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Once upon a time, as all good stories begin, in Stokes Co., N.C. lived a man named John Vawter. By his first wife, _____, he had three sons, James, Richard and John, Jr. (John Vawter married a second time, moved to Elbert Co, Ga., and had additional children who do not fit into our story at this point.)

The descendants of James Vawter, son of John, lived in Georgia, Texas and Oklahoma, and came to spell their name "Vaughter".

The descendants of Richard Vawter, son of John, lived in Georgia, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi and Texas and continues the "Vawter" spelling.

The descendants of John, Jr., lived in Georgia, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi and Oklahoma, spelled their name Vawter, Vaughter, Vauter, Votter, Vatter, Vorters, but eventually settled down to "Vawter",

For 175 years, the families of the three brothers were scattered throughout the southern part of the U.S. A few years back the descendants of James Vaughter began to meet periodically at Lake Murray Lodge, Ardmore, Oklahoma, for family reunions. On July 28-30, 1977, they were joined by descendants of Richard Vawter and John Vawter, Jr. for a get-acquainted "encounter". 55 cousins, in-laws, and guests registered during the 3-day event. Broken down, the figures showed 26 from the tribe of James, 26 from the tribe of John and 3 from the tribe of Richard.

A second reunion was hastily scheduled for noon on Sunday, July 31, in Oklahoma City, for the benefit of cousins unable to make it to Lake Murray. 48 registered this time, composed of the tribes of John and Richard. Also joining the group on Sunday were Mr. & Mrs. Billy Mack Vawter. He, a descendant of Russell Vawter, brother of John, the elder. These latter friendly cousins extended an invitation to join their family reunion held at Sulphur, Okla, in June of each year.

History will record that the Vawter/Vaughter Reunion of July 28-28-31, 1977 was a success. After 175 years, it appears that at least four of the tribes of Vawter will become reunited.

Editor's Note: As a space-saving device, the initials "V/ V" will hereafter designate the names Vawter/Vaughter.

As with any successful project, credit for the V/V Reunion should be given to a number of individuals. Toward this end, the following list of awards and recipients has been prepared.

VISIONARY AWARD – to Paul Vaughter, Sr., whose efforts initiated the family reunion chain-reaction several years back.

KISSIN'COUSINS AWARD - to Hazel Vawter McCandless, whose Vawter Family History proves that they really are.

Y'ALL COME AWARD - to Ora Wicker, whose letter-writing campaign to the tribe of John resulted in a turn-out, exceeding all expectations.

OKLAHOMA OR BUST AWARD - to Emery Mayer, who, when accommodations were not available at the Lodge, purchased a camper in order that his wife, Clarice Vawter Mayer, could be present.

PRECEPTION AWARD - to Bill Vawter, who recognized that name-tags were a necessity and made a special trip to Ardmore to get them.

GOTTA HAVE ROOM AWARD - to Fred Wicker, who arranged for use of the ballroom after the influx of V/V's threatened to paralyze operations at the Lodge.

YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE AWARD - to Anna Baker, whose home-made cake was hungrily devoured by early arrivals.

LOAVES AND FISHES AWARD - Mary Vaughter Oxford and her cohorts, who stretched a picnic supper planned for 25 Vaughters, and fed 50 ravenous V/V' s.

GENTLEMAN FARMER AWARD - to Dennis Davis, who brought home-grown canteloupes to feed the hungry clan.

SMALL WORLD AWARD - to Ray Murray, who accompanied his wife, LaVerna, to the reunion, and was greeted by his former boss from Tinker AFB, Lt. Co. (ret.) Paul Vaughter.

LOOK-ALIKE AWARD - to Carmen Caldwell, for his amazing resemblance to the Caldwells of Pontotoc, County, Mississippi.

ROUND ABOUT AWARD - TO Paul Vaughter, Jr., who spent 2 years on the faculty at the Univ. of Mississippi, moved to Minnesota, travelled to Oklahoma for the reunion, and finally met the Mississippi Vawters.

OIL ON TROUBLED WATERS AWARD - to the Manager of Lake Murray Lodge, who served complimentary coffee and cokes during the interval when Ora Wicker's lost shoes were being tracked down.

GUNG-HO AWARD - to Geneva Vawter Short and Arlene Vawter Cardwell, who secured a dining room and whipped up a crowd of 48 people for the reunion in Oklahoma City on Sunday, in the space of 24 hours.

CONGENIALITY AWARD - to all V/V's, in-laws, and guests.

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