

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT: Beth Melton, 1211 Casa Vale, Dallas, TX 75218(214) 328-9853
VICE-PRESIDENT: Phil Vaughter, 1103 Newport Avenue, Austin, TX 78753
(512)836-3105
SECRETARY: Melinda Vawter, 600 Wooddale Blvd #203, Baton Rouge, LA 70806
(504)928-9278
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

REUNION REPORT

On Thursday, 1 August 1996, VVV members from nationwide began gathering at The Mead Inn in Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin for the 19th annual reunion of the Association. Actually, some members arrived on Wednesday so they could have more time to visit and tour the area. Evert and Maxine Joling and their family had spent the past year making plans, and as promised, there was "something for everyone,"

Registration started on Thursday afternoon, and in the evening a buffet was served in the hospitality room. A highlight on the buffet was an anniversary cake to celebrate the 26th anniversary of Jerry and Judy Aue, son-in-law and daughter of the Jolings. During this time many of the children and teens had a roller skating and pizza party. Several members were interviewed by a reporter for the Wisconsin Rapids *Daily Tribune*, and a picture and article appeared in the Saturday edition of the newspaper.

Official opening of the reunion was on Friday morning with the ringing of the cow bell by Jordan Joling, son of Peter and Mary Joling. Invocation was by Rev. John Vawter of Nacogdoches, Texas, and the pledge to the flag was led by Abigail Vawter, daughter of Rev. Wayne and Carole Vawter. Vernon Verjinsky, mayor of Wisconsin Rapids, welcomed the Association to the city.

Friday afternoon, and again on Saturday, tours of a paper mill, cranberry marsh and cheese factory were made. Time was also available for attending a genealogy session

at the local library, "antiquing" or simply relaxing, Then, too, it is rumored that a few people slipped away for a visit to the nearby casino.

On Friday evening, a cookout was held at Rudolph Grotto Gardens and Wonder Cave. Following the cookout, a sing-a-long was led by Wayne and Carole Vawter. At the conclusion of the evening, Bruce and Linda Vawter and Shirley Beasley, with the help of many of the children, distributed some of the always popular door prizes.

The Saturday night banquet and memorial service was held at Cranberries Restaurant. Again this year, entertainment was by the VVV Family Singers, under the leadership of Ellen Cummings. The group continues to grow both in size and popularity; twenty-three singers participated. Soloists were Mark Beasley and Kristy Glasgow.

Ken Wicker reported for the audit committee and stated that the books are in excellent order. Other members of the Committee were Robert L. Vawter and John H. Vawter.

Election of officers was held with Fred Wicker, chairman of the nominating committee, recommending the following: Beth Melton as president, Phil Vaughter as vice-president, and all other officers to remain. All were elected by acclamation. Other members of the nominating committee were Shirley Beasley, Duncan Brown, Robert L. Vawter and Norma Wicker. A letter was read from the newly elected president, Beth Melton, who was unable to attend the reunion due to the death of her husband, Joe Melton.

The memorial service was conducted by Fred and Wordna Wicker, with the assistance of Jason Benson, grandson of Bruce and Linda Vawter, and Jesse Vawter, son of Mary and Robert L. Vawter II. The service began with a violin solo, "Amazing Grace," by Ila Vawter, accompanied by Carole Vawter. Family members stood and a carnation was placed in a vase by Jason and Jesse as each name was read and a brief obituary given. The service concluded with a slide presentation and song, "We Have This Moment," by Wayne and Carole Vawter.

Special recognition was given the following:

Oldest: Emery Mayer, age 85
Youngest: Jesse Vawter, age 7
Traveled farthest: Glen and Marjorie Vawter
Norwalk, California
Longest married: Glen and Marjorie Vawter, 64 yrs
Emery and Clarice Mayer, 63 yrs

The roll call of states found there to be 18 states represented at the banquet. To close the evening, the remaining of the door prizes were distributed. Bruce Vawter reported there were a record number 86 door prizes this year.

On Sunday morning, those who were able to stay a little longer attended a worship service led by the Rev. Wayne Vawter, and then enjoyed a chicken dinner at St. Phillip Church in Rudolph.

MEMORIAL SERVICE

These VVV members and friends were remembered:

1. Osa E. Vawter, Oklahoma City, OK, d. 28 June 1996
2. Melvin Kenneth Vawter, 73, Cooksville, IL, d. 9 October 1995
3. Aileen Baker Wiley, 86, Nettleton, MS, d. 20 February 1996
4. Helen A. Jones, 86, North Vernon, IN, d. 12 October 1995
5. Harry L. Vawter, 81, Farmington, IL, d. 26 November 1995
6. Julius Vawters, 80, Kosse, TX, d. 5 September 1994
7. Gerald E. Dart, 79, Yucaipa, CA, d. 29 April 1996
8. Betty Vawter, 74, Spokane, WA, d. 13 February 1996
9. Opal Vawter Herndon, 80, Kansas City, KS, d. 23 March 1996
10. Paul E. Vawter Sr., 88, Hightstown, NJ, d. 7 March 1996
11. Mary Wiley Lansdale, 91, Fordyce, AR, d. 18 March 1996
12. Joe Allen Melton, 77, Dallas, TX, d. 27 July 1996

THANK YOU!

To Evert and Maxine Joling and your family: "Thank you for a great time in Wisconsin!" Only those who have hosted a reunion know how much time and effort is involved, and we really appreciate all the work done to make the 1996 reunion a success.

1997 REUNION

An invitation has been extended to the VVV Association to hold the 1997 reunion in Townsend, Tennessee. Julia Vawter Blanks of Maryville, Tennessee, and her sister, Caroline Vawter Scarlett of Murfreesboro, Tennessee, will be hosting the event. Townsend is a small town located very near Great Smoky Mountains National Park. As is traditional, the reunion is the first weekend in August. More information will be given in the April and June newsletters.

REUNION COORDINATOR AND GUIDELINES

A recommendation came from the officers of the Association that the vice-president help coordinate future reunions. If you have an idea for a location, or would like to host a reunion, write or call the vice-president, Phil Vaughter. He will present your idea for consideration at the 1997 reunion.

A brief list of guidelines for planning a reunion has been compiled by several of the officers and other members who have hosted reunions in the past. This list is probably not complete and will be revised as needed. If you would like to have a copy, contact the news editor. Please feel free to share your ideas or suggestions with any of the officers. Their addresses are always printed at the beginning of each newsletter.

SEARCH IS SUCCESSFUL

In the July 1996 newsletter, we printed a query from Paula Myers of LaVergne, Tennessee, who was looking for Peggy King Vawter. Peggy had been raised as a foster child by Paula's grandparents. When reading the query, Erma Vawter of Iredell, Texas, realized that Peggy is her sister-in-law, the wife of Joe Don Vawter of Oklahoma. Joe Don is the brother of VVV members Billy Mack, James and Oscar Vawter. Peggy called Paula, and at the time of the reunion, Paula was planning to travel to Oklahoma for a visit.

Have you had a successful answer to a query? Please let us know so we can share your story with other newsletter readers.

QUERIES

From: John E. Vawter, 1511 Birch Drive, Elkhart, IN 46514

John has a friend who is looking for John or Jack Vawter who served with the Naval Air Transport Squadron 6 at Westover Air Force Base, Massachusetts, 1952-1954. There are many John Vawters/Vaughters, and certainly not all are members of the Association and receive the newsletter. If you are related to one of them, ask if he could be the one John's friend is looking for.

From: Marcella Kimmick, 871 W Pleasant Run Road, Lancaster, TX 75146

In the early 1940s, Marcella's parents received a letter from a General Karl Truesdell, asking for information on the family and stating that he was working on a history of the Truesdell family. She remembers that the letter came from Illinois. Does anyone know of such a history being written? The Truesdell line can be found on pages 328-9 of *The Vawter Family in America*.

VAWTER SCHOOL ROAD COLUMBIA, MISSOURI

From the news editor: During a trip to visit son Darren and his family in Columbia, Missouri, I noticed a "Vawter School Road" on a map of Columbia. A letter to the Boone County Historical Society resulted only in a reply from a professional genealogist. She stated that her mother had attended Vawter School ca. 1915, and for a "small fee of \$20.00-30.00" could try to find something for me.

Our visits to Columbia are always too brief, and I would rather spend the time with family and not doing research at the library. Do any of you have information about the Vawter School?

CORRECTION

In the July 1996 newsletter, we printed an article written by Charles Burt for a Dawson County, Georgia, Heritage Book. We have been asked by Charles to make a correction. On page five of the newsletter, please change the name "Richard" to "William" in the first two paragraphs of that page.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations goes to Krista Keir of Westerville, Ohio. Krista, a junior at Westerville South, won both the discus and shot put events in the 1996 Ohio High School Athletic Association Girls and Boys Track and Field State Championships last spring. In June she competed in the Golden West Invitational in Sacramento, California, finishing second in the shot put at 44 feet, 4 inches, and sixth in the discus by registering a throw of 144 feet. She also excels in the classroom, taking honors classes and having a g.p.a. of 4.2 on a 4.0 scale.

Krista is the daughter of John and Joan Keir and the granddaughter of the late Willard and Lucille Keir. She attended several reunions with her grandmother.

BITS 'N PIECES

Margaret Vawter, formerly of Newaygo, Michigan, has moved to the Michigan Christian Home in Grand Rapids. She worked at the retirement home as a dietician and cook for four years beginning in 1960, so this is almost a homecoming for her. Margaret is the widow of Robert Clayton Vawter who died 7 August 1994.

Jonathan Vaughters of Englewood, Colorado, was the winner of the Coca-Cola Iron Horse Road Race in Durango, Colorado. Not only did Jonathan win the bike race, he broke the previous record by four minutes, finishing in less than two hours.

Vince Vawter, former managing editor of the Knoxville, Tennessee, *News-Sentinel*, has moved to Evansville, Indiana, where he is the new president and editor of *The Evansville Courier*. Vince and his wife, Betty, have two children, Julia and Lemuel. He is the nephew of Julia Vawter Blanks and Caroline Vawter Scarlett, hosts for the 1997 reunion in Townsend, Tennessee.

A PERSONAL NOTE FROM THE NEWS EDITOR

At the end of August, son Alan called asking for help. His wife was in the hospital facing surgery, they were in the middle of moving, he was trying to run their businesses (two Subway Restaurants) and the military thought he should have only a week off, even though he had 60 days leave coming. Two days later, Joe and I left and were gone for three weeks. This put me behind in many things, including the newsletter, and I apologize for the delay. However, three weeks in Kailua, Hawaii, wasn't bad!

IN REMEMBRANCE

Joe Allen Melton, 77, of Dallas, Texas, died 27 July 1996. He was born 24 July 1919 in Waco, Texas, the son of Dr. W.W. and Orah Shipp Melton.

Joe graduated from Baylor University with an accounting degree, and was the owner, with his wife, of Melton & Associates, Inc., working as an IRS Enrolled Agent and Tax Specialist. He was a deacon at First Baptist Church in Dallas for many years and also worked with the Adult III Department at the church. In the last few years, he had also been working with Richardson East Baptist Church.

Survivors include his wife, Elizabeth Byler Melton; three daughters, Marianne Woody of Mesquite, Texas, Dr. Martha J. Bradshaw of Augusta, Georgia, and Elaine Landeene of Richland, Washington; five step-children, Bob and Randy Howard and Beverly Cowen of Houston, Texas, Ricky Howard of Austin, Texas, and Gregg Howard of Mesquite; a brother Wade Melton of Houston; a sister, Gladys McFadden of El Paso, Texas; and sixteen grandchildren.

Funeral service was held at Richardson East Baptist Church and burial at Waco Memorial Park.

Joe's wife, Beth, is the newly elected president of the VVV Association. He had been a part of the association since his marriage to Beth in 1982, and had served on many committees.

* * * * *

Lamar Gammage "Bill" Vawter, 88, of Houston Texas, died 24 September 1996. He was born 20 May 1908 in Cushing, Texas, the son of Julian and Mattie Gammage Vawter.

Bill was a graduate of Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches, and in 1946 started Bill Vawter & Company Insurance. In 1973, he sold the company and retired to a life of volunteer work. He was an active member of Bethany United Methodist Church, serving on the official board, was chairman of the blood donor program for eleven years, and volunteered in the food pantry. He was vice chairman of the Governor's Committee on Aging for six years, and for his many services to his community, 13 December 1987 was named "Bill Vawter Day" by the mayor of Houston and the Harris County commissioners. He had also been awarded the National George Washington Medal by the National Freedom Foundation of Valley Forge. He was a member of Holland Lodge #1 A.F.& A.M., Scottish Rite, Arabia Temple Shrine, the Ransford Chapter of the Order of Eastern Star, and the Summit Insurance Club.

Survivors include his wife Sarah "Sally" Aydelott Vawter, who he married 17 July 1941; a sister, Louise Vanover of Beaumont, Texas; one niece and four nephews. He was preceded in death by a twin sister, Hazel Vawter McCandless.

Funeral service was at Bethany United Methodist Church, and burial at Forest Park Lawndale Cemetery.

Bill was one of the founders of the VVV Association. He and Sally attended reunions as long as health permitted and always took an active part in the activities.

IN REMEMBRANCE

Clarice Vawter Mayer, 81, of Blue Springs, Mississippi, died 11 September 1996 at the North Mississippi Medical Center as the result of an automobile accident. She was born 12 October 1914 in Union County, the daughter of Hubert and Hattie Gresham Vawter. She was a homemaker and a member of Sherman Church of Christ.

Survivors include her husband Emery Mayer; two daughters, Martha Hudson and Judy Crawford, both of Blue Springs; six grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

Funeral service was at Thomas Funeral Home Chapel in Holly Springs and burial at McKay Cemetery.

Clarice attended VVV reunions regularly, and quite often she and Emery were recognized for having been married longer than any others present. They had been married for 63 years. Emery was injured in the accident and is recuperating at the home of his daughter.

* * * * *

John Carlson Jr., 71, of Colbert, Georgia, died 15 September 1996 at St. Mary's Hospital in Athens. He was born in August 1925 in Elbert County, Georgia, the son of John and Mary Nancy Vaughter Carlson.

John was a member of Northside Baptist Church in Elberton, Georgia; was retired from the textile industry, and was a former member of the National Guard.

Survivors include two aunts, Addie Vaughter of Florida and Gussie Vaughter of Elberton; and several cousins.

Funeral was at the Memorial Chapel of Berry Funeral Home and burial at Elmhurst Cemetery in Elberton.

John attended VVV reunions regularly. He was always eager to share his knowledge of the family history with others.

* * * * *

Thelma Shattuck, 89, of Alto, Texas, died 26 September 1996 in Nacogdoches, Texas. She was born 6 February 1907 in Cushing, Texas, the daughter of Ben H. and Mary Catherine Vawter McLendon. She lived in Alto most of her life and was a school teacher for 42 years.

Thelma was a member of A. Frank Smith Methodist Church, charter member of Thursday Study Club, a founder of Stella Hill Memorial Library, Daughters of the American Revolution, and was instrumental in helping establish Caddoan Indian Mounds Museum.

Survivors include a daughter, Katy Maddux of Austin, Texas; a sister, Jo Lacy of Dallas, Texas; four grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband, W.N. "Bill" Shattuck, in 1995.

Funeral service was at A. Frank Smith Methodist Church in Alto, and burial at Cedar Hill Cemetery.

Thelma was a long-time member of the VVV Association.

IF A RENEWAL FORM IS ENCLOSED, YOU NEED TO PAY DUES.

VVV MEMBERS AND FRIENDS REGISTERED AT THE 1996 REUNION

CALIFORNIA

Glenn and Marjorie Vawter
Garry B. Vawter

DELEWARE

Robert L. and Donna Vawter
Mary and Robert L. Vawter II;
Robert L. III, Amanda, Jesse

FLORIDA

Ralphe and Caroline Vawter

GEORGIA

Charles E. and Betty Burt
Cheryl Glasgow; Timothy, Kristen
Lula Thompson
Flara V. Waters
Johnny and Jo Waters; Casey

ILLINOIS

Jerry and Shirley Beasley
Mark Beasley
Paul and Connie Bugos; Tadd
Don and Alice Vawter
Edith Vawter
May Vawter

INDIANA

Lorraine Hamann
Milton and Charlotte Pickett
GeeGee Stearns
John E. and Lois A. Vawter
Bonita Welch

LOUISIANA

Melinda Vawter

MICHIGAN

Stanley and Janet Read
Margaret Vawter
Robert L. and Ila Vawter

MINNESOTA

Thomas Dru Vaughter;
Abigail Virginia Grace

MISSOURI

Bruce and Linda Vawter;
Jason Benson

MISSISSIPPI

Judith Crawford
Jackie Hudson
Martha Hudson
Emery and Clarice Mayer
Lowell and Allyson Vaughters
Fred and Wordna Wicker
Ken and Norma Wicker

NEW YORK

Richard W. and Dorothy Vawter

OHIO

Clare and Sue Vawters Ashton

OKLAHOMA

Duncan and Sally Brown
Billy M. and Virginia Vawter

TENNESSEE

Julia Vawter Blanks
Caroline Vawter Scarlett

TEXAS

Katherine Marge Baskin
Joyce Carter
Eric and Stephanie Chaviers
John H. and Sue Vawter
Oscar and Erma Vawter

VIRGINIA

Ellen Cummings; Rebecca, Frederick

WISCONSIN

Jerry and Judy Aue; Sarah, Melissa
John and Carol Czekalski
Claudette Jensen;
Claudine Maslowski
Evert and Maxine Joling
John, James, Jordan Joling
Janine Loda; Jenna, Derek
Wayne G. and Carole A. Vawter;
David, Benjamin, Paul, Andrew,
Abigail

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.