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### 2000 REUNION REPORT

The annual reunion of the VVV Family Association was held 3-6 August 2000 in Hampton, Virginia. Location of the event was the historic Chamberlin Hotel on the grounds of Fort Monroe. Registration began on Thursday, although several members had arrived earlier in the week to take advantage of the many attractions in the area.

Official opening of the reunion was on Friday morning with the traditional ringing of the cowbell. Four-year old Jesse Roberts, son of Jim and Korbi Roberts of Virginia Beach was given the honor of ring the bell this year. Invocation was by the Rev. John H. Vawter of Nacogdoches, Texas. Letters were read from the mayor of Hampton and Sally Vawter of Houston, Texas.

Jim Vaughters, historian/archivist of the association, gave a report on a reunion held in Dawsonville, Georgia, and stressed the need for local reunions. He announced the times for the genealogy and story-telling sessions.

Association president, Phil Vaughter, introduced the officers. He then asked all those attending for the first time to introduce themselves and tell their connection to the family.

Many items were on display. Jim Vaughters brought the Swift and Julian Vaughter Collection, along with other items belonging to the association. In 1984 at the reunion held

in Nacogdoches, Texas, all of those in attendance signed squares of cloth that were then made into a quilt by Betty Burt and her mother, the late Jewell Mae Ellenburg. This quilt was one of the more popular of the displayed items.

Friday afternoon, many of those in attendance took part in the genealogy and storytelling sessions. Others chose to visit local attractions or to just spend time with long-time friends.

On Saturday, the group traveled to Vauter's Episcopal Church for a tour of both the church and the Glebe. A welcome was given by the Priest-in-Charge, Karen Woodruff. A delicious lunch was served by the ladies of the church. Prints of the church, as well as note cards and post cards, were available for purchase. Several members who had not been at the hotel in Hampton attended this part of the reunion.

The traditional Saturday dinner was held at the Chamberlin Hotel, beginning with invocation by Bill M. Vawter of Oklahoma City. During the dinner, a video of the reunion events, including the registration time, meetings, trip to Vauter's Episcopal Church and the Glebe, and the Virginia Beach trip made by the youth was shown by Ned Cummings. Copies of this video are available.

Following dinner, the annual memorial service was led by Fred and Wordna Wicker. The service began with a trumpet solo and a vocal solo, both by Kristy Glasgow. She was accompanied by Ellen Cummings, and dedicated her music to her grandfather, the late Charles Burt.

Entertainment for the evening was the VVV Family Singers, directed by Ellen Cummings. They presented "Faith Hall of Fame." This group originated several years ago as the VVV Children's Chorus, and as the children grew it became apparent the name needed to be changed. Now, it is not only children who sing, but young adults as well.

Named as a committee to assist in the restoration of the Glebe were: Bob Vawter of Middletown, Delaware; Ellen Cummings of Virginia Beach; Annie Storr of Silver Spring, Maryland; Judy Blanks of Maryville, Tennessee; and Betty Callis of Hendersonville, Tennessee. This committee will keep the association membership informed of the fund raising plans and progress of the restoration.

Phil Vaughter presented Presidential Citations to Ellen Cummings, for hosting the 2000 reunion; Fred and Wordna Wicker for doing the memorial service each year; and Bonita Welch for work on the newsletter.

The roll call of states showed there to be 25 different states represented at the dinner, with Texas and Virginia each having 15 in attendance. Special recognition was given the following:

Youngest: Peter Graubard, two months, of Cross Junction, Virginia

Oldest: Virginia Modell, 90, of Annapolis, Maryland

Longest married: Evert and Maxine Joling, 55 yrs, of Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin

Traveled the farthest: Jackle Gruman of Wilkinson, Washington

After the distribution of door prizes by Korbi Roberts and many of the children, the reunion was adjourned. Site of the 2001 reunion was chosen as Hot Springs, Arkansas.

### MEMORIAL SERVICE

The following VVV Family Association members and friends were remembered at the memorial service conducted on Saturday evening at the reunion:

1. Phillip Andrew Hoyt, 67, Indianapolis, Indiana - died 20 July 1999
2. Vallie Wiley Cox, 96, Nash, Texas - died 6 August 1999
3. Lula Vaughters Thompson, 87, Dawsonville, Georgia - died 1 August 1999
4. Charles Burt, 64, Dawsonville, Georgia - died 27 September 1999
5. Jean Vawter Robinson, 77, Charlotte, North Carolina - died 10 May 1999
6. Paul Wooden, 93, Westport, Indiana - died 22 August 1999
7. Elizabeth Vawter Lanier, 96, Brownsville, Tennessee - died 5 September 1999
8. Katherine Thomas, 97, died 14 May 1999
9. James Vawter Wood, 87, Buena Vista, Virginia - died 4 May 1999
10. Velma Tidwell, 101, Yukon, Oklahoma - died 11 July 2000
11. Peggy Lorine Vawter, 69, Noble, Oklahoma - died 4 July 2000
12. Lowell G. Vawter, 69, Bloomington, Illinois - died 27 May 2000
13. Charles Dorn Vawter, 68, Port Richey, Florida - died 1 May 2000
14. Florence Victoria Vawter, 77, Westminster, Colorado - died 6 January 2000

### OFFERINGS

As is the custom when the reunion is held in Virginia, an offering was taken for Vauter's Episcopal Church. Given for the church this year was \$1168.00. Another offering was taken to be used for the restoration of the Glebe, and that amount was \$1930.00. If you would like to make a donation to either cause, a check can be sent to Norma Jean Vawter, treasurer of the association. Be sure to state if your check is for the Glebe restoration or the church.

The following note was received from Jimmy and Pauline Hundley, on whose farm the Glebe is located.

Dear Vauter's Church Family,

Thank you for the generous gift we received for repairs to be made to the Glebe house. The Glebe is a very important part of the Vauter's church history and to its members. The origin and history of the house is always a great conversation topic to all who visit the farm.

Your interest and generosity is very much appreciated.

Sincerely,

Jimmy and Pauline Hundley

IRWIN FAMILY HAS HELD FARM NEAR CENTURY  
*Madison Courier*, 23 January 1948  
by Anna Vawter Irwin

"As a follow-up to a *Courier* report some months ago of Jefferson county [Indiana] farms that have remained under ownership of the same families 100 years or more, Mrs. Anna Vawter Irwin has written an interesting account of her family farm property which will soon attain the century ownership mark.

"At the same time she listed a bit of interesting history regarding Monroe township. Her letter follows.

About the year 1808 Joseph Lane, Sr., and wife Mary Bates, moved from Kentucky to Indiana and resided for a few years in the vicinity where Madison now stands.

"The reason they stopped there was that quite a number of other settlers had located there - they kept close together because of the hostility of the Indians. Growing restless he ventured farther north and located on a farm in what is now Monroe township, which farm is now owned by Vawter Irwin, his great-great-grandson.

"The said Joseph Lane, Sr. acquired this land in 1813 and built a hewn-log house, with basement, which is in a good state of preservation and still stands on the original foundation, and has been the home of his great-granddaughter for fifty years.

"He and his family were Baptists and in 1830 he helped organize Hebron Baptist church. In this same year he, in the interest of spiritual welfare and education, gave or conveyed a parcel or corner of this land for school house, burying ground, and church lots as follows: Joseph Lane, Sr., of the first part and Ruel Custer, Thomas Jameson, Caleb Lane, James Wildman and Jacob Bryan trustees of burying ground and school house of the second part witnesseth that the said Joseph Lane, Sr., for and in consideration of one dollar lawful money of the United States, to have in hand will and truly paid by the said trustees release the following piece of land to-wit: A part of the NW Qr of Sec. No. 36 in town 5, north of range 10.

"This indenture made the 13th day of April, 1830, between Joseph Lane, Sr. of the first part and Caleb Lane, William Hinton and Levi Cline trustees of the Baptist church at Hebron for the sum of one dollar lawful money of the United States to have in hand truly paid by said trustees, hath conveyed to said trustees the following piece or parcel of land, to-wit: Beginning eight rods from the NW corner of Sec. 36, town 5 and range 10.

"Deed recorded April 14, 1930, [1830?] Madison Indiana.

"Joseph Lane, Sr. died in 1839 leaving the farm to his widow as a dowry. She followed him in death in 1851. Both are buried in the old part of Hebron cemetery, just north of the main drive way.

"Their resting place is marked by a double headstone. I have been told that the bricks for building the first old church were burned in a kiln just east of the present structure (between it and the cemetery entrance.) My mother, Maria Lane Vawter, attended school in the old stone building that is in good repair today.

"The Hebron church has taken over the old school house as a community center.

"I have quite a warm spot in my heart for the Hebron community as I travel down

'memory lane.' In 1851 Parmenas Irwin, father of my late husband, Charles Irwin, bought this same farm from the heirs of Joseph Lame, Sr. This farm will soon have been in the same family for one hundred years. (Three more years.)

"My paternal grandfather, Beverly Vawter, (a Christian minister) also came to Monroe township about the same time that the Lames did, and bought several hundred acres of land on Indian Kentuck creek. He built a water power grist mill (just about a quarter of a mile below the bridge at the foot of the Irwin hill) in which he ground corn and wheat for the countryside for miles around so they might have their shortenin' bread and biscuits. A Mr. Stout later bought the mill and a part of the farm. His family also attended school in the old stone, one room house. One son, William Stout, who graduated from Indiana University, became a nationally noted chautauqua lecturer. He is the only one of the family now living.

"No trace of the old mill is left nor of the old mill race. The NW corner of Sec. 36 is truly sacred ground."

#### QUERIES

From: Lois Vawter, 1511 Birch Drive, Elkhart, Indiana 46514  
e-mail: lavawter@skyenet.net

Carl Emmitt Vawter moved to Genoa, Texas, from Indiana about 1907, married and divorced Lila Phillips. Their children were: Clyde, born about 1908; Martha, born about 1913; and Evelyn, born about 1916. Carl Emmitt Vawter was a hay broker for the U.S. Cavalry, and died in Bay City, Matagorda Co., Texas, in 1947. Lois is trying to find Carl's children or their descendants.

From: Melton E. Durant, Jacksonville, Texas  
e-mail: mdurant@sat.net

Walter Lewis Vawter was born 27 September 1897 in Pipe Creek, Bandera County, Texas. He homesteaded in Powder River County, Montana, and was a single man on the 1920 Powder River census. He returned to Kendall County, Texas, in 1959, died in Kerrville Hospital 31 January 1965, and is buried in Boerne, Kendall County. He married Zelda Ann McKandles of Pipe Creek. They had no children. Melton would like to know when Walter Lewis Vawter and Zelda Ann McKandles were married. He is Zelda's cousin.

#### NEWSLETTER ITEMS

Please continue to send items to be considered for the newsletter. We always need marriage and engagement announcements, obituaries, births, and anything else that would be of interest to the membership. All help is very much appreciated!

ANNE VAUGHTERS BURT STOVALL

Anne Marian Vaughters Burt Stovall was born 13 February 1908 in Dawson County, Georgia, the daughter of William Oscar and Maggie Dora Brice Vaughters. She was first married to Elbert Henry Burt and later to William Stovall. She died 2 April 1993.

The following was written by her as part of a paper on the history of Dawson County.

"On a personal note, I was born in the sticks three miles north of Dawsonville. My father saw the need for us to be nearer than three miles to school and sold the big farm and bought 60 acres just outside the city limit of Dawsonville on the Gainesville road. We could walk home for lunch from school. A little country school house burned when I was in the tenth grade. There were no teachers available the first of February. When they got the new one built the County School Superintendent sent me down there to teach. I taught one day before I was 16 years old. That was an experience being ten miles from home, having to learn to eat food that I would never eat at home. I kept up my school work, went back to school at the end of six weeks, and made my pass to the eleventh grade."

IN REMEMBRANCE

Charles Edmond Vawter, 91, of Florence, Alabama, formerly of Corinth, Mississippi, died 15 September 2000. He was born 2 October 1908 in McComb, Mississippi, the son of Charles E. and Florence Vawter. He was retired from ITT Telcomm in Corinth, and a member of Woodmont Baptist Church. Before moving to Florence, he had been a member of First Baptist Church in Corinth.

Funeral service was held at Greenview Memorial Chapel in Florence, with burial at Forrest Memorial Park in Corinth.

Survivors include a daughter, Mary Janice Vawter Lard of Florence; a brother, Richard Vawter of McComb; four grandsons, Michael David Lard of Tuscaloosa, Alabama, Jeffrey Alan Lard of Florence, Charles Neal Lard of Muscle Shoals, Alabama, and Bradley Wayne Lard of Birmingham, Alabama; seven great-grandchildren, Josh, Alan, Dylan, Tyler, Chris and Ashley Lard, and Clint Patterson.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Ruby Wall Vawter and two sisters.

\* \* \* \* \*

Lowell G. Vawter, 69, of Bloomington, Illinois, died 27 May 2000 at Asta Care Center in Bloomington. He was born 8 April 1931 in Superior, Iowa, the son of David Guy and Myrtle McCoy Vawter. He was a veteran of the Air Force and retired from GTE.

Entombment was at East Lawn Memorial Gardens Mausoleum Chapel. Survivors include his former wife, Sharon Garrett; two sisters, May Schapmire of Bloomington and Wilma Schapmire of Cooksville, Illinois; a sister-in-law, May Vawter of Normal, Illinois; and 12 nephews and nieces.

He was preceded in death by a brother, M. Glen Vawter; two sisters and a niece.

IN REMEMBRANCE

Velma Tidwell, 101, of Yukon, Oklahoma, died 11 July 2000 in Yukon. She was born 27 October 1898 in New Albany, Mississippi, and had lived in the Yukon area since 1926, except for a few years spent in California.

Mrs. Tidwell was a member of First Baptist Church in Yukon; Order of Eastern Star, where she was a past Worthy Matron; Rebekah Lodge; American Legion Auxiliary; and sang with the Silver Cords Singers from Yukon Senior Citizens. She had been an extra in the early western movies of Hopalong Cassidy and George O'Brien, including the movie "Timber Stampede." She had been employed in the Yukon City Clerk's office, the Yukon Sun, and had sold Avon and Tupperware for a number of years.

Survivors include a son, Don Tidwell of Yukon; two grandchildren, Denise Tidwell of Oklahoma City and Bruce Tidwell of Laurel, Maryland; a sister, LaVerna Murray of Oklahoma City; and a brother, Emery Read of Jacksonville, Florida.

\* \* \* \* \*

Peggy Lorine Vawter, 69, of Noble, Oklahoma, died 4 July 2000 in Noble. She was born 24 December 1930 in Harden County, Tennessee, the daughter of Sidney and Pearl Hopper Rinks. She was adopted at the age of three by John and Anna King of Nashville.

She married Joe Don Vawter on 10 February 1951 in Fort Worth, Texas. They moved to Noble in 1963. She was employed in housekeeping at Norman Regional Hospital, the Holiday Inn of Norman and Howard Johnson's, and was a member of Noble Church of Christ.

Surviving with her husband are two sons, Don Vawter and Joseph Vawter, both of Noble; two daughters, Judy Power and Lee Ann Idell, both of Noble; 10 grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren; two sisters, Pauline Russell of Burleson, Texas, and Katie Burin of Tennessee; four brothers, Hollis Rinks of Flint, Michigan, and Willie Rinks, Billie Rinks and Charles Rinks, all of Miland, Tennessee. Funeral service was held at Noble Church of Christ, with burial at Fairview Maguire Cemetery.

In the July 1996 newsletter, we printed a query from Paula Myers of LaVergne, Tennessee. Paula is a granddaughter of John and Anna King, and was trying to find Peggy. The search was successful, and the two women were able to see each other again after many years.

MEMBERS AND FRIENDS ATTENDING THE REUNION

ARIZONA

Noel and Mace Vaughter Moreland  
John T. and Agness Vawter

CALIFORNIA

Gordie Vaughter Spencer  
Garry B. Vawter  
Marjorie Vawter

COLORADO

Jim C. Vaughters

DELAWARE

Thom and Valerie May  
Robert L. and Donna Vawter

Mary and Robert L. Vawter II; Amanda and Jesse

FLORIDA

Doreen Vawter Clevenger  
Gary L. Clevenger  
Barry and Becky Guinagh  
Dave and Marie Vaughter

GEORGIA

Betty Burt  
Richard and Ann Greene  
Cheryl Kelley; Tim and Krista Glasgow  
John and Pam Schlesinger

IDAHO

Cheri Jex

ILLINOIS

Paul and Connie Bugos  
Edith Vawter

INDIANA

Mary McDaniel  
Milton and Charlotte Pickett  
Doug and Judy Thorpe  
Joe and Bonita Welch

MARYLAND

Joel Greer and Annie Storr;  
    Jesse Vawter Greer  
Virginia Modell

MICHIGAN

Patricia Vawter Klein  
Stanley and Janet Read

MISSISSIPPI

Judith Crawford  
Martha Hudson  
Caroline Vawter Scarlett

Fred and Wordna Wicker  
Ken and Norma Wicker

NEW JERSEY

Daryl Smith

NEW YORK

Jim and Dorothy Vawter  
Richard and Dorothy Vawter

NORTH CAROLINA

Lisa Vaughter Strandberg; Eric and Meredith

OHIO

Clare and Sue Vawters Ashton  
Nancy and Clare Ashton III  
Betty May

Sharon Patrick; Amanda  
Dorothy Phillips;  
    Jessica and Deborah Johnson

OKLAHOMA

Sharon Coursey  
Billy and Betty Dyer  
Bill and Diana Loch; Taylor  
Stephanie Lofton  
Bill and Virginia Vawter  
Joe Don Vawter  
Oscar and Erma Vawter  
PENNSYLVANIA  
Clara Vawter James  
Glee Krapf; Allen Krapf

SOUTH DAKOTA

Georgene Jurgensen

TENNESSEE

Bill and Judy Blanks  
Nolen and Eloise Bradley

Pat Brislin

Betty Callis

Caroline Vawter Scarlett

Norma Jean Vawter; Wendy and Katelyn  
Barbara J. Vawter; Emily DeFur

TEXAS

Juanita Baker  
Sylvia Clevenger Crispin  
Karla Quigley; James  
Tom and Patricia Vawter Renton

Phil and Peggy Vaughter

J.W. and Di Vawter

John and Sue Vawter

Jesse and Laneil Vawter;

VIRGINIA

Ned and Ellen Cummings; Rebecca and Frederick  
Steven and Karin Graubard;

    Henry, Mayme, Emma and Peter

Erika Gruman

Ann Martin Harpole

    John Martin, Jr.

Eugene and Josephine Oglesby  
Korbi Roberts; Kelsey and Jesse  
Roderick and Jacqueline Vawter

Virginia Ann Vawter

WASHINGTON

Jackie Vawter Gruman

WASHINGTON D.C.

James G. Vaughter

WISCONSIN

Evert and Maxine Joling

Jim Joling

An attempt was made to list everyone who attended. If a name was missed, please accept our apology.

Thanks to Ned and Ellen Cummings for all the work they did in preparation for the 2000 reunion. Anyone who has hosted a reunion knows how much time is involved in planning the annual event.



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