



NEWSLETTER

FAMILY ASSOCIATION

July 2002

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Dues - \$7.00 per year

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

REUNION REMINDER

If you have not yet made plans to attend the 2002 reunion in Elberton, Georgia, now is the time to do so. The event will be held August 1-4, although a tour is planned for Wednesday, July 31, for those who arrive early.

Our host, Jim Vaughters, is recommending that reservations be made at either the Holiday Inn Express, 706-283-8811, or the Days Inn, 706-283-2300. If both of these are already filled, there are other motels in Elberton.

The Elberton Civic Center will be the site of the registration, reception and executive meeting on Thursday, and will be the gathering place to begin the several tours. It is also the location of the Friday evening dinner and the annual Saturday Banquet.

Once again, we will be entertained by the Vawter Family Singers under the direction of Ellen Cummings. This group is open to anyone and a rehearsal time will be scheduled.

At the Memorial Service on Saturday night, we will remember those members and friends whose obituaries have appeared in the newsletter during the past year. If you have others to add, please send the information to the newsletter editor before July 22 or bring it with you to the reunion.

The tradition of giving door prizes continues, so be sure to bring something. Some people contribute an item that is VVV related or symbolic of their area of the country.

A schedule of the reunion is in the April 2002 newsletter.

WATERS FAMILY

Written by Edna Bowers of Choctaw, Oklahoma

My grandparents left Georgia and came to Texas between 1888 and 1890. I do not know the way they traveled, either by wagon train or by rail train. Between 1895 and 1899 they moved into Oklahoma, which was Indian Territory. Many people were migrating west at that time to get out of the deep southern states, which had been torn up by the Civil War.

Grandpa and Grandma settled in Lincoln County, ten miles southeast of Davenport, Oklahoma. This was almost on the bank of the Deep Fork River. My Grandfather Waters was a farmer and a good one.

Grandmother Julia was a loving and precious woman. As far back as I can remember I dearly loved her. I was always thrilled to know Grandma was coming to see us or I was going to her house. Everyone who met her loved her, for she had two wonderful things she gave to everyone. One was a pleasant smile and the other was love that flowed from her. She was truly like Will Rogers in the fact that she never met a person that she didn't love.

It was through her chaste Christian living that won my grandpa to accept the Lord Jesus Christ as his Savior. My grandpa fell in love with Jesus and faithfully served Him. He and Grandma had their devotion every morning after breakfast. I have heard him pray for everyone in the family many times. Each summer when he got all the crops laid by, he and another preacher would go to a schoolhouse or put up a brush arbor and hold a few weeks revival. They would take turns preaching. Each Sunday while the revival was in progress we had a delicious dinner at the church. My how those country ladies could cook! When I was a child on the farm, this was all the church we would have all year. Everyone in the community was eager to attend. Their only transportation we had was wagons drawn by mules or horses. This was the only way we had to hear the Gospel preached.

I thank God for giving to us a great Christian heritage. Very few, if any, members of our families died without Christ as Savior. God certainly does answer prayer.

Henry Alfred Waters b. 14 Jan 1863, Georgia d. 10 Dec 1925, Oklahoma
Winna Juliann Vaughters b. 12 Jan 1863, Georgia d. 1 Sep 1951, Oklahoma
Henry and Winna Juliann were married 16 Sep 1880 in Lumpkin Co., Georgia

Children:	Dilmas	b. Sep 1882, Georgia	d. Jul 1884, Georgia
	*Florence Edith	b. 1 Apr 1884, Georgia	d. 23 Feb 1924, Oklahoma
	Flora	b. 9 Dec 1886, Georgia	d. Oct. 1887, Georgia
	Minnie Viola	b. 14 Feb 1888, Georgia	d. 14 Nov 1973, Oklahoma
	Eva	b. 26 Jan 1890, Texas	d. Feb 1895, Texas
	Jane	b. 9 Nov 1891, Texas	d. Aug 1916, Oklahoma
	Mamie Ethel	b. 19 Sep 1893, Texas	d. 27 Nov 1965, Oklahoma
	Alfred Parks	b. 24 Nov 1895, Texas	d. 11 Apr 1965, Oklahoma
	Lillie Belle	b. 17 Apr 1899, Oklahoma	d. 24 Nov 1980, Oklahoma
	Bertha Mae	b. 17 Aug 1902, Oklahoma	d. 12 Aug 1976, Texas

Winna Juliann Vaughters Waters was the daughter of Linzey and Kisiah Marinda Hicks Vaughters.

Linzey was the son of James Vaughters.

* Edna M. Bowers is the daughter of Florence Edith Waters

A TRIBUTE TO WINNA JULIANN VAUGHTERS WATERS

January 12, 1863 – September 1, 1951

Written by her granddaughter, Edna M. Bowers

Grandmother Waters lived in Oklahoma from 1900 until her death in 1951. My wonderful grandmother was a woman of wisdom, love, and a strong character.

She loved the Lord dearly, but her family of ten children were the dearest thing she treasured on this earth. Grandma never forgot her dear mother and relatives in Georgia.

She talked of them often. I wrote letters to them for her several times. Besides her family, she was always ready to help others who needed help.

My grandmother was always fascinating to me. I loved how she said some things and I enjoyed watching her cook, etc. She brought some of her sayings with her from Georgia, such as “jeir” instead of jar. I loved to hear her say, “Edna, go to the cellar and fetch me a ‘jeir’ of pickles.”

Even though she did not know how to read or write, she was the best cook in the south. She cooked by using a pinch of this and a pinch of that, never measuring anything.

When she made pie crust and bread, she put flour in a big, round wooden bowl; made a well in the center; put in a pinch of salt, pinch of baking powder or soda, lard and milk; and mixed it with her hands.

When making biscuits, she put it on a board and kneaded it some. She then pinched the biscuits off and placed them in the pan. They were always perfect. They were baked in a wood stove without a heat controlled oven. She knew the right amount of wood to put in the stove to cook what she was cooking.

She made dumplings that melted in your mouth. She was called the “Dumplin’ Lady”, for she made them with so many things. She would make them with white beans, wild green grapes, and of course chicken and stewed beef. She made a dough and rolled it rather thin. Then she cut the dough in strips and dropped the strips into hot broth.

She always kept a jar of everlasting yeast alive to make her light bread. It was the best homemade bread I ever ate. I have always been thankful that she taught me to make light bread and dumplings plus other things.

Grandma was always happiest when her family was around her. On all holidays and some Sundays, all of us would get together. She always loved this.

I remember Christmas 1928 in Stillwater, Oklahoma. We started gathering in Christmas Eve night. Grandma lived with her daughter and son-in-law. Two grandsons lived there, too. They had five beds and cots. Everyone went to bed except Grandma and I. We stayed up until my cousin came in from the picture show. To our surprise, he came bringing a friend home with him to stay the night. We barely found a place for them to lie down. Grandma and I spent all night sitting in rocking chairs.

When morning came, Grandma was the first one in the kitchen preparing biscuits for breakfast. We had a big dinner of ham, turkey, and all the trimmings. Would you believe Grandma cooked a big opossum for her meat? My dad ate some of it also.

I was always thrilled to get to go stay all night at Grandma’s home. I especially liked

to go in the winter, because I always slept with her in her soft feather bed. I would sink into it and it would almost cover me up.

I remember so well when Grandma was getting ready for bed. The first thing she did was take her long hair down and comb and comb it. Then she braided it for the night. The next morning she took the braids out and combed and combed it again. Then she would roll it in a bun on the back of her head and put in hair pins and a comb on each side to hold it in place.

Grandma always stayed busy all day. When evening came and she sat down, she always worked on something in her lap. She pieced many, many quilts and comforters as well as braided many rag rugs. She never ate the “bread of idleness.”

Grandma did not get to attend church very often, but the Fruits of the Spirit – Love, Joy, Peace, Longsuffering, Gentleness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Meekness and Temperance – were always manifested in her daily life.

My grandfather respected and loved Grandmother because of her Godly life, which brought conviction upon him and led him to repentance and he became a new creature in Christ Jesus.

My grandmother taught me many things and I loved her dearly.

Edna Bowers is a longtime member of the VVV Family Association, as are her Daughter, Betty Dyer of Choctaw, Oklahoma; her sister, Edith Goodson of Roseville, California; and her cousin, Juanita Baker of Dallas, Texas.

Edna stated that her grandmother, Winna Juliann Vaughters Waters never returned to Georgia to see her relatives after going to Oklahoma.

Do you have memories of your parents and grandparents that could be shared?

VAWTER DIARY

The Spring 2002 issue of *The Hoosier Genealogist*, a quarterly publication of the Indiana Historical Society, has an article telling of the diary of Jennie Vawter that is in their collection. The diary runs from 1 January 1869 to 20 August 1879.

Jeanie Vawter was born 18 April 1847 in Shelby Township, Ripley County, Indiana, the daughter of Abraham Pardun. She married John M. Vawter, son of Beverly and Elizabeth Vawter of Monroe Township, Jefferson County, Indiana, on 15 April 1869.

The diary tells of the establishment of their home in Smyrna Township, Jefferson County, Indiana, and the births of their two children. Much of the diary centers on social activities, celebrations and events at churches in Hopewell and Shelby. It also mentions trips to Dupont, Lancaster, Madison and Wirt in Jefferson County and New Marion and Rexville in Ripley County.

Jennie makes references to friends and neighbors in the areas of southwestern Ripley County and northwestern Jefferson County. About forty family names are mentioned, but most are referred to by the titles Mr., Mrs. or Miss. Only a few have their full names given.

WILL VAWTER
BROWN COUNTY, INDIANA, ARTIST

At an auction held May 18 and Jackson & Wickliff Auctioneers, Inc., in Carmel, Indiana, six signed illustration by Will Vawter, illustrator of many of James Whitcomb Riley's books, sold with the proceeds going to Riley Hospital for Children in Indianapolis. The only framed one was *Babyhood*, a 16 by 11in gouache showing a grandfather with a small child which brought \$5,500. The estimate had been \$1,200-1,500. The other five, all slightly larger, brought between \$1,000 and \$1,300. A Will Vawter 24 by 29in oil on canvas, *Vivid Brown County Summer Landscape*, brought \$12,500.

The same auctioneers sold other Will Vawter works at an auction on March 26. A 14 by 17in oil on board, *Blossom Time*, sold for \$6,500. *Curley Locks*, a 15 ½ by 14in gouache, which was an illustration in a book by Riley, brought \$1,350. Other illustrations averaged \$1,000 at the auction.

CONGRATULATIONS

Glee Krapf of Tamaqua, Pennsylvania, is happy to announce the arrival of her first grandchild. Laura Rose was born 1 May 2002 at Montgomery Hospital in Norristown, Pennsylvania, to Jeffery and Stacey Krapf Cooper. Congratulations to the proud parents and grandmother!

SOME RESEARCH RULES TO REMEMBER

1. "Junior" did not always mean "son of." It could be a designation for a younger man of the same name in the same area. A man could be a "junior" at one period and "senior" at a later period.
2. "Infant" could mean someone under legal age, not necessarily a babe in arms.
3. An illegitimate child usually took the surname of the mother.
4. Title to land could be conveyed either by inheritance or deed or marriage.
5. If no executor is named in the will, the Court appoints an administrator "cum testamento annexo" to carry out the provisions of the will.
6. According to the laws of intestate succession, the widow receives 1/3 of all property, and the remainder goes to the children.
7. All males and females enumerated in the census records prior to 1850 are not necessarily members of the immediate family; they could be members of the household and may not even be related.
8. Be careful about accepting information on a death certificate, as the information was given under stress by someone who may not have a full knowledge of the facts. The same holds true for obituaries.
9. Spelling of names can be tricky. The clerk or census taker wrote down what he heard, i.e. Anne Eliza or Annie Liza.

MARTIN FAMILY CEMETERY RESTORED

Dresden Enterprise, Dresden Tennessee

3 August 1994

The Martin Family Cemetery has been recently restored by descendants of those buried there.

The old cemetery, located just three miles north of the Weakley County Courthouse, has been brought out of complete wilderness to full restoration.

The final resting place of the Martin family's ancestors didn't even have a sign to mark its location until restoration of the grounds were undertaken.

The Martin Family Cemetery is located at the site of one of Weakley County's pioneer family homesteads, that of Thomas Martin, who was originally from Halifax County Virginia.

Thomas and his wife, Drucilla (Vawter) Martin, moved into this area when it was just a wilderness, and many of their children and their families came along with them. The others followed them to Tennessee later.

William Martin, the only son of Thomas and Drucilla, preceded them by five years. He had come with John Glass and his family, to which his wife belonged. It was this William Martin for whom the town of Martin, Tennessee, was named in 1873.

When his father, Thomas, came, it seems that William left his home place, where the Martin Cemetery now lies, to his father's family, just north of the present East Side Cemetery of Martin.

The children of Thomas and Drucilla Martin married into families well known among Weakley County residents of today, including: Elizabeth (born 1802) married John Farmer; Mary C. (born 1804) married Francis T. Williams; William (born 1806) married Sarah Glass; Caroline (born 1808) married David K. Nowlin; Martha Bates (born 1812) married Alfred Higgs; Susan L. (born 1813) married James Adams, Jr.; and Malinda (born 1823) married Thomas Glass.

Much early history of Weakley County can be found in these old deserted cemeteries, which are located on farms and other remote areas scattered here and there.

Unfortunately, many of these old cemeteries have been plowed under or otherwise destroyed.

THE VAWTER FAMILY OF AMERICA

The reprint edition of *The Vawter Family in America* by Grace Vawter Bicknell is still available from the association. First printed in 1905, it was reprinted in 1969 with a supplement update of the O'Conner family. None of the books are in fine condition. Many have entire sections missing, out of place, or upside down, or have much of the index missing. However, for some it is just a matter of one or two pages missing, and those are the books being sold now. We supply replacement pages for you to insert.

The softbound books have 442 pages, including an index, and can be ordered from Bonita Welch, 4145 N 900 W. Scipio IN 47273. Cost is \$20.00, plus \$4.00 shipping.

QUERY

From: Dorothy Vaughn Lacefield, 474 Nash Road, Guston KY 40142
momndad@bbtel.com

Dorothy is seeking the burial place of her great-grandmother, Amanda Vawter Vaughn, daughter of Richard and Sarah Snelling Vawter. Amanda married George Washington Vaughn 17 Jul 1837, and died 25 Oct 1842. Amanda and George Vaughn had two children, Amanda Frances and Richard Vawter Vaughn. She is also looking for the burial place of Richard and Sarah Snelling Vawter.

IN REMEMBRANCE

Selma A. Vawter Vanderford, 80, of Indianapolis died 7 April 2002. She worked 22 years for the U. S. Postal Service, retiring in 1984.

Funeral service and visitation were at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, of which she was a member.

Survivors include three daughters, Leann Ronan, Robin Lincoln, and Margaret Greganete; a son-in-law, Mario Breganete; and three grandchildren.

This obituary appeared in *The Indianapolis Star*.

Lt. Col. Leonard Kimmick Jr., (USA-Ret.), 75, of Lancaster, Texas, died Thursday, 14 June 2001. He was born 7 June 1926 in Honolulu, Hawaii, the son of Leonard and Florence Kimmick.

He served in the U.S. Army from 1945 until his retirement in 1967, and had received the Bronze Star Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Air Medal with First and Second Oak Leaf Clusters and numerous other medals and citations. After retirement from the U.S. Army, he became the ROTC Commandant at David W. Carter High School in Dallas, retiring from that position in 1988. He was a part-time history instructor at Cedar Valley College, and was honored with the "Excellence in Teaching" award in 1990.

He received a bachelor of science degree from the University of Nebraska at Omaha and a master of arts degree from Southern Methodist University. He was lifetime member of the TROA, a member of GDROA, and a member of First United Methodist Church of Lancaster.

Survivors include his wife, Marcella Kimmick of Lancaster; a daughter, Karen Morse of Dallas; a son and daughter-in-law, Bruce and Anne Kimmick of Denver, Colo.; a son-in-law, Norman Martin; seven grandchildren, Amanda Wallace, Meagan Martin, Kathryn Kimmick, Jacob Harris, Matthew Martin, Kyle Kimmick and Keenan Kimmick; And a great-grandson, Shane Moore.

He was preceded in death by a daughter, Florence Lynn Martin; and a son-in-law, Joseph "Buck" Morse.

Marcella Kimmick has been a member of the association for several years. We thank her for sending this obituary of her husband.

IN REMEMBRANCE

Edwin Vawter, lifelong rancher and member of a prominent pioneer Bandera County family, died April 28, 2002 at his home at the age of 93. His wife, Thelma Jeane, and many family members were at his bedside. Born Francis Edwin Vawter in Pipe Creek, Texas, March 30, 1909, he was the son of George Lewis Vawter and Junie Ettie Dickerson.

David and Lucinda Vawter were Edwin Vawter's great-grand parents. {From *The History of Panola County*: In 1844 David Vawter bought property at Grand Bluff, Texas and bonded to operate a ferry across the Sabine River. At his death his widow, Lucinda, continued to operate the ferry for many years.}

Edwin was the grandson of one of Pipe Creek's early day founders, John Milton Vawter, who first settled in the Pipe Creek area in the early 1870s. And to quote the *Vawter Family History* "While he lived in the Bandera Mountains, forty miles west of San Antonio, he, for years, amid drought and Mormon opposition and persecution, carried on a Sabbath-school, which was at times the only religious service held in that part of the country."

Active in the fledgling community, the Vawter family provided postal and telephone services and much of the leadership so badly needed in the sparsely settled region. The family, in 1909, provided the land for the Pipe Creek Baptist Church.

Around 1925 Edwin joined his brother, Walter, to work in Montana. While there, he participated in cattle drives and wild horse drives. He remained there about 18 months, but came back home before the second winter. He just couldn't take that cold weather. Walter stayed with the homestead south of Miles City, Montana.

On December 7, 1936, Edwin married Miss Thelma Jeane Johnson of Pipe Creek, and they were married for over 65 years.

In addition to his wife, survivors include daughters Patricia and husband Thomas Renton and Joy and husband Thomas Richter, all of Pipe Creek. The Vawters were blessed with five grand-children, Jordan, Daria, Marcus, Susan and Tommy; five great-grandchildren, Frances, Kaitlin, Krista, Luke and Malaena; and one great-great grandchild is "on the way."

One of eight children, Edwin was preceded in death by sisters Eugenia, Matie, Junie and Rebecca, and brothers Wyatt, Walter and Ferris.

Bandera County Judge Richard Evans, on learning of Vawter's passing, observed that "Mr. Vawter was a gentleman of the old school. He was always there when needed, always steady. He always knew where he stood on any question. Bandera County has lost one of its old settlers".

Services for the retired stockman / rancher were held at 10:30 a.m. May 1, 2002 at Grimes Chapel in Bandera. The Reverend Dennis Thompson conducted the impressive service. Neighbor and lifelong friend J. B. Edwards delivered the eulogy. He described Vawter as "a Christian, a gentleman and a man of his word."

Daughters Patricia Renton and Joy Richter are members of the VVV Family Association. We thank Patricia for sending this obituary of her father.

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