



NEWSLETTER

FAMILY ASSOCIATION

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IF A RENEWAL FORM IS ENCLOSED, YOU NEED TO PAY DUES

2002 REUNION UPDATE FROM JIM VAUGHTERS

Elbert County, Georgia, will host more VVVs August 1-4, 2002 than it did 200 years ago when John and Joanna Vawter settled there. With the help of former Governor Ernest Vandiver, Probate Judge Susan Saxton, Doug Vaughters, Richard Greene and many others, the plans are coming along.

Early-early birds need to arrive on Wednesday, July 31, to visit the farm that evening, then tour Franklin County the next day. The Franklin County tour includes the court house, Historical Society, three cemeteries, house foundation, church and lunch. It will be capped off by a reception hosted by Governor and Mrs. Vandiver at their home in Lavonia.

Later on August 1, the Elberton Civic Center will be the site of the registration, reception and executive meeting. Vaughter's and Vaughters' from Georgia, mostly Dawson County, will host the reception, and rumor has it that some of that Dawson County moonshine might show up!

Friday, August 2, is the State of Georgia ceremony dedicating the land given by Swift and Julian Vaughter. We will tour the buildings, now owned by David and Shelly Lester of Ruckersville, the courthouse and town monuments. A trip is planned to Winder to see Doug Vaughters' collection of Vaughter/ Vaughters furniture. Then it is back to

Elberton Civic Center for supper and a tour of a 200-year-old house.

Saturday, August 3, we begin with a ceremony honoring James Benson Vaughter, father of Swift and Julian, who was a Confederate soldier. Another ceremony will honor John Vawter, tentatively approved by the Sons of the American Revolution. Also that day will be a trip to Ruckersville, storytelling, and the annual Saturday Night Banquet, featuring a sing-along of all patriotic songs.

The reunion closes with a worship service on Sunday, August 4, at Harmony Baptist Church. The church is the site of the Confederate Ceremony and across the road from the land dedication.

A brief schedule of the reunion:

- Wednesday, July 31 - Early-early birds
- Thursday, August 1 - Trip to Franklin County for the early birds
 - Registration
 - Reception, hosted by the Georgia Vaughter/Vaughters
 - Executive meeting
- Friday, August 2 - Opening meeting
 - Ceremony by the State of Georgia and tour of buildings
 - Visit Doug Vaughters' home in Winder
 - Evening meal (about \$15.00)
 - Tour a 200-year-old house
- Saturday, August 3 - Confederate Ceremony
 - S. A. R. Ceremony
 - Visit Ruckersville
 - Storytelling
 - Banquet (about \$15.00) and sing-along of patriotic songs.
- Sunday, August 4 - Service at Harmony Baptist Church

Welcome to an All-American Reunion. Be sure to watch for all those granite displays as you drive into Elberton.

WHAT TOURIST ATTRACTIONS ARE IN ELBERT COUNTY, GEORGIA?

"The Granite Capital of the World" not only attracted John and Joanna Vawter to settle there 200 years ago, it has now attracted the VVV Reunion for August 1-4, 2002. Almost every title and every activity in the area has some relation to granite. Swift and Julian Vaughter's old story about the granite foundation of the original house being quarried on the farm is typical.

Reunion headquarters is the Civic Center. Next door is the Granite Museum and Exhibit. In an hour or two you can learn more than you ever wanted to know about the nature of granite, the history of quarrying, the tools and equipment, and the uses of this rock. Thirty-five quarries and 100 manufacturing plants contribute to the museum.

The Georgia Guide stones are seven miles north of town. They pose a mystery and a

philosophical message providing “guides” for the preservation of mankind. Known as the “Stonehenge of America,” the Guide stones are mysterious in origin, for no one knows the identity of a group of sponsors who provided specifications for the 19-foot high monument.

Veterans Park, on the north edge of town, is unique. Each war from the Revolution to Vietnam has its own separate monument. No two are alike; they vary in design, shape, size and color. It is a pretty and innovative park.

Nancy Hart Historical Park honors the tallest, ugliest, meanest woman of the Revolutionary War. The stories of her single-handed feats are everywhere. The park and cabin are ten miles south of Elberton.

The grave of Old Dan Tucker, six miles east of town, honors a patriot, a minister and champion of slaves. (The years of his birth and death are almost identical to those of John Vawter.)

On August 1 as we travel to Franklin County, we will pass the Ty Cobb Museum in Royston, Georgia. He was the first member of the Baseball Hall of Fame, and grew up in Royston. This is about half hour north of Elberton.

ACCOMMODATIONS

The hosts are recommending the Holiday Inn Express, 706-283-8811, and the Days Inn, 706-283-2300. Both are near the Civic Center. Originally recommended was Richard Russell State Park, but all the cottages there are now full. Those who have already made reservations at the Holiday Inn Express are urged to call or write for a confirmation.

REUNION T-SHIRTS

Again this year, Connie Bugos has volunteered to have t-shirts made for the reunion. She expects the price to be about \$1.00 or so more than in the past. If you are interested, call her at 309-245-4931 after 3:30 p.m. Or, she can be reached by way of e-mail at buggram@att.net.

ANOTHER REUNION: DAWSON COUNTY, GEORGIA

The fourth annual reunion of Dawson County Vaughters will be held on Sunday, June 9, 2002. This reunion was first organized in 1997 by Becky Vaughters McCord, Gary Vaughters, and the late Charles Burt.

Bethel Baptist Church in the Shoal Creek community is the location, and the tentative schedule is:

11 a.m. – Visit the church cemetery (Maybe the largest concentration of VVV graves anywhere)

11:45 a.m. – Photograph on front steps of church

Noon – Family History (Jim Vaughters has a surprise)

1 p.m. – Potluck Dinner

If you are a Georgia Vawter/Vaughter/Vaughters, you need to attend.

GOVERNOR VANDIVER'S BOOK

“Ernest Vandiver, Governor of Georgia” was published in 2000. Our cousin is proud of the work, which was years in the making. It is Georgia history through and through and an important biography.

He recently gave a copy to the Historian/Archivist, who will display it at the reunion. The first chapter, “Franklin County Roots,” will look very familiar to us. His Vaughters grandmother is mentioned on page two.

Congratulations and thank you, Governor.

IDENTIFICATION OF PHOTOGRAPHS

The January 2002 newsletter featured an article by Jim Vaughters that emphasized the importance of the preservation of our genealogical records. Along this same line is the identification of photographs. Many of us have pictures of a happy couple on their wedding day, adorable babies, family groups, etc. Unfortunately, we don't know who they are.

Just recently, a cousin gave me an old photo album. At first glance, I was thrilled! Although the album was falling apart, it was filled with pictures; some were still pasted to the pages, but many had come loose and I could see writing on the backsides of a few. My elation soon turned to frustration. Most of what I thought would be identification will require detective work. Written on a picture of an elderly woman and several young children sitting on a porch step is “the children.” Three young boys are identified as “brothers.” Another picture has “my aunt in the car.” But the one that really caught my eye was of an elderly couple, a younger woman and a cow. It says, “Our old cow Blackie.”

We should all take the time to write names and dates on our photos. Also, copies should be made to share with other family members.

CLEVELAND VAUGHTERS

Cleveland Vaughters, formerly of Madison, Georgia, recently moved. His new address is:

c/o Magnolia Estates Retirement Center
624 Gainesville Highway
Winder, Georgia 30680
Phone: 770-867-4256

Magnolia Estates has two other retirement homes. One of them is in Elberton where Julian Vaughter lived from 1997-1999.

Cleveland's younger son, Doug, lives in Winder. His older son, Jim, credits Cleveland with getting him interest in family history; every time he went somewhere he would look in phone books for other Vaughters. This must be a family trait, as many members of the VVV Association do the same thing!

THE UPPER ROOM

Daily Devotional Guide

July-August 2001

The Blanket Angel

“My family has just kissed me goodbye, and the nurse is rolling my bed toward the operating room. As I wait for the anesthesiologist, I am moved to the coldest, hardest cart on this planet. The gap in the back of my “fashion gown” seems to grow wider and wider as the cold from the cart starts to freeze my body.

“All of a sudden a beautiful voice speaks to me, “Would you like this warm blanket?” It is the voice of the “blanket angel.” A nurse takes the softest, warmest, most cuddly blanket I ever felt and spreads it across my body. I no longer feel alone, cold, or afraid.

“After surgery, my doctor tells me that he has discovered cancer in my body. Inwardly, I fell as cold and lonely as when I lay on the cold, steel cart. But as the days pass and my family and friends begin to get word of my condition, I keep hearing those phrases: “We just want you to know that we are praying for you,” or, “You are on our prayer list.” As the blanket warmed my body, so these prayers bring me God’s warm love. I am strengthened day by day through the power of prayer.”

Prayer: Warm us, dear God, by your love. Strengthen us through the faith of your children. Amen.

Thought for the Day

Our prayers can help to warm those who are enduring cold and lonely times.

Sam Vaughter * (Texas)

* Mr. Vaughter died during the production of this issue.

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PRINTS OF VAUTER’S CHURCH

As always, a highlight of the reunions held in Virginia is a trip to Vauter’s Episcopal Church. When we visited in 2000, prints of the church were available for purchase, either framed or unframed. The supply was sold out shortly after the reunion, and several people were disappointed that they did not buy one while in Virginia. The April 2002 issue of “Vauter’s Parish Post” tells that they now have more prints. The cost is not given. For information, contact Danna Dickinson c/o Vauter’s Episcopal Church, P. O. Box 154, Champlain VA 22438. A phone number given is: 804-443-4788. This same address could be used if you are interested in being on the mailing list for the church newsletter.

LINDSEY VAUGHTERS
Submitted by Jim Vaughters

By the time John Vawter and his second wife, Joanna Vernon Vawter, moved to Elbert County, Georgia in about 1805, many of the traditional family names had been given to John's children. He had brought those names from Virginia, where he was born, to North Carolina where he moved as a young adult. He and his first wife, Franky Ward Vawter, names their children Franky (who married Cooper Bennett and settled in Pendleton, South Carolina), William (who never married and is buried beside John in Elbert), and James (who lived briefly in Elbert and then moved to adjacent Franklin County, where he married Jane.)

The years in Surry and Stokes Counties, North Carolina, produced John and Franky's children. Franky died about 1791, and shortly thereafter John married Joanna, the daughter of his good friend Richard Vernon. Around 1795, they had a son Richard (named for both of his grandfathers.) Elizabeth was born about 1800 and Nancy about 1804.

By that time, John owned land in Elbert and was selling his land in Stokes. After they moved to Georgia, they had a son and broke tradition by giving him a name that the family had not previously used. A record has been found of a prominent businessman in the area named Reuben Lindsey who did some business with John. The baby born in 1808 was named Lindsey Vawter.

Lindsey was the next to last child of John. (Russell was born in 1813 and was named for John's brother, who had moved from Virginia to North Carolina also.) When Lindsey was young, John, Joanna and William died. His older brother, Richard, was the elder Vawter in Elbert for many years and undoubtedly was influential in Lindsey's life.

Of his generation, Lindsey was the only one who both stayed on the original farm and married. He and Mary Polly McMullen Hulme had their first child in 1844. His first name was that of an older half-brother of Lindsey – his full name was James Benson Glean Vaughter. He became the father of Swift and Julian Vaughter.

When Lindsey's older brother Richard died in 1856, he willed all his property to Lindsey's five children, but not to Lindsey. The children had to have a guardian appointed to protect their property. Their father, Lindsey, was appointed, and the amount of the bond that the Probate Court required him to post was \$11,000.00, a huge sum for 1858.

Meanwhile, the older half-brother, James, had been raising a family in Franklin County. After naming sons William and Hiram (one name for each side of the family), James honored his younger half-brother by naming the third son Lindsey, born in 1821.

At a young age, Lindsey Vaughter became the man of the family. His older brother, Hiram, married in 1832; his father, James, died in 1836; and his oldest brother, William, has been described in several documents as being not of sound mind. By 1839, the widow Jane had completed the probate of James' estate, had sold the family farm to her son Hiram, and had packed up the other eight children and moved to the mountains of Lumpkin (later Dawson) County. Eighteen-year-old Lindsey was the leader of that group of children.

In the 1840s, Jane bought two 40-acre lots and Lindsey bought a lot almost every year. While his younger sisters were marrying, he farmed, acquired land, and supported his mother, his older brother William, and all the girls. He continued the same life patterns throughout the 1850s.

In 1857, several significant events occurred: The last of Lindsey's sisters married; Dawson County was formed; Jane wrote her will (a wonderful genealogical document); and Lindsey finally married. His bride was Marinda Kesiah Hicks. Photographs of her are consistent with the story that she was Cherokee. Ironically, Lindsey married a woman of the very nation from whom white man had taken the land that was not his. Perhaps he was making up for some of the past wrongs. That kind of attitude might have led to his demise. Lindsey and Marinda had a baby a year for the rest of his life. He became a Christian, was active in Bethel (Shoal Creek) Baptist Church, and volunteered to work for the County Commission for the Poor. The responsible attitude that he had developed early continued to be his trademark.

Lindsey was 40 years old when the Civil War began in 1861. He was enrolled in the Home Guard, a form of local militia. These men were supposed to protect the local population – they took this as a license to loot and steal from locals and even to kill them. Some of the family grudges that had burst out in the Southern Appalachian Mountains during the Revolutionary War were leading to an internal civil war within a civil war. Lindsey rebelled against the Home Guard and became pro-Union, as did much of northern Dawson County and other mountain counties.

His activities led to his arrest at one point in 1864. The war ended in April 1865, but the grudges continued. A Gainesville newspaper reported that in October 1866, three men were hanged in Gainesville, one of whom was Lindsey Vaughters. Story has it that the old Home Guard did the hanging.

Lindsey and Marinda gave all of their children names from the Vaughters' side and none from the Hicks'. One son, George, continued the tradition. His sons, the grandsons of Lindsey, were named: William Oscar Aiken, born 1881; Linzey, born 1883; Homer, born 1885; and Hiram S. A. J., born 1891.

Linzey was a fun-loving man. He lived on the same land that his namesake had farmed. He married an Anderson cousin, worked hard, and was a dedicated 'coon hunter. The house where he lived his adult life still stands. His five daughters have been proud of their Vaughter heritage and have attended many VVV reunions.

When Uncle Linzey died on 1960, he left one son. Charlie Lindsey lived from 1924 – 1994. He was the fourth Vaughters man, going all the way back to Elbert County, to have the name. When he died, the name might have died with him.

If any members of the VVV Association know of any other Lindsey, please write a paragraph or article about him and send it to the news editor.

Edna Bowers, of Choctaw, Oklahoma, has sent information about her grandparents, Henry Alfred and Winna Juliann Vaughters Waters, who left Georgia between 1888 and 1890. This will appear in the July 2002 newsletter.

Thank you to all who continue their support by submitting information!

JONATHAN VAUGHTERS

Those who follow the career of professional cyclist Jonathan Vaughters, son of Jim and Donna Vaughters, should check out his web site: www.vaughters.com You might want to sign his guestbook, too.

SOME HELPFUL HINTS

If there is no marriage bond for a second marriage, look for an age gap between children to try to determine when the first wife died.

Often, a later child was given the same name as one who had died earlier.

An “orphan” could be someone under 21 whose father had died; the mother might still be living.

Watch for occupations being capitalized as identification following a name, without a comma. John Williams Carpenter in 1785, was possible John Williams, carpenter. John Henry Taylor may well have been John Henry, tailor.

When examining a Bible record, notice if the handwriting is all the same. If it is, all entries were probably made at the time of the latest entry. Entries made at the time the event occurred are more apt to be accurate.

IN REMEMBRANCE

Katherine Marjorie Boutz Baskin, 84, died 30 October 2001. She was born 12 May 1917 in Harris, Saskatchewan, Canada, the youngest child of Frank Anton and Maude Jane Vawter Boutz.

Survivors include five children, Joyce Katherine Baskin Peterson and her husband Lynwood Peterson of Hockley, Texas, John Young Baskin and his wife Betty of Rockville, Maryland, Linda Joan Baskin Ryder and her husband Ronny Ryder of Pueblo, Colorado, James Douglas Baskin of Houston, Texas, and Claudia Baskin Collins; 14 grandchildren; and 20 great-grandchildren.

Mrs. Baskin enjoyed attending the Wisconsin and Tennessee reunions of the VVV Association with her daughter, Joyce Peterson. Her grandparents were William Franklin and Melissa Iowa Stapleton Vawter; great-grandparents were John Wesley and Emily Jane Wheeler Vawter; great-great-grandparents were Hiram and Mary A. Good Vawter; and great-great-great-grandparents were Edward and Phoebe Vawter.

Sympathy is extended to Georgene Jurgensen and family. Her husband, Russ Jurgensen, died 21 February 2002. A memorial service will be held for him in the summer.

A note was received from an attorney in Wichita, Kansas, notifying us of the death of Elsie M. Hill on 17 June 2001. Her husband, Dale L. Hill, died in December 2001. Mrs. Hill was a longtime member of the association.

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