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1998 REUNION NEWS

The 1998 reunion of the VVV Family Association was held 30 July - 2 August at the Radisson Hotel on Town Lake in Austin, Texas. Hosts for the event were Phil and Peggy Vaughter.

Registration began on Thursday evening in the hospitality room. The officers and board members had their annual meeting at this time, too, and ideas and plans for future reunions were discussed.

The official opening of the reunion was Friday morning in the Austin Room. Ringing the VVV cowbell this year was Stephanie Chaviers, granddaughter of John and Sue Vawter. Flag bearers were Frederick Cummings, grandson of Fred and Wordna Wicker, and Jesse Vawter, grandson of Bobbee and Donna Vawter. Invocation was given by the Rev. Roger Byler.

The Nominating Committee for 1998 was introduced as Fred Wicker, Shirley Beasley, Duncan Brown, Bobbee Vawter and Norma Wicker. Due to the absence of Shirley Beasley and Duncan Brown, they were replaced by Norma Jean Vawter and Oscar Vawter.

On Friday afternoon, a genealogy session conducted by Joyce Carter, Jim Vaughters and Ralphe Vawter was well attended. Much information was shared.

At the dinner on Friday night, Peggy Vaughter led a game of "Human Bingo." This was a great way to get acquainted with new members and learn new things about longtime members.

After the game, VVV officers and their spouses or guests were introduced, and the first of many door prizes were distributed.

On Saturday night, transportation by the Armadillo Trolley was provided to the Elks Lodge for a Texas style B-B-Q. The meeting was called to order by VVV President, Beth Melton, followed with prayer by Billy Mack Vawter.

The Memorial Service was led by Fred and Wordna Wicker, who were assisted by Amanda and Jamie Lee Harris, granddaughters of Betty Harris. Entertainment was the always popular Vawter Family Singers, under the direction of Ellen Cummings, with solos by Jackie Hudson, granddaughter of Martha Hudson, and Kristi Glasgow, granddaughter of Charles and Betty Burt.

Elected to the office of president for the next two years was Phil Vaughter, and Ken Wicker was elected vice-president. All other officers were re-elected by acclamation. The nominating committee for 1999 is Fred Wicker, Granville Allen, Barbara Vawter, Jesse Vawter and Robert L. Vawter II.

The roll call of states showed there to be fourteen states represented, with Texas having the highest number in attendance. Special recognition was given to the following:

Oldest: Shirley Byler

Youngest: Jamie Harris

Traveled farthest: Bobbee and Donna Vawter and Robert L. Vawter II and family

Longest married: Glenn and Marjorie Vawter - 66 years

On Sunday morning, those who were able to stay attended Riverbend Baptist Church with our hosts, Phil and Peggy Vaughter.

We must mention the bats. Each day at about 8:00 p.m. about ½ million Mexican Free-tail bats leave the Congress Avenue Bridge for their evening repast. This was quite a sight!

THANK YOU!

Only those who have planned and hosted a reunion know the amount of time and work required. Thank you, Phil and Peggy, you are very much appreciated!

MEMORIAL SERVICE

These VVV members and friends were remembered at the memorial service:

1. Harold Andrew Vawters, 80, Columbus, Ohio, died 14 March 1997
2. Calvin A. Krapf, 64, Tamaqua, Pennsylvania, died 9 December 1997
3. Eloise Gardiner Southward, 75, Tishomingo, Mississippi, died 9 September 1997
4. Dorothy Isabella Matson Vawter, 98, Nashville, Tennessee, died 8 December 1997
5. Helen Vawter Agnew, Monroe, Louisiana, died 15 March 1998
6. James Thomas Vawter, 75, Muncie, Indiana, died 30 March 1998
7. Archie Strode Vawter, 81, Sheridan, Texas, died 25 December 1997
8. Elsie Herron Hunter, 80, Hot Springs, Arkansas, died 8 April 1998
9. Alma Vawter Johnston, 88, DeWitt, Arkansas, died 8 December 1997
10. Patton Courtney Vaughter, died 1968

A LETTER FROM BETH

Dear VVV Family, Cousins and Friends:

We just finished another very nice VVV reunion and have all returned to our chores and everyday living. To those of you who didn't make it, we MISSED you very much! Mark your calendar now for August 5-8, 1999 in Nashville, Indiana, and August of 2000 for Virginia. It was hot in Texas this year. Some of us have not had enough rain and some had much too much rain and would like to share. In Dallas where I am, we need more rain!

Just before the reunion, a girl called me. She had gotten my name from the Internet. She is Shelbie Vawter, born November 1, 1979, and is looking for her father. His name is Robert L. Vawter with a wife named Sandy, He was last known to be in San Antonio, Texas. Her mother's name is Amy Lynn Gass. I believe she said her grandfather's name was Fred Vawter. Shelbie will be married in December. If anyone knows of the Robert L. Vawter who is the father of a very sweet girl, write to me or call me and I will give you the contact number.

Thank you for letting me be your VVV President for the past two years. I have turned the gavel over to Phil Vaughter who lives in Austin. Although my life seems to keep busy, especially since I lost my husband, I have been working yet another project. Like many of you, I have an abundance of pictures - some were put into albums at one time. My daughter showed me that the pictures were turning colors due to the acid in the pages. So, I have been stripping all of my children's albums and making new ones, using scrapbook tools and archival quality pages. I am making albums for my five children, my brother and my parents, and have some other albums that I am working on, too. I have also started an album containing pictures from our VVV reunions. Usually, I have my camera, so that I have a few pictures from all except the first two reunions and 1996 that I was not able to attend. Maybe you have duplicates or pictures that you just don't want anymore, or just don't have time to deal with anymore. Please send these to me. I would like to make an album that I can bring to the reunions and share with all that attend. How about it - pictures, anyone? Thank you!

Beth Melton, VVV Past President
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1999 VVV REUNION

Nashville, Indiana, has been chosen as the site of the 1999 reunion of the association. Headquarters will be the Brown County Inn, which is within walking distance of many of the art galleries and craft, antique and specialty shops. Those who attended the 1987 reunion in Columbus, Indiana, may remember spending a day in Nashville where an exhibit of Will Vawter paintings and drawings had been set up for us at the Brown County Art Gallery.

Mark your calendars now - 5-8 August 1999 - and watch future newsletters for more information.

WILLIAM JASPER VAWTER
Contributed by Wordna Wicker

William Jasper (Billy) Vawter was born 18 February 1849 in Old Tishomingo County, Mississippi, youngest of the ten children of Allegany and Mary Robinson Vawter. His mother died when he was five years old. By the time he was 18, he had seen the death of four sisters and his oldest brother; he had lived through the Civil War and witnessed his father's home and mill destroyed by Union forces. When his second brother, James Newton Vawter returned from the Civil War and chose to settle in Tippah county, Billy and his father joined him. The exact details of how the three managed to exist in a strange war-torn county are not known.

By 3 December 1868, Billy had met and married Rebecca Jane Sanford, daughter of William Berry and Ellender Downen Sanford. By the 1870 census, the couple was living in the Molino community, near the present Tippah-Union border, with a year-old son, James Wesley. Rebecca's parents lived nearby.

Records show that James Newton married Mary Rogers (born in Tennessee) about 1869. That family cannot be located in the 1870 census; neither can his father, Allegany, although the family Bible records show that Allegany lived until 1876.

By 1880, Union County had been formed and census records show the Billy Vawter family living there with five children. Molissa Sanford, Rebecca's sister and also a member of the household would later marry James Newton after his first wife's death. (They married in December 1880.) The couple moved to the Oklahoma Territory and later to the vicinity of Hot Springs, Arkansas.

Billy was a devout member of the Baptist Church, a prosperous and respected farmer, and affectionately referred to in the community as "Uncle Billy." He and his family lived for a time in the Fredonia community in the Southern part of Union County, but moved to the Pleasant Hill area in the northeastern part of the county before he met an untimely death 15 June 1902 as the result of a buggy accident. He was 53. He is buried in the Pleasant Hill Cemetery. His widow later married David Cox, a widower. She died 26 February 1935 at age 84, and is buried alongside her first husband and infant daughter, Mamie Cordie. Billy and Rebecca were the parents of eight children, seven of whom lived to maturity.

(1) James Wesley Vawter, b. 26 December 1869; went West at an early age; became a school teacher in the Indian Territory of Oklahoma; married Martha McCasson who was 3/4 Choctaw; later became a minister and helped to form Bethany-Peniel College on the outskirts of Oklahoma City. He met an untimely death 14 December 1933 as a result of a car-streetcar accident. Children: Eula; Eunice; Ethel; Florence; Alice and Beatrice, twins; Albert and Elbert, twins; Zona; Silas; Lillian. Two brothers and three sisters followed him to Oklahoma Territory; one brother and two sisters remained after statehood.

(2) Matilda Anner Vawter, b. 4 February 1872; d. 5 February 1948; married Frank Reed; lived in the Pleasant Hill community of Union County; the only member of the family who did not migrate to Oklahoma. Children: Alvie and Bluford.

(3) Asa Berry Vawter, b. 18 April 1874; married Annie Elizabeth Lee 1902 in Lee County, Mississippi; moved to Oklahoma Territory about 1906; both buried in Chickasha Cemetery, Grady County, Oklahoma. Children: Vanessa Mae; Geneva Marie; Lonnie Leman; Aubrey Barney; Arlene.

(4) Margaret Elizabeth (Betty) Vawter, b. 5 January 1878; married 9 February 1893 in Union County, Mississippi, to John Robert Read; moved to Fannin County, Texas; later to Oklahoma Territory about 1905. Her husband died 29 December 1939, and she later married a Mr. Pugh. She died 30 May 1972 in Oklahoma. Eleven children: Arthur Robert; Lillie Cordelia; Velma Clarice; Letha Mae; Ernest Wesley; Irene Lucille; Emery Everett; Lois Bonita; Elsie June; Vera Winnfred; Margaret LaVerna.

(5) Emma Ellen Vawter, b. 5 November 1880, married 11 December 1898 in Union County to Thomas Street Wiley; died 21 March 1974; buried Hickory Flat Cemetery, Benton County, Mississippi. The family moved to Vernon, Texas about 1903, and to the Oklahoma Territory about 1904. Around 1909, they returned to Mississippi and settled in Benton County. Children: Ora Mae, married Thomas Murray Wicker; Vallie Grace, married Tom Lemuel Cox; Mary Jane, married Ike Dee Lansdale; William Street, married Allene Baker; Mamie Cordie, died young; Addie Bevel, married Clyde Edwards; Thomas Lamar, married Pearl Robbins.

(6) Adelia Cassa Vawter; b. 4 December 1883; married Whitfield Parker in Union County, Mississippi; moved to Oklahoma Territory in the early 1900s; died 1 February 1970 in Oklahoma City. Two sons: Charles and Ben.

(7) Hubert Lester Vawter, b. 17 February 1886; married Hattie Lou Grisham; died 24 September 1971; buried Hickory Flat Cemetery, Benton County. Children: Olice Jasper, b. 23 September 1913, Lindsay, Oklahoma, Garvin County, died during World War II. Olice Jasper's death, the only World War II casualty from this branch of the family, ended the Vawter line in Mississippi. He had been a member of the CCC in the 1930s and enlisted in the Marines prior to Pearl Harbor. He was stationed in the international settlement of Shanghai, and was in the Philippines on Bataan when it fell. After surviving the Bataan Death March and POW camp, he was killed by U.S. fire while being transported to the main island of Japan. Clarice Corrine, b. 12 October 1914, Benton County, Mississippi; married Thurman Emery Mayer; died 11 September 1996. Clarice and Emery have two children Martha Jane Hudson and Judith Rosalyn Crawford.

(8) Mamie Cordie Vawter, b. 20 March 1892 in Union County; died 4 June 1894; buried between her parents in Pleasant Hill Cemetery.

MAGGIE DORA VAUGHTERS QUILT

At the 1992 reunion held in Nacogdoches, Texas, Charles Burt brought a quilt that had been made by his grandmother, Maggie Dora Vaughters, in 1910. The quilt won first place at the 9th District Fair in Gainsville, Georgia, and the prize was a pump organ. Charles announced that the quilt had been registered by the Georgia Quilt Project and would be on display in the Georgia State Capitol from October 1 - November 15, 1992.

A recent phone call from Charles brought the news that out of 8500 quilts, this special quilt was one of 80 chosen to be on display at the Atlanta History Center from November 1998 -September 1999. Charles also said that he and his wife, Betty, were to be interviewed by PBS.

The pump organ that was won by Charles' grandmother in 1910 is still in the family home in Dawsonville, Georgia.

SOME E-MAIL ADDRESSES

Aue, Jerry and Judy 3rdwatch@tznnet.com	Peterson, Joyce codyfl@juno.com
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QUERY

From: Georgene Jurgenson, 910 Palmer Lane, Palm Harbor, FL 34685-1810

Georgene needs help placing the following people on the Vawter family tree:

1. 1850 Charlotte Co., Virginia, census reel #940, p. 55a, family #829. Elizabeth Vauter, age 60, (b. ca 1790) b. Cumberland Co., Virginia.
2. 1870 Patrick Co., Virginia, census, Dan River District. Reed Vaughter, age 65, b. Virginia; Esther, age 44, b. Virginia; Martha, age 18, b. Virginia; Susannah, age 14, b. Virginia; William S., age 11, b. Virginia.
3. Marriage records of marriages performed by Rev. Rene Chastain, Baptist minister in Buckingham Co., Virginia. Married on 14 April 1789, Owen Larwood and Peggy Vauters.

CONGRATULATIONS

We congratulate VVV Association secretary Joyce Carter and Lynwood Peterson who were married 27 September 1998. Joyce's new address is shown on the list of officers.

Rebecca Cummings, daughter of Ned and Ellen Cummings of Virginia Beach, Virginia, and granddaughter of Fred and Wordna Wicker of Pontotoc, Mississippi, is a member of the field hockey team at Frank W. Cox High School in Virginia Beach that recently won the State Championship. This was the eleventh time for the field hockey team of the school to reach that goal, including seven out of the past eight years. In honor of the accomplishment, the team is pictured on the back of Team Cheerios.

VAWTER REUNION IN ILLINOIS

A letter from Shirley Beasley gave news of the 54th annual Vawter reunion held in Lexington, Illinois, on 8 August 1998. Officers of that group are: Melody Schuerman, president; Mike Schapmire, vice-president; and Shirley Beasley, secretary-treasurer. Anyone wanting more information on this Vawter line and reunion can contact Shirley at 603 N Main Street, Farmer City, Illinois 61842. Shirley is the daughter of the late M. Glen Vawter, a former VVV Association president. Her family hosted the 1989 association reunion in Normal, Illinois.

IN REMEMBRANCE

Ida Mae Vawter Tooms, 91, of Humboldt, Tennessee, died 20 June 1998 at Jackson-Madison County General Hospital. She was a retired hairdresser. Burial was a Centerville Cemetery near Medina.

Survivors include a daughter, Marsha White of Humboldt. She was preceded in death by her husband, Robert Tooms; brothers, A. M. "Pete" and A. J. Vawter; and a sister, Olga Vawter Bullington.

She was the aunt of the late Robert M. "Pete" Vawter, former president of the VVV Association.

* * * * *

Pleasant Stribling Corbitt, Jr. of New Johnsonville, Tennessee, died 9 June 1998. Survivors include his wife, Lydia D. Powell Corbitt; sons William Dwight Corbitt and Wjames Pleasant Corbitt; a sister, Juanita Corbitt Crockett; and grandchildren, John Carlton Corbitt, Marissa Colleen Corbitt, Casey Maria Corbitt, and Matthew James Corbitt. He was preceded in death by a brother, Col. James Stitt Corbitt, and sisters, Emma Corbitt and Frances Corbitt Warren.

"P.S." Corbitt was a longtime member of the VVV Association, and although able to attend only one reunion, he enjoyed receiving the newsletters and keeping up with news of the family.

IN REMEMBRANCE

Era Vaughters, 81, of Dawsonville, Georgia, died 26 October 1997 at her home. She was born 24 January 1916 in Forsyth County, and had lived most of her life in Dawson County. She was a homemaker and a member of the Dawsonville Church of God of Prophecy. Burial was at Bethel Baptist Church Cemetery.

Survivors include daughters, Dorothy Ayers and Brenda Hathcock, both of Dawsonville, and Linda Phillips of Ormond Beach, Florida; a son, David Vaughters of Livonia, Michigan; sisters, Madge Talley and Grace Sherwood, both of Dawsonville; eight grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; one great-great-granddaughter. She was preceded in death by her husband, Willie Vaughters, and a granddaughter, Patsy Ayers.

Mrs. Vaughters was the aunt of VVV Association treasurer, Charles Burt.

* * * * *

Archie Strode Vawter, 81, of Sheridan, Texas, died 25 December 1997. He was born 12 March 1916 in Houston, the son of Jesse Franklin and Beulah Ann Hopkins Vawter.

On 10 November 1939, he married Fannie Lois Batard. The couple lived in the Houston area for some time while Archie worked on a tugboat in the Houston Ship Channel and Intracoastal Canal. He had been a Sheridan resident for almost 50 years, was a Mason and a member of the First Baptist Church of Sheridan. He was retired from Lehrer Industries in Garwood, Texas.

Survivors include sons, Jesse Lewis Vawter of Houston and Larry Jack Vawter of Altair, Texas; a daughter, Vera Elaine Alloway of Altair, a sister, Jessie May Farmer of Channelview, Texas; granddaughters, Karla Kay Quigley, Monica Moore, and Robyn and Jakki Alloway; grandsons, Eric Neff and Jared Vawter; great-granddaughter, Emilie Vawter; great-grandson, James Quigley. He was preceded in death by his wife, Lois; a sister, Mina Jones; and an infant sister.

Archie Strode Vawter was the great-grandson of Theodore and Josephine Elmina Vawter, and the great-great-grandson of Lorenzo Dow Vawter.

Jesse Lewis Vawter, the son of Archie, attended this year's reunion in Austin with his wife, Laneil.

* * * * *

Alma May Vawter Johnston, 88, of DeWitt, Arkansas, formerly of Hot Springs, died 8 December 1997 in Memphis, Tennessee. She was born 8 March 1909, and was a member of Central Baptist Church and Fleet Reserve National Park Chapter 568. Burial was at Pinecrest Cemetery.

Survivors include a daughter, Billie L. Johnston Cook of Memphis; a son, Ronald E. Johnston of New York; two grandchildren, Amy Jo Cook and Joel Graham Cook; and a great-grandson. She was preceded in death by her husband, Graham William Johnston.

Alma Vawter Johnston and her sister, Helen Vawter Hays, along with their brothers, Hubert and Lester Vawter, were among the sponsors of the reunion at Brady Mountain, Arkansas, in 1978. They come from the tribe of John Vawter, IV, of old Tishomingo County, Mississippi. Alma, Hubert and Lester attended the reunion in Tupelo, Mississippi, in 1986, and for the first time visited the birth place of their father, James Newton Vawter, a C.S.A. veteran who moved to Arkansas after the war.

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