



**FAMILY ASSOCIATION**

NEWSLETTER

Summer 1989

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**FAMILY ASSOCIATION OFFICERS**

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**REUNION**

The time for the twelfth Annual VVV Family Association Reunion is arriving along with summer and vacations. Now is the time to plan (if you haven't done so already) to spend August 4, 5, & 6 with us at the Sheraton Inn at Bloomington/Normal, IL. (Note that the Sheraton gave the wrong dates (Aug. 2, 3 & 4) on their printed registration form - they know the correct date).

You will find details outlined on page 23 by our host family, the Glen Vawters of Normal, IL. One thing of great importance is that they have arranged supervised activities for the children Friday morning, afternoon, and during the Saturday evening banquet. Isn't that great ! Another thing, our Sunday picnic-dinner will be provided by the Albert Grant Vawter Descendants who will be celebrating their 45th annual reunion.

**A TOP WINNER IN THE LOUISVILLE REGIONAL SCIENCE FAIR**

From: Newspaper article

Mark Monroe, a Ballard sophomore, won top honors in the competition in the life science division of the fair. There were over 230 contestants from seven KY counties. He will be going on to the International Science and Engineering Fair in Pittsburg. He believes he has discovered a new species of butterfly.

Mark had been collecting butterflies since 1983, and began dissecting the insects two years ago. That's when he noticed something odd about a skipper butterfly he was studying. Upon dissecting the butterfly, he found it different from the two known species of *Erynnis Persius*. "On the outside they look identical, but by dissecting them and looking at the genitalia, I could tell a difference."

That led to Mark's science project, "What Are the Species Limitations in the *Erynnis Persius* Complex?" - the documentation of a new butterfly species. Mark has found only two examples of the species on his treks to Eastern Kentucky. He plans to find more of the butterflies, study their living habits and further document their existence. Eventually, he hopes to name a new species.

Mark has not seriously considered his future yet, but says it will probably be connected to biology, a field that has fascinated him for years. And that interest comes naturally - his father, Dr. Burt Monroe, is a professor of biology at the University of Louisville.

The regional competition was organized by District 12 Kiwanis clubs. Up to 750 entries representing every state and several countries are expected at the international fair, which is organized by the National Science Foundation.

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#### VAWTER RAILROAD

From: Model Railroader, Jan. 1989 - Cover story. The Vawter Family's Hoosier Road - 3 generations enjoy the hobby. Pages 82-87

Native Indianian, John Vawter, through the years of experience as a teacher and in WW II, began a hobby that would bond his family through five decades.

In the basement of his Indianapolis home today, Vawter's HO scale Hoosier Road embraces state-of-the-electronics to help operate much of its original equipment. It is a smooth functioning museum of contemporary model railroading containing 800 feet of tract and 103 turnouts. Each mail line is divided into 6 blocks, and the yard and the engine terminal are divided into 14 blocks. With this cab control system the Hooiser Road can operate four trains simultaneously, two on the main line and two in the yard. This well-planned system has handled 100-car freight trains with ease.

John didn't know how far model railroading would take him when he first responded to his bride Helen's suggestion that it would be "nice to have a train around the Christmas tree." The year was 1942 and most railroad items were scarce on the store shelves, so the project was postponed.

The following spring Helen brought home a kit to make a Chicago & North Western automobile car and from then on the newlyweds were hooked. Other kits soon followed and the shop equipment strewn across the card table expanded from glue tubes and pins to include more sophisticated tools.

Anxious to get things rolling John ordered the traditional 4 X 8 foot plywood railroad base from the local lumberyard, only to find that its width would have to be trimmed to 38 inches if it were to fit in the trunk of his automobile. This was to be stored under the couch in the Vawter's efficiency apartment. Fitted with track and operated with a rheostat mounted in a cigar box brought John & Helen into the ranks of operating model railroaders. Their first engine, a Varney "Little Joe", arrived on John's birthday to begin switching the freight cars that had stood quietly beneath the Christmas tree for three successive holiday seasons.

The growing Vawter family moved to its first house and the Hoosier Road found a larger home on a full 4 X 8 foot sheet of plywood. The following Christmas John's Hoosier Road was moved into a trailer loaned to him by a hobby shop owner in order to accept an invitation to provide interest to the Methodist Hospital Christmas party. It proved a hit of the party and an invitation for the next year was extended. With son Jim's participation in these public showings he started working with his own HO layout, setting the stage for the larger, father-and-son Hoosier Road that would begin filling the basement of the Vawter's new home.

With the addition of scenery, structures, lighting, sound, and other supporting features the Hoosier Road's reputation as a well-built smooth running railroad with sound spread quickly. In 1981 a crew from the regional television program "PM Magazine" produced a show on the Hoosier Road. Two years later 400 visitors filed through the Vawter's front door to visit the railroad layout.

The most fortunate visitors to the Hoosier Road are those invited to see it at night when the house lights dim and the railroad, its trains and most of its structures illuminated, comes to life. Surveying those nocturnal activities from his basement staircase, John can see 47 years of family history embodied in his Hoosier Roadt.

#### GLEANINGS

From: publication "Quaker Life" Dec. 1985 p. 36 Quaker Statistics

JERRY VAWTER and Debra Cramer were married 26 Oct. 1985, Amboy Friends, Ind.

VALLETORT ARMS

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

"Gules three bends, argent, on a border sable, ten plates, (or):  
Or three bends gules within a border sable benzanty."

The above Arms are described in "Vawter Family in America" page two, and were taken from "Virginia Cousins". The Arms displayed in Tinture on the book cover are; "Gules three bends argent, on a border sable benzanty".

Obviously there are major differences between those Arms on the book cover and on page two. However, this large difference disappears when it is understood that the Arms description on page two is actually describing two different Coats of Arms. I have used a parenthesis around the first "or" in the Arms description because it is the key to understanding it, and requires special attention.

This "or" is not describing the Arms Tinture as some apparently think because the preceding word "plates" does that. Therefore the "or" becomes meaningless as far as having anything to do descriptively with the Arms. This being so, then its only other purpose is to serve as a conjunction as in "and", or "either or neither". The following Arms description is the same as above with the exception of exchanging the "or" with an "and".

"Gules three bends, argent, on a border sable, ten plates: and  
Or three bends gules within a border sable bezanty".

So, there are now three Valletort Coats of Arms in Bicknells book; two on page two, and the other on the cover. Each of the three have "three bends, a border sable, and roundels". They differ only in Tinture. It is likely that the Arms belonged, one to a Father, another to a Son, and the other to another Son, or perhaps a grandson. A Son, or Grandsons Arms cannot be exactly like the father; there must be a differences and different Tintures qualify as differencing.

While on the subject of Valletort Arms, it seems a good time to explain that the border sable is not a mark of bastardry as is thought in some quarters. The border sable bezanty in the Valletort Arms has to do with a long and large association of that family with the County of Cornwall. The Arms of the Duchy of Cornwall are "Sable Fifteen Bezants, Five, Four, Three, Two, One". When King John; legitimate son of King Henry II and brother to Richard I, was Prince John, he bore a Border Sable Bezanty. He was then Earl of Cornwall. Richard Plantagenet, Earl of Cornwall, and younger son of King John also bore a Border Sable Bezanty. One of the Seals of the ancient city of Saltash in Cornwall County bore a Border Bezanty. This city was founded by the Valletorts.

REGINALD VALLETORT

From: E. B. Vaughters of Seattle, WA (I will use material of E. B.'s from time to time)

I have found from three sources that Reginald Valletort (Renauld) received 33 manors. I was surprised to learn that the Valletorts were not Normans but French since Maine was French and a separate country from Normandy.

In fact two thirds of William the Conqueror's army was made up of Barons, Knights, and Villeans from countries outside his borders. Brittany and Maine made up one third of his army on the left flank and the forces of Flanders and Ponthieu made up the other third on his right flank in the battle of Hastings. After the battle, Wm gave his half brother Odo 439 manors and his half brother Earl of Mortaine 793 manors. It was under Earl of Mortaine, who became the first Earl of Cornwall, that the Valletorts held their manors under fee to Mortaine.

MEMORIAL

John "Max" Maxwell Craft, born 24 Nov. 1908, died 12 Feb. 1989 in Covina, CA. He leaves his wife Bertha Rose (Vawter) whose line is. Jesse, William, John Taylor, Albert Calvin and Vernon D. Vawter. (Bertha Rose is a sister of Beth Sabel .)

\* \* \* \* \*

Willard James Keir, born 17 Feb. 1921 Cleveland, OH, died 11 May 1989. He was the husband of Lucille (Ritchie). Line is. Jesse, William, John Taylor, Albert Calvin and mother Mary (Vawter) Ritchie.

\* \* \* \* \*

Howard J. Vaughters, born in Sarah, MS lived in Memphis, TN, died 22 March 1989 age 64. He was a retired Exxon dealer, WW II Army veteran and a member of the Faith Temple Christian Center. He leaves his wife Edna; four daughters; Mrs. Linda Horn, Mrs. Bonnie Legg, and Mrs. Donna Bailey; son Howard Larry and brother James L. Vaughters.

\* \* \* \* \*

Emmit Edwin Powell, died 13 Sept. 1988 at Salem, IL. He was born 20 Aug. 1913, and was the husband of Allene (Vawter) Powell, who survives, and the brother-in-law of M. Glen Vawter. Also surviving are four sons and one daughter, 11 grandchildren, and two g-grandchildren. Allene Vawter Powell is a member of the VVV FA.

\* \* \* \* \*

Charles Allen (C.A.) Thomas, died 11 Dec. 1988 at Bloomington, IL. He was born 17 Nov. 1917. He was the husband of the former Vera (Vawter) Thomas, who was killed in a car accident in 1952. One of M. Glen Vawters' brothers-in-law, he was survived by two sons, one daughter (who later died 25 Feb. 1989), nine grandchildren and one g-grand-daughter. The Rev. Wayne G. Vawter officiated.

\* \* \* \* \*

Trudy Ann Thomas Feigl, died 25 Feb. 1989 at Normal, IL. She was born 30 Dec. 1943, daughter of Charles Allen-Vera (Vawter) Thomas, niece of M. Glen Vawter. She is survived by her husband, Frank, two sons, one daughter and one grand-daughter. Trudy was a member of the VVV FA.

\* \* \* \* \*

Viola Vawter died 14 Nov. 1988 in Normal, IL. She was born 21 Nov. 1912 and was preceded in death by her husband, Oak Vawter. His line was- Samuel Dudley, John Washington, Jephtha D., Elliott, Philemon, David and John. Surviving are one son, one daughter, one grandson, and two g-grandsons. The son Roderick is a member of the VVV FA.

E. B. VAWTER MEMORIAL

\$50.00 - From Fred & Wordna Wicker

Fred & Wordna asked that their donation of \$50.00 be given to Project #1 (The finding of genealogy material) in the memory of E. B. Vaughters of Seattle, WA.

If there are others who wish to contribute to the E. B. Memorial you may do so by mailing donation to treasurer, Hazel Vawter McCandless, Box 366, Cushing, TX 75961, and designating it "E. B. Vaughters Memorial."

LOVE GIFT

We have frequently given a "Love Gift" donation from the VVV FA members to such projects as the Vawter Church in VA, a historical site or foundation related to VVV's, or other worthy causes.

This year we want our "Love Gift" to be given to our genealogy projects #1 & 2. #1 is photo copying genealogy from the 24 genealogy notebooks compiled by William Snyder Vawter and lost for many years. #2 project is the reprinting of the book, Prison Life in Dixie by John Beverly Vawter.

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SCHEDULED ACTIVITIES FOR 1989 VVV REUNION

THURSDAY, AUGUST 3

PM Early registration in suite with memorabilia of VVV and door prizes on display. Coffee, tea, and soda available.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 4

AM Opening Session

PM Option #1-City Tour (Est. cost \$3.00)

Option #2--Genealogy--A Beginners Workshop (Est. cost \$3.00)

EVN Cookout. Trip to David Vawter Lee Centennial Farm (Cookout, swimming, tennis, horseshoes, hayrack ride to Vawter's cemetery). (Est. cost \$4.50)

SATURDAY, AUGUST 5

AM Lincoln's New Salem State Historic Site. Bus trip to restored village where Abraham Lincoln lived. Lunch provided. (Est. cost \$9.00)

EVN Banquet at Sheraton. (Est. cost \$16.00)

SUNDAY, AUGUST 6

10:45 Church service at Funks Grove Church. Service conducted by Wayne G. Vawter.

12:15 Picnic dinner at Funks Grove provided by Albert Grant Vawter's descendants.

CHILDREN'S PROGRAM

Supervised alternative activities for children will be provided Friday morning and afternoon and during the banquet Saturday evening. Nursery service will be available during the banquet.

To assist the local arrangements committee in their planning, please complete and return the pre-registration form below.

PRE-REGISTRATION FORM

Complete and return by July 24, 1989

Meeting registration: \$5.00 Per person (\$8.00 after July 24, 1989)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Adult Names: \_\_\_\_\_

Children's Names: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Pre-Registered \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$5.00 = Total enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(Include only the pre-registration fee with this form.) Please indicate below the number interested in each activity:

City Tour \_\_\_\_\_ or Workshop \_\_\_\_\_ Lincoln Trip \_\_\_\_\_  
Banquet \_\_\_\_\_ Cookout \_\_\_\_\_ Children's Program \_\_\_\_\_

Return form and pre-registration fee to:

Glen Vawter, 33 Delaine Dr., Normal, IL 61761

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## THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD

From: "Bury Me in a Free Land", The Abolitionist Movement in IN. 1816-1865 p. 25. Put out to go with an Exhibit at the IN. Historical Society Feb.-Aug. 1986.

Until the 1830's anti-slavery supporters had been rather conciliatory. But a new type of anti-slavery, "Abolitionism" burst forth in 1831. Charles Finney, most Quakers, and some Methodists, Baptists, and Presbyterians maintained that slavery was both morally wrong and unlawful. They acted on the nation's conscience and tried to convince the country of the sinful and immoral nature of slavery. "There is a Law above all the enactments of human codes," One Hoosier wrote; "It is written by the finger of God on the heart of man, and by that Law, infinite and eternal, man can not hold property in man."

The metaphorical "Underground Railroad" is probably the best known aspect of the abolitionist movement. The principal line in the east commenced at one of several points in southeast Indiana or in Ohio: Jeffersonville, Madison, Rising Sun, or Cincinnati. Madison was the site of some of the busiest Underground Railroad activity in the state. Thomas Hicklin, an active abolitionist in Jennings County, operated a station one half mile east of San Jacinto and piloted blacks to another station on Otter Creek in Campbell Township and to a station at the home of JOHN VAWTER. Instead of continuing on, some fugitives remained in a black settlement southwest of Vernon. (p. 28)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Do not forget to bring your craft work or gifts for the drawing

There are a few copies of Volume I & II of the VVV FA cookbook "VVV Vite Vittles." There will be copies of the VVV FA Directory to purchase

There will be a copy machine, so bring VVV genealogy items to share

We are all looking forward to hearing more about the "Genealogy Find" by Bill Vawter of Houston, TX

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