



FAMILY ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER
Spring 1988

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FAMILY ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

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MAKE PLANS FOR THE 1988 VVVFA REUNION

From 1988 Reunion host - Charles Burt

The 1988 reunion will be held August 5-7 in Gainesville, Georgia. Located approximately 50 miles NE of Atlanta, in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains. The Georgia family welcomes all cousins to come and walk on Gold as we have for over 150 years.

We invite you to stay and see Georgia from the mountains to the ocean: Helen, an Alpine Village; Atlanta, GA State Capital with gold dome; State & U.S. Archives; Cyclorama, a painting depicting the Civil War; Six Flags for the young and young at heart; Lanier Islands for water sports and golf; Stone Mountain; Andersonville, site of Civil War Prison and Cemetery; Historic Savannah; and for the Democrats- Plains, the home of Jimmy Carter.

The reunion will be headquartered at the Gainesville Holliday Inn. Reservations must be made directly with the Inn. Please do not use the "800" number. Use the reservation card enclosed or phone direct to 404/536-4451. Be sure to refer to the VVV Family Association (If common first name, please give middle name). Reservations must be made by JULY 1. Make your reservations by this date and if necessary they can be cancelled with no charge, 24 hours prior to scheduled arrival.

All rooms are \$46.00 per night plus tax.
For additional information about the reunion or hotel, write or call: Charles Burt, Rt. 5, Box 5475, Dawsonville, GA 30534. Phone. 404/265-6103.

THE FOUNDING OF PASADENA & SANTA MONICA

From: Ingersoll's Century History Santa Monica Bay Cities 1542 to 1908, pp 159-161

Williamson Dunn Vawter, son of William & Frances Vawter was born at Mount Glad, near Madison, IN, 28 August 1815 (Bicknell pp 118-120). At age 12 he went to live with his uncle, Colonel John Vawter, for whom he had a great affection. His first job was driving an ox team between the towns of Madison and Vernon. This work, by reason of the difficult roads and occasional danger from savages, suited the daring spirit of the boy. Later he became a clerk in the store of his uncle and then partner in the same store, in company with his cousin, Smith Vawter. Together they carried on business in the old brick building at "Vawter's Corner" in Vernon, for a period of forty years.

Mr. Vawter served as postmaster of the town for a number of years. He also took a lively interest in municipal politics and in National affairs.

In 1875 he came to California and was one of the original members of the Indiana Colony which founded Pasadena, California.

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Mr. Vawter and family moved to location of Santa Monica, then only a sheep ranch. There he and sons opened the first general store. As the town grew he established lumber yards and a planing mill, which proved a boon to home builders. He secured a franchise in 1886 and with his sons built the first street railway which extended five miles. He and sons also organized the First National Bank of Santa Monica.

Mr. Vawter married 15 July 1834 to Mary Charlotte Tilghman Crowder of Baltimore, MD. She died 22 Sept. 1851 and her children were: Mary Ellen, May, Jane Cravens, William Smith and Edwin James. Mr. Vawter married Charlotte Augusta Knowlton in Nov. 1852. She was a native of Shrewsbury, MA. She died in Santa Monica 27 Dec. 1893 leaving one daughter, Emma. A son, Charles Knowlton had died previously.

Mr. Vawter was one of the founders of the Presbyterian church in Santa Monica. He was pre-eminently just and never intentionally did any man a wrong. At the same time, he was not a man of loud or bold pretense and moved along life's journey doing the right thing at the right time.

Mr. Vawter passed away at his home in Santa Monica 10 July 1894.

* * * * *

From: Bonita Welch, Scipio, IN - This is a letter written to the news paper "The Vernon Banner" by Edwin James Vawter, son of Wm Dunn & Mary Vawter.

Santa Monica, CA May 18, 1876

I took a trip the other day, in company with my father and others to the San Fernando Valley. We had heard that farming was done on an extensive scale over there, and we thought we should like to see how "big farming" looks.

The San Fernando Valley is separated from the Santa Monica Valley by a range of mountains, called the "Sierra Santa Monica." Our route lay over these mountains, through a newly constructed wagon road. The distance from Santa Monica to ranch house is about 14 miles, and 9 miles of the distance is mountain road.

We provided ourselves with a basket lunch, and took an early start. The first three miles of our journey was over the level plain, which led us to the mouth of the Sepulveda Canyon. Then following this canyon for six miles, gradually ascending, we reached the summit of the divide, and a beautiful panorama lay before our eyes; on the one hand lay the valley of Los Angeles and Santa Monica, dotted over with farm houses, orchards and waving fields of grain, while at our feet seemingly rolled the broad Pacific.

On the other hand was spread the valley of the San Fernando, with its thousands of sheep, cattle and horses roaming almost at pleasure, restrained only by the lonely shepherd from enroaching upon the vast fields of waving wheat and barley. In the distance was the village of San Fernando; the whole enclosed by towering mountains, with only here and there a wagon road, allowing ingress or egress.

After feasting our eyes a few moments upon this picture, we began the descent. The grade is more rapid upon the San Fernando side, and after winding around and through mountains for three miles, we were at the base, and a drive of two miles more brought us to the ranch house of the San Fernando Sheep Company.

This San Fernando farm or ranch originally consisted of 121, 542 acres, but there has been a few small farms from 1,000 to 6,000 acres each, sold off until the number of acres was reduced to about 100,000, when it was divided, and the San Fernando Homestead Association came into possession of about 60,000 acres.

At the ranch house we learned that there was about 6,000 acres in wheat, and about 2,000 acres in barley. To harvest this immense crop will require the services of 100 horses and about 40 men for two to three months. During the plowing season last winter, seven gang plows, (with from five to seven plows in each gang) were employed for three months time, eight to ten horses to each gang.

In cutting, there are four headers which cut a sixteen foot swath, each so set as to just take the head of grain and leave the straw standing, the head is then carried by an elevator or endless belt and deposited in a header wagon that follows alongside; when one wagon is full, (the capacity of the box is probably 30 to 40 bushels) another takes its place and it drives to the steam thresher; the grain is immediately separated from the straw and chaff, and sacked ready for market. Each header has from eight to ten horses attached. The only fuel consumed in threshing is the straw and chaff from the separator. The company have now on hand 80,000 two bushel burlap sacks to receive the grain when threshed. The superintendent expressed a doubt that they had not enough for the crop.

There is kept constantly on hand, on this farm ready for use, 150 work horses and mules; there is a Blacksmith, a Carpenter, a Harness maker and a great number of laborers steadily employed.

These large grants of land, held by a few men, are a curse to any country, it prevents settlement and is a drawback to the development of the country.

Yours truly,

Ed. J. Vawter

P.S. Corresponding with this big farming they had to dig or bore 450 feet for water. E.J.V.

NEW MEMBERS

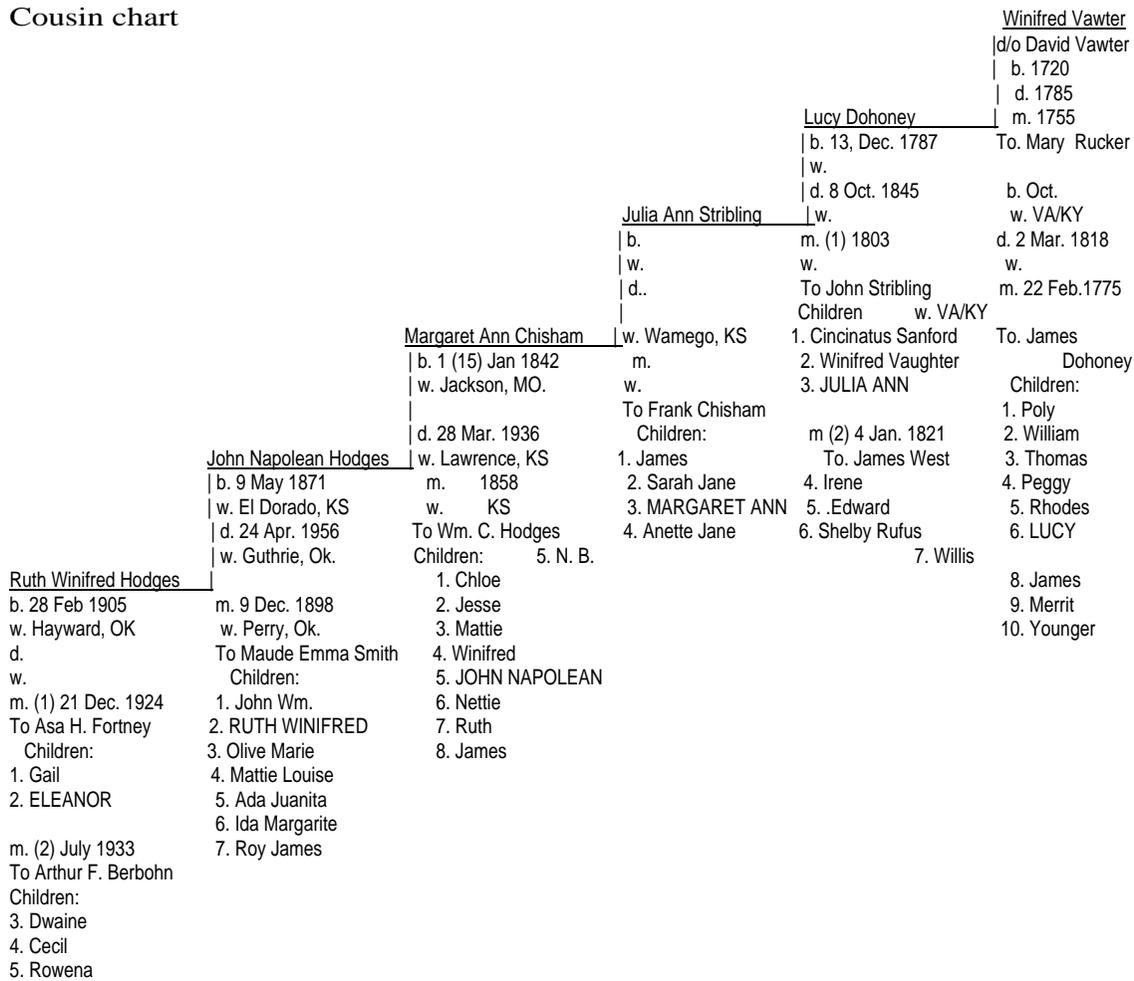
James E. & Margaret L. Luke, 5647 W. Barnes Rd., Eaton Rapids, MI 48827
Lowell Vawter, 705 N. McLean #B, Bloomington, IL 61701
Benjamin Vawters, 2952 Geneva Ave. #A, Daly City, CA 94014
Lt. & Mrs. Paul Vawter, 94-220 Hokulew L, Mililani Town, HI 96789
William B. Vawter, Rt. #2, Box 78, Louise, VA 23093
Nona Faye Thompson, 10308 Durham Dr., Oklahoma City, OK 73132
Brian L. & Tammie Vawter, 950 Barnett Way #17, Madera, CA 93637
Mrs. Marha V. Fishel, 8226 Morgantown Rd., Indianapolis, IN 46219
Prof. Meyers S. McDougal, 401 A Yale St., New Haven, CT 06520
Altha Lee Murray, 4402 N. Redmond, Bethany, OK 73008
Robert Dale Vawter, 1969 Stanford Dr. S.E., Kentwood, MI 49508
John T. & Anna L. Vawter, The Dalles, OR
Lance & Sigrid Vaughters, Kit Chener, Canada
Lucille J. Vernon, Winston Salem, N.C.
Lois V. Ball, Durango, CO
Pearl E. Wolf, Seattle, WA
Sherry Baker Vawter, Southlake, TX
Connie Franklin, McKinney, TX
Ray B. Vaughters, Atlanta, GA
Mrs. Dorothy V. Robb, Captiva, FL

GLEANINGS

From: Mary Winningham, Chevy Chase, MD
Fall 1980 "Blue Grass Roots" KY Genealogical Society
Port Royal Baptist Church Cemetery, Henry County, KY
Sanford Vawter, son of J.B. & M.R. Vawter
b. 31 October 1838 - d. 14 April 1871

Sherry (Baker) Krueger d/o Eleanor (Fortney) Baker, Correll
 1217 Ridge wood Circle
 Southlake, Tx 76092

Cousin chart



THE VAWTER FAMILY IN AMERICA

Grace (Vawter) Bicknell (1864-1952) was the author of original history in The Vawter Family In America, 442 pages. Helen K. Vawter of Tacoma, WA read some old letters written by her father (James Alois Bachman Vawter, p. 160 Bicknell) to her mother in 1905. In these letters were references to this book, see below:

On October 12, 1905 he wrote, "So the books have shown up at last. Are they interesting and worth the price? Probably more so to me. There will be six dollars to send to Mrs. Grace Bicknell at Grand Haven, Mich. She certainly has confidence in the Vawter tribe to send them without money in advance. Yes, my Grand-dad and Grand-ma were cousins and I can just remember him but don't think I was over 9 yrs. old when he died.

On October 16, 1905 he wrote, "The book, I think is a treasure. Of course no one that is not familiar with family history can take the same interest but to me it will be a great pleasure. I read nearly all of Friday night so that Saturday night my eyes hurt and I had to put it away. That small picture of my Granddad looks very natural. I can just remember him. One thing that was a disappointment was that they did not give more physical description of them. I think most of my people were tall and rather slender. Well, I think Grace deserves great credit for getting up such a splendid record and so nicely arranged. Did you notice how it was indexed?"

NEWS FROM THE PAST

From: Bonita Welch and written by Associate Editor, Sally Brown of Tulsa, OK
Found: Indiana Historical Society Newsletter #64 - March 1984

David V. Burns stepped down after serving the Society as president 1974-1984. He said he will continue as a member of the board of Trustees to which he was elected in 1963.

Mr. Burns is a retired architect and has given invaluable service as Chairman of the State Library & Historical Building Expansion Commission. He was an active member of the Society's Library Committee for the Preservation of Indiana's Architectural Archives.

Mr. Burns father, Lee Burns, likewise is an Indianapolis architect, interested in history, and served as a member of the Society's Executive Committee from 1920-1945. Lee Burns was the son of Harrison & Mary (Smyth) Burns - was b. 19 April 1872 in Bloomfield, IN.

Line: John, David, Jesse, William, Marie (Vawter) Burns, Harrison Burns, Lee Burns.

NOTE: A reprint of The Vawter Family in America can be purchased for \$7.00 (post paid) from: Mrs. Walter Reynolds, R.R. #1, Butlerville, IN 47223

MEMBERSHIP DUES \$7.00 PER YEAR - DUE AND PAYABLE IN AUGUST TO:
VVVF ASSOCIATION

Mail to: Hazel McCandless, Box 366, Cushing, Texas 75760

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MEMORIAL

Rupert Pike of Booneville, MI died 6 Sept. 1987. He and his wife, Christine, were among the hosts to the 1986 Reunion at Tupelo, MI. He will be remembered by all those who attended that reunion as the delightful harmonica player at the Fish Fry.

Ronald Deane Vawter, born 17 May 1942, died 30 Oct. 1987. He was the son of Ronald Earl & Pauline Vawter.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The VVV's will be happy to know that Jimmy Vaughters of Memphis, TN is recovering nicely from 6 - coronary Bypass surgery. Jimmy and wife Norma were missed at the Indiana reunion.

Congratulations to Roger Wicker of Tupelo, MI who was elected State Senator from Lee County, MS on November 3. Roger and wife, Gayle, were among the hosts to the 1986 Reunion in Tupelo. Rogers past experience: Counsel to the Rules Committee in the U.S. House of Representatives, Tupelo City Judge Pro Tem and Lee County Public Defender.

Bill Vawter of Houston, TX honored - The Mayor of Houston and the Harris County Commissioners Court declared December 3 Bill Vawter Day in both city and the county.

The Area Planning Agency on Aging, with which Bill has worked for over ten years, presented the proclamations and citations to Bill at its meeting December 3. He has been on the Advisory Commission of this body which channels federal money to various organizations serving senior citizens. Bill has also served on the Governor's Commission on Aging, and has attended two White House Conferences on Aging.

From: Beth Sabel, Circulation: Editor : Newsletter Update

The newsletter is mailed to 396 homes

17 to genealogy societies by Bonita Welch

6 to Esther Vawter to mail out to prospective members

Each mailing time four or five are returned. So, please let Beth know of any address changes that you are aware of.

We have members in 41 states and in Africa, Canada, England and Mexico. Texas leads with 61 members. Eight states have none.

QUERY

From: Sherry Baker Krueger, 1217 Ridgewood Circle, Southlake, TX 76092 - You will note Sherry's "cousin" chart in this issue.

Would like to know more about John Stribling who married Lucy Dohoney, the daughter of Winifred (Vawter) Donhoney. The Striblings & Dohoneys lived in Virginia and Kentucky. My gap begins when the Vawters went to Indiana. John died 29 July 1814 and I cannot find any records so far in VA or KY. There is a chance he and family migrated to IN with the Vawters as did his brother, Thomas T. Stribling in 1809.

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