

# VAWTER AUTER VAUGHTER(S)

## FAMILY ASSOCIATION

Website: [www.vawterfamily.org](http://www.vawterfamily.org)

Dedicated to finding Vauter(s), Vawter(s),  
Vaughter(s)  
**Newsletter**

March 2013 Volume 37 No 1

Reunion Dates:

**Greenwood, Mississippi 2013**

**July 18 - 20**

Knoxville, Tennessee in 2014, Return to VA 2015

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### Samuel Vawter 1771 land transaction:

Matthias Williams and his wife Jane/Jean of Cumberland C. Va sold an estimated 150 acres "whereon Matthias Williams now liveth between Dry Creek and Badlock branches of the Appomatox river and on lines of Charles Anderson, Joseph Michaux, Wm Fretwell, Leanda Hughes and Moore Lumpkin: to Samuel Vawter, 5 lb, October 24 1771 with Jno Woodson Sr and Jr and Moore Lumpkin, Witnesses. As per Cumberland C. Va wills. Deed Book 7,30.

### William G. Cutler's *History of the State of Kansas*

OSAGE COUNTY, Part 9, JAMES E. VAWTER, farmer, Section 7, P. O. Carbondale, born in Todd County, Ky., February 21, 1847, son of Joseph D. Vawter and Sarah M. Foster. He came to this State in 1868. Settled in Shawnee County, but now resides in Burlingame Township, on 320 acres of improved land. He was married in Tazewell County, Ill., February 17, 1874, to Miss Mary Huxtable. They have one child - Sarah E.

### Atlanta, Georgia 1920 Vawter – Akin

Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Vawter announce the marriage of their daughter, Virginia, to J. Ellison Akin, which took place Saturday, May 29, at the parsonage of the Moore Memorial church, the Rev. W. T. Mann officiating. Mr. and Mrs. Akin will be at home to their friends after June 7, at 58 Hill street, this city.

### MARRIAGE RECORDS FROM PATRICK COUNTY VA. 1791 - 1850

Copied By Lela C. Adams - Reprinted in 1984

21 Jan 1827 - Adam Hall & Martha Vaughters - Sur. & Min. Thomas Whitlock (page 49)

27 Feb 1821 - Jordon Hall and Sally Vaughter - Sur. Tyre Bowman (page 50) 14.

## In Memoriam

**Randy H. Vawter**, 58, of Coloma, MI, died early Wednesday, Dec. 12, at Lakeland Regional Medical Center in St Joseph.

A memorial service will be held at 1 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 16, with the family receiving friends beginning one hour prior to the service at Duffield & Pastrick Family Funeral Home in Coloma. Cremation has taken place.

Donations in memory of Randy may be made to the National Kidney Foundation of Michigan or to the American Diabetes Association.

Randy was born April 20, 1954, in Watervliet to Harold and Shirlea (Townsend) Vawter. He graduated in 1972 from Watervliet High School and was plant manager for both Wolverine Metal Stamping in St. Joseph and Modineer in Niles before his illness. In his free time Randy loved playing and watching golf and watching CNN. Survivors include his wife, Cathy, whom he married October 6, 1979; two sons, Jason Vawter of East Lansing and Adam Vawter of Coloma; a daughter, Lindsay Vawter of Benton Harbor; two brothers, Rick (Pat) Vawter of Hartford and Ron (Dianne) Vawter of Watervliet; his sister, Renee (Brent) Abrams of Sister Lakes; a grandson, Jayelin Vawter; and several nieces and nephews

BENTON CITY, WA -- **Douglas Vawter**, 78, died Dec. 1, 2012 at home in Benton City. He was born in Riverside, Calif., and lived in Benton City for over 30 years. He was a retired director of the Humane Society.

HELENA, MT - **Jane Delores Schmidt Myers Vawter** died on January 21, 2013 in Helena, MT, after a courageous battle against Alzheimer's. Jane was born (with her twin sister Jean Dorothy) on January 27, 1926 in Indianapolis, IN, to Katie Park and Otto Frank Schmidt. Jane attended Emmerich Manuel Training High School. Jane's first husband of eight months, G. Wayne Myers, was killed in a plane crash. She found another love of her life in her second husband, James T. Vawter, Jr. and enjoyed forty-five years of marriage. Jane's career started in a dental lab making teeth and ended as an oral surgeon's assistant. She was a past Worthy Matron in Whitney Chapter of OES in New Burlington, IN. She was active in Alanon with her husband as he traveled the state of Indiana giving AA leads. Jane delighted in being a master cake decorator and master dollhouse builder. Her love for Christmas was only exceeded by her love for her family. She was on the original Cowan Volunteer Fire Dept. Auxiliary and was one of the phone tenders in the early days of the Dept. Jane moved to Montana to be with her daughter, son-in-law and granddaughters.

Jane is survived by her daughter, Jan Dee Vawter Cronin and her husband, Gary Mike Cronin of Helena, MT; granddaughters, Casey Nicolette Cronin of Missoula, MT and Elizabeth Anne Cronin of Chicago, IL; sister-in-laws, Katherine Schmidt of Palestine, TX and Lois Vawter of Elkhart, IN; nephews, William R. Schmidt, Jr. and his wife, Terri Caspary Schmidt of Albuquerque, NM and Brett Vawter, and nieces, Valarie Vawter, Andrea Vawter and Hale Newman of Cincinnati, OH.

Jane was preceded in death by her husband, James T. Vawter, Jr.; first husband, G. Wayne Myers; sisters, Jean Schmidt, Norma Schmidt, Vaneta Schmidt and her brother, William R. Schmidt, Sr.

**Mary Dean Vaughter**, age 87 of Murfreesboro, passed away January 7, 2013 at Middle TN Medical Center. She is survived by daughter, Bonnie Dean Vaughter; grandson, Deron T. (Kim) Vaughter; and brother, James K. Smith, Sr. She will lie-in-state Saturday, January 12, 2013 from 3 - 5 p.m., at Scales & Sons Chapel. Visitation with the family will be Sunday, January 13, 2013 from 2 - 3 p.m., funeral to follow at Mt. Zion M.B. Church, 711 Maple Street. Interment held 11 a.m., January 14, 2013 in Stones River National Cemetery.

**2013 Vawter Vauter Vaughter(s)  
Family Association Reunion, Greenwood, Mississippi, July 18-20**

Contact: Georgene Jurgensen, gfjurgensen@gmail.com, 816-591-0251

Name of Each Attendee:

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

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Registration per Single Adult or	_____ @ \$10.00 _____
Registration per Family	_____ @ 15.00 _____
Dues for 2013 (if not paid) includes Newsletter	_____ @ 10.00 _____
Thursday night Reception, Hampton Inn	No Charge
Breakfast Daily at your hotel	No Charge
B.B. King Museum Tour, Indianola, MS	_____ @ 5.00 _____
Friday Lunch, BBQ and other Southern cuisine, Adult	_____ @ 16.00 _____
Friday Lunch, BBQ and other Southern cuisine, Child (under 12)	_____ @ 8.50 _____
Friday night Dinner, Southern-fried catfish and fixings, Adult	_____ @ 25.00 _____
Friday night Dinner, Southern-fried catfish and fixings, Child (under 12)	_____ @ 9.00 _____
Saturday Lunch (on your own)	
Saturday night Banquet, catered by the Crystal Grill, Adult	_____ @ 29.00 _____
Saturday night Banquet, catered by the Crystal Grill, Child (under 12)	_____ @ 8.50 _____
<b>TOTAL:</b>	_____

Price includes all taxes and gratuities for meals. **Pay at the reunion when you register.**

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# VVV Reunion July 18 – 20, 2013

## Greenwood Mississippi

Plans for the 2013 VVV Reunion are coming along well, and now is the time for all of us to make plans and reservations to attend. The dates are July 18 - 20, 2013, in Greenwood, Mississippi, beginning with a great "early-bird" reception on Thursday night, July 18.

To add some variety, we have arranged for two host hotels, Hampton Inn of Greenwood and The Alluvian Hotel. Here are details for each.

The **Hampton Inn of Greenwood, Mississippi**, is honored to serve as host hotel for the Vawter-Vauter-Vaughter Family Reunion on July 18-20, 2013. The address of the hotel is 1815 Hwy 82 West, Greenwood, MS 38930, and the phone number is 662-455-7985. The hotel offers a number of nice amenities, including: completely renovated lobby, breakfast area, and meeting room; completely renovated rooms with refrigerators, microwaves, coffeemakers, irons and ironing boards, 32 inch LCD TV's, hair dryers and ironing boards, oversized desks; a free hot breakfast in the morning from 6 am to 10 am; and a large fitness room and pool area. We are putting a hold of 50 rooms at this hotel for this reunion at a SPECIAL RATE of \$69 per night. Because of this special rate, please book rooms by calling the hotel general manager, Kristie Smith at 662-455-7985, or email her at [kristie.smith@hilton.com](mailto:kristie.smith@hilton.com).

Our other host hotel is **The Alluvian**, a cosmopolitan boutique hotel in the heart of the Mississippi Delta. Cross the sleek threshold of The Alluvian, and enter a realm with a nouveau-chic ambiance normally reserved for world cities. Luxurious and intimate. Elegant and eclectic. Created by world renowned architects and designers, this award winning boutique hotel has claimed iconic status with its modern design. The Alluvian boasts 45 rooms and five luxurious suites, as well as a full service spa and lively bar and restaurant. Rooms for the VVV Reunion are specially priced at \$119 plus tax per night. Room types include suites, deluxe king, deluxe queen, standard king, standard queen and double queen. To reserve a room, please call 866-600-5201 or 662-453-2114. For more information on The Alluvian, visit the website at [www.thealluvian.com](http://www.thealluvian.com).

These facilities are approximately 5 minutes apart by car, and both are giving us super discount rates. SO MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS NOW.

The early-bird reception will be held at the Hampton's meeting room on Thursday evening. We are pleased to report that Martha Hudson and Judy Crawford are providing complementary refreshments for this welcome event.

At approximately 10 a.m. on Friday, we will proceed in our vehicles to the famous B.B. King Museum in nearby Indianola, Mississippi. Our world-class tour there will be followed by a lunch at the museum featuring barbecue and other Southern cuisine by the Blue Biscuit and music by Bluegrass Appeal, a fantastic instrumental group headed by Roger's friend, Mississippi Supreme Court Justice Jess Dickinson.

Following an afternoon of free time with many, many opportunities, we will gather at Tallahatchie Flats, a tavern just north of Greenwood for Southern-fried catfish and fixings by Larry's Fish House and a little entertainment by world-famous country music recording artist Steve Azar. Steve has recently moved his young family from Nashville back to nearby Greenville, Mississippi. (One secret: Because Steve believes so much in the future of the Mississippi Delta and is so excited to have VVV members there from all over the U.S.A., he is providing us a concert at absolutely no charge. He usually performs for thousands of dollars, so please, please do not breathe a word!!!)

Breakfast each morning comes with your room rate at either hotel. Saturday daytime, including lunch, will be on your own with a variety of opportunities for touring and fellowship. Opportunities will include a course at the Viking Range cooking school (headquartered in Greenwood), a tour of sites for the Academy Award-winning movie The Help (filmed in Greenwood), a visit to the world's largest cypress trees, the Museum of the Mississippi Delta, shopping and restaurants all across the Delta, and the renowned Mississippi Blues Trail, just to name a few. And of course there is the fabulous Alluvian Spa, providing a variety of services for your relaxation. Advance reservations advised. (For the guys, your robes in the spa are designed with hunter's camouflage to protect your masculine self-image.)

Our Saturday night banquet will be held at Greenwood's Episcopal Church of the Nativity next door to The Alluvian and catered by the Crystal Grill.

#### After Hours:

For the younger set (and younger at heart), there are several clubs and "juke joints," such as 308 Blues Club and Club Ebony in Indianola, Po Monkey's in Merigold, Mississippi, (50 minutes from Greenwood, open on Thursday) and Morgan Freeman's Ground Zero Blues Club in Clarksdale, Mississippi, (a little farther). We can secure coach transportation or designated drivers if there is enough interest.

**Outline Chart of the first few generations of Vawter families as they stand today.**  
**Additional information continues to be researched and corrections and documents are always welcome. Any questions or information can be sent to the vawter website at vawterfamily.org or family historian, website or newsletter editor.**

**Bartholomew Vawter 1 m. Winifred Hodgson dau. of William Hodgson and Onah (nee?)**

1. John Vawter b. 1690-92
2. William Vawter b. ca 1695
3. David Vawter b. bef. 1699 No issue
4. Margaret Vawter b. ca 1700 No issue
5. Richard Vawter b. ca 1702/03
6. Augustine Vawter b. 1706/07
7. Benjamin Vawter b. ca 1707/08
8. Edward Vawter b. ca 1709/10

(1) John Vawter 2, Bartholomew 1 m. Margaret Noel dau. of Cornelius Noel

1. Winifred Vawter b. ca 1716 m. Daniel McBen/McBane No Issue

2. Bartholomew Vawter b. ca 1718 m. Ann (Hay?)

a. Cornelius Vawter

3. Margaret Vawter b. ca 1722 m. Ephraim Rucker

a. Mary Rucker  
b. Margaret Rucker  
c. John Rucker  
d. Angus Rucker  
e. Elliott LeGrande Rucker  
f. Tabitha Rucker  
g. Tomagen Rucker  
h. Ephraim Rucker  
i. Julius Rucker

4. Richard Vawter b. ca 1725 m. Frances Towles

a. Bartholomew Vawter  
b. Ann Vawter wife of Philemon  
c. Frances Alpha and Omega Vawter  
d. Lucy Vawter  
e. Winifred Vawter  
f. Margaret Vawter  
g. Nancy Vawter  
h. John Vawter  
i. Russell Vawter

5. Angus Vawter b. ca 1729 b. Ann Boulware

- a. Boulware Vawter
- b. Phoebe Vawter
- c. Ann Vawter
- d. Elizabeth Vawter
- e. Rhoda Vawter

6. David Vawter b. ca 1730 m. Mary Offill/Aafil

- a. David Vawter
- b. Jesse Vawter
- c. Margaret Vawter
- d. Philemon Vawter married Ann Vawter
- e. William Vawter
- f. Winifred Vawter
- g. Mary Ann Vawter

William Vawter 2, Bartholomew 1 wife unknown

1. William Vawter

Benjamin Vawter 2, Bartholomew 1 wife unknown

1. Augustine Vawter

Edward Vawter 2, Bartholomew 1 m. Elizabeth Boulware dau. of John Boulware

1. Samuel Vawter b. ca 1730-33 m. Agnes Richardson

- a. John J. Vawter
- b. Clement Vawter
- c. Elliott Vawter
- d. Mary "Polly" Ann Vawter
- e. Beverly Vawter
- f. Drucilla Vawter
- g. Jesse Vawter
- h. Margaret Vawter
- i. Elizabeth Vawter

2. William Vawter b. 6 May 1735 m. (2) Anne Ballard

- a. William Vawter (mother unknown)

3. Thomas Vawter m. Mary Elizabeth Pitt

- a. Mary Ann Vawter
- b. Ludwell Vawter
- c. Edward Vawter
- d. Lemuel Vawter
- e. Martha "Patsy" Vawter

4. Margaret Vawter m. James Goodrich

- a. Mary Goodrich
- b. Thomas V. Goodrich
- c. Elizabeth Goodrich
- d. Samuel Elliott Goodrich
- e. Alice/Ally Goodrich
- f. James Goodrich Jr.

5. Elliot Vawter m. Margaret (nee?)

- a. Jane/Jenny Vawter

6. James Vawter m. Alice?

7. Benjamin Vawter m. unknown

- a. Agnes Boulware Vawter

(Unknown) 2, Bartholomew 1

Likely the children of Richard or Augustine

1. Richard Vawter m. unknown

- a. Edward Vawter m. Phoebe Vawter
- b. James Vawter
- c. Richard Vawter m. Sally Vaughan
- d. Frankee Vawter m. Adam Beazley/Beasley
- e. Benjamin Vawter m. Susannah Park
- f. Mary Vawter
- g. Margaret Vawter

2. William Vawter m. Frances Rouse

- a. Benjamin Vawter m. Elizabeth Bell
- b. Frances Vawter single
- c. Maria "Mary" Vawter single
- d. Malinda Vawter single

3. John Vawter Issue Unknown

Also,

Elizabeth Vawter 3, unknown 2, Bartholomew 1 m. Thomas Newman

- a. Thomas R. Newman
- b. James Newman
- c. Edmund Newman
- d. Obadiah Newman
- e. Richard Newman
- f. Robert Newman
- g. Elizabeth Moseley Newman

Margaret Vawter 3, unknown 2, Bartholomew 1 This person not proven to exist.

# 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 to The 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 automobile from the once prosperous, but now decadent village of Grand Bluff, Panola 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 from the bustling steamboat landing and ferry town of Grand Bluff, on the Sabine 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 mile 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, the 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's 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 Austin'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 when 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 noticeable 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 who had recently moved from Austin to their plantation in Rusk County.

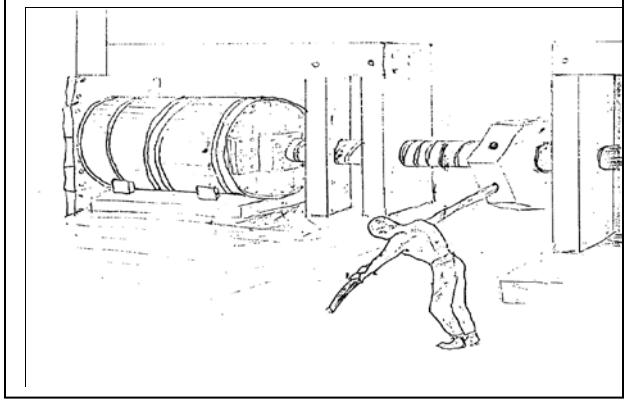
### **A Modern Revelation**

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 Van Winkle, 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 post oak groves, cedar brakes, pioneer homes and business houses.

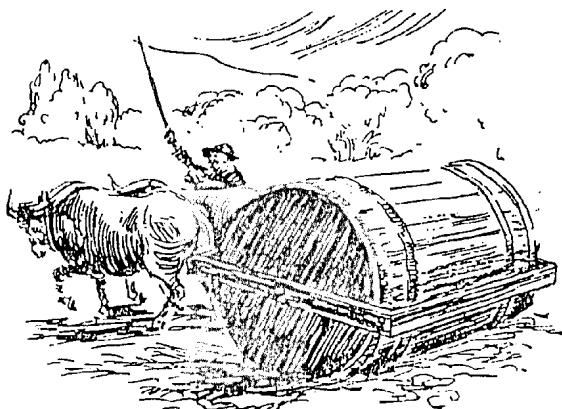
Outwardly, I too, had changed as much as the landscape before me. Across the stage of life had passed almost four generations, marriages, births and deaths had entered my own experience, molding me as they came. Yet my heart was as happy as it was when I first saw Austin three score and four years before.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

Port Royal, VA, located just north of the Vauter's Church, was important as a tobacco warehouse center. One of the original trustees of the town was Oliver Towles and two of his sisters married into the Richard Vawter and son Russell Vawter's family in later years. Port Royal was about 30 miles downstream from Fredericksburg and was a thriving center of commerce for many years and was considered for the sight of the national capital from 1786-90. Eighteen of its original structures are still used today.

Tobacco was packed into hogsheads by applying pressure with a wooden screw that forced the tobacco through a cask and into the hogshead. The cask had no ends. The hogshead was rolled or pulled by oxen to the waterways. The standardized size was 48 by 30 inches and filled with tobo or other grains weighed between 600 and 900 pounds. Hogsheads of rum contained about 108 gallons when brought back from Barbados. Single dugout canoes were about 16 feet long and could carry 2 or 3 hogsheads. Rose increased the length to 50 to 60 feet with



each canoe 4 to 5 foot wide. He lashed two together and held 8 or 9 hogsheads; a man on the front and back could maneuver them easily. They drew no more than a few inches of water and were quite stable. On the upstream return the two men could pole these light weight conveyances without a problem. This allowed the western and mountain areas to develop more tobacco and increase their financial status. Hogsheads were loaded aboard ships to England where factors (attorneys) helped with the sale and the purchase of necessary items from England and the return trip to the colonies.



The transportation of tobacco

the better variety which was grown in Essex and Oronoco or transfer grade which brought less value mostly grown in Albemarle. Vauter's Church minister Robert Rose's salary in both counties remained at 16,000 pounds of tobo per year plus "cask" (another 400 pounds to allow for spoilage). In Virginia law no planter could sell tobo until he had paid his year's tithes for church support.

Colonial structures were "framed", that is begun with vertical corner posts and held upright with diagonal corner beams, mortised and tenoned together at their joints. "Trenails" or wooden pins secured them firmly. Other vertical posts and studs were erected, usually on 20 to 22 inch centers, although tobacco barns could have studs only 12 inches apart to prevent robbery or forcible entry. The tobacco barn was the planter's "bank"; but the sides and ends would be left with spaces for air to cure the tobacco hung inside. Boards were hand hewn and hand milled from timber felled on the sight. The Vawters and Noels were builders and several children were indentured to learn the trade. This was an important skill in colonial Virginia.

The steps of producing tobacco were similar in the entire region. Topping the plants, secured better and larger lower leaves. The Act of the General Assembly specified the number of leaves which could be left on plants, to prevent over production of lesser quality tobacco and keep prices high. The number of leaves was cut to 6 to 10 per plant. Seven well tended plants yielded one pound of tobacco, and 15 plants in poor soil or poorly tended yielded one pound. The overseer was an important person as they made sure plants were well tended by the servants and slaves on the various holdings of the large land owners. No owner could "over see" his entire operation. Usually two crops were grown each season.



## FAMILY ASSOCIATION

Website: [www.vawterfamily.org](http://www.vawterfamily.org)

Dedicated to finding Vauter(s), Vawter(s), Vaughter(s)  
**Newsletter**

June 2013 Volume 37 No 2

Reunion Dates:

**Greenwood, Mississippi 2013**

**July 18 - 20**

Knoxville, Tennessee in 2014, Return to VA 2015

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Leaving a penny at the grave of a military person means simply that you visited.



A nickel indicates that you & the deceased trained at boot camp together, while a dime means you served with him in some capacity. By leaving a quarter at the grave, you are telling the family that you were with the soldier when he was killed. According to tradition, the money left at graves in national cemeteries & state veterans cemeteries is eventually collected, & the funds are put toward maintaining the cemeteries.

# In Memoriam

**OKLAHOMA CITY.** **Virginia Lee Whitaker-Vawter**, age 87, of OKC, passed away April 8, 2013. She was born October 17, 1925, in OKC, to Dudley & Lois (Austin) Sparks. Virginia worked as a Registered Nurse for Dr. Threlkeld's office for 40 years. She loved to read, especially books written by Danielle Steel. She was very active in church. Her family and friends were very important to her. She lived a long and productive life and is now with her family in Heaven. Virginia is survived by 3 sons, Philip Whitaker & his wife, Donna, Paul Whitaker & wife, Eldona and Mark Whitaker; and a host of loving grandchildren, great-grandchildren; and the Vawter family who loved and cared for her for 18 years. She is preceded by death by her parents; 2 husbands, Joy W. Whitaker & **Billy Mack Vawter**. Funeral Services will be held at 10:00 AM, Friday, April 12, 2013, at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, 12915 S. Santa Fe, OKC. Interment to follow at Resthaven Memory Gardens, OKC. Services are under the direction of the John M. Ireland Funeral Home & Chapel, Moore, OK.

**Violet (Vawter) Unger**, 96, Speedway, formerly of Tipton, died at 3 a.m. Monday, Jan. 2, 2012, at Methodist Hospital in Indianapolis. Funeral services will be 11 a.m. Friday at Stout and Son Funeral Home, Russiaville Chapel, 200 E. Main St., Russiaville, with burial in Middlefork Cemetery. Friends may call from 5 to 7:30 p.m. Thursday and from 9:30 a.m. until service time Friday at the funeral home.

**Marjorie Ruth Vawter**, 97, born on September 23, 1915, in Dry Creek, Missouri, passed away February 28, 2013. She resided in Hesperia, California at the time of her passing. Arrangements are under the direction of Forest Lawn, Glendale, California

Monday, March 11, 2013 Clay County Times-Democrat **Edith Mae Vawter** was born Aug. 14, 1924, in Cherryville, Kans. to John Floyd and Pauline Ketner and passed from this life Feb. 17, 2013, at the age of 88 years and six months. They moved to Battlecreek, Mich., before finally settling in Rector.

Edith attended Mary's Chapel and Greenway Schools. Edith began her teaching career at the age of 18 in the country school of Mary's Chapel and continued to teach until her retirement in California.

Edith married Leon Vawter on Sept. 11, 1943, and to this union four children were born: Kathy, Richard, Robert and Jared. After WWII, they made their home in Monticello, Ark., where Leon was head of the counseling department at Arkansas A&M College. Edith attended A&M College and received her BA in Elementary Education and the family moved to California in 1961.

Edith was preceded in death by her parents; two sisters and brothers-in-law, Hilda and Wayne Turner of Rector and Mary and Ervin Cribbs, Corcoran, Calif., and her brother, Frank Ketner of Lemoore, Calif.

**Alice Louise (Vawter) Slater**, 99, of Holton, KS passed away March 14, 2013 at Medicalodge Jackson County. She was born October 14, 1913 in Wakarusa, KS the daughter of Clarence D. and Leola Pearl (Bixby) Vawter.

Mrs. Slater had lived in the Holton community since 1936. She owned and operated, with her husband, Slater Shoe Repair. She also worked for Slimaker Dress Factory; she was a dealer for Stanley Home Products and worked for various restaurants in Holton.

She was a member of the Holton Hospital Auxiliary, American Baptist Women and a 50 year member of the First Baptist Church of Holton. Mrs. Slater married Morris Leonard Slater on July 10, 1932 in Topeka, KS. He preceded her in death on November 10, 1991. She was also preceded in death by sisters, Haroldine Ransdell Blumberg and Virginia Reaser, one brother Clarence "Bud" Vawter, and a son-in-law Eldon Shafer. Survivors include 3 daughters, Marjorie Shafer of Bella Vista, AR, Doris Knutsen (Lowell) of Waverly, KS and Wilma Hood (Tom) of Punta Gorda, FL; 2 sons, Morris Slater (Ellen), Jr. of Aurora, CO and Larry Slater (Terry) of Mayetta, KS; a brother, Russel Vawter of Wakarusa, KS; 19 grandchildren, 37 great grandchildren and 19 great-great grandchildren

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Some obituaries from Virginia Obit. Com Not all these Family connections are known, if anyone knows the family lines please let the website or newsletter editor know.

**Mary C. Vawter** August 10, 1912 - November 21, 2009

Mechanicsville, Virginia | Age 97

**Robert F. Vawter** April 30, 1915 - June 29, 2006

Urbanna, Virginia | Age 91

**Jerry L. Vawter** September 12, 1933 - August 24, 2005

Fredericksburg, Virginia | Age 71

**Denise D. Vawter** July 30, 1948 - July 22, 2004

Winchester, Virginia | Age 55

**Norah R. Vawter** January 18, 1909 - September 19, 2002

Woodstock, Virginia | Age 93

**Tracie M. Vawter** May 5, 1912 - August 17, 2002

Waynesboro, Virginia | Age 90

**Vivian J. Vawter** May 3, 1925 - October 22, 2000

Louisa, Virginia | Age 75

## Beverly Sparks Vawter.

This is the line of Russell Vawter (NC), son Richard Vawter (VA), son of John Vawter, son of Bartholomew Vawter

Wellington Kansas dated January 1, 1930, postmarked Wichita Kansas.

I am the daughter of Beverly Sparks Vawter, he being the son of Chadwell Vawter and Susan Taylor Vawter. They moved from the state of Virginia, Cullpepper County to Stokes County now Forsythe County North Carolina. My father married Miss Harriet Jane Lasley of Virginia she being the daughter of an old and fine family of Gentrys. Her mother was Nancy Gentry. I do not remember what her father's first name was. Six children were born to my father and mother in North Carolina. They moved to Knox County Illinois in October 1853. Six children were born to them in Illinois. My father and Uncle William Vawter, his wife (Regina Roberts) and some folks came together in 1852. My Uncle William died in 1859.

They rented land and farmed, had bad crops and hardships that come to everyone in a new territory but managed to live and be happy. Finally good crops brought them out of difficulties. He finally became a successful farmer and stock raiser. But while he succeeded in some things he had bad luck in others. He loved to entertain - sometimes three families spending the week at our home. Was a good provider. He loved to read. I remember one time I went to call him to dinner. He laughed and said he would rather read his paper than to eat. He sold out in Illinois in the year of 1877, came to Sumner county near Belle Plaine, Kansas. Loved by everyone he was converted at a Baptist Revival. It was the month of January and they had to cut the ice on the Ninnescab river. He lived a good Christian the rest of his life. Seven years later he died very suddenly on July 2<sup>nd</sup> 1885. Buried at Wellington.

Mother was a sweet and loving mother. She was a great comfort. She passed away March 12 1902. But three of the twelve children are now living: Mrs. Sarah Moore, widow of J. K. Moore, a Civil War veteran - living near Wellington. Brother George Allen Vawter lives in Adair, Illinois and myself, Mrs. Edwar Tiffin Rector. My husband was born in Circilville Ohio. We were married January 23 1878 and celebrated our Golden Wedding anniversary on the 23<sup>rd</sup> day of January, 1928. Our four children presented us with a lovely gold mounted Chimes Clock. We greatly appreciated it. Five children were born to us: Clara West born August 30 1880. Our daughters Mrs. Cora Rector Ford and Mrs. Helen Edawyn Persons live in Fresno, California. Rex Tiffin Arthur Rector, State Secretary of the Kansas Retailer's assn'n lives in Wichita Kansas. Major Elton Rector living in Wellington. My husband is a Mason and I am an Eastern Star. Born of our sons are 32<sup>nd</sup> degree mason and Nobles of the Mystic Shrine.

Children of Beverly Sparks Vawter:

Joseph William Vawter d. in infancy

Joseph Chadwell Vawter d. in action in Civil War (GJNote: this is shown also as Josiah Chadwell, and uncle Josiah Chadwell did die in Civil War. Whether Joseph/Josiah also died in Civil War has not been found)

James Madison Vawter d. in Illinois

Samuel Taylor Vawter d. in Kansas

Henri Anderson Vawter d. in Kansas

Sara Ann Vawter living in Wellington

Mary Jane Vawter d. in Kansas

Paulina Francis Vawter d. in Illinois

Emma Carolyn Vawter living in Wellington

Elizabeth Bessie Vawter d. in Kansas

George Allan Vawter living in Adair, Illinois

Susan Priscilla Vawter died in Illinois

Children of Beverly Vawter and Harriet Vawter and who they married.

Samuel T. married Ellen White of Rogers Arkansas

Henri A. married Sarah E. Hughes of Peck, Kansas

Mary Jane married Daniel Munson of McComb, Illinois

Paulina F. married Theodore Herndon of Industry, Illinois

Elizabeth B. married Charles H. Lovingfoss of Wellington, Kansas  
Emma C. married Edward Tiffin Rector married in Wellington Kansas  
George A. married Cora Smith of Penningtons Point Illinois

Children born to each son and daughter:

To Samuel T. Vawter - Silois Harriet died in infancy, John married to Edna Cole in Kansas, Hattie married to George Anthony in Kansas, Nola Fern married Mr. Moordy living in Missouri.  
John Vawter - One Child died in infancy,  
Hattie Anthony who has six children living,  
Nola Fern Moordy, five children, two living, three dead.

To Mary Jane Munson - four children:

Theodore Munson died in New Mexico  
Lulu Frances (Munson) Moore living in Kansas City, MO  
Gertrude Inez (Munson) Widney living in Kansas City, MO  
Daisy Mae (Munson) died in New York City wife of Dr. Ames Judd, MD of New York City

To Henry A. Vawter - 4 children

Henrietta married Frank Miles living at Cunningham, Kansas, five children.  
Stella married Charles Gamble living at Kingston, Kansas, two children.  
Ruby married Walter Mercer living at Peck Kansas, two children.  
Jewel married Albert Clugston living at Industry, Ill. One child.

To Paulina F. Herndon

Beulah died in infancy  
Sturl Arthur married, lives in Industry, IL  
Nola Fern died in Illinois at age 21.

To Elizabeth B. Lovingfoss

Harold H. married Fae Rash in Wellington Kansas. They have one child.  
Charles H. lives at Dallas, Texas.

To George A. Vawter

Burdett (no more known)  
Bertha Lorraine lives at Adair Ill.

To Emma C. Rector and Edward Tiffin Rector

Cora married Walter A. Ford in San Francisco, Cal. Lives at Fresno, CA  
Rex Tiffin Arthur living at Kansas City, MO and Wichita, Kans.  
Helen Edawyn married to Harry L. Persons at Wellington, Kansas  
Major Elton lives at Wellington, Kansas

Signed Emma C. Rector

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Richmond, VA. The times dispatch. 29 Jan 1907

Annual Chapter Meeting. The annual meeting of Richmond Chapter United Daughters of the Confederacy was held in Lee Camp Hall yesterday at 11 o'clock. ....of members present included  
Mrs. W. R. Vawter. Mrs. W.R. Vawter, Miss Kate Buford and Mrs. Kate S. Winn were appointed a committee to confer with the state Librarian in regard to Confederate relics being properly displayed in the library. On motion of Mrs. W. R. Vawter, it was decided that all person desiring to send application blanks for membership in the Richmond Chapter must do so before May 1<sup>st</sup>.....

Washington, District of Columbia, 1936 Marriage record

John Vawter Bauserman 28, Woodstock, VA and Susan Kreshaw Nicholson 28, Steubenville, Ohio. Rev. A. J. McCartney.

# VVV Reunion July 18 – 20, 2013

## Greenwood Mississippi

Plans for the 2013 VVV Reunion are coming along well, and now is the time for all of us to make plans and reservations to attend. The dates are July 18 - 20, 2013, in Greenwood, Mississippi, beginning with a great "early-bird" reception on Thursday night, July 18.

To add some variety, we have arranged for two host hotels, Hampton Inn of Greenwood and The Alluvian Hotel. Here are details for each.

The **Hampton Inn of Greenwood, Mississippi**, is honored to serve as host hotel for the Vawter-Vauter-Vaughter Family Reunion on July 18-20, 2013. The address of the hotel is 1815 Hwy 82 West, Greenwood, MS 38930, and the phone number is 662-455-7985. The hotel offers a number of nice amenities, including: completely renovated lobby, breakfast area, and meeting room; completely renovated rooms with refrigerators, microwaves, coffeemakers, irons and ironing boards, 32 inch LCD TV's, hair dryers and ironing boards, oversized desks; a free hot breakfast in the morning from 6 am to 10 am; and a large fitness room and pool area. We are putting a hold of 50 rooms at this hotel for this reunion at a SPECIAL RATE of \$69 per night. Because of this special rate, please book rooms by calling the hotel general manager, Kristie Smith at 662-455-7985, or email her at [kristie.smith@hilton.com](mailto:kristie.smith@hilton.com).

Our other host hotel is **The Alluvian**, a cosmopolitan boutique hotel in the heart of the Mississippi Delta. Cross the sleek threshold of The Alluvian, and enter a realm with a nouveau-chic ambiance normally reserved for world cities. Luxurious and intimate. Elegant and eclectic. Created by world renowned architects and designers, this award winning boutique hotel has claimed iconic status with its modern design. The Alluvian boasts 45 rooms and five luxurious suites, as well as a full service spa and lively bar and restaurant. Rooms for the VVV Reunion are specially priced at \$119 plus tax per night. Room types include suites, deluxe king, deluxe queen, standard king, standard queen and double queen. To reserve a room, please call 866-600-5201 or 662-453-2114. For more information on The Alluvian, visit the website at [www.thealluvian.com](http://www.thealluvian.com).

These facilities are approximately 5 minutes apart by car, and both are giving us super discount rates. SO MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS NOW.

The early-bird reception will be held at the Hampton's meeting room on Thursday evening. We are pleased to report that Martha Hudson and Judy Crawford are providing complementary refreshments for this welcome event.

At approximately 10 a.m. on Friday, we will proceed in our vehicles to the famous B.B. King Museum in nearby Indianola, Mississippi. Our world-class tour there will be followed by

a lunch at the museum featuring barbecue and other Southern cuisine by the Blue Biscuit and music by Bluegrass Appeal, a fantastic instrumental group headed by Roger's friend, Mississippi Supreme Court Justice Jess Dickinson.

Following an afternoon of free time with many, many opportunities, we will gather at Tallahatchie Flats, a tavern just north of Greenwood for Southern-fried catfish and fixings by Larry's Fish House and a little entertainment by world-famous country music recording artist Steve Azar. Steve has recently moved his young family from Nashville back to nearby Greenville, Mississippi. (One secret: Because Steve believes so much in the future of the Mississippi Delta and is so excited to have VVV members there from all over the U.S.A., he is providing us a concert at absolutely no charge. He usually performs for thousands of dollars, so please, please do not breathe a word!!!)

Breakfast each morning comes with your room rate at either hotel. Saturday daytime, including lunch, will be on your own with a variety of opportunities for touring and fellowship. Opportunities will include a course at the Viking Range cooking school (headquartered in Greenwood), a tour of sites for the Academy Award-winning movie The Help (filmed in Greenwood), a visit to the world's largest cypress trees, the Museum of the Mississippi Delta, shopping and restaurants all across the Delta, and the renowned Mississippi Blues Trail, just to name a few. And of course there is the fabulous Alluvian Spa, providing a variety of services for your relaxation. Advance reservations advised. (For the guys, your robes in the spa are designed with hunter's camouflage to protect your masculine self-image.)

Our Saturday night banquet will be held at Greenwood's Episcopal Church of the Nativity next door to The Alluvian and catered by the Crystal Grill.

#### After Hours:

For the younger set (and younger at heart), there are several clubs and "juke joints," such as 308 Blues Club and Club Ebony in Indianola, Po Monkey's in Merigold, Mississippi, (50 minutes from Greenwood, open on Thursday) and Morgan Freeman's Ground Zero Blues Club in Clarksdale, Mississippi, (a little farther). We can secure coach transportation or designated drivers if there is enough interest.

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**Have you ever wondered why signatures in old documents had such fancy signatures? One of Bartholomew Vawter's sons, Edward, signed his name Edward 15 in legal documents. Why the 15 no one knows but it is a sure way to know it was a legal signature. These fancy additions are called Flourishes:**

A flourish or other embellishment made after a signature, either as idiosyncrasy or to protect against forgery

[[Source](#)] It comes from via French from the Medieval Latin *paraphus*, a variant of *paragraphus* (paragraph).

A large, handwritten signature of the name "Benjamin Franklin" in a flowing, cursive script. The signature is written in black ink on a white background.

History of Kentucky, the Blue Grass State, Volume III, Illustrated, The S. J. Clarke Publishing Company, Chicago - Louisville, 1928

*Judge James T. Wilhoit*

*Important offices were filled by Judge James T. Wilhoit, whose spirit was of that vital and forceful nature which finds its highest expression in public service, and an unblemished record won for him the unqualified respect and confidence of the citizens of Versailles. He was known and honored throughout Woodford county and his demise on the 18th of June, 1923, was the occasion of deep and widespread regret.*

*Judge Wilhoit was born January 10, 1853, on a farm near Mortonsville, Kentucky, and was a son of Hiram and Sophia (Thornton) Wilhoit, the latter of whom was related to General Zachary Taylor through the Strother family. The paternal grandparents, Elijah and Nancy (Vawter) Wilhoit, settled on a farm near Mortonsville in 1814 and the former died in 1815, while his widow passed away several years later at Jacksonville, Illinois. When seventeen years of age Hiram Wilhoit took charge of the homestead, which he subsequently sold to a son, and purchased a tract of land on the Kentucky river. There he followed the occupation of farming and also operated a sawmill, converting the logs that came down the river into commercial lumber. He built up a large industry, which he continued until after the Civil war, and then sold the business. He was a democrat of the Jackson type and served as a magistrate under the old constitution. He filled the office for many years and died at the age of seventy-nine. His commission was preserved by the subject of this sketch, who was also the possessor of other interesting documents, dating back for a century or more. One was a letter written by his grandfather in 1812 and he also had an old account book that belonged to Richard Vawter, the father of his grandmother, Nancy Vawter. In this book mention is made of transactions between Richard Vawter and Henry Field, Jr., of Madison county, Virginia, during the year 1792. It also refers to a stock of rum or brandy and a large yardage of "nigger cotton."*

*James T. Wilhoit was reared on the river farm and attended the public schools of that locality. At the age of nineteen he entered Kentucky University at Lexington but soon afterward returned to the homestead and followed agricultural pursuits until appointed deputy sheriff under Robert H. Stout. Mr. Wilhoit was elected sheriff January 1, 1898, and was the first incumbent of the office under the new constitution, serving for one term. When Judge Stout was called to the state bench Mr. Wilhoit was chosen by Governor Beckham as his successor in the office of county judge and filled out the unexpired term. He was then elected for the regular term of four years and his just and impartial administration of the law won for him high commendation. On May 16, 1914, he was appointed postmaster of Versailles and acted in that capacity until 1922, discharging his duties with characteristic efficiency and fidelity. The business of the office was greatly increased during that period, requiring the services of three clerks and six rural delivery carriers. He was a good citizen, a devoted husband and father and a loyal, steadfast friend, always following the course dictated by conscience and honor.*

*In 1874 Judge Wilhoit married Miss Alice Bohon, a native of Missouri and a daughter of George and Susan (Gray) Bohon. She was a child when her father died and her mother returned to Kentucky soon afterward. To Judge and Mrs. Wilhoit were born six children. John T., the youngest, was in the employ of the Standard Oil Company at Henderson, Kentucky, and died September 12, 1925. The others are: Martha, the wife of Wallace Johnson, who is engaged in farming in Woodford county; Hiram, who acts as cashier of the Woodford Bank & Trust Company; James C., who is a well known attorney of Tulsa, Oklahoma; Sophia, the wife of Victor Bradley, a successful lawyer, practicing at Versailles; and George B., a clerk in the local postoffice.*

*Note: Judge Wilhoit was related to both Wilhoit and the Strother families of Carter Co., Ky.*

Dorine Vawter Clevenger had the Lorenzo Dow Bible. Dorine is the dau. of Theodore and his 2nd wife Georgia L. Wilburn and gr. dau. of Lorenzo Dow. Viewed on August 2000 and copied as follows: no page which dates the Bible but Dorine says it is likely over 100 years old. She resided in Florida in 2000.  
(left hand page)

L. D. Vawter was born May the 9, 1812

Elizabeth Vawter was born Nov the 27, 1820

L. D. Vawter died 17th March in the year 1897

(written a second time)

L. D. Vawter departed this life March 17 1897

Francis Vawter departed this Life March 3 - 1915

W. J. Vawter departed this December the 17, 1916

(right hand page)

Theodore Vawter was born Sept the 6, 1862

Andrew Donilson Vawter was born January the 26, 1867

Alpha Francis Vawter was born Aprile the 9, 1870

Francis Vawter was born February the 1 1830

Martha McNeil was born Aprile the 22 , 1856

Oliver Cleveland McNeil was born July the 15, 1860

(next left hand page)

Elizabeth Vawter departed this life July the 28, 1858

John B. Vawter Departed this Life August the 21, 1862

Thomas Henry Vawter departed this Life January the 11, 1862

Andrew Donalson Vawter departed this life October the 2, 1870

Louisa Jane Hamilton departed this life July the 29 1872

Asa Monrow Vawter departed this life August the 29, 1875

(next right hand page)

L D Vawter and Elizabeth Dawson was maried January the 17, 1839

John R/B Vawter was born Dec the 21, 1839

Willaim James Vawter was born November 5, 1841

Thomas Henry Vawter was born November the 17, 1844

Asa Monroe was born December the 24, 184(6?) page torn

Louisa Jane Vawter was born March the 3, 1849

Julian Vawter was born July the 12, 1851

Robert Newton Vawter was born June the 8, 1853

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### Baker-Vawter Building, , 915-917 Wyandotte, Kansas City, Missouri

National Register of Historic Places

Hoit, Price and Barnes (1920)

In March 1920, the Baker-Vawter Company, with offices in Benton Harbor, Michigan, San Francisco, Indianapolis and Holyoke, Massachusetts, hired the prominent Kansas City architectural firm to design their local facility. Baker-Vawter manufactured office supplies for their nationwide clientele. Around 1935, the Remington-Rand Corporation acquired Baker-Vawter and moved into the location through 1950 when the Kansas City Sosland family, with interests in grain and publishing, consolidated their facilities into the two-part, vertical block building.



Heath plant on Territorial, B.H. after expansion in 1952. V-M building (formerly Baker-Vawter) in back across alley. Firestone store at left, Barentsen Candy at right. Far back behind tall part of V-M and across Park St. is warehouse where Howard had his boats built around 1950.

## **2013 Vawter Vauter Vaughter(s)**

### **Family Association Reunion, Greenwood, Mississippi, July 18-20**

Contact: Georgene Jurgensen, gfjurgensen@gmail.com, 816-591-0251

Name of Each Attendee:

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

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Registration per Single Adult \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$10.00 \_\_\_\_\_

or

Registration per Family \_\_\_\_\_ @ 15.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Dues for 2013 (if not paid) includes Newsletter \_\_\_\_\_ @ 10.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Thursday night Reception, Hampton Inn No Charge

Breakfast Daily at your hotel No Charge

B.B. King Museum Tour, Indianola, MS \_\_\_\_\_ @ 5.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Friday Lunch, BBQ and other Southern cuisine, Adult \_\_\_\_\_ @ 16.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Friday Lunch, BBQ and other Southern cuisine, Child (under 12) \_\_\_\_\_ @ 8.50 \_\_\_\_\_

Friday night Dinner, Southern-fried catfish and fixings, Adult \_\_\_\_\_ @ 25.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Friday night Dinner, Southern-fried catfish and fixings, Child (under 12) \_\_\_\_\_ @ 9.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Saturday Lunch (on your own)

Saturday night Banquet, catered by the Crystal Grill, Adult \_\_\_\_\_ @ 29.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Saturday night Banquet, catered by the Crystal Grill, Child (under 12) \_\_\_\_\_ @ 8.50 \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL: \_\_\_\_\_

Price includes all taxes and gratuities for meals. **Pay at the reunion when you register.**



## FAMILY ASSOCIATION

Website: [www.vawterfamily.org](http://www.vawterfamily.org)

### Dedicated to finding Vauter(s), Vawter(s), Vaughter(s) Newsletter

September 2013 Volume 37 No 3

Reunion Dates:

**Knoxville, Tennessee 2014**

Vauter's Church, Virginia 2015

Bentonville, Arkansas 2016

### Officers

President	Connie Bugos...480 E. Pearl St, Farmington, IL 61531 Phone 309-645-4848 Email is <a href="mailto:bugram@att.net">bugram@att.net</a>
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Newsletter & Historian	Georgene Jurgensen...1704 SW New Orleans Ave. Lee's Summit, MO 64081 Phone...816-591-0251 email <a href="mailto:gjurgensen@gmail.com">gjurgensen@gmail.com</a>
Website & Newsletter	Patricia Renton...2372 Bear Creek Rd, Pipe Creek, TX 78063 Phone...830-510-4625 email <a href="mailto:prenton@vawterfamily.org">prenton@vawterfamily.org</a>



Jordan shows an antique chair shipped to the VVV Association. It has VAWTER stenciled on the back. The man who sent it (from Nebraska) owned it for more than 30 years, but does not know the history. He is not Vawterkin.



Vawter Vauter Vaughter Family Association Banquet  
July 20, 2013 in Greenwood, Mississippi

Hosted by Roger and Gayle Wicker

Power-point picture presentation from this year by Miles Russell; past reunion collection by Bruce Vawter

Welcome by President Connie Bugos

Prayer by Fred Wicker

Meal: fish, chicken tenders, broccoli casserole, potatoes, salad, & lemon or chocolate meringue pie  
Memorial Service was read by Ellen Wicker. Fred Wicker read scripture originally read at Vawter first reunion church service by Rev. Fall. Flowers placed by Luke Williams & Reba Alexander.  
Those remembered: Dorine Vawter Clevenger (1-10-2012), George Thomas Weidner (2-23-2012), Patrick John Vawter-Beaird (4-24-2012), Jack Morrison Vawter (4-27-2012), Orville Frank Vawter (5-24-2012), Rosetta Eileen Vawter (6-8-2012), Allen E. Vawter (6-23-2012), John Vawter (7-27-2012), Thomas William Renton (9-26-2012), Douglas Vawter (12-1-2012), Randy H. Vawter (12-12-2012), Violet Vawter Unger (1-2-2013), Mary Dean Vaughter (1-7-2013), Jane Delores Schmidt Myers Vawter (1-21-2013), Edith Mae Vawter (2-17-2013), Marjorie Ruth Vawter (2-28-2013), Alice Louise Vawter Slater (3-14-2013), Virginia Lee Whitaker-Vawter (4-8-2013)

Youngest attending: Lilah Mae Vawter, 20 months

Oldest attending, second year: Harold Lansdale 88 years, 3 days older than his first cousin Fred Wicker

Married longest: Norma & Ken Wicker, 58 years

Traveled farthest: Garry Vawter, 1790 miles from California

Past Presidents attending: Garry Vawter, "Bobby" Robert L. Vawter, Ken Wicker, Phil Vaughter, Jordan Johnston, Fred Wicker, Shirley Beasley, Lowell Vaughters

Roll-call of states: Mississippi had largest group at the dinner, 17; Illinois, 14; Other states, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Kentucky, Minnesota, Missouri, New York, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia

Final registration: 85

Vauter Church Love Offering: \$600 Auction \$845 Vauter's Church donation \$1200

Site report: 2014 Reunion will be in Knoxville, Tennessee; hosted by Shirley Beasley and Michelle Alexander

Door Prizes: Managed by Bruce Vawter & Shirley Beasley

Auction was managed by Norma & Ken Wicker.

Phil Vaughter motioned for adjournment; Zoe Vaughter seconded.

Adjourned



2012 VVV Reunion  
Greenwood Mississippi  
Hosts Roger and Gayle Wicker

Luke Williams led the Pledge of Allegiance



Roger Wicker with the band, The Blue Grass Appeal



Ken Wicker, Dorothy Vawter, Jackie Smith, Ian Smith  
Martha Hudson. On the right, Sybil and Harold Lansdale.  
In front, Norma Wicker and Tom Wicker.



Photo by: [unclear]

[unclear]

Palmer Triplett, Lera Triplett, Debby Wiley, Bob Wiley, Pearl Wiley, Ellen White,  
Merrie Wiley. In front, John Bowlin, Linda Bowlin and Thomas Wiley



Paul Bugos (right) with Dylan and Tyler Bugos,  
Michelle Anderson and Caitlin Dawson



Michelle Anderson, Shirley Beasley, Jerry  
Beasley  
In front, Linda Vawter with granddaughter Lilah



Ellen Cummings, Fred Wicker, George Wicker  
In the front, Dorrie, Bill and Katie Burrow.



Bobbie Jo Shryock, John Shryock, Douglas Dinkins, Rebecca  
Dinkins  
In front, Jerry Edwards, and Martha Edwards



In front, Reba Alexander, Kaitlin Johnston,  
Patricia Renton and Luke Williams.



More Happy Vacationers, great music

Gayle and Roger



Front table, Barry and Becky Guinagh. Next table on right, Phil Vaughter and Garry Vawter. Joe, Bonita, Darren, Will and Anna Welch



Guests Andy and Nancy Anderson, Kirk Sims, Gayle Wicker, Caroline Sims. In front Roger Wicker.

Fred Wicker gave us a genealogy lesson.  
We always enjoy his stories.



Friday night the cousins gathered at Tallahatchie Flats for a fish fry and live music by recording artist Steve Azar.



The Viking Range cooking demonstration was enjoyable and the meal was outstanding. Chef Elizabeth Heiskell was very entertaining and informative.

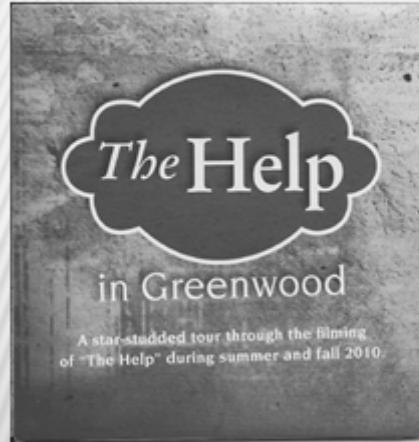


The VVV Association Annual Banquet was held at the Episcopal Church of the Nativity in Greenwood, Mississippi



More activities and southern hospitality.

VVV cousins enjoyed the tour of the many locations used in the filming of the movie "The Help"



## **William I. and Vernon H. Vawter of Oregon**

"An Illustrated History of the State of Oregon" Lewis Pub. Co.; Chicago, 1893  
Author, H. K. Hines; Page 564

### **WILLIAM I. VAWTER**

Among the substantial institutions of southern Oregon is the Jackson County Bank of Medford, which was established September 1, 1888, and was conducted successfully as a private bank by William I. Vawter until July 1, 1892, when the capital stock was increased from \$25,000 to \$50,000, and incorporated with the following named officers: William I. Vawter, president; William Slinger, vice-president; G. W. Howard, cashier; and J. E. Enyart as assistant cashier. Exchanges drawn on Portland, San Francisco and New York. The bank has done a safe and prosperous business since its doors were thrown open to the public and it ranks among the substantial banking houses of the State.

William I. Vawter, whose name heads the official list, is a native of Linn county, Oregon, born March 24, 1863. His father emigrated from Indiana across the plains to Oregon, in 1853. His mother is a native of Missouri, and also crossed the plains by ox teams, with her parents, as early as 1846. Her people located in the Willamette valley, which at that early day was populated with Indians.

William was reared and educated in his native State, graduating from the university of the State in 1886, and filled the position of principal in the public schools in Eugene, until 1888, when he established the Jackson County Bank, at Medford.

Politically he is a stanch Republican, and takes an active interest in the party. He is a member of A.F. & A.M. Since he became a resident of Medford, he has been closely identified with the interests of that city, and is always among the first to give his support, financially to every public enterprise tending to develop the city. Although a young man, he has gained a reputation for himself in the community as one of the most influential and progressive citizens, as well as an able scholar and financier.

Republican League Register of Oregon, The Register Publishing Company, 1896, page 275.

VAWTER, WILLIAM I., of Medford, president of the Jackson County Bank, was born in Linn County, March 24, 1863, and graduated from the University of Oregon in 1886. He was principal of the Eugene public schools till 1888, when he established the bank at Medford. He is an earnest Republican, has been a delegate to county and state conventions and league meetings, a member of the congressional and state central committees, and chairman of the county central committee.

Diary of Fred Alton Haight, 1877-1966

Medford, Oregon, Ms. 338, Southern Oregon Historical Society, Medford, Oregon

Vawter: William I. Vawter, 25, bank bookkeeper, director of music for First Presbyterian Church, res: 10 Quince Street

### Census

1900, June 14; Jackson Co, OR; East Medford Pct, p 251

Wm. I. Vawter, 37, March 1863, OR, IN, MO, mar 11 yrs, lawyer

Ella M, wife, 31, Jan 1869, ID, VA, MO, mar 11 yrs, 2 children-2 living

Vernon H, son, 9, Nov 1890, OR, OR, ID

Wm. I, son, 6, May 1894, OR, OR, ID

1910, April 15; Jackson Co, OR; North Medford Pct, p 141; 310 Main st.

William I. Vawter, 45, OR, TN, OR, mar 20 yrs, banker

Etta M, wife, 40, ID, TN, VA, mar 20 yrs, 2 children-2 living

Vernon H, son, 19, OR, OR, ID, att. school

Wm. I Jr., son, 15, OR, OR ID, att. school

Sarah R. Hill, m in I, 74, Wd, VA, VA, VA

Frank Nakamitsu, servant, 23, single, JAP, JAP, JAP

1920, Jan 1; Jackson Co, OR; Medford Wd 1, p 141

Letta Vawter, 50, ID, TN, VA, Wd, no occ.

Sarah R. Hill, mother, 84, VA, VA, VA, Wd

"History of Oregon"

Author: Charles Henry Carey

Publisher: Pioneer Historical Pub. Co.

Chicago-Portland; 1922; Vol. 3, Page 178

## VERNON HILL VAWTER

Vernon Hill Vawter, cashier of the Jackson County Bank of Medford and its chief executive, is not only prominently associated with business interests and enterprises which have much to do with the upbuilding of the city, but has in many other ways manifested his public spirit through cooperation with projects of great benefit to the state. He now has the distinction of serving as the youngest member of the board of regents of the State University and his labors are at all times a direct and constructive element of public progress. Mr. Vawter is numbered among the native sons of Medford, his birth having occurred November 13, 1890, his parents being William I. and Etta M. (Hill) Vawter. The father was also a native of Linn county and the members of the family rank high as factors in the growth and progress of southern Oregon. The first American ancestors of the Vawter family came from England more than a hundred years ago. William I. Vawter has the credit of being the "father of banking" in Medford and his fame is not confined alone to this field of activity, for his memory is cherished as that of one of the potential builders of the town, his efforts contributing in substantial measure in many ways to the early progress and later improvements of the city.

Vernon H. Vawter was educated in the graded and high schools of Medford and in the University of Oregon. Following his graduation from the state institution he returned to Medford and accepted a position in the Jackson County Bank, of which his father was then president. The son is now the cashier of the bank and its chief executive, contributing much to its development and growth. In fact under his guidance the bank has come to be regarded as one of the most substantial financial institutions of the state.

During the World war Mr. Vawter was accepted in a civilian Officers' Training Camp, but returned home incapacitated as a result of a severe attack of influenza and before he had recovered his health the armistice was signed. No man of his age in Oregon occupies a more prominent place in the business life of the state than does he. As a leading citizen of Medford he is called to act on every public service committee and he cheerfully responds to all demands made upon his time and means. He has had an unusual honor bestowed upon him in that he has been selected as one of the regents of the University of Oregon, enjoying the distinction of being the only man of his years who has ever been so highly honored. He is a member of the Medford public library board and belongs to the Chamber of Commerce, of which he served as president, cooperating in all of its activities for the benefit and upbuilding of the city. His political allegiance is given to the republican party, and he steadily declines to become a candidate for office.

In 1915 Mr. Vawter was married to Miss Aletha Emerick of Boise, Idaho, a daughter of V. J. Emerick, one of the most prominent residents of the city, who for two terms served as mayor of Medford.

Mr. Vawter is the treasurer of the Elks lodge of Medford and is also the treasurer of the Big Bend Milling Company, which has constructed in Medford several of its best business blocks on Main street and Central avenue, North. Nor does Mr. Vawter selfishly confine his energies to the growth and improvement of the city in which he makes his home, but takes an active interest in all matters for the benefit of the state. He is now one of the committee engaged in improving Crater Lake and the Crater Lake National Park. Progress and enterprise are the keynotes of his character and have constituted the forces that have thrown open for him the portals of success.

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### The Born Loser

"This is the Genealogy Department of the Public Library, Mr. Thornapple..."

"We have started to trace your family roots and have made a discovery concerning your late grandfather..."

"Yes? Yes?"

"You are responsible for his accrued fines of \$1,112.29!"

--Art Sansom

---

Genealogy is like potato salad -When you share it with others, it's a picnic!

"Those who forget their past are destined to repeat it."--Robert A. Heinlein

My apologies to Karen Bowman, a VVV member and great genealogist. I left off her beloved ancestor when I sent out the family charts recently. Since this is also my line and her ancestor and mine are brother and sister, very embarrassing. Here is the corrected chart.

**Bartholomew Vawter 1 m. Winifred Hodgson dau. of William Hodgson and Onah (nee?)**

1. John Vawter b. 1690-92
  2. William Vawter b. ca 1695
  3. David Vawter b. bef. 1699 No issue
  4. Margaret Vawter b. ca 1700 No issue
  5. Richard Vawter b. ca 1702/03
  6. Augustine Vawter b. 1706/07
  7. Benjamin Vawter b. ca 1707/08
  8. Edward Vawter b. ca 1709/10
- (1) John Vawter 2, Bartholomew 1 m. Margaret Noel dau. of Cornelius Noel
1. Winifred Vawter b. ca 1716 m. Daniel McBen/McBane No Issue
  2. Bartholomew Vawter b. ca 1718 m. Ann (Hay?)
  3. Margaret Vawter b. ca 1722 m. Ephraim Rucker
  4. Richard Vawter b. ca 1725 m. Frances Towles
- +1. Frances Alpha and Omega Vawter m. 2 Nov 1790 to Robert Shelton
- + 2. Nancy Vawter m. 17 Nov 1795 at Madison Co., VA to Elijah Wilhoit b. 18 Mar 1775 Culpeper Co., VA. (Nancy and her sister Tabitha married together on the same day).
- + 3. Margaret Vawter m. John Breedlove
- + 4. Lucy Vawter m. Andrew Finks
- + 5. Tabitha Vawter m. 17 Nov 1795 Madison Co., VA to Adam Rouse
- + 6. John Vawter b. ca 1750 m. (1) Frankee Ward m. (2) Joanna Vernon
- + 7. Russell Vawter b. 22 Jun 1755 m. Mary Sparks (cousin)
- + 8. Anne Vawter b. 14 Nov 1758 m. 1779 Rev. Philemon Vawter (cousin)
5. Angus Vawter b. ca 1729 b. Ann Boulware
6. David Vawter b. ca 1730 m. Mary Offill/Aufil

Richard Greene, Cartersville, GA , a VVV Family member and accomplished genealogist has been working on various lines connected to his Vawter family. He has been working on the Frankey Ward line, Frankey who married John Vawter of Georgia. The following item was found by him and is interesting in the content and family connections.

Russell Hill in this document is Frankey's Uncle. The signers John Breedlove and John Vawter were brother in laws. John Breedlove marrying John's sister Margaret Vawter. Richard Vawter and Russell Hill were brother in laws since they married the Towles sisters, Frances and Ann. Agnes Wood had no witnesses in court, but she did well in this marriage agreement. (Note: this research of other family members can many times answer a lost connection)

Virginia County Court Records, deed abstracts of Culpeper Co., VA (1175-1778) Deed Book H 15 May 1775 – 21 September 1778. Edited and Pub. By Ruth & Sam Sparacio, Copyright 1988

(Note: this was just before the start of the Rev. War)

PP 189-190. This Indenture made this 15<sup>th</sup> day of January 1776 between Russell Hill of County of Culpeper of one part & Agness Wood of County aforesaid Witnesseth that whereas a marriage is to be shortly Solemnized between said Russell and Agness and said Russell in consideration of the intended marriage & in consideration of Covenants hereafter mentioned on part of said Agness that is sd Agness should survive the said Russell that she shall immediately enjoy her present Estate both real and Pertainly and if said Agness should die before Russel that he will immediately deliver up all the Estate which he receives with her the said Agness to her son James Sims of if James Sims should die before his Mother leaving issue that the said Russell Hill will deliver up the said Estate to his issue or in case said James should die before his Mother without issue that then the said Russell will deliver up the Estate to such person as would have heired the same in case the said Agness had died a feme sole Except the said Agness will sould other ways provide & the said Agness in consideration of the Covenants on the part of the said Russell doth agree with said Russell that in case she relinquishes any claim that she would have had to her dower in the real & personal Estate of the said Russell Hill.

In Witness whereof    Richard Vawter              John Vawter              John Breedlove

Signed              Russell Hill              Agness Wood

At court held for Culpeper County the 17<sup>th</sup> June 1776, this indented articles of agreement ordered to be recorded.

Vawter township located in Bradford Co., PA shown in the 1895 atlas of PA, with a post office, no railroad

Vawter PA was functioning as early as 1837, seen in this non related family tree information

Maria JOHNSTON Birth: 1823 Death: 1837 in Vawter, Bradford Penn

Father: Albert JOHNSTON b: 1800 in NY, USA

Mother: Mary Ann CLOCK b: 1783 in NY, USA

Daily Gazette and Bulletin (Williamsport, Pennsylvania) 25 Oct 1902

Two Bradford County Post offices were Robbed



The post offices at Bumpville and Vawter in Bradford County, were robbed last night. The offices are both in country stores, which are but a few miles apart and the work is evidently that of the (----). About \$10 in stamps was secured from the Bumpville office and \$19 from the Vawter office.

Vawter School, Litchfield Township, Bradford County, teacher Miss Fox, picture from 1940. The school was moved to private property and used as a shed, the location is now unknown.

### Pennsylvania Soldiers of the Ninth Infantry Regiment 9th PA Regt of the Spanish American War

ADNEY, Charles H., Private, Co. M; Residence: Vawter, Pa.; Enrolled July 11, 1898; Mustered in July 12, 1898; Mustered out with company Oct. 29, 1898.

BRADLEY, Fred. W., Private, Co. M; Residence: Vawter, Pa.; Enrolled July 11, 1898; Mustered in July 12, 1898; Appointed Musician, July 12, 1898; Mustered out with company Oct. 29, 1898.

DRAKE, G. F. Private, Co. M; Residence: Vawter, Pa.; Enrolled July 11, 1898; Mustered in July 12, 1898; Mustered out with company Oct. 29, 1898.

MOODY, R. B., Private, Co. M; Residence: Vawter, Pa.; Enrolled July 11, 1898; Mustered in July 12, 1898; Mustered out with company Oct. 29, 1898.

RICHARDS, Lyman, Private, Co. M; Residence: Vawter, Pa.; Enrolled July 11, 1898; Mustered in July 12, 1898; Mustered out with company Oct. 29, 1898.

### Students in the Soldiers' Orphan Schools

from Bradford County, Pennsylvania June 1, 1895

Post Office Vawter: children of Alonso Conrad deceased, service pvt co. B 6<sup>th</sup> Regt, NY, by wife Martha Conrad. Names: Mary Kate b. 8 Dec 1882 and Florence N Conrad b. 8 Feb 1886, sent to the orphan school on 23 Aug 1893.

Artist, Parke Vawter, fl. 1930s, Topeka. Painter, spec. landscapes. Addresses in Topeka at 712 Jackson, res. 222 West 8th in Topeka in 1931. Also lived in California.

Source: Topeka City Dir. 1931; No copies of his painting are found. Does anyone have additional information on this person or family? Send to email newsletter editor

[gjurgensen@kc.rr.com](mailto:gjurgensen@kc.rr.com) or website [www.vawterfamily.org](http://www.vawterfamily.org)

### A List of Wars

When locating your male ancestor, be sure to check the wars and related movements of families and people. Below are the wars compiled by Daniel H. Burrows which may be of help.

WAR DATES AREA

French-Spanish	1565-67	Florida
English-French	1613-1629	Canada
Anglo-French	1629	St.Lawrence Riv.
Pequot War	1636-37	New England
???	1640-45	New Netherland
Iroquois	1642-53	New Eng.; Acadia
Anglo-Dutch	July 1653	New Netherland
Bacon's Rebellion	1675-76	Virginia
King Philip's	1675-76	New England
War In North	1676-78	Maine
Culpepper's Reb'n	1677-80	Carolinas
Leisler's Rebellion	1688-91	New England
Revolution in MD	1689	Maryland
Glorious Revolution	1689	New England
King William's War	1689-97	Canada
Queen Anne's	1702-13	New England
Tuscarora	1711-12	Virginia
Jenkin's Ear	1739-42	Florida
King George's	1740	GA & VA
Louisbourg	1745	New England
Fort Necessity	1754	Ohio
Anglo-French	1755-58	Canada
French & Indian	1754-63	New Eng;VA
Siege of Quebec	1759	Canada
American Revolution	1775-83	USA
Wyoming Valley	1782-87	Pennsylvania
Shay's Rebellion	12/1786-1/1787	Massachusetts
Whiskey Insurrection	1794	Pennsylvania
Northwestern Indian	1790-95	Ohio
Winnebago Indian	1827	Wisconsin
Sac & Fox Indian	1831	Illinois
Black Hawk	1832	Illinois & Wisconsin
Toledo	1835-36	Ohio & Michigan
Texan	1835-36	Texas
Indian Stream	1835-36	New Hampshire
Creek Indian	1836-37	Georgia & Alabama
Florida (Seminole)	1835-42	FL, GA, & AL
Sabine / Southwestern Indian	1836-37	Louisiana
Cherokee	1836-38	---
Osage Indian	1837	Missouri
Heatherly Disturbance	1836	Missouri
Mormon	1838	Missouri
Aroostook	1839	Maine
Creek Indian	1813-14	South
Lafitte's Pirates	1814	Local
Barbary Pirates	1815	North Coast Africa
Seminole Indian	1817-18	FL & GA
Lafitte's Pirates	1821	Galveston
Arikaree Indian	1823	Missouri Riv; Dakota Terr
Fever River Indian	1827	Illinois
Dorr's Rebellion	1842	Rhode Island
Mormon	1844	Illinois
Mexican	1846-1848	Mexico
Cayuse Indian	1847-48	Oregon
TX & NM Indian	1849-55	---
California Indian	1851-52	---
War with Tripoli(Naval)	1801-05	North Coast Africa
Burr's Insurrection	1806-1807	South Mississippi Valley
Chesapeake (Naval)	1807	Virginia
Northwestern Indian	1811	Indiana
Florida Seminole Indian	1812	FL (GA Volunteers)
War of 1812	1812-15	General
Peoria Indian	1813	Illinois
Utah Indian	1850-53	---
Rogue River Indian	1851, 1853, 1856	Oregon
Oregon Indian	1854	Oregon
Nicaraguan	1854-58	Naval
Kansas Troubles	1854-59	Kansas

War with France	1798-1800	Naval
Yakima Indian	1855	Local
Klamath & Salmon Indian	1855	Oregon & Idaho River,
Florida Indian	1855-58	Florida
John Brown's Raid	1859	VA
War of Rebellion	1860-65	General
Cheyenne	1861-64	Local
Sioux	1862-63	Minnesota
Indian Campaign	1865-68	OR, ID, CA
Fenian Invasion of Canada	1866	From New England
Indian Campaign	1867-69	KS, CO & Ind. Terr.
Modoc Indian	1872-73	Oregon
Apaches	1873	Arizona
Indian Campaigns	1874-75	KS, CO, TX, NM, & Indian Territory
Cheyenne & Sioux	1876-77	Dakota
Nez Perce	1877	Utah
Bannock	1878	ID, Washington Terr. Wyoming Terr.
White Riv. (Ute Ind.)	1879	Utah & Colorado
Cheyenne	1878-79	Dakota & Montana
Spanish-American	1898-99	Cuba
Philippine Insurrection	1899-1902	Philippine Islands

### FULTON COUNTY

### INDIANA OBITUARIES

*Rochester Sentinel*

Saturday, June 13, 1914

E. T. HOCHSTEDLER died this afternoon at his home on West Seventh street. He had been sick for over a year.

Monday, June 15, 1914

Eli T. HOCHSTEDLER, son of Gabriel and Marie TROYER HOCHSTEDER, was born March 17, 1840, in Hudson county, Ohio, and died June 13, 1914, age 74 years, 2 months and 26 days. In 1854 she moved to Howard county, Indiana.

On August 9, 1863, he was married to Emaline LANTZ, who died September 9, 1878. To this union were born five children, one of whom, William Grant [HOCHSTEDLER], died in infancy. Mr. Hochstedler afterward married Mary A. FAVORITE at Winchester, Ind., who survives him. Besides the sorrowing wife, the following children remain to mourn with her the loss of their father: Mrs. Alford VAWTER, Rochester, Indiana; Mrs. Bert ARMSTRONG, Paradis, La.; Mrs. Phil MOSHER, Owen, Wis.; Salem E. HOCHSTEDLER, Spring Valley, Ill., Mrs. Ed VAWTER, Rochester, Ind.; Hermie E. HOCHSTEDLER, South Bend, Ind.; and two step-sons, Frank HOBBICK, Minatare, Neb., and William HOBBICK, South Bend, Ind. One brother, G. G. HOCHSTEDLER, of Westfield, Ind., remains the last surviving member of his family



## FAMILY ASSOCIATION

Website: [www.vawterfamily.org](http://www.vawterfamily.org)

Dedicated to finding Vauter(s), Vawter(s), Vaughter(s)  
**Newsletter**

December 2013 Volume 37 No 4

Reunion Dates:

**Knoxville, Tennessee July 17-20, 2014**

Vauter's Church, Virginia July 2015

Bentonville, Arkansas July 2016

### Officer

President	Connie Bugos...480 E. Pearl St, Farmington, IL 61531 Phone 309-645-4848 Email is <a href="mailto:bugram@att.net">bugram@att.net</a>
Vice President	Bruce Vawter, 9321 Manoroak Dr, St. Louis, MO 63126 Phone 314-849-8727 email <a href="mailto:fcsvawter@sbcglobal.net">fcsvawter@sbcglobal.net</a>
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## Vawter Reunion July 17 – 20, 2014



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# In Memoriam

**James Doyle Vawter**, 59 of Lafayette, IN died peacefully Wednesday, September 12th, 2013 at his home in Lafayette, Indiana, after living with ALS (Lou Gehrig's disease) for four years. Born February 7, 1954 in Kokomo, IN., he was the son of the late Doyle John William Vawter and Rosina Ann ( Koors ) Vawter of Tipton, Indiana. He married Mary Ann Bonner on June 22, 2002 at St. Boniface Roman Catholic Church in Lafayette, IN. and she survives.

After graduating from Tipton High School, he attended Purdue University. After working at Quaker Oats Distribution Center for 21 years, Jim moved to Lafayette, Indiana and continued to work for 16 more years at Alcoa. Jim was a member of the Saint Boniface Roman Catholic Church where he was a member of the RCIA Team and Militia Immaculata (MI). He enjoyed spending time with his family, cycling, and supporting Purdue and Central Catholic sports.

Surviving with his wife are three daughters, Alicia Ann Duncan (husband Jason) of Dayton, Indiana; Karissa Marie Wright (husband Darren) of Arlington, VA; Maria Catherine Vawter, Lafayette; a step-daughter, Christina Ann Bonner of Lafayette, IN; and a son Philip Augustine Vawter, Lafayette; and brother, Joseph Vawter (wife Trudy) of New Lebanon, OH. Also surviving are 7 grandchildren.

**Matthew James Vawter**, August 7, 1984, 29 years strong, GCHS Class of 2002. Life Skills Graduate 2003. Passed away October 28, 2013. Matthew means "Gift from God." He was God's gift to his loving parents, Jim and Ralene, and proud big brother to his little sister, Jeanene. Matt humbly accepted the words God planted in his heart. His chains are gone, he's been set free to be with his Lord and Savior. Preceded in death by his "Grandma De" Clara Mae DeWeese and great grandmother, Jeanette Carper. Matt was survived by grandparents, Jim and Arlene Vawter; grandfather, Harold T. DeWeese Jr.; aunts and uncles, Scott and Cathy Vawter, (Godparents) Rosalie and Rod Dew, Harold and Marsha DeWeese, Eugene DeWeese (Pat), Doug and Marla DeWeese; loving cousins; dear friend, Aubree Mahan; and forever friend, Megan Perkins. Some of his proudest moments were performing in the Rose Bowl Parade with the Grove City Marching Band; High Adventure Sea Base Camp, Florida; and attaining the rank of Eagle Scout Crew 392. He loved the outdoors, four wheeling, his many pets, music and cars. Published in The Columbus Dispatch on Oct. 31, 2013

**Richard Quinton Vawter** Rich, 79, passed away on October 21, 2013 in Colorado Springs, CO. He will be laid to rest beside his beloved wife Irene M. Vawter "Skippy" at Arlington National Cemetery. He is survived by his daughter Elizabeth Vawter, his grandchildren Larry V. Browne Jr of Salida CA, Valarie Bruno, and his great grandson Massimo Young, both of Colorado Springs. At Rich's request there will be no formal service.

GALENA, Kan. — **Peggy Joan Meyers Vawter**, age 81, of Galena, Kan., passed away at 3:45 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 25, 2013, following a sudden illness. Born Mar. 31, 1932, in Herington, Kan., she was the daughter, of the late Herman and Mae Curtis Meyers. In 1950, she graduated from Wyandotte High School in Kansas City, Kan. Peggy married Raymond M. Vawter on July 5, 1953. He survives.

She was a committed homemaker and mother, assisting and moving with her husband all around the world during his 20 year U.S. Army career. After retirement, she was a longtime resident of Frankfort, Kan., Rock Springs, Wyo. and Bella Vista, Ark. She was most recently a member of Church of Our Savior Anglican Church, Joplin.

In addition to her husband, she is survived by a son, Jon Vawter and wife, Angela, of Overland Park, Kan., along with their son, Jackson; a daughter, Karen Fowler and husband, Russell, of Bella Vista, along with children, Macey Brake, Kyle Fowler and wife, Margret and Kristian Fowler Addison; four great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

**Marvin D. Vawter**, 94, of Kansas City, MO passed away Wednesday, September 4, 2013. A Celebration of Life and Mass of Christian Burial will be held Saturday, September 14th, 10:00 a.m., at Holy Spirit Catholic Church, Overland Park, KS, with burial following in Mt. Olivet Cemetery. Visitation will be held from 9:00 to 9:45 a.m., followed by the Rosary. Memorial contributions may be made to Catholic Community Hospice, 9740 West 87th Street, Overland Park, KS, 66212. Marvin was born on September 25, 1918 in Lexington, MO. He was a WWII Navy veteran in the Pacific Theatre. Marvin retired from the Bendix/Allied Signal/Honeywell, after twenty-five years of service. Marvin was active in the Society of Cincinnati and Sons of the American Revolution patriot organizations. He was a member of the Knights of Columbus (council and degree), Mensa and a volunteer and instructor for Junior Achievement.

Marvin was preceded in death by his wife, Bess F. Vawter (1983) and sister, Mary Katherine Lundell. He is survived by his three daughters, Elizabeth Hunziker (Gary) Plano, TX, Katherine Nash (Steve) Springfield, IL and Rozanne Siler (Todd) Overland Park, KS; sister, Ann Martin; seven grandchildren, Bill Nash, Amy Weinhoeft, Tim Nash, Melanie Curlett, Drew Hunziker, Amanda Siler, Jennifer McNeil and seven great-grandchildren.

**Roland F. Vawter**, 84, passed peacefully away November 11, 2013 at Lake View Terrace Memory Care in Lake Havasu City, Arizona. His acceptance of Jesus, as his personal savior, gives us that assurance that he now resides in heaven. He was born July 13, 1929 in Saugus, California to Floyd and Mabel Vawter. In August 1974 he married Alice Ann Bauer at the First Christian Church in Reno, Nevada. He was a member of Calvary Baptist Church.

In 1946 Roland dropped out of high school on his 17th birthday to join the Navy. He served as radioman on the USS Springfield. In 1946-47, his first cruise was as Occupation Forces to Japan; his second cruise 1948-49 was a China Service patrol. He was released to inactive duty in April of 1950. Twenty months later he was recalled to active duty to serve in the Korean War. After an honorable discharge from the Navy, he found his niche in sales when he became employed by Firestone in Bakersfield, CA. He became their top refrigerator salesman by following the ice man around and selling refrigerators to those that were purchasing ice. He then became a Prudential Insurance Agent and at the age of 29 became, at that time, their youngest Regional Manager. In 1959 he moved to Reno, Nevada opening the first Prudential office there. Later he opened the first Minnesota Mutual Insurance office in Reno. He then moved into real estate becoming a real estate agent and one of Nevada's first real estate brokers. At the urging of a friend, he went into the contracting business purchasing Nevada Homes, Inc. in 1972.

One of his great joys was assisting young couples purchase their own homes. Over 20 young couples owe their home ownership to his assistance. An entrepreneur at heart, he also started Solar Town, which he later sold, and Tri-State Mortgage. His two passions were fishing and flying. He received his private pilot's license on the GI bill at the age of 20 and logged 4000 hours during his 50+ years of flying. He loved fishing, especially salmon fishing on the Klamath river and in Lake Havasu. He and his fishing partner, Clete Gretter, had a combined total of over 50 years fishing the lake.

He is survived by his loving wife Alice Ann, his sons, Russell (Petra) of Caldwell, ID, and Richard of Reno, NV; two grandchildren Max Vawter and Nicole Idland, two great grandchildren, Carter and Avery Idland. He was preceded in death by his parents, his brother and 2 sisters.

## **John Farmer and Elizabeth Martin of Tennessee**

Barnard Farmer abt 1767 Halifax Co, VA. md Mary "Molly/Polly" Carr 27 July 1789 in Halifax Co.b abt 1767 d 12 April 1841 Stokes Co., NC --- Barnard moved to Stokes Co., NC circa 1826 --- War of 1812 veteran

1. Elizabeth Farmer

2. Mary Farmer

3. John Flavil Farmer b 1801 in Halifax Co, VA. d March 1881 Weakley Co.,TN md. Elizabeth E. Martin, 17 Dec 1823 in Halifax Co, VA. b Dec 22 1802 Halifax Co., VA d 1871 dau of Thomas Martin 1776 - 1854 and Drucilla Vawter 1778 -1856

--- John F. and his family migrated to Weakley Co., Tennessee circa 1838. John F. visited Stokes Co., NC several times after 1838 including the following. Multiple times between 1852 and the years following to participate in a legal case against Samuel Shackelford, the administrator of the deceased John Carr's will. In 1852 to sell land which was his part in the estate of John Carr to Fleming Priddy. In 1854 to give William H. Reves power-of-attorney.

--- War of 1812 Pay Roll Records for 1814 show that a Bernard Farmer was in Captain Ben. Goode's Company, Second Regiment of Virginia Militia, First Brigade, commanded by Col. John Ambler and was from Chesterfield Co., VA. Chesterfield Co., VA Tithables, 1747-1821 (Library of Virginia Microfilm #330, Frame #0138) List of Insolvents returned by B Goode list Bernard Farmer insolvent for the year 1821. However, Halifax Co. deed records clearly show Barnard Farmer as owning property there from 1801 to 1826.

--- John F. was a farmer and landowner in the 7th Civil District of Weakley County.

--- John F. and Elizabeth E. along with Elizabeth's sister and brother-in-law Mary C. and Francis T. Williams, and another sister, Martha B. Higgs, initiated a lawsuit in 1857 against their brother, William Martin, and remaining sisters and brothers-in-law, Malinda and Thomas Glass, Caroline and David Nowlin, and Susan L. and James Adams. The lawsuit concerned the dispute over the accuracy of the partition of Thomas Martin's estate after his death on 24 November 1854 and subsequently, Drucilla Martin's death on 4 November 1856. The Weakley County Chancery Court in Dresden settled the issue in 1859 by appointing a citizen's commission to survey the property and create seven near equal lots. These lots were distributed to the Martin children by the court.

--- Most members of this early Weakley County Farmer family are buried in the Martin Family Cemetery located behind the McClains Chapel Cemetery, about 3 miles Northwest of Dresden. This cemetery, final resting-place for several Martin, Farmer, Williams, Nowlin, Higgs, Adams, and Glass family members. Some of the tombstones have been destroyed. However, the tombstones for Elizabeth E., John B., Rick P., Albert M., William, and Martha, as well as some later generation Farmers are still there. Elizabeth's tombstone is broken. Sadly, the stone for John F. is lost. Family folklore indicates that John was buried in the Old Martin Family Cemetery.

1. John B. Farmer b 31 Aug 1828 d 15 Oct 1908 Weakley Co, Tennessee; he was 80. Buried in Old Martin Family Cemetery.--- Occupation: farmer. He served as a Private in Company H, 7th Tennessee Cavalry Regiment, and the Confederate States of America.

2. Richard P. "Rick" Farmer b 30 Aug 1830 in VA d 17 MAY 1912 in Weakley Co., TN buried Old Martin Cemetery, Weakley Co., TN

3. Beverly A. "Bell" Farmer b 1832 Halifax Co, Virginia. d 6 Nov 1861 Weakley Co, TN he was 29. Occupation: farmer.

4. Thomas Martin Farmer b 1837 d 1870 Weakley Co, TN

5. Albert M. Farmer b 2 Nov 1839 in Weakley Co Tennessee. d 12 Aug 1862 Weakley Co, Tennessee; he was 22. Buried in Old Martin Family Cemetery. Occupation: farmer.

6. William Henry Harrison Farmer "Will" b 1842 in Weakley Co, TN. d 1884 in Weakley Co, TN. md. Mary Elizabeth Highfill, Oct 8 1870 Weakley Co, TN. b 1853 d 1929 dau of David Hamton Highfill b 1825 d 1907 and Sarah H McMichael b 1829 d 1896 . Buried in Old Martin Family Cemetery. --- Served as a Private in Company H, 7th Tennessee Cavalry Regiment, Confederate States of America.

1. Oscar Lee Farmer. B. 25 Nov 1872 in Weakley Co, TN. D. 5 May 1925 in Weakley Co, TN. md. Beulah Maggie Richee, 18 Dec 1903 in Weakley Co, TN. b b: 13 Sept 1885 in Gleason, Weakley Co., TN d 1969 [dau of Robert Azemery RICHEE 1850 -1901 and Mollie Ardean Boothe 1858 -1929 ; Robert was son of J. G. RICHEE b abt 1820 ; J G was son of D. RICHEE, abt 1783], buried at Eastside Cemetery, Weakley Co., TN

1. Rev \_\_\_\_ Farmer

2. Basil Lee Farmer b 28 May 1908 in Weakley Co, TN. d 26 Oct 1979 in St Louis Co, MO. md.

Mildred Rosalee Cox, 12 Oct 1929 in St Louis, MO.

1. George Robert "Bob" Farmer Sr. b 4 Aug 1938 in St Louis, MO. md. Joyce LaVerne Sifford 6 June 1959 in St Louis, MO

2. Beverly Albert Farmer b: 30 Nov 1874 in Weakley Co., TN d 12 March 1965 in Weakley Co., TN buried Eastside Cemetery, Weakley Co., TN

3. Olla M. Farmer b: 1879 in Weakley Co., TN d 1953 buried City Cemetery, Milan, TN
4. Cora Blanch Farmer b: 1879 in Weakley Co., TN d 1973
5. W. Ernest Farmer b: 14 Nov 1880 in Weakley Co., TN d 24 Nov 1924 in Weakley Co., TN buried Old Martin Cemetery, Weakley Co., TN
6. Eron Estelle Farmer b: 27 June 1882 in Weakley Co., TN d 1 Feb 1888 in Weakley Co., TN buried Old Martin Cemetery, Weakley Co., TN
7. Mary Farmer b 1843
8. Martha E Farmer b 1845 Weakley Co, Tenn. Buried in Old Martin Family Cemetery

Know all men by these present that I, Thomas MARTIN, planter of the county of Weakley and State of Tennessee, being of sound disposing mind and memory do make and publish this my last will and testament.

First, I give and bequeath to my beloved wife, Drucilla MARTIN, during her life the following property, Negro woman, Edith, and her three children and increase, also the residence on which I now reside, with as much ground as she may want for her farming purpose, also household and kitchen furniture, stock, farming tools, etc.

Second, after the foregoing bequest, my will and desire is that, all my lands, Negroes, money and proceeds of perishable property be equally divided between my wife, Drucilla, Elizabeth FARMER, William MARTIN, Mary C. WILLIAMS, Caroline NOWLIN, Martha HIGGS, Susan ADAMS and Malinda GLASS.

Third, as to the Negroes which each one of my daughters may draw in the above mentioned division, I bequeath each ones portion to her and the heirs of her body during her life, free from the control of her husband.

Fourth, having made advances to all my above named children when they married, some in land, others Negroes and money, my desire in order to make an equal distribution is that at the division, each child shall make out an inventory of the property received, when received, how much and value when received, except a small Negro girl named Jenny which I gave to Martha WILLIAMS, daughter of Mary C. WILLIAMS, said Negro shall not be accounted for by said Mary.

Fifth, at the death of my beloved wife, Drucilla, my will is that all of her property shall be equally divided between my above named children, Elizabeth, William, Mary C., Caroline, Martha, Susan and Malinda.

Sixth, I ordain and appoint my son, William MARTIN, and my son-in-law, James ADAMS, as my executors of this my last will and testament. They shall receive for their trouble fifty dollars each and no commission.

In testimony, whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal and publish and declare this my last will and testament in the presence of John E. VINCENT and John M. VINCENT. This the 22nd day of November AD. 1854.

Witness Signed X Thomas MARTIN John E. VINCENT/John M. VINCENT

State of Tennessee December Term 1854 - Weakley County

This day was presented in open court the foregoing paper writing purporting to be the last will and testament of Thomas MARTIN (deceased), and said paper writing was established as the last will and testament of Thomas MARTIN (deceased) by the court and ordered the same to be recorded and filed: witness E. J. LOONEY Clerk said Court of Office in Dresden this the 1st Monday in December 1854. E. J. LOONEY, Clerk

State of Tennessee E. J. LOONEY Clerk of the County Court of Weakley County do Weakley County here by certify that the foregoing is a true transcript copy of the last will and testament of Thomas MARTIN (deceased) as appears of record in my office: given under my hand at office on the 7th day of November AD. 1856. E. J. LOONEY, Clerk

-----  
Weakley Co Chancery Court, Vol D - Jan 1859 - Aug 1867

Enrollment of the cause to wit:

John F. FARMER & wife, Francis T. WILLIAMS & wife, Martha B. HIGGS vs. William MARTIN, Thomas GLASS & Wife, David NOWLIN & wife, James ADAMS & wife, John E. VINCENT

Bill in this cause filed 30 June 1857 as follows to wit: To His Honor Isaac B. WILLIAMS Chancellor of Western Division of Tennessee presiding at Dresden:

The Bill of complaint of John F. FARMER & wife Elizabeth E. formerly Elizabeth E. MARTIN, Francis T. WILLIAMS & wife, David NOWLIN & wife Mary C. formerly Mary C. MARTIN, & Martha B. HIGGS formerly Martha B. MARTIN all citizens of Weakley County, Tenn.

The Bill of complaint of John F. FARMER & wife Elizabeth E. formerly Elizabeth E. MARTIN, Francis T. WILLIAMS & wife David NOWLIN & wife Mary C. formerly Mary C. MARTIN, & Martha B. HIGGS formerly Martha B. MARTIN all citizens of Weakley County, Tenn. against William MARTIN, Thomas GLASS & wife Malinda formerly Malinda MARTIN, David NOWLIN & wife Caroline formerly Caroline MARTIN, James ADAMS & wife Susan L. formerly Susan L. MARTIN, and John E. VINCENT, all citizens of said County & State. Complainants state that Thomas MARTIN died in Weakley County, Tenn. on the 26th day of November 1854 after having made his last

will and testament leaving complainants and defendants except John E. VINCENT his legatees, heirs & distributaries. That said will was admitted to probate in the county court of Weakley County at the December term 1854 and a copy of the same is herewith filed marked Exhibit A & made a part of this Bill. That the said Thomas died, left a widow Drucilla who on the 4th day of November 1856 died intestate in said County of Weakley. That the said Thomas MARTIN died the owner in fee of about 1650 acres of land lying in said County of Weakley for a particular description of which reference is had to Exhibit No. 1 - 2 - 3 - & 4 herewith filed & made a part of this Bill. Complainants charge that no legal finding division of said land has ever been made between the legatees of said Thomas, according to his said will. They state that a petition was filed with the County Court of Weakley County at its' February term 1855, in the names of complainants & defendants & said Drucilla, except John E. VINCENT praying for a division of the said Land among them as the legatees & heirs of said Thomas dec. That upon the hearing of said Petition said court appointed Alfred GARDNER, Beverly J. MILNER, John E. VINCENT and Jepetha TERRELL commissioners to divide said Land as prayed for in said Petition which they accordingly attempted to do; after surveying one tract containing about 640 acres, but failing to survey several other tracts, all of which adjoin each other & contain about 1000 acres; supposing that they could associate the correct number of acres from the title papers.

Complainants further state that said commissioners assigned Lot No. 1 as containing 194 acres to defendant Susan L. ADAMS which said lot has since by actual survey been found to contain more than sixty acres over the quantity at which was estimated by said commissioners: that said fact was not ascertained by complainants until after said commissioners had made their report to said county court and the same had been confirmed final decree rendered by said court in the premises.

Complainants charge that said excess in said Lot No. 1 is worth at least \$400.11. They further state that said commissioners valued the share of each heir in said land at \$1402.67, and that they assigned to complainant Martha B. HIGGS Lot No. 4 containing only 115 acres valued at \$690.00 and that they assigned to defendant Malinda GLASS Lot No. 3 containing 278 acres valued at \$2224 directed the said Malinda to pay said Martha B. \$712.67 to make her share equal. That they directed others receiving the most valuable lots to pay those receiving the less valuable a sum sufficient to make them equal. That they set apart to said Drucilla, deceased, 162 1/2 acres as her share, out of said 1000 acres; and said 162 1/2 acres was not included in the said division made by said commissioners among the other legatees of said Thomas, deceased.

Complainants charge that said commissioners did not make a division of said land as nearly equal as could have been divided, & that great injustice was done Martha B. HIGGS. That said commissioners did not report that equal partition could not be made without injury to the parties, and that they had made partition as nearly equal as they could, so as to authorize said county court to decree, as was done, that those receiving the most valuable lots should pay to those receiving the less valuable a sum sufficient to make them equal; and they insist that said decree and said attempted division is in that account totally void.

Complainants further state that after the rendition of the final decree by said county review in said case, Defendants, James ADAMS & wife Susan L. to whom Lot No. 1, was assigned, as aforesaid, sold & conveyed the same to John E. VINCENT. They charge that said Vincent was one of the said commissioners and had notice of the above named facts and charges before he paid for or received a deed for said Lot No. 1 & before the trade for the same was closed. That said VINCENT has since sold a part of said Lot No. 1 to defendant David NOWLIN. They charge that said NOWLIN had notice also of all the before mentioned facts & charges before said sale to him was made.

Complainants further state that on the \_\_\_ day of October 1855, they filed in the said County Court of Weakley County a Bill of Review, setting forth the foregoing facts & charges & praying that said division be set aside and that said land be redivided. That said County Court made a decree granting the prayer of said Bill of Review & ordering a re-division. Whereupon respondents appealed to the Circuit Court, which said Circuit Court affirmed the decree of said County Court ordering a re-division. Respondents then appealed to the Supreme Court which at the April Term 1857 at Jackson dismissed said Bill of Review & recessed the Decree of the said County & Circuit Court, but without prejudice. When this found that said County Circuit had no jurisdiction to entertain a Bill of Review, or to correct its proceedings after confirmation of the Report .

The premise is considered, complainants pray, that the previous named as Defendants in the first part of this Bill be made such with a fit & proper words to charge them. That commissioners be appointed to divide said land, including the 162 1/2 acres which was set apart to said Drucilla MARTIN (deceased). Among complainants & defendants who are the legatees & heirs of said Thomas MARTIN (deceased). That said defendants be compelled to make true & perfect answers to all the allegations and charges in this Bill and that such other and further relief as the nature of their case entitles them to be granted. Let copies & subpoenas issue etc. etc.



Title

Vawter Hotel Cigar Box Lid with a Picture of the "Gazelle."

Description

This cigar box lid from the Vawter Hotel has a picture of the steamboat the "Gazelle."

Keywords      Vawter Hotel; Gazelle; steamboat; photograph; cigar box; lid

Contributor(s)      Syracuse-Wawasee Historical Museum, Byron Connolly

Owner      Syracuse-Wawasee Historical Museum

Technical Metadata      600 ppi

Usage Statement      <http://www.syracuse.lib.in.us/LightNEasy.php?page=Usage>

Date Digitized 2012      Digital Resource Type      Image

Publisher      Syracuse Public Library

Form/Genre      Photograph; Photographic prints; Cigar Box

Original Media      Original resource provided as: wooden cigar box lid

(Note: this image is found in the Indiana Memory Digital Collection. The Vawter hotel was located on Lake Wawasee, IN. Note the spelling as other items from the hotel show the spelling as Vawter)

**Located on the History Rescue Project of Jefferson Co., IN.....From the MADISON COURIER, April 4, 1874**

Father with six or eight others, Kentuckians, from Franklin and Scott counties, visited what was then called the new purchase at a very early date. A part journeyed by land and a part by water. The land party crossed the Ohio river at Port William, the others descended the Kentucky and Ohio rivers in a pirogue to a point opposite Milton. The pirogue answered the double purpose of carrying forward the provisions for the company, and enabling the men to pass from one side of the river to the other, and swimming their horses by the side thereof, from one side of the river to the other. The company made their headquarters in the river bottom in the eastern extremity of the city limits of Madison. In the day the company divided into two parties, explored the adjacent highlands to the head of Crooked Creek and the neighboring lands of Clifty. They met at night and reported their discoveries to each other. To Crooked creek they gave the name of Mill creek, to Clifty, Hard Scrabble, but subsequently on learning the name of each stream, the Red man's name prevailed with the settlers. At that time, December 1805, Elder Jesse Vawter selected for his residence the spot where Judge S. C. Stevens now resides on the hill. He returned home and made every arrangement for taking possession of his new home early in the spring of 1806. He with others made the first settlement in and about Madison.

Nearly all the settlements made in that year, and the two or three succeeding years were made on the highland. Among the first settlers in the county were Elder Jesse Vawter, Jas. Underwood, Joshua Jackson, Colby Underwood and Jas. Edwards, all of the Baptist denomination as professors of religion. East of Crooked creek Col. John Ryker, Paul Froman, Ralph Griffin, Joseph Lane and others, the two last and (their) families were Baptist. West and Southwest Col. Samuel Smock, James Arbuckle, Michael and Felix Monroe, Isaiah Blankinship, Amos Chitwood and others.

The first corn and other kindred productions raised in Jefferson county was in the year 1806, most of which was planted as late as June. The first preaching in the early settlements within the bounds of Jefferson and Switzerland counties was by Baptist ministers. Elder Jesse Vawter, John Taylor, Philemon Vawter and John Reese were early settlers and the only resident ministers at an early day in the vicinity of what is now the city of Madison. From the year 1805, their first visit, until 1810 there was not an organized church in the limits of what is now Jefferson and Switzerland counties except Baptists. The first organized religious body within said counties was Baptist. In March 1807, on the spot where the Hon. S. C. Stevens once resided, a Baptist church was organized called Crooked Creek Church, afterward Mount Pleasant, now Madison.

The first settlement made in the river bottom near Madison was made by William and John Hall in 1806 or '7 a little above Isom Ross tanyard (purchased out by Johnathan Lyon in 1808). The second was made by John H. Wagoner on the high bank a little west of Main street, in Madison. Wagoner unloaded his boat on the 10th day of May, 1808, and immediately commenced building him a tenement to live in. The third person who settled in the limits of the present city was Robert M. Trotter, afterwards a Justice of the Peace; the fourth was Joshua Wilkinson, a single man; the fifth was Joseph Strickland, afterwards Justice of the Peace, and with Strickland came a man by the name of Schofield (and perhaps others not recollect). Next came John Booth, the first inn-keeper; then John Sering, Samuel Burnet (second innkeeper); Charles Easton, with a number of others, which brings us down to the time of the first sale of lots in Madison in February, 1811. During all the above time, all the preaching for twenty to thirty-five miles up and down the river and through the county was of the Baptist order.

The first sermon ever delivered within the chartered limits of Madison was by Elder Jesse Vawter, amongst the cottonwoods on the river beach, a little above the stone mill. The text was the first verse, first chapter of John's Gospel. It was a funeral occasion, the death of the widow Slack. Mrs. Jonathan Lyon, mother of Philemon Vawter, closed the service. This was the first death and funeral preached within the vicinity of Madison. After the land sales in May 1808, and the sale of lots in Madison in 1811, the town and country commenced filling up pretty rapidly with settlers. The first man who preached in Madison other than Baptists was of the name of Hawkins, a Hell Reductioner, who afterwards became a convert to Baptist sentiment. Sometime after the establishment of Courts in Madison, and during the sitting of the Court, Elijah Sparkes, an attorney-at-law and Methodist preacher, and Jesse L. Holman, a Baptist exhorter, both of Dearborn county, during Court week preached for the people at the house of Philemon Vawter, near the Crooked creek grave yard. This was the first Methodist preaching in the immediate vicinity of Madison. After public buildings (Court House) were erected in Madison, Col. Brown, a Methodist preacher, preached in Madison, another by the name of Frame, and so did old Dr. Fisk. About this time, if I mistake not, Dr. Oglesby commenced preaching in Madison, also a man by the name of Strange, also Squire Strother (of Kentucky) and Amos Chitwood. In the year of 1812 or 13, not earlier, a Methodist meeting house was built in Madison, and from that time Methodism began to take root and grow in the country.

About this time Elder Wm. Robinson, a Presbyterian preacher, moved into Madison and commenced preaching, and soon organized a church of his order. He was succeeded by a man by the name of Searl; and Johnson succeeded Searl. So much for the early religious denominations about and in Madison.

The writer (John Vawter) was the first Justice of the Peace within the vicinity of Madison while it was in Clark county. His commission bears date the 16th of July 1808. The first Judges for Jefferson county were Gen. Wm. McFarland, President, and Samuel Smock and Wm. Colton, his associates of the Court of Common Pleas. The first Clerk and Recorder was Col. John Paul, second clerk, Richard C. Talbot, First Sheriff John Vawter, commissioned such the 14th of December, 1810, retired from the office by virtue of a commission dated 29th of July 1813, as U. S. Marshal for the Indiana Territory, Second Sheriff, James Vawter (I am not certain but what Basil Bently was the second Sheriff in Jefferson county, but very soon retired from office), the third Sheriff, Thos. T. Stribling.

The first Court ever holden in Jefferson county was holden in a log cabin owned by John H. Wagoner in February, 1811. The sale of the first lots in Madison (old town) was in the same month; the first proprietors, Col. John Paul, Lewis Davis and Jonathan Lyon; the first addition west, surveyed by the writer for Col John Paul. The first Court House, called the Buckeye House, was built in 1811. It was built by the writer for proprietors. The first jail was a square log house, builder's name not now recollectec; first public house was kept by John Booth; second, by Samuel Burnet; third by Major Henry Ristine. The first store was owned by John Sering & Co.; a drug store was started about the same time by Dr. Drake & Co.; the third store was opened by S. C. Stevens; fourth by the writer; fifth by J. & N. Hunt; sixth by McCabe & Co.; seventh by Mr. Clarkston; eighth by John McIntire. The first physician was of the name of Fisk; second, James Hicks; third Jno. Howes; fourth, David H. Maxwell. The first Attorneys General, Alex. A. Meek; the second, a man by the name of Oulds; third, Gen. William Hendricks. The first dray ever used in Madison was owned by Simeon Reynolds, and managed by his most excellent son, William L. Reynolds.

The writer was personally acquainted with the first proprietors of the town. A more excellent or upright, good man than Col. Paul was hard to be found. He was one of Gen. George Rogers Clark's bold, adventurous soldiers, who aided in the capture of Kaskaskia and Vincennes. He was elected one of the representatives from Clark county in the year 1810. This was previous to the formation of Jefferson county and Col. Paul then resided at Madison. He was also one of the members of Jefferson Co. who formed the present constitution of Indiana. The writer was crier of the first sale of lots in Madison, but had nothing to do with the surveying or laying out of the same. Laid out the first addition west of Broadway for Col. Paul in the winter 1814 and 1815. Had nothing to do with any additions to the town.

My second visit to Indiana was in May 1806. I came in a pirogue and landed a little above the stone mill opposite Milton, visited the Highlands east and west of Crooked creek, continued at my father's half-faced shanty until near the middle of June in order to assist him in getting his corn planted, returned in the same craft with my mother and other relatives to Frankfort, Ky. In September 1806 my father removed his family from Kentucky to Mount Glad, the place where Judge S. C. Stevens now resides. In December 1806 I made my third visit to Indiana in company with John Branham, a brother-in-law, and James Vawter, we aided in driving my father's cattle and fattened and stock hogs from his Kentucky residence to his new home in the then wilderness. At this time I made a selection of a place to move myself and family to in the coming spring. It is the identical spot where the depot and machine shops of the railroad company are now upon the hill. In March 1807 I arrived with my family, wife and one child, at my original selected site in the woods. In 1808 I built a house nearly opposite Godman's pork house on the hill and resided there until 1812. In this year I purchased property in Madison and moved to it. The property purchased by me was two lots on Main Cross st. east of Polley's and Butler's Iron store and west of Mulberry St. In 1814 I sold both lots to Mr. David McClure. In the winter of 1815 I purchased of Col. John Paul the corner now owned by Geo. M. Phelps, and built a large frame house (large for the size of the houses in Madison). Had the water conveyed by pipes, in connection with Col. Paul, from the hill at Hite's tan yard to the same, expecting to live and end my days there. In the same year I sold it also to David McClure, moved to Vernon in November 1815 and continued to reside there until November 1849 with my family and children. Since November 1849 have resided in Morgantown, Morgan Co., Ind.



Title  
Old view of Denver

Creator(s)  
Chamberlain, W. G. (William Gunnison), 1815-1910.

Date 1864

Summary Roof-top view of Denver, Colorado. Cherry Creek is near business buildings and homes. Signs read: "Gazette", "Commonwealth", "J. G. Vawter & Co.", and "De Vor's Corner".

Title  
Flood - Cherry Creek

Date 1864 May



Summary View of a Cherry Creek flood in Denver, Colorado; shows businesses, houses, streets, and water. Signs read: "J. G. Vawter & Co." and "Commonwealth."

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These rare views of the founding of Denver are interesting in that J. G. Vawter was a very important part of the survival of the residents. J. G. Vawter (John Gray) was a merchant from Winterset Iowa where he lived with his family. He took wagons from Iowa to Denver and set up a mercantile store that provided the goods for this small town of Denver. His wife and children went to Denver and their daughter was the first white child born in this community. His wife could not handle the difficult life and went back to IL near her relatives. John Gray and son Cornelius Lansing Vawter and later younger sons and nephews continued to provide goods and services to Colorado, Montana and eventually the gold fields of Alaska. True western pioneers of the Vawter lines.

JOHN G.<sup>1</sup> VAWTER was born 23 December 1819 in Kentucky, and died 09 May 1877 in Marengo, McHenry County, Illinois, USA. He married ELIZABETH STEWART 06 February 1851 in McHenry County, Illinois, USA, daughter of ALEXANDER STEWART and JANE CANSICK. She was born 31 May 1824 in Edinburgh, Midlothian, Scotland, and died 07 February 1914 in Rockford, Winnebago County, Illinois, USA

More About JOHN G. VAWTER: Burial: Marengo City Cemetery, Marengo, McHenry County, Illinois, USA

More About ELIZABETH STEWART: Burial: Marengo City Cemetery, Marengo, McHenry County, Illinois, USA

Children of JOHN VAWTER and ELIZABETH STEWART are:

- i. CORNELIUS L.<sup>2</sup> VAWTER, b. 07 November 1851; d. 28 December 1926 (Source: Obituary, Rockford Morning Star, Thursday, 30

December 1926, Page 3 column 2, C. L. VAWTER Mrs. Myron E. Barnes, 501 North First street, has been apprised of the death of her brother, C. L Vawter, 75 years old, which occurred Tuesday at his home in Los Angeles. He had for 60 years been intimately connected with the growth of the west, first as a resident of Denver, Colo., during the Civil war, and later as a merchant in Helena, Mont. From 1900 to 1921 he served as United States marshal of the Fourth district in Alaska with headquarters at Nome. There Rex Beach met him and later chose him as the original for the character Vorhees, the deputy marshal of The Spoilers. Funeral services and burial will take place in Los Angeles. Note: The text should read "for the character Voorhees, the....." ( Robert C. Sommerfeldt 28 November 2003)

More About CORNELIUS L. VAWTER:

Burial: Marengo City Cemetery, Marengo, McHenry County, Illinois, USA

- ii. JOHN G. VAWTER, b. Abt. 1859, Iowa, USA.

- iii. BENJAMIN STEWART VAWTER, b. Abt. 1866, Denver, Colorado, USA.

Notes for BENJAMIN STEWART VAWTER:

Last known whereabouts was in San Francisco, California. There are Vawters in the area in the early 2000s but I do not know if any of them are descended from Benjamin.

2. iv. ANNA ELIZABETH VAWTER, b. 1864, Denver, Colorado, USA; d. 20 June 1934, Rockford, Winnebago County, Illinois, USA.

