

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
303-771-3937
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 VVV REUNION

Jim Vaughters has sent this last minute information about the 2001 reunion which is to be held August 2-5 at the Arlington Resort Hotel and Spa, 239 Central Avenue, Hot Springs, Arkansas. If you have not yet made a reservation, please do so as soon as possible. The number for reservations is 1-800-643-1502. Before the cut-off date of July 2, our special reunion rate was \$79.00 per night for up to 2 adults and 2 children per room. You will need to ask if this rate is still in effect. Valet parking is \$9.00 per day; self-parking is free.

The tentative schedule is as follows:

Thursday, August 2 - 3:00-9:00 p.m., registration in the Magnolia Room foyer
6:00-8:00 p.m., reception in the Magnolia Room
8:00-9:00 p.m., executive meeting, Board Room

Friday, August 3 - 9:00 a.m., opening meeting, Conference Center
10:00 a.m., genealogy session #1
12 noon, leave for cruise
12:30-2:15 p.m., luncheon cruise on the Belle of Hot Springs,
\$20.00 per person

Page 2 - July 2001
(reunion schedule, con't)

Friday, August 3 - 3:30 p.m., genealogy session #2
6:00 p.m., buffet, Crystal Ballroom, \$25.00 per person
7:30 p.m., genealogy session #3

Saturday, August 4 - 10:00 a.m., genealogy session #4
2:00 p.m., genealogy session #5
6:00 p.m., banquet, \$20.00 per person

Sunday, August 5 - depart for home

The Arlington Resort Hotel & Spa is inside Hot Springs National Park, where bath houses are built on the famous hot springs of the park. Bath houses are available at the Arlington and Majestic Hotels, and at the public Buckstaff, which is within walking distance. Cost is \$16.00 for the bath and \$25.00 for a massage. The Arlington has swimming pools, outside hot tub and its own shopping mall.

The recent redevelopment of the city and area has resulted in several major attractions, including a horse racing track, several golf courses, art galleries, wax museum and Mid America Science Museum. For the younger and younger at heart, the Magic Springs & Crystal Falls is a combination theme park and water park. There is a good choice of recreation for those who do not attend the genealogy sessions.

When you register, you need to commit to and pay for your choices of the three group meals: luncheon cruise, Friday buffet, and Saturday banquet. As always, we let you know that all group meals are optional. The hotel uses a ticket system for the meals, and you must have a ticket in order to be served. We must give the hotel a guaranteed number 24 hours before each meal.

As has been the tradition for several years, entertainment will be the Vawter Family Singers. Don't forget to bring a door prize, and Jim asks that we bring liquid refreshments for the Thursday reception.

VAUTER'S CHURCH PRINT

One of the items available for purchase at Vauter's Church when we visited during the 2000 reunion was a print of the church. An association member recently contacted the church about getting a print, and was told they have sold out. However, consideration is being given to having more made if there is enough interest. The prints are \$40.00, and measure 18 x 24, unframed. There would probably be postage added to the cost. If you are interested, contact Julie Stuart, c/o Vauter's Episcopal Church, P.O. Box 54, Champlain VA 22438.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

We send "Happy Birthday" greetings to Ann Vawter Felton of Brownsville, Tennessee, who celebrates her 100th birthday this month.

DEATH OF SAMUEL L. VAWTER
THE VERNON (INDIANA) BANNER
January 28, 1868
(From *the St. Paul (Minnesota) Press*, January 16th)

It is a painful duty at any time to record a death, but the duty is rendered doubly painful when death has come to one well known, respected, loved, by the community as in the case of him whose name stands at the head of this article. Yesterday, at about 7 a.m., peacefully and quietly, surrounded by weeping friends and the members of his family, Mr. Vawter breathed his last.

The deceased was born in the State of Indiana, where he spent the early part of his life. He was married in that State, and remained there until 1852, in which year he removed to St. Anthony, Minnesota, where he resided for a number of years. He went back to his old home and remained for a while, returning to St. Anthony in 1856.

During his residence in St. Anthony, he made hosts of friends, not only there, but in various parts of the State. He became connected with the Presbyterian church in 1858, and ever after remained an active, consistent, useful member thereof.

In 1863 he removed to St. Paul and went into the wholesale drug business. Messrs. Simms and Rose were associated with him, and the business was transacted under the firm name of Simms, Vawter & Rose. He subsequently bought the interest of Mr. Simms, and Mr. Etter went into the firm, which took the title of Vawter, Rose & Etter. The firm changed its name again on the first of the present year by the retirement of Rose & Etter, and the advent of Pett and Moulton. The name of the new firm was Vawter, Pett & Moulton. In a business of the magnitude of that transacted by the various firms with which the deceased has been connected, he was necessarily brought into contact with a large number of the business men of the State, and thus he became intimately known and highly esteemed and respected for his many good qualities of head and heart. Upright, prompt, energetic and courteous, he had few superiors in business qualifications. His loss will be deeply felt in this community, for he was identified with all matters of public interest, and was connected with many of the societies and public institutions of the city. He was a member of Rev. Dr. Brown's church, (Central Presbyterian), a member of the Board of Trade, and one of the Directors of the Chamber of Commerce. He was also a member of Ancient Landmark Lodge of this city. He was very attentive to business, and somewhat over-taxed his strength, frequently laboring till a late hour of the night, especially since about the time of the last change in the firm. The books requiring considerable attention, and he being thoroughly posted, he spent whole evenings in going over them, and assisting in getting everything in running order.

About three or four weeks ago he took a violent cold, which settled in his back and confined him to the house. He soon recovered sufficiently (as he supposed) to resume his duties at the store, but in a few days he was compelled to return home. After careful treatment and a little rest he improved so much that he ventured out to hear a lecture (we believe it was the first one by Miss Anna Dickinson). This greatly increased his cold, and he returned home and soon after became confined to his bed. Dr. Wharton attended him, and

we believe, in the latter part of his illness, Drs. Willey and Stewart were called in as counseling physicians. He grew worse so rapidly that it was evident some days ago that he could not live. He accordingly made a will directing the disposition of his property, and with true Christian resignation, committed himself into the hands of an all-wise God. To those who conversed with him near the hour of his death, he expressed himself as perfectly resigned and willing to die, saying that it was "all well."

He leaves a wife and three small children to mourn his loss. Quietly and peacefully he fell asleep, *'Like one who draws the drapery of his couch about him, and lies down to pleasant dreams'*

His father and brother were expected on the train last evening. After their arrival arrangements will be made for the funeral services. It is not yet determined whether the remains will be removed to Indiana for interment or be placed in Oakland Cemetery.

In addition to the foregoing very chastely written obituary notice, we would remark that at St. Paul a funeral discourse well suited to the occasion was delivered to a crowded house, by the Rev. Dr. Brown, at the Central Presbyterian Church, after which, the remains of the deceased were conveyed to the Masonic hall and the usual rites of the order on such occasions attended to.

The remains were brought from St. Paul by the father and brother, to this place, and on Thursday, the 23d inst., consigned to Earth, in the grave-yard south of town.

FROM *THE VAWTER FAMILY IN AMERICA*

The following information on Samuel L. Vawter was taken from *The Vawter Family in American* by Grace Vawter Bicknell. The dates vary a little from those in his obituary.

Samuel Logan Vawter, son of Smith and Elizabeth Vawter, was born 20 January 1836 in Vernon, Indiana. While quite a boy, he clerked in the drug store of his brother, John T. Vawter, in Franklin, Indiana. A few years later, he bought a drug store at Martinsville, Indiana. In the year 1859, he went to St. Anthony, Minnesota, where he owned a drug store. In a few years, he and his partner moved to St Paul, Minnesota, where they started the first wholesale drug house in the northwest. Samuel Vawter was married 16 December 1856 at Franklin, Indiana, to Maria L. Bright, who was born at Franklin 18 March 1837. Their children were Irene, Mary and Charles. Samuel Vawter died 16 January 1868.

Irene E. Vawter, daughter of Samuel and Maria B. Vawter, was born in Martinsville, Indiana, 24 September 1857. She was married 17 October 1878 at Franklin, Indiana, to George Caldwell Banta.

Mary J. Vawter, second daughter of Samuel and Maria Bright Vawter was born in Martinsville, Indiana, 25 April 1859.

Charles Bright Vawter, son of Samuel and Maria Bright Vawter, was born in Minneapolis, Minnesota, 29 April 1862.

The Atlanta Journal
March 4, 1974
4 Rescued In Mountain Plane Crash

KANAB, Utah (UPI) - Verne Vawter, 49, aimed his helpless plane toward an opening in the snow-covered trees, touched down on frozen Navajo Lake and skidded to a bumpy stop.

The Bonita, Calif., man then crawled from the wreckage where his wife, Doris, 47, and two other passengers lay injured. He crossed the ice to a summer cabin and returned with blankets, coats and a sleeping bag.

After stuffing the apparel in the Cessna 210's windows to keep out the blistering winds, a snowstorm completely covered the craft.

However, the wreckage at the 9,000-foot level of the Cedar Mountains had been spotted and snowmobilers arrived at the site Sunday to carry the Vawters, Keith Hollenbeck, 52, and his wife, Joan, 50, of La Jolla, Calif. to safety.

Vawter told Kane County Patrolmen the plane was forced down after getting caught in 80-mile per hour winds over the mountains while the foursome was returning to California from a 10-day skiing trip to Aspen, Colo.

They were taken by ambulance to Kane County Hospital in Kanab, 65 miles from the crash site. Mrs. Vawter suffered a broken back in the crash, Hollenbeck broke his arm and his wife had a fractured vertebra. Vawter had cuts and bruises.

Vernon (Indiana) Banner
November 10, 1875

Martha Vawter, widow of Achilles Vawter deceased, died at the residence of her son-in-law, H. T. Read near Vernon, Ind., on the 17th day of Oct. 1875 in the 77th year of her age. She was born in Fayette county, Kentucky, and when quite young, with her father, Samuel Smith, moved to the State of Ohio; and when about 17 years of age she, while visiting relatives in Madison, Jefferson county, Ind., became acquainted with Achilles Vawter, to whom she was married in the year 1815, and about 1817 removed with her husband to Vernon, Jennings county, Ind., where they commenced keeping hotel, which business was continued by them for many years; and many a weary traveler has had occasion to bless their hospitality; always finding in their house a comfortable home with ample provision for their rest and refreshment.

Martha united with the Vernon Baptist church soon after its organization and continued a faithful working member, always bearing her share of its burdens until sore afflictions prevented her from active service. For about 25 years she has suffered much from disease of the eyes and a broken limb, but her sufferings have been borne with much fortitude and Christian patience.

She was the mother of 10 children, of whom only two sons and one daughter remain to mourn the loss of an affectionate mother. The funeral services were conducted by Rev. Thomas Hill.

UPDATE ON SWIFT AND JULIAN VAUGHTER PROJECT
Submitted by Jim Vaughters

Here it is the year 2001, exactly 200 years after John Vawter owned land and thereby appeared on the 1801 Tax Rolls of Elbert County, Georgia. The last descendent to own that same land, Julian Vaughter, willed it to the State of Georgia to be maintained as a wildlife preserve. Although Julian died in March of 1999, title to the property was not conveyed until late May of this year. Some of the technical procedures took more time than expected.

In 1999, the boundary surveys, internal identification of cemeteries and buildings, environmental tests, and exclusion of the house, store, etc. were done. In 2000, some interesting events occurred:

1. The Georgia Attorney General took months to decide that the State cannot honor the condition in the will of maintaining family graves at Harmony Baptist Church, property over which the State has no authority.
2. Title research revealed an additional two acre tract across Ruckersville Road, owned by the Vaughter brothers. The Colored School District deeded the land to them as its last act before disbanding in the 1950s. Because the school building is standing, the State decided not to accept it. (Maybe the Association wants to buy an old school?)
3. A dirt road touching the farm is owned by a neighbor who lives out of state and could not be located to sign an encroachment agreement.
4. One of the co-executors of Julian's estate was in an Atlanta hospital for months and unable to sign a deed.

Betty Burt, Pam Schlesinger and Jim Vaughters met in January to check out motels, restaurants, and the convention center. Plans are proceeding to have the 2002 reunion of the VVV Association in Elbert County.

IN REMEMBRANCE

Frances Willard Vawter Utley, 86, of Atwood, Tennessee, died Sunday, 27 May 2001, at Jackson-Madison County General Hospital of a stroke. She was a homemaker.

She was preceded in death by her husband, James Utley; and a brother, Brooks Vawter. She is survived by a son, Bobby Lee Utley of Atwood.

Mrs. Utley was the aunt of VVV Association member, Evelyn Vawter Williamson.

SYMPATHY

Sympathy is extended to VVV Association member, Hannah Williams, of Gary, Texas. Her husband passed away 27 May 2001, and was buried at Rosewood Memorial Park in Humble, Texas.

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