

**VAWTER
AUTER
VAUGHTER(S)
FAMILY ASSOCIATION**

NEWSLETTER

December 1980

Issue No. 11

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It came to pass in those days that a decree went out from the West from Augustus James that in the sixth month the Vawters should Journey to the principality of Essex in the Commonwealth of Virginia to take account unto their ancestors.

And so it was in the sixth month that, by whatever name, those of the house and lineage of Vawter did travel to the Rappahannock, even unto the Church of Vauter in the principality of Essex, there to take account unto their fathers. And they looked upon the Church, and upon the river, and upon the countryside and did ask themselves privily how their fathers could have left these shores and traveled unto Mississippi, and Texas, and Oregon to make other homes for themselves.

And so it was that the local citizenry did marvel at these Vawters who had come from afar. And they did open their homes and their hearts to the Vawters, and did prepare for them a table laden with good things. And lo the Vawters did partake of all that was offered them, yea, even to excess.

And Augustus James decreed an offering to be taken for the Church of Vauter, and when it was counted, lo, the total was more than \$1800.00. And Augustus Ralph, of the Church of Vauter, did thank the Vawters for their generous gift. And Augustus Ralph did tell them many wondrous deeds done of yore by their fathers, and the Vawters smiled one to another for it pleased them to hear these things.

But one day Augustus Ralph did become vexed with the Vawters for they lingered long at the table, and rested long upon their couches, and verily were late at the meeting place. And Augustus Ralph sayeth unto the Vawters that tardiness is an abomination. And the Vawters answered not, for they were sore ashamed.

Then another day did Augustus Ralph linger long at his table and rest long upon his couch, and the Vawters did wait for him, and a young Vawter was sent to fetch him. And when he was come, the Vawters sayeth unto Augustus Ralph, behold thou has been so long with us that thou hast become no better than a Vawter. And Augustus Ralph answered not for he was sore ashamed.

When the days of accounting were at end, the Vawters returned, everyone to his own place, traveling a different way than which they came. Augustus James returned also unto the West, taking with him his young son, Augustus Jonathan. And the Vawters murmured among themselves as to why Augustus Jonathan had come

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to the accounting rather than Canine Commodore (knowing not that Canine Commodore had refused to fly). And the Vawters said one to another that it was good to bring Augustus Jonathan for he is more comely and did not frighten the maids, as did Canine Commodore.

And so it was that 87 souls were accounted at the Church of Vauter in the principality of Essex, in the sixth month.

The V/V/V Reunion of 1980 will be remembered long by all who attended. Missing were the familiar faces of Marv and Bess Vawter; Shirley and Roger Byler; Bettie and Mark Nash; Betsy and Jim Miller; all forced to cancel because of family illness. Missing also were the Paul Vaughters, Jr. & Sr., as well as the Silas Vawters, all away on one of their missionary journeys perhaps. Missing were the Bill Wileys, along with his potables, and the Ray Murrays, along with their handy van. Likewise, a number of others.

New faces were Betty Corbitt Callis and son Stan; Jonathan Vaughters; Esther Barker Vawter and Lorene Graham, more about them later in connection with the newsletter staff; Virginia Vawter Groseclose and brother, Jas. H. Vawter; Roberta Vawter Meek, with husband Louis and son, Jim; Celeste Vawter Fonda with husband Vernon, and daughter, Erika; Tillie Vawter (mother of Celeste) with other daughter, Shelly Vawter Booth and husband, John; and Tillie's son, Ron Vawter, all these of the family of Vernon Vawter; E.B. Vaughters and wife, Adele; Edna Reynolds and husband, Walter, more about Edna later; our honorary Vawter, Ralph Fall; the brothers, Hal, and Jack Chaille; Virginia Scholz, with family Herb, Charlotte and Trey, Barbara and Bob McLelland, Wanda and Bill Chritton; Beverly Vawter Gallegos of N.Y. City; Patricia Vawter Klein of Kalamazoo, Mich.; Roger and Gayle Wicker and Margaret Gayle of Alexandria, Va.; Katherine Klein of Kalamazoo; Clara Vawter James of Media, Pa. with daughter, Ann Raack Dome and husband, Christopher; Rosemary Vawter Raysor, Charles, Chuck and Samantha of Townsend, Del.; Robt. L. Vawter, II, Mary Louise and Robert, III, of Middletown, Del.; Mr. & Mrs. Henry Alexander Vawter of Flint Hill, Va.; John and Mary Winningham, of Chevy Chase, Md.; Helen Dart Johnson and husband, Homer; John and Dorothy Martin and Mary, of Alexandria; Pat Vaughters Herndon, Glenn, Beth and Lynn, enroute to their new home in Tampa, Fla.

The family association groweth.

Business session: Dues to continue at \$5.00 Per year, payable at the close of the reunion. The option of Sustaining Member be accorded those who wish to pay \$15.00 or more per year; names of these to be published once a year. Waiver of payment of dues to those 80 and above, who request same.

Newsletter to publish three times a year, with the continued assistance of Beth Sabel in Portland; and the added assistance of Esther Vawter in Sacramento and Lorene Graham in Westminster, Colo. Esther will provide new ideas and a fresh touch to the newsletter, and Lorene will handle the exchange feature of the newsletter with other family and genealogical publications. Your editor, Wordna, to struggle along as best she can.

REFLECTIONS BY A NON-VAWTER AT THE FAMILY REUNION or AN IN-LAW AMONG THE OUTLAWS by Esther Barker Vawter (Mrs. Virgil D.) in California:

Was this your first VVV Reunion? It was mine. Were you one who had married into the Vawter family? I was. Did you leave your spouse at home while you attended his family reunion? I did. What would it be like to arrive at the VVV Reunion for the first time all by myself? I now know.

In May I embarked on my genealogy dream trip which lasted six weeks and covered six states. It was all planned to end at the VVV Reunion - unless I got cold feet. As I pulled into Brown Motel in the late afternoon, I was warmly greeted by Col. James Corbitt. What luck to meet another non-Vawter first off. Oops! First mistake. Jim Corbitt is not a non-Vawter; Vawter blood has flowed in Corbitt veins for 150 years; 5 pages in Bicknell are devoted to Corbitts. Pardon me!

Notwithstanding my first goof, I managed to locate my sister-in-law, Beth Sabel, and things settled down. I was invited to sit in on a committee meeting and began to feel very much at home. The tours and lectures by Rev. Ralph Fall helped to bring history alive. The tour of the three old homes was a trip back in time. When our guide at Brooke's Bank told of the Yankee gun-boats firing on the stately old mansion during the Civil War, I faked a southern accent and pretended Indiana was located on the Gulf of Mexico. I was learning.

The Vawters took me in, and at the end of three days I felt like one of them. Found myself on the newsletter committee, so will be speaking to you on these pages throughout the year. A big item of business at the reunion was the choice of a place and time for the 1981 reunion. It will be at the Downtowner Motel in Hot Springs, Ark. on August 7, 8, & 9. The phone number for reservations is (501) 624-5521. More detailed information later.

The 1982 Reunion is scheduled to meet in Indiana, at the request of Edna Reynolds, who with her husband Walter, were at Port Royal in June. All who have read the Vawter history by Grace Vawter Bicknell know that Indiana has long been a Vawter stronghold. Edna Reynolds and her cousin, Vera Wheatley, are responsible for the reprint and update of the Bicknell Bible. (VVNL No 5, p. 4)

The Mississippi Vawters have extended an invitation for the reunion in 1983, or 1984, or at such time as the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway is completed. This waterway flows through the part of Old Tishomingo Co., Ms. that was once the domain of John Vawter IV (VVNL No. 7, p. 4) and when completed, will give full access to the old Vawter lands.

Officers: The present slate of officers was retained with the exception of V.P. Marvin Vawter, who asked to be relieved. He was replaced by Robert (Pete) Vawter of Milan, Tn. It was stipulated that effective this year, the office of President and Vice President would be limited to a 2-year term, elected each year.

The Vawter Collection: The book of Farm Rhymes, illustrated by Will Vawter; and the metal sign, Valletort Place, (VVVNL no. 10, p. 2) donated by Donald Ritchie in memory of his wife, Nancy Vawter Ritchie, found their way to the reunion by Pete and Norma Vawter. Added to the collection were a number of old newspaper articles on Will Vawter; a gavel donated by Lemuel Burrow of Jacksonville, Fla.; and the hand-painted cowbell done by Vernon and Traudl Vawter. The most recent addition was a hand-painted commemorative plaque presented the family association by Mrs. Ralph Fall at the reunion in June.

In Requiem: It is with sadness that we report the loss of yet another Vawter researcher. W.T. Vawter, 702 Wigley St., Mineola, Tx. 75773, died September 6, 1980 following a long bout with cancer. The 1980 Reunion at Port Royal was dedicated to Mr. Vawter as a tribute to his work on Vawter research. He sent his own personal message of appreciation to the family association, which was read at the reunion by President Jim Vaughters. The association expresses its sincere sympathy to his widow, Mrs. Ida Vawter, and to their children.

A HAPPY ANNOUNCEMENT: At the reunion it was apparent that Vernon and Celeste (Vawter) Fonda were anticipating an addition to their family. The young man arrived on Oct. 13, 1980, weighing in at 8 lbs. 4 oz. He has been named Vernon Vawter Fonda; for his father (of course) and for his favorite uncle, Vernon Vawter of Royal, Ark. Congratulations to the proud parents; to sister, Erika; and to Grandma Tillie.

ANOTHER HONOR FOR VERNON: While at the reunion in June, back on the home front at Hot Springs, Vernon Vawter and wife, Traudl, were named "Artists of the Month" by the Traditional Art Guild. Traudl, who stayed home to mind the farm, accepted the honor for both of them. The VVV were privileged to see some of this art during the 1978 reunion at Brady Mountain.

LOST: Paul Eugene Vaughter, born Feb. 13, 1926, served in U.S. Navy in WW II, originally from Alamosa Calif. There is no fortune involved, but an old navy friend, Homer F. Swepston, would like to contact him. The request was made by Mr. Swepston's daughter, Debra Kirk, 1743 S 140th East Ave., Tulsa, Ok. 74108.

ANOTHER DAUGHTER FOR JOHN VAWTER: John Vawter IV (VVNL No. 7, p. 4) was known have had a daughter named Malinda from an item in the Family Bible of Mrs. Willard Robinson Nixon of Iuka, Ms. which gave her birth date as Oct. 27, 1812. Nothing more was known about her until very recently when a letter arrived from Granville Allen, 2213 LaSalle Rd., Huntsville, Ala. 35810, claiming to be her great grandson through her marriage to Robert Burr Allen. It's a pleasure to clear up this part of the John Vawter puzzle, and to welcome Cousin Granville to the family.

THIS AND THAT: Many new names have been added to the family association recently and at this point, this writer does not know the exact number. A full report will be given on membership in the next issue. A number of news items have been received which could not be included in this issue. They will be used at a later date. Items for print in the newsletter are always welcome.

BEST WISHES FOR A HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON FROM THE OFFICERS OF THE FAMILY ASSOCIATION!

Regarding the offering for Vawter Church (VVVNL No. 10, p. 1 and 4) Your editor challenged the family association to give \$1000 to the Church at the time of the reunion, and resolved to "think \$1000" until reunion time. When the offering was counted, it approximated \$1800. The editor now regrets not having thought \$2000. Perhaps there are those who have not yet made their love gift to the Church which bears the family name. A Christmas gift to the Church at this time would be completely in order.

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