



**FAMILY ASSOCIATION**

NEWSLETTER

Spring 1992

p. 1

Volume 16 No .3

#### FAMILY ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

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#### 1992 REUNION

Begin making plans now for a time of information, visitation and relaxation at the annual reunion of the VVV Family Association. This year's event is July 30 thru August 2 in Nacogdoches, Texas, at the Fredonia Hotel and Convention Center. John H. and Sue Vawter, along with their family, are the hosts.

Nacogdoches is one of the oldest settlements in Texas, and for more than a hundred years was a major eastern gateway to Texas. The town is named for the Nacogdoche Indians who were in the area for centuries before the first Europeans arrived.

The reunion was last held in Nacogdoches in 1984. Those who attended will remember touring Millard's Crossing, a group of restored 19th century buildings; Stone Fort Museum, located on the campus of Stephen F. Austin University; and Old North Church.

Reservations can be made by writing the hotel at 200 N. Fredonia Street, Nacogdoches, TX 75961, or by calling 1-800-594-5323. The room rate is \$49.00, plus 13% tax, and is for 1-4 people per room. Be sure to mention the Association to receive this discounted rate.

A note from Bill Vawter, of Houston, states that for those who will be flying and then renting a car, Shreveport, Louisiana, is 90 miles from Nacogdoches, and Houston is 140 miles. He also said there is a bus leaving Shreveport at 9: 50 a.m., 1:15 p.m. and 6: 00 p.m.

Your next newsletter will tell the activities and program for the reunion. John and Sue invite us to "come early, stay long."

### "PHONE SEARCH"

Ancestry, Inc., in Salt Lake City, has a service called "Phone Search." Their 90-million household database of names and address has been compiled over the past three years. Although called "Phone Search," sources other than telephone directories were used, and therefore the database includes many who are unlisted in phone books, but does not always include everyone who might be listed.

A search done recently provided us with 1510 names and addresses throughout the entire United States. All the various spellings are represented -Vauter, Vauters, Vaughter, Vaughters, Vawter, Vawters. Of the 1510, only 37 are on our current mailing list. There are 65 Texans listed who are not members of the Association, and complimentary newsletters will be sent to some to tell them of the reunion in Nacogdoches.

### COMPUTER CONTACT

Contact has been made via computer with Linda Puckett of Bozeman, Montana, using the genealogy bulletin board of Prodigy Services. Linda knew little about her Vawter ancestors except that Elizabeth A. Vawter, born in Virginia, was married in 1833 in Cumberland County, Kentucky, to George A. Taylor, and soon thereafter moved to McDonough County, Illinois.

A brief search has shown Linda's line (to Elizabeth A. Vawter<sup>6</sup>) to be Beverly Vawter<sup>5</sup> m. Elizabeth Hutchins, Russell Vawter<sup>4</sup> m. Mary Sparks, Richard B. Vawter<sup>3</sup> m. Frances Towles, John Vawter<sup>2</sup> m. Margaret Noel, Bartholomew Vawter<sup>1</sup> m Winifred Hodgson.

### ATTENTION, SERIOUS RESEARCHERS

About eighteen months ago, several descendants of David and Mary Rucker Vawter were asked to submit their family charts to the Rucker Family Association. These charts were to be placed with other Rucker records in the library of the Virginia Historical Society. At least three people (including this writer) submitted charts. In January of this year, a letter was received explaining that these charts would not be placed in the library until proof can be found that David Vawter married Mary Rucker.

Has anyone done serious research on this line? Let us know and we will send you a copy of the letter so you can compare your findings with those of Jean B. Robinson. Jean is a granddaughter of Sudie Rucker Wood, author of *The Rucker Family Genealogy*. She has written a paper, *Rucker/Vawter Connection*, that gives her views of this subject.

A NEW ADDITION TO THE FAMILY TREE

Congratulations to Jeff Swiatek and Julie Anne Dart on the birth of their first child, Christopher Swiatek, who was born 19 December 1991, in Indianapolis. Julie Dart is a daughter of Robert Henry Dart and Lucille D. McCally. Robert Dart is a son of Jesse Elwood Dart and Nina Vawter. Parents of Nina Vawter were Robert Newton Vawter and Elinor Elisabeth Howerton. This information was sent by the proud grandfather, Robert H. Dart, of Glendale, California.

DAVID V. BURNS

David V. Burns, Indianapolis, was recently honored by the Indiana Historical Society for his contributions to Hoosier history by being named as "Honorary Trustee." He served on the Society's board of trustees from 1965 to 1990, and was board president from 1974 to 1983. A retired architect, he was formerly a partner in the firms of Burns & James, Architects; Burns & Burns, Architects; and Bohlen & Burns, Architects. David is from the line of Jesse Vawter and Elizabeth Watts who arrived in what is now Jefferson County, Indiana, in 1806.

ERNA VAWTER GREER

Nearly every day except Sundays, Erna Vawter Greer walks the four blocks from her home to the alterations shop she runs in downtown Milan, Tennessee. At lunchtime she walks home, then back to work, then home again at the end of the day. That makes a total of sixteen blocks each day.

This may not seem like a very long walk when compared to the miles that some people walk or run daily, but Mrs. Greer is 98 years old, and that is what makes her daily walk so special.

She was born 3 January 1894 in Gibson County, Tennessee, to Robert Horace Vawter and Emily Ann Burrow. Her grandfather was Robert Lemuel Vawter, a son of Edward B. Vawter and Martha McCune. She has been a widow for many years, and her only son died 42 years ago.

Mrs. Greer has run her one-woman business for 32 years, and before that she did alterations in a men's shop. As Milan's only alterations service, "Mama Greer," as she is called by those close to her, does a lively business. On her birthday this year, downtown business owners and friends helped her celebrate with a party. Among those attending was Norma Vawter.

So, the next time you are tempted to jump in your car and drive four blocks, think of Erna Greer and go for a walk instead.

GLEANINGS

From: History of Dearborn, Ohio and Switzerland Counties, Indiana

Published Chicago, F.E. Weakley & Co., 1885

"WILLIAM H. VAWTER, farmer, Posey Township [Switzerland County], son of William Vawter, was born in Jefferson County, Indiana, in 1832. He grew to maturity in his native county (to sixteen years of age,) engaged in agricultural pursuits, and in 1848 came to this county and located in York Township where he remained one year, then removed to Posey where he has ever since resided. December 9, 1860, he married Margaret Garmore, daughter of Jacob Garmore, and by this wife has five children, all living: William, Benjamin, Jacob, Stephen and Fannie. William was married, in September, 1882, to Dillie Shaffer, daughter of C.B. Shaffer, and they have one child, Bertha. In his early years, Mr. Vawter was employed as farm hand at wages for about three years, and then purchased a team and farmed rented land till the fall of 1863, when he purchased eighty-seven acres of his present farm, to which he has added till he now owns 118 acres. He has succeeded fairly, and by industry, economy and good business management has gained a competency very creditable to his energy. He is a member of the Masonic fraternity; does a general farming business, keeping what stock the farm will support. He made his first trip to New Orleans in boating produce in 1855, and since that has made two others, one in 1858 and the last in 1878. Aside from this he has engaged entirely in the pursuit of agriculture."

From: Indiana Book of Merit - Indiana World War Records - Volume IV

Published Indianapolis, Historical Bureau, 1932

"VAWTER, FRED BEVERLY, Sergeant, 1947857, Company D, 332d Infantry, 83d Division.

Military Valor Medal, bronze (Italy.) No. 55940. Ministry of War, Rome, March 15, 1921: Volunteer for a daring reconnaissance on the Tagliamento, he was a constant example of courage and calmness, boldly attacking enemy patrols and succeeding in capturing prisoners and machine guns. Ponte della Delizia, November 3, 1918.

Record. Born December 28, 1891, Salina, Kansas; son of James Mavity and Lura Jeannette (Sanderson) Vawter. Came to Indiana 1901. Salesman, Jeffersonville. Entered service September 6, 1917, Akron, Ohio. Training: Camp Sherman, Ohio; Camp Perry, Ohio. Assigned to Company D, 332d Infantry, on detached service on Italian front. Sergeant. Overseas June 8, 1918-April 14, 1919. Battles: Vittorio-Veneto, Piave River, Tagliamento River." Discharged May 2, 1919"

CORRECTIONS

From Ralph E. Fall:

A note was received from Rev. Fall to correct a statement in the Summer 1991 newsletter concerning Vauter's Church in Essex County, Virginia.

At one time there were two Virginia historians who disagreed on the date of the construction of the church. One of the historians believed the church was erected in 1719, with the south addition being built in 1731. Rev. Fall was rector of Vauter's Church from 1962-1982, and in 1969 the plaster on the building's ceilings and walls was taken off down to the bare bricks. This showed that the church was built totally as a whole at one time. The cornerstone in the wall outside the doorway gives the date as 1731.

From the Orange County (Virginia) Historical Society:

The statement appears in the Winter 1990 newsletter that William Vawter and Mary Rucker were married by James Madison, later the 4<sup>th</sup> President of the United States. The Society wrote to let us know that this James Madison, who for many years was a Gentleman Justice of Orange County, was the father of James Madison the President.

"THOSE WERE THE DAYS"

Paul Edward Vawter, of Hightstown, New Jersey, has written a delightful book, "Those Were the Days," which is a recollection of experiences and events related to his family. Paul was born 6 March 1908 near Madison, Indiana, the son of Clarence Merrill and Edythe Barricklow Vawter. He has been kind enough to send a copy of his book, and beginning with the next newsletter, we will share some of those recollections with you.

Paul's son, Jay Vawter, was recently elected to the board of directors of the Princeton, New Jersey, Historical Society.

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MEMBERSHIP DUES

Dues is \$7.00 per year, and should be paid in January or at the reunion.

VVV Family Association, c/o Sue Vawter, RR 6 Box 390, Nacogdoches, TX 75961

James L. Vaughters, 69, of Memphis, Tenn., died 31 December 1991 after being ill since suffering a stroke in January 1991. He was a retired captain of the Memphis Police Department and a World War II Navy veteran. He was a judge for the American Kennel Club and the American Rabbit Breeders Association.

Memberships include the Fraternal Order of Police, Tennessee Law Enforcement Officers Association, Tennessee and Mississippi Sheriffs and Police Officers Association, Bulldog Club of America, Memphis Kennel Club, Loyal Order of the Moose, and Peace Lutheran Church. He had been a member of the VVV Family Association since 1978, and had attended many of the annual reunions.

Surviving are his wife, Norma Stine Vaughters; two daughters, Shirley Miller of Albion, Calif., and Karen Tatum of Southaven, Miss.; three sons, Lowell Vaughters of Oxford, Miss., Keith Vaughters of Sarah, Miss., and Gary Vaughters of Memphis; and 16 grandchildren.

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Olga Vawter Bullington, 89, of Atwood, Tenn., died 18 January 1992. She was retired from H.I.S. Clothes Manufacturing Co., and was the widow of Paul Lee Bullington. Mrs. Bullington was a member of Atwood First United Methodist Church.

Surviving are a son, Sherry Eugene Bullington of Bruceton, Tenn.; a sister, Ida Mae Toombs of Humboldt, Tenn.; 4 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren. She was the aunt of Robert M. (Pete) Vawter.

#### THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who has sent newspaper clippings, obituaries, birth announcements and other information for the newsletter. Please continue to do this. Your help is greatly appreciated! Thank you, too, to the ones who have notified us of address changes.

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