



## **FAMILY ASSOCIATION**

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Vol. 28 No. 1**

### **NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2004**

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Dues - \$10.00 per year

#### ***A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT***

Dear Family,

Thanks to the excellent response from our wonderful family, the vote to amend the VVV Bylaws to change the reunion date passed overwhelmingly. The vote was 68 FOR, 7 OPPOSED and 1 "I don't care, I will come anytime." I wish to take this opportunity to express my thanks to those who voted. As I promised before the vote, the ballots will be available for your inspection at the 2004 reunion.

The dates for the 2004 reunion will be Thursday, July 15, through Sunday, July 18. The location is Colorado Springs, Colorado. We are in the process of gathering data on lodging, restaurants and things to do in the area. Shortly several of us plan to meet in Colorado Springs and inspect the lodging and meeting facilities, and have a preliminary schedule for the 2004 reunion. I will have a more precise schedule including the name, address and phone number of the lodging facility for the next newsletter.

If you need to know before then, contact me by email (Jess Vawter @ aol.com) regular mail (11506 Sagecountry Lane, Houston TX 77089) or by phone after 6 p.m. (281-485-9733). If you call after 6 p.m. and we are not there, I will return your call. If you call before 6 p.m. while we are at work, shame on you, please call again after 6 p.m. Both Laneil and I will freely share any data

we have at the time. If it is not firm at that time, we will tell you that also. Since there will only be one more newsletter before the 2004 reunion, I plan to contact you by mail. So be sure Bonita Welch, the newsletter editor, has your current mailing address.

Colorado Springs is a great place for a family vacation. Some of the attractions of Colorado Springs are: Pikes Peak, the Pikes Peak Cog Railway, the Air Force Academy, the Manitou Cliff Dwellings, the Cave of the Winds, the Western Museum of Mining and Industry, Glen Cove and Crystal Reservoir, the Cheyenne Mountain Zoo, the Garden of the Gods, the Pro-Rodeo Hall of Fame & Museum, and Seven Falls and Rock Ledge Ranch. In addition, there are many things to do in nearby areas such as: the town of Cripple Creek, the Cripple Creek & Victor Narrow Gauge Railroad, the Mollie Kathleen Mine and Canon City with the Royal Gorge.

We will meet you in Colorado Springs on July 15, unless we see you earlier.

Until then, Jesse.

#### **VAN'S CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH**

Van's Creek flows through the old Vaughter farm that now belongs to the State of Georgia. Four miles downstream, at the old town of Ruckersville, stands Van's Creek Baptist Church, formed in 1785. Assuming that if the Vaughter family attended any church it would be Van's Creek, the association Historian/ Archivist recently researched the church records. The church has placed them in the Probate Court of Elbert County.

The pages from 1785 until 1856 were read, including the list of members who were granted permission to form Harmony Baptist Church in 1856. No mention of any V/V/V appears in the records. Even after Harmony was formed, the first reference to a V/V/V is to James Benson Glean in 1885.

This information is passed along so that duplicate research of those church records will not be necessary.

#### **NEW PHOTOGRAPHS**

Interest in the family history continues to result in the discovery of photographs in attics and Bibles. Recent discoveries are:

Eliza Missouri Vaughter Vandiver (1851 – 1911), grandmother of former Georgia Governor Ernest Vandiver

Mary Frances Vaughter Adams (1839-1886), grandmother of Gilbert Adams, found by Sara Nell Coffey.

Samuel Hiram Vaughter (1837-1924), grandfather of Gordy Spencer, Digitized by James G. Vaughter.

Delia Vaughter Anderson (1825-1898), found by Richard Greene

**HIRAM VAUGHTER**

(From the program given at the marker dedication)

Born in 1841 on the Vaughter family farm where this ceremony is held. The Vawter family came from England to Virginia in about 1650. A dozen Vawter men were Patriot soldiers in the American Revolutionary War. One of them was John, Hiram's great-grandfather, who is buried in Elbert County.

Hiram's grandfather James and his parents Hiram S. and Elizabeth Glenn Vaughter are buried in this same family cemetery, along with other members of the family.

Hiram and his older brother Samuel became members of Company K of the Georgia 52nd Infantry Regiment in early 1862. The 52<sup>nd</sup> had men from all over Northeast Georgia, possibly including some distant cousins from the branch of the family that moved to Dawson County.

The service record of Hiram consists of only four (4) pages. He was paid a fifty dollar bounty in April 1862. By the summer he had been disabled by diarrhea and he died in Athens, Georgia, on July 1, 1862. Whether he ever traveled outside of Georgia or was in combat is not known.

All nine (9) of Hiram's siblings married in Franklin County. Descendants of those marriages are his closest relative. Those marriages were: [dates given are birth and death]

|           |   |
|-----------|---|
| 1833-     | Martha Catherine to John Burton Aderhold        |
| 1837-1924 | Samuel Hiram to Sarah E. Williams               |
| 1839-1886 | Mary Frances to Absolom Quincy Adams            |
| 1843      | Elizabeth to Jephtha Dickson                    |
| 1845-1912 | Julia Ann to George L. King                     |
| 1847      | Lucinda to Memory Mabry                         |
| 1849      | James M.C. to Margaret Stribling                |
| 1851-1911 | Eliza Missouri to William Isom Pinkney Vandiver |
| 1853      | Hessy to Russell Wheeler                        |

We thank Jim Vaughters for sending this information on the ceremony honoring Hiram Vaughter. It is interesting to note the birth years of Hiram (1841) and his siblings as it shows the "every other year" pattern so common during the 1800s. A break in the pattern, as in this case there is no birth shown for 1835, sometimes means there was a child who died at birth or shortly thereafter.

**MARKER DEDICATION FOR PRIVATE HIRAM VAUGHTER**

The VVV Family Association and the Sons of Confederate Veterans honored the grave of Hiram Vaughter at the family cemetery in Red Hill, Franklin County, Georgia, on June 14, 2003. Hiram lived from 1841 until 1862. He is buried beside his parents, Hiram S. Vaughter and Elizabeth Glenn Vaughter, and his grandfather, James Vaughter.

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**(Hiram Vaughter, con't)**

The Veterans Administration provided the white marble marker; former Governor Ernest Vandiver, a Vaughter descendent, and the association furnished the chain link fence. Cousin Gilbert Adams arranged for the work and cleaning of the trees.

Doug Vaughters, Richard Greene, Eva Smith and Rev. Glenn Herndon participated in the ceremony. The ceremonial Confederate flag was presented to Gov. Vandiver. Refreshments were served at Hunter's Creek Baptist Church, which the family attended in the early and mid-1800s, beginning with Hiram's grandmother Jane.

Research during the week revealed that at least five of Hiram's seven sisters married men who were in the Civil War. Several newly-found cousins from Franklin County attended, descending from Aderhold, Stribling and Roach lines.

**Tom Austin**  
**1900-2003**

The 2002 reunion in Elbert County, Georgia, featured a tour of V/V/V cemeteries in adjacent Franklin County. The tour also included a visit with Tom Austin, whose cousin was one of the wives of Rev. Peter Vaughter. He talked about Peter and his days at the old Vaughter School. At the conclusion he called the reunion host aside, shook his hand firmly, and said with tears in his eyes, "Thank you for bringing all these Vaughter folks to see me. I appreciate it, because it's the last time I will get to see them."

In April 2003, Jim Vaughters was in Georgia and learned that Tom was in the hospital. He went to see Tom, who immediately recognized him. During a nice visit, Tom said, "I remember you bringing all those Vaughter folks to see me. Thank you." He died a few days later, shortly after his 103<sup>rd</sup> birthday.

Tom is buried in the Ellis Chapel Cemetery, a few feet from his house and a few feet from Peter Vaughter. One of the speakers at his funeral was Pat Milford, the lawyer who gave the tour of the Franklin County Courthouse at the 2002 reunion.

(For information on Rev. Peter Vaughter, see the January 2003 newsletter.)

**Will Vawter**

Several association members are known to collect James Whitcomb Riley books and other books and magazines having illustration by artist and illustrator Will Vawter. A few members have Will Vawter paintings, water colors or pencil drawings. And now, for the ultimate collector, we have a suggestion – his home and studio.

Located on North Locust Lane in Nashville, Indiana, the house has been converted into three units and is described as a "large farmhouse style, within walking distance to everything – shops, library, restaurants, etc. " Will moved to the home after marrying his second wife, Ola Genolin, in 1923.

During the 1987 VVV reunion in Columbus, Indiana, and again for the 1999 reunion in Nashville, the Brown County Art Gallery Association provided a special display of Will Vawter paintings and memorabilia.

**NORMA WICKER – “COOK OF THE WEEK”**

*Daily Journal*, Tupelo Mississippi

Church hostess cooks easily for a few or a few hundred.

For the past 33 years, as different family traditions have come and gone, Norma Wicker has held fast to one. Christmas Eve Pizza.

“I’ve been doing this every year since we moved to Tupelo,” said Wicker, a native of Nebraska. “I make 12 large pizzas and we have anywhere from 25 to 35 people at the house. It’s wall-to-wall family.”

While only family is privy to the Christmas Eve festivities, many others in Tupelo eat Wicker’s cooking every week. That’s because she’s the hostess at First Baptist Church, a position she has held for more than a quarter of a century.

“Twenty-six years ago, Dr. Bill Rittenhouse (First Baptist’s minister at the time) asked me if I’d get Wednesday night suppers off the ground. I said yes, and I’m still here,” said Wicker.

As hostess, Wicker plans and prepares Wednesday night dinners and she oversees all banquets, weddings and holiday dinners at the church. Sometimes, Wicker and her helpers feed 600 hungry mouths at a time.

“It’s gotten to where I can hardly cook at home anymore” Wicker said, acknowledging she’s almost forgotten how to cook for just two. When she does prepare an evening meal at home, it’s something simple, she said, like salon patties, tiny English peas, creamed potatoes and homemade biscuits.

But Wicker’s not likely to be fixing food for just two. She and her husband of 48 years, Ken, have two grandchildren and three children: Tom, and attorney in Tupelo; Jim, who lives in Alabama; and Kathy Terry, who lives in Madison.

So Wicker usually fixes plenty of food, because she never knows who will be at her table; it might even be her nephew, U.S. Rep. Roger Wicker of Tupelo.

“Roger will call and say, ‘What are you having for dinner?’ and I’ll say ‘Are you inviting yourself?’ and he’ll say, ‘Well, if you’ve got enough.’ And I always do.” she said, laughing.

If she’s preparing a Sunday dinner, she’ll likely serve a sirloin tip roast with carrots, onion and garlic; creamed potatoes and gravy; green beans; green salad; and hot rolls.

One reason Wicker believes family and friends enjoy her cooking is because not only does she like to eat, but she also likes to taste.

“I taste it all before I serve anyone,” she said. “Even before I bake something, I taste it. Even if it has raw eggs in it, I taste it. If it’s not right, I can adjust the seasonings. And I never over salt. People can add salt, but they can’t take it away.”

Having grown up in Nebraska, Wicker has had to change some of the cooking lessons she learned as a young adult. In fact, she admits that when she and Ken married, she could fix only white bread dressing.

“My husband wouldn’t touch it,” she said. “He said it was slimy. So I had to learn how to make cornbread dressing.”

And which does she prefer today?

“Oh, the cornbread dressing, definitely.”

### PHIL VAUGHTER RETIRES

Phil Vaughter, past president of the VVV Association, retired in September 2003 after 36 years in advertising; the last 28 spent selling Yellow Pages. Phil and his wife, Peggy, celebrated by joining friends on a ten day cruise up the St. Lawrence through Quebec, Nova Scotia, and down to Bar Harbor, Boston, Newport, and New York Harbor past the Statue of Liberty.

Because of a luggage mix-up, they met Charlotte Vaughter, widow of Sam Vaughter (1937-2000), and learned of yet another branch of the family. Sam's grandfather, a physician in Byers, Texas, was the uncle of Phil's father, Rev. Paul Hiram Vaughter. Phil remembers visiting the farm of "Uncle Doc" in the 1940s and that he "got the devil kicked out of him by a calf who refused to be ridden."

Phil sent a newsletter to Charlotte, in hope that her daughters, (all in the Greater Dallas area) will have some interest in the association.

The April 2002 newsletter has a reprint of an article written by Sam Vaughter of Texas that appeared in the July-August 2001 issue of *The Upper Room*. The article ended with a brief note stating "Mr. Vaughter died during the production of this issue."

### NEWSLETTERS, BICKNELL AND RUCKER

Once again, we want to make you aware of the CD that Patricia Vawter Renton has created. This CD, which is in Microsoft Word format, contains the VVV Family Association newsletters from 1977 thru 2001, the entire Vawter Family in America by Grace Vawter Bicknell, and excerpts from The Rucker Family Genealogy by Sudie Rucker Wood.

Patricia will make copies of the CD for those interested and donate the proceeds to the association. The price is \$20.00.

Please order from: Patricia V. Renton, 2372 Bear Creek Road, Pipe Creek TX 78063. If you have questions about the CD, she can be contacted by phone at 830-510-4625, or by e-mail at [pvrenton@ev1.net](mailto:pvrenton@ev1.net).

### VIDEO TAPES

Bob Vawter made several video tapes of the 2002 reunion in Elberton, Georgia, and donated them to the association. At this time, there is only one remaining. The two-tape set of \$20.00 and can be ordered from Norma Jean Vawter. Her address can be found with the list of officers. All proceeds go to the association.

### CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulation to Joshua and Teresa Taylor of Dupont, Indiana, on the birth of their daughter, Shea Lilian, who was born August 26, 2003. Proud grandparents are Tom and Diana Taylor of North Vernon, Indiana. Beginning with William and Frances Vawter, Shea is the eighth generation of her family to live in Jennings County, Indiana.

**OBITUARY FROM THE PAST**

*The Plain Dealer & Republican*  
North Vernon, Indiana, 6 October 1927  
Mrs. Eliza Barnett

Word has been received in Indianapolis of the death at her home in Billings, Mont., of Mrs. Eliza Vawter Barnett, age ninety-two, a former resident of Indianapolis and a niece of Ovid Butler, the founder of Butler University.

Mrs. Barnett was born in Vernon {Indiana} the daughter of Dr. Levi Todd and Demia Butler Todd, and lived there until she married to David Vawter and moved to Franklin {Indiana}. In 1884 she came to Indianapolis. In 1893 she was married to William Barnett of Franklin, who died a short time later. She went to Billings three years ago to live with her granddaughter, Mrs. Halleck Brown.

Besides Mrs. Brown, she is survived by a daughter, Mrs. James C. Norris of Indianapolis and two grandchildren, of Richmond, and Frederick D. Norris of Indianapolis. [ The name of the grandchild in Richmond is not given.]

-Indianapolis News

**IN REMEMBRANCE**

**Silas Marvin Vawter**

Silas Marvin Vawter, 91, of Oklahoma City, died 30 December 2003. He was born 18 December 1912 in Bethany, Oklahoma, the next to the youngest of eleven children of James Wesley and Martha Ann McCasson Vawter.

He was retired from Southwestern Bell Telephone Company. He was a member of Mayfair Church of Christ in Oklahoma City, and had been an elder in University Church of Christ in Norman, Oklahoma.

Surviving are a daughter, Patricia Gayle Vawter of Oklahoma City; grandchildren, Jay and Yvette Morrison, Brad and Angie Morrison and Dena Newhouse; and a great-grandchild, Tayah Nicole Morrison.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Martha Sue Boren Vawter, in 1963, and his wife, Osa Ebeteen Castleberry, in 1996; and ten brothers and sisters.

A graveside service was held on 2 January 2004 at Resthaven Memory Gardens in Oklahoma City.

Several VVV members notified us of the death of Silas, including Fred Wicker who sent the obituary. Silas was a first cousin to Fred's mother, Ora Wiley Wicker, and also to William S Wiley, whose obituary appears in this newsletter. Silas was a longtime member of the association, and had attended several reunions, the last being Hot Springs in 1998.

**IN REMEMBRANCE**

**William S Wiley**

William S. "Bill" Wiley, 93, of Gulfport, Mississippi, died Monday, December 15, 2003, in Gulfport. He was born in New Albany, reared in Hickory Flat, later moved to Nettleton and was a resident of Gulfport since 1997.

He retired from the U.S. Navy in 1952 after over 22 years of service. He was a member of the Hickory Flat Baptist Church and a former commander of the VFW in Tupelo. In his earlier years he was an avid gardener and conversationalist.

Survivors include a daughter, Sherry Ann Brock of Memphis; a granddaughter, Holly Cathcart Payne and her husband, Ricky, of Nettleton; a sister, Addie Edwards of Concord, North Carolina; a sister-in-law, Pearl Wiley of Tupelo; and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Thomas Street Wiley and Emma Vawter Wiley; his wife Allene Baker Wiley; a brother, Lamar Wiley; and sisters, Mary Lansdale, Vallie Cox and Ora Wicker.

**Ida Mai Vawter Earls**

Ida Mae Vawter Earls, 87, of Milan, Tennessee, died Saturday, June 28, 2003, at Milan General Hospital.

She was retired from Milan Mills, and a member of Cumberland Presbyterian Church in Milan.

Survivors include her husband, Carson Earls; a son, John Vawter of Walls, Mississippi; daughters, Mary Ann Vawter Medlin of Collierville, Tennessee, Martha Vawter McLeod of Oakland, Tennessee, and Linda Vawter Dison of Conway, Arkansas; seven grandchildren; and ten great-grandchildren.

**Ruth Lucille Morrison**

Ruth Lucille Morrison, 94, formerly of Hayden, Indiana, died at 6:50 p.m. Sunday, December 14, 2003, at Asbury Place Retirement Home in Maryville, Tennessee.

Mrs. Morrison was a homemaker and had been a secretary at Farm Bureau Co-op in North Vernon, Indiana, for several years. She was a member of Hayden United Methodist Church, Hayden Order of the Eastern Star and Hayden Home Extension Club.

Born November 27, 1908, in Jennings County, Indiana, she was the daughter of Homer and Jesse Hosclaw Bullard. She married Glen Morrison on May 26, 1934, in Jennings County.

Surviving are sons, Don Morrison of Tennessee and Carl Morrison of California; and grandchildren, Matthew, Carla and Beth Morrison.

She was preceded in death by her husband, on April 2, 1997; two brothers and two sisters.

Ruth Morrison's mother is listed in *The Vawter Family of America* on page 139.



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