN

Evert and Maxine Joling
Wayne and Carole Vawter



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NATIONAL ARCHIVES MICROFILM PUBLICATION M253
CONSOLIDATED INDEX TO COMPILED SERVICE RECORDS OF CONFEDERATE
SOLDIERS

This microfilm publication reproduces an alphabetical card index to the service records of Confederate soldiers. The index contains all the names of Confederate soldiers found in the records used in compiling the service records, regardless of whether the service was with a unit furnished by a particular state, with a unit raised directly by the Confederate Government, or as a staff officer. Many of the men were indexed under different spellings of the last name, and these have been used in making this list. Information was taken from rolls 490 and 491 of the microfilm publication.

VAWTER, A.J. Private
Co A 19 and 20 (consolidated) Tennessee Cavalry
VAUGHTER, VAWTER, A.J. Private
Co I 12 (Consolidated) Tennessee Infantry
Co B 20 (Russell's) Tennessee Cavalry
VAWTER, ALEX L. [or S.] Private
Co K 21 North Carolina Infantry
(formerly 11 North Carolina Infantry Volunteers)
VAWTER, ALPHEUS Private
Co A 4 Kentucky Cavalry
VAUTER, BENSON Private
Co W Georgia Cavalry (State Guards)
VAUTER, C.B. Private
Co F 12 (consolidated) Tennessee Infantry
VAUTER, VAWTER, CHARLES E. Private - Sergeant
Co D 27 Virginia Infantry (6 Virginia Infantry)
VAUGHTER, VAWTER, CHARLES E. Captain
Co D 30 Battalion Virginia Sharpshooters

Page 2 Winter 1991

VAWTER, DAVID M. Private - Sergeant

Co K 1 Choctaw and Chickasaw Mounted Rifles

VAWTER, DAVID W. [or M.] Captain

Co C Wells' Regiment Texas Cavalry

VAUGHTER, FRANKLIN Private

Co E 9 Battalion Missouri Sharpshooters

VAUGHTER, G.L. Private

Co A 4 Kentucky Cavalry

VAUGHTER(S), VORTERS, GEORGE L. Private

Co G 45 Tennessee Infantry

VAUGHTER(S), HIRAM [no rank given]

Co K 52 Georgia Infantry

VAUGHTER, J.B. Private

Co C 4 (McLemore's) Tennessee Cavalry

VAWTER, J.C. Private

Co D 57 North Carolina Infantry

VAUGHTEN, VAUGHTER, VAWTER(S), J.E. Corporal

CO G 55 (Brown's) Tennessee Infantry

VAWTERS, J.N. Private

CO I 32 Mississippi Infantry

VAUTERS, J.N. Private

Co A 26 Mississippi Infantry

VAUTER, VAWTER, J. R. Private

Co B 12 Texas Infantry; 8 (Young ' s Regiment) Texas Infantry

VAUGHTEN, VAUGHTER, VAWTER(S)r J.T. Private - Sergeant

Co G 55 (Brown's) Tennessee Infantry

VAUTER, VAWTER, J.W. Private

Co E 166 Virginia Militia

VAUTERS, VAWTERS, J. NESTON Private

Co A 26 Mississippi Infantry

VAUGHTER, JAMES Private

Co E 9 Battalion Missouri Sharpshooters

VAWTER, JAMES Private

Co C 11 Battalion Virginia Reserves

VAWTER, JAMES E. Private

Co I 12 Mississippi Infantry

VAUTER, JEPHTHA Private

Co H 5 Kentucky Cavalry

VAUGHTER, VAWTER, JOHN Private

Co D 2 Mississippi Cavalry

VAUTER, VAWTER, JOHN W. Private

Co D 27 Virginia Infantry; 6 Virginia Infantry

VAUTERS, VAWTER, LEMUEL [or Samuel] Private

Co I 33 Virginia Infantry

VAWTER, LEWIS A. Private
Co D 27 Virginia Infantry; 6 Virginia Infantry

VAWTER, LEWIS A. Captain
Co C 30 Battalion Virginia Sharpshooters

VAWTER, M.G. Private
Co I 56 Virginia Infantry

VATERS, VAWTERS, MARION Private
Co I 16 Texas Cavalry

VAWTER, RALEIGH A. Private
Co F 3 Battalion Georgia Sharpshooters
Co M Phillips' Legion, Georgia

VAUGHTER, VAWTER, ROLLY A. Private
Co A 13 Mississippi Infantry

VAUTER, S.A. Private
Co D 27 Virginia Infantry

VAUGHTER(S), SAMUEL H. First Lieutenant
Co K 5 Georgia Infantry; 52 Georgia Infantry

VAUGHTER, T.D. Private
Co D 22 Tennessee Infantry (Freeman's Regiment)

VAUTER, VAWTER, T.H. Private
Co B 12 Texas Infantry; 8 (Young's Regiment) Texas Infantry

VAWTER, THOMAS D. [or J.] Private
Co F 12 (Consolidated) Tennessee Infantry

VATAW, VOTAW, THOMAS FRANKLIN Private - sergeant
Co H 24 Texas Cavalry

VAUGHTER, VAWTER, W.H. Private
Co A 19 and 20 (consolidated) Tennessee Cavalry
Co B 20 (Russell's) Tennessee Cavalry

VAUGHTER, VAWTER, W.R. Private
Co D 22 Tennessee Infantry (Freeman's Regiment)
Co F 12 (Consolidated) Tennessee Infantry

VAWTER, WILLIAM Private - Corporal
Co B 12 Texas Infantry; 8 (Young's Regiment) Texas Infantry

VAWTER, WILLIAM A. Private
Co G 6 Battalion Confederate Cavalry
Formerly known as Jesse's Battalion, Kentucky Mounted Riflemen.
Composed of Kentucky and Virginia Volunteers.

VAUGHTER, VAUGHTS, WILLIAM G. Private
Co G 7 Tennessee Infantry

VAWTER, WILLIAM H. Private
Co A 4 Kentucky Cavalry

VAUTER, VAWTERS, WILLIAM J. Private
Co C 10 Virginia Infantry

WESTERN CONSERVATIVE BAPTIST SEMINARY

DR. JOHN VAWTER

Dr. John Vawter has been selected to serve as president of Western Conservative Baptist Seminary in Portland, Oregon. Dr. Vawter is a native of Gresham, near Portland, and has family members who live in the area.

He is a 1966 graduate of the University of Oregon and served for 10 years with Campus Crusade for Christ International. He earned a Master of Divinity degree from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School in 1977 and a Doctor of Ministry degree from Bethel Seminary in 1983. For the past 14 years he has pastored Wayzata Evangelical Free Church near Minneapolis.

Dr. Vawter and his wife, Sue, met and married while serving with Campus Crusade and recently celebrated their twenty-fourth anniversary. They have two children, Stephanie, 19, and Michael, 17.

A note from Dr. Vawter stated that his father was Harry Cope Vawter, and his grandfather, Vernon Dalton Vawter.

1992 REUNION

The 1992 reunion will be hosted by John H. and Sue Vawter, with assistance from their family, on July 30 - August 2 in Nacogdoches, Texas, at the Fredonia Hotel and Convention Center. Registration will begin on Thursday at 7:30 p.m. The room rate is \$49.00 for 1-4 people, plus a 13% tax. Your next newsletter will give more information, along with a brochure from the hotel and a reservation card. It's not too early to start making plans to attend this annual event.

MEMORIAL

Clyde A. Beeman, 87, died Saturday, 7 December 1991 at his home in Columbus, IN. He was born 5 July 1904 in Jennings County, Indiana, the son of Oscar and Grace Holsclaw Beeman. He retired in 1966 after 33 years as produce manager at A & P stores in North Vernon and Columbus.

Surviving are a daughter, Margaret K. Bauer of Mitchell, IN; a sister, Helen A. Jones of North Vernon, IN; two granddaughters; one grandson; two step-granddaughters; one great-granddaughter; four nieces and two nephews.

Preceding him in death were his wife, the former Alice Stout; sisters Alice, Mary and Florence Beeman; and brothers Homer and Wilbur Beeman.

This family, including Clyde, can be found on page 139 of The Vawter Family in America.

SENIOR LIFESTYLES
ESTHER VAWTER

"I have more things to do than I have time." This quote was the beginning of a "Senior Lifestyles" article in the 30 January 1991 West Sacramento Press that featured our former news editor, Esther Vawter. Highlights of the article are given here.

"Esther Vawter has been a resident of West Sacramento since 1964 and has grown to be a vocal, active citizen in all aspects of the community. She currently is a member of Eldercare Pals, East Yolo Senior Club, chairperson of Senior Ministries of the Church of the Nazarene, Community Action Committee and several genealogy organizations.

"As an avid reader, she spends a lot of time in the library or behind a book or newspaper. She volunteers to bring the gift of reading to many seniors in West Sacramento who can not get around or to the library frequently in the 'Books Messenger to the Home Bound' which delivers library books.

"She attends almost all city council meetings, and many community organizational meetings as well, to make sure she is up to date on the latest information regarding the city and her community. Her beliefs and love of West Sacramento have led her to crusade against pornography in the City.

"To round out her life, Esther plays shuffleboard three times a week as a member of the Coloma Shuffleboard Club and has ranked high in competitions."

The article closes with this quote from Esther. "It's hard for me to understand seniors when they say they don't have anything to do."

MEMBERSHIP DUES

If you have not yet paid your membership dues, please remember to do this in January. It is not necessary for those who paid at the reunion in August to pay again, as that was for the coming year. Dues is \$7.00 per year and can be sent to the treasurer, Sue Vawter. Corrections in addresses are to be sent to the news editor. Addresses for both are at the beginning of this newsletter.

VAWTER, VAUTER, VAUGHTER(S) FAMILY ASSOCIATION
MEMBERSHIP DUES \$7.00 PER YEAR

NEW ADDITIONS TO THE FAMILY TREE

Meredith Elaine Callis was born 13 August 1991 at Memphis, TN. She is the daughter of Charles and Sandy Callis. Grandmother is Betty Corbitt Callis, and great-grandparents are James and Alliene Corbitt. This is the first great-grandchild for the Corbitts.

Kalli Danise Vawter was born 8 October 1991 at Seymour, IN. She is the daughter of Jason and Jan Vawter of North Vernon, IN. Paternal grandparents are Delbert and Linda Vawter of North Vernon.

MARRIAGES

Stephanie Lyn Moody and David Lowell Vaughters were married 29 December 1990 in Nashville, TN. He is the son of Lowell and Bonnie Vaughters of Oxford, MS, and the grandson of James and Norma Vaughters of Memphis, TN.

Margaret Lynn Wilks and Robert Thomas Vawter were married 23 March 1991. He is the son of Billy and Evelyn Vawter of McKenzie, TN.

QUERIES

From: Ann Montgomery, 409 Paddock Lane, Montgomery, AL 36109 Phone (205)271-1687 Need information on Harriet Vauters, who was born in Tennessee in 1830's and married W.L. Allman. Lived in Marion County, Alabama (1860 census); Wayne County, Tennessee (1870 census); and Clay County, Mississippi (1880 and 1900 census.)

From: Charles Burt, Route 5 Box 5475, Dawsonville, GA 30534
Arthur Vaughters, son of Henry Vaughters, left Dawson County, GA, with his cousin, Porter Anderson, about 1900. It is not known where they went. Porter died in Ohio about 1932 and is buried in Bethel Baptist Cemetery in Dawson County. Arthur was never heard from after he left Georgia and information is wanted on any descendants he might have.

RETURNED NEWSLETTERS - CORRECT ADDRESSES NEEDED

Helen C. Counts, 1224 Belvedere Avenue #15E, St. Louis, MO 63177

Gary E. Hunziker, 4631 Woodland Trail, Quincy, IL 62301

Daryl D. Smith, 24 Village Drive, Basking Ridge, NJ 07920

Patricia Ann Vawter, 1201 North Graham, Indianapolis, IN 46219



FAMILY ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

Spring 1992

p. 1

Volume 16 No .3

FAMILY ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

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TREASURER: Sue Vawter, RR 6 Box 370, Nacogdoches, TX 75961
HISTORIAN/ARCHIVIST: Norma Vawter, 1075 Oaklawn Drive, Milan, TN 38358
NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Bonita Welch, RR 1 Box 227, Scipio, IN 47273 (812) 392-2149
ASSOCIATE EDITOR: Sally Brown, 3016 Madison, Tulsa, OK 74114

1992 REUNION

Begin making plans now for a time of information, visitation and relaxation at the annual reunion of the VVV Family Association. This year's event is July 30 thru August 2 in Nacogdoches, Texas, at the Fredonia Hotel and Convention Center. John H. and Sue Vawter, along with their family, are the hosts.

Nacogdoches is one of the oldest settlements in Texas, and for more than a hundred years was a major eastern gateway to Texas. The town is named for the Nacogdoche Indians who were in the area for centuries before the first Europeans arrived.

The reunion was last held in Nacogdoches in 1984. Those who attended will remember touring Millard's Crossing, a group of restored 19th century buildings; Stone Fort Museum, located on the campus of Stephen F. Austin University; and Old North Church.

Reservations can be made by writing the hotel at 200 N. Fredonia Street, Nacogdoches, TX 75961, or by calling 1-800-594-5323. The room rate is \$49.00, plus 13% tax, and is for 1-4 people per room. Be sure to mention the Association to receive this discounted rate.

A note from Bill Vawter, of Houston, states that for those who will be flying and then renting a car, Shreveport, Louisiana, is 90 miles from Nacogdoches, and Houston is 140 miles. He also said there is a bus leaving Shreveport at 9: 50 a.m., 1:15 p.m. and 6: 00 p.m.

Your next newsletter will tell the activities and program for the reunion. John and Sue invite us to "come early, stay long."

"PHONE SEARCH"

Ancestry, Inc., in Salt Lake City, has a service called "Phone Search." Their 90-million household database of names and address has been compiled over the past three years. Although called "Phone Search," sources other than telephone directories were used, and therefore the database includes many who are unlisted in phone books, but does not always include everyone who might be listed.

A search done recently provided us with 1510 names and addresses throughout the entire United States. All the various spellings are represented -Vauter, Vauters, Vaughter, Vaughters, Vawter, Vawters. Of the 1510, only 37 are on our current mailing list. There are 65 Texans listed who are not members of the Association, and complimentary newsletters will be sent to some to tell them of the reunion in Nacogdoches.

COMPUTER CONTACT

Contact has been made via computer with Linda Puckett of Bozeman, Montana, using the genealogy bulletin board of Prodigy Services. Linda knew little about her Vawter ancestors except that Elizabeth A. Vawter, born in Virginia, was married in 1833 in Cumberland County, Kentucky, to George A. Taylor, and soon thereafter moved to McDonough County, Illinois.

A brief search has shown Linda's line (to Elizabeth A. Vawter⁶) to be Beverly Vawter⁵ m. Elizabeth Hutchins, Russell Vawter⁴ m. Mary Sparks, Richard B. Vawter³ m. Frances Towles, John Vawter² m. Margaret Noel, Bartholomew Vawter¹ m Winifred Hodgson.

ATTENTION, SERIOUS RESEARCHERS

About eighteen months ago, several descendants of David and Mary Rucker Vawter were asked to submit their family charts to the Rucker Family Association. These charts were to be placed with other Rucker records in the library of the Virginia Historical Society. At least three people (including this writer) submitted charts. In January of this year, a letter was received explaining that these charts would not be placed in the library until proof can be found that David Vawter married Mary Rucker.

Has anyone done serious research on this line? Let us know and we will send you a copy of the letter so you can compare your findings with those of Jean B. Robinson. Jean is a granddaughter of Sudie Rucker Wood, author of *The Rucker Family Genealogy*. She has written a paper, *Rucker/Vawter Connection*, that gives her views of this subject.

A NEW ADDITION TO THE FAMILY TREE

Congratulations to Jeff Swiatek and Julie Anne Dart on the birth of their first child, Christopher Swiatek, who was born 19 December 1991, in Indianapolis. Julie Dart is a daughter of Robert Henry Dart and Lucille D. McCally. Robert Dart is a son of Jesse Elwood Dart and Nina Vawter. Parents of Nina Vawter were Robert Newton Vawter and Elinor Elisabeth Howerton. This information was sent by the proud grandfather, Robert H. Dart, of Glendale, California.

DAVID V. BURNS

David V. Burns, Indianapolis, was recently honored by the Indiana Historical Society for his contributions to Hoosier history by being named as "Honorary Trustee." He served on the Society's board of trustees from 1965 to 1990, and was board president from 1974 to 1983. A retired architect, he was formerly a partner in the firms of Burns & James, Architects; Burns & Burns, Architects; and Bohlen & Burns, Architects. David is from the line of Jesse Vawter and Elizabeth Watts who arrived in what is now Jefferson County, Indiana, in 1806.

ERNA VAWTER GREER

Nearly every day except Sundays, Erna Vawter Greer walks the four blocks from her home to the alterations shop she runs in downtown Milan, Tennessee. At lunchtime she walks home, then back to work, then home again at the end of the day. That makes a total of sixteen blocks each day.

This may not seem like a very long walk when compared to the miles that some people walk or run daily, but Mrs. Greer is 98 years old, and that is what makes her daily walk so special.

She was born 3 January 1894 in Gibson County, Tennessee, to Robert Horace Vawter and Emily Ann Burrow. Her grandfather was Robert Lemuel Vawter, a son of Edward B. Vawter and Martha McCune. She has been a widow for many years, and her only son died 42 years ago.

Mrs. Greer has run her one-woman business for 32 years, and before that she did alterations in a men's shop. As Milan's only alterations service, "Mama Greer," as she is called by those close to her, does a lively business. On her birthday this year, downtown business owners and friends helped her celebrate with a party. Among those attending was Norma Vawter.

So, the next time you are tempted to jump in your car and drive four blocks, think of Erna Greer and go for a walk instead.

GLEANINGS

From: History of Dearborn, Ohio and Switzerland Counties, Indiana

Published Chicago, F.E. Weakley & Co., 1885

"WILLIAM H. VAWTER, farmer, Posey Township [Switzerland County], son of William Vawter, was born in Jefferson County, Indiana, in 1832. He grew to maturity in his native county (to sixteen years of age,) engaged in agricultural pursuits, and in 1848 came to this county and located in York Township where he remained one year, then removed to Posey where he has ever since resided. December 9, 1860, he married Margaret Garmore, daughter of Jacob Garmore, and by this wife has five children, all living: William, Benjamin, Jacob, Stephen and Fannie. William was married, in September, 1882, to Dillie Shaffer, daughter of C.B. Shaffer, and they have one child, Bertha. In his early years, Mr. Vawter was employed as farm hand at wages for about three years, and then purchased a team and farmed rented land till the fall of 1863, when he purchased eighty-seven acres of his present farm, to which he has added till he now owns 118 acres. He has succeeded fairly, and by industry, economy and good business management has gained a competency very creditable to his energy. He is a member of the Masonic fraternity; does a general farming business, keeping what stock the farm will support. He made his first trip to New Orleans in boating produce in 1855, and since that has made two others, one in 1858 and the last in 1878. Aside from this he has engaged entirely in the pursuit of agriculture."

From: Indiana Book of Merit - Indiana World War Records - Volume IV

Published Indianapolis, Historical Bureau, 1932

"VAWTER, FRED BEVERLY, Sergeant, 1947857, Company D, 332d Infantry, 83d Division.

Military Valor Medal, bronze (Italy.) No. 55940. Ministry of War, Rome, March 15, 1921: Volunteer for a daring reconnaissance on the Tagliamento, he was a constant example of courage and calmness, boldly attacking enemy patrols and succeeding in capturing prisoners and machine guns. Ponte della Delizia, November 3, 1918.

Record. Born December 28, 1891, Salina, Kansas; son of James Mavity and Lura Jeannette (Sanderson) Vawter. Came to Indiana 1901. Salesman, Jeffersonville. Entered service September 6, 1917, Akron, Ohio. Training: Camp Sherman, Ohio; Camp Perry, Ohio. Assigned to Company D, 332d Infantry, on detached service on Italian front. Sergeant. Overseas June 8, 1918-April 14, 1919. Battles: Vittorio-Veneto, Piave River, Tagliamento River." Discharged May 2, 1919"

CORRECTIONS

From Ralph E. Fall:

A note was received from Rev. Fall to correct a statement in the Summer 1991 newsletter concerning Vauter's Church in Essex County, Virginia.

At one time there were two Virginia historians who disagreed on the date of the construction of the church. One of the historians believed the church was erected in 1719, with the south addition being built in 1731. Rev. Fall was rector of Vauter's Church from 1962-1982, and in 1969 the plaster on the building's ceilings and walls was taken off down to the bare bricks. This showed that the church was built totally as a whole at one time. The cornerstone in the wall outside the doorway gives the date as 1731.

From the Orange County (Virginia) Historical Society:

The statement appears in the Winter 1990 newsletter that William Vawter and Mary Rucker were married by James Madison, later the 4th President of the United States. The Society wrote to let us know that this James Madison, who for many years was a Gentleman Justice of Orange County, was the father of James Madison the President.

"THOSE WERE THE DAYS"

Paul Edward Vawter, of Hightstown, New Jersey, has written a delightful book, "Those Were the Days," which is a recollection of experiences and events related to his family. Paul was born 6 March 1908 near Madison, Indiana, the son of Clarence Merrill and Edythe Barricklow Vawter. He has been kind enough to send a copy of his book, and beginning with the next newsletter, we will share some of those recollections with you.

Paul's son, Jay Vawter, was recently elected to the board of directors of the Princeton, New Jersey, Historical Society.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Dues is \$7.00 per year, and should be paid in January or at the reunion.

VVV Family Association, c/o Sue Vawter, RR 6 Box 390, Nacogdoches, TX 75961

James L. Vaughters, 69, of Memphis, Tenn., died 31 December 1991 after being ill since suffering a stroke in January 1991. He was a retired captain of the Memphis Police Department and a World War II Navy veteran. He was a judge for the American Kennel Club and the American Rabbit Breeders Association.

Memberships include the Fraternal Order of Police, Tennessee Law Enforcement Officers Association, Tennessee and Mississippi Sheriffs and Police Officers Association, Bulldog Club of America, Memphis Kennel Club, Loyal Order of the Moose, and Peace Lutheran Church. He had been a member of the VVV Family Association since 1978, and had attended many of the annual reunions.

Surviving are his wife, Norma Stine Vaughters; two daughters, Shirley Miller of Albion, Calif., and Karen Tatum of Southaven, Miss.; three sons, Lowell Vaughters of Oxford, Miss., Keith Vaughters of Sarah, Miss., and Gary Vaughters of Memphis; and 16 grandchildren.

* * * * *

Olga Vawter Bullington, 89, of Atwood, Tenn., died 18 January 1992. She was retired from H.I.S. Clothes Manufacturing Co., and was the widow of Paul Lee Bullington. Mrs. Bullington was a member of Atwood First United Methodist Church.

Surviving are a son, Sherry Eugene Bullington of Bruceton, Tenn.; a sister, Ida Mae Toombs of Humboldt, Tenn.; 4 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren. She was the aunt of Robert M. (Pete) Vawter.

THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who has sent newspaper clippings, obituaries, birth announcements and other information for the newsletter. Please continue to do this. Your help is greatly appreciated! Thank you, too, to the ones who have notified us of address changes.



FAMILY ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

Summer 1992

p. 1

Volume 16 No. 4

FAMILY ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

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1992 REUNION

In just a few weeks, the VVV Association will be gathering in Nacogdoches, Texas, for the fifteenth annual reunion of the group. If you have not yet made your reservation, please be sure to do so today. Our hosts, John H. and Sue Vawter and their family, have been busy for the past year making plans. They promise a time of good food, fun and fellowship.

Headquarters for the reunion will be the Fredonia Hotel and Convention Center at 200 N. Fredonia St. Reservations can be made by writing the hotel, or by calling 1-800-594-5323. The room rate is \$49.00, plus 13% tax, and is for 1-4 people per room. Be sure to mention the Association to receive this discounted rate.

The reunion is a great time to see old friends/cousins, make new friends and add new cousins to the family tree. If you are not interested in genealogy, come anyway; you won't be bored.

VVV REUNION

30 JULY - 2 AUGUST 1992

NACOGDOCHES, TEXAS

FIRST CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES, 1790

This information is from the printed Schedules of the 1790 census as published by the Bureau of the Census in 1907-08, Keep in mind that schedules for some counties are missing. No schedules are known to exist for Delaware, Georgia, Kentucky, New Jersey, Tennessee, and Virginia; apparently they were destroyed during the British attack on Washington during the War of 1812. The names listed here and on the Virginia state enumeration and Kentucky tax lists are probably part of our family. When reading the early records, it is often difficult to interpret some of the hand-writing, and errors are made when compiling indexes.

North Carolina, Salisbury District, Stokes County

VANTER, John

1 Free white male of 16 years and upward, including heads of families

4 Free white males under 16 years

4 Free white females including heads of families

South Carolina, Camden District, Richland County

VAUGHTERS, Cornelius

2 Free white males of 16 years and upward, including heads, of families

8 Free white females including heads of families

VIRGINIA

Records of the State Enumeration: 1782 to 1785

Essex County, District Five - 1783

VAWLER, Benjamin 5 White

Cumberland County - 1782

VAUTER, Samuel 10 White, 4 Black

Cumberland County - 1784

VANTER, Samuel 10 White Souls, 1 Dwelling, 2 Other Buildings

Essex County, District Six - 1783

VAWTER, William 6 White

KENTUCKY

"First Census of Kentucky" compiled from Tax Lists

Fayette County

VANTERS, William Tax List Date - 23 May 1789

Woodford County

VANTERS, William Tax List Date - 14 June 1790

SOME EARLY VIRGINIA MARRIAGES

(Not a complete list)

Anton, Thomas m. Patsey Vawter 21 Dec 1835 Essex County

Beasley, Adam m. Fanny Vawter 15 May 1799 Caroline County
(Another listing has the name as Beazeley, and 15 May 1797.)

Clarke, Walker m. Elizabeth Vawter 26 Jan 1802 Orange County

Coghill, Eli m. Elizabeth Vawter 10 May 1860 Essex County

Coleman, John m. Caroline Vawter 26 Feb 1874 Essex County

Dohony, James m. Wintifred Vawter 23 Feb 1775 Orange County
(Another listing has Dabony, James and Winifred Vawter.)

Harvey, Thomas m. Mary Vawter 4 Dec 1793 Cumberland County

Hopkins, John m. Elizabeth Vawter 14 Jan 1797 Rockingham County

Newman, Thomas m. Elizabeth Vawter 28 Dec 1747 Essex County

Pitts, Richard A. m. Alice Vawter 27 Jul 1865 Essex County

Shelton, Robert m. Alpha Vawter 2 Nov 1790 Culpeper county

Stapp, Achilles m. Margaret Vawter 27 Nov 1782 Orange County

Vaughter, Jesse m. Elizabeth Watts 22 Mar 1781 Culpeper County

Vaughters, Samuel m. Obedience Jackson 6 Jan 1797 Charlotte County

Vawter, Bartholomew m. Catharine Clarke 24 Dec 1823 Essex County

Vawter, Bartholomew m. Winifred, daughter of William Hodgson,
1698 Essex County (No month or day given)

Vawter, Benjamin m. Betsey Boulware 2 Oct 1821 Essex County

Vawter, Boulware m. Sally Berry 2 Nov 1786 Caroline County

Vawter, Bowler m. Sally Davis 27 Apr 1812 Essex County

Vawter, Bowler m. Elizabeth Thomas 25 Nov 1825 Essex County

Vawter, Chadwell m. Susanna Taylor 5 Oct 1816 Henry County

Vawter, Elliott m. Elizabeth Pollard 15 Mar 1828 Essex County

Vawter, James m. Mary Susan Gray 20 Feb 1879 Essex County

Vawter, Milton m. Lucy Anthony 12 Dec 1832 Essex County

Vawter, Richard m. Elizabeth Davis 24 Dec 1829 Essex County

Vawter, Richard m. Sally Vaughn 12 Jul 1787 Caroline County

Vawter, William m. Ann Ballard 16 Jan 1774 Orange County

Vawter, William E. m. Polly Anton 4 Jul 1836 Essex County

Walden, William m. Sally Vawter 7 Nov 1810 Essex County

Sources: Index to Marriages of Old Rappahannock and Essex Counties, Virginia by Eva Eubank Wilkerson, and Some Virginia Marriages by Cecil D. McDonald, Jr. All names and dates are as given in these two sources, and may not agree with other records.

JAMESON VAWTER

This autobiography was written about 1928 by Jameson Vawter and sent to his son, William Snyder Vawter. For the most part, it is presented as originally written.

Jameson Vawter was born in Milton, Kentucky, 18 September 1856. His father being a miller, he first learned the milling business in Milton. In 1874 he went to Georgetown, Colorado, and was ore sampler at the Stewart Reduction Works until the mill burned in November 1875.

In 1876 he returned to Milton and entered the office of Dr. E.M. Wiley for the study of medicine. He graduated in the Medical Department of the University of Louisville on 28 February 1878 and was elected coroner of Trimble County, Kentucky, that same year.

He went to Louisville in the spring of 1879 and entered the office of Dr. Dudley S. Reynolds to make a specialty of eye and ear diseases. On account of ill health, he left Kentucky in November 1879 and settled in Arkansas City, Kansas, for the practice of his profession.

When the Cherokee Strip opened for settlement, Dr. Vawter went to the town of Santa Fe, Oklahoma, which is now Newkirk, the county seat of Kay County. He helped organize the city government of Santa Fe, and was the first mayor of said city. He was also the first treasurer of Kay County.

He practiced medicine in Ponca City, Oklahoma, for three years, moved to Columbia, Missouri, where he resided five years, then returned to Arkansas City, where he is now living and is a practicing physician. He has also practiced medicine in Carlsbad, New Mexico.

Jameson Vawter was married in Milton, Trimble County, Kentucky, 17 Nov 1884, to Sallie Giltner Snyder, daughter of William and Delia Snyder, who was born in Trimble County 3 September 1860, and died 21 April 1893 in Arkansas City, Kansas.

Jameson Vawter was married second at Paris, Kentucky, 13 November 1894, to Adah C. Vivion, daughter of Irvin and Mary Ann Vivion, who was born in Boone County, Missouri, 4 September 1870, and died 22 March 1904 in Columbia, Missouri.

Children of Jameson and Sallie Vawter:

Delia S. Vawter, born in Arkansas City, Kansas, 3 September 1885. She is now a primary teacher in the schools of Arkansas City.

F. Bruce Vawter, born in Arkansas City, Kansas, 22 December 1886. He is now chief clerk in the division superintendent's office of the Railway Mail Service in Fort Worth, Texas.

Jameson Vawter, born in Arkansas City, Kansas, 21 April 1889. He is now professor of civil engineering in the University of Illinois at Urbana.

Wiley R. Vawter, born in Carroll County, Kentucky, 3 April 1891; died in Arkansas City, Kansas, 23 January 1918. He was a window decorator of ability.

William S. Vawter, born in Arkansas City, Kansas, 29 March 1893. He was a telegrapher and was in the employ of the Western Union for a number of years in Los Angeles, California, as complaint supervisor. He is now living in New York City.

Children of Jameson and Adah Vawter:

Adah Mary Vawter, born in Arkansas City, Kansas, 20 October 1895. She was married in Arkansas City to Lester L. Howenstine of Manhattan, Kansas. They are now living in Muskogee, Oklahoma.

Lena Virginia Vivion Vawter, born in Ponca City, Oklahoma, 14 June 1899. She was married 31 May 1920 at Newkirk, Oklahoma, to Samuel Webster Payden. They are now living at 525 N. First Street, Arkansas City, Kansas.

CLARENCE MERRILL AND EDYTHE BARRICKLOW VAWTER

Among the papers of William Snyder Vawter was this clipping regarding the deaths of Clarence Merrill and Eythe Barricklow Vawter in 1926.

Pastor and Wife Killed, Son Safe in Auto Crash
South Bend, Ind., Dec. 17. - (Special) The Rev, C.M. Vawter, 50, and his wife were instantly killed this afternoon when an east bound New York Central mail train struck their automobile in Oseola, Ind. Their son John, seven, suffered only minor hurts although carried half a mile with the wreckage of the car.

In his book, "Those Were the Days," Paul Edward Vawter, of Hightstown, New Jersey, recalls the deaths of his parents. He was a sophomore at DePauw University in Greencastle, Indiana, at the time.

"I rode the interurban to Osceola. Just before stepping off the car, I had a strange premonition the Dad and Mother had been in a minor automobile accident. I walked the short distance to the parsonage. The entire house was lighted. There was probably a social affair. I would surprise everybody.

"I was greeted at the door by several people and told that Mother and Dad were gone; they had been fatally struck that afternoon by a train. John was in the hospital with a scalp wound. As with many people who have experienced sudden tragedy, I was in complete disbelief; these things happen to others, certainly not to me. Mary K., in noting my expression of incredulity, nodded, it was really true. I was completely traumatized to a point I couldn't cry.

"The next twenty-four hours were going to be hectic; I would be making important and vital decisions affecting the family's future. I suddenly became aware of the extent to which we had depended on my parents. I would now be responsible for our family since I was the eldest (18). However, Mary K. had matured much beyond her age (14), and Harold (13) was fast developing. There was no question in my mind about our capability to succeed.

"The next day I learned the details of events leading to the accident and how it came about. Mother and Dad, with John in the back seat, were visiting members of the congregation who were ill or in need of comfort; this was a part of pastoral duties. They were doing this today "because Paul is coming home tomorrow." The railroad crossing was "protected" by an electric "ding-ding" warning bell. It wasn't adequate for passengers in a closed car, especially on a snowy and windy day. They obviously didn't see the train coming. The wrecked car and occupants remained on the front of the engine until the train was brought to a stop.

"Of greatest concern to me at the time was the future of our family. It was most important to all of us that we remain together as a family and that I continue my college education. This was a problem that would have to be met later."

Dues is \$7.00 per year, and can be sent to:

VVV Family Association c/o Sue Vawter, RR 6 Box 390, Nacogdoches, TX 75961

A NEW VAUGHTERS

Congratulations to Lance William and Sigrid Elizabeth Kohler Vaughters of Windsor, Ontario on the birth of their son, Lucas William Vaughters, who was born 10 March 1992. Lucas weighed eight pounds, four ounces, and is the grand-son of Larry William Vaughters of Woodland, California, and great-grandson of William Clayton Vaughters of Temple City, California.

IN REMEMBRANCE

Dallas C. Pickett, 76, of North Vernon, Indiana, died 15 April 1992 at Norton Hospital in Louisville, Kentucky. He was born 24 August 1915 in Ripley County, Indiana, son of Alva and Bertha Wilson Pickett.

A retired attorney, he was a member of the Indiana Bar Association and the Indianapolis Bar Association. He was a graduate of Franklin College and graduated from law school in Memphis, Tennessee. He also belonged to the Murat Shrine and the Scottish Rite in Indianapolis and the Southport Masonic Lodge. He attended Zion Baptist Church in Jennings County, Indiana.

Surviving are four brothers, Raymond Pickett of Indianapolis; Denver Pickett of Apple Valley, California; Ralph Pickett of Ames, Iowa; and Milton Pickett of Kokomo, Indiana; two sisters, Neva Findley of Seymour, Indiana; and Nina Duckett of Milpitas, California; and several nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by a brother, Maurice Pickett. Dallas was the nephew of Edna Reynolds of Butlerville, Indiana.

* * * * *

Elmer E. Vawter, 72, of Shelbyville, Indiana, died 30 January 1990. He had been a self-employed carpenter before retiring, and was a member of Lewis Creek Baptist Church, south of Shelbyville.

Surviving are two daughters, Nancy Sears and Virginia McConnell; a stepdaughter, Grena Conway; four grandchildren and three step-grandchildren. Preceding him in death was his wife, Thelma Mummert Vawter.

(Can anyone send more information on Elmer E. Vawter?)

A CORRECTION

A name was misspelled in the Spring 1992 newsletter in the announcement of the birth of Christopher Swiatek. Please note that the great-grandmother should be Mina Vawter, not Nina.

Mina Vawter was born in Nacogdoches, Texas, in 1891, and was named after two Minas. The first was Mary Elmina Cunningham, wife of Joel Vincent Hamilton, born in Linn Flat, Nacogdoches County, in 1866. The other Mina was the wife of Theodore Vawter of Appleby, Texas. Theodore was the son of Lorenzo Dow Vawter and his second wife, Frances Fowler McNeil.

Thanks to Helen Dart Johnson of Fullerton, California, for sending this correction in the spelling of her mother's name.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

Congratulations to M. Glen and May Vawter, 33 Delaine Dr., Normal, IL 61761, who are celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary.

In honor of this special occasion, their children are hosting an Open House on Sunday, 28 June 1992, from 2:00 - 4:30 p.m. It will be held in the Fireside Room of Calvary Baptist Church, 1017 N. School St., Normal, Illinois.

Glen is a past president of the VVV Association.



FAMILY ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

Fall 1992

p. 1

Volume 17 No 1

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1992 REUNION HIGHLIGHTS

To tell everything about the reunion would take several pages, so we will simply touch on a few of the events.

The 1992 reunion of the VVV Association was held in Nacogdoches, Texas, July 30 - August 2. Hosts were John H. and Sue Vawter, J.W. and Kay Vawter, Danny and Renae Chaviers, and Melinda Vawter. It was evident that much time and effort went into the planning, and to them all we say, "Thank you."

On Thursday evening, following early registration, a car caravan made its way to "Catfish Junction" for an all-you-can-eat dinner. Not one person went away hungry.

With the ringing of the official VVV bell, the meeting was called to order by President John H. Vawter on Friday morning. Invocation was given by Rev. Roger Byler. The By-laws Committee, composed of Beth Melton, Connie Bugos, Cheryl Glasgow, Robert M. Vawter, and Ken Wicker, gave their report and read the proposed by-laws.

Once again, the ancestor charts were on the walls and each one was encouraged to sign their name in the proper place. The charts had been color coded by Sally Brown, with each child of Bartholomew and Winifred Hodgson Vawter being represented by a different color. Ribbons of that color were worn by each descendant.

Speaker for the morning was Mrs. Carolyn Ericson of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas. Also making an appearance was a clown, "Lotta Buttons," aka Beth Melton. She and her father, Roger Byler, gave a talk on "Ancestors." Lotta Buttons stayed for quite some time after the meeting entertaining the children.

Several VVV items were displayed. Among them were two quilts brought by Charles Burt. One was made by his grandmother, Maggie Dora Vaughters, in 1910. It won 1st prize in the 9th District Fair in Gainsville, Georgia, and the prize was a pump organ. The organ is still in the family home in Dawsonville, Georgia. This quilt has been registered by the Georgia Quilt Project and will be on display in the Georgia State Capitol from October 1 - November 15 of this year.

The other quilt was made from blocks that had been signed by all those in attendance at a previous reunion. These blocks were then embroidered and made into a quilt by Betty Burt.

On Friday evening, following a buffet dinner, Bill Vawter, of Houston, Texas, gave a brief talk on how the VVV Association began. He introduced Carolyn Vaughter, also of Houston, as one of those who had helped organize the Association.

The program for the evening was "A Visit with Winifred Hodgson Vawter," presented by Sally Brown. Several people requested a copy of her presentation, and it is printed in this newsletter.

A memorial service was conducted by Fred and Wordna Wicker, with assistance from their granddaughters, Rebecca Cummings and Margaret Wicker. The service began with a violin solo, "Finally Home," by Ila Vawter. She was accompanied by Ellen Cummings. Those remembered were:

1. Clyde A. Beeman, 87, Columbus, Indiana, died 7 Dec 1991
2. James L. Vaughters, 69, Memphis, Tennessee, died 31 Dec 1991
3. Olga Vawter Bullington, 89, Atwood, Tennessee, died 18 Jan 1992
4. Dallas C. Pickett, 76, North Vernon, Indiana, died 15 Apr 1992
5. Elmer E. Vawter, 72, Shelbyville, Indiana, died 30 Jan 1990
6. Louise Brown Caine, 72, Greenville, S. Carolina, died Feb 1992
7. Mildred McClendon Childers, 83, Lufkin, Texas, died in 1991
8. Carl Benjamin Vawter, 77, Grand Rapids, Michigan, died 4 Jun 1992
9. Marie Jones Fearnow, 93, Circleville, Indiana, died Dec 1991
10. Charles Artis Bruce, 79, Dawsonville, Georgia, died 18 Mar 1992
11. Vertie Bell Harber, 88, Dawsonville, Georgia, died 7 May 1992

On Saturday morning, a number of people accompanied J.W. Vawter on a tour of the Jones Belgian Bleu Farm; others spent the morning shopping in the downtown area of Nacogdoches. The conference room was open all day to allow a time for the exchange of genealogical information and for the use of the copy machine.

Following the Saturday buffet dinner, the VVV Children's Chorus, under the direction of Ellen Cummings, entertained with four songs. This year the chorus was made up of twelve children, and it continues to be a highlight of the reunion.

Speaker for the evening was Mr. Bob Murphy, a local humorist and national and international speaker.

During the business portion of the evening, the proposed by-laws were read for the second time. They were voted on and approved. The Audit Committee, Joe Melton, Sandra Robinson, and Billy M. Vawter, reported that the books had been examined and found in order. The 1992 Nominating Committee report was given by Fred Wicker. Nominated as president was Billy M. Vawter of Oklahoma City. Robert L. Vawter, Newaygo, Michigan, was nominated as vice-president, and all other officers to remain in office. These nominations were unanimously approved.

Special recognition was given to the following:

Traveling the farthest - Bob and Donna Vawter, Middletown, Delaware
Omer and Helen Johnson, Fullerton, California

Youngest - Stephanie Chaviers (5) and Kristen Glasgow (5)

Oldest - Bill Vawter (84)

Longest Married - Robert C. and Margaret Vawter (62 years)

J.W. and Kay Vawter, with the help of most of the children present, distributed the always popular door prizes.

The 1992 reunion was adjourned by out-going president, John H. Vawter. New president, Billy M. Vawter, and his wife, Dorothy, will host the 1993 reunion in Oklahoma City.

A VISIT WITH WINIFRED HODGSON VAWTER
Researched and Written by Sally Brown

"My name is Winifred Hodgson Vawter and I am the wife of Bartholomew Vawter. It is the year 1710. This is the third week in May and our black people and white indentured men have just finished planting all the tobacco seedlings in small mounds in our fields. That is very tedious work and Bartholomew and I are always glad when it is done. In about six or seven weeks the plants will flower and then they must be topped off by pinching off the new shoots on each plant so that all of the plant's strength will go into the leaves. Tobacco requires painstaking care all through the hot summer months with lots of stooping and bending to tend each plant so that each one will thrive. We raise premium, sweet-scented tobacco because it brings the best price. Tobacco is not as profitable a crop as it was some years ago, but it is still the best cash crop today. So many more men are raising tobacco now. Many indentured men who served their time on tobacco plantations have stayed on in Virginia after their time was up. They secure a land patent and begin to raise their own tobacco, so the market is full.

"Tobacco is harvested in the fall and the leaves are hung in the barn to dry. After that the men tie the leaves in small bundles that we call "hands." When the weather turns wet we pack the hands tightly in small bundles called "hogsheads." The hogsheads are sent down the river to be marketed on consignment for us in England.

"Here in Virginia we use tobacco for money. Did you know that? We have never yet minted any money of our own. I guess we have been so busy just living that our government has not made any coins of our own. Once in a long while I get a gold or silver coin. They usually come in change when Bartholomew buys something for us from a ship captain. When I get a coin, especially a gold one, I always save it to buy something special because they are worth more than tobacco.

"Tobacco is very popular here in Virginia and in Europe as well. More and more people are enjoying it all the time. Both men and women smoke as well as boys and girls as young as seven. On Sunday morning people gather before church service begins for a smoke and then again after the service to smoke and to visit.

"Would you like to know a little bit about my dear husband and how we met? Bartholomew was born in England and came over here about 1685 from Plymouth. I was born here in Virginia. My grandparents on both sides of my family, both the Hodgsons and the Paiges, came over from England in the 1650's, so my family has been here for more than 50 years. Bartholomew and I met after he had received this land patent where we live now, which is near some land my father owned. He knew my father, and before long I met him at a gathering on our plantation. Leisure is rare on the frontier, but we make the most of free time when we have it. We love to dance, and to sing, and to just be together and visit. These times soften the lonely hardships of everyday living here on the frontier. It was at one of these get-togethers on my folk's plantation that Bartholomew and I met. I remember how strong and handsome he looked that day when he came riding up on a horse from his land. All the girls were flirting with him and I was afraid that he would never see me. He loved to sing, and he still does, and he was such a good dancer. He still is. He especially like to dance the Virginia Reel. And best of all he loved the good food that the women brought because he had been doing his own cooking for quite some time.

"After a courtship of almost a year, we were married in the little Anglican Church where I had gone to church all my life with my parents. That seems like a long time ago because now Bartholomew and I have six living children. Our oldest is John, a fine, responsible young man. Then next is William, and then David. Then comes Margaret and she is our only daughter. She is my comfort and joy. I love our sons very much, but I would be disappointed not to have a daughter. After Margaret are our two young sons Edward and Benjamin. We have an Englishman who lives with us and is the tutor for the children. They generally do well with their lessons. We are proud of each one of them.

"The children spend part of each day with their tutor. He is teaching them to read and to write and to cipher. They are learning some Latin and some history, too. Then John and William and David spend the rest of the day with their father. Sometimes they oversee the tobacco fields, sometimes they go into Hob's Hole to take care of business, sometimes they hunt. Whatever Bartholomew is doing, they do with him. Margaret works with me. She is becoming a good cook and is also learning to preserve food. Sometimes we card wool or flax or weave or sew or make quilts or knit. Sometimes she helps with the washing and last year for the first time she helped make candles and soap. I want her to know how to keep a proper home. Edward and Benjamin have chores in the house or outside near the house. They gather the eggs and feed and water the chickens. They help with the kitchen and herb gardens. They are still so young that it is hard to get them to stick with one task for very long. Most of the time they play with the children of our black people.

"As I said, Bartholomew secured this large land patent where we live a number of years ago before we were married. It is west of Hob's Hole. Incidentally, the Court is trying to change the name to Tappahannock, but no one calls it that. Living along the river is convenient because it is the safest way to get our tobacco to market and to travel as well. Almost no one travels overland down to Yorktown or Williamsburg or to any of the plantations in between because of the danger of Indians and wolves. No one travels west of our land very far even by the river because there are so few settlers. Most of the land is unclaimed by white men. Indians live out there.

"Back in 1676 Indian warriors struck within a few miles of our land to the west and killed 36 settlers and burned plantations. That was a long time ago, but we are still cautious even though most of the Indians we see now are friendly.

"About that same time, a group of men from around here and two Indian guides traveled west overland through the uncharted area to explore the land. They traveled until they came to some great, tall mountains. They eagerly climbed one mountain believing that from the top they would be able to see the Pacific Ocean. Much to their disappointment, all they could see from the top was more mountains. We still haven't found the Pacific over there yet.

"The summer months are the hardest here. The weather is usually very hot and humid and there is almost no breeze blowing. The swamps are always full of water and the mosquitoes are terrible. Nearly everyone gets the summer complaint and it is especially hard on the children.

"But there are benefits to living right here on the Rappahannock. It is full of many kinds of fish that are delicious to eat. There are lots of shad that measure 36 inches long. The drumfish are often 6 feet long, and sturgeon

are anywhere from 3 to 12 feet long. Oysters are often 12 inches in diameter. Some days I keep a couple of the black men out of the fields and send them down to catch fish for dinner. Bartholomew loves shad, and oysters are the children's favorite.

"In addition to tobacco, we grow enough corn and flax for our own use here on the plantation. We also have a kitchen garden where we raise vegetables, and an herb garden so I can make simples to keep us well. We have a few cows, and some sheep, and some hogs for our own use. We let the hogs run wild in the swamps. Everyone does that because there is enough food for them to eat there and then we don't have to feed them. In the woods around us there are elk, buffalo, deer, and flocks of wild turkeys. Some of the turkeys weigh as much as 50 pounds. There is plenty of meat for everyone.

"In the summer and fall the woods are full of fruit and nuts. We find delicious wild grapes, strawberries, persimmons, plums, and mulberries. The kitchen help and I preserve as much as we can of all the fruit for the winter. The woods have many kinds of beautiful trees. There are tall, stately oaks, maples, sweet gums, chestnut, pecans, birch, towering pines, and iridescent holly.

"Some of the biggest events on the frontier are weddings. We all look forward to them. People gather from far and near when there is a wedding, and they stay for several days. One of these days before long I imagine our son John will be getting married. After the ceremony is over we always have a huge feast. The men all go hunting and bring back the meat. The women each make their special dish. After the feast is over there is dancing, singing, smoking, and drinking. We always make a special punch for wedding feasts out of 3 jugs of beer, 3 jugs of brandy, 3 pounds of sugar mixed with nutmeg and several sticks of cinnamin. You stir and mix it all together until the sugar melts and then it is ready to drink. Mmm, it is good!

"Because travel is so difficult, people stay several days at weddings. Everyone pitches in and helps with the work while we visit. At night the women sleep in the beds and the men sleep on the floor. It is a time for catching up on each other's lives, a time for showing off new babies, and a time to share the joys and sorrows with one another. Oh, I love weddings!

"Other occasions are celebrated when the Courts sponsor parties for the entire area. I remember when King Charles II had a new son, the Court declared a public celebration. The Court feels that these parties are an important way to keep we colonists contented and to help dispel the loneliness of frontier life.

"How do you like my new dress? Margaret and I carded the flax, spun the thread, and wove the material. After we got the material woven, I dyed it this lovely blue with the paper that our new shipment of sugar was wrapped in. You know that we get refined sugar in 10 pound cones from the West Indies. It is expensive, but it is good. The cones of sugar come wrapped in the prettiest blue paper and I always save it to use to dye material. This shade of blue is my favorite color.

"We don't raise sugar here in Virginia, so the only sweetener we have is honey. That is good for most things, but I do love to use real sugar for some of my special recipes."

"When I was thinking about how I'd make this dress, Bartholomew went on a trip to Williamsburg to see about our tobacco shipment. When he came home he was telling me about the new kind of dresses that the women are wearing there. The skirts have some things in them called hoops that make the skirts stand way out all around. He said they look real pretty. Now, can you imagine me working around here on the plantation in a hoop skirt! I didn't even think seriously about making this dress that way.

"It seems to me that our strong faith in God has helped all of us persevere through the many trials of life on the frontier. Next to plain survival and fair government, the worship of God is our most important priority. Government and church are completely entwined here. The Church of England is the only legal religion in Virginia right now. There is always a shortage of capable priests since all clergy must be ordained in England. We have a fine new priest at our church. We are paying him the standard wage of 16,000 pounds of tobacco a year. Many men who serve on vestries are also judges of the court. Vestrymen serve for life and they usually choose their own successor. Vestries have the right to levy taxes and these are usually high since the vestry is responsible for the poor and the orphans, for many public works, and for supervising property lines. Vestries proudly say that Virginia needs a united church and state so the gentry could lead us in government as well as religion. I suppose they are right, but I often have my doubts about this since the blending of church and government frequently has led to feuds between the two, and that interferes with my worship.

"Well, it's time for me to go see if Bessie has gotten dinner started. I'm glad we live here in Virginia. Life is good, most of the time. Bartholomew says we have much more land than we could have ever hoped to own in England. There is plenty of food for everyone. People on the frontier are friendly and very willing to help one another. Best of all, there is a bright future for our children here. They can always move west and claim new land for themselves."

SUNDAY MORNING SERVICE

On Sunday morning of the reunion, a non-denominational service was held in the conference room. The service was led by our host, John H. Vawter, who is an ordained Methodist minister. The text used for John's message was Genesis 9:11. Song leader was Frank Robinson and pianist was Sandra Robinson. Ushers were cousins Matthew Loch and Keith Smith. An offering was taken to be given to the Daughters of the Republic of Texas. The service closed with the singing of "Blest Be the Tie."

GET WELL WISHES

Col. James S. and Alliene Corbitt and their daughter, Betty Callis, spent a few more days in Texas after the reunion. On the way home, Col. Corbitt became ill, but continued on to his home in Tennessee. He underwent by-pass surgery in Jackson, Tennessee, on August 11, and was in the hospital for about ten days. He is now recuperating at his home at 118 Gardner Ave., Martin, TN 38237.

CARDS WERE APPRECIATED

Thank you notes were received from Beth Sabel and Esther Vawter for the cards that were sent to them from the reunion. They both appreciated being thought of.

IN REMEMBRANCE

Frances Buchanan Piatt Guynes, 84, died on Saturday, 9 November 1991, of leukemia. She was born in San Antonio, Texas, and had been a resident of E1 Paso, Texas, for 80 years. Her mother was Ella Keithley Buchanan, and her grandmother was Jane Vawter Keithley. She was the widow of William McCoy Piatt and James Fillman Guynes.

Frances had been editor for the monthly E1 Paso Garden Club newsletter, was a charter and life member of the E1 Paso County Historical Society, and had been active in many other organizations and civic groups.

Surviving are two daughters, Jane Piatt Emmett of Rancho Mirage, California, and Keithley Piatt Wagner of San Antonio; six grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

She was a member of the VVV Association, and had attended several reunions.

* * * * *

Catherine Bloom Vawter, 50, died on Tuesday, 21 April 1992, at her home in Aurora, New York, following an illness of several months. She was born in Washington, D.C., the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Bloom of Chevy Chase, Maryland. Her mother survives. She was a graduate of the University of Vermont with a degree in nursing.

In addition to her mother, she is survived by her husband, A. Thomas Vawter, Aurora, New York; two daughters, Anne E. Vawter of St. Louis, Missouri, and Alison R. Vawter of Ithica, New York; two brothers, Stephen C. Bloom of Media, Pennsylvania, and Thomas R. Bloom of New York City. Memorial services were held at All Saints Church in Chevy Chase.

Catherine and Thomas attended the 1990 reunion of the Association in Richmond, Virginia, and are pictured in the reunion book. Their daughter, Anne, attended the 1991 reunion in St. Louis.

* * * * *

Virgil D. Vawter, 75, died on Wednesday, 26 August 1992, at his home in West Sacramento, California. He was born 1 December 1916 in Stevens County, Kansas, the son of Vernon and Renabelle Cope Vawter. He was a World War II veteran, and retired in 1977 after 33 years as a ticket clerk for the Southern Pacific Railroad. Following his retirement, Virgil began volunteer work in his community at Kaiser North Hospital, West Sacramento Church of the Nazarene, and California State Railroad Museum.

Surviving are his wife, Esther Barker Vawter; a daughter, Lynette Allen of Medford, Oregon; two sons, Dale C. Vawter of Rohnert Park, California, and Brian L. Vawter of Fresno, California; three grandsons; five sisters, Frances (Beth) Sabel and Alberta VanderMei, both of Portland, Oregon, Eleanor Spink of Boring, Oregon, Bertha Craft and Dorothy Vawter, both of Covina, California; three brothers, Earl Vawter of Bransford, Missouri, James B. Vawter of Springfield, Missouri, and Charles Vawter of Crooked River Ranch, Oregon. Preceding him in death was a brother, Harry C. Vawter.

His wife, Esther, is a member of the Association, and for many years served as editor of the newsletter.

YOU CAN HELP

Please send news about your family for inclusion in the newsletter. Items of interest are obituaries, marriage announcements, birth announcements, awards, graduations, etc. Also send queries and research findings. These items should be sent to the newsletter editor. Thanks!

VVV ITEMS

There are now several VVV related items available, but space does not allow listing them this time. Watch for a list in the next newsletter.

VVV MEMBERS AND FRIENDS ATTENDING THE 1992 REUNION

ARIZONA

Bobbi Vawter Meek

CALIFORNIA

Omer Dee and Helen Johnson

DELAWARE

Robert L. and Donna Vawter

GEORGIA

Charles and Betty Burt

John Carlson Jr.

Cheryl Glasgow

Timothy

Kristen

Bud and Vivian Stephens

Myron

Lula V. Thompson

Flara V. Waters

ILLINOIS

Paul and Connie Bugos

Tadd

Harry and Edith Vawter

INDIANA

Bonita Welch

MICHIGAN

Robert C. and Margaret Vawter

Robert L. and Ila Vawter

MISSISSIPPI

Lowell Vaughters

Norma S. Vaughters

Fred and Wordna Wicker

Fred and Norma Wicker

Margaret Wicker

OHIO

Joseph V. and Martha Hendricks

Krista Keir

Lucille Keir

OKLAHOMA

Edna M. Bowers

Duncan and Sally Brown

Matthew Loch

Billy M. and Dorothy Vawter

TENNESSEE

Betty Corbitt Callis

James S. and Alliene Corbitt

Barbara Vawter DeFur

Emily

Jake

Frank and Sandra V. Robinson

Robert M. (Pete) and Norma Vawter

Lynn Weekly

TEXAS

Gloria Albinesi

Juanita M. Baker

Earl and Lula Bolerjack

Celia Burnett

Roger and Shirley Byler

Danny and Renae Chaviers

Eric

Stephanie

Rubyann Darnell

Patti Darnell

Richard and Natalie Howard

Robyn

Austin

Andy Jasper

Annette Joseph

Larry and Jo Lacy

Joe and Beth Melton

Alice Glenn Ricks

Bill and Thelma Shattuck

Ernie and Bess Shoemaker

Keith Smith

Louis Vanover

Carolyn Vaughter

Phill and Peggy Vaughter

Courtney

Bill and Erma Vawter

Della

Athena Johnson

Bill and Sally Vawter

Gary and RaJean Vawter

J. W. and Kay Vawter

Misty

Tiffany

James E. and Mary Vawter

John H. and Sue Vawter

Lewis and Evelyn Vawter

Melinda Vawter

Mike and Ann Vawter

Julie

Steve

Herbert & Hannah Williams

VIRGINIA

Ellen Cummings

Rebecca

Frederick



FAMILY ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

p. 1

Winter 1992

Volume 17 No. 2

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ASSOCIATE EDITOR: Sally Brown, 3016 Madison, Tulsa, OK 74114

GLEANINGS FROM NACOGDOCHES COUNTY, TEXAS
NACOGDOCHES COUNTY CEMETERY RECORDS
Compiled and Edited by Carolyn Reeves Ericson

Volume I:

Vawter, Georgie L. b. 20 Sep 1883, d. 29 Sep 1952; daughter of Jack and Mary Etta Landers Wilburn; married Theodore Vawter; buried Bethel Cemetery

Volume II:

Pitman, Herman Burnett b. 1 Oct 1898, Cushing, d. 16 Aug 1969; son of Henry and Sarah Vawter Pitman; married Ethel Weaver, 6 Mar 1920; buried Sunset Memorial Park

Volume III:

Vawter, Infant d. 1897; child of L.D. and M. Vawter; buried Fenton Cemetery
Vawter, L.D. b. 10 Nov 1876, d. 2 May 1968; married Mattie Fenton;
buried Fenton Cemetery
Vawter, Mattie b. 28 Aug 1878, d. I Jul 1941; daughter of Allen
and Emma Bullock Fenton; buried Fenton Cemetery
Vawter, Mino O. b. 1907, d. 1915; daughter of L.D. and Mattie Fenton Vawter; buried
Fenton Cemetery
Vawter, Ovid D. b. 8 Feb 1934, d. 4 Jul 1934; buried Fenton Cemetery
McCandless, Robert N. b. 6 Jun 1903, d. 17 Oct 1963; married Hazel I. Vawter; buried
Cushing Cemetery
Davis, Mattie b. 2 Oct 1885, Carthage, d. 16 Feb 1970; daughter of D.Y. and Louisa Ann
Davis Gammage; married 1st Julian D. Vawter, 21 Dec 1906; married 2nd Weldon
E. Davis, 1931; buried Cushing Cemetery
Davis, Weldon E. b. 16 Dec 1875, d. 5 Mar 1949; married
Mrs. Mattie B. Gammage Vawter; buried Cushing Cemetery
Vawter, Julian D. b. 10 Nov 1883, d. 4 Sep 1922; married Mattie B. Gammage; Mason;
buried Cushing Cemetery

Volume V:

Vawter, Baby no dates, unmarked grave, buried Pleasant Hill Cemetery
Vawter, Francis b. 1 Feb 1830, d. 3 Mar 1915; buried Pleasant Hill Cemetery

- Vawter, Josephine Elmina Bullock b. 26 Mar 1863, d. 23 Dec 1899; daughter of James Franklin and Mary Jane Russell Bullock; married 1st Prior J. Parrott, 22 May 1879; married 2nd Theodore Vawter, 20 April 1882; buried Pleasant Hill Cemetery
- Vawter, Theodore b. 6 Sep 1862, d. 19 Dec 1936; son of Lorenzo Dow and Frances Vawter; married 1st Josephine Elmina Bullock, 20 Apr 1882; married 2nd Georgia Lorene Wilburn, 28 Jan 1904; buried Pleasant Hill Cemetery
- Vawter, H.A. b. 4 Jul 1879, Linn Flat, died young; unmarked grave; son of William James and Harriett Annie Rogers Vawter; buried Linn Flat Cemetery
- Vawter, Harriett Annie Rogers b. 2 May 1847, Georgia, d. 1879, Linn Flat; unmarked grave; daughter of Augustus and Harriett Hightower Rogers; 1st wife of William James Vawter; married 26 Jan 1869; buried Linn Flat Cemetery
- Vawter, John b. 21 Dec 1839, Alabama, d. 21 Aug 1862; unmarked grave; son of Lorenzo Dow and Elizabeth Dawson Vawter; C.S.A., Linn Flat Co. of 12-month Men for Coast Service buried Linn Flat Cemetery
- Vawter, John Homer b. 7 Aug 1905, d. 30 Jan 1974; buried Bethel Cemetery
- Vawter, Thomas H. b. 17 Nov 1844, Lafayette Co., Mississippi, d. 11 Jan 1862; son of Lorenzo Dow and Elizabeth Dawson Vawter; C.S.A. Private, Linn Flat Co. of 12-month Men; burial place unknown
- Seelbach, Lavina Hamilton b. 5 Dec 1870, d. 3 Feb 1962; daughter of Andrew Shanklin and Louisa Jane Vawter Hamilton; married John William Seelbach; buried Helpenstell Cemetery
- Hamilton, Infant b. and d. 1869; unmarked grave; son of Andrew Shanklin and Louisa Jane Vawter Hamilton; buried Clifton Cemetery
- Smith F.M. b. about 1832, Huntsville, Alabama, d. 26 Oct 1900; married 1st in 1858 in Alabama; married 2nd ____ Vawter; C.S.A. Co. D 14th Alabama Regiment; burial place not given

THE PEOPLE OF NACOGDOCHES COUNTY IN THE CIVIL WAR

by Carolyn Reeves Ericson

Smith, F. Marion

Born - About 1832, Huntsville, Alabama

Died - 26 Oct 1900 by hanging

Spouse - Alpha Frances Vawter, married 30 Aug 1896

Comments - Shot his sister-in-law, Elmina Bullock Vawter. Convicted and hanged.

THE PEOPLE OF NACOGDOCHES COUNTY IN 1860 - LINN FLAT BEAT

L.D. Vawters	Age 49	Male	White	Farmerb. Tennessee
John Vawters	Age 21	Male	White	Farmerb. Alabama
William Vawters	Age 19	Male	White	Farmerb. Mississippi
Thomas Vawters	Age 16	Male	White	Farmerb. Mississippi
Asa Vawters	Age 14	Male	White	Farmerb. Mississippi
Louisa Vawters	Age 11	Female	White	b. Mississippi
Robert Vawter	Age 9	Female	White	b. Mississippi

Compiler: W. T. Vawter
Address: 702 Wigley
State: Mineola, Tx 75773

ANCESTOR CHART
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			16 <u>David Vawter</u> B. ca 1800 KY D. 1845 Texas
		8 <u>John Milton Vawter</u> B. 23 March 1828 PB. Kentucky M.23 March 1852	17 <u>Lucinda Glover</u> B. ca 1805 KY D. ca 1857 TX
4 <u>Thomas Milton Vawter</u> B. 8 May 1857 PB. Panola Co. TX M. 13 March 1881 D. ca 1935 PD.Harrison Co. TX		D. 9 February 1909 PD. Timpson, Tx 	18 <u>William L. Durkee</u> B. D. ca 1850 TX
		9 <u>Mary Grigsby Durkee</u> B.10 August 1836 PB Mississippi M. 23 March 1852 D. 22 June 1918 PD. Timpson, TX	19 <u>Mary Ann Weir</u> B. ca 1811 D. Ca 1883
2 <u>John Thomas Vawter</u> B. 18 April 1882 PB. Beckville, Tx M. 16 December 1905 D. 12 July 1947 PD Marshall, Texas 		10 <u>James S. Carter</u> B. 15 Feb. 1811 PB. North Carolina M. 10 Dec. 1835 D.19 August 1887 PD. Kilgore, Tx.	20 <u>Alexander Carter</u> B. 1784 VA D. 1844 Miss.
		5 <u>Hannah Magnolia Carter</u> B. 4 February 1857 PB. Rusk County, Texas M. 13 March 1881 D. ca 1936 PD. Harrison Co. TX	21 <u>Mary (Polly) Davis</u> B. ca 1789 N.C. D. 1844 Miss.
		11 <u>Hannah Malvina Weir</u> B. 21 April 1814 PB. Rockbridge Co.VA M. 10 December 1835 D. 12 February 1883 PD. Longview, TX	22 <u>Andrew Reid Weir</u> B. 1755 VA D. 1821 VA.
1 <u>William Thomas Vawter</u> B. 10 February 1911 PB. Marshall, Texas M. 16 July 1933 D PD		12 <u>Rufus Maxfield Anderson</u> B ca 1813 PB Mississippi M. 2 July 1850 D. 4 January 1857 PD Harrison Co. TX	23 <u>Mary (Polly)Grigsby</u> B. 1774 LA. D. 1836 Miss.
		6 <u>William Bates Anderson</u> B. 29 March 1853 PB. Harrison County, Texas M. 1 December 1875 D. 10 January 1914 PD. Harrison County, Texas	24 <u>Frederick Anderson</u> B ca 1763 D 1814 Miss
		13 <u>Anne Josephine Hall</u> B. ca 1834 PB. Alabama M. 2 July 1850 D. 14 February 1889 PD. Harrison Co., TX	25 <u>Abigail</u> B. ca 1772 D. 1847 Texas
3 <u>Hattie Jane Anderson</u> B. 15 December 1878 PB. Harrison County, Texas M. 16 December 1905 D.. 8 June 1968 PD. Marshall, Texas		14 <u>John Calvin Fields</u> B. ca 1830 PB Alabama M. 13 March 1855 D. ca 1890 PD Harrison Co. TX	26 <u>Wm Wakefield Hall</u> B. ca 1790 D. 28 July 1854
		7 <u>Martha Caroline Fields</u> B. 15 March 1858 PB. Harrison Co. TX M. 1 December 1875 D. 20 October 1920 PD Harrison Co. TX	27 <u>Pamela Shropshire</u> B. 1799 D. 25 August 1849
		15 <u>Salina Jane Sudduth</u> B. 1834-41 PB. Alabama M. 13 March 1855 D. ca 1861	28 <u>Joseph Fields</u> B. 1785 S.C. D. 7 Nov. 1851 TX
Ida Larrett Orr (Spouse of No. 1)			29 <u>Sarah H.</u> B. 1790 S.C. D. 1861 Texas
			30 <u>David Burton Sudduth</u> B. ca 1800 D. 1859 Texas
			31 <u>Sophia (?)</u> B. D.

NACOGDOCHES COUNTY FAMILIES
Compiled by the Nacogdoches County Genealogical Society

LORENZO DOW VAWTER

Lorenzo Dow Vawter, born Williamson County, Tennessee, 12 May 1812, died at age 85 in Nacogdoches County, Texas, 17 March 1897, buried in the Linn Flat, Texas, Cemetery. Son of Richard and Cynthia McGuire Vawter who married 11 November 1806 in Elbert County, Georgia.

So far as known, Lorenzo Dow had one brother and four sisters. Asa Monroe married Martha Madden and lived in Mississippi, Martha W. married John M. Priest and lived in Tennessee, Sarah W. married Hiram Franklin Tennison and lived in Mississippi, Alpha Frances married 1st Smith Voss, 2nd Joseph Trotter and lived in Mississippi, Nancy M. married Samuel Marcum and lived in Mississippi.

Richard Vawter died 1827, Lawrence County, Tennessee. Cynthia Vawter married 2nd John Ray and lived in Lawrence County.

Lorenzo Dow Vawter was the grandson of John and Franky Ward Vawter of Virginia, North Carolina, Georgia; great grandson of Richard and Frances Towles Vawter of Virginia; great-great grandson of John and Margaret Noel Vawter of Virginia; and great-great-great grandson of Bartholomew and Winifred Hodgson Vawter of Virginia.

Lorenzo Dow married Elizabeth Dawson 17 March 1839, Limestone County, Alabama, and by 1840 they had moved to Lafayette County, Mississippi. She was the daughter of Ezekiel and Hannah McFaddin Dawson.

Lorenzo Dow was a stage driver. It was told that when he was within five miles of his destination he would blow a horn, one toot for each passenger so that proper amount of food would be prepared by the time he reached the tavern. When he moved to Texas sometime between 1858 and 1860, he became a farmer.

Elizabeth Dawson Vawter died 28 July 1858; whether in Mississippi or en-route to Texas is not known. Their children were: John R., 1839-1862; William James, 1841-1916; Thomas Henry, 1844-1862; Asa Monroe, 1845-1875; Louisa Jane, 1849-1875; Juliann, 1851-1887; Robert Newton, 1854-1937. Lorenzo Dow married 2nd Mrs. Frances McNeil, 2 November 1861, Nacogdoches County, Texas. They had three children: Theodore, 1862-1936; Andrew Donaldson, 1867-1870; Alpha Frances, 1870-1930.

Theodore Vawter, the eldest son of Lorenzo Dow and Frances McNeil Vawter, was married first to Mrs. Josephine Elmina Bullock Parrott, called "Mina." Mina was killed by a brother-in-law, F. Marion Smith, over a property settlement. F. Marion Smith was the husband of Theodore's sister, Alpha Frances. He was convicted for this crime and died by hanging on 26 October 1900.

[This is a portion of a biographical sketch written by Hazel Vawter McCandless, a descendent of Lorenzo Dow Vawter. Hazel was treasurer of the WVV Family Association from 1978 until her death in 1989.]

SOME NACOGDOCHES COUNTY MARRIAGES

L. D. Vawter - Mrs. Frances McNeil	14 Nov 1861
Wm. J. Vawter - H. H. Rogers	26 Jan 1869
W. J. Vawter - Caroline Holbrook	24 Feb 1881
Theodore Vawter - J. E. Bullock	20 Apr 1882
F. M. Smith - A. F. Vawters	30 Aug 1896
Elbert Vawter - Minnie O. Mixon	19 Nov 1896
T. J. Johnson - Ada Vawter	29 Dec 1898

"THOSE WERE THE DAYS"

By Paul Edward Vawter

"Dad was out of bed about four-thirty on Monday mornings (wash days) to build a fire in the kitchen stove. He heated cistern water in a large copper boiler in preparation for the day's activities. The iron-free rainwater eliminated the need for any softening agent. He moved about quickly and was delighted when our clothes were hung outside to dry before any of our neighbors'. He was typically a competitor.

"Dad manned the hand-operated washing machine. Each load required eight minutes of washing. He kept his key-wind watch open and placed where he could keep tab on the time. These were known as vest-pocket watches with a cover that opened and closed. They were also quite bulky.

"When time for the wash cycle had passed, Dad turned the wringer handle while Mother fed the clothes through into a tub of cold rinse water. White and colored clothes were always washed and rinsed separately to avoid any cross-coloring. Bluing was added to the rinse water for white clothes, ensuring continued whiteness. I never understood why bluing didn't turn clothes blue. But I never did have any knowledge of chemistry. After the rinse, the clothes were again passed through the wringer into a large wicker basket, ready to be hung outside to dry. For Mother and Dad, clothes and dishes were never rinsed, they were "renched." That was a reflection of Southern Indiana rhetoric. Their pronunciation is not in the dictionary.

"Outside, the wire clothes line had to be cleaned with a damp cloth. Mother wore a special apron made only to hold clothes pins. Reaching upward to hang wet clothes was not an easy chore. But she never complained.

"After drying, Mother removed and folded the clothes as she placed them in the basket. On freezing cold days, the clothes were stiff with ice. Mother's hands became painfully cold, even when wearing gloves. I felt so sorry for her. She rubbed her hands together over the stove for warmth. Her ordeal comes to mind whenever I use an electric clothes dryer. The next day, Mother completed the laundry operation at the ironing board, being very exacting as to folding and putting the clothes away."

VVV RELATED ITEMS FOR SALE

VVV Family Association Decal, 3" x 3", perfect size for your car windshield \$1.00 plus a s.a.s.e. Order from: John H. Vawter, Route 6 Box 370, Nacogdoches, TX 75961.

Vawter, Vauter, Vaughter(s) Vital Vittles (Cook Book) Volume 1, published in 1984, 81 pages; Volume 2, published in 1985, 107 pages. Both are paperback, spiral bound. \$7.50 each, including postage. Order from: Bonita Welch, RR 1 Box 227, Scipio, IN 47273.

The Family of Albert and Josie Vawter, published 1985, hardbound, 539 pages with index. Contains much information about the ancestors of Albert Vawter. \$40.00 plus \$3.00 postage. Order from the author: Shirley Vawter Byler, Route 1 Box 319, Sweeny, TX 77480.

Valletort Coat of Arms T-shirts. These T-shirts were a popular item at the reunion last August. The coat of arms is in full color. Size extra large only. \$15.00 each plus \$3.00 postage. Order from: Gary Vawter, 5513 Jester Dr., Garland, TX 75044

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR DUES?



IN REMEMBRANCE

Helen Cripe Vawter, 88, died 28 Aug 1992 at her home in Ajijic, Jalisco, Mexico. She was born in Frankfort, Indiana, and attended Purdue University where she was a member of Kappa Kappa Gamma. She married Wallace Read Vawter in 1925. He preceded her in death in 1988. The couple lived in five states, Thailand and Indonesia during his 30-year government career as an engineer, fiscal officer, and foreign service officer. They moved to Ajijic in 1963.

She was active in the Lake Chapala Society Library and the Lakeside Garden Guild for many years. In Denver, Colorado, she had been president of the Newcomers Club and in Bangkok, president of the American Society and the Women's Club.

Surviving are a son, W. Read Vawter; two daughters, Jane Leary and Nancy Palter; four grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

In 1982, Helen and Wallace traveled from their home in Mexico to attend the VVV reunion in Madison, Indiana.

* * * * *

M. Glen Vawter, 74, of Normal, Illinois, died 25 Sep 1992 at St. Joseph Medical Center. He was born 23 Sep 1918, son of David Guy and Myrtle McCoy Vawter. He was a retired carpenter and a veteran of World War II.

Memberships included the Mohammed Shrine of Peoria, Bloomington Consistory, Carpenters Local 63, and Disabled American Veterans. He was also a member and past master of the Normal Masonic Lodge and a former member of the Bloomington Barbershoppers. He attended Calvary Baptist Church in Normal.

Surviving are his wife, May C. Jordan Vawter; four sons, Rev. Wayne G. Vawter, Lake Mills, Wisconsin; Bruce G. Vawter, Sappington, Missouri; Roger G. Vawter, Hudson, Illinois; and Rev. Gary G. Vawter, Burton, Michigan; a daughter, Shirley K. Beasley, Farmer City, Illinois; a brother, Lowell G. Vawter, Bloomington, Illinois; three sisters, Allene Powell and Wilma Schapmire, both of Cooksville, Illinois; and May Schapmire, Bloomington, Illinois; 15 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. Two brothers and a sister preceded him in death.

Glen was active in the VVV Family Association and had served as president. He and his family were hosts for the 1987 reunion in Normal.

* * * * *

Mary Vawter, 97, of Louisville, Kentucky, died 13 October 1992 at Humana Hospital-Suburban in Louisville.

She was a native of Charleston, Illinois, and a member of First Christian Church, Daughters of the American Revolution and American Legion Post 35 Auxiliary, all in Jeffersonville, Indiana. She was the widow of former Jeffersonville Mayor Homer Vawter, who served from 1938 to 1942.

Surviving are two nieces, Joan Lloyd and Beverly Hughes, both of Louisville.

THANK YOU!

A "Thank you" to W. Read Vawter of Ajijic, Jalisco, Mexico, for his generous donation to the VVV Family Association. He is the son of the late Wallace Read and Helen Cripe Vawter.

"Thank you," too, to all who have helped by sending obituaries and other information for the newsletter, and to those who have sent a change of address card when moving.

Any help is always greatly appreciated.



FAMILY ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

Spring 1993

p. 1

Volume 17 No. 3

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT: Billy M. Vawter, 3618 W. 39th Street, Oklahoma City, OK 73119

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NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Bonita Welch, RR 1 Box 227, Scipio, IN 47273

ASSOCIATE EDITOR: Sally Brown, 3016 Madison, Tulsa, OK 74114

1993 REUNION

"Someplace Special!" - that is what a brochure prepared by the Oklahoma City Convention and Visitors Bureau says about the city. The brochure goes on to tell of the many cultural events and attractions available for everyone of all ages to enjoy.

The 1993 VVV reunion will be held in Oklahoma City on Aug. 5 - 8, and the hosts, Bill M. and Dorothy Vawter, have made plans for the reunion to be "Someplace Special" as well.

The motel they have chosen is the Ramada Inn, located at 800 S. Meridian, just off I-40 on the western side of the city. The room rate is \$39.00, plus tax, for two queen size beds or one king size. Be sure to mention the Association to receive this discounted rate. Reservations can be made by writing the motel or by calling 1-405-942-0040 or 1-800-228-2828. Bill and Dorothy have also arranged for dinners at the motel on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights.

On Friday, there will be a bus tour of the city, leaving at 11:00 a.m. and returning at 4:00 p.m. We will stop at the Cowboy Hall of Fame for a guided tour lasting about 1½ hr. The bus will take us past many places that some may want to visit on their own on Saturday, including the Southern Nazarene College campus, Bethany Cemetery, Myriad Gardens and Crystal Bridge, Remington Park Race Track, and several other attractions.

William Dwight Vawter, son of Bill and Dorothy, will lead a tour of the Family History Center at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints on Saturday. Information from the library at Salt Lake City is available by way of computer, and everyone is encouraged to bring their pedigree charts. This tour will leave the motel at 10:00 a.m. and go by car caravan.

Costs for the dinners and tours are as follows:

Thursday dinner, choice of catfish or turkey and dressing, \$7.00; Friday dinner, choice of chopped sirloin or chicken, \$7.00; Saturday dinner, choice of beef ribs, chicken with cream sauce or chicken fried steak, \$14.00. These prices include tax and gratuity. Friday bus tour, \$6.00; Cowboy Hall of Fame \$4.00 for adults, \$2.00 ages 13 - 18, \$1.00 12 and under. Please remember that all meals and tours are optional.

The next newsletter will tell more details of the events being planned. As you can tell, Oklahoma City will indeed be "Someplace Special" this August - be a part of it!

GOLDEN WEDDING

THE VERNON (INDIANA) BANNER WEDNESDAY, 11 MAY 1887

"Last Wednesday, May 4th, was the fiftieth anniversary of the marriage of Jessie R. and Sarah Vawter. The friends and relatives of this worthy couple prepared to celebrate the occasion in a fitting way, and the home of their oldest son, Wm. A. Vawter, of Campbell Tp., was the scene of as pleasant a gathering as is often witnessed in this life. Early in the morning the friends and relatives began to arrive, and by the time ye scribe and his better half arrived, the house was overflowing with happy guests and the grounds were filled with the young people and children, merry over their games. Friends still kept coming bringing well-filled baskets of all sorts of dainty edibles, until the grand total of those present reached 109 persons. There were four sisters, seven children, eighteen grandchildren and four great grandchildren of Mr. and Mrs. Vawter in this company. Promptly at twelve o'clock the friends assembled in the house, where a short exercise, consisting of music, recitations and the reading of a short biography of the venerable bridal pair was held. After this, the guests repaired to the dining room and partook of an excellent dinner.

"Mr. and Mrs. Vawter received many congratulations from their friends and also a number of useful presents. Mr. Vawter is in his 70th year and Mrs. Vawter in her 66th year. They have lived in Jennings County all of their married life. They are the parents of eleven children, nine of whom are still living. That their lives have been exemplary was very apparent from the large number of friends assembled, who seemed glad of the opportunity to show their love and esteem for them. It was indeed a golden occasion, and we hope that their lives may be prolonged and that they may see many more anniversaries of the happy day.

"The success of the occasion and the comfort of the guests were largely due to the efforts of Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Vawter and Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Wagner."

SOME JENNINGS COUNTY, INDIANA, MARRIAGES

Bramwell, James H. - Julia Ann Vawter	26 November 1833
Campbell, Allen - Emily Vawter	6 August 1829
King, George - Frances Ann Vawter	14 May 1840
Reed, Hiram T. - Catharine Vawter	21 March 1844
Storey, Thomas - Jane Vawter	10 January 1826
Stott, John - Elizabeth Vawter	7 April 1831
Thelkeld, John - Polly A. Vawter	18 September 1835
Vawter, Achilles - Maria Denham	25 July 1850
Vawter, James H. - Eliza E. Goodhue	10 April 1853
Vawter, Jesse R. - Sarah Parks	4 May 1837
Vawter, John - Jane Smith	21 November 1825
Vawter, John - Ruth Minton	5 October 1826
Vawter, Elder John - Mrs. Martha Pearce	11 October 1850
Vawter, John Taylor - Permelia Dwyer	9 May 1835
Vawter, John Terrell - Mary V. Story	13 June 1850
Vawter, Johnson S. - Diana Moncrief	19 October 1854
Vawter, Smith - Jane Terrell	21 April 1829
Vawter, Smith - Elizabeth Smith	8 January 1835
Vawter, William C. - Sydney O. Willis	11 November 1851

WILL OF FRANCES (TOWLES) VAWTER, WIFE OF RICHARD VAWTER

Dated 11 November 1811, Prob. 26 December 1811, Madison Co., VA

A photocopy of this will, as recorded in Madison County, Virginia, was given to Shirley Vawter Byler by Dr. Karen Bowman, a descendant of Tabitha (Vawter) Rouse. Tabitha was a daughter of Richard and Frances (Towles) Vawter.

"In the name of God Amen, I Frances Vawter (widow of the late Richard Vawter deceased) of the County of Madison and State of Virginia, calling to mind the certainty of death and the uncertainty of life doth make and ordain this my last will and testament revoking all other wills by me heretofore made - Imprimis, I bequeath my soul to God who gave it, and my body to be buried in a decent and Christian like manner and as to my worldly goods my will and desire is that after my decease my Executors sell the whole of my Estate and the money arising from the sale thereof together with what debts is owing to me and all the money I have in hand be divided in the following manner first pay to my daughter Frances Alpha and Omega Shelton thirty six pounds lawful money of Virginia and the balance to be equally divided between my three daughters Frances Alpha and Omega Shelton above mentioned, Anna Vaughter, and Nancy Wilhoit, and their lawful heirs - I leave my estate in this manner from a conviction that my children herein named have received less from there father Richard Vawter deceased than my other children. Lastly I appoint Joseph Early executor to this my last will and testament in Witness whereof I have set my hand and seal this 11 day of November one thousand eight hundred and eleven."

Her
Frances X Vawter
mark

Signed sealed and delivered

In presence of

John Harrison

Her

Elizabeth = Jarrell (?)

mark

Adam Rouse

"At a Court held for Madison Co. the 26th day of December 1811. This last will and testament of Frances Vawter deceased was exhibited into Court and proved by the oaths of John Harrison and Adam Rouse two of the witnesses thereto and ordered to be recorded. And on the motion of Joseph Early Executor therein named certificate of probat thereof is granted him in due form whereupon he qualified and entered into bond with security according to Law."

Teste
Benjamin Cave

FAMILY GROUP SHEETS WANTED

VVV President, Bill M. Vawter, needs family group sheets on the following:

John Vawter and wife, Franky Ward
John Vawter and wife, Cynthia McGuire
John Vawter and wife, Rhoda McGuire

Bill's address is 3618 S. W. 39th Street, Oklahoma City, OK 73119

ARTHUR DEVER VAWTER

Contributed by Melba Vawter Ashburn

Arthur Dever Vawter was born in Scandia, Kansas, in 1899. He was the youngest of 4 boys in the family. His father died when Arthur was 5 years old and his mother moved to the Flora, Oregon, area with her four sons.

Arthur moved to Culdesac, Idaho, in 1919 and became a rural mail carrier. There he met Gladys Parks, and they were married in 1922. They became parents of nine children.

While living in Culdesac, Arthur was employed at the Culdesac Flour Mill. He remained there until 1946 when he was employed by the Camas Prairie Railroad of Lewiston, Idaho. He moved his family to Lewiston where he retired in 1962. Following his retirement he traveled extensively and became interested in geological facts which he shared with many friends.

Since his retirement and the death of his wife, Gladys, he lived in Bandon, Oregon. He moved to Grangeville, Idaho, in 1973 and married Myrtle Laugton. She resides in an apartment near the Care Center where Arthur is now living.

The six surviving children are Velda Hogaboam and Glenn Vawter, Grangeville; Melba Ashburn and Erma Hund, Lewiston; Ellis Vawter, St. Maries, Idaho; and Arvin Vawter, Sacramento, California. He has 19 grandchildren, 31 great-grandchildren, and 2 great-great grandchildren.

Woodworking has been his hobby. He is noted for making picture frames and other items of wood. Many of these are located in Grangeville residences. Also he has a reputation of being a handy man for many friends and relatives. His many grandchildren have enjoyed the wooden play blocks he made for each of them.

He has learned the sign language alphabet in order to communicate with his wife, Myrtle.

JAMES S. CORBITT AND THE HUMPHREYS COUNTY TELEPHONE COMPANY

Reprinted from the TDS Telecom brochure

Charles Moorehead Stribling started the Home Telephone Company in 1896. He was a true telephone "pioneer." Located in rural west Tennessee, Stribling held the telephone franchises for Perry, Benton and Humphreys Counties. His substantial home in Plant and the fine carriage horses he was so fond of were symbols of his good business sense.

A favorite past time of young James Corbitt's was to ride in Stribling's carriage, drawn by one of his great uncle's fine horses. Together, they would travel from farm to farm to put water into the crank telephones.

From Plant, it was two and one half miles to the railroads. In those days, Uncle Charlie's carriage rolled down Highway 1, now U. S. 70. Sometimes James and Uncle Charlie would stop to visit with another kind of pioneer, headed west to California. Wagon train and rail passengers frequently stopped in Humphreys County to rest, before tackling the balance of their arduous journey.

In later years, Corbitt would acquire and run the company, prior to its acquisition by TDS Telecom.

THANK YOU

Thank you to the many people who have contributed articles and information for the newsletter.

IN REMEMBRANCE

A. Lucille Keir, 69, died 3 February 1993 at her home in Columbus, Ohio. She was a retired teacher in the Columbus Public Schools and Ft. Hayes Career Center; a Certified Medical Assistant Administrative; a professional registered Parliamentarian, and a U. S. Navy veteran of World War II. She was past president of Columbus Medical Assistants Association, and co-author of "Medical Assisting." Memberships include the North United Methodist Church, the International Altrusa Club, and the Ann Davis Simpson Chapter of D. A. R.

Surviving are sons, Bill Keir of San Diego, California; Glen Keir of Columbus, Ohio; son and daughter-in-law, John and Joan Keir of Westerville, Ohio; and grandchildren, Kevin and Krista Keir. Also surviving is an aunt, Shirley Vawter Byler of Sweeny, Texas.

Preceding her in death was her husband, Willard J. Keir.

Lucille and Willard were active members of the VVV Association and attended many of the reunions. Lucille served as associate editor of the newsletter for several years. She and her granddaughter, Krista, were present at the 1992 reunion.

* * * * *

Swift Vaughtner, 93, of Elberton, Georgia, died on Sunday 31 January 1993 at Elbert Memorial Hospital. Born in Elbert County, Georgia, he was the son of James Benson and Mary Beulah Sanders Vaughtner. He was a member of Harmony Baptist Church and a U. S. Navy veteran of World War I. He received a law degree from Mercer University where he was an honor student, and was retired from the Civil Service as Vice Consul in Columbia, South America.

Surviving is a brother, Smith Julian Vawter of Elberton.

Many VVV members will remember meeting Swift and Julian during the 1988 reunion in Georgia. At that time it was reported they were living on the 600 acre farm that had been in their family since 1805. Their father was a soldier in the Civil War, having joined the Confederate Army at the age of sixteen. Near their house is an old country store that has been in operation by the family for more than 100 years.

* * * * *

Rudy M. Vaughters of Hyattsville, Maryland, died 24 February 1993.

Burial was at Arlington National Cemetery.

Surviving are his wife, Mildred Vaughters; daughter, Melinda Lowry; Redwood Falls, Minnesota; and grandchildren, Emily Jo and Rachel Anne Lowry.

This obituary appeared in The Washington Post, and was contributed by Mary Winningham of Chevy Chase, Maryland. Can anyone supply more information on Rudy M. Vaughters?

* * * * *

From Henry A. Miller, Kenedy, Texas:

"Betsy Nash Miller died on 4 March 1993. She had a lung transplant on 16 December 1991. Although she was hospitalized several times over the last year, she had some very good times. She last entered the hospital on 3 February 1993 and fought for a month to live."

* * * * *

Alliene Jenkins Corbitt, 79, died Tuesday, 9 March 1993, at her home in Martin, Tennessee. She was the wife of Col. James S. Corbitt.

We will have more complete obituaries for Betsy Miller and Alliene Corbitt in the next newsletter.

"MY, HOW TIME DOES FLY !"

The first VVV Association reunion was held at Brady Mountain, Arkansas, in 1978. Wendy Vawter, age three months, was the youngest one present. She is the daughter of Robert Lynn Vawter, and granddaughter of Robert M. (Pete) and Norma Vawter of Milan, Tennessee.

Wendy is now a freshman at Hardin County, Tennessee, High School. She was recently featured in "Spotlight" in The Jackson Sun.

What are your hobbies and interests? "Playing my clarinet, reading and, of course, talking on the phone."

What is your ambition? "To possibly attend Mississippi State and major in engineering."

What would you change about your school? "The amount of drugs that are there; they're all over."

What is your church affiliation? "Methodist."

Who is your role model and why? "My father because I look up to him, and I think he's a great band director, and he really knows a lot about instruments."

Describe your personality: "I try to be nice to everybody, even though they are different."

What's your No. 1 priority? "School."

Do you have a boyfriend? "Yes, his name is Richard Lawson. He's a junior."

Do you have a word of advice for other teen-agers? "Go to church, read the Bible and stay clear of drugs."

ERNA VAWTER GREER

In the Spring 1992 newsletter we reported on Mrs. Erna Vawter Greer of Milan, Tennessee. You may remember that Mrs. Greer had just celebrated her 98th birthday, and was still working six days a week in her alterations shop.

We are happy to tell you that on January 3, Mrs. Greer observed her 99th birthday, and a party was held in her honor at the Merle Norman Store where her shop is located. She walks to work (several blocks), lives alone, has a garden, and stays busy. "Activity keeps me going," she said.

50th WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Robert and Melba Vawter Ashburn were honored with a reception at the Congregational-Presbyterian Church in Lewiston, Idaho, on the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary. Robert is retired after working for 40 years as a railroad engineer for the Camas Prairie Railroad and the Burlington Northern Railroad. Melba taught sixth grade and music at Centennial and McGhee Elementary Schools in Lewiston. She retired in 1989 after 30 years in education. They have two daughters, one son and six grandchildren.

Melba's father, Arthur Dever Vawter, is 93 years old and lives in the Care Center at Grangeville, Idaho. Their Vawter line is:

Melba Vawter Ashburn b. 1925

Arthur Dever Vawter b. 1899

Cyrus Beverly Vawter b. 1853

James Crawford Vawter b. 1825

Beverly Vawter b. 1789

Phileman Vawter b. 1762

DUES

If you have not yet paid your dues (\$7.00) for 1993, please send it to: Sue Vawter, Route 6 Box 370, Nacogdoches, TX 75961.

Information for the newsletter should be sent to:
Bonita Welch, RR 1 box 227, Scipio, IN 47273



FAMILY ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

Summer 1993

p. 1

Volume 17 No. 4

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TREASURER: Sue Vawter, Route 6 Box 370, Nacogdoches, TX 75961
HISTORIAN/ARCHIVIST: Norma Vawter, 1075 Oaklawn Drive, Milan, TN 38358
NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Bonita Welch, RR 1 Box 227, Scipio, IN 47273
ASSOCIATE EDITOR: Sally Brown, 3016 Madison, Tulsa, OK 74114

Membership is \$7.00 per year, and can be paid at the annual reunion or sent to the treasurer at any time.

VVV REUNION

5-8 August

Oklahoma City

Ramada Inn
800 S. Meridian
Just off I-40
West side of city

Phone numbers:
1-406-942-0040
1 800-228-2828
Mention the Association to
get the special rate.

1993 REUNION EVENTS

Thursday, August 5: Early registration and dinner.

Friday, August 6: Bus tour of Oklahoma City, including a stop at the Cowboy Hall of Fame for a guided tour lasting about 1 ½ hours. The bus will pass many places that some may want to visit on their own on Saturday. Among those places are the campus of Southern Nazarene College, Bethany Cemetery, Remington Park Race Track, Myriad Gardens and Crystal Bridge, Oklahoma State Capitol grounds (with its oil wells), and Nichols Hills.

On Friday evening there will be a dinner, followed by the always popular door prizes.

Saturday, August 7: William Dwight Vawter, son of hosts Bill and Dorothy Vawter, will lead a tour of the Family History Center at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. Everyone is encouraged to bring their pedigree charts. This tour will leave the motel at 10:00 a.m. and go by car caravan.

Following the Saturday evening dinner, several events that are becoming a tradition will occur. We will once again be entertained by the VVV Children's Chorus, under the direction of Ellen Cummings. All children are invited to be a part of this chorus. There will be the annual roll call of states represented, recognition of the oldest and youngest present and of those who traveled the farthest to attend, and election of officers. Fred and Wordna Wicker will conduct the Memorial Service to honor the memory of those who have passed on during the year. And, of course, more door prizes will be given away.

While it may seem that the weekend is filled with planned events, you can be assured there will be ample time to visit with old and new friends. The conference room will be ours for the duration of the reunion and a copy machine has been rented.

If you have never attended a VVV reunion, you may be wondering why we need two nights to give away door prizes! That is because of the number of items we usually have to give away. Some people bring hand crafted items, others bring something that is significant to their area. The variety is always amazing.

COSTS

Motel room	\$39.00 plus tax
Two queen size beds or one king size	
Thursday dinner	\$ 7.00 with tax
Friday dinner	\$ 7.00 with tax
Saturday dinner	\$14.00 with tax
Friday bus tour	\$ 6.00
Cowboy Hall of Fame	\$ 4.00 Adults
	\$ 2.00 13-18 yrs
	\$ 1.00 12 & under

WILL AND SETTLEMENT OF RICHARD VAWTER
MADISON COUNTY, VIRGINIA, WILL BOOK NO. 1, 1793-1804

Sent by Faye Davidson of Bolivar, Tennessee, a descendant of Richard and Frances Towles Vawter.

Page 386: In the name of God, amen, I, Richard Vawter, of the County of Madison and State of Virginia, being weak in body but perfect in mind calling to mind the uncertainty of life and the certainty of death, doth make this my last Will and Testament revoking all others by me heretofore made. Imprimis, I bequeath my soul to God who gave it and my body to be decently buried in a Christian-like manner; and as to my worldly goods, I give and bequeath in form following: Item, I give and bequeath unto my son-in-law, Elijah Wilhoit, the tract of land whereon he lives, on condition of his paying unto my 3 daughters, Margaret Breedlove, Lucy Finks and Tabitha Rouse, the sum of one hundred dollars each as three annual payments, the first payment to be due on the first day of January after my decease. Item, It is my will and desire that the one acre of land on which the Church stands and its appurtenances be sold to the highest bidder by my Executors and the money arising from such sale be equally divided between my daughters, Ann Vawter and Alpha Shelton, now citizens of the State of Kentucky. Item, it is my will and desire that my two sons, John Vawter and Russell Vawter remain satisfied with that part of my Estate, I have already given them. Lastly, I constitute and appoint Elijah Wilhoit, Sole Executor to this my last Will and Testament. In witness whereof, I have set my hand and affixed my seal this first day of March one thousand eight hundred and three.

N B - The word money in line
16 underlined before signed.
(spacing different)

Richard his
 X Vawter
 mark

Test - John Bradford
Whitfield Early
William Early

At a Court held for Madison County, the 24th day of March 1803, this last Will and Testament of Richard Vawter, dec'd, was exhibited and proved by the oaths of John Bradford, Whitfield Early and William Early, witnesses thereto and ordered to be recorded; and upon motion of Elijah Wilhoit, the Executor, therein named, a probate thereof in due form is granted him; he having made oath thereto and entered into bond with Security according to law.

Teste - John Walker, Jr., C.M.C.

Page 387: Know all men by these presents that we, Elijah Wilhoit and John Wilhoit, are held and firmly bound unto Merry Walker, Daniel Field, Daniel Gaines and Joshua Leather, Gentlemen Justices of the Court of Madison County now setting in the sum of two thousand dollars to which payment well and truly be made to the said Justices or their successors for the time being; we bind ourselves and each of our Heirs, Executors and Administrators,

(Page 4 - Summer 1993)

jointly and severally firmly by these presents. Sealed with our seals and dated this 24th day of March 1803, and in the 27th year of the Commonwealth. The condition of this obligation is that if the said Elijah Wilhoit, Executor of the last Will and Testament, with the Will annexed of all goods, chattles and credits of Richard Vawter, dec'd., do make a true and perfect inventory of all and singular, the goods, chattles and credits of the said deceased which have or shall come to the hands, possession or knowledge of the said Elijah Wilhoit or into the hands or possession of any other person for him and the same so made to exhibit into County Court of Madison at such time as he shall be thereto required by the said Court and the same goods, chattles and credits do well and truly administer according to law and make a just and true account of his actings and doings therein, when thereunto required by the said Court and further do well and truly pay all and deliver all the Legacies contained and specified in the said Will as far as the said goods, chattles and credits will extend according to the value thereof and as the law shall permit him, then this obligation to be void or else remain in full force.

Signed & acknowledged in
presence of the Court

Elijah Wilhoit (seal)
John Wilhoit (seal)

At a Court held for Madison County on Thursday, 24th day of March 1803, the above Bond was acknowledged and ordered to be recorded.

Teste - John Walker Jr., C.M.C.

Page 396: Inventory of Richard Vawter - In obedience to an order of the worshipful Court of Madison County to us directed, we the Subscribers being duly sworn have proceeded to appraise the Estate of Richard Vawter, dec'd., as follows:

1 small chest, 1 small stand & old bedstead	1.75
1 old man's saddle & old saddle bags	1.00
2 jugs, 4 bottles, 1 wine glass, 1 lantern	1.00
1 case razor & hone, 2 books	3.00
	L 6.75

John Bradford
William Early
Whitfield Early

At a Court held and continued for Madison County, the 29th of April 1803, this accounty of appraisement of the Estate of Richard Vawter was exhibited into Court and ordered to be recorded.

Teste - John Walker Jr., C.M.C.

[See the spring 1993 VVV newsletter for the will of Frances Towles Vawter, widow of Richard Vawter.]

INFORMATION FOR NEWSLETTER

Thank you to everyone who has been sending items for the newsletter. Please note my new address. We haven't moved - our county is getting ready for 911 service.

WILLIAM AND MATILDA CARTER VAUTER

This information was contributed by John Vawter, 1511 Birch Drive, Elkhart, IN 46514. Much of it came from his grandfather, Jesse Monroe Vawter, a son of William and Matilda Carter Vauter. John would like to hear from anyone who can help him with this line.

William Vauter b. 4 September 1803, Virginia, married Matilda Carter b. 13 April 1797, Virginia. They first went to Kentucky, and then to Ripley, Co., Indiana. Both died in 1882, and are buried in unmarked graves in the Shelby Christian Church Cemetery in Ripley Co., Indiana. William was one of five deacons and elders who organized the Shelby Christian Church in 1855. They were the parents of 10 children:

- 1) John Wesley Vauter
- 2) Henry Vauter - Volunteered in the Civil War, was a prisoner in Andersonville.
- 3) William Vauter, Jr.
- 4) Jesse Monroe Vauter - [information follows]
- 5) Benjamin Vauter - Died at the age of seven or eight.
- 6) Edmond Vauter - Killed at the age of ten or eleven by being kicked by a horse.
- 7) Susan Vauter - Married Edmund Flint.
- 8) Martha Vauter - Married Jim Baker and "went west."
- 9) Jane Vauter - Married _____ Saylor, lived near Muncie, IN.
- 10) Nancy Vauter - Married John Matheny.

Jesse Monroe Vauter was married in 1877 to Martha Melissa West. Their children were:

- 1) Pearl Amy Vawter - b. 2 November 1877, d. 5 February 1961. The spelling of "Vauter" was changed by Pearl Amy during her school years. All of her brothers and sisters began using "Vawter." She married Jesse Means on 2 January 1898. He was b. 1 March 1870 and d. 13 February 1965. They had no children.
- 2) Shearl Monroe Vawter - b. 4 September 1879, d. 1949. He married first, Stacia Cronin (or Kronen). Married second Gertrude Hibler Clampitt. Three children by first marriage, Louis Valentine, Irene and (--?--).
- 3) Carl Emmett Vawter - b. 29 January 1881, d. 19 July 1947. He married Lila Phillips and went to Genoa, Texas, about 1907. Three children, Clyde, Martha and Evelyn.
- 4) Roxie Anna Vawter- b. 29 March 1883. Married Daniel Flint. They had nine children, Wilma Pearl, Marvin Neal, Dallas D., Dilver C., Mildred, Bernard, Frieda, Gerald and Virgia.
- 5) James Thomas Vawter - b. 25 September 1886-87. He was married 14 April 1918 to Ina Ruby Gore. Two sons, John Elden Vawter of Elkart, Indiana, and James Thomas Vawter, Jr
- 6) Clara Faye Vawter- b. 15 December 1893. Married Frank Leineweber. Eight children, Charles Harley, Ruby Pearl, Lillian Marie, James Franklin, Gertrude Mae, Robert Wayne, Betty Jo and Charles Graham.

CONGRATULATIONS

Matthew Taylor Vaughters was born 23 October 1992 to Mark and Lenore Weathers Vaughters of Oxford, Mississippi. Grandparents are Lowell and Bonnie Vaughters, also of Oxford. Great-grandparents are Norma Vaughters of Southaven, Mississippi, and the late James L. "Jimmy" Vaughters. This is Norma's first great-grandchild.

Walter and Edna Reynolds of Butlerville, Indiana, celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on May 8 with a family gathering at their home.

Wendy Waters has been selected as the STAR (Student Teacher Achievement Recognition) Student of Dawson County, Georgia, High School for the 1992-93 school year. She was chosen on the basis of her SAT scores and class ranking. She has been active in many organizations during her high school years, and has numerous awards. Wendy is the daughter of Johnny and Eva Jo Waters and the granddaughter of Association member Flara Vaughters Waters of Dawsonville, Georgia.

"THOSE WERE THE DAYS" by Paul Edward Vawter

"It was not uncommon, at the time, for a young child to accompany an older brother or sister to school as a guest for the day. Although she was not related, Dad arranged for me to accompany Gladys Hummel, a neighbor girl, age twelve. The date was February 14, 1912. The experience for me was new and exciting. Gladys and I shared the same desk.

"On our way home, we met our family doctor. He gave me a small bottle filled with colored candy. He had done this before. He also told me there was a present waiting for me at home. A present. How nice! Dad met me at the door, took me to the bedroom and showed me my present - a new baby sister named Mary Katheryne. I don't recall my reaction. This was a completely new experience.

"The following year, on May 26, the same process was repeated exactly. This time I had a baby brother, christened Harold Leroy. Although I adjusted to two additions in my family I eventually became aware of an unmistakable decline in the number of Christmas presents addressed to 'Paul'."

Paul Edward Vawter's parents were Clarence Merrill and Edythe Barricklow Vawter. Paul has graciously donated a copy of his book, *Those Were the Days*, to be used to share his family's experiences with others. In the book, Paul states, "Reminiscing is not complete without including both happy and unhappy experiences. They must be accepted as a normal way of life."

If you have reminiscences of your family to share, please send them and they will be used as space allows. Perhaps you have memories of family celebrations, recollections of grandparents, family tragedies - any events from the past.

IN REMEMBRANCE

Effie Reece Chambers, 79, of Dahlonega, Georgia, died on 1 February 1993. She owned and operated a upholstery shop for many years. She was the daughter of Isaac and Delia Vaughters Reece, and the granddaughter of Henry and Annie Caine Vaughters.

Survivors include two sisters, Ira Gaddis of Dahlonega, and Pearl McDonald of Albany, Georgia; and two brothers, Herman Reece of Alpharetta, Georgia, and Auzie Reece of Dawsonville, Georgia.

* * * * *

John Edgar Taylor, 86, of Memphis, Tennessee, died on 17 February 1993 after a short illness. He was a former employee of the Agency of International Development in the former Saigon, Vietnam, and was retired director of environmental health in Nashville. He was a past president of Shelby Chapter of Sons of the American Revolution.

Surviving are his wife of 65 years, Hazel Steele Taylor; three daughters, Patricia Eldon Harvey of Magnolia, Mississippi, Jean Marie Stockton of Dallas, and Joan Sanford Hagburg of Vail, Colorado; two sons, John Taylor, Jr. and William S. Taylor, both of Memphis; 16 grandchildren and 20 great-grandchildren.

John and Hazel attended many VVV reunions: They had shared their slides of a visit to England, including the grounds and remains of Trematon Castle in Cornwall, which was once owned by a Valletort (Vawter.)

* * * * *

Bettie D. "Betsy" Miller, 57, of Kenedy, Texas, died on 4 March 1993. She was born 20 March 1935 in Austin, Texas, the daughter of Mark J. and Bettie D. Huling Nash. On 24 August 1957, she was married to Henry A. Miller and he survives.

Also surviving are three sons, Hanly A. Miller of Bryan, Texas, David N. Miller of Kenedy, and James I. Miller of Aransas Pass, Texas; a brother, Mark J. Nash of Lampasas, Texas; a grandson, Steven James Miller, and a granddaughter, Holly Rene Miller.

Betsy and her parents had been active in the Association, and served in many capacities. Her son, Jim, designed the logo that is used by the Association.

* * * * *

George William Vaughters, 83, of Dawsonville, Georgia, died on 7 March 1993 at his residence. He was born 14 March 1909 in Dawson County, Georgia, the son of William Oscar and Maggie Dora Brice Vaughters. He was a retired farmer and had been a barber.

Survivors include his wife, Era Vaughters; three daughters, Dorothy Ayers and Brenda Hathcock, both of Dawsonville, and Linda Perkins of Daytona Beach, Florida; a son, David Vaughters of Wayne, Michigan; a sister, Annie Stovall of Dawsonville; a brother, Silvey Vaughters of Lithonia, Georgia; eight grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. He was the uncle of Charles Burt.

Alliene Jenkins Corbitt, 79, of Martin, Tennessee, died on 9 March 1992 at her home. She was born 6 May 1913 in Paragould, Arkansas, the daughter of Louis Gordon and Alliene Mitchell Jenkins. She was a member of the First United Methodist Church and the James Buckley Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Surviving are her husband, Col. James S. Corbitt, a son, Jim Corbitt of New Johnsonville, Tennessee; a daughter, Betty Callis of Martin; five grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Alliene attended the reunions faithfully for many years with her husband.

* * * * *

Annie Vaughters Burt Stovall, 85, of Dawsonville, Georgia, died on 2 April 1993. She was born 13 February 1908 in Dawson County, Georgia, the daughter of William Oscar and Maggie Dora Brice Vaughters. She retired from MacDougald Construction Company after more than 25 years of service.

Survivors include a son and daughter-in-law, Charles E. and Betty Burt of Dawsonville; a brother, Silvey Vaughters of Lithonia, Georgia; six grandchildren, Pam Burt, Ellen McDaris, Cheryl Glasgow, Chuck Burt, Todd Burt, and Curtis Burt; five great-grandchildren. A son, Royce L. Burt preceded her in death.

Annie had attended many reunions. A chart of her family can be found in the fall 1991 newsletter.

* * * * *

Arthur D. Vawter, 93, of Grangeville, Idaho, died on 10 April 1993. He was born 30 June 1899 in Scandia, Kansas, the son of Cyrus B. and Elizabeth Goodwin Vawter. He retired from the Camas Prairie Railroad in Lewiston, Idaho, in 1962.

Surviving are his wife, Myrtle Laughton Vawter; three daughters, Velda Hogaboam of Grangeville, Melba Ashburn and Erma Hund, both of Lewiston; three sons, Glenn Vawter of Grangeville, Ellis Vawter of St. Maries, Idaho, Arvin Vawter of Sacramento, California; 19 grandchildren, 31 great-grandchildren, and two great-great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by two wives, Gladys Parks Vawter and Blanche Clark Vawter.

See the spring 1993 newsletter for a more complete biography.

* * * * *

Erna Vawter Greer, 99, of Milan, Tennessee, died on 20 May 1993 after being hit by a car. She was born 3 January 1894 in Gibson County, Tennessee, the daughter of Robert Horace and Emily Ann Burrow Vawter. She was a self-employed seamstress.

Surviving are two sisters, Mrs. Herbert Sisco of Milan, and Marie Hawkins of Mishawaka, Indiana; two granddaughters; five great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren. Preceding her in death were her husband, Preston Greer, and son, Felix Greer.

See the spring 1992 and spring 1993 newsletters for stories about Mrs. Greer.



FAMILY ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

Fall 1993

Volume 18 No. 1

p. 1

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT: Bill M. Vawter, 3618 W. 39th Street, Oklahoma City, OK 73119
VICE-PRESIDENT: Robert L. Vawter, 6171 E. 52nd Street, Newaygo, MI 49337
SECRETARY: Beth Melton, 1211 Casa Vale, Dallas, TX 75218
TREASURER: Sue Vawter, Route 6 Box 370, Nacogdoches, TX 75961
HISTORIAN/ARCHIVIST: Norma Vawter, 1075 Oaklawn Drive, Milan, TN 38358
NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Bonita Welch, 4145N 900W, Scipio, IN 47273
ASSOCIATE EDITOR: Sally Brown, 3016 Madison, Tulsa, OK 74114

Dues - \$7.00 per year

1993 REUNION HIGHLIGHTS

The sixteenth annual reunion of the VVV Family Association was held August 5 - 8 in Oklahoma City. Hosts were Bill M. and Dorothy Vawter and their family. To them all, we say, "Thank you for a job well done!" Anyone who has ever planned an event such as this knows that it takes much time and effort.

Early registration began on Thursday afternoon. Of course, by that time many members had already arrived, with some having been at the motel since Tuesday or Wednesday. Following a 6:30 P.M. dinner, an informal meeting was held. Entertainment was provided by Diane Ashburn Wilmonen, who sang a solo "Wings of a Dove." She was accompanied by her mother, Melba Vawter Ashburn. Melba then gave a reading, "The Bear Story," by James Whitcomb Riley. Making a return visit to the reunion was "Lotta Buttons" (aka Beth Melton,) and her father, Roger Byler. They had an original skit, written by Roger, "The Clown and the Preacher Discuss Genealogies."

Friday began with the annual business meeting at 9:00 A.M. The meeting was called to order with the traditional ringing of the VVV cow bell by the president, Bill M. Vawter. The opening prayer was given by Roger Byler. Minutes of the 1992 meeting were read by secretary, Beth Melton, and the treasurer's report was given by Sue Vawter. An invitation to hold the 1994 reunion in Tupelo, Miss., was extended by Fred and Wordna Wicker. This was voted on and accepted.

Again this year, the ancestor charts were color-coded and placed on the walls. Descendants were asked to sign their names under the proper ancestor. Each child of Bartholomew and Winifred Hodgson Vawter was represented by a different color, and ribbons of that color were worn along with the name tags.

At 11:00 A.M., most of the group left for a bus tour of Oklahoma City, including a stop at the Cowboy Hall of Fame. Some people stayed at the motel to talk and share information they had learned doing family research during the past year.

On Friday evening, following a buffet dinner, a sing-a-long was led by Hazel Hersh and Gladys Garriott, friends of Bill M. and Dorothy Vawter. Hazel then provided piano entertainment.

Sally Brown presented "Another Visit with Winifred Hodgson Vawter," telling how everyday living was during 1714. Her presentation is included as a part of this newsletter.

A memorial service was conducted by Fred and Wordna Wicker, with the assistance of their granddaughters, Rebecca Cummings and Caroline Wicker. The service began with a violin solo by Ila Vawter.

William Dwight Vawter, son of the hosts, led a tour of the Family History Center at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints on Saturday. Several members were able to find helpful information, and the computer and microfilm readers were kept quite busy all the time the group was there.

Following the Saturday evening buffet, musical entertainment was provided by a quartet, Robert and Chris Russell, and Warren and Cathy Willis. Also, by what has quickly become a highlight of the reunion, the VVV Children's Chorus, under the direction of Ellen Cummings. Those who sang were Eric and Stephanie Chaviers, Frederick and Rebecca Cummings, Emily DeFur, Krista and Timothy Glasgow, Matthew Loch, Keith and Kim Smith, Alicia and Jared Vawter, Caroline, Margaret, and McDaniel Wicker.

Fred Wicker, reporting for the nominating committee, made a motion that all officers be re-elected for another year. This was unanimously approved.

The annual roll call of the states showed there were 16 states represented, with Oklahoma having the most present, followed closely by Texas.

Special recognition was given these individuals:

Traveling the farthest: Kareen Hund Krein, Mt. Vernon, WA

Oldest: Velma Tidwell, 94, Oklahoma City

Youngest: Jon Taylor Loch, 21 months, Moore, OK

Past president, John H. Vawter, was presented a certificate. Also recognized was Charles Parker of Oklahoma City. He had generously made copies of a song he had written, and provided each person with a copy.

One of the most popular events, the awarding of door prizes, took place on both Friday and Saturday. They were distributed by Shirley Vawter Beasley, and Mike and Michelle Alexander, with the help of most of the children in attendance.

The reunion concluded on Sunday with a chapel service led by William D. Vawter. His message was "The Importance of Families."

ANOTHER VISIT WITH WINIFRED HODGSON VAWTER

Researched and Written by Sally Vawter Brown

"Do you remember me? My name is Winifred Hodgson Vawter and I am the wife of Bartholomew. We've talked before. Well, here it is, tobacco growing time again. 1714 has been a really good year so far. The indentured men and our black people are carefully tending the plants so they will all thrive. There has been plenty of rain this year and the plants look wonderful. Before we know it, it will be harvest time. Tobacco prices are better than they have been in a long time, so it looks like this year will be a good one for us.

"As I said, there's been plenty of rain this year, but we don't drink that water because there is such a danger of "country fever" during the "sickly months" of summer. All of us, even the children, drink beer or apple cider. It is much safer to do that.

"Speaking of the children, they are growing up so fast. The big boys, John and William and David, are almost as tall as Bartholomew already. Bartholomew and I know that we are very blessed. We have only six children, but each one is strong and healthy and intelligent. We are very proud of each one of them. Of course you know that the idea on the frontier is to have lots of children to populate the land and to have lots of workers for the fields.. Also, people have a big family so they can take care of their parents in their old age. I hear that there is one woman over to South Carolina who has had 34 children! Can you imagine feeding that many? Women often marry as young as 12 years old. Well, I surely don't want our Margaret to do that! There are lots of families around who have from 16 - 22 children. Often the children are from two or more wives. When a spouse dies, the one that is left usually marries again fairly soon. Some people marry five or six times in their lifetime. Well, six children is the right number for us. With only six, we can enjoy each one of them.

"Did you know that on long winter's evenings we all sit around the fireplace and take turns reading aloud from the bible while the men carve out wooden trenchers and spoons or make shoes, and the women piece quilts or knit or mend? We make quilts out of every usable scrap of material from worn out clothing. We don't waste a thing. Often, while we sit there, someone pops some corn for a treat. The children love "popped corn" and so do Bartholomew and I. The Indians taught us how to do it.

"Those wooden trenchers and spoons that the men make are for every day use. I also have pewter plates and spoons that we use for special occasions. But my dream is to one day have enough real china to use for very special occasions. I do have a few pieces already that my mother brought over from England, and then Bartholomew has bought me a few more pieces in Williamsburg from a ship captain. He is so good to me."

"I could never use china every day because we usually eat so hurriedly that the wooden trenchers are much more practical. Sometimes we don't even sit down to eat. Everybody gets up about 6:00 and we start our chores. Then about 9:00 we come in and eat breakfast whenever it is convenient with our work. We eat some cold meat, hominy and hot bread. I keep a pot of stew on the fire all the time and that is what we have for dinner. It is usually served around 2:00. Our evening meal is a very light one about 8:00. It is usually just some fruit, milk and cheese.

"Speaking of my stew, I start a large pot and just keep adding to it every day depending on what is available. The men say that the older it is, the better it tastes. Usually I start with some meat; frequently it is pork or venison if the men have been out hunting. Often I use turkey or fish. Then I add cabbage, beets, onions, carrots, peas, beans, and always corn. I also add fresh mint and sage or some of my special herbs. That is what makes my stew so good!

"Corn is one of the main crops in my "kitchen garden." The Indians have taught us so many ways to use it. You know they saved our early settlers' lives because people had never seen corn in England, and many of the different types of seeds they brought over with them would not grow here. We eat lots of bread made from our corn which is so good. Oh, I do like bread made with wheat flour too, but here in Virginia we never have been able to raise wheat successfully. Once in a long while, Bartholomew buys some from a ship captain, but it is so expensive that I can't make very much with it. Most often we eat ashcakes that the Indians taught us to make. We also eat hoe cakes that are baked on a shovel or a hoe held among the hot coals. For a really special treat, I make spoonbread with lots of eggs and butter. Mmmh, it is so good! If the men are going hunting or traveling up to Williamsburg, I bake Johnnycakes for them to take along. They are good eaten all by themselves or with a stew that they might make along the trail. Johnnycakes are made with cornmeal, salt, boiling water and milk.

"We have a root cellar under the house where the servants and I store lots of food during the growing season so we won't have a "starving time" near the end of winter like people used to have. We store potatoes, beets, carrots, corn, onions and apples. Plus barrels of salted or pickled beef or pork, crocks of pickled fruit and vegetables, and eggs smeared with fat and then packed in ashes and straw. (Don't make that face, they really are good!) We also dry lots of fruits and vegetables and meat during the summer. Those things we string on a thread and hang them in the sun to dry. In the winter we are very glad to have them to put in our soups or stews.

"Did I ever tell you about the first place we lived here in Virginia? You know that Bartholomew and I were married in 1698 and we had a pretty, little log cabin that he built for us before we

got married. He cut the logs all by himself from our land. It had one big room with a huge fireplace and a loft for sleeping. I loved it! After the children began to come, he built us this nice big house that we live in now. It is much more comfortable with our family, but we all still spend a lot of time together around the fireplace just like we did in our log cabin.

"With our big house, we are able to invite travelers to stay overnight with us. People who travel this far out on the frontier can only camp out if settlers like us aren't hospitable. Besides, we love to have people stay with us because they bring us news about what has been happening along the way.

"At Annie May and Tom's wedding last week, several of us from around here got to talking and decided it was time to hire a dancing instructor to teach our children, especially the girls. It is so important for a girl to be a good dancer. Don't you think so? The instructor will come live with us while he is teaching dancing and maybe some music, too. Many people think it is more important for a girl to dance well than to cipher well. I disagree with that, but I do want Margaret to be a good dancer. I want all our sons to dance well, also. Bartholomew is such a good dancer and dancing has always been fun for us.

"Did I remember to tell you that Bartholomew recently bought another 200 acres of land along the river from a man whose father had patented thousands of acres of land in the early 1600's? This new acreage will give us so much more land to raise a larger crop of sweet scented tobacco and some corn and still have land to cut for timber. Bartholomew and several other plantation owners have gone together and chartered their own ship to take their tobacco to market in England. Every year, Bartholomew sells our tobacco on consignment to a British merchant who handles the marketing of the crop for a commission. Our neighbor is a man who received a land patent after he had completed his indenture service to Bartholomew, and now he grows his own small tobacco crop. Bartholomew lets him ship his tobacco to market with ours so that he is able to get a better price. He is a fine, hard worker who is married and now has one son and his wife is pregnant again. He always worked well for Bartholomew, so Bartholomew is glad to help him get a good start.

"Thirty-eight years ago, after Bacon's Rebellion ending in late 1676, Virginia leaders began to search for a solution to the area's almost total dependence on one crop - tobacco. A consensus emerged that if towns were established, this would diversify the economy away from tobacco. The towns would provide immigrant shopkeepers and craftsmen with a place to locate. Leaders envisioned prosperous villages dotting the countryside that would foster education, religion, and a more satisfying social life.

"Along about 1680, the General Assembly passed a law requiring every Virginia county to establish a town. On March 25, 1682, our

own Rappahannock County purchased 50 acres of land on the south side of the river to establish a town. It was first called Hobbs Hole. (I still call it that.) A Hole usually means deep water where a ship could anchor. There are several "Holes" along the Rappahannock. They later tried to call it New Plymouth, but that didn't last. Now, they call it Tappahannock.

"In 1692, Essex County was created out of all the land on the south side of the river in Rappahannock County. We taxpayers have paid dearly for the privilege of having a new county, with a heavy tax of 73 pounds of tobacco collected for every white man, servant and slave.

"Well, enough about all of our problems with the government. It is time for me to get busy. I must make some of my very special Johnnycakes because Bartholomew and our boys, John, William and David are all leaving for Williamsburg tomorrow. Margaret and the little boys, Edward and Benjamin, will be staying here with me of course. (Edward and Benjamin would be a real handful on such a long boat trip.)

"It has been good to visit with you again. Stop by and see me anytime you're in the neighborhood. We have plenty of room and we always look forward to visits, especially from our relatives."

MEMORIAL SERVICE

The following VVV members and friends were remembered at the memorial service conducted on Friday evening of the reunion:

1. Frances Buchanan Piatt Guynes, 84, E1 Paso, TX, died 9 Nov 1991
2. Catherine Bloom Vawter, 50, Aurora, NY, died 21 Apr 1992
3. Virgil D. Vawter, 75, W. Sacramento, CA, died 26 Aug 1992
4. Helen Cripe Vawter, 88, Ajijic, Jalisco, MX, died 28 Aug 1992
5. M. Glen Vawter, 74, Normal, IL, died 25 Sep 1992
6. Mary Vawter, 97, Louisville, KY, died 13 Oct 1992
7. Swift Vaughter, 93, Elberton, GA, died 31 Jan 1993
8. Effie Reece Chambers, 79, Dahlonga, GA, died 1 Feb 1993
9. A. Lucille Keir, 69, Columbus, OH, died 3 Feb 1993
10. John Edgar Taylor, 86, Memphis, TN, died 17 Feb 1993
11. Rudy M. Vaughters, Hyattsville, MD, died 24 Feb 1993
12. Bettie D. "Betsy" Nash Miller, 57, Kenedy, TX, died 4 Mar 1993
13. George William Vaughters, 83, Dawsonville, GA, died 7 Mar 1993
14. Thomas Lamar Wiley, Sr., 69, Tupelo, MS, died 8 Mar 1993
15. Alliene Jenkins Corbitt, 79, Martin, TN, died 9 Mar 1993
16. Annie Vaughters Stovall, 85, Dawsonville, GA, died 2 Apr 1993
17. Arthur D. Vawter, 93, Grangeville, ID, died 10 Apr 1993
18. Erna Vawter Greer, 99, Milan, TN, died 20 May 1993

IN REMEMBRANCE

Thomas Lamar Wiley, 69, Tupelo, Mississippi, died Monday, 8 March 1993, at North Mississippi Medical Center in Tupelo. He was born in Hickory Flat, Mississippi, the son of Thomas Street and Emma Vawter Wiley. He was a graduate of Mississippi State University, was an Air Force veteran of World War II and the Korean Conflict, and was a life member of the Reserve Officers Association with the rank of Lt. Colonel. He had been in the air-conditioning and heating business in Tupelo for 37 years. He was an active member of First Baptist Church where he served as deacon.

Survivors include his wife Pearl Robbins Wiley; two sons, Dr. Thomas L. Wiley, Jr. of Jackson, Mississippi, and Robert A. Wiley of Tupelo; three daughters, Lera Triplet of Woodbridge, Virginia, and Ellen White and Linda Bowlin, both of Tupelo; a brother, William S. Wiley of Nettleton, Mississippi; three sisters, Vallie Cox of Texarkana, Texas, Mary Lansdale of Fordyce, Arkansas, and Addie Edwards of Concord, N. Carolina; and 14 grandchildren. A sister, Ora Wiley Wicker, preceded him in death.

He was a member of the VVV Association and had assisted with the 1986 reunion in Tupelo.

QUERIES

From: Gem Misenar, 6225 Delphi Rd. SW, Olympia, WA 98512

"Mary Ann Vawter was born July 1761 in Virginia. She married Christopher Chafin 22 August 1778 in Powhatan County, Virginia. Who were her parents? Was she the daughter of David Vawter and Mary Rucker? Will exchange information on the Vawter family prior to 1800."

From: Ann Montgomery, 409 Paddock Lane, Montgomery, AL 36109

"Need information on Harriet J. Vawter born in Tennessee, living with Isaac C. Hall and his family in Henderson County, Tennessee during 1850 census. Has anyone whose name is Waters found that it was originally Vawters or Vauters?"

From: Ruth R. Houghton, 2907 E Fairmount, Phoenix, AZ 85016

"I am interested in knowing more about the family of Bartholomew Vawter, a very early settler in Essex County, Virginia."

"PASSING THE WORD ALONG"

An article in the June 1993 Guidepost tells about Gary Vawter, of Garland, Texas, making a trip to Russia in March 1990. He went there to help the Christian Information Service deliver Russian-language Bibles.

THANK YOU

From: Bill Vawter, Houston, Texas. "Thank you for the card that I received from Oklahoma City. I carefully read all names, and knew all but about 10. Some of them I remember from our second reunion at Lake Murray.

VVV MEMBERS AND FRIENDS ATTENDING THE 1993 REUNION

CALIFORNIA

Edith Goodson

DELAWARE

Robert L. and Donna Vawter

FLORIDA

Ralphe and Caroline Vawter

GEORGIA

Charles and Betty Burt

Pam Burt

John Carlson

Cheryl Glasgow

Krista, Timothy

Bud Stephens

Lula Vaughters Thompson

Flara Vaughters Waters

IDAHO

Melba Vawter Ashburn

Merril and Velda Hogaboam

Erma Vawter Hund

Glenn Vawter

Diane Ashburn Wilmonen

ILLINOIS

Mike and

Michelle Alexander

Shirley Beasley

Darlene Gaskins

May C. Vawter

INDIANA

Mary McDaniel

John

John E. and Lois Vawter

Bonita Welch

MICHIGAN

Robert and Margaret Vawter

Robert L. and Ila Vawter

MISSISSIPPI

Martha Hudson

Emory and Clarice Mayer

Caroline Wicker

Fred and Worda Wicker

Ken and Norma Wicker

Margaret Wicker

McDaniel Wicker

OKLAHOMA

Edna Bowers

Duncan and Sally Brown

Donald and

Marquetta Chastain

David and Shirley Clagg

Vernessa Vawter Clagg

Connie Connely

Wilma Connely

Bill and Diana Loch

Amber, Jon Taylor

Matthew, Zachery

Charles Parker

Irene Pavey

George and Nona Thompson

Velma Tidwell

Bill M. and Dorothy Vawter

Joe Don Vawter

Silas and Osa Vawter

William and Diana Vawter

Alicia, Jared

SOUTH DAKOTA

John and Ellen McDaris

DeWitt, Jared

TENNESSEE

Betty Corbitt Callis

James S. Corbitt

Emily DeFur

Jake DeFur

Robert M. (Pete) and

Norma Vawter

TEXAS

Juanita M. Baker

Roger and Shirley Byler

Danny and Renae Chaviers

Eric, Stephanie

Patti Darnell

Rubyann Darnell

Joe and Beth Melton

Millard Noell

Celeste Roberts

Nick Sallee

Betty G. Smith

Keith, Kimberly

Carolyn Vaughter

Phil and Peggy Vaughter

Courtney

James and Mary Vawter

John H. and Sue Vawter

Melinda Vawter

Oscar and Erma Vawter

VIRGINIA

Ned and Ellen Cummings

Frederick, Rebecca

WASHINGTON

Kareen Hund Krein

WISCONSIN

Everett and Maxine Joling



FAMILY ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

Winter 1993

p. 1

Volume 18 No. 2

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Dues - \$7.00 per year

VAWTER WINTER LANDSCAPE NETS \$20,000 AT JACKSON AUCTION

The above headline appeared in the September 27, 1993, edition of *Antique Week*. Snow scenes have always sold well during Dennis Jackson's Indiana art auctions, but few people would have guessed that an oil painting by Will Vawter would realize \$20,000 during the auction on September 12 at Anderson, Indiana. Entitled "Winter Locked," the 20-by-24 inch painting showed a house and several outbuildings near a small stream. Jackson said he has sold only five works by Vawter during the past 13 years.

A smaller Vawter painting, entitled "Brown County Trees in Summer," sold at auction for only \$260 in 1986, and those seen for sale in galleries have usually been in the \$3,000 - \$6,000 price range. At least three VVV members are owners of Vawter paintings, and another member has two pencil drawings by the popular Indiana artist. Paul E. Vawter, who lives in Hightstown, New Jersey, had the privilege of meeting Will Vawter and visiting his studio and home in Nashville, Indiana.

Those who attended the 1987 VVV Reunion in Columbus, Indiana, may remember going to Nashville to the Brown County Art Gallery. There a special exhibit of Vawter paintings and memorabilia were displayed and a reception was held for our group. The Brown County Art Gallery Association was organized 3 September 1926 at the home of Will Vawter.

Will Vawter is also well known as an illustrator of many books of Poetry, especially those of Indiana poet James Whitcomb Riley. Several VVV members have collections of these books.

WILL VAWTER, 13 APRIL 1871 - 11 FEBRUARY 1941
By Frank M. Hohenberger (1941)

"The citizens of Nashville [Indiana] were deeply shocked Tuesday morning when the message came over the wires that Will Vawter, the artist, had passed on. The Angel of Death had gently touched his arm at 7 o'clock and led him into the land of eternal, peaceful rest. Mr. Vawter was hurried to St. Vincent's Hospital, Indianapolis, last Saturday, suffering with a threatened case of pneumonia. He was progressing beyond expectations Monday and fond hopes were built up to bring him to his home fully recovered in a short time. But it was not to be, for his heart took a rapidly weakening condition early Tuesday morning and he passed away suddenly, yet peacefully.

"Brief funeral services in charge of Rev. Charles Johnson of the Methodist church, were conducted at the Bond Funeral Home at 11 a.m. today, and the body was taken to Greenfield where the Masonic Lodge of that city had charge of the burial in Park Cemetery at 2:30 o'clock.

"Mr. Vawter was born in Boone County, Virginia, April 13, 1871, the son of Dr. Louis A. Vawter and Emma Mary Dameron Vawter. The family moved to Greenfield when he was six years old. There he attended school and when he grew up he became a warm friend and admirer of James Whitcomb Riley, a number of whose poems he illustrated as the years went on. The young Virginian displayed a great deal of art talent in his youth and in a short time was handling paint and brushes with a determination that brought forth recognition by friends and neighbors. Mr. Vawter was never a dreamer and seemed to get right down to what he wanted to do and get it over with. Like all other youngsters, he loved the great outdoors, and a close study of his wash drawings would convince anyone that he never neglected incorporating objects that would fit in with the typical scene.

"Mr. Vawter married Mary Howey Murray, of Baltimore, in 1902, the marriage ending in divorce 17 years later. In September 1923, he married Mrs. Ola Lackey Genolin, widow of the late Charles Genolin, pioneer druggist of Nashville, and one of Mr. Vawter's closest friends. The widow and his brother, Charles, of Little Rock, Arkansas, are the only close relatives.

"In the summer of 1908 the Vawters moved here from Greenfield and located on the hill overlooking Salt Creek, just south of town. Many of his paintings featured the paths leading through the beech woods to their home.

"The *Indianapolis Sentinel* hired him to work as an artist in 1891, and in 1897 he wrote and illustrated a series of humorous verses for the *Cincinnati Gazette*. In 1899, collaborating with his sister, Clara Vawter, he produced a child's book, 'Of Such Is the Kingdom' - the title later being changed to 'The Rabbit's Ransom.' He made illustrations for *Judge*, *Life* and *St. Nicholas*.

"Mr. Vawter received many prizes and honorable recognition of his work; prizes included the Hoosier Salon, 1925, 1926, 1928,

1930, 1932 and 1935 (two prizes). He had a special room showing of 32 oils at the Hoosier Salon in 1932. In 1934 he received the Vance Memorial prize from the Brown County Art Gallery Association, an organization in which he has been an untiring worker since its inception. He was also a member of the Hoosier Salon and Chicago Galleries Association.

"Invariably words seem inadequate when one desires to eulogize a friend of the community, state and nation, and it is not an uncommon occurrence to unconsciously overlook some of the finer attributes of a man who has endeared himself to a vast audience. Will Vawter was a man who loved life. Things vibrating had an appeal for him. His humorous nature virtually 'jumped out' in all his illustrations for humorous publications. It was always a clean, refined humor that would cause a gentle smile to ripple across the reader's features.

"I first met Will here in about 1910 and at the time he was illustrating some books. I recall he needed some illustration copies from work he had in hand and I visited him off and on in his studio over the present Star store. His workroom soon became a mecca for tourists, so much so that he was obliged to keep his door locked if he wanted to get any of his assignments completed. Not a few Nashville people have posed for Mr. Vawter and they were always well paid. He did drawings exclusively up until about 1912 when an Indianapolis friend called to talk over with him his art future. Before he left, Will asked, 'What would you advise me to do?' and he was told to get down to painting at once, and up until a few days before his death he did that very thing. In company with Mrs. Vawter, he made numerous trips to the Maine coast, borders of Gulf of Mexico and the Indiana country adjacent to the Ohio River. They were always the very finest companions and Mrs. Vawter proved a delightful inspiration to his work.

"We seldom know whether anyone's generosity is deep or shallow but if any movement was undertaken to better the conditions of Brown County or its citizenry, Will Vawter could be counted on to dig deeply into his purse. In the first world war, he hired a horse and buggy at his own expense and toured the county for the sale of Liberty bonds. He was not given to broadcasting what he had a notion to do, wanted to do or ought to do - he just up and did it and kept the matter to himself. And after all, press notices lauding one's art achievements should never change the position of one's head. Will was never affected that way. If you knew him at all you will agree that he always met you at eye level with a friendly greeting. Like everyone else, he had his sad moments, but he managed to keep their effects in the back of his head. Yes, he loved life deeply, and we regret that his time for going away seemed to come so soon.

"As a story-teller Mr. Vawter could be classified as exceedingly clever. As a painter, everyone loved his canvases. As a citizen, few, if any, could be referred to as towering above him, but he never lost sight of the biblical statement that in God's sight all men are equal. As a student, he was equally

conversant on subjects covering the finer, worthwhile things in life. Everybody, especially the children, seemed to love Will. He enjoyed his fun, too, and no prankster in the village where he lived could take all the honors. Seriously, Will was the type of man almost everyone would care to become acquainted with. Yessiree, Will, we're missing you. 'Good-bye' is not the word, so let's say 'So long - we'll all be joining you one of these days.'"

BOOKS WITH ILLUSTRATIONS BY WILL VAWTER

The following is a list of books illustrated by Will Vawter. It is probably not complete, and any additions would be welcome.

James Whitcomb Riley:

A Child World	Riley Love Lyrics
Child Rhymes	The Book of Joyous Children
His Pa's Romance	The Boys of the Old Glee Club
Songs O' Cheer	A Summer's Day and Other Poems
Songs of Friendship	When the Frost Is on the Punkin
Songs of Home	The Old Swimmin' Hole and Other Poems
Songs of Summer	The Prayer Perfect and Other Poems
Riley Fairy Tales	Down Around the River and Other Poems
Riley Hoosier Stories	Knee-Deep in June and Other Poems
Farm Rhymes	A Defective Santa Claus

Wallace Bruce Amsbary: The Ballads of Bourbonnais

Robert J. Burdette: Smiles Yoked with Sighs

Charity Dye: The James Whitcomb Riley Reader

Marcus Dickey: The Maturity of James Whitcomb Riley
The Youth of James Whitcomb Riley

Wilbur D. Nesbit: The Trail to Boyland

Barton Rees Pogue: Fortunes in Friendship
The Omnibus

Clara Vawter: Of Such is the Kingdom (This is the same book,
The Rabbit's Ransom published under two titles.)

A word of warning! Many of those who collect these books have found it to be addicting. The books can be found in different bindings - cloth or leather - and several different colors, picture covers or plain covers, with or without dust jackets, first editions or reprints, etc.

JAMES HARDY VAWTER

Contributed by Ralphe B. Vawter

James Hardy Vawter was born 12 August 1892 near North Madison, Indiana, the son of Willis Isaiah and Mary McIntyre Vawter. He was one of five children. Willis Vawter died when the children were young, and their mother moved to Campbellsburg, Indiana.

During World War I, he achieved a senior staff noncommissioned officer rank of Ordnance Sergeant. He attended Doane Academy in Granville, Ohio, as a pre-ministerial student. After service he worked for several automotive companies, including Cole Motor Car Company. He sailed on the SS Leviathan, which our country received from Germany in reparation.

For many years, James Hardy Vawter was a salesman for the Raytheon Company and was successful in converting their national sales program from direct to manufacturers representatives. He also served many radio component manufacturers until World War II eliminated civilian goods, as all turned to defense products. In later years he worked for Westinghouse in Buffalo, New York. He was an avid collector of American cutlery and wrote a monograph on the subject.

He was married to Mary Virginia Glover in Washington, DC, in 1919. They had two children, Jean and Ralphe. James Hardy Vawter was very proud of his family heritage.

* * * * *

Thank you to Ralphe B. Vawter for contributing this biography of his father. Ralphe and his wife, Caroline, live in Gulf Breeze, Florida, and attended a VVV reunion for the first time in 1993. Ralphe's sister, Jean Vawter Robinson, spoke at the 1990 reunion, telling about her trip to Trematon Castle in Cornwall, England.

THE CLOWN AND THE PREACHER DISCUSS GENEALOGIES

At the 1993 reunion, Roger Byler and "Lotta Buttons" (aka Beth Melton,) presented a skit written by Roger entitled, "The Clown and the Preacher Discuss Genealogies." Several people requested that the skit be printed in the newsletter, but the length prevents doing that. Anyone who would like a copy can contact the news editor. There is no charge, but please send a business size s.a.s.e.

Although the skit is *copyrighted*, Roger has given permission for any VVV members to use it, asking only that authorship be acknowledged.

THOSE WERE THE DAYS
By Paul Edward Vawter

Paul Edward Vawter writes this about his grandparents:

"Jesse Philemon Vawter married Minerva A. Ross on October 31, 1874, in Vernon, Indiana (founded by John Vawter in 1817.) He was nineteen; she was twenty-eight. Grandpa (known as Pa to his family) could neither read nor write. Grandma (Ma) had the responsibility of all written communications, the only form of communication available since they had no telephone.

"Grandpa had an unpleasant addiction to chewing tobacco, not unlike that of today's baseball players. The frequent expectorations through his straggly white beard created a continual appearance which was somewhat less than charming. Although I'm certain that Dad wasn't happy with his father's habit, I never detected any manifestation of displeasure or annoyance, although he had a very strong conviction that the use of any form of tobacco was sinful. I well recall the strapping Dad administered to me when he discovered I had recently smoked corn silk, a not uncommon activity indulged in by boys. Many parents believed that corporal punishment was the only way to discipline a child. It never occurred to Dad, apparently, and to many parents, that a more effective and humane form of guidance was available, e.g., reasoning or by the withholding of privileges. I never permitted Grandpa's habits to detract from my affection for him. He was always most kind and considerate and devoted to Grandma, who was chronically disabled.

"Grandma was comparatively short and overweight, a condition which, apparently, affected her health and the ability to move about. As a result, she was not physically able to maintain their home in a neat, clean, and orderly manner. And poor Grandpa, with his lack of experience and motivation, was not qualified to improve the situation. To him, everything was normal."

TREASURE TO TRASH TO TREASURE

A few years ago following the death of an elderly woman in Vernon, Indiana, her family began to dispose of her possessions. Among the things deemed of no value to anyone was a large box of photographs, both snapshots and portraits. The box was put out to be recycled with old newspapers.

Someone came along, saw the pictures, and knew they should not be destroyed. They were given to the Jennings County Historical Society. About half the pictures were not identified, but of those that were, four were of Vawter women. Two were Sarah Parks Vawter, wife of Jesse R. Vawter; one was Sarah's daughter, Aramantha Vawter West; and one was Aramantha's daughter, Sadie West.

Indeed, "One man's trash is another man's treasure."

CURRENT EVENTS

ROGER WICKER ANNOUNCES CANDIDACY

"All state Sen. Roger Wicker has to do to become a member, of the U.S. House of Representatives is survive what apparently will be a bruising *Republican* primary, then win the general election for the First District seat that's been held for the past 51 years by a political legend, Democrat Jamie Whitten.

"But that scenario is nothing new for Wicker, a Tupelo [Mississippi] Republican, who announced his candidacy Tuesday during a series of stops across the district.

"He's been elected three times from a state Senate district that hadn't elected a Republican since Reconstruction."

This is a portion of an article that appeared in *The Commercial Appeal*. Roger is the son of Fred and Wordna Wicker of Pontotoc, Mississippi. He and his wife, Gayle, have three children, Caroline, Margaret and McDaniel.

INDIANA GENEALOGIST

An article in, the June 1993 issue of *Indiana Genealogist* was co-written by Eric Jason Taylor. It tells of Earlham College's position during the Civil War. Earlham College, located in Richmond, Indiana, was founded as a Friends Boarding School by the Indiana Yearly Meeting in 1847. Eric is a 1992 graduate of the school. He is the son of Dr. Thomas C. and Diana Taylor, of Nairobi, Kenya, and the nephew of VVV news editor, Bonita Welch.

BILL VAWTER IS HONORED

Bill Vawter, of Houston, Texas, was selected by the National Freedom Foundation of Valley Forge to receive the George Washington Honor Medal for a lifetime of service in the category of humanitarianism. The award was made on November 3 by the local chapter at a luncheon given at the Junior League of Houston.

Congratulations, Bill!

DOROTHY VAWTER

As this newsletter was being completed, word was received that Dorothy Vawter, wife of VVV president Bill M. Vawter, has died. Her death occurred on January 12, 1994, after being hospitalized for two weeks following a heart attack. Dorothy and Bill were hosts for the 1993 VVV reunion in Oklahoma City.

We will have her obituary in the next newsletter.

IN REMEMBRANCE

Clarence A. Vawter, 69, of Warrenton, Virginia, died 4 August 1993. A memorial service was held September 7 at St. James Episcopal Church in Warrenton. He was born 6 January 1924 in Merrifield, Fairfax County, Virginia. He graduated from the University of Virginia, and before enlisting in the U.S. Navy during World War II, was a cadet at Virginia Military Institute.

After retiring from McGraw-Edison Company in 1975, he became a local realtor and was a member of the Million Dollar Club for several years.

Survivors include his wife, Virginia Henderson Vawter; two daughters, Dorcas Buffkin of Knoxville, Tennessee, and Ann Kehoe of Warrenton; three grandsons and one granddaughter; a brother, George Vawter of Arlington, Virginia; and a sister, Clara James of Media, Pennsylvania.

FOR SALE

VVV Family Association Decal, 3"x3", perfect size for your car windshield. \$1.00, plus a s.a.s.e. Order from: John Vawter, Route 6 Box 370, Nacogdoches, TX 75961

Vawter, Vauter, Vaughter(s) Vital Vittles (Cook Book) Volume 1, published 1984, 81 pages; Volume 2, published 1985, 107 pages. Both are paperback, spiral bound. \$7.50 each, including postage. Order from: Bonita Welch, 4145N 900W, Scipio, IN 47273. (There is a limited supply.)

The Family of Albert and Josie Vawter, published 1985, hardbound, 539 pages with index. Contains much information about the ancestors of Albert Vawter. \$40.00, plus \$3.00 postage. Order from the author: Shirley Vawter Byler, Route 1 Box 319, Sweeny, TX 77480.

Those Were the Days - A Chronology, paperback, spiral bound, 171 pages. A chronology of experiences and events related to the author and his parents, Clarence Merrill and Edythe Barricklow Vawter. The book has not been mass produced, but the author, Paul E. Vawter, will make a copy for anyone who is interested. The price is \$40.00, which is Paul's cost for having one made. Order from: Paul E. Vawter, Meadow Lakes #45-04, Hightstown, NJ 08520.

Growing Up Rich in Vernon, Indiana, published 1992, hardbound, 288 pages with index. A child's-eye view of a small town in the 1940s and '50s. \$19.95, plus \$1.50 postage, Indiana residents must add 5% sales tax. Order from the author: Carol Layman, 2730W Co. Rd. 200N, North Vernon, IN 47265.



FAMILY ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

Spring 1994

p. 1

Volume 18 No. 3

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Dues - \$7.00 per year

TUPELO, MISSISSIPPI - 4-7 AUGUST 1994

Tupelo, Mississippi, is known as the birthplace of Elvis Presley, and many who attended the 1986 VVV reunion in that city will remember seeing his former home. However, there is more to Tupelo than Elvis Presley.

An article in the 3 March 1994 *The Wall Street Journal* tells of Tulepo's "success at attracting a steady inflow of investment over the years," and of the eighteen Fortune 500 companies located in the area.

This August, Tupelo will attract a steady flow of Vawter, Vauter, Vaughter(s) as once again the VVV reunion is held there. Fred and Wordna Wicker and their family have been making plans for the 1994 reunion, which will be at the Ramada Inn, Tupelo, on August 4-7.

The general format is as follows:

- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| Thursday Evening, Aug. 4 | - Registration and
Early Bird Supper |
| Friday Morning, Aug. 5 | - Registration; official
opening of reunion |
| Friday Evening | - Fish fry and country music |
| Saturday Morning, Aug. 6 | - Picture taking; free time |
| Saturday Evening | - Banquet; memorial service;
business; VVV Children's
Choir; door prizes |
| Sunday Morning, Aug. 7 | - Chapel Service; adjournment |

Optional tours will be available for Tupelo's renovated Downtown area, art gallery, museum, Natchez Trace Visitor's Center, and Barnes Crossing Mall. Complete information will be included in the June newsletter, along with reservation details and prices.

VVV CHILDREN'S CHOIR

A favorite part of recent reunions has been the VVV Children's Choir, directed by Ellen Cummings. All children in attendance are invited to be a part of this choir. They usually practice on Friday and Saturday during a time when the adults are having meetings, and then perform Saturday night at the banquet. Not only does this give the children something to do, it gets them involved in the VVV Association and insures another generation of reunions. Everyone is urged to bring their children or grandchildren; special prices will be provided for them.

QUERIES

From: James R. Terry, 7024 S.W. 80th Court, Miami, FL 33143

Sally Vaughters married Jordon Hall in Patrick County, Virginia, 27 Feb 1821. Who were Sally's parents? Three other Vaughters women married in Patrick County during the period 1821-1830. Martha Vaughters married Adam Hall (brother of Jordon) 21 Jan 1827, Margaret Vaughters married Tyre Bowman 10 Jan 1821, and Drucilla Vaughters married Ewell Smith 26 Nov 1830. Were these women sisters? Clement Vaughters, age 45, was living in Patrick County in 1850. Was he a brother?

A Clement Vawter married Sarah Johnson 17 Sep 1788 in Cumberland Co., Virginia (teste Edward Vawter.) In 1819, a Clement Vaughters died in Patrick County (Inventory of Estate 20 Feb 1819.) The only Vaughters listed in the 1820 Patrick County census is Sally Vaughters. Could this "Sally" be Sarah, widow of Clement? Are they the parents?

From: Ann Montgomery, 409 Paddock Lane, Montgomery, AL 36109

Need information on Reuben T. Vawter, his wife, Harriet M. Transu, and their three daughters, Martha A., Josephine, and Harriet.

BETTER DAYS AHEAD

During the past year, many, if not all, VVV members have experienced various extremes in the weather. We've had floods, earthquakes, hurricanes, ice storms, sub-zero temperatures, blizzards, and probably other things best forgotten. A few weeks ago, a card was received from Norma Vaughters of Southaven, Mississippi, on which appeared this very appropriate quote: "Tomorrow shines with promise of joys yet to be."

One of those joys could be attending a VVV reunion. As you begin to make summertime plans, consider spending August 4-7 in Tupelo.

VVV ASSOCIATION IS INTERNATIONAL

Most VVV Association members are aware the family is spread "from sea to shining sea," but did you know we have members in other countries as well? Our international members are: Wallace Read Vawter, Ajijico, Jalisco, Mexico; Virginia Vawter Storr, Willowdale, Ontario, Canada; Thomas C. Taylor, Nairobi, Kenya; and Steven and Candace Pike, Cameroon, West Africa.

A MISSISSIPPI HOMECOMING by

Candice Pike

"Living in Africa with the nearest archival depository several days and thousands of miles away, across the Sahara and beyond, I am a bit limited in access to primary sources for my genealogical research. Yet I have found even from the remoteness of the bush that patience is rewarded and much can be accomplished via the mail. Granted, an air mail letter takes anywhere from three to six weeks to reach us and a packet of documents up to six months by air. Even so, it is a happy day when it all comes together after months or years of research and the long-missing piece is suddenly snapped into place.

"My happy day arrived with the delivery of a large brown mailing bag from the state archives, postmarked, "Jackson, Mississippi." I was ecstatic. It was to provide the basis for another happy day a year down the road while we were on home leave in Alabama from our medical missionary post here in Cameroon. Census records, correspondence with a county historian, and the thorough research of a former courthouse employee all pointed to two things: James Tilford Pike was my husband's great-great grandfather and he was from Tishomingo County, Mississippi. James T., or "Jackie," as he was known, had been among the first white settlers in that county and when he and Mary Jane Vawter took their vows in November of 1841, the first to have been married there as well.

"Owing to a major break in the family, it had taken me years to reach this point. For after Mary Jane died in 1870, Jackie, at the behest of family and friends, moved to Texas. It was there that he was to commit what was to some of his grown children, nothing less than a crime. He married an Indian. I doubt his son Rufus, my husband's great-grandfather, who also relocated to the Lone Star State, ever spoke his name again. Rufus moved further west.

"When eventually Jackie left his Indian wife and returned to Mississippi, it was too late. Rufus had by then severed all ties to both his father and home state. He passed on no names, no

places, no dates, no genealogy. Where was the family Bible? The great aunts, uncles, cousins? The faded family photographs, tintypes, and sepia prints of weddings, babies and family reunions? Only a vague story of a grandfather who had married an Indian remained. To succeeding generations, scattered far and wide, it seemed almost as if, as I often teased my husband, their family had been beamed down from another planet. Nonetheless, even if its members had become "alien"-ated from one another, at least now access was being gained to their coordinates.

"And so the question became, could I find any living descendants? It was Irene Barnes, unofficial county historian in Iuka, Mississippi, to whom I turned next. Extemporaneously questioned on the Pikes, she hesitated. But at the mention of the Vawters, she became a font of information.

"I was referred to local Vawter relations, Judge T. Fred Wicker and his wife, Wordna, in Pontotoc. I called. They were home. Lovely people. Yes, they knew the Pikes - Carey and Trana and daughter Martha Jean in Booneville. I called. They were home. What to say? I babbled on about Rufus and James T., whom they called "Tif," and his other son, Jasper, their great-grandfather, whom they called "Cephus" (very confusing) until we finally got it all sorted out and the startled family in Booneville patiently answered all my questions. No one there knew what had happened to Rufus. It was presumed he had died young. And then dear Carey's words of confirmation, "I believe we're kin. I believe we're from the same tree." And so we are.

"I couldn't believe it. Years of research from Africa and then three phone calls from the states and it all fell into place. Long lost cousins began calling from Mississippi and Texas. We filled each other in on the past century. And in so doing allowed ourselves the enjoyment of being saturated with amazement.

"One hundred and twenty years after Mary Jane Vawter's son left home, her great-great-grandson came back to Mississippi. To a family he never knew he had, who looked just like him. To the family homestead and Jacinto courthouse where his forefather had served as one of the county's early Justices of the Peace. To an album of photos of familiar faces he had never seen. And lastly, to stand beside Mary Jane's grave. It was a grey, blustery day of intermittent rain. But at that moment the clouds parted and the sun shone down on them. And as we listened to long remembered stories of a family torn apart, yet with bonds so strong, it was as if she had reached across the Atlantic and beyond the Sahara into the horn of Africa to reclaim her own."

Thank you, Candace, for contributing this.

Please send your research stories to the news editor.

A WEDDING ANNOUNCEMENT

The following appeared in the November 1993 issue of the Vintage Tulsan. Albert C. and Frances Josephine Churchwell Vawter were the parents of Shirley Vawter Byler of Sweany, Texas.

"Remember when life was simpler and more gracious and communities were closer? In this 1891 wedding announcement, we will remember even when the union of two people made the community glad.

"MARRIED: On Sunday, July 26, 1891, at the residence of the bride's parents, by Elder L. S. Hale, Mr. Albert C. Vawter and Miss Josie Churchwell, both of Shelby county [Missouri.]

"The above marriage was solemnized at the residence of the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. F. M. Churchwell, 2 miles south of this place at 9:30 in the morning, witnessed only by a few of the near relatives and friends. Miss Josie is the eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Churchwell, and is an accomplished and talented young lady, and a great favorite among her girl friends. She has had the advantages of good parental influence all her life, and accepted and improved them, making her indeed a model young lady, and a prize worthy the greatest love and respect from her husband.

"Mr. Albert is the youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Vawter, of this place, and is an exemplary young man, full of energy and industry. Has no bad habits, but is indeed a Christian young man, and respected and esteemed by all.

"Work has already begun on a residence for the newly wedded pair, to be located in the north part of town across the street from Dr. Carson's residence, and as soon as completed will be taken charge of by Mr. Albert Vawter and wife, where we hope and believe their wedded life full of joy and hopes will begin; and may these blessings attend them all the days of their lives is our wish.

"AND EXCERPTS FROM A NEOSHO, MISSOURI, PAPER FIFTY YEARS LATER:

Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Vawter will celebrate their fiftieth wedding anniversary at their home in Neosho...all their family and a few close friends will be present.

"Albert C. Vawter and Frances Churchwell were married at the home of the bride's parents near Shelbyville, Missouri, July 26, 1891. To them nine children were born, seven of whom are still living. There are also 32 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

"Mr. and Mrs. Vawter have spent most of their 50 years of married life farming in Shelby, Shannon and Newton counties of Missouri. However, they spent several years in Washington and Idaho, having a homestead in the latter state. For the past 12 years, they have been running a tourist camp at the west edge of Neosho."

*****PLEASE NOTE*****

Is there a renewal form enclosed with your newsletter? If so, then you need to pay dues. Your promptness will insure that you continue to receive the newsletter.

ADDITIONS TO THE FAMILY

Megan Elizabeth Vawter was born April 28, 1993, to Brian Lyle and Tammie Vawter of Fresno, California. Grandparents are Esther Vawter of West Sacramento and the late Virgil Vawter.

Dylan Christopher Tatum was born November 2, 1993 to Christopher and Melissa Bennett Tatum of Horn Lake, Mississippi. Grandparents are Gregory F. and Karen Vaughters Tatum of Southhaven, Mississippi; great-grandparents are Norma Vaughters of Southhaven and the late James L. "Jimmy" Vaughters.

Congratulations to all of you!

AN 80th BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

Alice Glenn Ricks, of Brady, Texas, celebrated her 80th birthday on February 17, 1994. An Open House was held in her honor on February 19, hosted by her children, Elizabeth Ricks Langston, Robert Ricks, and James Ricks.

Alice Glenn was born February 17, 1914, in Merkel, Texas, the daughter of James Edwin and Willie Elizabeth Bigham Young. She graduated from Lampasas High School in 1930, and from the University of Texas at Austin in 1934 with a degree in home economics. For the next six years she taught at Mesquite and was Home Demonstration Agent in Coleman and Hunt Counties, Texas.

On August 3, 1940, she married Glenn H. Ricks M.D., and has been a resident of Brady since that time. Her husband died November 21, 1968. She is a member of the First Christian Church, McCulloch County Historical Commission (V.P.), Texas Medical Association Alliance, American Medical Association Auxiliary, and Daughters of the American Revolution.

Alice Glenn's line of descent from Bartholomew Vawter is as follows: Alice Glenn Young Ricks⁸ ; James Edwin Young m Willie Elizabeth Bigham⁷; James Glenn Young m. Mandana Salome Thrasher⁶; Robert Young m. Elizabeth (Betsy) Vawter⁵; William Boulware Vawter m Margaret (Peggy) Henderson⁴; William Vawter m. Anne Ballard³ Edward Vawter m. Elizabeth Boulware²; Bartholomew m Winifred Hodgson¹.

IN REMEMBRANCE

Dorothy Marie Vawter, 65, of Oklahoma City, died January 12, 1994, of heart failure. She was born November 4, 1928, in Chandler, Oklahoma. Dorothy enjoyed genealogical research, and was a master of the Scriptures. She dedicated her life to the devotion of family, friends, and church. She served in many capacities in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, and concluded her service as a temple worker in Dallas, Texas.

Surviving are her husband of 44 years, Bishop Billy M. Vawter; three children, Diana L. Loch and William Dwight Vawter, both of Moore, Oklahoma; and Kenny Vawter of Roy, Utah; a sister, Juanita Munhollon of Oklahoma City; and eight grandchildren.

Dorothy will be remembered by the VVV for being a gracious hostess at the 1993 reunion in Oklahoma City.

* * * * *

Joseph L. Bullard, 78, of Seymour, Indiana, died January 25, 1994. He was born December 19, 1915, in Indianapolis, the son of Homer and Jessie Holsclaw Bullard. He was a member of Calvary Baptist Church, and retired in 1986 from Swifty Oil Co., where he worked 23 years.

Surviving are sons James, William A., and Thomas J. Bullard, all of Seymour, and Dennis Wayne Bullard of Annapolis, Maryland; daughters, Nancy Hundley of Charleston, South Carolina, and Robin Toppe of Indianapolis; sisters, Edith Jones of Scipio, Indiana, and Ruth Morrison of North Vernon, Indiana; 18 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

Preceding him in death were his wife, Dolores L. Butts Bullard; a son, Laurence Michael Bullard; a brother, Wilmer Bullard; and a sister, Mabel Prather.

He was a descendant of Indiana pioneers Jesse and Elizabeth Watts Vawter.

* * * * *

Hannah Grace Roseberry was stillborn January 26, 1994. She was the daughter of Rick and Amy Martin Roseberry of Terre Haute, Indiana. Other survivors include grandparents, Richard K. and Marge Roseberry of Columbus, Indiana, and John and Sandy Martin of Hope, Indiana; great-grandparents, Richard Roseberry of North Vernon, Indiana, and Ada Clarkson of Butlerville, Indiana.

Hannah was a descendant of Indiana pioneers Jesse and Elizabeth Watts Vawter.

* * * * *

Roxie Jessie Vawter, 84, of Greensboro, North Carolina, died December 28, 1993. She was a native of Stokes County, a member of Community Baptist Church, and retired from American Tobacco Company.

Survivors include daughters, Tinnie Festerman and Billie Gladwell, both of Greensboro, and Jo Ann Lasker of Brown Summitt, North Carolina; a son W. Ray Vawter of Raleigh; nine grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren.

This obituary was sent to Wordna Wicker by a Wicker cousin in North Carolina. Does anyone have more information on this family?

Annie Willard Nixon, 97, of Iuka, Mississippi, died January 9, 1994. She was a homemaker and a Baptist, and was an excellent seamstress for her family. She was born in September 1896 in Iuka, the daughter of James Loving and Laura Isabell Lambert Robinson.

Surviving are two daughters, Mildred Nixon Hill of Ashland and Iuka, and Helen Marguerite Nixon of Huntsville, Alabama, and Iuka; a daughter-in-law, Dorothy Diescha Nixon; a granddaughter, Louise Nixon Casavant, and two great-grandsons, John Richard and David Michael Casavant of Signal Mountain, Tennessee.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Clinton Kelley Nixon; sons James Clinton Nixon and Edward Kelley Nixon; and two grandchildren, David Duncan Esler, Jr., and Katherine Ann Hill.

Mrs. Nixon attended the reunion at Brady Mountain, Arkansas, and was the oldest person present at the 1986 reunion in Tupelo. She was a descendant of John and Rhoda McGuire Vawter of Tishomingo County, Mississippi, through their daughter, Cynthia Vawter, who married Joseph Robinson.

* * * * *

Rev. Paul Hiram Vaughter, 82, of Houston, Texas, died January 23, 1994. He was born March 13, 1911, in Ada, Oklahoma, the son of Thomas and Minnie Louise Ray Vaughter. He was an ordained minister, and started three Baptist churches in Oklahoma city, two of which remain. He spent 30 years with the government, and ended his career as Property Administrator for the entire European Theater. Memorial services were held at College Park Baptist Church in Houston, and Brookwood Baptist Church in Oklahoma City.

Surviving are his wife Carolyn Smith Vaughter; two sons, Phil Vaughter of Austin, and Dr. Paul H. Vaughter, Jr. of Minneapolis; a sister, Gordie; a brother, Odie; six grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by a son, Patton Courtney Vaughter, and a sister, Opal.

Paul was one of the founders of the VVV Association. A more complete account of his life can be found in the Summer 1986 newsletter.

* * * * *

Mabel Edith McWillis Vawter, 96, died January 5, 1994, in Saskatchewan, Canada. She was the widow of Charles Ralph Vawter, who died in 1981 in Victoria, B.C. They were married June 30, 1915, in Flora, Oregon, and spent most of their married life in Canada.

Surviving are five children; Isabel and Ralph, both of Senlac; Floyd, of Regina; Wilbur, of Nanaimo; and David, of Vancouver.

Mabel's husband was the son of Cyrus Beverly Vawter and the grandson of James Crawford Vawter of Illinois.

Thank you to all who continue to send obituaries, birth announcements, marriage information, etc., for the newsletter. The job would be very difficult without your help!



FAMILY ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

Summer 1994

p. 1

Volume 18 No. 4

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Dues - \$7.00 per year

ANNUAL REUNION - 4-7 AUGUST 1994

As stated in the Spring newsletter, the annual reunion of the VVV Association is to be held this year in Tupelo, Mississippi. Tupelo is an "All American City" in Northeast Mississippi with much to see and do. Many members will remember meeting there in 1986. As in 1986, headquarters for the event is the Ramada Inn, located at 854 North Gloster Street. A brochure shows this to be on Business 45, and is 2 minutes from the Natchez Trace Parkway.

A reservation card is enclosed, or you can call 601-844-4111 or 1-800-272-6232. Be sure to mention the VVV Association to receive the special rate of \$42.00 plus tax. This rate is for any size room.

Registration begins Thursday, August 4, in the Ramada Convention Center at 3:00 p.m., and continues until 6:00 p.m. At 6:30 p.m., there is a buffet in Dining Room B of the Ramada main building. From 8:30-10:00 p.m., the Northeast Mississippi VVV's are hosting an Open House in the hospitality suite.

Friday registration begins at 8:00 a.m., and continues until the opening session at 9:30 a.m. Following this, we will leave by car caravan at 11:30 a.m. to travel to the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway Visitor's Center for lunch and a tour of the facility. We will return to the motel about 3:00 p.m. Friday evening finds us leaving at 5:30 for Tombigbee State Park for a fish fry and county music.

On Saturday, we assemble at 10:00 a.m. for a group picture, and then go by car caravan to The Mall at Barnes Crossing for an "on your own" time of shopping, lunch and entertainment. The mall has five major department stores, over 80 specialty shops, food vendors and restaurants, and a carousel. Other optional tours are available for the day, including Tupelo's renovated Downtown area and Elvis Presley Birthplace and Museum.

Saturday concludes with a banquet at 6:30 p.m., a performance by the VVV Children's Choir, election of officers, roll call

of states, memorial service, and the always popular door prizes.

The 1994 reunion will end on Sunday morning with a Chapel Service.

At this time, we do not have prices for the meals, but we do know there will be special prices for children under the age of 12. Anyone needing more information can call the following:

Lowell and Allison Vaughters 601-842-3081

Fred and Wordna Wicker 601-489-3066

Ken and Norma Wicker 601-844-4960

Be sure to bring family information to share, especially with those who may be attending for the first time.

VVV CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Once again, we will be treated to a performance by the VVV Children's Choir, under the direction of Ellen Cummings. All children are invited to be a part of this group. They will rehearse on Friday and Saturday, and then sing at the banquet on Saturday night. Be sure to bring your children and grandchildren so they can be members of the choir and become involved in the Association. Several hidden talents have surfaced from this group.

DOOR PRIZES

Not many people go home from a VVV reunion without a door prize. That is because our members are so generous, and our gifts are numerous. Several members bring handmade items; others bring something that is significant to their area; still others donate things purchased while on one of the tours. There is always a wide variety of door prizes waiting to be given away.

PREVIOUS REUNIONS

Previous reunions have been held at the following locations. How many have you attended? The first nationwide reunion was 1978.

1977 - Ardmore, Oklahoma

1978 - Brady Mt., Arkansas

1979 - Ardmore, Oklahoma

1980 - Port Royal, Virginia

1981 - Hot Springs, Arkansas

1982 - Madison, Indiana

1983 - Tulsa, Oklahoma

1984 - Nacogdoches, Texas

1985 - Richmond, Virginia

1986 - Tupelo, Mississippi

1987 - Columbus, Indiana

1988 - Gainesville, Georgia

1989 - Normal, Illinois

1990 - Fredricksburg, Virginia

1991 - St. Louis, Missouri

1992 - Nacogdoches, Texas

1993 - Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

QUERIES

From: Janice Vawter Cain, 327 E. Fountain Way, Fresno, CA 93704

Does anyone have information on Keith Vawter who organized the Redpath Chautauqua Circuit, a traveling tent show that brought entertainment and news of the world to small towns throughout the Midwest and South? It was at its peak from 1913 through 1918.

From: Corinne Winget, P.O. Box 154, Monroe, UT 84754

Looking for information about Catherine Vawter Adams, the daughter of William Barnes Adams and Martha Larriamore. The parents were married in Stokes Co., Virginia, in 1820. Were any of her ancestors Vawters?

From: Korbi Lyn Roberts, 5621 Rappahannock Rd., Virginia Beach, VA 23462-6117 and Roxanne Mann, 4955 S Co. Rd. 675 W, Coatesville, IN 46121-9348.

Both of these have just begun to research the line of Uriah Branham m. Alcey Davis. Uriah Branham was born 1 Feb 1805, the son of John and Frances Vawter Branham.

Response from Eloise Wicker Knight to an earlier query:

Married, January 6, 1835, in Stokes Co., Reuben T. Vawter and Harriet M. Transu, of Waughtown. (From Marriages & Deaths in Fayetteville, North Carolina, Newspapers.)

GLEANINGS

Contributed by Mary Winningham, Chevy Chase, Maryland

DAR LIBRARY:

Charlotte Co., VA, Revolutionary War Pensioners
Merit G. Vaughtner, minor of Lemuel Vawter, deceased

Church & Family Cemetery, Rockingham Co., VA Methodist Cemetery
Mt. Crawford Cemetery (three cemeteries together)
Annie E. Vawter 10 Sept 1870 - 14 Nov 1957
Fuller R. Vawter 25 Feb 1869 - 18 Aug 1938
Boyd O. Vawter, son of F. & A. Vawter
28 Oct 1896 - 1 Oct 1913

The Kentucky Genealogist, Jan - Mar 1962, V.4; No. 1
I.O.O.F. Cemetery, Trimble Co., KY
William H. Vawter 1 Aug 1822 - 11 Oct 1896
Mrs. Mary O. Vawter, wife 1 Apr 1825 - 28 Feb 1907
Henry P. Vawter, son 31 July 1849 - 15 June 1900

1850 GEORGIA FEDERAL CENSUS

Roll M432-76 Lumpkin County Robinson's District 5 Dec 1850

Page 68	Linsey Vaughtor	age 29 male	Farmer	800	
	Jane "	age 56 female			*
	Eliza "	age 18 female			
	William "	age 40 male	Farmer	insane	*

Roll M432-70 Franklin County District 32 27 Sep 1850

Page 274	Hiram Vaughter	age 38 male	Farmer 3000		b. GA
	Elizabeth "	age 38 female			b. GA
	Catharine "	age 17 female			b. GA
	Samuel H. "	age 13 male			b. GA **
	Frances "	age 11 female			b. GA **
	Hiram "	age 9 male			b. GA **
	Elizabeth "	age 7 female			b. GA **
	Julia A. "	age 5 female			b. GA
	Lucinda "	age 3 female			b. GA
	James "	age 1 male			b. GA
	Bethel Guest	age 36 male	Farmer		b. GA
	Willis Ayers	age 45 male	Farmer		b. GA

Roll M432-68 Elbert County Elbert District 10 Aug 1850

Page 376	[L? S?] Vautor	age 42 male	Farmer 800		b. GA *
	M. "	age 38 female			b. GA *
	J.B. "	age 6 male			b. GA
	R.J. "	age 4 male			b. GA
	F.C. "	age 1 female			b. GA

Roll M432-68 Elbert County Elbert District 21 Aug 1850

Page 390	T. Adams	age 57 male	Farmer		b. VA
	E. "	age 40 female			b. GA *
	T.F. "	age 5 male			b. GA
	L. "	age 3 male			b. GA
	R. Vautor	age 50 male	Farmer 2000		b. NC *

* Unable to read or write ** Attended school within the year

Please remember this is one person's interpretation of unfamiliar handwriting. Any corrections are welcomed.

*****RENEWAL FORM*****

If a renewal form is enclosed, you need to pay dues to be assured of continuing to receive the newsletter.

NEWS FROM ESTHER VAWTER

Former VVV news editor Esther Vawter has sold her home in West Sacramento and moved to Fresno. Her new address is:
540 South Peach, #226, Fresno, CA 93727. Because of moving from a seven-room house into two rooms, Esther found it necessary to dispose of many possessions. She has donated much of her Vawter material to the Association. Thank you, Esther!

WORDNA WICKER

Wordna Wicker, who with husband, Fred, and other family members is hosting this year's reunion, will have surgery on June 13 for a pulmonary lymphoma. She is having the surgery done in Tupelo, and expects to be able to participate in the reunion.

CONGRATULATIONS

J.C. and Rita Godman, of Booneville, Mississippi, celebrated their 50th Anniversary on 22 May 1994.

Roger and Shirley Byler, of Sweeny, Texas, celebrated their 60th Anniversary on 29 May 1994.

Beth Pike Mathis, of Booneville, Mississippi, age 55 and a grandmother, recently graduated from Northeast Mississippi Community College with a degree in early childhood development.

Jessica Rose Taylor, daughter of Tom and Diana Taylor of Nairobi, Kenya, graduated from the International School of Kenya 3 June 1994. She will return to the States in July to attend Georgetown College in Kentucky.

Anne Vawter, daughter of A. Thomas Vawter of Union Springs, NY and the late Catherine Bloom Vawter, is engaged to be married in October. Anne, a graduate of Earlham College in Richmond, Indiana, and St. Louis University, lives in Poughkeepsie, NY, and works as a staff nurse at a nearby hospital.

Roger Wicker has survived the first hurdle in his quest to become a member of the U.S. House of Representatives. The first primary was held on June 7 in Mississippi. Roger led a six-man slate, defeating the nearest opponent by 2000 votes. The second primary is June 28.

VVV Association president Bill M. Vawter and Virginia Whitaker will be married on 12 July 1994 at the Dallas Temple.

Be sure to send news of your family for the newsletter.

IN REMEMBRANCE

Raymond Larson, 77, Phoenix, Arizona, died 15 May 1994 in Phoenix. Burial was in the Mount Hope Cemetery in Sibley, Illinois. He was a farmer in the Sibley, Gibson City and Cooksville, Illinois, area before retiring in 1987 and moving to Phoenix.

Survivors include his wife Hazel Scholl Larson; a son, Michael Ray Larson, of Springfield, Illinois; and two grandsons, Joshua Michael and Joseph Andrew Lawson. He was preceded in death by his first wife, Laverne Vawter, who died 2 Nov 1968.

* * * * *

Sarah Louise Vawter Lee, 84, East Peoria, Illinois, formerly of Tremont, Illinois, died 7 May 1994 in East Peoria. Burial was in the Vawter Cemetery, rural Tremont. She was born 12 Dec 1909 in Tremont, the daughter of Lewis and Adah Wilson Vawter.

Survivors include three sons, David Vawter Lee of Tremont; Harold H. Lee and Peter C. Lee, both of the Denver area; 10 grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

She married Harold R. Lee on 2 June 1934 in Denver, and he preceded her in death on 20 November 1985.

This Vawter Cemetery is located on a farm that has been in the family for several generations. The farm is now the home of David Vawter Lee and his family. Those who attended the 1989 reunion in Normal, Illinois, will remember going there on Friday evening for a cook-out and tour.

* * * * *

Eva Louise Young Fry, 76, died April 1993 in San Antonio, Texas. She was born 23 November 1916 in Lampasas, Texas, the daughter of James Edwin and Willie Elizabeth Bigham Young. She was a graduate of the University of Texas and received a master's degree in special education from Hardin Simmons University. She was married to Leo M. Fry.

Survivors include a son, L. Mark Fry of E1 Paso; a sister, Alice Glenn Ricks of Brady, Texas; a niece, Elizabeth Ricks Langston of Kerrville, Texas; and nephews, William Robert Ricks of Carrollton, Texas, and James G. Ricks of Dallas. She was preceded in death by children, John Ed Fry and Betty Lee Fry.

* * * * *

Willie Elizabeth (Betty) Sallas, 74, died 5 March 1993 in Lampasas, Texas. She was born in Lampasas 1 December 1918, the daughter of James Edwin and Willie Elizabeth Bigham Young. She attended the University of Texas and graduated from Jackson Business School. She was married to W. Porter Sallas.

Survivors include a daughter-in law, Connie Sallas of Burnet, Texas; a sister, Alice Glenn Ricks of Brady, Texas; a niece, Elizabeth Ricks Langston of Kerrville, Texas; and nephews, James G. Ricks of Dallas, William Robert Ricks of Carrollton, and L. Mark Fry of E1 Paso. A son, Joe Porter Sallas, preceded her in death.

These sisters, Eva Louise Fry, Betty Sallas, and Alice Glenn Ricks, are descendants of William Boulware and Margaret Henderson Vawter.



FAMILY ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

Fall 1994

p. 1

Volume 19 No. 1

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Dues - \$7.00 per year

1994 REUNION REPORT

THURSDAY

The 1994 reunion of the VVV Family Association was held 4-7 August in Tupelo, Mississippi. Although not "officially" beginning until Thursday, August 4, several mini-reunions took place the preceding days as a few members arrived on Tuesday, and still others on Wednesday.

Fred and Wordna Wicker, with the help of Ken and Norma Wicker, Lowell and Allyson Vaughters and approximately thirty other Northeast Mississippi Vawter/Vaughters families, displayed true southern hospitality during the entire event.

Registration began on Thursday afternoon in the hospitality suite. A buffet dinner, provided by the hosts and their families, was served in the suite as registration continued. The fellowship spilled into the hallway and adjoining rooms as old and new acquaintances shared news of the past year.

FRIDAY

Presiding at the Friday morning session was Bill M. Vawter, president of the association. Taylor Vaughters, age two, had the honor of ringing the VVV cowbell. Taylor is the son of Mark Vaughters, grandson of Lowell Vaughters, and great-grandson of Norma Vaughters. This was just one of several four-generation families present. The invocation was given by Rev. Ralph Fall, and the pledge to the American Flag was led by cousins, McDaniel Wicker and Frederick Cummings. The Honorable Jack Marshall, Mayor of Tupelo, welcomed the group to Tupelo, and presented a key to the city to the president.

Fred Wicker introduced local attorney David Sparks, who had served as Executor of the Estate of the late Smith McDougal, a Vawter descendant. A Masonic Bible that had belonged to Smith McDougal was given to the association to be added to the archives.

Fred then introduced the Rev. Ralph Fall, who spoke briefly about Vawter's Church in Essex County, Virginia. Rev. Fall served

as rector of the church from 1962-1982. At one time, historians disagreed on the date of the construction of the church. One historian believed it to have been built in 1719, with an addition in 1731. Rev. Fall stated that while he was rector, the plaster on the building's ceilings and walls was taken off down to the bare bricks. This showed that the church had been built as a whole. The cornerstone in the wall outside the doorway gives the date as 1731.

Humorous greetings were given by Phyllis Harper, columnist for the Northeast Mississippi Daily Journal. Phyllis devoted one of her columns to the VVV Association and the reunion.

Again this year, the ancestor charts were color-coded and placed on the walls by Sally Brown. Each descendant was asked to sign their name on the proper chart and was given a ribbon to put on their name tag.

At noon, a delicious lunch complete with homemade brownies and cookies was served at the Tennessee-Tombigbee Visitor's Center in Fulton. This was followed by a tour of the facility and a film. Some also drove a short distance to feed the fish. VVV streamers for the car antennas were made by Holly Cathcart, granddaughter of Bill and Allene Wiley.

Friday evening was spent at Tombigbee State Park with more good food being served by the Northeast Mississippi VVV's. This time it was deep-fried catfish and all the trimmings. The VVV Children's Chorus provided an impromptu concert.

Saturday began with a group picture being taken. The remainder of the day was spent "on your own," with some choosing to shop at The Mall at Barnes Crossing, browse the several antique shops and malls, or tour the Elvis Presley Birthplace and Museum. Others stayed at the motel to relax or look through the genealogy material on display.

The banquet on Saturday night opened with the invocation being given by Charles Burt. Following the meal, we were once again treated to a performance of the VVV Children's Chorus, led by Ellen Wicker Cummings. Members of the chorus this year were: Frederick Cummings, Rebecca Cummings, Kristy Glasgow, Jackie Hudson, Emily Vawter, Katelyn Vawter, Wendy Vawter, Caroline Wicker, Margaret Wicker, and McDaniel Wicker.

A memorial service was conducted by Fred Wicker and his daughter, Ellen Cummings, with the assistance of Rebecca Cummings and Caroline Wicker. As each name and a brief obituary was read, those close to that person or family stood, and a carnation was placed in a vase in remembrance. The service concluded with a solo, "It Is Well with My Soul," by Wendy Vawter. Wendy, the daughter of Robert and Janet Vawter, and granddaughter of Pete and Norma Jean Vawter, was the youngest person present at the 1978 reunion in Arkansas. She was then three months old.

During the roll call of the states, it was found that 18 states were represented at the reunion, with Mississippi having the largest number present.

Special recognition was given the following:

- Oldest - James S. Corbitt, age 86
- Youngest - Jeffrey Drake Terry, age six months
- Longest married - Harry and Edith Vawter, 59 years
- Traveled farthest - Esther Vawter, Fresno, CA

Fred Wicker reported for the nominating committee, and a list of those elected can be found at the beginning of this newsletter. The title of "genealogist" has been added to that of historian/archivist.

A special offering was taken for the cemetery fund being established at Miller School in Virginia. A total of \$352.00 was given.

Ken Wicker, assisted by several of the children, distributed the many door prizes.

The reunion concluded on Sunday morning with a worship service in the hospitality suite. The service opened with a song, "Kentucky Rose," by Mark Beasley. This song is about a preacher in Kentucky, and Mark stated it reminds him of the Vawter family. Rev Ralph Fall, former rector of Vawter's Church in Virginia and an honorary Vawter, gave an inspirational meditation on Psalm 23.

MEMORIAL SERVICE

These VVV members and friends were remembered at the Memorial Service conducted on Saturday:

1. Willie Elizabeth Sallas, 74, Lampasas, TX, d. 5 Mar 1993
2. Eva Louise Fry, 76, San Antonio, TX, d. April 1993
3. Roxie Jessie Vawter, 84, Greensboro, NC, d. 28 Dec 1993
4. Mabel McWillis Vawter, 96, Saskatchewan, Can, d. 5 Jan 1994
5. Annie Willard Nixon, 97, Iuka, MS, d. 9 Jan 1994
6. Dorothy Marie Vawter, 65, Oklahoma City, OK, d. 12 Jan 1994
7. Rev. Paul H. Vaughtner, 82, Houston, TX, d. 23 Jan 1994
8. Joseph L. Bullard, 78, Seymour, IN, d. 25 Jan 1994
9. Hannah G. Roseberry, stillborn, Terre Haute, IN, 26 Jan 1994
10. Sarah Louise Vawter Lee, 84, E. Peoria, IL, d. 7 May 1994
11. Raymond Larson, 77, Phoenix, AZ, d. 15 May 1994
12. Evelyn Vawter Stoltz, 67, Santa Barbara, CA, d. 6 June 1994
13. Frances Warren, 89, New Johnsonville, TN, d. 17 Jul 1994

COMPLIMENTARY NEWSLETTERS

One way of introducing people to the association is to send complimentary newsletters. If you know of someone who should be contacted, please send their name and address to the news editor. Several new members have been added in this way.

VVV GROUP PICTURE

A group picture was taken on Saturday morning at the reunion. Those who ordered a copy should be receiving theirs soon. Wordna Wicker ordered a few extra pictures, and anyone wanting one can purchase it from her at a cost of \$11.00, postage included. Wordna's address: P.O. Box 360, Pontotoc, MS 30863.

THE VAWTER FAMILY IN AMERICA

The Vawter Family in America, was written by Grace Vawter Bicknell and first published by Hollenbeck Press in 1905. It was reprinted in 1969 by Edna Reynolds and her sister, Vera Wheatly, with a supplement update of the O'Conner family. For many years, this reprint edition could be ordered from Edna Reynolds of Butlerville, IN.

We are happy to report that with the cooperation of Walter and Edna Reynolds, and the generosity of a VVV Association member, these books are again available. The remainder of the books have been purchased by our member, and he will be reimbursed as they are sold.

Cost of the books is \$20.00, plus \$2.00 shipping. They are softbound, with 442 pages plus the supplement. Books can be ordered from Bonita Welch, 4145 N 900 W, Scipio, IN 47273.

ROBERT M. "PETE" VAWTER

Some of you may have known that "Pete" Vawter wasn't feeling well at the reunion. Shortly after returning home to Milan, TN, he entered the hospital in Memphis. Pete and his wife, Norma Jean, are now staying at the home of their daughter, Barbara Vawter DeFur, while he undergoes further treatment. Barbara's address is: 1272 Poplar Estates Pkwy, Germantown, TN 38138.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to Sgt. Alan Wayne Welch and Yu Kyong Park, who were married 5 July 1994 in Honolulu. Alan is the son of Joseph and Bonita Welch of Scipio, IN, and has served in the Marine Corps since September 1985, the past two years in Hawaii. They are living in Kaneohe, Hawaii.

QUERY

From: Joanie Fortune, 4916 Navy Road #9, Millington, TN 38053

Looking for parents and siblings of Sarah W. Vawter, b. 1815 in Tennessee, d. 1870 in Mississippi. She married Hiram Tennyson, have no date or place. A daughter, Mary D. Tennyson, was b. 25 May 1855 in Tishomingo County, Mississippi. Any and all information is welcomed.

IN REMEMBRANCE

Evelyn Vawter Stoltz, 67, died at her home in Santa Barbara, CA, on 6 June 1994. She was born 9 Aug 1926 in Joplin, MO, the daughter of Francis Marion and Hazel Roten Vawter. A 1948 graduate of Chapman College with a degree in music, she was a talented musician and performed with the Whittier Symphony and other ensembles for several years. She eventually decided on teaching as a career and had a 27-year career in the classroom, devoted to the most part to teaching in the primary grades. From 1966 to 1968, the family resided in the South Pacific, and she taught in Pago Pago, American Samoa. She was a member of Alpha Delta Kappa, participated in the Vista Madera Owners Association, and did volunteer work in the community with Direct Relief International and Meals-on-Wheels.

After retiring in 1985, Evelyn discovered a talent for working with stained glass. She created windows for several local homes and the Sacristy window at All Saints By-the-Sea Episcopal Church in Santa Barbara.

She was married to Jack H. Stoltz in 19 June 1951 in Denver, CO, and he survives. Also surviving are a son, Eric Stoltz, Hollywood, CA; daughter and son-in-law, Susan and Dr. James Hunter, and grandson, Matthew Hunter of White Bear Lake, MN; daughter and son-in-law, Catherine and R. Kent Hammon, and granddaughters, Cassandra and Christine Hammon of Aurora, CO; a sister and brother-in-law, Mary Ellen and Albert Kun of Libby, MT; and an aunt, Shirley Vawter Byler of Sweeny, TX. A Memorial service of Gratitude to God for the life of Evelyn Stoltz was held at All Saints By-the-Sea Episcopal Church.

* * * * *

Frances Corbitt Warren, 89, died 17 July 1994 in Nashville, TN. She was born in Humphreys County, TN, the daughter of Pleasant and Rena McCrary Corbitt, and was a lifelong resident of that county.

She was a member of Trace Creek Baptist Church, DAR Old Reynolds Chapter, and the Humphreys County Farm Bureau. For 25 years, she served as a rural mail carrier out of the Denver, TN, post office. She was devoted to her patrons, far beyond the call of duty, and constantly doing favors for them.

Frances' first marriage was on 6 Jan 1929 to Williams Alfred Ellis, a WW I Navy Veteran. He died 22 Jan 1934. She then married Guy M. Warren on 10 Jun 1951, and he preceded her in death on 7 May 1978. Her second husband was a Vawter descendant, as was she.

Surviving are two brothers, James S. Corbitt of Martin, TN, and Pleasant S, Corbitt, Jr. of New Johnsonville, TN; and a sister, Juanita Crockett of Nashville and New Johnsonville. Burial was at Jackson Cemetery.

IN REMEMBRANCE

Anabel Vaughter Dunaway, 92, of Lebanon, TN, died 29 June 1994. She was born 25 Nov 1901 in Rutherford County, TN, the daughter of Luther M. and Susan Vaughter. She was a retired school teacher, and was a member of Rocky Valley Baptist Church, Humana Hospital Volunteers, Farm Bureau Women, and the Cedar Seniors Club.

On 19 July 1925, she was married to Robert Ernest Dunaway, and he preceded her in death on 17 Aug 1975. Surviving are a son, Samuel M. "Bob" Dunaway; a sister, Nell V. McDaniel; five grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren; and five great-great-grandchildren. Burial was at Wilson County Memorial Gardens.

* * * * *

Mary Nancy Vaughter Carlson, 94, of Elberton, GA, died 29 Aug 1994. She was born in Elbert County, GA, in the year 1900, the daughter of Emmet Augustus and Addle Patterson Vaughter. She was a homemaker and a member of Northside Baptist Church.

Her husband, John Carlson, Sr., was a native of Malboro, Sweden. He preceded her in death in 1951. Also preceding in death was an infant daughter in 1928. Surviving are a son, John Carlson, Jr. of Colbert, GA.; and a sister, Addle Vaughter of Melbourne, FL. Burial was at Elmhurst Cemetery.

* * * * *

Robert Clayton Vawter, 81, of Newaygo, MI, died 7 Aug 1994 at Hardin County Hospital in Elizabethtown, KY. He was born 1 Sept 1912 in Tipton, IN, the son of William M. and Edith Miller Vawter. Before retirement in 1972, he was a metal finisher for Kelvinator in Grand Rapids.

Robert served in several capacities in his church, including chairman of the missions committee, youth leader, and elder; and was on the board for the Global Missionary Conference Committee. For many summers, he took leave from his job to work with boys and girls at Camp Michawana in Hastings, MI. He and his wife, Margaret, served as missionaries in the Philippines.

Surviving are his wife of 64 years, Margaret Hamacher Vawter; a son and daughter-in-law, Robert LaVern and Ila Dygert Vawter of Newaygo; a daughter-in-law, Dixie Scribner of Grand Rapids; a brother, Henry Lewis Vawter of Seattle, WA; five grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. Preceding him in death were a son, Duane Lee Vawter in 1966; a granddaughter, Bonnie Jean Vawter DeHaan; brothers, Carl and James Vawter; and a sister, Lornelle Vawter.

Robert and Margaret, along with Robert L. and Ila, were in route to the VVV reunion when he suffered a stroke in Kentucky on Wednesday, August 3. He remained hospitalized there until his death on Sunday. His son is president of the VVV Association.

COMING ATTRACTIONS

Next newsletter:
Miller School, Albemarle County, Virginia Tappahannock, Virginia

VVV MEMBERS AND FRIENDS ATTENDING THE 1994 REUNION

ALABAMA

Granville Allen
A1 and Ann Montgomery

ARIZONA

Bobbi Vawter Meek

ARKANSAS

Earl Williamson

CALIFORNIA

Esther Vawter

DELAWARE

Robert and Donna Vawter

FLORIDA

Ralphe and
Caroline Vawter

GEORGIA

Charles and Betty Burt
John Carlson, Jr.
Ralph and Virginia Fall
Cheryl Glasgow;
Timothy, Kristen
James Rodgers
Lula Vaughters Thompson
Flara Vaughters Waters

ILLINOIS

Michelle Alexander;
Ryan
Shirley Beasley
Mark Beasley
Paul and Connie Bugos;
Tadd
Harry and Edith Vawter
May C. Vawter

INDIANA

Bonita Welch

MISSISSIPPI

Hugh Anderson
Robert and
Bethany Armstrong
John and Linda Bowlin;
Joseph

Rick and Carolyn Bullard

Lee Buskirk

Judith Crawford
Deloris B. Finch
Phyllis Harper
Verda M. Harper
Julia Brown Harrison
Mildred Hill
Martha Hudson
Richard and Margie Hudson
Jackie, Tommy;
Ryan Shipley
J. B. Johnson
Carl Long
Jack Marshall
Elizabeth Pike Mathis
Helen Nixon
Christine Pike
Julian Carey Pike
Mary Wicker Reese
Shelby and Trudy Reid
Ralph and Betty Sanford
Pete and Brenda Scott
Alma Sharp
Eloise Southward
David Sparks
Gene Spencer
Christopher and
Melissa Tatum;
Dylan
Gregory Tatum II
Karen Tatum
Jeff and Kathy Terry;
Drake
Bonnie Vaughters
Keith and Wanda Vaughters
Keith Jr., Tyler;
Jonathan Cummins
Lowell and
Allyson Vaughters;
Megan, Sims Meredith
Mark Vaughters;
Taylor
Norma Vaughters
Ellen Wiley White;
David, Ben, John
Fred and Wordna Wicker
Ken and Norma Wicker

MISSISSIPPI (CON'T)

Roger and Gayle Wicker;
Margaret, Caroline,
McDaniel
Tom Wicker
Bill and Allene Wiley
Bob and Debbie Wiley;
Preston, Katherine,
Matt
Pearl Wiley
Lori Witt
Mary Sue McDougal Wright

MISSOURI

Bruce and Linda Vawter;
Jason Benson

NORTH CAROLINA

Addie Wiley Edwards

OKLAHOMA

Duncan and Sally Brown
Bill and Virginia Vawter

PENNSYLVANIA

Calvin and Glee Krapf

TENNESSEE

Barbara Vawter DeFur;
Emily, Jake
Betty Corbitt Callis
James S. Corbitt
Paul and Lynn Weekly
Pete and Norma Vawter
Robert L. and
Janet Vawter;
Wendy, Katelyn, Andy
Tina Williamson

TEXAS

Joe and Beth Melton
Ernie and Bess Shoemaker
Louise Vanover
Bill and Erma Vawter
Della Vawter
John and Sue Vawter
Melinda Vawter
Oscar and Erma Vawter

VIRGINIA

Ellen Wicker Cummings;
Rebecca, Frederick
John Keast

WISCONSIN

Sarah Aue
Everett and Maxine Joling
Matt Keast

ABOUT DUES

Membership in the VVV Family Association is \$7.00 per year. Dues paid at the reunion is for the coming year. If you did not pay at that time, please remember to send your dues in January. A renewal form is usually enclosed if you owe dues.

Name or address corrections should be sent to the news editor, and dues should be sent to the treasurer. Addresses can be found at the beginning of this newsletter.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

The list of things you can send to be considered for use in the newsletter is almost endless. Some suggestions:

Obituaries (current and past)
Engagement and/or marriage announcements
Birth announcements
Family news - graduations, awards, retirements, etc.
Family reunion news
Gleanings from publications
Family charts and group sheet's
Research updates
Family traditions
Queries

Thanks for contributing!



FAMILY ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

January 1995

p. 1

Volume 19 No. 2

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ASSOCIATE EDITOR: Sally Brown, 2374 E 73rd Place, Tulsa, OK 74136

Dues- \$7.00 per year

THE MILLER SCHOOL

Born 30 June 1792 in Albemarle County, Virginia, in a log cabin with a dirt floor and a single glassless window, Samuel Miller was the second son in a poor mountain family. Growing up, he and his brother, John, dreamed of riches. Their vision was not simply to earn a large sum of money, but to see that money used to build a grand school near their home. Because education in rural areas was minimal, the Millers wished to see a school which would benefit the less fortunate of the area; those who would otherwise have little or no education. It was to this end that they dedicated their lives.

After obtaining their formal educations at the one-room school in Batesville, Virginia, John moved to Lynchburg to work in a mercantile store, and Samuel stayed on to teach in the school until joining John. There, through their business acumen and commitment to their dream, the brothers amassed a small fortune in the mercantile, tobacco and hemp trade.

When John died in 1841, he left his entire estate, valued at \$100,000, to Samuel. With this additional capital, Samuel began trading in agricultural commodities and continued to increase his financial worth. At the time of the Civil War, he had cornered the international trade in tobacco and hemp on the London exchange.

In 1859, in declining health, Samuel wrote his will and provided for the fruition of the dream he and John had shared. One clause of his will provided for the establishment of a boarding school near his former home in Albermarle County for the deserving youth of the area. At the time this will was written, there was no public education system in Virginia.

When Samuel Miller died 6 April 1869, his estate was estimated to be \$1,250,000. Five years of litigation held up construction of the school, and finally in 1878, the boys' dream was fulfilled, and The Miller Manual Labor School opened its doors with three instructors and twenty-one students.

The school's original purpose, as stated in Samuel Miller's will, was that residents of Albermarle County "shall be fed, clothed, and instructed in all the branches of a good, plain, sound English education, the various languages, both ancient and modern, agriculture, and the useful arts, and wholly free of expense to the pupils, as many poor orphan children...whose parents shall be unable to educate them." And Miller School has attempted to develop in its students the value of hard work and the self-satisfaction gained from a job well done.

The original endowment from Samuel Miller's will provided food, clothing, shelter, medical expenses, and education for students who were under-privileged from 1878 until 1949. At that time, rising costs made it necessary for the school to charge tuition fees and accept students from outside the environs of Albermarle County. Through the years there have been necessary changes in student population and curriculum.

THE VAWTER CONNECTION WITH THE MILLER SCHOOL

Robert L. Vawter, of Middletown, Delaware, is an officer in the Civil Air Patrol, and one of his duties is helping to train cadets. This past July, Bob flew his Commander to Waynesboro, Virginia, for the presentation of awards to cadets at The Miller School. Upon being introduced to the president of the school, Bob heard the president say, "Vawter! That's a famous name around here!" He then went on to say that the first president of The Miller School was Charles Erastus Vawter. For the remainder of the visit, Bob received considerable attention.

Volume Two of Miller Memories is dedicated to Charles Erastus Vawter. The dedication reads: "To Charles Erastus Vawter, Builder of the Miller School, who, with a fixed and steadfast purpose, gave of his mature manhood that the best might result from the generous gift of Samuel Miller to the youth of Albemarle County, Virginia."

On pages 385-6 of The Vawter Family in America, we find, "Charles Erastus Vawter, son of John Henderson and Clara Peck Vawter, at the close of the war returned to Emory and Henry from which he was graduated in 1866. He then taught in Chattanooga till 1868, when he entered the University of Virginia for a special course in mathematics. In the same year he was elected professor of mathematics at his alma mater, where he taught until he was made president of the famous Miller Manuel Training School in Albermarle County, in 1878. He married July 24, 1866, Virginia Longley, of Tennessee."

Charles Erastus Vawter died 27 October 1905, and is buried in the cemetery on the school grounds. This cemetery is in need of repair and a fund has been established for the upkeep. At the VVV Reunion in August, a free-will offering in the amount of \$352.00 was given for this fund.

The movie, "Toy Soldiers" (1991), was filmed at The Miller School, and is available on video.

A "THANK YOU"

Mr. Charles E. Burt, Sr.
Treasurer, VVV Family Association
Route 5, Box 5475
Dawsonville, GA 30534

Dear Mr. Burt,

On behalf of the Miller School board of Trustees, thank you for your gift of \$352.00 to the Cemetery Fund.

The generosity of our Miller School Friends is greatly appreciated. Your ties to Miller School through Captain Vawter mean that you're also kin to the Miller School. As in the past, we are continuing to provide quality in our programs while keeping tuition and fees at the lowest possible level for our boys and girls.

Thank you for supporting a part of the past, the present and the future of Miller School.

Sincerely,

Bruce B. Barclay
Director of Development

THE VAWTER FAMILY IN AMERICA

As told in the last newsletter, the reprint edition (1969) of *The Vawter Family in America* now available from the VVV Association. This book was written in 1905 by Grace Vawter Bicknell, and republished in 1969 by Edna Reynolds and her sister, Vera Wheatly, with a supplement update of their O'Conner family.

Due to the generous interest-free loan from a VVV member, we were able to purchase the remainder of the books from Walter and Edna Reynolds. However, none of these books are in perfect condition. Many of the books have entire sections out of place or upside down, or have several pages or much of the index missing. They will need to be repaired before being sold and that will add to the cost.

For some of them, it is just a matter of one or two pages missing or having faint print, and those are the books being sold at this time. We will send the best available, and enclose replacement pages for you to insert.

The books are softbound and have 442 pages including an index, plus the supplement. Cost is \$20.00 plus \$2.00 shipping. Order from: Bonita Welch, 4145 N 900 W, Scipio, IN 47273.

TAPPAHANNOCK. VIRGINIA

Contributed by Sally Brown, Associate Editor

Tappahannock, Virginia, is the area where Bartholomew and Winnifred Vawter lived in the late 1600's. Vauter's Church, built in 1731 is but a few miles from there.

Tappahannock was born out of the economic problems of the late 1600's. The tobacco market had declined sharply because many more people were raising tobacco. Many white indentured men, when they had completed their indenture time, applied for a land grant and began to raise their own tobacco. Virginia raised virtually only one crop at that time and it was tobacco. So, the General Assembly passed a law in 1680 requiring every Virginia county to establish a town in the hope that towns would diversify the economy away from tobacco. They thought towns would provide markets for immigrant shopkeepers and craftsmen and be a center for schools, churches, and social life.

On March 25, 1682, the Rappahannock County General Assembly bought 50 acres of land on the Rappahannock River between two creeks for a future town site. A small settlement was already there. The land was purchased for 10,000 pounds of tobacco.

Hobb's Hole was the first name given Tappahannock and the new town struggled for years to stay in existence. A 'hole' usually meant an area of deep water that provided anchorage for sea going ships. There were several other 'holes' on the Rappahannock.

The town fathers soon tried to change the name to the more dignified name of New Plymouth, but people refused to use the new name. In 1705, the Assembly approved the name of Tappahannock. The name came from the Indian community that Captain John Smith had visited at this place in 1607. People were slow to change the name, especially the sea captains. Tappahannock was greatly helped when, in 1729, the Essex County courthouse was permanently located there. After that, the town became the thriving center of trade and society that the General Assembly had envisioned.

Information from: Settlers, Southerners, Americans - The History of Essex County, Virginia by James B. Slaughter.

1995 REUNION

As is the custom every five years, the 1995 VVV Reunion will be held in Virginia. The site chosen is Ashland, Virginia, at the Comfort Inn, and the dates are August 3-6. Ashland is located 20 miles north of the Richmond Airport on I-95. The town is the home of historic Randolph Macon College, and is near the boyhood home of Patrick Henry. Watch for more information in the next newsletter.

QUERIES

From: Karen Bowman, 3900 W 126th Street, Leawood, KS 66209

W.T. Vawter wrote the article, "I Descend From Some of the Planters of Old Rappahannock, Virginia" and it was published in The Northeast Texas Genealogical Society Quarterly, Vol. V, June 1974. The address of W.T. Vawter at the time this article was written was 702 Wigley St., Mineola, TX 75773. In this article are stated some comments:

1. "Stokely Towles, son of Henry Towles and Ann Stokely, born 1687, married 1708, Ann Vallott..." What is the reference for the stated date of birth, 1687, for Stokely Towles?

2. "Claude Vallott (alias Claude Champagne), A French Huguenot Immigrant and Planter, married Ann Jenkinson of Cumberland England." What is the reference for the statement, "A French Huguenot Immigrant"? Also, what is the reference for "Ann Jenkinson of Cumberland England"?

3. "Thomas Page married Elizabeth Allen, emigrated from England to Virginia in 1652..." What is the reference for the maiden name of Elizabeth Allen?

Karen Bowman is descended from Adam and Tabatha Vawter Rouse. Tabatha was the daughter of Richard and Frances Towles Vawter; Richard was the son of John and Margaret Noel Vawter; Margaret was the daughter of Daniel and Elizabeth Elliott Noel; Daniel was the son of Cornelius and Elizabeth Page Noel; Elizabeth was the daughter of Thomas and Elizabeth Page.

From: Mary Frances Bridges, 529 Oriole Ln., Shreveport, LA 71105 (appeared in the November/December 1994 NGS Newsletter)

Seek information on ancestors/descendants of Elizabeth Vawter who married Thomas Newman 28 December 1747, probably Essex County, Virginia. He was one of eleven children born to Elias and Ann Moseley Newman. Thomas and Elizabeth Vawter Newman had seven children, including Rev. War Sgt. Edmund Newman, who married Mary Conquest Wyatt.

THANK YOU

"The family of Mary Vaughter Carlson will hold in grateful remembrance your kind expression of sympathy.

John Carlson, Jr.

IN THE NEWS

Eric Stoltz was pictured in the 3 October 1994 issue of People magazine with his co-star in "Sleep with Me," Meg Tilly. Eric can also be seen in "Pulp Fiction" (Lance), "Little Women" (John Brooke), and "Killing Zoe" (Zed). Watch for him, too, in "Fluke" and "Rob Roy." He is the son of Jack Stoltz of Santa Barbara, California, and the late Evelyn Vawter Stoltz, and is descended from William and Frances Vawter, pioneer Indiana settlers. William and Frances were first cousins, he being the son of Jesse and Elizabeth Watts Vawter, and she the daughter of Philemon and Anna Vawter.

Congratulations to Roger Wicker who won a seat in the U.S. House of Representatives. He represents the First Congressional District in Mississippi, and his victory ended the Democratic party's 122-year hold on the seat. Democrat Jamie Whitten retired after 53 years in office. Roger has been an attorney in Tupelo and had served in the state Senate for two terms. He is the son of Fred and Wordna Wicker of Pontotoc, Mississippi, who attended the swearing-in ceremony in Washington. He and his wife, Gayle, have three children, Margaret, Caroline and McDaniel.

The "Club Spotlight" column in the 2 October 1994 issue of The Tennessean mentioned the band, "Thicket Grove," and stated it is "an alternative group on the brink of being pretty good" and "catch 'em while they're nothing." Drummer for this group is Joshua Taylor, son of Thomas and Diana Taylor of Nairobi, Kenya, and nephew of VVV news editor, Bonita Welch. He is a graduate of the International School of Kenya, and moved to Smyrna, Tennessee, after graduating from Earlham College in Richmond, Indiana, in 1993.

WEDDING ANNOUNCEMENTS

Angela Evans and Eddy DeCoursey were married 12 November 1994 at First Baptist Church in Dawsonville, Georgia. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Cleve Evans and granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Vaughters of Dawsonville, and is employed by Meadowbrook Manor of Lanier. The groom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Edd DeCoursey of Hindman, Kentucky, and is employed by D. D. P. Enterprises of Dawsonville.

Melissa Jo Waters and Patrick Darren McDougal were married 19 November 1994 at Cross of Life Lutheran Church in Dawsonville, Georgia. She is the daughter of Johnny and Eva Jo Waters and granddaughter of Flara Vaughters Waters and Mr. and Mrs. W.E. Garrett, Jr., all of Dawsonville. She is a 1994 graduate of Georgia State University and is employed by Author Andersen L.L.P. The groom is the son of Valerie McDougal of Decatur, Georgia, and the late Raymond McDougal. He is a graduate of Georgia Tech, and is employed by Resource Application, Inc.

DEACON ORDINATION

Deacon ordination was held 6 November 1994 at Bethel Baptist Church in Dawsonville, Georgia, and three of those ordained are members of the Vaughters family. They are:

Gary Vaughters

son of Clayton and Mahala Vaughters
grandson of Rev. Boyd and Wilma Vaughters
great-grandson of Homer and Emmer Vaughters
great-great-grandson of Rev. George Robeson and Epsy Catherine Bennett Vaughters.

Lloyd Harben

son of Herbert and Luna Vaughters Harben
grandson of Homer and Emmer Vaughters
great-grandson of Rev. George Robeson and Epsy Catherine Bennett Vaughters.

David Parker

husband of Marty Vaughters
Marty's parents - Lloyd and Louise Vaughters
Marty's grandparents - Rev. George Robeson and Minnie McClure Vaughters

For more on this Vaughters family see the cousin chart contributed by Charles Burt in the Fall 1991 newsletter.

DUES AND ASSOCIATION INFORMATION

Membership in the VVV Family Association is \$7.00 per year. Dues paid at the reunion in August is for the coming year. If you do not attend the reunion, please remember to send your dues in January. A renewal form is usually enclosed with the newsletter if you owe dues.

At this time, the newsletter is sent to about 250 families, and another 25 go to various libraries and societies throughout the United States. The newsletter is listed in several genealogy publications.

News and other information is always needed, and should be sent to the news editor. See the Fall 1994 newsletter for a list of suggestions.

IN REMEMBRANCE

Alan S. Vaughters, 29, of Lithonia, Georgia, died 24 October 1994. Surviving are his father, Brice Vaughters of Redan, Georgia; mother and stepfather, Dorothy and Ron Timbs of Conley, Georgia; grandparents, Silvey Brice and Rebecca Vaughters of Lithonia; brothers Tim Vaughters of Jonesboro, Georgia, Ronald Timbs, Jr. and Benny Timbs of Conley, an aunt, Carol V. Sellers of Lithonia; and two uncles, Steve and Wendell Vaughters of Lithonia.

Silvey Brice Vaughters spoke at the 1988 VVV reunion in Gainesville, Georgia, telling of his early life in Dawson County.

IN REMEMBRANCE

Leon Dale Goldsmith, 77, of Olney, Illinois, died 3 April 1994 in Olney. He was born 8 March 1917 in Jasper County, Illinois, the son of Lowell and Lela Michels Goldsmith. He married Elizabeth Lesso on 16 April 1944 in Washington, D.C.

He attended Eastern Illinois University, where he obtained a BA; received a Masters from the University of Illinois; and a Meteorological Degree from M. I. T. Before entering the Air Force in 1941, he was a teacher. After retiring from the military as a Lt. Col. in 1968, he returned to Jasper County and farmed. He was a member of the American Legion Post No. 30 in Olney, and attended Calvary Baptist Church.

Surviving with his wife, Elizabeth, are a son, George Goldsmith of Diamond Bar, California; a daughter, Gwen Goldsmith of Minneapolis, Minnesota; a brother, Lowell Goldsmith of West Salem, Illinois; two sisters, Jennie Cox of Edwardsville, Illinois, and Naomi Welsh of Belleville, Illinois; two grandchildren and several nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by a grandson. Burial was at Hankins Cemetery in Jasper County.

Leon Goldsmith was a descendant of James Crawford Vawter, son of Beverly Vawter.

* * * * *

Frank O. Vawter, 55, of Cathedral City, California, formerly of Indianapolis, died 16 August 1994. Services were held in Wilson St. Pierre Chapel of the Chimes in Indianapolis.

He was a Navy veteran, and owned and operated Vawter Equipment and Repair in Cathedral City.

Surviving are his wife, Rafacia Pinion Vawter, sons, George and Marshall Vawter and Romeo, Gilbert and Charlie Rodea; daughters, Allyson Woodside, Lori Yamanaka, and Arsilia and Lori Rodea; mother, Velma Powell; father and stepmother, Orville and Elizabeth Vawter; brothers, Orville Vawter, Jr., Fred, Richard and John Vawter, and Pete Powell; sisters, Ruth Ann Daily, Sharon England, Debbie Byard and Eva Trusley; 17 grandchildren.

Can someone help place this Vawter family on our family tree?

* * * * *

Wilfred Clarkson, 91, of Greensburg, Indiana, died 8 March 1994 in Columbus, Indiana. He was born 4 August 1902 in Vernon, Indiana, the son of Jess and Elizabeth Leahigh Clarkson. He was a member of Weston Baptist Church, and was a retired farmer.

Surviving are three sons, Raymond Clarkson of North Vernon, Indiana, Roy Clarkson of Seymour, Indiana, and Marvin Clarkson of Shelbyville, Indiana; two daughters, Mary Barnes of Elizabethtown, Indiana, and Janet Langerin of Fairfield, Ohio; a sister, Florence Fitch of North Vernon; 14 grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild. He was preceded in death by his wife, Mabel L. Engle Clarkson, 27 August 1985.

Wilfred's grandmother was Elizabeth Vawter Clarkson, the daughter of Jesse R. and Sarah Parks Vawter.



FAMILY ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

April 1995

p. 1

Volume 19 No. 3

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Dues - \$7.00 per year

1995 REUNION NEWS

FROM ELLEN CUMMINGS AND WORDNA WICKER

Ashland, Virginia, promises a slightly different environment for the 1995 reunion. Located 15 miles north of Richmond and just off I-95, the Comfort Inn offers a complimentary breakfast, pool, exercise room and sauna. It is situated in a shopping center containing two other large motels and about a dozen eating places, all within easy walking distance. The VVV Association will have exclusive use of the motel's convention center for the entire time, with all three evening meals being served buffet style in the same facility.

A few blocks away, the heart of the old town of Ashland offers a glimpse into another century, having been built along the railroad tracks where trains still stop at the station that also serves as the Visitor's Center. Across from the station, a replica of the old Henry Clay Hotel offers food and lodging to visitors who want to absorb a bit of the past. A variety of shops plus an "old tyme delicatessen" provide pleasant enjoyment.

Historic Randolph-Macon College and the birthplace of Patrick Henry give an added dimension to the area. Civil War battlefields abound; Kings Dominion Theme Park is six miles away on I-95; and Vauter's Church is only 35 miles away.

Again this year, the reunion is the first weekend of August, beginning on Thursday, August 3, with early registration and an informal gathering. The next newsletter will give details of events planned and costs. We will also provide a phone number for the Comfort Inn so room reservations can be made.

Ashland offers something for everyone. Don't miss the 1995 Reunion!

VAUTER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Vauter's Episcopal Church, built in Essex County, Virginia, in 1731, is still in active use today. However, the church almost didn't survive the 18th century. During England's reign over the colonies, the Episcopal Church was the official church, and people were required to attend and pay tithes. After the American Revolution, Vauter's Church fell into disuse.

Around 1800, a group of farmers banded together to tear down Vauter's Church and use the building materials on their farms. Mrs. Muscoe Garnett, of nearby Elmwood, heard of their plan and stationed herself in front of the church so they wouldn't carry it out. The church remained unused until about 1822 when services again started being held there.

Vauter's is constructed of reddish-orange brick and glazed headers laid in the Flemish bond pattern typical of colonial Episcopal churches. The floor is made of English flagstones purchased from a Tappahannock merchant. The builder was probably Edward Vawter.

In 1827, the building was renovated, and the altar was moved from one of the transepts to the front of the church. A high pulpit was built, and the handmade box pews were rearranged. Those pews are still in the church today.

There is some evidence that troops rode their horses in and out of the church during the Civil War, and some of the original pieces of communion silver were stolen. It was discovered in 1907 that an antique dealer in New York had two pieces of the silver, and another Mrs. Garnett of Elmwood was asked to donate \$400 to buy it back. Today, the pieces are kept in a vault and used occasionally.

Vauter's Church got a complete overhaul in 1969, and a controversy was cleared up in the process. One theory had been that the main section was built in 1719 with a wing added in 1731. The work done in 1969 included stripping the ceilings and walls down to the bare bricks, and this showed that the church was built totally at one time. A brick over the door bears the date 1731.

From:

The Free-Lance Star, Historic Garden Week, 16 April 1981
(Interview with the Rev. Ralph E. Fall, Rector 1962-1982)

LOVE OFFERING FOR VAUTER'S CHURCH

As is the custom when holding the reunion in Virginia, we will be traveling to Vauter's Church, and will also give a "Love Offering" to the church. If you are unable to attend the reunion, but still want to contribute to this cause, donations can be sent to the VVV treasurer, Charles Burt. The offering in 1990 amounted to \$1400.00, and was greatly appreciated. Perhaps we can give even more generously this year.

1850 VIRGINIA FEDERAL CENSUS

Roll M432-937 Buckingham County District No. 1 3 Oct 1850
 Page 366 Elijah G. Haynes age 52 male School Teacher
 Judith Haynes age 51 female
 Benjamin Vawter age 18 male Student **
 [several other students are listed]

Roll M432-961 Monroe County Division No. 39 ½ 17 Jul 1850
 Page 373 James Vawter age 34 male Surveyor b. VA
 Hugh P. Bare age 21 male Tailor b. VA
 Pembroke Peck age 21 male Merchant b. VA

Roll M432-957 Louisa County 29 Nov 1850
 Page 441 Robert G. Downer age 43 male Farmer b.VA
 Frances A. Downer age 38 female b. VA
 William Downer age 18 male Carpenter b. VA
 Lucy F. Downer age 15 female b. VA
 Mary B. Downer age 14 female b. VA
 Ruben Downer age 12 male b. VA
 Phebe G. Downer age 10 male b. VA
 Robert Downer age 7 male b. VA
 M ? age 3 female b. VA
 William Vawter age 26 male ? b. VA

Roll M432-960 Mercer County 42nd District 22 Aug 1850
 Page 179 Moses E. Kerr age 53 male Farmer b. PENN
 Mary Kerr age 40 female b. VA
 Sarah B. Kerr age 17 female b. VA
 Margaret A. Kerr age 9 female b. VA **
 James V. Kerr age 7 male b. VA **
 Elizabeth J. Kerr age 5 female b. VA **
 William E. Kerr age 3 male b. VA
 Margaret Vaughter age 80 female b. VA

Roll M432-960 Mercer County 42nd District 17 Sep 1850
 Page 192 Eleot Vaughter age 38 male Merchant b. VA
 Julia A. Vaughter age 37 female b. VA
 Mary Vaughter age 9 female b. VA **
 Rebecca A. Vaughter age 7 female b. VA **
 Julia E. Vaughter age 4 female b. VA
 Cynthia Vaughter age 1 female b. VA

** Attended school within the year

1850 VIRGINIA FEDERAL CENSUS

Roll M432-958 Madison County 14 Nov 1850

Page 85 Martha Vaughter age 25 female
 Dolly Vaughter age 2 female
 Martha Vaughter age 1 female

Roll M432-942 Essex County 7 Sep 1850

Page 85 William Vawter age 32 male Wheelright b. VA *
 Mary Vawter age 30 female b. VA *
 Caroline Vawter age 13 female b. VA
 James Vawter age 11 male b. VA
 Hiram Vawter age 10 male b. VA
 Martha Vawter age 8 female b. VA
 Leonard Vawter age 6 male b. VA
 William Vawter age 3 male b. VA

Page 85 Poshia Vawter age 55 female b. VA *
 Alamander Vawter age 40 male b. VA

Roll M432-974 Rockingham County 56th District 16 Oct 1850

Page 194 James Vawter age 48 male Shoemaker b. VA
 Frances Vawter age 48 female b. VA *
 Lemuel Vawter age 20 male Shoemaker b. VA
 Margaret Vawter age 17 female b. VA **
 Sarah Vawter age 15 female b. VA **
 Dorothy Vawter age 13 female b. VA **
 William Vawter age 11 male b. VA **
 Darian Roberts age 18 male Shoemaker b. VA

* Unable to read/write ** Attended school within the year

NOTE: . Please be aware that these census extracts, are one person's interpretation of unfamiliar handwriting using what is sometimes poor quality microfilm. The names of heads of households were taken from an index, and it is possible that some were missed when the index was compiled. Any additions or corrections are welcomed.

THANK YOU!

Grateful thanks is extended to all who have sent news of their families. Compiling this newsletter would be very difficult without the help. If you sent something, and it is not in this issue, watch for it next time.

VAWTER FAMILY SINGERS

Many of you are probably familiar with the Von Trapp Family Singers. This August will mark the debut of another family group; the Vawter Family singers. For several years, a highlight of the reunions has been the performance of the VVV Children's Chorus under the direction of Ellen Cummings. Have you noticed that many of our children are growing up? That is the reason for the change of name.

THE VAWTER FAMILY IN AMERICA

Once again, we want to make you aware that the reprint edition of The Vawter Family in America, written in 1905 by Grace Vawter Bicknell, can be purchased from the VVV Association. The book was republished in 1969 by Edna Reynolds and her sister, Vera Wheatly, with a supplement update of their O'Conner family.

We are still able to send those with only minor defects, such as one or two pages missing or having faint print. We send the best available and enclose replacement pages for you to insert. When these books are gone, it will be necessary to have the remaining ones repaired and that will add to the cost.

The books are softbound and have 442 pages including an index, plus the supplement. Cost is \$20.00 plus \$2.00 shipping. Order from: Bonita Welch, 4145 N 900 W, Scipio, IN 47273.

THE FAMILY OF ALBERT AND JOSIE VAWTER

Another book available is The Family of Albert and Josie Vawter, published in 1985 by their daughter, Shirley Vawter Byler. Section one of this book tells about the descendants of Albert and Josie Vawter, and the second section has much information about Albert's ancestors.

Albert's grandfather, William Vawter (son of Jesse and Elizabeth Watts Vawter), kept notes for many years, writing on the backs of letters and on any other type of paper he happened to have. Most of his notes were dated and signed. Those letters and notes were loaned to Shirley by Wallace Vawter, and are included in this book. Some examples are: "23 January 1835, Received of Achilles Vawter in full for the pork I let him have and the book balances." "13 May 1843, I went to town and got some antimonial wine and gave Jesse Vawter a puke. I planted some corn in the garden. Come thou Font of every blessing, tune my heart to sing thy praise." "2 June 1846, I trimmed some of my cedar trees and mowed my turnip patch."

The book is hardbound and has 539 pages with an index. Cost is \$40.00, plus \$3.00 shipping.
Order from: Shirley Byler, Route 1 Box 319, Sweeny, TX 77480.

WEDDING ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mary Dee MacIntosh and Jon Craig Vaughters were married 28 November 1994 in Frederick, Maryland. She is the daughter of Dolores Pearl Feick MacIntosh of Aurora, Colorado, and the late Wilson Royer MacIntosh, and is employed as a flight attendant with United Airlines. The groom is the son of Margaret Adele Rook Vaughters of Seattle, Washington, and the late Elmer Boyer Vaughters, and grandson of the late George Elmer and Ella Mae Boyer Vaughters, who lived in Portsmouth, Ohio. He is employed as a pilot for USAir Airlines.

Jon Craig Vaughters' father was known to most of the VVV members as "E.B." and was always extremely helpful to those doing research.

Susan Marie Freeman and Chad Alan Bugos were married 4 June 1994 at the Park Ridge Presbyterian Church, Park Ridge, Illinois. The daughter of Mary and Dave Freeman of Des Plaines, Illinois. Susan is a graduate of the University of Iowa with a BBA, and is employed by Production Analysts, National Computer Systems. Chad is the son of Connie and Paul Bugos of Farmington, Illinois, and grandson of Harry and Edith Vawter of Farmington. He graduated from the University of Iowa with a BS in Pharmacy, and is employed by the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics as a staff pharmacist. The couple reside in Coralville, Iowa.

ANNIVERSARY CONGRATULATIONS

Harry and Edith Vawter, 598 W Fort Street, Farmington, IL 61531, will celebrate their 60th Anniversary on 27 April 1995. They were married in Bevier, Missouri, and have three children: Harry Richard Vawter, Donald Vawter, and Connie Vawter Bugos; eight grandchildren; ten great-grandchildren.

Harry is a descendant of Jennings County, Indiana, pioneers, William and Frances Vawter, through their son Jesse R. Vawter. Harry's grandfather, John S. Vawter, was the son of Jesse R. and Sarah Parks Vawter.

"100 HOMEMADE HEARTS"

Woman's Day 21 February 1995 - "Before Valentine's Day last year, I asked each of my students and their families to contribute five homemade valentines to give to the residents of a senior citizens' home in Catoosa, Oklahoma. The children, working with their parents, were very creative and used magazine pictures, discarded ribbon, lace and buttons to create 100 cards. The children delivered the cards to the very pleased residents and learned about respect for the elderly, counting to 100 and recycling in the process." Connie Connely, Tulsa, Oklahoma

Connie and her mother, Wilma Connely, attended the 1993 reunion in Oklahoma City.

NOTICE

Is there a renewal form enclosed with your newsletter? If so, you probably need to pay dues. To avoid missing any issues, send your check to the treasurer, Charles Burt.

IN REMEMBRANCE

Frederick Kingsley Cox, 79, died 10 February 1994 in Beachwood, Ohio, a suburb of Cleveland. He was born 22 January 1915 in Cleveland, the son of Ernest Harper Cox, M.D. and Eva Jean Hunter Cox, He was a lawyer, banker and businessman, and had earned his undergraduate and law degrees at Case Western Reserve University. Mr. Cox was an elder of the Presbyterian Church, and a Navy veteran of World War II.

Memberships included the Cleveland, Ohio and American Bar Associations, Reserve City Bankers, Sigma Chi, Phi Delta Phi, National Society of Sons of the American Revolution, and Neighborhood Progress, Inc. He was an honorary trustee of the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, and of CWRU, where he was a major supporter of the law school.

Surviving are his wife, Betty Cox; a daughter, Elizabeth Aldrich Cox of University Heights; a brother, Arthur Hunter Cox of Tucson, Arizona; and several nieces and nephews.

Mr. Cox's descent from Bartholomew¹ and Winifred Hodgson Vawter is: John Vawter² m. Margaret Noel; David Vawter³ m. Mary Rucker; Jesse Vawter⁴ m. Elizabeth Watts; Julia Vawter⁵ m. Matthew Wise; Copeland Wise⁶ m. Huldah Jane Hall; Jennie Wise⁷ m. Charles Edgar Hunter; Eva Jean Hunter⁸ m. Ernest Harper Cox, M.D.; Frederick Kingsley Cox⁹.

* * * * *

Belva Berniece Vawter Gilstrap, 81, died 24 June 1994 at her home. She was born 21 August 1912 in Bevier, Missouri, the daughter of Alva Elroy and Pearlle Cornelison Vawter, and was married to Raymond Gilstrap.

Survivors include four sons; two daughters; a brother, Harry L. Vawter of Farmington, Illinois; a niece, Connie Vawter Bugos of Farmington; 20 grandchildren; 24 great-grandchildren. One son preceded her in death.

Mrs. Gilstrap's father was the youngest child of John S. and Elizabeth Grinstead Vawter, who moved from Jennings County, Indiana, to Keota, Missouri.

* * * * *

Robert M. "Pete" Vawter, 67, died 7 April 1995 at his home in Milan, Tennessee. "Pete" had been active in the Association, and was a past president. A complete obituary will appear in the next newsletter. Survivors include his wife, Norma Jean.

IN REMEMBRANCE

Dorothy Fuller Vawter Robb died 18 June 1993 at the age of 80 in Fort Myers, Florida. She was the granddaughter of William Arthur Vawter, who invented the loose leaf ledger and other devices that helped revolutionize business accounting practices around the turn of the century. Mr. Vawter was a founder, with his half brothers, of the Baker-Vawter Company, one of the nation's largest manufacturers of business forms and other business aids at the time it was absorbed by Remington Rand under the auspices of Mrs. Robb's father, William Arthur Vawter II, in the 1930's. The junior William Arthur became secretary of Remington Rand at that time. William Arthur, Sr. was the oldest brother of Grace Vawter Bicknell who authored *The Vawter Family in America* and whose line of descent runs through Achilles and William Vawter back to Jesse Vawter-Elizabeth Watts.

Dorothy Vawter Robb was the wife of John Edward Robb, a career Army officer who died in 1981. Both graduated from Stanford University in 1933, she in three years, just in time for the Great Depression. Col. Robb completed the ROTC program at Stanford and entered the Illinois National Guard. He served as an Artillery officer in the Pacific, rising from Captain to Lt. Colonel by the end of the war. Besides leading the active and varied, cosmopolitan life of a military wife, Mrs. Robb found time to earn her Masters of Library Science at Catholic University in Washington, DC, and she was able to put this degree to use in Florida after Col. Robb's retirement from a brief second career in the State Department overseeing the US AID logistics program in the Far East.

Mrs. Robb is survived by her sister, Virginia Vawter Storr, of Willowdale, Ontario; and sons, John Robb, Concord, California, and Gaylord Robb, Bonita Springs, Florida. Both Virginia and John are members of VVV, and John is an active genealogist.

* * * * *

Donald Wayne Engle, 59, of North Vernon, Indiana, died 2 April 1995 in a traffic accident near his home. He was hit by a drunk driver. Born 21 January 1936 in Jennings County, Indiana, he was the son of Samuel Winton and Pearl Frances Clarkson Engle. He was a U.S. Air Force veteran, and retired from Cummins Engine Company in 1988. He married Lois Faye Ruble on 14 February 1981, and she survives. Burial was at the Vernon Cemetery.

Surviving with his wife are two sons, Jeffrey Engle of North Vernon and Kevin Mark Engle of Ladson, South Carolina; a stepson, Jack Koenig of Bakersfield, California; two daughters, Jennifer Engle and Lisa Bissonette, both of North Vernon; a stepdaughter, Gina Scott of Butlerville, Indiana; a brother, Leslie Engle of Vernon, Indiana; a sister, Ruth Estes of Hayden, Indiana; and eight grandchildren.

Don's great-grandmother was Elizabeth Vawter Clarkson, daughter of Jesse R. and Sarah Parks Vawter.

OFFICERS

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VICE-PRESIDENT: Vacant
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NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Bonita Welch, 4145N 900W, Scipio, IN 47273
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Dues - \$7.00 per year

1995 VVV REUNION IN VIRGINIA

The VVV Reunion is held in Virginia every five years, and this time we meet in Ashland to rediscover our roots. VVV's from throughout the country will join those who have remained or returned to Virginia, and will learn more about the area where our ancestors lived.

Hanover County, the location of Ashland, was formed in 1720, and is north of Richmond. Prior to English colonization in the 17th century, the Pamunkey Indians populated the area. They maintain a reservation in neighboring King William County.

During the 18th century, Hanover was the center of the "Great Awakening" in Virginia led by the Reverend Samuel Davies who founded the Hanover Presbytery. Two great orators, Patrick Henry and Henry Clay were born in Hanover County.

19th century Hanover was a county of farmers. With the arrival of the railroad in mid-century, many villages began to spring up along the tracks, including the town of Ashland which developed as a health resort convenient to Richmond. Its location north of Richmond made the county the site of numerous battles and skirmishes during the War Between the States.

Today, Hanover County is filled with reminders of its past. Many 18th and 19th century homes have been preserved. Sites and battlefields have been marked and many are included in the Richmond National Battlefield Park.

Enclosed with this newsletter is a brochure from the Ashland Comfort Inn. This brochure gives the telephone number for making reservations, as well as the locations of nearby attractions. Be sure to reserve rooms soon, mentioning that you are attending the reunion. All rooms are \$50.00 plus tax for 1-4 people.

Some VVV members have never been to a reunion, some attend occasionally, still others try to attend every year. Whatever the case may be for you, this is a year to not miss! Make plans now to be in Ashland, Virginia, August 3-6 to learn more about your Vawter ancestors.

COVERED-DISH, PICK-UP, PITCH-IN, POT-LUCK

Early registration begins Thursday, August 3, at 3:00 p.m. in the conference room of the Comfort Inn. From 6:00-9:00 p.m. there will be a supper known variously as "covered-dish, pick-up, pitch-in, or pot-luck." What it's called depends on the area in which you live. Everyone should bring something to contribute to the meal, or if that is not possible, send a contribution to Ellen Cummings to help purchase drinks, paper plates, plastic ware, napkins, etc. Ellen's address is 4708 Bradston Road, Virginia Beach, VA 23455. Videos of past reunions will be shown during the evening.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 4

Registration continues on Friday, beginning at 8:30 a.m., followed at 9:30 a.m. by the official opening of the reunion by President Lowell Vaughters.

Lunch is "on your own", and then there is an afternoon trip by car caravan to Scotchtown, home of Patrick Henry during his most active political years. It was from this home that Patrick Henry rode to Richmond in March 1775 to the Second Virginia Convention at St. John's Church where he made his famous "Liberty or Death" speech.

At 6:30 p.m., a catered dinner will be served in the conference room. Cost of this is \$12.00 for adults, and \$6.00 for children ten and under. The program for the evening is to be presented by Congressman Roger Wicker.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 5

Saturday begins with a car caravan at 9:30 a.m. to Vauter's Church where a slide presentation of the church and its history will be shown. We will tour the church and view the 200 year old Bible and communion silver. Lunch will be served at the church, and the cost is \$8.00 for adults, and \$5.00 for children ten and under.

At 1:00 p.m., we leave to tour Linden House Bed and Breakfast, owned by Vauter's Church members, Kenneth and Sandra Pounsberry.

The annual banquet is at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday. Cost of the banquet is \$15.00 for adults, and \$7.00 for children ten and under. This will be followed by all the usual activities, including the Memorial Service, special recognitions, roll call of states, and election of officers. On this night, we will hear the premiere performance of The Vawter Family Singers, directed by Ellen Cummings.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 6

Those who can are invited to travel to Vauter's Church on Sunday for the 11:00 a.m. Communion Service, followed by light lunch compliments of the church.

DOOR PRIZES

Always something to look forward to is the awarding of the many door prizes. Be sure to bring an example of your handiwork or anything else that you would like to contribute. Ken and Norma Wicker, assisted by many of the children present, will be distributing the door prizes at the conclusion of the Friday and Saturday night meetings.

OFFERING FOR VAUTER'S CHURCH

As told in the April newsletter, our offering this year will go to Vauter's Church. If you would like to make a donation, but are unable to attend the reunion, your contribution can be sent to the VVV treasurer, Charles Burt, whose address is at the beginning of this newsletter. It should be mailed in time to reach Charles before July 31. Our offering in 1990 was \$1400, and was greatly appreciated.

A LETTER FROM ROBERT L. VAWTER

4/25/95

Robert L. Vawter
6171 E. 52nd St.
Newaygo, MI 49337

VVV Family Association
Secretary: Beth Melton
1211 Casa Vale
Dallas, TX 75218

Dear Members of the VVV Association,

It is with regret that I write this letter. Because of continuing health problems which the doctor diagnoses as anxiety, and stress related, I feel that in the interest of my health, it is necessary for me to resign as president of the VVV Association. I am looking forward to the coming reunion this year, but feel the responsibility of the presidency is too great for me.

I would also like to thank the members of the VVV Ass'n. for their concern and prayers at the time of my father's illness and death, and for their expression of sympathy.

Sincerely,
Robert L. Vawter

[In accordance with the VVV Bylaws, Article V, Section 3b, former Vice-President Lowell Vaughters, has advanced to the position of President.]

THE VAWTER FAMILY IN AMERICA

The reprint edition (1969) of *The Vawter Family in America* will be available at the reunion in August. We are still selling the ones with only minor defects, such as one or two pages missing or having faint print. As before, you are reminded that when these are gone, it will be necessary to have the remaining books repaired and that will add to the present cost of \$20.00.

The books are softbound and have 442 pages including an index, plus a supplement update of the O'Conner family. If ordered by mail, please add \$2.00 for shipping.

Order from: Bonita Welch, 4145 N 900 W, Scipio, IN 47273.

CONGRATULATIONS

Summer Beree Taylor graduated from the International School of Kenya 1 June 1995, where she completed requirements for an International Baccalaureate degree. She is the daughter of Tom and Diana Taylor Of Nairobi, Kenya, and niece of VVV news editor, Bonita Welch. Summer has returned to the States, and will attend Ohio University in Athens, majoring in Spanish.

Joe and Karen Vawter of North Vernon, Indiana, are the parents of a daughter, Emily Maxine, born 15 March 1995. Paternal grandparents are Delbert and Linda Vawter, also of North Vernon. Many VVV members will remember Joe from the 1982 reunion when he was 14 years old and joined the group at the picnic to learn about his Vawter ancestry.

FAMILY INFORMATION WANTED

From: Stewart Hedges, 1298 S Stage Road, Medford, OR 97501

....My great grandfather, Levi Marion Hedges, married Samantha Jane Vawter, daughter of Pascal Vawter and Eliza Mavity. Levi Marion's brother, (my great uncle) Peter Thompson Hedges married Mary Ann Vawter, sister to Samantha Jane. I believe that Samantha Jane and Mary Ann were both from the Jefferson County, Indiana, area. Samantha Jane moved to Vermilion County, Illinois, and that is where she died and is buried in Fithian, Illinois. My grandfather, Walter Grearson Hedges, was born in Muncie, Illinois.

Also of interest is that a branch of the Vawter family moved here to Oregon and settled in the Northern portion and settled a community of Crawfordsville, Oregon. Here in Medford, a Vawter settled and was involved in the starting of a bank during the late 1800's. I live a block from an early road named after the Vawter family

[Ed. note: Pascal Vawter was the son of Beverly and Elizabeth Crawford Vawter; and grandson of Philemon and Anne Vawter. This family can be found on page 324 of *The Vawter Family of America*.]

MEMORIAL MUSIC LIBRARY IS DEDICATED

The Evelyn Vawter Stoltz Memorial Music Library was dedicated Sunday, February 26, 1995, at Chapman University School of Music in Orange, California. Evelyn Vawter Stoltz was a 1948 graduate of the school. Funds from Evelyn's husband, Jack, and other family members, along with contributions from friends, were matched by Chapman University to establish the library.

In honor of the dedication, a recital was presented by Evelyn's daughter, Catherine Stoltz, a mezzo soprano who holds a Bachelor's Degree, cum laude, in Music Education from Chapman University.

Catherine made her operatic debut in *The Magic Flute* at the Carmel Bach Festival in 1980, and since has added more than sixteen operatic roles to her repertoire. She was a national finalist in the 1987 Metropolitan Opera auditions in New York City, and a first place winner of the Rocky Mountain Regional Metropolitan Opera auditions that same year. She has received many other awards, and in 1993 served a semester as Artist-in-Residence at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

Catherine Stoltz lives in Colorado with her husband, airline pilot Kent Hammon, and their two daughters, Cassandra and Christine.

Evelyn Vawter Stoltz died 6 June 1994 at her home in Santa Barbara, California. Her obituary is in the Fall 1994 VVV newsletter.

VAWTER CEMETERY TOURS

The Vawter Cemetery located in Selmier State Forest in Jennings County, Indiana, has been the site of two tours in recent months. Both tours were led by Bonita Welch. The cemetery is on land once owned by William and Frances Vawter, pioneer Jennings County settlers, and their home was very near the cemetery on a bank overlooking the Muscatatuck River.

The first tour was sponsored by the Friends of the Jennings County Library to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the state forest.

The second tour was for the Jennings County Genealogical Society, and was to help the society members learn how to record or read a cemetery. One technique not tried by the group before was to "toss" flour on the monument and then use a soft brush to remove the excess flour, thereby allowing the letters to be filled with flour. This method was very successful. Since the cemetery was recorded in 1982, some monuments have deteriorated to the point where they cannot be read without difficulty.

William and Frances Vawter are buried in this cemetery, as are many members of their family. One of the earliest graves is that of Jesse Vawter Burns, a grandson who died in 1831. Also buried there are Philemon and Anna Vawter, parents of Frances. (William and Frances were first cousins.) Philemon died in 1814, and was first buried near Madison, Indiana, being moved to the Vawter Cemetery following the death of his wife in 1845.

WILLIAM SNYDER VAWTER GENEALOGICAL PAPERS

William Snyder Vawter, Sr. spent many years collecting material with the hope of updating information found in *The Vawter Family in America* by Grace Bicknell. Unfortunately, he died before his work could be completed. It is interesting to remember that this was done before copiers, computers, fax machines, e-mail and all the other things we rely on today. What follows are three letters written to him in response to his questionnaires.

These first two letters were sent to William Snyder Vawter in 1928 by William Henry Vawter of Virginia, son of William Calvin and Mary Jane Estes Vawter. Punctuation has been added.

"William Calvin Vawter was born about 1820. Married Mary Jane Estes 1852, resulting in three children, Agnes Elizabeth, William Henry [and] Mary Jane. Mary having died in infancy. Wm. Calvin enlisted in the army in 1861 in defense of the South. Having contracted mesels, in Aug 26 came home and died in a few days, leaving his wife with two little children to raise. All of his personal possessions having been destroyed by the northern army, this left quite a burden on his wife. Then came the liberation of his slaves. However with untiring energy his wife strove to success, living to be 77 years old when she passed away and went to receive her reward, and was layed to rest in the family burying ground at the old home in Louisa County, Virginia."

"William Henry Vawter was born Aug 16, 1856. Married Ella Silom Terril Oct 28, 1878. This union resulted in four children, Willis Hawthorn, Mary Anne, Clifton Henry and Ernis Linwood. His career has been a very embarrassing one, many difficultys to confront him, having his store a[nd] dwelling twice distroyed by fire. Twelve years ago, lost the use of both feet, since which time has been almost an invalid. Nearly five years ago his wife was paralyzed, loosing the power of [..?..] and locomation. Not withstanding all of this, the all wise Creator has blessed them with fifty Summers together. They are still hopeful and trusting."

In an accompanying note, William Henry Vawter states: "I am sending you such information as I am able to. All of our family records were distroyed during that dreadful war between the states. I was then six years old, therefore my information is limited and not far reaching. If worth anything to you, you can use it. If not put it in the wast basket. I dont see how I could use your blanks, in other words dont know how to fill them up. Please excuse pencil. I am 71 years old, nervous and cant write with pen. Would like to have one of your books when out, let me know and price."

Virginia State Library
RICHMOND, VA.

September 21, 1927

Mr. William S. Vawter,
Army and Navy Club of America,
30 West 44th Street,
New York City.

My dear Sir:

I take pleasure in sending you the following notice which appears in THE RICHMOND WHIG for May 3, 1830:

"Lynchburg, April 29.

Suicide.--On Sunday morning the 25th inst. Mr. Benjamin Vawter, of this place, terminated his mortal existence by cutting his throat ! He was, it seems, at the time of committing the fatal deed, in a high state of intoxication."

Very truly yours,

H.R. McILWAINE
STATE LIBRARIAN

IN REMEMBRANCE

Gladys Wray Cross, 97, died 28 March 1995 in St. Petersburg, Florida. She was the widow of Carl J.B. Cross. The funeral service was conducted by The Masonic Home of Florida, and burial was at Memorial Park Cemetery in St. Petersburg. She was born 13 November 1897 in Leesville, Indiana, the daughter of John Oscar Wray (27 January 1873 - 16 May 1945) and Etta May Douglas Wray (3 August 1879 - 23 February 1921). Both parents are buried in Erie Cemetery, Lawrence County, Indiana.

Parents of John Oscar Wray: Silas Wray and Sarah Vawter

Parents of Sarah Vawter: Julius Vawter and Phebe Holland

Parents of Julius Vawter: Boulware Vawter II and Sally Davis

[Contributed by Doris Wray Eschliman of Boone, Iowa.]

* * * * *

Lydia Vawter, 87, died 15 May 1995 in Thornton, Colorado. She was born 16 September 1907 in Quicksand, Kentucky, and was the widow of Theodore Roosevelt Vawter. Burial was at Crown Hill Cemetery in Wheat Ridge, Colorado.

[Sent to Beth Melton by Lydia's daughter, Lorene Graham.]

IN REMEMBRANCE

Robert Marshall "Pete" Vawter, 67, died Friday, 7 April 1995 at his home in Milan, Tennessee. He was born 7 June 1927, the son of the late Andrew Minor Vawter, and Edna Bell Vawter of Milan. He married Norma Jean Lowry, and she survives.

Pete was a World War II Marine veteran who enlisted early and came home to complete his high school education. He later became a Certified Public Accountant. He was a member of the Milan Utility Board; Veterans of Foreign Wars; American Legion, where he served as Past Commander; Tennessee Certified Public Accountant Association; Sons of Confederate Veterans; and was a lifetime member of the Marine Corp Association. He was a Past President of the VVV Association.

Surviving with his wife and mother are a son, Robert L. Vawter of Cordova, Tennessee; a daughter, Barbara Vawter DeFur of Germantown, Tennessee; a sister, Syble Culbreath of Trenton, Tennessee; a brother, Sonny Vawter of Memphis; and five grandchildren, Wendy Vawter of Savannah, Tennessee; Katelyn and Andrew Vawter of Cordova; and Emily and Jake DeFur of Germantown.

The family requested memorials be directed to the Marine Corp Association or the Sons of Confederate Veterans.

* * * * *

Carmen Vawter James, 73, died Saturday, 15 April 1995, at her home in Memphis, Tennessee. She was a retired secretary at Kraft, Inc., and formerly lived in Humboldt, Tennessee. Burial was at Rose Hill Cemetery in Humboldt.

Survivors include her husband, Ezra James; a daughter, Donna Kimbrell of Memphis; a grandson and two great-grandchildren. [Contributed by James Corbitt of Martin, Tennessee.]

* * * * *

Mabel Anna Haas Vawter Rowen, 90, died at Porter Hospital in Denver, Colorado, on March 16, 1995. She was born June 4, 1904, in Havelock, Nebraska, the daughter of Otto and Emma Haas. She devoted most of her life's work to the Wallace School in Denver where she worked for many years. She was the church organist for most of her life and continued to play for family members and friends after she retired.

She was married to Theodore Roosevelt Vawter April 3, 1931, in Lincoln, Nebraska. Theodore passed away in August 1990. They had three children, Norma Joan (Oct 7, 1933 -March 21, 1984); Mary Ruth (Aug 13, 1936 -March 19, 1975). She is survived by a son and daughter-in-law, Theodore Calvin and Nanci-Sioux Vawter of Phoenix, Arizona; a grandson, Noah Theodore Vawter of Worchester, Massachusetts; a granddaughter, Adrian Eileen Vawter of Norwich, Connecticut; and a grandson, Patrick McBride of Stockton, California.

Burial was at Crown Hill Cemetery in Denver, Colorado. [Contributed by Nanci Vawter.]

Thank you to all who continue to help by sending obituaries and other information.

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR VVV PRESIDENT

July 5, 1995

Dear Family:

I am looking forward to our reunion August 4, 5, & 6 and hope you are too. Ellen Cummings has been working extremely hard and I am sure a great treat is in store for all who attend. You will notice at the bottom of this letter is a form for you to detach and mail to Ellen as soon as possible so that we will have an approximate count of how many people plan to attend. We need to know how many people will be attending to make plans for the dinner Friday night and banquet Saturday night. It is imperative that we have this information ASAP! You may either mail the information to Ellen Cummings or call her at 804-464-2963 or call Lowell Vaughters, President, at 601-842-3081. If no answer, please leave a message.

Listed below is the reunion schedule:

Thursday, August 3, 1995:

3:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M. - Registration

6:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M. - Pick-up Supper

Friday, August 4, 1995

8:30 A.M. - 9:30 A.M. - Registration

9:30 A.M. - Opening of reunion and meeting

Lunch on your own and then car caravan to Scotchtown -
home of Patrick Henry

6:30 P.M. - Dinner in Conference Room and program by Congressman Roger
Wicker

Saturday, August 5, 1995

9:30 A.M. - Car Caravan to church. Tour and history on slides

Noon - Lunch at church

1:00 P.M. - Car Caravan to Linden House

6:30 P.M. - Annual Banquet and Memorial Service

Sunday, August 6 - Travel to Vawter Church for 11:00 Communion followed by light
lunch at church

The Comfort Inn at Ashland, VA has special room rates for VVV @ \$50/night plus tax. The reunion will be headquartered out of the Comfort Inn. Don't forget to make your reservations soon and be sure to tell them that you are attending the VVV reunion. We have been advised by the motel when making your reservation, you should use this confirmation number - P49820-00. This will guarantee the special room rate.

Also, please remember to bring door prizes.

Looking forward to seeing you in Virginia!!

Lowell Vaughters, VVV President

My name is _____

_____ I plan to attend the VVV Reunion.

_____ I do not plan to attend the VVV Reunion.

I am bringing _____ adults and _____ children.

(How many) in my party will be attending the following:

_____ Friday Night Dinner

_____ Saturday Lunch

_____ Saturday Banquet

Please mail this information to:

Ellen Cummings
4708 Bradston Road
Virginia Beach, VA 23455

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Dues - \$7.00 per year

REUNION HIGHLIGHTS

THURSDAY

The eighteenth annual reunion of the VVV Family Association was held August 3-6, 1995, in Ashland, Virginia. Members and friends from throughout the United States, Canada and Kenya gathered to join the fellowship and learn more of their heritage.

The event began on Thursday evening with a bountiful pitch-in meal. As with the fish and loaves of bread of the Bible, there was more than enough food to go around. In fact, there was enough to provide lunch on Friday. The remainder of the evening was spent visiting and sharing news of the past year.

FRIDAY

President Lowell Vaughters called the Friday morning session to order, and the reunion was officially opened with the ringing of the cowbell. Having that honor this year was Kristy Glasgow, daughter of Steve and Cheryl Glasgow. The invocation was given by John H. Vawter, and the pledge to the American flag was led by cousins, Frederick Cummings and McDaniel Wicker. Greetings were given by Rose Ann Shalf, representing the Ashland Town Council, and Barbara Franklin of the Visitor's Center. Recognition was given several who were present for the first time.

Fred Wicker, chairman of the nominating committee, reported the committee recommended Beth Melton serve as vice-president,

Melinda Vawter as secretary, and all other officers to remain in office. The nominations were unanimously approved.

Ralphe Vawter, who serves as genealogist as well as archivist, stated that he has had several requests for help the past year. He spoke of doing research at a Family History Center in Pensacola, and recommended that everyone visit a Center near their home. Ralphe also asked for the names of those who have their Vawter material on computer. Discussion was held regarding genealogy book "scams," and many of those present shared their experiences with these books. Following his report, Ralphe and his wife, Caroline, left to return to their home in Florida, as they had learned that morning that considerable damage had been done to their home by Hurricane Erin.

In the Fall 1992 newsletter, we told of a quilt made in 1910 by Maggie Dora Vaughters, grandmother of Charles Burt. This quilt had won 1st prize in the 9th District Fair in Gainesville, Georgia. The Georgia Quilt Guild will be including this quilt in a book they are publishing, and there is a possibility the quilt will be on display in the Atlanta History Center.

John T. and Aggie Vawter visited Trematon Castle in England, and had pictures and information on display.

After lunch, a trip was made by car caravan to "Scotchtown," home of Patrick Henry during his most active political years.

At 6:30 p.m., a catered dinner was served in the conference room. Speaker for the evening was to have been Congressman Roger Wicker, but he was detained in Washington. Entertainment was provided instead by Roger's father, Fred Wicker. Ken and Norma Wicker, assisted by many of the children, distributed some of the door prizes.

SATURDAY

A car caravan left at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday to travel to Vauter's Church near Port Royal. Greetings were given by Karen Woodruff, Priest-in-charge of Vauter's Church. She gave a history of the church, and stated that they have 95 members with an average attendance on Sunday of 20-25. A delicious lunch was served by the ladies of the church. Several Vawter descendants not attending the reunion in Ashland joined the group at the church.

In the afternoon, a tour was made of Linden House Bed and Breakfast, owned by Vauter's Church members, Kenneth and Sandra Pounsberry.

Following the Saturday night banquet in the conference room, Robert L. Vawter spoke of our contributions to Vauter's Church. The Association's gifts to the church in the past were: 1980 - \$1900; 1985 - \$1500; and 1990 - \$1400. At the end of the evening we had a total of \$1821 to be given, and more was donated on Sunday at the church.

A memorial service was conducted by Fred and Wordna Wicker, assisted by their granddaughters, Caroline Wicker and Rebecca Cummings. The service began with a violin solo, "Finally Home," by Ila Vawter, accompanied by Bonita Welch. As each name and a brief obituary was

read, those close to that person stood, and a carnation was placed in a vase in remembrance.

Entertainment was by the Vawter Family Singers, under the direction of Ellen Cummings. Sixteen singers, from ages 4 to 18, made up the group this year. Soloists were Jackie Hudson and Kristy Glasgow, and a duet was sung by Margaret Wicker and Rebecca Cummings.

Special recognition was given the following:

Oldest: Virginia Wooten Modell, age 86

Youngest: Kelsy Roberts, age 22 months

Traveled farthest: Summer Taylor, Nairobi, Kenya

Longest married: Emery and Clarice Mayer, 62 years

Two other couples, Evert and Maxine Joling and Virgil and Aletha Weidner were recognized for having been married over 50 years.

The roll call of states found there to be 25 states represented, plus Canada, Kenya, and the District of Columbia.

Donna Vawter donated three enlarged and framed pictures of Trematon Castle in England. Chances were sold on these pictures, with the proceeds going into the Association treasury. Winners were: Noel Moreland, Summer Taylor, and Courtney Vaughter.

The evening concluded with the distribution of the remaining door prizes. Again this year, the door prizes were numerous and varied.

SUNDAY

Because of distance and travel time, not everyone was able to return to Vawter's Church on Sunday for the 11:00 a.m. service. Those who did were treated to lunch compliments of the church.

THANK YOU

Planning a reunion for the Association is not an easy task. It takes many months of planning and considerable time and effort. This year's event was organized by Ellen Cummings, and to her we say, "Thank you!"

1996 NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Named by President Lowell Vaughters to serve as the 1996 nominating committee were: Fred Wicker, Chairman; Shirley Beasley; Joe Melton; Robert L. Vawter; and Norma Wicker.

Watch future newsletters for information about the 1996 reunion of the VVV Association to be held in Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin. Evert and Maxine Joling, with help from their family, are already making plans, and promise a great time in the land of cheese, dairy farming, cranberry marshes and paper mills.

MEMORIAL SERVICE

These VVV members and friends were remembered:

1. Ron Vawter, 45, New York City, d. 16 Apr 1994
2. Annabelle Vawter Dunaway, 92, Lebanon, TN, d. 29 Jun 1994
3. Mary Vawter Carlson, 94, Elberton, GA, d. 29 Aug 1994
4. Robert Clayton Vawter, 81, Newaygo, MI, d. 7 Aug 1994
5. Leon Dale Goldsmith, 77, Olney, IL, d. 3 Apr 1994
6. Frank O. Vawter, 55, Cathedral City, CA, d. 16 Aug 1994
7. Wilfred Clarkson, 91, Greensburg, IN, d. 8 Mar 1994
8. Frederick K. Cox, 79, Beachwood, OH, d. 10 Feb 1994
9. Belva Vawter Gilstrap, 81, d. 24 Jun 1994
10. Robert M. "Pete" Vawter, 67, Milan, TN, d. 7 Apr 1995
11. Carmen Vawter James, 73, Memphis, TN, d. 15 Apr 1995
12. Mabel Anna Rowan, 90, Denver, CO, d. 16 Mar 1995
13. Carolyn S. Vaughtner, 81, Austin, TX, d. 16 Jun 1995
14. Bill Shattuck, Alto, TX, d. 30 Jun 1995
15. James S. Corbitt, 87, Martin, TN, d. 31 Jul 1995
16. Charles Vawter, d. 14 Jan 1994
17. Betty Sue Waters, Dawsonville, GA
18. James V. Waters, 55, Dawsonville, GA, d. 22 Jun 1995
19. Mabel Rose
20. Dorothy Vawter Robb, 80, Ft. Myers, FL, d. 18 Jun 1993
21. Donald Engle, 59, North Vernon, IN, d. 2 Apr 1995
22. Gladys Wray Cross, 97, St. Petersburg, FL, d. 28 Mar 1995
23. Lydia Vawter, 87, Thornton, CO, d. 15 May 1995
24. Alan S. Vaughters, 29, Lithonia, GA, d. 24 Oct 1994

THE GLEBE

The glebe was the house and (usually) 200 acres provided by colonial parishes for their ministers. Rev. Robert Rose's house, built c. 1731 during his tenure at St. Anne's Parish, is believed to be the oldest brick glebe still standing in Virginia. Two stories high and one room deep, the house's exterior brickwork of Flemish bond and glazed headers is similar to that of Vauter's Church erected in the same year sixteen miles to the north. On the plantation were a frame schoolhouse, a wharf on Occupacia Creek nearby, a grain mill, a spring and probably several outbuildings. Today, only the glebe-house remains. It is located in Essex County, Virginia, and is listed on the Virginia Landmarks Register, and the National Register of Historic Places. Several people visited the house following the trip to Vauter's Church on Saturday, and others went on Sunday. Because of the similarity to Vauter's Church, it is thought by some that the house was built by Edward Vauter.

Source: The Diary of Robert Rose
Edited and Annotated by Ralph E. Fall, 1977

HURRICANE HAPPENINGS

"Immediately after my genealogy report, Caroline and I drove to our home in Gulf Breeze, Fl. (outside Pensacola). We approached it with fear and trepidation. While quite a mess, 'they say it can always be worse.'

We had three trees on our roof causing six holes and two trees on our garage. Most of these were massive oaks and pines - 80'-100' high and the same age, 80-100 years. It will probably cost \$4,000 to \$5,000 to remove them with insurance only covering a pittance. Interior damage was relatively minor, although in addition to 100 mph winds there was a tornado effect which impaled a substantial piece of lumber through the roof, through the living room ceiling and ending in the fireplace wall.

Our 24' pontoon boat with a 60 hp Mercury engine was torn from its lift mooring and sailed through the air to a neighbor's house 3 lots away, ending upside down in the water, motor and all its parts. It's a shambles.

So when you go to your next VVV Association meeting, guard your valuables at home. We'll see you next year."

Ralphe Vawter

[Ed. note: This was Hurricane Erin; we've not heard from Ralphe and Caroline since being hit by Hurricane Opal.]

IN THE NEWS

The Summer 1995 issue of DePauw Magazine has a story "The Vawters: A DePauw Family." This story is about Paul E. Vawter and his experiences of attending school while also caring for three younger siblings following the untimely death of their parents. Paul is a 1929 graduate of DePauw University, located in Greencastle, Indiana. He had a long career as a manager with Illinois Bell, and now lives in a retirement community in Hightstown, New Jersey.

Joshua Taylor recently appeared with his band, Thicket Grove, at Jam III in Huntsville, Alabama. Josh is the son of Tom and Diana Taylor of Nairobi, Kenya, and the nephew of VVV news editor, Bonita Welch. He has lived in Smyrna, Tennessee, since graduating from Earlham College in Richmond, Indiana, in 1993.

Congratulations to Ernie and Bess Shoemaker of N. Richland Hills, Texas, who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on 4 August 1995. A reception was held in honor of the occasion by their children and grandchildren. Bess is descended from the Vawters of Monroe County, Kentucky. Her great-grandfather was James Jefferson Vawter; her grandfather, Joseph Thomas Vawter; and her mother, Eva Lena Vawter Hardin.

IN REMEMBRANCE

Walter Bachmann Vawter, 87, died 4 Jan 1988 in Temple City, California. He was born 2 Jul 1900 in Evansville, Indiana, the son of Alfred T. and Minnie Vawter.

Survivors include sons, James S. Vawter of Pebble Beach, California, and A. Thomas Vawter of Aurora, New York; a daughter, Margaret Siegel of Santa Ana, California; sisters, Ruth V. Oles and Martha DuSault, both of Alhambra, California; and seven grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his wife, Alice Singleton Vawter.

* * * * *

Col. James Stitt Corbitt, 87, of Martin, Tennessee, died 31 July 1995.

He earned a bachelor of science degree in civil engineering from the University of Tennessee - Knoxville in 1931, and was among the first engineering faculty members at the University of Tennessee - Martin. Recently, he had been named a founding member of the university's Academy of Engineering. From 1935 - 1962 he worked with the Soil Conservation Services of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Prior to its acquisition by TDS Telecom, he was owner of the Humphreys County Telephone Company, which had been started in 1896 by his great-uncle, Charles Morehead Stribling. Retired in 1962 from the National Guard with the rank of colonel, his active military service spanned 1940-1946.

He served on the board of the West Tennessee Area Council of Boy Scouts of America, and was active with the UT Martin Alumni Association.

Survivors include a daughter, Betty Callis of Martin; a son, Jim S. Corbitt; a sister, Juanita Crockett; a brother, P. S. Corbitt, New Johnsonville, Tennessee; five grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren. His wife, Allene Jenkins Corbitt, preceded him in death in 1993.

The funeral service was held at First United Methodist Church in Martin.

* * * * *

Carolyn Smith Vaughter, 81, died 16 June 1995 in Austin, Texas. She was born 5 April 1914 on Deer Creek Farm, near Guthrie, Oklahoma. In the fall of 1930, she married Paul Hiram Vaughter, who preceded her in death 23 January 1994. She was a secretary, and had traveled the world with her husband during his 30-year career with the government. Carolyn was also a writer, and had several short stories and a novel - *West Wind Wild* - published.

Survivors include two sons, Dr. Paul H. Vaughter of St. Cloud, Minnesota, and Phil Vaughter of Austin; a sister, Marilyn; four grandsons; two granddaughters; and six great-grandchildren. Another son, Patton Courtney Vaughter, preceded her in death in 1968.

A memorial service was held at College Park Baptist Church in Houston, Texas.

VVV MEMBERS AND FRIENDS ATTENDING THE 1995 REUNION

ALABAMA

Al and Ann Montgomery

ARIZONA

Bobbi Vawter Meek

DELAWARE

Robert L. and Donna Vawter
Mary and
Robert L. Vawter II;
Robert L. III, Amanda,
James Jesse

FLORIDA

David and Marie Vaughter
Ralphe and Caroline Vawter

GEORGIA

Charles and Betty Burt
Claude D. Foster
Cheryl Glasgow;
Timothy, Kristen
John Carlson, Jr.
Vivian Stephens
Lula Vaughters Thompson
Flara Vaughters Waters

ILLINOIS

Shirley K. Beasley
May Vawter

INDIANA

Bonita Welch

MARYLAND

Joel Greer and Annie Storr;
Eli, Jesse Vawter Greer
Doug and Judy Thorpe;
Emily
Virginia Wooden Modell

MASSACHUSETTS

Gabriele Vawter

MICHIGAN

Patricia Vawter Klein
Margaret Vawter

Robert L. and Ila Vawter

MISSISSIPPI

Judith Crawford
Cliff Daniel;
Brittany
Jackie Hudson
Martha Hudson
Emery and Clarice Mayer
Lowell and
Allyson Vaughters
Norma Vaughters

MISSOURI

Bruce Vawter;
Jason Benson
Fred and Wordna Wicker
Ken and Norma Wicker
Roger and Gayle Wicker;
Margaret, Caroline,
McDaniel

NEW JERSEY

Dary1 and Joyce Smith

NEW YORK

Richard and Dorothy Vawter

NORTH CAROLINA

Lisa Vaughter Strandberg;
Eric, Meredith

OHIO

Virgil and Aletha Weidner

OKLAHOMA

Bill M. and Virginia Vawter

OREGON

John T. and Aggie Vawter

PENNSYLVANIA

Calvin and Glee Krapf

TENNESSEE

Bill and Judy Blanks
Mel and Caroline Scarlett
Lynn Weekley

TEXAS

Joe and Beth Melton
Noel and
Mace Vaughter Moreland
Phil and Peggy Vaughter;
Courtney
John H. and Sue Vawter
Melinda Vawter

VIRGINIA

Richard and Judith Brown
Ned and Ellen Cummings;
Rebecca, Frederick
Ann Martin Harpole
John M. Martin, Jr.
James and Korbi Roberts;
Kelsy
Elisha and Lera Triplett
Karen Woodruff

WASHINGTON

Esther Anderson

WEST VIRGINIA

Charles and
Elizabeth Czompo

WISCONSIN

Evert and Maxine Joling

WASHINGTON, D.C.

James G. Vaughter

CANADA

Virginia Vawter Storr

KENYA

Summer Beree Taylor

ABOUT DUES

Membership in the VVV Family Association is \$7.00 per year. Dues paid at the reunion is for the coming year, and if not paid at that time, please remember to send your dues to the treasurer in January. A renewal form is usually enclosed if you owe dues.

Any changes of name or address can be sent to either the treasurer or the news editor.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Items are always needed for inclusion in the newsletter. Some suggestions for things you can send to be considered for use are:

Obituaries (current and past)
Engagement and/or marriage announcements

Birth announcements

Family news - graduations, anniversaries, retirements, awards, etc.

Other Vawter reunions news

Family charts and group sheets

Research updates

Gleanings from publications

Family traditions

Queries

T-SHIRTS

Considerable interest was shown by those present at the reunion in having T-shirts made with the family crest on them. This has been done in the past with success. Ralphe Vawter has been in contact with a company about making the shirts.

The shirts he can get are white, 100% cotton, and will have the crest in color with "Valletort" above, and "Vawter, Vaughter, Vauter" below the crest. The cost is \$10.00 for sizes small, medium, large, and extra large; and \$11.50 for extra-extra large. This price is postpaid.

A form is enclosed for ordering shirts from Ralphe. Please order as soon as possible, as the price is based on getting a large number at one time.

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Dues - \$7.00 per year

A VISIT TO TREMATON CASTLE 1994
by John T. and Aggie Vawter
6815 SW Capitol Hill Road, Portland, OR 97219

With our travel packs on backs and enthusiasm high, we left Portland, Oregon, on July 18, 1994. Via San Francisco, we arrived at Heathrow about noon August 19. After a couple of days in the wonderful city of Bath, we headed for Plymouth to visit the ancient Trematon Castle, arriving on August 22.

The weather was beautiful and we walked through the Barbican, the old section of Plymouth a couple of blocks from where the pilgrims and probably the Vawter brothers (1680) embarked for the New World. We took a B & B in this part of town which goes back into early English history and is rich in exciting places, some of which were almost certainly visited and used by Sir Francis Drake and various Valletort/Vawter family members.

Plymouth, a city of a half million, is located in Devon on the south coast facing the English Channel and the Tamar River West. The Tamar separates the counties of Devon and Cornwall. Trematon is located in Cornwall, about ten miles west of Plymouth, through the small city of Saltash and to the south edge of St. Stephens village, St. Stephens Church being the chief landmark nearby.

Since we had no auto, we studied the Plymouth city bus routes, finding that buses #1 or #2 run within a block or two of St. Stephens church. From the church we walked to Trematon via St.

Stephens Road, a distance of about one half mile. This is a very beautiful walk through scenes of architecture and landscapes much like centuries past.

This road heads downhill into a valley and then climbs back up to a point somewhat higher than St. Stephens village. Just as we wondered whether we were still on the correct road (it would be hard to get off) we looked up and to our right and there was the wonderful round crenellated wall of the Trematon castle keep.

Forgetting how our legs felt from climbing the hill, we hurried on up around the hill, coming to a round stone cottage almost in the road. We felt that this building may have been located there centuries ago to help intercept and monitor various traffic approaching Trematon. As a matter of fact, we stopped at the cottage to inquire about proceeding to the castle area. A fine looking Englishman in his golden years informed us that we should go to the manor house and ask permission to visit.

A hundred yards or so farther we were inside the great wall and on to the large Georgian residence. We "knocked up" the master who answered the door immediately, so it was obvious that the gateman had phoned ahead of our arrival. It was 10:30 a.m. and he was dressed in a morning coat and stated that he was just eating breakfast. He very graciously invited us to make our way around wherever we wanted to go. The mansion, the person and the setting told us that one would have to be very rich to afford to lease the property. (When Dorothy Vawter visited around ten years ago, the home was between leases and was being renovated for the next tenant.)

At this point, we began a two-hour experience in and around the walls and grounds and other structures. Actually, there are two barns built against the outside of the main wall. These are still in good repair, and represent a practice started many centuries ago. The main advantage is that only three walls need be erected.

Before going farther, we must say that the whole property has been marvelously restored, including the grounds which are still in process. Prince Charles is the owner and began restorative measures ten years ago. The leasee is responsible for keeping the grounds and is doing a wonderful job, taking great pride in having a show place. We talked at length with the gardening contractor who had the keys to the gatehouse, which is the only reason we were able to see inside that remarkable structure.

First we snapped a few photos of the wall from the inside. Then, over to a section of the twenty foot high wall up ancient steps to the walkway. The wall is six feet wide on top with the parapets above. Centuries ago a moat surrounded the walls and the remains can still be seen in some places. Perhaps the wall

was built by the Romans to protect a signal station on this key hillside overlooking various seaward approaches to the area. Evidence for this is that a section of wall was found to be covered by a type of plaster that was used only by the Romans. Since the Cornish people lived there before the Romans and since Trematon is a Cornish term for place (town) of the king, perhaps they were the ones who began the ancient building program on this wonderful hill overlooking rivers and bays of SW Cornwall.

Looking at the wall, one can see various arrow slots that from a distance resemble a Christian cross symbol. However, the slots are hollowed (beveled) on the inside so that a Bowman could aim his arrow toward a wide range of targets either vertically or horizontally. The design of these arrow slots varied over time so that historians can use them to help date a structure. Trematon has at least three historical periods; the wall being the oldest, then the round keep, and lastly the gatehouse. We do not know when the wall or original castle were built since there has never been an archeological examination.

The original castle has been replaced by a Georgian style manor house (1807), built of stone from the castle ruin. It has been said that the castle was allowed to deteriorate over a long period and was in extreme ruination by the 17th century. It is to be assumed that the early Valletorts resided in the castle because they built the keep and the gatehouse, and perhaps more. From this, one could assume that the castle was in use through the 14th century and probably longer before being abandoned.

The keep, meaning place to keep things, was built around 1190 by a grandson of Reginald de Valletort. This was designed for defensive reasons, but also for animal shelter and housing for soldiers and others during time of danger. This structure is unique, being about thirty feet high and around seventy feet in diameter. The doors were very massive, probably of oak, and were mounted into the walls with great hinges and bolted with timbers at least four by eight inches.

From the keep ramparts one can survey the surrounding area of river, town, forest and meadow. It is difficult to imagine any enemy getting into this round fortress from any direction. We understand that Sir Francis Drake stored some of his booty in the keep following one of his round-the-world trips. He was going to see Queen Elizabeth, and needed a secure storage. So perhaps the keep was functional even after the castle was in ruins.

Having thoroughly climbed and perambulated the keep, we ambled down to the gatehouse. This building (c.1250) is around thirty feet square and three tall stories high. The "gates" are the portcullis type, a sort of giant trellis of four inch square oak: that can be lowered when an attack is imminent. There is an outer gate on one side and an inner one in the other side of the

structure. These gates have been quite authentically and beautifully restored.

The ground floor contains small side rooms for gatekeepers and an arrow slot is provided on one side wall to give visibility and defense toward the approach road. (The present road approaches from the opposite side of the grounds.)

The second floor is reached by a narrow winding stone stairway. This is basically a one room apartment about 15' by 20', with a fireplace on the side wall and a window opening at one end. The wall is about three feet thick at this elevation. This area is in good repair with a solid board floor.

Access to the third floor is by the same winding stair which continues upward. This living area is about the same size and design with walls still three feet thick. The fireplaces in both apartments are carved from solid stone, and are some of the oldest of this type in England.

In the days when the wall was operational as a defensive structure, the third floor apartment had a doorway leading directly onto the parapet walkway. This opening has been filled, but suggests that soldiers occupied these quarters at one time.

From our reading we understand that the "Black Prince," one of the leading generals of the "Hundred Years War" and the father of Richard II, stayed in the gatehouse apartments on occasion during some of his activities. His father, Edward VI, gave him the castle in 1336 and thus, the Duchy of Cornwall was established.

The spiral stairs terminate on the roof of the gatehouse. This is a very interesting place from which to view the castle area as well as the general surroundings. The roof and tops of walls have recently been rejuvenated using slate and lead sheeting in a style typical of antique and Victorian structures. Slate overhangs walls to keep rain from running down their sides, and lead is used because it is very durable and can be easily bent and twisted to fit any shape required for flashing.

Having accomplished our tour and having no more film, we descended into the grounds to chat with the gardener. He is developing and refurbishing some very beautiful English Gardens within the walls. As we dislike doubling back on our walks, we inquired as to another way to walk back to St. Stephens. He directed us around the castle wall and down the ancient unused road down the hill and through the forest. Going back by this route was a great thrill. The road is about ten feet wide mostly reduced down to a pathway and covered by a canopy of wonderful hardwood trees. As we strolled this quarter mile we could almost see and feel the heartbeat of activity that must have been related to the castle area eight hundred years ago.

As we approached St. Stephens, we noticed a neighborhood pub nearby. As it was past 1:00 pm we stopped in for a sandwich. In addition to the wonderful food there was much conversation with the locals who filled us in on various aspects of modern life around Trematon castle. Actually, we found pubs to have excellent food and good prices throughout England.

Lunch finished, we walked a couple blocks, caught our #2 bus back to Plymouth to our Victorian room on the Barbican.

We would especially like to thank Jean Vawter Robinson for her preview photos and the actual address of Trematon, Bonita Welch for maps and Dorothy Vawter for her interesting review from a few years ago. This sharing made our trip much more efficient and enjoyable. We regret not having a couple more days to research and visit other Valletort/Vawter history. However, we shall return!

CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to Darren Welch and Kristina Swenson of Columbia, Missouri, on the birth of their son, William Frederick Swenson Welch. Will was born 14 December 1995, and weighed 7 lbs 3 oz and was 20 inches long at birth. He is the couple's first child. Darren, a graduate of North Carolina State University and University of Indianapolis, is employed in Columbia as an actuarial analyst at Shelter Life Insurance Company. Kristina, a graduate of Duke University and University of Indianapolis, is employed at Unlimited Opportunities in Boonville, Missouri, as program manager in supported employment. Proud first-time grandparents are Joseph and Bonita Welch.

T--SHIRT UPDATE

At the reunion in August, there was considerable interest expressed in having t-shirts made with the family name and crest. By show of hands, approximately 85 "unofficial orders" were given. Because of this interest, Ralphe Vauter contacted a company about making the shirts, and got a price of \$10.00 for sizes small, medium, large and extra-large; and \$11.50 for extra-extra-large. Forms for ordering from Ralphe were enclosed with the October 1995 newsletter.

As of now, Ralphe has received requests for only 41 shirts. The prices quoted were based on a minimum order of 200 shirts, so anyone planning to buy shirts needs to contact Ralphe as soon as possible.

DUES

If a renewal form is enclosed, you need to pay dues to be assured of continuing to receive the newsletter.

Page 6 - January 1996

From: David L. Hancock, 296 Hidenwood Drive #12, Newport News, VA 23606 Phone 804-591-0128

"I am a descendant of Henry Vaughters (ca. 1820- .) My great grandmother was Laura Vaughters(1855 - 25 Sep 1940.) This branch of the Vaughters family resided in Charlotte County, Virginia. It is said that we were moved to Charlotte County after being in Port Royal, Virginia in Caroline County. We were sold to many other places throughout Virginia (Buckingham, Louisa, Appomattox counties and others.) I am in need of any records that any of the descendants of the Vaughters have on slave transfers (property.)"

From: John E. Vawter, 1511 Birch Drive, Elkhart, IN 46514

John is looking for descendants of his uncle, Carl Emmett Vawter, b. 29 January 1881, d. 19 Jul 1947. Carl married Lila Phillips, and went to Genoa, Texas (now a part of Houston) about 1907. Their children were: Clyde Vawter, Martha Vawter, and Evelyn Vawter. Carl and Lila were divorced, and he married Frankie (?). This marriage also ended in divorce. John would like to have cemetery listings and monument inscriptions giving information about this family.

From: Ann Montgomery, 409 Paddock Lane, Montgomery, AL 36109
Phone 334-271-1687

"What was the maiden name of Elizabeth, second wife of John Vawter (b.1778.) Their daughters, Elizabeth Ann and Harriet were in Marion County, Alabama, in 1850, as was John, who had married wife number three, Peachy Hazel. Harriet was my great-grandmother. I would appreciate any information on this family."

From: Glee Krapf, 215 Washington St., Tamaqua, PA 18252

Glee needs information on Edward and Catherine Dwyer, parents of Pamela Dwyer Vawter, first wife of John Taylor Vawter. John and Pamela were married 10 May 1835 in Jennings County, Indiana, and went to Iowa in 1839. A few years later, they became part of a German colony being organized in Bethel, Shelby County, Missouri.

From:

Roxanne Mann, 4955 S Co Rd 675 W, Coatesville, IN 46121

In Index to Marriages of Old Rappahannock and Essex Counties, Virginia, 1655-1900, Roxanne found this marriage: William Walden and Sally Vawter, 7 November 1810, Book J, page 226. Who were the parents of Sally?

QUERY

From: Jane Vawter; 36 Rossmore Court, Park Road; London, NW1 6XX United Kingdom Phone 44 171 258 1899

Jane is currently living in London and is researching the Vawter family in England prior to the mid-seventeenth century.

She writes: "I am trying to establish the origins of the Vawter family in England as well as to verify the truth of the De Valletort story. There were certainly De Valletorts in Devon who were Norman and who were titled nobility. The question to be answered is how and when the name became Vawter and what happened to the family between 1300 and the emigration in the seventeenth century. I would like to establish how a titled noble family later emigrated to Virginia as indentured servants, if this is in fact what happened.

"At this point in my research, I can only say for sure that the family came from Devon. I have located records of many Vawters in Devon, going back to 1515. I cannot say which, if any, are our relations.

"It seems that *The Vawter Family in America* is riddled with errors, some of which are now taken as fact. Among these errors are the emigration date of the Vawter "brothers" of whom there seems to be evidence of only Bartholomew. I need to clear up some of these mysteries in order to begin searching for the family in England."

Jane needs help in answering the following questions:

1. "What is the proof that Bartholomew Vawter was born in 1660 or 1640? Are these dates just estimates made given the 1685 emigration date?"
2. "What is the source of information stating that his birth place was Plymouth England? is this just an assumption based on where early Virginians came from or some other historical guesswork?"
3. "Does anyone know who the other two "brothers" were – John and Angus? (I am told that because Angus was almost exclusively Scottish at that time, it was highly unlikely that any good Englishman would name his son Angus!)"
4. "Is there a more exact emigration date with source?"
5. "Has anyone checked ships records?"
6. "One book states that Bartholomew Vawter had two wives. Does anyone know who the first wife was?"

Jane is eager to receive any verified piece of information with sources given. She is the great-granddaughter of Merrill Vawter, granddaughter of Paul Edward Vawter, and daughter of Paul Edward Vawter, Jr.

IN REMEMBRANCE

Helen A. Jones, 86, of North Vernon, Indiana, died 12 October 1995 at Jennings Community Hospital. She was born 30 September 1909 in North Vernon, the daughter of Oscar Elvin and Sarah Grace Holsclaw Beeman, and was married to Ernest Jones on 18 October 1936. He survives. She was a member of the North Vernon First Baptist Church, the Order of Eastern Star, and enjoyed writing poetry. In 1974, she retired after 20 years with Farm Bureau Insurance.

Surviving in addition to her husband are a son, John P. Jones of Scipio, Indiana; four daughters, Marilyn Stuckwisch of Lexington, Kentucky, Rebecca Ann Cornette of Niceville, Florida, Ruth Hansen of Columbus, Indiana; and Martha Jones of Louisville, Kentucky; nine grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by brothers Clyde, Homer and Wilber Beeman, and sisters Florence, Alice and Mary Beeman. Burial was at Vernon Cemetery.

Helen was a descendant of Jennings County, Indiana, pioneer settlers, William and Frances Vawter. She had been a member of the VVV Association for several years.

* * * * *

Harry L. Vawter, 81, of Farmington, Illinois, died Sunday, 26 November 1995 at his home. He was born 13 August 1914 in Bevier, Missouri, the son of Alva Elroy and Pearlle Cornelison Vawter, and was married to Edith Gilstrap on 27 April 1935 in Macon, Missouri. She survives. He was a member of Farmington First Baptist Church, and retired in 1974 after working for 35 years as a machinist for Caterpillar, Inc.

Surviving in addition to his wife are two sons, Richard Vawter of Farmington and Donald Vawter of Canton, Illinois; one daughter, Connie Bugos of Farmington; eight grandchildren and eleven great-grandchildren. Preceding him in death was his stepfather, Matthew Gray; and a sister, Belva Berniece Vawter Gilstrap. Burial was at Oak Ridge Cemetery.

Harry was a longtime member of the VVV Association and attended the reunions regularly. His father was the youngest child of John S. and Elizabeth Grinstead Vawter, who moved from Jennings County, Indiana, to Keota, Missouri.

* * * * *

Julius Vawters, 80, of Kosse, Texas, died Monday, 5 September 1994. He was born 7 February 1914 in Kosse. He was a retired pipefitter and rancher, and a member of Oletha Baptist Church.

Surviving are his wife, Royce Vawters; a son, Clyde B. Vawters of Santa Fe; three grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Burial was at Kosse City Cemetery.

Julius had been a member of the VVV Association for several years.

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Dues - \$7.00 per year

1996 VVV REUNION
1-4 AUGUST
WISCONSIN RAPIDS, WISCONSIN

Headquarters for the nineteenth annual reunion of the VVV Association is The Mead Inn, located in Wisconsin Rapids, Wisc. Evert and Maxine Joling, along with many of their family members, have been planning this year's event.

Festivities begin Thursday afternoon, August 1, in the reception room. Coffee and snacks, provided by several Wisconsin Vawter families, will be served. This is to continue through the registration time Thursday evening. Also on Thursday, from 4:00-7:00 p.m., the children and teenagers will have the opportunity to go to a roller skating and pizza party.

Reservations can be made by calling 1-800-THE-MEAD (1-800-843-6323.) Tower rooms sleep four people and are \$63.00; west wing rooms sleep one, two or three people and are \$45.00. Reservations must be made by July 1; any necessary cancellations can be made until August 1.

The Mead Inn is at 451 E Grand Avenue, just a few miles west of Highway 51, Wisconsin's north-south thoroughfare. Features of the inn include: video game room, whirlpool, sauna, laundry service, indoor pool, and two lounges. Breakfast, lunch and dinner are available seven days a week.

More details will be given in the June newsletter. For more information before then, call Maxine at 1-715-569-4134. This is the first time for a VVV reunion in Wisconsin, and we hope everyone will make an effort to attend. Be sure to mention the reunion when making your reservation.

The following paper was prepared in 1994 by VVV news editor, Bonita Welch, for two tours given of the Vawter-Summerfield Cemetery in Jennings County, Indiana. Many VVV members will remember visiting this cemetery as part of the 1982 reunion and again in 1987.

THE FARM OF WILLIAM AND FRANCES VAWTER

The Vawter-Summerfield Cemetery, in Jennings County, Indiana, is located in Selmier State Forest on land once owned by William and Frances Vawter, pioneer settlers of the county.

William and Frances' home was about 1/8 mile from the cemetery on a bank overlooking the Muscatatuck River. Two springs near the house furnished water for domestic purposes. The house had five rooms, and was a combination of brick, log and frame. There were two rooms of brick, two of frame and one of log; the last being the most important room of the house. It was a very large room and during the greater part of the year it answered for a kitchen, dining room, and bedroom. In one end was a large stone chimney, and the fireplace would take in logs four feet or more in length. There was a large hearth composed of flat stones, and at this fire all the family cooking was done.

In later years Frances Vawter was deaf, and would sit and read or knit for hours. William Vawter usually devoted most of his evenings to reading the Bible or other books on religious subjects. Once a week the family received The Vernon Banner.

The farm was not very productive, but there always seemed to be enough to support the family. There was usually a field of wheat, one of corn, a patch of buckwheat, a small patch of flax, and perhaps some oats. The garden produced vegetables of various kinds, there was meadowland from which hay was obtained, and there was a large apple orchard.

Stock on the farm consisted of several cows and other cattle, some horses, hogs and sheep. William had his saddle horse, Farmer. The name of Frances' mare is given as either Bonny or Fanny in various sources. A yoke of oxen and a cart and wagon were used for hauling, and the oxen were also used to do the heavy plowing.

There was quite a large barn on the farm along with cribs, stables and sheds. All the grain raised was stored in the barn and cribs, and the animals were kept under shelter during the winter. In the barn was a threshing floor upon which the wheat was threshed. Some of the neighbors who did not have threshing floors would haul their wheat to William's barn.

Very little, if any, wheat was sold. If more than enough for family use was raised in one year, it was usually kept over for when there might be a shortage. His wheat bin was never entirely empty. Corn that was raised was shucked and put into cribs. A white corn was raised to grind into meal and to use for hominy. All the meal and flour used was ground at mills located about three or four miles from the farm.

Almost everything required by the family was raised or produced on the farm. Some vegetables and fruits were stored in the cellar, but the principal portion was "holed up". Piles of potatoes, cabbages, turnips and apples would be made in the garden. Over these piles would be thrown about eight or ten inches of dirt and straw or hay that would be sufficient to keep the contents of the pile from freezing. When necessary to remove anything from the pile, a hole was made at the lower edge and then stuffed with straw after the needed items were removed.

William usually fattened several hogs, and they were slaughtered in the fall or early winter. The hams and shoulders were smoked with hickory wood in the smoke house, the sides were made into pickled pork or salted, sausage was made of the lean portions, and the fat was made into lard. The pork that had been put up and chickens proved the bulk of their meat. Occasionally, someone in the neighborhood would kill a small beef that would be divided among the neighbors for immediate use.

The apple orchard produced an abundance of fruit, and a considerable amount was gathered and stored. The apples were made into cider and apple butter, or were pared and dried. Another article of food prepared for winter use was dried pumpkins. Large pumpkins would be peeled, cut into strips, and tied into bunches and hung from the ceiling where heat could cure and dry them. By soaking the dried strips in water, they could be used for making pies.

Much of the clothing for the family was made at home. The sheep furnished wool, and when they were sheared in the spring, the wool was washed, picked and carded, and then taken to the woolen mill. When returned to the farm, it was dyed and woven into cloth by Frances. Flax was raised to be used for making tablecloths, towels and bed linens.

The settlers had social gatherings where they met to fellowship, but most of their gatherings were for the purpose of getting useful work done. They had wood choppings, quiltings, barn or house raisings, wool pickings, hog slaughters and apple cuttings. These gatherings were also a time to exchange news.

William and Frances Vawter are buried in the Vawter-Summerfield Cemetery, as are many of their descendants. One of the earliest graves is that of Jesse Vawter Burns, a grandson who died in 1831. Also buried there are Philemon and Anna Vawter, parents of Frances. (William and Frances were first cousins, she being the daughter of Philemon Vawter, a son of David Vawter; and William being the son of Jesse Vawter, also a son of David.) Philemon died in 1814 and was first buried near Madison, Indiana. His body was re-interred in the Vawter-Summerfield Cemetery following the death of his wife in 1845.

William and Frances Vawter, along with their daughter and son-in-law, John and Elizabeth Vawter Stott, were constituent members of Zoar Baptist Church, now known as First Baptist Church of North Vernon, Indiana. William was the first pastor, serving from the organization in 1835 until resigning in 1863 because of poor health.

THE VERNON BANNER

Vernon, Indiana
Wednesday, 29 July 1868

Elder William Vawter, the second son of Elder Jesse and Elizabeth Vawter, was born April 2nd, 1783, near Holston river, then North Carolina, now East Tennessee. When two years old he was taken by an uncle to Eastern Virginia, where he remained five years with his Grandmother Watts, and in the fall of 1790 removed with his father to Scott Co., Kentucky.

In the 18th year of his age he made a public profession of his faith in a crucified and risen Savior and in obedience to that faith was baptized by Elder Wm. Hickman, in the north fork of Elkhorn river and united with the McConnel's Run Baptist Church, in Scott County, and subsequent to this united with the North Fork Church, near Frankfort where he remained a member until he removed from the state.

In the spring of 1806, in company with his father, he emigrated to the wilds of Indiana Territory, where they selected as their future home a site on a bold and commanding bluff overlooking what is now the city of Madison, and having a fine view of the Ohio River and the picturesque scenery beyond. To the lovely location the father-Elder Jesse Vawter - gave the euphonious name of Mount Glad.

In 1807, at the residence of Elder Jesse Vawter, the Crooked Creek, afterward called Mount Pleasant Church, was constituted, in the organization of which the deceased took a lively interest and ever after, during a membership of over twenty years, he was regarded as one of the pillars of the pioneer Baptist church in Indiana.

On the first of January 1809 he was united in marriage to Frances Vawter, daughter of Philemon and Anna Vawter.

Though firm in his notions of men and public policy, he never engaged actively in politics and was no office seeker. In Jefferson County, Indiana, on some few occasions he accepted office in the civil department, and during the Indian troubles of 1811 and 1812, he filled the position of Captain in the militia, but on the return of peace he resigned the office.

In the year 1829 he removed from Jefferson to Jennings County, Indiana, and settled on a farm some four miles north of Vernon. He united with the Baptist church in Vernon, where he retained his membership until the year 1835, when he and others constituted the Zoar Church near his residence and of which he was a member at the time of his death.

Not long after the organization of the church at Zoar, the deceased was ordained and set apart by fasting, prayer and the imposition of hands, to administer in the ordinances of the gospel. From this period until age and declining health prevented, he devoted all the time he could spare from domestic affairs and farm duties in preaching the word, in the conversion of souls, and building up the churches.

During his entire ministerial life he adhered to the

practice of the early Baptist preachers of this state in receiving no money by way of compensation for his labors. The reward he sought was souls for his hire, and that the Lord blessed his efforts in many instances we are well assured. His house was truly the abode of hospitality and its doors ever open to the entertainment of strangers, friends, and brethren. Although he was a man naturally of retiring habits and manners, and not favored by theological education or the gifts of academic oratory, yet on the subject of the Christian religion he was ever ready, with meekness, to give a reason for the hope that was in him, and we have heard him in the plain language of the Bible make some as feeling appeals in the behalf of the Christian cause as we ever heard drop from the lips of the most gifted.

In a word, we can say from our knowledge of him he seemed to be constitutionally religious, and his whole life one continuous sermon, teaching all who come within the atmosphere of his influence, "cease to do evil and learn to do well."

He was the father of ten children, the eldest of whom, Mrs. Mariah Burns, fell asleep in Jesus many years ago. To mourn their irreparable loss he leaves behind him the wife of his youth, now about 81 years of age, and six sons and three daughters, most of whom are professors of the Christian religion.

After an illness of some four weeks he calmly fell asleep on Friday morning, July 17, 1868, aged 85 years, 3 months, and 15 days. A funeral sermon was preached on Saturday following his death to a large congregation of friends and relatives, by Elder Thomas Hill.

THE VERNON BANNER
Vernon, Indiana
Thursday, October 28, 1869

Died - On the 25 inst., Mrs. Frances Vawter, generally known as "Aunt Franky," at the residence of her daughter, Mrs. Frances King - age 82 years. Funeral services were conducted by the Rev. Thomas Hill, on Tuesday the 26th inst.

CHILDREN OF WILLIAM AND FRANCES VAWTER

1. Maria Vawter m. Maxa Moncrief Burns
2. Elizabeth Vawter m. John Stott
3. John Taylor Vawter m. 1) Pamela Dwyer, 2) Nancy Poston Philliber
4. Williamson Dunn Vawter m. 1) Mary Tilghman Crowder, 2) Charlotte Knowlton
5. Jesse R. Vawter m. Sarah Parks
6. James Vawter m. Minerva Bromley
7. Frances Vawter m. George King
8. Achilles J. Vawter m. 1) Maria Dunham, 2) Elizabeth Baker, 3) Charlotte Hobart
9. Mary Litchfield Vawter m. Ormand Feagler
10. Philemon C. Vawter m. Sylvia Hunter

PERSONAL RECOLLECTIONS OF HARRISON BURNS

Much of the information, for the paper, The Farm of William and Frances Vawter, came from Personal Recollections of Harrison Burns, as written in 1907, published in 1975 by the Indiana Historical Society. Harrison Burns was the grandson of William and Frances Vawter, and in 1907 he recorded recollections of his childhood and youth in Jefferson and Jennings counties, Indiana, and of his travels and employments. The material was made available to the Indiana Historical Society for publication by Harrison's grandson, David V. Burns.

The Bridge
A Newsletter of the Indiana Historical Society
March - April 1996
Remembering...David V. Burns

"Retired Indianapolis architect David V. Burns, who served on the Society's board of trustees from 1965 to 1990, died on Christmas Day 1995 at age eighty-four. A member of the Naval Reserves during World War II, Burns worked as an architect with Burns and James Architects of Indianapolis from 1933 to 1949. He then started Burns and Burns Architects in partnership with his father, Lee Burns. In 1961 the firm merged with A.E. Bohlen and Sons, creating the firm of Bohlen and Burns Architects and Engineers, where Burns remained until his retirement in 1969.

"In his long and distinguished career Burns designed, or contributed to the design of, such buildings as the English Foundation Building, Indiana State Fairgrounds, First Friends Church, Education Building of North Methodist Church, Hancock Memorial Hospital, Robertson Hall at Butler University, Riverview Hospital, Marion County Jail, and WTBC radio station.

"An IHS member since 1958 and a life member since 1966, Burns was president of the Society's board of trustees from 1974 to 1983. During his time on the board, he served on the Executive Planning and Development, and Preservation of Architectural Records Committees. Also, as chairman of the building expansion commission, Burns played a key role in the four-story addition to the Indiana State Library and Historical Building in 1976 that gave the Society its first headquarters facility.

"Along with his service with the Society, Burns was past president and board chairman of the Rotary Club and past vice president of the Society of Indiana Pioneers. He was a member of the American Institute of Architects, the Art Association of Indianapolis, Conner Prairie, and the Woodstock Club.

"Memorial contributions may be made to the IHS, Shepherd Center at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, or St. Vincent Hospice."

April 1996 - Page 7

From:

G. Robert Farmer, 6 Club Grounds South, Florissant, MO 63033

Robert is seeking information on Drucilla Vawter, b. 15 July 1778, Cumberland County, Virginia, d. 4 Nov 1856, Weakley County, Tennessee. Drucilla was married to Thomas Martin, b. 10 May 1776, Buckingham County, Virginia, d. 24 Nov 1854, Weakley County, Tennessee. He is descended from Thomas and Drucilla Vawter Martin through their daughter, Elizabeth Martin, who married John Flavil Farmer.

From: Georgene Jurgensen, 910 Palmer Lane, Palm Harbor, FL 34685

"Looking to correspond with descendants of George Taylor Vawter. George d. 2 Apr 1894 in Tipton County, Indiana. Wife Caritas Charlotte Vogler d. 16 Aug 1893 in Tipton County, Indiana. Children: George W. Vawter m. Mary E. Simpson, John M. Vawter m. Emily F. Sallee, Samuel M. Vawter m. Sarah E. McShane, Rosalie A. Vawter and Emma S. Vawter. Working on updating Vogler book pub. 1994."

"In Grace Bicknell's book it states the arrival of the 3 brothers Vawter in about 1685. Found in the Virginia Colonial Abstracts, Vo. 20 M-Z p. 90. Northumbria Collection 1645-1720

Vawter, Jno Servant to Mr. Tho Opie. To be punished for killing a hog belonging to Mr. Nicho Owen. October 1676, 4.6. My question to the VVV Association. Is this accurate and what other information does anyone have for the earlier date of arrival? Did John Vawter arrive as an indentured servant? Did he come first and the other brothers follow? What research has been done in this area?"

From: Mrs. Royce Vawters, P.O. Box 347, Kosse, TX 76653

Royce would like to learn about Samuel Acy Vawters. Samuel was the father of Royce's late husband, Julius Vawters. Julius knew little about his father except that he left Mississippi when about 13 years old and never went back.

CONGRATULATIONS

Kylie Brienne Eschlman was born 29 July 1994 to Robert Dale and Stacey Lynette Martin Eschlman of Boone, Iowa. Proud great-grandmother is long time VVV Association member Doris Wray Eschlman, also of Boone.

SEND YOUR NEWS TO SHARE WITH OTHER VVV MEMBERS

VIRGINIA TECH MAGAZINE
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
Volume 18, Number 1, Fall 1995

Vawter Hall dormitory was actually named for Charles Vawter Sr., rector of the board of visitors from 1887-1899, but his son Charles Vawter Jr., a faculty electrical engineer, also had an impact on the school.

Vawter Sr. led the push to make V.A.M.C. a true technical school. He personally recruited President John McBryde from the University of South Carolina and used his influence to get Edison Company to install a power plant on campus. Some even say it was Vawter's idea to add the words "polytechnic institute" to the school's name. But it was Vawter's son who erected a campus wireless station in 1916, making it possible to receive official weather reports, amateur communication, and precise time signals.

The younger Vawter electrified campus again several years later by shooting a notorious playboy he found emerging from his wife's boudoir. According to Ellison Smyth Jr., Vawter had warned the fellow to keep away from his wife and did not ask questions before he pulled the trigger. He was acquitted for his "act of passion" and left Virginia for a power company job shortly thereafter. Vawter Hall was completed in 1962.

IN REMEMBRANCE

Ron Vawter, 45, of New York City, died 16 April 1994 on a plane flying from Zurich to New York. He was born 9 December 1948 in Glens Falls, New York, and grew up in Latham, New York, near Albany. He enlisted in the Army and trained to become a Special Forces officer. Hoping to be a chaplain for the Green Berets, he was put in reserve status while he studied theology at Siena College, a private liberal arts college with Franciscan ties. He earned a B.A. in literature from Siena College and a master's degree from New York University. On leaving Siena College, he became an Army recruiting officer in downtown Manhattan. It was there that he was inspired to become an actor after watching rehearsals at the Performing Garage.

Ron's career in film, theater, video and film spanned more than twenty years. His film credits include "Internal Affairs," "Sex, Lies and Videotape," "The Silence of the Lambs," and "Philadelphia." He won praise from critics for his acting in "Roy Cohn/Jack Smith," his 1992 one-man show off Broadway, and for other roles.

He is survived by his mother, Matilda Butonni Vawter, of Latham; two sisters, Celeste Vawter Fonda, of Albany, and Shelley Vawter Booth, of Kitty Hawk, North Carolina; brothers-in-law, Vernon Fonda and John Booth; niece, Ericka Lee Fonda; and nephew, Vernon Vawter Fonda.

A memorial service was held 20 June 1994 at Webster Hall in New York City.

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Dues - \$7.00 per year

1-4 August 1996

NINETEENTH ANNUAL REUNION
WISCONSIN RAPIDS, WISCONSIN

Evert and Maxine Joling, along with several members of their family have been working hard the past year making plans for the 1996 VVV Reunion. They promise a fun filled time with "something for everyone."

Headquarters is The Mead Inn, 451 E Grand Ave., in Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin. This is located just a few miles west of I-39 (formerly U.S. Hwy 51.) Reservations can be made by calling 1-800-843-6323 or 1-715-423-1500. Tower rooms sleep four people and are \$63.00 plus tax; west wing rooms sleep one, two or three people and are \$45.00 plus tax. Additional rooms have been reserved at the Econolodge, 3300 Eighth Street South, and are \$39.95 plus tax for one person and \$49.95 plus tax for two people, with there being no charge for children under the age of 18. The Econolodge phone number is 1-800-553-2666. Be sure to mention that you are attending the VVV Reunion to get these special rates. Reservations at The Mead Inn must be made by July 1. Any necessary cancellations are accepted until August 1.

Those who will be flying into Central Wisconsin Regional Airport in Mosinee can call Peter Joling at 1-715-421-0772 for transportation to and from the reunion location. This will be provided at no charge. Shuttle service is available at the airport, but may be costly.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Thursday, August 1: Early registration begins at 2:00 p.m. From 4:00-7:30 p.m. there is a roller skating and pizza party for the children and teens, at a cost of \$5.00 per person skating. A snack table will be set up in the late afternoon, and everyone is encouraged to visit and share family news. Those who have videos of previous reunions should bring them for viewing.

Friday, August 2: Breakfast and lunch are "on your own." The opening session will be held in the morning, and optional tours are available shortly after lunch. At 3:30 p.m. there is a car caravan visit to a dairy farm, followed by a 6:00 p.m. cookout on the Grotto grounds. Cost of the cookout is about \$6.00 for adults and \$3.00 for children.

Saturday, August 3: Breakfast and lunch are "on your own." Morning tour options are to a cheese factory, Consolidated Paper Mill, or to learn about cranberry culture. The afternoon can be spent attending a genealogy session, visiting and sharing with cousins or simply resting. The traditional Saturday banquet and program begins at 5:30 p.m. at Cranberries Restaurant. Cost of the banquet is \$12.75 for adults and \$7.65 for children under the age of ten.

Sunday, August 4: An outdoor worship service, led by the Rev. Wayne Vawter, begins at 9:30 a.m. Following this is a car caravan to St. Phillips Church for an old-fashioned church chicken dinner, costing about \$6.00.

As stated earlier, there is indeed "something for everyone!" Anyone needing more information can call Evert and Maxine at 1-715-569-4134.

DOOR PRIZES

As always, VVV members are asked to bring door prizes to be given away on Friday and Saturday nights. This can be something handmade or something traditional to your area. The variety is usually endless, and the talents displayed are many.

REGISTRATION AND DUES

The registration fee paid by adults attending the reunion helps with miscellaneous costs such as printing, name tags, copier rental, paper supplies, etc. This fee is separate from the membership/newsletter subscription of \$7.00 per household. The \$7.00 covers only the printing and mailing of the newsletter to members, and the complimentary newsletters sent to several libraries and societies across the United States. We also have a few extra printed each time to send to prospective members. It is not necessary to become a member and receive the newsletter to attend the reunion, but we do ask that each adult attendee pay the registration fee.

Is a renewal form enclosed with your newsletter? If so, you need to pay dues in order to continue receiving the newsletter.

JEPHTHA VAWTER
Kansas and Kansans, Vol. IV, page 1704

"In the task of giving credit to the men who made Kansas, it would be difficult to single out one who was more deserving of a place among those makers and builders than the late Jephtha D. Vawter of Shawnee County. He had much to do with the early history of that county, and what he accomplished, the ideals he lived from, and the influences that emanated from his life, are still vital and quickening.

"His was a long as well as a useful life. He was born in Todd County, Kentucky, July 10, 1809. By character and early training he was moulded after the manner of the pioneers, being courageous, industrious and optimistic.

"About 1847 he moved to Tazewell County, Illinois, and from there in the spring of 1868 came to Kansas, establishing a home on the southwest quarter of section 33, which is in the southwest corner of Williamsport Township of Shawnee County. It was in that immediate locality that the rest of his years were spent. Mr. Vawter became an extensive dealer in cattle, and in that capacity his name was not known alone in Shawnee County, but in other counties and in other states. He prospered as a result of good judgment and foresight, and at one time owned many hundreds of acres of Kansas' best land.

"He was twice married. His first wife, Sarah M. Foster, bore him thirteen children, and the ten who reached maturity are: John W.; Benjamin F.; Henry C.; Lucinda C., who married Walter Hinman; Louisa E., who married Jesses McColm; Martha C., who married John Simpson; James E.; Harriet E., who married Lewis Mead; Sabrina C., who married Mahlon F. Stout; and William J. The mother of these children died December 18, 1883. For his second wife Mr. Vawter married Louisa K. Miller, by whom he became the father of one son named Clarence D.

"For years Jephtha D. Vawter was a prominent and forceful character of his community. While he toiled and prospered he was not forgetful of the duties he owed to his home, the locality in which he lived, his state or his country. He lived to see his children established in homes of their own, happy and respected, and this fact afforded him much contentment when the evening shadows of his life were merging into the darkness of eternal earthly sleep. He was a devout Christian, and politically his actions were in accord with the Republican party. At the time of his death on October 13, 1894, Jephtha D. Vawter had rounded out a career of a little more than eighty-five years."

Jephtha D. Vawter was the son of Elliott and Anna Gray Vawter, and the grandson of Philemon and Anna Vawter. A more detailed list of his children can be found beginning on page 281 of *The Vawter Family in America* by Grace Bicknell. There are, no doubt, many descendants of Jephtha living in Kansas today. We recently were contacted by Clinton L. Vawter of Leavenworth, Kansas, a grandson of Jephtha's youngest son, Clarence D.

JAMES VAUGHTER
by Charles Burt

James Vaughter, b. 8 Mar 1794, d. 2 May 1836, married Jane ___?___ b. 9 Mar 1794, d. 12 Jan 1884. Their children are: William J., , b. 24 Sep 1812, d. 2 Sep 1866; Hiram S., b. Nov 1814, d. 16 Jul 1853; Lucinda, b. 13 May 1816, d. 13 May 1849, married 13 Jan 1829 to Matthew Allen, b. 1807, d. 11 Oct 1862. After Lucinda died the Allen family moved to Arkansas. Matthew had a son on each side during the Civil War. For more information on this marriage see Tracks of the Allen Family by Billie Allen Jines. Elizabeth b. 21 Feb 1818 married on 28 Dec 1846 to Robert Stone,; Linsey, b. 28 Jun 1821, d. 1 Oct 1866, married on 14 May 1857 to Kesiah Marinda Hicks, b. 24 Oct 1835, d. 20 Jul 1926; Vincy, b. 13 Aug 1823; Delila, b. 26 Feb 1825, married William Anderson; Lydia, b. 27 Apr 1827, married Thomas Nix; Jane b. 27 Apr 1829, d. 25 Jul 1912, married Robert Bennett; Eliza A., b. 13 Apr 1831, married on 7 Feb 1857 to Elijah Blackburn.

The children of Linsey Vaughters are: Eliza Catherine, b. 18 Feb 1858, d. 27 Mar 1940, married on 27 Sep 1882 to Greenberry Hall, b. 5 May 1854, d. 18 May 1930; Mary Elizabeth, b. 14 Mar 1859, married on 6 Nov 1874 to James Jackson Carlisle; George Robeson, b. 29 May 1860, d. 30 Mar 1936, married first on 1 Sep 1880 to Epsy Bennett, b. 7 Aug 1861, d. 12 Jul 1918, married second to Minnie Mae McClure, b. 29 Jun 1896, d. 15 Jun 1952; Martha Jane, b. 25 Jul 1861, d. 1 Apr 1961, married Virgil Parks, b. 10 Mar 1860, d. 19 Feb 1931; Winna Juliann, b. 12 Jan 1863, d. 1 Sep 1951, married on 16 Sep 1880 to Henry Alfred Waters, b. 14 Jan 1863, d. 10 Dec 1924. The Waters family moved to Texas about 1887. One of Henry Waters' grandsons said, "Grandpa should have had a gravy well; he had a big bowl of gravy every meal." Henry b. 13 May 1864, married on 27 Jan 1884 to Annie Cain; Hiram Bennett Singleton, b. 20 Apr 1866; Lucas F. "Luke", married on 23 Apr 1899 to Maude Dougherty.

The children of George Robeson and Epsy Vaughters are: William Oscar, b. 6 Jul 1881, d. 13 Mar 1964, married on 3 Sep 1905 to Maggie Dora Brice, b. 6 Jul 1872, d. 23 Jan 1946; Linzey, b. 12 Oct 1883, d. 12 Jan 1960, married on 7 Feb 1911 to Tommie Anderson, b. 20 Sep 1887, d. 21 Dec 1965; Homer Charly, b. 4 Apr 1885, d. 11 Dec 1944, married Mar 1913 to Emmer Jane Wehunt, b. 17 Apr 1888, d. 4 Jun 1969; Anis Docia, b. 1 Nov 1887, d. 30 Jul 1922, married Andrew White; Soloman Hiriam Andrew Jackson, b. 28 Jun 1891, d. 30 Nov 1956, married on 16 Sep 1914 to Coie M. Burt, b. 6 May 1895; Eva Mae, b. 25 Sep 1892, d. 31 Dec 1918, married on 16 Nov 1913 to Alonzo Burt. Coie and Alonzo Burt are brother and sister. Pearlina Jane, b. 25 Nov 1894, d. 18 Sep 1895; Lelia, b. 28 Dec 1895, d. 1978, married on 22 Sep 1912 to Robert Chambers; Coa, b. 2 Mar 1898, d. 18 Sep 1900; two infants and another daughter, Orea.

The children of George Robeson and Minnie Mae Vaughters are: Iva Sarah, b. 15 Jul 1922, married (1) Charlie Gentry, (2) Broughton Bannister; George Wesley, b. 14 Apr 1924, married on 5 Sep 1943 to Beatrice Louise Harben, b. 18 Apr 1925; Lloyd Flem, b. 27 Apr 1926, married on 11 Jul 1947 to Louise Disharoon, b. 28 Feb 1928. George Robeson Vaughters had a total of fifteen children.

(James Vaughter con't)

The Vaughters name has been spelled several different ways. The line I follow is Vawter, Vaughter, then Vaughters. The Vaughter family was in Franklin County, Georgia, at the time of the Cherokee Land Lottery. Richard, who is the oldest child of James and Jane Vaughter, drew lot number 902, located in what is now Dawson County. Richard claimed this lot and the family moved to a section of Lumpkin County, now Dawson County. James got power of attorney for Richard, and sold lot number 902 to William Burt. James then purchased lot numbers 1065 and 1066; Vaughters descendants currently own these lots. According to the will of Jane, Richard was not of sound mind.

Jane Vaughters signed her Last Will and Testament with an "X" on 5 May 1857. She appointed her son, Linzy, as executor, stating he would have to care for her and his brother, Richard. Jane outlived b154 Linzy and Richard, and her grandson, George, executed the will. **(see Oct 1996 NL p 5 for name corrections)**

Linzy Vaughters did not serve in the Civil War. It has been told that he dressed as a woman and plowed his crops. He concealed his identity in order to keep the Home Guard from attacking him. I do not know the following to be true, but I have been told that Linzy was hanged by the Home Guard.

George Robeson Vaughters was "Liberated to speak in public May 16, 1896." From that day forward he was known as Rev. George and served many churches in the area. A couple of stories that I have heard: Rev. George was pastor of a church in Auraria where the men in the area had run the past pastors off by being so mean. It was told that these roughnecks rolled liquor bottles down the aisle during services. He did not allow them to run him off. On one occasion when he resigned First Baptist, a member told him that if he would stay another year there would be more money. Rev. George said it was time to go. Another time he had resigned a church and was riding his horse home thinking, "I am free as a bird; no church to worry about." Upon arriving home he found the yard full of wagons and people wanting him to come to Nimmerwill as pastor; he accepted.

To celebrate Rev. George's seventy-fourth birthday, a dinner was held. According to a newspaper article, "Some 200 people were present to enjoy this elaborate dinner with this grand old man. The table was in a pretty grove near his home and was 100 feet long, with good things to eat on it. The large birthday cake with its 74 candles was a beauty. A string band from Atlanta furnished music for the occasion. Brother Vaughters in expressing thanks for the birthday dinner said, 'Sometimes the road has been hard, but God has been with me.' He also said that he had the pleasure of taking care of his grandmother and his mother in their latter days, which had been a great pleasure to him."

[This was written by Charles Burt, VVV Association Treasurer, for a Dawson County, Georgia, Heritage Book.]

QUERIES

From:

Paula (Pat) Myers, 234 Nelson Drive, LaVergne, TN 37086
Phone: 615-793-2022 or 615-793-6100, call collect.

Paula is trying to locate Peggy King Vaughter (or Vawter), who was the foster child of John and Anna King. She attended Bellevue High School in Bellevue, Tennessee. Peggy was married approximately 40 years ago to a Vaughter or Vawter, and has at least two children, a son named Don Wallace and a daughter. Peggy would know Paula and her family as Pat, Bobbie and Cookie Austin. The Kings were Paula's grandparents, and she would very much like to make contact with Peggy.

From: Angela Houston, 5148 Cherry Creek S, Columbus, OH 43228
Phone: 614-870-8160, call collect

Angela is seeking information on Mattie Ruth Vawter who was born ca. 1917 in Arkansas. She married Jake Johnny Atkinson, possibly in Arkansas, and was living in California in 1943. Angela would like to contact Mattie or her descendants.

HOG STEALING ARTICLE WANTED

Esther Anderson would like to have a copy of the article about the Vawter who was accused of stealing a hog. Anyone who has this article can send it to Esther at 625 NW Polaris Street, Pullman, WA 99163.

[Ed. note: Please send a copy to the news editor, too.]

IN SYMPATHY

Sympathy is extended to Betty Burt, wife of VVV treasurer Charles Burt, in the death of her mother, Jewell W. Ellenburg on 18 April 1996 in Cumming, Georgia. Other survivors are a son Charles Ellenburg, a brother, Hoyt Whitfield, five grandchildren, Pam Burt, Ellen McDaris, Cheryl Glasgow, Chuck Burt and Sammy Ellenburg; four great-grandchildren, John McDaris, Jared McDaris, Tim Glasgow and Kristy Glasgow.

CONGRATULATIONS

Lori Marie Bruce has been named valedictorian of the senior class at Dawson County, Georgia, High School. She had a 4.0 average and was also this year's Star Student, having the highest SAT score among her class. Lori is the daughter of Jimmy and Wanda Bruce and the granddaughter of Lelia Vaughters Bruce.

GERALD ELWOOD DART
December 17, 1916 - April 29, 1996

[This obituary of Gerald Elwood Dart was submitted by his sister, Helen Dart Johnson. It was read at his funeral service.]

"Gerald, better known to the members of our congregation as "Jerry" or "Dr. Dart", was born in Medcalf and grew up in Somerton, Arizona. Jerry was much more interested in intellectual pursuits than physical activities. He learned to play chess as a young boy and was an avid reader, traits which remained constant throughout his life.

Jerry was a thinker who enjoyed solving problems with his considerable intellectual skills. His ideas often seemed a bit radical to those who were locked into "conventional wisdom" but he could provide solid logical support because he thought things through before sounding off. With Jerry's passing there will be an easing of the volume of "letters to the editor" in the local newspapers.

Jerry met his wife Irene while they were both majoring in education at Arizona State University. After college, Jerry took a year of post graduate work at Berkeley while Irene taught in Arizona. After their marriage they both taught in Yuma, Arizona, until they moved to California in the early Forties. When World War II started, Jerry went to work at the Kaiser ship yard, building liberty ships.

Jerry didn't think this was the best contribution he could make to the war effort so he took a position with the Office of War Information in Hawaii. Irene worked in the accounting office and newspaper for the military while they were in Hawaii.

After the war they returned to California where Irene taught until they started their family and Jerry went into school administration. He worked for a Southern California school while he completed his Ph. D. in education at USC. This did create a conflict of loyalties when USC and Arizona State played each other, but his loyalty to Arizona State won out. Jerry loved to make the trip to homecoming at ASU every year.

In 1969, Jerry accepted a position as business manager with the Yucaipa-Calimesa School District. The Darts became very active in community life as well as the United Methodist Church of Yucaipa. Jerry taught the Good News adult Sunday school class, served on many boards and Commissions, visited the sick and aged and was one of our first Stephen Ministers commissioned at our church. He was also a leader in our intercessory prayer group and a great blessing to many in our church and community. "Well Done, Thou Good and Faithful Servant!"

The Dart's Vawter line is as follows: mother, Mina Vawter Dart of Nacogdoches, Texas; grandfather, Robert Newton Vawter; great-grandfather, Lorenzo Dow Vawter; great-great-grandfather, Richard Vawter of Tennessee. A biography of Lorenzo Dow Vawter can be found in the Winter 1992, Vol 17 No 2, VVV Newsletter.

IN REMEMBRANCE

Betty Vawter, 74, of Spokane, Washington, died Tuesday, 13 February 1996. She was born in Chico, California, and was a 70-year resident of Spokane. She had managed a clothing store, and was a member of Ladies Oriental Shrine, Sons of Norway, Eagles Lodge and Moose Lodge.

Survivors include a son, Marty Roper of Federal Way, Washington; a brother, James McGhee and a sister, Darlene Maggard both of Spokane; and three grandchildren.

* * * * *

Opal May Vawter Herndon, 80, of Kansas City, Missouri, died Saturday, 23 March 1996, in Lenexa, Kansas. Born 1 February 1916 in Hot Springs, Arkansas, she was the daughter of Roy and Viola Riley Vawter.

Opal was a member of First Southern Baptist Church, a life member of the Eastern Star, Benton chapter, and had lived in the Kansas City area since 1962. Prior to retirement she was the assistant administrator of the Baptist Retirement Towers for nineteen years.

Survivors include two sons and daughters-in-law, Gene and Gay Herndon of Overland Park, Kansas, and Doyle and Judy Herndon of North Little Rock; a daughter and son-in-law, Dorothy and Jim Jones of Broken Arrow, Oklahoma; a brother, Vernon Vawter of Hot Springs; seven grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband, Dr. Elson Herndon.

Opal was a longtime member of the VVV Association.

* * * * *

Paul Edward Vawter Sr., 88, of Hightstown, New Jersey, died 7 March 1996. He was born 6 March 1908 near Madison, Indiana, the son of Clarence Merrill and Edythe Barricklow Vawter. Paul was a graduate of DePauw University in Greencastle, Indiana, and had a long career as a manager with Illinois Bell. He moved to a retirement community in Hightstown following the death of his wife.

When Paul was only 18 and a sophomore at DePauw, he became responsible for the three younger children of the family after their parents were killed when a train struck their car. The Summer 1995 issue of *DePauw Magazine* featured a story of Paul's experiences of attending school while also caring for his siblings.

Survivors include a son, Jay Vawter of Princeton, New Jersey; a brother, John Vawter of Indianapolis, Indiana; two granddaughters, Jane Vawter of London, England, and Nancy Vawter Jackonis of Jacksonville, Florida; and two great-grandchildren, Kasey May Jackonis and Logan Jamieson Jackonis. He was preceded, in death by his wife, Betty Ferguson Vawter, brother, Harold Vawter. and sister, Mary K. Vawter.

Paul was a supporter and contributor to the VVV Association for many years. He had written a book, *Those Were the Days*, a recollection of experiences and events related to his family. We have had several of his stories in the newsletter.

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REUNION REPORT

On Thursday, 1 August 1996, VVV members from nationwide began gathering at The Mead Inn in Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin for the 19th annual reunion of the Association. Actually, some members arrived on Wednesday so they could have more time to visit and tour the area. Evert and Maxine Joling and their family had spent the past year making plans, and as promised, there was "something for everyone,"

Registration started on Thursday afternoon, and in the evening a buffet was served in the hospitality room. A highlight on the buffet was an anniversary cake to celebrate the 26th anniversary of Jerry and Judy Aue, son-in-law and daughter of the Jolings. During this time many of the children and teens had a roller skating and pizza party. Several members were interviewed by a reporter for the Wisconsin Rapids *Daily Tribune*, and a picture and article appeared in the Saturday edition of the newspaper.

Official opening of the reunion was on Friday morning with the ringing of the cow bell by Jordan Joling, son of Peter and Mary Joling. Invocation was by Rev. John Vawter of Nacogdoches, Texas, and the pledge to the flag was led by Abigail Vawter, daughter of Rev. Wayne and Carole Vawter. Vernon Verjinsky, mayor of Wisconsin Rapids, welcomed the Association to the city.

Friday afternoon, and again on Saturday, tours of a paper mill, cranberry marsh and cheese factory were made. Time was also available for attending a genealogy session

at the local library, "antiquing" or simply relaxing, Then, too, it is rumored that a few people slipped away for a visit to the nearby casino.

On Friday evening, a cookout was held at Rudolph Grotto Gardens and Wonder Cave. Following the cookout, a sing-a-long was led by Wayne and Carole Vawter. At the conclusion of the evening, Bruce and Linda Vawter and Shirley Beasley, with the help of many of the children, distributed some of the always popular door prizes.

The Saturday night banquet and memorial service was held at Cranberries Restaurant. Again this year, entertainment was by the VVV Family Singers, under the leadership of Ellen Cummings. The group continues to grow both in size and popularity; twenty-three singers participated. Soloists were Mark Beasley and Kristy Glasgow.

Ken Wicker reported for the audit committee and stated that the books are in excellent order. Other members of the Committee were Robert L. Vawter and John H. Vawter.

Election of officers was held with Fred Wicker, chairman of the nominating committee, recommending the following: Beth Melton as president, Phil Vaughter as vice-president, and all other officers to remain. All were elected by acclamation. Other members of the nominating committee were Shirley Beasley, Duncan Brown, Robert L. Vawter and Norma Wicker. A letter was read from the newly elected president, Beth Melton, who was unable to attend the reunion due to the death of her husband, Joe Melton.

The memorial service was conducted by Fred and Wordna Wicker, with the assistance of Jason Benson, grandson of Bruce and Linda Vawter, and Jesse Vawter, son of Mary and Robert L. Vawter II. The service began with a violin solo, "Amazing Grace," by Ila Vawter, accompanied by Carole Vawter. Family members stood and a carnation was placed in a vase by Jason and Jesse as each name was read and a brief obituary given. The service concluded with a slide presentation and song, "We Have This Moment," by Wayne and Carole Vawter.

Special recognition was given the following:

Oldest: Emery Mayer, age 85
Youngest: Jesse Vawter, age 7
Traveled farthest: Glen and Marjorie Vawter
Norwalk, California
Longest married: Glen and Marjorie Vawter, 64 yrs
Emery and Clarice Mayer, 63 yrs

The roll call of states found there to be 18 states represented at the banquet. To close the evening, the remaining of the door prizes were distributed. Bruce Vawter reported there were a record number 86 door prizes this year.

On Sunday morning, those who were able to stay a little longer attended a worship service led by the Rev. Wayne Vawter, and then enjoyed a chicken dinner at St. Phillip Church in Rudolph.

MEMORIAL SERVICE

These VVV members and friends were remembered:

1. Osa E. Vawter, Oklahoma City, OK, d. 28 June 1996
2. Melvin Kenneth Vawter, 73, Cooksville, IL, d. 9 October 1995
3. Aileen Baker Wiley, 86, Nettleton, MS, d. 20 February 1996
4. Helen A. Jones, 86, North Vernon, IN, d. 12 October 1995
5. Harry L. Vawter, 81, Farmington, IL, d. 26 November 1995
6. Julius Vawters, 80, Kosse, TX, d. 5 September 1994
7. Gerald E. Dart, 79, Yucaipa, CA, d. 29 April 1996
8. Betty Vawter, 74, Spokane, WA, d. 13 February 1996
9. Opal Vawter Herndon, 80, Kansas City, KS, d. 23 March 1996
10. Paul E. Vawter Sr., 88, Hightstown, NJ, d. 7 March 1996
11. Mary Wiley Lansdale, 91, Fordyce, AR, d. 18 March 1996
12. Joe Allen Melton, 77, Dallas, TX, d. 27 July 1996

THANK YOU!

To Evert and Maxine Joling and your family: "Thank you for a great time in Wisconsin!" Only those who have hosted a reunion know how much time and effort is involved, and we really appreciate all the work done to make the 1996 reunion a success.

1997 REUNION

An invitation has been extended to the VVV Association to hold the 1997 reunion in Townsend, Tennessee. Julia Vawter Blanks of Maryville, Tennessee, and her sister, Caroline Vawter Scarlett of Murfreesboro, Tennessee, will be hosting the event. Townsend is a small town located very near Great Smoky Mountains National Park. As is traditional, the reunion is the first weekend in August. More information will be given in the April and June newsletters.

REUNION COORDINATOR AND GUIDELINES

A recommendation came from the officers of the Association that the vice-president help coordinate future reunions. If you have an idea for a location, or would like to host a reunion, write or call the vice-president, Phil Vaughter. He will present your idea for consideration at the 1997 reunion.

A brief list of guidelines for planning a reunion has been compiled by several of the officers and other members who have hosted reunions in the past. This list is probably not complete and will be revised as needed. If you would like to have a copy, contact the news editor. Please feel free to share your ideas or suggestions with any of the officers. Their addresses are always printed at the beginning of each newsletter.

SEARCH IS SUCCESSFUL

In the July 1996 newsletter, we printed a query from Paula Myers of LaVergne, Tennessee, who was looking for Peggy King Vawter. Peggy had been raised as a foster child by Paula's grandparents. When reading the query, Erma Vawter of Iredell, Texas, realized that Peggy is her sister-in-law, the wife of Joe Don Vawter of Oklahoma. Joe Don is the brother of VVV members Billy Mack, James and Oscar Vawter. Peggy called Paula, and at the time of the reunion, Paula was planning to travel to Oklahoma for a visit.

Have you had a successful answer to a query? Please let us know so we can share your story with other newsletter readers.

QUERIES

From: John E. Vawter, 1511 Birch Drive, Elkhart, IN 46514

John has a friend who is looking for John or Jack Vawter who served with the Naval Air Transport Squadron 6 at Westover Air Force Base, Massachusetts, 1952-1954. There are many John Vawters/Vaughters, and certainly not all are members of the Association and receive the newsletter. If you are related to one of them, ask if he could be the one John's friend is looking for.

From: Marcella Kimmick, 871 W Pleasant Run Road, Lancaster, TX 75146

In the early 1940s, Marcella's parents received a letter from a General Karl Truesdell, asking for information on the family and stating that he was working on a history of the Truesdell family. She remembers that the letter came from Illinois. Does anyone know of such a history being written? The Truesdell line can be found on pages 328-9 of *The Vawter Family in America*.

VAWTER SCHOOL ROAD COLUMBIA, MISSOURI

From the news editor: During a trip to visit son Darren and his family in Columbia, Missouri, I noticed a "Vawter School Road" on a map of Columbia. A letter to the Boone County Historical Society resulted only in a reply from a professional genealogist. She stated that her mother had attended Vawter School ca. 1915, and for a "small fee of \$20.00-30.00" could try to find something for me.

Our visits to Columbia are always too brief, and I would rather spend the time with family and not doing research at the library. Do any of you have information about the Vawter School?

CORRECTION

In the July 1996 newsletter, we printed an article written by Charles Burt for a Dawson County, Georgia, Heritage Book. We have been asked by Charles to make a correction. On page five of the newsletter, please change the name "Richard" to "William" in the first two paragraphs of that page.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations goes to Krista Keir of Westerville, Ohio. Krista, a junior at Westerville South, won both the discus and shot put events in the 1996 Ohio High School Athletic Association Girls and Boys Track and Field State Championships last spring. In June she competed in the Golden West Invitational in Sacramento, California, finishing second in the shot put at 44 feet, 4 inches, and sixth in the discus by registering a throw of 144 feet. She also excels in the classroom, taking honors classes and having a g.p.a. of 4.2 on a 4.0 scale.

Krista is the daughter of John and Joan Keir and the granddaughter of the late Willard and Lucille Keir. She attended several reunions with her grandmother.

BITS 'N PIECES

Margaret Vawter, formerly of Newaygo, Michigan, has moved to the Michigan Christian Home in Grand Rapids. She worked at the retirement home as a dietician and cook for four years beginning in 1960, so this is almost a homecoming for her. Margaret is the widow of Robert Clayton Vawter who died 7 August 1994.

Jonathan Vaughters of Englewood, Colorado, was the winner of the Coca-Cola Iron Horse Road Race in Durango, Colorado. Not only did Jonathan win the bike race, he broke the previous record by four minutes, finishing in less than two hours.

Vince Vawter, former managing editor of the Knoxville, Tennessee, *News-Sentinel*, has moved to Evansville, Indiana, where he is the new president and editor of *The Evansville Courier*. Vince and his wife, Betty, have two children, Julia and Lemuel. He is the nephew of Julia Vawter Blanks and Caroline Vawter Scarlett, hosts for the 1997 reunion in Townsend, Tennessee.

A PERSONAL NOTE FROM THE NEWS EDITOR

At the end of August, son Alan called asking for help. His wife was in the hospital facing surgery, they were in the middle of moving, he was trying to run their businesses (two Subway Restaurants) and the military thought he should have only a week off, even though he had 60 days leave coming. Two days later, Joe and I left and were gone for three weeks. This put me behind in many things, including the newsletter, and I apologize for the delay. However, three weeks in Kailua, Hawaii, wasn't bad!

IN REMEMBRANCE

Joe Allen Melton, 77, of Dallas, Texas, died 27 July 1996. He was born 24 July 1919 in Waco, Texas, the son of Dr. W.W. and Orah Shipp Melton.

Joe graduated from Baylor University with an accounting degree, and was the owner, with his wife, of Melton & Associates, Inc., working as an IRS Enrolled Agent and Tax Specialist. He was a deacon at First Baptist Church in Dallas for many years and also worked with the Adult III Department at the church. In the last few years, he had also been working with Richardson East Baptist Church.

Survivors include his wife, Elizabeth Byler Melton; three daughters, Marianne Woody of Mesquite, Texas, Dr. Martha J. Bradshaw of Augusta, Georgia, and Elaine Landeene of Richland, Washington; five step-children, Bob and Randy Howard and Beverly Cowen of Houston, Texas, Ricky Howard of Austin, Texas, and Gregg Howard of Mesquite; a brother Wade Melton of Houston; a sister, Gladys McFadden of El Paso, Texas; and sixteen grandchildren.

Funeral service was held at Richardson East Baptist Church and burial at Waco Memorial Park.

Joe's wife, Beth, is the newly elected president of the VVV Association. He had been a part of the association since his marriage to Beth in 1982, and had served on many committees.

* * * * *

Lamar Gammage "Bill" Vawter, 88, of Houston Texas, died 24 September 1996. He was born 20 May 1908 in Cushing, Texas, the son of Julian and Mattie Gammage Vawter.

Bill was a graduate of Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches, and in 1946 started Bill Vawter & Company Insurance. In 1973, he sold the company and retired to a life of volunteer work. He was an active member of Bethany United Methodist Church, serving on the official board, was chairman of the blood donor program for eleven years, and volunteered in the food pantry. He was vice chairman of the Governor's Committee on Aging for six years, and for his many services to his community, 13 December 1987 was named "Bill Vawter Day" by the mayor of Houston and the Harris County commissioners. He had also been awarded the National George Washington Medal by the National Freedom Foundation of Valley Forge. He was a member of Holland Lodge #1 A.F.& A.M., Scottish Rite, Arabia Temple Shrine, the Ransford Chapter of the Order of Eastern Star, and the Summit Insurance Club.

Survivors include his wife Sarah "Sally" Aydelott Vawter, who he married 17 July 1941; a sister, Louise Vanover of Beaumont, Texas; one niece and four nephews. He was preceded in death by a twin sister, Hazel Vawter McCandless.

Funeral service was at Bethany United Methodist Church, and burial at Forest Park Lawndale Cemetery.

Bill was one of the founders of the VVV Association. He and Sally attended reunions as long as health permitted and always took an active part in the activities.

IN REMEMBRANCE

Clarice Vawter Mayer, 81, of Blue Springs, Mississippi, died 11 September 1996 at the North Mississippi Medical Center as the result of an automobile accident. She was born 12 October 1914 in Union County, the daughter of Hubert and Hattie Gresham Vawter. She was a homemaker and a member of Sherman Church of Christ.

Survivors include her husband Emery Mayer; two daughters, Martha Hudson and Judy Crawford, both of Blue Springs; six grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

Funeral service was at Thomas Funeral Home Chapel in Holly Springs and burial at McKay Cemetery.

Clarice attended VVV reunions regularly, and quite often she and Emery were recognized for having been married longer than any others present. They had been married for 63 years. Emery was injured in the accident and is recuperating at the home of his daughter.

* * * * *

John Carlson Jr., 71, of Colbert, Georgia, died 15 September 1996 at St. Mary's Hospital in Athens. He was born in August 1925 in Elbert County, Georgia, the son of John and Mary Nancy Vaughter Carlson.

John was a member of Northside Baptist Church in Elberton, Georgia; was retired from the textile industry, and was a former member of the National Guard.

Survivors include two aunts, Addie Vaughter of Florida and Gussie Vaughter of Elberton; and several cousins.

Funeral was at the Memorial Chapel of Berry Funeral Home and burial at Elmhurst Cemetery in Elberton.

John attended VVV reunions regularly. He was always eager to share his knowledge of the family history with others.

* * * * *

Thelma Shattuck, 89, of Alto, Texas, died 26 September 1996 in Nacogdoches, Texas. She was born 6 February 1907 in Cushing, Texas, the daughter of Ben H. and Mary Catherine Vawter McLendon. She lived in Alto most of her life and was a school teacher for 42 years.

Thelma was a member of A. Frank Smith Methodist Church, charter member of Thursday Study Club, a founder of Stella Hill Memorial Library, Daughters of the American Revolution, and was instrumental in helping establish Caddoan Indian Mounds Museum.

Survivors include a daughter, Katy Maddux of Austin, Texas; a sister, Jo Lacy of Dallas, Texas; four grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband, W.N. "Bill" Shattuck, in 1995.

Funeral service was at A. Frank Smith Methodist Church in Alto, and burial at Cedar Hill Cemetery.

Thelma was a long-time member of the VVV Association.

IF A RENEWAL FORM IS ENCLOSED, YOU NEED TO PAY DUES.

VVV MEMBERS AND FRIENDS REGISTERED AT THE 1996 REUNION

CALIFORNIA

Glenn and Marjorie Vawter
Garry B. Vawter

DELEWARE

Robert L. and Donna Vawter
Mary and Robert L. Vawter II;
Robert L. III, Amanda, Jesse

FLORIDA

Ralphe and Caroline Vawter

GEORGIA

Charles E. and Betty Burt
Cheryl Glasgow; Timothy, Kristen
Lula Thompson
Flara V. Waters
Johnny and Jo Waters; Casey

ILLINOIS

Jerry and Shirley Beasley
Mark Beasley
Paul and Connie Bugos; Tadd
Don and Alice Vawter
Edith Vawter
May Vawter

INDIANA

Lorraine Hamann
Milton and Charlotte Pickett
GeeGee Stearns
John E. and Lois A. Vawter
Bonita Welch

LOUISIANA

Melinda Vawter

MICHIGAN

Stanley and Janet Read
Margaret Vawter
Robert L. and Ila Vawter

MINNESOTA

Thomas Dru Vaughter;
Abigail Virginia Grace

MISSOURI

Bruce and Linda Vawter;
Jason Benson

MISSISSIPPI

Judith Crawford
Jackie Hudson
Martha Hudson
Emery and Clarice Mayer
Lowell and Allyson Vaughters
Fred and Wordna Wicker
Ken and Norma Wicker

NEW YORK

Richard W. and Dorothy Vawter

OHIO

Clare and Sue Vawters Ashton

OKLAHOMA

Duncan and Sally Brown
Billy M. and Virginia Vawter

TENNESSEE

Julia Vawter Blanks
Caroline Vawter Scarlett

TEXAS

Katherine Marge Baskin
Joyce Carter
Eric and Stephanie Chaviers
John H. and Sue Vawter
Oscar and Erma Vawter

VIRGINIA

Ellen Cummings; Rebecca, Frederick

WISCONSIN

Jerry and Judy Aue; Sarah, Melissa
John and Carol Czekalski
Claudette Jensen;
Claudine Maslowski
Evert and Maxine Joling
John, James, Jordan Joling
Janine Loda; Jenna, Derek
Wayne G. and Carole A. Vawter;
David, Benjamin, Paul, Andrew,
Abigail

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WILLIAM SNYDER VAWTER PAPERS

In the mid 1920s, William Snyder Vawter of New York City began to pursue his dream of writing a history of the Vawter family. His intention was to update Grace Vawter Bicknell's book, *The Vawter Family in America*, published in 1905. He carried on his work for many years, corresponding with Vawters all across the United States. It is remarkable to remember this was done before copy and fax machines, computers, e-mail and the Internet. One letter was sent to "Dr. Vawter, Wellington, Kans. (lived there in 1905)", another was addressed: "To any one named Vawter, or related to any one named Vawter, Burleson County, Texas." Many times, people would send him their original records to hand copy, trusting that the records would be returned. Unfortunately, the dream was not fulfilled, and for many years few people were aware of the location of his research.

About eight years ago, William Snyder Vawter's grandson, Tim Vawter, contacted the association with the news that the papers were in the attic of a vacant house owned by William Snyder Vawter Jr. in Houston, Texas.

Because of the efforts of the late Bill Vawter of Houston who retrieved the papers, and John H. and Sue Vawter of Nacogdoches, Texas, who spent many hours photocopying, the work begun in the 1920s has been preserved. Several members have complete copies of the papers.

In this newsletter, we are printing some of the letters with the hope that the information will be interesting and useful. Except for allowing for clarity, spelling and punctuation are given "as is."

TO WILLIAM SNYDER VAWTER FROM CLIFFORD GEORGE VAWTER

Walla Walla, Wn. May 4th 1930

Dear Mr. Vawter,

Under the heading of "Remarks" I might add the following if you care to use it. I Clifford George Vawter left school in Spokane during 1916 and went to work for Spokane Dry Goods Co. a large wholesale dry goods house in Spokane Wn. First as an elevator operator, then an order clerk, later a salesman on the floor and last a traveling salesman on the road. I worked until the fall of 1918 then enlisted in The Students Army Training Corps of Gonzaga University in Spokane, Wn. on Oct 1st 1918 but on account of the flu epidemic was not officially inducted until Nov. 6th 1918 and being honorably discharged on Dec 10th 1918 I went back to work with The Spokane Dry Goods Co. in January 1919 and am still with them today. The last four years I have been traveling salesman for Spokane Dry Goods Co. traveling over southeastern Washington and the northeastern half of Oregon with permanent sales room in The Keylor Grand Theater Building and residence at 1059 Francis Ave Walla Walla, Wn.

Knowing nothing further of importance at this writing I am

Yours truly,
Clifford G. Vawter

TO WILLIAM SNYDER VAWTER FROM CHARLES DESMOND VAWTER

[Charles Desmond Vawter was the son of Fred Allen and Stella Critchlow Vawter. He was born 9 Nov 1897 in New Albany, Indiana, and married Dorothy Matson on 25 July 1921 in Indianapolis. Dorothy was born 24 Sept 1899 in Bedford, Indiana. At the time Charles wrote this letter to William Snyder Vawter, they had two children, Juanita Marian, born 1 October 1922; and Robert Charles, born 4 May 1924.]

In answer to your further inquiry about my grandfather, Charles Minton Vawter, I will say that he is yet living, as well as his wife and daughter Maud, at Lake Wawasee, Ind. The address merely Syracuse, Ind. and I am sure he will give you any information about themselves more accurately than I can. He is active yet although 75 in Feb.

My wife's parents were George Washington Matson of Ellettsville, Ind. and Carrie Emma Pugh of Stinesville, Ind. (both living.)

My mother's parents were Robert Addison Critchlow born near Butler, Pa. and Viola Biggs of Elizabeth, Ind. He is a GAR veteran still living in Los Angeles, but she died in 1906.

Yours respectfully,
Charles Desmond Vawter
33 N Sheridan Ave
Inpls, Ind.

TO WILLIAM SNYDER VAWTER FROM CHARLES MINTON VAWTER

[Charles Minton Vawter was the grandson of John Vawter, founder of Vernon, Indiana, and great-grandson of Jesse Vawter, who was one of the first settlers of what is now Madison, Indiana. In her book, *The Vawter Family in America*, Grace Bicknell states, "Charles Vawter probably is acquainted with more of the Vawter relatives than any other one in the whole connection." In this letter to William Snyder Vawter, he gives names of other Vawters to contact and some corrections to the Bicknell book. He also sent a letter that he had received from the Order of Railway Conductors of America.]

Wm S Vawter

Dear Sir

I am giving names of Vawters not in the old book who are members of the Order of Railway Conductors, also

J.H. Vawter late Mayor of Salem, Ill

Mrs. W.R. Vawter, Richmond Va an artist of talent who has traveled extensively in foreign land. I don't think she has the Vawter book. I have not met her - I called at her home last January - at that time she was in Spain.

Corrections

Fred Allen Vawter my son was married Feb 16 1897. I began service with the LNA&CR [Louisville, New Albany and Chicago Railway] Saturday November 23 not the 22nd 1872. I am trying to get in touch with my bro Jesse S Vawter's two children George and Grace Vawter. My daughter Miss Maud is a teacher in South Bend Ind. Public School. I will be glad to give you all assistance I can in this good work. I am now 75 years old not in very good health. (I am also failing in my writing.)

Sincerely yours

Charles Minton Vawter

Vawter Park

Syracuse Ind. May 6, 1928

Order of Railway Conductors of America
Cedar Rapids, Iowa April 27, 1928

Mr. C.M. Vawter

Vawter Park

Syracuse, Ind.

Dear Sir & Brother:

Complying with your request of the 25th, we have but three other members in the Order by the Name of Vawter. These are as follows:

W.A. Vawter, 136 Union St., Bluefield, W. Va.

C.K. Vawter, 501 4th St., McComb City, Miss.

W.A. Vawter, Termo, Calif.

Yours truly in P.F.

E.P. Curtis G S & T

The Notebook of George Lee Curry, Franklin, Indiana

The late George Lee Curry of Franklin, Indiana, kept an account of illegitimate births in Johnson and Howard Counties, Indiana. His account was later typed and deposited at the Historical Genealogy Department of the Allen County, Indiana, Public Library. The provenance of the book is not known. It was printed in the December 1996 issue of *Indiana Genealogist*, quarterly of the Indiana Genealogical Society. The following is one of the entries.

Child: [] Hill. Mother: Lucinda Hill. Father: Edmond R. Vawter.

Child was born in Johnson County about 1843, The father, Edmond Vawter, was suspended from membership in Hopewell Church Aug. 24, 1843 for 5 reasons as follow:
1. The sin of drunkenness last fall at Mr. Creed Dawsons and at other times and places.
2. With the use of profane language at the shop of Mr. Saml. Graham's in the spring of 1842.
3. With threatening to shoot Isaac Woodrow and at the same time presenting a pistol at the same time and place.
4. With falsehood in stating to Mr. Graham that John Briwer had valued your land at a certain amount higher than said had actual valued it at.
5. With employing Dr. B. Noble to visit Lucinda Hill for the purpose of procuring an abortion, the said Lucinda being then pregnant, as is currently reported, in consequence of illicit intercourse with yourself.

INDIANA CIVIL WAR VETERANS IN MEEKER COUNTY, MINNESOTA

Compiled by Diane Rosenow

These names were listed among others in the June 1996 issue of The *Hoosier Genealogist*, quarterly of the Indiana Historical Society.

Branham, Ezra F, Pvt. Co F. 2d Minn Inf. born Jennings Co, Ind.

Branham, Hiram. Born Franklin, Ind.

Branham, Jessie V. Jr. Forest City Home Guards, born Jennings Co. Ind 8 Jul 1834

Branham, Jessie V. Sr. Forest City Home Guards, born 1803, died 1893

Branham, William H/A. Co A. 5 Ind Inf. 1846 Mexican War. GAR.

Jesse V. Branham was born in Kentucky in 1803, the son of John and Frances Vawter Branham, and died in 1893 in Litchfield, Minnesota. His mother, Frances, was the daughter of Jesse and Elizabeth Watts Vawter.

Jesse V. Branham Jr. was his son. Jesse Sr. also had sons William and Ezra who are probably the ones listed. The only Hiram Branham found was the son of Jesse V. Branham Jr., and was not born until 1856, making him too young for the Civil War.

This family can be found beginning on page 178 of The *Vawter Family in America*.

VAWTER STORE IN CORDELL, OKLAHOMA
submitted by Wordna Wicker

Some time ago, Silas Vawter of Oklahoma City, mentioned to Wordna Wicker that he had seen reference to a Vawter Store that was in Cordell, Oklahoma, in 1920. Wordna found the following Vawter families in the 1910 Oklahoma census:

1910 Oklahoma Census, Supt. Dist. 5, E.D. Dist. 258, Sheet 11 A
Cordell, Oklahoma; Washita County; Market Street

182 Edgar S. Vawter	age 34	married 10 yrs	b. KY	father b. US
Melissa	age 28	b. TX	father b. GA	mother b. GA
Viola	age 9	b. TX	father b. KY	mother b. TX
Crawford	age 7	b. OK	father b. KY	mother b. TX

183 Ben B. Vawter	age 35	married 14 yrs	b. KY	father b. US	mother b. US
Valera A.	age 32	b. TN	father b. GA	mother b. GA	
Edgar A.	age 12	b. TX	father b. KY	mother b. TN	
Lillian	age 9	b. TX	father b. KY	mother b. TN	
Max W.	age 1	b. OK	father b. KY	mother b. TN	

Edgar S. and Ben B. Vawter were brothers, their parents being Josephus R. and Mary J. Williams Vawter of Monroe County, Kentucky. Josephus was the son of Joseph Early Vawter and his second wife, Nancy Smith Vawter. According to *The Vawter Family in America*, page 375, Joseph Early Vawter was the father of sixteen children.

HARRIETT VAWTER, DAUGHTER OF JOHN VAWTER IV

Doris Ann Montgomery of Montgomery, Alabama, attended the 1994 reunion in Tupelo, Mississippi, knowing little of her Vawter roots, only that she had a great-grandmother named Harriett Vawter. At the 1995 reunion, she shared with Wordna Wicker the news that Harriett was one of the younger daughters of John Vawter IV of Old Tishomingo, County, Mississippi.

Wordna had known that John had a daughter named Harriett because he bought land in her name and then had to go to court to get permission to sell it later on. There was no marriage record for her in Tishomingo County, so Wordna assumed Harriet had died young. Apparently, Harriett and her sister, Elizabeth, moved to Alabama before 1850 along with John and his third wife, Peachy. John and Peachy Vawter were living with Elizabeth and her husband, Hopewell Doss in the 1850 census. Harriett was married and living with her husband, W. L. Allman. This was found in the 1850 Alabama State Census, not in the 1850 U.S. Census for Alabama.

QUERIES

From: Bobbie J. Rogers, 205 Crestview Dr, Weatherford, TX 76087

Bobbie is seeking information on her grandfather, Robert Lee Duncan, b. 18 March 1863 in either Kentucky or Illinois. The 1910 Oklahoma census for Marshall County gives his birthplace as Kentucky, but his obituary says Illinois. Robert married Harriet Jane "Hattie" Miller on 24 October 1886 in Sherman, Grayson County, Texas. Harriet was the daughter of John A. and Elizabeth A. Vawter Miller. After their marriage, Robert and Harriet settled in the Indian Territory, where the first of their children was born in 1888. This area was later known as Woodville, Oklahoma. Some years later they moved to the area around Cumberland, Oklahoma, where they lived for the remainder of their lives.

Patti Darnell of Flower Mound, Texas, has given Bobbie a lot of help with this line, but she would like to correspond with others who might have even more information.

From: Georgene Jurgensen, 910 Palmer Lane, Palm Harbor, FL 34685

Georgene made a genealogical trip and family visit to Indiana last summer. She obtained much information on the family of George T. and Charlotte Vogler Vawter of Tipton County, Indiana. A very important part of her trip was a visit with Crystal Dunn Peed, age 91, of Royal Center, Indiana, the daughter of Ada Vawter Dunn. Crystal resides in her own home and has a wonderful memory; she told stories about Georgene's visit over 20 years ago and has many good family history stories. She has the Bible belonging to George W. and Mary E. Simpson Vawter. George W. was the son of George T. and Charlotte Vogler Vawter.

A Vawter reunion started during the 1930s and continued at least through the 1980s in the Tipton County, Indiana, area. Georgene wants to know what happened to the reunion minute books and lists of names of those attending. Also, is the reunion still being held, possibly in another area? She would like to correspond with any descendants of this family and will share the information she has.

THE VAWTER FAMILY IN AMERICA

The reprint edition (1969) of *The Vawter Family in America* can still be ordered from the VVV Family Association. Please remember that none of these books are in perfect condition. For some it is just a matter of one or two pages missing or having faint print, and those are the ones being sold at this time. We send the best available and enclose replacement pages for you to insert. The books are softbound and have 442 pages including an index, plus the supplement update of the O'Connor family. Cost is \$20.00 plus \$2.00 shipping.

Order from: Bonita Welch, 4145 N 900 W, Scipio, IN 47273

CONGRATULATIONS

Major Robert L. Vawter of Middletown, Delaware, has been named Commander of the Delaware Wing, Civil Air Patrol. The Change-of-Command Ceremony took place 18 January 1997 at Dover Air Force Base. "Bobbee", as he is known to many VVV members, is a past president of the VVV Family Association.

Congratulations to Suzette and Charles E. "Chuck" Burt Jr. of Cumming, Georgia, on the birth of a son, Franklin Quinn Burt, who was born 14 November 1996. Proud grandparents are Susie Cook and Betty and Charles Burt Sr.

IN REMEMBRANCE

Mary Wiley Lansdale, 91, of Fordyce, Arkansas, died 18 March 1996 in Fordyce. She was a native of Benton County, Mississippi, and the daughter of Thomas S. and Emma Ellen Vawter Wiley. She was a Baptist and had been active in her church.

Survivors include a son, Harold Lansdale; and two daughters, Juanita Rogers and Delaine Hornaday, all of Fordyce. She was the aunt of Fred and Ken Wicker. Preceding her in death was her husband, Ike Lansdale.

Mary was a longtime member of the VVV Family Association and had attended many reunions. She was from the line of John Vawter IV of Tishomingo County, Mississippi.

* * * * *

Aileen Baker Wiley, 86, of Nettleton, Mississippi, died 20 February 1996 in Nettleton. She was a retired school teacher and a Methodist.

Survivors include her husband, Bill Wiley; a daughter, Sherry Brock; and a granddaughter, Holly Cathcart.

Aileen and Bill Wiley were charter members of the VVV Family Association, had attended many reunions and helped host the two reunions held in Tupelo, Mississippi. Bill is the uncle of Fred and Ken Wicker.

* * * * *

Melvin Kenneth Vawter, 73, died 9 October 1995 in Cooksville, Illinois. He was the son of Clayton and Irene Egan Vawter and the grandson of Albert Grant Vawter.

He was an Army veteran of World War II and had worked for Spencer Oil Company and Brock Oil Company.

Burial was at Pleasant Hill Cemetery near Lexington, Illinois .

Survivors include a brother, Clifford Edwin Vawter of Bloomington, Illinois, and several cousins. Among his cousins are Maxine Joling of Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin, and the late Glen Vawter who lived in Normal, Illinois.

PLEASE SEND NEWS OF YOUR FAMILY TO THE NEWS EDITOR

IN REMEMBRANCE

Ethan James Reynolds, 25, of Commiskey, Indiana, died Sunday, 3 November 1996, at Winona Hospital in Indianapolis. He was born 23 June 1971 in Madison, Indiana, the son of James W. and Jane Kinder Reynolds. He worked at Developmental Services, Inc. in Scipio and had been a counselor at Easter Seal Camps from 1991-1993.

Ethan was a member of Tea Creek Baptist Church and Regal Rugs Bowling League. A 1989 graduate of Jennings County High School, he received a degree in recreation and leisure studies at Vincennes University in 1992. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, photography and bowling.

The funeral service was conducted at Tea Creek Baptist Church and burial at the church cemetery.

Surviving with his parents are a sister, Carmen Lawler of Lebanon, New Hampshire; grandparents, Lena Kinder of Commiskey and Walter E. and Edna Opal Reynolds of Butlerville, Indiana; aunts and uncles, Robert and Judith Smith of Livermore, California, Hugh and Louise Reynolds of Veedersburg, Indiana, Miles and Joyce Reynolds of Smithville, Illinois, Enid Henry of Madison, Indiana, Ann Caslan of Muncie, Indiana, and Brian Reynolds of Butlerville.

Ethan's aunt, Ann Caslan, and grandparents, Walter and Edna Reynolds, are members of the VVV Association and have attended many reunions. He was a descendant of Florence and Elizabeth Branham O'Connor. Elizabeth Branham was the daughter of Uriah and Alcey Davis Branham and granddaughter of John and Frances Vawter Branham.

* * * * *

Osa E. "Cookie" Vawter of Oklahoma City died Friday, 28 June 1996, at a hospital in Oklahoma City. She was a native of Jester, Oklahoma.

Osa was a registered nurse. She married Roy V. Castleberry on 26 August 1933; he preceded her in death 8 January 1963. On 3 April 1965, she married Silas Vawter and they lived in Norman, Oklahoma, until 1970 when they moved to Oklahoma City.

Survivors include her husband, Silas; a son, Mark Lee Castleberry of Apex, North Carolina; daughters Patricia G. Morrison and Annie Morrison of Oklahoma City, and Dena Newhouse of Norman; a granddaughter, Bianca Newhouse of Norman; brothers Lloy Cook of Elk City Oklahoma, Gene Cook of Sayre, Oklahoma, and Jimmy Cook of Lawton, Oklahoma; and a sister, Lola May Moles of Yukon, Oklahoma.

Funeral service was conducted in Elk City, and burial at Fairlawn Cemetery, also in Elk City.

Osa, along with her husband, was a longtime member of the VVV Association.

IF A RENEWAL FORM IS ENCLOSED, YOU NEED TO PAY DUES



FAMILY ASSOCIATION

April 14, 1997

Dear VVV Family Association Member,

Because the newsletter will not be ready for mailing until the end of the month, this letter is being sent to give some information about the 1997 reunion of the VVV Family Association.

This year's event is being held July 31 - August 3 at the Best Western Valley View Lodge and Convention Center in Townsend, Tennessee, and is hosted by Judy Blanks of Maryville, Tennessee, and her sister, Caroline Scarlett of Murfreesboro, Tennessee. Townsend is located at the foot of the Great Smoky Mountains.

Sixty rooms are being held for the reunion, but will be held only until May 15, 1997, and any reservations received after that date will be provided on a space available basis. Therefore, it is important to make reservations by May 15. Cancellations are accepted up to 72 hours before the date of arrival. The room rates are \$64.50 for Thursday, July 31, and \$84.50 for Friday and Saturday, August 1 and 2. This is for one or two people. If there will be more than two per room, you need to ask about the cost. As always, be sure to mention that you are with the Vawter Family Reunion. Occasionally, someone calls to make reservations and is told there are no vacancies, but that is because they fail to mention the reunion.

Phone numbers for the Best Western are 423-448-2237 or 800-292-4844. The hotel representative working with Judy and Caroline is Bonnie Lohr; if you have questions that the desk clerk cannot answer, please ask for her. Judy Blanks' phone number is 423-977-5072.

May 15 is just a short time away, so you are urged to made your reservations today.

Sincerely,

Bonita Welch

OFFICERS

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Dues \$7.00 per year

1997 REUNION

Townsend, Tennessee, the site for the 1997 VVV Family Association Reunion, is located in a valley at the foot of the Great Smoky Mountains. The reunion is being held July 31 - August 3 at the Best Western Valley View Lodge and Convention Center, and is hosted by Judy Blanks of Maryville, Tennessee, and her sister, Caroline Scarlett of Murfreesboro, Tennessee.

The lodge is on U.S. Highway 321 in Townsend. Among the features are three swimming pools (two outdoor, one indoor), a two acre lighted garden area with about 50 varieties of flowers and plants, walking paths, play village and a picnic pavilion. A continental breakfast is served each day from 7:00-9:00 a.m.

Sixty rooms are reserved, but will be held only until May 15, 1997, so it is very important to make reservations now. Any reservations received after that date will be on a space available basis. Cancellations are accepted up to 72 hours prior to the date of arrival.

Room rates are \$64.50 for Thursday, July 31, and \$84.50 for Friday and Saturday, August 1 and 2. This is for one or two people, and does not include tax. If there are to be more than two per room, you need to ask about the cost. As always, be sure to mention that you are with the Vawter Family Reunion. Occasionally, someone calls to make reservations and is told there are no vacancies, but that is because they fail to mention the reunion.

Camping is available nearby for those who will be traveling with a camper or by motor home. Judy Blanks can give you information about the campground.

Phone numbers for the Best Western are 423-448-2237 or 800-292-4844. The representative working with Judy and Caroline is Bonnie Lohr; if you have questions that the desk clerk cannot answer, please ask for her. Judy's phone number is 423-977-5072.

This year's reunion will be an opportunity to relax, visit with friends and cousins, catch up on family news of the past year and share genealogical research. Except for the usual meetings and Saturday night banquet, no scheduled events are planned. For those who want to tour the local area, the choices are numerous.

Nearby Cades Cove is one of most scenic attractions of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, as well as being a historic area. An 11-mile, one-way loop road circles the cove which contains restored log cabins, barns, an operating gristmill and a visitor center. The cemeteries, churches and cabins show the personal side of people who once lived in the cove. They raised their families, built churches and schools, farmed the land and fished the streams.

Some people prefer to shop, and opportunities for that abound in the area. Townsend is near Maryville, Gatlinburg and Pigeon Forge.

Don't hesitate. Make your reservations today and enjoy a time of fellowship and relaxation.

DOOR PRIZES

Once again, we are planning to have the popular door prizes. Bring your handmade items, an item unique to your area or just something you think is interesting. How many times have you attended a function where one or possibly two door prizes were given away? That does not happen at a VVV event. Last year there were a record number of 86 door prizes and it took two nights to give them all away!

WATTS RESEARCH

Paul Watts Allred is active in researching the Watts surname and families that have married into the Watts line. He has been focusing on linking extended families between 1650 and 1850. He received a copy of the VVV Family Association newsletter from Joyse Ann Evans of Colton, California, who's husband is a descendant of Jesse and Elizabeth Watts Vawter.

Paul would like to contact other researchers and is willing to share a Gedcom File. He does ask that anyone responding include their notes and sources. A Watts On-Line Newsletter is sent out free each Friday by e-mail; queries and research contributions are welcome.

Paul's address is: 8660 Nash Way, Sacramento, CA 95828.
He can be reached by e-mail at pwallred@ucdavis.edu

THE FAMILY OF GEORGE T. AND CHARLOTTE VOGLER VAWTER
Contributed by Georgene Jurgensen

George Taylor Vawter b. 10 Sep 1817 in North Carolina; d. 2 Apr 1894-Tipton County, Indiana; buried Sandbank Cemetery, Tipton County. Married Caritas Charlotte Vogler on 20 Feb 1840 in Salem, Stokes County, North Carolina. Charlotte was b. 28 Dec 1814 Salem, North Carolina; d. 16 Aug 1893 Tipton County, Indiana; buried beside her husband.

George Taylor Vawter purchased a land warrant in Tipton County, Indiana on 2 Oct 1857 from James Rails. However, George and Charlotte were located in Clinton County, Indiana, in 1860 owning land and with their children. Their son, George W. Vawter lived on the land by 1861 and other children followed to Tipton County. George T. and Charlotte were alone in Bartholomew County, Indiana, in 1870, but removed to Tipton County shortly thereafter to be with the children.

Children:

1. George W. Vawter b. 23 Nov 1840 Stokes County, North Carolina; d. 18 Sep 1887 Tipton County, Indiana; buried Sandbank Cemetery beside his parents. George married Mary E. Simpson 24 Dec 1861. Mary was b. 14 Nov 1839 Indiana; d. 13 Apr 1885 Tipton County, Indiana. George married second Margaret P. Back 16 Oct 1885 Tipton county, Indiana.

2. John M. Vawter b. 28 Jan 1844 Stokes County, North Carolina; d. 26 Dec 1883 Tipton County, Indiana; buried Sandbank Cemetery beside his parents. John married Emily F. Sallee 1 Oct 1868 Tipton County, Indiana. Emily was b. ca 1851 Indiana.

3. Samuel M. Vawter b. 29 Oct 1847 Stokes County, North Carolina; d. 2 Jun 1929 Tipton, Indiana. Samuel married Sarah E. McShane 15 May 1878 Tipton County, Indiana. Sarah was b. 16 Apr 1857 Milroy, Rush County, Indiana; d. 2 Jun 1940 Tipton County, Indiana.

4. Rosalie A. Vawter b. 3 Dec 1849 Stokes County, North Carolina; d. unknown. Rosalie married first Jacob Kessler 24 Apr 1875 Tipton County, Indiana. She married second Joseph Taylor Goodykoontz. Joseph was b. 18 Apr 1836 Wayne County, Indiana; d. 25 Jan 1900; buried Fairview City Cemetery, Tipton County, Indiana.

5. Emma S. Vawter b. 30 Aug 1854 Indiana; d. 15 Dec 1930 Russiaville, Howard County, Indiana. Emma married Silas G. Ratcliffe 5 Apr 1882. Silas d. before 1930.

Georgene Jurgensen, the contributor of this material, would like to correspond with any Vawter descendants in this line, and will gladly share her information. She spent several days during the summer of 1996 in Hamilton and Tipton Counties, Indiana, visiting family and doing research.

Her address: 910 Palmer Lane, Palm Harbor, FL 34685-1810

BITS 'N' PIECES

The VVV Family Association has received several new members during the past year. Among them is Margie Smiley Scott of Springfield, Virginia, Margie's mother, Margaret Berniece Settle, was born 18 February 1905, and is listed on page 379 of *The Vawter Family in America*. Margie has been told this is the youngest listing in the book. Margaret Berniece Settle was the daughter of O.L. and Josephine Vawter Settle. Josephine was a descendant of Russell and Mary Sparks Vawter.

Our best wishes go to Bruce and Linda Vawter of St. Louis, Missouri, who have finalized the adoption of their grandson, Jason. Jason has attended many reunions with Bruce and Linda and enjoys helping with the distribution of door prizes. He is now officially "Jason Lee Vawter."

Congratulations to Esther Anderson-Spencer of Pullman, Washington, on her marriage 4 July 1996 to G. Roger Spencer.

Congratulations to Wendy Lynn Waters and Jeremy McGinnis who were married 22 March 1997. Wendy is a 1993 honor graduate of Dawson County, Georgia, High School, and is a senior at Georgia State University majoring in communication disorder. She is the daughter of Johnny and Eva Jo Waters and the granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. W.E. Garrett Jr., Flara Vaughters Waters, all of Dawsonville, Georgia, and the late Vearl Waters. Jeremy, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Jim Conner and Gary McGinnis of Cumming, Georgia, is a 1989 graduate of Forsyth County High School and is attending Southern Tech in Marietta, Georgia.

CIVIL AIR PATROL COMMANDER

The more than 300 members of the Delaware Wing of the Civil Air Patrol always stand ready to aid in a search and rescue mission, in planning for natural disasters with the Delaware Emergency Management Agency and for a number of other tasks.

Those members got a new commanding officer on Saturday, January 18, 1997, as Col. Robert L. Vawter of Middletown, Delaware, took over the position. Col. Vawter was promoted just prior to taking office. The new commander is a past president of the VVV Family Association, and is known to most as "Bobbee."

He is the son of John Blaine Vawter, whose parents were John S. and Elizabeth Grinstead Vawter. John S. was the son of Jesse R. and Sarah Parks Vawter.

E-MAIL ADDRESSES

Do you have e-mail? Send your address to the news editor (xfgs62a@prodigy.com), and we will publish it in a future newsletter. Several members are sharing research in this manner.

DELBERT VAWTER

April 1997 - Page 5

The 19 January 1997 edition of the Columbus, Indiana, newspaper, *The Republic*, featured an article about Injection Mold, Inc., in North Vernon, Indiana. This business, which makes molds for plastic injection presses, is owned by Delbert Vawter, and has ten employees. Among the employees are Delbert's three sons, Joe, Jason and Matt Vawter.

Many long time members will remember Joe from the 1982 reunion as a young boy who rode his motorcycle to the park in North Vernon and introduced himself to the group. He was very interested in knowing how his family fit on the Vawter family tree. That night, the family attended the dinner at Clifty Falls State Park in Madison.

Research has shown that they are descended from James and Sarah Watts Vawter. Their son, Thomas S. Vawter, married Annie LeGill and had three children, Milton, Edward and Brainard. Delbert Vawter's grandfather was Edwin Vawter, a son of Milton Vawter. These families lived in Jefferson and Ripley Counties, Indiana. Delbert and his two brothers, Francis and David, were raised as foster children and knew little of their background.

QUERY

From: Georgene Jurgenson, 910 Palmer Lane, Palm Harbor, FL 34685

Georgene is seeking information on Mrs. E.F. Vawter who was in west Indianapolis at the turn of the century.

While researching the line of George T. Vawter of Tipton County, Indiana, Georgene found a George P. Vawter who died in the Spanish-American War and is buried in the same cemetery as George T. and others of that family. However, George P. is not buried near anyone with the Vawter name.

The military papers of George P. Vawter state that he died of typhoid fever on 8 October 1898 in Lexington, Kentucky, at the age of 21, and his body was returned to Tipton County for interment. He had enlisted in Tipton County, served in Matauzas, Cuba, and his occupation was given as engineer. He was single and his mother was Mrs. E.F. Vawter.

Georgene's files do not show a George P. Vawter or Mrs. E.F. Vawter. Can you help with this?

JENNINGS COUNTY, INDIANA, PUBLIC LIBRARY

Several members have traveled to North Vernon, Indiana, to do research at the Jennings County Public Library. You will be pleased to know that the library has moved to a new building. The library has a good collection of material, but the room in the old building was so small much of the material was in storage and using what was available could be difficult. The new location has a very large genealogy and local history room with ample shelf space and several tables and chairs.

IN REMEMBRANCE

Robert H. Dart, 77, of Glendale, California, died 25 April 1997 in Glendale. He was born 5 May 1919 in Morinci, Arizona, the son of Jesse E. and Mina Vawter Dart. He attended school in Arizona at Somerton grammar school, Yuma High School, and Tempe College. A retired president of Jewel Insurance Company, he was a member of the Lions Club, Oakmont Country Club and Service Corps of Retired Executives. Following World War II, he spent two years in Japan with the army of occupation.

Survivors include his wife of over 50 years, Lucille Vawter; twin daughters, Julie Dart Swiatek of Indianapolis, Indiana, and Nancy Dart of Groten, Connecticut; a sister, Helen Dart Johnson of Fullerton, California; and two grandchildren.

Funeral service was held at Kiefer and Eyerick Mortuary in Glendale and burial at nearby Forest Lawn.

Robert H. Dart's mother, Mina Vawter Dart, was born in Nacogdoches, Texas, the daughter of Robert Hewton and Elinor Elisabeth Howerton Vawter.

OBITUARIES NEEDED

During the past year, three newsletters have been returned marked "deceased*" and we have not been able to get information. Can anyone provide obituaries for the following?

Maxine Vawter Brown
16901 SE Division #11
Portland, OR 97236

Charles T. Parker
1424 SW 31st St
Oklahoma City, OK
73119

James A. Vawter
4525 SW Director St
Seattle, WA 98136

All of these individuals had been members of the association for a number of years.

NEWSLETTER HELP

Please continue sending items for the newsletter. We can always use family news such as graduations, marriages, births, deaths or just anything that will keep others informed about your family.

Queries, research tidbits, and gleanings from publications are other things that can be sent. Any items are greatly appreciated and help keep the newsletter from being focused too much on one area of the country. We have members in Mexico, Canada and all across the United States.

A NOTE

Due to inserting the Best Western brochure and the computer questionnaire, this newsletter is only six pages instead of the usual eight. This was done to keep the postage cost at 32 cents.

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Dues - \$7.00 per year

1997 VVV FAMILY ASSOCIATION REUNION

31 JULY - 3 AUGUST

TOWNSEND, TENNESSEE

REUNION NEWS

If you have not yet made reservations for the 1997 reunion of the VVV Family Association in Townsend, Tennessee, please do so today. Although the deadline was May 15, it is possible that rooms are still available. Call the Best Western Valley View Lodge and Convention Center at 423-448-2237 or 800-292-4844. If unable to get reservations there, ask them to recommend another hotel nearby. We want this to be a great reunion and would like to have a record number in attendance. Judy Blanks of Maryville, Tennessee, has been working on this since returning home from the 1996 reunion - let's not disappoint her.

For more information on the Best Western and the Townsend area, see the April 1997 VVV newsletter.

If you have names for the memorial service, please be sure to give them to Wordna Wicker to be included in the service on Saturday night.

Also, one last reminder: don't forget your door prizes!

IF A RENEWAL FORM IS ENCLOSED, YOU NEED TO PAY DUES

BIBLE AND MISCELLANEOUS RECORDS
From *FAMILY PUZZLERS*
Danielsville, Georgia

The following information was contributed to *Family Puzzlers* by Mrs. J.T. Wilson of Dawsonville, Georgia, and appeared in the 31 October 1974, No. 367 issue. Thanks to Wordna Wicker, who sent a copy for the VVV newsletter. We have changed the way dates were given to the preferred style for genealogy; everything else is as printed in *Family Puzzlers*.

Names and ages of Henry Vaughter's children

Dealy	8 Dec 1885
Deely	? Nov 1887 (d. 1964, invalid)
Mary	22 Jun 1888
Lovey	22 Feb 1892
Awthar	18 Nov 1893

Linzey Vaughters was married 14 May 1857 (to Kesiah Marinda Hicks in Lumpkin Co., Ga.)

Jane Vaughters, the wife of James Vaughters, was born 9 Mar 1794

Ages of their children

William (J)	24 Sep 1812	d. 2 Sep 1866
Hiram (S)	? Nov 1814	
Lucinda	13 May 1816	
Elizabeth	21 Feb 1818	
Linzey	28 Jun 1820	
Viny	13 Aug 1823	
Delila	26 Feb 1825	
Lydia	27 Apr 1827	
Jane	27 Apr 1829	
Eliza (A)	13 Apr 1831	

Jackson Bennett was born 24 Mar 1848 (son of Jane Vaughters)

Kisiah Marinda Hix was born 24 Oct 1835

Henry Vaughters b. 13 May 1864

Hiram Bennett Singleton Vaughter b. 20 Apr 1866

Names and ages of George and Epsy Vauahters (children)

George R.	29 May 1860	
Epsy Catherine	7 Aug 1861	married 1 Sep 1880
William Asker (Oscar)	6 Jul 1881	
Linzey	12 Oct 1883	
Homer C.	4 Apr 1885	
Anis Docia	1 Nov 1887	
Hiram Solomon	28 Jun 1891	
Erva M.C.	25 Sep 1892	
Pearlie Jane	25 Nov 1894	d. 18 Sep 1895
Lela	28 Nov 1895	
Coa	2 Mar 1898	

(Bible and Miscellaneous Records, con't.)

Information taken from marriage records of Lumpkin and Dawson Counties, application for 12 months support of widows, and tombstones.

Elizabeth m. 28 Dec 1846 Robert Stone, and William C. Anderson
who d. 15 Apr 1868

Lydia m. Thomas Nix

Jane m. 5 Jan 1847 Robert Bennett, she d. 25 Jul 1912

Eliza m. 7 Feb 1857 Elijah Blackburn, who d. 2 Sep 1862 CSA, left
3 children; she m. 2nd William Fouts

Anderson issue:

Tabbitha m. 4 Jul 1870 Rev. Wm. J. Hyde

Ireny d. 1922, m. 27 Jan 1866 James Lewis Green, son of a Union
soldier

Mary Jane d. 5 Jan 1929, m. 19 Oct 1867 William Andrews

Sealy Caroline m. 23 Dec 1869 James Kelly

Jordan L. b. 12 Aug 1864, d. 17 Sep 1942, m. Elizabeth Kate Kelly

James Robert b. 16 Mar 1860, d. 28 Sep 1931, m. 6 Dec 1877 Sarah
Francis Burt, m. 2nd Mamie Nelms

George (Bud) m. 26 Nov 1882 Emily Jane Cohlins (Collins)

Issue of Linzey and Marinda Vaughters

Eliza Catherine d. 27 Mar 1940, m. 27 Sep 1882 Rev. Greenberry Hall

Mary Elizabeth m. 6 Nov 1874, James Carlisle

Rev. George Robinson d. 30 Mar 1936, m. 4 Sep 1921 Epsey Bennett,

2nd to Minnie McClure, dau. of John B. and Sarah C. (Vaughn) McClure

Martha Jane b. 25 Jul 1861, d. 1 Apr 1961 m. Virgil Parks

Winna Juliann m. 16 Sep 1880 Alfred Waters and moved to Texas

Hiram Bennett Singleton

Lucas F. (Luke) m. 23 Apr 1899 Maude Dougherty

Ages of William Anderson's children

Tabbitha 18 Jan 1842

Ireny 18 Nov 1843

Mandy Eviry 14 Oct 1845

Mary Jane 5 Jun 1848

Eliza 1 Dec 1851

Sealy Caroline 11 Aug 1853

George (Wesley) Vaughters was born 14 Aug 1924

Ira (Sarah Rendy) Vaughters 14 Jul 1922

(Lloyd) Flem Vaughters was born 27 Apr 1924 (Flem said in 1926)

Names and ages of Linzey Vaughters children

Eliza Catharine 18 Feb 1858

Mary Elizabeth 14 Mar 1859

George Robeson 29 May 1860

Jane 25 Jul 1861

Winna Julian 12 Jan 1863

Page 4 - July 1997

(Bible and Miscellaneous Records, con't.)

James Vaughters their father was deceased 2 May 1836
Lucian Allien deceased 13 May 1849
Hiram Vaughters 6 Jul 1853
William Vaughters 2 Sep 1866
Linzey Vaughters deceased 1 Oct 1866
Jane Vaughters, the mother of the Vaughters family deceased
12 Jan 1884
Hiram Bennett Singleton Bennett [this last name probably should be Vaughters] 22 Oct
1866
Grandpa Bennett died ? Nov 1889
Mrs. Sarah C. McClure d. 13 Aug 1831

QUERIES

From: Mary Frances Bridges, 529 Oriole Lane, Shreveport, LA 71105

Mary is seeking information and documentary sources about the ancestors of Elizabeth Vawter who married Thomas Newman 28 December 1747, probably in Essex/Old Rappahannock County, Virginia. They were the parents of Edmund Newman, a Revolutionary War soldier, who married Mary Conquest Wyatt. Edmund Newman died 11 August 1850 in Hancock County, Kentucky.

From:
Robert Brimm, 1301 West Avenue, Normal IL 61761-3342 bbrimm@juno.com

Robert is the grandson of Oak Harris Vawter. He would like to have any information on this line of the family.

From: Wilmer McLaughlin, P.O. Box 337, Middlebury IN 46540-0337

Wilmer recently sent a letter to John Vawter of Elkhart, Indiana, seeking information on the Vawter family. The letter was forwarded to us by John.

Wilmer's grandmother was Dora Monger Fisher. Her brothers were in the lumber business in Elkhart, and one of them built the old Monger Building in that city.

Their mother was Margaret Vawter, born probably in Virginia in 1833. A genealogy, *The Mongers in Virginia*, gives a marriage bond dated December 1853, and an assurance dated January 1854, in which James Vawter and William Henry Monger state that Margaret was married to William Henry Monger. While Margaret's birthplace is not shown, the marriage documents were executed in Virginia, and Wilmer's mother, uncle and several aunts were born in Rockingham County, Virginia. The county seat of Rockingham is Harrisonburg.

Wilmer would like to have information with reference to Margaret or James Vawter.

BENNIE BEVERLY VAWTER

The January 1997 newsletter mentioned a Vawter Store that was in Cordell, Oklahoma, in 1920. Also given were the 1910 Oklahoma census listings for Ben B. and Edgar S. Vawter. Phyllis Vawter Reed of Fort Collins, Colorado, is the daughter of Ben B. Vawter. Phyllis compiled a history of her family, and in 1987 had it printed for the children and grandchildren of her parents. The following biography was written by Phyllis.

"Bennie Beverly Vawter, my father, was born August 21, 1874, in Monroe County, Kentucky. His twin sister, Minnie, died November 12, 1875. His father Josephus Riley Vawter, was a farmer and a stock grower; he died May 3, 1882, when Bennie B. was 8 years old. About 1885 Bennie's mother, Mary Josephine (Williams) Vawter, took her children to Texas. A few years after the death of Josephus Riley, Mary Josephine married again - a Mr. Frank Hoffman (Dock) who had three children at home at that time. They were Mollie (older than Bennie B.), and two sons, Aquilla and Willia. The four boys got along for awhile, then little troubles began. Aquilla began mistreating Edgar (Bennie's brother), so Bennie B. and Edgar S. left home. Bennie lived with his sister Addie (Nancy Adalaide) and her husband Pate (Peyton Lacy) Cook. Edgar S. lived with Mr. Marion Fitzgerald and his wife for 7 years. A year or two before marrying, Bennie bought a 39-acre farm.

"Valera Adelaide Crawford and Bennie Beverly Vawter were married December 25, 1895, at Alvarado, Johnson County, Texas. They lived on a farm near Burleson, Texas, until 1901. B.B. Vawter and E.S. Vawter had a store at Post Oak - they sold it and moved to Oklahoma. In Oklahoma B.B.V. bought an 80-acre claim for \$150 - the building on it was half-dug-out, about 4 feet deep. B.B.V. built sod walls 4 feet high and covered it with sod (and later a shingle roof). They lived in it for two years, then built a small two-room house, and used the lumber from the dugout to build a small barn (a corncrib and three stalls). They had horses and a cow. They worked this farm for 2 ½ years, then came a drouth. So they moved into town (Cordell) and Bennie worked in a large dry goods store. He took the exam for R.F.D. mail carrier (made the highest grade). He was the first rural mail carrier out of Cordell; his mail route was 26 miles long.

"In the fall of 1911 (?), Edgar S. moved to the San Luis Valley in Colorado with 6 or 8 members of the Church of Christ, who formed a colony. Edgar S. selected 160 acres of land, of which 80 acres were for Bennie B. He also bought a store building and built up a trade and rented a residence. After about 2 years, in 1913, Bennie B. finished closing out the store in Cordell and moved to the San Luis Valley where he joined Edgar S. in the mercantile business. However, there was not enough business for two families, so Bennie moved to Fowler, Colorado, in April 1914, where he purchased the grocery stock from Charles Roberts. He remained in business in Fowler until August 1945, when he retired."

WILL OF JOHN VAWTER
CULPEPER COUNTY, VIRGINIA
WILL BOOK A 1748-1770

Pages 65-67 Will Of John Vawter, dated 23 May 1748

John Vawter of Essex County.

All my personal estate as well in Orange as in Essex County be not appraised but sold at auction by my executors hereafter named and also my outstanding debts collected in out of which sums they pay all my just debts and the remainder to be distributed as follows (vizt) that one third part be my loving wife's Margaret Vawter, the rest to be equally divided amongst my children namely Winifred, Bartholomew, Richard, Margaret, Angus, and David Vawter.

What land I have I give as followeth

All the land I purchased of Young Hawkins I lend to my wife Margaret during her natural life with a piece of Kings land surveid by Major Robert Brook to be inclosed by a double pattant in all by estimation one hundred and fifty acres, she making no wast or sales of any of the appurtenances thereon and after her decease my will is that it be my son Bartholomew Vawter's, he paying therefore to my son Angus Vawter twenty pounds current money and to my son David Vawter fifty pounds current money.

To my daughter Winifred Vawter one hundred and thirty acres of land which was given me by my father in law David Noel.

To my daughter Margaret Rucker one hundred and fifty acres of land at the Great Mountains that which leys most convenient to her.

The remainder of the tract being five hundred acres be equally divided by an east and west line in two parts and I give my son Richard Vawter his choice of the said parts. The other part of the said tract I give to my son Angus Vawter.

To my son David Vawter three hundred and eight acres of land adjoyning to the old [office?] tract in Orange County.

I constitute and appoint my loving wife Margaret and my son Bartholomew Vawter executrix and executor.

Wit:

Jno. Vawter

Edward Vawter

Eliza. Vawter

Samuel Vawter

16 Nov. 1752. Exhibited into Court by Margaret Vawter and Bartholomew Vawter the executors therein named, the said Bartholomew being heir at law to the decedent and declaring that he had no objections to make against it. Proved by the oaths of Edward Vawter and Elizabeth Vawter.

This will of John Vawter was contributed by Mary Winningham of Chevy Chase, Maryland, and is presented here as it appeared in the publication sent by Mary. Much discussion has been held on the word given in brackets as "office." A close examination of a photocopy of the handwritten will is inconclusive.

CONGRATULATIONS

David Byler, son of Rev. Roger and Shirley Vawter Byler of Sweeny, Texas, graduated on 23 May 1997 from Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, Missouri with a Master of Divinity degree. He was also awarded the Certificate of Vocation. This certificate only conferred on those who receive a positive vote from each faculty member. David's sister, VVV President Beth Melton, attended the graduation.

David and his wife, Carole, are now living in Paris, Tennessee, where he has been called to serve the congregation of Christ Lutheran Church. Paris is about 18 miles west of "Land Between the Lakes" and 100 miles south of Paducah, Kentucky. Ordination service was on July 13 at the church in Paris.

We have learned of the birth of Jesse Kellan Roberts to Jim and Korbi Roberts of Virginia Beach, Virginia. He was born 6 June 1996, so just celebrated his first birthday. His "big brother", Kelsy, was the youngest person in attendance at the 1995 reunion in Virginia. This newest Jesse in the family is a descendant of Jesse and Elizabeth Watts Vawter, pioneer Indiana settlers.

IN REMEMBRANCE

Retha Crook Vaughters of Madison, Georgia, died 21 May 1997 in Grayson, Georgia. She was born 9 September 1917 in Jackson County, Georgia, the daughter of Samuel Butler and Ruchia Carrie Veal Anderson. She was a homemaker.

Survivors include her husband, Cleveland Vaughters; daughters, Vivien Brackett of Duluth, Georgia, Jean Brogdon of Grayson, and Avis Mati Anik of Buford, Georgia; a step-daughter, Patricia Herndon of Stone Mountain, Georgia; sons, Weldon Crook of Madison, and Ronald D. Crook of Monroe, Georgia; step-sons, Doug Vaughters of Winder, Georgia, and Jim Vaughters of Denver, Colorado; sisters, Leone Haulbrook and Lorene Scott, both of Maysville, Georgia; 19 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Funeral service was held on 23 May at Madison Baptist Church and burial was at Centergrove Baptist Cemetery.

Retha's step-son, Jim Vaughters, is a past president of the VVV Family Association.

* * * * *

Mamie L. Vaughter, 96, of Toledo, Ohio, died 26 March 1997 in Toledo. She was a member of Walls Memorial A.M.E. Church for over fifty years, being one of the founders.

Surviving are a daughter, Mary Ella Jordan; sister, Elizabeth Fletcher; grandchildren, Constance Woods Coleman and Greg Branch; 10 great-grandchildren and 14 great-great-grandchildren.

Funeral service was at St. Paul A.M.E. Zion Church.

This obituary was sent to Charles Burt by someone who saw it in a Toledo newspaper, and efforts to get more information on Mamie L. Vaughter have not been successful. Can anyone help?

IN REMEMBRANCE

Edna Opal Wilson Reynolds, 84, of Butlerville, Indiana, died 12 June 1997 at Jennings Community Hospital in North Vernon, Indiana. She was born 3 October 1912 in Ripley County, Indiana, the daughter of Clarence Joshua and Nora Ellen O'Conner Wilson. On 12 May 1933, she married Walter E. Reynolds in Butlerville. He survives.

Edna was a homemaker and retired in 1972 as a PBX operator at Muscatatuck State Developmental Center in Butlerville. She was a 1933 graduate of Butlerville High School, and was a member of the Order of Eastern Star, Daughters of the American Revolution, Society of Indiana pioneers, and Friends of the Library. She was also a member of Butlerville United Methodist Church, where she had been church pianist and Sunday School teacher.

Surviving with her husband are four sons James W. Reynolds of Commiskey, Indiana, Hugh W. Reynolds of Veedersburg, Indiana, Miles E. Reynolds of St. Louis, Missouri, and Brian L. Reynolds of Greensburg, Indiana; two daughters Enid L. Henry of Madison, Indiana, and Ann L. Caslan of Muncie, Indiana; 10 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren. Several nephews and nieces survive, including Milton Pickett of Kokomo, Indiana.

She was preceded in death by five sisters, Bertha Pickett, Mabel Smith, Freda Johnson, Vera Wheatley, and Christal Rice; two brothers, Leslie Wilson and Omar Wilson; and a grandson, Ethan J. Reynolds.

Burial was at Hopewell Cemetery near Holton, Indiana.

Edna was a long-time member of the VVV Family Association and attended many reunions with her husband, Walter, and daughter, Ann Caslan. In 1982, she hosted the reunion at Clifty Falls State Park near Madison, Indiana. Edna and her sister, Vera Wheatley, were instrumental in having *The Vawter Family in America* reprinted in 1969. She was a descendant of Jesse and Elizabeth Watts Vawter, through their daughter, Frances, who married John Branham.

* * * * *

Marjorie O. Vawter Mellon, 76, died 22 May 1997 in Glendale, California. She was born in Indianapolis, Indiana, the daughter of George and Marguerite Vawter. After her children were grown, she was in the women's clothing business.

Survivors include a daughter, Joyce Timmons of Manson, Washington; a son, Dr. Jay Mellon of New Orleans, Louisiana; a brother, Verne Vawter of Bonita, California; and cousins, Jean Vawter Robinson of Tryon, North Carolina, Ralphe Vawter of Gulf Breeze, Florida, and Claude Alexander Jr. She was preceded in death by her husband, Ed Mellon.

Marjorie's father, George Vawter, was the son of William Isaiah and Mary McIntyre Vawter who lived in Morgan County, Indiana. Willis Isaiah Vawter was the son of William C. and Sydney Willis Vawter.

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Dues - \$7.00 per year

1997 REUNION - TOWNSEND, TENNESSEE

A brochure from the Best Western Valley View Lodge and Convention Center in Townsend, Tennessee, states that Townsend is "on the quiet side of the Smokies." Another brochure calls it "the peaceful side." Better words could not be found to describe the location of the 1997 reunion of the VVV Family Association. This year's host, Judy Blanks of Maryville, Tennessee, is to be commended for choosing the site. It was a wonderful place to relax, meet newfound cousins and visit with those we had not seen since last year.

The activities available in the area are numerous. Free time could be spent visiting antique, craft and collectible shops; inner tubing; swimming; or walking on the trail that passed through the lodge grounds. A short drive from Townsend are Pigeon Forge and Gatlinburg, and most members went to those towns at least once. Other popular attractions were Cades Cove, located in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park; the Arts and Crafts Community, which is an 8-mile loop of shops, studios and galleries near Gatlinburg; Cherokee, on the North Carolina side of the Smokies; and the "Dixie Stamped."

Although registration did not begin until Thursday, July 31, and the first meeting was Friday morning, members began arriving on Tuesday. Those "early-birds" were certainly glad for the extra time.

IF A RENEWAL FORM IS ENCLOSED, YOU NEED TO PAY DUES

THURSDAY, JULY 31

The Association had the use of the entire convention center for the full length of the reunion. Registration began on Thursday afternoon on the upper level of the center. Exhibits of VVV memorabilia and family information were placed on tables to be enjoyed and used by members. As usual, the copy machine rented by the association was put to good use. Fruit and vegetable trays, cold cuts and cheese, soft drinks and coffee were provided by Judy Blanks throughout the evening.

A meeting of the officers was held at 7:00 p.m. Several items were discussed, including the location of future reunions. Also mentioned was the need to have a better count of those who will be attending in order to prepare for the food.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 1

Official opening of the reunion was on Friday morning by VVV President, Beth Melton. The traditional "ringing of the cowbell" was done by Julia Petree, granddaughter of Bill and Judy Blanks. Invocation was given by Billy Mack Vawter of Oklahoma City. The pledge to the American flag was led by Sims Meredith and McDaniel Wicker, both of Tupelo, Mississippi, and Frederick Cummings of Virginia Beach, Virginia. We were welcomed to Townsend by the mayor.

Minutes of the 1996 reunion in Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin, were read by the secretary, Melinda Vawter, and the treasurer's report was given by Charles Burt. An audit committee, comprised of John H. Vawter, Ken Wicker and Lowell Vaughters was named by the president.

Joyce Carter brought genealogy charts, and asked that they be filled out and returned to her. Ralph Vawter announced that he was organizing two genealogy sessions on Saturday for those interested. Several in attendance at a VVV reunion for the first time were introduced.

Friday evening the group gathered again and enjoyed a meal of pork barbecue, baked beans, cole slaw, brownies and drinks. Prayer before the meal was by Fred Wicker. More than one person paid no attention to the barbecue sauce bottles and was surprised to learn there were two varieties!

Entertainment was by Vince Vawter of Evansville, Indiana, who played the guitar, and his son, Lemuel Vawter, who played the fiddle. Vince moved to Indiana from Tennessee about two years ago, and told several stories he had learned about Brown County, Indiana, artist Will Vawter and other Indiana Vawters.

Several of the many door prizes were distributed by Linda Vawter of St. Louis, with help from the children. Because this was the 20th anniversary of VVV reunions, a prize of Tennessee Moon Pies was given to the 20th person to register. That person was Ellen Cummings of Virginia Beach.

Before adjournment, Vince and Lem were persuaded to perform one more number, and they closed the evening with "Orange Blossom Special."

SATURDAY, AUGUST 2

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The annual Saturday banquet and memorial service began at 6:30 p.m. with a welcome by VVV President Beth Melton, and prayer by Bruce Vawter.

Following the dinner, Fred and Wordna Wicker, with the assistance of Jason Vawter, grandson of Bruce and Linda Vawter, and Jesse Vawter, son of Mary and Robert L. Vawter II. The service began with a solo, "Will You Love Jesus More," by Mark Beasley. As each name was given and a brief obituary read, family members stood and a carnation was placed in a vase by Jason and Jesse. Closing the service was a violin solo, "He Opened Mine Eyes," by Ila Vawter, accompanied by Bonita Welch. This song had been written by the late Charles T. Parker, a former member of the association.

Again this year, entertainment was by the VVV Family Singers under the direction of Ellen Cummings. This group began several years ago as the VVV Children's Chorus, and continues to grow in popularity and numbers. Soloists were Kristi Glasgow, daughter of Cheryl Kelley, and Jackie Howard, granddaughter of Martha Hudson.

Ken Wicker reported for the audit committee that the books are in order and thanked Charles Burt for doing an excellent job.

Election of officers was held with Fred Wicker, chairman of the nominating committee, making the following recommendations: Joyce Carter as secretary, to replace Melinda Vawter who had resigned, and all other officers to remain. All were elected by acclamation. Other members of the committee were Shirley Beasley, Robert L. Vawter, Norma Wicker and Duncan Brown. This same committee will serve in 1998.

Ralphe Vawter reported on the genealogy sessions, and he stated two goals for the future. One is to make the European connection from Valletort to Vawter, and the other to further establish ourselves to Bartholomew Vawter, thought to be the immigrant. It is believed Bartholomew had six children, and we need to add documentation for each of the children.

Special recognition was given the following:

Oldest: Emery Mayer, age 86

Youngest: Andrew Petree, age eight months

Traveled farthest: Glenn, Marjorie and Garry Vawter,
Norwalk, California, 2196 miles

Longest married: Glenn and Marjorie Vawter, 65 years

The roll call of states found there to be 17 states represented at the banquet, with Tennessee having the most at 24.

On behalf of the VVV Association, Beth Melton thanked Judy Blanks and her family for everything done to make the reunion a success. She also announced there would be a worship service at 9:00 a.m. Sunday conducted by the Rev. John H. Vawter.

To close the evening, the remaining door prizes were distributed by Vince and Betty Vawter, Linda Vawter, and, of course, the children.

MEMORIAL SERVICE

These VVV members and friends were remembered:

1. Lamar Gamage "Bill" Vawter, 88, Houston, TX, d. 24 Sep 1996
2. Clarice Vawter Mayer, 81, Blue Springs, MS, d. 11 Sep 1996
3. Thelma Shattuck, 89, Nacogdoches, TX, d. 26 Sep 1996
4. John Carlson Jr., 71, Colbert, GA, d. 15 Sep 1996
5. Ethan James Reynolds, 25, Commiskey, IN, d. 3 Nov 1996
6. Robert H. Dart, 77, Glendale, CA, d. 25 Apr 1997
7. Retha Crook Vaughters, 79, Madison, GA d. 21 May 1997
8. Mamie L. Vaughter, 96, Toledo, OH, d. 26 Mar 1997
9. Edna Opal Reynolds, 84, Butlerville, IN, d. 12 Jun 1997
10. Marjorie Vawter Mellon, 76, Glendale, CA, d. 22 May 1997
11. Howard Edgar Dunn, 73, Sibley, IA, d. 26 Jul 1997
12. Irene Read Pavey, 89, Oklahoma City, OK, d. 24 Mar 1997
13. Dale Vawter, 84, Tipton, IN, d. 21 May 1997
14. Vilas Vincent Vawter Jr., 78, Memphis, TN, d. 6 Nov 1993 (1996 ?)
15. Charles T. Parker, 90, Oklahoma City, OK, d. 9 Jan 1997

THANK YOU

Those who have hosted or helped organize a VVV reunion know that it is time-consuming and takes much planning. However, the end result is always worth the effort. Many of us had been to the Gatlinburg and Pigeon Forge area several times, but had never visited Townsend. To Bill and Judy Blanks we say, "Thank you!"

VAUGHTER STREET IN AUSTIN, TEXAS



In an effort to prove a statement he made at the 1995 reunion in Virginia, Phil Vaughter stands in front of a street named for him in NW Austin. Phil comments: "Keep your nose clean, don't steal any horses, serve your community and church for 30 years and they will name a street for you."

1998 REUNION

October 1997 - Page 5

An invitation has been extended to the VVV Association to hold the 1998 reunion in Austin, Texas. Hosts will be Phil and Peggy Vaughter, assisted by Beth Melton and her daughter, Beverly Cowen. Watch for more information in future newsletters.

JOHNATHAN ANDREW WELCH

Alan and Kyong Welch of Kailua, Hawaii, are the parents of a son, Johnathan Andrew, who became a part of their family in August. Johnathan is eighteen months old, and traveled from Seoul, Korea, with his new parents to their home. On August 31, a belated traditional Korean first birthday party was held in his honor at Sorabol Restaurant in Honolulu.

Alan was discharged last March from the Marine Corps after twelve years of service.

Proud grandparents Joseph and Bonita Welch look forward to meeting Johnathan in January.

WAYNE AND CAROLE VAWTER

Wayne and Carole Vawter of Lake Mills, Wisconsin, celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary on 23 June 1997. They were married in Casper, Wyoming.

Dr. Vawter has been a pastor for over 25 years, serving churches in Minnesota, Illinois and Wisconsin. Since 1986, he has been pastor of Rock Lake Baptist Church in Lake Mills. In addition to his ministry, he is an EMT and serves as a volunteer with the Lake Mills Emergency Medical Service.

Mrs. Vawter teaches music education and private piano lessons at Maranatha Baptist Bible College in Watertown and is active in church and community groups.

They have five children. Their oldest son, David, lives in Lake Mills with his wife, Melissa. He is employed at WISCO Farm Cooperative and is a student at Maranatha College. Another son, Ben, is also a student at Maranatha. Paul, Andy, and Abigail live at home with their parents.

Wayne is the son of May Vawter of Normal, Illinois, and the late Glen Vawter.

SHIRLEY VAWTER BYLER

Shirley Vawter Byler of Sweeny, Texas, has been selected as a Life Service Award recipient for 1997 by Southwest Baptist University in Bolivar, Missouri. This is the highest alumni recognition bestowed by the University. She will be honored on Friday, October 24, 1997, during Homecoming weekend.

Shirley is married to the Rev. Roger Byler. They are the parents of VVV President Elizabeth Melton of Dallas, Texas; the Rev. David Byler of Paris, Tennessee; and Susan Byler, who died in 1946 at the age of three.

COLONEL VAWTER DAY

The 10th annual Colonel Vawter Day was held in September in Morgantown, Indiana. Activities and entertainment included game booths, an antique tractor exhibit, clowns doing face painting, cloggers and gospel singers throughout the day. A street dance was held in the evening.

This event is named in honor of John Vawter, an early settler of the town. John moved to that area from Vernon, Indiana, in November 1849. He was a son of Jesse and Elizabeth Watts Vawter.

IN REMEMBRANCE

Vilas Vincent Vawter Jr., 78, died 6 November 1993 (1996 ?)in Memphis, Tennessee. He was born 2 March 1918 in Carroll County, Tennessee, the son of Vilas Vincent and Caroline Jane Vawter. He had been a Certified Public Accountant in Memphis. His wife was the former Susan Ilene Woodward.

Surviving are a son, Vilas Vincent Vawter III of Evansville, Indiana; a brother, Billy Vawter of McKenzie, Tennessee; three sisters, Betty Harris of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, Caroline Scarlett of Murfreesboro, Tennessee, and Judy Blanks of Marysville, Tennessee; and two grandchildren, Lemuel Page Vawter and Julia Blythe Vawter, both of Evansville.

* * * * *

Dale Vawter, 84, of Russiaville, Indiana, died 21 May 1997 in Tipton, Indiana. He was born 1 April 1913 in Tipton County, Indiana, the son of William Joseph and Lula Haskell Vawter.

He was a retired farmer and had worked at Cabot-Haynes Corp. in Kokomo. He was a member of Eagles Lodge No. 255, Steelworkers Union No. 2958, and was a former member of Forest Volunteer Fire Department. In December 1933 he married Crystal Ratcliff; she preceded him in death 5 January 1937. He married Iona VanBriggle 24 August 1937 and she survives.

Also surviving are four sons, William Vawter of Tipton, Jerry Vawter of Windfall, Indiana, Chester Vawter of Brighthurst, Indiana, and Claude Vawter of Russiaville; two daughters, Beulah Chandler of Kokomo and Sue Orem of Forest; two brothers, Victor Vawter and Ralph Vawter, both of Sharpsville, Indiana; a sister, Violet Unger of Tipton; 15 grandchildren; 27 great-grandchildren.

Dale Vawter's father, William Joseph Vawter, was the son of Samuel and Katie Etherington Vawter. Samuel's parents were James Madison and Irena Vawter, who left North Carolina and moved to Switzerland County, Indiana, about 1838 and then on to Tipton County, Indiana, about 1848. James Madison Vawter was the son of Russell Vawter who left Virginia and went to Stokes County, North Carolina. Russell's father was Richard Vawter, the son of John Vawter. John was a son of Bartholomew Vawter.

Thanks to Georgene Jurgenson for identifying Dale Vawter for us. Ila Vawter also sent information on Dale's family.

IN REMEMBRANCE

Howard Edgar Dunn, 73, of Sibley, Iowa, died 26 July 1997. He was born 9 February 1924 in Logansport, Indiana, the son of George and Martha Waterstradt Dunn. An Army veteran of World War II, he was in the Battle of the Bulge. He was in law enforcement for eight years, being a deputy sheriff in Ocoola and Lyon Counties, Iowa, and also operated a lunch wagon for twenty years. He was an avid collector of clown posters and figurines, and model and miniature trains, and was a member of the United Methodist Church and the American Legion. On 22 October 1949, he married Phyllis Zahn. She survives.

Surviving with his wife are three daughters, Dee Klassen of Harris, Iowa, Roxie Reekers of Lake Park, Iowa, and Candy Robinson of Humboldt, Iowa; two brothers, George Dunn of Sioux Falls, South Dakota and Ralph Dunn of New Ulm, Minnesota; nine grandchildren; three foster grandchildren; and one great-grandson. Burial was at Union Cemetery in Harris, Iowa.

Howard's grandparents were John and Ada Ann Vawter Dunn of Tipton, Indiana. His Vawter descent was through the line of Bartholomew to John to Richard to Russell to Chadwell to George Taylor to George W. to Ada Vawter. He was the uncle of VVV Association member Georgene Jurgensen.

* * * * *

Irene Read Pavey, 89, of Oklahoma City died 24 March 1997 at Baptist Medical Center in Oklahoma City. She was born 31 July 1908 in Lindsey, Oklahoma, the daughter of John Robert and Elizabeth Vawter Read.

Survivors include a daughter, Deanie Strickland of Oklahoma City; four sisters, Velma Tidwell of Yukon, Oklahoma, Vera Rose of Oklahoma City, LaVerna Murray of Bethany, Oklahoma, and Lois Chapman of Anderson, California; a brother, Emery Read of Jacksonville, Florida; a grandson, Kenny Chuculate; and cousins, Fred Wicker of Pontotoc, Mississippi, and Ken Wicker of Tupelo, Mississippi, and Martha Hudson and Judy Crawford, both of Blue Springs, Mississippi.

Irene was a descendant of John Vawter IV, of Tishomingo County, Mississippi.

* * * * *

Charles T. Parker, 90, of Oklahoma city, died 9 January 1997. He was born 21 October 1906 in Union County, Mississippi, the son of Whitfield and Cordelia Vawter Parker. The family moved to Oklahoma when Charles was four years old.

Charles was a bus and taxi driver by profession. He taught himself to play the piano, and his hobby was church music. He wrote and published at least one song, "He Opened Mine Eyes." When attending VVV reunions, he always shared copies of his song.

Surviving are his wife, Joy; daughter, Caroline; brother, Ben Parker; and cousins including Fred and Ken Wicker, Martha Hudson and Judy Crawford.

He descends from John Vawter IV of Tishomingo County, Mississippi.

MEMBERS AND FRIENDS ATTENDING THE 1997 REUNION

CALIFORNIA

Garry Vawter
Marjorie and Glenn Vawter

DELAWARE

Matthew Hall
Donna and Robert L. Vawter
Mary and Robert L. Vawter II
Robert, Amanda, Jesse

FLORIDA

Ty Harris; Carrie and Jamie
Georgene and
Russell Jurgenson
Caroline and Ralph Vawter

GEORGIA

Betty and Charles Burt
Richard Green
Cheryl Kelley;
Tim and Kristy Glasgow
Flara Waters
Johnny Waters

ILLINOIS

Mark Beasley
Shirley Beasley
May Vawter

INDIANA

Charlotte and Milton Pickett
Betty and Vince Vawter; Lemuel
Lois and John Vawter
Bonita and Joe Welch

LOUISIANA

Melinda Vawter

MICHIGAN

Patricia Vawter Klein
Margaret Vawter
Ila and Robert Vawter

MISSISSIPPI

Judith Crawford
Jackie Hudson
Martha Hudson
Emery Mayer
Allyson and Lowell Vaughters;
Sims and Megan Meredith

Norma and Ken Wicker
Wordna and Fred Wicker

MISSOURI

Linda and Bruce Vawter; Jason

NEW YORK

Dorothy and Richard Vawter

OKLAHOMA

Virginia and Bill Vawter

SOUTH DAKOTA

Cathy and Trevor Jurgenson;
Amanda and Alicia

TENNESSEE

Judy and Bill Blanks
Eloise and Nolan E. Bradley
Mary K. and David Cockrill;
Dacey and Kathryn
Donna and Tom Harris;
Andrew and Amanda
Caroline and Stan Petree;
Andrew and Julia
Caroline Scarlett
Beth Smith; Becky
Suzanne and David Snow
Barbara Vawter;
Emily and Jake DeFur
Elizabeth and Gene Vaughter
Norma Jean Vawter

TEXAS

Marge Baskin
Joyce Carter
Eric and Stephanie Chaviers
Beverly Cowen
Beth Melton
Peggy and Phil Vaughter
Sue and John H. Vawter

VIRGINIA

Ellen and Ned Cummings;
Rebecca and Frederick

WISCONSIN

Judy and Jerry Aue; Sarah
Maxine and Evert Joling

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IF A RENEWAL FORM IS ENCLOSED, YOU NEED TO PAY DUES

SWITZERLAND COUNTY, INDIANA
CEMETERY INSCRIPTIONS

Riverview Cemetery - Posey Township

single stone:

Vauter, Dillie R. 1864 - 1946
William H. 1861 - 1943

Vauter, W.W. 18 Jun 1859 - 30 Mar 1944

single stone:

Vauter, William H. b. 24 Apr 1831 (no death date)
Margaret,
His wife 4 Aug 1832 - 26 Mar 1895

single stone:

Vauter, John 13 Apr 1829 - 3 Mar 1919
Sarah Garmore,
his wife 28 Jul 1828 - 8 Jun 1912

Mead Cemetery - Posey Township

single stone:

Vauter, Sile (no dates)
Hannah (no dates)

Quercus Grove cemetery - Posey Township
single stone:

Vauter, Charlotte E.
wife of Wm. 8 Jan 1863 - 9 Oct 1893

Humphrey,
son of W. & C.E. 13 Jan 1885 - 4 Jul 1888

Carver Cemetery - York Township

Vauter, Mary, wife of J. d. 26 Sep 1892, aged 28y 3m 18d

[These inscriptions were taken from *Switzerland County, Indiana, Cemetery Inscriptions 1817-1985*, published in 1986 by Wanda L. Morford of Cincinnati.

VAWTER-SUMMERFIELD CEMETERY
JENNINGS COUNTY, INDIANA
INSCRIPTIONS OF VAWTERS AND RELATED FAMILIES

Beeman, Alice J.	10 Sep 1914 - 4 Apr 1920
Beeman, Mary E.	18 Nov 1911 - 23 Apr 1913
Burns, Jesse V.	d. 12 Mar 1831 Son of M.M. & Maria Burns aged 9 mos 3 dys
Burns, Maria	16 Dec 1809 - 7 Dec 1846 In memory of Maria Burns, consort of M.M. Burns, who was born Dec 16, 1809, married Dec 16, 1828, and died Dec 7, 1846, aged 36 years, 11 months, & 21 days. She left a husband and 7 children, father and mother, 6 brothers and 3 sisters to mourn her loss. She was the daughter of Wm. and Frances Vawter. Meekly she bore in faith and hope, Her Heavenly fathers rod, And passed from trouble here below, To endless peace with God.
Carson, Lizzie	28 Dec 1898 - 6 Feb 1900
Carson, Martha J.	Daughter of E. & J. Carson 1 Mar 1837 - 26 Apr 1901
Clarkson, Elizabeth	30 Nov 1841 - 8 Jun 1884
Clarkson, Thomas	29 Sep 1832 - 6 May 1918
Feagler, Charles A.	24 Feb 1877 - 29 Apr 1926
Feagler, Ella R. Gardner	7 Aug 1860 - 20 Jan 1897
Feagler, Fred	(no birth date) 22 May 1904
Feagler, James W.	(no dates) Co K 54 IND INF
Feagler, Mary F.	24 Sep 1853 - 29 Mar 1879

Feagler, Mary L.	7 Dec 1825 - 01 Sep 1897
Feagler, Rev. Ormand	4 May 1819- 21 Aug 1876
Feagler, Ormand M.	7 Feb 1906 - 9 Feb 1906
Feagler, Vawter J.	22 Jul 1852 - 18 May 1906
Glover, Rev. David J.	(no birth date) 6 Feb 1863 aged 24 yrs 11 mos 24 dys
Grinstead, Anna H.	(no birth date) 18 Jul 1851 wife of L. P. Grinstead aged 32 yrs 5 mos 17 dys
Grinstead, Casper	(no dates) Co G 13th IND CAV
Grinstead, Clara B.	7 Oct 1869 - 30 Oct 1895 At Rest
Grinstead, Franklin P.	20 Sep 1853 - 24 Jan 1892
Grinstead, H.A.	(no dates) Co F 2 U.S. INF
Grinstead, John R.	24 Nov 1873 - 3 Aug 1908 A loved one from us has gone, A voice we loved is stilled. A place is vacant in our home, Which never can be filled.
Grinstead, Lewis P.	19 Aug 1812 - 3 Feb 1875
Grinstead, Lydia A. Beck	1857 - 1940
Grinstead, Mary A.	18 Jul 1846 (no death date) His wife [Wirt Grinstead] Asleep in Jesus
Grinstead, Nancy J.	1848 - 1928
[Grinstead], Rhoda A.	____?____ of Joseph Hunter ____?____ of L.P. Grinstead
Grinstead, Wm. J.	1876 - 1941
Grinstead, Wirt	28 Jul 1844 - 27 Feb 1877 Co B 6th IND INF
King, Absalom	1854 - 1951
King, Alzora	(no birth date) 9 Jan 1859 Daughter of G. & F. A. King, aged 15 dys
King, Ebert E.	1880 - 1905 Co G 2 U.S. INF
King, Eldo	4 Jul 1878- 5 Jul 1878
King, Ezra D.	29 Sep 1845 - 16 May 1852 Son of G. & F.A. King
King, Frances Vawter	7 Jun 1821 - 4 Nov 1909
King, Fred A.	26 Sep 1896 -30 Dec 1896
King, George	(no birth date) 3 Sep 1858, aged 44 yrs
King, Henry C.	1816 -- 15 Apr 1881 Martha, his wife
King, Margaret G.	1903 - 1904
King, Margaret J.	1853 - 1920

Vawter-Summerfield Cemetery (con't)

Lewis, Charles	(no birth date) 1 Jun 1853, 33 yrs
Lewis, Charles	1821 - 1865
Lewis, Charlotta	1822 - 1900 His wife [Charles Lewis]
Lewis, Henry S.	(no birth date) 17 Sep 1875 Son of S. & A. J. Lewis aged 14 yrs 1 mo 12 dys
Lewis, James	(no birth date) 16 Feb 1861 Son of S. & A. J. Lewis aged 11 yrs 8 mos 21 dys
Lewis, Smith	(no birth date) 5 Apr 1866 Son of S. & A. J. Lewis aged 11 yrs 8 mos 3 dys
Lewis, Stephen	(no birth date) 13 Jul 1861 aged 31 yrs 8 mos
Moncrief, Caleb S.	(no birth date) 17 Oct 1859 Son of M. & M.E. Moncrief aged 1 yr 6 mos 15 dys
Parks, Allen	(no death date) 14 Sep 1864 aged 67 yrs 11 mos 21 dys He left a wife and seven children and numerous relatives to mourn his loss
Parks, Allen S.	9 Nov 1837 (no death date)
Parks, Flora M.	25 Jul 1864 - 4 Oct 1871
Parks, Margaret	(no birth date) 12 Oct 1878 aged 82 yrs 8 dys She joined the Baptist Church in her 13th year. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course.
Parks, Mary J.	12 Jul 1839 - 12 Mar 1900 Wife of Allen S. Parks
Stott, Vawter	(no birth date) 12 Mar 1835 Son of J. & E. Stott, aged 2 yrs 10 mos 5 dys
Tiffany, Charles	25 Jul 1853 - 21 Jul 1917
Tiffany, Maria L.	31 Jan 1850 - 5 Apr 1920 Wife [of Charles]
Umensetter, Arletta	1 Apr 1847 - 31 Dec 1931 Wife of W.R. Umensetter
Umensetter, Charles	(no birth date) 21 Dec 1877 Son of W.R. & A. Umensetter aged 4 yrs 3 mos 2 dys
Umensetter, Clara	18 Aug 1870 - 26 Mar 1970
Umensetter, Edith	(no birth date) 10 Nov 1878 Daughter of W.R. & A. Umensetter, aged 28 dys
Umensetter, Rich D.	(no dates) Co 6 82nd IND INF
Umensetter, Wilson, R.	9 Jan 1841 - 13 Oct 1895

Vawter, Anna	(no birth date) 21 Jul 1845 Consort of Philemon Vawter In the 88th year of her age
Vawter, Frances	(no birth date) 26 Oct 1869 Wife of William Vawter aged 82 yrs 2 mos 15 dys
Vawter, Philemon	(no birth date) 15 Apr 1814 aged 52 yrs 6 mos 2 dys In early life he made a profession of the religion of Jesus Christ and adorned that profession during life. He left a widow 5 sons and 4 daughters with many other rela- tions and acquaintances to mourn his loss.
Vawter, Elder Wm.	(no birth date) 17 Jul 1868 aged 85 yrs 3 mos 15 dys
Wagner, Lewis	(no dates) 16 U.S. Inf War of 1812

This cemetery was read by Bonita Welch and her sons, Darren and Alan, in 1982. It has been printed in its entirety in *The Family of Albert and Josie Vawter*, by Shirley Vawter Byler, and by the Indiana Historical Society in *The Hoosier Genealogist* and *Indiana Source Book V*.

SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR NEWS FROM *Tipton Times*
FOR THE 160th & 161st REGIMENTS
Reprinted in *Indiana Genealogist*, December 1997, Vol. 8 Issue 4.

Private George Vawter

"George Vawter, 19, died at Camp Hamilton, Lexington, Kentucky, October 8, 1898 of typhoid fever after a brief illness. He was the son of Miles Vawter. Pure patriotism prompted him to enlist and he was among the first of the Tipton [Indiana] boys who signed the muster roll. His desire to serve his Country caused him to give his age as 21, when in fact he was nearly two years under the legal limit. He was a good soldier, a great favorite with the officers and men of the company, and his death was a heavy blow to his comrades. The body was brought back to his home here for interment and after appropriate services at the Christian church, of which the deceased was a member, was consigned to its last resting place in the Sandbank cemetery with military honors. On this day which means so much to the parents of the boys who return, let a tear fall in memory of this brave lad who went gayly away with them but came not back."

A roster of Company I gives the name as George P. Vawters; a list of those killed has George Vawter. See the April 1997 VVV newsletter for a query from Georgene Jurgenson regarding this elusive Vawter. Can anyone identify George's father Miles Vawter?

This obituary appeared in the *Banner Plain Dealer*, North Vernon, Indiana, 1 August 1894. It had been reprinted from the Santa Monica (California) *Outlook*.

Williamson Dunn Vawter

"Williamson Dunn Vawter died in Santa Monica last Tuesday afternoon after a painful illness of several weeks at the ripe old age of 79 years. He performed life's tasks faithfully and nobly, and when he could no longer bear the burden, he laid it down and peacefully and calmly entered upon his final rest.

"Mr. Vawter was born August 28th, 1815, in Jefferson county, Indiana, near the town of Madison. He moved at an early day to the town of Vernon, where he engaged most of the time in merchandising, for many years, and always held a prominent post in directing the local affairs in that part of the 'Hoosier' state. In 1835 he was married to Mary C. Crowder, who died in 1851. The following year he married Charlotte M. Knowlton, who has preceded him to the grave only a few months.

"Mr. Vawter came to California in 1875, and was accompanied, we believe, by an unknown family. His son Charles died here in Santa Monica, in 1879, and later on his daughter, Mrs. Harwood, died in Australia. After a brief stay in Pasadena he came to Santa Monica, being one of the first purchasers in the newly founded 'city by the sea,' which was then attracting special attention in every quarter of the country, as well as in other lands. His first venture was a general merchandising establishment, then he started a lumber yard; then a planing mill; then he assisted in organizing the First National Bank of Santa Monica, of which he was the first President. About the close of the dullest season that began to disappear in 1886, he secured a franchise and built a short section of street railway, and continued to operate it at a loss for some time. His faith in the future led him to extend this road, until it reached from the southern limits of the town to the Soldiers' Home, a distance of five miles, and he lived to see the line reach a paying basis, though it is not yet a 'bonanza.'"

Williamson Dunn Vawter was the son of William and Frances Vawter, and grandson of Jesse and Elizabeth Watts Vawter and Philemon and Anna Vawter. He died 10 July 1894.

QUERY

From: Georgene Jurgenson, 910 Palmer Lane, Palm Harbor FL 34685 e-mail: RVJ1207@msn.com

Found on the internet: Louise Vawter 1946, player for Sakatoon Grey Cab Ramblers. Does anyone know about this team and its location? Please send any information.

ALL IN THE FAMILY

"Republicans like to say their party is one big family, but Rep. Roger Wicker (R-Miss.) really means it. At a Mississippi GOP fund raiser where Sen. Fred Thompson (R-Tenn.) was a featured guest, Wicker revealed that he and the senator are cousins.

"The relationship is distant - they are fifth cousins once removed. Wicker's mother, Wordna, a genealogist, discovered the relationship.

"The Senator and representative share ancestors John and Rhoda Vawter.

"Is there a family resemblance? Both are Republicans in their second term in Congress, and both are attorneys.

"Acting runs in the family, too. Thompson has appeared in several films, including 'In the Line of Fire' and 'The Hunt for Red October.' Wicker made his stage debut in a Tupelo, Miss. production of 'Bye Bye Birdie,' and performed in this year's benefit production "State of the Union" at the Arena Stage.

"According to Wicker's office, Thompson noted that the relationship comes through a family named Allen. He noted, 'The Allens made a lot of whiskey, and the Thompsons drank most of it.'"

This article appeared in The Hill, a newspaper published each Wednesday by Capitol Hill Publishing Co. covering activities on Capitol Hill. It was sent by Wordna Wicker of Pontotoc, Mississippi, mother of Roger Wicker.

The relationship came to light by the publication of a history of the Allen family by Granville Allen, 201 N Pine St., Box 211, Florence A1 35630. Granville attended the two reunions in Mississippi and descends from John Vawter IV of Old Tishomingo, Miss. thru his daughter, Malinda, who married Robert Barnes Allen.

This book is available from Granville and is hardbound, has about 450 pages, with maps and pictures. The cost is \$50.00. This price may not include postage, so please contact him before ordering. His phone number is 205-766-8086.

CONGRATULATIONS

Eric and Alison Vawter Boissonnas are the parents of a son, Remi Thomas Boissonnas, born on 27 March 1997 in Bethesda, Maryland. Remi is the grandson of Alfred Thomas Vawter II of Union Springs, New York, and the late Catherine Bloom Vawter. Great-grandfather was Walter Bachman Vawter and great-great-grandfather was Alfred Thomas Vawter. Remi and his parents live in Ithaca, New York.

Mr. And Mrs. Lloyd Vaughters celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Sunday, 9 November 1997, at Bethel Baptist Church in Dawsonville, Georgia. They are the aunt and uncle of VVV treasurer, Charles Burt.

IN REMEMBRANCE

Harold Andrew Vawters, 80, of Columbus, Ohio, died 14 March 1997 at Grant Hospital in Columbus. He was born 18 June 1916 in Columbus the son of Andrew Franklin and Elizabeth Howard Vawters.

He retired in July 1981 after serving as a member of The Plumbers and Pipefitters Local #189 and had been employed by Honeywell, Inc. as a Field Service Engineer for 28 years. He had been a member of Hillcrest Baptist Church for many years.

Surviving are his wife of 52 years, Venie M. Davis Vawters; a son, Stephen Ray Vawters of Columbus; grandchildren, Ransford Andrew Vawters, U.S.C.G., and Maggie Marie Vawters at home; brothers, Howard S. Vawters and William F. Vawters; sisters, Irma J. Maddox of Vacaville, California, Wilma E. Yount of W Palm Beach, Florida, and Thelma Sue Ashton of McConnellsville, Ohio.

The funeral service was held at Hillcrest Baptist Church with burial at Wesley Chapel Cemetery in Columbus.

Harold was a member of the Association and had attended several reunions.

* * * * *

Calvin A. Krapf, 64, of Tamaqua, Pennsylvania, died 9 December 1997 at Lehigh Valley Hospital. He was born 18 June 1933 in Tamaqua, the son of Calvin A. and Lois Wonn Krapf.

He served with the Army in the Korean War, and was a head helicopter mechanic in the Vietnam War. Before retiring from the Army after 21 years of active duty and 7 years in the reserves, he was a computer technician. He was a life member of the Disabled American Veterans.

Surviving are his wife, Willora Glee VanOsdol Krapf; a son, Allen A. Krapf of Tamaqua; daughters, Stacey R. Krapf of Pen Argyl and Debra Cabe of Olympia, Washington; brothers, William Krapf of Reading, Pennsylvania, Phillip Krapf of Valencia, California, and Clifford Krapf of Mount Joy; a sister, Marian Haney of Modosto, California; and a grandchild, Holly Ann Krapf.

The funeral service was held on 13 December 1997 with burial at Odd Fellows Cemetery in Frackville, Pennsylvania.

Calvin attended several VVV reunions with his wife, Glee. He died from injuries suffered in a fall while putting up Christmas lights on December 7, 1997.

* * * * *

Eloise Gardiner Southward, 75, of Tishomingo, Mississippi, died 9 September 1997. She was a descendant of John Vawter IV through his daughter, Nancy, who married John Wesley McDougal.

She was a longtime employee of the Tishomingo County Welfare Office and later served as Tishomingo City Clerk. She was active in the Methodist Church, the Tishomingo County Historical Society and other community and civic organizations.

Surviving are her husband, Hal B. Southward Sr.; a son, Hal B. Southward Jr.; and a grandson, Blake Southward, all of Tishomingo.

Eloise had been a member of the VVV Association for many years and attended the two Mississippi reunions.

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Dues - \$7.00 per year
IF A RENEWAL FORM IS ENCLOSED, YOU NEED TO PAY DUES

1998 REUNION
30 JULY - 2 AUGUST, AUSTIN, TEXAS

The 1998 reunion of the VVV Family Association is to be held 30 July - 2 August at the Radisson Hotel on Town Lake in Austin, Texas. Rooms are \$85.00, and reservations can be made by calling 512-478-9611. Be sure to mention the association when calling, as a block of rooms have been reserved. The Friday night meal will be at the hotel with a cost of about \$25.00. Saturday we travel to a different location for a Texas B-B-Q at a cost of about \$10.00.

Early registration begins on Thursday afternoon and continues through the evening. This is always a time for visiting and renewing friendships. The "official" opening of the reunion is Friday morning with the traditional "ringing of the cowbell."

Once again, we are to be entertained by the Vawter Family Singers under the direction of Ellen Cummings. This group began several years ago as the VVV Childrens Chorus. As the children grew, the name was changed and anyone, regardless of age, is invited to participate.

The always popular door prizes have increased in quantity so much that we are suggesting each family provide only one door prize. This will allow more time for other events.

If more information is needed, please contact Phil Vaughter. His address and phone number are given with the list of officers.

ALLEGANY VAWTER
contributed by Wordna Wicker

Allegany Vawter, born 14 December 1807, probably in Elbert Co., Georgia, was the only son of John Vawter and his first wife, Rhoda McGuire. Rhoda's father was Allegany McGuire, a Georgia Revolutionary soldier, for whom her son was named. Rhoda died 28 August 1824 and Allegany's father, John, married second Elizabeth (maiden name not known), and by the two wives, fathered at least ten daughters.

Leaving Georgia around 1810, Allegany's father moved to middle Tennessee in the company of Richard Vawter, his brother, and Allegany McGuire, his father-in-law. Census, tax and court records show the three families to have been in Williamson, Maury and Lawrence Cos., Tennessee. However, family tradition holds that they never changed locations once they reached Tennessee, but that Maury Co. was formed out of Williamson Co, and Lawrence Co. out of Maury Co.

Following the death of Richard Vawter in 1827, the restless spirit in John Vawter led him to Lauderdale Co., Alabama, with Allegany, a single man in his twenties, still in the household. The records of Lauderdale Co. show that Allegany married Mary Robinson on 1 June 1830. The Robinson family had been in Lawrence Co., Tennessee, at the time the Vawters were, and had moved to Lauderdale Co. about the same time. In fact, two brothers of Mary Robinson, James and Joseph, had married sisters of Allegany, Mourning and Cynthia, while in Lawrence Co. This occurrence was not uncommon in large families in that time period. Joseph and Cynthia Vawter Robinson later followed the families of John and Allegany Vawter to Tishomingo Co., Mississippi, around 1838. James and Mourning Vawter Robinson remained in Lauderdale Co.

A brief departure from the story. The names Robinson and Robertson were used interchangeably by the family in Tennessee and Alabama, and for a brief time in Mississippi until the family settled on Robinson. The name Vawter was spelled Vaughter, Vauter, Vorter, Vatter and Votter, with and without an "s". The two principal spellings now being Vawter and Vaughter. In earlier days when schools were scarce and many people could neither read nor write, the exact spelling of a name was not important, but merely the sound of it. This was long before the days of driver's licenses, Social Security and Medicare.

Back to the story. The records of Tishomingo Co. show that Allegany Vawter was a land dealer, buying and selling lots in the town of Jacinto, as well as tracts of farm land. By legend he lived and farmed in the Sand Hill area north of Jacinto for a number of years. His wife, Mary died 3 July 1854, and soon thereafter so did two young daughters. For whatever reason, Allegany began to sell his land in the Jacinto area and to purchase land in the southern part of the county in the area that would later become Paden. He and his nephew, William A. Robinson purchased land jointly from Alexander Paden located in Sec. 9 and 16, Twp. 5, R. 10E and served by a flowing stream. Allegany

constructed a mill on the stream, a small community sprang up, and a post office was authorized which bore the name "Vawter's Mill." The area prospered and the Robinsons and Padens also set up mills. The stream still bears the name "Mill Branch" on county maps.

The Civil War came on and eventually Union troops were encamped in the area. Apparently in retaliation for a raid on their camp, Union soldiers burned Vawter's, Robinson's and Paden's mills, along with ten homes in the area. The community was never rebuilt and the area thereafter was referred to as "Burnt Mills." During Reconstruction, the railroad came through approximately one mile west of Burnt Mills, and the settlement of Paden was established. The Vawters thereby lost their chance at a lasting landmark in Tishomingo County.

Following the Civil War, with his home and mill destroyed by fire; most of his land sold for its taxes; his wife, and by now six of his children dead, Allegany left Tishomingo Co. and went to live with his two remaining sons, James Newton and William Jasper, in Tippah Co., Mississippi. He sold his last parcel of land, the SW 1/4 of Sec. 33, Twp. 4, R. 10, on 17 February 1868, signing the deed in Tippah Co. Allegany has not been located in the 1870 census, probably because he was living with relatives from place to place. According to the family Bible, he died 4 July 1876 and is buried in an unmarked grave, probably in Tippah Co.

The children of Allegany and Mary Robinson Vawter were:

1. Martha Jane, b. 15 September 1831 in Lauderdale Co., Alabama; d. 14 May 1833 in Lauderdale Co.
2. Matilda, b. 23 August 1833 in Lauderdale Co.; married 27 November 1856 in Tishomingo Co., Mississippi, to Richard P. Vanderford; one known child, Sallie, b. 1870.
3. Sarah (Sallie) Ann, b. 19 September 1836 in Lauderdale Co.; married 16 December 1856 in Tishomingo Co. to W.C. Swindle. Their children were John, Ganey, Mary, Tula and Tishie. By tradition, the family moved to Hill Co., Texas.
4. John Robinson, b. 31 July 1838 in Lauderdale Co.; died 9 March 1861 in Tishomingo Co.; never married; cause of death unknown.
5. Mary A., b. February 1841 in Tishomingo Co.; d. between 1850-1860.
6. James Newton, b. March 1842 in Tishomingo Co.; served in Co. 1, 32nd Mississippi Infantry, C.S.A., enlisted 13 September 1861, married first Mary Rogers, ca. 1867, Tippah Co., Mississippi; children Rosa, b. 22 December 1868 and Porter, b. 2 June 1876; married second Melissa Sanford, sister of Rebecca Sanford, wife of William Jasper Vawter; children Homer, b. 1882 in Oklahoma Territory, Thomas Ganey, b. 1884 in Oklahoma Territory, and Ruby, b. 1892 in Arkansas Co., Arkansas. Thomas Ganey has present day descendants in the vicinity of Hot Springs, Arkansas.

7. Mary Elizabeth, b. 19 July 1843 in Tishomingo CO.; d. 18 December 1865 in Tishomingo Co.

8. Nancy Catherine, b. 27 September 1845 in Tishomingo Co.; married 17 January 1866 in Tishomingo Co. to Ephreom Johnson; d. 16 November 1867 in Tishomingo Co.; one child, James David Johnson, b. 18 October 1866.

9. Cynthia Caroline, b. 11 May 1847 in Tishomingo Co.; d. 4 January 1857 in Tishomingo Co.

10. William Jasper, b. 18 November 1849 in Tishomingo Co.; married 3 December 1868 in Tippah Co. to Rebecca Jane Sanford; d. 15 June 1902 in Union Co., Mississippi; buried in Pleasant Hill Cemetery, east of New Albany, Mississippi.

The history of the Vawter family, as such, in Tishomingo Co. is a microcosm of the pattern of the westward movement in this country. As families went westward, moves were usually made in stages, with stops periodically to allow family stabilization; perhaps allow ailing members to die peacefully; to allow for the birth of children; and to accumulate funds for the next stage of the journey. The latter did not occur in this case.

John Vawter made his first purchase of land, lot #20 in the town of Jacinto, on 3 December 1838. Additional purchases continued at a steady rate. The sale of the last tract of land by Allegany Vawter occurred 30 years later on 17 February 1868 - the span of a generation. The family arrived from Lauderdale Co., Alabama, with money in hand. The surviving male members left 30 years later homeless and penniless.

The move from Tishomingo Co. to Tippah Co. was only a move into the next county, since the two counties joined at that time, but it was a move westward.

Female members of the family remained behind bearing the names of the husbands they had married. Their personal records, plus the official records of Tishomingo Co. give silent testimony to the Vawter family who spent a generation helping to forge a wilderness area into a civilized county.

GENE EVANS

Information on Gene Evans was sent by his sister-in-law, Joyse Ann Evans, of Colton, California. Gene's mother, Lois Mildred Williams Evans, was born in Jennings County, Indiana, the daughter of Smith V. and Frances A. Holsclaw Williams. Frances Holsclaw Williams was the daughter of William T. and Almira King Holsclaw, granddaughter of George and Frances Vawter King, and great-granddaughter of William and Frances Vawter, all residents of Jennings County, Indiana.

Information sent for the newsletter is very much appreciated!

GENE EVANS: ACTOR KNOWN FOR 'TOUGH GUY' ROLES
The Los Angeles Times - 3 April 1998

Gene Evans, character actor best known for his roles as director Samuel Fuller's quintessential tough guy, beginning in "The Steel Helmet," has died. He was 75.

Evans, most commonly cast as a soldier, lawman or heavy in his more than 30 war, western and other films, died Wednesday in Jackson, Tenn., where he had retired to farm.

A World War II sergeant, the burly red-bearded Evans met the director, who had been a decorated corporal in the war, at the casting call for "Helmet."

"He throws me a rifle and says, 'Rack it back!'" Evans recalled for *The Times* in 1951 after the Korean War film became the sleeper hit of the year. "This is a Garand, an M--1, and tricky to breach. But I do it. I guess he decided then and there that I was his Sgt. Zack."

Fuller gave the title helmet, which Evans wore in the film, to the actor as a Christmas present. Evans returned it decades later at a Fuller film retrospective at USC.

Evans made four more films for Fuller - "Fixed Bayonets" in 1951, "Park Row" in 1952, "Hell and High Water" in 1954 and "Shock Corridor" in 1963.

The actor became a "Fuller favorite," *Times* film writer Kevin Thomas wrote last year, because he depicted "a solid, ultra-masculine guy, tough but reflective."

Evans was also memorable as a key character, Molunphrey, in the 1959 comedy "Operation Petticoat," starring Cary Grant and Tony Curtis. Other films included "The War Wagon," "Support Your Local Sheriff" and "Pat Garrett and Billy the Kid."

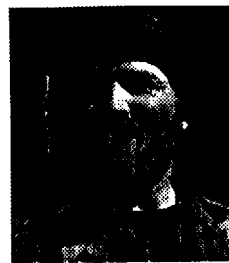
On television, the stolid Evans acted frequently in movies and miniseries and had major roles in a few series. He was the Montana rancher Rob McLaughlin, who owned the title horse Flicka, in "My Friend Flicka" in 1956-58 and Sgt. Hanrahan to Anthony Franciosa's detective in "Matt Helm" in 1975-76. Evans also played charter airline owner Spencer Parish in the short-lived 1976 series "Spencer's Pilots."

Born Eugene Barton Evans in Holbrook, Ariz., Evans grew up in Colton, Calif., where his parents ran a small grocery store. He began acting at the Pasadena Playhouse, where he worked painting scenery, and the Penthouse Theater in Altadena, where he started as a stagehand.

Evans also worked as a midget-auto racer, carpenter, dishwasher and bouncer and lived in the women's restroom of a used car lot where he washed cars in the lean days when he tried to break into acting. He made his film debut in 1947 in "Under Colorado Skies."

Evans is survived by a daughter, Alison Price, of Jackson; a brother, Bud Evans, of Colton; and three nieces.

The family has asked that memorial donations be sent to the Gene Evans Memorial Fund, Jackson Theater Guild, 206 E Main St., Jackson, Tenn. 38301



GENE EVANS

MOTION PICTURE ACTOR

Under Colorado Skies 1947 Berlin Express 1948 Larceny, Inc. 1948 Assigned to Danger 1948 Mother Was a Freshman 1948 Criss Cross 1949 It Happens Every Spring 1949 Wyoming Mail 1950 Armored Car Robbery 1950 The Big Carnival 1950 Dallas 1950 Never a Dull Moment 1950 The Asphalt Jungle 1950 Storm Warning 1950 The Steel Helmet 1951 Sugarfoot 1951 Force of Arms 1951 I Was an American Spy 1951 Fixed Bayonets 1951 Mutiny 1952 Park Row 1952 Thunderbirds 1952 The Golden Blade 1953 Donovan's Brain 1953 Hell and High Water 1954 The Long Wait 1954 Cattle Queen of Montana 1954 Crashout 1955 Wyoming Renegades 1955 Jet Pilot 1957 The Sad Sack 1957 The Helen Morgan Story 1957 Damn Citizen! 1958 Money, Women and Guns 1958 The Bravados 1958 Revolt in the Big House 1958 Young and Wild 1958 The Giant Behemoth 1958 Operation Petticoat 1959 The Hangman 1959 Gold of the Seven Saint 1961 Shock Corridor 1963 Nevada Smith 1966 Waco 1966 Apache Uprising 1966 The War Wagon 1967 Support Your Local Sheriff 1969 Dragnet TVM 1960 The Ballad of Cable Hogue 1970 There Was a Crooked Man 1970 Support Your Local Gunfighter 1971 Camper John 1972 Walking Tall 1973 Pat Garrett and Billy the Kid 1973 A Knife for the Ladies 1973 Peopletops 1974

TELEVISION MOVIES

The Intruders 1970 The Bounty Man 1972 Shootout in a One-Dog Town 1974 Sidekicks 1974 The Last Day 1975 Matt Helm 1975 Sourdough 1976 The Macahans 1976 The Rhinemann Exchange 1977 Fire! 1977 The Magic of Lassie 1978 Kate Bliss and the Ticker Tape Kid 1978 The Sacketts 1978 The Last Ride of the Dalton Gang 1979 Wild Times 1980 Casino 1980 California Gold Rush 1981 The Shadow Riders 1982 Travis McGee 1982 The Alamo: 13 Days to Glory 1987 Once Upon a Texas Train 1988

TELEVISION SERIES

My Friend Flicka 1955-56 Matt Helm 1975-76 Spencer's Pilots 1976

TELEVISION

The Lone Ranger: "Devil's Pass" 1950 "The Star Witness" 1950 "Behind the Law" 1951. Science Fiction Theatre: "Stranger the Desert" 1955. The Restless Gun: "The Coward" 1958. Wagon Train: "The Sarah Drummond Story" 1958, "The Duncan McIvor Story" 1964 Yancy Derringer: "The Saga of Lonesome Jackson" 1958. Rawhide: "Incident at the Buffalo Smokehouse" 1959, "Incident on the Road Back" 1961, "Incident of the Prodigal Son" 1962, "Incident at El Crucero" 1963, "Incident at Gila Flats" 1964, "Moment in the Sun" 1965. Bonanza: The Fear Merchants" 1960, "Journey Remembered" 1963, "The Trouble with Trouble" 1970. Wichita Town: "The Frontiersman" 1960. Riverboat: "The Quota" 1960. The Outlaws: "The Quiet Killer" 1960. Route 66: "A Skill for Hunting" 1961, "Blue Murder" 1961, "The Savage Season" 1965. Gunslinger: "The Recruit" 1961. The Virginian: "The Accomplice" 1962, "Trail to Ashley Mountain" 1966. Alfred Hitchcock Presents: "The Kerry Blue" 1962. Alfred Hitchcock Hour: "A Piece of the Action" 1962. G.E. Theater: "The Moonshiners" 1963. Gunsmoke: "Extradition" 1963, "A Hat" 1967, "The First People" 1961, "Snow Train" 1970, "Phoenix" 1971. "Tatum" 1972, "The Iron Blood of Courage" 1974, "Thirty a Month a Found" 1974. Temple Houston: "Find Angel Chavez" 1963. Death Valley Days: "Sixty-Seven Miles of Gold" 1965. Daniel Boone: "The First Stone" 1965, "The Man" 1969. Branded: "The Bounty" 1965. Iron Horse: "Pride at the Bottom of the Barrel" 1966. Tarzan: "A Pride of Assassins" 1967. Ironside: "The Message from Beyond" 1967, "If I Should Die Before I Wake" 1968. Name of the Game: "The Inquiry" 1969, "Man of the People" 1970. Here Come the Brides: "Two Worlds" 1970: The Men from Shiloh: "With Love, Bullets and Valentines" 1970. Then Came Bronson: "The Mary R" 1970. Mannix: Murder Times Thru" 1971. Nichols: "Deer Crossing" 1971. Alias Smith and Jones: "The Man Who Corrupted Hadleyburg" 1972. The Sixth Sense: "If I Should Die Before I Wake" 1972. Dirty Sally: "The Old Soldier" 1974. The Hardy Boys Mysteries: "Oh Say Can You Sing" 1978. The Incredible Hulk: "Rainbow's End" 1978. Fantasy Island: Magnolia Blossoms" 1979. Here's Boomer: "The Stableboy" 1980. M*A*S*H*: "Blood and Guts" 1982. Simon & Simon: "For the People" 1986, "Treasure" 1987. Black's Magic: "Vanishing Act" 1986. Scarecrow and Mrs. King: "Mission of Gold" 1987.

CONGRATULATIONS

We congratulate Fred and Wordna Wicker on the occasion of their 50th Wedding Anniversary. The couple will be honored at an open house hosted by their children on 28 June 1998 from 2:00-5:00 p.m. at the Pontotoc Country Club in Pontotoc, Mississippi. Everyone is invited to attend and help them celebrate this special time in their lives.

Since she developed into Ohio's best high school shot and discus thrower over the last two years, many of the country's top colleges were eager to recruit Krista Keir of Westerville, Ohio. After examining opportunities at UCLA, Southern Methodist, Tennessee and North Carolina, Krista signed a letter of intent with Indiana University,

Krista finished second in the discus at the junior Pan-American games held July 18 in Havana, Cuba. She won the shot and discus championships at the National Scholastic Outdoor Meet on June 13-14 in Raleigh, North Carolina.

Among her goals are to be a conference champion and an All-American in addition to competing in the Junior World Games in France. She also has international aspirations and plans to work hard to become an Olympian in 2000 or 2004.

Krista is the granddaughter of the late Willard and Lucille Keir, and attended reunions with her grandmother.

IN REMEMBRANCE

Dorothy Isabella Matson Vawter, 98, of Nashville, Tennessee, formerly of Indianapolis, died 8 December 1997. She was born 24 September 1899 in Bedford Indiana, the daughter of George Washington and Carrie Emma Pugh Matson. On 25 July 1921, she married Charles Desmond Vawter, who preceded her in death.

She was a lifelong gardener and longtime member of the Garden Clubs of Indiana, serving two terms as president. She had also served on the National Wildflower Committee. Besides garden club activities, she was a member and officer in many community organizations. She was a member of Irvington United Methodist Church in Indianapolis.

She is survived by a daughter, Juanita Marian Allen; a sister, Catherine Emma Conner; three grandchildren; six great-grandchildren. A son, Robert Charles Vawter, preceded her in death. Burial was at Washington Park East Cemetery in Indianapolis.

Dorothy's husband, Charles Desmond Vawter, was the son of Frederick Allen and Stella Critchlow Vawter; grandson of Charles Minton and Carrie Timmons Vawter; and great-grandson of Marion and Rebecca Mahafy Vawter.

An interesting sketch of Charles Minton Vawter's life, taken from a letter written by him, can be found on pages 68-69 of *The Vawter Family in America* by Grace Bicknell.

IN REMEMBRANCE

Helen Vawter Agnew died 15 March 1998 at her home in Monroe Louisiana, after a lengthy illness. She was born in Tipton, Oklahoma, the daughter of Edgar Souther and Gertrude Alexander Vawter, and moved to Monroe with her family at an early age.

She was a graduate of Ouachita Parish High School and attended Missouri Valley College. An accomplished musician, she played the violin with the Shreveport Symphony Orchestra, and helped to organize the early Monroe Orchestra. She was a member of Grace Episcopal Church and sang in the choir for over 50 years. She was also active with the Episcopal Church Women and served as Diocesan treasurer and president. After World War II she helped organize the 5th District Civil Defense Agency. She was a co-founder of the Agnew Neon Sign Service and was active in its operation until her retirement.

Surviving are a stepson, Thomas C. Agnew; step-granddaughter, Anna Louise Agnew; and step-great-grandson, David L. Agnew III, all of Dallas, Texas; sisters, Emolove V. Cooper, of Dallas, and Aureline V. Slade of Monroe; a niece, Ann Norvell of Dallas; a nephew, William Hite of Baton Rouge; three great-nephews, Jay Reichman of Austin, Texas, Eric Reichman of Dallas, and Dustin Hire of Baton Rouge; a great-niece, Kelly Raj of Brisbane, Australia. She was preceded in death by her husband, David L. Agnew, and a stepson, David L. Agnew Jr.

Helen was a longtime member of the VVV Family Association, as is her sister, Aureline Slade.

* * * * *

James Thomas Vawter, 75, of Muncie, Indiana, died 30 March 1998. Burial was in Anderson Cemetery in Indianapolis.

He was a retired newspaperman, and worked in the retail advertising department of Muncie Newspapers, Inc. for 33 years, retiring in 1988. Previously, he was a photographer for Evansville, Indiana, newspapers; editor of the Petersburg Press; wire editor for Henderson, Kentucky, newspapers; editor and salesman for the *Garrett Clipper*; and publisher of three weekly newspapers in Huntingburg, Indiana. He had received many advertising awards.

A graduate of Butler University in Indianapolis, he was a member of Sigma Delta Chi, Junior Class Sphinx and the Butler University Alumni Association. He was an Army veteran of World War II, and a member of Veterans of Foreign Wars, Disabled American Veterans, AmVets and the American Legion Petersburg Post, where he was a past commander.

He was also a member of Friends Memorial Church, Masonic Lodge, Kiwanis Club, Lions Club and Toastmasters, all in Muncie. He had served on fair boards for Pike and Dubois Counties and was active in Boy Scouts of America.

Surviving are his wife, Jane Dolores Schmidt Vawter; a daughter, Jan Cronin; a brother, John E. Vauter; and two grandchildren.

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AUSTIN, TEXAS
30 JULY - 2 AUGUST 1998

If you have not yet made a reservation for the 1998 VVV Association reunion in Austin, Texas, it may not be too late. Call the Radisson Hotel on Town Lake at 512-478-9611 and check on the availability of rooms.

Early registration begins on Thursday evening, July 30. The opening session is Friday morning, followed by a genealogy discussion on Friday afternoon. That evening we have a buffet dinner at the hotel and the distribution of door prizes.

Saturday will be a day to spend visiting some of the attractions of Austin or to just simply relax. Saturday night we go to a traditional Texas B-B-Q, entertainment by the Vawter Family Singers, and the memorial service.

Those who can stay on Sunday morning are invited to worship at Riverbend Baptist Church where a section has been reserved.

A few reminders: Please limit the door prizes brought to one per household. This will allow more time for visiting with the friends we see only once each year. If you are interested in being a part of the Vawter Family Singers, be sure to tell Ellen Cummings, who is the director of the group. Anyone, regardless of age or ability can participate. Obituaries for family members that have not appeared in the newsletter should be given to Wordna Wicker for the memorial service.

MARY OLYMPIA RAVENEL VAWTER
Contributed by Willard C. "Bill" Grant
Great-grandson of William H. and Mary O. Ravenel Vawter

Mary Olympia Ravenel Vawter was born 1 April 1825 in New Orleans, Louisiana, to Benoit Ravenel of Paris, France, and Annette Manenti of Marseilles, France. She was baptized in St. Louis Catholic Cathedral on Jackson Square in New Orleans, the same place where her parents were married. Mary and William H. Vawter of Bedford, Kentucky, were married in Carrollton, Kentucky 25 November 1845.

Although it is not definite why Mary moved to Bedford, it is thought by some of the family that Mary's mother and the other children would come up to Bedford to escape the hot, humid, disease ridden summers in New Orleans. Jessie Vawter Hughes, Mary's youngest child, says that her father would meet the boats coming up the river. He would then take the passengers in his horse and wagon to the hotels in Bedford Springs. She said this is where her parents met.

Mary was baptized a Roman Catholic; she raised all of her children as ardent Methodists, especially Absalom, Carrie and Jessie. Why did she become a Methodist? Once again there are two stories. One says that she had a summer job keeping house for an Episcopalian couple in Bedford and that eventually she became a Protestant. This story is attributed to her daughter Jessie. Her daughter Carrie says that she was converted at a Methodist camp meeting. The Vawters had been Baptists, so it is doubtful that her marriage to William made her a Methodist. It is also doubtful whether she was thoroughly converted. Her great-granddaughter, Catherine O'Conner, says that she would sneak off to Mass when her son Absalom was not around.

During the Civil War, Mary suffered a great deal. She and William chose to side with the South, probably because of her loyalties. She was from the Deep South and would have been more loyal to the South's cause than would William. It was necessary to bury all their food and valuables so that the Union soldiers would not steal them. Her oldest daughter, Mary Ellen, was sent farther South to a Private school to protect her from the Union soldiers who off and on occupied Bedford. Her husband and son once sneaked home during the occupation of the Union troops. A neighbor with Northern sympathies reported them to the Union authorities who came looking for them. Mary was warned by another neighbor and hid her menfolk under a feather mattress upon which she put her two daughters. The soldiers began to search the house. When the searchers got to the bedroom where the two younger girls were "sleeping," Mary said, "You're welcome to go in there, but I must warn you that the girls have mumps." The soldiers declined Mary's invitation to search the bedroom. Once the Union soldiers found her crippled son, Henry, hiding under the bed. They pulled him out ready to shoot him when they realized that he was handicapped.

After her husband's death, Mary and her son, Henry, ran the store that the family had established in Chicago. Their store was

right at the stairway going up to the "el" station. It was a good location and they did well. They lived in an apartment behind the store. Later, Mary lived with her daughter, Carrie Jemison. She loved her grandchildren and often would do their chores while they were in school. She died 28 February 1907.

Mary's granddaughter, Jessie Jemison Grant, said that every evening before Grandma Vawter went to bed, she would sit in a chair beside the bed and smoke her clay pipe. When the children had an earache, she would blow smoke into their ears. They would often ask her to sing songs to them in French. These were no doubt songs she had heard and learned in her childhood in New Orleans.

Mary's granddaughter, Jessie Jemison, says that it was her job to clean the lamp chimneys and that her father would get quite angry with her if he had to read from a lamp that had a dirty chimney. Sometimes when Jessie would forget, Grandma would do them for her so that she wouldn't get into trouble.

Daughter Carrie said that her mother was a quiet person, very alert and kind, and in her later years content to sit and read, smoke her clay pipe and talk to her grandchildren.

On 28 February 1907, Mary O. Vawter passed away. She was 82 years old. She and her late husband, William, are buried in the cemetery in Bedford, Kentucky, where perhaps they had gathered their most precious memories.

According to the "Undertakers Report of Death," as recorded with the Bureau of Vital Statistics, Department of Health, City of Chicago, we have the following information: Mary O. Vawter died at 9:10 p.m. on 28 February 1907 and was buried at 4:30 p.m. on March 2. She died of gastric and intestinal indigestion, bronchitis and pneumonia. She had been suffering these ailments for five or six months. The following is a tribute to her at the time of her death. It was written by her daughter, Mary Ellen.

"At the home of her only living son, A.G. Vawter, 2464 Superior Street, Chicago, Illinois, February 28, 1907, Mary O. Vawter, in the 82nd year of her life. Mrs. Vawter lived for 36 years in Bedford, Kentucky, and reared to manhood and womanhood her seven children, as the youngest was 13 years old when they removed to Chicago. Mrs. Vawter's strongest characteristic was her love for and her pride in her children and grandchildren, two sons-in-law and her only daughter-in-law, who stood by her bed when the summons came. Silently, sweetly, as fades the light away, her life went out, leaving her dear ones here, to go to those who had passed on before. Mrs. Vawter was a kind neighbor, and loyal true friend. Born in New Orleans, all the attributes of the Southern character were hers. She was the last of the Ravenel family, as her only brother and three sisters had all gone on before. Rev. N.A. Sunderline preached her funeral at the home of her son. A large concourse of friends gathered to pay the last rites of respect to "Grandma." Her remains were taken by her son, A.G. Vawter, and her two daughters, Carrie Jemison and Jessie Hughes, to her old home where beside her husband she will wait the resurrection morn."

QUERIES

From: Susan A. Henderson sahenders@aol.com

In a list of soldiers who fought in the Black Hawk War from Sangemon County, Illinois, Susan saw a Vauter Henderson listed. Several of the soldiers in his unit trace back to central Kentucky where her Hendersons lived. She is searching for the children of James Henderson, ca 1755 Scotland - ca 1850 Green County, Kentucky, and his wife Elizabeth, ca 1757 Virginia - ca 1850/1860 Green County, Kentucky. Is Vauter Henderson their son, and was Elizabeth's maiden surname Vawter/Vauter?

From: David McCann, 8624 Westridge, Raytown, MO 64138--2620

David is seeking information on Allen V. Vawter who married Betty A. Sinclair on 26 December 1874. They had at least five children: (1) Joseph, d. 19 June 1876, age 8 mos 17 days; (2) Allene, married 7 July 1914 to Gary York Vandever; (3) Josephine, married Olie Lamont Settle; (4) Margaret E., b. 24 September 1880, Columbia, Missouri, d. 8 April 1966, Tulsa, Oklahoma, married Albert T. Kunz; 5) Walter. Allen V. Vawter died 9 May 1888 and is buried in Bonne Femme Cemetery in Columbia, Missouri.

From: Dowell Sterrett, P.O. Box 427, Jefferson, TX 75657

Dowell is the son of M.D. Sterrett. Sr. (1904-1987), whose father was Robert A. Sterrett (1876-1908.) Robert was the son of Major Dowell Sterrett (1840--1919) and Sarah Julia Vawter (1850-1934.) He is looking for any information on the family. [This Vawter family is on pages 362--365 of "The Vawter Family in America."]

From: George A. Swan, 1045 Edith Road, Pasco, WA 99301

George is just beginning to search his Vawter roots, and was put in contact with the VVV Association by a cousin.

George's grandmother was Harriet "Hattie" Elizabeth Vawter, who was born 26/27 November 1892 (place unknown) and died near Wellington, Kansas in August 1921. She married George Milo Anthony in Wellington or Sumner County. She was the daughter of Samuel Michael Vawter and Margaret Ellen Laveta Augretta White, and had a sister, Fern, and a brother, John. Samuel Vawter had a brother, Henry, and two sisters, Sarah and Lina. Samuel's father's name is unknown; his mother's maiden name was Gentry.

Several people have had queries printed in the newsletter. If you have received answers, please share your information with us.

ERIC JASON TAYLOR AND JENNIFER LYNNE SJOQUIST

Eric Jason Taylor, son of Thomas C. and Diana Taylor of Aleppo, Syria, and Jennifer Lynne Sjoquist, daughter of David and Virginia Sjoquist of Atlanta, Georgia, were married 27 December 1997 at Wesley United Methodist Church in Lexington, Kentucky.

Eric is a graduate of Earlham College in Richmond, Indiana, and was formerly employed with J. Peterman Company in Lexington. He is now manager of implementation of the Consumer Financial Network in Atlanta. Jennifer is also a graduate of Earlham College and is now attending Georgia State University. They live in Atlanta.

Eric, the nephew of VVV news editor Bonita Welch, is a descendant of Jennings County, Indiana, pioneers William and Frances Vawter.

WALLACE READ VAWTER, JR. AND CHARLOTTE WHEELWRIGHT MOORE

Wallace Read Vawter, Jr. married Charlotte Wheelwright Moore on 17 August 1997, and they reside in Ajijic, Jalisco, Mexico. Charlotte has three adult sons, Raymond, Ronald and Robert. "Read" is the son of the late Wallace Read and Helen Cripe Vawter. Wallace's father, Everett Bates Vawter, was the son of Philemon Vawter and grandson of William and Frances Vawter.

EMILIE NICOLE VAWTER

Emilie Nicole Vawter was born 4 May 1998 in Clear Lake, Texas. She is the daughter of Eric Nell and Kelli Rochelle Mills Vawter of League City, Texas. Emilie's Vawter lineage is: Grandparents: Jesse Lewis Vawter b. 31 May 1941 and Lanell Marie Peterson Vawter b. 31 Dec 1941.
Gr-grandparents: Archie Strode Vawter b. 12 Mar 1916 d. 25 Dec 1997, and Fannie Lois Botard Vawter b. 15 Oct 1921 d. 28 Dec 1990.
Gr-gr-grandparents: Jesse Franklin Vawter b. 1 Nov 1886 d. 7 Feb 1981, and Beulah Ann Hopkins Vawter b. 6 Oct 1886 d. 16 Aug 1984.
Gr-gr-gr-grandparents: Theodore Vawter b. 6 Sep 1862 d. 19 Dec 1936, and Josephine Elmina Bullock Vawter b. 25 Mar 1863 d. 23 Dec 1899.
Gr-gr-gr-gr-grandparents: Lorenzo Dow Vawter b. 12 May 1812 d. 17 Mar 1897, and Frances Fowler Vawter b. 1 Feb 1830 d. 3 Mar 1915.

DYLAN SCOTT BUGOS

Dylan Scott Bugos was born 19 May 1998 in Champaign, Ill., to Brad and Kris Bugos. He weighed 8 lbs. 8 oz., and was 21 inches long. Paul and Connie Bugos of Farmington, Ill., are the grandparents. Great-grandparents are Edith Vawter of Farmington and the late Harry Vawter. Harry was the son of Alva E. and Pearl Vawter, and the grandson of John S. and Elizabeth Grinstead Vawter. Dylan has a six-year old brother, Tyler.

"THE VAWTER FAMILY IN AMERICA"

"The Vawter Family in America" was written by Grace Vawter Bicknell and first printed in 1905 by Hollenbeck Press. In 1969, Edna Reynolds and her sister, Vera Wheatly, had the book reprinted with a supplement update of their line, the O'Conner family. For several years, this reprint edition could be ordered from Edna. With the cooperation of the Reynolds family and a generous interest free loan from a VVV Association member, the remaining books were purchased by the Association in 1994.

However, none of the books are in perfect condition. Many have entire sections out of place or upside down, or have several pages or the index missing. For some, though, it is just a matter of one or two pages missing or having faint print, and those are the books being sold at this time. We send the best available and enclose replacement pages for you to insert.

Recently this book has come under some criticism because of errors, especially in the very early history. We need to remember that this research was done in the late 1800s and early 1900s; before most of our modern conveniences. There were no fax or copy machines, computers, e-mail, etc. On a personal note, discovering the book in our local library as a young child is what sparked an interest in genealogy. I kept the book so long that my parents received a call from the librarian. Please, consider the book "half full" instead of "half empty."

"The Vawter Family in America" reprint is softbound and has 422 pages, including an index. The cost is \$20.00, plus \$3.00 for postage. Order from: Bonita Welch, 4145 N 900 W, Scipio, IN 47273.

IN REMEMBRANCE

Elsie Herron Hunter, 80, of Hot Springs, Arkansas, died 8 April 1998 in Hot Springs. She was born 19 November 1917 in Cedar Glades, Arkansas, the daughter of Jethro and Hattie Vawter Herron.

She was a homemaker and a member of Piney Baptist Church and the Agape Sunday School class. She was a lifetime resident of the area.

Survivors include a son and daughter-in-law, James P. and Helen Hunter; a sister, Gladys Roberts; a sister-in-law, Velma Oleanne Herron; a granddaughter and her husband, Tami and Jamie Feld; a grandson and his wife, Jason Paul and Melissa Hunter; and two great-grandchildren, Teajae and Jesi Feld. All of the survivors live in Hot Springs. She was preceded in death by her husband, Paul A. Herron. (?)

Elsie Herron Hunter was a cousin of Vernon Vawter of Hot Springs, who along with his wife, Trudy, is a long-time member of the VVV Association.

(This issue of the newsletter has only six pages instead of the usual eight.)

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1998 REUNION NEWS

The 1998 reunion of the VVV Family Association was held 30 July - 2 August at the Radisson Hotel on Town Lake in Austin, Texas. Hosts for the event were Phil and Peggy Vaughter.

Registration began on Thursday evening in the hospitality room. The officers and board members had their annual meeting at this time, too, and ideas and plans for future reunions were discussed.

The official opening of the reunion was Friday morning in the Austin Room. Ringing the VVV cowbell this year was Stephanie Chaviers, granddaughter of John and Sue Vawter. Flag bearers were Frederick Cummings, grandson of Fred and Wordna Wicker, and Jesse Vawter, grandson of Bobbee and Donna Vawter. Invocation was given by the Rev. Roger Byler.

The Nominating Committee for 1998 was introduced as Fred Wicker, Shirley Beasley, Duncan Brown, Bobbee Vawter and Norma Wicker. Due to the absence of Shirley Beasley and Duncan Brown, they were replaced by Norma Jean Vawter and Oscar Vawter.

On Friday afternoon, a genealogy session conducted by Joyce Carter, Jim Vaughters and Ralphe Vawter was well attended. Much information was shared.

At the dinner on Friday night, Peggy Vaughter led a game of "Human Bingo." This was a great way to get acquainted with new members and learn new things about longtime members.

After the game, VVV officers and their spouses or guests were introduced, and the first of many door prizes were distributed.

On Saturday night, transportation by the Armadillo Trolley was provided to the Elks Lodge for a Texas style B-B-Q. The meeting was called to order by VVV President, Beth Melton, followed with prayer by Billy Mack Vawter.

The Memorial Service was led by Fred and Wordna Wicker, who were assisted by Amanda and Jamie Lee Harris, granddaughters of Betty Harris. Entertainment was the always popular Vawter Family Singers, under the direction of Ellen Cummings, with solos by Jackie Hudson, granddaughter of Martha Hudson, and Kristi Glasgow, granddaughter of Charles and Betty Burt.

Elected to the office of president for the next two years was Phil Vaughter, and Ken Wicker was elected vice-president. All other officers were re-elected by acclamation. The nominating committee for 1999 is Fred Wicker, Granville Allen, Barbara Vawter, Jesse Vawter and Robert L. Vawter II.

The roll call of states showed there to be fourteen states represented, with Texas having the highest number in attendance. Special recognition was given to the following:

Oldest: Shirley Byler

Youngest: Jamie Harris

Traveled farthest: Bobbee and Donna Vawter and Robert L. Vawter II and family

Longest married: Glenn and Marjorie Vawter - 66 years

On Sunday morning, those who were able to stay attended Riverbend Baptist Church with our hosts, Phil and Peggy Vaughter.

We must mention the bats. Each day at about 8:00 p.m. about ½ million Mexican Free-tail bats leave the Congress Avenue Bridge for their evening repast. This was quite a sight!

THANK YOU!

Only those who have planned and hosted a reunion know the amount of time and work required. Thank you, Phil and Peggy, you are very much appreciated!

MEMORIAL SERVICE

These VVV members and friends were remembered at the memorial service:

1. Harold Andrew Vawters, 80, Columbus, Ohio, died 14 March 1997
2. Calvin A. Krapf, 64, Tamaqua, Pennsylvania, died 9 December 1997
3. Eloise Gardiner Southward, 75, Tishomingo, Mississippi, died 9 September 1997
4. Dorothy Isabella Matson Vawter, 98, Nashville, Tennessee, died 8 December 1997
5. Helen Vawter Agnew, Monroe, Louisiana, died 15 March 1998
6. James Thomas Vawter, 75, Muncie, Indiana, died 30 March 1998
7. Archie Strode Vawter, 81, Sheridan, Texas, died 25 December 1997
8. Elsie Herron Hunter, 80, Hot Springs, Arkansas, died 8 April 1998
9. Alma Vawter Johnston, 88, DeWitt, Arkansas, died 8 December 1997
10. Patton Courtney Vaughter, died 1968

A LETTER FROM BETH

Dear VVV Family, Cousins and Friends:

We just finished another very nice VVV reunion and have all returned to our chores and everyday living. To those of you who didn't make it, we MISSED you very much! Mark your calendar now for August 5-8, 1999 in Nashville, Indiana, and August of 2000 for Virginia. It was hot in Texas this year. Some of us have not had enough rain and some had much too much rain and would like to share. In Dallas where I am, we need more rain!

Just before the reunion, a girl called me. She had gotten my name from the Internet. She is Shelbie Vawter, born November 1, 1979, and is looking for her father. His name is Robert L. Vawter with a wife named Sandy, He was last known to be in San Antonio, Texas. Her mother's name is Amy Lynn Gass. I believe she said her grandfather's name was Fred Vawter. Shelbie will be married in December. If anyone knows of the Robert L. Vawter who is the father of a very sweet girl, write to me or call me and I will give you the contact number.

Thank you for letting me be your VVV President for the past two years. I have turned the gavel over to Phil Vaughter who lives in Austin. Although my life seems to keep busy, especially since I lost my husband, I have been working yet another project.

Like many of you, I have an abundance of pictures - some were put into albums at one time. My daughter showed me that the pictures were turning colors due to the acid in the pages. So, I have been stripping all of my children's albums and making new ones, using scrapbook tools and archival quality pages. I am making albums for my five children, my brother and my parents, and have some other albums that I am working on, too. I have also started an album containing pictures from our VVV reunions. Usually, I have my camera, so that I have a few pictures from all except the first two reunions and 1996 that I was not able to attend. Maybe you have duplicates or pictures that you just don't want anymore, or just don't have time to deal with anymore. Please send these to me. I would like to make an album that I can bring to the reunions and share with all that attend. How about it - pictures, anyone? Thank you!

Beth Melton, VVV Past President
1211 Casa Vale
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1999 VVV REUNION

Nashville, Indiana, has been chosen as the site of the 1999 reunion of the association. Headquarters will be the Brown County Inn, which is within walking distance of many of the art galleries and craft, antique and specialty shops. Those who attended the 1987 reunion in Columbus, Indiana, may remember spending a day in Nashville where an exhibit of Will Vawter paintings and drawings had been set up for us at the Brown County Art Gallery.

Mark your calendars now - 5-8 August 1999 - and watch future newsletters for more information.

WILLIAM JASPER VAWTER
Contributed by Wordna Wicker

William Jasper (Billy) Vawter was born 18 February 1849 in Old Tishomingo County, Mississippi, youngest of the ten children of Allegany and Mary Robinson Vawter. His mother died when he was five years old. By the time he was 18, he had seen the death of four sisters and his oldest brother; he had lived through the Civil War and witnessed his father's home and mill destroyed by Union forces. When his second brother, James Newton Vawter returned from the Civil War and chose to settle in Tippah county, Billy and his father joined him. The exact details of how the three managed to exist in a strange war-torn county are not known.

By 3 December 1868, Billy had met and married Rebecca Jane Sanford, daughter of William Berry and Ellender Downen Sanford. By the 1870 census, the couple was living in the Molino community, near the present Tippah-Union border, with a year-old son, James Wesley. Rebecca's parents lived nearby.

Records show that James Newton married Mary Rogers (born in Tennessee) about 1869. That family cannot be located in the 1870 census; neither can his father, Allegany, although the family Bible records show that Allegany lived until 1876.

By 1880, Union County had been formed and census records show the Billy Vawter family living there with five children. Molissa Sanford, Rebecca's sister and also a member of the household would later marry James Newton after his first wife's death. (They married in December 1880.) The couple moved to the Oklahoma Territory and later to the vicinity of Hot Springs, Arkansas.

Billy was a devout member of the Baptist Church, a prosperous and respected farmer, and affectionately referred to in the community as "Uncle Billy." He and his family lived for a time in the Fredonia community in the Southern part of Union County, but moved to the Pleasant Hill area in the northeastern part of the county before he met an untimely death 15 June 1902 as the result of a buggy accident. He was 53. He is buried in the Pleasant Hill Cemetery. His widow later married David Cox, a widower. She died 26 February 1935 at age 84, and is buried alongside her first husband and infant daughter, Mamie Cordie. Billy and Rebecca were the parents of eight children, seven of whom lived to maturity.

(1) James Wesley Vawter, b. 26 December 1869; went West at an early age; became a school teacher in the Indian Territory of Oklahoma; married Martha McCasson who was 3/4 Choctaw; later became a minister and helped to form Bethany-Peniel College on the outskirts of Oklahoma City. He met an untimely death 14 December 1933 as a result of a car-streetcar accident. Children: Eula; Eunice; Ethel; Florence; Alice and Beatrice, twins; Albert and Elbert, twins; Zona; Silas; Lillian. Two brothers and three sisters followed him to Oklahoma Territory; one brother and two sisters remained after statehood.

(2) Matilda Anner Vawter, b. 4 February 1872; d. 5 February 1948; married Frank Reed; lived in the Pleasant Hill community of Union County; the only member of the family who did not migrate to Oklahoma. Children: Alvie and Bluford.

(3) Asa Berry Vawter, b. 18 April 1874; married Annie Elizabeth Lee 1902 in Lee County, Mississippi; moved to Oklahoma Territory about 1906; both buried in Chickasha Cemetery, Grady County, Oklahoma. Children: Vanessa Mae; Geneva Marie; Lonnie Leman; Aubrey Barney; Arlene.

(4) Margaret Elizabeth (Betty) Vawter, b. 5 January 1878; married 9 February 1893 in Union County, Mississippi, to John Robert Read; moved to Fannin County, Texas; later to Oklahoma Territory about 1905. Her husband died 29 December 1939, and she later married a Mr. Pugh. She died 30 May 1972 in Oklahoma. Eleven children: Arthur Robert; Lillie Cordelia; Velma Clarice; Letha Mae; Ernest Wesley; Irene Lucille; Emery Everett; Lois Bonita; Elsie June; Vera Winnfred; Margaret LaVerna.

(5) Emma Ellen Vawter, b. 5 November 1880, married 11 December 1898 in Union County to Thomas Street Wiley; died 21 March 1974; buried Hickory Flat Cemetery, Benton County, Mississippi. The family moved to Vernon, Texas about 1903, and to the Oklahoma Territory about 1904. Around 1909, they returned to Mississippi and settled in Benton County. Children: Ora Mae, married Thomas Murray Wicker; Vallie Grace, married Tom Lemuel Cox; Mary Jane, married Ike Dee Lansdale; William Street, married Allene Baker; Mamie Cordie, died young; Addie Bevel, married Clyde Edwards; Thomas Lamar, married Pearl Robbins.

(6) Adelia Cassa Vawter; b. 4 December 1883; married Whitfield Parker in Union County, Mississippi; moved to Oklahoma Territory in the early 1900s; died 1 February 1970 in Oklahoma City. Two sons: Charles and Ben.

(7) Hubert Lester Vawter, b. 17 February 1886; married Hattie Lou Grisham; died 24 September 1971; buried Hickory Flat Cemetery, Benton County. Children: Olice Jasper, b. 23 September 1913, Lindsay, Oklahoma, Garvin County, died during World War II. Olice Jasper's death, the only World War II casualty from this branch of the family, ended the Vawter line in Mississippi. He had been a member of the CCC in the 1930s and enlisted in the Marines prior to Pearl Harbor. He was stationed in the international settlement of Shanghai, and was in the Philippines on Bataan when it fell. After surviving the Bataan Death March and POW camp, he was killed by U.S. fire while being transported to the main island of Japan. Clarice Corrine, b. 12 October 1914, Benton County, Mississippi; married Thurman Emery Mayer; died 11 September 1996. Clarice and Emery have two children Martha Jane Hudson and Judith Rosalyn Crawford.

(8) Mamie Cordie Vawter, b. 20 March 1892 in Union County; died 4 June 1894; buried between her parents in Pleasant Hill Cemetery.

MAGGIE DORA VAUGHTERS QUILT

At the 1992 reunion held in Nacogdoches, Texas, Charles Burt brought a quilt that had been made by his grandmother, Maggie Dora Vaughters, in 1910. The quilt won first place at the 9th District Fair in Gainsville, Georgia, and the prize was a pump organ. Charles announced that the quilt had been registered by the Georgia Quilt Project and would be on display in the Georgia State Capitol from October 1 - November 15, 1992.

A recent phone call from Charles brought the news that out of 8500 quilts, this special quilt was one of 80 chosen to be on display at the Atlanta History Center from November 1998 -September 1999. Charles also said that he and his wife, Betty, were to be interviewed by PBS.

The pump organ that was won by Charles' grandmother in 1910 is still in the family home in Dawsonville, Georgia.

SOME E-MAIL ADDRESSES

Aue, Jerry and Judy 3rdwatch@tznnet.com	Peterson, Joyce codyfl@juno.com
Balderson, Wes balderson@uleth.ca	Stanwyck, Don stanwyck@worldnet.att.net
Blanks, Judy BillBlanks@aol.com	Swan, George tuswan@aol.com
Bradley, Gene and Eloise fotoguy@nc5.infinet.com	Tikka, Carol usfinn@msn.com
Brimm, Robert bbrimm@juno.com	Tucker, Don ctuck@ala.net
Chastain, Don and Marquetta mchast2263@aol.com	Vaughter, Dayton geneandruth@juno.com
Heine, Barbara KBHine@aol.com	Vaughter, Gene grvaughter@gulfaccess.net
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Jurgenson, Georgene rvj1207@email.msn.com	Vawter, Jesse L. jessvawter@aol.com
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Meek, Bobbi bobbim@earthlink.net	Vawter, Robert L. bvawter@netten.net
Melton, Beth lottabuttons@juno.com	Vawter, Vince vince@evansville.net
Montgomery, Ann alann@the-link.net	Wallace, Mary nan406@aol.com
Parrott, Jr., John H. W4FR-UKN4NZ@worldnet.att.net	Wilson, Bobbi bobbi@bushnell.net

QUERY

From: Georgene Jurgenson, 910 Palmer Lane, Palm Harbor, FL 34685-1810

Georgene needs help placing the following people on the Vawter family tree:

1. 1850 Charlotte Co., Virginia, census reel #940, p. 55a, family #829. Elizabeth Vauter, age 60, (b. ca 1790) b. Cumberland Co., Virginia.
2. 1870 Patrick Co., Virginia, census, Dan River District. Reed Vaughter, age 65, b. Virginia; Esther, age 44, b. Virginia; Martha, age 18, b. Virginia; Susannah, age 14, b. Virginia; William S., age 11, b. Virginia.
3. Marriage records of marriages performed by Rev. Rene Chastain, Baptist minister in Buckingham Co., Virginia. Married on 14 April 1789, Owen Larwood and Peggy Vauters.

CONGRATULATIONS

We congratulate VVV Association secretary Joyce Carter and Lynwood Peterson who were married 27 September 1998. Joyce's new address is shown on the list of officers.

Rebecca Cummings, daughter of Ned and Ellen Cummings of Virginia Beach, Virginia, and granddaughter of Fred and Wordna Wicker of Pontotoc, Mississippi, is a member of the field hockey team at Frank W. Cox High School in Virginia Beach that recently won the State Championship. This was the eleventh time for the field hockey team of the school to reach that goal, including seven out of the past eight years. In honor of the accomplishment, the team is pictured on the back of Team Cheerios.

VAWTER REUNION IN ILLINOIS

A letter from Shirley Beasley gave news of the 54th annual Vawter reunion held in Lexington, Illinois, on 8 August 1998. Officers of that group are: Melody Schuerman, president; Mike Schapmire, vice-president; and Shirley Beasley, secretary-treasurer. Anyone wanting more information on this Vawter line and reunion can contact Shirley at 603 N Main Street, Farmer City, Illinois 61842. Shirley is the daughter of the late M. Glen Vawter, a former VVV Association president. Her family hosted the 1989 association reunion in Normal, Illinois.

IN REMEMBRANCE

Ida Mae Vawter Tooms, 91, of Humboldt, Tennessee, died 20 June 1998 at Jackson-Madison County General Hospital. She was a retired hairdresser. Burial was a Centerville Cemetery near Medina.

Survivors include a daughter, Marsha White of Humboldt. She was preceded in death by her husband, Robert Tooms; brothers, A. M. "Pete" and A. J. Vawter; and a sister, Olga Vawter Bullington.

She was the aunt of the late Robert M. "Pete" Vawter, former president of the VVV Association.

* * * * *

Pleasant Stribling Corbitt, Jr. of New Johnsonville, Tennessee, died 9 June 1998. Survivors include his wife, Lydia D. Powell Corbitt; sons William Dwight Corbitt and Wjames Pleasant Corbitt; a sister, Juanita Corbitt Crockett; and grandchildren, John Carlton Corbitt, Marissa Colleen Corbitt, Casey Maria Corbitt, and Matthew James Corbitt. He was preceded in death by a brother, Col. James Stitt Corbitt, and sisters, Emma Corbitt and Frances Corbitt Warren.

"P.S." Corbitt was a longtime member of the VVV Association, and although able to attend only one reunion, he enjoyed receiving the newsletters and keeping up with news of the family.

IN REMEMBRANCE

Era Vaughters, 81, of Dawsonville, Georgia, died 26 October 1997 at her home. She was born 24 January 1916 in Forsyth County, and had lived most of her life in Dawson County. She was a homemaker and a member of the Dawsonville Church of God of Prophecy. Burial was at Bethel Baptist Church Cemetery.

Survivors include daughters, Dorothy Ayers and Brenda Hathcock, both of Dawsonville, and Linda Phillips of Ormond Beach, Florida; a son, David Vaughters of Livonia, Michigan; sisters, Madge Talley and Grace Sherwood, both of Dawsonville; eight grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; one great-great-granddaughter. She was preceded in death by her husband, Willie Vaughters, and a granddaughter, Patsy Ayers.

Mrs. Vaughters was the aunt of VVV Association treasurer, Charles Burt.

* * * * *

Archie Strode Vawter, 81, of Sheridan, Texas, died 25 December 1997. He was born 12 March 1916 in Houston, the son of Jesse Franklin and Beulah Ann Hopkins Vawter.

On 10 November 1939, he married Fannie Lois Batard. The couple lived in the Houston area for some time while Archie worked on a tugboat in the Houston Ship Channel and Intracoastal Canal. He had been a Sheridan resident for almost 50 years, was a Mason and a member of the First Baptist Church of Sheridan. He was retired from Lehrer Industries in Garwood, Texas.

Survivors include sons, Jesse Lewis Vawter of Houston and Larry Jack Vawter of Altair, Texas; a daughter, Vera Elaine Alloway of Altair, a sister, Jessie May Farmer of Channelview, Texas; granddaughters, Karla Kay Quigley, Monica Moore, and Robyn and Jakki Alloway; grandsons, Eric Neff and Jared Vawter; great-granddaughter, Emilie Vawter; great-grandson, James Quigley. He was preceded in death by his wife, Lois; a sister, Mina Jones; and an infant sister.

Archie Strode Vawter was the great-grandson of Theodore and Josephine Elmina Vawter, and the great-great-grandson of Lorenzo Dow Vawter.

Jesse Lewis Vawter, the son of Archie, attended this year's reunion in Austin with his wife, Laneil.

* * * * *

Alma May Vawter Johnston, 88, of DeWitt, Arkansas, formerly of Hot Springs, died 8 December 1997 in Memphis, Tennessee. She was born 8 March 1909, and was a member of Central Baptist Church and Fleet Reserve National Park Chapter 568. Burial was at Pinecrest Cemetery.

Survivors include a daughter, Billie L. Johnston Cook of Memphis; a son, Ronald E. Johnston of New York; two grandchildren, Amy Jo Cook and Joel Graham Cook; and a great-grandson. She was preceded in death by her husband, Graham William Johnston.

Alma Vawter Johnston and her sister, Helen Vawter Hays, along with their brothers, Hubert and Lester Vawter, were among the sponsors of the reunion at Brady Mountain, Arkansas, in 1978. They come from the tribe of John Vawter, IV, of old Tishomingo County, Mississippi. Alma, Hubert and Lester attended the reunion in Tupelo, Mississippi, in 1986, and for the first time visited the birth place of their father, James Newton Vawter, a C.S.A. veteran who moved to Arkansas after the war.

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GENEALOGY SESSION REPORT

A genealogy session was conducted at the VVV Reunion held last August in Austin, Texas. The following report, written by Ralphe Vawter, was received too late to be included in the reunion highlights of the October newsletter.

"Twenty-two hearty souls gathered in the Skyline Room of the hotel Friday afternoon to explore Vawter genealogy. Ralphe Vawter served as the interlocutor and introduced Joyce Carter, our champion compiler who has amassed a database of 10,200 names, 1/3 of which are spouses and parents of spouses. They constitute five generations with an estimated 20,000 additional names to follow.

"Absent but favorably described was Georgene Jurgenson, probably our strongest technical genealogist in the VVV Association. With Joyce's input and her own (from multiple sources) Georgene has prepared a 163 page *Study of the First Four Generations of Vawters in America Beginning with Bartholomew Vawter and Winfred Hodgson of Essex County, Virginia*, copies of which were made for interested parties.

"Jim Vaughters, first President of the VVV Association, held forth for almost three

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(Genealogy Session, con't)

hours. After briefly tracing VVV forebears in France and England, he led a trail state by state as the American clan grew. Considerable contributions were made by Dr. Nolen Bradley and the Rev. Roger Byler and his wife Shirley Vawter Byler, and Lynwood Peterson, Joyce's newly announced fiance.

"It was an interesting and often quite definitive trail that we followed. Members added their e-mail addresses to Georgene Jurgensen, who provides periodic updates to our members. She can be reached at 910 Palmer Lane, Palm Harbor, FL 34685-1810; phone 813-787-3193; fax 813-789-2317; e-mail rvj1207@msn.com."

Ralphe Vawter,
Historian-Archivist

A THANK YOU FROM VAUTERS CHURCH

September 29, 1998

Dear Mr. Burt,

Thank you for your generous check from the Vauters Family. The church is small and has a very small but loyal congregation and each of us appreciates the interest that your group has shown. I hope you will return to Loretta, Virginia, soon.

Best Wishes,
Frances H. Ellis
Treasurer, Vauters Church
P.O. Box 154
Champlain, VA 22438

QUERIES

From: Betsy Jo Jones, 14238 Sand Ridge Road, Bowling Green, OH 43402

Betsy is a descendant of Andrew Finks and Lucy Vawter. She would like any information on this couple.

From: Larry Vawter, 22051 Alma Avenue, Red Bluff, CA 96080

Larry is seeking information about his grandparents, Frank and Florence Hawkins Vawter. They were the parents of four sons: Charlie, Harold, Jack, and Larry's father, George. All four brothers served in the Navy during World War II. George was on the USS Vega. Frank Vawter was on the police force in San Francisco. Larry thinks the family links to the Missouri Vawters.

From: Kimberly Vawters-Jones, LovelyKJ@aol.com

Kimberly's father, Richard David Vawters, is from Alabama. Richard's father was Ted Vawters who had a brother, Willie, and sister, Susie. She would like information on this family.

Obituary of Edwin James Vawter, Sr.
The Vernon [Indiana] Times
Friday, July 10, 1914
Reprinted from *The Outlook*, Santa Monica, California

FORMER VERNON MAN DIES IN CALIFORNIA

"Death has claimed two more of Santa Monica's pioneers. While both died last night away from this city, they were both nevertheless never considered other than residents here and their loss will be keenly felt on all sides. E. J. Vawter, Sr. died after a brief illness in Monrovia and George Scollard in Los Angeles.

"Edwin James Vawter who has been connected with every forward movement on the beach thirty-five years and served the city in many capacities was widely known as a useful, influential citizen. He was born in Vernon, Ind., November 26th, 1848, son of Williamson Dunn and Mary Charlotte Tilghman Crowder Vawter, a descendent of an old and distinguished Virginia family.

"Backed by a good education he made his first business venture as a newspaperman on the *Vernon Banner*, but was soon taken into partnership with his father in the general merchandise business at the old "Vawter Corner" in Vernon. The partnership was continued when the family came to California in 1875, first settling at what is now Pasadena, as stockholders in the Indiana Colony. A few years later the family located in Santa Monica building the pretty home on Fourth street, then one of the Mansions of the city, which is still known as the Vawter Homestead on Fourth street where the sisters still reside and from which the funeral will be conducted. Santa Monica's history settles around a few families like Vawters, who opened the first general store here and conducted for many years a successful mercantile business previous to entering into real estate business on a large scale and railroad interests. It was the Vawters who started the first railway and practically made possible the first electric railroad here and the civic prominence of the father continued down the family.

"Mr. Vawter himself has taken a large part in financial and business affairs of the beach and has always been known as booster and investor in every movement for the growth of the city. He was president of the City Water Company, organized in 1896; cashier of the First National Bank of Santa Monica until Senator Jones bought it; in 1899 began the first large enterprise of growing and selling carnations and other flowers for the market; founder of the First National Bank of Ocean Park, started in 1905 and of which he was president for two years, that office later passing into the hands of his son. As a member of the City Trustees, Library and School Boards, he served the city long and faithfully and he was also interested in politics having participated in many big Republican conventions. He was a thirty second degree Mason, a Knight of Pythias, and Pioneer of Los Angeles County. His first wife, Laura E. Dixon, died in 1886 and in 1888 he married Mrs. Isabella L. Nelson of this city.

"Mr. Vawter is survived by only one child, a son, E. J. Vawter, Jr., also a prominent business man and banker of the city, and by a brother, William S. Vawter, Post Master,

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(Edwin James Vawter, Sr. con't)

and four sisters, Mrs. Mary Ellen Leavitt, and the Misses Jane Cravens and Emma Vawter, all residing here, and Mrs. Septius Vawter of Lafayette, Ind. Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Vawter and the sisters residing here were with Mr. Vawter when he died at the mountain home in Cloverleaf Canyon, near Monrovia at six o'clock last evening. He was in the best of health until stricken with apoplexy Thursday a.m. His son was in the Yosemite, and on his way home now. Mrs. Vawter is at Granite Pass, Ore., visiting her son and family and it was there that the sad news greeted her yesterday. It is probable that she will come south for the funeral arrangements, for which are awaiting the arrival of Mr. Vawter's son. The body is at the Third street parlor of Brease [?] Bros. and Todd. - *The Outlook*, Santa Monica, California."

(Although the sister of E. J. Vawter, Sr. is given as "Mrs. Septius Vawter" in this obituary, it should be "Mrs. Septimius Vater." Aramantha Charlotte "Mattie" Vawter, daughter of Williamson Dunn and Mary Crowder Vawter, married Septimius Vater on 16 October 1866 in Vernon, Indiana.)

On 27 July 1928, Emma Knowlton Vawter of Santa Monica, California, sister of Edwin James Vawter, Sr. began corresponding with William Snyder Vawter who was compiling information for a new family book. The following are some of her letters. Emma K. Vawter was born 21 August 1853 in Vernon, Indiana, and died 1 June 1943, She is buried at Woodlawn Cemetery in Santa Monica.

July 27, 1928

Dear Mr. Vawter,

The blanks to be filled came to me sometime ago. As I was caring for an elder sister Mrs. Mary Vawter Leavitt, who has recently died, I have been too busy to comply with your request until now. I gave Mrs. Bicknell what help I could when she brought out the history of the Vawter family, since then we visited in Essex Co., Virginia, and saw the Vawter Church. Also saw the old Bible which had had early records, but they had been torn out. In Tappahannock we went to the Courthouse, but as we had but an hour to look at the old records could not do very much - copied down a few facts but I think there must have been many others that would have been interesting. I am interested in the history of the family and a number of years ago a man by the name of Gustave Anjou Ph.D. wrote to my brother Edwin who asked me to write him. I had several letters - will send you one. We considered his terms too hard so did not get his manuscript. I enclose the names of some Vawters in Los Angeles.

Very respectfully yours,

Emma K. Vawter

August 14, 1928

Dear Sir,

I am sending you two letters and the pamphlet sent by Gustave Anjou. Had he allowed us to use it in connection with the Vawter book at the time, we might have taken his information, but he stipulated we could not make any copies out of our own family. We wrote several letters back and forth and each time he made the price a little higher until he reached \$650.00. Mrs. Bicknell when in New York at one time called at his office and as no one was there did not see him.

He wrote to one of my brothers first, and as he was a busy man turned the correspondence over to me. That is my connection with it. After so long a time you may not be able to find him.

Have you read the book "A Tour Through Indiana in 1840, The Diary of John Parsons of Petersburg, Virginia" edited by Kate Rabb? It gives some interesting things about some of the Vawter family who were of the line from which I sprang. Jesse Vawter spoken of was my father's grandfather.

Mrs. Bicknell did hear from Commander A. A. Veater from London in 1922. He was in United States during the war for a short time and wrote to her of the various ways in which the names of Vawter is spelled in different parts of England. He gave his home address as - Commander A.W. Veater, "Triginna," 11 Prideaux Road, Eastbourne, Sussex. He might give you something of interest.

Respectfully yours,

Emma K. Vawter

December 2, 1929

Dear Mr. Vawter,

Since I wrote giving you information concerning our family I have changed my address from 1428 Fourth St. to 838 Fifth St., my new home.

I think since writing you two of our family have passed away. Mrs. Mary Ellen Leavitt - my sister - wife of Ward Leavitt, daughter of Williamson Dunn Vawter and Mary Charlotte Crowder Vawter. She died Wednesday night, May 23rd 1928. Mrs. Sarah Marie McClaskey Vawter, wife of my brother William Smith Vawter, who died July 16th 1929.

I hope your work is progressing well and that you will have a happy Christmas and prosperous New Year.

Sincerely Yours,

Emma K. Vawter

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(Letters from Emma K. Vawter, con't)

November 22, 1930

Dear Mr. Vawter

Since I last wrote you I have changed my residence in Santa Moaica from 1428 Fourth St. to 838 Fifth St. Since there have been some changes in the family relationship if it is not too late, you might wish to add.

A letter from Cousin Grace Bicknell before she sailed with her husband for Russia and Germany said you had been down into Virginia. I hope you stopped at Tappahannock where in the courthouse there are records dating back to early times. I spent probably an hour looking over old records, but it seemed only a beginning. I found the names of early Vawters a number of times in deeds, sales, wills, etc.

I do not know if I wrote you after the death of Edwin James Vawter, Jr., son of Edwin James Vawter, but these I am sending are of later date.

Very Sincerely Yours,

Emma K. Vawter

This information was enclosed with the November 22, 1930, letter:

Mary Ellen Leavitt, wife of Ward Leavitt, daughter of William[son] Dunn Vawter, died in Santa Monica, Calif., May 23rd 1928.

Sarah M. Vawter, wife of William Smith Vawter (son of Williamson Dunn V.) died at her home in Santa Monica, July 15, 1929.

James Vawter Pollock, son of Lieut. James Conner Pollock and Marjorie Vawter Pollock (daughter of Edwin James Vawter, Jr.) was born at San Diego, March 7, 1930.

Helen Edwina Vawter, daughter of Edwin James Vawter, Jr., was married in Santa Monica, Calif., to Ensign Samuel David Dealey of Dallas, Texas, June 14, 1930.

"THERE'S GOLD IN THEM THAR HILLS"

At the 1998 reunion several books were displayed, each covering a different aspect of the Vawter, Vauter, Vaughter(s) family. Doug Vaughters has written what he entitled "There's Gold in Them Thar Hills," the story of the VVV's in Georgia. He copied W.T. Vawter's article about Old Rappahannock, Virginia, and Hazel Vawter McCandless' bridge from Virginia to Georgia. The Georgia portion is his own work and is based upon white men shoving the Cherokees out and then settling in the mountains of North Georgia. Descendants of John III, John IV, James and Samuel (such as VVV president Phil Vaughter and his brother, Paul) should find this work informative and enjoyable. Doug started doing genealogy more than 20 years ago when Bill Vawter and his sister, Hazel McCandless, called from a hotel and asked from what part of the family he descended. Doug's address is: 541 Pendergrass Road, Winder, GA 30680. (From Jim Vaughters)

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Darren Welch and Kristina Swenson of Indianapolis on the birth of a daughter, Anna Louise, who was born 16 November 1998. Anna has a brother, William Frederick, who was three years old in December. Grandparents are Joseph and Bonita Welch of Scipio, Indiana, and Kermit and Helen Swenson of Indianapolis. After four sons and two grandsons, Grandma Welch is happy to have a girl in the family! The Welch/Swenson family moved to Indianapolis last summer after living in Columbia, Missouri, for four years.

JONATHAN VAUGHTERS

Many longtime VVV members and reunion attendees will remember a young Jonathan Vaughters ringing the cowbell to open the 1980, 1981 and 1982 reunions. A few years after this, Jonathan became interested in riding and racing on bicycles. The sport was big in Colorado at the time and he liked the challenge and competition. He has taught himself, trained hard, and excelled. Wins include many races at the junior level and most national races as a professional. Now he is a member of the U.S. Postal Service team, the only American team that races full-time in Europe. Tentatively he is scheduled to race the Tour de France, Vuelta a Espana, and world championships in 1999. Jonathan's parents are Jim and Donna Vaughters of Englewood, Colorado.

IN REMEMBRANCE

Martha Evelyn Jackson Compton, 90, of Indianapolis died 5 March 1997 at a hospital in Indianapolis after having a stroke. She was born 1 May 1906 in Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin, the daughter of Charles and Willa Frances Vawter Jackson. She married Jerome Compton on 19 December 1931.

Martha was active in many community activities. She was in the same Homemaker's Club for 40 years; worked at the polls until she was 65; attended the same church and Sunday School for 61 years, holding various offices; and was a member of the Indiana Geology and Gem Society, She enjoyed genealogy, handicraft and photography.

Survivors include two daughters, Roselyn Marin and Janice Sue Leavell; four grandsons; and several great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband, in 1956, and a daughter, Joanne, who died at the age of six.

Martha Jackson Compton's grandparents were William Alexander and Ella King Vawter, who lived in Trimble County, Kentucky. She was the second cousin of Willard Grant of Westland, Michigan.

* * * * *

We have also learned of the deaths of two other VVV members. Glenn L. Vawter of California died 14 November 1998 in Palm Springs. Harry A. Crouch of Chatham, Illinois, died 14 August 1998 in Virden, Illinois. Glenn was the brother of Robert L. "Bobbee" Vawter, and Harry was the brother of Garlin Crouch. Obituaries of both will be in the April newsletter.

IN REMEMBRANCE

Roy "Wilkie" Taylor, Jr., 67, of North Vernon, Indiana, died of cancer on 5 December 1998 at his home. He was born 13 April 1931 in Rushville, Indiana, the son of Roy Taylor, Sr. and Hilda Beree Clarkson Taylor. He married the former Helen Walt on 8 March 1952 in Lexington, South Carolina.

He established Cherry Park Christmas Tree Farm in 1956, and later began growing ornamental trees, shrubs, and perennials. He had also operated a sawmill for several years.

He was U.S. Army veteran of the Korean War, where he received the Purple Heart; attended officers candidate training at Fort Knox, Kentucky; and served as a second lieutenant in the Indiana National Guard. He was a member of Bethel Baptist Church, North Vernon Veterans of Foreign Wars, the VFW honor guard, Disabled American Veterans, First Cavalry Association, Black Knights of the Fifth U.S. Army Cavalry, and the Nurserymen Association.

Survivors include his wife, Helen Walt Taylor; his father, Roy Taylor, Sr. of North Vernon; two sons, Donald Robert and James Daniel Taylor, both of North Vernon; two daughters, Deborah Jean Taylor of New Albany, Indiana, and Cynthia Sue Burton of North Vernon; a brother, Thomas Charles Taylor of Aleppo, Syria; a sister, Bonita Welch of Scipio, Indiana; a grandson, Benjamin Burton of North Vernon [see next obituary]; a granddaughter, Lucynda Burton of North Vernon; a great-grandson, Austin Burton; and a great-granddaughter, Patience Burton.

Burial was at the Vernon, Indiana, Cemetery with military graveside rites conducted by members of North Vernon Veterans of Foreign Wars.

* * * * *

Benjamin Brand Burton, 18, of North Vernon, Indiana, died as the result of a traffic accident on 28 January 1999. He was born 18 February 1980 in Seymour, Indiana, the son of Larry and Cynthia Taylor Burton.

He was employed by Mascotech in North Vernon and also worked on the family's Cherry Park Christmas Tree Farm.

A 1998 graduate of Jennings County High School, he was a member of the football, baseball and wrestling teams and had played trumpet in the band. He also attended vocational school in Versailles, Indiana.

Survivors include his mother, Cynthia Sue Taylor Burton; his father and stepmother, Larry and Lois Burton; a son, Austin Burton; a sister, Lucynda Burton; two half-brothers, Joseph and Larry Levi Burton; a niece, Patience Burton; a grandmother, Helen Taylor; and a great-grandfather, Roy Taylor, Sr. All live in North Vernon. He was preceded in death by his grandfather, Roy Taylor, Jr.

Burial was at the Vernon, Indiana, Cemetery.

Roy Taylor, Jr. and his grandson, Benjamin Burton, were descendants of William and Frances Vawter, early settlers of Jennings County, Indiana. Several members of the association are from this line.

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**5-8 August 1999
NASHVILLE, INDIANA**

Brown County Inn, located in Nashville, Indiana, has been chosen as the site for the 1999 reunion of the VVV Family Association. The event begins with early registration on Thursday evening, August 5, and concludes Sunday morning, August 8, with an informal worship service.

Nashville offers something for almost everyone, and is among Indiana's best known tourist destinations. There are scenic views, stage shows, antiques and art. More than 300 shops, galleries, studios and entertainment venues can be found in the village.

Around the turn of the century, the views and the people who populated Brown County attracted artists to the area. Those early artists became the "Hoosier Group", and today their works can be found in museums and private collections all over the world.

One of the early artists was Will Vawter, who moved to Brown County from Greenfield, Indiana, in 1908. He lived and had his studio in Nashville from then until his death in 1941. Will Vawter is known not only for his paintings, but also as an illustrator for the books of poetry by his good friend, James Whitcomb Riley.

Make plans now to attend the 1999 VVV Reunion.

REUNION INFORMATION

The Brown County Inn is located on State Road 46 within walking distance of the shops and galleries in Nashville. There is also a shuttle service available to the downtown. Among the recreational features of the inn are a covered pool, tennis and volleyball courts, miniature golf and horseshoe pits.

A large meeting room will be ours from noon Thursday, August 5, until after the dinner on Saturday night. There is space for displays, so bring memorabilia and research information to share with other members. We hope to have the wall charts on display again this year.

Thursday will be an informal time to visit and renew friendships from past years. Registration begins in the afternoon and continues throughout the evening.

Following the opening session on Friday morning, we will travel by caravan to Jennings County to visit Vernon, a town founded by John Vawter. We will also visit the old Vawter Cemetery near North Vernon where many members have ancestors buried. The cemetery is located on what was once the property of William and Frances Vawter, and is now Selmeir State Forest. Those who attended the 1982 reunion in Madison, Indiana, may remember going to this cemetery. Friday evening finds us back in Nashville for dinner, entertainment and door prizes.

Saturday morning is to be spent at the Brown County Art Gallery, where we will have the opportunity to view several Will Vawter paintings. Two Vawter drawings owned by a VVV member will also be on display. The rest of the day is free time. Some may want to shop, others may want to explore Brown County, still others may want to stay at the inn discussing genealogy. Saturday evening is the traditional dinner, memorial service, meeting, entertainment by the Vawter Family Singers, and of course, the door prizes.

On Sunday morning there is to be an informal time of worship before departing for our homes.

Ten rooms have been reserved for Wednesday night, and 50 for Thursday, Friday and Saturday. The rates are: Wednesday and Thursday, \$68.00 single/double, \$74.00 triple; Friday and Saturday, \$99.00 single/double, \$105.00 triple, plus tax. There is a two-night minimum with Saturday. All other rooms in the inn are booked for that time, so please be sure to specify that you are with the Vawter reunion when making reservations. Otherwise, you will be told there is nothing available. Reservations must be made before July 4. After that date, the rooms will be released and reservations will be accepted on a space available basis only. It is important to call early, as all the inns and motels in Nashville are usually filled during the summer and fall. The number at the Brown County Inn is 1-800-772-5249.

The approximate cost of the Friday evening meal is \$13.50, and the Saturday dinner is about \$17.50. This includes tax and gratuity. For children ages 5-12, it is ½ price and for those 4 and under there is no charge.

Please remember that staying at the Brown County Inn is optional, as are all the meals. Campgrounds and other motels are in the area. If you are planning to attend, but will be staying elsewhere, notify Bonita Welch so we can know how many to plan on.

REUNION TRADITIONS

Among the traditions that have been established over the years at the VVV Reunions are the Vawter Family Singers, the memorial service and the door prizes.

The Vawter Family Singers began several years ago as the VVV Children's Chorus. As the children grew, the name was changed and anyone, regardless of age is invited to be a part of the group. Once again, the singers will be directed by Ellen Wicker Cummings. The inn is providing a piano, and the place and time of rehearsal will be announced at the Friday morning meeting.

The memorial service will be held on Saturday night following dinner. This service is a time to remember VVV members and friends and will be led by Fred and Wordna Wicker. Those whose obituaries have appeared in the past year's newsletters will be included. If you have names to add, please give that information to Wordna.

The door prizes have been a favorite feature of the reunions for many years. Because the quantity increased so much, we suggested last year that each family provide only one item. This allows more time for other events. The door prizes will be given out on Friday and Saturday nights.

If more information is needed about the reunion, please contact Bonita Welch at 812-392-2149 (home), 812-346-3977 (work, Monday-Thursday 8:00 - 3:00) or e-mail bwelch@seidata.com.

REGISTRATION AND DUES

Registration per adult is \$5.00. This helps us cover miscellaneous costs of the reunion. The dues of \$7.00 is per household and is for the quarterly newsletter. Dues paid at the reunion is for the coming year.

RETURNED NEWSLETTERS

Several newsletters have been returned this spring for various reasons. Some were because the forwarding time had expired, and in those cases the new address was on the envelope. Please remember to let us know when you move so we can change our mailing list. We need help with the other newsletters that were returned. They are:

Velma Tidweil, 609 Cedar Avenue, Yukon, OK 73099
"Undeliverable as addressed"

Martha Fishel, 8226 Morgantown Road, Indianapolis, IN 46217 "Addressee unknown"

Mary F. Parry, 1802 E 54th Street #24, Indianapolis, IN 46220
"Not at - return to sender"

The following article is from a book written by Lydia Nix Massey, a great-granddaughter of James and Jane Vaughters and granddaughter of Thomas and Lydia Vaughters Nix. The book was found in the library at Commerce, Georgia, by Richard Greene of Cartersville, Georgia. Richard is also a descendant of James and Jane Vaughters through their daughter Delila Vaughters Anderson. This is a portion of chapter one.

THIS IS MY STORY, THIS IS MY SONG
by Lydia Nix Massey

"I was named after my Papa's mother, Lydia Malinda Vaughters, who married Thomas Titsworth Nix in 1844. They were both reared back up in the mountains of North Georgia. He was born in 1822 and grew up in White County, but we have been unable to trace his parents. Lydia Vaughters was born April 27, 1829, and was reared in Dawson County. Her parents were James and Jane Vaughter (some of their children added the 's' and some didn't.) Jane Vaughter was born one year before the start of the American Revolution. She had nine children and was 83 years old when she figured it was time to make out her will, but that woman just kept on living another 27 years. Not too many years ago my sister Mary and I hunted up her grave in the churchyard of the Bethel Baptist Church outside Dawsonville. She lacked exactly eight weeks of being 110 years old, and that has given me an inspiration. I thought if she lived to be that old in her day, then I should be able to reach 110 in mine. If I can make it, why that will be fine, but if I don't, I ought to be commended for trying!

"How my grandparents happened to leave the mountains and come down into the Piedmont, I do not know. They were living in Jackson County by the time of the U.S. Census of 1850, which counted 28-year-old Thomas T. Nix, "Lidia" M. Nix, and their two young children. He was just a farm laborer then, but by 1859 he was able to purchase several hundred acres in Apple Valley from William L. and Barnabus C. Barron. The farm is located between Borders Creek and the Oconee River. Their house is still owned and occupied by my half-cousin, Hank Davis.

"Four girls and two boys were born to Thomas and Lydia Nix - Julia, Dilmus, Sarah Jane, Delila, Mary Etta, and my father, John Morgan. Papa was the youngest, born June 7, 1862. Later that same year, his daddy joined the state militia to defend the Confederacy. He was camped two and one half miles southwest of Atlanta when William Tecumseh Sherman crossed the Chattahoochee River on July 17, 1864. Two days later, Thomas penciled this letter to Lydia:

July the 19th 1864

Camp 2 ½ miles southwest of Atlanta

Deare wife i seate myself to Drop you a few lines to tel you now that i am about as well as common, hoping that these few lines will come to hand and find you all well. Lydia, I have nothing of any greate importance to wright you, only we have hard times out heare, nothing to eat - only a little fat meat. Yesterday we had nothing to eat but bread. We drawd a little meat last night.

Lydia, you must send me something to eat if you hav any chance. It won't do

to send too much at a time for we might hav to march and lous it. If you have any chance send me two loves of light bread and some ginger cake. Whenever i think it will doo, i will send you word to exprefs me a box.

Lydia i want you to wright me if you hav got the wheat and oats al savd and how much wheat you savd. Sun it all good before you put it up and dry one bushel good and way it then you can giv it in by weight.

If tha yankees comes you just doo the best you can with them. If you can hid your mel you had better do it. I want you to send me word whether you had that old wheat ground or not. If you have not you had better hav it done because tha yankees might burn up all of the mills about you. If thare comes any torys through thare a prefsing horses and takes yourn, you get C.W. Hood or G.B. Jackson to try...if buddy (Dilmus) won't tend to it, I will come home myself and tend to it.

We have no chance out here. Tha won't give us a pafs to go to Atlanta. We don't have the chance of a negro out here...i have just binn out and washd my shirt.

Lydia i can't tell you nothing about this old war, only we are into it and as for any thing els you now about as much about it as i doo. Tha are afigting a little every day in places. Lydia i don't want you to be uneasy about me for I will take the best care of myself that i can. I don't want you to greave about Bud (Dilmus) having to go for thare is a hir power that can take better care of him than you can. Thare for content yourself the best you can. You must fix him off the best you can. If he comes to me giv him a blanket and 2 shirts and pare drawers. If he goes to youngs batalion he can ride scott. While i think he will be safer till he gets up to it, then he can ride peet.

....i remain your loving husband
T.T. Nix to L.M. Nix

``Grandma probably never saw him again. The Battle of Atlanta was fought three days after he wrote the letter, and he died of typhoid fever the following fall. He is buried in a Confederate cemetery near Columbus, Georgia. Papa went down there years ago. He hunted and hunted and walked for hours and hours until he found his daddy's grave. Thomas T. Nix left quite a large estate for that day and time, over \$13,000 in grain, livestock, and farm tools.

"A few years after the war, at age 38, Grandma surprised practically everybody when she married her field hand, Walton Cicero Davis, a civil war veteran who was only 24. Nothing certain is known about his background, except that his family lived in or around Gainesviile. He fought in Co. C, 18th Georgia Infantry, according to the inscription on his tombstone, but the only W.C. Davis in that company is a William C. Davis. Where ever he fought, he was captured in a corn field near the end of the war and walked all the way home.

"Uncle Walton - as the Nix children were taught to call him - was a hard worker, and he soon bought out the shares of Thomas T. Nix's farm that had been divided among the children. He and Grandma had two children. Rosa, born in 1869, married Cage Arthur. Luke, born in 1873, married Bertha Potts.

"When I was coming along, we children would cross over the Oconee River to visit

Uncle Walton and Grandma Davis. She kept peppermint and lemon stick candy in a beautiful little pocket book that we called a thanky poke. We never went to her house or saw her anywhere that she didn't give us some little something out of her thanky poke.

"Grandma was hard of hearing, which used to provide some merriment. One time my mother had her over for dinner, and when she finished eating I asked her if she wanted a toothpick. "No, honey," she answered, "I've had aplenty."

"Grandma was a devout Baptist. She joined the Cabin Creek Baptist Church at Nicholson in 1863 and was a charter member of both the First Baptist Church of Commerce - organized in 1874 - and the Apple Valley Baptist Church, founded in 1887.

"My grandmother's house was a great, rambling place. Rooms were added onto the original log structure as the children came along. The whole house was put together with homemade nails and pegs, and at night the steps would crack one at a time as the boards cooled off and contracted from the heat of the day. It sounded just like someone walking up and down the staircase, and since my grandmother didn't want us playing upstairs anyway, she would give us a knowing look and warn, "Better not go up those stairs, 'cause old Rawhead and Bloody Bones will getcha!" That pretty well kept us downstairs most of the time.

"There were grownups, though, who really thought the place was haunted. Papa vowed he used to hear a clock strike that hadn't been wound in years, and it is true that strange things have happened there. One of Cage and Rosa Arthur's daughters, Cleo, was upstairs one snowy day in 1914, reading a letter with her back to the fire, when the flames caught her gown. She ran and burned to death before anyone could catch her.

"Uncle Walton was a real character. Bearded and heavy set, he stood over six feet tall and was strong as a bull. He was high tempered as the devil but was an extremely attentive husband. He paced the yard when Grandma was sick and was so concerned about her comfort that he installed the first indoor plumbing in Apple Valley. He hired Henry Williamson of Commerce to build a windmill that ran a water pump. He ran one line to a lavatory in her bedroom and another to a bathtub on the back porch, which he enclosed.

"Uncle Walton was a fierce looking man, but he was afraid of thunderstorms. They made him extremely nervous. While the lightning flashed, he paced back and forth, and Grandma would rock calmly and admonish him, "Trust in the Lord, Walton, trust in the Lord."

"Lydia Malinda Vaughters Nix Davis died August 31, 1917, at the age of 88. Walton Cicero Davis was 81 when he died November 2, 1924. They are buried at Apple Valley cemetery."

A VAUGHTERS REUNION

From Charles Burt: There is a reunion at Bethel Baptist Church in Dawsonville, Georgia, on 13 June 1999. This is for descendants of James and Jane Vaughters and anyone else who would like to attend.

CONGRATULATIONS

Kristy Glasgow, 11, of Buford, Georgia, is known to many of the VVV members for her solos with the Vawter Family Singers. She is now playing the trumpet, and recently received a superior rating on a trumpet solo at a solo and ensemble contest. She has been chosen to participate in the District Honors Band. Kristy is the daughter of Cheryl Kelley, and the granddaughter of Charles and Betty Burt of Dawsonville, Georgia.

WILL VAWTER ART COMPETITION

Greenfield, Indiana, Parks and Recreation held the 1999 Will Vawter Art Competition on April 24, 1999, at Riley Park Shelter House. This is a juried show of framed, original works of art.

QUERY

From: Sue Maxwell, 23615 N 58th Drive, Glendale, AZ 85310 smaxwell@doitnow.com

Sue descends from Sabrina Vawter b. 9 Jan 1815, d. 18 Aug 1881, married June 1830 John Lewis Tutt. Sabrina was the daughter of Elliott Vawter and Anna Gray. She would like to hear from anyone working on these families.

JULIAN VAUGHTER

Charles Burt has sent an obituary for Julian Vaughter, who died 1 March 1999. Many members will remember Julian and his brother, Swift, from visiting them in Elberton, Georgia, in 1988. Charles has also sent a copy of Swift Vaughter's will. Both will be printed in the next newsletter.

IN REMEMBRANCE

Edna "Babe" Vawter, 90, died 24 Feb 1999 at Trenton Health Care Center in Trenton, Tennessee. She was born 9 Apr 1908 in Gibson County, Tennessee, the daughter of Robert Lee and Evie C. Lowery Bell. She lived most of her life in Milan, Tennessee.

She was a homemaker and a member of Main Street Church of Christ in Milan.

Mrs. Vawter is survived by a son, Sonny Vawter of Memphis; a daughter, Syble Culbreath of Trenton; two sisters, Ruth Davidson of Obion and Sue Richmond of Memphis; six grandchildren, Christian Culbreath, Andy Culbreath and Katherine Dement, all of Jackson, and Barbara DeFur, Bobby Vawter and Lee Vawter, all of Memphis; and sixteen great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Andrew Minor Vawter; and a son, Robert M. "Pete" Vawter.

Mrs. Vawter's son, "Pete," was a past president of the VVV Family Association.

IN REMEMBRANCE

Terry Lynn Vawter, 56, of Las Vegas, Nevada, formerly of Washington, DC, died 7 April 1999 in Los Angeles, California. She was born 23 Sept 1942 in Los Angeles.

She was a graduate of Bakersfield High School, and a member of the Order of Eastern Star and the Ladies Home Culture Club. She owned several travel agencies and had traveled all over the world.

Mrs. Vawter is survived by her husband, Glenn Vawter; a daughter, Kathy Vawter-Beaird of Keystone, Colorado; a son, John Vawter of Seattle, Washington; and four grandchildren, Matthew, Andrew and Patrick Beaird of Keystone, and Sydney Vawter of Seattle.

Funeral service was held at All Saints Episcopal Church in Las Vegas. Graveside service was at Municipal Cemetery in Grand Junction, Colorado.

This obituary was sent by Mary Winningham of Chevy Chase, Maryland. It appeared in *The Washington Post*.

* * * * *

Glenn I. Vawter, 85, of Norwalk, California, died 14 Nov 1998 in Palm Springs, California. He was born 19 June 1913 in Anacon, Missouri.

Glenn was a member of the International Union of the Operating Engineers Local #12 for 58 years. He retired in 1974 as the Recording Corresponding Secretary. He was also a member of the Masonic Lodge for 55 years.

Survivors include his wife, Marjorie; two sons, Dale Vawter of Mt. Carmel, California and Garry Vawter of Norwalk; two daughters, Glenadene Swinburn and Freda Munkvold; a brother, Robert L. Vawter of Middletown, Delaware; 13 grandchildren; 20 great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild.

Burial was at Forest Lawn in Glendale, California.

Glenn and Marjorie, along with their son Garry, had attended the VVV reunions for many years. Several times they were honored for being the longest married couple at the reunion and also for traveling the farthest to attend.

* * * * *

Harry A. Crouch, 89, of Chatham, Illinois, died 14 Aug 1998 at Sunrise Manor Health Care Center in Virden. He was born 29 June 1909 in Chandler, Oklahoma, the son of Arch and Minnie Waters Crouch.

Before retiring in 1973, he was employed for 45 years for City Services, Panhandle Eastern and Michigan-Wisconsin Natural Gas Companies. He was a member of St. Joseph's Church in Chatham and Knights of Columbus.

Survivors are a son, Charles W. Crouch of Amarillo, Texas; two brothers, including Garlin Crouch of Chatham; two sisters; a grandson; and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by three wives. He married Ruel Jones in 1930; she died in 1931. He then married Mildred Grupe in 1934; she died in 1939. In 1951, he married Ella Zigman, and she died in 1979.

Harry and his brother, Garlin, are longtime members of the VVV Association. They are the grandsons of Henry Alfred and Winna Juliann Vaughters Waters.



5 - 8 August 1999
NASHVILLE, INDIANA

This is a reminder that the 1999 reunion of the VVV Family Association is 5 - 8 August at the Brown County Inn in Nashville, Indiana. If you have not yet made a reservation, it is very important to do that today, as the rooms reserved by the association will be released on July 5. All other rooms at the inn are booked, so be sure to specify that you are with the Vawter reunion when making your reservation. If you are planning to attend but will be staying elsewhere, you need to call early, too, as all inns and hotels in Nashville are usually filled during the summer and fall.

The rates at the Brown county Inn are: Wednesday and Thursday, \$68.00 single/double, \$74.00 triple; Friday and Saturday, \$99.00 single/double, \$105 triple, plus tax. The number is 1-800-772-5249.

The approximate cost of the Friday night meal is \$13.50, and the Saturday dinner is about \$17.50. This includes tax and gratuity. For children ages 5-12, it is ½ price and for those 4 and under there is no charge. Lunch on Friday will probably be about \$6.00.

Thursday is an informal time to register and renew friendships. Although a full meal will not be provided, food and soft drinks will be available in the hospitality room.

Following the opening session on Friday morning, we travel by car caravan to Jennings County for lunch and a tour of Vernon, a town founded by John Vawter, son of Jesse. A visit will also be made to the old Vawter Cemetery, located near North Vernon on the site of the William and Frances Vawter homestead.

On Friday night, after a poolside cookout, Jim Vaughters is giving a presentation on Julian and Swift Vaughter. Jim recently returned from a second trip to their house in Georgia and has letters, photos and family information to share.

Saturday morning is to be spent at the Brown County Art Gallery, where there will be an exhibit of Will Vawter paintings. The remainder of the day is free time. Some may want to discuss genealogy, others may want to explore the hills of Brown County or visit the many shops in Nashville.

Saturday night is the traditional dinner, memorial service and entertainment by the Vawter Family Singers.

The meeting room is ours from noon Thursday until after the dinner on Saturday night. There is plenty of room for displays, so bring memorabilia and research information.

Don't be disappointed, make plans now to attend the 1999 VVV Reunion.

To help us finalize plans, please complete this form and return it as soon as possible, It is important to have an approximate count of those attending, especially for the meals.

_____No, I will not be attending the reunion.

_____Yes, I am attending the reunion.

If you are attending, but will be staying somewhere other than the Brown County Inn, please tell us where.

Friday Dinner: number of adults _____(including children over 12)
number of children ages 5 – 12_____

Saturday Dinner: number of adults _____(including children over 12)
number of children ages 5- 12_____

Will you be going to Jennings County on Friday? _____

Your name and the names of others attending with you:

Thanks so much for the help! I'm looking forward to seeing everyone!

Return the form to:

Bonita Welch
4145 N 900 W
Scipio, IN 47273

Phone: 812-392-2149 (home)
812-346-3977 (work)
Fax: 812-346-1442
Email: bwelch@seidata.com

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Dues - \$7.00 per year
IF A RENEWAL FORM IS ENCLOSED, YOU NEED TO PAY DUES

VERNON, INDIANA

One of the places to be visited during the 1999 VVV Reunion is Vernon, Indiana, the county seat of Jennings County. The town was platted in 1815 by John Vawter, the son of Jesse and Elizabeth Watts Vawter, and is registered in its entirety on the National Register of Historic Places. John Vawter first saw the place where Vernon now stands in 1813, when he was a United States Surveyor for a portion of the Northwest Territory.

Vernon was a planned town, with spaces set aside for schools, churches and recreation. A portion of the proceeds from the sale of each lot was used to finance a county library. The elevated railroad and underpass were the first west of the Alleghenies, and are still in use. The track, which was laid from Madison to Vernon, was finished in 1838, and the underpass was built in 1837. Because of being almost completely surrounded by the Muscatatuck River, the town has not grown, and has the distinction of being the smallest county seat in Indiana.

Indiana firsts include the first Christian Church (Disciples of Christ); the first public playground, called the "Commons;" and the first all-women jury trial. The Clionian Club, organized in the 1850s, is still active in the community.

Vernon operates by a charter adopted in 1851, and holds elections in March when no other town does. Elections are held every two years instead of every four, with no primary. Anyone who wants to run chooses one of three parties - Republican, Citizen's or People's; there is no Democratic Party. Any number of candidates can file, and residents don't have to register to vote.

During the Civil War era, Vernon was an important Underground Railroad depot. A place near the river where militia and Vernon townspeople repelled General John Hunt Morgan's raiders represents the northernmost penetration of the Confederate Army into Indiana.

John Vawter helped establish Vernon Baptist Church and served as pastor for several years. He also owned the first newspaper, *The Vernon Visitor*, and was treasurer of the county for a time.

Several other members of the Vawter family were also prominent early citizens of Vernon. Smith Vawter, a son of John, was a pork packer, a dry goods merchant, and had a woolen mill and a flour mill. His home is still standing in Vernon. Achilles Vawter, a brother of John, was tavern keeper and postmaster.

John Vawter left Vernon in 1848 for Morgan County, where he was one of the first settlers of Morgantown. He died 17 August 1862. Although he has a monument at the Vernon Cemetery, he is buried at Morgantown.

EARLY PURCHASERS OF LOTS IN VERNON, INDIANA

The following is a list of some early purchasers of lots in Vernon, Indiana, who were either Vawters or Vawter kin:

John Branham	Lot 5
Linsfield Branham	Lots 40, 47, 85, 107
Sanford Branham	Lots 41, 46
William Sanford	Lots 25, 26, 28, 29, 120
James Stott	Lots 39, 42, 54, 75, 203-206
Richard Stott	Lots 123, 196, 217-219
William T. Stott	Lots 79,80, 161, 168, 188, 194
George Stribling	Lots 16, 62
Thomas Stribling	Lot 33
Willis C. Stribling	Lot 122
Achilles Vawter	Lots 19, 76, 86, 183, 209-212
David Vawter	Lot 77
James Vawter	Lots 20, 89, 01,106, 159
Jesse Vawter	Lots 1, 2
John Vawter	Lots 52, 69, 72, 78, 67, 68, 70, 149
William Vawter	Lots 4, 14

ACHILLES J. VAWTER

Achilles J. Vawter, a son of William and Frances Vawter, was born 12 September 1823 in Jefferson County, Indiana. When Achilles was about six years old, the family moved to Jennings County, Indiana, to a farm about three and a half miles north of Vernon.

In 1844, Achilles left home to attend Franklin College, which at that time was called "The Indiana Baptist Manual Labor Institute. "The college is located in Franklin, Indiana, about 40 miles north of Vernon. He would attend school for a session, and then work to earn enough money to return for another session. One job he held was as a clerk at his Uncle John Vawter's store in Morgantown. He also chopped wood, worked on his father's farm and taught school.

During the 1844-45 school year, one of his classmates was James Suggett Read, son of Samuel and Nancy Threlkeld Read, who was born in Vernon in 1826. Samuel Read and three of his seven sons were contractors for the Jennings County Courthouse in 1859. This courthouse is still in use today.

In September 1845, Achilles J. Vawter was living in Morgantown, not far from Franklin, and working at his uncle's store to earn money for further study at Franklin College. The following letter was written by Achilles to his friend, James S. Read. This letter, along with several others, was found several years ago stuffed under the attic rafters in the house where the Read family lived in the mid-1800s in Vernon.

VVV member, Stanley Read of East Lansing, Michigan, visited Vernon in 1996. He and his wife were invited to the home of the family who found those letters. Stanley was given a copy of the letter from Achilles J. Vawter to James S. Read, and sent us this transcript and a copy of the original.

Stanley Read is a descendant of Hiram T. and Catherine Smith Vawter Read. Hiram is another son of Samuel and Nancy Threlkeld Read. Catherine is a daughter of Achilles (uncle of Achilles J.) and Martha Smith Vawter.

LETTER FROM ACHILLES J. VAWTER TO JAMES S. READ

Morgantown September 18th 1845

Dear and much esteemed Brother,

It is with the greatest of pleasure I take my pen to reply to your epistle, which came to hand on Tuesday last. I feel my self some what reproved for not writing sooner. I know that I might have written sooner if I had just thought, so consequently I have no excuse to render.

Taking into consideration the intimacy and friendship that has existed between you and my self I feel it not only a duty but a great pleasure to correspond with you by letter in as much as we are not permitted to converse face to face.

I have the pleasure to inform you that my health is very good. I have gained several

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lbs of flesh since I left Franklin. I am thrown almost entirely out of the society in which I delight the most.

You would not imagine the great difference between this place and Vernon or Franklin although there are some of as fine people here as any where but there lacks that kind of society which exists only where the community are intelligent and moral. There are but few who are to be considered intelligent and the majority of the citizens are of that class who have the hardihood to at all times and on all occasions to take the name of God in vain or in other words it is a place (where) religion has the least influence of any place in which I have any acquaintance.

When I came here I did not expect to remain here long but it seems that providence has cast my lot here and perhaps to remain here all winter. George Treisbach has returned but to my disappointment as well as his own he has returned not to take the store but to suffer with the ague. My expectation was to return home this week but I cannot now. I expect to teach school here this winter. I think there is but little doubt but I shall get a school of 25 or 30 scholars at \$2.00 per scholar.

I have not been to Franklin yet and do not know when I shall go but I have seen Hoagland, Bland & Stout since I have been here. All well and Bland doing some better than the rest. He had come here to visit his girl. Stout is teaching school. Hoagland is gaining his health very much and intends to return to school.

I hope that your Bible class will prosper and prove a blessing to your town and church. And also I hope that you may be successful in establishing a sabbath school in Vernon that will prove a blessing to the church.

Give my best respects to all my friends at Vernon.

I am happy to learn that you have resumed your studies and hope that you may have the blessing of God on all of your undertakings that all you do may honor and glorify him. For dear brother we are placed here to honor and glorify him and it should be our meat and drink to do his will when we look around and see the world that lies in wickedness it is enough to stimulate us to the most powerful exertions for the foundation of the Redeemers kingdom here on earth.

I am now placed in a situation where I have not the privilege even on the sabbath of listening to the sound of the gospel. I regret very much that I am not permitted to resume my studies with you but still I do not despair although fortune has been more favorable to you than me. Yet I feel that I do not improve the opportunities that I have as I should. But I feel that it would be a glorious thing to spend and be spent in the cause of Christ. I hope you may prepare your self to enter soon as a laborer in the vineyard of the Lord. I ask you to remember your unworthy brother in your prayers that the Lord would sustain him and lead him in the way of duty.

Your unworthy Brother in Christ,

Achilles Vawter

J. S. Read

Please write often as you can make it convenient.

WILLIAMSON DUNN VAWTER

Williamson Dunn Vawter was born in Jefferson County, Indiana, on 28 August 1815 to William and Frances Vawter. By the time Williamson was twelve years old, the family had moved to a farm in Jennings County, Indiana. Williamson had no desire to be a farmer, and went to Kentucky soon after to live with a Stapp cousin for a time. He then returned to Indiana, and lived with his Uncle John Vawter in Vernon.

Williamson first drove a team of oxen between Vernon and Madison delivering merchandise for his uncle's store. He later became a clerk in the store and later was a partner in the store for forty years with his cousin Smith Vawter, a son of John. He was also postmaster of Vernon for a number of years.

In 1875, Williamson Dunn Vawter and his family moved from Vernon to Los Angeles County, California. They were members of the "Indiana Colony" that settled where Pasadena now stands. From that area, Williamson went to Santa Monica and became a prominent member of the community. He was a founder of the Presbyterian Church in Santa Monica; owned and operated, with his two sons, the first street railway; and was an organizer and first president of the First National Bank of Santa Monica.

The home where Williamson Dunn Vawter lived in Vernon with his wife and family is now a bed and breakfast and will be visited during the 1999 VVV reunion.

WILL VAWTER

John William Vawter, known best as "Will", was born 13 April 1871 in Boone County, Virginia, the son of Dr. Louis A. Vawter and Emma Mary Dameron Vawter. The family moved to Greenfield, Indiana, when Will was about six years old.

Will married Mary Howey Murray in 1902. They moved from Greenfield to Nashville, Indiana, in 1908 and located on a hill overlooking Salt Creek, south of town. Many of his paintings feature the paths leading through the woods to his home. About 1919, Will and Mary Vawter were divorced, and in 1923, he married Ola Lackey Genolin of Nashville.

As a young adult in Greenfield, Will became a friend and admirer of Indiana poet James Whitcomb Riley, and through the years would illustrate many of Riley's books of poetry. He was hired by *The Indianapolis Sentinel* as an artist in 1891, and in 1897 he wrote and illustrated a series of verses for the *Cincinnati Gazette*. He also made illustrations for *Judge*, *Life* and *St. Nicholas* magazines. In 1899, he and his sister, Clara Vawter, produced a children's book, "Of Such Is the Kingdom." He was a member of the Brown County Art Gallery Association, Hoosier Salon and Chicago Galleries Association, and received many prizes for his paintings.

Will died 11 February 1941 at St. Vincent Hospital in Indianapolis. His funeral was held in Nashville and burial at Park Cemetery in Greenfield.

The Brown County Art Gallery in Nashville will have an exhibit of Will Vawter paintings during the VVV Reunion.

JULIAN AND SWIFT VAUGHTER

The Friday night program at the VVV reunion will be presented by Jim Vaughters of Englewood, Colorado. He will give information on the late Julian and Swift Vaughter of Elbert County, Georgia. Both brothers are now deceased, and the story of what is now happening with their property is one you will not want to miss.

CONGRATULATIONS

From Connie Bugos comes word of a new granddaughter. Brooke Ellen Bugos was born 14 April 1999 at Sioux Valley Hospital in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Brooke is the daughter of Chad and Susan Bugos, and weighed 9 lbs. 2 oz. at birth and was 22" long. She has a brother, Austin, who is 2 1/2. The family now lives in Derby, Kansas. Proud grandparents are Paul and Connie Bugos of Farmington, Illinois. Great-grandparents are Edith Vawter of Farmington and the late Harry Vawter.

QUERY

From: William A. Robertson, 209 Lee Avenue, Ashland VA 23005
From: Marigay Holloway, 3911 Terrace Drive, Annandale VA 22003
rootdigr@erols.com

William and Marigay do not know each other, but both have sent the same query. They are looking for information on the family of Daniel G. and Peggy Reynolds who are shown on the 1850 Orange County, Virginia census:

Daniel G. Reynolds	48 M	b. Virginia
Peggy Reynolds	62 F	b. Virginia
Mary Clarke	25 F	b. Virginia
William G. Reynolds	20 M	b. Virginia
Richard Clarke	30 M	b. Virginia
Mary Vauter	45 F	
Frances Vauter	43 F	

William is trying to determine the maiden name of Peggy Reynolds. He is wondering if Mary and Frances Vauter could be sisters or nieces of Peggy Reynolds, who is referred to as Margaret in Daniel's will. He has identified all the others listed.

Marigay sent a similar query, with the addition of the dates 1802-1859 for Daniel G. Reynolds.

IN REMEMBRANCE

Walter Earl Reynolds, 86, of Butlerville, Indiana, died 8 May 1999 at King's Daughters' Hospital in Madison, Indiana. He was born 10 February 1913 in Jennings County, Indiana, the son of James A. and Flora Belle Wilson Reynolds. He married Edna Opal Wilson in May 1933.

Walter was a 1933 graduate of Butlerville High School, and worked most of his life as a carpenter. In the early 1940s, he owned and operated a lumber mill in Prescott, Arizona. After retiring, he started his own business of sharpening carbide saws. He was a member of AFL-CIO, and a member and past trustee of Butlerville United Methodist Church.

Survivors include sons, James Reynolds of Commiskey, Indiana, Hugh Reynolds of St. Francis, Indiana, Miles Reynolds of Smithtown, Indiana, and Brian Reynolds of Greensburg, Indiana; daughters, Enid Henry of Madison, Indiana, and Ann Caslan of Muncie, Indiana; brothers, Cecil Reynolds of Bellville, Illinois, and Adrian Reynolds of Trafalgar, Indiana; 10 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Edna Wilson Reynolds; a brother, Lester Reynolds; and a grandson, Ethan Reynolds. Burial was at Butlerville Cemetery.

Walter and Edna Reynolds were longtime members and supporters of the VVV Family Association. They hosted the 1982 reunion in Madison, Indiana. Edna and her sister made possible the 1969 reprint of *The Vawter Family in America*.

* * * * *

Susan Woodard Vawter, 81, of Memphis, Tennessee, died 19 June 1999 at Baptist Memorial Hospital in Memphis.

She was a member of Merton Street Church of Christ, Pilot Club of Memphis, and a founding member and past president of Harding Academy Mothers Club. She was a retired realtor.

Survivors include a son, Vince Vawter of Newburgh, Indiana; a sister, Ondine Wright of Jackson, Tennessee; a brother, Paul Woodard of Memphis; and two grandchildren, Lemuel R. and Julia B. Vawter of Newburgh. Burial was at Hopewell Cemetery in Lavinia, Tennessee.

Preceding her in death was her husband, Vilas V. Vawter, Jr.
Mrs. Vawter's son, Vince, is a member of the VVV Family Association.

* * * * *

Effie Magnolia Watson Vaughter, 90, of Indianapolis died March 23, 1999. She was a homemaker.

Survivors include sons, William Hale, James Miller and Mark Williams; a daughter, Martha Washington; a brother, Lester Watson; 26 grandchildren; 69 great-grandchildren; and three great-great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband, William Vaughter. Burial was at New Crown Cemetery in Indianapolis.

This obituary was sent by Esther Vawter of Fresno, California. She received it from a cousin who lives in Indianapolis.

IN REMEMBRANCE

Lucille C. Walker, 99, of Big Spring, Texas, died 7 September 1997 at her home. She was born 12 February 1898 in Dyersburg, Tennessee. She first married R. L. Price in 1933 in Oklahoma, and he preceded her in death in 1938. She married C. A. Walker 14 April 1941 in Colorado City. He preceded her in death 19 May 1983.

Mrs. Walker and her husband owned and operated Walker Drug Store for over 30 years. She was a member of First Christian Church of Big Spring and World War I Auxiliary.

Survivors include several nieces and nephews including James and Frances Walker and Burl and Evelyn Dennis, all of Big Spring. Burial was at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

Mrs. Walker was member of the association for many years and always enjoyed sharing the newsletters with her family.

* * * * *

Smith Julian Vaughter, 90, of Elberton, Georgia, died 1 March 1999 at St. Mary's Hospital in Athens. He was born in Elbert County, Georgia, the son of James Benson and Mary Beulah Sanders Vaughter.

Julian was a 1929 graduate of Centerville High School, and a Navy veteran of World War II, serving on the U.S.S. Callaway Troop Carrier in the Pacific Theater. He was retired from Western Electric Telephone Company and a member of Harmony Baptist Church.

He was the last surviving member of his immediate family. Burial was at Harmony Baptist Church Cemetery.

Many who attended the VVV reunion in Gainesville, Georgia, will remember visiting Julian and his brother, Swift, at their home. This obituary was sent by Charles Burt, who also sent a copy of Swift Vaughter's will. We plan to use the will in a future newsletter.

* * * * *

Frank Milton Vawter, 77, of Indianapolis died 1 November 1998.

He had been a self-employed master electrician 45 years, and was a Navy veteran of World War II. He was a member of American Legion Post 155 and Moose Lodge 17.

Survivors include sons, Frank Paul Vawter, the Rev. Vencil Leroy Vawter, Larry Edward Vawter, and Robert Roy Vawter; daughters, Mary Jo Crouch and Terry Lee Marsella, 12 grandchildren, and his former wife Jo Anna Bader. Burial was at Calvary Cemetery.

THANK YOU

Thanks to all who continue to contribute information for the newsletter. If you see an obituary or other item of interest, be sure to send it to the news editor. All help is greatly appreciated.

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1999 REUNION REPORT

From 1908 until his death in 1941, Nashville, Indiana, was the home of artist Will Vawter. This past August, the Brown County Inn in Nashville became the "home away from home" for members of the VVV Family Association attending the annual reunion.

Registration began on Thursday, August 5, and the hospitality suite was filled all evening as members and friends enjoyed a time of fellowship. Several people had arrived on Tuesday and Wednesday to get an early start on renewing friendships, visiting the shops and touring Brown County.

Official opening of the reunion was on Friday morning by VVV President Phil Vaughter. The traditional "ringing of the cowbell" was done by Anna Louise Swenson, 8-month old granddaughter of Joe and Bonita Welch.

Invocation was given by Bill M. Vawter of Oklahoma City. Leading the pledge to the American Flag were Jonathan Andrew Welch and William Frederick Welch, both three years old and grandsons of Joe and Bonita. It was appropriate that Jonathan helped lead the pledge, as he is a native of South Korea and just became a U.S. citizen this past spring.

Minutes of the 1998 reunion in Austin, Texas, were read by the secretary, Joyce Peterson. The treasurer's report was given by assistant treasurer, Cheryl Kelly.

Following adjournment of the morning session, the group traveled by car caravan to

Vernon, Indiana, for lunch and a brief tour. Lunch was served at the North American House, a former hotel and stagecoach stop that is now the home of the Jennings County Historical Society. A visit was made to the Tripp Inn, formerly the home of Williamson Dunn Vawter, and the Vernon Cemetery, where flowers were placed on the graves of Jesse R. and Sarah Parks Vawter.

Also visited was the old Vawter Cemetery located in Selmier State Forest about three miles northeast of Vernon. This cemetery is on property once owned by William and Frances Vawter. Flowers were placed on the graves of William and Frances Vawter and many others of the Vawter family buried there, including Philemon and Anna Vawter, the parents of Frances.

On Friday evening following a poolside cookout, Jim Vaughters gave a presentation on the late Swift and Julius Vaughter. Jim had a large amount of memorabilia from their home and told of the plans for their property in Georgia.

Saturday morning was spent at the Brown County Art Gallery. Several Will Vawter paintings were on display, along with two pencil drawings owned by a VVV member. Will Vawter was a member and past president of the art gallery association.

Saturday afternoon was free to relax, shop, explore the hills of Brown County, or attend a genealogy session held in our meeting room. The session was led by Georgene Jurgenson, Joyce Peterson and Jim Vaughters.

The annual Saturday banquet and memorial service began at 6:30 p.m. with prayer by Gordie Vaughter Spencer, aunt of VVV President Phil Vaughter.

The memorial service was conducted by Beth Melton, with the assistance of Taylor Overton and Julia Petree, who placed flowers in a vase as each name was given and a brief obituary read. The service opened with Scripture read by Laneil Vawter, and a solo by Jackie Hudson. Closing the service was a solo by Kristi Glasgow.

Election of officers was held with Fred Wicker, chairman of the nominating committee making the following recommendations: Norma Jean Vawter as treasurer, Barbara Vawter as assistant treasurer, Jim Vaughters as historian/archivist, and all other officers to remain. All were elected by acclamation. Other members of the nominating committee were Granville Allen, Barbara Vawter, Jesse Vawter and Robert L. Vawter.

Appointed to the nominating committee for 2000 were Robert. L. Vawter II, Jesse Vawter, Lowell Vaughter and Barbara Vawter.

Again this year, entertainment was by the VVV Family Singers under the direction of Ellen Wicker Cummings. Several of the singers first became a part of the group when children, and are now young adults. Their performance is always a highlight of the reunion.

Special recognition was given to the following:

Oldest: Emery Mayer, age 88

Youngest: Anna Louise Swenson, age eight months

Longest married: Evert and Maxine Joling, 54 years

Traveled farthest: Gordie Vaughter Spencer, 2152 miles

It should be noted that while we had three people traveling from California to the reunion, there was also one person who came a distance of about six blocks. Ruth Jones

Hansen was a first time attendee and lives in Nashville.

The roll call of states found there to be 19 states represented at the banquet, with Indiana having the most at 16. Second place went to Tennessee and Mississippi, with each having 12.

As is the custom every five years, the 2000 reunion will be held in Virginia, an invitation was extended by Ellen Wicker Cummings, who will be hosting the event.

To close the evening, the always popular door prizes were distributed by Mary and Bob Vawter, with the help of many of the children.

MEMORIAL SERVICE

1. Martha Evelyn Jackson Compton, 90, died 5 March 1997
2. Lucille C. Walker, 99, died 7 September 1997
3. Era Vaughters, 81, died 26 October 1997
4. Gene Evans 75, died April 1998
5. Pleasant Stribling Corbitt, Jr., died 9 June 1998
6. Ida May Vawter Tooms, 91, died 20 June 1998
7. Harry A. Crouch, 89, died 14 August 1998
8. Frank Milton Vawter, 77, died 1 November 1998
9. Glenn I. Vawter, 85, died 14 November 1998
10. Roy Taylor, Jr., 67, died 5 December 1998
11. Benjamin Brand Burton, 18, died 28 January 1999
12. Allean Vawter Powell, died January 1999
13. Edna "Babe" Vawter, 90, died 24 February 1999
14. Smith Julian Vaughter, 90, died 1 March 1999
15. Effie Magnolia Vaughter, 90, died 23 March 1999
16. Terry Lynn Vawter, 56, died 7 April 1999
17. Walter Earl Reynolds, 86, died 8 May 1999
18. Jean Vawter Robinson, 77, died 10 May 1999
19. Susan Woodard Vawter, 81, died 19 June 1999
20. Lula Vaughters Thompson; 87, died 1 August 1999

GENEALOGY SESSION REPORT BY RALPHE VAWTER

Twenty-three interested souls met to talk about family history/ genealogy. Led by Ralphe Vawter, presentations were made by Georgene Jurgensen, Joyce Peterson, Larry Wilcox and Jim Vaughters.

We talked about expanding genealogy information in the newsletter and establishing a Web page for the Association.

On the prior evening, Jim Vaughters gave a most interesting view of the Julian and Swift Vaughter property in Georgia. Jim was later named the new Historian/Archivist, replacing Ralphe Vawter who chose to retire from the position.

Hope to see you next year at Vawter's Church in Virginia.

UPDATE ON SWIFT AND JULIAN VAUGHTER

The Department of Natural Resources, State of Georgia, is currently surveying the entire 800 acres that the brothers, Swift and Julian Vaughter, willed to the State. The survey is both a boundary survey and an internal survey. Every topographic feature will be noted. One big house, two small cabins, two barns, ruins of the first two settlers' houses, the four-grave cemetery (Vaughter), and a two-grave cemetery (Patterson), are being located, marked and protected by the State.

The State is accepting for the designated park all but three to five acres where the house, store, garage, barn and trailer stand. Julian's Estate will continue to own that land and buildings until a decision is made as to how to dispose of them. The opportunity for the VVV Association would be to preserve them and set up at least a display, if not a museum.

Jim Vaughters, his sister, Pat, and his brother, Doug, purchased all the contents of all the buildings. Most of the furniture will make its way to their houses, but some might be left in the buildings.

The ceremony turning over the land/park to the State is one to two years away. Jim suggests and strongly recommends that we try to schedule that ceremony at our reunion. Even if not, the Association should send a big delegation. The State expects and appreciates family participation.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Samuel and Hazel Robinson Maniscalco who will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on 20 November 1999. They live in Arabi, Louisiana. Hazel is a homemaker, and her husband is a jewelry engraver, specializing in monogram jewelry.

Hazel is the granddaughter of Loving and Aulenia Robinson, who lived in Paden, Mississippi, and the great-granddaughter of Joseph and Cynthia Robinson.

Hazel's e-mail: hrm6800@aol.com

Congratulations, too, goes to Rebecca Cummings of Virginia Beach, Virginia. Rebecca's field hockey team, the Cox High School Lady Falcons, won its 13th state title. This is a national record. Rebecca is a senior halfback on the team. The Cummings family is spending the Thanksgiving holidays in West Palm Beach, Florida, at the National Field Hockey Festival. Rebecca is the daughter of Ned and Ellen Cummings, and the granddaughter of Fred and Wordna Wicker.

WELCOME

S. Ernest Vandiver, Jr., of Lavonia Georgia, a former governor of Georgia, has been added to our mailing list. His grandmother was Eliza Missouri Vaughter, one of four daughters of Hiram and Elizabeth Glenn Vaughter. Hiram was the son of James and Jane Vaughter. James was the son of John and Joanna Vaughter. Thanks to VVV Historian-Archivist Jim Vaughters for this connection.

MARTIN FAMILY DESCENDANTS DONATE DRESS
From *The Paris Post-Intelligencer*, Paris, Tennessee
Sent by Agnes Ellis Smyth

The Special Collections Archives of the Paul Meek Library at the University of Tennessee at Martin now contains a 162-year-old dress which was worn by the sister of William Martin, for whom the City of Martin was named.

In 1837, Thomas and Drucilla Vawter Martin came to Weakley County from Halifax County, Virginia, to join their only son, William, who had made the trip south five years earlier. The custom was for families to travel in large groups for safety reasons. The trip took about four to six weeks to complete. In this group were James Adams, his wife Susan Martin Adams and their first two children. The date of this journey was proven to be 1837 because Martha, the couple's first child was born in 1833 and died in 1837 enroute to Weakley County. She is buried somewhere in Henry County.

Living descendants of Susan Adams don't know how or why she had carefully kept a dress she had brought with her from Virginia to Tennessee. Susan died in 1872, and was survived by five children. One child died in less than a year of Susan's death, while the others soon married. James M. Adams, the oldest son in the home at Susan's death, bought the home farm which was located between Ralston and Martin. He kept the farm until he died. Fortunately for some reason, he kept his mother's dress. When James died, his son, Franklin, became the new owner of the dress.

The handwoven dress is faded now, but at one time was either a brilliant gold or shining yellow, with a vertical print pattern from top to bottom. The dress fastens together with 10 buttons from the top to the hem on the front, and is tapered at the waist with a half belt. It is difficult to determine whether the dress was worn in the winter or if it was a summer dress. More than likely the dress was worn for special occasions year-round.

"This was probably her best dress," said Marion Smith of McKenzie. Ms. Smith is the last person to wear the dress, and she wore it 30 years ago to an antique dress fashion show as part of the McKenzie centennial celebration. Ms. Smith claimed top honors in the event for having the oldest dress. Ms. Smith is the niece of Nora Newberry Adams, a former school teacher in Paris. In 1961, Nora married Franklin Adams, who served in World War I and was one of eight stenographers at the Versailles Peace Conference with President Woodrow Wilson. Franklin Adams' great-grandmother was Susan L. Martin Adams.

"Few living today have seen such a garment or can imagine the hours of work that went into making it," said Agnes Ellis Smyth of Weakley County, one of five living great-granddaughters of Susan Martin Adams; "This is truly one of Weakley County's treasures," she said. "The dress is valuable only because it is now more than one hundred and sixty-two years old, and made entirely by hand of home-spun cotton threads, some of which were dyed blue."

Barbara Adams Dahms of California, known to many as Marisue Adams, and a niece of Franklin Adams, and Mrs. Smyth presented the dress to the UTM Special Collections Archives in January.

QUERIES

From: James D. Richardson, 809 Juliet Avenue, Memphis TN 38127-6076

"Does anyone know just how many children John Vawter IV had? The Newsletter, Spring 1989 (Cousin Chart) shows 5 daughters and 1 son by 1st wife, Rhoda, and 4 daughters by 2nd wife, Elizabeth. The Newsletter, Fall 1986, (telling of the tour to Jacinto when the reunion was in Tupelo in 1986) says 6 of John's children were born in Tishomingo Co., Mississippi. These would have been children by Elizabeth and we only have 4 names. It also said 3 of his children died there. Is there a known death date for John Vawter IV? Records in Newsletters show he died after the 1850 census (when he was in Marion Co. Alabama) and before October 1864, when Peachy, his 3rd wife, remarried. Neither John nor Peachy were found on the 1860 census index of Alabama or Mississippi. Any help appreciated."

From: Leon Vawter, 425 W Williams, Santa Maria CA 93458

"I know very little about my family twig on the Vawter tree. We lived so far away from them when it didn't seem important, when we were young. My grandparents were John Miles and Schelatta (spelling?) Vawter who lived in or near Tipton, Indiana, in the eighteen hundreds. I believe they were farmers. I understand my grandfather was killed by a falling tree. They had seven children: (not in order of birth)

1. John, wife Lou (He patented and manufactured an early model automobile clutch.
2. Oliver, wife Effie (children: Ruth, George Roy, Hazel and Ruby)
3. Rose
4. George
5. Christopher Newport
6. Adda Ann
7. James Monroe (my father) born. Feb. 5, 1876 in Tipton. His first wife's name was Mae.

"James Monroe, my father, and Mae had two children, Naomie and a son who died at an early age. Mae also died in mid-age. My father later married Georgiana Miller (my mother), born in Beaverdam, Kentucky, and who was living in Indianapolis when they were married. Dad served in the Spanish American War, serving in Cuba and the Philippines. After being discharged, he worked in a buggy factory, later at the Sanitary Can Co. Both places were located in Indianapolis, where my older brother, Eugene, was born in 1916. In 1919, the family moved to a farm, purchased from his brother, Oliver, in North Arkansas where I was born in 1920. Three younger brothers, William, Carl, and Harlan Monroe also were born there. After Mom died and all of us were grown, Dad retired to the Indiana state Soldiers Home near Lafayette where he died in 1957 and is buried there in the memorial cemetery."

IN REMEMBRANCE

Philip Andrew Hoyt, 67, of Indianapolis died 20 July 1999.

Mr. Hoyt was a certified lay minister with American Baptist Church, a member of First Baptist Church in Indianapolis, and had been a Sunday school teacher and youth group leader. He was past president of the American Baptist Men of Indiana. He also volunteered with Prison Fellowship and Habitat for Humanity and served as a Boy Scout commissioner.

He was a civil service worker for the Department of the Army at Fort Benjamin Harrison for 35 years, retiring in 1987, and a veteran of the Marine Corps.

Survivors include his wife, Ginger S. Vawter Hoyt; a son, Army Lt. Col. Michael A. Hoyt; daughters, Cynthia J. Jansen, Katherine S. Fisher and Jan Hoyt Westcott; and 12 grandchildren.

Funeral service was held at First Baptist Church, and burial was in Crown Hill Cemetery in Indianapolis.

* * * * *

Vallie Wiley Cox, 96, died 6 August 1999 in Nash, Texas. She was the daughter of Thomas and Emma Vawter Wiley, who had lived in Benton County, Mississippi.

She was a Baptist and a homemaker.

Survivors include three daughters, Betty Turner, Dorothy Henter and Hazel Faye Carter, all of Texas; a brother, William S. Wiley of Gulfport, Mississippi; and a sister, Addie Edwards of Concord, North Carolina. She was preceded in death by her husband, T. L. Cox; a brother, Thomas Wiley; and a sister Ora Wiley Wicker.

Mrs. Cox was the aunt of VVV Association members Ken Wicker of Tupolo, Mississippi; and Fred Wicker of Pontotoc, Mississippi.

* * * * *

Lula Vaughters Thompson, 87, of Dawsonville, Georgia, died 1 August 1999 at Chestnut Ridge Nursing Center in Cummings, Georgia.

A lifelong resident of Dawson County, she was a homemaker and a member of Bethel Baptist Church.

Survivors include sisters, Alice Disharoon, Eler Tanner, Ola Swafford and Flara Waters, all of Dawsonville; and a number of other relatives. She was preceded in death by her husband, William Thompson, and a brother, Charlie Vaughters.

Funeral service was held at Bethel Baptist Church and burial was in the church cemetery.

Lula Vaughters Thompson was a longtime member of the VVV Association and attended many reunions.

* * * * *

Charles Burt, longtime member, supporter and former treasurer of the Association, was unable to attend the August reunion because of a serious illness. We are sorry to report the death of Charles a few weeks ago. We will have his obituary in the January newsletter.

Our sympathy is sent to Betty and all of Charles' family .

MEMBERS AND FRIENDS REGISTERED AT THE 1999 REUNION

ALABAMA

Granville O. and Opal E. Allen

CALIFORNIA

Gordie Vaughter Spencer

Garry Vawter

Marjorie Vawter

COLORADO

Jim Vaughters

DELAWARE

Donna and Robert L. Vawter

Mary and Robert L. Vawter II;

Robert, Amanda, Jesse

FLORIDA

Ralphe and Caroline Vawter

GEORGIA

Cheryl Kelley; Tim & Kristy Glasgow

Mindy Parrish

Pam Schlesinger

Steve Swindle

Bob Theile

ILLINOIS

Connie Bugos

Peter and Nora Rogers

Edith Vawter

INDIANA

Mary McDaniel

Ruth Hansen

Norris and Joan Krall

Dewey and Jeanette Vawter

Vinee and Betty Vawter; Saranan Roy

Alan and Kyong Welch; Jonathan

Darren Welch and Kristin Swenson;

William and Anna

Joe and Bonita Welch

LOUISIANA

Melinda Vawter

Larry S. Wilcox

MICHIGAN

Patricia Vawter Klein

Stanley and Janet Read

Margaret Vawter

Robert L. and Ila Vawter

MISSISSIPPI

Judith Crawford

Martha Hudson; Jackie

Emery Mayer

Lowell and Angela Vaughters

Norma S. Vaughters

Fred and Wordna Wicker; McDaniel

Ken and Norma Wicker

NEW YORK

Dorothy and Richard Vawter

OHIO

Sue Vawters Ashton

Betty Vaughters May

Sharon Patrick

Venie Vawters; Maggie

OKLAHOMA

Cleta Jones

Lou Ann Murphy

Billy Mack and Virginia Vawter

PENNSYLVANIA

Glee Krapf; Allen

SOUTH DAKOTA

Georgene Jurgensen

TENNESSEE

Bill and Julia Blanks

Caroline Scarlett; Taylor Overton

Barbara J. Vawter; Emily DeFur

Norma Jean Vawter

Wendy Vawter

TEXAS

Juanita Baker

Beth Melton

Lynwood and Joyce Peterson

Phil and Peggy Vaughter; Courtney

Jesse L. and Laneil Vawter

John H. and Sue Vawter

VIRGINIA

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WISCONSIN

Evert and Maxine Joling

Johnathon Joling

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