**Philemon Vawter4, (David3, John2, Bartholomew1)**

Philemon Vawter, son of David Vawter and Mary Offill/Offott was b. 16 Oct 1762 Culpeper Co., VA d. 15 Apr 1814 buried Madison, IN. Later his body was removed to the Vawter-Summerfield cemetery, Jennings Co., IN. This cemetery is located near the home of William Vawter, about three miles from Vernon, IN. The inscription reads *15 Apr 1814 aged 52 y 6m 15d. In early life he made a profession of the religion of Jesus Christ and adorned that profession during life. He left a widow 5 sons and 4 daughters with many other relations and acquaintences to mourn his loss.*

He was m. ca 1779 to (first cousin) Anne (Anna) Vawter dau/of Richard & Frances (Towles) Vawter. Richard was the brother of David Vawter. Anne was b. 14 Nov 1758 d. 21 Jul 1845 and is bur. Vawter-Summerfield Cem. near North Vernon, IN.

Soon after their marriage they migrated to KY near Woodford Co. In 1795, they located to the banks of the Ohio river in Boone Co., KY, then to Trimble Co. opposite Madison, IN. They moved to IN in 1808. Philemon was a farmer, chair maker, maker of spinning wheels and a Baptist minister.

After the death of Philemon, Anne moved to her daughter Frances home. On a visit on 2 Jun 1839 to a friends home she fell down a cellar and was badly injured. During the recovery of this fall, she fell again and broke her hip. She was bedridden for the next six years until her death. In order to return to her daughter Nancy Lewis’s house, the family devised a wagon with springs in the back bed with a bed on top to transport her to the train. After leaving the train another wagon with switches piled high with a bed on top was sent to take her home. A granddaughter, Frances (Vawter) King cared for her during her final years.

A thorough history of Philemon and Anne are found in *The Vawter Family in America* by Grace Vawter Bicknell, pub. 1905, Hollenbeck Press, Indianapolis. The early Vawters have many errors but the history of Philemon is very complete. The majority of information is taken from the book on this family line.

Book - A History of Kentucky Baptists By J. H. Spencer, Chapter 24 p. 461-462

Churches Gathered in 1800, Close of the Century, Statistics.

PHILEMON VAWTER was early a preacher in this church. He was born in Orange, or Culpeper county, Va., about 1765. After he grew up and married, he moved to the Holston Valley, where he was baptized by a Mr. Kelley. From this place, he moved to Woodford county, Kentucky, and became a member of Clear Creek church. After remaining here several years, he moved to what is now Boone county, and united with Bullittsburg church, in 1795. Two years after this, he was ordained a deacon, in this church, and, in June, 1800, was licensed to preach. During the great revival that commenced about this time, he was a zealous and active laborer in the Master's vineyard. In 1804, he moved to Trimble county, and united with Corn Creek church. He was ordained to the ministry, probably in the autumn of the same year. He labored acceptably in the ministry, in Trimble county, about five years. After this, he moved to Indiana, where he died, about 1815. His preaching gifts were moderate, but he was well versed in the scriptures, and was eminent in piety, and devotion to the cause of Christ. He was much beloved by the people, and exerted all his influence for good.

JESSE VAWTER had no direct connection with Corn Creek church. He was a brother of the pious and beloved Philemon Vawter, and was some seven years his senior. He was licensed to exercise his gift by North Fork church in Franklin county, Kentucky, as early as 1803. Soon after this, he was ordained, and became pastor of that church. He joined the Baptists in Virginia, in his youth, probably twenty years before he began to preach. After preaching a short time at North Fork, he moved to Indiana, and settled near Madison, about 1810. Here he became pastor of the church at Madison. Like his brother Philemon, he was greatly beloved, and exercised an extraordinary influence. He was a good preacher, an easy, fluent speaker, and an excellent singer. He was a number of years moderator of Silver Creek Association. He lived to a good old age.

JOHN VAWTER was early a member of Long Lick church, in Scott county, Ky. He also moved to Indiana, and settled at Vernon. He became pastor of the church at that place, probably as early as 1815. He was an excellent and honored citizen but too much engrossed with the world to be of much value as a preacher. The stoical Theodrick Boulware says of him: “He was as a man worthy, but as a preacher was not worth one cent. He was postmaster, colonel, marshall of the State, and an ordained minister.”

Children of Philemon and Anne (Vawter) Vawter:

1. Richard Vawter b. 19 Sep 1780 prob. Culpeper Co., VA m. 25 Jul 1802 to Sarah Snelling of Fredericksburg, VA b. 22 Jun 1781 d. ca 1851. Richard Vawter was thrown from his buggy by a frightened horse and fell over a ledge of rocks on Main street, Lexington, KY, in 1847 and died a few days later. In the records of Fayette Co., KY it appears that Richard Vawter of Scott Co., KY bought a lot in Lexington, KY on Water street in 1814, another in 1820 and another in 1821. In 1858 John B. Payne, commissioner of Fayette Co., sold a tract of land on Water street in Lexington to settle the estate of Richard Vawter.

Scott Co., KY Census 1810 Microfilm # M252-8 Enumerator John T. Johnson

185a # 7 VAWTER Richard

Book- *KY Obituaries 1786-1854 From the Lexington Report of Nov. 28.*

*Richard Vawter d. Nov 26, 1841 at an advanced age.*

This could be 1847 and printed wrong in the book, the Vawter book by Bicknell indicates public records are found until 1846. Most likely this is the same Richard and 1847 is correct, but original records would need to be checked.

Children of Richard and Sarah (Snelling) Vawter:

a. Jesse Vawter b. 1 May 1803 died young

b. Anne/Anna Vawter b. 1 May 1804 m. 13 May 1833 Fayette Co., KY to James Smith, a widower with 2 sons. She had 2 daughters by James. (mar. rec. Fayette Co., KY)

c. Nancy Vawter b. 10 Mar 1806 Woodford or Fayette Co., KY d. 10 Oct 1838. m. 18 May 1826 John W. Smith. Marriage record of Fayette Co., KY.

d. John S. Vawter b. 24 May 1808 Lexington, KY d. 20 Jan 1843 Bartholomew Co., IN m. Emily Cooprider. He was a Christian minister. He lived at Thornton and Indianapolis, IN and died of consumption. One known daughter Esther Ann Vawter.

e. Elizabeth Vawter b. 10 Sep 1810 Lexington, KY d. 6 Apr 1867 Lexington, KY m. 1 May 1828 Lexington to Edward Harris b. 25 Mar 1807 NY d. 4 Apr 1883 Danville, KY.

f. Frances Alpha Vawter b. 13 Feb 1813 d. 16 Aug 1835 KY m. 30 Oct 1831 Fayette Co., KY (mar. rec. of Fayette Co.) to Joseph Mosley of Manchester England. After her death the daughter Annie b. Apr 1833 lived with Grandparents. Joseph Mosley, who was much older than Frances, went to South America and d. in 1845.

g. Melita Vawter b. 16 Apr 1815 Lexington, KY d. 25 Apr 1844 (in childbirth) Lexington, KY m. 2 Aug 1832 to Sanford McDaniels. One child, James McDaniels. Sanford left and went to IL. Melita’s niece Annie Moseley writes in 1928 “ I have often heard grandmother speak of her and what a beautiful woman she was. Her father named her for the island on which the Apostle Paul was cast. She lived next to grandfather’s home.”

h. Jannette Vawter b. 13 Jun 1818 Lexington, KY d. ca 1833

i. Amanda Vawter b. 8 Aug 1820 Lexington, KY d. 25 Oct 1842 m. George W. Vaughn on 15 July 1837. Marriage record Fayette Co., KY states: father Richard. Children Amanda Frances Vaughn who lived with grandparents and Richard Vawter Vaughn m. 8 Aug 1893 to Hanna Kipfer.

j. Milton Vawter b. 20 Apr 1822 Lexington, KY.

1. Elliot Vawter b. 5 Jul 1782 Culpeper Co., VA d. 28 Mar 1863 Graves Co., KY m. 11 Oct 1804 Todd Co., VA to Anna Gray b. 3 Apr 1783 Nelson Co., KY d. 26 Jul 1856 Todd Co., KY. He was a farmer on Spring Creek, Todd Co., KY. Smaxwell@doitnow.com sends the parents of Anna, Drakeford Gray and Jemima Gladden

1840 Todd Co., KY, tax poll

Vawter, Elliott, 107 ½ Todd, Spring Creek, 1070

1850 Census Todd Co., KY, pg 218a, family # 219

Elliot Vawter age 68 b. VA M. Farmer land Value $1100

Ann Vawter age 67 b. KY

Lucinda Vawter age 33 b. KY

John Holms age 33 b. KY Farmer

Harry Holms age 4 b. KY

Charles Holms age 3 b. KY

Nancy Holms age 4/12 b. KY

James Carver age 13 b. KY

a. Frances Vawter b. 26 Jul 1805 Gallatin Co., KY, died young,

b. Presley G. Vawter b. 21 Jun 1807 Gallatin Co., KY d. 28 Jan 1889 McCune, KS

m. (1) 4 Oct 1831 Todd Co., KY to Elenor Floyd b. 11 Nov 1812 d. 4 Jun 1844. Resided in Bond Co., IL from ca 1840 -ca 1860. Children: Elizabeth A. Vawter (Bond Co., IL mar. record Book A p.1817 20 Dec 1853 to Jefferson Fruit), Nancy E. Vawter, John E. Vawter.

m. (2) 11 Apr 1849 to Margaret Y. McAdams b. 8 Mar 1818 d. 4 Jun 1863. Children: Ophelia G. Vawter, Charles A. Vawter and Margaret Luella Vawter.

m. (3) 2 Mar 1864 to Sarah E. Hamilton b. 14 Oct 1831 TN Children: Philip S. Vawter, Sarah Belle Vawter, Presley G. Vawter and William W. Vawter.

*History of Bond & Montgomery Counties IL 1882*, transcribed by Norman Hass p. 14 Greeneville precinct. Charles W. Floyd, farmer native of Todd Co., KY b. 1822 res. of KY until 1833 then moved to Bond Co., IL, wife Betsy Johnson, native of IL. Ten children, inc. Ella who married P. G. Vowter. Charles Floyd d. 1846, wife Betsy d. 1877. He served War of 1812.

c. Jeptha Dudley Vawter b. 18 Jul 1809 Todd Co., KY d. 13 Oct 1894 Topeka, KS

m. (1) 14 Jun 1832 to Sarah Modised Foster b. 9 Jun 1815 d. 18 Dec 1883 Shawnee, KS.

m. (2) 25 Jul 1884 to Louisa K. Miller b. 13 Dec 1850 Absecon, NY.

1840 Todd Co., KY, tax poll Vawter, J. D. 118, Todd, Spring Creek, 1180

Located in one of J.D. Vawter’s diary’s (1842).

Jepatha D Vawter was married to Sarah M Foster daughter of

John and Elizabeth Foster the 14 June 1832

John Washington Vawter son of J.D. Vawter and Sarah M Vawter was born July 5th, 1833

Benjamin Franklin Vawter was born February 10, 1835

Mary Ann Elizabeth Vawter was born May 13, 1836

Henry Clay Vawter was born April 4th 1838

Lucinda Caroline Vawter was born May 17th 1839

Louisa Vawter was born December the 19, 1840

Children: John Washington Vawter, Benjamin Franklin Vawter b. 10 Feb, 1835 married 29 September 1856 Mary E.Bright. (dau. Bethena b. 16 Dec 1857 m. Joseph Robinson, Auburn, KS. Child: Arthur, Earl, and Leonard), Mary Ann Vawter, Henry Clar Vawter, Lucinda Caroline Vawter, Louise Ellen Vawter, Nancy Tandy Vawter, Martha Celestia Vawter, James Elliott Vawter, Sarah Jane Vawter, Harriet Elizabeth Vawter, Sabrina Katherine Vawter and William Jeptha Vawter.

d. Clarence Dudley Vawter b. 18 May 1812 Todd Co., KY. Louisa m. (2) to Mr. Mills in Topeka, KS

e. Sabrina Vawter b. 9 Jan 1815 Todd Co., KY d. 18 Aug 1881 m. Jun 1830 to Lewis Tutt b. 1804 Halifax, VA d. 4 Mar 1874. Son of James Lewis F. Tutt and Lucy Finks.

Children: Charles L. Tutt, George Washinton Tutt, John Presley Tutt, David Vawter Tutt, James Elliott Tutt, Sarah Catherine Tutt, Henry Day Tutt, Lucy Annie Virginia Tutt, Mary Ellen Tutt, Benjamin F. Tutt, Meredith D. Tutt, Wyatt Tutt, Thomas Tutt, Jeptha Tutt and Jeptha and Jesse (twins) Tutt.

f. Lucinda Vawter b. 28 Jul 1817 Todd Co., KY d. 28 Nov 1884 Grave Co., KY m. after 1850 KY to John W. Holmes b. 27 Dec 1818 Maysville, KY d. 7 May 1894 Grave Co., KY. John m. (1) 1 Jan 1843 Todd Co., KY to unknown female.

Children of John Holmes and first wife: John Elliott Holmes, Henry Clay Holmes, Charles Holmes and Nancy Katherine Holmes b. 10 Nov 1849. (birth date sent by Becky Dunn Byars email [famhntr@stc.net](mailto:famhntr@stc.net))

Children of John and Lucinda are Jephtha Burnley Holmes, Presley Dudley Holmes, Lucinda Caroline Holmes and George W. Holmes.

1850 Census Todd Co., KY, pg 218a, family # 219

Elliot Vawter age 68 b. VA M. Farmer land Value $1100

Ann Vawter age 67 b. KY

Lucinda Vawter age 33 b. KY

John Holms age 33 b. KY Farmer

Harry Holms age 4 b. KY

Charles Holms age 3 b. KY

Nancy Holms age 4/12 b. KY

James Carver age 13 b. KY (unknown family connection)

g. John Grey Vawter b. 1819 Todd Co., KY d. 9 May 1877 m. 6 Feb 1851 to Elizabeth Stewart b. 31 May 1825 Edinburg, Scotland. Children: Cornelius Lansing Vawter, Jane Vawter, Alexander Stewart Vawter and Elliott Gray (twins) Vawter, John Gray Vawter, Jr., Anna Elizabeth Vawter and Benjamin Stewart Vawter.

h. Catherine Vawter b. 31 May 1822 Todd Co., KY d. 27 Oct 1900 Guthrie, KY m. 3 Nov 1841 Bond Co., IL to Spottswood K. Smith b. 14 Dec 1800 d. 9 Oct 1894. Children: Eliza B. Smith, Martha A. Smith, John V. Smith, Burnley Duke Smith, Spottswood G. Smith, L. E. Smith, and Mollie W. Smith. (Bond Co. IL BK A p. 141 mar. record)

i. Nancy Vawter b. 10 Aug 1825 Todd Co., KY d. 28 Jun 1899 Pleasant Plain, IA m. 21 Sep 1847 to James Gatlin b. 5 Aug 1817 d. 22 Jul 1897. James Gatlin m. (1) to Virginia Smith and had children: Eliza J. Gatlin, Francis Marion Gatlin. Nancy Vawter and James Gatlin had children: Virginia A. Gatlin, Sarah S. Gatlin, Kate L. Gatlin, Nancy Elliott Gatlin, Sina E. Gatlin, Jephtha D. Gatlin, Margaret M. Gatlin, Mary C. Gatlin and Emma J. Gatlin.

Marriage records of Tazewell Co., IL

James Gatlin and Virginia Ann Smith, 11 Oct 1842, Tazewell County, Illinois

James Gatlin and Nancy Vawter, 21 Sep 1847, Tazewell County, Illinois

The biographical sketch of James Gatlin in Portrait and Biographical Album of Jefferson and Van Buren Counties, Iowa says that James and Nancy were married in Kentucky but that is incorrect.

3. Frances Vawter b. 11 Aug 1787 d. 26 Oct 1869 Bur. Vawter-Summerfield Cem., Jennings Co., IN m. 7 Jan 1809 Gallatin Co., KY, first cousin, William Vawter b. 2 Apr 1783 Holston River area, NC d. 17 Jul 1868 Jennings Co., IN. Marriage Record of Gallatin Co., KY shows Willaim Vawter and Franky Wavter 7 Jan 1809. William was the son of Jesse Vawter. *The Vernon Banner*, Vernon IN 28 Oct 1869, Thursday. “Died - On the 25 inst., Mrs. Frances Vawter, generally known as ‘Aunt Frankey’, at the residence of her daughter, Mrs. Frances King - age 82 years. Funeral services were conducted by the Rev. Thomas Hill, on Tuesday the 26th inst.”

In the *Hoosier Journal of Ancestory*, Jefferson Co., IN Deed Records: Kendall, Yelly & Amy of Gallatin C. KY to William Vawter of Jefferson Co. (20) 29 Aug 1813. 55 acres on Crooked Creek part of 34-4-10.

Children: Maria, Elizabeth, John T., Williamson, Jesse, James, Frances, Mary and Philemon Vawter. (see William4 file)

4. Nancy Ann Vawter b. ca 1793 d. 2 Apr 1855 m. 22 Jun 1815 Jefferson Co., IN to Alexander Lewis. Children David Vawter Lewis b. 9 Nov 1816 Jennings Co., IN d. 1898 Barnard, KS., Anna Lewis, Charles Lewis, and Martha Lewis.

5. Jesse Vawter b. 16 Aug 1784 Holston river near where three states, VA, NC and TN now join. d. ca 1832 Oldham Co., KY m. 29 Jan 1807 Franklin Co., KY to Frances Ann Watts. They lived in Oldham Co., KY. Marriage Record: found in the *KY Registor State Historical Society* publication Jan 1915 p. 85. 1807 Jesse Vawter & Fanny Watts consent John Watts father, Bondsman D. T. Elliston, Franklin Co., KY.

KY Historical Registor Vol. 18 (pub. 1920) p. 59, 1810 census Versailles, Woodford Co., KY, Jesse Vawter 4 in family.

1830 Census Index, Oldham Co Ky, Jesse Vawter pg. 289

There is also a marriage license found Franklin Co., KY for Jesse Vawter and (unknown) 1 Feb 1804. Jesse may have had a first wife who died.

Children:

1. David Jamieson Vawter b. 29 Jun 1809 KY d. 9 Jun 1893 Arkansas City, KS

Genealogical Abstracts Revolutionary War Scrip Act 1852, by Margie G. Brown, pr. Anundsen Publishing Co., Decorah, IA. p. 213  
" Application: 841,902 WILLIAM WHITE Captain, Continental Line  
Louisa Co, VA Court 12 Oct. 1824, 18 Sep 1824, 4 Sep 1824 Trimble Co, KY Court 10 Mar 1849 Green Co, Ky Court 1855.   
[sister and heir of veteran] 8. Nancy(2) White d. bef 1849 m Thomas Higgason, Trimble Co, KY.  
Issue:  
2. Malinda Ann(3) Higgason b 1811 d bef 1849 m David J. Vawter b 1811 d bef 1850  
Issue:  
1. William(4) Vawter  
2. Mary(4) R. Vawter "  
(GJNote: some of these dates are in error from additional research now found)

Louella McDonald Bernhardt E-Mail hermlou@worldnet.att.net sent this: Nancy Ann White born in abt 1765 in Va. married Thomas Higgason in Louisa Co., Va on September 11, 1786 died in Shelby Co Ky. Their children were  
Pally Higgason m Ebenezer Depuy   
Melissa Ann Higgason m DJ Vawter  
Suprey Higgason m Lucy Sandidge  
Thomas C Higgason   
William B Higgason m Sarah Ann

1830 CENSUS RECORD - Oldham Co, KY (Note: the transcriber does not show the ages on this census)

40 263 Matthews William 221 11 1

40 263 Vaulers David 1 1 1

1830 Census Index

Vawter, Jesse, Oldham Co., KY West port page 289

1840 Census Index

Vawter, D. J., Henry Co., KY W. Division page 295

1850 Trimble Co., KY Census family #181

David J. Vaughters age 39 woolcarder b. KY

Alphins (Alpheus) age 10 male b. KY

Thomas Townsend age 18 woolcarder b. KY

1860 Census Index

Vawter, D. J. Trimble Co., KY, Milton page 319

Vawter, John T., Trimble Co., KY, Bedford page 246

m. (1) 27 Mar 1828 Shelby Co., KY to Malinda Ann Higgason (this name is also seen as Ann Hickinson) There is a marriage record of Shelby Co., KY for D. J. Vawter m. M. A. Higgason 27 Mar 1828.

1a. Mary R. Vawter b. ca 1829-30

2a. William Vawter b. 11 Jun 1831 Oldham Co., KY

m. (2) 3 Jun 1836 to Elizabeth Ann Waters b. Henry Co., KY d. 1848 (mar. record Henry Co. KY)

3a. Julia A. Vawter b. 2 Dec 1838 Campbellsberg, KY m. 1857 Carroll Co., KY to Thomas H. Riggs b. 1 Aug 1836 Wilmington, Dearborn Co., IN. Marriage records book 2 page 45, Carroll Co., KY records of 1838-1920.

1900 Jefferson Co., (Louisville) Census shows Thomas (a cooper) & Julia RIGGS living at 2308 Fourth St, with three of their children, George(worked in distillery), Arline (stenographer) & Emmet (railroad worker) RIGGS and two of their grandchildren, Charles Edmond & his sister, Viola Riggs.

4a. Alpheus Vawter a soldier in Confederate under Gen. Jno. H. Morgan killed at Mt. Sterling, KY.

5a. Jesse Vawter died young,

6a. John Wesley Vawter b. 10 Mar 1844

7a. Jamieson Waters Vawter d. infancy

m. (3) 30 Oct 1850 KY to Susan Berilla Conner b. 19 Mar 1834 Trimble Co., KY d. 16 Jan 1922 Alhembia, CA . Parents of Susan Berilla Conner are Terrence Conner and Susan King.

8a. Virginia Vawter b. 17 Mar 1853

9a. Jamieson Vawter b. 18 Sep 1856

10a. Milton Beauregard Vawter b. 8 Sep 1858

11a. Jefferson Davis Vawter b. 10 May 1861 (had son Richard Vawter).

b. John F. Vawter m. 25 May 1840 Mary E. Nichols . John lived in Milton, KY. Marriage record of Henry Co., KY shows Mary E. Nicholas. Children John Vawter, Wallace Vawter, Mary Vawter, Fanny Vawter, Harriet Vawter, Milly Vawter and Drucilla Vawter.

Henry County, KY - Newspapers: Carrollton Democrat, Miscellaneous, November 14, 1885 Page 5 Column 2 John Vawter Killed Lucian Evans.

On Tuesday, at Turners Station Lucian Evans was shot and killed by John Vawter. Of course, Evans was a bad man, in a certain sense, but he has a large number of influential friends, embracing some of the best citizens of the county. It will be remembered that when they had a difficulty over a year ago these same friends were severe against Vawter, asserting that he was the worst man of the two. Evans was harmless when sober. Vawter has many friends. The only particulars we have of the killing is the following dispatch to the to the Courier-Journal of Friday:

"News reached this place by telephone this morning that a shooting affair had taken place at Turner's Station , in Henry County, in which Lucian Evans was shot and instantly killed by John Vawter. A little over a year ago Evans and Vawter had a difficulty at a hotel at Turner's Station, in which Vawter was cut and shot by Evans, who was afterward tried in Circuit Court and sentenced to the penitentiary for one year. Evans at that time made a threat that he would kill John Vawter as soon as his term expired. He was released only a short time since, and when he met Vawter, who was accompanied by his little child, he (Evans) drew his revolver and fired two shots at Vawter without effect. Whereupon Vawter drew his revolver and fired, and the ball taking effect in the region of Evans' heart, killing him instantly. No examing trial has been held as yet. November 24, 1885, Page 1 Column 2 After the shooting of Lucien Evans last week J. W. Vawter surrendered at once to the officers. His examining trial was held Saturday, and as the killing was clearly in self-defense he was acquitted.

c. William H. Vawter m. Mary Ravenell of Bedford, KY. Children Alexander Vawter, Prospey Vawter, Absalom Vawter, Mary Vawter, Annie Vawter, Carrie Vawter and Jessie Vawter.

1850 Timble Co., KY Census

W. Vaughter age 27 woolcarder b. KY

Mary age 23 b. KY

Alex age 3 b. KY

Henry age 9 months b. KY

The three oldest brothers operated during the Civil War as found in The Papers of Court Judge 1862 Trimble County, Kentucky by William Chacellor Morgan

William H. Vawter, owner of a Carding machine Business in Bedford, KY

D. J. Vawter, owner of a Carding Machine Business in Milton, KY

John F. Varoter, owner of a Carding Marchine Business in Palmyra, KY

d. Absalom G. Vawter b. ca 1813 d. bet. 1850-1860 KY lived in Bardstown, KY m. 12 Sep 1833 to Ann Caroline McGill.

Nelson Co., KY marriage records - 12 Sep 1833

Vawter, Absalom to McGill, Ann Caroline (mother Elizabeth McGill gives consent)

1850 Census Hancock Co., KY family #267/279

Vanter Absolom G. 37 M Merchant 400 Ind

Vanter Ann C. 26 F Ky (GJNote: likely she is 35/36)

White, Mary age 13 b. Ireland

McGill, George age 11 m. b. KY

1860 Hancock Co., KY Federal Census #79

Ann C. Vawter 45 b. Ky Value $1300 $5000

George Mc Gill age 21 Merchant b. KY

Elizabeth McGill age 64 b. Maryland

e. Adaline Vawter m. 14 Dec 183(?) to William G. Nichols. No issue. Marriage record Henry Co., KY

f. Nancy Vawter m. (1) Mr. Hayden, Children Mary and Isaiah Hayden. m. (2) William Swiney, they went to the Indian Territory before the Civil War. Her mother joined her there.

g. Mary Vawter. Family info states possibly unmarried, but the following is found: Oldham Co., KY Mary Ann Vawter to William Sage m. 5 Apr 1832.

h. Elizabeth Vawter m. a Mr. Glover had one child, went to MO in 1848

Additional Children of this line unproven but location and names are association. The Nichols/Nicholas family of William G., Mary E. and William E. all married into this line.

Frances Vawter m. 16 May 1839 to William K. Nicholls

Located also in Henry Co., Lucy is not proven yet but no other family fits with this line.

Lucy may be a widow of a Vaughter, or a daughter, the name of Crinse is unknown as a maiden name or married name in this material. The Waldens are connected to the Vawter lines.

Henry Co., KY

Vaughter, Lucy Crinse Bush, Squire 18 Dec 1832

1840 Census Record - Oldham Co., KY

121 152 Walden, Richards 2211 1 1

1850 Oldham Co., KY Census (Note: Oldham was formed in 1823 from Henry, Shelby and Jefferson Counties of KY)

216 227 127 Bush Squire 39 Kentucky

216 227 127 Bush Lucy 39 Kentucky

216 227 127 Bush Hester G 16 Kentucky

216 227 127 Bush Nancy 15 Kentucky

216 227 127 Bush Emily 12 Kentucky

216 227 127 Bush Winton ? 9 Kentucky

216 227 127 Bush Wesley 8 Kentucky

216 227 127 Bush David 5 Kentucky

216 227 127 Walden Richard 60 Kentucky

**(**skip four houses)

216 228 132 Lut William 26 Kentucky

216 228 132 Lut Nancy A 26 Kentucky

216 228 132 Lut Phoebe A 6 Kentucky

216 228 132 Lut Elvin 3 Kentucky

216 228 132 Lut Adaline 1 Kentucky

216 228 132 Waldun Joel G 19 Kentucky

216 228 132 Waldun Bland B 14 Kentucky

(skip 2 houses)

216 228 134 Pemberton Thomas 58 Virginia (GJNote: involved with the Vawters in VA)

216 228 134 Pemberton Catherine 36 Maryland

216 228 134 Pemberton Lucinda 22 Kentucky

216 228 134 Pemberton Lucy A 19 Kentucky

216 228 134 Pemberton Sarah 16 Kentucky

216 228 134 Pemberton Catherine 14 Kentucky

216 228 134 Pemberton Alexander R 13 Kentucky

216 228 134 Pemberton S C 9 Kentucky

216 228 134 Pemberton Arreta (f) 7 Kentucky

REVOLUTIONARY WAR BOUNTY RECIPIENTS - PART 3 For KY, IN, OH, CAPTAINS: Captain normally received 4,666 acres. CAPTAINS - CONTINUED Carter Page, Thomas Parker, William Parsons, Thomas Patterson, Tarlton Payne, Thomas Payne, Thomas Pemberton……….

6. Beverly Vawter b. 28 Sep 1789 d. 1 Jan/Apr 1872 m. 5 Mar 1812 Jefferson Co., IN to Elizabeth Crawford b. 29 Mar 1792 Jared Co., KY d. 29 Jan 1866. His history can be found in *Biographical Sketches of the Pioneer Preachers of Indiana, by Madison* Evans, A. M. pub. Philadelphia by J. Challen & Sons.

Elizabeth Crawford’s parents were Rebecca Anderson b. ca 1763 m. (1) Ruste John Maxwell and m. (2) James Crawford. Elizabeth was the sister of James Crawford who married Beverly’s sister Lucy Vawter. Rebecca Anderson’s parents were John Anderson b. NY d. ca 1796 Madison Co., KY and wife Anne Irvine b. VA

National Archives, Seattle Branch, War 1812 Folder Index.

Beverly Vawter, 8th Reg (April - Jun 1812) Indiana militia, Private.

Children:

a. Pascal Vawter b. 6 Jan 1813 Madison, IN d. 26 Jan 1899 m. 1 Apr 1834 Montgomery Co., KY to Eliza Mavity b. 7 May 1813 Montgomery Co., KY d. 11 Aug 1904 Medaryville, IN. Dau. of John Mavity and Dorothea Reel/Rhaale. Children: Mary Ann, John Beverly, Samantha Jane, Aureanna Lee, Ailsee Eliza “Alecy”, Dothan, Charles Publius (or Publius Charles) and James Mavity Vawter.

John Beverly Vawter a son of Pascal as noted in William Snyder Vawter’s research of the 1920’s. “He was a member of the 4th KY Vol. Mtd. Inf and was captured in an early attempt to destroy railroads between Atlanta and the sea, and was held in the Andersonville prison for nine months, or until the close of the war. He was a graduate of KY Univ. Bible School, was a Christian minister, and was 18 years general secretary of the IA Christian Assn. He wrote a number of books, one being ‘Prison Life in Dixie’.”

In the Shelby Cem. Ripley Co., IN near Versailles is located the graves of James Mavity and wife, and is the brother of Eliza.

MAVITY, Keziah ~ 23JAN1863 w/o James Mavity age 59y 5m 8d

MAVITY, James 18SEP1808 7OCT1872

b. Lucinda Vawter b. 30 Sep 1814 Jefferson Co., IN d. 30 Aug 1845 m. Thomas Blair d. Jul 1881 Versailles, IN. One child, Elizabeth V. Blair who lived with grandparents

c. Rebecca Vawter died young

d. Melinda Vawter b. 1817 d. as child

e. Philemon Vawter b. 22 Jun 1819 d. 2 Oct 1894 m. Martha A. Humphreys of Woodford Co., KY Children Humphreys Vawter, Hettie Hawes Vawter, Sarah Beverly Vawter and Robert Crawford Vawter.

f. James Crawford Vawter b. 22 Jun, 1825, in Madison, Indiana died in Jasper Co., IL 27 Feb. 1894 m. 26 Oct 1848 to Mary Crawford Elder, alive 1905 Jasper Co., IL. He was assistant Postmaster of Bogota, IL and was one of the honored pioneers of Jasper County.

Children: Sarah b. 1850, Anna b. 1852, William died young, Cyrus Beverly b. 1853, James Marshall b. 1858, Xlema b. 1861, Albert Grant b. 1864, Rouie died young, and Henry Oliver Vawter b. 1869. Sent by Melba Ashburn email mashburn@lewiston.com granddaughter of Cyrus Beverly Vawter.

Noted in Bicknell’s book *The Vawter Family in America*:page 391

“James, son of Beverly and Elizabeth (Crawford) Vawter, married Mary Elder; died Feb 27, 1894 at Bogota, IL. They had no children. His wife lives at Wakefield, Jasper County, IL.”

Book - *Settlers of Jasper Co., IL and dates of settlement as reported by the Newton Press on 26 Oct 1887.* Lists of settlers and the date of settlement between 1850 and 1860.

J. C. Vauters, arrived 1852 (now) age 62

1860 census of Jasper Co., IL M653, roll 1875 p. 615 Smallwood Twp. Family #359/338

James Vawter 35 M. Farmer $1800 / $630 Ind.

Mary age 33 f KY

Lara age 10 f. IN (GJNote: this is Sarah)

Ann E. age 9 f IN

Wm. E. age 7 m. IL

Lieras age 5 m. IL (GJNote: this is Cyrus)

Indiana State Library Genealogy Division IN marriages through 1850 U-Z

Bride or Groom Spouse County Date Remarks

James VAWTER Mary C. Elder Decatur 26 Oct 1848

g. Richard B. Vawter b. 22 Sep 1828 Madison, IN m. 13 Jan 1848 to Maria Lane b. 25 Aug 1827 Jefferson, IN d. 23 Sep 1881. Children: Jennie Vawter, Cyrus Philemon Vawter, Joseph Vawter, and Anna Vawter.

1860 US Census Shelby, Jefferson Co., IN

Richard B. Vawter 31, Mariah Vawter age 32, James age 10, Cyrus age 8 and Joseph age 2

1870 Brookville, Franklin, IN census

Mariah Vawter 39, b IN - seamstress

William Vawter 20, b OH - Sadlers apprentice

1880 Brookville, Franklin, IN census: (Vawter is indexed as Vaneter)

William P Vawter 29, b OH - Sadler

Mary Vawter, 32, b IN

Herbert Vawter, 11 mo. b IN

1900 Brookville, Franklin, IN census:

Mary Vawter, 50, b Apr 1850, IN

Herbert F Vawter, b Jul 1879, IN

Edith R Vawter, b Jul 1881, IN

Findagrave: Brookville, Franklin IN, Maple Grove cemetery gives William P Vawter death date Nov 11 1901

h. Cyrus Vawter b. 28 S 1830 d. 11 Feb 1865 Crawfordsville, Linn Co., OR m. 10 Dec 1857 to Sarah A. Finley b. 18 May 1840 Platt Co., MO. Children: Samantha Vawter and William Ira Vawter.

i. Samuel Vawter b. 25 Dec 1832 Madison, IN d. 15 Mar 1884 Franklin, IN m. 16 Oct 1853 Madison Co., IN to Frances Ames b. 7 Aug 1834. Children Nannie Vawter, James L. Vawter and Mollie Vawter.

j. John M. Vawter b. 29 Feb 1836 Jefferson Co., IN m. 15 Apr 1869 to Sarah J. Pardun b. 18 Apr 1847 Manchester, IN. Children: Minne Bell Vawter and Walter Wright Vawter.

7. Lucy Vawter b. ca 1792 Shelby Co., KY d. ca 1832 Bartholomew Co., IN m. ca 1812 to James Maxwell Crawford, son of James Crawford and Rebecca Anderson. He was b. 3 Mar 1790 Jared Co., KY d. 13 Oct 1858 Hartsville, IN. James married second to Mrs. Susan Lanning and third to Mrs. Frances Wooden. Children:

a. Anne Crawford d. young

b. Philemon Vawter Crawford b. 25 Sep 1814 d. 1 Feb 1901 Eugene, OR m. Dec 1833 to Letitia S. Smith b. 28 Aug 1817 d. 13 Jun 1896 Crawfordsville, OR. dau. of Henry and Margaret Smith of Jefferson Co., IN

In the book *The Vawter Family in America* by Grace Vawter Bicknell, pub. 1905, Indianapolis is found much of the history of this family line. Philemon Vawter Crawford wrote a life sketch in 1882 and is published in the book. It is as follows:

*“James Crawford, my grandfather on my father’s side, was born in 1759 and reared on or near James River, Virginia, and at the age of sixteen years volunteered in what was known as the Virginia line and served three years in the Revolutionary War. He afterward - date unknown to me - married Rebecca Anderson and they reared eight children, three sons and five daughters. My father, James Maxwell Crawford, was the third son, and was born March 3, 1790 in Jared County, Kentucky, where my grandfather had removed a month the first settlers of that region, and where they had many bloody encounters with the savages, my grandfather having a full share in the troubles.*

*But to hasten the story: My grandfather again moved, from Jared county, Kentucky to Jefferson county, Indiana in March 1881, when my father was twenty-one years of age and settled within three miles of where the city of Madison now stands.*

*My grandfather, Philemon Vawter, was also born in Virginia, and served in the Revolutionary War. He was an orphan boy, and married his cousin Anna Vawter, and emigrated to Kentucky in early times and born a full share of the Indian troubles. They reared ten children (Note: according to Philemon Vawter he had nine children) five boys and five girls - my mother being the second daughter. They moved from Kentucky to Jefferson county, Indiana in the year 1810 and settled where a portion of the city of Madison now stands. My father and mother were married early in the year of 1812, and reared ten children - eight girls and two boys - the oldest a girl, myself the next. I was born September 24, 1814.*

*This genealogy is given from memory, but I believe correct so far as given.*

*My grandfather Crawford and family belonged to the Presbyterian Church, but renounced their creed under the reformation of Barton W. Stone, my father being the only one who did not unite with the Christian Church. Being of an excitable temperance, he finally drifted into the Methodist Church.*

*My grandfather Vawter was a Baptist preacher and his family were all members of that order except my mother and two of her brothers, who adopted the early reformation under B. W. Stone. The two brothers, Richard and Beverly became Christian preachers.*

*When I advanced far enough in my early education to read, the Bible was our common school book and in the New Testament I got my first lessons in Christianity and those early lessons and impressions have shaped my course through life. At the age of fourteen years, already being a firm believer, I concluded that if I ever expected to appear in the likeness of Christ’s resurrection I must first appear in the likeness of his death; accordingly I was buried with Christ in baptism and arose to walk in newness of life, which I have aimed to do ever since; but like all other men I have had my share of trials and temptations. I was a member of three congregations at different times in Jefferson county, Indiana, the most of the time officiating as elder or deacon and have acted in capacity of elder for a time in Oregon.*

*Having a desire to see more of the world than I had seen and becoming favorably impressed with the descriptions of Oregon, I sold out my little estate in Indiana in the winter of 1850-51 and left Madison on the 28th day of March 1851 for Oregon. My self and family and several other families with whom we traveled, came by water from Madison to St. Joseph, Missouri where we fitted up teams and started overland for the far west on the first day of May 1851.*

*My family at that time consisted of myself, wife and five children - the oldest fourteen, the youngest four years of age. We made the long and tedious journey of twenty two hundred miles with an ox team in just one hundred and fifty-two days. When we arrived in Oregon we found the Willamette valley more than we had looked for and all we could desire, and we are yet, after twenty nine years residence here, satisfied that ther is no more favored spot on the earth.*

*The generation in which I have lived in one that will form an important chapter in the world’s history. The application of steam was in its infancy when I was in mine. Electricity was known to exist but only as a useless principle in nature. Our harvests were then cut with the simplest hand tools only. Manpower then supplied what steam, water and horse power now performs. Monopolies were then almost unknown, now they threaten to rule the nation. Human slavery then shaped and controlled Southern politics. For its final overthrow and the humiliation of its votaries a gigantic rebellion has been inaugurated and conquered at an enormous expense to the nation in blood and treasure. And yet we are a great, free and prosperous nation, notwithstanding the curse of a four years’ war and the tyranny of capital. I have witnessed all this during my short space of time here.*

*I enjoyed the morning of life. I witnessed the gathering storm of rebellion; I have seen it pass over, with all of its terrors, and now in the evening of life all is smooth and calm again. I have realized all I desired with regard to African slavery, and if I could realize as much as the temperance question I would feel ready to depart and go to where my treasure is laid up, with full assurance of my reward.”*

1b. Beverly V. Crawford b. 1835 d. 1838

2b. Henry Paschal Crawford b. 7 May 1837 m. 1859 to Elizabeth Finley (sister to the wife of Cyrus Vawter). Moved to ID.

3b. Jasper Vincent Crawford b. 7 Aug 1839 Jefferson Co., IN m. 11 Jun 1867 Linn Co., OR to Elizabeth N. Dunlap b. 28 Jan 1849

4b. Elvin J. Crawford b. 15 Nov 1841 Madison Co., IN m. (1) 15 Nov 1865 to Mary J. Waymire b. Haydenhall, OR d. 11 Jun 1866 m. (2) 16 Nov 1866 to Alice Amanda Adams b. 1 Apr 1848 d. 20 May 1899. He m. (3) to Mrs. Anna (nee Adams) Mills b. 15 Nov 1853 New Orleans, LA.

c. Robert Crawford

d. Rebecca Crawford

e. Rachel Crawford m. Peter Smith. A letter written ca. 1852, found in the papers of William Vawter after his death and, printed in the book of Grace Vawter Bicknell, *The Vawter Family In America*, pub. 1905, Hollenbeck Press, Indianapolis, IN.

*“Dear Uncle and Aunt:*

*I take this opportunity to write you a few lines to acknowledge the reception of your letter, which came last Monday. We had heard of the death of Cousin Mary and Anna, but not of the death of Polly’s babe. Cordelia died before we left. I was struck with surprise to hear of father’s marriage. He must be in his dotage. He has got a fine woman. What changeable creatures we all are! I was sorry to hear of the house getting burned, but was glad to hear that Ormand’s prejudice against Oregon had frozen to death and he had also an idea of trying to come to this country. I do think that if he and David were here they could live much easier than where they are. I think that I have as great a desire for the welfare and prosperity of my relatives than anybody, but I would advise them unless they can have a good supply of good, strong clothing, a well built, light two horse wagon and at the least calculation, four hundred dollars when landed at St. Joe, not to undertake the journey, unless they come as one family, or unless the prices of provisions and cattle are lower than when we left. But Oregon is ever worth coming to, and if they can not make up an outfit next year, let them not get discouraged.*

*An old acquaintance of Mr. Smiths’s who could not live at all below Madison, moved to Missouri, raised his own team and provisions and came through in ’47. He is now quite wealthy so I would advise, if they ever expect to get able to come, to get out of that place and get to good cattle country, where they may soon raise their own outfit and may be able to come independently.*

*What have you done with Achilles and Philemon? You spoke of all the rest in your letter. Where is Sarah Jane and Aunt Nancy? I have not forgotten one of them. Mr. Smith says, consider the interest of your sons and let them come to Oregon, where they can be of a great deal more benefit to themselves and to the community than where they are.*

*I have not heard preaching since I left Madison. They have preaching at T. Stott’s and T. Denny’s and at Portland, but for want of a road I would be too late, as I would have to go so far around. I know of no Baptist Church nearer than Oregon City. There, I have understood, they have a band of musicians (wicked men) hired to sing for the church. If this be the case, I would like to know who expects to stand accountable for the lay members not doing their duty, the choir or their employers?*

*We are all well at present. Philemon and the two of the children have had the ague, but they are all well now. They live about ten miles from us.*

*We learn that is has been somewhat sickly on the road this year, grass being very scare, though vegetables are good.*

*I must draw to a close. I hope you will all remember the vow you made me when we took the parting hand. Give my love to all that wish to hear from us. Write soon. Rachel and Peter Smith.”*

8. Elizabeth Vawter b. 1 Mar 1798 Woodford Co., KY d. 6 Aug 1886 Vernon, IN m. 24 Jun 1813 Jefferson Co., IN to James Glover, a Baptist minister b. 14 Aug 1792 VA (now WV). d. 3 Jul 1856 Marble Hill, IN. Parents of James and Lucinda Glover are Thomas J. Glover and Nancy West. Children:

a. Nancy Glover b. 12 Mar 1814 m. (1) James Coleman m. (2) Thomas Baxter. They lived and died at Marble Hill, IN. Children: James A. Coleman, Lucinda Coleman and Thomas Coleman. Also son David Baxter all d. by 1905. One grandaughter in TN.

b. Ann Glover b. 27 May 1816 Jefferson Co., IN d. 26 Dec 1888 m. 2 Dec 1831 Marble Hill, IN to Thomas West b. 14 Nov 1809 d. 2 Dec 1888. Children: Samuel, Stephen, John, Sarah, Elizabeth and Mollia A. West.

c. Sarah Glover b. 29 Oct 1818 d. 25 Jan 1891 m. 7 Jun 1838 Jefferson Co., IN to Achilles West b. 29 Feb 1816 d. 10 Sep 1892 Jennings Co., IN. Children: Catherine, James, Milton S., J. Silas, Lizzie A., William M., J. Judson, Emma E., and Charles J. West.

d. Elliott V. Glover b. 17 Jul 1820 m. Melia Barnett. Both d. Madison, IN. Children Maggie, James, Indiana, William, Philemon and Samuel Glover.

e. David J. Glover b. 14 Feb 1838 d. 6 Feb 1863 m. 12 Sep 1861 to Mary E. Hunter at North Vernon, IN. Daughter married a Mr. Newell located to Seattle, WA in 1900. Mary went west where her location was unknown.

9. David Vawter b. 21 Jan 1800 in KY d. 13 Jul 1845 m. 23 Apr 1823 to Lucinda Glover (sister of James Glover). Lucinda b. 8 Jul 1805 d. 20 Dec 1857. David traded down the Ohio and Mississippi rivers, running to Natchez and New Orleans. In 1832, he built his first steamboat, the Bravo. He later owned a number of steamboats running on the Mississippi and as high up the Red river as they could go. He sold out and moved to Texas in 1844 where he bought a large tract of land. David died one week before his mother’s death.

From the book *Romatic Recipes of the Old South*, copy right 1950 by Imperial Sugar Co., Sugar Land, TX comes the following:

The Vawter Plantation in Louisiana was a center of hospitality, as were many of the plantations of the south. Governors, senators, writers and artists were among its guests. All were enthralled by the unusual foods prepared by the wrinkled colored cook. They especially complimented the Sorghum Molasses Cookies and ofter asked for them on subsequent visits.

Cookies

1 cup molasses 1 cup boiling water 2 teaspoons salt

1 cup sugar 1 tablespoon ginger 6 cups flour (enough for stiff dough)

1 cup butter 4 teaspoons soda

Combine molasses, butter and sugar in sauce pan; place over low heat until mixture begins to boil. Add 1 cup boiling water and ginger. Pour into large mixing bowl and stir in 2 teaspoons of soda. (This makes a foamy mixture) Add flour sifted with salt and remaining 2 teaspoons of soda. Mix well. Chill dough and then roll thin and cut into desired shape. Place 1 inch apart on greased cookie sheet. Bake in moderately hot oven (375) for 10-12 min. Makes 7 dozen, 3 inch cookies.

In the book *Ferry Across The Sabine* by Bobby Sterrett, Jefferson, TX an excerpt mentioning the Vawter family. “Mrs. Lucinda Vawter, a widow with a large family, sold her Louisiana plantation adjoining John Craig in 1845 and purchased the ferry operation on the Sabine River at Grand Bluff, TX.”

Louisiana Census

1840 David Vauters Claiborne Parish page 112

1846 State Census, Panola Co., TX Panola Co., Lucinda Vaughter

#431Vauter Lucenda 45 F W widow KY REMARKS: Lucenda Glover Vawter w/o David Vawter

Vauter John 21 M W Clerk KY - REMARKS: m Mary Durkee

Vauter David 15 M W IN - REMARKS: M.D. m. Nancy Weir

Vauter Martha 12 F W IN - REMARKS: m J. C. White

Vauter Eugene F. 4 M W TX

From the newspaper *Panola Watchman*, Carthage, Texas, April 27 & May 4, 1975

*Perhaps the Grand Bluff Ferry across Sabine River provided a gateway for more settlers to Panola County, and to East Texas in general, than did any other crossing on the river. A busy village grew up in the vicinity of the bridge on the old road to Marshall. Only a few reminders are present now to acquaint the visitor with what once transpiced there. It is truly a “ghost town”. The original settlement was situated on a high bluff on the west bank of the river and a cemetery was located about one-half mile down river. There are many unidentified graves, at least a hundred. A large mound of crumbling brick vaults near the center of the cemetery is especially interesting. One mound covers six or more graves. In addition, there are two single vaults at the end of the main family mound. Shells cover the tops of a good many graves. Cedar trees still living mark the head and foot of two graves. The cemetery boundaries are not difficult to locate, as the fallen fence is still to be found in sections entirely around the plot. Though the last gravestone date of death is 1898, some mulberry posts are still standing.*

*Near the river, at the townsite, stands an aged oak with scarred rings where once the ferry’s cables were tied. The earliest ferryman at Grand bluff, before Panola County was established was named Brewster and the place was called Brewster’s Bluff. No further identification of the man is found. In January 1847, the court granted a ferry license to Lucinda Vawter. Fees were set at the time for all county ferries as follows:*

*4 or 6 horse wagon 50 cents*

*2 horse wagen or one yoke steers as waon 37 ½ cents*

*1 horse carriage 25 cents*

*Footmen 5 cents each*

*Loose cattle and horses 5 cents each*

*Hogs 3 cents each*

*When the river was out of banks, double the price was to be paid.*

*Grand Bluff was named a voting box in 1848 and the court cut Mrs. Vawter’s fees to only half the usual price. Later that year a citizens petition from Grand Bluff asked the court to recind the August orders as unfair. The Court studied and revoked the order as unjust and unfair. By 1848 John Vawter was named as election judge.*

*In 1852, Lucinda Vawter was charged $20 for a ferry license, several times the amount charged any of the ferryman in the county. From this time until bridges were built, Grand Bluff license cost a greater fee than any other in the county, evidently because it was most in demand.*

Children:

a. Alexander Lewis Vawter b. 24 Jan 1824 in NY d. 31 Jan 1856 Grand Bluff, TX m. 1848 to Martha Weir b. 14 Feb 1827 MO d. 5 Sep 1860 in Rusk Co., TX. Children Sarah Julia Vawter and A. Lewis Vawter, Jr.

1846 State Census Panola Co., TX Lewis Vaughter

1850 Census Panola Co, TX Microfilm # 432-913 Family #430 and #431

Vauter A. L. 27 M W Merchant IN X REMARKS: Alexander Lewis Vawter

Vauter Martha 20 F W TN X REMARKS: Martha Weir Vawter

Vauter Julia 11/12 F W TX (writer of the story below)

b. Amanda Vawter b. 24 Feb 1826 m. 14 Aug 1845 Grand Bluff, TX to Francisco Lewis b. 5 May 1822 Franklin City, AL. Children: Henry F. Lewis, Emma Lewis, Sarah E. Lewis, Mary Ida Lewis and Annie L. Lewis.

c. John Milton Vawter b. 25 Mar 1828 m. 23 Nov 1850 to Mary Grigsby Durkee b. 10 Aug 1836, dau of William L. and Marian (Weir) Durkee. Lived in Grand Bluff, Panola Co., TX.

John and Mary had 12 children: Edwin, Thomas M., Mary Luna, George Lewis, Katie King Vawter and others unnamed.

George Lewis Vawter writes to Grace Vawter Bicknell for her book of 1905. *“An account of the family would not be complete without the mention of “uncle Allen” the old negro slave, who ran the Grand Bluff ferry boat for fifteen years as a slave and many more years as a free man. On account of debt, his father and mother and himself were afraid of being sold apart, and so his mother sent him to Lewis Vawter to see if he would buy them for the David Vawter estate. This he did and thus “Uncle Allen” “Aunt Lydie” and “Uncle Dick” came into the family. “They helped in the care of my mother’s family”, said G. L. Vawter, “but it was the contract of sale that ‘Aunt Lydie’ was never to have to ‘wash clothes’.”*

d. Louisa Vawter b. 9 Feb 1830 m. 1845 to Edward Fink. One child d. ca 1863. No other children.

e. David M. Vawter b. 17 Jan 1833 m. 25 Jul 1858 to Nancy Raycroft b. 12 Jan 1837 in TN. David was a physician. One child, Martha Lucinda “Chic” Vawter

f. Martha Vawter b. 16 Sep 1836 m. Dec 1852 to J. C. White. Lived in TX, 4 children.

**AUSTIN AS I SAW- IT IN 1855**

**By Julia Vawter Sterrett**

***Dallas Morning News*, Dallas , Texas, May 22, 1932**

**At 6 years old I first journeyed from Panola County toThe Capital City, arriving by a clattering stage with Sounding bugle - the trip required a week and I thought Austin a grand place full of grand people.**

***Austin is at present scarcely more than a days travel by automobi le from the once prosperous, but now decadent village of Grand Bluff, Panol a County. In 1855, however, by horse-drawn vehicle a full week was required to make the trip between the two points.***

***It is exactly seventy-six years since I journeyed for the first time fro m the bustling steamboat landing and ferry town of Grand Bluff, on the Sabi ne River, to the infant capital of the State of Texas.***

***Many of the incidents connected with the trip, as well as numerous names and faces, have faded with the passing of the years: others are distinctly etched upon the pages of my memory. It is true that I was scarcely 6 years old at the time of this eventful visit, but both my mother and grandfather, believing that a child's education could scarcely begin too early, patiently answered all my questions and explained everything of interest along the road. Then long, long after our return home, people and incidents were still further impressed upon my memory through hearing them described by my relatives and the servants who accompanied us.***

***The long trip to Austin was made primarily to see my new grandmother. She had been the beautiful Mrs. Elidia Calhoun, widow of a prominent Texas pioneer, before her marriage to my grandfather during one of his senatorial terms in the State Legislature. It was during one of grandfather's semiannual visits back to East Texas to see about his store and plantation that he persuaded my mother to take me and go back with him for the summer.***

***A Long Trip***

***How well do I recall the busy day in which preparations were made for the journey and visit. It seems but yesterday that we started, so quickly does one think down years and hours to minutes and seconds. Long before dawn I was awakened by the bustling about the yard and household servants getting everything in readiness for our departure. By sunup we were on our way, after saying tearful good-byes to the employees, all of whom, from the overseer down to the smallest pickaninnies, dressed in their Sunday best, had lined up in front of the long piazza to see us off.***

***At the head of the short procession rode grandfather and one of his sons in a buggy. Behind him were my mother, another one of her brothers, my nurse Maria and I in a two-seated hack, driven by old Uncle Tom, who had been "Marse Andy's" (my grandfather's) valet and bodyguard. Still farther in the rear was a four-horse wagon driven by a stout colored man, carrying our carpetbags, feed for the horses, and food and camping equipment for the entire party.***

***I do not recall sleeping more than one night in a house during the 350 m ile trip. The other nights we made camp and slept on cots with only the starry heavens for a canopy. One night we camped on the Brazos River near Waco Village (as it was then called) where I gathered a lapful of the last crop of pecans. Our all-night stay in Bastrop I recall vividly. Shortly before we reached Bastrop, then a day's travel though but some thirty miles distant from Austin, grandfather said for mother, Maria and me to take the stage there for Austin.***

***The hotel in which we spent the night in Bastrop was operated by a German family of some culture, for in the parlor were a grand piano, upholstered sofa and chairs, and oil paintings. In the bedrooms were huge canopied four-poster beds on which were mountainous feather beds covered with snowy linen. In the dining room the long table was loaded down that night with meats of every description, steaming urns of coffee, gallons of buttermilk, hot biscuits, preserves and a variety of cakes and pies.***

***Entering Austin***

***For the first time since we had left East Texas we were delighted by the sight of pine trees around Bastrop. Sheep ranches, farms and homes built of whipsawed lumber gave occasional hints of civilization between Bastrop and Austin. For the most part, however, our last few miles lay over a rough road, bordered by open prairie or laurel and cedar-covered hills. Along about sundown we came to a high hill from the top of which we could see Austin city. Exclamations of delight burst from the lips of everyone on the stage. Built on hills and almost surrounded by a rampart of higher hills at the base of which flowed the waters of the Colorado, the city of Austin was even then a bit of paradise. In the gloaming, just as the candles were beginning to case their flickering light through open doors and windows, t he man sitting beside the stage driver blew a long shrill blast upon the bugle. The driver cracked his whip above the heads of the horses as we started down the wide rough street. Amid the clop, clop, clop of the horses hoofs, rumbling of the heavy stage wheels and continuous notes of the bugle, we arrived in the capital of the State of Texas.***

***My grandparents lived about three blocks from the Capitol building. When grandmother appeared in the doorway to greet us, dressed in white, I thought she looked like the angel in my picture book at home. My grandfather, the boys and the two colored men didn't reach Austin until the day following.***

***A few days after our arrival in Austin my mother dressed me up and sent me down to the photographer's studio. Because I cried when the artist attempted to make a photograph, he sent me back home. The next day Maria carried me back, and this time he succeeded in making a daguerreotype, which is in just as excellent condition today as it was seventy-seven years ago. My mother bought the black lace gloves showing in the picture and the white mull hat with ribbon streamers at the Lamar & Moore Store.***

***The only unpleasant feature about my visit to Grandmother Weir's was the daily trip into town by a white man called Crazy Tom. Although considered harmless, he always succeeded in running the boys off the streets and in causing little children to scamper wildly into the houses whenever he appeared from his hillside shack. Picking up cigar stubs from the streets and begging a "chaw of terbacker" were about the worst things he did. Grandmother often sent him food as did other people who felt sorry for him***

***Pandora Would Peep***

***Near grandmother's home was the office of Dr. Snyder, who soon became one of my best friends. Almost daily I could be found playing on the doorsteps or even in the office though I was always cautioned not to open the tall cabinet that stood in one corner. Pandora-like, that was the thing I most wanted to do. Finally at my insistence, he pushed back a sliding door and there beneath a shelf of glittering instruments was a grinning skeleton. I almost froze to the spot. Silently Dr. Snyder closed the door, and never again did I tease him to see into closed cabinets and drawers.***

***Grandmother had a half-grown Indian boy whom she had cared for since he was a tiny lad. On leaving Austin to take part in warfare against the troublesome Indians, a Mr. Ford, a friend of the family, laughingly had said, "Do you want me to bring you a scalp?" "No," replied grandmother, "I want an Indian boy."***

***Not long afterward Mr. Ford returned with the small son of the chief whose depredations had been the cause of the warfare. Nopo, as the child called himself, and a younger brother were riding behind their fleeing mother, who had another child in front of her, when Nopo slipped off the horse' back. In her frantic efforts to rejoin her vanquished tribe, the squaw probably did not know for some time that she had lost her oldest son. Mr. Ford also brought with him the braided coat of the chief who was killed in the skirmish, and for a long time afterward the lad would weep bitterly whenever he saw his father's garment.***

***Old Austin Homes***

***Although many of the residences were built of hewn logs, as most pioneer homes were at that time, Austin had a number of beautiful and stately Southern mansions. Among those in which my relatives were frequent guests were the huge brick colonial of Gov. and Mrs. E.M. Pease, built on a forest-covered hill some distance from the city, the splendid Raymond and Fisher homes, designed by one of the most famous architects of the day, Col. Abner Cook; the unpretentious but neat and comfortable cottage of two of Ausin's most interesting people, the Scotsman, Robert Barr, accountant in the Comptroller's Department, and his afterward celebrated wife, Amelia E. Barr, the novelist; the dignified Governor's Mansion, on an eminence at the rear of the Capitol, which later burned, and the French Embassy, residence of the French Ambassador whien Texas was a Republic; but at that time and since the property of Dr. J.M. Robertson and family.***

***The principal hotel in those days was the Swisher, which was formerly known as the Bullock House. It stood on the lot now occupied by a drug store. Here it was that the pig incident occurred which caused such strained relations between France and the Republic of Texas.***

***Austin had a number of "groceries" and general stores in 1855, but the only ones in the latter class whose names can be recalled were Lamar & Moore's and Hancock's. The former was on Seventh and Congress, and the latter where the Scarborough Building is today.***

***Then and Now***

***The population of Austin in 1855 was, I am told, between 2,000 and 3,000. The smallness of the town may be attributed to the fear potential settlers had of the Indians on the frontier, as Austin then was, and also to the opposition of many who wished the Capitol to be more centrally located in Houston. Among the people of prominence then, and in after years, were A.W. Terrell, Gov. E.M. Pease, Chief Justice Hemphill, J.W. Throckmorton, Dr. Litten, Judge W.S. Oldham, Col. George Hancock, Thomas E. Sneed and A. J. Hamilton.***

***Except for the fact that the Colorado channel was not quite so wide, the streets were rougher and steeper, and the hills seemed wilder and more rugged; the terrain was the same in 1855 as it is today. Probably the most not iceable difference is the absence from Main (now Congress Avenue) of a small creek called Rio Bravo. In early days it followed the course of Main as far south as Sixth Street whence it turned eastward and emptied into Waller Creek.***

***At the time of our visit the temporary Capitol was still in use, as the new Capitol which burned in 1881 was not completed for almost a year after we were there. The old Capitol, built of double logs and facing east, was about where the City Hall now stands on Eighth Street. The new Capitol stood on the now vacant lot in front of the Governor's Mansion. The handsome old land office which is today a museum was also completed the year following our visit.***

***After spending the summer with my grandparents in Austin and visiting for a few days grandfather's brothers Robert and Adolphus Weir in Manchaca Springs, we began our long journey back to the cypress shaded waters of the Sabine. Soon after our arrival at Grand Bluff, my father, A.L. Vawter, who had returned at the same time from a business trip to New York, died. Three years later my young mother followed him. Bereft then of both parents, I went with my nurse, Maria, to live with Grandfather and Grandmother Weir wh o had recently moved from Austin to their plantation in Rusk County.***

***A Modern Revelation***

***In the spring of 1925, I went for the second time to Austin to visit one of my daughters. Instead of entering the city on a lumbering stage , I entered in the comfortable Pullman of a fast train. In the place of candles, the streets, public buildings and homes were illuminated with brilliant electric lights. A taxi sped me in five minutes to my destination a mile from the station. That night I went to sleep to the sound of music from a radio station in New York City. The following morning I was awakened by the simultaneous ringing of the telephone and the roaring of an airplane. Like Rip VanWinkle, I rubbed my eyes and looked about me. Gone were the heads of families that my childhood had known. In their places stood, not their sons, but their son's sons. Gone too were nearly all the substantial, but old-fashioned homes and buildings. Even the dust and ashes of the Capitol, so new, so splendid and so enduring in 1855, had long since been hidden under grass and flowers. Towering above and eclipsing all else in its magnitude = and beauty was a Capitol, the proportions of which were hardly dreamed of in 1855. Sky scrapers, handsome residences, state institutions (including a magnificent university group) had usurped the sites once occupied by postoak groves, cedar brakes, pioneer homes and business houses.***

***Outwardly, I too, had changed as much as the landscape before me. Across the stage of life had passed almost four generations, marriages, births and deaths had entered my own experience, molding me as they came. Yet my heart was as happy as it was when I first saw Austin three score and four years before. The dream of a lifetime had come true -- I was again in the city of the violet crown.***