



## **FAMILY ASSOCIATION**

April 14, 1997

Dear VVV Family Association Member,

Because the newsletter will not be ready for mailing until the end of the month, this letter is being sent to give some information about the 1997 reunion of the VVV Family Association.

This year's event is being held July 31 - August 3 at the Best Western Valley View Lodge and Convention Center in Townsend, Tennessee, and is hosted by Judy Blanks of Maryville, Tennessee, and her sister, Caroline Scarlett of Murfreesboro, Tennessee. Townsend is located at the foot of the Great Smoky Mountains.

Sixty rooms are being held for the reunion, but will be held only until May 15, 1997, and any reservations received after that date will be provided on a space available basis. Therefore, it is important to make reservations by May 15. Cancellations are accepted up to 72 hours before the date of arrival. The room rates are \$64.50 for Thursday, July 31, and \$84.50 for Friday and Saturday, August 1 and 2. This is for one or two people. If there will be more than two per room, you need to ask about the cost. As always, be sure to mention that you are with the Vawter Family Reunion. Occasionally, someone calls to make reservations and is told there are no vacancies, but that is because they fail to mention the reunion.

Phone numbers for the Best Western are 423-448-2237 or 800-292-4844. The hotel representative working with Judy and Caroline is Bonnie Lohr; if you have questions that the desk clerk cannot answer, please ask for her. Judy Blanks' phone number is 423-977-5072.

May 15 is just a short time away, so you are urged to made your reservations today.

Sincerely,

Bonita Welch

#### 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, 2001 Second Street #4, Morgan City, LA 70380  
(504) 631-4989  
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

#### 1997 REUNION

Townsend, Tennessee, the site for the 1997 VVV Family Association Reunion, is located in a valley at the foot of the Great Smoky Mountains. The reunion is being held July 31 - August 3 at the Best Western Valley View Lodge and Convention Center, and is hosted by Judy Blanks of Maryville, Tennessee, and her sister, Caroline Scarlett of Murfreesboro, Tennessee.

The lodge is on U.S. Highway 321 in Townsend. Among the features are three swimming pools (two outdoor, one indoor), a two acre lighted garden area with about 50 varieties of flowers and plants, walking paths, play village and a picnic pavilion. A continental breakfast is served each day from 7:00-9:00 a.m.

Sixty rooms are reserved, but will be held only until May 15, 1997, so it is very important to make reservations now. Any reservations received after that date will be on a space available basis. Cancellations are accepted up to 72 hours prior to the date of arrival.

Room rates are \$64.50 for Thursday, July 31, and \$84.50 for Friday and Saturday, August 1 and 2. This is for one or two people, and does not include tax. If there are to be more than two per room, you need to ask about the cost. As always, be sure to mention that you are with the Vawter Family Reunion. Occasionally, someone calls to make reservations and is told there are no vacancies, but that is because they fail to mention the reunion.

Camping is available nearby for those who will be traveling with a camper or by motor home. Judy Blanks can give you information about the campground.

Phone numbers for the Best Western are 423-448-2237 or 800-292-4844. The representative working with Judy and Caroline is Bonnie Lohr; if you have questions that the desk clerk cannot answer, please ask for her. Judy's phone number is 423-977-5072.

This year's reunion will be an opportunity to relax, visit with friends and cousins, catch up on family news of the past year and share genealogical research. Except for the usual meetings and Saturday night banquet, no scheduled events are planned. For those who want to tour the local area, the choices are numerous.

Nearby Cades Cove is one of most scenic attractions of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, as well as being a historic area. An 11-mile, one-way loop road circles the cove which contains restored log cabins, barns, an operating gristmill and a visitor center. The cemeteries, churches and cabins show the personal side of people who once lived in the cove. They raised their families, built churches and schools, farmed the land and fished the streams.

Some people prefer to shop, and opportunities for that abound in the area. Townsend is near Maryville, Gatlinburg and Pigeon Forge.

Don't hesitate. Make your reservations today and enjoy a time of fellowship and relaxation.

#### DOOR PRIZES

Once again, we are planning to have the popular door prizes. Bring your handmade items, an item unique to your area or just something you think is interesting. How many times have you attended a function where one or possibly two door prizes were given away? That does not happen at a VVV event. Last year there were a record number of 86 door prizes and it took two nights to give them all away!

#### WATTS RESEARCH

Paul Watts Allred is active in researching the Watts surname and families that have married into the Watts line. He has been focusing on linking extended families between 1650 and 1850. He received a copy of the VVV Family Association newsletter from Joyse Ann Evans of Colton, California, who's husband is a descendant of Jesse and Elizabeth Watts Vawter.

Paul would like to contact other researchers and is willing to share a Gedcom File. He does ask that anyone responding include their notes and sources. A Watts On-Line Newsletter is sent out free each Friday by e-mail; queries and research contributions are welcome.

Paul's address is: 8660 Nash Way, Sacramento, CA 95828.  
He can be reached by e-mail at [pwallred@ucdavis.edu](mailto:pwallred@ucdavis.edu)

THE FAMILY OF GEORGE T. AND CHARLOTTE VOGLER VAWTER  
Contributed by Georgene Jurgensen

George Taylor Vawter b. 10 Sep 1817 in North Carolina; d. 2 Apr 1894-Tipton County, Indiana; buried Sandbank Cemetery, Tipton County. Married Caritas Charlotte Vogler on 20 Feb 1840 in Salem, Stokes County, North Carolina. Charlotte was b. 28 Dec 1814 Salem, North Carolina; d. 16 Aug 1893 Tipton County, Indiana; buried beside her husband.

George Taylor Vawter purchased a land warrant in Tipton County, Indiana on 2 Oct 1857 from James Rails. However, George and Charlotte were located in Clinton County, Indiana, in 1860 owning land and with their children. Their son, George W. Vawter lived on the land by 1861 and other children followed to Tipton County. George T. and Charlotte were alone in Bartholomew County, Indiana, in 1870, but removed to Tipton County shortly thereafter to be with the children.

Children:

1. George W. Vawter b. 23 Nov 1840 Stokes County, North Carolina; d. 18 Sep 1887 Tipton County, Indiana; buried Sandbank Cemetery beside his parents. George married Mary E. Simpson 24 Dec 1861. Mary was b. 14 Nov 1839 Indiana; d. 13 Apr 1885 Tipton County, Indiana. George married second Margaret P. Back 16 Oct 1885 Tipton county, Indiana.

2. John M. Vawter b. 28 Jan 1844 Stokes County, North Carolina; d. 26 Dec 1883 Tipton County, Indiana; buried Sandbank Cemetery beside his parents. John married Emily F. Sallee 1 Oct 1868 Tipton County, Indiana. Emily was b. ca 1851 Indiana.

3. Samuel M. Vawter b. 29 Oct 1847 Stokes County, North Carolina; d. 2 Jun 1929 Tipton, Indiana. Samuel married Sarah E. McShane 15 May 1878 Tipton County, Indiana. Sarah was b. 16 Apr 1857 Milroy, Rush County, Indiana; d. 2 Jun 1940 Tipton County, Indiana.

4. Rosalie A. Vawter b. 3 Dec 1849 Stokes County, North Carolina; d. unknown. Rosalie married first Jacob Kessler 24 Apr 1875 Tipton County, Indiana. She married second Joseph Taylor Goodykoontz. Joseph was b. 18 Apr 1836 Wayne County, Indiana; d. 25 Jan 1900; buried Fairview City Cemetery, Tipton County, Indiana.

5. Emma S. Vawter b. 30 Aug 1854 Indiana; d. 15 Dec 1930 Russiaville, Howard County, Indiana. Emma married Silas G. Ratcliffe 5 Apr 1882. Silas d. before 1930.

Georgene Jurgensen, the contributor of this material, would like to correspond with any Vawter descendants in this line, and will gladly share her information. She spent several days during the summer of 1996 in Hamilton and Tipton Counties, Indiana, visiting family and doing research.

Her address: 910 Palmer Lane, Palm Harbor, FL 34685-1810

## BITS 'N' PIECES

The VVV Family Association has received several new members during the past year. Among them is Margie Smiley Scott of Springfield, Virginia, Margie's mother, Margaret Berniece Settle, was born 18 February 1905, and is listed on page 379 of *The Vawter Family in America*. Margie has been told this is the youngest listing in the book. Margaret Berniece Settle was the daughter of O.L. and Josephine Vawter Settle. Josephine was a descendant of Russell and Mary Sparks Vawter.

Our best wishes go to Bruce and Linda Vawter of St. Louis, Missouri, who have finalized the adoption of their grandson, Jason. Jason has attended many reunions with Bruce and Linda and enjoys helping with the distribution of door prizes. He is now officially "Jason Lee Vawter."

Congratulations to Esther Anderson-Spencer of Pullman, Washington, on her marriage 4 July 1996 to G. Roger Spencer.

Congratulations to Wendy Lynn Waters and Jeremy McGinnis who were married 22 March 1997. Wendy is a 1993 honor graduate of Dawson County, Georgia, High School, and is a senior at Georgia State University majoring in communication disorder. She is the daughter of Johnny and Eva Jo Waters and the granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. W.E. Garrett Jr., Flara Vaughters Waters, all of Dawsonville, Georgia, and the late Vearl Waters. Jeremy, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Jim Conner and Gary McGinnis of Cumming, Georgia, is a 1989 graduate of Forsyth County High School and is attending Southern Tech in Marietta, Georgia.

## CIVIL AIR PATROL COMMANDER

The more than 300 members of the Delaware Wing of the Civil Air Patrol always stand ready to aid in a search and rescue mission, in planning for natural disasters with the Delaware Emergency Management Agency and for a number of other tasks.

Those members got a new commanding officer on Saturday, January 18, 1997, as Col. Robert L. Vawter of Middletown, Delaware, took over the position. Col. Vawter was promoted just prior to taking office. The new commander is a past president of the VVV Family Association, and is known to most as "Bobbee."

He is the son of John Blaine Vawter, whose parents were John S. and Elizabeth Grinstead Vawter. John S. was the son of Jesse R. and Sarah Parks Vawter.

## E-MAIL ADDRESSES

Do you have e-mail? Send your address to the news editor (xfgs62a@prodigy.com), and we will publish it in a future newsletter. Several members are sharing research in this manner.

DELBERT VAWTER

April 1997 - Page 5

The 19 January 1997 edition of the Columbus, Indiana, newspaper, *The Republic*, featured an article about Injection Mold, Inc., in North Vernon, Indiana. This business, which makes molds for plastic injection presses, is owned by Delbert Vawter, and has ten employees. Among the employees are Delbert's three sons, Joe, Jason and Matt Vawter.

Many long time members will remember Joe from the 1982 reunion as a young boy who rode his motorcycle to the park in North Vernon and introduced himself to the group. He was very interested in knowing how his family fit on the Vawter family tree. That night, the family attended the dinner at Clifty Falls State Park in Madison.

Research has shown that they are descended from James and Sarah Watts Vawter. Their son, Thomas S. Vawter, married Annie LeGill and had three children, Milton, Edward and Brainard. Delbert Vawter's grandfather was Edwin Vawter, a son of Milton Vawter. These families lived in Jefferson and Ripley Counties, Indiana. Delbert and his two brothers, Francis and David, were raised as foster children and knew little of their background.

QUERY

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

Georgene is seeking information on Mrs. E.F. Vawter who was in west Indianapolis at the turn of the century.

While researching the line of George T. Vawter of Tipton County, Indiana, Georgene found a George P. Vawter who died in the Spanish-American War and is buried in the same cemetery as George T. and others of that family. However, George P. is not buried near anyone with the Vawter name.

The military papers of George P. Vawter state that he died of typhoid fever on 8 October 1898 in Lexington, Kentucky, at the age of 21, and his body was returned to Tipton County for interment. He had enlisted in Tipton County, served in Matauzas, Cuba, and his occupation was given as engineer. He was single and his mother was Mrs. E.F. Vawter.

Georgene's files do not show a George P. Vawter or Mrs. E.F. Vawter. Can you help with this?

JENNINGS COUNTY, INDIANA, PUBLIC LIBRARY

Several members have traveled to North Vernon, Indiana, to do research at the Jennings County Public Library. You will be pleased to know that the library has moved to a new building. The library has a good collection of material, but the room in the old building was so small much of the material was in storage and using what was available could be difficult. The new location has a very large genealogy and local history room with ample shelf space and several tables and chairs.

#### IN REMEMBRANCE

Robert H. Dart, 77, of Glendale, California, died 25 April 1997 in Glendale. He was born 5 May 1919 in Morinci, Arizona, the son of Jesse E. and Mina Vawter Dart. He attended school in Arizona at Somerton grammar school, Yuma High School, and Tempe College. A retired president of Jewel Insurance Company, he was a member of the Lions Club, Oakmont Country Club and Service Corps of Retired Executives. Following World War II, he spent two years in Japan with the army of occupation.

Survivors include his wife of over 50 years, Lucille Vawter; twin daughters, Julie Dart Swiatek of Indianapolis, Indiana, and Nancy Dart of Groten, Connecticut; a sister, Helen Dart Johnson of Fullerton, California; and two grandchildren.

Funeral service was held at Kiefer and Eyerick Mortuary in Glendale and burial at nearby Forest Lawn.

Robert H. Dart's mother, Mina Vawter Dart, was born in Nacogdoches, Texas, the daughter of Robert Hewton and Elinor Elisabeth Howerton Vawter.

#### OBITUARIES NEEDED

During the past year, three newsletters have been returned marked "deceased\*" and we have not been able to get information. Can anyone provide obituaries for the following?

Maxine Vawter Brown  
16901 SE Division #11  
Portland, OR 97236

Charles T. Parker  
1424 SW 31st St  
Oklahoma City, OK  
73119

James A. Vawter  
4525 SW Director St  
Seattle, WA 98136

All of these individuals had been members of the association for a number of years.

#### NEWSLETTER HELP

Please continue sending items for the newsletter. We can always use family news such as graduations, marriages, births, deaths or just anything that will keep others informed about your family.

Queries, research tidbits, and gleanings from publications are other things that can be sent. Any items are greatly appreciated and help keep the newsletter from being focused too much on one area of the country. We have members in Mexico, Canada and all across the United States.

#### A NOTE

Due to inserting the Best Western brochure and the computer questionnaire, this newsletter is only six pages instead of the usual eight. This was done to keep the postage cost at 32 cents.

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