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Dues - \$7.00 per year  
IF A RENEWAL FORM IS ENCLOSED, YOU NEED TO PAY DUES

1998 REUNION  
30 JULY - 2 AUGUST, AUSTIN, TEXAS

The 1998 reunion of the VVV Family Association is to be held 30 July - 2 August at the Radisson Hotel on Town Lake in Austin, Texas. Rooms are \$85.00, and reservations can be made by calling 512-478-9611. Be sure to mention the association when calling, as a block of rooms have been reserved. The Friday night meal will be at the hotel with a cost of about \$25.00. Saturday we travel to a different location for a Texas B-B-Q at a cost of about \$10.00.

Early registration begins on Thursday afternoon and continues through the evening. This is always a time for visiting and renewing friendships. The "official" opening of the reunion is Friday morning with the traditional "ringing of the cowbell."

Once again, we are to be entertained by the Vawter Family Singers under the direction of Ellen Cummings. This group began several years ago as the VVV Childrens Chorus. As the children grew, the name was changed and anyone, regardless of age, is invited to participate.

The always popular door prizes have increased in quantity so much that we are suggesting each family provide only one door prize. This will allow more time for other events.

If more information is needed, please contact Phil Vaughter. His address and phone number are given with the list of officers.

ALLEGANY VAWTER  
contributed by Wordna Wicker

Allegany Vawter, born 14 December 1807, probably in Elbert Co., Georgia, was the only son of John Vawter and his first wife, Rhoda McGuire. Rhoda's father was Allegany McGuire, a Georgia Revolutionary soldier, for whom her son was named. Rhoda died 28 August 1824 and Allegany's father, John, married second Elizabeth (maiden name not known), and by the two wives, fathered at least ten daughters.

Leaving Georgia around 1810, Allegany's father moved to middle Tennessee in the company of Richard Vawter, his brother, and Allegany McGuire, his father-in-law. Census, tax and court records show the three families to have been in Williamson, Maury and Lawrence Cos., Tennessee. However, family tradition holds that they never changed locations once they reached Tennessee, but that Maury Co. was formed out of Williamson Co, and Lawrence Co. out of Maury Co.

Following the death of Richard Vawter in 1827, the restless spirit in John Vawter led him to Lauderdale Co., Alabama, with Allegany, a single man in his twenties, still in the household. The records of Lauderdale Co. show that Allegany married Mary Robinson on 1 June 1830. The Robinson family had been in Lawrence Co., Tennessee, at the time the Vawters were, and had moved to Lauderdale Co. about the same time. In fact, two brothers of Mary Robinson, James and Joseph, had married sisters of Allegany, Mourning and Cynthia, while in Lawrence Co. This occurrence was not uncommon in large families in that time period. Joseph and Cynthia Vawter Robinson later followed the families of John and Allegany Vawter to Tishomingo Co., Mississippi, around 1838. James and Mourning Vawter Robinson remained in Lauderdale Co.

A brief departure from the story. The names Robinson and Robertson were used interchangeably by the family in Tennessee and Alabama, and for a brief time in Mississippi until the family settled on Robinson. The name Vawter was spelled Vaughter, Vauter, Vorter, Vatter and Votter, with and without an "s". The two principal spellings now being Vawter and Vaughter. In earlier days when schools were scarce and many people could neither read nor write, the exact spelling of a name was not important, but merely the sound of it. This was long before the days of driver's licenses, Social Security and Medicare.

Back to the story. The records of Tishomingo Co. show that Allegany Vawter was a land dealer, buying and selling lots in the town of Jacinto, as well as tracts of farm land. By legend he lived and farmed in the Sand Hill area north of Jacinto for a number of years. His wife, Mary died 3 July 1854, and soon thereafter so did two young daughters. For whatever reason, Allegany began to sell his land in the Jacinto area and to purchase land in the southern part of the county in the area that would later become Paden. He and his nephew, William A. Robinson purchased land jointly from Alexander Paden located in Sec. 9 and 16, Twp. 5, R. 10E and served by a flowing stream. Allegany

constructed a mill on the stream, a small community sprang up, and a post office was authorized which bore the name "Vawter's Mill." The area prospered and the Robinsons and Padens also set up mills. The stream still bears the name "Mill Branch" on county maps.

The Civil War came on and eventually Union troops were encamped in the area. Apparently in retaliation for a raid on their camp, Union soldiers burned Vawter's, Robinson's and Paden's mills, along with ten homes in the area. The community was never rebuilt and the area thereafter was referred to as "Burnt Mills." During Reconstruction, the railroad came through approximately one mile west of Burnt Mills, and the settlement of Paden was established. The Vawters thereby lost their chance at a lasting landmark in Tishomingo County.

Following the Civil War, with his home and mill destroyed by fire; most of his land sold for its taxes; his wife, and by now six of his children dead, Allegany left Tishomingo Co. and went to live with his two remaining sons, James Newton and William Jasper, in Tippah Co., Mississippi. He sold his last parcel of land, the SW 1/4 of Sec. 33, Twp. 4, R. 10, on 17 February 1868, signing the deed in Tippah Co. Allegany has not been located in the 1870 census, probably because he was living with relatives from place to place. According to the family Bible, he died 4 July 1876 and is buried in an unmarked grave, probably in Tippah Co.

The children of Allegany and Mary Robinson Vawter were:

1. Martha Jane, b. 15 September 1831 in Lauderdale Co., Alabama; d. 14 May 1833 in Lauderdale Co.
2. Matilda, b. 23 August 1833 in Lauderdale Co.; married 27 November 1856 in Tishomingo Co., Mississippi, to Richard P. Vanderford; one known child, Sallie, b. 1870.
3. Sarah (Sallie) Ann, b. 19 September 1836 in Lauderdale Co.; married 16 December 1856 in Tishomingo Co. to W.C. Swindle. Their children were John, Ganey, Mary, Tula and Tishie. By tradition, the family moved to Hill Co., Texas.
4. John Robinson, b. 31 July 1838 in Lauderdale Co.; died 9 March 1861 in Tishomingo Co.; never married; cause of death unknown.
5. Mary A., b. February 1841 in Tishomingo Co.; d. between 1850-1860.
6. James Newton, b. March 1842 in Tishomingo Co.; served in Co. 1, 32<sup>nd</sup> Mississippi Infantry, C.S.A., enlisted 13 September 1861, married first Mary Rogers, ca. 1867, Tippah Co., Mississippi; children Rosa, b. 22 December 1868 and Porter, b. 2 June 1876; married second Melissa Sanford, sister of Rebecca Sanford, wife of William Jasper Vawter; children Homer, b. 1882 in Oklahoma Territory, Thomas Ganey, b. 1884 in Oklahoma Territory, and Ruby, b. 1892 in Arkansas Co., Arkansas. Thomas Ganey has present day descendants in the vicinity of Hot Springs, Arkansas.

7. Mary Elizabeth, b. 19 July 1843 in Tishomingo CO.; d. 18 December 1865 in Tishomingo Co.

8. Nancy Catherine, b. 27 September 1845 in Tishomingo Co.; married 17 January 1866 in Tishomingo Co. to Ephreom Johnson; d. 16 November 1867 in Tishomingo Co.; one child, James David Johnson, b. 18 October 1866.

9. Cynthia Caroline, b. 11 May 1847 in Tishomingo Co.; d. 4 January 1857 in Tishomingo Co.

10. William Jasper, b. 18 November 1849 in Tishomingo Co.; married 3 December 1868 in Tippah Co. to Rebecca Jane Sanford; d. 15 June 1902 in Union Co., Mississippi; buried in Pleasant Hill Cemetery, east of New Albany, Mississippi.

The history of the Vawter family, as such, in Tishomingo Co. is a microcosm of the pattern of the westward movement in this country. As families went westward, moves were usually made in stages, with stops periodically to allow family stabilization; perhaps allow ailing members to die peacefully; to allow for the birth of children; and to accumulate funds for the next stage of the journey. The latter did not occur in this case.

John Vawter made his first purchase of land, lot #20 in the town of Jacinto, on 3 December 1838. Additional purchases continued at a steady rate. The sale of the last tract of land by Allegany Vawter occurred 30 years later on 17 February 1868 - the span of a generation. The family arrived from Lauderdale Co., Alabama, with money in hand. The surviving male members left 30 years later homeless and penniless.

The move from Tishomingo Co. to Tippah Co. was only a move into the next county, since the two counties joined at that time, but it was a move westward.

Female members of the family remained behind bearing the names of the husbands they had married. Their personal records, plus the official records of Tishomingo Co. give silent testimony to the Vawter family who spent a generation helping to forge a wilderness area into a civilized county.

#### GENE EVANS

Information on Gene Evans was sent by his sister-in-law, Joyse Ann Evans, of Colton, California. Gene's mother, Lois Mildred Williams Evans, was born in Jennings County, Indiana, the daughter of Smith V. and Frances A. Holsclaw Williams. Frances Holsclaw Williams was the daughter of William T. and Almira King Holsclaw, granddaughter of George and Frances Vawter King, and great-granddaughter of William and Frances Vawter, all residents of Jennings County, Indiana.

Information sent for the newsletter is very much appreciated!

GENE EVANS: ACTOR KNOWN FOR 'TOUGH GUY' ROLES  
*The Los Angeles Times* - 3 April 1998

Gene Evans, character actor best known for his roles as director Samuel Fuller's quintessential tough guy, beginning in "The Steel Helmet," has died. He was 75.

Evans, most commonly cast as a soldier, lawman or heavy in his more than 30 war, western and other films, died Wednesday in Jackson, Tenn., where he had retired to farm.

A World War II sergeant, the burly red-bearded Evans met the director, who had been a decorated corporal in the war, at the casting call for "Helmet."

"He throws me a rifle and says, 'Rack it back!'" Evans recalled for *The Times* in 1951 after the Korean War film became the sleeper hit of the year. "This is a Garand, an M--1, and tricky to breach. But I do it. I guess he decided then and there that I was his Sgt. Zack."

Fuller gave the title helmet, which Evans wore in the film, to the actor as a Christmas present. Evans returned it decades later at a Fuller film retrospective at USC.

Evans made four more films for Fuller - "Fixed Bayonets" in 1951, "Park Row" in 1952, "Hell and High Water" in 1954 and "Shock Corridor" in 1963.

The actor became a "Fuller favorite," *Times* film writer Kevin Thomas wrote last year, because he depicted "a solid, ultra-masculine guy, tough but reflective."

Evans was also memorable as a key character, Molunphrey, in the 1959 comedy "Operation Petticoat," starring Cary Grant and Tony Curtis. Other films included "The War Wagon," "Support Your Local Sheriff" and "Pat Garrett and Billy the Kid."

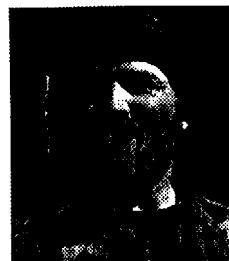
On television, the stolid Evans acted frequently in movies and miniseries and had major roles in a few series. He was the Montana rancher Rob McLaughlin, who owned the title horse Flicka, in "My Friend Flicka" in 1956-58 and Sgt. Hanrahan to Anthony Franciosa's detective in "Matt Helm" in 1975-76. Evans also played charter airline owner Spencer Parish in the short-lived 1976 series "Spencer's Pilots."

Born Eugene Barton Evans in Holbrook, Ariz., Evans grew up in Colton, Calif., where his parents ran a small grocery store. He began acting at the Pasadena Playhouse, where he worked painting scenery, and the Penthouse Theater in Altadena, where he started as a stagehand.

Evans also worked as a midget-auto racer, carpenter, dishwasher and bouncer and lived in the women's restroom of a used car lot where he washed cars in the lean days when he tried to break into acting. He made his film debut in 1947 in "Under Colorado Skies."

Evans is survived by a daughter, Alison Price, of Jackson; a brother, Bud Evans, of Colton; and three nieces.

The family has asked that memorial donations be sent to the Gene Evans Memorial Fund, Jackson Theater Guild, 206 E Main St., Jackson, Tenn. 38301



## GENE EVANS

### MOTION PICTURE ACTOR

Under Colorado Skies 1947 Berlin Express 1948 Larceny, Inc. 1948 Assigned to Danger 1948 Mother Was a Freshman 1948 Criss Cross 1949 It Happens Every Spring 1949 Wyoming Mail 1950 Armored Car Robbery 1950 The Big Carnival 1950 Dallas 1950 Never a Dull Moment 1950 The Asphalt Jungle 1950 Storm Warning 1950 The Steel Helmet 1951 Sugarfoot 1951 Force of Arms 1951 I Was an American Spy 1951 Fixed Bayonets 1951 Mutiny 1952 Park Row 1952 Thunderbirds 1952 The Golden Blade 1953 Donovan's Brain 1953 Hell and High Water 1954 The Long Wait 1954 Cattle Queen of Montana 1954 Crashout 1955 Wyoming Renegades 1955 Jet Pilot 1957 The Sad Sack 1957 The Helen Morgan Story 1957 Damn Citizen! 1958 Money, Women and Guns 1958 The Bravados 1958 Revolt in the Big House 1958 Young and Wild 1958 The Giant Behemoth 1958 Operation Petticoat 1959 The Hangman 1959 Gold of the Seven Saint 1961 Shock Corridor 1963 Nevada Smith 1966 Waco 1966 Apache Uprising 1966 The War Wagon 1967 Support Your Local Sheriff 1969 Dragnet TVM 1960 The Ballad of Cable Hogue 1970 There Was a Crooked Man 1970 Support Your Local Gunfighter 1971 Camper John 1972 Walking Tall 1973 Pat Garrett and Billy the Kid 1973 A Knife for the Ladies 1973 Peopletots 1974

### TELEVISION MOVIES

The Intruders 1970 The Bounty Man 1972 Shootout in a One-Dog Town 1974 Sidekicks 1974 The Last Day 1975 Matt Helm 1975 Sourdough 1976 The Macahans 1976 The Rhinemann Exchange 1977 Fire! 1977 The Magic of Lassie 1978 Kate Bliss and the Ticker Tape Kid 1978 The Sacketts 1978 The Last Ride of the Dalton Gang 1979 Wild Times 1980 Casino 1980 California Gold Rush 1981 The Shadow Riders 1982 Travis McGee 1982 The Alamo: 13 Days to Glory 1987 Once Upon a Texas Train 1988

### TELEVISION SERIES

My Friend Flicka 1955-56 Matt Helm 1975-76 Spencer's Pilots 1976

### TELEVISION

The Lone Ranger: "Devil's Pass" 1950 "The Star Witness" 1950 "Behind the Law" 1951. Science Fiction Theatre: "Stranger the Desert" 1955. The Restless Gun: "The Coward" 1958. Wagon Train: "The Sarah Drummond Story" 1958, "The Duncan McIvor Story" 1964 Yancy Derringer: "The Saga of Lonesome Jackson" 1958. Rawhide: "Incident at the Buffalo Smokehouse" 1959, "Incident on the Road Back" 1961, "Incident of the Prodigal Son" 1962, "Incident at El Crucero" 1963, "Incident at Gila Flats" 1964, "Moment in the Sun" 1965. Bonanza: "The Fear Merchants" 1960, "Journey Remembered" 1963, "The Trouble with Trouble" 1970. Wichita Town: "The Frontiersman" 1960. Riverboat: "The Quota" 1960. The Outlaws: "The Quiet Killer" 1960. Route 66: "A Skill for Hunting" 1961, "Blue Murder" 1961, "The Savage Season" 1965. Gunslinger: "The Recruit" 1961. The Virginian: "The Accomplice" 1962, "Trail to Ashley Mountain" 1966. Alfred Hitchcock Presents: "The Kerry Blue" 1962. Alfred Hitchcock Hour: "A Piece of the Action" 1962. G.E. Theater: "The Moonshiners" 1963. Gunsmoke: "Extradition" 1963, "A Hat" 1967, "The First People" 1961, "Snow Train" 1970, "Phoenix" 1971. "Tatum" 1972, "The Iron Blood of Courage" 1974, "Thirty a Month a Found" 1974. Temple Houston: "Find Angel Chavez" 1963. Death Valley Days: "Sixty-Seven Miles of Gold" 1965. Daniel Boone: "The First Stone" 1965, "The Man" 1969. Branded: "The Bounty" 1965. Iron Horse: "Pride at the Bottom of the Barrel" 1966. Tarzan: "A Pride of Assassins" 1967. Ironside: "The Message from Beyond" 1967, "If I Should Die Before I Wake" 1968. Name of the Game: "The Inquiry" 1969, "Man of the People" 1970. Here Come the Brides: "Two Worlds" 1970. The Men from Shiloh: "With Love, Bullets and Valentines" 1970. Then Came Bronson: "The Mary R" 1970. Mannix: "Murder Times Thru" 1971. Nichols: "Deer Crossing" 1971. Alias Smith and Jones: "The Man Who Corrupted Hadleyburg" 1972. The Sixth Sense: "If I Should Die Before I Wake" 1972. Dirty Sally: "The Old Soldier" 1974. The Hardy Boys Mysteries: "Oh Say Can You Sing" 1978. The Incredible Hulk: "Rainbow's End" 1978. Fantasy Island: "Magnolia Blossoms" 1979. Here's Boomer: "The Stableboy" 1980. M\*A\*S\*H: "Blood and Guts" 1982. Simon & Simon: "For the People" 1986, "Treasure" 1987. Black's Magic: "Vanishing Act" 1986. Scarecrow and Mrs. King: "Mission of Gold" 1987.

### CONGRATULATIONS

We congratulate Fred and Wordna Wicker on the occasion of their 50th Wedding Anniversary. The couple will be honored at an open house hosted by their children on 28 June 1998 from 2:00-5:00 p.m. at the Pontotoc Country Club in Pontotoc, Mississippi. Everyone is invited to attend and help them celebrate this special time in their lives.

Since she developed into Ohio's best high school shot and discus thrower over the last two years, many of the country's top colleges were eager to recruit Krista Keir of Westerville, Ohio. After examining opportunities at UCLA, Southern Methodist, Tennessee and North Carolina, Krista signed a letter of intent with Indiana University,

Krista finished second in the discus at the junior Pan-American games held July 18 in Havana, Cuba. She won the shot and discus championships at the National Scholastic Outdoor Meet on June 13-14 in Raleigh, North Carolina.

Among her goals are to be a conference champion and an All-American in addition to competing in the Junior World Games in France. She also has international aspirations and plans to work hard to become an Olympian in 2000 or 2004.

Krista is the granddaughter of the late Willard and Lucille Keir, and attended reunions with her grandmother.

### IN REMEMBRANCE

Dorothy Isabella Matson Vawter, 98, of Nashville, Tennessee, formerly of Indianapolis, died 8 December 1997. She was born 24 September 1899 in Bedford Indiana, the daughter of George Washington and Carrie Emma Pugh Matson. On 25 July 1921, she married Charles Desmond Vawter, who preceded her in death.

She was a lifelong gardener and longtime member of the Garden Clubs of Indiana, serving two terms as president. She had also served on the National Wildflower Committee. Besides garden club activities, she was a member and officer in many community organizations. She was a member of Irvington United Methodist Church in Indianapolis.

She is survived by a daughter, Juanita Marian Allen; a sister, Catherine Emma Conner; three grandchildren; six great-grandchildren. A son, Robert Charles Vawter, preceded her in death. Burial was at Washington Park East Cemetery in Indianapolis.

Dorothy's husband, Charles Desmond Vawter, was the son of Frederick Allen and Stella Critchlow Vawter; grandson of Charles Minton and Carrie Timmons Vawter; and great-grandson of Marion and Rebecca Mahafy Vawter.

An interesting sketch of Charles Minton Vawter's life, taken from a letter written by him, can be found on pages 68-69 of *The Vawter Family in America* by Grace Bicknell.

IN REMEMBRANCE

Helen Vawter Agnew died 15 March 1998 at her home in Monroe Louisiana, after a lengthy illness. She was born in Tipton, Oklahoma, the daughter of Edgar Souther and Gertrude Alexander Vawter, and moved to Monroe with her family at an early age.

She was a graduate of Ouachita Parish High School and attended Missouri Valley College. An accomplished musician, she played the violin with the Shreveport Symphony Orchestra, and helped to organize the early Monroe Orchestra. She was a member of Grace Episcopal Church and sang in the choir for over 50 years. She was also active with the Episcopal Church Women and served as Diocesan treasurer and president. After World War II she helped organize the 5<sup>th</sup> District Civil Defense Agency. She was a co-founder of the Agnew Neon Sign Service and was active in its operation until her retirement.

Surviving are a stepson, Thomas C. Agnew; step-granddaughter, Anna Louise Agnew; and step-great-grandson, David L. Agnew III, all of Dallas, Texas; sisters, Emolove V. Cooper, of Dallas, and Aureline V. Slade of Monroe; a niece, Ann Norvell of Dallas; a nephew, William Hite of Baton Rouge; three great-nephews, Jay Reichman of Austin, Texas, Eric Reichman of Dallas, and Dustin Hire of Baton Rouge; a great-niece, Kelly Raj of Brisbane, Australia. She was preceded in death by her husband, David L. Agnew, and a stepson, David L. Agnew Jr.

Helen was a longtime member of the VVV Family Association, as is her sister, Aureline Slade.

\* \* \* \* \*

James Thomas Vawter, 75, of Muncie, Indiana, died 30 March 1998. Burial was in Anderson Cemetery in Indianapolis.

He was a retired newspaperman, and worked in the retail advertising department of Muncie Newspapers, Inc. for 33 years, retiring in 1988. Previously, he was a photographer for Evansville, Indiana, newspapers; editor of the Petersburg Press; wire editor for Henderson, Kentucky, newspapers; editor and salesman for the *Garrett Clipper*; and publisher of three weekly newspapers in Huntingburg, Indiana. He had received many advertising awards.

A graduate of Butler University in Indianapolis, he was a member of Sigma Delta Chi, Junior Class Sphinx and the Butler University Alumni Association. He was an Army veteran of World War II, and a member of Veterans of Foreign Wars, Disabled American Veterans, AmVets and the American Legion Petersburg Post, where he was a past commander.

He was also a member of Friends Memorial Church, Masonic Lodge, Kiwanis Club, Lions Club and Toastmasters, all in Muncie. He had served on fair boards for Pike and Dubois Counties and was active in Boy Scouts of America.

Surviving are his wife, Jane Dolores Schmidt Vawter; a daughter, Jan Cronin; a brother, John E. Vauter; and two grandchildren.



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