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1999 REUNION REPORT

From 1908 until his death in 1941, Nashville, Indiana, was the home of artist Will Vawter. This past August, the Brown County Inn in Nashville became the "home away from home" for members of the VVV Family Association attending the annual reunion.

Registration began on Thursday, August 5, and the hospitality suite was filled all evening as members and friends enjoyed a time of fellowship. Several people had arrived on Tuesday and Wednesday to get an early start on renewing friendships, visiting the shops and touring Brown County.

Official opening of the reunion was on Friday morning by VVV President Phil Vaughter. The traditional "ringing of the cowbell" was done by Anna Louise Swenson, 8-month old granddaughter of Joe and Bonita Welch.

Invocation was given by Bill M. Vawter of Oklahoma City. Leading the pledge to the American Flag were Jonathan Andrew Welch and William Frederick Welch, both three years old and grandsons of Joe and Bonita. It was appropriate that Jonathan helped lead the pledge, as he is a native of South Korea and just became a U.S. citizen this past spring.

Minutes of the 1998 reunion in Austin, Texas, were read by the secretary, Joyce Peterson. The treasurer's report was given by assistant treasurer, Cheryl Kelly.

Following adjournment of the morning session, the group traveled by car caravan to

Vernon, Indiana, for lunch and a brief tour. Lunch was served at the North American House, a former hotel and stagecoach stop that is now the home of the Jennings County Historical Society. A visit was made to the Tripp Inn, formerly the home of Williamson Dunn Vawter, and the Vernon Cemetery, where flowers were placed on the graves of Jesse R. and Sarah Parks Vawter.

Also visited was the old Vawter Cemetery located in Selmier State Forest about three miles northeast of Vernon. This cemetery is on property once owned by William and Frances Vawter. Flowers were placed on the graves of William and Frances Vawter and many others of the Vawter family buried there, including Philemon and Anna Vawter, the parents of Frances.

On Friday evening following a poolside cookout, Jim Vaughters gave a presentation on the late Swift and Julius Vaughter. Jim had a large amount of memorabilia from their home and told of the plans for their property in Georgia.

Saturday morning was spent at the Brown County Art Gallery. Several Will Vawter paintings were on display, along with two pencil drawings owned by a VVV member. Will Vawter was a member and past president of the art gallery association.

Saturday afternoon was free to relax, shop, explore the hills of Brown County, or attend a genealogy session held in our meeting room. The session was led by Georgene Jurgenson, Joyce Peterson and Jim Vaughters.

The annual Saturday banquet and memorial service began at 6:30 p.m. with prayer by Gordie Vaughter Spencer, aunt of VVV President Phil Vaughter.

The memorial service was conducted by Beth Melton, with the assistance of Taylor Overton and Julia Petree, who placed flowers in a vase as each name was given and a brief obituary read. The service opened with Scripture read by Laneil Vawter, and a solo by Jackie Hudson. Closing the service was a solo by Kristi Glasgow.

Election of officers was held with Fred Wicker, chairman of the nominating committee making the following recommendations: Norma Jean Vawter as treasurer, Barbara Vawter as assistant treasurer, Jim Vaughters as historian/archivist, and all other officers to remain. All were elected by acclamation. Other members of the nominating committee were Granville Allen, Barbara Vawter, Jesse Vawter and Robert L. Vawter.

Appointed to the nominating committee for 2000 were Robert. L. Vawter II, Jesse Vawter, Lowell Vaughter and Barbara Vawter.

Again this year, entertainment was by the VVV Family Singers under the direction of Ellen Wicker Cummings. Several of the singers first became a part of the group when children, and are now young adults. Their performance is always a highlight of the reunion.

Special recognition was given to the following:

Oldest: Emery Mayer, age 88

Youngest: Anna Louise Swenson, age eight months

Longest married: Evert and Maxine Joling, 54 years

Traveled farthest: Gordie Vaughter Spencer, 2152 miles

It should be noted that while we had three people traveling from California to the reunion, there was also one person who came a distance of about six blocks. Ruth Jones

Hansen was a first time attendee and lives in Nashville.

The roll call of states found there to be 19 states represented at the banquet, with Indiana having the most at 16. Second place went to Tennessee and Mississippi, with each having 12.

As is the custom every five years, the 2000 reunion will be held in Virginia, an invitation was extended by Ellen Wicker Cummings, who will be hosting the event.

To close the evening, the always popular door prizes were distributed by Mary and Bob Vawter, with the help of many of the children.

MEMORIAL SERVICE

1. Martha Evelyn Jackson Compton, 90, died 5 March 1997
2. Lucille C. Walker, 99, died 7 September 1997
3. Era Vaughters, 81, died 26 October 1997
4. Gene Evans 75, died April 1998
5. Pleasant Stribling Corbitt, Jr., died 9 June 1998
6. Ida May Vawter Tooms, 91, died 20 June 1998
7. Harry A. Crouch, 89, died 14 August 1998
8. Frank Milton Vawter, 77, died 1 November 1998
9. Glenn I. Vawter, 85, died 14 November 1998
10. Roy Taylor, Jr., 67, died 5 December 1998
11. Benjamin Brand Burton, 18, died 28 January 1999
12. Allean Vawter Powell, died January 1999
13. Edna "Babe" Vawter, 90, died 24 February 1999
14. Smith Julian Vaughter, 90, died 1 March 1999
15. Effie Magnolia Vaughter, 90, died 23 March 1999
16. Terry Lynn Vawter, 56, died 7 April 1999
17. Walter Earl Reynolds, 86, died 8 May 1999
18. Jean Vawter Robinson, 77, died 10 May 1999
19. Susan Woodard Vawter, 81, died 19 June 1999
20. Lula Vaughters Thompson; 87, died 1 August 1999

GENEALOGY SESSION REPORT BY RALPHE VAWTER

Twenty-three interested souls met to talk about family history/ genealogy. Led by Ralphe Vawter, presentations were made by Georgene Jurgensen, Joyce Peterson, Larry Wilcox and Jim Vaughters.

We talked about expanding genealogy information in the newsletter and establishing a Web page for the Association.

On the prior evening, Jim Vaughters gave a most interesting view of the Julian and Swift Vaughter property in Georgia. Jim was later named the new Historian/Archivist, replacing Ralphe Vawter who chose to retire from the position.

Hope to see you next year at Vawter's Church in Virginia.

UPDATE ON SWIFT AND JULIAN VAUGHTER

The Department of Natural Resources, State of Georgia, is currently surveying the entire 800 acres that the brothers, Swift and Julian Vaughter, willed to the State. The survey is both a boundary survey and an internal survey. Every topographic feature will be noted. One big house, two small cabins, two barns, ruins of the first two settlers' houses, the four-grave cemetery (Vaughter), and a two-grave cemetery (Patterson), are being located, marked and protected by the State.

The State is accepting for the designated park all but three to five acres where the house, store, garage, barn and trailer stand. Julian's Estate will continue to own that land and buildings until a decision is made as to how to dispose of them. The opportunity for the VVV Association would be to preserve them and set up at least a display, if not a museum.

Jim Vaughters, his sister, Pat, and his brother, Doug, purchased all the contents of all the buildings. Most of the furniture will make its way to their houses, but some might be left in the buildings.

The ceremony turning over the land/park to the State is one to two years away. Jim suggests and strongly recommends that we try to schedule that ceremony at our reunion. Even if not, the Association should send a big delegation. The State expects and appreciates family participation.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Samuel and Hazel Robinson Maniscalco who will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on 20 November 1999. They live in Arabi, Louisiana. Hazel is a homemaker, and her husband is a jewelry engraver, specializing in monogram jewelry.

Hazel is the granddaughter of Loving and Aulenia Robinson, who lived in Paden, Mississippi, and the great-granddaughter of Joseph and Cynthia Robinson.

Hazel's e-mail: hrm6800@aol.com

Congratulations, too, goes to Rebecca Cummings of Virginia Beach, Virginia. Rebecca's field hockey team, the Cox High School Lady Falcons, won its 13th state title. This is a national record. Rebecca is a senior halfback on the team. The Cummings family is spending the Thanksgiving holidays in West Palm Beach, Florida, at the National Field Hockey Festival. Rebecca is the daughter of Ned and Ellen Cummings, and the granddaughter of Fred and Wordna Wicker.

WELCOME

S. Ernest Vandiver, Jr., of Lavonia Georgia, a former governor of Georgia, has been added to our mailing list. His grandmother was Eliza Missouri Vaughter, one of four daughters of Hiram and Elizabeth Glenn Vaughter. Hiram was the son of James and Jane Vaughter. James was the son of John and Joanna Vaughter. Thanks to VVV Historian-Archivist Jim Vaughters for this connection.

MARTIN FAMILY DESCENDANTS DONATE DRESS
From *The Paris Post-Intelligencer*, Paris, Tennessee
Sent by Agnes Ellis Smyth

The Special Collections Archives of the Paul Meek Library at the University of Tennessee at Martin now contains a 162-year-old dress which was worn by the sister of William Martin, for whom the City of Martin was named.

In 1837, Thomas and Drucilla Vawter Martin came to Weakley County from Halifax County, Virginia, to join their only son, William, who had made the trip south five years earlier. The custom was for families to travel in large groups for safety reasons. The trip took about four to six weeks to complete. In this group were James Adams, his wife Susan Martin Adams and their first two children. The date of this journey was proven to be 1837 because Martha, the couple's first child was born in 1833 and died in 1837 enroute to Weakley County. She is buried somewhere in Henry County.

Living descendants of Susan Adams don't know how or why she had carefully kept a dress she had brought with her from Virginia to Tennessee. Susan died in 1872, and was survived by five children. One child died in less than a year of Susan's death, while the others soon married. James M. Adams, the oldest son in the home at Susan's death, bought the home farm which was located between Ralston and Martin. He kept the farm until he died. Fortunately for some reason, he kept his mother's dress. When James died, his son, Franklin, became the new owner of the dress.

The handwoven dress is faded now, but at one time was either a brilliant gold or shining yellow, with a vertical print pattern from top to bottom. The dress fastens together with 10 buttons from the top to the hem on the front, and is tapered at the waist with a half belt. It is difficult to determine whether the dress was worn in the winter or if it was a summer dress. More than likely the dress was worn for special occasions year-round.

"This was probably her best dress," said Marion Smith of McKenzie. Ms. Smith is the last person to wear the dress, and she wore it 30 years ago to an antique dress fashion show as part of the McKenzie centennial celebration. Ms. Smith claimed top honors in the event for having the oldest dress. Ms. Smith is the niece of Nora Newberry Adams, a former school teacher in Paris. In 1961, Nora married Franklin Adams, who served in World War I and was one of eight stenographers at the Versailles Peace Conference with President Woodrow Wilson. Franklin Adams' great-grandmother was Susan L. Martin Adams.

"Few living today have seen such a garment or can imagine the hours of work that went into making it," said Agnes Ellis Smyth of Weakley County, one of five living great-granddaughters of Susan Martin Adams; "This is truly one of Weakley County's treasures," she said. "The dress is valuable only because it is now more than one hundred and sixty-two years old, and made entirely by hand of home-spun cotton threads, some of which were dyed blue."

Barbara Adams Dahms of California, known to many as Marisue Adams, and a niece of Franklin Adams, and Mrs. Smyth presented the dress to the UTM Special Collections Archives in January.

QUERIES

From: James D. Richardson, 809 Juliet Avenue, Memphis TN 38127-6076

"Does anyone know just how many children John Vawter IV had? The Newsletter, Spring 1989 (Cousin Chart) shows 5 daughters and 1 son by 1st wife, Rhoda, and 4 daughters by 2nd wife, Elizabeth. The Newsletter, Fall 1986, (telling of the tour to Jacinto when the reunion was in Tupelo in 1986) says 6 of John's children were born in Tishomingo Co., Mississippi. These would have been children by Elizabeth and we only have 4 names. It also said 3 of his children died there. Is there a known death date for John Vawter IV? Records in Newsletters show he died after the 1850 census (when he was in Marion Co. Alabama) and before October 1864, when Peachy, his 3rd wife, remarried. Neither John nor Peachy were found on the 1860 census index of Alabama or Mississippi. Any help appreciated."

From: Leon Vawter, 425 W Williams, Santa Maria CA 93458

"I know very little about my family twig on the Vawter tree. We lived so far away from them when it didn't seem important, when we were young. My grandparents were John Miles and Schelatta (spelling?) Vawter who lived in or near Tipton, Indiana, in the eighteen hundreds. I believe they were farmers. I understand my grandfather was killed by a falling tree. They had seven children: (not in order of birth)

1. John, wife Lou (He patented and manufactured an early model automobile clutch.
2. Oliver, wife Effie (children: Ruth, George Roy, Hazel and Ruby)
3. Rose
4. George
5. Christopher Newport
6. Adda Ann
7. James Monroe (my father) born. Feb. 5, 1876 in Tipton. His first wife's name was Mae.

"James Monroe, my father, and Mae had two children, Naomie and a son who died at an early age. Mae also died in mid-age. My father later married Georgiana Miller (my mother), born in Beaverdam, Kentucky, and who was living in Indianapolis when they were married. Dad served in the Spanish American War, serving in Cuba and the Philippines. After being discharged, he worked in a buggy factory, later at the Sanitary Can Co. Both places were located in Indianapolis, where my older brother, Eugene, was born in 1916. In 1919, the family moved to a farm, purchased from his brother, Oliver, in North Arkansas where I was born in 1920. Three younger brothers, William, Carl, and Harlan Monroe also were born there. After Mom died and all of us were grown, Dad retired to the Indiana state Soldiers Home near Lafayette where he died in 1957 and is buried there in the memorial cemetery."

IN REMEMBRANCE

Philip Andrew Hoyt, 67, of Indianapolis died 20 July 1999.

Mr. Hoyt was a certified lay minister with American Baptist Church, a member of First Baptist Church in Indianapolis, and had been a Sunday school teacher and youth group leader. He was past president of the American Baptist Men of Indiana. He also volunteered with Prison Fellowship and Habitat for Humanity and served as a Boy Scout commissioner.

He was a civil service worker for the Department of the Army at Fort Benjamin Harrison for 35 years, retiring in 1987, and a veteran of the Marine Corps.

Survivors include his wife, Ginger S. Vawter Hoyt; a son, Army Lt. Col. Michael A. Hoyt; daughters, Cynthia J. Jansen, Katherine S. Fisher and Jan Hoyt Westcott; and 12 grandchildren.

Funeral service was held at First Baptist Church, and burial was in Crown Hill Cemetery in Indianapolis.

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Vallie Wiley Cox, 96, died 6 August 1999 in Nash, Texas. She was the daughter of Thomas and Emma Vawter Wiley, who had lived in Benton County, Mississippi.

She was a Baptist and a homemaker.

Survivors include three daughters, Betty Turner, Dorothy Henter and Hazel Faye Carter, all of Texas; a brother, William S. Wiley of Gulfport, Mississippi; and a sister, Addie Edwards of Concord, North Carolina. She was preceded in death by her husband, T. L. Cox; a brother, Thomas Wiley; and a sister Ora Wiley Wicker.

Mrs. Cox was the aunt of VVV Association members Ken Wicker of Tupolo, Mississippi; and Fred Wicker of Pontotoc, Mississippi.

* * * * *

Lula Vaughters Thompson, 87, of Dawsonville, Georgia, died 1 August 1999 at Chestnut Ridge Nursing Center in Cummings, Georgia.

A lifelong resident of Dawson County, she was a homemaker and a member of Bethel Baptist Church.

Survivors include sisters, Alice Disharoon, Eler Tanner, Ola Swafford and Flara Waters, all of Dawsonville; and a number of other relatives. She was preceded in death by her husband, William Thompson, and a brother, Charlie Vaughters.

Funeral service was held at Bethel Baptist Church and burial was in the church cemetery.

Lula Vaughters Thompson was a longtime member of the VVV Association and attended many reunions.

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Charles Burt, longtime member, supporter and former treasurer of the Association, was unable to attend the August reunion because of a serious illness. We are sorry to report the death of Charles a few weeks ago. We will have his obituary in the January newsletter.

Our sympathy is sent to Betty and all of Charles' family .

MEMBERS AND FRIENDS REGISTERED AT THE 1999 REUNION

ALABAMA

Granville O. and Opal E. Allen

CALIFORNIA

Gordie Vaughter Spencer

Garry Vawter

Marjorie Vawter

COLORADO

Jim Vaughters

DELAWARE

Donna and Robert L. Vawter

Mary and Robert L. Vawter II;

Robert, Amanda, Jesse

FLORIDA

Ralphe and Caroline Vawter

GEORGIA

Cheryl Kelley; Tim & Kristy Glasgow

Mindy Parrish

Pam Schlesinger

Steve Swindle

Bob Theile

ILLINOIS

Connie Bugos

Peter and Nora Rogers

Edith Vawter

INDIANA

Mary McDaniel

Ruth Hansen

Norris and Joan Krall

Dewey and Jeanette Vawter

Vinee and Betty Vawter; Saranan Roy

Alan and Kyong Welch; Jonathan

Darren Welch and Kristin Swenson;

William and Anna

Joe and Bonita Welch

LOUISIANA

Melinda Vawter

Larry S. Wilcox

MICHIGAN

Patricia Vawter Klein

Stanley and Janet Read

Margaret Vawter

Robert L. and Ila Vawter

MISSISSIPPI

Judith Crawford

Martha Hudson; Jackie

Emery Mayer

Lowell and Angela Vaughters

Norma S. Vaughters

Fred and Wordna Wicker; McDaniel

Ken and Norma Wicker

NEW YORK

Dorothy and Richard Vawter

OHIO

Sue Vawters Ashton

Betty Vaughters May

Sharon Patrick

Venie Vawters; Maggie

OKLAHOMA

Cleta Jones

Lou Ann Murphy

Billy Mack and Virginia Vawter

PENNSYLVANIA

Glee Krapf; Allen

SOUTH DAKOTA

Georgene Jurgensen

TENNESSEE

Bill and Julia Blanks

Caroline Scarlett; Taylor Overton

Barbara J. Vawter; Emily DeFur

Norma Jean Vawter

Wendy Vawter

TEXAS

Juanita Baker

Beth Melton

Lynwood and Joyce Peterson

Phil and Peggy Vaughter; Courtney

Jesse L. and Laneil Vawter

John H. and Sue Vawter

VIRGINIA

Ned and Ellen Cummings

Rebecca and Frederick

WISCONSIN

Evert and Maxine Joling

Johnathon Joling

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