

FAMILY ASSOCIATION OFFICERS:

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The second nationwide *Vawter/Vaughter(s)* Reunion is a pleasant memory. All attention is now focused on the Third Reunion to be held at Vauter's Episcopal Church, Essex Co., Va., June 20-23, 1980. In deference to the spelling of the Church (even acknowledged to be in error since the builder was Edward Vawter) it was decided to add the name Vauter to the family association name. Note the new "logo", which was suggested by Jim Miller, son of Henry and Betsy Miller of Kenedy, Tx., grandson of Secretary Bettie Nash, and husband, Mark. Should all of the spellings, or misspellings, of the family name have been included, it would have taken half a page. These three, with or without the "s" seem to be most common. A rose, by whatever name More about 1980 later.

86 souls were registered at Lake Murray Lodge, Ardmore, Ok., August 3-6. This figure does not include Jim Vaughters' Airedale, Commodore; -or Marjorie Vawter's Pekingese, who was so taken with Commodore she forgot to sign in. Those who had attended the mini-reunion at Lake Murray in 1977; plus the reunion at Brady Mtn., Ark. in 1978, thus entitling them to their 3-year pins were: Paul & Carolyn Vaughter, Silas & Ebeteen Vawter, Ray & LaVerna Murray, and Velma Tidwell, all of Oklahoma; Bill & Sally Vawter, Hazel Vawter McCandless, of Texas; Ora Wiley Wicker of Tn. and Fred & Wordna Wicker, and Mary Wicker Reese of Mississippi.

Those receiving 2-year pins by attending two of the past three were: Ted & Lydia Vawter, Jim Vaughters & Commodore, Colorado; Hubert & LaVada Vawter, Alma Vawter Allen, Helen Vawter Hays, Vernon Vawter, and Mary Wiley Lansdale, Arkansas; Vallie Wiley Cox, Betsy Miller, Jim Miller, Mark & Bettie Nash, Roger & Shirley Byler, Phil & Peggy Vaughter, R.J. Vawter, of Texas; Carmen & Opal Caldwell, Iley & Mary Oxford, J.W. & Anna Baker, Vernessa Vawter Clagg, Ray & Zona Beasley, Ben Parker, John & Geneva Short, Wallace & Naomi Duckett, Lonnie & Peggy Vawter, and Arlene Vawter Cardwell, Billy Mack & Dorothy Vawter, all of Oklahoma; (Col.)Jim & Alliene Corbttt of Tn.; Marvin & Bess Vawter of Missouri; Paul, Jr. & Kay Vaughter of Mn.; and Dave Vaughter, Fla.; Bill & Allene Wiley, Ms.

Rookies trying out for their first time were: Robert & Donna Vawter, Delaware; Beth Vawter Sabel, Oregon; Glenn & Marjorie Vawter, Gilbert & Gordie Spencer, of California, Addie Wiley Morgan of Missouri; Jimmy & Norma Vaughters of Tn.; Louise Vawter Vanover, Courtney Vaughter, of Texas; Mr. & Mrs. David Clagg, Mr. & Mrs. Sidney Murray, Mr. & Mrs. Alvin Ballard, Oklahoma.

With the appointment of several key committee, President Jim had decreed a working reunion. The committees, along with members, and recommendations, duly approved by the group in business session, were as follows:

Membership & Newsletter_- Dave Vaughter, Beth Sabel, Carmen Caldwell, Vernon Vawter & Glenn Vawter. Recommendations -

Membership dues to remain at \$5.00 per year, per house-hold, payable in advance for the upcoming year to the Treasurer, Hazel McCandless; honorary membership, with waiver of payment of dues, to be bestowed on any V/V/V 80 years and older, who so notifies the Treasurer. The Newsletter to continue publication of three issues per year, and mailed to all regular and honorary members. Wordna Wicker

to be responsible only for editing the Newsletter, with Beth Sabel handling all matters of printing and circulation. (What kind of hybrid results when Oregon and Mississippi join forces? A redwood covered with magnolia blossoms, or cotton bolls? Curiosity should bring the subscriptions in.) Beth Sabel has also undertaken the task of a nationwide cataloging of the V/V/V by way of telephone directories, this leading up to the publication *The Book*. More on that committee follows, but one last point on Membership: From its beginning, the object of the family organization was to seek out the V/V/V by whatever spelling, and to that end complimentary copies of the Newsletter have been mailed when a name was submitted. With a mailing list approaching 250, it has become necessary to stop the complimentary copies. In January the Newsletter will be mailed ONLY to those (1) who have paid membership dues during, or since, the August Reunion; or (2) those 80 and above who notify Hazel McCandless they would like to be Honorary Members; or (3) those who have received honorary membership by distinction. It would be gratifying if we could mail 250 Newsletters in January. In all candor, we probably will not.

The Book Committee: Paul Vaughter, Jr., Marv Vawter, Hazel McCandless, Shirley Byler, and Wordna Wicker. Whether to revise and up-date Bicknell, or to start from scratch the Vawter story, is yet to be decided. A comprehensive family history is definitely the offing. Paul Vaughter, Jr., Chm., came away from the reunion with the coveted position of Historian/Archivist. More from Paul when he decides exactly what the terms imply.

Nominating Committee: Pete Vawter, Bettie Nash, Hubert Vawter, Ray Murray, and Jimmy Vaughters. (Note: Pete Vawter was "weatherbound" in Milan, Tn. and Fred Wicker was hastily sworn in to replace him.) The four incumbent officers managed to retain their positions. The committee added the offices of Secretary, Historian/Archivist, and Circulation Editor, all of which should make for a more efficient family organization.

1980 Reunion Committee: Betsy Miller, Ted Vawter, Gordie Spencer, Bill Vawter, and Bob Vawter. This committee is already busily at work mapping out plans for transportation, housing, and meals. The last page of this Newsletter to be filled out and returned to the committee indicating your feelings on these matters.

Upon his return to Colorado following the Reunion, President Jim underwent surgery for a ruptured appendix. After a lengthy convalescence, he is slowly returning to normal. V.P. Marv has assumed leadership of the clan until such time as Jim is fully recovered. Our prayers and best wishes are with you, Jim.

Since the June Newsletter the following deaths have been recorded from the Newsletter mailing list: Miss Hettie Vawter, daughter of Henry A. Vawter, 217 Mtnview Blvd., Maryville, Tn. 37801; Robert S. Vawter, Montcalm, W. Va., brother of Henry Vawter; Mrs. Lucille Vawter Walker, Big Spring, Tx., aunt of Pete Vawter; and Reid Vawter of Louisa Va. Our deepest sympathy is extended to their families.

Mrs. Billie Allen Jines, Rt. 2, Box 52, Pea Ridge, Ark. 72751, a newcomer to our ranks from the Tribe of James, son of John III, writes that she has published a book, *Tracks of the Allen Family*. Her great grandmother, Lucinda Vaughters, married Matthew Allen in 1829 in Franklin Co., Ga. Those of you with Vaughters/Allen connections could scarcely resist this volume which contains 197 pages, and sells for \$10.00 postpaid, and may be ordered directly from the author.

Shirley Byler has a query regarding Martha Flowers, who is somehow connected with Dorothy Brown Thompson, and the Vawters, in literary circles. Can anyone supply any information on how Martha Flowers fits into the family picture?

Ralph Vawter, mentioned in VVNL No. 7, P.2., has been identified by Dorothy Vawter (Mrs Bill Mack) as belonging to the tribe of Jesse, son of David. Mr. Vawter's grandfather, John Allan Vawter, purportedly came to Vernon, Ind. ca. 1833. Our thanks to Dorothy.

Help is needed in identifying the Vawters in Louisa Co., Va. Lindsey Vawter of Trevilians, Va. (Louisa Co.) reports that his grandfather, William T. Vawter, was killed in the Civil War. As so often happens, contact with the paternal line was thereby cut off, and nothing is known of the family history. This family can be spotted as #346, 1860 Census of Louisa Co., P.O. Frederick's Hall. Reid Vawter, who died recently in Louisa, was a nephew of Lindsey Vawter. Clifton Vawter, another nephew, lives in Louisa.

E.B. Vaughters of Seattle has identified Bransford Vawter (VVNL No. 7, P. 2) as being the son of Benjamin Vawter, Campbell Co., Va., grandson of Samuel Vawter, the eldest son of Edward, the builder.

E.B., ever in search of his own identity, now feels that he might possibly claim Richard Vawter who married Sally Vaughn, Caroline Co., Va. 12 July 1787 (VVNL No. 7, p. 3, #6) as the father of his g.g. grandfather John, who married Catherine Masson. This Richard the son of Richard whose will was proved in Essex Co. 21 Jan. 1799. E.B. pleads for help from the V/V/V.

Virginia Scholz, VVNL No. 3, P. 1, has now been placed in the Tribe of Richard (above) through his son, James, also named in his will. Congratulations, Virginia!

While on the subject of Richards. There was a Richard Vawter in Spotsylvania Co., Va. who witnessed mortgage 21 Jan. 1796 between Henry Gatewood and John Lewis. Also Richard head of household in 1810 Census of Spotsylvania Co. Who is this Richard?

The above brain-teaser from E.B., along with a request for a copy of the obituary of Benjamin Vauter which appeared in the Richmond, Va. Constitution or Richmond Daily Whig on p. 2, May 3, 1830.

Since the early days of the family organization, descendants of John Vawter III by his first wife, have been seeking her identity. By way of review, John married second Joanna Vernon, whose estate along with his, is recorded in the early records of Elbert Co., Ga. Back to wife No. 1. As a result of arduous sleuthing on the part of Hazel McCandless, it now appears that she was Franky Ward, daughter of Jacob Ward, whose will naming "my daughter Franky Vawter" was probated in Culpepper Co., Va. 20 June 1791. Franky Ward Vawter died sometime after 31 Mar. 1791 (date the will was written) and before 7 Nov. 1792, when John Vawter signed a deed in behalf of his minor children along with the other heirs of Jacob Ward. Joy would have been complete if the names of Franky's children had been named, but they were not. (Could we have the very first "Franky and Johnny"? Jim Vaughters is going to check this out with Guinness just as soon as he catches up on his work load in the office. We recall that Jim has mentioned the family organization needs an official song. Occasionally things seem to fall into your hands.)

Among the recent newcomers to the family organization are Mrs. Henry D. Felton of Jackson, Tn., and Mr. & Mrs. Edwin Felton, Brownsville, Tn., of the tribe of Edward the builder. These cousins are best known to the Mississippi V/V/V as being of the family of Rocky Felton, ace football player for Ms. State Univ. some years back.

Mrs. Frederick DeMarcus who could not be identified in VVNL No. 7, belongs in the Tribe of Margaret Vawter who married Robert Rutherford. Several from that branch have joined us recently. Kenneth Rutherford, Lexington, Mo. has done a masterful job of compiling the history of that family and related lines, one chapter of which is on the Vawters.

Another newcomer to our ranks is Juanita Sharpe Vawter, age 82, 5614 - 29th Avenue, Hyattsville, Md. 20782, who has lived in the D.C. area for 61 years. Originally from Georgia, she has the distinction of being the first woman from that state to enlist in the U.S. Navy in 1918. She worked for many years at the Library of Congress as a nurse. Her father, Jesse Lee Vawter, was born 1863 in Rutherford Co., Tn., the son of Jesse Richardson Vawter who came to Tn. with his brother, William, prior to 1850. Juanita is a first cousin to Mattie Smith Edmondson (VVNL No. 7, P. 1). Their nieces, Claire Krolick and Shirley Hoggard, have also joined us. (If memory serves, these ladies "cousin" with Dave Vaughtner of Miami, who with his sister Juanita Vaughtner Anderson, descend from Ludwell Vaughtner who was in Wilson Co., Tn. in 1850; none of whom can trace farther back.

A wrap-up of the Reunion at Lake Murray: Mention should have been made in connection with the Nominating Committee that a Board of Directors consisting of Pete Vawter, Shirley Byler, Vernon Vawter, and Dave Vaughtner was instituted. To assure continuity, Pete and Shirley were elected to one-year terms, Vernon and Dave to two-year terms.

Further wrapping it up, the Reunion has proved an excellent means of having a reunion within a reunion. Witness Shirley Byler and Ted Vawter, sister and brother, who held their own reunion at Brady Mtn. in 1978 after a separation of 22 years. This year both families were back, and were joined by their niece, Beth Vawter Sabel, whom they had not met before. The brothers, Bob Vawter of Delaware, and Glenn of Calif., arranged to come together with their spouses, to Lake Murray. The descendants of Jas. Wesley Vawter, Asa Vawter, Betty Vawter Reid and Adelia Vawter Parker (VVNL No. 3, P. 3) all of Oklahoma, had their own reunion, and were joined by their cousins, Ora Wiley Wicker, Vallie Wiley Cox, Mary Wiley Lansdale, Addie Wiley Morgan, and Bill Wiley; the latter all descendants of Emma Vawter Wiley. (Of course you remember Bill Wiley who supplies us with his vintage brew guaranteed to prevent common colds, cure snake bite, and ward off evil spirits. Judging from the good health and good cheer at the reunion, it must work.) And finally wrapping it up... There have been those who inquired about the behavior of Paul and Silas at the Reunion. We are happy to report their behavior beyond reproach, and it was decided to make no further mention of the fact that they had "done time" As to the confusion between Paul and Barnabas, that matter was tabled also, at least until such time as Barnabas is present to tell his side of it. It had been intended to likewise table the matter of Edward Vawter having a bastard by Christine Smith in Caroline Co., Va. in 1736 (Parish records Caroline Co.) but Bettie Nash, who with commendable loyalty had refused to believe it, insisted on bringing the case up at the banquet to introduce more evidence. Re-reading of the parish records had revealed Christine Smith, Servant, with Edward Vawter, listed as Master, and Emanuel Penn listed as the father of the bastard, the fine being paid by James Vawter. (Time out for a brief history review. From Colonial Caroline, "Bastards were commonplace in colonial Caroline, although punishment for a white woman free or indentured, who bore an illegitimate child was 5 lashes at the whipping-post, a 50 shilling or 500 lb. of tobacco fine. Few women had the money or tobacco to pay a fine so most of them were whipped". Editor's note: Women's Lib, what took you so long?) So now appears that Edward Vawter had a servant girl who "got in trouble" and to spare her public flogging, her fine was paid by James Vawter. Honest, Bettie, we were not going to say any more about it. After all, Edward did build the Church, and nobody is perfect. However, since you brought the matter up, what about Christine, what happened to her? And the bastard, was it male or female? - What name did it carry? Slaves always carried the name of their master. Did that apply to bastards of servants? And who was James Vawter who paid the fine? Edward had a son named James, but he was not born in 1736. Hmmm. As follow-up, who were Richard and Augustine Vawter, age 15 and 11, who were bound to Bernard Noel in 1718?. Did we ever learn the name of the father of Wharton Vawter, Rev. soldier who received land in Ga. for his service? And what of Cornelius Vawter, who has never shown up on anybody's family chart? And John IV who got no part of John III's estate? Pay your \$5.00 dues and don't miss the next exciting episode of that true-to-life drama "As the Vawters Squirm".

To attend a nationwide family reunion scheduled at a Church bearing the family name is a worthy ambition. When the Church is situated in an area steeped in early history of both the family and the nation, and when the Pastor of the Church offers to host a gathering of the Clan, the ambition almost becomes a reality. But when the Church is located in a completely rural setting, 9 miles from the nearest town, 30 miles from major bus lines, 50 miles from major airlines, and gasoline is a recognized uncertainty, then hope begins to fade. But wait. Betsey Miller and her very able committee have anticipated the problems, and provided solutions.

Bob Vawter of Middletown, Del. 19709 (Box 100 Bayview Rd., phone 302-378-9271) Has made an on-the-scene check on motel facilities since the reunion and recommends Brown Motel, Port Royal Va. as the reunion headquarters. Mr. H.W. Patton, manager of Brown Motel, reports he will have 56 rooms available for the V/V/V, provided reservations are made at least two months in advance. Call Brown's Motel Court No. 2 at 804-742-4101 and make reservation, which will be confirmed upon receipt of one day's lodging. In event of cancellation, money will be refunded if request is made prior to date of reservation. There are 3 smaller motels in Port Royal which can be used for overflow; also Fredericksburg and Tappahannock both have motel facilities. Lodging will not be a problem. Bob Vawter invites the V/V/V to call him if they have problems with reservations.

As to transportation, L.G. (Bill) Vawter of 3019 Conway St.; Houston, Tx. 77025, has been busy on that score. Obviously those who travel by means of private automobile will have the favored status. For those who will need to fly or travel by public transportation, Bill has been in contact with Harvey Travel Agency of Houston who have these suggestions: (1) Travel by plane or bus to Washington, D.C. (120 miles from Vauter's Church); (2) Meet other V/V/V at a hotel in the vicinity of National Airport (hotel to be designated later); (3) Travel collectively to Port Royal and Vauter's Church via either chartered bus or rented vans and cars (mode of travel dependant on number involved); (4) Spend nights of June 20, 21, & 22 at Port Royal, with each family being responsible for own reservations for lodging; (5) Use bus or rented vans for sight-seeing to and from the reunion, and for local travel around Port Royal and Vauter's Church. Note from Bill: Working through a travel agency can save time, plus make for a smoother trip. There is no charge for the agency's service.

Meals. There are two restaurants at Brown's Motel, and several other eating places at Port Royal. Also, plans call for having at least two meals on the grounds at Vauter's Church. Just like in the Church at home, the ladies at Vauter's are willing to go to a little extra trouble to earn some money for the Church. Under the leadership of Ralph (the honorary Vawter) Fall, plans are underway. Courtesy demands that we let these friends know the maximum number they could be expected to feed, at the earliest possible date.

The Church. Without question, the V/V/V will want to attend a worship service. The Church is small and it is possible that extra seating may have to be provided. Courtesy again demands that Ralph know the maximum number who could be expected to attend.

CLIP AND MAIL TO: L.G. (Bill) Vawter, 3019 Conway St., Houston, Tx. 77025

(1) At this time I(we) plan to attend the V/V/V Reunion. Number of persons_____

(2) We will travel by private automobile. Yes_____No_____

(3) would be interested in traveling by plane to Washington. Please send additional information. Yes_____No_____

(4) I would be interested in sight-seeing trips, and in guided tours of the Port Royal-Vauter Church area. Yes_____No_____

(5) I (my family) will want to be included in all meals served at the Church. Yes____ No____

(6) I (my family) will want to attend worship service at Vauter's Church. Yes____No____

(7) I (we) would be willing to make a Love Offering to the Church even if we do not attend the Reunion. Amount: \$10 \$25 \$50 \$100 Other

I understand that at this time, I am not obligated in any way.

NAME_____ADDRESS_____

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