

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT: Lowell Vaughters, 4569 Meadow Lake Drive , Tupelo, MS 38801
(601) 842-3081

VICE-PRESIDENT: Beth Melton, 1211 Casa Vale, Dallas, TX 75218(214) 328-9853

SECRETARY: Melinda Vawter, 817 Evelyn Street, Nacogdoches, TX 75961(409) 569-1640

TREASURER: Charles Burt, 743 Goodson Road, Dawsonville, GA 30534 (706)216-6103

ASST.TREASURER: Cheryl Glasgow, 3715 Fir Dr, Buford, GA 30518 (770) 271-9823

HISTORIAN/ARCHIVIST: Ralphe Vawter, 3996 Bay Pointe Dr. Gulf Breeze FL 32562
(904) 932-1651

NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Bonita Welch, 4145N 900W, Scipio, IN 47273 (812) 392-2149
e-mail: xfgs62a@prodigy.com

ASSOCIATE EDITOR: Sally Brown, 2374 E 73rd Place, Tulsa, OK 74136(918) 496-1538

Dues - \$7.00 per year

1996 VVV REUNION

1-4 AUGUST

WISCONSIN RAPIDS, WISCONSIN

Headquarters for the nineteenth annual reunion of the VVV Association is The Mead Inn, located in Wisconsin Rapids, Wisc. Evert and Maxine Joling, along with many of their family members, have been planning this year's event.

Festivities begin Thursday afternoon, August 1, in the reception room. Coffee and snacks, provided by several Wisconsin Vawter families, will be served. This is to continue through the registration time Thursday evening. Also on Thursday, from 4:00-7:00 p.m., the children and teenagers will have the opportunity to go to a roller skating and pizza party.

Reservations can be made by calling 1-800-THE-MEAD (1-800-843-6323.) Tower rooms sleep four people and are \$63.00; west wing rooms sleep one, two or three people and are \$45.00. Reservations must be made by July 1; any necessary cancellations can be made until August 1.

The Mead Inn is at 451 E Grand Avenue, just a few miles west of Highway 51, Wisconsin's north-south thoroughfare. Features of the inn include: video game room, whirlpool, sauna, laundry service, indoor pool, and two lounges. Breakfast, lunch and dinner are available seven days a week.

More details will be given in the June newsletter. For more information before then, call Maxine at 1-715-569-4134. This is the first time for a VVV reunion in Wisconsin, and we hope everyone will make an effort to attend. Be sure to mention the reunion when making your reservation.

The following paper was prepared in 1994 by VVV news editor, Bonita Welch, for two tours given of the Vawter-Summerfield Cemetery in Jennings County, Indiana. Many VVV members will remember visiting this cemetery as part of the 1982 reunion and again in 1987.

THE FARM OF WILLIAM AND FRANCES VAWTER

The Vawter-Summerfield Cemetery, in Jennings County, Indiana, is located in Selmier State Forest on land once owned by William and Frances Vawter, pioneer settlers of the county.

William and Frances' home was about 1/8 mile from the cemetery on a bank overlooking the Muscatatuck River. Two springs near the house furnished water for domestic purposes. The house had five rooms, and was a combination of brick, log and frame. There were two rooms of brick, two of frame and one of log; the last being the most important room of the house. It was a very large room and during the greater part of the year it answered for a kitchen, dining room, and bedroom. In one end was a large stone chimney, and the fireplace would take in logs four feet or more in length. There was a large hearth composed of flat stones, and at this fire all the family cooking was done.

In later years Frances Vawter was deaf, and would sit and read or knit for hours. William Vawter usually devoted most of his evenings to reading the Bible or other books on religious subjects. Once a week the family received The Vernon Banner.

The farm was not very productive, but there always seemed to be enough to support the family. There was usually a field of wheat, one of corn, a patch of buckwheat, a small patch of flax, and perhaps some oats. The garden produced vegetables of various kinds, there was meadowland from which hay was obtained, and there was a large apple orchard.

Stock on the farm consisted of several cows and other cattle, some horses, hogs and sheep. William had his saddle horse, Farmer. The name of Frances' mare is given as either Bonny or Fanny in various sources. A yoke of oxen and a cart and wagon were used for hauling, and the oxen were also used to do the heavy plowing.

There was quite a large barn on the farm along with cribs, stables and sheds. All the grain raised was stored in the barn and cribs, and the animals were kept under shelter during the winter. In the barn was a threshing floor upon which the wheat was threshed. Some of the neighbors who did not have threshing floors would haul their wheat to William's barn.

Very little, if any, wheat was sold. If more than enough for family use was raised in one year, it was usually kept over for when there might be a shortage. His wheat bin was never entirely empty. Corn that was raised was shucked and put into cribs. A white corn was raised to grind into meal and to use for hominy. All the meal and flour used was ground at mills located about three or four miles from the farm.

Almost everything required by the family was raised or produced on the farm. Some vegetables and fruits were stored in the cellar, but the principal portion was "holed up". Piles of potatoes, cabbages, turnips and apples would be made in the garden. Over these piles would be thrown about eight or ten inches of dirt and straw or hay that would be sufficient to keep the contents of the pile from freezing. When necessary to remove anything from the pile, a hole was made at the lower edge and then stuffed with straw after the needed items were removed.

William usually fattened several hogs, and they were slaughtered in the fall or early winter. The hams and shoulders were smoked with hickory wood in the smoke house, the sides were made into pickled pork or salted, sausage was made of the lean portions, and the fat was made into lard. The pork that had been put up and chickens proved the bulk of their meat. Occasionally, someone in the neighborhood would kill a small beef that would be divided among the neighbors for immediate use.

The apple orchard produced an abundance of fruit, and a considerable amount was gathered and stored. The apples were made into cider and apple butter, or were pared and dried. Another article of food prepared for winter use was dried pumpkins. Large pumpkins would be peeled, cut into strips, and tied into bunches and hung from the ceiling where heat could cure and dry them. By soaking the dried strips in water, they could be used for making pies.

Much of the clothing for the family was made at home. The sheep furnished wool, and when they were sheared in the spring, the wool was washed, picked and carded, and then taken to the woolen mill. When returned to the farm, it was dyed and woven into cloth by Frances. Flax was raised to be used for making tablecloths, towels and bed linens.

The settlers had social gatherings where they met to fellowship, but most of their gatherings were for the purpose of getting useful work done. They had wood choppings, quiltings, barn or house raisings, wool pickings, hog slaughters and apple cuttings. These gatherings were also a time to exchange news.

William and Frances Vawter are buried in the Vawter-Summerfield Cemetery, as are many of their descendants. One of the earliest graves is that of Jesse Vawter Burns, a grandson who died in 1831. Also buried there are Philemon and Anna Vawter, parents of Frances. (William and Frances were first cousins, she being the daughter of Philemon Vawter, a son of David Vawter; and William being the son of Jesse Vawter, also a son of David.) Philemon died in 1814 and was first buried near Madison, Indiana. His body was re-interred in the Vawter-Summerfield Cemetery following the death of his wife in 1845.

William and Frances Vawter, along with their daughter and son-in-law, John and Elizabeth Vawter Stott, were constituent members of Zoar Baptist Church, now known as First Baptist Church of North Vernon, Indiana. William was the first pastor, serving from the organization in 1835 until resigning in 1863 because of poor health.

THE VERNON BANNER

Vernon, Indiana
Wednesday, 29 July 1868

Elder William Vawter, the second son of Elder Jesse and Elizabeth Vawter, was born April 2nd, 1783, near Holston river, then North Carolina, now East Tennessee. When two years old he was taken by an uncle to Eastern Virginia, where he remained five years with his Grandmother Watts, and in the fall of 1790 removed with his father to Scott Co., Kentucky.

In the 18th year of his age he made a public profession of his faith in a crucified and risen Savior and in obedience to that faith was baptized by Elder Wm. Hickman, in the north fork of Elkhorn river and united with the McConnel's Run Baptist Church, in Scott County, and subsequent to this united with the North Fork Church, near Frankfort where he remained a member until he removed from the state.

In the spring of 1806, in company with his father, he emigrated to the wilds of Indiana Territory, where they selected as their future home a site on a bold and commanding bluff overlooking what is now the city of Madison, and having a fine view of the Ohio River and the picturesque scenery beyond. To the lovely location the father-Elder Jesse Vawter - gave the euphonious name of Mount Glad.

In 1807, at the residence of Elder Jesse Vawter, the Crooked Creek, afterward called Mount Pleasant Church, was constituted, in the organization of which the deceased took a lively interest and ever after, during a membership of over twenty years, he was regarded as one of the pillars of the pioneer Baptist church in Indiana.

On the first of January 1809 he was united in marriage to Frances Vawter, daughter of Philemon and Anna Vawter.

Though firm in his notions of men and public policy, he never engaged actively in politics and was no office seeker. In Jefferson County, Indiana, on some few occasions he accepted office in the civil department, and during the Indian troubles of 1811 and 1812, he filled the position of Captain in the militia, but on the return of peace he resigned the office.

In the year 1829 he removed from Jefferson to Jennings County, Indiana, and settled on a farm some four miles north of Vernon. He united with the Baptist church in Vernon, where he retained his membership until the year 1835, when he and others constituted the Zoar Church near his residence and of which he was a member at the time of his death.

Not long after the organization of the church at Zoar, the deceased was ordained and set apart by fasting, prayer and the imposition of hands, to administer in the ordinances of the gospel. From this period until age and declining health prevented, he devoted all the time he could spare from domestic affairs and farm duties in preaching the word, in the conversion of souls, and building up the churches.

During his entire ministerial life he adhered to the

practice of the early Baptist preachers of this state in receiving no money by way of compensation for his labors. The reward he sought was souls for his hire, and that the Lord blessed his efforts in many instances we are well assured. His house was truly the abode of hospitality and its doors ever open to the entertainment of strangers, friends, and brethren. Although he was a man naturally of retiring habits and manners, and not favored by theological education or the gifts of academic oratory, yet on the subject of the Christian religion he was ever ready, with meekness, to give a reason for the hope that was in him, and we have heard him in the plain language of the Bible make some as feeling appeals in the behalf of the Christian cause as we ever heard drop from the lips of the most gifted.

In a word, we can say from our knowledge of him he seemed to be constitutionally religious, and his whole life one continuous sermon, teaching all who come within the atmosphere of his influence, "cease to do evil and learn to do well."

He was the father of ten children, the eldest of whom, Mrs. Mariah Burns, fell asleep in Jesus many years ago. To mourn their irreparable loss he leaves behind him the wife of his youth, now about 81 years of age, and six sons and three daughters, most of whom are professors of the Christian religion.

After an illness of some four weeks he calmly fell asleep on Friday morning, July 17, 1868, aged 85 years, 3 months, and 15 days. A funeral sermon was preached on Saturday following his death to a large congregation of friends and relatives, by Elder Thomas Hill.

THE VERNON BANNER
Vernon, Indiana
Thursday, October 28, 1869

Died - On the 25 inst., Mrs. Frances Vawter, generally known as "Aunt Franky," at the residence of her daughter, Mrs. Frances King - age 82 years. Funeral services were conducted by the Rev. Thomas Hill, on Tuesday the 26th inst.

CHILDREN OF WILLIAM AND FRANCES VAWTER

1. Maria Vawter m. Maxa Moncrief Burns
2. Elizabeth Vawter m. John Stott
3. John Taylor Vawter m. 1) Pamela Dwyer, 2) Nancy Poston Philliber
4. Williamson Dunn Vawter m. 1) Mary Tilghman Crowder, 2) Charlotte Knowlton
5. Jesse R. Vawter m. Sarah Parks
6. James Vawter m. Minerva Bromley
7. Frances Vawter m. George King
8. Achilles J. Vawter m. 1) Maria Dunham, 2) Elizabeth Baker, 3) Charlotte Hobart
9. Mary Litchfield Vawter m. Ormand Feagler
10. Philemon C. Vawter m. Sylvia Hunter

PERSONAL RECOLLECTIONS OF HARRISON BURNS

Much of the information, for the paper, The Farm of William and Frances Vawter, came from Personal Recollections of Harrison Burns, as written in 1907, published in 1975 by the Indiana Historical Society. Harrison Burns was the grandson of William and Frances Vawter, and in 1907 he recorded recollections of his childhood and youth in Jefferson and Jennings counties, Indiana, and of his travels and employments. The material was made available to the Indiana Historical Society for publication by Harrison's grandson, David V. Burns.

The Bridge
A Newsletter of the Indiana Historical Society
March - April 1996
Remembering...David V. Burns

"Retired Indianapolis architect David V. Burns, who served on the Society's board of trustees from 1965 to 1990, died on Christmas Day 1995 at age eighty-four. A member of the Naval Reserves during World War II, Burns worked as an architect with Burns and James Architects of Indianapolis from 1933 to 1949. He then started Burns and Burns Architects in partnership with his father, Lee Burns. In 1961 the firm merged with A.E. Bohlen and Sons, creating the firm of Bohlen and Burns Architects and Engineers, where Burns remained until his retirement in 1969.

"In his long and distinguished career Burns designed, or contributed to the design of, such buildings as the English Foundation Building, Indiana State Fairgrounds, First Friends Church, Education Building of North Methodist Church, Hancock Memorial Hospital, Robertson Hall at Butler University, Riverview Hospital, Marion County Jail, and WTBC radio station.

"An IHS member since 1958 and a life member since 1966, Burns was president of the Society's board of trustees from 1974 to 1983. During his time on the board, he served on the Executive Planning and Development, and Preservation of Architectural Records Committees. Also, as chairman of the building expansion commission, Burns played a key role in the four-story addition to the Indiana State Library and Historical Building in 1976 that gave the Society its first headquarters facility.

"Along with his service with the Society, Burns was past president and board chairman of the Rotary Club and past vice president of the Society of Indiana Pioneers. He was a member of the American Institute of Architects, the Art Association of Indianapolis, Conner Prairie, and the Woodstock Club.

"Memorial contributions may be made to the IHS, Shepherd Center at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, or St. Vincent Hospice."

April 1996 - Page 7

From:

G. Robert Farmer, 6 Club Grounds South, Florissant, MO 63033

Robert is seeking information on Drucilla Vawter, b. 15 July 1778, Cumberland County, Virginia, d. 4 Nov 1856, Weakley County, Tennessee. Drucilla was married to Thomas Martin, b. 10 May 1776, Buckingham County, Virginia, d. 24 Nov 1854, Weakley County, Tennessee. He is descended from Thomas and Drucilla Vawter Martin through their daughter, Elizabeth Martin, who married John Flavil Farmer.

From: Georgene Jurgensen, 910 Palmer Lane, Palm Harbor, FL 34685

"Looking to correspond with descendants of George Taylor Vawter. George d. 2 Apr 1894 in Tipton County, Indiana. Wife Caritas Charlotte Vogler d. 16 Aug 1893 in Tipton County, Indiana. Children: George W. Vawter m. Mary E. Simpson, John M. Vawter m. Emily F. Sallee, Samuel M. Vawter m. Sarah E. McShane, Rosalie A. Vawter and Emma S. Vawter. Working on updating Vogler book pub. 1994."

"In Grace Bicknell's book it states the arrival of the 3 brothers Vawter in about 1685. Found in the Virginia Colonial Abstracts, Vo. 20 M-Z p. 90. Northumbria Collection 1645-1720

Vawter, Jno Servant to Mr. Tho Opie. To be punished for killing a hog belonging to Mr. Nicho Owen. October 1676, 4.6. My question to the VVV Association. Is this accurate and what other information does anyone have for the earlier date of arrival? Did John Vawter arrive as an indentured servant? Did he come first and the other brothers follow? What research has been done in this area?"

From: Mrs. Royce Vawters, P.O. Box 347, Kosse, TX 76653

Royce would like to learn about Samuel Acy Vawters. Samuel was the father of Royce's late husband, Julius Vawters. Julius knew little about his father except that he left Mississippi when about 13 years old and never went back.

CONGRATULATIONS

Kylie Brienne Eschliman was born 29 July 1994 to Robert Dale and Stacey Lynette Martin Eschliman of Boone, Iowa. Proud great-grandmother is long time VVV Association member Doris Wray Eschliman, also of Boone.

SEND YOUR NEWS TO SHARE WITH OTHER VVV MEMBERS

VIRGINIA TECH MAGAZINE
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

Volume 18, Number 1, Fall 1995

Vawter Hall dormitory was actually named for Charles Vawter Sr., rector of the board of visitors from 1887-1899, but his son Charles Vawter Jr., a faculty electrical engineer, also had an impact on the school.

Vawter Sr. led the push to make V.A.M.C. a true technical school. He personally recruited President John McBryde from the University of South Carolina and used his influence to get Edison Company to install a power plant on campus. Some even say it was Vawter's idea to add the words "polytechnic institute" to the school's name. But it was Vawter's son who erected a campus wireless station in 1916, making it possible to receive official weather reports, amateur communication, and precise time signals.

The younger Vawter electrified campus again several years later by shooting a notorious playboy he found emerging from his wife's boudoir. According to Ellison Smyth Jr., Vawter had warned the fellow to keep away from his wife and did not ask questions before he pulled the trigger. He was acquitted for his "act of passion" and left Virginia for a power company job shortly thereafter. Vawter Hall was completed in 1962.

IN REMEMBRANCE

Ron Vawter, 45, of New York City, died 16 April 1994 on a plane flying from Zurich to New York. He was born 9 December 1948 in Glens Falls, New York, and grew up in Latham, New York, near Albany. He enlisted in the Army and trained to become a Special Forces officer. Hoping to be a chaplain for the Green Berets, he was put in reserve status while he studied theology at Siena College, a private liberal arts college with Franciscan ties. He earned a B.A. in literature from Siena College and a master's degree from New York University. On leaving Siena College, he became an Army recruiting officer in downtown Manhattan. It was there that he was inspired to become an actor after watching rehearsals at the Performing Garage.

Ron's career in film, theater, video and film spanned more than twenty years. His film credits include "Internal Affairs," "Sex, Lies and Videotape," "The Silence of the Lambs," and "Philadelphia." He won praise from critics for his acting in "Roy Cohn/Jack Smith," his 1992 one-man show off Broadway, and for other roles.

He is survived by his mother, Matilda Butonni Vawter, of Latham; two sisters, Celeste Vawter Fonda, of Albany, and Shelley Vawter Booth, of Kitty Hawk, North Carolina; brothers-in-law, Vernon Fonda and John Booth; niece, Ericka Lee Fonda; and nephew, Vernon Vawter Fonda.

A memorial service was held 20 June 1994 at Webster Hall in New York City.

This document was created with Win2PDF available at <http://www.daneprairie.com>.
The unregistered version of Win2PDF is for evaluation or non-commercial use only.