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Dues - \$7.00 per year  
IF A RENEWAL FORM IS ENCLOSED, YOU NEED TO PAY DUES

3 - 6 AUGUST 2000 HAMPTON, VIRGINIA

A last reminder of the 2000 VVV Reunion to be held 3 - 6 August 2000 at the Chamberlin Hotel in Hampton, Virginia. Only a few rooms remain, so if you have not made a reservation, it needs to be done as soon as possible. The last day the rooms will be held for the Association is July 25. The costs of rooms and meals are:

Water View - \$99.00 for single or double  
Historic View - \$89.00 for single or double  
Friday Picnic - \$11.00 adults, \$5.50 ages 5-11  
Saturday Lunch - \$10.00 adults, \$5.00 ages 5-11  
Saturday Dinner - \$18.00 adults, \$9.00 ages 5-11  
No charge for children ages 4 and under at any of the meals

Saturday lunch is at Vauter's Church, and is to paid there instead of at the time of registration, which begins at 3:00 p.m., Thursday, August 3 at the hotel.

The official opening of the reunion is Friday at 9:00 a.m. with the traditional ringing of the cowbell. After this meeting, which should last about one hour, we will adjourn until

the picnic at 6:00 p.m. Three genealogy sessions will be conducted by Jim Vaughters on Friday, and everyone is free to attend any or all of them. Those who prefer to visit area attractions will find a list in the April newsletter.

Saturday morning we depart for Vauter's Church for a tour and lunch, followed by a visit to the Glebe. We are also invited to the Sunday Worship Service and Coffee Hour.

Saturday evening is the traditional banquet dinner at the hotel, entertainment by the VVV Family Singers, business meeting and door prizes. Jim Vaughters will lead another genealogy session later in the evening for those who are interested.

For reservations at the Chamberlin Hotel, call 1-800-582-8975. As always, meals and staying at the chosen hotel are optional. Ellen and Ned Cummings are planning this year's reunion, and to help them we ask that you please return the form that was mailed about two weeks ago. If you have misplaced that form, Ellen and Ned can be contacted in the following ways:

Address - 4708 Bradston Road, Virginia Beach VA 23455  
Home Phone - 757-464-2963  
Work Phone - 757-464-2423  
E-mail - efcned@aol.com

#### DOOR PRIZES

One of the more popular events at the reunion is door prizes. They have become so popular, of fact, that we are asking the gifts you bring be limited to one per family. A few years ago, we had nearly 100 door prizes and it took over an hour each night to distribute them. There is always a wide variety: hand crafts, items unique to the area in which the donor lives and items purchased as souvenirs from the area of the reunion.

#### MEMORIAL SERVICE

Another tradition of the annual reunion is the Memorial Service on Saturday night. At this service, we honor the memory of those members and friends whose obituaries have appeared in the newsletter during the past year. If you have other loved ones to add, please bring that information with you so they, too, can be remembered.

#### TRADITIONS

As you can tell from this information, the VVV Family Association is full of traditions. Among them are the "ringing of the cowbell," VVV Family Singers, door prizes and Memorial Service. For many Association members, attending the reunions is a tradition. Some of the young adults we see each year were small children when they first started attending with their parents and grandparents. If you have never been to a reunion, consider making this the year to begin your tradition.

### REUNION T-SHIRTS

Connie Bugos of Farmington, Illinois, has designed a T-Shirt for the reunion and needs to hear from those who want to place an order. One side of the shirt has Vawter-Vauter-Vaughter(s) Family Reunion and an outline of the state of Virginia. The other side has a picture of Vauter's Church. The shirts are \$9.00 for sizes S - XL, \$10.00 for XXL, and \$11.00 for XXXL. Children's sizes M(6-8), L(10-12) and XL(14-16) are \$9.00. To have them ready by the reunion, Connie must order them no later than July 20. She can be reached in these ways:

Home: 309-245-4391

Work: 309-245-4214 Mon-Thurs 7:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.,

Fri. 7:00 a.m. - noon

Fax: 309-245-4937

Email: buggram@worldnet.att.net

Her answering machine will be on at home, and she doesn't mind getting calls at work. Please remember, she must hear from you on or before July 20.

### VAUTER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Vauter's Episcopal Church, located in Essex County, Virginia, not far from the Rappahannock River, is the Upper Church of St. Anne's Parish.

At one time, authorities believed the original portion to have been built in 1719 and enlarged by the addition of the South Wing in 1731. However, a 1969 renovation of the interior revealed that the church was built in its entirety in 1731. Its brick walls, two feet thick throughout, are laid in Flemish bond with glazed headers, and its two doorways are in the classic, pedimented style. It appears to have retained its original doors, sash windows and shutters, with most of the hand wrought hardware.

Subsequent to the American Revolution, Vauter's Church passed out of service, a fate common to many colonial church buildings. Vandalism threatened to destroy it during this period of practical abandonment, but it was saved by Mrs. Muscoe Garnett, of Elmwood, who claimed the building as standing on her property. The foundation for her claim lay in the fact that although the church was built on land originally adjoining that of the Vauter family, Mr. James Garnett had purchased from that family before the middle of the 18th century the land next to the church property. Mrs. Garnett was successful in giving Vauter's her protection.

Although the church continued closed for many years except on rare occasions, a handbill advertised a lottery held in 1792 to raise "the sum of Three Hundred Pounds, for the purpose of repairing the Churches and Glebe of St. Anne's Parish."

During the War of 1812, the churchyard was the scene of a duel. It occurred before the South door, and the participants were reconciled after firing one shot.

The year 1822 saw the resumption of regular services at Vauter's for the first time since 1776. The interior was repaired and remodeled in 1827, with the high, box pews being reduced in height and the chancel moved from the East to the North wall. A two-story pulpit replaced the colonial three-story pulpit.

FROM THE PARISH POST

*The Parish Post*, newsletter of Vauter's Church, tells that a committee has been formed to support the collection and preservation of the history of the church. Areas of work may be records, research, preservation of artifacts, inventory and appraisals, oral histories, current history, information for tour guides, and the publication of a written history of the parish. Anyone interested is invited to attend the first meeting on Sunday, July 23 at 1:00 p.m. in the Parish House.

The newsletter also states that plans have been finalized for the August 5 tour by the VVV Family Association. Prints of a watercolor of Vauter's Church by Blanchette Jones will be available for purchase.

THE GLEBE, ST. ANNE'S PARISH  
ESSEX COUNTY, VIRGINIA  
submitted by Judge Fred Wicker

Robert Rose was ordained and licensed for Virginia Parishes and came to Virginia in 1724. At the age of twenty-one, in 1725, he became Minister of St. Anne's Parish, Essex County, Virginia.

He was born in Scotland near Inverness and died in Virginia in 1751. During his ministry of St. Anne's Parish, Vauter's Church and its parish glebe were erected in 1731. Edward Vawter, son of one of three immigrant brothers, is said to be the builder of the church.

The glebe was the house and (usually) 200 acres provided by colonial parishes for their ministers. Parson Rose's house, the oldest brick glebe still standing in Virginia, is located in Thomas Neck below present Chance, Virginia, in Essex County.

The building is two stories high and one room deep. The exterior brickwork of Flemish bond and glazed headers is similar to that of Vauter's Church erected the same year some sixteen miles to the north.

On the glebe lands were a frame schoolhouse, a wharf on nearby Occupacia Creek, a grain mill, a spring and probably several outbuildings. Only the glebe building now remains.

The property went into private hands beginning in 1803. It is now owned by Mr. James R. Hundley, Jr., and is situated on Cloverfield Farm. The building is in a rundown condition, although some repairs have been made recently. Mr. Hundley is very much interested in its restoration.

The structure is listed on the Virginia Landmarks Register and the National Register of Historic Places.

This glebe is part of the tour planned for Saturday, August 5, while visiting Vauter's Church. Several people were able to visit it in 1995 when the reunion was held in Ashland, Virginia. Pictures of the glebe and a map were included with the April 2000 newsletter. If you have misplaced yours, we do have a few remaining.

A LESSON BEFORE DYING  
South Bend, Indiana, *Tribune* - 25 April 2000

John Vawter knows he is living on borrowed time. Twenty years ago, when he was 61, a doctor told him a heart condition would prove fatal within five years. As decades passed and he defied the odds, John watched more and more of his friends die.

Once an enthusiastic woodworker, John hoped to build a grandfather clock for each of his seven children. Now he knows he has neither the time nor the money to complete that task, so instead is building them each a small, table-top clock. Sometimes he can work for only an hour before needing to rest.

In addition to congestive heart failure, John suffers from obstructive lung disease. Only about one-third of the cells in his lungs are functioning and this causes him to be dependent of liquid oxygen 24 hours a day. He also has incurable lymphoma. He cannot use the most effective treatments because they would further damage his heart. Recently, doctors told him he needed to decide which mattered most to him: more time or better quality time. He chose the latter.

John feels he has already left his legacy. He built communion tables, a wedding kneeler and a podium for his church, St. John's United Church of Christ. He also built a baby cradle that each of his children and grandchildren has slept in. Each of their names and the date is inscribed on the bottom. He likes to think that 100 years from now, future generations of his family will continue to sleep in the cradle.

Through the years, John and his wife, Lois, have learned the meaning of the marriage vow: "Till death do us part" She has had seven hip replacement surgeries, each leaving her a little less nimble. They encourage each other and divide the household chores depending on how each is feeling.

This is part of an article "A Lesson Before Dying" that appeared in the 25 April 2000 South Bend, Indiana, *Tribune*. John Elden Vawter and his wife, Lois, live at 1511 Birch Drive, Elkhart IN 46514. They have attended several VVV reunions, most recently the 1997 reunion in Townsend, Tennessee.

John's father, James Thomas Vawter was one of six children of Jesse Monroe and Martha Melissa West Vawter, who were married in 1877. James Thomas Vawter married Ina Ruby Gore on 14 April 1918.

John's great-grandfather, William Vauter, was born 4 September 1803 in Virginia and married Matilda Carter, who was born 13 April 1797 in Virginia. They first went to Kentucky, then to Ripley County, Indiana, where they both died in 1882. They are buried in unmarked graves in the Shelby Christian Church Cemetery in Ripley County. William was one of five deacons and elders who organized the Shelby Christian Church in 1855. They were the parents of ten children.

This branch of the family spelled their name "Vauter" until Pearl Amy Vawter, a granddaughter of William and Matilda changed it during her school years. All of her brothers and sisters then began using "Vawter."

For more on this family, see the Summer 1993 VVV Family Association newsletter.

WILLA VAWTER JACKSON  
by her daughter, Martha Jackson Compton

"I miss the hills,' my mother used to say. She was remembering the hills along the Ohio River in Madison, Indiana, where she spent sixteen of her growing up years in the home of my maternal grandmother, Georgianna Leland.

"The eldest son of William H. and Mary Ravenel Vawter was Alex, my grandfather, who died in 1888 before his 42<sup>nd</sup> birthday. A year later his five children were orphaned by the death of his wife, Ella. Nellie and Clarence, the two older ones, went to Chicago where their Vawter grandparents, aunts and uncles had moved having left their ancestral home in Bedford, Kentucky.

"The three younger children, 7 year old Willa, 5 year old Mary Louise (Mayme), and little 2 year old Martha were taken in by Grandma - born Georgianna LaMar Briscoe. She was born in Virginia, reared in Missouri, the daughter of a physician and the granddaughter of several generations of Dr. John Briscoes dating back to the first one who came to Maryland from England in 1634, by the invitation of Cecil Lord Baltimore.

"Grandma was the mother of eight children by two marriages; the step-mother of seven; the grandmother of many; mid-wife, nurse, comforter to the townfolk and a lover of forsaken children. She was a rebel, a staunch Democrat, stubborn, strong-willed, self-reliant and her heart took in the universe.

"Many memories were stored while Willa, Mayme and Martha lived with Grandma at 612 North Walnut Street. They loved Madison and the river where they watched the excursion boats dock to take passengers for a pleasure trip. A pride of Indiana, the historical Lanier Home at Madison was at that time occupied by Mr. Davidson, who owned a particular cow whose milk was prescribed by the doctor for Mayme to drink while recovering from typhoid fever. Martha took a little bucket and walked each day to fetch the milk for her sister.

"Their social life centered around the activities of the Presbyterian Church. Willa received a book for each year of her regular Sunday School attendance. The title of one book was 'Girls, Faults and Ideals.' During these years Willa became an expert seamstress and was a paid dressmaker. She also sewed for her sisters and other relations.

"The day came when Mayme left Grandma's to live with her aunt Mary Vawter Wertzler in Chicago. Later, Willa joined her sister and soon became enchanted with the sights and sounds of the big city.

"On 29 June 1905, Willa was married to Charles E. Jackson. A yellowed newspaper clipping reads in part: 'After the marriage ceremony the bridal party returned to the home of the bride's aunt, Mrs. C.J. Wertzler, 651 Washington Blvd., a sumptuous wedding breakfast was enjoyed and immediately following amid the congratulation of many friends and showers of rice and old shoes, the couple left for their future home in Bridgeport, Indiana.'

"The Jackson family, young and old, soon moved to Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin. Aunt Jessie Vawter Hughes, accompanied by her daughter Virginia went there to take care of her niece Willa and her first born when I entered the world on May Day 1906.

"The Jacksons made several moves after their return to Indiana, but always kept in close contact with the Vawter kin. Indianapolis was halfway between Chicago and Bedford, Kentucky, so the Vawters came to see us when they were 'passin' through. Uncle Ab was a regular and always gave me a silver half dollar and I felt rich.

"My brother LaVern was born in 1914, and during that summer Jessie Jemison stayed with us for a while. Another brother, Charles, was born in 1916 and in 1920 our baby sister, who lived only a year. We had just moved to Wanamaker where I still live. Our mother never ceased to grieve for her precious baby.

"Willa's health began to fail and we learned that she was in a very advanced stage of tuberculosis. We took care of her at home when she lay for many months. Her room was kept heatless in winter to ease her breathing. On some winter mornings ice would have formed on her water glass. Only 10 year old LaVern could turn her fragile body without causing her pain. Through her long ordeal of wasting away, she made no complaint. For many days she was too weak to speak audibly. Her loved ones gathered for her departure and her last words were hesitantly whispered, 'Get rolls for Aunt Hattie,' as she knew it was the breadman's delivery day. She had previously thanked everyone for being so good to her, especially her beloved husband. She was only 42.

"She felt the sorrows of those who suffered. Her joys came from the happiness of others, the well-being of her family, setting her table with a white linen cloth while preparing a sumptuous meal for company and kin, writing letters of cheer, and looking into the faces of the children in her Sunday School class. There was an aura of supreme goodness in her lovely face that revealed her inner spirit and radiated a response of love in all who came within her bounds.

"There will never be a book written to honor her achievements. No one ever sought her autograph. She never saw an ocean or a mountain, but she cherished Queen Anne's lace and purple clover alongside the country road leading to the hills - the hills she always missed."

Martha Jackson Compton, who wrote this tribute to her mother, died 5 March 1997 in Indianapolis at the age of 90. Her obituary appears in the January 1999 newsletter.

#### IN REMEMBRANCE

James Vawter Wood, 87, of Buena Vista, Virginia, died 4 May 1999. He was born 17 April 1912 in Amherst County, the son of Edgar and Mary Rhodes Wood. He was retired from National Wholesale Company.

Mr. Wood is survived by three sons, James W. Wood of Bethesda, Maryland, Vawter Eugene Wood and Herman Beverly Wood of Buena Vista; two daughters, Mary Elizabeth Ramsey of Portsmouth, Virginia, and Doris Jean Turner of Buena Vista; 16 grandchildren; and 14 great-grandchildren.

A note: Obituaries are need for Lowell G. Vawter, 69, of Bloomington, Illinois, and Carrie Beazley Schools of Milford, Virginia.

### THE POLITICAL GRAVEYARD

An interesting Internet site is "The Political Graveyard." These Vawters are listed:

Vawter, David G. (1824-1884) Nephew of John Vawter; cousin of Smith Vawter; brother of James H. Vawter. Born in Vernon, Indiana, 18 February 1824. Member of Indiana state house of representative, 1867. Died in Franklin, Indiana, 24 May 1884.

Vawter, James H. (c. 1832-1867) Nephew of John Vawter; cousin of Smith Vawter; brother of David G. Vawter. Born in Vernon, Indiana. Member of Indiana state senate 1865-67.

Vawter, John (1782-1862) Father of Smith Vawter; uncle of David G. Vawter and James H. Vawter. Born in Madison County, Virginia, 8 January 1782. Candidate for Lieutenant Governor of Indiana, 1816; member of Indiana state house of representatives, 1831-36; member of Indiana state senate, 1836-39. Died in Morgantown, Indiana, 17 August 1862.

Vawter, Smith (1806-1882) son of John Vawter; cousin of David G. Vawter and James H. Vawter. Born in Scott County, Kentucky, 3 November 1806. Member of Indiana state house of representatives, 1848-49, 1857, 1879-81; candidate for Indiana state senate, 1851; alternate delegate to Republican National Convention from Indiana 1868. Died in Vernon, Indiana, 10 April 1882.

### IN REMEMBRANCE

Charles Dorn Vawter, 68, of Port Richey, Florida, formerly of Louisville, Kentucky, died Monday, 1 May 2000, in Hudson, Florida. He was a native of Oakley, Kansas.

He was a former design engineer for Hardee's Corporation, a former president of the old Dixie Land, Inc., a former cattle rancher and quarter-horse breeder in Kansas. A Marine Corps veteran of the Korean War, he was a member of Marine Corps League Post 567 in Holiday, Florida, and Faith Baptist Church in New Port Richey, Florida.

Survivors include his wife, Lillie M. Vawter; sons Michael D. Vawter of Tampa, Florida, Charles D. Vawter Jr. of Douglasville, Georgia, and Matthew D. Vawter of Simpsonville, Kentucky; daughters Catherine M. Vawter of Frankfort, Kentucky, and Caroline V. DeMuth of Louisville; sisters, LoRee Dennis and Lucene Dennis, both of Golden Colorado; and six grandchildren.

Charles Dorn Vawter was a member of the Association, as are his children.

\* \* \* \* \*

Florence Victoria Vawter, 77, of Westminster, Colorado, died 6 January 2000. She was born 16 February 1922 in Bertrand, Nebraska. On 6 June 1942, she married Allen E. Vawter in Denver.

A homemaker and former sales clerk, she was a member of Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary and Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church.

Survivors include her husband; two daughters, Sandra Van Doren of Wichita, Kansas, and Pamela Sherman of Federal Heights, Colorado; four grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

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