

VVV FAMILY ASSOCIATION
Fredericksburg, Virginia
August 1985

According to Grace Vawter Bicknell, the immigrant Vawter came to the U.S. around 1685. On that premise, the VAWTER CLAN celebrated the three hundredth year anniversary of the Vawter Family in the U.S.A.

On FRIDAY - 10 a.m., JONATHAN VAUGHTERS, opened the first session of the 1985 VVV reunion with the ringing of the traditional "cow bell".

REV. DONALD PLACE, pastor of the Vawter church gave the invocation.

SYDNEY ARMSTRONG, Vice-mayor brought greetings from the mayor of Fredericksburg. He spoke of reading the story of the tent Chautauqua in the last newsletter. He had attended one and when the audience was questioned, there were around six who raised their hands indicating they had also seen one.

The reunion was dedicated to Grace Bicknell's daughter, Mrs. Constance Bicknell Will, who passed away in the past year. A card of sympathy was signed by VVVFA members and mailed to her husband, Mr. Samuel Will.

The minutes from the previous meeting in Nacogdoches, Texas were read and approved. Motion made by Bill Vawter and seconded by Ted Vawter.

SHIRLEY (VAWTER) BYLER had on display her family history book just back from the printer. After 30 years of research she has compiled information, including wills, of early Vawters and other early VA Families as well as her mother's line. She had more material than she could use in one book, so this is volume I. The price is \$40.00 plus \$2.50 postage. You may order from her at: Rt. I, Box 319. Sweeny, TX 77480.

Motion was made by Betty Nash to buy a copy of Shirley Byler's Vawter Book Volume I For the Orange County Historical Society and present it to Ann Miller. Motion was second by Betsy Miller and Motion carried.

A VVV genealogy chart was put up across the wall with cards for each of the children of the immigrant. Each of these children had cards of their children. Then each of them had a list of their children with a blank paper attached at the bottom. Every VVV was asked to sign their name to the branch they belonged giving the number of which child.

Volume II of the VVVFA Cookbook went on sale and can now be purchased for \$6.00 From BETH SABEL. There are new contributors and new recipes. The VVVFA wish to express a big "thank you" to B. VAN OSDOL-SCHNEIDER for all the art work in Volume 1 & 2 of our cookbook. She was not able to attend this reunion because of ill health. A card signed by VVVFA members was mailed to her.

For those interested, you may purchase any of back issues of the VVVFA newsletter. Write or contact BETH SABEL and give her the number of those you want and she will quote you a price.

An index has been printed for all the newsletter starting with issue #1. If there is a VVV name you want to look up in a newsletter check the index and it will give you the issue and page. The cost of the index is \$8.00. Order From BETH SABEL.

Awards were given to Pete Vawter for his past work as President and to Lucille Keir For Associate Editor.

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There were around 35 items brought for door prizes which displayed beautiful examples of VVVFA members handwork.

CHARLES & BETTY BURT of GA had a beautiful hand-made quilt on display. It was made of 76 blocks with names embroidered of those attending the last reunion. Work was done by Betty and her mother. (names of those who signed their name on paper at last reunion) They couldn't part with it - but we were all allowed to love it a bit.

The copy machine rented by the VVVFA was put to good use throughout the reunion. We appreciated the help of CHARLES RAYSON of DE for over seeing the photo copy work.

It was noted that the First VVV reunion started around 1975 when PAUL VAUGHTER, SR. then of TX, decided he would try and get all the VVV cousins together. The only ones he knew of at that time were those in TX & OK. When BILL & SALLY VAWTER of TX and FRED & WORDNA WICKER of MS found out about it the word spread.

Friday 1 p.m. - For those interested a caravan of around ten cars drove to the town of Orange and visited the Orange County Historical society. JIM CORBITT had made an appointment with ANN L. MILLER, Certified Genealogical Record Searcher, to speak to the VVV's about the Vawter Family, early Virginia county divisions, the migration of Families etc. She has been helpful to SHIRLEY BYLER, JIM CORBITT and others who have written to her for information. Her address is Box 542, Madison, VA 22727.

At our Dinner Meeting - Up-date of a new Vawter book:
Historian/Archivist, JIM VAUGHTERS, announced that there is no plan now to print a new VVV book. There are additional VVV Families which had not been discovered by Bicknell. To up-date her book and add these would take several volumes. At the suggestion of E.B. VAUGHTERS of Seattle, WA we will include genealogies in the newsletters. These and other Family genealogy books such as Shirley Byler's book, we hope, will fill this need.

A five page paper of VVV's in England as researched by JAMES LANIER VAWTER of El Campo, TX intitled "A Brief History of the Ancient Royal Manor of Sutton" was presented by JIM VAUGHTERS. It started with the Norman invasion of 1066 and the Domesday book.

The evening ended with the drawing of 16 of the door prizes.

Saturday 9:30 a.m. Some points of interest seen on bus tour of Fredericksburg:
St. George Episcopal Church where the Father of MARTHA WASHINGTON is buried in churchyard.
Masonic Lodge #4 in America which owns the minute-book & Bible on which GEORGE WASHINGTON took oath in becoming a member.
Place where GEORGE WASHINGTON threw coin across the Rappahannock River. Present day Boy Scouts have a contest to throw a coin across the river. Home which GEORGE WASHINGTON purchased for his mother, MARY WASHINGTON, Grave and Monument of MARY WASHINGTON.
Monument to THOMAS JEFFERSON'S thesis on "Religious Freedom". An annual celebration there.

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Tour of campus of MARY WASHINGTON College.
Drive to "Elmwood" home of MRS. MUSCOE GARNETT FOR a 1 o'clock luncheon. Talk on VAUTER church by REV. FALL and a visit to the VAUTER church.

Saturday Dinner - After dinner Roger Byler gave a soliloquy, "Who Am I".

Roll of the states

Roll call of states having VVV's present. (missed a lot of you Texas VVV members, also those from Arizona and Louisiana).

We set a record with VVV's coming from 24 states with 142 registered. There were around 15 attending a VVVFA reunion for the first time. The youngest in attendance was FREDERICK CUMMINGS of NC age eight months.

The oldest member attending was ORA WICKER of TN who will be 85 in September.

E.B. & ADELE VAUGHTERS of Seattle, WA traveled the greatest distance.

Frank Robinson reported for Ted Vawter chairman of the nominating committee and other members, Vernon Vawter, Jim Corbitt, Betty Nash and Charles Burt. It was moved, seconded and passed that the present slate of officers be re-elected for the next year. John H. Vawter of TX was elected assistant treasurer.

MEMORIAL SERVICE

As Wordna Wicker gave biographies of those who had died this past year, her granddaughter, Rebecca, put a carnation for each in a vase.

CONSTANCE BICKNELL WILL - last surviving daughter of Grace Vawter Bicknell.

MARGARET VAWTER JEFFRESS - of Oklahoma City, OK, a first cousin to Madge Elliott.

ROBERT EARL JINES - of Pea Ridge, AR, married to Billie Allen who is one of the James Vaughters descendants of GA.

JAMES T. GUYNES - of El Paso, TX, husband of Frances Guynes who has attended the VVVFA reunions for a number of years.

SAM DANIEL - of Iuka, MS, husband of Lynn Reid Daniel who is a descendant of John Vawter IV of old Tishomingo, Co., MS.

MARGARET VAWTER CRITTEN - of West Pain, MO, she was sister of Bobbee Vawter, President and his brother Glenn Vawter of Calif. GEORGE

CLIFFORD WEIDNER - of Lexington, IL, was first cousin to Vice-President, Glen Vawter.

MRS ELLA WARREN HENSLEE - of TN, cousin of Jim Corbitt.

JULIA IGERT DYER - Of Paducah, KY, descends from line of Jesse, son of David.

IKE LANSDALE - of Fordyce, AR, was brother-in-law to Ora Wicker. Addie Edwards, and to Bill & Tom Wiley.

J. VAWTER - of Trenton, TN, uncle of Pete Vawter.

This was followed by "The Lords Prayer", sung by Ellen Wicker Cummings.

Fred Wicker announced the formal invitation for the next VVVFA reunion to be in Tupelo, MS August 1-2-3. He handed out Chamber of Commerce packets to each.

Many VVV's had Sunday Morning Worship service in the VAUTER church. Communion was served. The communion service brought over in the early 1700's is now valued at \$40,000. The VVVFA presented the VAUTER church with their love gift of \$1,785,00.

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