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

MARY JESSAMYN WEST  
18 July 1902 - 23 February 1984

Mary Jessamyn West, better known as just "Jessamyn West" was born 18 July 1902 in Jennings County, Indiana, the daughter of Eldo Roy and Grace Anna Milhous West. She lived in Indiana until the age of six, when the family moved to southern California.

Jessamyn's father, Eldo Roy West, was born in Jennings County 27 September 1879, the son of J. Judson and Clara A. Clark West. Eldo's paternal grandparents were Achilles and Sarah Glover West, his maternal great-grandparents were James and Elizabeth Vawter Glover, and his maternal great-great-grandparents were Philemon and Anna Vawter. Eldo Roy West married Grace Ann Milhous on 4 September 1901 in Jennings County.

Jessamyn describes her father as being "six feet one, black-haired, olive skinned - a quiet man, easily discouraged and given to melancholy" Although having only nine years of education, he taught school in Indiana, and became relatively prosperous in California. He wrote poems of praise of California that he sent back East for publication in the Vernon, Indiana, *Banner Plain Dealer*.

Grace Anna Milhous, the mother of Jessamyn, was born in 1884 near Butlerville in Jennings County to Jesse G. and Mary Frances McManaman Milhous. The family was

(Mary Jessamyn West, con't)

Quaker and ran the Maple Grove Nursery. (Jesse G. Milhous' brother, Frank, was the grandfather of former president Richard Milhous Nixon.)

At the time Eldo Roy West married Grace Anna Milhous, he was viewed by her family as a non-Quaker of little means or promise. Eldo and Grace rented land in Jennings County, now a part of the former Jefferson Proving Ground.

Life on the farm continued, but in the meantime, Uncle Frank Milhous had invested in California real estate and moved his family to Whittier. Grace Milhous West's father had also invested in Whittier land by buying an orange grove. In April 1909, Eldo Roy and Grace Anna Milhous West and their children boarded a train for California, where Eldo would manage this orange grove until he was able to make his own investments.

Jessamyn began keeping notebooks of ideas for stories at about the age of 12, with many of her ideas coming from the stories told by her mother of life in Indiana. She began writing seriously after a long debilitating bout with tuberculosis contracted at the age of 29. Her first story collection, *The Friendly Persuasion*, was about the lives of a midwestern Quaker couple. This book was made into a movie in 1956 starring Gary Cooper.

A 1951 novel, *The Witch Diggers*, is based on stories told to Jessamyn about the former County Farm in Jennings County, Indiana. Grace Anna Milhous West's grandfather, James McManaman, had been Superintendent of this institution, and she loved to tell about the needy and others who lived there.

Jessamyn West was a prolific and varied writer. Among her works are.

Fiction: "The Friendly Persuasion" (short stories), Harcourt, 1945  
"The Witch Diggers," Harcourt, 1951  
"Cress Delahany" (short stories), Harcourt, 1953  
"Little Men," Ballantine, 1954, republished as "The Chile Kings," 1957  
"Love, Death, and the Ladies' Drill Team," Harcourt, 1955  
"South of the Angels," Harcourt, 1966  
"A Matter of Time," Harcourt, 1966  
"Leafy Rivers," Harcourt, 1967  
"Except for Me and Thee: A Companion to 'The Friendly Persuasion'" (short stories), Harcourt 1969  
"Crimson Ramblers of the World, Farewell," Harcourt, 1970  
"The Massacre at Fall Creek," Harcourt, 1975  
"The Life I Really Lived," Harcourt, 1979  
"The State of Stony Lonesome," Harcourt, 1984  
"The Collected Stories of Jessamyn West," Harcourt, 1986

Nonfiction: "To See the Dream," Harcourt, 1957  
"Love is Not What You Think," Harcourt, 1959  
"Hide and Seek: A Continuing Journey," Harcourt, 1973  
"The Woman Said Yes: Encounters with Death and Life," Harcourt, 1976  
"Double Discovery: A Journey," Harcourt, 1980

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Plays: "A Mirror for the Sky" (opera libretto), Harcourt, 1948  
"The Friendly Persuasion" (screenplay), Allied Artists, 1956  
"The Big Country" (screenplay), United Artists, 1958  
"Stolen Hours", (screenplay), United Artists, 1963  
Others: "The Secret Look: Poems," Harcourt, 1974  
(Contributor) "Cross Section 1948: A Collection of New American Writing," Simon & Schuster, 1948  
(Contributor) "O. Henry Memorial Award Prize Stories of 1946"  
(Contributor) "The Living Novel," 1957  
(Editor) "A Quaker Reader," Viking, 1962

She was also contributor of many fiction and nonfiction articles that appeared in numerous periodicals, including Mademoiselle, Collier's, New Mexico Quarterly, Town and Country, Ladies' Home Journal, Good Housekeeping, Kenyon Review, Redbook, Harper's, McCall's, Saturday Evening Post, Yale Review and New Yorker.

One story told about Jessamyn West is that she enjoyed shocking people by telling them she had slept with former president Richard Milhous Nixon. She would then add that Nixon was a second cousin and this had been when he was a baby and she a little child.

On 16 August 1923, two months after graduating from Whittier College, Jessamyn married Harry Maxwell McPherson in the Yorba Linda Friends Church. She died of a stroke on 23 February 1984 in Napa, California.

#### *THE PARISH POST*

Newsletter of Vauter's Episcopal Church and St. Peter's Episcopal Church

The following article appeared in the January 2001 issue of *The Parish Post*.

#### Wedding at Vauter's

"When Lynn Reid Daniel of Nashville and James Fred Nixon, Jr. decided to be married they decided the service should not be at either of their own churches. So they completed their marriage preparation at home and will come to Vauter's for the marriage on Sunday, January 7, 2001. Lynn has visited during the Vauter's Family Reunions.

"The congregation is invited to be witnesses to their vows and have wedding cake at the regular Coffee provided by the ECW after the service."

We congratulate Lynn and James on their marriage and welcome James to the Vawter, Vauter, Vaughter(s)Family!

Several members of the association have asked for the address of Vauter's Church so they can send contributions to this historic church. The address is: P.O. Box 54, Champlain VA 22438-0154. This same address can be used if you would like to be put on the mailing list for their monthly newsletter.

## 2001 REUNION

As announced at the 2000 Reunion in Hampton, Virginia, the site chosen for the 2001 Reunion is Hot Springs, Arkansas. Jim Vaughters and Vernon Vawter have been busy the past months making plans for the reunion, and have chosen the Arlington Hotel as the location for the event. The reunion begins with early registration on Thursday, August 2, and concludes on Saturday, August 4, with a dinner, business meeting and entertainment.

Those who want to make reservations now can call the hotel at 1-800-643-1505. The cost for a room is \$79.00 for up to four people. This is a special rate for the association, so be sure to state that you will be attending the reunion. Details of meal prices and other plans will be given in the next newsletter.

## CONGRATULATIONS

News was received from Norma Jean Vawter that her granddaughter, Wendy Vawter, is to be married 9 June 2001 at First United Methodist Church in Savannah, Tennessee. Wendy has attended many reunions and will be remembered by some as the youngest person at the 1978 reunion held in Brady Mountain, Arkansas. She was then three months old.

On 2 December 2000, Wendy presented her Senior Recital at Wright Music Building, Middle Tennessee State University. This recital was given as partial fulfillment of the degree requirements for the Bachelor of Music with a concentration in School Music Education.

Sarah Elizabeth Reynolds was born 28 April 2000 in Syracuse, New York, to William and Anne Elizabeth Vawter Reynolds of Auburn, New York. Anne is the daughter of Alfred Thomas Vawter II of Lansing, New York, and the late Catherine Bloom Vawter, and granddaughter of Walter Bachman Vawter.

## *THE LAST DANCE*

If you did not watch *The Last Dance* when it aired on CBS last October 29, be sure to catch it when being shown as a re-run. It is the story of a former student (Eric Stoltz) learning from his old teacher (Maureen O'Hara) what is important in life. Marc D. Allan, columnist for *The Indianapolis Star*, calls the movie "a lovely tearjerker," and says, "Stoltz, as always, is a calm and sure presence."

Eric Stoltz is the son of Jack Stoltz of Santa Barbara, California, and the late Evelyn Vawter Stoltz. His grandparents were Francis Marion and Hazel Ellen Roten Vawter. Great-Grandparents were Albert Calvin and Frances Churchwell Vawter.

QUERIES

From: Sheila Rice, skrice@charter.net  
This query was found on Vawter-L@rootsweb.com

Sheila is looking for information on Samuel A. Vawter or Vawters who married Sarah Jane Farrell. Their daughter was Nannie Estelle Vawters, b. 16 October 1902, Oletha, Texas?, d. 3 July 1980, Falls County, Texas. Nannie married Willie Sapp, b. 1896, d. 6 November 1981, Falls County, Texas.

From: Don Tucker, 103 Bluebird Drive, Dothan, Alabama 36303 dtuck@ala.net  
Great-Great--Grandson of Linsey Vaughters of Dawson County, Georgia

In the late 1830s, soldiers from Alabama, Georgia, Tennessee and North Carolina volunteered for service in the Cherokee Indian removals in North Georgia. In the recently published book, "Volunteer Soldiers in the Cherokee War 1836-1839," a Linsey Vaughters is listed as serving as a private from Georgia serving in Cleveland's Co 2 Ga Mil-Turks.

Which Linsey (Linzey) (Lindsey) Vaughters (Vauters) (Vawters) is this? Is this the Linzey Vaughters born on 28 June 1820 in Franklin Co., Georgia, who settled in Dawson County? Or is this Linsey the brother of James Vawter/Vaughters of Elbert County, Georgia? This Linsey was born probably about 1808. James Vawter/Vaughters was the father of Linzey of Dawson County.

Source: Page 191, *Mountain Press*, P.O. Box 400, Signal Mountain, Tennessee 37377.

From: Doyle Fenn, doylefenn@aol.com  
Found on the message board of www.familyhistory.com

George W. Vawter m. widow Mary E. Simpson on 24 Dec 1861 in Tipton Co., Indiana. Mary E. had two children by James G. Simpson when they married: 1) George Washington Simpson b. 21 Oct 1850 in Marion Co., Indiana, and 2) John G. Simpson b. c. 1854. James G. and Mary E. Simpson are on the 1850 Marion Co., Indiana, census and the 1860 Hamilton Co., Indiana, census. James Simpson appears to have died shortly after the 1860 census was taken.

Doyle is seeking the maiden name of Mary E. Simpson Vawter and the county in Kentucky where James G. Simpson was born c. 1820.

GLEANINGS

Marriage Bonds & Ministers' Return of Charlotte Co., Virginia (1764-1815)

Patsey Vaughter & John Faris, 24 January 1799

Sister of Lemuel Vaughter who is surety with Ludwell Vaughter

1850 Kentucky Mortality Schedules

Elizabeth Vaughters died July 1850, typhoid fever, age 32

IN REMEMBRANCE

James W. Vawter, 75, of Memphis, Tennessee, died 7 August 2000 at Methodist Healthcare-North in Memphis. He was a retired chemical operator for Velsicol Company. He was an Air Force veteran of the Korean War and retired as a Captain.

Survivors include his wife, Mavis Vawter; two sons, Dennis Vawter of Bartlett, Tennessee, and Rick Tucker of Hernando, Tennessee; and three grandchildren.

James was a longtime member of the VVV Association. He was a cousin of the late Robert M. "Pete" Vawter.

\* \* \* \* \*

Sarah Alice Vaughters Disharoon, 86, of Dawsonville, Georgia, died 29 October 2000 at Gold City Nursing Center in Dahlonega, Georgia. A lifelong resident of Dawson County, she was born 24 June 1914, the daughter of Linzey and Tomie Vaughters. She was a member of Bethel Baptist Church.

Survivors include her husband, Hoyt Disharoon; two daughters, Marie Disharoon of Dawsonville and Elvie Mooney of Dahlonega; two sons, Curtis Disharoon and Marcus Disharoon, both of Dawsonville; three sisters, Eler Tanner, Ola Swafford and Flara Waters, all of Dawsonville; a sister-in-law, Lois Vaughters of Smyrna; ten grandchildren; 16 great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild.

Preceding her in death were a sister, Lula Thompson; and a brother, Charlie Vaughters.

Funeral service was held at Bethel Baptist Church with the Rev. Phillip Burt officiating. Burial was at the church cemetery.

Alice attended several reunions during the early and mid 1980s with her sisters, Flara and Lula.

\* \* \* \* \*

Thurman Emery Mayer, 89, of Blue Springs, Mississippi, died 12 November 2000 at North Mississippi Medical Center. He was born 28 March 1911 in Marshall County, the son of John Kenlock and Anna Wise Mayer. He was a carpenter and a member of Shannon Church of Christ.

Survivors include two daughters, Martha Hudson and Judith Crawford and her husband, Robert, all of Blue Springs; six grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren; one great-great-grandchild. He was preceded in death by his wife Clarice Vawter Mayer; and a son, Thurman Ray Mayer.

Burial was at McKay Cemetery in Hickory Flat, Mississippi.

Emery was a longtime member of the association and attended the reunions regularly, the last one being 1999 in Indiana.

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Carrie Beazley Schools, 85, of Milford, Virginia, died 19 November 1998. Survivors include her husband of 65 years, Roland Schools; a son, Russell C. Schools of Capron, Virginia; two daughters, Patty Driver of Milford, and Delores Creech of Fredericksburg; seven grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren

Funeral was at Bowling Green Baptist Church, with burial at Greenlawn Cemetery.

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