

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT: Phil Vaughter, 1103 Newport Avenue, Austin, TX 78753 (512) 836-3105
prv37@aol.com
VICE-PRESIDENT: Ken Wicker, 607 Magnolia Drive, Tupelo, MS 38801
SECRETARY: Melinda Vawter, 1680 O'Neal Lane, Apt. 284, Baton Rouge LA 70816-1822
TREASURER: Norma Jean Vawter, 1075 Oaklawn Drive, Milan TN 38358
ASST.TREASURER: Barbara J. Vawter, 1272 Poplar Estates Pkwy, Germantown TN 38138
HISTORIAN/ARCHIVIST: James C. Vaughters, 5981 S Lima, Englewood CO 80111
313-771-7103
NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Bonita Welch, 4145N 900W, Scipio, IN 47273 (812) 392-2149
bwelch@seidata.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR: Sally Brown, 2473 E 73rd Place, Tulsa, OK 74136(918) 496-1538

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IF A RENEWAL FORM IS ENCLOSED, YOU NEED TO PAY DUES

2000 REUNION IN HAMPTON, VIRGINIA
AUGUST 3 - 6

It is time once again to make plans for attending the annual VVV Association reunion. Ellen and Ned Cummings have extended an invitation to Hampton, Virginia, on August 3 - 6. The following information is sent by Ellen.

Dear Family Association Members,

Plans are rapidly taking place for this summer's reunion. A detailed schedule of events will be provided in the next newsletter, but this information will give you an idea of what to expect and how to prepare.

The site of the 2000 VVV Reunion is the Chamberlin Hotel in Hampton, Virginia. The Chamberlin is located on the grounds of historic Fort Monroe, and within easy walking distance of the Casemate Museum, where Jefferson Davis was incarcerated during the Civil War. The Chamberlin itself is situated on a point right on the Chesapeake Bay. The room rates are \$99.00 for doubles with water view, and \$89.00 for doubles with historic view. The hotel underwent a complete renovation three years ago, and is a dream - a truly grand old hotel. It has indoor and outdoor swimming pools, bike and jogging trails, tennis courts, shuffleboard, fishing pier, exercise facilities and golf courses nearby.

The Chamberlin is an hour and a half from Vauter's Church, which we will visit on Saturday, August 5. It is halfway between the Virginia Beach oceanfront and Colonial Williamsburg. Williamsburg is also home to Busch Gardens and Water Country USA. The Air and Space Museum with its huge IMAX Theater is located in Hampton, as is the departure point for the ferry which provides daily tours of the Chesapeake Bay and trips to the Norfolk Waterside area.

Registration will be held between 3:00 and 9:00 p.m. on Thursday, August 3. I encourage everyone to arrive in time for the free Army Band concert, which is held on the grounds of the Chamberlin Hotel every Thursday evening from 5:00 - 7:00.

A Family Association meeting will convene at 9:00 a.m. Friday, August 4. After this meeting, which should last approximately one hour, we will adjourn until dinner at 6:00 that evening. During this time, you can avail yourselves of any number of activities in and around the hotel, or travel to destinations designated further in this letter. In addition, Jim Vaughters will hold three genealogy sessions that day: 11:00 - noon, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m., and 4:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Saturday morning we will depart for Vauter's Church, where we will be served lunch and tour the church and grounds. Afterward we will travel to the Glebe, which is approximately 6 ½ miles away. Ned and I met Bob and Donna Vawter in Tappahannock in March, and spent three hours looking for the Glebe. In addition to photos, a map is enclosed so no one will ever have to do that again. For those of you who are wondering about the Glebe, it is the house and surrounding property provided by a church for its minister. More information about this particular Glebe will follow.

Our traditional banquet dinner will be held at the Chamberlin Hotel Saturday evening. Afterward another genealogy session, led by Jim Vaughters, will be available for those interested.

It is traditional for family association members to attend the 11:00 a.m. service at Vauter's Church on Sunday, and we will plan to do that again this summer. During this service, we will have the privilege of being served communion from the church's silver service that is over 200 years old. This is always a highlight for me. The parishioners will serve lunch after the service, and Jim Vaughters will hold one final genealogy session on the grounds.

Last summer a request was made for activities with just the younger VVV's in mind. That has been addressed in the following manner. For those who arrive in the early afternoon on Thursday, Ned will supervise a trip to the Virginia Beach oceanfront or to the Hampton Ferry. That night, Ned will take everyone interested to Busch Gardens amusement park. These plans are in addition to the times the kids will surely want to spend at the pool, tennis court, on bikes or just "hanging out."

Upon registering, you will receive a complimentary packet of brochures and other materials concerning tourist attractions and opportunities here in the Hampton Roads area. However, I wanted to give you a brief preview of some of these opportunities, in case you need to plan ahead, or perhaps want to stay longer than the weekend of the reunion. Hampton Roads would be an ideal vacation site for you and your family this summer.

Enclosed you will find a color brochure of the Chamberlin Hotel and all its

amenities. Other points of interest are as follows:

PHOEBUS - The waterfront community of Phoebus near Hampton, Virginia, has a rich history dating back to the early 1600s. Located next to Fort Monroe, Phoebus is the exit you will take from I-64. Its Victoriana era downtown is home to restaurants and specialty shops, as well as established local businesses. You will drive through this charming town on your way to the Chamberlin Hotel.

FORT MONROE - The construction of Fort Monroe began in 1819 and was completed in 1834. It protected Hampton Roads, and played an influential role in all our nation's conflicts since then. Sometimes called the Gibraltar of Chesapeake Bay, it is the largest stone fort ever built in this country and the only moat encircled fort still used by the Army. Today, the installation is the headquarters for the United States Army Training and Doctrine Command.

THE CASEMATE MUSEUM - The Casemate Museum opened June 1, 1951, to display the cell in which Jefferson Davis had been imprisoned after the Civil War. Since then, the museum has expanded to depict the history of Fort Monroe and the Coast Artillery Corps. Exhibits include weapons, uniforms, models, and drawings by Frederick Remington and R. F. Zogbaum. The museum also serves as the Army's coast Artillery Museum.

VIRGINIA AIR & SPACE CENTER - From historic air and space craft suspended below the 94-foot ceiling to giant screen IMAX films, your imagination will soar when you visit this award-winning Center. Of interest are NASA artifacts including the Apollo 12 Command Module and a three-billion-year-old moon rock. See what you would look like as an astronaut, experience launching a rocket and ride a motion simulator.

HARBOR CRUISES - Cruises depart daily (10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.) from Downtown Hampton, a historic seaport city settled in 1610. View Blackbeard's Point, where the Pirate's head was hung after his capture, see the landing site of Capt. John Smith and the first settlers, and sail past Fort Monroe. Enjoy a brief walking tour of Fort Wool; a 15-acre island active during the Civil War, World Wars I and II, and slowly pass the entire two-mile waterfront of the world's largest naval installation: the Norfolk Naval Base.

SUNSET CRUISE - Enjoy a fascinating harbor sunset aboard the narrated cruise of Hampton Roads Harbor, Fort Monroe, Chesapeake Bay and the Norfolk Naval Base. Watch for dolphin and other marine life. (6:30 - 8:30 p.m., every Wednesday and Thursday, reservations suggested.)

SUNSET DINNER CRUISE - A romantic sunset and dinner under the stars highlights this popular catered evening cruise. Entertainment varies from either a jazz band, stand-up comic, or DJ and dancing. Relax on the upper deck with your favorite beverage and watch the sights of the harbor. (Every Friday and Saturday, 6:30 - 9:30 p.m., reservations required: 1-800-757-BOAT)

EVENING ADVENTURE CRUISE- Featuring "Sea Sagas" and Twilight Tales", this cruise offers a river and open bay trip into history-rich Hampton Roads Harbor. Skilled, costumed interpreters and nationally recognized historians use eyewitness accounts to chronicle the exciting stories about the World's Greatest Harbor during this 2 ½ hour tour. (7:00 - 9:30 p.m.)

RAPPAHANNOCK RIVER CRUISE - Virginia's Rappahannock River is full of adventure history and excitement. It all comes alive in a 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. trip aboard the Captain Thomas. Your destination is Virginia's premier winery, Ingleside Plantations, for tour and tasting. Catered lunch is available. (Reservations required: 804-453-BOAT)

TANGIER ISLAND CRUISE- A relaxing 1 ½ hour narrated cruise takes you to Tangier Island. Spend 2 ½ hours walking around this quaint island, or take a tour on a mini-bus. (10:00 a.m. - 3:45 p.m., reservations required: 804-453-BOAT)

THE MARINER'S MUSEUM - Thirteen spacious galleries showcase a treasure chest of figureheads, ship models, navigational instruments and a world-renowned August Crabtree collection of miniature ships afloat on waves of silence. Also, hands-on exhibits, costumed interpreters, an award winning film, "Mariner," and much more is contained in this 77,000 square feet museum.

VIRGINIA LIVING MUSEUM - When you look at exhibits in this museum, they look back at you. From bobcats to horseshoe crabs, this indoor/outdoor attraction is a wild, unforgettable encounter for all ages, and is located in Hampton, Virginia.

VIRGINIA WAR MUSEUM - The meaningful saga of military history unfolds in the galleries of the Virginia War Museum, with displays documenting America's wars from 1775 to the present. Numerous tanks and cannons are displayed on the grounds.

JAMESTOWN SETTLEMENT - Within hailing distance of Jamestown's original site, three tall-masted ships lie at anchor in the James River. A short distance up the river's bank, the wood palisade of a recreated colonial fort encircles the wattle-and-daub buildings within. In the woods beyond the fort, smoke wafts from reed-covered dwellings of the Powhatan Indian village. The history depicted here is more than just something you'll observe and hear. You'll touch it, smell it, even try your hand at some of it. Original artifacts, fascinating exhibits and an informative 15-minute film can be enjoyed in the settlement's indoor galleries.

YORKTOWN VICTORY CENTER - At Yorktown Victory Center, outdoor living history interpretations, hundreds of original artifacts and an evocative film, "A Time of Revolution," paint a vivid picture of the times surrounding the war's end. The American Revolution and the Battle of Yorktown were events of epic proportions. At Yorktown Victory Center, you will discover that both also had intriguing human dimensions.

HISTORIC YORKTOWN - The port town of York resonated in the early and mid 1700s with the clatter of tobacco merchants, watermen, and ships' chandlers. Five years after English taxes precipitated the Revolutionary War, cannons of the final, decisive battle bombarded York Town. Here, on October 19, 1781, American and French forces defeated the British Army. Today no cannons boom here, nor are battles being fought. But a closer look at this now tranquil setting reveals an important time in our nation's history.

COLONIAL WILLIAMSBURG - Visitors to Colonial Williamsburg are completely submerged in the 18th century experience. This town is a living, breathing lesson in history. But you will have so much fun, you won't even realize you are learning something. Smile for the camera with your head in stocks, march with the town's colonial militia, debate with a founding father, or tour homes or museums. Here in Colonial Williamsburg, it's always 1775.

BUSCH GARDENS & WATER COUNTRY USA - For spectacular rides, wild water adventures, fabulous shows, great shopping and feasts fit for the gods, Busch Gardens Williamsburg and Water Country USA are family adventure parks you won't want to miss.

I have merely hit the high spots. There is much more to see and do in the Hampton Roads and Tidewater areas. I am listing my telephone numbers, e-mail and "snail" mail addresses in case any of you wish to get in touch with me for any reason. I am looking forward to this reunion and to seeing each of you. Every effort is being made to provide something for everyone. I hope you will make your plans now to be present at the Chamberlin Hotel for the 2000 VVV Family Association Reunion.

Sincerely,

Ellen Cummings
4708 Bradston Road
Virginia Beach VA 23455
Home: (757) 464-2963
Work: (757) 464-2423
HYPERLINK mail: efcned@aol.com

As you can tell from this information sent by Ellen, there is much to see and do in the Hampton area, and the time of our reunion is the high tourist season. Be sure to call the Chamberlin Hotel soon to make your reservations. The telephone number can be found on the enclosed hotel brochure. Our rooms are being held only until July 25, so it is important to not put off making your call. As usual, we remind you to state that you will be with the VVV Family Association.

If you would like to help with registration or in any other way, be sure to contact Ellen. Anyone who has planned an event such as this knows it is quite a job and that all help is certainly welcomed.

NEWS FROM JIM VAUGHTERS, HISTORIAN/ARCHIVIST

ELBERT COUNTY GEORGIA

Jim Vaughters, Historian/Archivist of the Association, lived in Elberton, Georgia, for two weeks in September and another week in October while working in the buildings at Swift and Julian Vaughter's farm. The volume of documents and memorabilia is now several times larger than what was displayed at the reunion in 1999.

This spring, the Estate of Julian Vaughter will deed title to the 850-acre farm to the State of Georgia. It takes approximately one year from that point to transform the property into a park. Jim is in constant contact with the State, and hopes to host the 2001 reunion in Elbert County, Georgia, concurrently with the park dedication ceremony.

NEWSLETTERS

Jim has a complete set of newsletters that have been published by the Association, beginning in 1977. He will have his available at the 2000 reunion, and anyone who needs to make copies of particular issues can do so. Jim also suggests that a detailed index be made of the newsletters. They are full of individual items, articles, histories, etc., and would be an excellent source for research if indexed.

FAMILY STORIES

All members are invited and encouraged to collect their favorite stories about grandparents (and further back) and to bring them to the reunion. Jim wants to make a special program of them. (A note from the news editor: Another good project is to make taped interviews of your parents, grandparents and other relatives.)

THE VAWTER FAMILY IN AMERICA

As many of you know, the reprint edition (1969) of *The Vawter Family in America* is available from the Association. This book was written in 1905 by Grace Vawter Bicknell, and reprinted in 1969 with a supplement update of the O'Conner family. The purchase of the remaining books from the late Walter and Edna Reynolds was made possible by an interest-free loan from an Association member.

None of the books are in fine condition. Many have entire sections missing, out of place or upside down, or have much of the index missing. However for some it is just a matter of one or two pages missing or having faint print, and those are the books being sold now. We send the best available and supply replacement pages for you to insert.

The softbound books have 442 pages, including an index, and are being sold for \$20.00, plus \$3.00 shipping.

Order from: Bonita Welch, 4145 N 900 W, Scipio IN 47273

QUERIES

From: Jim Vaughters, 5981 S Lima Street, Englewood CO 80111

Hiram Vaughter, son of James and Jane, was born in Franklin County, Georgia, in 1814. He married Elizabeth Glenn in 1832 and all ten of their children were born there, from 1833 to 1853. Someone listed his death date as July 6, 1853. Does anyone know what document so states? Please contact Jim if you can help with this death date.

From: Anita Lucas, P.O. Box 2448, Cheyenne WY 82003

Anita is interested in Russell Vawter of Virginia, and his son Chadwell Vawter, who moved to North Carolina. Chadwell's daughter, Pauline was the great-great-grandmother of Anita. Please contact her if you can provide information on this line.

ABSALOM GRAVES VAWTER Submitted by Willard C. "Bill" Grant Westland, Michigan

Absalom Graves Vawter was the third son and also the third oldest child of William and Mary Ravenel Vawter. He was born 18 August 1852 in Bedford, Trimble County, Kentucky. "Ab" was small of stature, being not five feet tall. This may have hampered him in later life.

Bedford being off the railroad, it was necessary to carry the mail miles. When Ab was grown, he got the job of carrying the mail from Campbellsburg, which was about eleven or twelve miles away. He bought a jenny, a small specie of mule, and with the mail thrown over the jenny's back he would trudge the twenty-four miles walking and leading the jenny. That was one of the good jobs of the day. You were sure of your money; it came from the government.

Ab moved with his family to Chicago in 1880. He continued in the transportation business, having worked as a superintendent in the Northeastern Railroad yards outside of Chicago, and as an oiler for the Chicago-Northwestern Railroad.

At one time, Ab lived in a two-story wooden building on Superior Street in Chicago. After the death of his wife, his widowed sister, Jessie Vawter Hughes and her two children, Allan and Virginia, came to live with him.

He attended Lamon Avenue Methodist Church, and never missed a young people's meeting even though he was in his seventies. They say that Ab once mortgaged his house to pay for the pipe organ at church. Others say it was to rebuild the church after it burned. His favorite testimony was, "There's so much good in the worst of us, and so much bad in the best of us, that it little behooves any of us to talk about the rest of us."

Absalom Graves Vawter died in Chicago in 1927. He and his wife are buried in the Odd Fellows Cemetery in Bedford, Kentucky. They had no children.

BITS 'N PIECES

Congratulations to Leonard and Marcella Kimmick of Lancaster, Texas, who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on 17 December 1999. Marcella has been a member of the Association for several years, and hopes to attend a reunion sometime.

A change of address was received for William Snyder Vawter. The new address is: 6420 Orchard #1, Dearborn MI 48126-2008. He sent a note that he was baptized at Vauter's Church in Virginia the same day as his father, also William Snyder Vawter. Do we have other members who were baptized or attended there?

Another change of address is for Ralphe E. Vawter. His new address is: 1700 Scenic Highway, #504, Pensacola FL 32503. Ralphe and Caroline have missed getting mail because of the #504 not being on the envelope, so please be sure to include that.

Congratulations to Courtney Vaughter, daughter of Phil and Peggy Vaughter, on her engagement. The wedding is planned for 12 August 2000, the Saturday following our reunion.

For a interesting web site, check out www.pursesnuggage.com. Matt and Suzan Vawter of Simpsonville, Kentucky, have a line of handbags named after the Vawter family. They are called "Charles Vautie".

IN REMEMBRANCE

Katherine Boziak Vawter Thomas died 14 May 1999. She was born in Jaramchy, Austria, on 16 April 1902, and came to the United States through Ellis Island when she was nine years old.

She was house manager at the Phoenix Women's Club for several years, and retired from Maricopa County Hospital in 1972, where she served as the hospital dietitian. She was affectionately known by all her family as "Nanie."

Survivors include a daughter, Marguerite Lindstrom; a son, Charles Vawter, Jr.; granddaughters, Jacque Ryan, Gwen Gabbert, Catherine Rouse, Linda Vawter, Susan Vawter and Mary Curfman; grandsons, Larry Vawter, James Vawter and Charles Vawter III; and 17 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband Charles Vawter, who died 25 January 1967, and a son, Larry Vawter, who died in February 1999.

Mass was at St. Gregory's Catholic Church, with burial at Greenwood Memorial Cemetery.

Katherine's husband, Charles Vawter, was the son of Robert Newton Vawter of Nacogdoches, Texas, and the grandson of Lorenzo Dow Vawter.

Thanks to Helen Dart Johnson of Fullerton, California, for sending this obituary.

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