



## **FAMILY ASSOCIATION**

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*NEWSLETTER  
DECEMBER 2004*

### **OFFICERS**

PRESIDENT: Garry B. Vawter, 17767 Hackberry Street, Hesperia, CA 92345  
760-956-2823 760-947-8230(fax) GBVawter@aol.com  
VICE-PRESIDENT: J. W. Vawter, 11298 N U.S. Hwy 59, Nacogdoches TX 75965  
SECRETARY: Judy Blanks, 1910 S Whitehall Street, Maryville, TN 37803  
865-977-5072 billblanks@chartern.com  
TREASURER: Norma Jean Vawter, 1075 Oaklawn Drive, Milan, TN 38358  
731-686-3214 nvawter@bellsouth.net  
ASST. TREASURER: Barbara J. Vawter, 1272 Poplar Estates Pkwy, Germantown,  
TN 38138  
ASST. TREASURER: Cheryl Kelley, P.O.Box 1165, Buford GA 30515  
HISTORIAN/ARCHIVIST: James C. Vaughters, 5981 S Lima Street, Englewood,  
CO 80111 303-771-7103  
NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Bonita Welch, 4145 N 900 W, Scipio, IN 47273  
812-392-2149 812-346-1442 (fax) bwelch@seidata.com  
ASSOCIATE EDITOR: Caroline Scarlett, 2229 Regal Court, Murfreesboro, TN 37129  
615-896-2956 [cjscarlett@msn.com](mailto:cjscarlett@msn.com)

**Dues - \$10.00 per year**

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

### **REUNION 2005 NEWS**

Once again, we all need to be making plans to attend the VVV Family Association Reunion. As is the custom every five years, the reunion is to be held in Virginia. This time it will be in Fredericksburg on July 14-16. Ellen Cummings, Bob Vawter and Garry Vawter met there in early December, and have chosen the Wingate Inn at I-95 Exit 133 as the location. We do not yet have information on room rates and other costs, but anyone who wants to make a reservation now can call 540-368-8000 or toll-free 1-866-333-6800. Their web site is [www.mywingate.com](http://www.mywingate.com)

Fredericksburg is midway between Richmond, Virginia, and Washington, D.C. It is near Vauter's Church, and a visit to the church will be a highlight of the reunion.

If you have never attended a reunion, this would be an ideal year to meet your cousins and learn of your heritage. Several members always have memorabilia to display and are willing to share family information.

**JULY 14-16, 2005  
WINGATE INN  
FREDERICKSBURG, VIRGINIA  
540-368-8000**

**CHOKING MAN HELPED BY TROOPER**  
*The Republic*  
**Columbus, Indiana, 16, Sept 2004**

A miscue landed two troopers in the wrong seating section at China Buffet [in Seymour, Indiana] Tuesday, but it saved one customer from choking on his food.

Indiana State Police Troopers Rick Roseberry and Gary Thalls arrived at the restaurant shortly after 11 a.m. to beat the lunch crowd, but they were seated in the smoking section by mistake. Not ones to raise a fuss, they began eating.

Roseberry suddenly heard a startled voice at a nearby table, and he looked to see a man behind Thalls stand straight up with his hands to his throat. Roseberry, in plain clothes, raced to the man in seconds.

"I went over there and asked, 'Are you able to move air?'" Roseberry said. "He shook his head." So Roseberry set his 6'2, 230 pound frame behind the choking man and delivered the Heimlich maneuver. On the third thrust, it worked.

"He shook my hand and said, 'I really appreciated that,'" Roseberry said. After that, the officers got another plate of food, ate and left. They never got the man's name.

Back at the post, Roseberry went about his job as if nothing had happened. Thalls, however, started telling people about it. The Seymour post was so impressed they issued a press release. Predictably, Roseberry downplayed the story when contacted by a reporter. He said he's a firm believer God puts you in the right place at the right time.

Rick Roseberry is the son of Richard and Marge Clarkson Roseberry of Columbus, Indiana. He lives in Columbus with his wife, Amy, and two sons, Caleb and Conner. His mother is a descendant of Jennings County, Indiana, pioneers, William and Frances Vawter.

**JAKE DEFUR**

Many longtime association members have known Jake DeFur as he attended reunions with his mother, Barbara Vawter, and grandparents, Norma Jean Vawter and the late Robert M. "Pete" Vawter. Jake graduated from high school in Germantown, Tennessee, last May. A member of his school's fine arts department, he appeared in a production of *Seussical*, playing the part of Horton. A biography of cast members had this to say about Jake:

"Senior Jake DeFur returns to the stage for his final Poplar Pike Playhouse performance. He appeared as Colonel in *Brave Navigator*, Windy in *Show Boat*, and debuted as Harry in *Crazy for You*. He recently played Benson in the children's play *Once Upon a Beanstalk*. Last year Jake worked backstage as a crew member for *Crow and Weasel*. Jake is publicity officer for Thespian Troupe #912 and co-chairman for National Forensic League. For GHS-TV, Jake is the sports anchor for Germantown's daily news show, *Wake Up, Germantown!*. He is also the special events director of Modern Film Club."

Wake UP, Germantown! Received a National Student Television Award for Excellence from the National Television Academy for its sports coverage. As anchorman, Jake traveled to Los Angeles to accept the award on behalf of the other students who work on the broadcast.

**SILVEY BRICE VAUGHTERS**  
*Atlanta Journal-Constitution*  
**April 2004**

Again and again, S. B. Vaughters turned away developers offering him big bucks for the 141-acre Lithonia farm he purchased in 1946.

He worked the land for 56 years, selling milk, cattle and hay, and was proud to run the last working farm in DeKalb County.

Only when the opportunity came to turn his land into a park did he consider selling. In 2002, Mr. Vaughters sold the tract along Klondike Road to the state as part of a green space initiative. The state paid him \$2.8 million – far less than he could have made from developers, said his granddaughter, Mandy Richards of Loganville.

His action delighted conservationists.

“DeKalb County was once the dairy capital of Georgia, and Mr. Vaughters’ farm is just about the last place you can see the character of the land and its beautiful rolling landscapes,” said Kelly Jordan, chair of the nonprofit Arabia Mountain Heritage Area Alliance, who spearheaded the campaign to buy the land.

“I’m glad I held on this long, so others can take advantage of it,” Mr. Vaughters said in a 2002 interview. “You can drive from Lithonia to Dunwoody and not find a piece of open land. I did not want that here.”

Silvey Brice Vaughters Sr., 92, formerly of Lithonia, died Friday of complications of pneumonia at his Oxford residence. The funeral is at 2 p.m. today at Henry Funeral Home.

Mr. Vaughters grew up in a log cabin in Dawson County with one brother, three sisters and no electricity or running water. He earned his way through the University of Georgia and embarked on a teaching career. He first taught elementary students and later served as a school principal. He eventually taught agriculture to junior and high school students.

“He was the basketball coach at Centerville Junior High in Snellville for one season, and the team went 26-3.” His granddaughter said.

But Mr. Vaughters’ dream since childhood was to have a dairy farm, said his daughter, Carol Sellers of Monroe. In 1946, he bought a piece of property he described as “worn-out cotton land with deep gullies.” Mr. Jordan said. “he planted kudzu to control the erosion and restored the land with his own labor.”

In 1947, with the help of family members, “he built the granite rock house that still sits on that land from timber off his own land and native granite from Arabia Mountain,” his granddaughter said. It cost him \$2,200.

Mr. Vaughters was a dairy farmer for 20 years. In 1966, he sold his Jersey cows to start an Angus cattle operation. Meanwhile, he worked from 1950 to 1977 as an insurance agent for Cotton States.

“He led a simple life and was good at saving,” Ms. Richards said. “He never owned a credit card. He paid cash for everything.”

Every so often, Mr. Vaughters treated himself to a new car. When he sold his insurance agency in 1977, he bought a Cadillac DeVille coupe that still sits in his garage today. One of his few other extravagances was the quarter horses he purchased for his grandchildren.

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(Silvey Brice Vaughters, cont.)

He sold off his cattle in the mid-1900s, content to support himself selling hay.

Every Friday night, Mr. Vaughters would take out his mandolin, join his sons Brice on guitar and Wink, now deceased, on fiddle and invite friends over to enjoy some bluegrass music.

He lived his life according to his two favorite maxims, his granddaughter said: “Forget about the past mistakes and press on with the future” and “Plan your work and work your plan.”

Survivors include his wife, Rebecca Vaughters; two sons, Brice Vaughters Jr. of Redan and Steve Vaughters of Lithonia; six grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

We thank the Rev. Ralph Fall for sending this article from the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*.

### **CRYSTAL VAWTER HODGSON**

Crystal Vawter Hodgson graduated May 22, 2004, from Chapman School of Law in Orange, California, with a degree in Juris Doctor. She is a 1997 Honor graduate of Milan, Tennessee, High School and graduated Cum Laude from Belmont University in Nashville with a degree in Political Science in May 2001.

While attending Chapman, Crystal was a member of the Moot Court Team and also associate managing editor of *The Nexus Law Journal*.

Crystal and her husband, Danner Hodgson, live in Irvine, California, where he is a medical student at The University of California at Irvine.

She is the daughter of Charlie and Barbara Turner of Atwood, Tennessee, and Gerry and Linda Vawter of Jackson, Tennessee. Her grandparents are U.L. and Pauline DePriest and Mary Vawter Hines, all of Atwood, and the late Robert J. Vawter. She has a twin sister, Carla Freeman, of Jackson, Tennessee, who is an administrator and special education teacher at the Cerebral Palsy Center in Jackson.

### **BARBARA J. VAWTER**

Barbara J. Vawter received an “Excellence in Nursing Award” at the Celebrate Nursing Gala 2004 held May 8 at the Memphis Hilton.

The program for the event stated that “Barbara portrays professionalism on a daily basis. As a practicing nurse for twenty five years, she promotes nursing as a positive profession. She holds nursing out as a profession which can make a difference in people’s lives.”

### **NEWS FROM PHIL VAUGHTER**

Phil and Peggy Vaughter have a new granddaughter, Aubreigh Marsh, born August 30, 2004. Aubreigh weighed 7 lbs. 14 oz. And was 19” long at birth. Aubreigh’s big brother, Reid, age three, describes her as being “VERY PRETTY!”

Phil also sent the news that Peggy fell in November, breaking her right ankle and left foot. She was leaving a meeting at church and, in the dark, missed seeing a curb.

## **IN REMEMBRANCE**

### **Louise Vawter Vanover**

Louise Vawter Vanover, 83, of Beaumont, Texas, died October 19, 2003, at Lumberton Rehabilitation Center in Beaumont.

The funeral service was Wednesday, October 22, 2003, in Beaumont with the Rev. John Davis of Ridgewood Church of Christ and Chance Vanover officiating. Burial was at Cushing Cemetery.

Surviving are sons, Van Vanover of Beaumont, J. C. Vanover of Houston, Gerry Vanover of Austin and Paul Vanover of Indiana; a sister-in-law, Sally Vawter of Houston; 13 grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren.

Preceding her in death were her parents, Julian and Mattie Gammage Vawter; a brother, L. G. "Bill" Vawter; and a sister, Hazel McCandless.

Longtime members will remember Louise, Bill and Hazel as being active in the association. Bill served as president and Hazel as treasurer.

### **Maeone Clarkson Davidson**

Maeona Clarkson Davidson, 81, of Indianapolis died September 15, 2001.

She was an office worker of 16 years at Forster and Messick Insurance Co., and a member of VFW Post 2999 Ladies Auxiliary.

Funeral service was September 19, 2001, with burial at Memorial Park Cemetery in Indianapolis.

Surviving are her husband, Carl E. Davidson; and cousins, Marilyn Detraz of Milan, Indiana, Marge Roseberry of Columbus, Indiana, and Bonita Welch of Scipio, Indiana.

### **Gladys Creasy Vawter**

Gladys Creasy Vawter, 95, of Trenton, Tennessee, died Tuesday, July 27, 2004, at Gibson General Hospital.

Mrs. Vawter was a great lover of animals and had many cats for companions throughout the years. She was a prolific writer of poems, verses and thoughts, which she recorded from time to time and left as a remembrance to those who cared for her. She was a Baptist and loved her church. She lived in Trenton all her life.

A graveside service was held at Oakland Cemetery.

Born December 18, 1908, Mrs. Vawter was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. B. F. Creasy. She was married for more than 50 years to A. J. Vawter, who preceded her in death. They had no children, and she was the last of her immediate family.

Gladys Creasy Vawter was the aunt of the late Robert M. "Pete" Vawter.

**IN REMEMBRANCE**

**Ruth E. Smith**

Ruth E. Smith, 89, of Oxford, died Sunday, December 21, 2003, at McCullough Hyde Hospital.

Mrs. Smith was a 1936 graduate of Miami University, earning a degree in mathematics. While a student at Miami, she began working for the Scripps Foundation as a statistician and continued her work there for 37 years. She was an extensive traveler, visiting China, Australia and New Zealand. She was a long time member and faithful worker at the Oxford Presbyterian Church, serving as Sunday school teacher, bookkeeper and deacon. She also was a member of D.A.R., Colonial Dames, Huguenot Society, King's Daughters and the Oxford Women's Club.

A memorial service was held on Saturday, January 10, 2004, at Oxford Presbyterian Church. Burial was at Harmony Cemetery.

Born August 22, 1914, in Cincinnati, Ohio, Mrs. Smith was the daughter of Jasper and Lillian Sibcy Wiley. She married George Smith on April 4, 1937, in Hyde Park, Cincinnati.

Surviving are three step-grandchildren; a sister-in-law, Charlotte Wiley; nephews, James Wiley, Dean Kerr, Todd Kerr and Bill Hoover; and nieces, Karen Mendoza, Carol Sue Ravenel, Veda Browning and Joan Peters.

She was preceded in death by her husband, in 1969; brothers, Jasper G. Wiley Jr.; and Ernest H. Wiley; and sisters, Veda Holmes, Gertrude Wiley, Amelia Hoover and Marjory E. Kerr.

Mrs. Smith was a member of the association for many years.

**John M. Vawter**

John M. Vawter, 82, of Indianapolis died September 22, 2003.

Mr. Vawter graduated from DePauw University in 1942 and served in the U. S. Army during World War II as a radar repairman. He earned his master's degree from Butler University in 1950. He served as an educator in the Indianapolis Public School system for 35 years, with eleven years teaching science and social studies at School 32; three years at School 45, two of which he was assistant principal; four years at School 44 as principal; 17 years at School 103, where he was the school's first principal. He was a member of St. Luke's United Methodist Church, Irvington Masonic Lodge, Scottish Rite, Mystic Shrine and Murat Temple.

A Celebration of Life was held at St. Luke's United Methodist Church.

Born March 21, 1921, in Wabash, Indiana, Mr. Vawter was the son of Clarence Merrill and Edyth Barricklow Vawter.

Surviving are his wife, Martha Jane Vawter; a son, James M. Vawter; a granddaughter, Kathryn Vawter; and stepsons, Bradley A. and Scott A. Secor.

He was preceded in death by his first wife, Helen Hoen Vawter; brothers, Paul Edward Vawter and Harold Vawter; and a sister, Mary K. Vawter.

JOHN M. AND PAUL EDWARD VAWTER

Clarence Merrill Vawter, the father of John M. Vawter, was a minister, and in 1926, John was with his parents as they visited members of the congregation. Their car was struck by a train and both parents were killed instantly. According to a newspaper clipping, John “suffered only minor hurts although carried half a mile with the wreckage of the car.”

In his book, *Those Were the Days*, Paul Edward Vawter, the brother of John M., recalls the deaths of his parents and making decisions affecting his family’s future. He was 18, a sophomore at DePauw University in Greencastle, Indiana, and suddenly was responsible for his younger brothers and sister. The Summer 1995 issue of *DePauw Magazine* featured a story of Paul’s experiences of attending school while also caring for his siblings.

In October 1929, Paul Edward Vawter was living in Evanston, Ill., and wrote the following letter to William Snyder Vawter who was gathering material with the hope of updating *The Vawter Family in America*:

My Dear Mr. Vawter,

Mr. F. M. Vawter of 936 Hinman Ave. Evanston, Ill. Was telling me about the work you are doing concerning the history of the Vawter family. I have a copy of the old history but am very much interested in the new one. Perhaps you will be interested on getting some material about more of the Vawters.

My father was the son of a Philimon Vawter but since I haven’t the book here I don’t recall which one. However, the Mr. Vawter here in Evanston said that his grandfather was the father of my great, great, grandfather. Perhaps that will help your. Father, together with my mother, was killed in an auto accident Dec. 16, 1927, [other accounts have 1926] at Osceola, Indiana, where he was minister of the Methodist Episcopal church. I was a Sophomore in DePauw University at the time. I graduated from there last June and am now doing graduate work in Northwestern University toward an MBA.

I have a sister who was 17 last February and is now an advanced Sophomore in DePauw. She intends to work for a nursing degree after finishing there. A brother, Harold, was 16 last May 26 and is a Senior in High School at Greencastle, Ind. Where DePauw is located. He is undecided at present as to where he is going next year to school. My youngest brother, John, was eight last March 21 and is living with friends at Jeffersonville, Ind. He had a very narrow escape from death when my parents were struck by a train.

I was 21 last March 6<sup>th</sup>. As soon as I finish here, I intend to connect with some business organization. If you would be interested in more concerning my parents, I will be glad to furnish you any information I have. I have a very complete obituary at home written by a close friend of theirs who knew them all of their life.

I am very glad to have known who you are although I have never met you. All Vawters are very interesting to me. Will certainly be glad to hear from you at any time.

Very respectfully yours,]

Paul Edward Vawter

P.S. My father’s name was Clarence Merrill [Vawter]. He was in Moores Hill College at the time the last History was written.

MEMBERS AND FRIENDS REGISTERED AT 2004 REUNION

Alaska	Karen Klein; Asha	Indiana	Tanner Deisch Milton and Charlotte Pickett
Arizona	Jordan Johnston; Kaitlyn, Krista Ted C. Vawter	Michigan	Patricia Vawter Klein
California	Garry B. Vawter John and Aggie Vawter	Mississippi	Judith Crawford Jackie Hudson Martha Hudson Sue Hunt Fred Wicker Ken and Norma Wicker
Colorado	Greg Gruman Lynn Noll Jim and Donna Vaughters Jonathan and Alisa Vaughters Charlie Phil R. and Jenny Kuhn Vawter	Oklahoma	Sharon Coursey Diana Vawter Loch Billy Mack and Virginia Vawter Erma Vawter
Delaware	Robert L. and Donna Vawter	Tennessee	Norma Jean Vawter
Florida	Barry and Rebecca Guinagh Georgene Jurgensen Ralphe and Caroline Vawter	Texas	Karla Vawter Quigley; James Tom and Patricia Renton Phil and Peggy Vaughter J. W. and Di Vawter Jesse and Laneil Vawter John H. and Sue Vawter
Georgia	Berry Burt Richard Greene Cheryl Kelley; Kristy Glasgow Sue Kimberley Pam Schlesinger	Virginia	Ned and Ellen Cummings; Frederick
Idaho	Melba Vawter Ashburn Ellis M. and Gladys A. Vawter Glenn and Laura Vawter Roger and Tish Vawter	Washington	Mayme Graubard Jackie Gruman Cheri Jex; Emilie
Illinois	Mark Beasley	Wisconsin	Judith L. Aue Priscilla L. Aue Evert and Maxine Joling

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