

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT: Ken Wicker, 607 Magnolia Drive, Tupelo, MS 38804 662-844-4960  
VICE-PRESIDENT: Jesse L. Vawter, 11506 Sagecountry, Houston TX 77089  
281-485-6437 Jessvawter@aol.com  
SECRETARY: Pam Schlesinger, 739 Goodson Road, Dawsonville GA 30534  
TREASURER: Norma Jean Vawter, 1075 Oaklawn Drive, Milan TN 38358  
901-686-3214 nvawter@bellsouth.net  
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: Cheryl Kelly, P.O. Box 1165, Buford GA 30515

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

2001 REHNIION IN HOT SPRINGS, ARKANSAS

Jim Vaughters has sent this information about the 2001 reunion of the Association.

Vernon and Traudl Vawter hosted the first nationwide reunion of the Association in 1978 at Brady Mountain, a few miles from Hot Springs. They brought us to Hot Springs in 1981. Now, they are brave enough to do it again this year.

The Arlington Hotel is the grand old hotel of the city. In recent years, extensive renovation has been done, including new furniture for 400 of the rooms. Meeting rooms are abundant, the restaurant is excellent, and the sales staff are experienced in handling large groups.

The Association has booked 75 rooms for Thursday through Sunday, August 2-5. Each room can accommodate from one to four persons. The rooms are \$79.00 per night for one or two adults and one or two children. Each additional adult is \$20.00 per night. The special rate given to our group is largely because of Vernon and Trudy's connections with and participation in events at the Arlington. The telephone number for reservations is 1-800-643-1502. The deadline for reservations is July 2. After that, the availability and special rate are not guaranteed. Please mention the VVV Reunion.

Vernon and Jim spent a day in January meeting with hotel staff, viewing facilities,

and checking other attractions in this old resort town. Scenery, tours, theme park, storytelling sessions and genealogy meetings will be available throughout the weekend. Former Association President Marvin Vawter will be speaking on his Revolutionary ancestor. One event planned is a three-hour river cruise Friday afternoon on the Belle of Hot Springs. Cost of this will be \$20.00 per person for the cruise and lunch.

Many members have attended reunions for years, some a few times, and still others have never attended. Make this a year to renew acquaintances and meet your cousins.

SOME OBSERVATIONS OF THE 2000 REUNION  
Submitted by Jim Vaughters

The following are personal observations that seem worthy of committing to writing. Hopefully, every attendee has his or her own impressions and memories.

The Chamberlain Hotel in Hampton, Virginia, was headquarters for the reunion in the year 2000. As with all the gatherings in years that end in 0 or 5, the VVV clan exuded calmness, relaxation and confidence. Meeting in Virginia is literally "going home" for all of us. If we were to have nothing else in common, we know that we all descend from early Virginia settlers regardless of the spelling, be it Vawter, Vautier, Vanchier, Vautorte, Valletort, or any of the other dozen or so variations.

The point of land known as Hampton presides over the spot where the York and James Rivers empty into the Chesapeake Bay. A very few miles to the north, both the Potomac and the Rappahannock also flow into the Bay. Practically within sight of Hampton, the Chesapeake joins the Atlantic Ocean. Although we did not talk about it, surely many of us found ourselves thinking about our ancestors at that location. Where did they enter the Chesapeake? Did they land where we were standing? What did the place look like? How did they choose to go up the Rappahannock River rather than one of the others? It was a humbling experience just to be there and to contemplate their lives. Whether the first one was Elliott in 1652, John in 1676, or the legendary brothers John, Angus and Bartholomew in 1685 might not be any more significant than their courage determination, and adventuresome spirit in going to a new country.

Fred Wicker shed more light on the history with his insight into the 1685 Monmouth Rebellion in England as being likely motivation for the journey. He has written an article that appears in this issue of the newsletter. For those who missed his telling the story, now you get a chance to read it.

Ellen and Ned Cummings were their usual affable and well-organized selves in planning the facilities, playing hosts, taking children to the beach, performing music with the Vawter Family Singers, and enjoying every minute while seeing to it that the rest of us did, too.

My thanks to all the participants in all the genealogy sessions. The "story-telling" was truly a cross section of American history. Sad recollections of great-grandparents, serious stories of hard work, and more funny stories than a joke writer could create!

The highlight was the trip to Vauter's Church and the glebe. The members of that congregation have become almost like family members. Their interest in history, our

Association, the connection and in keeping the church going are things that we must appreciate and of which we should be proud. Their written communications after the reunion confirm all of this.

The drive to and from the church deserves one special comment. For the entire two hours each way, Georgene Jurgenson wanted to see a plantation. A noble thought, but she might have to wait until we meet further south, such as Georgia or Alabama.

The Sunday morning service at the church was the most formal and dignified of the many that I have attended there. Those who were not able to go missed a wonderful experience. In the year 2005, please plan to stay for the service.

Worshipping in the church of our ancestors, walking their land, meeting descendants of their neighbors, and getting a feel for that part of the country are all important facets of the Association. We have built some beautiful memories on 325 years.

#### DAWSON COUNTY, GEORGIA

A reunion of the descendants of James and Jane Vaughters of Dawson County, Georgia, will be held Sunday, June 10, 2001, beginning at 11:30 a.m. at Bethel Baptist Church in Dawsonville. The late Charles Burt was instrumental in starting this reunion a few years ago. For more information, contact Charles' daughters, Cheryl Kelly or Pam Schlesinger.

Jim Vaughters has joined the Dawson County Historical and Genealogical Society. On a January visit to Georgia, he happened to hit the monthly meeting date, and ended up being the speaker. It was a enjoyable experience, especially at the end of a day when he and Richard Greene had spent the day in Franklin, Lumpkin and Dawson Counties "chasing ancestors." Richard lives in Cartersville, Georgia, and is a descendant of Delila Vaughters Anderson.

The society honored the Vaughters family in their February 2001 newsletter:

"Although his grandfather insisted that "the Vaughters have always been in Dawson County," James Vaughters discovered roots going much further back. He described some of those roots and the joy he has found in tracing them.

"From Englewood, Colorado, Jim was in Dawson County last month doing some of the 'discovering' and agreed to share his findings at the January 23<sup>rd</sup> Society meeting. Vaughters ancestors came from France to England to Virginia to North Carolina, and then to Georgia, where there are records in Elbert and Franklin counties dating back over 200 years.

"It is in Elbert County that a nationwide reunion of Vaughters relatives is planned for next August [2002], on a family estate which is being donated to the state for a wildlife preserve.

"When Jim declared, 'I hope every Dawson County Vaughters relative will be there,' he had made it sound so interesting that all of us at the meeting began to wish we fit that category."

ANSWER TO A PUZZLE?  
Submitted by Fred Wicker

Information contained in the Grace Vawter Bicknell book, *The Vawter Family in America*, and other publications indicate that the Vawters in Devonshire and Cornwall, England, were substantial if not wealthy landowners. Records strongly indicate that Trematon Castle near the city of Saltash in Cornwall was owned by the family.

The Bicknell book states that three Vawter brothers, John, Bartholomew and Angus, came from England to Virginia in about the year 1685. I have heard it stated many times at VVV reunions that they came as indentured servants. I may have seen documentation of this, but am not sure and do not find anything relative to this in records in my possession.

When these facts have been related, people have asked the obvious question. If the Vawters were well to do, why did they leave England and emigrate to America, and why did they come as indentured servants?

Assuming that the aforementioned facts are true, I have a theory based on known history. Charles II had an illegitimate son, the Duke of Monmouth. The King had a brother, the Duke of York. The King, aware of his approaching death, made arrangements that resulted in the Duke of York succeeding him as King, rather than the Duke of Monmouth. He became James II.

The Duke of Monmouth in France gathered an army and landed at Lyme, on the coast of Dorset, hoping that enough people would flock to his standard to defeat the King and be placed on the throne. Vawters and Wickers lived in Devonshire, and they joined as part of Monmouth's army, which was defeated at the Battle of Sedgemoor.

A reign of terror ensued. James II sent Chief Justice Jeffries to that area which resulted in what is known as the Bloody Assizes. Many were executed and many were exiled to the Barbados off the Florida coast. Prison ship manifests show that Vawters and Wickers were among those exiled.

All this occurred in 1685. In October, Thomas Wicker, my ancestor, desiring neither to be exiled nor executed, left Colyton and went about twenty miles west to Exeter. He signed on as an indentured servant with Captain Lyles and thus went to Virginia, arriving in December of 1685. A ship's captain having no need of an indentured servant sold, assigned the indenture or contract to a local farmer.

Since the Vawters joined forces with Monmouth, were defeated, left England in 1685 arriving in Virginia as indentured servants, it is my opinion, theory, whatever, that they did as Thomas Wicker did and for the same reason.

If someone has evidence to support my theory or in indicate otherwise, it would be interesting to hear it.

YOU CAN HELP

Items are always needed for the newsletter. Please send information on research that you have done, queries, gleanings from publications, or current news.

## E. B. VAUGHTERS RESEARCH PRESERVED

When Grace Vawter Bicknell's book was published in 1905, it triggered one of the deep and notable characteristics of all VVV's; a love and appreciation of the family history. Many significant researchers have since gotten into the act: William Snyder Vawter, W. T. Vawter, L. G. "Bill" Vawter and E. B. Vaughters to name a few. Present-day genealogists draw upon those materials regularly.

In an effort to avoid duplication and to try to create a central repository of those research materials, a suggestion came out of one of the genealogy sessions last year. The idea was to identify, locate, and gather that information. One of the first names to come up was E. B. Vaughters, who did prodigious amounts of research, contributed many items to our newsletters, and answered questions and filled in holes that many of us without his brilliant mind were not able to figure out. His death a few years ago meant that his work was stashed in his house - maybe we could find it.

Jackie Gruman descends from the line of William and Frances Vawter of Indiana. She has traced her family lines for years and has been a member of the VVV Association, but the first reunion she attended was in 2000. She lives about an hour from E. B.'s widow, Adele, who lives in Seattle, Washington. She volunteered to take on the project of obtaining E. B.'s research.

His well organized records fill a file cabinet. He has specified that they go to his daughter, Suzanne McLennon, a lawyer in Canada. Adele would not let the records leave the house, so Jackie kept trying until she found a way to copy them. She borrowed a portable copier from a friend, arranged dates with Adele, and spent a couple of twelve-hour days making copies. Adele was not only delighted that the copies are being kept by the archivist/historian of the Association, she made cookies and tea for Jackie all day while she worked. Jackie described Adele as a delightful person who was pleased to help with the project.

Our thanks to Adele Vaughters and Jackie Gruman for preserving E. B.'s research.

### *THE VAWTER FAMILY IN AMERICA*

A reminder that the reprint edition (1969) of *The Vawter Family in America* is available from the Association. This book was published 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.

There has been some criticism of the book because of errors. We need to keep in mind it was originally published in 1905, and research for the book probably took several years before that. This was long before copiers, fax machines, computers, the Internet, e-mail and dot-coms.

None of the books are in perfect condition. Many 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, 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.

The books are softbound and have 442 pages including an index, plus the supplement. Cost is \$20.00 plus \$4.00 shipping. Order from: Bonita Welch, 4145 N 900 W, Scipio IN 47273.

CATHERINE STOLTZ  
submitted by Jack Stoltz

Mezzo Soprano Catherine Stoltz will be a principal soloist in Verdi's monumental *Requiem Mass* this summer at St. Paul's Outside-the-Walls Basilica in Rome. Scheduled for Wednesday, June 27th, this once-in-a-lifetime event commemorates the 100th anniversary of the death of Giuseppe Verdi and is the opening concert of the Vatican's *Festival of St. Peter and St. Paul*.

Dr. William Hall, Director of the William Hall Master Chorale, based in Orange County, California, will conduct a choir of 800 singers from throughout the world, a full symphony orchestra, consisting of instrumentalists from Rome's world-renowned Santa Cecilia Orchestra, and internationally acclaimed soloists.

Pope John Paul II will bless the concert, numerous Cardinals and other Roman Catholic luminaries will be in attendance, and it will be broadcast by Vatican television. The audience is projected to be nearly 10,000.

Shortly after returning from Rome, in mid-July Catherine Stoltz will perform in Boston with Opera Aperta singing Rosina in Rossini's opera *The Barber of Seville*.

Catherine Stoltz has appeared with numerous opera companies throughout the United States and abroad, including the Chicago Lyric Opera, Pittsburgh Opera and the Vienna Staatsoper. She is a frequent concert soloist, and has sung many of the great choral works, including Mozart's *C-Minor Mass*, Prokofiev's *Alexander Nevsky*, Bach's *B-Minor Mass*, and Beethoven's *Missa Solemnis*.

She was a National Finalist in the 1987 Metropolitan Opera Auditions in New York City, and that same year was a national winner of the Bel Canto Foundation Opera Auditions and was awarded six weeks of study in Busetto, Italy.

A New Hampshire resident, in private life she is the wife of Continental Air Lines Captain Kent Hammon and the mother of two young daughters. Catherine Stoltz is the daughter of Jack Stoltz of Santa Barbara, California, and the late Evelyn Vawter Stoltz. Her maternal grandparents were Francis Marion and Hazel Ellen Roten Vawter. Her great-grandparents were Albert Calvin and Frances Churchwell Vawter.

Thanks to Jack Stoltz for sending this press release about his oldest daughter, Catherine. Many Association members have enjoyed following the movie and television career of Jack's son, Eric Stoltz. Eric is currently starring in "The House of Mirth" in theatres around the country, and has just finished directing his first film, "My Horrible Year," for the Showtime Channel.

INDIANA BOOK OF MERIT  
Indiana Historical Collections, Volume XVII  
Published by Historical Bureau, Indianapolis, 1932

FRED BEVERLY VAWTER, Clark County, Indiana

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.

QUERY

From: Marlene Aboussouan, P.O. Box 1996, Apple Valley CA 92307  
maboussouan@webtv.net Phone: 760-248-2022

Marlene is searching for information on her great-grandfather, Newton Vawter,  
who married Melissa Sanford. They had a daughter, Ruby, who married a Hutchcraft.  
Newton and Melissa Sanford Vawter died about 1912.

IN REMEMBRANCE

Neva Jean Findley, 90, of Seymour, Indiana, died 19 April 2001 at Memorial  
Hospital in Seymour. She was born 3 September 1910 in Bartholomew County, Indiana,  
the daughter of Alva and Bertha Wilson Pickett. She married Joseph Findley, who  
preceded her in death.

Mrs. Findley was a member of Central Christian Church, Order of Eastern Star,  
and Memorial Hospital Guild, all in Seymour. She was a retired nurse.

Surviving are a son, Jerry Lee Findley of Clarksville, Tennessee; four brothers,  
Raymond Pickett of Indianapolis, Denver Pickett of Sun City, California, Ralph Pickett of  
Ames, Iowa, and Milton Pickett of North Vernon, Indiana; and a sister, Nina Duckett of  
Freemont, California. She was preceded in death by two brothers, Maurice and Dallas  
Pickett.

Funeral service was held at Central Christian Church, and burial was at  
Riverview Cemetery in Seymour.

Neva Jean Findley's brother, Milton Pickett is a member of the VVV Association.  
He and his wife, Charlotte, have attended several reunions.

IN REMEMBRANCE

Jack Thomas Smith, 87, of Tulsa, Oklahoma, died 29 August 2000. He was born 12 March 1913 in Lawton, Oklahoma, the son of Thomas Gardner and Pearl Queenie Pulliam Smith. He was a graduate of Temple (Oklahoma) High School and Cameron College, also attending Southern Methodist University and the University of Oklahoma. He married Jane Proctor on 2 October 1937.

He was in the first graduating class of the Oklahoma Highway Patrol in 1937, and was one of only two survivors of that class. During his early career with the patrol, he served in a variety of posts, rose to the rank of second lieutenant and was sent to the National Highway Traffic Institute in Evanston, Illinois.

In January 1943, he joined the United States Naval Reserve and served as a lieutenant in the South Pacific during World War II with the Acorn 10 unit, which supported "Pappy" Boyington's famous Black Sheep Squadron.

After being discharged from the Navy, he return to Indiahoma, Oklahoma, to operate the family ranch with his brother, Paul. He was an organizer of the Oklahoma Quarter Horse Association, and served as president in 1949-50.

In 1953, he rejoined the Highway Patrol and was stationed in Purcell and Blackwell before moving to Tulsa in 1959. He was named commander of the OHP Tulsa troop. After retiring from the Highway Patrol in 1967, he worked in the Everett Lowrance Ranch in Claremore and for the Rooney Co. before joining the Tulsa County Sheriff's Office in 1973, retiring from there in 1983.

He was a member of Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, a 50-year member of Cache Lodge #391, lifetime member of American Legion Post 0308, Akdar Shrine, lifetime member of the Oklahoma Quarter Horse Association, member of Fraternal Order of Police, Retired Oklahoma Troopers Association, and Will Rogers United Methodist Church. He loved horses, helping people and traveling.

Surviving are his wife, Jane Proctor Smith; a son, Johnny P. Smith of Houston, Texas; a daughter, Joan Carol Cotton of Tulsa; a brother, Paul Gardner Smith of Tulsa; five grandchildren, Stephanie Cotton, Melanie Cotton, and Lorrie Reibert of Tulsa, Lani Luza and Lindsey Smith of Houston; and four great-grandchildren, Tyler and Sarah Reibert of Tulsa, and Hayleigh and Kara Luza of Houston.

Funeral service was held at Will Rogers United Methodist Church on Friday, 1 September 2000. Memorial contributions can be made to the church building fund.

Jack Thomas Smith's mother, Pearl Queenie Pulliam Smith was the daughter of Joseph Terrell Pulliam and Queenie Elvira Vaughter Pulliam. His maternal grandparents were Samuel Hiram Vaughter and Sarah C. Williams Vaughter.

A special thanks to Jane Smith for sending this information about her husband's death and ancestry.



This document was created with Win2PDF available at <http://www.daneprairie.com>.  
The unregistered version of Win2PDF is for evaluation or non-commercial use only.