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Dues - \$7.00 per year

1994 REUNION REPORT

THURSDAY

The 1994 reunion of the VVV Family Association was held 4-7 August in Tupelo, Mississippi. Although not "officially" beginning until Thursday, August 4, several mini-reunions took place the preceding days as a few members arrived on Tuesday, and still others on Wednesday.

Fred and Wordna Wicker, with the help of Ken and Norma Wicker, Lowell and Allyson Vaughters and approximately thirty other Northeast Mississippi Vawter/ Vaughters families, displayed true southern hospitality during the entire event.

Registration began on Thursday afternoon in the hospitality suite. A buffet dinner, provided by the hosts and their families, was served in the suite as registration continued. The fellowship spilled into the hallway and adjoining rooms as old and new acquaintances shared news of the past year.

FRIDAY

Presiding at the Friday morning session was Bill M. Vawter, president of the association. Taylor Vaughters, age two, had the honor of ringing the VVV cowbell. Taylor is the son of Mark Vaughters, grandson of Lowell Vaughters, and great-grandson of Norma Vaughters. This was just one of several four-generation families present. The invocation was given by Rev. Ralph Fall, and the pledge to the American Flag was led by cousins, McDaniel Wicker and Frederick Cummings. The Honorable Jack Marshall, Mayor of Tupelo, welcomed the group to Tupelo, and presented a key to the city to the president.

Fred Wicker introduced local attorney David Sparks, who had served as Executor of the Estate of the late Smith McDougal, a Vawter descendant. A Masonic Bible that had belonged to Smith McDougal was given to the association to be added to the archives.

Fred then introduced the Rev. Ralph Fall, who spoke briefly about Vawter's Church in Essex County, Virginia. Rev. Fall served

as rector of the church from 1962-1982. At one time, historians disagreed on the date of the construction of the church. One historian believed it to have been built in 1719, with an addition in 1731. Rev. Fall stated that while he was rector, the plaster on the building's ceilings and walls was taken off down to the bare bricks. This showed that the church had been built as a whole. The cornerstone in the wall outside the doorway gives the date as 1731.

Humorous greetings were given by Phyllis Harper, columnist for the Northeast Mississippi Daily Journal. Phyllis devoted one of her columns to the VVV Association and the reunion.

Again this year, the ancestor charts were color-coded and placed on the walls by Sally Brown. Each descendant was asked to sign their name on the proper chart and was given a ribbon to put on their name tag.

At noon, a delicious lunch complete with homemade brownies and cookies was served at the Tennessee-Tombigbee Visitor's Center in Fulton. This was followed by a tour of the facility and a film. Some also drove a short distance to feed the fish. VVV streamers for the car antennas were made by Holly Cathcart, granddaughter of Bill and Allene Wiley.

Friday evening was spent at Tombigbee State Park with more good food being served by the Northeast Mississippi VVV's. This time it was deep-fried catfish and all the trimmings. The VVV Children's Chorus provided an impromptu concert.

Saturday began with a group picture being taken. The remainder of the day was spent "on your own," with some choosing to shop at The Mall at Barnes Crossing, browse the several antique shops and malls, or tour the Elvis Presley Birthplace and Museum. Others stayed at the motel to relax or look through the genealogy material on display.

The banquet on Saturday night opened with the invocation being given by Charles Burt. Following the meal, we were once again treated to a performance of the VVV Children's Chorus, led by Ellen Wicker Cummings. Members of the chorus this year were: Frederick Cummings, Rebecca Cummings, Kristy Glasgow, Jackie Hudson, Emily Vawter, Katelyn Vawter, Wendy Vawter, Caroline Wicker, Margaret Wicker, and McDaniel Wicker.

A memorial service was conducted by Fred Wicker and his daughter, Ellen Cummings, with the assistance of Rebecca Cummings and Caroline Wicker. As each name and a brief obituary was read, those close to that person or family stood, and a carnation was placed in a vase in remembrance. The service concluded with a solo, "It Is Well with My Soul," by Wendy Vawter. Wendy, the daughter of Robert and Janet Vawter, and granddaughter of Pete and Norma Jean Vawter, was the youngest person present at the 1978 reunion in Arkansas. She was then three months old.

During the roll call of the states, it was found that 18 states were represented at the reunion, with Mississippi having the largest number present.

Special recognition was given the following:

- Oldest - James S. Corbitt, age 86
- Youngest - Jeffrey Drake Terry, age six months
- Longest married - Harry and Edith Vawter, 59 years
- Traveled farthest - Esther Vawter, Fresno, CA

Fred Wicker reported for the nominating committee, and a list of those elected can be found at the beginning of this newsletter. The title of "genealogist" has been added to that of historian/archivist.

A special offering was taken for the cemetery fund being established at Miller School in Virginia. A total of \$352.00 was given.

Ken Wicker, assisted by several of the children, distributed the many door prizes.

The reunion concluded on Sunday morning with a worship service in the hospitality suite. The service opened with a song, "Kentucky Rose," by Mark Beasley. This song is about a preacher in Kentucky, and Mark stated it reminds him of the Vawter family. Rev Ralph Fall, former rector of Vawter's Church in Virginia and an honorary Vawter, gave an inspirational meditation on Psalm 23.

MEMORIAL SERVICE

These VVV members and friends were remembered at the Memorial Service conducted on Saturday:

1. Willie Elizabeth Sallas, 74, Lampasas, TX, d. 5 Mar 1993
2. Eva Louise Fry, 76, San Antonio, TX, d. April 1993
3. Roxie Jessie Vawter, 84, Greensboro, NC, d. 28 Dec 1993
4. Mabel McWillis Vawter, 96, Saskatchewan, Can, d. 5 Jan 1994
5. Annie Willard Nixon, 97, Iuka, MS, d. 9 Jan 1994
6. Dorothy Marie Vawter, 65, Oklahoma City, OK, d. 12 Jan 1994
7. Rev. Paul H. Vaughtner, 82, Houston, TX, d. 23 Jan 1994
8. Joseph L. Bullard, 78, Seymour, IN, d. 25 Jan 1994
9. Hannah G. Roseberry, stillborn, Terre Haute, IN, 26 Jan 1994
10. Sarah Louise Vawter Lee, 84, E. Peoria, IL, d. 7 May 1994
11. Raymond Larson, 77, Phoenix, AZ, d. 15 May 1994
12. Evelyn Vawter Stoltz, 67, Santa Barbara, CA, d. 6 June 1994
13. Frances Warren, 89, New Johnsonville, TN, d. 17 Jul 1994

COMPLIMENTARY NEWSLETTERS

One way of introducing people to the association is to send complimentary newsletters. If you know of someone who should be contacted, please send their name and address to the news editor. Several new members have been added in this way.

VVV GROUP PICTURE

A group picture was taken on Saturday morning at the reunion. Those who ordered a copy should be receiving theirs soon. Wordna Wicker ordered a few extra pictures, and anyone wanting one can purchase it from her at a cost of \$11.00, postage included. Wordna's address: P.O. Box 360, Pontotoc, MS 30863.

THE VAWTER FAMILY IN AMERICA

The Vawter Family in America, was written by Grace Vawter Bicknell and first published by Hollenbeck Press in 1905. It was reprinted in 1969 by Edna Reynolds and her sister, Vera Wheatly, with a supplement update of the O'Conner family. For many years, this reprint edition could be ordered from Edna Reynolds of Butlerville, IN.

We are happy to report that with the cooperation of Walter and Edna Reynolds, and the generosity of a VVV Association member, these books are again available. The remainder of the books have been purchased by our member, and he will be reimbursed as they are sold.

Cost of the books is \$20.00, plus \$2.00 shipping. They are softbound, with 442 pages plus the supplement. Books can be ordered from Bonita Welch, 4145 N 900 W, Scipio, IN 47273.

ROBERT M. "PETE" VAWTER

Some of you may have known that "Pete" Vawter wasn't feeling well at the reunion. Shortly after returning home to Milan, TN, he entered the hospital in Memphis. Pete and his wife, Norma Jean, are now staying at the home of their daughter, Barbara Vawter DeFur, while he undergoes further treatment. Barbara's address is: 1272 Poplar Estates Pkwy, Germantown, TN 38138.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to Sgt. Alan Wayne Welch and Yu Kyonq Park, who were married 5 July 1994 in Honolulu. Alan is the son of Joseph and Bonita Welch of Scipio, IN, and has served in the Marine Corps since September 1985, the past two years in Hawaii. They are living in Kaneohe, Hawaii.

QUERY

From: Joanie Fortune, 4916 Navy Road #9, Millington, TN 38053

Looking for parents and siblings of Sarah W. Vawter, b. 1815 in Tennessee, d. 1870 in Mississippi. She married Hiram Tennyson, have no date or place. A daughter, Mary D. Tennyson, was b. 25 May 1855 in Tishomingo County, Mississippi. Any and all information is welcomed.

IN REMEMBRANCE

Evelyn Vawter Stoltz, 67, died at her home in Santa Barbara, CA, on 6 June 1994. She was born 9 Aug 1926 in Joplin, MO, the daughter of Francis Marion and Hazel Roten Vawter. A 1948 graduate of Chapman College with a degree in music, she was a talented musician and performed with the Whittier Symphony and other ensembles for several years. She eventually decided on teaching as a career and had a 27-year career in the classroom, devoted to the most part to teaching in the primary grades. From 1966 to 1968, the family resided in the South Pacific, and she taught in Pago Pago, American Samoa. She was a member of Alpha Delta Kappa, participated in the Vista Madera Owners Association, and did volunteer work in the community with Direct Relief International and Meals-on-Wheels.

After retiring in 1985, Evelyn discovered a talent for working with stained glass. She created windows for several local homes and the Sacristy window at All Saints By-the-Sea Episcopal Church in Santa Barbara.

She was married to Jack H. Stoltz in 19 June 1951 in Denver, CO, and he survives. Also surviving are a son, Eric Stoltz, Hollywood, CA; daughter and son-in-law, Susan and Dr. James Hunter, and grandson, Matthew Hunter of White Bear Lake, MN; daughter and son-in-law, Catherine and R. Kent Hammon, and granddaughters, Cassandra and Christine Hammon of Aurora, CO; a sister and brother-in-law, Mary Ellen and Albert Kun of Libby, MT; and an aunt, Shirley Vawter Byler of Sweeny, TX. A Memorial service of Gratitude to God for the life of Evelyn Stoltz was held at All Saints By-the-Sea Episcopal Church.

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Frances Corbitt Warren, 89, died 17 July 1994 in Nashville, TN. She was born in Humphreys County, TN, the daughter of Pleasant and Rena McCrary Corbitt, and was a lifelong resident of that county.

She was a member of Trace Creek Baptist Church, DAR Old Reynolds Chapter, and the Humphreys County Farm Bureau. For 25 years, she served as a rural mail carrier out of the Denver, TN, post office. She was devoted to her patrons, far beyond the call of duty, and constantly doing favors for them.

Frances' first marriage was on 6 Jan 1929 to Williams Alfred Ellis, a WW I Navy Veteran. He died 22 Jan 1934. She then married Guy M. Warren on 10 Jun 1951, and he preceded her in death on 7 May 1978. Her second husband was a Vawter descendant, as was she.

Surviving are two brothers, James S. Corbitt of Martin, TN, and Pleasant S, Corbitt, Jr. of New Johnsonville, TN; and a sister, Juanita Crockett of Nashville and New Johnsonville. Burial was at Jackson Cemetery.

IN REMEMBRANCE

Anabel Vaughter Dunaway, 92, of Lebanon, TN, died 29 June 1994. She was born 25 Nov 1901 in Rutherford County, TN, the daughter of Luther M. and Susan Vaughter. She was a retired school teacher, and was a member of Rocky Valley Baptist Church, Humana Hospital Volunteers, Farm Bureau Women, and the Cedar Seniors Club.

On 19 July 1925, she was married to Robert Ernest Dunaway, and he preceded her in death on 17 Aug 1975. Surviving are a son, Samuel M. "Bob" Dunaway; a sister, Nell V. McDaniel; five grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren; and five great-great-grandchildren. Burial was at Wilson County Memorial Gardens.

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Mary Nancy Vaughter Carlson, 94, of Elberton, GA, died 29 Aug 1994. She was born in Elbert County, GA, in the year 1900, the daughter of Emmet Augustus and Addle Patterson Vaughter. She was a homemaker and a member of Northside Baptist Church.

Her husband, John Carlson, Sr., was a native of Malboro, Sweden. He preceded her in death in 1951. Also preceding in death was an infant daughter in 1928. Surviving are a son, John Carlson, Jr. of Colbert, GA.; and a sister, Addle Vaughter of Melbourne, FL. Burial was at Elmhurst Cemetery.

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Robert Clayton Vawter, 81, of Newaygo, MI, died 7 Aug 1994 at Hardin County Hospital in Elizabethtown, KY. He was born 1 Sept 1912 in Tipton, IN, the son of William M. and Edith Miller Vawter. Before retirement in 1972, he was a metal finisher for Kelvinator in Grand Rapids.

Robert served in several capacities in his church, including chairman of the missions committee, youth leader, and elder; and was on the board for the Global Missionary Conference Committee. For many summers, he took leave from his job to work with boys and girls at Camp Michawana in Hastings, MI. He and his wife, Margaret, served as missionaries in the Philippines.

Surviving are his wife of 64 years, Margaret Hamacher Vawter; a son and daughter-in-law, Robert LaVern and Ila Dygert Vawter of Newaygo; a daughter-in-law, Dixie Scribner of Grand Rapids; a brother, Henry Lewis Vawter of Seattle, WA; five grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. Preceding him in death were a son, Duane Lee Vawter in 1966; a granddaughter, Bonnie Jean Vawter DeHaan; brothers, Carl and James Vawter; and a sister, Lornelle Vawter.

Robert and Margaret, along with Robert L. and Ila, were in route to the VVV reunion when he suffered a stroke in Kentucky on Wednesday, August 3. He remained hospitalized there until his death on Sunday. His son is president of the VVV Association.

COMING ATTRACTIONS

Next newsletter:
Miller School, Albemarle County, Virginia Tappahannock, Virginia

VVV MEMBERS AND FRIENDS ATTENDING THE 1994 REUNION

ALABAMA

Granville Allen
A1 and Ann Montgomery

ARIZONA

Bobbi Vawter Meek

ARKANSAS

Earl Williamson

CALIFORNIA

Esther Vawter

DELAWARE

Robert and Donna Vawter

FLORIDA

Ralphe and
Caroline Vawter

GEORGIA

Charles and Betty Burt
John Carlson, Jr.
Ralph and Virginia Fall
Cheryl Glasgow;
Timothy, Kristen
James Rodgers
Lula Vaughters Thompson
Flara Vaughters Waters

ILLINOIS

Michelle Alexander;
Ryan
Shirley Beasley
Mark Beasley
Paul and Connie Bugos;
Tadd
Harry and Edith Vawter
May C. Vawter

INDIANA

Bonita Welch

MISSISSIPPI

Hugh Anderson
Robert and
Bethany Armstrong
John and Linda Bowlin;
Joseph

Rick and Carolyn Bullard
Lee Buskirk
Judith Crawford
Deloris B. Finch
Phyllis Harper
Verda M. Harper
Julia Brown Harrison
Mildred Hill
Martha Hudson
Richard and Margie Hudson
Jackie, Tommy;
Ryan Shipley
J. B. Johnson
Carl Long
Jack Marshall
Elizabeth Pike Mathis
Helen Nixon
Christine Pike
Julian Carey Pike
Mary Wicker Reese
Shelby and Trudy Reid
Ralph and Betty Sanford
Pete and Brenda Scott
Alma Sharp
Eloise Southward
David Sparks
Gene Spencer
Christopher and
Melissa Tatum;
Dylan
Gregory Tatum II
Karen Tatum
Jeff and Kathy Terry;
Drake
Bonnie Vaughters
Keith and Wanda Vaughters
Keith Jr., Tyler;
Jonathan Cummins
Lowell and
Allyson Vaughters;
Megan, Sims Meredith
Mark Vaughters;
Taylor
Norma Vaughters
Ellen Wiley White;
David, Ben, John
Fred and Wordna Wicker
Ken and Norma Wicker

MISSISSIPPI (CON'T)

Roger and Gayle Wicker;
Margaret, Caroline,
McDaniel
Tom Wicker
Bill and Allene Wiley
Bob and Debbie Wiley;
Preston, Katherine,
Matt
Pearl Wiley
Lori Witt
Mary Sue McDougal Wright

MISSOURI

Bruce and Linda Vawter;
Jason Benson

NORTH CAROLINA

Addie Wiley Edwards

OKLAHOMA

Duncan and Sally Brown
Bill and Virginia Vawter

PENNSYLVANIA

Calvin and Glee Krapf

TENNESSEE

Barbara Vawter DeFur;
Emily, Jake
Betty Corbitt Callis
James S. Corbitt
Paul and Lynn Weekly
Pete and Norma Vawter
Robert L. and
Janet Vawter;
Wendy, Katelyn, Andy
Tina Williamson

TEXAS

Joe and Beth Melton
Ernie and Bess Shoemaker
Louise Vanover
Bill and Erma Vawter
Della Vawter
John and Sue Vawter
Melinda Vawter
Oscar and Erma Vawter

VIRGINIA

Ellen Wicker Cummings;
Rebecca, Frederick
John Keast

WISCONSIN

Sarah Aue
Everett and Maxine Joling
Matt Keast

ABOUT DUES

Membership in the VVV Family Association is \$7.00 per year. Dues paid at the reunion is for the coming year. If you did not pay at that time, please remember to send your dues in January. A renewal form is usually enclosed if you owe dues.

Name or address corrections should be sent to the news editor, and dues should be sent to the treasurer. Addresses can be found at the beginning of this newsletter.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

The list of things you can send to be considered for use in the newsletter is almost endless. Some suggestions:

Obituaries (current and past)
Engagement and/or marriage announcements
Birth announcements
Family news - graduations, awards, retirements, etc.
Family reunion news
Gleanings from publications
Family charts and group sheet's
Research updates
Family traditions
Queries

Thanks for contributing!

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