

FAMILY ASSOCIATION OFFICERS:

PRESIDENT - Jas. C. Vaughters, 1233 Elmira St., Aurora, Col.80010

V.P. - Marvin D. Vawter, 11205 Wornall Rd., Kansas City, Mo. 64114

SEC-TREAS - Hazel Vawter McCandless, Box 366, Cushing, Tx. 75760

EDITOR - Wordna Wicker, P.O. Box 360, Pontotoc, Ms. 38863

In keeping with the start of a new year, a State of the Family Message seems to be in order:

The Vawter/Vaughter(s) Family Association has been in existence exactly 18 months, having been organized July 30, 1977 at Lake Murray, Ardmore, Ok. By 55 interested family members, representing 30 different households. An expense offering of \$25.43 was collected for publication of a newsletter, the first issue of which went out in September 1977 to some 50 households in half a dozen states, representing the then-known V/V population.

The results have been phenomenal. Each known V/V knew another one, and the word spread. The second newsletter went out to 72 households, the fourth to 120. Money was never a problem, voluntary contributions kept the newsletter afloat. The family organization became nation-wide before it was a year old, with membership stretching from New York to California and Florida to Minnesota. With the addition of Wallace Vawter in Mexico and Mike Vawter, USAF, Brussels, Belgium, the organization took on an international flavor. This international aspect was intensified by the interest of some of the V/V in tracing the family roots back to the French family of Valletort.

The first nation-wide Vawter/Vaughter(s) Reunion, held at Brady Mtn., Arkansas, August 8-10, 1978, brought 99 souls from 61 households in 12 states. At that gathering officers were elected; family dues were set at \$5.00 per household per year, which includes subscription to the newsletter; the newsletter would publish three times a year; and the 1979 reunion would be held at Ardmore, Ok.

With the payment of dues, the family organization acquired a bank account, the balance on Jan. 1, 1979 being \$420.00. This issue of VVNL will go out to 174 households in 29 states and two foreign countries. A break-down according to states shows the following distribution of V/V families: Texas -31; Okla.-29; Tenn.-21; Miss.-16; Ark.-15; Calif.-7; Va.-7; Ariz.-6; Col.-4; Fla.-4; Ill., Ky., N.Y., Wash., 3 each; Ala., La., Neb., N.C., Ore., Wis., 2 each; Ga., Ind., Iowa, Kan., Mass., Minn., Ohio, one each.

Conclusion. The state of the Vawter/Vaughter(s) Family Association is sound.

On a sadder note, we report the death of C.B. Cardwell, 202 N. Peach, Midwest City, Ok. 73110, in December of 1978. C.B. was the husband of Arlene Vawter Cardwell, and both were pleasant participants in the 1977 family gathering. They were prevented from attending the reunion in Arkansas due to C.B.'s physical condition. Our sincere sympathy goes to Arlene and their four daughters.

Congratulations are in order for Dennis & Ruby Davis, Bowie, Tx.; Wallace & Neoma Davis Duckett, Wichita Falls, Tx.; and Iley and Mary Vaughter Oxford, Ardmore, Ok. All celebrated golden wedding anniversaries in 1978. It must run in the family.

Since the reunion in August, Shirley Vawter Byler, Fred Wicker, Keith Pike, Bettie Nash, Hazel McCandless, and Bert Wynn have undergone surgery. All doing well at present.

The Wallace Vawters, Apartado Postal #94, Ajijic, Jalisco, Mexico, have extended an invitation for any V/V traveling "south of the border" to look them up. They are hereby advised to keep the roll-away bed dusted. In addition to a propensity toward (1) twins and (2) longevity, the collective V/V all seem to (3) have credit cards, and (4) will travel.

Mrs. Frances Tiller, 309 E. Wellington, Carthage, Tx., a descendant of David and Lucinda Vawter, has sent information that David Vawter did not die in Louisiana (as reported in VVNL #5, P.4), but in Panola Co., Tx., after having made bond for operation of the Ferry across the Sabine River. The Ferry was continued by his widow, Lucinda, after his death. W.T. Vawter, Mineola, Tx. also supplied information on this colorful family.

From Mrs. Tiller also comes word of the publication of the HISTORY OF PANOLA COUNTY TEXAS, available for \$25.00, plus \$1.75 postage (Texas residents add 5% state tax) from Panola County Historical Commission, 322 West Panola, Carthage, Tx. 75633. The book contains many references to Vawters and Vawter-related families.

Reports have come from several sources of the 92nd birthday celebration of Jess Franklin Vawter on Oct. 29, 1978 at Sheridan, Texas. He, along with Miss Annie Vawter, aunt of Pete Vawter, Milan, Tn., are our only known living nonagenarian.

With fraternal pride, we report that our honorary V/V, Rev. Ralph E. Fall, Port Royal, Va. 22535, has been awarded the National Certificate of Commendation by the American Ass'n. for State and Local History for his work on the Diary of Parson Robert Rose. You will recall that Robert Rose was the Rector of St. Anne's Parish when Vauter's Church was erected in 1731. Plans for the V/V pilgrimage to Vauter's Church are underway, and the "Diary of Robert Rose" will provide excellent background for the trip. The book may be ordered from Rev. Ralph E. Fall at a cost of \$16 which includes postage.

A newcomer to our ranks, Louise Vawter Lee, 1412 Beta Ct., W. Palm Beach, Fla. 33406 learned of the family organization through the Rev. Fall on a visit to worship Vauter's Church in the Fall of 1978. Her line is recorded in the Bicknell book and is Philemon, Elliot, Jephtha and Henry Clay.

Another newcomer is Richard Q. Vawter, 1101 Ridge Road, Unit 1109, Arlington, Va. 22202, whose line in the Bicknell book is Jesse, William, John Taylor, Albert C. and Arthur Lee. Richard is employed by General Services Administration in Washington, D.C. In view of the recent adverse publicity regarding employees of GSA; it is a relief to report no immediate need to muster the clan for a Washington march in defense of the family name and/or Richard's neck.

Also joining the ranks recently is Mrs. LoRee Vawter Dennis, 1395 Normandy Rd., Golden, Col. 80401, whose father was John Earl, b. 1892 Kan; g'father, John Dorn b. 1862 Ill; g. g'father Robt. Wash. b. 1832 Ky.; whereupon her line ends abruptly. Help will be appreciated.

Omitted from VVNL No. 5 was mention of the fact that Shirley Vawter Byler and Theodore (Ted) Vawter, brother and sister, had their own reunion at Brady Mtn. in August after a separation of 22 years. Shirley had lead the life of a mother

and Baptist Minister's wife in Texas, while Ted pursued a career on the West Coast, his present address being 8175 Hooker, Westminster, Col. 30030. Ted's Wife, Lydia earned the coveted Bronze Skillet Award at the reunion by the expertise at 6:00 A.M with which she was able to cook quantities of bacon and toast simultaneously, without burning either or losing her cool.

Since the reunion, we have added the names of four kinsmen of Shirley and Ted to the mailing list: Mrs. Mary Ruth Vawter Ritchie, 119 W. Dunedin, Columbus, Ohio 43214; Richard Vawter, 1803 North 1st St., Fremont, Neb. 68025; John E. Vawter, 9920 Emmet, Omaha 68134; Lester E. Vawter, Blanchard, Iowa 51630.

On a trip through North Texas in the fall, Bill Wiley, Nettleton, Ms., turned up Carl Vawter of Van Alstyne, and Larry and Harold Vawter of Southmayde, all in Grayson County. A telephone call to Carl, who is a school superintendent, revealed that this group descend from Russell, brother of John III; both sons of Richard of Stokes Co., N.C. They will join the clan of Bishop Billy Mack in Ok. City; Vernon at Hot Springs; Hal in St. Louis; Woodford in Ponca City, Ok.; and many others already known to us.

Further conversation with Carl revealed a brother, Guy, who manages Furr's Cafeteria: in Denver; and a brother, Virgil, who manages a cafeteria in Colorado Springs. This is the sort of fascinating family data which the traveling V/V will want to commit to memory. It's also the type of information which could result in the choice of the Denver area as the Site for a future V/V Reunion.

On a 22-day ancestor hunt, following the Arkansas reunion, Hazel McCandless and twin, L.G. (Bill) Vawter, turned up info which semi-officially places James C.(Jim) Vaughters, 1872 Valley Blvd., Memphis 38106, and Howard Vaughters, Rt. 8, Box 569-P Paducah, Ky. 42001, in their tribe of Richard II, who died in Lawrence Co., Tn. in 1827. Richard left a large family, including a son, Lorenzo Dow, who is the ancestor of Hazel and Bill; and a son, Asa, who is believed to be the ancestor of Jim and Howard. The line appears to be Asa, Gordon, Gordon E. Tobe, and Tobe. Hazel and Bill are happy to welcome recruits, since their own ranks are relatively slim.

A most pleasant recent addition to our mailing list is Constance Bicknell Will, 84 High Point Drive, Amherst, Mass. 01002, who is the daughter of Grace Vawter Bicknell, author of the beloved VAWTER FAMILY IN AMERICA. Mrs. Will recalls that her mother found comfort in compiling material for the Vawter book at a time when she was also caring for a dying son.

Regarding the Bicknell book, there is a reference on page 386 to Mrs. Egbert Jones of Holly Springs, Ms., who had dual Vawter lineage, as did many of the early V/V. According to the death certificate of Mrs. Egbert Jones, she was born Elizabeth Howard Blanton, 1868, in Farmville (either Prince Edward or Cumberland Co., Va.), the daughter of Leigh Miller Blanton and Clara Lydia McConnell. The present day descendants of Mrs. Jones have never heard the Vawter name mentioned in regard to the family, and to date it has been impossible to make the connection. It is known that Mrs. Jones was well educated and came to Holly Springs, Ms. as a teacher where she married Egbert Jones. She had the distinction of being a civic and cultural leader in North Mississippi at the time the Bicknell book was published. The concensus is that if both Mrs. Jones and Grace Bicknell said there was a connection, then there is a connection. Anyone who can solve this riddle will have the gratitude of Pete Vawter, Milan, Tn.; Betty Nash, Killeen, Tx.; this writer, and many others.

When Winter comes, can Reunion be far behind? To that end the lines have been busy recently between President Jim Vaughters in Colorado; Paul Vaughter in Ok. City; Paul, Jr. in Minnesota; and Lake Murray Lodge, Ardmore, Ok. The reunion has been set for August 3, 4, 5 & 6 at Lake Murray.

Accommodations at the Lake consist of the followings:

Motel rooms at the Lodge: \$24.00 per day per couple; \$2.00 each add. person.

Cabins, with kitchen: \$26.00 per day per couple; add. charge for more people

Cabins, without kitchen:

\$22.00 per day per couple

\$33.00 per day for four

\$41.00 per day for six

Reservations should be made immediately with Lake Murray Lodge, Box 1329, Ardmore, Ok. 73401. The price of one night's lodging will be required with reservation. It is believed that the lodging at Lake Murray will accommodate all of the V/V, provided reservations are made without delay.

Jim Vaughters will be sending out his own personal word to the V/V shortly, along with additional information on the details of the reunion. Watch your mail box for "gems from Jim".

A GENTLE REMINDER: Dues for the Vawter/ Vaughter(s) Family Association were set at \$5.00 per year per household, effective January 1, 1979. Membership in the Association includes subscription to the newsletter.

Here's to 1979,

The Year of the Ram and the Vawter.

He who has not paid Family Dues,

In the very near future, oughter.

This document was created with Win2PDF available at <http://www.daneprairie.com>.
The unregistered version of Win2PDF is for evaluation or non-commercial use only.