

FAMILY ASSOCIATION OFFICERS:

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Tis the season of vacations, reunions, flowers, gardens, and food freezers. For these and sundry other reasons, your newsletter is a bit late. Fortunately, President Jim Vaughters was on his toes with his communique regarding the second annual nationwide Vawter/Vaughter(s) Reunion. By way of reminder, the reunion is set for August 3-6, at Lake Murray State Park, Ardmore, Oklahoma. Registration will begin at 10:00 a.m. Friday, August 3, in the Pioneer Room at the Lodge. A report on the reunion will be given in the September newsletter.

Since January the Family Organization has added 20 names to its roster, with this issue of VVNL going out to 197 families. Among the newcomers are:

Lemuel M. Burrow, D.D.S.(ret'd.) 1807 Memory Lane, Jacksonville, Fla. 32210, whose mother was Una Myrtle Vawter, dau. of Robt. Lemuel Vawter of Carroll Co., Tn. Cousin Lemuel is a kinsman of Robt.(Pete), Brooks, Vilas, and others in the W. Tn. Area

I.M. Vanosdol, R. 2, Shelbyville, Mo., listed in the Bicknell book. He becomes our third registered nonagenarian, being born Feb. 7, 1889.

Robert L. Vawter, Bayview Rd., R. 2, Middletown, Del. 19709, whose line is also listed in Bicknell. His membership enables us to add another state, Delaware, to our coverage.

Mrs. Virginia Vawter Groseclose, 101 Wayne Ave. Apt. 3, Mt. Olive, N.C. 28365, whose name came via Eloise Wicker Knight, a kinswoman in Pinehurst, N.C. Virginia is of the tribe of Henry Vawter of Maryville, Tn. and Charles Vawter of Corinth, Ms. Her "diary" enabled Henry Vawter to complete yet another branch on the family tree - the William Vawters, Sr. & Jr., which he has methodically put together. Joining Virginia were her sisters, Mrs. E.C. Simpson, Clarksville, Tn. and Mrs. Jas. W. Shipley, Harmans, Md., and her brother, Jas. H. Vawter, of Kinsale, Va. Mrs. Shipley's membership adds the state of Maryland to our coverage.

Note: Upon re-reading, it appears that Mrs. E.C. Simpson, Clarksville, Tn. is a sister of Henry Vawter, rather than Virginia Groseclose. Oh, well. All in the family.

James Richard Greene, P.O. Box 973, Cartersville, Ga. 30120, descendant of Delilah Vaughters; of the line of Jim and Doug Vaughters.

Sara A.Hockmuth, 3711 Wright St., Des Moines, Iowa 50316, of the line of Jesse and David Vawter, the Revolutionary Patriots.

Mrs. Helen C. Johnson, 3012 Clairmont Ave., Fullerton, Calif. 92635, cousin of Hazel McCandless and Bill Vawter.

Pauline Morsman, 1209 So. 10th St., Kingfisher, Ok. 73750, line of Margaret Vawter who married Robert Rutherford.

Mattie Smith Edmondson, P.O. Box 12295, Nashville, Tn 37212, whose mother was Virginia America Vawter; grandfather was Jessie Lee Vawter, who settled in Rutherford Co., Tn. ca. 1840. Help is needed on this line.

Swift Vaughter, Rt. 2, Anderson Hwy. Elberton, Ga. 30635, line of James Vawter, son of John III, who died in Elbert Co., Ga. ca. 1817. Line of Jim, Doug and Paul Vaughter(s).

Rev. & Mrs. E.M. Sharp, 3477 Highland Cove, Memphis, Tn. 38111. Mrs. Sharp a Great granddaughter of Nancy Vawter who married John McDougal, III; g.g. Granddaughter of John Vawter, IV, and his first wife, Rhoda McGuire. All of the above in the vicinity of Old Tishomingo Co., Ms. ca. 1836 and thereafter.

Mrs. Frederick E. DeMarcus, 2834 Leisure Woods Lane, Decatur, Ga. 30034, whose letter has vanished, thereby preventing report of her line.

The gremlins were busy when VVNL No. 6 went to press, resulting in several bits of misinformation, which we hasten to correct:

- (1) P. 3, paragraph 2. Richard Vawter ,I, never ventured into. N.C. It was his sons John, III, and Russell who were in Stokes Co., N.C.
- (2) P. 3, paragraph 5. Constance Bicknell Will (Mrs. Samuel F.) resides at 721S. Ballantine Rd., Bloomington, Ind. 47401. It is her son who resides at the Amherst, Mass. address.
- (3) P. 3, also para. 5. It was during the terminal illness of a daughter, rather than a son, that Grace Vawter Bicknell compiled the material for her book.

Shirley Vawter Byler has reported that her ancestor, John Taylor Vawter, p. 109 in Bicknell, lived to be 92 years of age. Following in the tradition, Shirley admits to being a youthful 70 - going on 100. Shirley and husband, Roger, have the further distinction of acquiring, both a grandson and a great granddaughter within the past year.

Mentioned on p. 2 of VVNL No. 6 was the line of LoRee Vawter Dennis of Golden, Colo. Not mentioned was the fact that LoRee has a sister, Lucene Vawter Dennis. As the names might suggest, the sisters married brothers. Nothing new about that for the V/V. Due to the combined efforts of Bishop Billy M. Vawter and Shirley Byler, the sisters have been identified as belonging to the line of Russell, son Richard and Frances (Towles) Vawter.

Artistic accomplishments of the V/V have come to light recently from various sources. John William (Will) Vawter, son of Dr. Louis A. and Emma Mary (Dameron) Vawter (tribe of Edward, the Builder) was an artist and illustrator for the books of James Whitcomb Riley. LoRee Vawter Dennis reports that her family has a book entitled "Riley Farm Rhymes" by James Whitcomb Riley,, artist pictures by Will Vawter, copyright 1883. Virginia Groseclose wrote that she had owned some of the Riley books, but in her many moves as wife of a Methodist Minister, they had been misplaced.

Bishop Billy M. Vawter reports owning a copy of the book, "The Rabbit's Ransom", a children's book by Clara Peck Vawter, sister of Will Vawter (above). Bishop Vawter also has one of the poems of poet Bransford Vawter of Virginia. Can anyone identify Bransford Vawter?

Mrs. Edna W. Reynolds, co-reviser of the Bicknell book, sends a picture and clipping from The Indianapolis Spotlight, dated Nov. 9, 1978, featuring Ralph Vawter who retired from his occupation as carpenter in 1975, at age 85 and now resides at the Colonial Crest Convalescent Home in Beech Grove, Ind. It was reported in the article that Mr. Vawter had built enough homes that if they were all in an addition of their own, they could be called "Vawter Town". The lineage of Mr. Ralph Vawter is not known. Perhaps someone will send it in.

The puzzle of the Vawter lineage of Mrs. Egbert Jones of Holly Springs, Ms ,(p.386 Bicknell) has been solved by E.B. Vaughters of Seattle; his source, "The Abridged Compendium of American Genealogy" p. 474-5. The line reads thusly: (1) Elizabeth Blanton Jones, (2) Leigh Miller Blanton, (3) Edward Anderson Blanton (4) Elizabeth Pitt Vawter, (5) Edward Vawter, (6) Thomas Vawter, who married Mary Eliz. Pitt, (7) Edward Vawter, builder of Vawter Church. E.B. doubts the accuracy of the statement in Bicknell that Elizabeth Pitt Vawter married her cousin , so the jury is still out on that point. E.B. writes that he has an extensive file on the descendants of Edward, the builder, and will be happy to share. Those needing help should send SASE, along with genealogy leading to inquiry for identification. E.B. is still listed with those who cannot prove Virginia ancestors; his line (1) Geo. E. Vaughters,(2) Thos. Graham Vaughters, (3) Wm. H. Vaughters, (4):John Vawter, who married Catherine Mas(s)on ca. 1813 in Caroline Co., Va. Perhaps we should check out Paul Mason.

Jim Vawter of El Campo, Texas, Bob Vawter of Tampa, Fla, and Arleigh Kerr of Sherman Oaks, Calif. are among those tracing the origin of the family back to the French name of Valetort. We are indebted to Jim Vawter for the following chart showing the various spellings that have been observed generally in each century:

1000 A.D...	De Valle Torta (said, in Latin, to mean "Curved Valley")
1100 " De Valletort, Valetort
1200 " De Vautort, Valletort, Valetort
1300 " De Vauter, Valletort, Vautort, Wantort
1400 " Vautard, Valletort, Vautort
1500 " Vantort, Vawtort, Vautort, Vautard, Vautord
1600 "Vawter, Vauterd, Vaulter, Vauter
1700 " Vawter, Vanter, Vaulter, Vaughter, Vauter
1800 " Vawter(s), Vaughter(s), Vauter, Vorter(s), Vater, Votter

Miscellaneous queries. Can you identify:

- (1) Richard Vawter, age 15, bound to Bernard Noel in Essex Co., Va. 20 March 1718?
- (2) Augustine Vawter, age 11, bound to said Noel on the same date?
- (3) Richard H. Vaughter, who married Eliz. V. Swan, Callaway Co., Mo, 16 Feb. 1848
- (4) Alfred W. Vawter, who bought the book, "An Essay on Man in Four Epistles", by Alexander Pope, and presented it to his friend, W.S. Pepper, in 1827. (Jas. S. Corbitt, discovered the book recently at an antique show in W. Palm Beach.)
- (5) John Wesley Vawter, b. 1812 Va., died 1887 Iowa, married Emily Jane Wheeler 1857; had children: Wm. Franklin, Granville Marshall, Hirm Dans, Jerome Washington, Laura Lutheria, John Wesley, Homer Wriale, and Marion Virgil? (This from Mrs. Virgil D. Vawter of W. Sacramento.)
- (6) Richard Vawter, who married Sally Vaughn, Caroline Co., Va. 12 July 1787?

From Pat Pike Michel of Magnolia, Texas, who submitted a number of miscellaneous bits of V/V info, comes the discovery of yet another way of spelling the family name - "Votaw". How is that for a Deep South spelling!

From the July 25, 1979 issue of the MEMPHIS PRESS-SCIMITAR is the notice that Vince Vawter, 253 N. McNeil, Memphis, has been named news editor. Our congratulations to Vince, and to proud father, Vilas. When the nationwide V/V reunion is held in Memphis, coverage should be no problem.

And speaking of reunions, plans are progressing for the 1980 reunion at Vauter's Church, Port Royal, Va. This writer had the pleasure of visiting Vauter's Church, and meeting the Rev. Ralph Fall, while attending a Dalton Family Reunion in Richmond in May. (Sure you remember the Daltons - those high-spirited boys who knocked off a few banks and mail trains in the late 1800's.) Ralph Fall locked up the Communion Silver and ceremonial wine, and allowed four members of the 1979 Dalton Gang to tour the Church. Though a Vawter by marriage, this writer was totally captivated by the setting, and got distinct vibrations to "bring the V/V home in 1980".

Bill Paden, historian and educator from the Village of Paden in Tishomingo Co., Ms.: has called attention to an incident recorded in the book, "Tupelo" by Aughey, a Yankee Minister and p.o.w, during the Civil War. In retaliation for the guerrilla murder of a Union sympathizer in SE Tish. Co., a company of Federal soldiers were sent out to burn Paden's, Vawter's and Robinson's mills along with ten houses. The area thereafter came to be known as Burnt Mills, and ca. 1880 a post office and small settlement bore that name. Around 1900, the railroad came through, missing Burnt Mills by about one mile; the village became extinct and the present village of Paden, located on the railroad, came into being. This writer, and husband Fred, spent a delightful Sunday afternoon in the company of Bill Paden going over the area of the burnt mills.

JOHN VAWTER, IV, landowner, miller, tavern keeper, speculator, was born Jan. 16, 1778 probably in Stokes Co., N.C. Generally he is acknowledged to be the son of John Vawter, III, by his first wife, who may have been Franky Ward, daughter of Jacob Ward, Culpepper Co. Va. Though not named as one of the heirs of John, III, who died in Elbert Co., Ga. in 1817, he was always in close proximity to that family, particularly to Richard Vawter, acknowledged son of John III. John, IV, married first in Elbert Co., Ga. Rhoda McGuire, daughter of Alleganey McGuire, Revolution soldier and pensioner; Rhoda born Nov. 16, 1785. Richard Vawter, his brother/cousin married Cynthia McGuire, sister of Rhoda. Removing to Tn., John (Vaughter) was in Maury Co. in the 1820 Census, living next door to his father-in-law, Alleganey McGuire; his household reflected nine daughters and one son. By family records, Rhoda McGuire Vawter died Aug. 28, 1824, and John married second Elizabeth who removed with him to Lauderdale Co., Ala. ca. 1830, and to Tishomingo Co., Ms. ca. 1836. According to probate records of Tish. Co., Elizabeth died ca. 1845, leaving two minor daughters, Elizabeth Ann and Harriet. He married third Peachy Hazel Jan. 28, 1849, with whom he was living in Marion Co., Ala. in the 1850 census, his name shown as "John Vorters". He died sometime prior to Oct. 1864, when Peachy Vauters married John Finch in Tish. Co.

Tennessee land and court records spot John IV in Maury, Williamson and Lawrence Co. buying and selling land, operating a mill, paying numerous fines - one for operating a tippling house. In Tishomingo Co., Ms. he was appointed one of a committee of three to oversee building of the Courthouse at Jacinto; served as Ranger for the county for several years; and was licensed to operate the first tavern in Jacinto. In the space of 1837 to 1845, the deed records of Tish. Co. reflect some 90 land transactions involving John Vawter. He often purchased land in the names of his minor children, requiring him to go into Court in order to sell it. In 1845, his land transactions ceased abruptly, with his property falling to trustee sale and tax sale; obviously wiped out by the collapse of the "land bubble", the bank failures, and the ensuing depression of the 1840's. His one piece of property to escape execution had been purchased in the name of his daughter, Eliz. Ann, and was sold by her and her husband, Hopewell Doss, in 1853, the deed being signed in Marion Co., Ala.

John IV had one son, Alleganey, and nine known daughters: Cynthia, Mourning, Nancy, Matilda, Mary Jane, Ellender, Eliz. Ann, Harriet, and Malinda. By census figures he may have had twelve daughters. The male descendants of John Vawter have long since removed from Tishomingo Co., Ms. to Tippah, Union and Benton Co., Ms.; to Ark., Texas and Oklahoma. His daughters married into the Robinson, McDougal, Reid, Pike, Beatty, Gurley and Burt families, many of whom are still in the area of Old Tishomingo County. Personal records of these families, along with official records of Old Tishomingo County, bear their silent reference to John Vawter/Vaughter/Vauter/Vorters. (SOURCES: Records of Elbert Co., Ga.; Maury, Lawrence, & Williamson Co., Tn.; Lauderdale Co., Ala.; Tish. Co., Ms. History of Old Tish. Co.; McQuire Family History by Duard Leon Ray; personal research of Hazel Vawter McCandless, Mary Maud Carter, Pat Pike Michel, Rev. E.M. Sharp, Jas. C. Vaughters, Bill Vawter, & Faye Tennyson Davidson; Family Bibles of Clarice Vawter Mayer, Willard Robinson Nixon, Matilda Vawter Reid)

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A VERY SPECIAL INVITATION The children and grandchildren of Mrs. Ora Wiley Wicker request the honor of your presence at her 80th birthday celebration, September 23 1979, between 2:00 and 4:00 P.M., at her home at 2088 Courtland, Memphis, Tn. 38104. Y'all come.

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