



FAMILY ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

Fall 1989

p. 1

Volume 14 #1

FAMILY ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

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SECRETARY: Beth Melton, 1211 Casa Vale, Dallas, TX 75218-3121

TREASURER: Sue Vawter, Rt. 6, Box 370, Nacogdoches, TX 75961

ASSIST.TRES.: John H. Vawter

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REUNION MEMORIES

Thursday night registration took place in the hospitality suite with 54 signing in.

Friday 10:00 a.m.

The day began with an officers breakfast and business meeting.

The 12th annual reunion was opened by President, Marvin Vawter, Jim Corbitt led the pledge of allegiance and Gary Vawter led the invocation.

Welcome remarks were given by Garrett Scott, Councilman.

Report was given by John H. Vawter regarding the Wm S. Vawter genealogy material. John had divided the material up and put them into binders which were on display. We were short in providing enough money to pay all the expenses of reproduction so it was decided we would choose it as our Vawter project for the reunion (taking the place of a "love gift" project)

The 1990 reunion will take place in Richmond, Virginia at which time we will present our "love gift" to the Vauter church as we have done in the past. You may send your donations to the VVV FA Treasurer, Sue Vawter. The date will be August 3, 4, & 5. There will be a visit to the "Vauter" church, which is on the Historical Register, which was built in 1731 on Vawter land. Hopefully the silver communion service and the Bible given by Queen Anne of England will be taken from the bank vault and shown to everyone.

Get-well cards were signed and mailed out to: Ted Vawter, Roger & Shirley Byler, Charles Burt and Carolyn Vaughter.

Nominating Committee for 1989-90: Bill Vawter of TX, Billy M. Vawter of OK, Bobbi Meek of AZ, Sally Brown of OK, and Norma Jean Vawter of TN.

Constitution & by-laws committee: Lucille Keir, Chairperson, of OK; Beth Melton of TX; Jim Corbitt of TN, Fred Wicker of MS and Bobbi Meek of AZ.

Closed with Michelle Beasley reading "folk stories" written by Bert Vawter: The Day of the Soda and Those Good Old Days.

p. 2 Fall 1989

Friday 1:00 p.m.

Option #1 - Tour of the Twin Cities, Bloomington/Normal

Option #2 - Genealogy Workshop given by past president of the IL Genealogy Society, George Perkins. Perkins has done genealogy research for 27 years and taught genealogy for 12 years. Perkins covered the following:

1. Forms - Ancestor chart, working from the known to the unknown.
Prepare a Family Group sheet for each marriage and family.
2. For misc. items such as clippings, documents, graduation, birth, etc announcements punch three holes in a manila envelope and insert in your binder.
3. Do not laminate news articles, encapsulate them (Mallory). Use Polypropylene binder sheets for photos. Color photos will lose color 8% in 20 years. Black and white are better.
4. Explained rubbing of tomb stones. Wrap paper around front of the stone (side around to side) and use masking tape to secure. Use Rice paper which is soft and gives. Use a wax rubbing crayon which does not melt.

General genealogy was explained and the necessity of documentation preferably with primary such as: birth, marriage and death certificates, will, probate and land grants. Only use secondary when primary is not available and three sources agree. Secondary is hear-say evidence such as genealogy books, census records etc.

Friday 3:30 p.m.

A caravan of 16 cars took off for the David Vawter Lee farm where we had our cook-out of grilled chicken and/or beef plus all the fixins. A walk around the grounds was enjoyed by many. Janis Lee had large garden area with name tags on the plants. We ate under trees and visited.

It was discovered by Lucille Keir of Columbus, Ohio that two couples from Columbus, Ohio who had never attended a reunion of VVV's before lived in the same area and hadn't known each other. They became acquainted and made a date to meet and attend a show.

After eating two runs were made with the hay wagon filled with VVV's to see the Vawter cemetery and the Centennial Farm. Louise V. Lee was born in an up-stairs room of the farm house. The children of David Lee mark six generations on the land. A stone throw from the farm house was a one room school house which was over 100 years old,

CEMETERY

Sarah J. Vawter - 15 Aug. 1849 - 11 March 1865, Mary A. Vawter- 13 May 1836 -5 Sept. 1851 Daughters of Jephtha & Sarah Vawter.

Henry Clay Vawter- 4 April 1838 -14 June 1923. Son of Jephtha & Sarah Vawter.

Sarah Lavina Davies, wife of H.C. - 20 Nov. 1840 - 27 Nov. 1885

Annie Vawter d/o H.C. & S.L. - 5 Feb. 1868 - 16 Aug. 1868

Clarence Vawter s/o H.C. & S.L. - 8 July 1869 - 5 Aug. 1870

Lucy Vawter d/o H.C. & S.L. - 16 July 1871 - 29 July 1871

Harold R. Lee - 30 July 1898 - 20 Nov. 1985

Sarah Lavina Lee d/o of H.L. & Louise -29 Sept. 1875-20 Sept. 1969

A Time Capsule was buried by Harold R. Lee which is to be opened 6-21-2011.

Louise Vawter Lee has her stone in place in the cemetery. May she look forward to years of active life.

A NOTE OF DISAPPOINTMENT & SADNESS

We were sorry to hear of the heart attack of Charles E. Burt of Georgia. He is improving, but had 38% damage to his heart. His group of 11 VVV's had to cancel their hotel reservations and the reunion.

Saturday 9:00 a.m.

A bus load and several cars took off for New Salem State Historic Site where Abraham Lincoln lived. Lincoln stopped off there while co-piloting a flatboat down the Sangamon, IL & MS waterways and decided to settle there. As the town developed, so did his career, to a merchant, surveyor, postmaster, and captain of the local militia. It was here by the flicker of candlelight, he began to study law.

New Salem is a village brought back to life with oxen, farm animals, craftsmen adapted to the lifestyles of the 1839' s. This week end they presented nine storytellers in 3 village locations presenting stories of legend, lore and fable, called Prairie Tales celebrating The New Salem Storytelling Festival.

Lunch was served in the park area.

Saturday Banquet

After the pledge to the American Flag and the invocation we were given a welcome from the Mayor of Bloomington, Jesse Smart.

There were 35 first time attenders.

The oldest member was John Taylor age 82.

The youngest was Andrew Scott Vawter, g-grandson of Glenn Vawter, age 3 months. Coming the longest distance was Beth Sabel

The roll call of states was given. They are listed by states on the last page.

The nominating committee reported and the officers that appear on the front of the newsletter were elected by acclamation.

A resolution for outstanding member of the year in the VVV FA was given to Bill Vawter of Houston, TX., for his contributions to the association since its inception 12 years ago and on locating the Wm S. Vawter genealogy material which had been lost.

Bill Vawter wanted to recognize Edna Reynolds of IN for reprinting The Vawter Family in America by Grace Vawter Bicknell. Glen Vawter thanked the David Vawter Lee family for having the cookout at their farm, having hayride to the cemetery and their Centennial Farm. Glen Vawter was presented a plaque in recognition for his work as past president.

MEMORIAL SERVICE

Hennie Dee Boulware of TX
Gertrude A. Vawter of LA
Wallace R. Vawter of Mexico
Rev. Louis F. Meek of AZ
Charles E. Vawter of WA
E.B. (Tug) Vaughters of WA
Renabelle Vawter of CA
Amos E. Crouch of OK
Rev. Eron M. Sharp of TN

John "Max" Maxwell Craft CA
Willard J. Keir of OK
Howard J. Vaughters of TN
Emmit E. Powell of IL
Charles A. (C.A.) Thomas of IL
Trudy Ann Thomas Feigl of IL
Viola Vawter of IL
Hazel McCandless of TX

MEMORIAL

Hazel Vawter McCandless, b. 20 May 1908 Cushing TX where she died at age 81. She was the dau. of Julian & Mattie Gammage Vawter. Hazel was a former mayor of Cushing, TX and held membership the Eastern Star, Nacogdoches DAR, Colonial Dames and the Nacogdoches Genealogy Society.

Survivors include: dau. Bobbie Jean Young, a twin brother Bill Vawter of Houston, sister Louise Vanover, three grandchildren and one g-grandchild.

Hazel has been a member of the VVV FA since its inception in 1977 and was elected treasurer in 1978 which office she served until her death.

Fall 1989 P. 4

MEMORIAL

Miss Debra Kay Martin, 28, of Birmingham, AL, formerly of Martin, TN died after a long illness. Miss Martin leaves her parents, Mr. & Mrs. Wm M. Martin and two sisters, Mrs. Sheryl Martin Porter and Miss Barbara Jane Martin.

Miss Martin was the granddaughter of Mr. & Mrs. John Marshall Martin, Sr. of the early pioneer family of Thomas & Drucilla (Vauter) Martin, who migrated to Weakley Co., TN from Buckingham Co., VA. The town of Martin was named for Wm Martin, s/o Thomas & Drucilla Martin.

DRAWING

There were 45 gifts brought for door prizes. At the close of the cookout 15 gifts were drawn. The remaining were drawn at the close of the Banquet. There were many home craft items such as a VVV clock, VVV needle point and several James W. Riley books of poems illustrated by Will Vawter were drawn among many other beautiful items.

SUNDAY a.m.

Written by Bill Vawter of Houston, TX.

John H. Vawter, his wife Sue and I packed our clothing, loaded his van and heeded out to Funks Grove Church. We arrived there about 10.30, some of the VVV's had already arrived. There was a big camp ground, camp pavilion, cemetery, church building and an outdoor chapel where the service was held. Dr. Wayne Vawter, pastor of the church conducted the service, giving out programs and leading the singing.

The pews were made of large logs the cross was made of two saplings, and the music was an electric organ and keyboard placed on a folding table. The pulpit was a large log which had been hollowed out at the top.

The offering was given to our project #1, the Wm S. Vawter genealogy material, which amounted to \$353.00. Sermon by Dr. Wayne Vawter.

The descendants of Albert Grant Vawter provided a picnic dinner for all the VVV's. A wonderful time was had by everyone.

MESSAGES

From Melba Vawter Ashburn of Idaho

I have just returned from the VVV FA twelfth annual reunion in IL. How exciting it was to attend this and to become acquainted with so many wonderful relatives. A year ago I didn't know of any of these people because my father didn't know of any ancestors in his Vawter family. My father is Arthur Vawter, s/o Cyrus Beverly Vawter, s/o James Crawford Vawter, s/o Beverly Vawter, s/o Philemon Vawter, s/o David Vawter.

I owe many thanks to Esther Vawter and M. Glen Vawter for the information that led me to my "roots". The reunion was so well organized and I loved the trips to the David Vawter Lee farm and the Vawter cemetery and the Lincoln New Salem Historical Site. I'll never forget the church service in Funk's Grove and the Saturday night banquet. Most especially we'll remember the very special people who are now our friends as well as relatives.

From Carolyn Vaughter of Texas

Would you please put in the VVV FA Newsletter how very much I appreciate the "Hope you're Feeling Better" cards which I have received. I miss all you good people of the VVV clan.

(editor note - Before 1977 Carolyn and Paul Vaughter met for "cousins" reunion. In 1977 the Vawter descendants met with them all numbering 55. Since then we have grown as you see. Carolyn has authored several books and was a book reviewer for a newspaper.)

Written by both Jim B. Vawter of MO and Sally Brown, Associate Editor.

James B. & Pat Vawter have returned safely to the U.S. after spending two years in China, teaching in a school there. Jim is a younger brother of Beth Sabel. Many of you will remember Jim and Pat from the Columbus, Indiana VVV Reunion.

Family and friends back home received the most interesting monthly letters from Jim & Pat while they were in China, in which they described what their life and work were like. There were many things they could not write about because of Chinese government censorship and the necessity of protecting the joint-venture company in which they worked. All mail, both arriving and outgoing, were subject to censorship at the whim of the government officials.

Jim & Pat's lives were filled with many curious contrasts which both interested and frustrated them. While the pace of life in U.S. was taken for granted; it was necessary to shop daily for food for meals. Shopping was difficult since each item had to be purchased in different locations in the city. There are no super markets in China where a person can purchase great variety of products in one stop. The daily shopping for basic needs were done by bus, which was the main means of transportation. There were trips to another city every two weeks to buy a quantity of supplies from a "Friendship" store which was a government controlled department store where imported groceries, clothing and other items could be purchased. These trips were made by the ladies of the company because the men were occupied with the business of the company.

The couple was housed in a modern apartment which was in great contrast with the homes of the Chinese citizens. They had modern plumbing, a small electric cooking range, carpets on the floor and other comforts that made life much easier than for their Chinese counterparts. There were also opportunities to attend cultural events such as symphony concerts, musical recitals on the college level, exciting juggling and acrobatic shows, and many places of interest to travel and see, such as the Great Wall, Buddhist Shrines and beautiful mountain and coastal scenery. Jim even had the opportunity to see the Harlem Globe-Trotters in action in a neighboring city.

Pat and Jim found the Chinese people to be friendly and helpful. The people were eager to talk to any American so they could practice their English. Pat & Jim were also eager to improve their limited Chinese speaking ability so conversation was somewhat beneficial to each party. Both Pat & Jim had a language tutor and Pat took lessons on a Chinese musical instrument called a guzheng (pronounced goo jung) from a teacher who could speak no English. Needless to say there was need for a good interpreter for both teacher and student !

The students of the school were the dependents of the American (foreign) members of a joint-venture company. They ranged in grades from Kindergarten through twelve, with Jim having students from grades seven through highschool age. All of the students were excellent and challenged Jim to use all his resources and ability to stay ahead of them as they moved quickly through their assignments.

During their time at the school Jim & Pat went on various field trips with the school. These trips included week long visits to a large resort city, which is the silk manufacturing and tea producing "capital" of China. They also made trips to the Great Wall, the Forbidden City, the Summer Palace, the Ming Tombs and the birth place of Confucius. They also were able to see the contrasting life styles of the Hong Kong Chinese compared to the people of Mainland China and The American style of living. They prefer the freedoms of life in America, the ability to travel as they please, the use of their own car, the lack of being crammed like sardines onto a city bus and so many other freedoms that American citizens take for granted. Jim & Pat left China about the time the Chinese government started their brutal

Fall 1989 p. 6

actions against the student population for their demonstrations. They spent about a week in Hong Kong with their daughter Gloria, son-in-law Gary and grandchildren Sandra and David, then flew to Seattle, and Portland, where they visited family before returning home to Florissant, MO. They are now living in Springfield, MO, where they intend to slow down their rapid pace and live leisurely, fishing, playing golf and cards with friends. Volunteer assignments may be accepted at a later date.

James B. Vawter line: William & Frances Vawter, John Taylor & Nancy Smith (Poston) Vawter, Albert C. & Frances (Churchwell) Vawter, and Vernon D. & Renabelle (Cope) Vawter.

* * * * *

NEW MEMBERS

Helen C. Counts, 2029 Dona Jane Dr., O'Fallon, MO 63366

Erma Vawter Hund, 615 W. Poplar, Walla Walla, WA 99362

Gee Gee Loeffler, 98W. 900N, La Porte, IN 46350

Ken Vawter, 804 Brookdale, Webster Groves, MO 63119

Lori Vawter, 923 Greenfield Manor Dr., Fenton, MO 63026

Rhonda Walker, R.R. #1, Box 21, Deland, IL 61839

ANNOUNCEMENTS

INDEX - If you want an index to this last years newsletters, order from Beth Sabel. It is not known yet what the price will be as we don't know the number of pages the index will be. See Beth Sabel's address on list of officers.

COOKBOOK - All the VVV Vital Vittles cookbooks of Volume I have been sold. There are a few of Volume II left. You may order from Bonita Welch at \$6.50. Her address is on the front page in list of officers.

ADDRESSES - Please report all changes of address to Beth Sabel.

NEWSLETTER - This newsletter reaches over 400 house-holds. Is there anyone in any of these house-holds who likes to write. If so, please let me (news editor) know about it.

All charts, "cousin" charts and any VVV printed material wanted for publication in our newsletter. If printed material, please give me the name of the publication, and author.

ADS - I will announce your genealogy books for sale if they include VVV genealogy. Other items will be accepted only if they pertain to something about VVVs.

Add from Tim Vawter, grandson of Wm Snyder Vawter. "VVV sterling silver rings are now available from Tim: 14 Ellis St., Freehold, N. J. 07728. The ring contains the stars & stripes shield, along with VVV on its top. Please include ring size (or measure with a measuring tape). Cost is \$35.00."

The reason we cannot accept other items is because we are a non-profit organization. We are in the process of writing up a constitution and by-laws and apply for incorporation as a non-profit organization. We want to abide by IRS rules and not get involved in gray areas.

In the future I will include from time to time some of the material found in the "Wm. Snyder Vawter" genealogy collection.

Fall 1989

These are the Names of those on the register attending some or all of the 1989 VVV FA Reunion at Bloomington/Normal, Illinois. There was a total of 142 present from 20 states. Illinois led with 45.

ARIZONA

Bobbi Meek

CALIFORNIA

Esther M. Vawter

DELAWARE

Robert L. Vawter
Donna Jean Vawter
Robert L. II Vawter
Mary Vawter
Bobbe III Vawter
Amanda Vawter
Jesse Vawter

FLORIDA

Becky Guinagh
Dorothy Vawter

GEORGIA

Margie Provine

IDAHO

Melba Vawter Ashburn

ILLINOIS

Lowell G. Vawter
Tom White
Sue White
Harry A. Crouch
Garlin Crouch
Thelma Allene Powell
Eilma Schapmire
Rhonda Walker
Michael Walker
Chris Walker
Jerry Beasley
Shirley Beasley
Michelle Beasley
Mark Beasley
Paul Bugos
Connie Bugos

ILLINOIS (Cont.)

Tadd Bugos
H. Richard Vawter
Patricia Vawter
Harry Vawter
Edith Vawter
Roger Vawter
Margie Vawter
Kathy Vawter
Randy Vawter
Myrtle Weidner
Donald Gillan
Alice Gillan
Kay Gillan
Loren Gillan
Steven Nash
Katherine Nash
Bill Nash
Amy Nash
Tim Nash
M. Glenn Vawter
May C. Vawter
Gary E. Hunziker
Elizabeth Hunziker
Melanie Hunziker
Drew Hunziker
David Vawter Lee
Janis Lee
Heidi Lee
Louise Vawter Lee

INDIANA

Walter Reynolds
Edna Reynolds
Ann Caslan
Patricia Vawter
Josephine Parker
Lorraine Hamann
Gee Gee Loeffler
Bonita Welch

MEMBERSHIP DUES \$7.00 PER YEAR - DUE AND PAYABLE IN AUGUST TO: VVVF ASSOCIATION

Mail to: Sue Vawter, Rt. 6, Box 370, Nacogdoches, TX 75961

Fall 1989

KANSAS

Rozanne Vawter Siler
Todd WI Siler
Amanda Siler
Jennifer Siler

KENTUCKY

Mike Alexander

MICHIGAN

Gary Vawter
Penny Vawter
Ella Vawter
Debra Vawter
Sara Vawter

MISSOURI

Jayne Fields
Irene Webb
David Benson
Jason Benson
Lori Vawter
Marvin D. Vawter
Helen C. Counts
Louise Counts
Wanda N. Gould
Bruce Vawter
Linda Vawter
Ken Vawter
Michelle Vawter
Andrew Vawter

MISSISSIPPI

Randall Murff
Blanche Murff
Jerry Spears
William S. Wiley
Allene B. Wiley
Mary E. Reese
Ken Wicker
Norma Wicker
Thomas L. Wiley
Pearl Wiley

OHIO

Sue Vawters Ashton
Clare Ashton
A Lucille Keir
Krista Keir
Harold Vawters
Venie Vawters

Ohio (cont)

Virgil Weidner
Aletha Weidner

OKLAHOMA

Billy M. Vawter
Dorothy Vawter
Oscar Vawter
Erma Vawter
Duncan Brown
Sally Brown

OREGON

Beth Sabel

TENNESSEE

Barbara Vawter Defur
Jim DeFur
Emily DeFur
Jake DeFur
Jim Corbitt
Alliene Corbitt
John I. Taylor
Hazel Taylor
Robert M. Vawter
Norma Vawter
Wendy Vawter

TEXAS

Robyn Howard
Beth Melton
Joe Melton
Bill Vawter
John H. Vawter
Sue Vawter

WASHINGTON

Erma Vawter Hund

WISCONSIN

Wayne G. Vawter
Carole Vawter
David Vawter
Ben Vawter
Paul Vawter
Andy Vawter
Abby Vawter
Maxine Joling
Evert Joling

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