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WILLIAM SNYDER VAWTER PAPERS

In the mid 1920s, William Snyder Vawter of New York City began to pursue his dream of writing a history of the Vawter family. His intention was to update Grace Vawter Bicknell's book, *The Vawter Family in America*, published in 1905. He carried on his work for many years, corresponding with Vawters all across the United States. It is remarkable to remember this was done before copy and fax machines, computers, e-mail and the Internet. One letter was sent to "Dr. Vawter, Wellington, Kans. (lived there in 1905)", another was addressed: "To any one named Vawter, or related to any one named Vawter, Burleson County, Texas." Many times, people would send him their original records to hand copy, trusting that the records would be returned. Unfortunately, the dream was not fulfilled, and for many years few people were aware of the location of his research.

About eight years ago, William Snyder Vawter's grandson, Tim Vawter, contacted the association with the news that the papers were in the attic of a vacant house owned by William Snyder Vawter Jr. in Houston, Texas.

Because of the efforts of the late Bill Vawter of Houston who retrieved the papers, and John H. and Sue Vawter of Nacogdoches, Texas, who spent many hours photocopying, the work begun in the 1920s has been preserved. Several members have complete copies of the papers.

In this newsletter, we are printing some of the letters with the hope that the information will be interesting and useful. Except for allowing for clarity, spelling and punctuation are given "as is."

TO WILLIAM SNYDER VAWTER FROM CLIFFORD GEORGE VAWTER

Walla Walla, Wn. May 4th 1930

Dear Mr. Vawter,

Under the heading of "Remarks" I might add the following if you care to use it. I Clifford George Vawter left school in Spokane during 1916 and went to work for Spokane Dry Goods Co. a large wholesale dry goods house in Spokane Wn. First as an elevator operator, then an order clerk, later a salesman on the floor and last a traveling salesman on the road. I worked until the fall of 1918 then enlisted in The Students Army Training Corps of Gonzaga University in Spokane, Wn. on Oct 1st 1918 but on account of the flu epidemic was not officially inducted until Nov. 6th 1918 and being honorably discharged on Dec 10th 1918 I went back to work with The Spokane Dry Goods Co. in January 1919 and am still with them today. The last four years I have been traveling salesman for Spokane Dry Goods Co. traveling over southeastern Washington and the northeastern half of Oregon with permanent sales room in The Keylor Grand Theater Building and residence at 1059 Francis Ave Walla Walla, Wn.

Knowing nothing further of importance at this writing I am

Yours truly,
Clifford G. Vawter

TO WILLIAM SNYDER VAWTER FROM CHARLES DESMOND VAWTER

[Charles Desmond Vawter was the son of Fred Allen and Stella Critchlow Vawter. He was born 9 Nov 1897 in New Albany, Indiana, and married Dorothy Matson on 25 July 1921 in Indianapolis. Dorothy was born 24 Sept 1899 in Bedford, Indiana. At the time Charles wrote this letter to William Snyder Vawter, they had two children, Juanita Marian, born 1 October 1922; and Robert Charles, born 4 May 1924.]

In answer to your further inquiry about my grandfather, Charles Minton Vawter, I will say that he is yet living, as well as his wife and daughter Maud, at Lake Wawasee, Ind. The address merely Syracuse, Ind. and I am sure he will give you any information about themselves more accurately than I can. He is active yet although 75 in Feb.

My wife's parents were George Washington Matson of Ellettsville, Ind. and Carrie Emma Pugh of Stinesville, Ind. (both living.)

My mother's parents were Robert Addison Critchlow born near Butler, Pa. and Viola Biggs of Elizabeth, Ind. He is a GAR veteran still living in Los Angeles, but she died in 1906.

Yours respectfully,
Charles Desmond Vawter
33 N Sheridan Ave
Inpls, Ind.

TO WILLIAM SNYDER VAWTER FROM CHARLES MINTON VAWTER

[Charles Minton Vawter was the grandson of John Vawter, founder of Vernon, Indiana, and great-grandson of Jesse Vawter, who was one of the first settlers of what is now Madison, Indiana. In her book, *The Vawter Family in America*, Grace Bicknell states, "Charles Vawter probably is acquainted with more of the Vawter relatives than any other one in the whole connection." In this letter to William Snyder Vawter, he gives names of other Vawters to contact and some corrections to the Bicknell book. He also sent a letter that he had received from the Order of Railway Conductors of America.]

Wm S Vawter

Dear Sir

I am giving names of Vawters not in the old book who are members of the Order of Railway Conductors, also

J.H. Vawter late Mayor of Salem, Ill

Mrs. W.R. Vawter, Richmond Va an artist of talent who has traveled extensively in foreign land. I don't think she has the Vawter book. I have not met her - I called at her home last January - at that time she was in Spain.

Corrections

Fred Allen Vawter my son was married Feb 16 1897. I began service with the LNA&CR [Louisville, New Albany and Chicago Railway] Saturday November 23 not the 22nd 1872. I am trying to get in touch with my bro Jesse S Vawter's two children George and Grace Vawter. My daughter Miss Maud is a teacher in South Bend Ind. Public School. I will be glad to give you all assistance I can in this good work. I am now 75 years old not in very good health. (I am also failing in my writing.)

Sincerely yours

Charles Minton Vawter

Vawter Park

Syracuse Ind. May 6, 1928

Order of Railway Conductors of America
Cedar Rapids, Iowa April 27, 1928

Mr. C.M. Vawter

Vawter Park

Syracuse, Ind.

Dear Sir & Brother:

Complying with your request of the 25th, we have but three other members in the Order by the Name of Vawter. These are as follows:

W.A. Vawter, 136 Union St., Bluefield, W. Va.

C.K. Vawter, 501 4th St., McComb City, Miss.

W.A. Vawter, Termo, Calif.

Yours truly in P.F.

E.P. Curtis G S & T

The Notebook of George Lee Curry, Franklin, Indiana

The late George Lee Curry of Franklin, Indiana, kept an account of illegitimate births in Johnson and Howard Counties, Indiana. His account was later typed and deposited at the Historical Genealogy Department of the Allen County, Indiana, Public Library. The provenance of the book is not known. It was printed in the December 1996 issue of *Indiana Genealogist*, quarterly of the Indiana Genealogical Society. The following is one of the entries.

Child: [] Hill. Mother: Lucinda Hill. Father: Edmond R. Vawter.

Child was born in Johnson County about 1843, The father, Edmond Vawter, was suspended from membership in Hopewell Church Aug. 24, 1843 for 5 reasons as follow:
1. The sin of drunkenness last fall at Mr. Creed Dawsons and at other times and places.
2. With the use of profane language at the shop of Mr. Saml. Graham's in the spring of 1842.
3. With threatening to shoot Isaac Woodrow and at the same time presenting a pistol at the same time and place.
4. With falsehood in stating to Mr. Graham that John Briwer had valued your land at a certain amount higher than said had actual valued it at.
5. With employing Dr. B. Noble to visit Lucinda Hill for the purpose of procuring an abortion, the said Lucinda being then pregnant, as is currently reported, in consequence of illicit intercourse with yourself.

INDIANA CIVIL WAR VETERANS IN MEEKER COUNTY, MINNESOTA

Compiled by Diane Rosenow

These names were listed among others in the June 1996 issue of The *Hoosier Genealogist*, quarterly of the Indiana Historical Society.

Branham, Ezra F, Pvt. Co F. 2d Minn Inf. born Jennings Co, Ind.

Branham, Hiram. Born Franklin, Ind.

Branham, Jessie V. Jr. Forest City Home Guards, born Jennings Co. Ind 8 Jul 1834

Branham, Jessie V. Sr. Forest City Home Guards, born 1803, died 1893

Branham, William H/A. Co A. 5 Ind Inf. 1846 Mexican War. GAR.

Jesse V. Branham was born in Kentucky in 1803, the son of John and Frances Vawter Branham, and died in 1893 in Litchfield, Minnesota. His mother, Frances, was the daughter of Jesse and Elizabeth Watts Vawter.

Jesse V. Branham Jr. was his son. Jesse Sr. also had sons William and Ezra who are probably the ones listed. The only Hiram Branham found was the son of Jesse V. Branham Jr., and was not born until 1856, making him too young for the Civil War.

This family can be found beginning on page 178 of *The Vawter Family in America*.

VAWTER STORE IN CORDELL, OKLAHOMA
submitted by Wordna Wicker

Some time ago, Silas Vawter of Oklahoma City, mentioned to Wordna Wicker that he had seen reference to a Vawter Store that was in Cordell, Oklahoma, in 1920. Wordna found the following Vawter families in the 1910 Oklahoma census:

1910 Oklahoma Census, Supt. Dist. 5, E.D. Dist. 258, Sheet 11 A
Cordell, Oklahoma; Washita County; Market Street

182 Edgar S. Vawter	age 34	married 10 yrs	b. KY	father b. US
Melissa	age 28	b. TX	father b. GA	mother b. GA
Viola	age 9	b. TX	father b. KY	mother b. TX
Crawford	age 7	b. OK	father b. KY	mother b. TX

183 Ben B. Vawter	age 35	married 14 yrs	b. KY	father b. US	mother b. US
Valera A.	age 32	b. TN	father b. GA	mother b. GA	
Edgar A.	age 12	b. TX	father b. KY	mother b. TN	
Lillian	age 9	b. TX	father b. KY	mother b. TN	
Max W.	age 1	b. OK	father b. KY	mother b. TN	

Edgar S. and Ben B. Vawter were brothers, their parents being Josephus R. and Mary J. Williams Vawter of Monroe County, Kentucky. Josephus was the son of Joseph Early Vawter and his second wife, Nancy Smith Vawter. According to *The Vawter Family in America*, page 375, Joseph Early Vawter was the father of sixteen children.

HARRIETT VAWTER, DAUGHTER OF JOHN VAWTER IV

Doris Ann Montgomery of Montgomery, Alabama, attended the 1994 reunion in Tupelo, Mississippi, knowing little of her Vawter roots, only that she had a great-grandmother named Harriett Vawter. At the 1995 reunion, she shared with Wordna Wicker the news that Harriett was one of the younger daughters of John Vawter IV of Old Tishomingo, County, Mississippi.

Wordna had known that John had a daughter named Harriett because he bought land in her name and then had to go to court to get permission to sell it later on. There was no marriage record for her in Tishomingo County, so Wordna assumed Harriet had died young. Apparently, Harriett and her sister, Elizabeth, moved to Alabama before 1850 along with John and his third wife, Peachy. John and Peachy Vawter were living with Elizabeth and her husband, Hopewell Doss in the 1850 census. Harriett was married and living with her husband, W. L. Allman. This was found in the 1850 Alabama State Census, not in the 1850 U.S. Census for Alabama.

QUERIES

From: Bobbie J. Rogers, 205 Crestview Dr, Weatherford, TX 76087

Bobbie is seeking information on her grandfather, Robert Lee Duncan, b. 18 March 1863 in either Kentucky or Illinois. The 1910 Oklahoma census for Marshall County gives his birthplace as Kentucky, but his obituary says Illinois. Robert married Harriet Jane "Hattie" Miller on 24 October 1886 in Sherman, Grayson County, Texas. Harriet was the daughter of John A. and Elizabeth A. Vawter Miller. After their marriage, Robert and Harriet settled in the Indian Territory, where the first of their children was born in 1888. This area was later known as Woodville, Oklahoma. Some years later they moved to the area around Cumberland, Oklahoma, where they lived for the remainder of their lives.

Patti Darnell of Flower Mound, Texas, has given Bobbie a lot of help with this line, but she would like to correspond with others who might have even more information.

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

Georgene made a genealogical trip and family visit to Indiana last summer. She obtained much information on the family of George T. and Charlotte Vogler Vawter of Tipton County, Indiana. A very important part of her trip was a visit with Crystal Dunn Peed, age 91, of Royal Center, Indiana, the daughter of Ada Vawter Dunn. Crystal resides in her own home and has a wonderful memory; she told stories about Georgene's visit over 20 years ago and has many good family history stories. She has the Bible belonging to George W. and Mary E. Simpson Vawter. George W. was the son of George T. and Charlotte Vogler Vawter.

A Vawter reunion started during the 1930s and continued at least through the 1980s in the Tipton County, Indiana, area. Georgene wants to know what happened to the reunion minute books and lists of names of those attending. Also, is the reunion still being held, possibly in another area? She would like to correspond with any descendants of this family and will share the information she has.

THE VAWTER FAMILY IN AMERICA

The reprint edition (1969) of *The Vawter Family in America* can still be ordered from the VVV Family Association. Please remember that none of these books are in perfect condition. For some it is just a matter of one or two pages missing or having faint print, and those are the ones being sold at this time. We send the best available and enclose replacement pages for you to insert. The books are softbound and have 442 pages including an index, plus the supplement update of the O'Connor family. Cost is \$20.00 plus \$2.00 shipping.

Order from: Bonita Welch, 4145 N 900 W, Scipio, IN 47273

CONGRATULATIONS

Major Robert L. Vawter of Middletown, Delaware, has been named Commander of the Delaware Wing, Civil Air Patrol. The Change-of-Command Ceremony took place 18 January 1997 at Dover Air Force Base. "Bobbee", as he is known to many VVV members, is a past president of the VVV Family Association.

Congratulations to Suzette and Charles E. "Chuck" Burt Jr. of Cumming, Georgia, on the birth of a son, Franklin Quinn Burt, who was born 14 November 1996. Proud grandparents are Susie Cook and Betty and Charles Burt Sr.

IN REMEMBRANCE

Mary Wiley Lansdale, 91, of Fordyce, Arkansas, died 18 March 1996 in Fordyce. She was a native of Benton County, Mississippi, and the daughter of Thomas S. and Emma Ellen Vawter Wiley. She was a Baptist and had been active in her church.

Survivors include a son, Harold Lansdale; and two daughters, Juanita Rogers and Delaine Hornaday, all of Fordyce. She was the aunt of Fred and Ken Wicker. Preceding her in death was her husband, Ike Lansdale.

Mary was a longtime member of the VVV Family Association and had attended many reunions. She was from the line of John Vawter IV of Tishomingo County, Mississippi.

* * * * *

Aileen Baker Wiley, 86, of Nettleton, Mississippi, died 20 February 1996 in Nettleton. She was a retired school teacher and a Methodist.

Survivors include her husband, Bill Wiley; a daughter, Sherry Brock; and a granddaughter, Holly Cathcart.

Aileen and Bill Wiley were charter members of the VVV Family Association, had attended many reunions and helped host the two reunions held in Tupelo, Mississippi. Bill is the uncle of Fred and Ken Wicker.

* * * * *

Melvin Kenneth Vawter, 73, died 9 October 1995 in Cooksville, Illinois. He was the son of Clayton and Irene Egan Vawter and the grandson of Albert Grant Vawter.

He was an Army veteran of World War II and had worked for Spencer Oil Company and Brock Oil Company.

Burial was at Pleasant Hill Cemetery near Lexington, Illinois .

Survivors include a brother, Clifford Edwin Vawter of Bloomington, Illinois, and several cousins. Among his cousins are Maxine Joling of Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin, and the late Glen Vawter who lived in Normal, Illinois.

PLEASE SEND NEWS OF YOUR FAMILY TO THE NEWS EDITOR

IN REMEMBRANCE

Ethan James Reynolds, 25, of Commiskey, Indiana, died Sunday, 3 November 1996, at Winona Hospital in Indianapolis.

He was born 23 June 1971 in Madison, Indiana, the son of James W. and Jane Kinder Reynolds. He worked at Developmental Services, Inc. in Scipio and had been a counselor at Easter Seal Camps from 1991-1993.

Ethan was a member of Tea Creek Baptist Church and Regal Rugs Bowling League. A 1989 graduate of Jennings County High School, he received a degree in recreation and leisure studies at Vincennes University in 1992. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, photography and bowling.

The funeral service was conducted at Tea Creek Baptist Church and burial at the church cemetery.

Surviving with his parents are a sister, Carmen Lawler of Lebanon, New Hampshire; grandparents, Lena Kinder of Commiskey and Walter E. and Edna Opal Reynolds of Butlerville, Indiana; aunts and uncles, Robert and Judith Smith of Livermore, California, Hugh and Louise Reynolds of Veedersburg, Indiana, Miles and Joyce Reynolds of Smithville, Illinois, Enid Henry of Madison, Indiana, Ann Caslan of Muncie, Indiana, and Brian Reynolds of Butlerville.

Ethan's aunt, Ann Caslan, and grandparents, Walter and Edna Reynolds, are members of the VVV Association and have attended many reunions. He was a descendant of Florence and Elizabeth Branham O'Connor. Elizabeth Branham was the daughter of Uriah and Alcey Davis Branham and granddaughter of John and Frances Vawter Branham.

* * * * *

Osa E. "Cookie" Vawter of Oklahoma City died Friday, 28 June 1996, at a hospital in Oklahoma City. She was a native of Jester, Oklahoma.

Osa was a registered nurse. She married Roy V. Castleberry on 26 August 1933; he preceded her in death 8 January 1963. On 3 April 1965, she married Silas Vawter and they lived in Norman, Oklahoma, until 1970 when they moved to Oklahoma City.

Survivors include her husband, Silas; a son, Mark Lee Castleberry of Apex, North Carolina; daughters Patricia G. Morrison and Annie Morrison of Oklahoma City, and Dena Newhouse of Norman; a granddaughter, Bianca Newhouse of Norman; brothers Lloy Cook of Elk City Oklahoma, Gene Cook of Sayre, Oklahoma, and Jimmy Cook of Lawton, Oklahoma; and a sister, Lola May Moles of Yukon, Oklahoma.

Funeral service was conducted in Elk City, and burial at Fairlawn Cemetery, also in Elk City.

Osa, along with her husband, was a longtime member of the VVV Association.

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

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