

Winter 1984

Volume 9 #2

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CRAWFORDSVILLE

(Named for PHILEMON VAWTER CRAWFORD)

Excerpts from History of Linn County, Oregon, by L. M. Wheeler, Editor - This book includes narrations written by various settlers about Linn County Pioneers. Among these early settlers were P.V. Crawford and Cyrus Vawter. P. V. Crawford's narration P. 9.

PHILEMON VAWTER CRAWFORD (Bicknell, P. 338)

Lineage: David & Mary (Rucker) VAWTER, Philemon & Anne VAWTER, Lucy VAWTER & James Maxwell Crawford.

P.V. Crawford was b. 24 Sept. 1814 near Madison, IN. d. 1 Feb. 1901 in Eugene, OR. His wife Letitia d. 13 June 1896. Both are buried in the Crawfordsville Cemetery.

On 28 March 1851, P.V. Crawford, his wife Letitia, and their five children joined several other families traveling by water from Madison to St. Joseph, MO where they fitted up oxen teams and began their journey of 2200 miles to Oregon Territory. Starting on 1 May 1851, the trip lasted 152 days.

Among this group was Cyrus VAWTER (Bicknell, P. 333). A young man of 21, he was a cousin of P.V. Crawford.

Lineage: David & Mary (Rucker) VAWTER, Philemon & Anne VAWTER, Beverly & Elizabeth (Crawford) VAWTER, Cyrus & Sarah (Finley) VAWTER

Cyrus VAWTER was b. near Madison, IN., 28 Sept. 1830; d. 11 Feb. 1864. He is buried in Crawfordsville Cemetery.

George O. Goodall writes of the early history of the upper Calapooia, "Most of the settlers were farmers. R.C. (Richard Chism) Finley, however, was a millwright, and in 1849 built a flouring mill six miles above Brownsville. In 1850, Templeton built a sawmill; in 1852, Finley one; and in 1854, P.V. Crawford built one near the present site of Holley . . . P.V. Crawford, for whom Crawfordsville is named was the first regularly appointed postmaster on the upper Calapooia....".

Mrs. Louisa Crawford of Mable, OR., a daughter of P.V. Crawford wrote, "I think it was in the year 1869 that my father bought ten acres of land from Timothy Riggs which may be called the beginning of the town (Crawfordsville) .. J. (Jasper) V. Crawford (Bicknell. P. 342) was the first postmaster...he did not keep the postoffice long but moved to Waitsburg, Washington Territory.... (1870 or 1871)." James VAWTER Crawford, grandson of P.V. Crawford, and his mother Mary F. Cowgill

(Crawford) Coon of Crawfordsville added more information on the life of the Crawfords in Crawfordsville. "Being a machinist and millwright (P.V. Crawford) bought certain lands and power rights from Robert Glass where the town of Crawfordsville now stands. Here he built first a saw mill and later a carding mill ... P.V. Crawford finally went into partnership with Richard Finley and together they built a new mill east of Shedd on the Calapooia,.... The Boston mill "

Mrs. Eliza Finley Brandon states, " The present Finley house across the river south of the mill... was built for my oldest sister (Sarah) when she married father's miller, Cyrus VAWTER about 1858."

T. B. Springer relates, "The Boston mill was built by R.C. Finley, P.V. Crawford, and Alex Brandon during 1856-58." (Finley owned one-half, Crawford one-fourth, and Brandon one-fourth) (Boston was renamed Shedd later...)

E. D. Farrell states, "A man named VAWTER was one of the first millers,"

Mrs. Elisa Finley Brandon, daughter of R.C. Finley relates that life was not easy in those days. "The first winter in Oregon, before the mill was finished, was hard on my parents. The family had almost nothing to eat at times. Wheat was ground in the coffee mill and bread was made from it merely by mixing it with water. There was not even salt to season it with, nor grease of any sort for shorting. Parched peas were ground for coffee....My father bought a pig during the winter. He smoked it and hung the meat up in the cabin to keep. My mother often told me how her hungry children would sit on the floor before the fire place gazing up at that pork and crying to have some of it, but she had to save it for use in case of sickness."

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1985 REUNION

The eight annual reunion of the VVV Family Association will be August 2-3-4 at the Howard Johnson Hotel in Fredricksberg, VA located at Route 1 and I 95 South.

For reservations contact Carolyn Cole 703-898-1800. When making reservations mention the VAWTER reunion and the group rates as follows:

Single \$22.00

Double \$27.00

There are 137 rooms and we have 50 reserved.

Reservations need to be in by May of 1985.

Plans are to charter two buses for a historical tour of the area ending up at the VAUTER church for lunch which will be prepared by the ladies of the church with Mrs. Helen Garnet their chairperson. James H. VAWTER of VA will be one of the tour guides on a bus and Rev. Ralph Fall on the other bus. Rev. Fall will also be guest speaker.

NEW MEMBERS

Paul & Annie Vanover, 2509 Johnston #1-8, Lafayette, LA 70503 (nephew of Hazel McCandless)

John E. Taylor, 3903 Walnut Grove Rd., Memphis, TN 38111. (Descends from Lydia Hester, d/o Pleasant & Zeralda (Dehoney) Stribling who married John O. Sanford and their 7th child Jessie Eldon b. 2 Apr. 1883 who m. Edgar Taylor (Bicknell pgs. 227-8).

Charles M. Homer, 910 Pennsylvania Apt, #304, Kansas City, MO 64105 (Descends from Alonzo Jefferson Vawter & Mary Frances Horner.

Clarence & Lillian Hill, 1757 Shawna Ct., Klamath Falls, OR 97603

REMINISCING

From Effie G. Wilson, Box 65, Marrowbone, KY 42759

Nancy Smith VAWTER, second wife of Joseph Early VAWTER in Monroe County, KY. became step-mother about 1840 to thirteen VAWTER children, and later became mother of three more VAWTERS,

Her step-son, Joe VAWTER, helped with rafting on the Cumberland River. One night he remarked that he was going on the raft the next day and would have to wear his dirty socks because they would not be washed and dried in one night. Heat would stiffen these homemade, sheep's wool socks.

But Nancy said, "I'll have you some socks ready in the morning".

She had plenty of home-spun, dyed wool, so all night long her metal needles clicked as she knitted on the socks. She was a fast knitter so the story goes, and by morning had a new, soft pair of socks ready for Joe to wear on his rafting trip down the Cumberland River.

COINCIDENCE

Nancy Ann VAWTER Wilson of Monroe County, KY sister of Joe VAWTER of the above story, was born 2 January 1825. January 2, 1925 was the birth date of her great grandson, James Alexander Wilson, exactly one hundred years later. He has her old fashioned brass rimmed glasses with extendable temples made to tie at the back of the head.

* * * * *

MEMBER PROFILE - Minister

Louis Qullington Meek, 20025 – 106th Drive, Sun City, AZ 85373

Born 12 May 1915 in Idana, Clay Co., KS the s/o George Elmer Meek and Augusta Morse Quellington. Married 17 May 1941 Roberta (Bobbie) VAWTER. Received his B.S. from Kansas State U, B. TH. from Omaha Presbyterian Theological Seminary, MA from Adams State College, P. H. D from U of Wyoming.

Rev. Meek was in the Army & Army Air Force as a line officer 1942-46. Served as a pastor in Iowa, Kansas & Colorado. Was head of the Psychology Dept. of IL College Jacksonville, CO. for eleven years and in 1976 made Professor Emeritus. He was forced to retire due to health in 1975. They have two sons, James S. & Robert L. Meek.

Rev. Meek has had model railroading as a hobby since the 1950's. He bowls twice a week and makes latch hook pillows, rugs and hangings. He is a member of Rotary, a Mason (32), Amer. Assoc. U. Prof., etc. and a charter member of the Sun Cities Art Museum.

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Sharleen Scott Geraths, 2442 N. W. Market St. Suite 231, Seattle, WA 98107

Am looking for information about J. Lee VAWTER, b 1869, d. 1946 Bloomington, IL. Married to Elizabeth Edith Henning, b. 1870 Weston, IL; d. 1952 Bloomington, IL. They were m. 2-18-1892 McLean Co., IL. And I know of one child, Jessie H., b. 1893.

Charles M. Horner, 910 Pennsylvania, Apt. 304, Kansas City, MO 64105

Am interested in tracing the Alonzo Jefferson VAWTER family. Alonzo, b. 1 Nov. 1850 _____KY. Son of John W. ___?___VAWTER & Rachel Ann Kennedy. He married Mary Frances Horner, b. 24 Feb. 1853 _____,OH.

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THE ANCESTORS & DESCENDANTS OF CAPT. TAZWELL VAWTER (P. 402 – Bicknell)

From: E. B. Vaughters, 12015 1st Ave. N.W., Seattle, WA 98177

I BARTHOLOMEW VAWTER (ca. 1660/65 – 1717)

Bartholomew VAWTER married Winifred Hodgson ca. 1690. She was the daughter of Wm Hodgson, a merchant and planter in Old Rappahannock County, VA. Bartholomew died in Essex County, VA 1717 and his will was probated there 17 Sept. 1717. Their children were: JOHN, William, David, Margaret, Benjamin, and Edward.

II JOHN VAWTER (ca. 1691 - 1752)

John VAWTER, eldest son was born ca. 1691. He married Margaret Noel (1), daughter of Daniel Noel (1). Their children were – Winifred, Bartholomew, Richard, Margaret, ANGUS, and David. John VAWTER died 1752. His will was probated in Culpeper Co., VA.

III ANGUS VAWTER (ca. 1718 – 1785)

Angus VAWTER was born ca 1718 in Essex County, VA. He married Anna Boulware. Angus died in 1785 in Essex County, VA. Their children were: BOULWARE, Anna, Elizabeth, Rhoda, and Phebe VAWTER.

IV BOULWARE VAWTER (I) (1758 – 1830/35)

Boulware (pronounced Bowler/Boler) was born 1758 in Essex County, VA. He married Sally H. Berry 2 March 1786 in Caroline County, VA. They had two children – BOULWARE (II), Sally VAWTER who married William Walden 7 Nov. 1810.

V BOULWARE (II) (1787-1835/40)

Boulware VAWTER (II) was born 1787 in Essex County, VA. And married first, Sally Davis in Essex County 27 Apr. 1812. To this marriage was born one son Julius in 1813 and an unidentified daughter in 1816. This daughter was thought to have married _____Owen in Jackson County, IN. Boulware married second, Elizabeth Thomas in Essex County, Va. 25 Nov. 1825. To this marriage was born TAZWELL VAWTER and L. VAWTER. The family moved to Owen Twsp. Jackson County, IN sometime after 1826. Boulware's father accompanied them. Boulware II was an early school teacher and farmer in Jackson County, IN. and died there before 1840. His widow Elizabeth (Thomas) VAWTER died after 1860.

VI TAZWELL VAWTER (1826 – 1870)

Tazwell Vawter was born 26 Nov. 1826 in Essex County, VA. And he married (Polly) Mary Ganner Lockman, daughter of William/Aliomy Hanner Lockman in Jackson County, IN 20 Jan 1847. She was born 29 Sept. 1827 in Jackson County. Tazwell was a Capt. in the Civil War and a prominent merchant. He died 22 Jan 1870 & his wife died 2 Apr. 1905. Their children were:

1. Elizabeth, b. 1848, m. Wm. L. Boyatt 1868 in Jackson County, In
2. William B., b. 1850 – He was a farmer in Jackson County, IN
3. Erasmus J., b. 1852, m. Rebecca J. Dodds, 21 Dec. 1875. He d. before 1880 in Jackson County, IN
4. Lewis T. VAWTER (cont.)
5. Nancy Ann. b. 1856, m. Geo. Thomas 29 June 1882 in Jackson County, IN
6. Luman W., b. 1858, m. Emma Sanders 27 June 1873 in Jackson County, IN
7. Mary F., b. 11 Oct. 1857 according to Bible records which have other errors. She was shown age 10 months on the 1860 census. She married Jacob L. Hinkle and looked after her mother until mother's death in 1905.
8. Vincent L., b. 1862, m. Mary Penhale 20 Dec. 1883 in Jackson County, IN
9. Hattie, b. 1869 m. James E. Payne 19 Feb. 1887 in Jackson County, IN

VII LEWIS T. VAWTER (1854 – living in 1905)

Lewis T. Vawter was born 1854. His wife was Sarah _____. They were married 1884 in Jackson county, IN. and in 1900 were living at 1501 South Anderson Street in Elwood, Madison County, IN. They had one son Park Vawter, b 1885.

VIII Park VAWTER (1885 - ____)

Park VAWTER was age 15 in the 1900 census, b. May 1885.

(E.B.. "I have not searched the 1910 census of Indiana for wife & children. He as well as his aunts and uncles must be grandparents for VAWTER'S and others out there somewhere??")

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OWEN TOWNSHIP, JACKSON COUNTY, INDIANA

From: Sally Brown, Associate Editor, 3016 S. Madison, Tulsa, OK 74114

Owen township is one of the three, townships forming the western portion of Jackson County. It was named in honor of the Owen family, which, at the time the township was organized, was the largest family. The land is broken and hilly, the soil comparatively unproductive, and is probably best suited to grazing. It is surprising that many of the first settlements were made in this area rather than the rich valleys and river bottoms. The constant decay of the abundant vegetation together with the pools of stagnant water that stood in the river bottoms almost all year long, produced so much malaria that life was perilous in those areas so that the less fertile land was best.

The first permanent settlement in this area was begun before 1816 with other settlements following in quick succession. Boulware II VAWTER, father of Tazwell VAWTER, came from Virginia and settled in this area sometime around 1826.

Through the years the VAWTERS farmed, had a general store, and later owned a saw and grist mill. During the Civil War Tazwell was a Captain in the 67th Regiment of the Union Army. The regiment in which he served was made up of prominent and influential citizens from the area who were induced by love of country to leave home, friends, wives, children, and lucrative vocations to do battle for the Union.

The early settlers in Owen County felt it was vitally important to build schools as soon as possible. The first school buildings were one room cabins with dirt floors. The settlers would employ the most competent person in the neighborhood to teach. Boulware VAWTER was one of the teachers.

In 1856 the Clear Spring High School was built by the leading citizens who knew the advantages of higher education. Those citizens formed a joint stock company to build this school. The principle stockholders were the leaders of the community and Tazwell VAWTER was one of them. A member of the Owen family was the first teacher in the high school.

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

Name _____ New _____ Renewal _____

Street Address _____ Date _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

(Give your VVV line on back) Phone _____

TREASURED VAWTER PAINTINGS TO BE TAKEN FROM RILEY HOME

From news clippings from the "Greenfield Reporter and the Tri-State Trader"

Mary E. Simmons, a grandniece of Will VAWTER'S second Wife, Ola, filed suite in Hancock Superior Court asking for the return of Will VAWTER'S paintings. Named as defendants were the past president and the now president of the Riley Old Home Society. The defendants reluctantly agreed that Simmons was entitled to the pictures. She agreed to leave them on display through "Riley Days" the city's annual festival in honor of the birthday of James Whitcomb Riley.

This saga began in 1937 when the Riley birthplace was made a memorial and the Riley Old Home Society organized. Will VAWTER dropped by to leave the paintings at the home for display "until I call for them." He was issued a receipt confirming they were to be returned upon request.

VAWTER never came back for them. He died 12 Feb. 1941. His widow, Ola, also never asked for their return. When she died in 1944 she left her estate to relatives including her niece, the mother of Mary Simmons. The mother of Mary Simmons bought from the estate for \$2,400 all the unsold VAWTER paintings and drawings including those in the Riley home.

For almost 50 years thousands of people and schoolchildren have trooped through the birthplace of the poet, James Whitcomb Riley and admired the paintings of Will VAWTER.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

CORRECTIONS – In the last issue, page 2 regarding E.B. Vaughters research report at Errors by the reunion, I was in error in the ancestors of Susan Curtis. It should your editor. Read "Susan Curtis et al (descend) through Hiram-sons John Wesley and Robert W.(ashington). EDWARD VAWTER, son of Richard VAWTER died Essex Co., 1798/99"

I also inadvertently switched locations of the future VVV reunions. It should have read MS in 1986 and IN in 1987.

News – Burt Monroe III was in Who's Who Among American High School Students as a Jr. and Sr. and was a National Merit Finalist. He is now a freshman at the U. of L. and has a Trustee's scholarship (full tuition) and is taking the pre-engineering program at its Speed Scientific School. He hopes to become a computer designer.

Keep those recipes coming in to B. Van Osdol-Schneider, 4029-1 Memory Lane, Wichita, KS 67212 for volume II. We want to have a big variety representing as many states and members as possible. Send your recipes on 3 x 5 cards with name and address on each. Either print or type recipe.

There are still a few left of Volume I, which may be ordered for \$6.00 from: Beth Sabel, 931 S.E. 33rd, Portland, Or 97214.

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