



NEWSLETTER
FALL 1982 Issue No. 16

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This issue is an introduction to your new newsletter editor (see new officers listed above). This is a new job to me and I ask for your help. I am susceptible to errors in spelling, writing grammatically, and will from time to time have omissions, but will do my best for you. I am open to suggestions. While at the reunion I personally asked several to contribute and be on the look-out for any VVV news. I am now asking all of you to try and contribute something to the newsletter this year. If all of you will help me fill the newsletter, I will prepare four copies a year; Fall in September, Winter in December, Spring in March, and Summer in June. It is only through the newsletter that we have contact with you and each other. This is very important to keep our clan together and growing.

This issue will be devoted mainly to the Fifth Annual National Reunion using excerpts from the newspaper and data from Mrs. Joe Welch (Bonita), along with announcements and items of news. I hope you who attended won't begrudge the space given to the reunion, because I want all those who weren't there to share it with us.

For those interested in figures, we registered 127 from 22 states plus Mexico and a guest exchange student from Bogota, Columbia. You will find enclosed a list of those who registered along with the addresses of those who gave them. For those who could not attend, you missed so much. I feel it was the best reunion yet. We all want to give Walter and Edna Reynolds a big "Thank You" for the two years of planning and work that went into making this reunion the success it was.

After the welcome by our out-going president, Jim Vaughters, Marvin Vawter spoke on "The Lost William.., brother of Jesse. We will have excerpts from his paper at a later date.

In the afternoon two bus loads of Vawters made a bus tour through historic Madison making stops to go thru the Lanier Home, Scofield House and the First Baptist Church founded by Jesse Vawter. A point of interest was the site of the Jesse Vawter home which had been torn down. We appreciated the picture of his beautiful home on the front of our reunion programs.

Those of you who are interested in genealogy missed the treat of hearing Willard Heiss. Thank you, Jim Corbitt, for your selection. For those of you who are not acquainted with him, here is a partial list of his accomplishments:

1. - Certified and accredited genealogist.
2. - Fellow, American society of Genealogists & National Genealogy Society.
3. - Employed by City of Indianapolis, IN as administrator Records and Microfilm division.
4. - Member of Society of American Archivists, American Micrographics Assoc., and numerous genealogy and historical societies.
5. - Presently edits Genealogy, publication of Indiana Historical Society.
6. - Compiled six volumes of abstracts of the minutes of the Society of Friends of Indiana. (Quakers).
7. - Lectures widely - such as World Conference on Records at Salt Lake, Bi-centennial Genealogy Conference, Stanford and Brigham Young Universities.
8. - Teaches Genealogy at IU - PU Indianapolis, Indiana.

Williard Heiss spoke on "BAPTIST, Their Records and Family History" and I will quote excerpts from his paper:

The Vawter Family in America is a unique book because it is based on first hand accounts. Out of some 40,000 published genealogical works it ranks among the first 100.

One of the earliest churches on the frontier, as people moved West, was the Baptist. The first in the N.W. Territory was the Columbia Baptist Church in Cincinnati in 1790. The Cincinnati Historical Society has some of those early records.

Being individualists and having congregational government brought about many divisions. As they moved West individualism intensified and at that time there were 30 varieties. At the turn of the century in Western Hendricks County there was a group of two or three churches known as Twenty Gallon Baptist Church. They could drink no more than 20 gallons a year. More than knowing a person was a Baptist, you had to know what kind of Baptist. Most of the Vawter forebears were Baptist, and many of them were preachers.

The first place to look for records is in the congregation. But, as in many other denominations, they were kept by people whose homes burned, who moved to Oregon, or who took them to the dump when the attic was cleaned out.

To initiate a search in Indiana check the following:

- 1 - Check the State Historical Society. They have copies of some Baptist records; Bethlehem, Big Cedar Grove, and Lost River among others.

- 2 - Check the State Library for records.

- 3 - Check the State Archives.

Institutions where you might find records:

- 1 - Franklin College in Franklin, Indiana has Indiana material.
- 2 - American Baptist Historical Society in Rochester, N.Y.
- 3 - Historical Commission of Southern Baptists in Nashville.

Last, look in the denomination periodicals for obituaries.

Starting out Saturday morning at nine we began our bus tour with two buses, several cars, and a camper. The first stop was at the Wirt Baptist Church and cemetery to visit the grave of Jesse Vawter. From there we made our way to North Vernon and were made welcome by a large portable electric sign saying, "Welcome Vawter Descendants", located at Horstman's Standard Station. Mrs. Horstman is genealogy librarian at the library and was interested in the Vawter reunion.

In preparation for the tour to Vawter-Summerfield Cemetery in Silmeir Forest, the Boy Scouts mowed the cemetery, State Foresters spread gravel on road entrance, and Bonita Welch distributed an index of the marked graves, prepared by her and her sons Darren and Alan. Some walked further and saw the site and remains of the William Vawter homestead.

A sign at the entrance of Muscatatuck Park welcomed the VVV's to the generous dinner prepared by the Smiling Seniors Club. One of two special events took place at this time; one that thrills all genealogists. Joe Vawter, age 14, son of Mr. & Mrs Delbert Vawter of N. Vernon, came out to the park to wait for the VVV's. After introductions he said, "I'm a Vawter too". He knew little about his roots because his father and uncles were orphans. He said, "I never knew my grandpa Vawter". He was made welcome and invited to dinner at Clifty Park. The story did not end there. Joe showed up at dinner with his parents and two brothers, where they were introduced to everyone. Some of the serious genealogists took names, dates, address, and promised to help search their roots. After dinner the family was presented with a framed sketch of the Vawter Church in Virginia by Vernon Vawter, artist.

After leaving the park the buses divided taking turns visiting the church at Vernon for a slide presentation while the other bus load toured the cemetery. The second special event took place at the cemetery. Each grave of a Vawter or relative was marked with a pennant by Caretaker Leitha Cartwright. For years Robert Vawter of Delaware had searched for the location of the graves of his g-grandparents, Jesse R. & Sarah Vawter, and he found them. What a thrill! Bonnie Wilson of Vernon gave the slide presentation about Vernon which included pictures of John Vawter, founder, and son of Jesse. It was largely because of his influence that the county seat was located in Vernon.

After dinner the nominating committee gave their report and the election was held. Because of the larger attendance this year, the traditional Round-Table was conducted in a different manner. On a blackboard was listed the names, William-Jesse-Philemon, Edward (the builder of the Vawter Church in VA), and Russell of VA. The family branches from children of the above names were called to the front. Each introduced themselves, gave family lineage, and in that way all those new to the VVV reunion were helped to see where they fit into the clan.

On Sunday morning we went in a caravan of cars to the First Baptist Church of Madison for a service planned specially for the VVV's. The choir sang and the minister chose the same text used by Jesse Vawter in his first sermon. The offering given by the VVV's (around eighty dollars) was added to their choir robe fund.

In the afternoon a caravan of fifteen cars made their way to the Four Oaks home of Walter & Edna Reynolds for an open house reception. Opportunity was given for us to visit the William A. Vawter homestead nearby. It was a pleasure to meet all the family of Walter and Edna Reynolds.

Congratulations:

Our new Secretary, Beth Howard, was married after the reunion on August 14. We wish to welcome her husband, Joe A. Melton, to the VVV clan.

Bill & Adell Grant of Westland, MI celebrated their twenty-fourth wedding anniversary on August 16.

Thru Jim Corbitt, we are happy to announce the fiftieth wedding anniversary of Mr. & Mrs. W. W. Dyer (Julia Vawter) of Kentucky, taking place August 28.

Announcements:

Please fill out the enclosed lineage form and mail to our new Archivist, Jim Vaughters. For address see list of officers on page 1. Will you please write something on the back about your family history, points of interest, and accomplishments in your family.

We will be publishing our VVV directory this year which is a list of all the VVV names, addresses and phone numbers we have been able to find. So far we have over 1200. Those who are members of the VVV Family Association will have the letter "M" after their name.

The cut-off date for additions or corrections to the directory is October 15, 1982. We are giving a special pre-printing price of \$5.50 with cut-off date of October 15, 1982. After that date the price will be \$6.50. Mail to treasurer, Hazel McCandless and specify on check: Directory.

Those of you who haven't paid your membership dues of \$5.00, which helps to pay for the newsletter, please mail to the treasurer, Hazel McCandless and specify on your check: Dues.

We will have available copies of the N. Vernon newspaper with pictures and write-up about the VVV Reunion. You may purchase a copy for 50c which covers mailing. Pay and order your copy from Circulation Editor: Beth Sabel (See front page for address).

Would you like to have a copy of The Vawter Family in America? Edna Reynolds has had a reprint made. Cost - \$6.00 includes postage. Order from: Mrs. Walter Reynolds, R.R. #1, Butlerville, IN 47223.

Would you like research done in Jennings County, copies of courthouse records, pictures taken of tombstones, etc? Just let Mrs. Joe Welch (Bonita) know. Her county library has census reports for Jennings County 1820-1900, also for many other counties. R. R. #1, Box 227, Scipio, IN 47273.

I have had word from Beth Sabel that her uncle, Ted Vawter of Colorado, is well, but is troubled with his back and knees. As some of you know, he wasn't feeling well after the all day bus tour Saturday.

Please feel free to send me announcements and congratulations to include in our newsletter. I would also appreciate hearing from any of you VVV's who are doing VVV research. I would like to know the information or document you have found and what it means to your research, either new data or verifying old data. Also please send along some queries. If you can think of any stories or happenings you have heard about a cousin, aunt, uncle, grandma, or grandpa, please send it to me. I would like to head these stories with the title of "Reminiscing".

Esther M. Vawter
1982 VVV Reunion Attendance Directory

Arizona

Bobby & Lou Meek 20025 - 106 Drive, Sun City, AZ 85373

Arkansas

Vernon & Edeltraud Vawter R.R. #1, Box 335-C, Royal, AR 71968

California

Esther M. Vawter 1713 Merkley Ave., W. Sacramento, CA 95691

Colorado

Jim & Donna Vaughters & Jonathan 5981 S. Lima St., Englewood, CO 80111

Ted & Lydia Vawter 8175 Hooker, Westminster, CO 80030

Delaware

Bobbee & Donna Vawter Box 100, Bayview Rd., Middleton, DE 19709

Florida

Robert Brown 550 Northern Rd. Apt. 201, S. Daytona, FL 32014

Georgia

Charles & Betty Burt & Chuck R.R. #4, Box 4603-A, Dawsonville, GA 30534

John Carlson, Jr. & Mary 495 Popular Springs Rd., Elberton, GA 30635

Ann Vaughters 1634 Tallulah St., N.W. Atlanta, GA 30318

E. C. & Estelle Vaughters 1781 Buckhead Rd., Madison, GA 30650

Illinois

Shirley Beasley - Farmer City, IL

Harry A. Crouch 828 W. Walnut, Chatham, IL 62629

Gerald & Karen Kolschowsky,

Timothy & Michael 309 Herbert St., Downers Grove, IL 60515

Arthur & Clara Kolschowsky 1140 Old Mill Rd., Hinsdale, IL 60521

Glen Vawter 33 Delaine, Normal, IL 61761

Indiana

Florence Beeman - N. Vernon, IN

Martha Compton 4921 Callahan Dr., Indianapolis, IN

Mary (Vawter) Engleman 1506 Stan Haven Dr., New Albany, IN 47150

Selma Vawter Glassing - R.R. #4, Box,382, Greenfield, IN 46140

Ruth I. Heck 163 Clemmons St. Hanover, IN 47243

Helen A. Jones R.R. #5, Box 167, N, Vernon, IN 47265

Sue Compton Leavell - Indianapolis, IN

A1 & Sally Poland 416 W. Main St., Madison, IN 47250

Walter & Edna Reynolds R.R. #1, Butlerville, IN 47223

Delbert & Linda Vawter, Lee, Mathew & Jason 415 Shadeland Ext., N. Vernon, IN 47265

Paul & Rosalie Vawter - Indianapolis, IN

Robert & Blanche Vawter 5610 Wagonwheel Trail, Indianapolis, IN 46227

Bonita Welch R.R. #1, Box 227, Sciopio, IN 47273

Iowa

Sara Hockmuth 3711 Wright St., Des Moines, IA 50316

Elsie Trittipio - Des Moines, IA

Kansas

Rev. Elson Herdon & Opal 9102 W. 100 Terrace, Overland Park, KS 66212

Sherry Van Osdol Eales 5501 N. St. Clair, Wichita, KS 67204

B. Van Osdol Schneider 4029-1 Memory Lane, Wichita, Ks 67212

Alva & Bernice Poland - Kingman, KS

Kentucky

Marilyn Stuckwish R.R. #3, Versailles, KY

Russell & Jacqueline Vawter - Louisville, KY

Michigan

Mary A. Fallis 412 N. Division, Holland, MI 49423

Bill & Adell Grant, Heidi & Jennifer 36244 Canyon Drive, Westland, MI 48185

Cindy Walker - Portage, MI

1982 Attendance cont.

Mississippi

T. E. & Clarice Mayer, Box 44, Hickory Flat, MS 38633
Fred & Wordna Wickers P.O. Box 360, Pontotoc, MS 38863

Missouri

Marvin Vawter 11205 Wornall Rd. Kansas City, MO 64114

North Carolina

Caroline Jemison- Winston-Salem, N.C.
Grace Rohrer 1303 The Oaks, Chapel Hill, N.C. 27524

Ohio

Brian & Alma Bodi 2507 Brian Lane, Toledo, OH 43614
Anthony Brown, Beltowne Apt. 391-3B, Directory Dr., Columbus, OH
Bernard & Edna Furnish & Ann 314 Jonte Ave., Lockland, OH 45215
Willard & Lucille Keir & Mary Ruth Ritchie 119 W. Dunedin Rd., Columbus, OH 43214
John & Bernice Mendenhall 1266 Wildwood Rd., Toledo, OH 43614
Karen Mendenhall R.R. #2, Box 2591-6, Delta, OH 43515
Ruth W. Smith- Oxford, OH
Alice Whitcomb - Oxford, OH

Oklahoma

Sally Brown 3106 S. Madison, Tulsa, OK 74114
Amos & Willa Crouch 301 N. Iowa, Chandler, OK 74834

Oregon

Beth Sabel 931 S.E. 33rd, Portland, OR 97214

Tennessee

Jim & Aliene Corbitt 118 Gardner, Martin, TN 38237
P. S. & Lydia Corbitt P.O. Box 12, Denver, TN 37054
Betty & Stan Callis R.R. #2, Martin, TN 38237
Juanita Crockett - Nashville, TN
Frank & Sandra Robinson, John Mark & William R.R. #1, Box 162, Atwood, TN 38220
Jim & Barbara De Fur 1252 N. Parkway P. 2, Kackson, TN 38301
Pete & Norma Vawter 509 Oaklawn, Milan, TN 38358
Jimmy & Norma Vaughters 1872 Valley Blvd., Memphis, TN 38106
Frances Warren Box 14, Denver, TN 37054

Texas

Roger & Shirley Byler R.R. #1, Box 319, Sweeny, TX 77480
Frances Guynes 700 Blacker Ave., El Paso, TX 79902
Beth Howard Melton & Beverly 1211 Casa Vale, Dallas, TX 75218
Hazel McCandless Box 366, Cushing, TX 75760
Betsy Miller Box 66, Kenedy, TX 78119
Mark J. & Bettie Nash 2320 Sunnyslane, Killen, TX 76541
Louise Vanover 1185-14th St. Apt. 2, Beaumont, TX 77702
Bill & Sally Vawter 3019 Conway St., Houston, TX 77025
John Vawter & Sue 822 Evelyn, Nacogdoches, TX 75961

Wisconsin

Evert & Maxine Joling - Wisconsin Rapids, WI.

Mexico

Wallace & Helen Vawter, Apartido Postal #94, Ajijie, Jalisco, Mexico

Columbia

Marcela Peralta, Bogota, Columbia (an exchange student)

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