



FAMILY ASSOCIATION

March 2005 – Page 1

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NEWSLETTER

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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@netzero.com

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IF A RENEWAL FORM IS ENCLOSED YOU NEED TO PAY DUES

2005 REUNION IN FREDERICKSBURG

July 14-16

The following is taken from a brochure published by the Fredericksburg Visitors Center. It can be ordered on their web site www.frederickburgvirginia.net or by calling 1-800-678-4748.

“The Fredericksburg area, including the Counties of Spotsylvania and Stafford, as well as the City, have been gracious hosts for centuries. Some have come to Fredericksburg through serendipity, more to find their way in a New World and a budding nation, others when duty called, still others for the pleasures of an escape into the refreshing charms of the Fredericksburg area.

“George Washington came here as a child to Ferry Farm in Stafford with his family. The scene of legends from his youth, the home he bought for his mother, his sister’s plantation home, the house his brother built, later operated as a tavern, are here.

“Before Young Washington’s day, Fredericksburg was founded by colonial barons as a tobacco trading station and the small ports of Fredericksburg and Falmouth grew along the banks of the Rappahannock River. Originally laid out in a simple grid, the mainstays of English life anchored the streets, including a town hall and market square, the Anglican Church, taverns, home and shops. Today the streets are lined with brick sidewalks, antique and specialty shops, more than 40 one-of-a-kind restaurants, private home and gardens.

“Others came with a mission. When war broke out between the North and the South in

1861, the Fredericksburg area stood at the crossroads of battle, midway between Washington D. C., capital of the Union, and Richmond, capital of the Confederacy. Robert E. Lee, U. S. Grant, Thomas E. “Stonewall” Jackson, Ambrose Burnside and thousands of troops came to contest the bitter Civil War.

“Thomas Jefferson made his mark in Fredericksburg, writing the Virginia Statute of Religious Freedom, which was the basis for the First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States. And James Monroe began his illustrious career of public service in Fredericksburg.

“Still others have visited for the delights of discovering rolling hills, tidal and rushing rivers and peaceful lakes. They encounter the richness of the American experience at every turn, and feel the joy of discovering the Fredericksburg area’s unique and entertaining past and present in its galleries, historical attractions, shops, restaurants and golf courses.

“The area has been a memorable place greeting leaders, settlers, soldiers, and visitors through the years. You should come to the Fredericksburg area, too.”

As reported in the last newsletter, the Wingate Inn at I-95 Exit 133 has been selected as the location for the 2005 VVV Reunion in Fredericksburg, Virginia. We have 50 rooms reserved for the reunion and have been given a special rate of \$75.00 plus tax for double or king rooms and \$119.00 plus tax for a suite. The cut off date for reserving a room at this price is July 1. All rooms not guaranteed at the time of the cut off date will be released back to the hotel to be sold at the regular rate. Reservations can be made by calling 540-368-8000 or 866-333-6800. The web site is www.mywingate.com.

All rooms offer:

- Separate desk and sleep areas
- Refrigerator, microwave, coffee maker, hair dryer
- Free in-room high speed Internet access and wireless access
- Cordless phone, 2-line speaker phone
- Pay Per View Movie and Nintendo
- 25 inches remote television with in-room Web TV
- High security electronic locks and in-room safe
- Full size iron and ironing board

The hotel features:

- Complementary expanded continental breakfast
- Coffee and snacks served in the evening
- Indoor heated pool and whirlpool, professional fitness center
- Free 24-hour business center with fax, copier, printer and computer
- Free local calls, no long distance access charges
- High-tech boardrooms and meeting rooms
- Inside corridor rooms
- Children stay free

While there are other hotels in the area, we encourage all VVV members to stay at the Wingate Inn. After all, the purpose of a reunion is to be with family and friends. As the brochure states, “You should come to Fredericksburg, too!”

2005 REUNION SCHEDULE

Thursday, July 14

3:00 – 8:00 p.m.....Registration
6:00 – 8:00 p.m.....President’s Reception
8:00 p.m.Executive Committee Meeting
8:00 p.m.Reunion Site Committee Meeting

Friday, July 15

Complimentary breakfast
8:30 – 9:00 a.m.Registration
9:00 a.m.Opening of Reunion
Welcome
Ringing of Cowbell
Invocation
Pledge to the Flag
Official “Welcome to Fredericksburg”
Preliminary registration report and business meeting
10:30 a.m. – NoonGenealogy Session #1
Lunch on your own
Spend the afternoon touring Historic Fredericksburg
6:00 – 7:00 p.m.Dinner at the Hotel
7:30 – 9:00 p.m.Genealogy Session #2

Saturday, July 16

9:00 a.m.Depart for Vauter’s Church
NoonLunch at Vauter’s Church
1:00 p.m.Depart for the Glebe
6:30 p.m.Annual Banquet

Sunday, July 17

9:00 a.m.Worship Service at Vauter’s Church
10:00 a.m.Coffee and Light Refreshments

REUNION REMINDERS

Please remember that a Love Offering will be taken for Vauter’s Church. If you are unable to attend the reunion and want to make a contribution, please send your check to the treasurer, Norma Jean Vawter. Her address can be found with the list of officers.

Among the items available for purchase at the reunion will be prints of Vauter’s Church. However, please let Jim Vaughters know immediately if you want one as there is a lead time for producing the prints.

VAUTER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Vauter's Episcopal Church, located in Essex County, Virginia, not far from the Rappahannock River, is the Upper Church of St. Anne's Parish.

At one time, authorities believed the original portion to have been built in 1719 and enlarged by the addition of the South Wing in 1731. However, a 1969 renovation of the interior revealed that the church was built in its entirety in 1731. Its brick walls, two feet thick throughout, are laid in Flemish bond with glazed headers, and its two doorways are in the classic, pedimented style. It appears to have retained its original doors, sash windows, and shutters, with most of the hand wrought hardware.

Subsequent to the American Revolution, Vauter's Church passed out of service, a fate common to many colonial church buildings. Vandalism threatened to destroy it during this period of practical abandonment, but it was saved by Mrs. Muscoe Garnett, of Elmwood, who claimed the building as standing on her property. The foundation for her claim lay in the fact that although the church was built on land originally adjoining that of the Vauter family, Mr. James Garnett had purchased from that family before the middle of the 18th century the land next to the church property. Mrs. Garnett was successful in giving Vauter's her protection.

Although the church continued closed for many years except on rare occasions, a handbill advertised a lottery held in 1792 to raise "the sum of Three Hundred Pounds, for the purpose of repairing the Churches and Glebe of St. Ann's Parish."

During the War of 1812, the churchyard was the scene of a duel. It occurred before the South door, and the participants were reconciled after firing one shot.

The year 1822 saw the resumption of regular services at Vauter's for the first time since 1776. The interior was repaired and remodeled in 1827, with the high, box pews being reduced in height and the chancel moved from the East to the North wall. A two-story pulpit replaced the colonial three-story pulpit.

CONGRATULATIONS TO KEN AND NORMA WICKER

We congratulate Ken and Norma Wicker of Tupelo, Mississippi, on the occasion of their 50th Wedding Anniversary. A celebration was held in their honor on January 30, 2005, at First Baptist Church in Tupelo, Mississippi. It was hosted by Jeff and Kathy Terry, Tom and Semmie Wicker and Roger and Gayle Wicker.

QUERY

Bobbi Wilson is seeking any information on Russell Vawter, whose daughter, Nancy, married Samuel Rigg. Bobbi's address is: 11080 E 2250th Street, Adair, IL 61411

THANK YOU

We thank Andrew Cottle for sending the article that appears in this newsletter about his genealogical journey to New Mexico. Stories such as this are always welcome!

**THE GLEBE, ST. ANNE’S PARISH
ESSEX COUNTY, VIRGINIA
Submitted by Judge Fred Wicker**

Robert Rose was ordained and licensed for Virginia Parishes and came to Virginia in 1724. At the age of twenty-one, in 1725, he became Minister of St. Anne’s Parish, Essex County, Virginia.

He was born in Scotland near Inverness and died in Virginia in 1751. During his ministry of St. Anne’s Parish, Vauter’s Church and its parish glebe were erected in 1731. Edward Vawter, son of one of three immigrant brothers, is said to be the builder of the church.

The glebe was the house and (usually) 200 acres provided by colonial parishes for their ministers. Parson Rose’s house, the oldest brick glebe still standing in Virginia, is located in Thomas Neck below present Chance, Virginia, in Essex County.

The building is two stories high and one room deep. The exterior brickwork of Flemish bond and glazed headers is similar to that of Vauter’s Church erected the same year some sixteen miles to the north.

On the glebe lands were a frame schoolhouse, a wharf on nearby Occupacia Creek, a grain mill, a spring and probably several outbuildings. Only the glebe building now remains.

The property went into private hands beginning in 1803. It is now owned by Mr. James R. Hundley, Jr. and is situated on Cloverfield Farm. The building is in a rundown condition, although some repairs have been made recently. Mr. Hundley is very much interested in its restoration.

The structure is listed on the Virginia Landmarks Register and the National Register of Historic Places.

GEORGIA VAUGHTERS REUNION

The seventh annual reunion of the Georgia Vaughters Family will be Sunday, June 12, 2005, at Bethel Baptist Church located two miles north of Dawsonville. Charles Burt, Gary Vaughters and Becky Vaughters McCord began the reunion in 1999, and we have continued to make them enjoyable for our cousins.

Schedule:	11 a.m.	Tour the cemetery, where American flags are placed on the graves of the 60 Vaughters descendants.
	Noon	Brief family history with a special presentation on Rev. George Robinson Vaughters (1860 – 1936) his 74 th birthday party in 1934 was the last reunion until 1999. Most descend from him.
	1 p.m.	Covered dish dinner.

Bring your favorite dish, story and photographs.

For more information, contact Jim Vaughters at 303-771-7103.

GEORGIA GOVERNOR SAMUEL ERNEST VANDIVER, JR
(1918 – 2005)
by Jim Vaughters

Our most distinguished member died on February 21, 2005, at his home in Lavonia, Georgia. Ernest Vandiver, Jr. was the 73rd governor of the State of Georgia, 1959- 1963. He and his wife, Betty, graciously hosted a reception of the VVV's at their home during the 2002 reunion, and he was a key participant in ceremonies that year and the next.

Samuel Ernest Pinkney Vandiver, Jr. was born in Franklin County, Georgia, on July 3, 1918, about a dozen miles from the old Vaughter farm in the Red Hill community. Both of his parents were great-great-grandchildren of Revolutionary War soldiers. His mother's ancestor moved to the area during the war and was killed by Tories when he was home on furlough to see his newborn son. His father's ancestor moved into the area in the 1820s.

When the Civil War erupted, his grandfather was not permitted to enlist because he was only 13. He walked 150 miles to the other side of the state, lied about his age, and became a Confederate soldier. When he returned home after the war, he married his next door Red Hill neighbor, Eliza Missouri Vaughter (1851-1911).

Eliza was a daughter of Hiram S. (1814-1853) and Elizabeth Glenn Vaughter (1814-1870). She was one of the children who helped raise the slave, Uncle Pete Vaughters (1852-1922). Her grandparents were James (1785-1936) and Jane Vaughter (1794-1884).

The first child of William I. Pinkney and Eliza Missouri Vaughter Vandiver was Samuel Ernest Pinkney Vandiver, Sr. The Samuel came from Eliza's oldest brother, Samuel Hiram Vaughter (1837-1924), who was an officer in the Confederate Army, was captured at Champion Hill, Mississippi, and spent two years as a prisoner of war. He then went to Arkansas and Oklahoma, where, just as Uncle Pete Vaughters, he continued his profession as a teacher.

Tradition has it that the day Ernest, Jr. was born his father said, "That boy will be governor of Georgia". He prepared his son for such with the best schools, travel, and a tutor in oratory.

At age 18, Ernest, Jr. gave his first political speech, which was widely acclaimed as a success. He completed bachelor's and law degrees at the University of Georgia in just six years. During World War II, he was a well known defense lawyer. After the war, he practiced law in Lavonia and became the state's youngest mayor at age 27.

He was a campaign manager for a governor, then Adjutant General, Lieutenant Governor, and Governor. He is credited with cleaning up the corruption of his predecessor, increasing efficiency so that state government delivered an additional \$100 million in services without raising taxes, cleaning up the state mental hospital at Milledgeville, and, most notable, overseeing the peaceful integration of public schools and the University of Georgia. His voice was always that of moderation and lawful obedience to court orders, unlike any of his counterparts in the South.

History was kind to Gov. Vandiver. As his body lay in state at the Capitol in Atlanta, leaders said of him that he rose above being just a politician and became respected and admired as a statesman.

He was indispensable to the 2002 VVV Reunion in Elberton, Georgia. In addition to the beautiful reception, he arranged for the current state government to pay for the dignified granite

marker and for the ceremony dedicating Swift and Julian Vaughter's gift of the 850 acre farm to the State of Georgia. And he began his keynote address with the phrase, "Good morning, cousins!".

In 2003 he made what was perhaps his final public appearance. A ceremony honoring the life and grave marker of Civil War soldier Hiram Vaughter, brother of Eliza Missouri, was held at the Vaughter cemetery at Red Hill. Gov. Vandiver gave a heart felt talk about the tragedy of that war, the importance of preserving family history, and his pride in being part of our family as well as a spokesman for the state. The commemorative Confederate flag was presented to him, and he then revealed that he had always wanted one, did not have one, and was very thankful for it.

The card on the flowers that were sent for his funeral service read simply, "Governor Vandiver – Thanks for being a great friend and a great cousin. – The Vaughters Family".

Surviving are his wife of 57 years, Betty Russell Vandiver; children, S. Ernest "Chip" Vandiver and Elizabeth Vandiver, both of Lavonia, and Jane Kidd of Athens, Georgia; and four grandchildren.

SUGGESTED AMENDMENTS TO BYLAWS

The Historian/Archivist has reviewed the Bylaws of the Association, written some suggested amendments, and sent those suggestions to the current officers and past presidents. He would like to present them at the business meeting of the reunion in Fredericksburg, Virginia.

Here is a summary of the suggested amendments:

1. Annual Meeting the third weekend of July rather than the first weekend of August.
2. List of officers to delete Membership Chairman, add two Assistant Treasurers, and divide Historian/Archivist into two separate offices.
3. State that the Executive Committee shall consist of all current officers and all past presidents.
4. At the conclusion of a President's two year term the Vice-President shall automatically be nominated as the next President.
5. The two Assistant Treasurers to be alternate signatures on the bank account and to succeed to the office of Treasurer in the event of the resignation or demise of the Treasurer.
6. The Historian to arrange at least one genealogy session at each Annual Meeting, to research the family history, and to communicate with other persons who research the family history.
7. The Archivist to collect, store, and manage the memorabilia, keep an inventory, and bring such historical items to the Annual Meetings.

Splitting Historian/Archivist is suggested for several reasons. The archives have grown in volume, storage space in a house is a problem, and they are not accessible to members except at reunions. Possible solutions are storing them in a central location (rented space or with a member), and shipping them to the reunion each year. The Historian seems to have enough to stay busy, and a separate Archivist could do a better job.

All members are invited to share their thoughts about these changes with any of the officers and to make suggestions.

A GENEALOGICAL JOURNEY

By Andrew Cottle

Elkton, Maryland

A couple of summers ago I was able to get away from the East Coast, back to New Mexico, for a visit with my Aunt Aline (Terry Aline Vaughter Boney). I am distracted by genealogy and wanted to clean up some details of family information in my hometown, Clovis, New Mexico.

I knew some about family history...I knew that my grandfather, William Hershell "Bill" Vaughter, had ridden horseback to eastern New Mexico with his older brother, N. A. "Alsup" Vaughter, from Tennessee, in the very early 1900s. Alsup and Bill had been raised in the Bethel-Leana community, outside of Murfreesboro, Tennessee. Their dad, David Crockett "D.C." Vaughter, was noteworthy in Tennessee in the Masons because of his fabulous memory. D.C. knew more of the "rite work" than anyone around, and knew it better...

Anyway, Doc Richmond told Alsup that he had "lung fever," and that his only chance of having much of a life would be if he moved to a dry climate. My Grandpa, Bill, was sent along by the boys' mom, Tennessee Brown "Tennie" Alsup Vaughter to be a companion for Alsup, and to watch out for him. (One story begets another, right? This "Doc" Richmond was so respected by the Vaughters that John Richmond Vaughter was named for him.)

So, because the good doctor told the Vaughters about Alsup's prognosis, Bill and Alsup set out to claim cheap government land in New Mexico Territory. The boys stopped along the way and made arrangements with the King Ranch people to do a little land and cattle trading on the side as agents for that huge ranching operation. The boys set up homestead in House, New Mexico; then moved on to Taiban, which was in Roosevelt County at the time.

There are all these stories about the "rough and ready" Vaughter boys in Taiban; they did whatever came to hand. In one article, Bill is called the "Barbarous Barber of Butcher Street." We don't know, still, whether that label was Southwestern humor, or what. Bill also sold insurance and ready-made clothes. They boys ran cattle and chickens, and tried to get a garden to grow. Alsup was a lawyer for a time and they say that on one occasion it took three men to get him off a lawbreaker. Another time, Bill was cutting some hair and saw Alsup bushwhacked by a fellow, so he came out and cold-cocked the assailant with one blow.

All these stories came to light when Aunt Aline and I drove over to Taiban from Clovis. We went into the Taiban Post Office, and I said, "Too bad we can't have a photocopy of that historical postmark." Aline went up to the Postmistress and said, "Can we take that into Ft. Sumner and make a copy?" The woman took it out of the case for us. Goodness gracious.

We couldn't find a marriage certificate for Bill and Bonnie (Wade Vaughter) in the DeBaca Court House, so Aline asked the Clerk to call around to other counties and track it down. The Clerk dropped what she was doing and made the calls. Several times we opened gates to get to spots that held special memories. As an Easterner, now, I never would have dreamed of "trespassing." Being the Western woman, Aline just said, "You go on up there and open that gate. It will be OK." And it was. We had such a wonderful time, that day, digging up roots.

The punch line for this story is that Alsup, with his "lung fever", lived to be 82 – and outlived Bill by a number of years.

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