



FAMILY ASSOCIATION

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NEWSLETTER October 2003

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Dues - \$10.00 per year

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

2003 REUNION IN PENSACOLA Submitted by Jesse Vawter

The family met at Pensacola for the 2003 VVV reunion. Most had a great time, from the reports we received. There were some minor problems like 1) problems with some of the rooms, 2) daily afternoon thunderstorms (which cleared the pools and beaches), and 3) a minor parking problem on Thursday and Friday nights. Otherwise, every one seemed to have a good time. Our family has a history of overcoming problems, great and small, and enjoying life in general. Some of our people went fishing, parasailing, enjoyed the beaches, and were amazed that the “barking sand” actually “barked” as you walked through it. Some were impressed with the clean bright white sand. Everyone, except a hardened Air Force veteran or two, was impressed at the Naval Air Museum. They suggested we go to Dayton, Ohio, to see the Air Force Museum. Who knows? Maybe?

We had a very lively business meeting that was well received by most of those who attended. We visited the Family Life Center for a short introduction to their genealogy files and how to use them.

At the Saturday Banquet, Caroline Scarlett did a great job with the memorial service, honoring twelve members of the family that departed this life in the last year or so. James Quigley and Tommy Hudson assisted Caroline. Jackie and Margie Hudson sang

“The Battle Hymn of the Republic (a capella) and did an excellent job.

The members of each branch of the armed forces were recognized. We played a game called Human Bingo; some remember playing it at the reunion in Austin. We sought out personal answers related to the squares of the bingo card from our family members. Then we recognized those represented by each square. We learned something new and interesting about the members of our family. Most of the squares applied to several individuals.

We had the roll call of states and there were 13 states represented. There were 16 from Texas, followed closely by Mississippi, represented by 14. All enjoyed the drawing for door prizes. Patricia Renton had a beautiful handmade quilt that was the center of a spirited auction. It finally was sold for \$230 to Ralphe Vawter. The proceeds went to the VVV Family Association. Thank you, Patricia and Ralphe and all who participated.

We honored those that have served in the military at registration, at the Saturday banquet and at Georgene Jurgensen’s genealogy and story telling session. Our family is and has been well represented in the armed forces of our country.

On Sunday morning, Karla Quigley lead a devotional for those that had to get on the road early. Karla loves to read fiction books about Bible characters. At the time, she was reading one about the apostle Peter, and his daily walk with Jesus. From the final days of his life, Peter is sharing how he became convinced that Jesus was more than just a man. Karla did a great job. Several asked for more information about the book. It is “The Fisherman” by Larry Huntsperger. Several family members later attended worship services with Ralphe and Caroline Vawter.

2004 REUNION

The committee to find sites for future VVV reunions researched several sites, and selected Colorado Springs, Colorado, for the 2004 reunion. Depending on the results of the vote, the dates will be July 15-18 or August 5-8. As soon as the vote is counted, we will get the dates to you so that you can schedule vacation if necessary and begin planning to have a great time in Colorado. As we did this year, we will research fun things to do in the area, and will furnish ideas for a great family vacation. See you in Colorado Springs next year.

-Jesse and Laneil

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

The Executive Committee met on August 2, 2003, and voted to increase the dues from \$7 per year to \$10 per year. This mainly supports the cost of printing and distributing the VVV Newsletter. As we are all aware, costs have greatly increased for materials and postage. The committee also voted to change the reunion registration from \$5 per adult to \$10 for an individual adult or \$15 per family living under the same roof.

The Executive Committee also discussed changing the reunion date to the middle of

July. This could make it easier for our young people and their families and those working for various school systems to come to future reunions while having little or no negative impact on our older membership. It would even make it possible for some of us to bring our grandchildren. Several of our members do not come or must leave early to get back for school activities and classes. The subject of changing the date has been well discussed in previous years. However, since schools begin earlier now than they did 15 or 20 years ago, it has become apparent that we must change the date or routinely exclude a growing number of our younger people from the reunion. If we exclude the younger family members, the organization will die within a few years.

The Bylaws of the Vawter, Vauter, Vaughter(s) Family Association state “The Annual Meeting shall be held on the 1st weekend in August.” In order to change the date of the reunion, the Bylaws must be amended. The Bylaws provide a method for the change.

“The Bylaws of the VVV Family Association may be amended, altered, or added to by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present at the Annual Meeting or by absentee ballot, provided that written notice of at least ten days is given to the membership so stating the amendment to be voted upon when voting is necessary absentee ballot.”

The legal minds at the Executive Committee meeting agreed that we could not have a binding vote on the issue at the 2003 reunion because the general membership had not been given written notification ten days in advance. We could meet this requirement, however, if the next VVV Newsletter contained a written notification, and it also contained a ballot with instruction to return the completed ballot after ten days. The vote would be those ballots returned after ten days have passed but postmarked prior to a cut-off date. The votes would be counted and if at least 2/3 of the votes returned favored changing the reunion dated as described, the next reunion could then be planned for July 15,16,17, and 18 of 2004. A non-binding vote was taken at the business meeting, and overwhelmingly favored changing the date to mid-July.

The ballots are included with this newsletter, and should be returned to the address listed on the ballot. The ballot will be counted and re-counted by several individuals. They will be available for inspection at the next reunion. The results of the vote, along with the dates of the 2004 reunion will be available in the next newsletter or by a special mailing.

THANK YOU

We want to thank Ralphe and Caroline Vawter for all the work they did in planning the 2003 reunion. Only those who have hosted a reunion can appreciate the amount of time and effort it takes. Thank you!

[A note from the news editor: Because we were unable to attend the 2003 reunion, a special thanks is sent to Jesse and Laneil Vawter for providing all the reunion news.]

A LETTER FROM ELLEN CUMMINGS

Dear VVV Members,

When I first began to be active in the VVV Association, there were eight or nine children in attendance. Because there was no where else for them to go, they were brought to the business meetings with their parents and grandparents, where they cried, fidgeted, fussed, and were generally miserable. Having a degree in music education and experience in directing children's choirs, I decided to try to organize a group of VVV children, to give them something to do during the business meetings, and provide entertainment for the Saturday evening banquet.

The first effort toward this end took place during the summer of 1991 in St. Louis, Missouri, with eight children ranging in age from four to nine years. The rest, as they say, is history. The children enjoyed having an activity planned just for themselves. They had fun getting to know each other, didn't have to sit through a boring business meeting, and the adults looked forward to the children's performances from year to year. This VVV Children's Choir grew in numbers annually, and in Ashland, Virginia, and Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin, in 1995 and 1996 respectively, there were over 20 of our young people in attendance.

I anticipated additions every year as younger children reached the age where they were comfortable leaving their parents and participating in such an activity. It didn't happen. Those who started out in the VVV Children's Choir continued to attend into their teenage years, enjoying each other's company and catching up on the events of the past year. However, there were no more primary and elementary children in attendance. None. Our choir was getting smaller and smaller and the teenagers were starting to rebel.

As I began to wonder about where the children were, I heard from grandparents that their grandchildren wanted to come, but schools were starting earlier and earlier, some in the first week of August, therefore prohibiting trips of any kind during the first weekend in August, which has been our standing reunion date for years. Virginia public schools still start the Tuesday after Labor Day, so I was unaware the earlier start of school was as wide-spread as it obviously is.

I am concerned that this association is no longer drawing families with young children. I know from experience how much fun they can have getting to know each other and seeing each other year after year. I don't know if the early start of school, which seems to be so prevalent now, is the over-riding reason we are no longer drawing the younger set. No one wants to change the longstanding reunion date if it's not necessary, but we are willing to adjust if it will better accommodate families of school aged children.

I hope you will give careful consideration to the possibility of moving the reunion date to the middle of July. If you are the parent of primary and elementary aged children, please let us hear from you. If this date change will make a difference in your family's ability to join the VVV Association and attend its yearly reunions, I hope you will let your feelings be known. If we are moving in the wrong direction, we need this input as well.

My almost 19-year old son has not missed a reunion since 1990. He and I drove for

14 hours through the night – twice – going to Pensacola and back for this year's reunion. It was not a good time for him to be away, but he wanted to be with the young people he has known for 15 years now, and five of them were there. On the way home, Frederick and I talked about what it is that keeps us coming back year after year. We finally decided it's like being in Brigadoon. Although a full year has passed since we last saw the members of this family association, we are able to step back into each other's lives and pick up as if it was the very next day. We are richer for the associations we have with VVV family members, and want to continue to add to our numbers.

Again, I hope everyone will prayerfully consider the direction we should take concerning this proposed date change. I hope to see everyone in Colorado Springs next summer.

Sincerely,
Ellen Wicker Cummings.

NEWS FROM VAUTER'S CHURCH

The following is a portion of an article written by the Rev. Dr. Christopher Agnew for *Vauter's Parish Post*, the newsletter of Vauter's Church in Virginia.

"We are not sure when this issue of the Parish Post will be able to be published. We are still suffering the effects of the storm. This past Sunday we worshiped at Vauter's without power. The choir helped give us leadership in singing the hymns and service music without any accompaniment. The mighty oak that has stood in front of Vauter's Church for generations was toppled by Isabel's winds, and, thanks be to God, when it fell, it fell over the highway and not over our beloved colonial structure. Our lectionary has an amazing way of so often giving us an assigned collect and lessons that are most appropriate for the moment. On this past Sunday, September 21, the collect of the day had us pray, *Grant us, Lord, not to be anxious about earthly things, but to love things heavenly; and even now, while we are placed among things that are passing away, to hold fast to those that shall endure.* A mighty oak was gone; our prayers and praise endure.

"I had no idea what I would find when I drove to the Church. It was quite a sight to see the tree and Randy Silvers with his machinery already well advanced in cleaning up the mess. I know that those I saw when I was at the church were only some of those who turned out to help take care of the churchyard. When there are so many people involved in something like this, it is always risky to mention people by name. Inevitably someone's feelings get hurt, and so I generally avoid naming individuals, but all of us thank each and every person who turned out both before and after the storm to tend to the building and grounds. And we thank Randy for the many hours he put into the clean up and for the tremendous job he was able to do with his equipment."

Address for the church: Vauter's Episcopal Church, P.O. Box 154, Champlain VA 22438

MEMBERS AND FRIENDS REGISTERED AT THE 2003 REUNION

ALABAMA

Al and Ann Montgomery

CALIFORNIA

Garry B. Vawter

DELEWARE

Robert L. and Donna Vawter

FLORIDA

Rebecca Cornette
Barry and Becky Guinagh
Ralphe and Caroline Vawter

GEORGIA

Betty Burt
Richard Greene
Cheryl Kelley;
Tim Glasgow, Kristy Glasgow
Mary Sue Kimberley
John and Pam Schlesinger

ILLINOIS

Jerry and Shirley Beasley
Paul and Connie Bugos

INDIANA

Tanner Deisch
Milton and Charlotte Pickett

MICHIGAN

Patricia Vawter Klein

MISSISSIPPI

Judith Crawford
Martha Hudson
Richard and Margaret Hudson;
Jackie Hudson, Tommy Hudson,
Ryan A. Shipley
Jeff and Kathy Terry;
Drake Terry
Fred Wicker
Ken and Norma Wicker

NEW YORK

Richard and Dorothy Vawter

OKLAHOMA

Bill and Sharon Coursey
Shirley Troyer
Bill and Virginia Vawter
Erma Vawter
Diana Vawter Loch

SOUTH DAKOTA

Georgene Jurgensen
Tara Downing;
Ethan Downing, Halle Downing

TENNESSEE

Bill and Julia Blanks
Gene and Eloise Bradley
Mel and Nan Scarlett Overton;
Taylor Overton, Jackson Overton
Caroline Vawter Scarlett
Barbara J. Vawter;
Emily J. DeFur
Norma Jean Vawter

TEXAS

Jordan Johnston
Robbie and Courtney Marsh;
Reid Marsh
Karla Quigley;
James Quigley
Tom and Patricia Renton
Phil and Peggy Vaughter
J. W. and Di Vawter
Jesse and Laneil Vawter
John H. and Sue Vawter

VIRGINIA

Ellen Cummings;
Frederick Cummings

[This newsletter is only six pages instead of the usual eight.]

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