



NEWSLETTER

May 1980

Issue No. 10

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BULLETIN:

FREDERICKSBURG, VA. (VVVP) - Picturesque Port Royal, Va. is reported bracing itself for an influx June 20-23 which could double the population of this tidewater hamlet. The occasion is the gathering of the Third Annual Reunion of the *Vawter/Vauter/Vaughter(s)* Family Association, a group which claims descent from Bartholomew Vawter, 17th Century merchant and plantation owner of Essex County.

Jim Vaughters, attorney, of Denver, Colo., President and spokesman of the 250-member group, announced the selection of this meeting place because of its proximity to Vauter's Episcopal Church, 9 miles South of Port Royal on Route 17. The Church, alleged to have been built in 1731 by Edward Vawter, son of Bartholomew Vawter, is said to be situated on part of the old Vawter plantation.

The Rev. Ralph Fall, Pastor of Vauter's Church, expressed delight that the family organization chose to meet in this area. He acknowledged that he had been made an honorary member of the family group, and had been invited to speak at the Friday evening session. The Rev. Fall expects all pews at Vauter's to be filled on Sunday, June 23, when the group comes together for 10:30 Worship Service, during which the Ordinance of Baptism will be administered to young Jim Miller of Kenedy, Tx., a 9th generation descendant of Edward Vawter, the builder.

H.W. Patton, manager of Brown Motel, Port Royal, reports advance reservations for the 3-day event are nearing capacity, with guests expected from Mexico to Oregon and from Minnesota to Florida.

And that's the way it reads as VVVNL No. 10 goes to press. President Jim Vaughters will mail his own letter out presently which will give the schedule and details of the meetings. It promises to be a memorable occasion.

Mention was made earlier of a love gift to be presented the Church by the family association. Approximately \$600 has been received to date in cash and pledges for this gift, which will be selected by Ted Vawter and Ralph Fall. Announcement will be made in the September newsletter of the total amount received and the gift chosen. Time still remains for other family members to have a part in this gift. At this date, checks should be mailed directly to Rev. Ralph Fall, Port Royal, Va. 22535, to assure being included. Your editor suggests that \$1000 would be a respectable gift to the Church which has served to perpetuate the family's identity.

**IN MEMORIAM:** This issue of the newsletter is dedicated to the memory of Henry Alexander Vawter, III, 217 Mtnview Blvd., Maryville, Tn. 37801, who died on February 24, 1980. Longtime Vawter researchers are aware of the enthusiasm which Mr. Vawter had for family research. He had compiled a comprehensive history of the line of William Vawter, son of Edward, the builder, and was making plans to attend the reunion at Port Royal in June. This writer became acquainted with Mr. Vawter through telephone and correspondence in the early days of the newsletter. He was generous with his encouragement and with monetary donations in the days before dues were assessed. Our sincere sympathy goes to his widow, Mrs. Margaret Montgomery Vawter, and to their three surviving daughters.

Sympathy is also extended to Sally Vawter (Mrs. L.G. "Bill") in the death of her mother in Houston on March 29, 1980.

Our Vice President, Marvin Vawter, Kansas City, Mo. sends distressing news of the health complications of his wife, Bess, following a heart attack and open heart surgery last Fall. Bess is slowly recovering, but it is doubtful they will be able to attend the reunion in June. Whether or not the VVV can have a reunion without the presence of Mary and Bess remains to be seen. It won't be the same. Our prayers and good wishes go to Bess during her recovery period.

In VVVNL No. 9, p. 3, para. 10, it was advertised that Keith Pike would pay one dollar to know the whereabouts of John Vawter IV in 1860. Like a good sport, Keith has forwarded his earnest money to the Treasurer and is waiting for results. So far, no takers. It is entirely possible John Vawter may have passed into the world beyond by 1860, therefore proof of the whereabouts of his widow, Peachie Vawter, living without him, will entitle the bearer to the prize money. Peachie Vawter remarried in 1866, according to the records of Tish. Co., Ms., so she has to be somewhere in 1860.

Rev. E.M. Sharp of Memphis, one of the VVV in-laws, has astutely located Fredrick Vawter King, Jr. for the newsletter. In correspondence with Mr. King on their Sims line, Bro. Sharp noticed the middle name Vawter; made inquiry, and learned that he descends from James Vawter/Vaughter, Franklin Co., Ga., ca. 1810. Mr. King has already sent his \$5.00 membership dues. A special welcome to Cousin Fredrick, whose address is 3941 Arborway, Charlotte, N.C. 28211.

From P.O. Box 65; Marrowbone, Ky. comes a letter from Mrs. Effie G. Wilson, who would like to correspond with anyone who descends from her ancestor, Joseph Early Vawter, who came to Monroe Co., Ky. ca. 1823.

One of the nicest gestures to reach the editor's desk recently came from Donald D. Ritchie, 49 Claremont Ave., N.Y., N.Y. 10027, whose wife, Nancy Vawter Ritchie, died Jan. 19, 1980 (VVVNL No. 9, p. 2, para. 1). Mr. Ritchie offered to the VVV Association a copy of James Whitcomb Riley's Farm Rhymes, illustrated by Will Vawter, 1921 reprint of the 1883 edition; and a metal, enameled sign, Vallert Place, which he had rescued from a rubble of bombed-out Plymouth, England during WW II; stating that he

felt they should be in the possession of someone named Vawter. President Jim Vaughters lost no time in contacting Mr. Ritchie and claiming these mementoes for the family association. These items will become the first in the anticipated "Vawter Collection", to be shepherded by Historian/Archivist Paul Vaughter, Jr.

While on the subject of collections, it should be pointed out that the collection of individual VVV family histories, requested by Book Committee Chairman, Shirley Byler, to be mailed to Paul Vaughter, Jr., have failed to materialize during the past year. This due to a breakdown in communication between the members of the Book Committee (VVVNL No. 8, p. 2, para. 2), for which this writer asks forgiveness from Shirley in behalf of all the members of the committee. At the committee meeting in Virginia, strict attention will be paid to commitments, and concrete plans and directives for publication of the new Vawter Family History will appear in the next newsletter.

E.B. Daughters of Seattle, and President Jim Daughters of Colorado have reported on finding a Bartholomew Vawter in Craven Co., S.C. in 1762 and 1770; in 1790 Cornelius Vawter was in the Camden District of Richland Co., S.C., with 2 white males 16 and over and 8 females; Cornelius Vawter probably a son of Bartholomew and named for his great grandfather, Cornelius Noell. QUESTION. What became of this branch of the family? Why have they not turned up in the past few years of concentrated search? Do some of the Georgia Vawters designated to John Vawter III of Elbert Co. really belong in the camp of Cornelius? And what about Wharton Vawter, the Rev. soldier? The unanswered questions abound.

The Augusta, Ga. Vawters (VVVNL No. 9, p. 2, para. 5) have been identified by Shirley Hoggard as being of the family of her uncle, William Vawter (1886-1958), roots in Rutherford Co., Tn. This family mentioned in VVVNL No. 8, p. 4, para. 1.

In March 1980, Bonita Welch, R.R. 1, Box 227, Scioto, Ind. 47273 wrote asking info on the Vawter Reunion. She having learned of the reunion from the Hoosier Journal of Ancestry. A word of thanks to the mysterious person who had the item placed in the Hoosier Journal. A special welcome to Bonita. If she will submit her lineage, it will be published in the next VVVNL.

Sometime ago L.G. (Bill) Vawter, 3019 Conway St., Houston, Tx. 77025 received a request for information on John Vawter of Hillsboro, Ill., who married Claudine Christy Fowler, probably in the early 1900's. They had at least one son, Monroe Vawter. Can this family be identified?

Not to be outdone, Bill's twin sister, Hazel McCandless, presents this query. Who was Richard B. Vawter, who applied for a Confederate pension from Lamar Co., Tx. in 1877? Is he the same Richard B. Vawter shown in 1880 Census of Collins Co., Tx., age 52, b. Va., with wife Martha A., 46, b. Va., and children Wm. W., Eliz. C., Sidneyham, Mary, Martha, and Marcellus, ages from 21 to 10, all born in Tn.?

Also among the unanswered queries is one received by Silas M. Vawter, 3212 Eastman Drive, Ok. City, Ok. 73112 asking for help on Hiram Vawter who brought his family from Va. to Grant Co., Ky. ca. 1834. Known children of Hiram Vawter were: Albert H., b. 1821; John W., b. 1823; Robert W., b. 1835 (25?); Jubel, b. 1837 (27?); and Virginia Madison, b. 1830. Possibly three other daughters.

From Vernon Vawter, Royal, Ark. comes this quote as printed in DEAR ABBY, "Don't go looking for your roots unless you're prepared to dig up a lot of dirt". According to Vernon, when he ventured over on the other side of Brady Mtn. tracing his ancestors, he found quite a lot of dirt.

L.G.(Bill) Vawter of Houston, Tx. has served as general dispatch agent and clearing house for the reunion data and deserves a vote of thanks from the family association. Bill and Sally, along with sisters, Hazel McCandless and Louise Vanover, plan to spend Tues. & Wed. following the reunion in Washington doing some sight-seeing; their reservations are at the Days Inn on S. Bragg St., in Alexandria. The Wickers likewise will be spending a couple of days in Alexandria visiting son Roger, and taking in the sights. If others of the reunion group would care to come along, they will be most welcome. Bill says we can take advantage of Gray Line Tours, or whatever. If enough of the VVV descend en masse on the city, we might provide another one of the sights.

Regarding the article on p. 4 of VVVNL No. 9 on Beatrice Bayley: "Dear Virginia: It true that there is a Santa Claus, and there are rare and distinct families, but there is no Beatrice Bayley. Beatrice Bayley is a fictitious name, a company, just like Sara Lee." (Editor's Notes: No wonder she wouldn't accept my phone call.) At the time your fearless editor wrote the first article, it was as a voice crying in the wilderness yet fully aware of the laws concerning libel. A few days later a Washington Post Service broke the story. Beatrice had made the mistake of mailing one of her wholesale offers to a lawyer in the consumer protection division of the U.S. Postal Service having the rare and distinct name of Ziebarth; likewise to a retired assistant general counsel to the Postal Service by the rare and distinct name of DeLorenzo. The postal service having already gotten numerous complaints about the books, these two gentlemen blew the whistle on the operation. It is not known what the outcome of the probe will be, but it's safe to assume that Beatrice Bayley will not be elected Woman of the Year by the Association of Certified Genealogists.

A final plea for the Vauter Church Fund. Your editor is going to think \$1000 very strongly until reunion time and trust the VVV to respond. Mail checks from this date on to Rev. Ralph Fall, Port Royal, Va. 22535. Few families can boast a 250-year old Church bearing the family name.

Have a pleasant summer.

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