

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

January 30, 1981

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

After 300 years of working, raising families, spreading out all over the country, and being involved in all the historical events of this country, the V/V/V clan finally came home. The Reunion at the Vauter's Church in Essex County, Virginia, in June, 1980, a dream for years, became a reality. The event that occurred is the highlight of the young organization. It will forever be remembered, talked about, and written of as a historic occasion.

The business meeting the first night helped us to focus our efforts and define our purposes. The visit to the church the second afternoon ended with a trip to the land where the first Vawter plantation was, along Blackburn's Creek. What a feeling to stand on the ground that our ancestors broke and farmed long ago! The talk given by Rev. Ralph Fall that night at the church covered some of the history of the church and had a significant surprise - the 1739 Bible and the 1724 communion silver were on display. The third day included tours of the historic town of Port Royal and mansions of Camden, Brooke's Bank and Elmwood. The roundtable that night was a good way to get to know more cousins. The church service on the fourth day was a moving experience, followed by the social hour and the photographs. We had to leave on the fifth day, but it was a wonderful trip in all respects.

Many thanks are in order - to Rev. Fall for his planning and participation, to the members of the church for hosting us, to Betsy Miller and her committee for a year of work, and to the almost hundred members who came.

We had set a goal of \$1,000.00 as a gift to the church. By the time we collected all the checks from the people at the reunion, the members who sent money even though they were not able to attend, and the Association treasury, the total was \$1,740.00. What a wonderful tribute to the important historical and spiritual missions of the church! "Thank you" to the entire membership.

Several significant tangible items became part of our organization. A president's gavel was sent by Dr. Lemuel M. Burrow of Jacksonville, Florida. Now I have both a cowbell and a gavel to call meetings to order! Donald D. Ritchie of New York City sent two priceless items - a street sign marked "Valletort Place" from the bombed-out part of Plymouth, England, and a copy of James Whitcomb Riley's Farm Rhymes, illustrated by Will Vawter. Many thanks to both of you.

We missed some key people who have helped make the organization a going concern but who missed the reunion for health reasons. Betsy Miller, her parents, Mark and Betty Nash, Roger and Shirley Byler, Marv and Bess Vawter, and Paul

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Vaughter (Sr. and Jr.) are invaluable. But we picked up some great additions. The Virginia aristocracy and the Eastern dignity were clearly present in our members from places such as Pennsylvania, Maryland and New York. Thanks to Mary Winningham, Clara James, Betty Gallegos, and a host of other "locals".

The committees did an outstanding job on the work of the Association. The Membership and Newsletter Committee, headed by Beth Sabel, is keeping the mailing list current, as shown by the mailing of this letter. The Book Committee, chaired by E. B. Vaughters, continues to collect information but wants to re-evaluate the possibility of writing a book three years from now. The Nominating Committee, headed by Bob Vawter, railroaded through the same officers, with one exception - Pete is the new Vice-President.

Pete chaired the 1981 Reunion Committee, which chose the weekend of August 7 - 9 in Hot Springs, Arkansas, for this year's meeting. He has already put much work into the planning. Details will be forthcoming shortly.

We have lost an important member recently. W. T. Vawter of Mineola, Texas, to whom we dedicated the 1980 reunion at the church, passed away in the fall. He was a pioneer in the family history long before the organization was even thought of. A person of his calibre simply cannot be replaced.

Finally, one item of genealogy. J. R. Greene, Post Office Box 973, Cartersville, Georgia 30120, has located a copy of the Will of Jane Vaughter. She was the wife of James, who died shortly after the family moved from Franklin County to Cherokee lands in north Georgia in the 1830's. She kept the family together for almost 50 years after that. I will send copies to anyone who asks.

Keep up the good work. Long live V/V/V!

Sincerely,

James C. Vaughters

JCV/kll

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