



FAMILY ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

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Issue No. 15

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The house lights are dimmed; a hush falls on the crowd; the maestro lifts his baton; and the orchestra breaks into the haunting strains of "BACK HOME AGAIN IN INDIANA". That, my friends, will be the scenario on August 6, when the Vawters come home to Madison, Indiana.

Cousin Edna Reynolds, local coordinator, has rendered yeoman service in making arrangements for the 3-day event. Lines have been busy between Indiana and Tennessee as details were worked out with V.P. Pete Vawter of Milan, Tn. and his cohort, Jimmy Corbttt, of Martin, Tn. The Fifth Annual Reunion of the V/V/V Family Association promises to be a winner. Details on reservations, along with a tentative program schedule, will be given on page 4.

In Memoriam: In the past year, death has claimed four members of the family association. They were:

Brooks Vawter, Atwood, Tn., May 25, 1981. He and his wife, and their daughter, Mrs. Evelyn Parrent, will be remembered from the 1978 Reunion at Brady Mountain, Ark. Theodora Vawter Schuman, Oakley, Kansas, October 25, 1981. She and her sisters, Lucene Vawter Dennis and LoRee Vawter Dennis, joined the family association in 1979. Harry C. Vawter, January 8, 1982; brother of Circulation Editor, Beth Sabel, and brother-in-law of Associate Editor, Esther Vawter.

Helen Vawter Hays, Little Rock, Ark, March 7, 1982. She and her husband, Roy, along with sister, Alma Vawter Allen, and brothers, Lester and Hubert, have attended several reunions.

In behalf of the Family Association, the Newsletter extends sincere sympathy to the families of these deceased members. Three obituaries have been received for Vawters whom we cannot identify, but for whom nonetheless we feel family identification. The Newsletter extends sympathy to the families of these three:

Mrs. Nell H. Vawter, Decatur, Ga., July 1, 1981; survivors: Mrs. Donna Childers of Lilburn, Dennis Vawter of Dacula, Gene Vawter of Decatur, and Douglas Vawter of Stone Mountain. Mrs. Rena A. Vawter, Johnson Co., Ind., Aug. 9, 1981, age 85, widow of Frank Vawter; Fred Vawter, Louisville, Ky., Feb. 1, 1982, age 90; native of Kansas. Raleigh Jackson Vaughter, Little Rock, 61; survivors, Wife; son, Paul R., Alexandria, La.; daughters, Stella Christman & Tena Sue Powell, Little Rock.

Of Past Assignments: In VVVNL No. 13, page 4, the Editor challenged the Family Association to identify the 13 Vawters listed on page 402 of the Bicknell book, they being Vawters she had located but could not identify. Alas, only E.B. Vaughters responded. E.B. identifies nos. 3, 4 & 5 as grandsons of Beverly Vawter, son of Russell, as given on page 373 of Bicknell. Nos. 10 & 11, he suspects are descendants of William, brother of Jesse and Philemon, who died in Boone Co., Ky. in 1823. No. 13 could be correct as stated by Bicknell, or could have come from the marriage of one of the daughters of William (above) with one of the sons of the Nancy Vawter-Elijah Wilhoit marriage. More work and more family participation is clearly needed. The assignment is continued.

Of the Making of Books: There is no end, said the Preacher long ago, and lo, it continues to be true. Kinswoman Carolyn Vaughter of Oklahoma City, locally known for some years as a literary critic and short story writer, has published her first novel, "West Wind Wild", a story of the Oklahoma frontier in the late 19th century. In the early days of the newsletter, the editor might have said, "Oh, course you remember Carolyn Vaughter. She's the husband of Paul, of early Paul and Silas fame". That sort of statement can no longer be made. In fact, it is safe to speculate that future historians in writing of Carolyn Vaughter, the author, will note that she probably married a man named Paul since she named her oldest son Paul, Jr. In commenting on the book, Carolyn says that Paul helped her with some of the language in the book. (That accounts for some of those words. We never thought for a moment Carolyn knew words like that.) This editor suspects that Carolyn used her writers' license and dipped into early Vawter history for names of some of her characters. Your editor, however, is no snitch, and you will have to read the book in order to know if your ancestor's name was used. The book sells for \$2.98 in paperback, published by Avon, and hopefully is available in bookstores throughout the U.S. If not found in your area - complain.

And then, our honorary Vawter, Ralph E. Fall, has written his second book entitled "Hidden Village - The Story of Port Royal, Virginia". All of the VVV who attended the Reunion in Virginia in 1980 hold fond memories of Ralph for his efforts in making history come alive in the area of Port Royal and Vauter's Church. After 40 years of service at Vauter's Church, Ralph has now retired and is making his home in Richmond. His new book is hard cover; 400 pages; 60 photographs; indexed; contains town plat, and sells for \$20.00 postpaid. It may be ordered directly from The Rev. Ralph E. Fall, 7308 Three Chopt Road, Richmond; Va. 23229.

Then, there is the Nationwide VVV Directory, containing names, addresses and telephone numbers of all the members of the Family Association, as well as other VVV who have been spotted in telephone directories throughout the U.S. VVVNL No. 14, page 2, made mention of this and asked for help in securing telephone numbers of 200-odd names included with the newsletter. (Beth Sabel appreciates the response of readers in sending her the desired information.) Unfortunately, some of the VVV failed to read carefully, and panicked when their names were not on the December list, fearing expulsion from the association for non-payment of dues, or conduct unbecoming a family member. Relax. All names not on the December list are already on the computer. Those on the list are the ones who should panic. They are the ones who will have no handy reference for places of sanctuary in event of massive evacuation following nuclear attack. This directory should be available by early 1983.

More on books: In going through family papers of a deceased aunt, E.B. Vaughters has turned up two letters from Wm. S. Vawter, New York City, dated March, 1928, which indicate the said Vawter was in the process of publishing a sequel to the Bicknell book. One of the letters was a form letter which stated that the book would contain more names, and much additional historical information not available when Mrs. Bicknell wrote her book. This is a fascinating discovery. Did Wm. S. Vawter ever publish his book? If so, how may we obtain a copy? If not, what happened to the material he must have collected? This material would be invaluable to the book committee in moving toward publication of the proposed Vawter family history. We need help on this dilemma.

One final word on books: The form letter (above mentioned) promised additional information of Thomas Vautor, the musician; Bransford Vawter, the poet; and Will Vawter, the illustrator. Bransford Vawter has been identified as being the son of Benjamin, of Campbell Co., Va. (VVVNL #8, p.3). Bishop Billy Mack Vawter reports that he has a copy of one of the poems of Bransford Vawter. Will Vawter has been identified as the son of Dr. Louis A. and Emma Mary (Dameron) Vawter (VVVNL # 7, p. 2). Your editor knows nothing of Thomas Vautor, the musician. Could we have help in identifying him?

Of wedding bells: Your editor and husband, Fred, announce the marriage of their daughter, Ellen, to Edwin Francis (Ned) Cummings, Jr. on February 27, 1982 in Alexandria, Va. The young couple are making their home in Washington, D.C., and expect to attend the Indiana reunion. Ned is not sure if he has ever seen a real live Vawter. The reunion will solve that problem.

Of Valletorts and Heraldry: A relative newcomer to the family association, Gary E. Vawter, 5513 Jester Dr., Garland, Tx.75042 would like to correspond with those interested in serious research of the family heraldry.

Of the White House Conference on Aging: The VVV, as well as the City of Houston, were amply represented in December by kinsman, L.G. (Bill) Vawter, at the President's Conference. Unfortunately, Bill has to show his driver's license in order to attend an AARP meeting. If more Americans had the Vawter capacity for growing old gracefully, we could all join with the poet when he said, "Grow old along with me, the best is yet to be" "

Of Votaws and Vautaws: We have previously commented on the phonetic similarity of these names to Vawter, and wondered if they belonged to the tribe. Esther Vawter has picked up the names of Jacob and Jane Votaw (bro. & sister) in her mother's Quaker records, late 1800's, in Hampshire and Monongalia Co., Va. (the part that became W. Va.); also in Indiana Quaker records. Pete Vawter picked up the Vautaw surname in the Indianapolis phone book.

Of the early Vawters in Virginia: The better heads have been at work on this chapter of the family history since the Hot Springs Reunion last August.(VVVNL #14, pp. 1 & 2) A progress report is anticipated at the Indiana reunion. Larry Wilcox, who spoke on John Taylor Vawter and his experience in the German commune at the Hot Springs Reunion, has located the name of John Vaulter on a passenger list in 1656, as published by Wm. Filley and Mary K. Mayer. Hmmmm. This is 30 years earlier than the date given by Bicknell. Hmmmm.

Of carrying on the work: A letter from Mrs. Margaret Vawter of Maryville, Tn. tells of answering the letters which still arrive addressed to her late husband, Henry Alexander Vawter, III, asking for family information. She also reports the death of her brother-in-law, Emory C. Simpson, who was married to Margaret Jewel Vawter. They lived in Clarksville, Tn.

Of the Vawter Quarterly, Westland, Michigan: Fellow editor, Bill Grant, called to confirm the dates on the Indiana Reunion. Promises to have approx. 30 of his tribe present. Likewise Arthur and Clara Kolschowsky, Hinsdale, Ill. rang up to say hello and get reunion info. Clearly the newsletter should have been in the mail weeks ago.

Of persistent perseverance: For several years, E.B. Vaughters has felt his g.g.g. gr. father was Richard Vawter, who married Sally Vaughn in Caroline Co., Va., July 12, 1787. Following a series of unbelievable break-throughs, he located handwritten notes to substantiate his belief. The problem now? Who made the notes and where is the documentation? E.B. would appreciate assistance.

Of new members: Mary Amos, 301 Caravan Trail, #173, Jacksonville, Fl. 32216, a descendant of Lucinda Vawter, who md. John W. Holmes (Bicknell p. 293), writes that she is 33, deaf, and confined to a wheelchair; enjoys genealogy by correspondence; would like to hear from Holmes and Gray researchers, as well as Vawters. Carolyn Cameron, niece of Paul Vaughter, Sr., address Rt. 2, Bx. 127D, Cleveland, Tx., is another newcomer. Likewise, David L. Vawter, Rt. 4, Bx.431, North Vernon Ind. 47265. Rose S. Monroe, P.O. Box 23447, Louisville, Ky. 40223, and Maureen E. White, 5102 N. 65th Ave., Glendale, Az. 85301, need information on Drucilla Vawter, who md. Thomas Martin ca. 1800, Cumberland Co., Va. Others are Helen K. Vawter, 1904-70th Ave.W, #F2, Tacoma, Wa. 98466; Robt. D. Vawter, 3419 N. Bancroft, Indianapolis, Ind. 46218; M&M Geo. D. Thompson, 10308 Durham Dr., Ok. Cty., Ok. 73132; Martha E. Compton, 4921 Callahan St., Ind., Ind.46239. Still others who will have to be welcomed at a later date.

OF THE REUNION: Reservations should be made immediately with Clifty Inn Motor Lodge, Clifty Falls State Park, Madison; Ind. 47250, telephone (812)265-4135). Double rooms will run approximately \$25.00 per day for two people; rooms with private balcony overlooking the Ohio River are slightly higher. Deposit of one night's lodging is required. Early registration will begin on Thursday night, Aug. 5; registration will continue on Friday a.m., with a morning session slated for 10:30. Friday afternoon calls for a chartered, bus tour of historic Madison; dinner at Clifty Inn, followed by a speaker from Ind. Hist. Society. Saturday includes a chartered tour of Jennings Co., with stops at cemeteries, Churches, and points of Vawter interest. Saturday night dinner at Clifty Inn, followed by the Vawter Round Table, clearly the highlight of every reunion. If one is dieting, it is permissible to miss dinner, but do not miss the Round Table

More detailed information will be included in President Jim's reunion communiqué. Edna and Walter Reynolds, Rt. 1, Butlerville, Ind., near Vernon, have agreed to answer any questions concerning accomodations, or directions for getting about.

Make reservations now, and then come back home to Indiana August 6, 7 and 8.

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