



NEWS LETTER

FAMILY ASSOCIATION

Summer 1985

Volume 9 #4

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MEMBER DUES: \$5.00 per year - payable in August - To: VVV Family Association

EIGHTH ANNUAL VVVFA REUNION TO HONOR VAUTER CHURCH

The VVVFA voted to establish a tradition and schedule a reunion every five years near the location of the "Vauter" Church, which was erected in 1731 in the parish of St. Anne, Essex County, Virginia. There were 130 families living in the parish at that time. The name of the church was misspelled in early records.

The present brick building replaced a frame structure and was built on land belonging to Richard Vawter. The walls are twenty inches thick and originally there was no heat or lights. The church still has a communion service presented by Queen Anne of England.

The location selected this year is Fredricksburg at the Howard Johnson Motel located at the Junction of Route 1 and I 95 South. For reservations call 703-898-1800 and ask for Carolyn Cole and mention the VAWTER reunion. Rates are: Single -\$22.00 and double - \$27.00. Date August 2-3-4. The annual president's letter will give the agenda for the reunion. There will be two meals together in the dining room.

As we did five years ago, the VVVFA will give a "love gift" for the VAUTER church which will help us perpetuate VVV identity and history in a tangible way. Mail donations to treasurer: Hazel Vawter McCandless, Box 366, Cushing, Tx 75218. A check will be presented in the Sunday morning worship service, from the VVVFA, to the church by our president, Robert L. Vawter. *Gifts should reach Hazel before July 15th.*

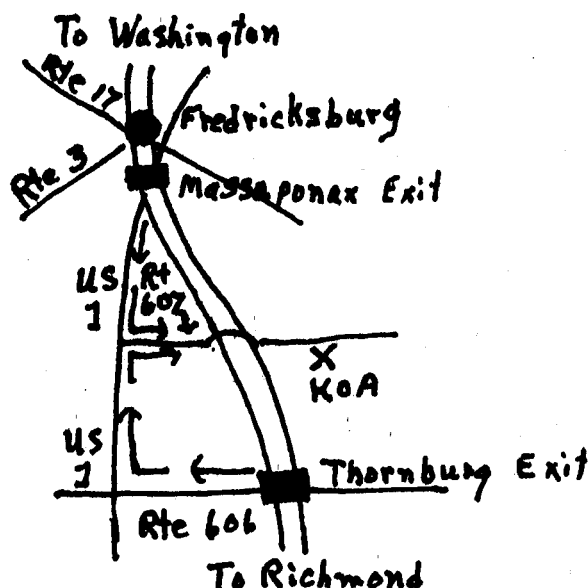
Saturday one or two buses will be chartered for a historical tour ending with a visit to the VAUTER church for lunch which will be prepared by the ladies of the church in the social hall chaired by Mrs. Helen Garnet.

Saturday evening at the banquet we will have a Memorial Service Spot in memory of all who died since the last reunion, August 1984. Please send me the names and vital statistics of those who died during this time period. (mail to Esther Vawter)

TRANSPORTATION

If you fly into Washington or Dunes International, upon arrival pick up "Grooms Service" to the Sheraton Motel in Fredericksburg and then take a taxi to Howard Johnson's. "Grooms Service" runs every hour on the hour 24 hrs. a day. (Do not know if they have service to Howard Johnson's which is about 3 miles from Sheraton Motel).

You can also fly to Richmond, VA (about the same distance from Fredericksburg as Washington, D.C.), rent a car or take a bus to Fredericksburg. For those who like to do research, allow some time to visit the archives in Richmond, VA.



OPTIONS

Dominion Kampground (KOA)
RFD 3, Box 1275, Fredericksburg, VA 22401
Phone 703-898-7252

If Southbound on Interstate 95, exit at Massaponax, go South (turn right) on US 1, left on VA 607.

If Northbound on I-95, exit at Thornburg, left on VA 606 to US 1, then North (turn right) on US 1, turn right on VA 607.

Howard Johnson Motel is located at the junction of Interstate 95 and US 1.

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150th ANNIVERSARY

The First Baptist Church of North Vernon, Indiana, will observe its 150th Anniversary on July 26-27 & 28. The church was organized in 1835 about six miles NE of Vernon, as Zoar Baptist. There were 17 charter members, including William Frances Vawter, John & Elizabeth (Vawter)Stott, and Margaret Parks.

William Vawter was chosen as the first pastor and served in that position for 28 years. He was ordained by the church in July 1839. The land for the first building was donated by Allen Parks, husband of Margaret Parks. Their daughter, Sarah, married Jesse R. Vawter, a son of William & Frances.

Throughout the years descendants of these founding members have played active roles in the life of the church and continue yet today. One such person is Bonita Welch who is organist and is chairperson of the committee planning the anniversary celebration.

VAWTERS ON TV AND IN MOVIES

Ron Vawter of Albany, NY, nephew of Vernon Vawter of Hot Springs, AR appeared on NBC as a police inspector in the program "Miami Vice".

Ron Vawter attended our first reunion at Brady Mountain Lodge near Hot Springs, AR and the reunion in 1980 at Port Royal, Virginia.

Meet young actor Eric Stoltz who is also a Vawter descendant. His parents are Jack & Evelyn Vawter Stoltz of Santa Barbara, California. His maternal grandparents are Marion & Hazel Vawter. (Our Ted Vawter of Colorado is a brother of Marion) Writes proud father Jack, "Eric is very close to his 92 year-old grandfather, Marion, and writes him from wherever in the world he may be."

Born in Whittier, CA on 30 Sept. 1961, Eric is the lone son of parents who are both educated and musically gifted. He has two older sisters: Catherine Stoltz who is a mezzo soprano with the Chicago Lyric Opera Center for Young American Artists and

Susan (Mrs. Eric Lockrem who is the mother of the Stoltz's grandson, Matthew Lockrem.

Steely blue-eyed Eric is a versatile actor who often finds himself portraying vulnerable characters to whom audiences relate directly. His public relations release states, ".... he doesn't attack acting, he lends himself to it. His performances consistently suggest that he is an instinctual, natural actor who welcomes the opportunity to look inward and share with others his discoveries."

Not only is he an inspiring actor, he is a talented musician, playing both piano and trumpet. He began acting and performing seriously at about 12, appearing in some 20 productions in Santa Barbara, either on stage or in the orchestra or as an accompanist.

When a student at the University of Southern California, he began receiving recognition as an actor. During his two years at the University's theater arts dept. he made many guest-starring roles on TV. Feeling the need for more professional training, he left school to study with Stella Adler and later with William Traylor and Peggy Feury.

At 23, he has appeared in starring roles in these TV movies: "Joey and Redhawk" mini-series; "The Grass is Always Green" in which he played Carol Burnett's oldest son; "The Seekers" Part II; "The Violation of Sarah McDavid"; "Paper Dolls"; and "Mask" in which he plays the leading role of Rocky Dennis, a 17-year-old boy who suffers from a physically deforming disease.

In USA TODAY, 8 March 1985, Jack Mathew's article about "Mask" states, "There are two sensational performances here - from Eric Stoltz as Rocky and Cher as Rusty Dennis, his crusty, drug-dependent mother."

In the Los Angeles Times, 7 March 1985, Sheila Benson writes in her column, "... you begin to listen to Rocky (beautifully played by Eric Stoltz)...."

Prior to the filming of "Mask", Eric starred in the current Universal release "The Wild Life" in which he portrays a high school graduate forced to confront the realities of life. After "Mask" he traveled to Paris to appear in Martin Starger's filming of "Emerald" which is scheduled for release this fall. In this World War II spy-drama, he plays 23-year-old Lt. Andy Wheeler who is captured by the Nazis and incarcerated in a French prison.

Besides more than a dozen TV commercials between 1978-80, Eric's television acting credits include appearances in episodes of "The Class of '65" "James at 16", "A New Kind of Family", "Shirley", "The Walton's", "Walking Tall", "Knott's Landing", "Seven Brides for Seven Brothers", "Thursday's Child", "Star of the Family", "Fall Guy", and "Love, Sydney". In many of these, he had featuring or "guest star" roles.

Eric descends: John Vawter, David Vawter, Jesse Vawter, William Vawter. John Taylor Vawter, Albert C. Vawter, Marion Vawter and Evelyn Vawter Stoltz.

UPDATE

From: Bonita Welch, R.R. #1, Box 227, Scipio, IN 47273

Bonita Welch has found the obituary for the John T. Vawter who erected the Civil War Vawter Monument in the Courthouse square in Franklin, IN. His full name is John Terrell Vawter, son of Smith Vawter & Jane Terrell, pages 54/5 of Bicknell. For background see story in the last issue regarding the monument. The next issue will have other details of his life.

RETROSPECTIVE

From: Sally Poland, 3517 Edencroft Drive, Raleigh, N.C. 27612

About 1916, when the tent Chautauqua phenomenon was enjoying its greatest success in rural America, few conceived of a day when the term "Chautauqua" would be strange to the ear.

The original Chautauqua began at Jamestown, NY on the shores of Lake Chautauqua in 1874. It was really an extension of the Sunday School movement in America, but was directed at an adult population for which greater appreciation of art forms and "culture" was becoming fashionable.

Keith Vawter, (p. 326 Bicknell) attempted the first "circuit" type of Chautauqua under canvas in 1904. After refining, he produced his Redpath-Vawter Chautauqua System in 1907 which flourished across America for the next twenty-five years.

To small town rural America -- isolated and hard-working -- tent Chautauqua was liberation for the spirit. It was a unique mixture of conventional wisdom, popular entertainment, great oratory and exposure to serious art forms all seasoned with a generous portion of hoopla. Those who confuse it with carnival, circus, or fair, however, do the institution an injustice.

By the twenties, Chautauqua under canvas was in a state of decline. Better roads, radios, and motion pictures contributed to the falling-off of the crowds. The hard times of the late twenties put an end to a most unusual American phenomenon--culture under canvas.

Note: "Miss Rena Vawter", Keith Vawter's sister (p. 326 Bicknell) was listed on a Chautauqua program from Madison, Indiana ca. 1906 as a teacher of a class in domestic Science for young ladies.

Line: John, David, Philemon, Beverly, Pascal, John Beverly, Keith Vawter.

GLEANINGS

NORTH CAROLINA INDEX TO MARRIAGE BONDS – 1741-1868

N.C. State Archives - Raleigh, N.C.

Groom Index

| | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|---------------|
| Vawter, Beverly | Hutchins, Elizabeth | 21 Dec. 1806 |
| " Beverly S. | Lasley, Harriet J. | 29 Nov. 1841 |
| " George T. | Volger, Charlotte | 15 Feb. 1840 |
| " James M. | Underwood, S. E. | 30 Nov. 1865 |
| " John M. | Campbell, Polly M. | 11 Aug. 1834 |
| " Joseph E. | Larimore, Polly | 13 Sept. 1812 |
| " Reuben T. | Transu, Harriet M. | 11 Jan. 1835 |
| Vawters, Bradford | Redman, Catherine | 18 Apr. 1820 |
| Vauter, William | Roberts, Regina | 13 Feb. 1845 |

Bride Index

| | | |
|----------------|------------------------|---------------|
| Vawter, Elisha | Scales, Thomas M. | 12 Oct. 1835 |
| " Paulina | Swaim, William L. | 29 Mar. 1845 |
| " Tabbethy | Fagg, Charles Ritchard | 26 Sept. 1834 |
| Vawters, Alpha | Sides, Christ D. | 21 Nov. 1833 |
| " Martha E. | Pulliam, Simeon L. | 14 Aug. 1852 |

VAWTER'S OIL PAINTING RETURNED

From: The Republic, Columbus, IN sent by Bonita Welch

After a six month absence, Brown County artist Will Vawter's oil painting "Neighbors" has been returned to the James Whitcomb Riley Home Museum by an anonymous donor.

The large oil painting was one of the four pieces of Vawter's artwork pulled from display at the museum by Mary Simmons who is executrix of the estate of her mother, the niece of Ola Vawter, Will's second wife.

Vawter and Riley were friends and Vawter illustrated twenty some books of poetry written by Riley. In 1937 Vawter loaned his paintings to the museum when Riley's birthplace was made a memorial.

For background see story of "Will Vawter" Vol. 8 #2, p. 9 and story "Treasured Vawter Paintings to be Taken from Riley Home" Vol. 9 #2, p. 12.

MEMBER PROFILE - Minister

Elson Herndon, D.D., 9102 W. 100 Terr., Overland Park, KS 66212

Born 9-11-1913 in Lonsdale, AR., the son of John I.& Lillie Daniel Herndon. He has been married to Opal Vawter, whose father was Roy A., for almost 50 years. She is the sister of Vernon Vawter of Hot Springs, AR and they descend from James M. Vawter (p. 373 Bicknell), son of John who was the son of Russell Vawter & Mary Sparks.

John attended high school in Hot Springs, AR. He received his BA at Ouachita Baptist University and Masters at Midwest Baptist Theological Seminary and DD from Florida State Christian College. He spent one year in the US Army. John pastored churches in Arkansas and Kansas City Missouri.

For nineteen years he served as Administration and Chaplain of Baptist Towers, a Retirement & Handicap Home (Now Linwood Towers). He retired from the Towers 1 Sept. 1983.

Other work: Four years at AR State Hospital, fifteen years in retail merchandising (both grocery & dry goods stores) either as owner or manager. First pastorate in 1953 and served as an interim pastor while at Baptist Towers (16 interims). He served five years on the Board of Directors of Westminster Gerontology Foundation, the past three years as president.

He and his wife have three children: Eugene, Doyle and Dorothy. Elson & Opal enjoy traveling together and he has a slogan "Have Bible, will travel".

MEMBERSHIP DUES \$5.00 PER YEAR – DUE AND PAYABLE IN AUGUST TO: VVVV ASSOCIATION. Mail to Hazel McCandless, Box 366 Cushing, TX 75760

NAME _____ NEW _____ RENEWAL _____

STREET ADDRESS _____ DATE _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

(give your VVV line on back) PHONE _____

NEW MEMBERS

Mrs. Patricia Eldon Taylor Harvey, 200 Magnolia, Magnolia, MS 39652
Line: Pleasant & Zerelde (Dehoney) Stribling, Lydia Hester & John O. Sanford,
Jessie Eldon & Edgar Taylor - pages 227/8 Bicknell.

Mrs. Lynn Daniels, 108 Wilmuth, Iuka, MS 38852 (Line: John Vawter IV)

Juanita P. Hamblin, 6583 Cottingham Place, Memphis, TN 38119 (Line: g-grandmother,
Minerva Elvira Vaughters)

Marjorie Vawter. 9305 W. 53rd Place, Arvada, CO 80002

MEMORIAL

Julia Igert Dyer of Puducah, KY. died 2-16-85. Mrs. Dyer, married to William W. Dyer was the daughter of Louis Henry Igert & Emeline Vawter who was the daughter of Henry Johnson Vawter & Mary Josephine William (p. 70 Bicknell). Mrs. Dyer was a member of Broadway United Methodist Church where she served as a Sunday School teacher for 40 years. She is survived by a son, two daughters and five grandchildren.

Sam Daniels of Iuka, MS died 4 Nov. 1984, His wife, Lynn Reid Daniels descends from John Vawter IV.

Phelma E. Vawter died 22 March 1985. She was a life long resident of Shelbyville, IN. Survivors: husband, Elmer Vawter and daughter Drena Conway.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

If you wish an index of the first 19 issues of the VVVFA Newsletter please mail a post card to Beth Sabel, 931 S.E. 33rd, Portland, OR 97214 to reserve a copy.

The second volume of the VVV Vital Vittles (cookbook) will be on sale at the reunion in Virginia. Price \$5.00, after reunion it will be \$6.00 for mailing.

Bring your donations of handcraft for the drawing of door prizes which will take place at two or three of our meetings together.

If you wish, you may take a Walking Tour of Historic Fredericksburg during free time. It starts at the Visitor Center and takes in 25 points of interest.

The Indianapolis Star made one small correction on the story of the Vawter Monument. A spokesman for the Indianapolis Historic Preservation Commission said the monument was designed by Rudolph Schwarz, not Bruno Schmitz as previously reported in The Star.

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