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Dues - \$7.00 per year

1-4 August 1996

NINETEENTH ANNUAL REUNION
WISCONSIN RAPIDS, WISCONSIN

Evert and Maxine Joling, along with several members of their family have been working hard the past year making plans for the 1996 VVV Reunion. They promise a fun filled time with "something for everyone."

Headquarters is The Mead Inn, 451 E Grand Ave., in Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin. This is located just a few miles west of I-39 (formerly U.S. Hwy 51.) Reservations can be made by calling 1-800-843-6323 or 1-715-423-1500. Tower rooms sleep four people and are \$63.00 plus tax; west wing rooms sleep one, two or three people and are \$45.00 plus tax. Additional rooms have been reserved at the Econolodge, 3300 Eighth Street South, and are \$39.95 plus tax for one person and \$49.95 plus tax for two people, with there being no charge for children under the age of 18. The Econolodge phone number is 1-800-553-2666. Be sure to mention that you are attending the VVV Reunion to get these special rates. Reservations at The Mead Inn must be made by July 1. Any necessary cancellations are accepted until August 1.

Those who will be flying into Central Wisconsin Regional Airport in Mosinee can call Peter Joling at 1-715-421-0772 for transportation to and from the reunion location. This will be provided at no charge. Shuttle service is available at the airport, but may be costly.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Thursday, August 1: Early registration begins at 2:00 p.m. From 4:00-7:30 p.m. there is a roller skating and pizza party for the children and teens, at a cost of \$5.00 per person skating. A snack table will be set up in the late afternoon, and everyone is encouraged to visit and share family news. Those who have videos of previous reunions should bring them for viewing.

Friday, August 2: Breakfast and lunch are "on your own." The opening session will be held in the morning, and optional tours are available shortly after lunch. At 3:30 p.m. there is a car caravan visit to a dairy farm, followed by a 6:00 p.m. cookout on the Grotto grounds. Cost of the cookout is about \$6.00 for adults and \$3.00 for children.

Saturday, August 3: Breakfast and lunch are "on your own." Morning tour options are to a cheese factory, Consolidated Paper Mill, or to learn about cranberry culture. The afternoon can be spent attending a genealogy session, visiting and sharing with cousins or simply resting. The traditional Saturday banquet and program begins at 5:30 p.m. at Cranberries Restaurant. Cost of the banquet is \$12.75 for adults and \$7.65 for children under the age of ten.

Sunday, August 4: An outdoor worship service, led by the Rev. Wayne Vawter, begins at 9:30 a.m. Following this is a car caravan to St. Phillips Church for an old-fashioned church chicken dinner, costing about \$6.00.

As stated earlier, there is indeed "something for everyone!" Anyone needing more information can call Evert and Maxine at 1-715-569-4134.

DOOR PRIZES

As always, VVV members are asked to bring door prizes to be given away on Friday and Saturday nights. This can be something handmade or something traditional to your area. The variety is usually endless, and the talents displayed are many.

REGISTRATION AND DUES

The registration fee paid by adults attending the reunion helps with miscellaneous costs such as printing, name tags, copier rental, paper supplies, etc. This fee is separate from the membership/newsletter subscription of \$7.00 per household. The \$7.00 covers only the printing and mailing of the newsletter to members, and the complimentary newsletters sent to several libraries and societies across the United States. We also have a few extra printed each time to send to prospective members. It is not necessary to become a member and receive the newsletter to attend the reunion, but we do ask that each adult attendee pay the registration fee.

Is a renewal form enclosed with your newsletter? If so, you need to pay dues in order to continue receiving the newsletter.

JEPHTHA VAWTER

Kansas and Kansans, Vol. IV, page 1704

"In the task of giving credit to the men who made Kansas, it would be difficult to single out one who was more deserving of a place among those makers and builders than the late Jephtha D. Vawter of Shawnee County. He had much to do with the early history of that county, and what he accomplished, the ideals he lived from, and the influences that emanated from his life, are still vital and quickening.

"His was a long as well as a useful life. He was born in Todd County, Kentucky, July 10, 1809. By character and early training he was moulded after the manner of the pioneers, being courageous, industrious and optimistic.

"About 1847 he moved to Tazewell County, Illinois, and from there in the spring of 1868 came to Kansas, establishing a home on the southwest quarter of section 33, which is in the southwest corner of Williamsport Township of Shawnee County. It was in that immediate locality that the rest of his years were spent. Mr. Vawter became an extensive dealer in cattle, and in that capacity his name was not known alone in Shawnee County, but in other counties and in other states. He prospered as a result of good judgment and foresight, and at one time owned many hundreds of acres of Kansas' best land.

"He was twice married. His first wife, Sarah M. Foster, bore him thirteen children, and the ten who reached maturity are: John W.; Benjamin F.; Henry C.; Lucinda C., who married Walter Hinman; Louisa E., who married Jesses McColm; Martha C., who married John Simpson; James E.; Harriet E., who married Lewis Mead; Sabrina C., who married Mahlon F. Stout; and William J. The mother of these children died December 18, 1883. For his second wife Mr. Vawter married Louisa K. Miller, by whom he became the father of one son named Clarence D.

"For years Jephtha D. Vawter was a prominent and forceful character of his community. While he toiled and prospered he was not forgetful of the duties he owed to his home, the locality in which he lived, his state or his country. He lived to see his children established in homes of their own, happy and respected, and this fact afforded him much contentment when the evening shadows of his life were merging into the darkness of eternal earthly sleep. He was a devout Christian, and politically his actions were in accord with the Republican party. At the time of his death on October 13, 1894, Jephtha D. Vawter had rounded out a career of a little more than eighty-five years."

Jephtha D. Vawter was the son of Elliott and Anna Gray Vawter, and the grandson of Philemon and Anna Vawter. A more detailed list of his children can be found beginning on page 281 of *The Vawter Family in America* by Grace Bicknell. There are, no doubt, many descendants of Jephtha living in Kansas today. We recently were contacted by Clinton L. Vawter of Leavenworth, Kansas, a grandson of Jephtha's youngest son, Clarence D.

JAMES VAUGHTER
by Charles Burt

James Vaughter, b. 8 Mar 1794, d. 2 May 1836, married Jane ___?___ b. 9 Mar 1794, d. 12 Jan 1884. Their children are: William J., , b. 24 Sep 1812, d. 2 Sep 1866; Hiram S., b. Nov 1814, d. 16 Jul 1853; Lucinda, b. 13 May 1816, d. 13 May 1849, married 13 Jan 1829 to Matthew Allen, b. 1807, d. 11 Oct 1862. After Lucinda died the Allen family moved to Arkansas. Matthew had a son on each side during the Civil War. For more information on this marriage see Tracks of the Allen Family by Billie Allen Jines. Elizabeth b. 21 Feb 1818 married on 28 Dec 1846 to Robert Stone,; Linsey, b. 28 Jun 1821, d. 1 Oct 1866, married on 14 May 1857 to Kesiah Marinda Hicks, b. 24 Oct 1835, d. 20 Jul 1926; Vincy, b. 13 Aug 1823; Delila, b. 26 Feb 1825, married William Anderson; Lydia, b. 27 Apr 1827, married Thomas Nix; Jane b. 27 Apr 1829, d. 25 Jul 1912, married Robert Bennett; Eliza A., b. 13 Apr 1831, married on 7 Feb 1857 to Elijah Blackburn.

The children of Linsey Vaughters are: Eliza Catherine, b. 18 Feb 1858, d. 27 Mar 1940, married on 27 Sep 1882 to Greenberry Hall, b. 5 May 1854, d. 18 May 1930; Mary Elizabeth, b. 14 Mar 1859, married on 6 Nov 1874 to James Jackson Carlisle; George Robeson, b. 29 May 1860, d. 30 Mar 1936, married first on 1 Sep 1880 to Epsey Bennett, b. 7 Aug 1861, d. 12 Jul 1918, married second to Minnie Mae McClure, b. 29 Jun 1896, d. 15 Jun 1952; Martha Jane, b. 25 Jul 1861, d. 1 Apr 1961, married Virgil Parks, b. 10 Mar 1860, d. 19 Feb 1931; Winna Juliann, b. 12 Jan 1863, d. 1 Sep 1951, married on 16 Sep 1880 to Henry Alfred Waters, b. 14 Jan 1863, d. 10 Dec 1924. The Waters family moved to Texas about 1887. One of Henry Waters' grandsons said, "Grandpa should have had a gravy well; he had a big bowl of gravy every meal." Henry b. 13 May 1864, married on 27 Jan 1884 to Annie Cain; Hiram Bennett Singleton, b. 20 Apr 1866; Lucas F. "Luke", married on 23 Apr 1899 to Maude Dougherty.

The children of George Robeson and Epsey Vaughters are: William Oscar, b. 6 Jul 1881, d. 13 Mar 1964, married on 3 Sep 1905 to Maggie Dora Brice, b. 6 Jul 1872, d. 23 Jan 1946; Linzey, b. 12 Oct 1883, d. 12 Jan 1960, married on 7 Feb 1911 to Tommie Anderson, b. 20 Sep 1887, d. 21 Dec 1965; Homer Charly, b. 4 Apr 1885, d. 11 Dec 1944, married Mar 1913 to Emmer Jane Wehunt, b. 17 Apr 1888, d. 4 Jun 1969; Anis Docia, b. 1 Nov 1887, d. 30 Jul 1922, married Andrew White; Solomon Hiram Andrew Jackson, b. 28 Jun 1891, d. 30 Nov 1956, married on 16 Sep 1914 to Coie M. Burt, b. 6 May 1895; Eva Mae, b. 25 Sep 1892, d. 31 Dec 1918, married on 16 Nov 1913 to Alonzo Burt. Coie and Alonzo Burt are brother and sister. Pearlina Jane, b. 25 Nov 1894, d. 18 Sep 1895; Lelia, b. 28 Dec 1895, d. 1978, married on 22 Sep 1912 to Robert Chambers; Coa, b. 2 Mar 1898, d. 18 Sep 1900; two infants and another daughter, Orea.

The children of George Robeson and Minnie Mae Vaughters are: Iva Sarah, b. 15 Jul 1922, married (1) Charlie Gentry, (2) Broughton Bannister; George Wesley, b. 14 Apr 1924, married on 5 Sep 1943 to Beatrice Louise Harben, b. 18 Apr 1925; Lloyd Flem, b. 27 Apr 1926, married on 11 Jul 1947 to Louise Disharoon, b. 28 Feb 1928. George Robeson Vaughters had a total of fifteen children.

(James Vaughter con't)

The Vaughters name has been spelled several different ways. The line I follow is Vawter, Vaughter, then Vaughters. The Vaughter family was in Franklin County, Georgia, at the time of the Cherokee Land Lottery. Richard, who is the oldest child of James and Jane Vaughter, drew lot number 902, located in what is now Dawson County. Richard claimed this lot and the family moved to a section of Lumpkin County, now Dawson County. James got power of attorney for Richard, and sold lot number 902 to William Burt. James then purchased lot numbers 1065 and 1066; Vaughters descendants currently own these lots. According to the will of Jane, Richard was not of sound mind.

Jane Vaughters signed her Last Will and Testament with an "X" on 5 May 1857. She appointed her son, Linzy, as executor, stating he would have to care for her and his brother, Richard. Jane outlived both Linzy and Richard, and her grandson, George, executed the will. **(see Oct 1996 NL p 5 for name corrections)**

Linzy Vaughters did not serve in the Civil War. It has been told that he dressed as a woman and plowed his crops. He concealed his identity in order to keep the Home Guard from attacking him. I do not know the following to be true, but I have been told that Linzy was hanged by the Home Guard.

George Robeson Vaughters was "Liberated to speak in public May 16, 1896." From that day forward he was known as Rev. George and served many churches in the area. A couple of stories that I have heard: Rev. George was pastor of a church in Auraria where the men in the area had run the past pastors off by being so mean. It was told that these roughnecks rolled liquor bottles down the aisle during services. He did not allow them to run him off. On one occasion when he resigned First Baptist, a member told him that if he would stay another year there would be more money. Rev. George said it was time to go. Another time he had resigned a church and was riding his horse home thinking, "I am free as a bird; no church to worry about." Upon arriving home he found the yard full of wagons and people wanting him to come to Nimberwill as pastor; he accepted.

To celebrate Rev. George's seventy-fourth birthday, a dinner was held. According to a newspaper article, "Some 200 people were present to enjoy this elaborate dinner with this grand old man. The table was in a pretty grove near his home and was 100 feet long, with good things to eat on it. The large birthday cake with its 74 candles was a beauty. A string band from Atlanta furnished music for the occasion. Brother Vaughters in expressing thanks for the birthday dinner said, 'Sometimes the road has been hard, but God has been with me.' He also said that he had the pleasure of taking care of his grandmother and his mother in their latter days, which had been a great pleasure to him."

[This was written by Charles Burt, VVV Association Treasurer, for a Dawson County, Georgia, Heritage Book.]

QUERIES

From:

Paula (Pat) Myers, 234 Nelson Drive, LaVergne, TN 37086
Phone: 615-793-2022 or 615-793-6100, call collect.

Paula is trying to locate Peggy King Vaughter (or Vawter), who was the foster child of John and Anna King. She attended Bellevue High School in Bellevue, Tennessee. Peggy was married approximately 40 years ago to a Vaughter or Vawter, and has at least two children, a son named Don Wallace and a daughter. Peggy would know Paula and her family as Pat, Bobbie and Cookie Austin. The Kings were Paula's grandparents, and she would very much like to make contact with Peggy.

From: Angela Houston, 5148 Cherry Creek S, Columbus, OH 43228
Phone: 614-870-8160, call collect

Angela is seeking information on Mattie Ruth Vawter who was born ca. 1917 in Arkansas. She married Jake Johnny Atkinson, possibly in Arkansas, and was living in California in 1943. Angela would like to contact Mattie or her descendants.

HOG STEALING ARTICLE WANTED

Esther Anderson would like to have a copy of the article about the Vawter who was accused of stealing a hog. Anyone who has this article can send it to Esther at 625 NW Polaris Street, Pullman, WA 99163.

[Ed. note: Please send a copy to the news editor, too.]

IN SYMPATHY

Sympathy is extended to Betty Burt, wife of VVV treasurer Charles Burt, in the death of her mother, Jewell W. Ellenburg on 18 April 1996 in Cumming, Georgia. Other survivors are a son Charles Ellenburg, a brother, Hoyt Whitfield, five grandchildren, Pam Burt, Ellen McDaris, Cheryl Glasgow, Chuck Burt and Sammy Ellenburg; four great-grandchildren, John McDaris, Jared McDaris, Tim Glasgow and Kristy Glasgow.

CONGRATULATIONS

Lori Marie Bruce has been named valedictorian of the senior class at Dawson County, Georgia, High School. She had a 4.0 average and was also this year's Star Student, having the highest SAT score among her class. Lori is the daughter of Jimmy and Wanda Bruce and the granddaughter of Lelia Vaughters Bruce.

GERALD ELWOOD DART
December 17, 1916 - April 29, 1996

[This obituary of Gerald Elwood Dart was submitted by his sister, Helen Dart Johnson. It was read at his funeral service.]

"Gerald, better known to the members of our congregation as "Jerry" or "Dr. Dart", was born in Medcalf and grew up in Somerton, Arizona. Jerry was much more interested in intellectual pursuits than physical activities. He learned to play chess as a young boy and was an avid reader, traits which remained constant throughout his life.

Jerry was a thinker who enjoyed solving problems with his considerable intellectual skills. His ideas often seemed a bit radical to those who were locked into "conventional wisdom" but he could provide solid logical support because he thought things through before sounding off. With Jerry's passing there will be an easing of the volume of "letters to the editor" in the local newspapers.

Jerry met his wife Irene while they were both majoring in education at Arizona State University. After college, Jerry took a year of post graduate work at Berkeley while Irene taught in Arizona. After their marriage they both taught in Yuma, Arizona, until they moved to California in the early Forties. When World War II started, Jerry went to work at the Kaiser ship yard, building liberty ships.

Jerry didn't think this was the best contribution he could make to the war effort so he took a position with the Office of War Information in Hawaii. Irene worked in the accounting office and newspaper for the military while they were in Hawaii.

After the war they returned to California where Irene taught until they started their family and Jerry went into school administration. He worked for a Southern California school while he completed his Ph. D. in education at USC. This did create a conflict of loyalties when USC and Arizona State played each other, but his loyalty to Arizona State won out. Jerry loved to make the trip to homecoming at ASU every year.

In 1969, Jerry accepted a position as business manager with the Yucaipa- Calimesa School District. The Darts became very active in community life as well as the United Methodist Church of Yucaipa. Jerry taught the Good News adult Sunday school class, served on many boards and Commissions, visited the sick and aged and was one of our first Stephen Ministers commissioned at our church. He was also a leader in our intercessory prayer group and a great blessing to many in our church and community. "Well Done, Thou Good and Faithful Servant!"

The Dart's Vawter line is as follows: mother, Mina Vawter Dart of Nacogdoches, Texas; grandfather, Robert Newton Vawter; great-grandfather, Lorenzo Dow Vawter; great-great-grandfather, Richard Vawter of Tennessee. A biography of Lorenzo Dow Vawter can be found in the Winter 1992, Vol 17 No 2, VVV Newsletter.

IN REMEMBRANCE

Betty Vawter, 74, of Spokane, Washington, died Tuesday, 13 February 1996. She was born in Chico, California, and was a 70-year resident of Spokane. She had managed a clothing store, and was a member of Ladies Oriental Shrine, Sons of Norway, Eagles Lodge and Moose Lodge.

Survivors include a son, Marty Roper of Federal Way, Washington; a brother, James McGhee and a sister, Darlene Maggard both of Spokane; and three grandchildren.

* * * * *

Opal May Vawter Herndon, 80, of Kansas City, Missouri, died Saturday, 23 March 1996, in Lenexa, Kansas. Born 1 February 1916 in Hot Springs, Arkansas, she was the daughter of Roy and Viola Riley Vawter.

Opal was a member of First Southern Baptist Church, a life member of the Eastern Star, Benton chapter, and had lived in the Kansas City area since 1962. Prior to retirement she was the assistant administrator of the Baptist Retirement Towers for nineteen years.

Survivors include two sons and daughters-in-law, Gene and Gay Herndon of Overland Park, Kansas, and Doyle and Judy Herndon of North Little Rock; a daughter and son-in-law, Dorothy and Jim Jones of Broken Arrow, Oklahoma; a brother, Vernon Vawter of Hot Springs; seven grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband, Dr. Elson Herndon.

Opal was a longtime member of the VVV Association.

* * * * *

Paul Edward Vawter Sr., 88, of Hightstown, New Jersey, died 7 March 1996. He was born 6 March 1908 near Madison, Indiana, the son of Clarence Merrill and Edythe Barricklow Vawter. Paul was a graduate of DePauw University in Greencastle, Indiana, and had a long career as a manager with Illinois Bell. He moved to a retirement community in Hightstown following the death of his wife.

When Paul was only 18 and a sophomore at DePauw, he became responsible for the three younger children of the family after their parents were killed when a train struck their car. The Summer 1995 issue of *DePauw Magazine* featured a story of Paul's experiences of attending school while also caring for his siblings.

Survivors include a son, Jay Vawter of Princeton, New Jersey; a brother, John Vawter of Indianapolis, Indiana; two granddaughters, Jane Vawter of London, England, and Nancy Vawter Jackonis of Jacksonville, Florida; and two great-grandchildren, Kasey May Jackonis and Logan Jamieson Jackonis. He was preceded, in death by his wife, Betty Ferguson Vawter, brother, Harold Vawter. and sister, Mary K. Vawter.

Paul was a supporter and contributor to the VVV Association for many years. He had written a book, *Those Were the Days*, a recollection of experiences and events related to his family. We have had several of his stories in the newsletter.

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