



**FAMILY ASSOCIATION**

NEWSLETTER

Fall 1986

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Volume 11 #1

#### FAMILY ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

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#### REUNION HIGHLIGHTS

The ninth National VVVFA Reunion has ended with broken records. There were 202 in attendance from 20 states. For two years Texas, Tennessee & Mississippi (in that order) have led in attendance. This year Mississippi is the top state with Tennessee winning over Texas.

The reunion was dedicated to Ora Wicker & Paul Hiram Vaughter, both who started what today has become the National VVV Family Association.

This year there were more than ever arriving for early registration on Thursday from 2 p.m. on and for the "Early Bird" party at 8 p.m.

Friday 10 a.m.

In the absence of Jonathan Vaughters of CO. this year, the traditional ringing of the cow-bell was done by Margaret Wicker, g-grand daughter of Ora Wicker. The invocation was given by the Rev. John H. Vawter of TX.

The welcome address was given by the Honorable Jack Marshall, Mayor City of Tupelo who presented a "key to the city" to President, Bobbee Vawter. Pam Barnett of the Ramada Inn welcomed all and gave a history of Tupelo.

Greetings were brought by Phyllis Harper, Feature Editor, of the N. E. Mississippi Daily Journal. Her April 28th story about the National VVVFA coming to Tupelo for their reunion brought new Vawter descendants to the reunion who had never heard of the VVVFA. Harper spoke in descriptive Humor of Fawn Grove and of the people of the area.

This was followed by reports from the officers and committee persons. The nominating committee submitted the name of Marvin D. Vawter for Vice President and he was elected with the remaining officers being re-elected.

Friday 2 p.m.

The dedication of the reunion to Paul Hiram Vaughter, Sr. and Ora Wicker was brought by Wordna Wicker. Speaker of the afternoon was Marvin D. Vawter who spoke about the beginning and completion of the constitution in honor of the Bicentennial of the Constitution. This was followed by a visit to the Natchez Trace Visitor Center where

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we saw a demonstration on hand seeding, carding, and spinning cotton. The center closed with a slide show on the Natchez Trace and National Parks. The caravan went on to visit the birth place of Elvis Presley.

#### Friday Evening

A motor caravan left at 6:15 for Tombigbee State Park as their destination. There we were served deep fat fried cat fish, potatoes, hush-puppies, with corn on the cobb served on the side. There was a plate of fresh vegetables and dip at each table and a table full of desert.

Roger Wicker introduced Buddy & Kay Bain for a wonderful evening of entertainment. Buddy & Kay have sung 25 years on radio and TV, appeared as guests on Grand Ole Opry and "Hee Haw", and have recently won the MS Broadcasting Assoc. Award on "The Grand Ole Opry 60th Birthday Celebration".

Buddy & Kay sang selections from the first 'Folk & Country,' songs on down to the present. The VVV's joined in singing several selections. When "Let Me Call You Sweet-heart", Buddy sang to Shirley Byler and Kay sang to Paul Hiram Vaughter. One of VVV members, Rupert Pike played two songs on his harmonica, "Train Song", and "Fox Chase". What a player!

#### Saturday 9 a.m.

All met for a group picture. At 10 o'clock we all boarded two large buses for a ride down the Natchez Trace to the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway. No trucks or buses are allowed on the Trace, so special permission was granted for our trip. We stopped at the Bay Spring Lake, dam and locks where we saw a recreation boat go through the locks. We continued down to the ghost town of Jacinto and saw where John IV helped build the first frame courthouse which was later replaced with brick on the same foundation.

During the 12 years John Vawter lived in Tishomingo County he bought 90 tracts of land, some of them lots in the town of Jacinto. John gained and lost a fortune speculating on land. He owned eight hundred acres of land for 20 years where six of his children were born. His wife died there as well as three of his children. The only son of John IV, Allegany, operated a mill prior to the Civil War. Allegany had nine sisters. Because of these girls there are many hidden Vawter descendants.

Tishomingo County was named after a Chickasaw Indian Chief. The Chickasaw nation was the only Indian nation foreigners did not conqueror (Spanish, French or English). The U.S. had to purchase their land with many of them swapping their land for land in Oklahoma. There are very few descendants of the Chickasaw Indian left in Mississippi.

We were welcomed at Jacinto by a representative of the Jacinto Foundation. Lunch was prepared and served by the VVV'S of Mississippi. Many visited the "country store" and came out with souvenirs and licking ice cream cones.

#### Saturday evening - Banquet

Bishop Billy Mack Vawter gave the invocation. The 1986 reunion chairperson, Bonita Welch gave the official invitation to come to Columbus, Indiana next July 31, August 1 & 2. The "early birds" will be arriving Thursday, July 30.

Throughout the evening there were drawings for the many gifts of members hand-work for door prizes. The oldest in attendance was Annie Willard (Robinson) Mixon from Iuka, MS who was age 90. The youngest was Jake De Furr age three months. Sally Brown of Tulsa, OK presented a monologue "A Visit With Winifred Vawter". Sally was dressed as Winifred might have been dressed at that time (1700s). The person whose

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coffee cup saucer had a VVV insignia on the bottom was the winner of the center piece at each table.

#### Sunday 9 a.m. Memorial Service

A pink carnation was placed in a vase by Margaret Wicker, g-grand daughter of Ora Wicker, as Wordna read the names of those who had died this past year. The names are as follows:

- 1 - Mary Amos of Jacksonville, FL. She was age 34 and confined to a wheel chair.
- 2 - Francis Marion Vawter died August 29, 1985 at age 92 in Seattle, WA. He was the son of Albert C. Vawter and the brother of Ted Vawter & Shirley Byler.
- 3 - A. J. Vawter, uncle of Pete Vawter died in Fall of 1985 at Milan, TN
4. Mina Elizabeth Seelback Helpinstill, died March 1986 at age 88. She was a cousin of Hazel McCandless, Bill Vawter, and Rev. John H. Vawter.
- 5 - Vivian May Seaman of Midwest City, OK died October 26, 1985 at age 65. She is survived by her mother, Ethel Vawter Stow, sisters, Altha Murray & Imogene Terrell, niece of Silas Vawter, and belonged to the tribe of John IV.
- 6 - Ralph Vawter of Indianapolis, IN died May 5, 1986 at age 96. Survived by brothers, George & Scott Vawter and three sisters.
- 7 - Marguerite E. Vawter of Denver, CO died July 1986
- 8 - Andrew Minor "Pete" Vawter of Milan, TN died July 26, 1986 at the age of 81. He is survived by his wife, two sons, Robert M. Vawter of Milan, TN., and Sonny Vawter of Memphis, TN., two sisters; a daughter; six grand children & six g-grand children. Closed with Roger & Ellen Wicker singing a medley; Sweet Hour of Prayer, Near To The Heart of God, and Abide With Me.

#### NEW MEMBERS

Mrs. Rita R. Godwin, 1404 N. College St., Boonville, MS, 38829 (Line: g-grand daughter of Cynthia Vawter & Joseph Robinson, grand daughter of Loving Ross & Aurlenia Smith Robinson)

Pearl Beazley Albis, 3114 Oconto Rd., Richmond, VA 23230 (Line: Edward Vawter, Benjamin Vawter, Phoebe (Vawter) Beazley, Sarah Beazley, Joseph Beazley)

Hazel Robinson Manisclco, 417 Chinchilla Dr., Arabi, LA 70032 (Line: g-grand daughter of Cynthia Vawter & Joseph Robinson - same as above)

Rev. & Mrs. Raymond Spears, 1207 Rachel St., Tupelo, MS 38801 ( Her line: Philemon Vawter, Beverly, Pascal, Mary Ann Vawter (Bicknell p. 324-5) Rosa Blanche Hedges, Earl Radford Brown, Blanche Murff)

Julia B. Harrison, P. O. Box 84, Derma, MS, 38839 (Line: Descends from sister of Blanche Murff above)

Margie Provine, 1312 Jordan Rd., Powder Springs, GA 30073 (Line: Descends from sister of Blanche Murff above)

(At the time of registration, new VVVFA members neglected to check mark the "NEW" column, so I do not know who all joined at registration time. As I find out the names, I will put them in future newsletters - your editor, Esther M. Vawter)

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#### FEATURE

Phyllis Harper, Feature Editor of the N. E. Mississippi Daily Journal, wrote a story about the Vawter's Vital Vittles cook book which appeared on the front page of the Food section, August 13. In it she used recipes from the following VVV's:

Mexican Chef Salad by Gloria Hill of Florissant, MO.  
Orange Tapioca Salad by Esther Vawter of W. Sacramento, CA  
Pistachio Salad by Barbara De Fur of Jackson, TN  
Spinach Souffle by Lydia Vawter of Westminster, CO  
Corn Pudding by Anne Vawter Stovall of Atlanta, GA  
Barbecue Ribs by Bertha Vawter Craft of Las Vegas, NV  
Apple Crisp by May Vawter of Normal, OK

From Wordna Wicker of MS

The nicest comment I heard about the reunion came from new member Jerry Spears who said, "I never had so much fun with a group of total strangers, and of course now they aren't strangers anymore."

#### GENEALOGY

On the back wall of the banquet/meeting room the VVV genealogy was spread out with a card for the immigrant, cards for each of his children, and cards for the children of each of them. Each of these children had a vertical list of their children with a paper attached for each VVV to sign their name to the branch they belonged giving the child's number through whom they descended. Genealogy below:

I Bartholomew or John - the immigrant. Children (6) listed below with their children.

- 1- John Vawter  
Winifred, Bartholomew, \*Richard, \*Margaret, Angus, \*David
- 2- William Vawter  
William
- 3 - Margaret Vawter  
Margaret, John, Thomas, Joseph, Ruben, James, Wm, Mary, Benjamin
- 4- David Vawter
- 5- Benjamin Vawter  
Elizabeth, \*Richard
- 6- Edward Vawter  
\*Samuel, \*William, Margaret. \*\*Thomas, Elliott, James, \*Benjamin

(Those with an asterisk are the children whom we have had descendants. Richard, son of John had the most signatures)

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

A letter was received by Bobbee Vawter from John C. Ross, President of the Jacinto Foundation, Inc. informing us he had received a total of \$1,006.00 in donations from the Vawter Family. It will be used to help restore the village complex.

Order newsletter index from Beth Sabel - \$3.50 incl. postage, make check payable to VVV Family Assoc. For \$8.00, plus postage, index from beginning up to present.

Order VVV Directory of 1500 VVV names and addresses from Beth Melton (Sec.). The price is \$8.00 plus \$1.00 postage. Make check out to VVV Family Assoc.

If you paid for the reunion group picture and have not received it, notify Wordna Wicker, Box 360, Pontotoc, MS. For those interested there are several extra at cost of \$7.00 (8 x 10), you may order an 11 x 14 for \$15.00. Order from Wordna and make check out to her.

ANNOUNCEMENTS (con.)

VVV Vital Vittles, our cook books volume 1 & 2 can still be ordered from Beth Sabel for \$6.00, make check payable to VVV Family Association.

A reprint of *The Vawter Family in America* by Grace Vawter Bicknell can be ordered from Mrs. Edna W. Reynolds, Butlerville, IN 47223 for \$6.00 payable to her.

Jessie Holsclaw Bullard will observe her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday on 16 October 1986. She is the daughter of Ezra & Mattie Deer Holsclaw (page 139, Bicknell). Let us remember her on this special occasion by sending her a birthday card.

Mrs. Jessie Bullard  
Jackson Park Convalescent Center  
707 Jackson Park Drive  
Seymour, Indiana 47274

Our exchange editor, Bonita Welch, mails copies of our newsletter to the following Societies and libraries by their request:

Essex County Historical Society, Tappahannock, Virginia  
Wisconsin Historical Society, Madison, Wisconsin  
Orange County Historical Society, Orange, Virginia  
Southern Indiana Genealogical Society, New Albany, Indiana  
Weakley County Genealogical Society, Martin, Tennessee  
Allen County Public Library, Fort Wayne, Indiana  
Jennings County Public Library, North Vernon, Indiana  
Dallas Public Library, Dallas, Texas  
Library of Congress, Washington, DC  
The Filson Club, Louisville, Kentucky

GLEANINGS

From: Bonita Welch, Exchange Editor, R.R. #1, Box 227, Scipio, IN 47273

The Vernon Banner - Vernon, IN 29 October 1873

ANOTHER PIONEER GONE

Despatches to friends in Vernon, convey the mournful tidings of the death of Mr. James Vawter, of Pressburg, Jefferson County, last Saturday afternoon at 3 o'clock. Deceased was the twin brother of Elder William Vawter, who died in this county in July, 1868. He was born near Holston river, North Carolina, on the 2nd day of April, 1783, and was consequently in the 91st year of his age. He removed with his father, from North Carolina to Kentucky, and thence, in the Spring of 1806, to Indiana - the father, Jesse Vawter, settling what is now known as the Weyer farm, at the top of the hill on Michigan road, to which he gave the euphous title of "Mount Glad."

James settled Mount Pleasant (now North Madison) and subsequently, his present farm at Pressburg, upon which he continued to reside up to the time of his final departure from earth; and as he was a consistent professor of religion - an exemplary member of the Baptist church - doubtless is now an inhabitant of brighter realms above, "Where the wicked cease from troubling and the weary are at rest."

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Written by Lucille Keir, 119 W. Dunedin Rd., Columbus, OH 43214 and presented by her at the Saturday night banquet is the following:

COURTESY RESOLUTION  
NINTH ANNUAL VVV FAMILY REUNION

Whereas, the Ninth Annual VVV Family Reunion members have gathered in Tupelo, Mississippi, and  
Whereas, all former officers and reunion committees have established an orderly pattern of activities to be carried out, and  
Whereas, all current officers have fulfilled their duties in outstanding manner, and  
Whereas, the entire Wicker family and several friends have worked many hours to provide a memorable visit to Tupelo, and  
Whereas, we were given a hearty welcome by the Honorable Jack Marshall, Mayor of the City of Tupelo, and  
Whereas, Pan Barnette, Sales Coordinator of the Ramada Inn provided a well researched history of the area, and  
Whereas, Phyllis Harper, Columnist from the NE Mississippi Daily Journal, greeted us in delightful southern fashion, and  
Whereas, our Fish Fry committee, including the Wicker and Wiley families, Gene Spencer, Doc Robbins, J.B. Johnson, Buddy & Kay Baine, furnished a memorable evening of fine food and music at Tombigbee State Park, and  
Whereas, Cliff and Nancy Daniel and their committee of the Vawter cousins from the Pike, Robinson, McDougal, Reid and Daniel families provided and served a tasty and bountiful lunch at the Jacinto Community Center, and  
Whereas, our tours of the Natchez Trace Parkway, the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway, and Jacinto Courthouse gave us an appreciation of the history and culture of this area, and  
Whereas, family members have shared individual talents in entertainment and music, and in providing contributions for drawing of door prizes, and  
Whereas, the Ramada Inn staff have provided clean comfortable facilities; therefore, be it  
RESOLVED, that this resolution be printed in the news letter report of this reunion.  
RESOLVED, that the VVV family members show their appreciation to all named in this resolution by a standing round of applause.  
This the 2nd day of August, A.D., 1986

FINAL REUNION NOTES

M. Glen Vawter, new VVVFA President, presented out-going president, Bobbee with a gift of a clock enclosed in a frame he had made.

Those who would like a copy of the paper on the Constitution, write or phone him: Marvin D. Vawter, 11205 Wornal Rd., Kansas City, MO 64114 (our new Vice President).

Reunion Committee for next years reunion at Columbus, IN are Bonita Welch, chairperson, M. Glen Vawter, President, Edna Reynolds, Shirley Byler, and Jimmy Corbitt.

From your Editor, Esther Vawter - I am asking you to send me newspaper articles about any VVV including death notice, any family stories, your genealogy using the format printed in previous newsletters, and any information you think will be of interest to other VVV's. I appreciate all who have sent me material.

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The names of those on the register attending the VVVFA Reunion - 1986 - Tupelo, MS

The top states in attendance were: Mississippi, Tennessee & Texas with a record attendance of 202.

ALABAMA

Granville Allen  
Jim & Anita Wicker  
Jack & Janice (Vawter) Lord  
Brad Lord  
Marguerite Nixon

ARKANSAS

Alma V. Allen  
Lester K. Vawter  
Charlotte (Vawter) Tillman  
Pasty (Vawter) Poole  
Hubert Vawter  
J.C. & Dorothy Nixon

CALIFORNIA

Glenn & Marjorie Vawter  
Esther Vawter

COLORADO

Ted & Lydia Vawter

DELAWARE

Bobbee & Donna Vawter

FLORIDA

David Vaughter

GEORGIA

Charles & Betty Burt  
Chuck Burt  
Anne V. Stovall  
Alice V. Disharoon  
Lula V. Thompson  
Margie (Brown) Provine

ILLINOIS

M. Glenn & May Vawter  
Shirley (Vawter) Beasley  
Harry & Edith Vawter  
Donald & Alice Vawter

INDIANA

Bonita Welch  
Walter & Edna Reynolds  
Ann (Reynolds) Caslon

LOUISIANA

Hazel (Robinson) Maniscalco

MINNESOTA

Dr. Paul Vaughter II

MISSOURI

Marvin Vawter  
Dorothy Ford  
Mary K. (Vawter) Luridell

MISSISSIPPI

Bill & Ailene Wiley  
Dr. & Mrs Marvin Harvey  
Emery & Clarice Mayer  
Fred & Wordna Wicker  
Tom Wicker  
Jeff & Kathy (Wicker) Terry  
Ken & Norma Wicker  
Ray & Jerry (Murff) Spears  
Kevin, Susan & Laura Spears  
Rita Robinson Godwin  
Rupert & Christine Pike  
Tommy & Martha (Mayer) Hudson  
Tom & Pearl Wiley  
Clifton B. Reid  
Dr & Mrs Shelby Reid  
Mr & Mrs Larry Murray  
Judith (Mayer) Crawford  
Randall & Blanche Murff  
Julia B. Harrison  
Smith McDougal  
Lowell & Bonnie Vaughters  
Pete & Brenda (Pike) Scott  
Sabrina Scott

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MEMBERSHIP DUES \$5.00 PER YEAR- DUE AND PAYABLE IN AUGUST TO: VVVF

ASSOCIATION Mail to: Hazel McCandless, Box 366, Cushing, Texas 75760

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MISSISSIPPI (con)

John & Lina (Wiley) Bowlin  
Elizabeth & Joseph Bowlin  
Nell (Seavey) Anderson  
Tom Wiley III  
David Wiley  
Mary (Wicker) Ruse  
Gene Spencer  
W.D. "Doc" Robbins  
John Johnson  
Buddy & Kay Baine  
Charles E. Vawter  
Harold & Sherry (Wicker) Brock  
Dr. R. & Carole Bullard  
Roger & Gayle Wicker  
Caroline & Margaret Wicker  
Cliff & Nancy Daniel  
Shelby, Reid & Brittany Daniel  
Mildred (Nixon) Hill  
Mrs. Willard Nixon  
Hugh Anderson  
Andy & Nancy Anderson  
Merle (Wicker) Seavey  
Donald Davis  
Phillip Moore  
Mr. & Mrs. Carey Pike  
Ora (Wiley) Wicker  
Beth (Pike) Mathis  
John Ross  
Dr. & Mrs Fayette Williams  
Betsy & Liz Whitehurst  
Carl & Gayle Long  
Phyllis Harper  
Jack Marshall  
Robert & Debbie Wiley  
Bill & Betty Flynn  
Pam Barnette  
Mike & Lisa Hudson

N. CAROLINA

Ned & Ellen (Wicker) Cummings  
Rebecca & Frederick Cummings

OHIO

Willard & Lucille Keir

OKLAHOMA

Billy Mack & Dorothy Vawter  
Duncan & Sally Brown

OREGON

Beth (Vawter) Sabel

TENNESSEE

John & Hazel Taylor  
Robert "Pete" & Norma Vawter  
Jimmy & Alliene Corbett  
Gibson Wicker  
James & Barbara (Vawter) DeFur  
Emily & Jake DeFur  
Lynn (Reid) Daniel  
Frank & Sandra Robison  
William Robison  
Jimmy & Norma Vaughters  
Robert & Janet Vawter  
Wendy & Kate Vawter  
George & Syble Culbreath  
Edna Vawter  
Mrs. John McMurry

TEXAS

Bill & Sally Vawter  
J. W. & Kay Vawter  
Misty & Tiffany Vawter  
John & Sue Vawter  
Hazel (Vawter) McCandless  
Louise (Vawter) Vanover  
Mildred Childress  
Catherine Hall  
Larry & Jo Lacy  
Bill & Thelma Shattuck  
Beth (Byler) Melton  
Roger & Shirley (Vawter) Byler  
Danny Byler  
Mark & Kathy Disharoom  
Phil Vaughter  
Rev. Paul H. Vaughter

WISCONSIN

Evert & Maxine Joling



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