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

DISTINGUISHED NEW MEMBER OF ASSOCIATION  
submitted by Jim Vaughters, VVV Historian/Archivist

The newest member of the VVV Family Association is S. Ernest Vandiver, Jr. of Lavonia, Georgia. Mr. Vandiver was Governor of the State of Georgia from 1959 until 1963. He proudly informed us that his paternal grandmother was Eliza Missouri Vaughter, who married William Isom Pinckney Vandiver.

In September 1999, the Association Historian was working at the Vaughter farm in Elberton, Georgia. A cousin in Franklin County informed the Governor, who then called the Historian. The Governor, his wife Betty, and their son Chip graciously extended an invitation to lunch at their home.

Mr. Vandiver gave a beautiful photograph of his grandmother. He went to the cemetery of Pleasant Hill Baptist Church where his grandparents are buried. Near their graves are those of Isaac Davis Aderhold and Martha Missouri Aderhold. Probably she is a niece of Eliza Missouri, whose older sister married an Aderhold.

Eliza Missouri Vaughter was the 9th of 10 children born to Hiram Vaughter and Elizabeth Glenn from 1833 to 1853, all in Franklin County, Georgia. She was born in 1851 and died in 1911. Her brothers were Samuel (the Confederate officer who went to

Oklahoma and whose descendants include Association President Phil and his brother Paul, still using Hiram as a middle name), Hiram (who died in the Civil War), and James M.C. (who went to Arkansas and became a physician). Thus the Vaughter name disappeared from Franklin County. But at least four daughters have been identified who married, stayed in Franklin, and left descendants who are still there.

Hiram was a son of James and Jane, who lived in Franklin county in the 1810s, 1820s and 1830s. They also had 10 children, all born in Franklin from 1812 to 1831. Hiram was the second, born in 1814.

James was a son of John, the Revolutionary War soldier who settled in Elbert County about 1800. That same land is what Swift and Julian Vaughter have now willed to the State of Georgia.

Governor Vandiver and Betty kept the Historian occupied for the entire afternoon. They wanted to know everything about the family history, the Association, and the project at Elberton. They also loaned a commemorative edition newspaper of the 150th anniversary of the county, containing several references to the old Vaughter families.

Mr. and Mrs. Vandiver are highly interested in the newsletter, reunion, and all activities of the Association. They are particularly motivated to attend the reunion in Elbert County when the park is dedicated. We hope that his presence graces the rostrum.

Welcome, Ernest and Betty!

SIMS INDEX TO LAND GRANTS IN WEST VIRGINIA  
submitted by Mary Winningham

Name	Acres	Local Description	Year	Book	Page
Vawter, William Jr.	125	Rich Creek	1795	3	302
Vawter, William Sr.	378	Muddy Run	1801	5	549
Vawter, Elliott	70	Dunlap's Creek	1852	2	428
Vawter, James	33	Hand's Creek	1844	2	214
Vawter, James	407	Hand's Creek	1845	2	242
Vawter, John H.	634	Hand's Creek	1836	1	558
Vawter, William Sr.	214	Hans Creek	1805	1	93
Vawter, James et al	500	Peter's Creek	1851	2	561
Vawter, James et al	275	Anglin's Creek 1851	2	275	
Vawter, James et al	1,000	Anglin's Creek 1851	2	274	
Vawter, James et al	375	Anglin's Creek 1851	2	276	
Vawter, James et al	350	Laurel Creek	1851	2	277

A THANK YOU

"The family of Charles Burt acknowledges with grateful appreciation your kind expression of sympathy."

JOHN GRAY VAWTER

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According to "The Vawter Family in America," John Gray Vawter was born in Todd County, Kentucky, in 1819 the son of Elliott and Anna Gray Vawter. He married Elizabeth Stewart on 6 February 1851 in Illinois. The book names seven children: Cornelius Lansing, b. 1851; Jane, b. 1854, d. 1858; Alexander Stewart (twin), b. 1858, d. 1858; Elliott Gray (twin), b. 1858, d. 1858; John Gray, Jr., b. 1859; Anna Elizabeth, b. 1864; Benjamin Stewart, b. 1865.

Found in the papers of William Snyder Vawter was the following letter written 13 July 1931 by David Hilger, librarian of the Historical Society of Montana.

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 of Vawter in Montana or Helena of much prominence.

Col. J. Vawter for whom Vawter St. of Helena was named came to Montana in 1864 and to Helena in 1865. He had large business interest 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 from 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, aged 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 marshal for Nome, Alaska, and from time until 1922 was connected with the federal courts of that territory.

In 1926, John G. Vawter was living in Cooke City, Montana.

Col. John G. Vawter 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, Lib.

A few months ago on eBay auction on the Interact, a telegraph sent by The Western Union Telegraph Company, T. C. Powers & Co. in Helena, to J. H. McKnight & Co., Fort Shaw, sold for \$89.20. A VVV Association member tried to buy the telegraph, but was not successful in getting the winning bid. It was dated May 14, 1877, and read:

"Please have one spare horse for John Vawter. Will be at crossing tomorrow morning. He is on way to Benton to receive remains Col. Vawter who died on board steamer Key West. All expenses will be paid here."

MARION UNITED METHODIST PASTOR ENDS 42 YEAR CAREER

*Marion (Michigan) Press, 30 June 1999*

sent by Willard C. "Bill" Grant

"My career as a minister has been very rewarding both spiritually and personally,' said Marion United Methodist minister, Jim Grant, this past week. 'It's a career that I would highly recommend to any young person who believes they have been called by God.'

"Grant says he was called to the ministry as a 12 year old while walking in the woods on the farm of his Sunday school teacher. His spiritual conviction and faith led him to become a minister in the United Methodist Church. 'If I had the chance, I would do it all over again,' said Grant.

"On Saturday, June 12th, Jim Grant and his wife Alice were feted in an open house at the Marion Township Hall in celebration of a 42-year career. Representative of every church that Grant pastored (except the first one) were on hand.

"Jim Grant's ministry began in a small country church near Paw Paw. Forty members in the Almena Methodist church and another 25 members in the nearby Glendale Methodist Church kept Grant hopping and provided the experience he needed. 'I was fresh out of seminary and pretty pious. I thought I had a lot of the answers. Fortunately they were very patient with me,' said Grant with a wistful chuckle. '

"From there Grant served six years in Dowagiac, six years in Grand Rapids, three years in Kalamazoo, 10 years in Byron Center, 10 years in Otsego. His last five years were spent in Marion. In an emotion-choked message last Sunday, Grant said good-bye to the Marion congregation and closed the door on a remarkable career.

"I have always been impressed with the loving and caring the members of the Marion congregation have shown to each other and with their deep serious Christian Faith. Another thing that really stands out in Marion is the tremendous hymn singing and the young people that have flocked to the church. It is the young people whom I find it the most difficult to say good-bye to.'

"Through the years Jim's wife Alice has been a source of inspiration, strength and cheer as they raised two boys and met the challenge of ministering to the congregational needs. Alice is an excellent pianist and always active in the women's fellowships and prayer circles.

"Alice is my best friend and my best critic. I just don't know how I could do it without her,' Grant was fond of saying.

"Rev. Grant and Alice have moved from the Marion parsonage this week to their new home in Plainwell. Grant says he will continue to preach on occasion in filling in for vacations and special occasions and hopes to keep in touch with all of his Marion friends."

William C. "Bill" Grant, of Westland, Michigan, is the brother of the Rev. Jim Grant. Their mother, Jessie Marion Jemison Grant, was the daughter of Thomas Henry Jemison and Caroline Adelaide Vawter Jemison. Caroline was the daughter of William H. Vawter (b. 1 Aug 1822, Jessamine Co., Kentucky, d. 1 Jun 1896, Chicago) and Mary O. Ravenel Vawter.

BROWN COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Groundbreaking ceremonies for the new Brown County, Indiana, Public Library was held on 2 January 2000. Will Vawter, artist and illustrator, was a founding member of the library's board in 1919, and the library is being built in a "pony pasture" in front of the house where he lived on Locust Lane at the top of Mound Street.

GRIMES CEMETERY NEAR LUCAS, IOWA  
submitted by Gary G. Vawter

Gary G. Vawter is the son of May Vawter of Normal, Illinois, and the late Glen Vawter, a past president of the Association. He lives in Des Moines, Iowa, where he is a pastor. One of the church members was visiting the Grimes Cemetery where she has family buried and noticed several Vawter monuments. The cemetery is located about a one hour drive south from Des Moines, east of the small town of Lucas about six miles. It is on a dead end road off Highway 34. The five stones in the cemetery with Vawter names are:

Emily J. Vawter	born 12 Jun 1838	died 30 Nov 1896
John W. Vawter	born 4 May 1822	died 15 Mar 1877
Homer U. Vawter	born 7 Aug 1873	aged 2 Yr 2 mo 7 days
Bert Vawter	born 22 Aug 1873	aged 1 yr 4 mo 28 days
Thomas Vawter	died 27 Sep 1873	aged 5 yr ? mo 28 days

Gary was told the stones were not easy to read. Each one has a scripture verse, and the stones of the two adults have the words "I am the Life" and "I am the Way" respectively.

3-5 AUGUST 2000 -HAMPTON, VIRGINIA

As is the custom every five years, the 2000 reunion of the VVV Family Association will be held in Virginia. Hosting the August 3-5 event are Ned and Ellen Cummings. They have chosen the Chamberlin Hotel on the Chesapeake Bay in Hampton as the location. A trip will be made to Vauters Episcopal Church in Loretto. Your next newsletter will have information about other planned activities and making reservations. We will also send a brochure from the hotel. This is a reunion you will not want to miss.

THANK YOU!

Thank you to all who continue to send items for the newsletter. Please help us keep up with your family by sending news of marriages, births, deaths, graduations etc. It is also a help when you let us know of address changes.

THE WILL OF SWIFT VAUGHTER

Georgia, Elbert County:

I, Swift Vaughter of said State and county, being of sound and disposing mind and memory, do make this my Last Will and Testament, hereby revoking and annulling all others by me heretofore made.

ITEM I

I direct that my body be suitably buried in the family plot located Harmony Baptist Cemetery, Elberton, Ga. Payment for services of pallbearers is authorized.

ITEM II

I direct that all my just debts be paid by my Co-Executors or General Executor as the case may be.

ITEM III

I will, devise and bequeath all of my property, both real and personal, of every kind, nature and description, and wheresoever located, that I may own or have or may be entitled to at my death to my brother, S. Julian Vaughter. He is to take absolutely and in fee simple.

ITEM IV

I name S. Julian Vaughter and the Citizens & Southern National Bank, Athens, Georgia, Co-Executors of this my Last Will and Testament. I direct that my Co-Executors be relieved from making any inventory or appraisal of my estate, and from making any return to any court, and from giving any bond.

My Co-Executors are authorized and empowered without order of any court to sell, transfer, assign, borrow money on, or otherwise handle privately any or all assets. There shall be no limitations upon my Co-Executors other than those imposed by law.

ITEM V

If S. Julian Vaughter should be adjudged by competent authority to be physically and/or mental disqualified from acting as Co-Executor then and in that event the Citizens & Southern National Bank, Athens, Georgia, is to be the General Executor of my estate subject to the provisions of ITEM IV.

ITEM VI

In the event that my brother, S. Julian Vaughter, and I should die under circumstances making it impossible to determine which one died first, then and in that event I will, devise and bequeath all of my property, both real and personal, of every kind, nature and description, and wherever located that I have or own or may be entitled to at my death to the STATE OF GEORGIA. In such event said STATE OF GEORGIA is to take absolutely and in fee simple.

In the event this ITEM VI should become effective said STATE OF GEORGIA is to use the property for and as a State Park. The realty is to remain a wild life sanctuary and to the extent practical its natural resources are to be maintained and conserved. Said STATE OF GEORGIA is to permanently mark all public entrances to show the property to be a memorial donated as a recreation and wild life area by the VAUGHTER FAMILY

listing members as follows:

Mr. and Mrs. J. Benson Vaughter  
Swift, Francis, Miriam and S. Julian Vaughter  
Mrs. Frances Vaughter Sanders

If the STATE OF GEORGIA should discontinue use of the property as a State Park then the property is to be used by the STATE in the operation of the School of Forestry, University of Georgia, subject to foregoing provisions of this my Last Will and Testament.

#### ITEM VII

In the event ITEM VI should become effective the STATE OF GEORGIA is to undertake perpetual maintenance of the two burial plots in the Harmony Baptist Church cemetery. One plot contains the remains of members of the family of J. Benson and Mary Beulah Vaughter. The other plot contains the remains of Frances Vaughter Sanders, Thomas F. Vaughter and Richard B. Vaughter.

If Harmony Baptist Church should be discontinued and unless legally prevented above referred remains with curbing and monuments are to be removed by the STATE OF GEORGIA from the church cemetery and transferred to the vicinity of the home site area of J. Benson and Mary Beulah Vaughter and there reinterred and thereafter perpetually maintained by the STATE OF GEORGIA.

#### ITEM VIII

If any person should contest this my Last Will and Testament the sum of Five Dollars shall be paid to such person in full and final payment and satisfaction of any and all claims on account of such contest.

Erasing and retyping herein are my own.

In WITNESS WHEREOF I, Swift Vaughter have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal to this my Last Will and Testament this 16 day of July, 1986.

#### IN REMEMBRANCE

Charles Burt, 64, of Dawsonville, Georgia, died 27 September 1999 at Baptist Medical Center in Cumming, Georgia. Funeral service was held 30 September at Concord Baptist Church, with burial at Bethel Baptist Church Cemetery.

He was a native of Forsyth County, Georgia, and had lived in Dawson County for the past 19 years. He worked for Colonial Printing, which became Engraph, and retired after 25 years. For the past 14 years, he was in the poultry business and served on the Dawson County Development Authority. He was a former member of the Pioneer RESA School Board, and a member of Concord Baptist Church, serving as financial secretary.

Survivors include his wife, Betty E. Burt; three daughters, Pam Schlesinger and Cheryl Kelly, both of Buford, Georgia, and Ellen McDaris of Rapid City, South Dakota; a son, Charles "Chuck" Burt, Jr. of Dawsonville; and six grandchildren, John McDaris, Jared McDaris, Tim Glasgow, Kristy Glasgow, Franklin Burt and Camilla Jaid Burt.

Charles was a longtime member and supporter of the VVV Family Association, and served as treasurer for several years. In June 1999, he helped organize a reunion for the descendants of James and Jane Vaughters that attracted over 100 people. The will of Swift Vaughter that appears above was sent by Charles a few weeks before his death.

IN REMEMBRANCE

Jean Vawter Robinson, 77, of Charlotte, North Carolina, formerly of Tryon, North Carolina, died 10 May 1999. She was born 4 October 1921 in Springfield, Massachusetts, the daughter of James Hardy and Mary Virginia Glover Vawter.

She was a graduate of Michigan State University and an active member of AAUW.

Survivors include her husband, Chan Robinson; two sons, Greg Robinson of Bolingbrook, Illinois, and Kermit Robinson of Portland, Oregon; two daughters, Rebecca Guinagh of Gainesville, Florida, and Pamela Elsass of Cornelius, North Carolina; a brother, Ralphe Vawter of Pensacola, Florida; and four grandchildren. Burial was at North Carolina Veterans Cemetery in Black Mountain.

Jean was proud of her Vawter roots and had made a trip to Trematon Castle with her daughter Becky. She made a well received presentation on the trip at the 1990 VVV reunion in Richmond, Virginia. Her grandfather was Willis Isaiah Vawter.

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Paul W. Wooden, 93, of Westport, Indiana, died 22 August 1999 at his home. He was born 19 September 1905 in Madison, Indiana, the son of William D. And Daisy M. Lepper Wooden. He married Edythe Arnold 23 September 1929 in North Vernon, Indiana.

He was a graduate of Hope, Indiana, High School, attended DePauw University, and was former news editor with the *Holland Evening Sentinel* in Holland, Michigan. In 1945, he moved to Westport and joined his father in the Wooden Thompson Lumber Company. He was a member of Westport Baptist Church.

Surviving with his wife are two sons, William Wooden of Indianapolis, and John Wooden of Greensburg, Indiana; two daughters, Carol Seideman of Boulder, Colorado, and Mary Gonneau of Shelter Island, New York; seven grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by a sister, Vivian Thompson.

Mr. Wooden's grandparents were Milton H. and Elizabeth Wolf Wooden. His great-grandparents were Michael and Artemicia Stribling Wolf, and his great-great-grandparents were Thomas and Sarah Vawter Stribling. He was the uncle of VVV Association member Judy Thorpe.

\* \* \* \* \*

Elizabeth Vawter Lanier, 96, died 5 September 1999 at the home of her daughter in Brownsville, Tennessee. She was the daughter of James Alma and Bessie Bryant Vawter, who lived in Milan, Gibson County, Tennessee.

She was a homemaker and a retired employee of Martin's Department Store. Mrs. Lanier was a member of the Second Review Club, the Women's Missionary Association Prayer Group, and the Brownsville Baptist Church, where she had for many years taught a women's Sunday school class.

Survivors include a daughter, Mary Jane Felker of Brownsville; a sister, Ann Felton of Jackson, Tennessee; three grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

Funeral service was held at the Brownsville Baptist Church, with burial at Oakwood Cemetery in Brownsville.

Mrs. Lanier's daughter and sister are both longtime Association members.



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