



## **FAMILY ASSOCIATION**

### NEWSLETTER

Summer 1988

Volume 12 #4

#### FAMILY ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

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#### THE ELEVENTH ANNUAL VVV FAMILY ASSOCIATION REUNION

It will take place August 4 thru 6 at the Holiday Inn in Gainesville, Georgia. The reservation cut off date is July 1 for our allotted rooms. Reservations may be made by phone to 404-536-4451 and be sure to mention you are attending the VVV Reunion. Check in time is 4:00 p.m. and check out time is noon. The cost is \$46.00 for single plus 10% tax.

All meals will be on your own except the Saturday lunch and Banquet. The cost of the banquet will be \$12.00. There are coffee shops, restaurants and fast food places across the street and within walking distance.

You have a choice of activities on Friday:

1 - Short car caravan to historical points of interest:

Dawson County Methodist Camp Ground. This site was used by the Indians for a religious meeting place before white man arrived in the United States.

Dawson County Courthouse - the brick to build this building was made by slave labor.

Vaughter land which is mainly in timber and where Vaughters are still living. There is a Vaughter cemetery located on this land.

2 - A time to discuss and learn the technique of family history research.

SATURDAY - A tour which will include the Dahlonega Gold Museum in Lumpkin County - a state historic site which is housed in a refurbished county courthouse. Legend has it that the museum sits atop a major gold vein. Two miles north of Dahlonega on U.S. 19, Crission Mines offers an opportunity (for a fee) for the panning of gold and you can keep what you find. Cost of the tour - lunch - museum is approximately \$13.50.

EVERYONE - remember to bring items of your craft or hobby for door prizes which will be drawn Friday and Saturday nights.

The Memorial Service will be held at the conclusion of the Saturday night banquet. Names and info for this service should be sent to our president. See above for address. His phone number is 309-452-4872.

## SOME HISTORY OF GEORGIA

Georgia was the last of the original 13 colonies and was named in honor of George II of England. The practice of England to put people in prison for debts caused James Edward Oglethorpe to found a settlement at Savannah where they could make a fresh start - the year 1733. Protestant refugees from Central Europe found haven there also.

The Creek and Cherokee Indians had been living there before the white man arrived. Federal treaties of 1817 & 1819 allowed Indians to become U.S. Citizens, but by the late 1820s, the agreements were being ignored and their land given to the white settlers. Then came the "Trail of Tears." and by 1838 they were all removed.

Fueling the interest in the Indian lands was the discovery of gold in 1828 near Dahlonega. Thousands of white miners flocked to the area. A Federal mint was established in 1830 issuing \$2.50, \$5, and \$10 coins. Only six \$5 piece, from that mint are known to be in existence today.

Georgia is the largest state east of the Mississippi River, has 159 counties, and is divided into five natural regions: the Cumberland Plateau, the Appalachia Valley, the Appalachian Mountains, the Piedmont Plateau and the Coastal Plain.

## MEMORABLE GEORGIA EVENTS

The first transatlantic steamer SAVANNAH using sails as well as steam crossed the atlantic in 25 days.

The first painless operation in 1842 using sulphuric ether four years before it was publicly demonstrated.

Eli Whitney designed the first successful machine for separating cotton fiber from its seeds.

In 1912 in Savannah the first American Girl Scout troop was organized.

## HALL COUNTY

Hall County has 48 parks - more parks than any other county in Georgia.

The county seat of Hall County is Gainesville.

In the decades preceding and following WW I, Hall County entered its first period of industrialization.

The most significant historical event in the 20th century was the construction of Lake Sidney Lanier by the U. S. Corps of Engineers. The lake, created in 1957 by damming the Chattahoochee River at the southern tip of the county, covered about 25,000 acres of Hall County. There are 380 miles of shoreline and has become the most popular water-oriented recreation facility in the U. S. with about 15 million visitors every year. One of the major attractions is Lake Lanier Islands, a 1,200 acre resort which has a golf course, lodge and conference center, swimming beaches, campground, marina with boat rentals, picnic grounds and an outdoor amphitheater.

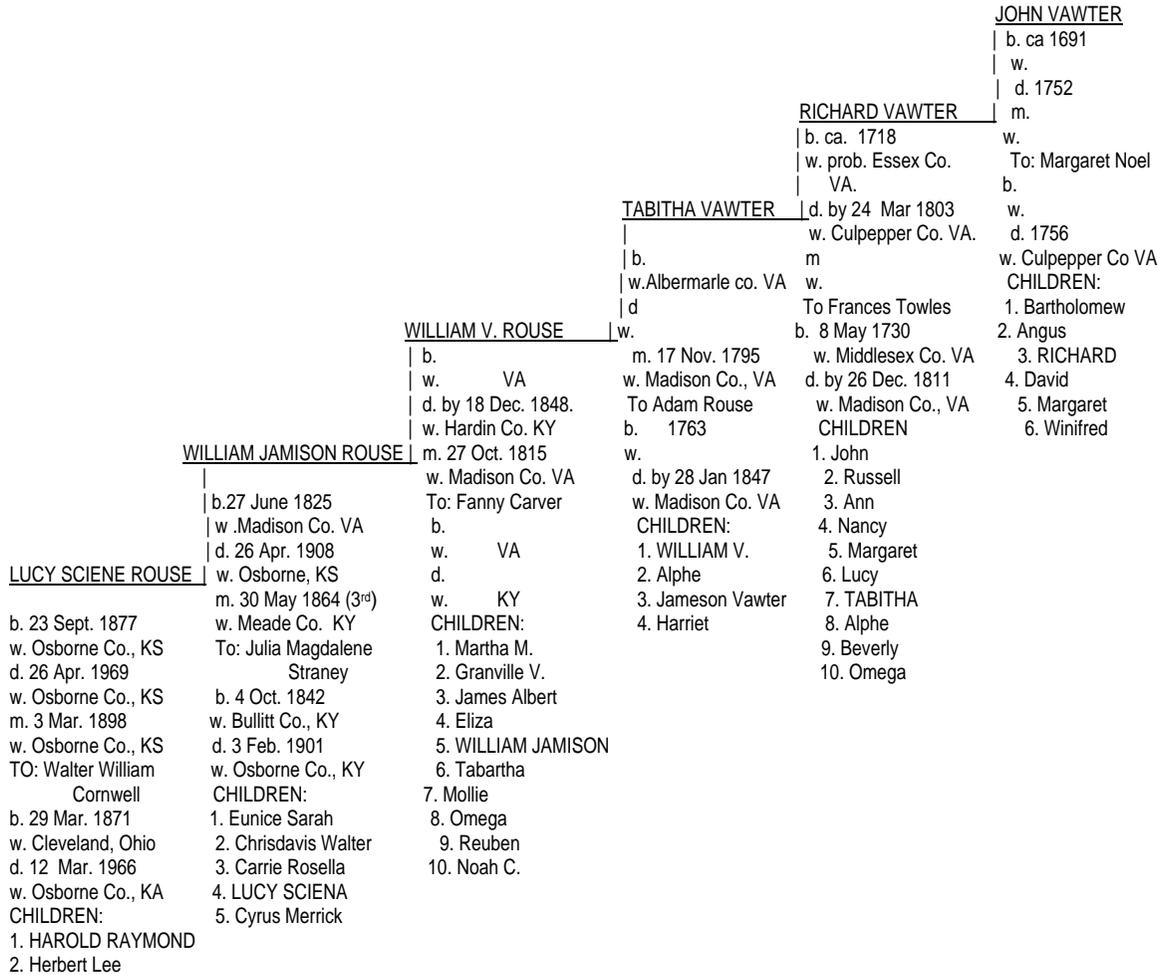
## GAINSVILLE

Mule Camp Springs was a trading post located at the confluence of two Indian trails. In April 1821, it was chartered as Gainesville. In December of 1823 Gainesville was designated as the County Seat of Justice for Hall County.

The arrival of the railroad caused the economic fortunes of Gainesville to expand. It became incorporated in 1870 and became a resort center. As early as 1849 White Sulphur Springs was the resort where the wealth and fashion of the state gathered. Patrons were drawn by the cooler summer climate and the healing springs nearby.

Karen Ruth (Cornwell) Bowman (Granddaughter of Harold Raymond Cornwell)  
 3900 W. 126<sup>th</sup> Street  
 Leawood, KS 66209

“Cousins chart”



## OLD AURORA COLONY

Excerpts from: Sunset Magazine, Jan. 1988, p. 46; a booklet, The Story of Old Aurora by Clark M. Will; and correspondence from the Aurora Historical Society.

Plain living was the ethic of a handful of German immigrants who in 1856 founded Aurora Colony, a Christian agricultural commune on the Pudding River 30 miles south of Portland, Oregon and 24 miles north of Salem, the State Capitol. Based on common ownership and equality, it was rich in social life, industry and mutual concern for each others wants and needs.

The records of the Aurora Colony Historical Society show that JOHN TAYLOR VAWTER united with the "Mother" Colony at Bethel, Missouri, 10 June 1846. His family was one of two American families to join the German Colony founded by a German preacher, Dr. William Keil/ Kyle. John's son Edward united with the colony 23 April 1863.(see Bicknell pp 109-112 for more information on the family and "Mother" Colony).

Edward, son of John T. and Pamela (Dwyer) Vawter in 1863 along with Dr. Keil and others of the colony migrated to Oregon by ox/mule team to found the Aurora Colony. There Edward married Barbara Kroher whose father was the colony cabinet maker. Their first son, George Adam, was born in Aurora.

During the following twelve years five ox/ mule caravans moved from the "Mother Colony" in Bethel, MO to the Aurora Colony. A church, hotel, homes, mills, barns and shops were built and the settlement flourished as a communal unit until the death of the founder, Dr. Keil, on the 30th of December 1877.

From its beginning to well past its heyday, Aurora was the center of cultural achievement. Schools of music, the classical languages (Greek and Latin), and natural sciences were taught by graduates of German universities and were well attended. There was craft instruction in weaving and the building trades. Soon these Colonists created a well balanced society. Their festive days were rich in cultural thought, music, and song.

It could not last . . . . . It is gone.

BUT, Aurora is now re-establishing its pioneer atmosphere with antique stores tucked among turn-of-the century houses and other remnants of Colony life. Since 1974 the old Colony site at the heart of town has been on the National Register of Historical Places. Most of the buildings were built by the original settlers or their descendants.

Centerpiece of the historic district is the Ox Barn Museum. The musical instruments, large spinning wheel, hand loom, and treadle lathe all reflect the Colony's reputation for fine music and crafts.

Line= John Taylor - Edward - George Adam - Edgar Frederick - Vernon Kenneth - Tim Vawter  
b. 1813      b.. 1838      b. 1866      b. 1890      b. 1920      b. ?

Numerous descendants of Edward and Barbara (Kroher) Vawter as well as those by his 2nd wife, Catherine Gunnerman, live in Washington, Oregon and California. Note: The Aurora Colony Historical Society, P.O Box 202, Aurora, OR 97002, would like to have copies or originals of family photos, letters, or other documents which would add information to their VAWTER family file. They are mostly interested in the Colony period, but some indication of the genealogical trail from the Colony to the present day would be most appreciated. In addition they are interested in stories that family members were told about the Colony.

PROFILE -Dr. William Keil

Dr. William Keil, a man of strong magnetic personality, was born in Germany in 1812; immigrated to America in 1831, spent six years in New York, then moved to Pennsylvania in 1837. In Pennsylvania at the age of 25 he preached communal living, based on Biblical tracts, and in 1844 moved with a strong following to Missouri. After ten years he moved part of his followers to what is now Aurora, Oregon. Through their tireless efforts, a village rich in the satisfaction of good living blossomed forth in the valley. Soon it was heralded far and wide for its music, entertainment and excellent food.

JOHN TAYLOR VAWTER

John Taylor Vawter is buried in the Bethel-Hebron Cemetery in Missouri. This inscription appears on his grave:

John Taylor Vawter  
Died May 2, 1906  
Age 92 years

GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

A precious one from us has gone  
A voice we love is stilled  
A place is vacant in our home  
Which never can be filled  
God in His wisdom has recalled  
The boon his love had given  
And tho the body slumbers here  
The soul is safe in haven

MEMORIAL

Walter Bachmann Vawter, son of Alfred Thomas Vawter & Minnie Leotha Vawter, died 4 January 1988 in Arcadia, CA. at age 87. (Alfred T. s/o John Watts Vawter and Louesa Bachman – Minnie L. d/o Jesse Holman Vawter & Martha Pyle. pp 161-163 Bicknell)

\* \* \* \* \*

Rose Whitley Vawter, b. 3 March in Tazewell, VA - died 16 Feb. 1988 in Brandon, FL. Rose was the d/o William A & Cosby Harrison Whitley. She was preceded in death by her husband, Henry A. Vawter.

\* \* \* \* \*

Betty Ferguson Vawter, b. 30 May in Jeffersonville, IN, d/o Harry T. Ferguson, died 25 January 1988. She is survived by her husband, Paul Vawter Sr., son Jay of Princeton N.J. and grandchildren Jane and Nancy Vawter.

Paul Vawter has contributed most of the Reminiscing stories in previous issues of the newsletter. He will be moving from Vernon Hills, IL to a retirement complex a few miles from Princeton, N.J. to live near his son Jay.

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

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

VERNON AS A MUSEUM OF INDIANA'S EDUCATIONAL HERITAGE From:  
Susan Hall Heitzman, President of J.C.P.A.

The Jennings County Preservation Association, Inc. is spearheading plans for the restoration of historical schools of Vernon, Indiana. It is being helped by the Indiana Historical Landmarks Foundation, Historic Hoosier Hills Resource Conservation & Development Area and the North Vernon, Jennings County Chamber of Commerce, and the Department of Commerce, State of IN - Department of Education, State of Indiana.

This group's long-term goal is to protect and to restore most of the several old school buildings in Historic Vernon and help preserve Vernon's rich educational heritage. They want to start by building a reproduction of the log school house that was built near the "commons" in 1817. They want to give the current generation the experience of education our pioneers provided for their communities without state or federal aid.

Schedule of early schools: 1815-16 - Children met in the VAWTER home.

1817 - Log school built

1822 - Seminary (private high school) began

1830 - Seminary built and brick common school

1859 - Jennings Academy established

1880 - Black School

1800's - Normal school for teacher training

1922 - Elementary & high school combine in one new building.

1938-42 - Gym built by WPA, also used as a community bldg.

1964 - Jennings Co. Consolidated school created, only Elementary school in Vernon.

1985 - New elementary school built five miles away and Vernon school closed.

Vernon reached its apex right before the Civil War and new railroad routes limited its destiny. The possibilities for preserving an important Hoosier legacy is here and now.

There is a very close connection between Vernon, IN and the VVVFA because John Vawter (s/o Jesse) was the founder of Vernon (Bicknell p 3) and other Vawter ancestors in the history of the area.

NOTE:

The cousins chart in this issue is the last one I have on hand. I would appreciate having others sent to me for publication. ( Karen Ruth (Cornwell) Bowman.) She said she would appreciate receiving letters from other members of this branch of the Vawter family.

That's what it is all about!

Your newsletter editor, Esther.

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