



FAMILY ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER
Winter 1983

Volume 8 #2

FAMILY ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

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THE THREE V'S in '83

The venturesome family of Vawter
Left England to sail o'er the water
To start a new life and to stand.
On the soil of a new Promised Land.

The romantic family of Vaughters
Brought forth many good sons and daughters
Born with charm and a sense of beauty
That enhanced their lives amidst duty

The Patriotic family of Vauter
Always did what they knew they ought'er.
Their tracks have gone down in history
To trace them, today, is no mystery.

The energetic family of Vaughter
Found the land they wanted and bought her
Raising children, crops, cattle they toiled
Even building a church at Port Royal.

To Bartholomew, Angus and John
You started it, now we'll carry on
The proud traditions you began
Through all generations we span.

This poem was written in August '83 by DUNCAN BROWN of Tulsa, OK who was coordinator for the VVVFA Reunion which was held in Tulsa, OK.

YOUNG JOE VAWTER OF N. VERNON, INDIANA BELONGS

We have some great news from E. B. VAUGHTERS of Seattle. He has traced the family of young JOE VAWTER for us.

At the 1982 reunion in Madison, IN young Joe met our tour at the lunch stop in a park near N. Vernon. He was curious about this VVV group and wondered if he was related. Young Joe's father, DELBERT did not know his grandfather (see issue #16).

His lineage is: (1) Bartholomew (2) John (3) David (4) Jesse (5) James (6) Thomas S. (7) Milton M. (171 Bicknell) (8) Edwin Sr. (9) Edwin Jr. (10) Delbert (11) JOE VAWTER

Milton M. Vawter shows up in the 1900 census of Indiana with children including Edward Sr. Edward Sr. b. 5 Nov. 1898 (171 Bicknell) and wife Viola lived in Butlerville, IN. They later moved to Indianapolis where Edward Sr. died when the boys, Edward Jr. and Frank P. were small.

We have Frank P. Vawter listed in our VVV Directory and E. B. Vaughters was able to contact him by phone. A bonus surprise ! E. B. discovered that one of the sisters of Edwin Sr. (Hazel in Bicknell page 171) married the oldest brother (Orval Cecil Clarkson) of Bonita Welch's mother, Hilda Clarkson.

A big THANK YOU for your research E. B.

MEMBER PROFILE

SARAH LOUISE (VAWTER) LEE – 300 AIA Apt. M206, Jupiter, FL 33458
Born 12 December 1909 in Tremont, Illinois and an only child of Lewis H. & Adah W. Vawter. Started school in Minert Country School, graduating from Pekin, Illinois High School. Attended Ward-Belmont College in Nashville, TN and Illinois Wesleyan College, Bloomington, IL.

Married Harold R. Lee, Electrical Engineer, Bureau of Reclamation, Dept. of Interior in Denver Colorado. Lived in Denver 27 years where they raised three sons.

SARAH has been active in church and community. She enjoys cooking, sewing, reading and travel. Lineage- John, David, Philemon, Elliott, Henry Clay, Lewis Henry.

A LOVE FOR THE LAND (136 Yrs. Ownership)

From SARAH LOUISE (VAWTER) LEE (above)

In 1847 my Great grandfather, Jephtha D. Vawter (281 Bicknell) came from Elkton, Todd County, KY. to Tremont, Tazwell County, IL to make a home for his family as a farmer. There he raised ten of his thirteen children, three dying at an early age.

My grandfather, Henry Clay Vawter, was the fourth child of Jephtha & Sarah Modised Foster, daughter of John and Elizabeth Foster. He was eight years old when the family settled in Illinois. He found good land in the Mackinaw River Valley and purchased a large track, cleared it and began farming.

He built a school house and hired a teacher for his children. My grandfather was the only one that remained on the Illinois farm. His father gave him land and he also purchased land from his father. His father lived there twenty three years before moving to Shawnee County, Kansas.

Four of my grandchildren are the sixth generation to be living on that land. That makes one hundred thirty six years of family ownership. The Agriculture Department of the State of Illinois granted us the "CENTENIAL FAMILY FARM AWARD" in recognition for the family having owned the land continually for over one hundred years.

This year my son, David V. Lee, an Accredited Farm Manager, purchased adjoining land that had been part of his g-g-grandfather's farm. We as a family now own all of Jephtha's original holding.

We have a family cemetery on the original ground owned by Jephtha which was started in 1859 when a relative came from Kentucky and died while on her visit. It is located on a hill top and surrounded by virgin oak and hickory nut trees. Harold and I have placed our headstones as we thought it would be easier if placed ahead of time. Some years ago a number of the old illegible ancient white stone markers were replaced with red granite markers.

MORE OWNERS OF ORIGINAL VVV BOOK

David Lee of Tremont, IL (son of Sarah Louise Lee)
Irene Vawter of Coos Bay, OR (widow of Arthur Vawter bro. of Ted Vawter of Colorado)
Evelyn (Mrs. Jack) Stoltz of Santa Barbara, CA
Mr. & Mrs. Henry Vawter. of Flint Hill, VA

REMINISCING

From PAUL E. VAWTER. SR. - 3801 Mission Hill Road, Northbrook, IL 60062

I shall never forget WILL VAWTER, a large stooped shouldered giant. Back then he and James Whitcomb Riley were not only good friends but close drinking buddies. I visited with Will and his second wife at studio and adjoining house, both very modest.

He had a fine reputation as an illustrator and as a landscape artist. He won many prizes for his work at the annual Hoosier Art Salon sponsored by the Chicago Tribune. Many of his works were reproduced in the Sunday Tribune.

After his death his remaining works were placed in the Hoosier Salon in Indianapolis. We bought one of his landscapes, Spring Scene. Most of his work was done by knife rather than by brush.

WILL VAWTER

Will Vawter, whose full name was John William Vawter, was born in Boone Co. VA 13 April 1871. He was the son of Dr. Louis A. Vawter & Emma Mary Damson (385 Bicknell) . Lineage: Edward, William, William, John Henderson, Louis A., & Will Vawter.

From the time his hands were able to hold a pencil, he showed a marked talent for drawing which was encouraged by his mother.

He married May Howey Murray in 1902 ending in divorce 17 years later. In 1923 he married Mrs. Ola Lackey Genolin of Nashville.

From 1908 Will made his home in Brown County, IN until his death 11 Feb. 1941 at age 69. Some of his finest work was of that picturesque corner of the state which were landscapes of hills, trees, streams, and country roads in all seasons of the year. If he had any preference it was for winter scenes.

Although nearly 20 years younger than James Whitcomb Riley, the two men, poet and artist, became close friends. With the exception of a few volumes, all the Riley books were illustrated by Will Vawter.

From BONITA WELCH – R. R. #1, Box 227, Scipio, IN 47273

I have collected 10 of the 18 volumes of poems by James Whitcomb Riley which were illustrated by Will Vawter.

MEMORIAL

From Mrs. IMOGENE TERRELL – 2600 N. Towry, Midwest City, Ok

Mrs. EUNICE (VAWTER) BLACK of Bethany, OK passed away at age 86 on 29 August. She was the second born of Rev. James Wesley & Martha Vawter, early settlers of Bethany, OK, pioneers of that state (see last issue, page 2).

Mrs. EULA (VAWTER) COLLINS of Choctaw died 27 Sept. at age 88.. She was the first born of Rev. James Wesley & Martha Vawter.

They are survived by six sisters and three brothers.

From CHARLES E. VAWTER - My wife of 50 years, RUBY D. VAWTER passed away 11 May in the Baptist Memorial Hospital, Memphis, TN.

From ROBERT "PETE" VAWTER- 509 Oaklawn Dr. Milan, TN 38358

Services for Mrs. Carrie De Priest Vawter age 91 were held 30 August at

McKenzie, TN. Mrs. Vawter was the widow of Vilas V. Vawter and a native of McKenzie.

ELIJAH STAPP

From EDWARD M. STAPP, 109 S. Indianwood Ave., Broken Arrow, OK 74012 (New VVVFA Member)

Elijah Stapp was born in Orange County, VA 16 Oct. 1783, the first child of Achilles & Margaret (VAWTER) Stapp. Margaret (Peggy) Vawter was born 15 Oct. 1763 the daughter of David & Mary (Rucker) VAWTER. Achilles Stapp moved his family to Kentucky ca. 1790. Here Elijah met and married Nancy Shannon.

In 1816 Elijah Stapp moved to Missouri with his wife and two sons. While living there he heard stories of land and life in the Mexican Territory of Texas. In 1825 he went to look it over and in 1831 he moved with his wife and six children to Jackson Municipality, in the contract colony of Green C. DeWitt.

On 16 July 1831, he was given title to a "League of land". When the Mexican government closed Texas to further settlement of Americans he saw danger for the future. When the Consultation Convention was called at Old Washington-on-the-Brazos for 1 March 1836, Elijah was asked to stand for election as a delegate and was elected. The Texas Declaration of Independence from Mexico was drafted with Elijah signing as a duly elected delegate. He was also selected by the convention as one of the "Committee of 26" to draft the constitution that governed the Republic of Texas from 1836 until Texas was admitted to the Union in 1856.

When peace returned after the battle of San Jacinto, Elijah Stapp returned to his home and was elected a Judge in Edna, Texas in 1839. He held this position until his death in March 1843. Elijah Stapp was buried on the old Russell Ward farm outside Edna, Texas. The actual gravesite is unknown, but the area is marked by a monument by the Texas Centennial Commission in 1936.

GLEANINGS

From MARY WINNINGHAM, 4701 Willard Ave., Apt. 312, Chevy Chase, MD 20815

U. S. Census -1860- Saline Co. IL page 883

JAMES D. VAUGHTERS - age 36 born Kentucky - farmer

Wife: Octary or Octaney (?) - born S. C.

Children: Marvil- age 14 born IL. (son)
James T. age 12 born IL (son)
Rachal J. age 10 born IL (dau.)
John W. age 8 born IL. (son)
Columbus F. age 3 born IL (son)

From JAMES L. VAWTER, Box 665, El Campo, TX 77437

From Rappahannock Co. Deed (index) book 1692-95, page 52 - BARTHOLOMEW VAWTER was grantee on part of a parcel of land willed to a Thomas Page to one Hutson. From Virginia Deeds & Wills in Rappahannock Co., VA - BARTHOLOMEW VAWTER 26 April 1687 witnessed to Power of Attorney from Marguret Ruddiford to David Wilson.

From the same source: BARTHOLOMEW VAWTER, 1688 performed appraisal.

From your News Editor - From book WW II Honor List of dead and missing for the state of Texas by the War Department, found in the Library of Congress, Washington, D.C. dated June 1956 - Page 41 - - - VAWTER, PERRY W.

QUERY

From Mrs. HELEN BAKER, 905 N. Jefferson, Wellington, KS 67152

Her query in last month issue wanting to know what VAWTER married Sarah Mc Claskey. She was told the answer was on page 124 of Bicknell. Wm S. VAWTER born 19 April 1845 near Vernon, IN married 1868. Now Helen would like to know if anyone can tell her about their children. If any of you have this line, will you write?

George & Vivian Seaman, 1087 N. Triple X Rd., Choctaw, OK 73020 (daughter of Mrs. Ethel (Vawter) Stow and grand-daughter of Rev. James Wesley Vawter.)
 Mrs. Willie Clevenger (Dorine), 7521 Bradford, Houston, TX (daughter of Theodore & Georgia Vawter of Texas)
 Mrs. Kenneth Day – Luray, KS 67649 (daughter of John S. Henderson & Donna Viola Vawter, grand-daughter of Alonzo Jefferson Vawter.
 Phil Milliger, 5419 Bordley, Houston, TX 77056
 Stella Christman, 302 Ethel Dr., Bryant, AR 72022
 Junita Anderson, 4943 Emelita, Mesa, AZ 85206
 Rev. John & Susan Vawter, 915 Queenland, Plymouth, MN 55447
 Clara Pearle Shields, 214 S. 16th St., Unionville, MO 63565
 Oscar & Erma Vawter, Jr., 6090 S. Miller, Oklahoma City, OK 73159
 Ted Vawter Jr., Box 571, Edwards, CO 81632
 John Wesley & Mavis Vawter, 4826 Owens Rd., Memphis, TN 38122
 Imogene F. Terrell, 2600 N. Towry, Midwest City, Ok 73110 (grand-daughter of Rev. James Wesley Vawter.)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please mail in your recipes by January 1. If more do not come in we won't be able to have a VVV Cookbook. Send three recipes on 3 X 5 cards with your name and address on each. Mail to: MRS. A LUCILLE KEIR, 119 W. Dunedin Rd., Columbus, OH 43214.

For those who have asked about it you may order a reprint of The Vawter Family In America by Grace (Vawter) Bicknell from: Mrs. WALTER REYNOLDS, R.R. #1, Butlerville, IN 47223 for \$6.00 which includes postage and handling.

The VVV Directory of almost 1,200 VVV names and addresses may be purchased through the treasurer: Hazel McCandless, Box 366, Cushing, TX 75760 for \$6.50.

Start making plans to attend the next NATIONAL REUNION of the VVV Family Association August 3-4-5 at Nacogdoches, TX. This is the oldest town in Texas and is rich in heritage. REV. JOHN VAWTER, 822 Evelyn, Nacogdoches, Tx 75961 is the on site coordinator. All are urged to attend the Sunday worship service at 8:30 a.m. in the Methodist church across the street from our motel, Fredonia Inn; 409-564-4665 for reservations.

From Hazel McCandless (Treas.) The list of names included with the last issue was of "payed-up" VVVFA members before the reunion in Tulsa. This reason some showed 1983 paid is because some members pay in advance.

The pocket book "West Wild Wind" written by a VVVFA member can be ordered by mailing a check for \$4.00 made out to : CAROLYN VAUGHTER and mailed to BILL VAWTER, 3019 Conway St., Houston, TX 77025.

From your editor: I am in need of REMINISCING stories, research material for GLEANINGS and any VVV story you might know. Keep sending in your ANNOUNCEMENTS and QUERIES. This is YOUR newsletter, so keep the news coming.

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

NAME _____ New _____ Renewal _____
 STREET ADDRESS _____
 CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

(Give your VVV line on back) PHONE _____

THE FOUNDING OF MARTIN TENNESSEE

Martin is located at the intersection of the Louisville & Nashville and the Illinois Central railroads in northwestern Weakley County. Its founding can be traced to two sources, the coming of Captain Wm. Martin to Weakley County in 1832 from Halifax County, VA and the expansion of railroads into that section of the U.S.

The parents of Capt. Martin were Thomas & Drucilla (VAWTER) Martin. Drucilla VAWTER was born in Cumberland County, 15 July 1778. She is sister to Lemuel, Ludwell, Patsy, and others. After her father Samuel died ca. 1788 her mother, Agnes (Richardson) VAWTER and family moved to Charlotte County. Capt. Martin was born in Halifax County, VA in 1806 and married Sarah Glass 30 September 1828.

During 1838 Capt. Martin purchased 2,500 acres of land 1/2 mile from Martin's present business district. It was situated between two forks of the navigable Obion River which empties into the Mississippi. He worked diligently prior to the Civil War to secure a rail route through his land. The Nashville & Northwestern Railway when building their line between Nashville and Kentucky decided to pass through Weakley County and the Martin Estate. The line was not completed until after the death of Capt. Martin in 1859 and after the start of the Civil War in 1861.

In 1871 George W. Martin, son of Capt. Martin, convinced the Mississippi Central Railroad to build its northsouth line through his land this fulfilling his father's dream of a railroad junction on Martin land. The line was completed in 1873 and at the junction of the two railroads Martin, TN was formed with George Martin one of the commissioners and his brother, Marshall, the treasurer.

George Martin built the Martin House, a hotel for weary travelers and his brother, Marshall, opened a dry goods store. Early in 1874 the Martin Academy was established, and in 1890 McFerrin College was built by the First Methodist Church on land donated by George Martin. Through the efforts of George Martin the nearest bank, 30 miles away, at Trenton was moved to Martin with George becoming its president.

(The above was taken from the publication The Martin Centennial 1873 - 1973 sent by MRS. BURT L. MONROE of Louisville, KY. The genealogical data was furnished by E. B. VAUGHTERS, of Seattle.

Those who descend from this line are:

Mrs. Burt Monroe (Rose) P. O. Box 23447 Louisville, KY 40223

Mrs. Grace Upshaw, 6225 Green Meadows, Memphis, TN 38119

Maureen E. White 5102 N. 65th Ave., Glendale AZ 85301 (cousin of Mrs. Burt Monroe)

Mrs. David H. Harpole, 3689 Peakwood Dr., Roanoke, VA 24014

If any VVV Family Association member has any data on THOMAS MARTIN & DRUCILLA VAWTER contact these descendents.

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