



FAMILY ASSOCIATION

Spring 1987

Volume 11 #3

FAMILY ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

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MAKE PLANS FOR THE VVVFA 1987 REUNION

The 1987 reunion will be held July 31 thru August 2 in Columbus, Indiana. Located about 45 miles south of Indianapolis, Columbus has a population of about 32,000. Each year, thousands of people visit the city to admire the architecture. There are more than 40 buildings, designed by the nation's leading architects, that provide one of the most concentrated collections of contemporary architecture in the world. Tours of the city begin at the Visitor's Center, which is located in the nineteenth century home of John Vawter Storey. He was a grandson of John Vawter, the founder of Vernon and Morgantown, Indiana.

Sixteen miles west of Columbus is Nashville, Indiana. This is a small community that has for years been a haven for artists and craftsmen. There are about 250 craft, antique and specialty shops in Nashville and several art museums. It was in this town that Will Vawter, the illustrator, spent most of his adult life and was the location of his studio.

Columbus is near several other towns that are important to those whose Vawter ancestors were in Indiana. Nearby are Madison, Vernon, North Vernon, Morgantown and Franklin where John T. Vawter erected a Civil War memorial statue in the town square. Some of you may want to spend extra time in the area doing research or just visiting the places where your ancestors lived.

Headquarters for the reunion will be the Columbus Holiday Inn. This hotel is decorated with authentic antiques, stained and leaded glass, and ornate mill work. For those interested, the hotel offers swimming, a nine hole putting green, ping pong, billiard tables and a game room. Room rates are as follows:

Queen (One queen bed)	1 person \$41.00 2 persons 50.00
Standard (two double beds)	1 person \$49.00 2 persons 59.00
King/sofa (King with Queen sofa bed)	1 person \$49.00 2 persons 59.00
Holidome (Two double beds, poolside)	1 person \$54.00 2 persons 66.00

For each additional person, add \$7.00. There is no charge for those age 19 and under staying in the room with parents. These rates do not include tax. Anyone desiring more information about the reunion or the hotel can either write or call: Bonita Welch, R.R. #1, Box 227, Scipio, IN 47273. Phone (812) 392-2149.

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"WHO WAS WHO IN AMERICA" Vol. I 1897-1942 - 4th printing

From: Bonita Welch of Scipio, IN

VAWTER, John William (Will), illustrator; b. Boone Co., VA., Apr. 13, 1871; s/o Dr. Louis A. & Emma Mary (Dameron) Vawter; educated in the public schools, Greenfield, IN; m. Mary Howey Murray, Nov. 19, 1902 (divorced 1919); m. 2nd Ola Lackey Genolin, Sept. 2, 1923. First professional work as artist on Indianapolis Sentinel, 1891; in 1897 wrote and illustrated series of comic verses for Cincinnati Commercial Gazette; in 1899, collaborated with sister, Clara Vawter, in producing child's book "Of Such Is the Kingdom" (title later changed to "The Rabbit's Ransom"). Has made occasional illustrations for the Indianapolis News, Judge, Life and Success, New York. Now devoting time to landscape paintings in oil.

Presbyterian, Democrat, Illustrator. Awarded prizes, Chicago Salon, 1925, 26, etc. Home: Nashville, IN. Died Feb. 11, 1941.

Further information about Will Vawter can be found in Vol. 8 #2 Page 9; Vol. 9 #4 page 23 and Vol. 2 page 12.

#### VAWTER, NOTED ARTIST, DIES

Indianapolis, Feb. 12 (UP) Will Vawter, Indiana artist who put Hoosier rural scenes on canvas and illustrated the works of James Whittcomb Riley, died in a local hospital yesterday of a heart attack. He was 69.

Vawter was an intimate of the Hoosier poet in Greenfield, where the artist's parents migrated from Virginia. Later he illustrated most of Riley's volumes of verse.

The artist set up a hilltop studio in Brown County in 1908 where he devoted himself to painting rural landscapes in that scenic section of the state. He was brought here from the studio Saturday suffering from pneumonia.

The widow and a brother, Charles Vawter, survive.

Descends: Bartholomew, Edward, William & Anna Ballard, William & Margaret Henderson, John Henderson, Dr. Louis Addison Vawter, Will Vawter. (Bicknell, page 385)

Bonita has a large collection of books illustrated by Will Vawter. She has just purchased 10 additional books from her dealer and will have them for sale at the reunion.

#### JESSAMYN WEST HONORED POSTHUMOUSLY

From: North Vernon, IN Sun - 14, Oct. 1986 via Bonita Welch

Jessamyn West, the famous author and a native of Jennings County, was honored posthumously Friday when a renovated room on the Indiana State University campus was named in her memory. Her room is on the ground floor of Dreiser Hall.

West was born here in Jennings in 1902. She left the state with her parents as a child, but often wrote about Indiana.

In fact, one of her most famous books, "Friendly Persuasion," which was made into an excellent movie starring Gary Cooper and Dorothy McGuire, was set here in Jennings. One of the lines in the movie is about the family "going to Vernon" to attend the county fair.

Descends: Philemon & Anna Vawter, Elizabeth (Vawter) Glover, Sarah (Glover) West, J. Judson West, Eldo West, Mary Jassamine West. (Bicknell page 360)

(Read more about Jessamyn West in Vol. 8 #4 page 23)

MEMBER PROFILE - LT. COL. JAMES V. VAUGHTER, US AIR FORCE, RET.

A deep inner strength to survive, the ability to face reality, and strong family ties seem to have kept Lt. Col. James (Jim.) V. Vaughter, US Air Force, Ret., alive and sane while he was a prisoner of war, WW II.

He was the bombardier on a B-17 Flying Fortress shot down over Schweinfurt, Germany, on 14 Oct. 1943, later to become known as "Black Thursday". On 29 April 1945, he was among the 120,000 POW's liberated by the 14<sup>th</sup> Armored Division of General Patton's 3rd Army.

Born in Byers, Texas on 22 May 1918, he was the youngest of the six children of Dr. Hiram Dennis Vaughter (b.3 Aug. 1867; d. 10 Sept. 1940) and Ada Gordon Hall (b. 21 April 1881; d. 15 June 1959). Both parents were active in civic affairs and in the Methodist Church in Byers.

James earned his B.S. in education and government at East Texas State, Commerce, in 1939 and his Masters in Business administration at the University of Colorado, Boulder, CO 1958, the latter while on duty in the Air Force.

In 1942, he married Betz C. Christensen. Their son Michael Vaughter and his wife Cindy have two children, Amy and Chad. Chad is the lone g-grandson of Dr. Hiram Vaughter to carry on his Vaughter line.

To follow Lt. Col. James' World War II experiences, one needs to read his 16 page personal account, written January 1980, in which he relates them, omitting those still too painful to put into words.

Leaving the 8th Air Base Thurleigh, England, this was the 12th mission for Bombardier James. Of the nearly 300 Flying Fortresses, 60 were downed over Schweinfurt, 14 October 1943.

After their B-17 had been thoroughly riddled, Jim and the other nine crewmen bailed out before their plane exploded. For several days, after landing safely, he made his way southwest, hopefully to reach the French border.

For several days he evaded the Germans; however, while biking through a small village near Heidelberg, he was detained by a uniformed policeman. Then came the endless interrogations after which he was shipped to Stalag Luft III in Sagan, about 60 miles southwest of Berlin, where he remained until 27 January 1945.

With the Russian Army coming closer, the 15,000 POW's, under heavy guard, made a 4-day, 75-mile forced march in a driving snow storm, two degrees F. On 31 January, after arriving in Sprengberg, they were loaded "like sardines" (53 men per 8-mule box car) and transported 270 miles to Moosburg. There he remained in Stalag VII until liberated, along with 120,000 prisoners, on 29 April 1945.

Among his medals and citations are Air Medals with two Oak Leaf Clusters, Pearl Harbor Medal, ETO Theater Ribbon, two Bronze Stars, WW II Victory Medal, etc.

Opting to remain in the service, he taught navigation, radar and bombing at Mather Air Force Base, Sacramento, CA.; for several years, served as commanding officer three years in the radar section, was radar navigator on B-47 and B-52's, earning his Master Navigator Wings in 1952.

After retiring from the Air Force, 31 May 1964, he was employed as executive Secretary and building coordinator at California State University, Sacramento, CA. The last five years, he was assistant to the Vice-President for Administration and Business Affairs, retiring May 1981.

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Presently, his civic activities include Rotary Club, St. Mark's United Methodist Church, and the Salvation Army Advisory Board and Advisory Council, serving in official capacities and doing volunteer work.

Becoming a popular speaker, he has addressed several Service and Rotary Clubs about his "Black Thursday" experience.

A hobby he enjoys is horseback riding. His prized Tennessee walking horse is pastured in his backyard at Carmichael, California (12 miles from Sacramento). He is a member of several riding clubs in and around Carmichael and Sacramento.

Lt. Col. James' grandfather, Samuel Hiram Vaughter and his wife Elizabeth had nine children, the oldest being Dr. Hiram Dennis Vaughter. Dr. Hiram & Ada Vaughter's family of six children included: Hiram Dennis Vaughter, b. 20 Dec. 1901; the late Samuel Hall Vaughter, b. 12 Sept. 1905; d. 20 June 1967; Jessie Gordon Vaughter, b. 23 March 1907; Sarah D. Miller, b. 16 Aug. 1912; Mary Nelda Rice, b. 10 March 1914; and James V. Vaughter, b. 22 May 1918.

#### MEMORIAL

Irene Vawter died February 6 at North Bend, OR. Her grandson, Pastor Bill Haferkamp officiated. Irene was born April 15, 1902 at Auburn, IN. She was preceded in death by her husband, Arthur Vawter, brother of Ted Vawter of Colorado.

Jessie D. Bullard, whose 100th birthday was in October 1986, (in last issue) died 15 Dec. 1987. She was b. 12 Oct. 1886 d/o Ezra & Mattie Deer Holsclaw (Bicknell page 139).

Descends: John, David, Jesse, William, George & Frances (Vawter) King, William T. & Almira (King) Holsclaw, and her parents, Ezra & Mattie (Deer) Holsclaw.

Rebecca Elizabeth Thompson Vawter died at age 71. She was a native of Nashville, TN and a member of the Walnut Street Baptist Church. She is survived by two daughters, six grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

Woodford C. Vawter (Slim) died age 85 in October, 1986. He was born October 27, 1900 in Gessie, IN s/o Dr. Fred L. & Nella Vawter; was a member of Woodlands Christian Church in Ponca City, OK.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Remember to bring items of your hand craft or hobby for our drawing at the reunion. Last year we had a good number participating.

To the new members who are interested - we have a few volumes of I and II of the Vawter Vital Vittles Cookbooks still available. Order from Beth Sabel, 931 S.E. 33rd, Portland, OR 97214. Cost \$6.00 each. Make check payable to VVV Family Association.

You may order a copy of the VVV Directory of 1500 VVV names and addresses from the Secretary, Beth Melton, 1211 Casa Vale, Dallas, TX 75218. Cost \$8.00 plus \$1.00 for postage. Make check payable to VVV Family Association.

We will be renting a copy machine for the reunion; so bring any family history or genealogy you have on the VVV's to let others have copies.

You may order an index for each newsletter volume (one year) from: Beth Sabel. Cost - \$3.50 which includes postage. The index from beginning up to present is \$8.00 plus postage. Make checks payable to: VVV Family Association.

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From: E. B. Vaughters, 12015 1st Ave. N.W., Seattle, WA 98177

#### BAKER-VAWTER COMPANY

At the time Grace (Vawter) Bicknell wrote her book *The Vawter Family in America*, published in 1905, the Baker-Vawter Company, from a small beginning in 1880 had become the largest company of its kind in the world - publishers of business systems and forms.

The company consisted of her half brothers, Albert & Edgar Baker and her brother, William A. Vawter (Bicknell pages 144/145) and Frank M. Vawter (pages 146/147). William Vawter originated and patented, and his company introduced, the loose leaf ledgers.

In the current *FORBES* magazine, 23 February 1987, in the "flashback section" under "Sixty years ago in Forbes" there appeared the following on page 175:

"Now it is Remington Rand, Inc. The sensational merger was first announced on February 10; and stockholders of the Remington Typewriter Company, the Rand Kardex Bureau, Inc. which acquiring, BAKER-VAWTER and the Dalton Adding Machine Company, have since been trading in their stock for stock in the new corporation, which will not only be the largest office equipment concern in existence, but will have at the outset 4,500 field representatives - the most complete international distributing organization in the world."

#### HELPS IN YOUR GENEALOGY HUNT

From the beginning in the late 1930's, applications for Social Security included the names of parents, date and exact place of birth, residence, place of employment, and signature of applicant (if applicable). To obtain this document, address your local S. S. office and state that you make this request under the F. O. I./ P. (Freedom of Information/Privacy act) permitting release of this data once a person is deceased; and include a photocopy of the death record along with the S. S. number, and ask for a photocopy of the original application. There is no charge for this service.

Regarding Tombstones - Lichen, any of a group of mosslike plants, consisting of Algae and Fungi, a culprit defacing tombstones can be removed with the use of a block of styrofoam, You will not damage the stone and the reading of the stone will much easier.

Regarding Life Insurance- Send large SASE (self-addressed-stamped-envelope) to: Policy Search, American Council of Life Insurance, 1850 I Street, NW, Washington, D. C. 20006 for a tracer form to fill out to locate an ancestral policy which conceivably could give added information to your files. (Jotted Line)

Regarding Bible Records - At: The National Genealogy Society: For a complete list of catalogued Bible records in their files send \$3.00 to the Society at 1921 Sunderland Place, N. W., Washington, D. C. 20036.

Did you know that a yellow sheet of paper placed on the reading surface of a reader will make a difficult microfilm much easier to read?

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MEMBERSHIP DUES \$5.00 PER YEAR - DUE AND PAYABLE IN AUGUST TO: VVVF  
ASSOCIATION Mail to: Hazel McCandless, Box 366, Cushing, Texas 75760

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Beth (Vawter)Sabel has reported 995 letters went out for our mass-mailing to tell of the VVVFAs to all VVV's that could be found. New members received since that time are:

Paula & Lucian Baker, 290 - 55th N.W., Salem, OR 97304  
Richard Carter, 36 Tecumseh, Dayton, OH 45402  
Krista Lassus, 808 Al Gregg, Houston, TX 77008  
Carl E. Vawter, P.O. Box 7, Van Alstyne, TX 75095  
David L. Vawter, R.R. #4, Box 431, N. Vernon, IN 47265  
J. W. Vawter, Ph.D., 124 Melville Dr., Fullerton, CA 92635  
James Gordon Vaughtner, 3612 Chesapeake St. N.W., Washington, DC 20008  
Jim A. Vawter, 1412 - 175th Place N.E., Bellevue, WA 98008  
Mabel Vawter, 875 N. Park 1401, Victoria, BC V8W 3B8  
Nellie Vawter, 501 Martin St., Newton, IL 62448  
Roderick & Jacki Vawter, 703 Grandview Dr., Alexandria, VA 22305  
Tim Vawter, 14 Ellis St., Freehold, NJ 07728  
Wesley R. Vawter III, 25 Ivy Square, Atlanta, GA 30342  
E. B. Vaughters, D.D.S., 31952 Del Obispo Suite 190, San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675  
Melba Trenchman, Christmas Village #7 Holly, Shelton, WA 98584  
Mr. & Mrs. S. B. Vaughters, 3417 Klondike Rd. Lithonia, GA 30058  
Mr. & Mrs. W. R. Vawter, Jr., 5332 Pecan Grove Lane, Memphis, TN 38119  
Mrs. Edwina J. Geyer, 101 E. 7th St. #8, Seymour, IN 47274  
Allen Vawter, 1659 Logan St., Denver, CO 80203  
Dorothy V. Westmoreland, Star Rt. Box 147, Loretta Dr., Corales, N.M. 87048  
Mr. & Mrs. Verne E. Vawter, 3208 Bonita Mesa Rd., Bonita, CA 92002  
J. W. & Kay Vawter, Rt. #6, Box 375, Nacogdoches, TX 75961  
George & Syble Culbreath, Box 86, Trenton, TN 38382  
Dr. & Mrs. R. H. Bullard, 1103 Newport Ave., Tupelo, MS 38801  
Mayer & Judith Crawford, Rt. #1, Box 11, Hickory Flat, MS 38633  
Lowell & Bonnie Vaughters, 41 Meadowlawn, Oxford, MS 38655  
Randall & Blanche Murff, 1546 Dorgan St., Jackson, MS 39204  
Majorie V. Gibbs, 7003 S. 86th St. #264, Omaha, NB 68128  
Mrs. Harry Dunlap, 5502 Cedar Craft St., Richmond, VA 23228  
John E. & Lois Vawter, 1511 Birch Dr., Elkhart, IN 46514  
John P. Jones, R.R. #1, Box 230, Scipio, IN 47273  
Donald G. & Earlene Murat, 1400 Blackrock Ct., Plainfield, IN 46168  
Randy Vawter, 5615 Forest Glen, Ada, MI 49301  
CDR. & Mrs. Jon Vaughters, 4586 Smoke Rise Lane, Marietta, GA 30062  
Mrs. Dale Hill, 1754 Smith Green St., Wichita, KS 67211  
Mr. & Mrs. Dewey Vawter, 3737 W. 116 St., Zionsville, IN 46077  
Fred & Judi Taylor, 911 Hampton Ct., Chesterfield, IN 46017  
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Vawter, 94 220 Hokulewa Lp., Mililani Town, HI 96789

Beth Sabel reports that there were 406 households receiving the December issue of the newsletter.

#### NOTE TO NEW MEMBERS

If you would like a reprint of The Vawter Family in America by Grace (Vawter) Bicknell, you can order one from Mrs. Walter Reynolds, R.R. #1, Butlerville, IN 47223. The price is \$6.50 payable to her.

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