



FAMILY ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

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A BIG GENEALOGY THRILL !

Bill Vawter of Houston, TX has found what we expect to be a real treasure trove of VVV family genealogy.

For years VVVFA members have been saying "What happened to all the research that William Snyder Vawter, Sr. of New York did between 1928 and 1950". It was his dream to write a sequel to *The Vawter Family in America* by Grace Vawter Bicknell.

According to Mrs. Pat Klein of Kalamazoo, MI (his niece) Wm S. Vawter, Sr. and his wife worked many long nights and week ends writing letters and assembling VVV family information. Unfortunately he died before the book could be written.

Recently his grandson, Tim Vawter of Freehold, NJ called our treasurer, Hazel McCandless and told her that these records were in an attic closet in a vacant house in Houston, TX. This house is owned by his father, Wm. S. Vawter, Jr. who lives in Jordan. Hazel in turn called her brother, Bill Vawter of Houston, TX and Bill in turn called Tim back to find out who to contact to get a key to the house.

After many hours of search in an attic closet and in another hidden closet, searching through approximately 4000 books 17 genealogy notebooks were found. By this time it was dark, so this required another day of search at which time seven (7) more notebooks were found.

These notebooks will have to be indexed, pages numbered and all material pertaining to VVV Genealogy to be photo copied. The originals have been promised to Tim Vawter, grandson of William Snyder Vawter, Sr.

SOMETHING NEW - TWO VVVFA PROJECTS

PROJECT #1.

Our first project will be to finance the expenses of the above finding of VVV genealogy. Bill Vawter has spent monies on hiring a college student to help him search the closets and transport the boxes of notebooks to the basement of his retirement residence. There will be the expense of Photo copying all the VVV material, at least two sets: one for our Historian/Archivist, Jim Vaughters, and one to bring to the next reunion. The expenses have been estimated to come to \$600.00 to \$1,000, depending on the amount of copy work and whether someone will have to be hired to help with it.

If you wish to contribute toward saving these records for the VVVFA, mail your donation to our treasurer, Hazel McCandless, Box 366, Cushing, TX made out to VVV Family Association and mark it PROJECT #1 - VAWTER GENEALOGY.

(Editor note: I feel this would be a good time to establish a PROJECT FUND with this money so that any monies above expenses will be saved for future projects.)
Esther M. Vawter, 1713 Merkley Ave., W. Sacramento, CA 95691-3201

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PROJECT #2.

The second project is of a different kind. At our 1988 reunion in Georgia, a VVV family member, Blanche Murff of MS, brought a book, *Prison life In Dixie* by John Beverly Vawter, (son of Pascal Vawter of the Philemon line). The book is a living account of the battle of Atlanta and his experiences.

Jim Corbitt took this book home with him to find out the cost of reprinting. A quote was given him for reprinting 100 books with hardcovers. This will be approximately \$1,300 which will have to be paid upon delivery of the books to him.

Jim Corbitt has volunteered to loan \$100.00, interest free, to the VVVFA with M. Glen Vawter and president, Marvin Vawter adding their names to help underwrite this project.

Anyone who wishes to help finance the printing of this book please mail their check to the VVVFA treasurer, Hazel McCandless made out to the VVV Family Association and mark it PROJECT #2 - BOOK REPRINT.

MEMORIAL

E. B. (Tug) Vaughters of Seattle, WA was born 17 February 1914 in Portsmouth, OH, died 26 January 1989 at home after a long illness. He left wife, Adele and children: Suzanne McClennan, Toronto, Canada; Commander Jon C. Vaughters, U.S. Navy, Ret., Marietta, CA; Dr. Erick Vaughters, San Juan Capistrano, CA; Lucille Brewer, Winter Haven, FL and ten grandchildren.

E. B. served in the Royal Canadian Air Force and also in the U.S. Army Air Corps as a flight instructor in WW II. After a few years as a pilot for United Airlines he became an award winning custom home builder and was Past President for Seattle Master Builders Association.

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Renabelle Vawter - widow of Vernon Day passed away 1-11-89. She was 93. Survivors are 9 children, several grand, great grand and 2 G.G.G. children.

* * * * *

Amos E. Crouch of Chandler, OK, age 67 died 23 November 1988, born 15 April 1921 at Davenport, OK. He was the son of Arch & Minnie Viola (Waters) Crouch. He married 31 October 1940 in Kendrick, OK to Willa Dean Sexton.

Crouch, a retired insurance salesman lived in Chandler the past 45 years. He was a member of the Southern Baptist Church, Odd Fellow Lodge, Masonic Lodge.

He is survived by wife, Willa Dean Crouch; sons: Harold & Jim Crouch of Chandler; Joe Crouch of Ceiling, OK; three daughters, Virginia Ward, Edmond; Marilyn McEntire, Perkins; Terri Miller, Chandler; three brothers, Harry & Garlin Crouch of Chatham, IL.; Clarence, Oklahoma City; two sisters, Violet Leach, Tryon, OK; Velma Thornton, Chandler; nine grandchildren and four g-grandchildren.

The grandmother's maiden name was Julia Vaughters and she was born in Georgia. This information from Harry A. Crouch, 828 W. Walnut St., Chatham, IL 62629.

* * * * *

Rev. Eron Malcolm Sharp of Highland Cove, TN was born 12 January 1904 in Leake Co. MS., son of Robert Hilliard & Catherine Sharp, married on 26 April to Alma Blissit. He was educated at Millsapa College, Jackson, MS and at Duke University, Durham, NC.

He served in the N. Mississippi Conference of the Methodist Church at the following: Iuka Circuit, Rienzi Circuit, Olive Branch Charge, Hernando First Church, Aberdeen First, New Albany First, Starkville First, Greenwood First and Spt. of the Cleveland District.

After retirement he was Assistant Circulation Librarian at Memphis State University for ten years. He was the first Chaplain of Wesley Highland Towers where he was serving when stricken with bone cancer. He was also the teacher of St. Luke's Bible class.

He is survived by his wife, Alma Blissit Sharp and a sister, Miss Louise Sharp of Oxford, MS.

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BEHIND THAT NAME

From: James L. Vawter, Box 665, E1 Campo, TX 77437

According to "Norman People" Richard Valletort (c. 1130) had a son Hugh who became known as Hugh Acland. The name apparently came from the Manor of Acland. Hugh in turn had three sons, Simon Vautort, Baldwin Acland, and John Vautort. Baldwin became the ancestor to the Aclands, and the only recognizable mention of John was from a lawsuit brought against him by his nephew, Robert Beauchamp III (Simon's son) for taking an estate that Robert claimed was his.

Simon, about which very little is known, married the daughter of Robert Beauchamp II of Hatch. She was the last of her line, and as such was an heiress because she was entitled to inherit her father's arms.

It was the custom of those times that when a woman was the last of her line, and who bore a notable maiden name; that when she married, the first son at least would bear her maiden name in order that it would continue on. So, Simon and his wife had a son Robert who became known as Robert, son of Simon, or Robert Beauchamp III.

We see how ancient names disappear. Three different names occurred in the above family in just four generations. We also see by the following genealogical information how Simon's considerable contribution to the direct parental blood lines of the Tudor Kings and Queens has become obscured through an ancient custom.

British Genealogist Lt. Col. W. H. Turton authored a book called, *The Plantagenet Ancestry*, which recorded seven thousand (7000) direct parental ancestors of Plantagenet, the wife of King Henry VII, and mother of King Henry VIII. The following was taken from this remarkable work.

"Simon Vautort married the Beauchamp Heiress, and they had Robert Beauchamp III, who in turn married Juliana Brett, and they had Robert IV who married Alice Mohun, and John I who married Cecilia Vivonia, and had John II, who in turn married Joan Chenduit, and they had William whose wife's name is unknown, and they in turn had a daughter, Mary Beauchamp. Mary married John Bodulgate and they had Elizabeth who married Richard Wydeville, and they had Richard Wydeville (Earl Rivers) who married Jacqueline Luxemburg, and they had Elizabeth Wydeville who married King Edward IV. Edward and Elizabeth had several daughters and two sons. One daughter was known as Elizabeth Plantagenet, and she married King Henry VII, and they had two sons, one of which was Henry VIII who married Jane Seymour who bore Henry a much sought-after male heir who became King Edward VI, the boy King."

Going back to John Beauchamp II and his wife Joan Chenduit; they had in addition to the son William; two daughters. One was Eleanor who married a Merrit, and the other was Cecily who married Roger Seymour. They were the direct parental ancestors to Jane Seymour, wife of King Henry VIII, and mother to Edward VI, the boy King.

Presently there hangs in St. Peter's Church in North Tawton, County of Devon, Valletort arms which allude to the marriage between Simon and the Beauchamp Heiress. "Vair on a Bend Sable Three Mulletts Gules". Vair being the arms of the Hatch Beauchamps, and the Bend sable, Three Mulletts Gules, the arms of the Valletorts of North Tawton.

The following arms are displayed at Hampton Court Palace, and are called the arms of King Henry VIII, & Jane Seymour.

- 1st Quarterly Or, on a Pale Gules, Six Fleurs-de-lis Az., Three Lions of England. (King Henry)
- 2nd Gules two Wings Cojoined in Lure Or. (Seymour)
- 3rd Vair. (Beauchamps of Hatch)

- 4th Ar. Three Demi Lions Rampant Gules. (Sturmy)
- 5th Per Bend Ar. and Gules Three Roses in Bend Counterchanged. (McWilliams)
- 6th Argent on a Bend Gules, Three Leopards' Faces Or. (_____)

(J.L. Vawter) I have a large chart of the Royal families of England that display in addition to marriages and the children of those unions; arms of the Principals. Queen Elizabeth Wydeville's Arms are shown as quartered by "VAIR", the Arms of the Hatch Beauchamps.

12th NATIONAL VVV FAMILY REUNION

From: Reunion host - M. Glen Vawter of Normal, IL

MAKE PLANS FOR THE 1989 VVVFA REUNION in the heart of the Cornbelt at the Twin Cities of Bloomington and Normal, IL at the intersection of Interstates 55 & 74 and future 39, just 130 miles from Chicago, 170 miles from St. Louis and 45 miles from Peoria & Champaign, IL. There is a shuttle bus service from Motel to B/N Airport with commuter service by Britt to Chicago, TWA Express to St. Louis, US Air to Indianapolis and Shuttle Bus service to Chicago.

The 1989 Reunion will be held August 4 thru 6 at the Sheraton-Normal at junction of Interstate and US 51 north side of Normal, IL 61761. Reservations may be made by calling 309-452-8300 or writing to: Sheraton-Normal 8 Traders Circle, Normal, IL 61761. In either case be sure to mention VVV Reunion and if common first name give middle initial.

Cost of rooms will be \$50 for single & \$54 for double, triple or quad. plus 7% tax. For any further information contact M. Glen Vawter, 33 Deline Dr., Normal, IL 61761, Phone 309-452-4872. All plans are not complete as yet. More in next newsletter.

DISCOVER THE RICH HERITAGE OF THE PEOPLE AND PLACES OF BLOOMINGTON - NORMAL

1. The McLean County Historical Society building. Sharing quarters with them is the Bloomington-Normal Genealogical Society. The Archives have a collection of diaries, Ms., correspondence, business & social records, Civil War material and over 200 titles of 19th & 20th century periodicals. The library has a research collection of over 3,000 volumes on McLean County & Illinois history and a collection of Bloomington City Directories from 1855 to the present.
2. Explore the stately castle-like Ewing Manor, willed to Illinois State University. The Manor is the home of the Illinois Shakespeare Festival which performs during the summer.
3. The Illinois State University which was founded in 1857 and was the first public university in the state.
4. "Clover Lawn" was the home of Supreme Court Justice, David Davis, U.S. Senator and "the man who made Abraham Lincoln President".

MEMBERSHIP DUES \$7.00 PER YEAR - DUE AND PAYABLE IN AUGUST TO: VVVFA ASSOCIATION Mail to: Hazel McCandless, Box 366, Cushing, TX 75760-0366

HONORS ! Lucille Keir of Ohio was presented the American Association of Medical Assistants Distinguished Service Award for "literary contributions to the field of medical assisting" at the National Convention held in Richmond, VA. Lucille has authored and co-authored books on the subject of Medical Assistant Training.

From: Mrs. Burt L. Monroe of KY

Announcing the marriage of Matthew Dorn Vawter s/o Mr. & Mrs. Charles Dorn Vawter of Louisville, KY to Theresa Gayle Faith d/o Mr. & Mrs. D. Buchenberger and Mr. & Mrs.. C. Mullins.

From: Jim Corbitt of TN - article and picture from the Record News, October 1988 of Ruckersville, VA.

Jim Corbitt attended the Rucker Family Reunion which celebrated the 150th anniversary of their ancestors in Ruckersville. More than 130 people came from 16 states from as far as California.

Ruckersville was named after John Rucker, a grandson of Peter Rucker, who first came to America in 1690. Ephraim s/o Peter m. Margaret d/o John & Margaret (Noel) Vawter.

The two-day reunion featured as guest speaker, Mrs. Jeane Robinson of Richmond, VA., a grand-daughter of Sudie Rucker Wood, who wrote the book, The Rucker Family, published in 1927.

CHRISTMAS HOME TOUR

From: North Vernon Plain Dealer of IN - an article and picture

The home known as the Vernon Normal School was in the VAWTER family for many years. It is believed it was built by Achilles & Martha Vawter.

The Gothic Revival classics such as the Normal School are varied in structural form and rich in embellishments. Ornamental motifs are borrowed from buildings of the late Middle Ages. All sustaining walls are solid brick 15-16" thick. Interior walls have pig and horsehair reinforced plaster finish. All the finish wood throughout the house is tulipwood.

During the 1860's General Lew Wallace and his officers made their headquarters at this Vernon House. Following the Civil War era, the house was residential dwelling until 1946 when it became the Jordan Funeral Home. In 1975 it was purchased by Robert and Maggie Norman.

Six Vernon homes will be open to visitors during a Christmas Tour of homes which is sponsored by the Jennings County Historical Society of which the above is one.

Legend - c. or ca. means "about" s/o or d/o means son of or daughter of.
b. born w. where d. died m. married unm. unmarried.

DEAR VVV FAMILY ASSOCIATION MEMBERS:

First, I want to thank each of you for granting me the honor of being your president. I consider it to be, indeed an honor and a responsibility. I will do my best to merit the trust you have given me. I look forward to seeing each of you at the twelfth annual reunion in Normal Ill. on August 4, 5 and 6.

I have been in contact with past president M. Glen Vawter and know that he is working very hard to make this reunion the most rewarding one yet. Let us have a record turnout for this chance to renew old acquaintances and make new ones. Remember that we are all cousins, and are all proud of our common heritage. Let us each resolve to increase our knowledge of VVV history.

In this issue of the NEWSLETTER, there are two articles of prime importance to every VVV. The first concerns the genealogical find made by Bill Vawter in Houston, Texas, and the second concerns the reprint of a book, *Prison Life in Dixie*, by John Beverly Vawter. Each of these projects can enrich the knowledge of every one of us. I urge each of you to please open your hearts and your purses to finance these two projects.

Now I would like to tell you a little bit about myself. The past year has been very eventful for me. Early in the year I had two operations, one on each eye about six weeks apart, for acute glaucoma. Both operations were successful. Next I was elected executive vice president for the Missouri society of the sons of the American Revolution. We have over 450 members in 12 chapters and this entails a great deal of traveling and speech making. In addition I organized a new charter that now has 24 members. In June, I was hospitalized for almost the entire month with pancreatitis. That was followed a month later by removal of the gallbladder and gall stones which had caused the pancreatitis. At the time you elected me your president I was recovering from that surgery. Since that time, I have been well and kept extremely busy. I am looking forward to fulfilling my duties to SAR and the VVV Association.

I am looking forward to seeing each of you at the Sheraton Hotel in Normal, Ill. in August.

To all my cousins, regards

MARVIN D. VAWTER, PRESIDENT
VVV FAMILY ASSOCIATION

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