



FAMILY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

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MEMBER DUES: \$5.00 per year – payable in August.

For those interested, Beth Sabel, our Circulation Editor, has an offer for you. She has two aerial pictures of Trematon Castle which was at one time held by the Valletorts. The pictures are approximately 3 X 5, one a black and white, and the other, which was taken from a higher altitude, is in color. The cost of the black and white are two for \$1.00, the color \$1.00 each. You may order and make payment to Beth Sabel. Note address above.

Dorothy Vawter (sister of Beth Sabel) made a trip to Trematon Castle in England in 1981. Previous to the trip she had correspondence with Lady Caradon who with her husband were tenants of the Castle. Their twenty year lease, which expired in June of 1981, was with the real estate manager of the Duke of Cornwall, Prince of Wales.

Lady Caradon sent the two aerial pictures with the following comments: The ancient round building is the old Keep. It and surrounding walls were built by Robert de Mortaigne, half-brother of William the Conqueror, around 1030. The Georgian House was built by an admiral, with permission of the crown, in 1805. It later reverted to the Duke of Cornwall, Prince of Wales to who the entire complex still belongs and has belonged since the days of the Black Prince. (Ed. The Black Prince was the eldest son of King Edward III)

Short History of Trematon Castle
Reference: Castles by Charles W. C. Oman – page 107

Trematon castle was a primitive Norman stronghold placed on top of a steep hill which lies behind Saltash. It was of the simple "motte and bailey" type and while it was a baronial castle it was improved, but under "Duchy of Cornwall" administration it was allowed to fall into decay.

Trematon was originally founded by the first Earl of Cornwall, Robert of Mortain and in the twelfth century held by the Valletorts, one of the few original baronial families of Cornwall. Count Robert established the motte and outer bailey and the Valletorts rebuilt the outer enceinte, the keep-tower on the mound, and the gate house.

VALLETORT - VAWTER

From James L. Vawter, P. O. Box 665, E1 Campo, TX 77237

The name Valletort is very confusing. It certainly is not Anglo-Saxon, and even though it may appear to be Spanish or Italian, it is neither. The name began with the estate in Maine, France named Vautorte, which in Latin meant "Curved Valley". In later times when the name was mentioned in charters, (always in Latin) it was spelled Valle Torta (J. H. Round's Feudal England). This latinization of Vautorte was then sort of Anglicized into Valletort, then to Vaytort, and Vautard, and finally Vawter. The following exactly quoted and spelled paragraph furnishes some of the most important bits of evidence that Vawter is the successor name to Valletort. From: "The Transactions of Devonshire Association" by R N Worth, Vol. 28, page 722-23 on the article ; Tything of Compton Gilford".

'Early in the fourteenth century it was proposed that the king should grant a charter to the growing town of Plymouth. The manor of Sutton had however long passed from the hands of royalty to the Valletorts, and by them a considerable portion had been given to the priory of Plympton. Hence the one original Sutton became divided into the town of Sutton Prior, the Hamlet of Sutton Vawter, and the tything of Sutton Raf, the last two belonging each to a Valletort. Prior and Valletorts successfully opposed the issue of a charter then; and when a century later a kindred attempt was made the townsfolk were told in the first place to compound with the lords having franchises. This in the course of time they did, and so in 1439 the Borough of Plymouth was formed by act of parliament out of the town of Sutton Prior, the tything of Sutton Raf, parcel of the hamlet of Sutton Vawter, and "A sertayne of the tithynge of Compton". The whole of the original Sutton was included, the portion left out being called the Vawters, now occupying that part of Stonehouse at the western end of the north road, at Eldad".

Another paragraph which is exactly quoted and spelled, and from the same source Vol. 74, page 212, "The obsolete Plymouth manors of Sutton Pyll".

"A rough record Book of manor courts, 2 of Edward VI to 2 Philip & Mary, manor of Sutton Vawter among others. After various changes in ownership it came into the hands of old William Hawkins, 34 Henry VIII, and both John and Richard Hawkins held the manor.

EARLY VIRGINIA ANCESTORS

The following is an excerpt from the article "I Descend from some of the Planters of Old Rappahannock, VA", by W.T. Vawter (Bicknell p. 255) Vol. 5, #2, June 1974 issue of The Northeast Texas Genealogical Society Quarterly.

Blackburn's Creek, Occupatia, and Cockleshell Creek flow into the south side of the Rappahannock River. Along these creeks in old Rappahannock Co., VA., and what is now Essex Co., VA., were the plantations of BARTHOLOMEW VAWTER, WILLIAM HODGSON, THOMAS PAGE, CORNELIUS NOELL, and PETER RUCKER. On down the Rappahannock River, in Middlesex Co., VA. were the plantations of CLAUDE VALLOTT and STOKELEY TOWLES.

Three brothers, JOHN, BARTHOLOMEW, and ANGUS VAWTER came to Northumberland Co. VA. about 1675, as indentured servants of Thomas Opie; they were accused of hog stealing 16 Oct. 1676, and JOHN VAWTER was punished for killing a neighbor's hog as a result of this accusation.

BARTHOLOMEW VAWTER, son of JOHN VAWTER, the Immigrant, lived on Blackburn's Creek, married 1696, WINIFRED HODGSON, daughter of WILLIAM HODGSON, a merchant and planter who lived on Cockleshell Creek.

THOMAS PAGE married ELIZABETH ALLEN, emigrated from England to VA in 1652, and had plantations on Cockleshell and Blackburn's Creeks; their daughter ELIZABETH PAGE married CORNELIUS NOELL, the Immigrant, b. 1614 in Holland, came to VA. as an indentured servant, and was a wealthy planter at the time of his death in 1699.

DANIEL NOELL, son of CORNELIUS & ELIZABETH, patented 200 acres of land, 1711, in St. Anne's Parish, Essex Co., VA. on which he lived. He also owned land in Orange Co. VA., for about 1730, at his death, his daughter, MARGARET NOELL, the wife of JOHN VAWTER II, inherited 130 acres of land in Orange County.

PETER RUCKER, a Huguenot of German descent, born in Alsace, France, came to VA. in 1690, with his wife, ELIZABETH FIELDING, who was English, from Liverpool, England, settled on Occupatia Creek. In 1704 he was naturalized by the VA Assembly.

EPHRAIM RUCKER, son of PETER & ELIZABETH, lived his entire life (1712-1796) in VA., was a Lt. Col. in the Revolution. He became a prominent planter of Madison Co., married in 1734, MARGARET VAWTER, daughter of JOHN II & MARGARET.

CLAUDE VALLOTT (Alias CLAUDE CHAMPAGNE), a French Huguenot immigrant and planter, married ANN JENKINSON of Cumberland, England, lived in Middlesex Co., 1683-1693, near the Rappahannock River, made a deposition in 1684 that he was 35 years old, and cleared off the land in Christ's Church Parish for the first free school in 1690.

STOKELEY TOWLES, son of HENRY TOWLES and ANN STOKELEY, born 1687, married 1708, ANN VALLOTT, born 1693, daughter of CLAUDE & ANN lived in Middlesex Co., early 1700's and owned plantations on both sides of the Rappahannock River.

HENRY TOWLES, the immigrant from Liverpool, England came to Accomac Co., in 1652 when he was 12 years old, at one time owned Chinoteague Island, and later traded this land for a plantation in Middlesex Co. ANN STOKELEY was the daughter of JOHN & ELIZABETH, Immigrants from England to Accomac Co. in the year 1649.

RICHARD VAWTER & DAVID VAWTER were sons of JOHN II & MARGARET NOELL. RICHARD married FRANCES TOWLES, dau. of STOKLEY & ANN VALLOTT and was a planter of Madison Co. 1740-1803. DAVID married 1750 MARY RUCKER, dau. of EPHRAIM & MARGARET VAWTER, born in 1735, and owned land adjoining the Old Orange County Courthouse.

PHILEMON, son of DAVID & MARY RUCKER, married in 1779, ANN his first cousin, dau. of RICHARD & FRANCES TOWLES. Although raised an EPISCOPALIN, PHILEMON became a Primitive Baptist Preacher.

MEMBER "PROFILE"

Frances (Hull) Hargrave Tiller, 309 E. Wellington, Cartage, TX 75633

I am four feet, ten inches, hazel eyes, auburn hair now turned white. Have sung alto in Baptist Church choir since 1955. Was formerly a professional photographer. Have one son, Charles Melvin Hargrave, five grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

My ancestor is David M. Vawter (Bicknell p. 369) who married Nancy (Reicroft) Weir. Nancy is one-half Cherokee Indian and made the 1,200 mile "Trail of Tears" trek when she was age five.

A LOST CEMETERY

From Don Austin and Frances Tiller of Carthage, TX

Old Grand Bluff Cemetery, on a quiet bluff just above the Sabine River, on the northern edge of Panola Co., TX was considered a lost cemetery. Now the Panola Co. Heritage Society & Historical Commission are laying preliminary plans to rescue it. The driving force in beginning the restoration has been Don Austin, a local surveyor and member of the Heritage Society who listed it in his book, "42 Lost Cemeteries".

Dr. David M. Vawter is buried in this cemetery in a concrete and brick vault with name inscribed in the cement on the tomb. Frances Tiller has helped with positive identification and making repairs to it. Adjacent to the Vawter tomb is a mound of brick which is believed to be the tomb of David & Lucinda (Glover) Vawter, parents of Dr. David Vawter. Also buried there is Sarah Julia (Vawter) Sterrett.

Austin was becoming discouraged about finding volunteers to clear the underbrush and fallen rotting trees from 50 years of neglect, until a group of Boy Scouts turned out in force to begin the job of clearing. Since this was publicized more area citizens have taken an interest in the project.

There is a logging road leading to the cemetery which they hope to improve, and put up a sign for the cemetery on the Farm-to-market road. There is much more than clearing underbrush needed for complete restoration, such as fencing, repair of markers, etc.

Any VVV's interested in helping the descendants of Philemon Vawter and his youngest son David, with this restoration project can send a tax deductible donation to: Panola County Historical Commission, % Mrs. Leila B. LaGrone, 512 Stadium St. Carthage, TX 75633.

"Happy Reminiscing"

From Florence V. Fitzgerald. Rt. 2, Box 139, Elmore City, OK 73035

Mother, father, Lillian, Zona, Si, and myself went from Bethany, OK. to Hickory Flat, MS, in the late 20's, to visit our father's mother. Our grandmother was a very small woman; she used a child's toy broom to sweep her house.

One day grandmother offered to make some ginger cookies if one of us (kids) would beat the gingerroot to powder, make the fire (in a wood stove), cut the cookies, and watch them cook. Of course, we all promised. She made the dough and we did the rest. The stove was so hot we raised all the windows and opened the doors, but we ended up with the most delicious cookies I ever ate. Grandpa, grandma, mother, and dad sat on the front porch while we baked the cookies. I can still remember how hot we got cooking those cookies. (Florence is a descendant of John IV and a cousin of Fred Wicker).

MEMORIAL

From Mrs. Lucille Keir, 119 W. Dunedin Rd., Columbus, Ohio 43214

Reporting with sadness the death of Ruth Vawter Ritchie, November 22, 1982, born July 14, 1900 (Bicknell p. 118). She lived with her daughter Lucille and husband Willard who brought her to the reunions. In Hot Springs, AR she saw her brother Ted and sister Shirley Byler for the first time in 30 years and saw them again at the Ind. reunion. She leaves brothers Ted and Marion, and sister Shirley, daughter, Lucille Keir, five grandchildren and seven great grandchildren.

From Stella Ann (Vaughter) Christman, 302 Ethel Dr., Bryant, AR 72022

Zephyr Jackson Eddington died Saturday, January 1, 1983 at the age of 87 years. She was born June 10, 1895 in Jonesboro, AR. the dau. of Joe & Mary Elizabeth (Turner) Jackson. Zephyr was the first wife of Paul McGuire Vaughter (1895-1951), and they had two children who lived: Raleigh Jackson Vaughter & James LeRoy. She is survived by seven grandchildren and at least six great grandchildren.

The line of Paul McGuire Vaughter is: Bartholomew, John, Richard, John, James, Hiram, James, Samuel Paul, Paul M., and Raleigh Jackson Vaughter.

From VVV President "Pete" Vawter

Reporting the death of Lemuel Burrow the later part of 1982 at the age of 91. Lemuel joined the VVVFA in 1979 (Issue #7 p. 1). The gavel used by our president was donated by him in 1980 (Issue #11 p. 3).

NEW MEMBERS

Emolone V. Cooper, 1004 Winding Road, College Station, TX 77840
Dale I. Vawter, 428 Mt. Carmel, Claremont, CA 91711
Dottie E. Reneau, 3715 "C" Charles Conrad, San Antonio, TX 78219
Vesta M. Bowman, Rt. #2, Box 45, Woodville, TX 75979
Marcella M. Rubis, 1336 Emporia St., Aurora, CO 80010
Mrs. Abraham (Elizabeth A.) Smith 620 West Magnolia, Stockton, CA 95203
Mrs. A. L. Keck, 14015 Nimitz, Houston, TX 77015 (sister of "B" Van Osdal-Schneider)
George Van Osdol, P. O. Box 443, 1501 S. Walnut, Pauls Valley, OK 73075 (her brother)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next reunion will be August 5-6-7 at the Ramada Inn, 4528 E. Skelly Drive, Tulsa, OK 74135 - Phone (918)496-9666. Rooms have two double beds, cost \$37.00 for one to four people. Make reservations early with Ramada Inn – VVV Reunion.

Mr. & Mrs. Wallace Vawter, R. R. #6, Shelbyville, IN, who were married September 18, 1932, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary.

Florence Fitzgerald was 80 years young February 21, 1983 (See her Reminising, p. 4)

In the 1983 Volume "The Society of Distinguished American High School Students", the following students were listed:

Vauter, Cassandra LeLane (Christian School of Springfield, MO)

Vawter, Robert Daniel, Jr. (Magnolia Heights School, Senatobia, MS)

Conway, Joseph Cinyard (Bradley High School of Cleveland, TN)

(Joseph above is the grandson of Mrs. Grady Grimes, Dothan, AL)

Bill Vawter of Houston, TX gave a copy of The Vawter Family in America to his library and received a beautiful thank-you letter. If your library has a genealogy section, and does not have a copy, I urge all who can to donate a copy to your library.

A reprint of The Vawter Family in America by Bicknell may be purchased from: Mrs. Walter Reynolds, R. R. #1, Butlerville, IN 47223, for \$6.00.

B. Van Osdol-Scheider, 4029-1 Memory Lane, Wichita, KS 62212 suggested we hear from all those who have an original copy of The Vawter Family in America by Grace Vawter Bicknell.

Beth Sabel, Circulation Editor, would like everyone who is interested to bring their VVV Directory to the reunion and she will have a meeting to give you corrections and the computer number assigned to each name.

The VVV Directory, of almost 1,200 VVV's may be purchased through the treasurer, Hazel McCandless, for \$6.50.

GENEALOGY COURTESY

When writing anyone to ask for genealogy information, include a SASE (self-addressed-stamped-envelope). When you receive the information, write a thank-you letter.

If you receive a request with a SASE, answer as soon as possible. If you have no information, write and say so.

When writing to a foreign country, instead of a SASE, send an international postal coupon. When sending payment to a foreign country use an international Money Order from your bank.

Membership dues of \$5.00 are due August at the time of the reunion. Some of you have not renewed your membership and are in jeopardy of being dropped from the mailing list. If you have not renewed your membership, please make use of coupon below.

MEMBERSHIP DUES \$5.00 PER YEAR - MAIL TO THE TREASURER

NAME _____

STREET ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____

ZIP _____

(Give your VVV line on back) PHONE _____

From the Editor: I would like to have all news for the next issue to me by May 1. I am particularly interested in Oklahoma VVV news. Keep sending me your queries, profiles, reminiscing stories, and announcements. I would appreciate receiving any genealogical information you think would be of interest.

QUERIES

Rena Jacobsen, Rt. #2, Box 157-A, Orfino, ID 83544 - Who were the parents of Lucy Vawter who married James Maxwell Crawford in 1812? (Ed. She saw our VVV Family Association listed in the May-June 1982 issue of The Genealogical Helper.)

Marcella M. Rubis, 1336 Emporia St., Aurora, CO 80010 - Who were the parents of John Wesley Vawter (m. Emily Jane Wheeler) born May 4, 1822 VA?

Elizabeth A. Smith, 630 W. Magnolia, Stockton, CA 95203 - Who were the parents of Nancy A. Vawter (m. Jackson E. McCeele). According to the 1880 Census she lived with her husband and family in Lick Mountain Township, Conway County, AR and her age was 34. My mother was born Christmas day in 1882 and her mother died shortly after her birth. According to the Census Nancy was born in IL and mother & father were born in KY.

Stella (Vaughter) Christman, 302 Ethel Dr., Bryant, AR 72022 - The children of James LeRoy Vaughter have not been notified of their grandmothers death (page 4) and I have not been able to locate any of them. I would appreciate the assistance of the VVV Family Association in notifying my cousins. (Listed below)

Pauletta J. (Vaughter) Hill of Oklahoma City- two children, Cindy & Bobby.
Ella Mae (Vaughter) Thomas of Oklahoma City - believed to have one child.
J. W. & Bobby Vaughter - location and children unknown.

Bill Vawter, 3019 Conway, Houston, TX 77025 - Who was Whorten (Whatten) Vawter that first lived in Stokes County, N.C. and later in Screven County, GA? Who was Richard Johnston Vawter who witnesses the Wharton Vawter Deed in 1804 in Screven County, GA at the time that Wharton sold some property?

Helen MacPherson., 8574 Calais Circle, Sacramento, CA 95828 - Who were the parents of Elizabeth Vater, born 6 June 1818, Cerne Abbas, Dorsetshire, England, died 8 August 1852, Marshall, IL. married Isaac Groves, born 28 January 1823, Cerne Abbas, Dorsetshire, England, died 12 December 1906, Champaign, IL. In the book "The Biographical Record of Champaign, Illinois" by S.J. Clarke Publishing Co., Chicago, IL 1900 her husband, Rev. Isaac Groves refers to his marriage to Elizabeth Vawter. In England it was spelled "Vawter" and pronounced as in "father". But in the U. S. it was spelled Vater and pronounced as in "ate".

If you haven't sent a Family Information Sheet to Historian/Archivist, Jim Vaughters, please fill out the enclosed data sheet and mail in. When and if your ancestor connects to one in Bicknell's book, give name and page number. Thereafter, if you wish, you need only list the names for each generation and end with the name of your first ancestor, whether it is Bartholomew or John I.

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