



FAMILY ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

Spring 1993

p. 1

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1993 REUNION

"Someplace Special!" - that is what a brochure prepared by the Oklahoma City Convention and Visitors Bureau says about the city. The brochure goes on to tell of the many cultural events and attractions available for everyone of all ages to enjoy. The 1993 VVV reunion will be held in Oklahoma City on Aug. 5 - 8, and the hosts, Bill M. and Dorothy Vawter, have made plans for the reunion to be "Someplace Special" as well. The motel they have chosen is the Ramada Inn, located at 800 S. Meridian, just off I-40 on the western side of the city. The room rate is \$39.00, plus tax, for two queen size beds or one king size. Be sure to mention the Association to receive this discounted rate. Reservations can be made by writing the motel or by calling 1-405-942-0040 or 1-800-228-2828. Bill and Dorothy have also arranged for dinners at the motel on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights.

On Friday, there will be a bus tour of the city, leaving at 11:00 a.m. and returning at 4:00 p.m. We will stop at the Cowboy Hall of Fame for a guided tour lasting about 1½ hr. The bus will take us past many places that some may want to visit on their own on Saturday, including the Southern Nazarene College campus, Bethany Cemetery, Myriad Gardens and Crystal Bridge, Remington Park Race Track, and several other attractions.

William Dwight Vawter, son of Bill and Dorothy, will lead a tour of the Family History Center at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints on Saturday. Information from the library at Salt Lake City is available by way of computer, and everyone is encouraged to bring their pedigree charts. This tour will leave the motel at 10:00 a.m. and go by car caravan.

Costs for the dinners and tours are as follows:

Thursday dinner, choice of catfish or turkey and dressing, \$7.00; Friday dinner, choice of chopped sirloin or chicken, \$7.00; Saturday dinner, choice of beef ribs, chicken with cream sauce or chicken fried steak, \$14.00. These prices include tax and gratuity. Friday bus tour, \$6.00; Cowboy Hall of Fame \$4.00 for adults, \$2.00 ages 13 - 18, \$1.00 12 and under. Please remember that all meals and tours are optional.

The next newsletter will tell more details of the events being planned. As you can tell, Oklahoma City will indeed be "Someplace Special" this August - be a part of it!

GOLDEN WEDDING

THE VERNON (INDIANA) BANNER WEDNESDAY, 11 MAY 1887

"Last Wednesday, May 4th, was the fiftieth anniversary of the marriage of Jessie R. and Sarah Vawter. The friends and relatives of this worthy couple prepared to celebrate the occasion in a fitting way, and the home of their oldest son, Wm. A. Vawter, of Campbell Tp., was the scene of as pleasant a gathering as is often witnessed in this life. Early in the morning the friends and relatives began to arrive, and by the time ye scribe and his better half arrived, the house was overflowing with happy guests and the grounds were filled with the young people and children, merry over their games. Friends still kept coming bringing well-filled baskets of all sorts of dainty edibles, until the grand total of those present reached 109 persons. There were four sisters, seven children, eighteen grandchildren and four great grandchildren of Mr. and Mrs. Vawter in this company. Promptly at twelve o'clock the friends assembled in the house, where a short exercise, consisting of music, recitations and the reading of a short biography of the venerable bridal pair was held. After this, the guests repaired to the dining room and partook of an excellent dinner.

"Mr. and Mrs. Vawter received many congratulations from their friends and also a number of useful presents. Mr. Vawter is in his 70th year and Mrs. Vawter in her 66th year. They have lived in Jennings County all of their married life. They are the parents of eleven children, nine of whom are still living. That their lives have been exemplary was very apparent from the large number of friends assembled, who seemed glad of the opportunity to show their love and esteem for them. It was indeed a golden occasion, and we hope that their lives may be prolonged and that they may see many more anniversaries of the happy day.

"The success of the occasion and the comfort of the guests were largely due to the efforts of Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Vawter and Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Wagner."

SOME JENNINGS COUNTY, INDIANA, MARRIAGES

| | |
|---|-------------------|
| Bramwell, James H. - Julia Ann Vawter | 26 November 1833 |
| Campbell, Allen - Emily Vawter | 6 August 1829 |
| King, George - Frances Ann Vawter | 14 May 1840 |
| Reed, Hiram T. - Catharine Vawter | 21 March 1844 |
| Storey, Thomas - Jane Vawter | 10 January 1826 |
| Stott, John - Elizabeth Vawter | 7 April 1831 |
| Thelkeld, John - Polly A. Vawter | 18 September 1835 |
| Vawter, Achilles - Maria Denham | 25 July 1850 |
| Vawter, James H. - Eliza E. Goodhue | 10 April 1853 |
| Vawter, Jesse R. - Sarah Parks | 4 May 1837 |
| Vawter, John - Jane Smith | 21 November 1825 |
| Vawter, John - Ruth Minton | 5 October 1826 |
| Vawter, Elder John - Mrs. Martha Pearce | 11 October 1850 |
| Vawter, John Taylor - Permelia Dwyer | 9 May 1835 |
| Vawter, John Terrell - Mary V. Story | 13 June 1850 |
| Vawter, Johnson S. - Diana Moncrief | 19 October 1854 |
| Vawter, Smith - Jane Terrell | 21 April 1829 |
| Vawter, Smith - Elizabeth Smith | 8 January 1835 |
| Vawter, William C. - Sydney O. Willis | 11 November 1851 |

WILL OF FRANCES (TOWLES) VAWTER, WIFE OF RICHARD VAWTER

Dated 11 November 1811, Prob. 26 December 1811, Madison Co., VA

A photocopy of this will, as recorded in Madison County, Virginia, was given to Shirley Vawter Byler by Dr. Karen Bowman, a descendant of Tabitha (Vawter) Rouse. Tabitha was a daughter of Richard and Frances (Towles) Vawter.

"In the name of God Amen, I Frances Vawter (widow of the late Richard Vawter deceased) of the County of Madison and State of Virginia, calling to mind the certainty of death and the uncertainty of life doth make and ordain this my last will and testament revoking all other wills by me heretofore made - Imprimis, I bequeath my soul to God who gave it, and my body to be buried in a decent and Christian like manner and as to my worldly goods my will and desire is that after my decease my Executors sell the whole of my Estate and the money arising from the sale thereof together with what debts is owing to me and all the money I have in hand be divided in the following manner first pay to my daughter Frances Alpha and Omega Shelton thirty six pounds lawful money of Virginia and the balance to be equally divided between my three daughters Frances Alpha and Omega Shelton above mentioned, Anna Vaughter, and Nancy Wilhoit, and their lawful heirs - I leave my estate in this manner from a conviction that my children herein named have received less from there father Richard Vawter deceased than my other children. Lastly I appoint Joseph Early executor to this my last will and testament in Witness whereof I have set my hand and seal this 11 day of November one thousand eight hundred and eleven."

Her
Frances X Vawter
mark

Signed sealed and delivered

In presence of

John Harrison

Her

Elizabeth = Jarrell (?)

mark

Adam Rouse

"At a Court held for Madison Co. the 26th day of December 1811. This last will and testament of Frances Vawter deceased was exhibited into Court and proved by the oaths of John Harrison and Adam Rouse two of the witnesses thereto and ordered to be recorded. And on the motion of Joseph Early Executor therein named certificate of probat thereof is granted him in due form whereupon he qualified and entered into bond with security according to Law."

Teste
Benjamin Cave

FAMILY GROUP SHEETS WANTED

VVV President, Bill M. Vawter, needs family group sheets on the following:

John Vawter and wife, Franky Ward

John Vawter and wife, Cynthia McGuire

John Vawter and wife, Rhoda McGuire

Bill's address is 3618 S. W. 39th Street, Oklahoma City, OK 73119

ARTHUR DEVER VAWTER

Contributed by Melba Vawter Ashburn

Arthur Dever Vawter was born in Scandia, Kansas, in 1899. He was the youngest of 4 boys in the family. His father died when Arthur was 5 years old and his mother moved to the Flora, Oregon, area with her four sons.

Arthur moved to Culdesac, Idaho, in 1919 and became a rural mail carrier. There he met Gladys Parks, and they were married in 1922. They became parents of nine children.

While living in Culdesac, Arthur was employed at the Culdesac Flour Mill. He remained there until 1946 when he was employed by the Camas Prairie Railroad of Lewiston, Idaho. He moved his family to Lewiston where he retired in 1962. Following his retirement he traveled extensively and became interested in geological facts which he shared with many friends.

Since his retirement and the death of his wife, Gladys, he lived in Bandon, Oregon. He moved to Grangeville, Idaho, in 1973 and married Myrtle Laugton. She resides in an apartment near the Care Center where Arthur is now living.

The six surviving children are Velda Hogaboam and Glenn Vawter, Grangeville; Melba Ashburn and Erma Hund, Lewiston; Ellis Vawter, St. Maries, Idaho; and Arvin Vawter, Sacramento, California. He has 19 grandchildren, 31 great-grandchildren, and 2 great-great grandchildren.

Woodworking has been his hobby. He is noted for making picture frames and other items of wood. Many of these are located in Grangeville residences. Also he has a reputation of being a handy man for many friends and relatives. His many grandchildren have enjoyed the wooden play blocks he made for each of them.

He has learned the sign language alphabet in order to communicate with his wife, Myrtle.

JAMES S. CORBITT AND THE HUMPHREYS COUNTY TELEPHONE COMPANY

Reprinted from the TDS Telecom brochure

Charles Moorehead Stribling started the Home Telephone Company in 1896. He was a true telephone "pioneer." Located in rural west Tennessee, Stribling held the telephone franchises for Perry, Benton and Humphreys Counties. His substantial home in Plant and the fine carriage horses he was so fond of were symbols of his good business sense.

A favorite past time of young James Corbitt's was to ride in Stribling's carriage, drawn by one of his great uncle's fine horses. Together, they would travel from farm to farm to put water into the crank telephones.

From Plant, it was two and one half miles to the railroads. In those days, Uncle Charlie's carriage rolled down Highway 1, now U. S. 70. Sometimes James and Uncle Charlie would stop to visit with another kind of pioneer, headed west to California. Wagon train and rail passengers frequently stopped in Humphreys County to rest, before tackling the balance of their arduous journey.

In later years, Corbitt would acquire and run the company, prior to its acquisition by TDS Telecom.

THANK YOU

Thank you to the many people who have contributed articles and information for the newsletter.

IN REMEMBRANCE

A. Lucille Keir, 69, died 3 February 1993 at her home in Columbus, Ohio. She was a retired teacher in the Columbus Public Schools and Ft. Hayes Career Center; a Certified Medical Assistant Administrative; a professional registered Parliamentarian, and a U. S. Navy veteran of World War II. She was past president of Columbus Medical Assistants Association, and co-author of "Medical Assisting." Memberships include the North United Methodist Church, the International Altrusa Club, and the Ann Davis Simpson Chapter of D. A. R.

Surviving are sons, Bill Keir of San Diego, California; Glen Keir of Columbus, Ohio; son and daughter-in-law, John and Joan Keir of Westerville, Ohio; and grandchildren, Kevin and Krista Keir. Also surviving is an aunt, Shirley Vawter Byler of Sweeny, Texas.

Preceding her in death was her husband, Willard J. Keir.

Lucille and Willard were active members of the VVV Association and attended many of the reunions. Lucille served as associate editor of the newsletter for several years. She and her granddaughter, Krista, were present at the 1992 reunion.

* * * * *

Swift Vaughter, 93, of Elberton, Georgia, died on Sunday 31 January 1993 at Elbert Memorial Hospital. Born in Elbert County, Georgia, he was the son of James Benson and Mary Beulah Sanders Vaughter. He was a member of Harmony Baptist Church and a U. S. Navy veteran of World War I. He received a law degree from Mercer University where he was an honor student, and was retired from the Civil Service as Vice Consul in Columbia, South America.

Surviving is a brother, Smith Julian Vawter of Elberton.

Many VVV members will remember meeting Swift and Julian during the 1988 reunion in Georgia. At that time it was reported they were living on the 600 acre farm that had been in their family since 1805. Their father was a soldier in the Civil War, having joined the Confederate Army at the age of sixteen. Near their house is an old country store that has been in operation by the family for more than 100 years.

* * * * *

Rudy M. Vaughters of Hyattsville, Maryland, died 24 February 1993. Burial was at Arlington National Cemetery. Surviving are his wife, Mildred Vaughters; daughter, Melinda Lowry; Redwood Falls, Minnesota; and grandchildren, Emily Jo and Rachel Anne Lowry.

This obituary appeared in The Washington Post, and was contributed by Mary Winningham of Chevy Chase, Maryland. Can anyone supply more information on Rudy M. Vaughters?

* * * * *

From Henry A. Miller, Kenedy, Texas:

"Betsy Nash Miller died on 4 March 1993. She had a lung transplant on 16 December 1991. Although she was hospitalized several times over the last year, she had some very good times. She last entered the hospital on 3 February 1993 and fought for a month to live."

* * * * *

Alliene Jenkins Corbitt, 79, died Tuesday, 9 March 1993, at her home in Martin, Tennessee. She was the wife of Col. James S. Corbitt.

We will have more complete obituaries for Betsy Miller and Alliene Corbitt in the next newsletter.

"MY, HOW TIME DOES FLY !"

The first VVV Association reunion was held at Brady Mountain, Arkansas, in 1978. Wendy Vawter, age three months, was the youngest one present. She is the daughter of Robert Lynn Vawter, and granddaughter of Robert M. (Pete) and Norma Vawter of Milan, Tennessee.

Wendy is now a freshman at Hardin County, Tennessee, High School. She was recently featured in "Spotlight" in The Jackson Sun.

What are your hobbies and interests? "Playing my clarinet, reading and, of course, talking on the phone."

What is your ambition? "To possibly attend Mississippi State and major in engineering."

What would you change about your school? "The amount of drugs that are there; they're all over."

What is your church affiliation? "Methodist."

Who is your role model and why? "My father because I look up to him, and I think he's a great band director, and he really knows a lot about instruments."

Describe your personality: "I try to be nice to everybody, even though they are different."

What's your No. 1 priority? "School."

Do you have a boyfriend? "Yes, his name is Richard Lawson. He's a junior."

Do you have a word of advice for other teen-agers? "Go to church, read the Bible and stay clear of drugs."

ERNA VAWTER GREER

In the Spring 1992 newsletter we reported on Mrs. Erna Vawter Greer of Milan, Tennessee. You may remember that Mrs. Greer had just celebrated her 98th birthday, and was still working six days a week in her alterations shop.

We are happy to tell you that on January 3, Mrs. Greer observed her 99th birthday, and a party was held in her honor at the Merle Norman Store where her shop is located. She walks to work (several blocks), lives alone, has a garden, and stays busy. "Activity keeps me going," she said.

50th WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Robert and Melba Vawter Ashburn were honored with a reception at the Congregational-Presbyterian Church in Lewiston, Idaho, on the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary. Robert is retired after working for 40 years as a railroad engineer for the Camas Prairie Railroad and the Burlington Northern Railroad. Melba taught sixth grade and music at Centennial and McGhee Elementary Schools in Lewiston. She retired in 1989 after 30 years in education. They have two daughters, one son and six grandchildren.

Melba's father, Arthur Dever Vawter, is 93 years old and lives in the Care Center at Grangeville, Idaho. Their Vawter line is:

Melba Vawter Ashburn b. 1925

Arthur Dever Vawter b. 1899

Cyrus Beverly Vawter b. 1853

James Crawford Vawter b. 1825

Beverly Vawter b. 1789

Phileman Vawter b. 1762

DUES

If you have not yet paid your dues (\$7.00) for 1993, please send it to: Sue Vawter, Route 6 Box 370, Nacogdoches, TX 75961.

Information for the newsletter should be sent to: Bonita Welch, RR 1 box 227, Scipio, IN 47273

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