

Colorado, Montana and Alaska the trek of John Grey Vawter and sons

Philemon Vawter, son of David and Mary (Offill/Offott) Vawter and Anne (Anna) Vawter dau/of Richard & Frances (Towles) Vawter had several adventurous sons and grandsons. Three of their grandsons, all sons of Elliott headed for adventure in the west. Two, Jephtha Dudley Vawter and Presley G. Vawter both went to Kansas and made names for themselves and their descendants.

The other son of Elliott, John Grey Vawter, is the story told herein.

John Grey Vawter b. 1819 Todd Co., KY d. 9 May 1877 on a Missouri River steamboat in North Dakota and is buried in Marengo, IL next to his wife. His marriage took place 6 Feb 1851 to Elizabeth Stewart b. 31 May 1825 Edinburg, Scotland. She and her family had an exciting pioneer life from Scotland to Canada to the United States. They had 7 children, 3 who died in 1858 in Winterset, Iowa. It is unknown what terrible event happened to lose all 3 children, but the Vawter's continued to move west and eventually return to Illinois. John Grey Vawter's three sons inherited the pioneer spirit and went on to Alaska, Montana, South Dakota and California, involved in supplying the miners with groceries, being marshal's in the wilds of Alaska and acquainting themselves with famous western figures like Wyatt Earp.

John Grey and Elizabeth had gone to Winterset, Madison County, Iowa around 1854.

The first Iowa census of 1856 shows:

JG Vawter age 36 male b. KY

Elizabeth Vawter age 30 female b. Scotland

Christian Vawter age 4 male b. IA (GJNote: his actual name is Cornelius)

Jane Vawter age 2 female b. IA

Winterset Cemetery, Madison County, Iowa

Vawter, Jane b. ca 1854 IA d. 1858 Winterset, Madison Co., IA

Vawter, Alexander S.(twin) b. 1858 IA d. 1858 Winterset, Madison Co., IA

Vawter, Elliott G.(twin) b. 1858 IA d. 1858 Winterset, Madison Co., IA

1860 Federal Census Madison

County, Iowa

JG Vawter age 40 b. KY lived city
of Winterset

Elizabeth age 35 b. Scotland

CL Vawter age 8 b. Illinois (note the
1856 census says Iowa)

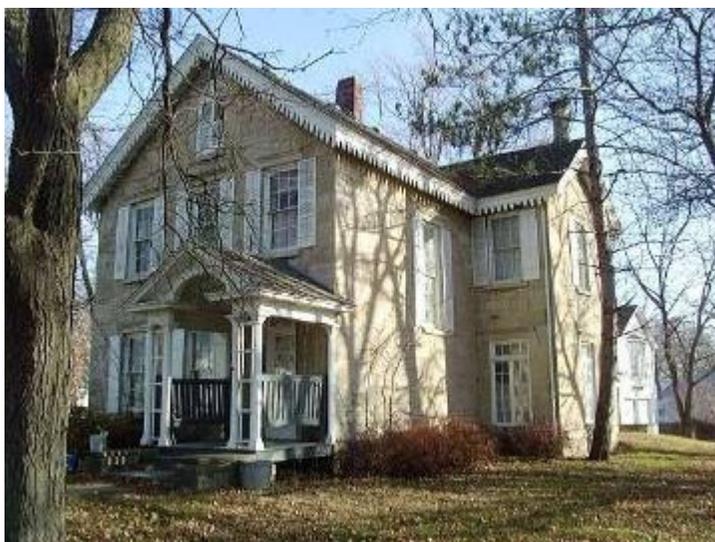
JG Vawter age 1 b. Iowa (John
Grey, jr.)

Two more children were born to the

family, Anna Elizabeth b. 31 Jan

1864 Denver, Colorado and

Benjamin S. Vawter b. ca 1866 IL.



In 1987, the home of JG and Elizabeth S. Vawter located at 223 S. First St. Winterset, Madison Co., IA was placed on the national register of historic places. Register #87001692. Architect Caleb Clark, part of Legacy in Stone: The settlement Era of Madison County, Iowa Territory. (above)

John Grey set up a freighting business to ship supplies to Colorado and the mines and the small town of Denver. This was the only means to cross the prairies until the railroad finally linked east to west. Proof of his business is found in the obituary and history of two of his business associates.

Obituary Judge W. P. Cassidy, Winterset, Ia. Judge Cassidy another old pioneer of Winterset has gone. In an early day he was engaged in freighting across the plains to Denver with a gentleman named J. G. Vawter. It was here he acquired the title of Judge. He has been identified with the business interests of Winterset in various ways ever since 1854 when he first moved here from Illinois. (excerpted from full obit)

“History of Colorado” edited by Wilbur Fisk Stone, pub. by the S. J. Clarke Pub. Co. (1918) Vol. II p. 86-87

There is a grandeur in the triumph of human industry and enterprise over what, to the weak and faint-hearted, seem insurmountable obstacles. No greater example of this triumph exists in the western hemisphere, than the city whose history we now essay to write. Far from a navigable stream or other means to make it easy of access--all material necessary for sustaining life having to be transported over a long, weary road, in wagons drawn by toiling horses or slow-moving oxen, through a country infested with hostile Indians, abounding in waterpools, to drink of which was certain death to the animals, and the cause of much severe illness to pioneers--it is no wonder that only the most desperate and reckless adventurers were in the majority, among the first who essayed and accomplished this undertaking. Built up under such circumstances, and during a time when the whole nation was agonized and agitated with an internal strife that threatened the overthrow of the government and the destruction of the only perfectly formed republic of the world, Denver has just cause to be proud of the advance and improvement it has made.

Charles R. Bell. (excerpted) In 1856, he stated with his family from Ohio to Iowa, locating in Winterset where the family resided until 1860, when in March of that year they started for Colorado. They traveled westward in a prairie schooner all the way from Iowa to Denver, the journey requiring forty days. After reaching his destination he opened a hotel in Denver, which he conducted for several years, or until 1865, when he sold out to Peter Powell and turned his attention to the wholesale grocery business in connection with the firm of J. G. Vawter and Company. He was thus associated until 1867, when he removed to Cheyenne, WY where he remained until 1868 and then return to Denver. He built a hotel at Littleton and continued until his death in 1877. His widow lived to an old age with her son Charles Bell, Jr. who became a famous attorney in Aspen.

Page 97 CITY ELECTION. The first city election under the incorporation act (7 Nov 1861) was held on Monday, the 18th of November, and resulted in the election of Mayor, C. A. Cook; for Police Magistrate, P. P. Wilcox; for City Marshal, W. M. Keith; for Street Commissioners, D. D. Palmer, H. J. Brendlinger, and John A. Nye; Alderman, First Ward, W. W. Barlow, and L. Mayer, Alderman Second Ward, and L. Buttrick, and J. E. Vawter, Alderman Third Ward. 1870 US Census Helena, Lewis and Clark Co.,

(GJ Note: Likely the original records would show J. G.)

Byers say in the Centennial State MS, 10, that a proclamation was issued on the 23rd of July appointing a term of the sup. Ct. on the first Monday in Sept. following, to be held at Denver. He also says that the first grand jury impaneled in Colo was upon the 4th of Sept. 1861, at Denver and consisted of Nelson Sergeant, foreman, Charles A. Wright, John W. Smith, Alexander M. Smith, John L. Bogg, John G. Vauter, William D. Davis, John B. Ashland, Jonathan U. Price, Milton E. Clark, Warren Hussey, J. F. Gordine, James M. Idings, Milton M. Delano, Edward H. Hart, P. H. Smith, Andrew Sargendorf, and John M. Clark. See Rocky Mountain News, Sept. 4, 1861.

USA (Source: (1) Obituary, Rockford Daily Register-Gazette, Saturday, 7 February 1914, Page 1 col. 4, MRS. VAWTER IS SUMMONED
MOTHER OF MRS. MYRON BARNES YIELDS TO TWO MONTHS ILLNESS TODAY.
WAS NATIVE OF SCOTLAND
Came to America in 1832 - Nearly 90 Years of Age - Burial in Marengo Monday.

Mrs. Elizabeth Vawter, widow of John G. Vawter, and mother of Mrs. Myron E. Barnes, died at 8:30 this morning, after an illness of eight weeks, at her home, 504 North First Street. Elizabeth Stewart was born in Edinburgh, Scotland, May 31, 1824, and was baptized in St. John Episcopal Church in her native city. Her father's family came to America in 1832, and settled in Galt, Canada. The voyage was made across the Atlantic in five weeks. The daughter was one of a party of twenty-nine relatives who came together to the new world. The family lived in the wilds of Canada five years and then removed to Marengo, Ill. Miss Stewart lived in Marengo until 1850, when she was united in marriage to John G. Vawter, of Kentucky. Mr. and Mrs. Vawter removed from Marengo to Winterset, Iowa. In 1860 they traveled across the plains from Winterset to Denver, Colo., where the only surviving daughter, Mrs. Myron E. Barnes, was born. Mrs. Vawter returned to Marengo in 1865, and made that city her home seventeen years. She came to Rockford in 1882 and took up her residence at 504 North First Street. Mrs. Vawter was the mother of seven children, three of whom died in infancy. There are three surviving sons: Cornelius L., of Tanana, Alaska; John G., of Mobridge, S. Dak., and Benjamin S. of San Francisco.

Obituary, Rockford Daily Register-Gazette, Saturday, 7 February 1914, Page 1 column 4, continued Mrs. Vawter was a member of the First Presbyterian church. The funeral will be held from the home Monday afternoon and the funeral party will leave on a special interurban car at 2 o'clock for Marengo, where Mrs. Vawter will be buried beside her husband.

John Grey and his wife returned from Colorado to Illinois in 1865, perhaps Elizabeth could not see raising children in the wild and wooly west. It is noted Anna Elizabeth their daughter was one of the first white girls born in Denver. It would seem that J. G. continued his grocery business. John and sons are next found involved in the Montana in freighting, cattle, mining and hotel business, they located near Helena. The daughter, Anna Elizabeth Vawter, born in Colorado was but an infant when she returned to Illinois. She married and stayed there assisting her mother in her later years.

In Helena (Last Chance Gulch), in 1865, John G. Vawter located his mercantile. He chose the site at the corner of Broadway and Jackson streets. There he erected a building of native stone and stocked it with groceries which he shipped from St. Louis, Missouri, up the Missouri river to Fort Benton; and freighted from Fort Benton to Helena.

1870 US Census Helena Lewis and Clarke Co., MT 172/115 p. 166

John G. Vawter age 50 b. KY grocer

Cornelius age 18 clerk grocer

In 1871, John Grey Vawter made a trip back to Illinois, by way of stage coach to Corinne, Utah, and there on the Union Pacific railway. He returned in the spring of 1872, bringing his son, John G. Vawter, Jr. with him. He was a husky youngster less than 12 years of age and weighing about 200 pounds.

Colonel Vawter had another son, C L Vawter, helping him in the store and he placed young John on the delivery wagon to pilot a team of mules.

Slowly moving bull teams tolled over rough and muddy roads, dragging heavy loads from Fort Benton. One trip overland required 10 days time or more. Some of the freighters had good mule teams, and could make the trip in about one week.



Ft. Benton Montana in the 1870's, bull team, similar to the one used by John G. Vawter and piloted by 12 year old John jr. on the week long journey back to Helena, MT

There were several identical Steamboats that traveled the upper Missouri Basin, from Yankton, SD to Ft. Benton, MT. Designed by the Coulson Co. who headquartered in Yankton, SD, they were able to traverse the dangerous river up to Ft. Benton, which was 37 miles downstream of the Great Falls.

The Steamboat Key West/New Iberia

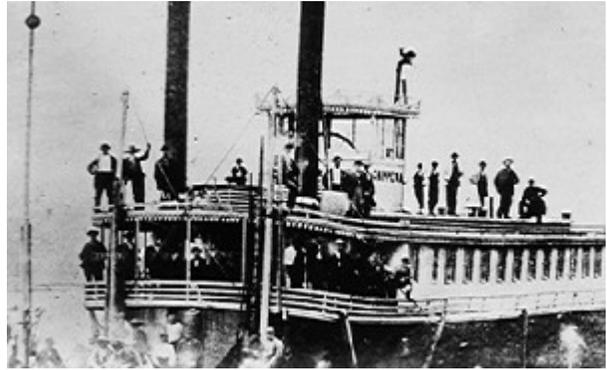
Type: Stern wheel, wooden hull packet. Size: 200' x 33' x 5.4'

Area: Upper Missouri River, Yellowstone River

Owners: 1871, John Todd and Nicholas Bruson of Columbia County, Oh.; Sanford S. Coulson, William S. Evans and David S.H. Gilmore of Pittsburgh; Companies associated with: American Fur Company and Coulson Line

Captains: 1873, Grant Marsh, pilot Nick Buison, who had first 1st class license issued to navigate Yellowstone R.

Comments: 1873, U.S. Army conducted an exploratory Yellowstone. Went 460 mi. to mouth of Powder River. In all, boat made 23 trips to Montana Points, most to Ft. Benton.



The Steamboat Josephine on the Yellowstone

The steamboat Josephine, a stern wheel packet, was one of three boats to get any distance above the narrow, fast portion of the river around Pompeys Pillar. The others were the F.Y. Batchelor and the Key West. The Yellowstone was thought to be impassible beyond the mouth of the Bighorn River to steamboat travel. However in 1875, Captain Grant Marsh piloted the Josephine beyond the Bighorn confluence to the vicinity of present day Billings. The Josephine made a total of ten trips up the Yellowstone until her destruction in 1907. Steamboats were a big part of life along the river in the late 1860s and 1870s until the transcontinental railroad line was completed. *Reprinted with permission from the "Outlaw News", a publication of Missouri River Country.*

John and Elizabeth Vawter sold there property in Marengo, McHenry Co. Illinois in 1872. This is likely when Elizabeth moved in with daughter Anna and shortly after, John Jr. left with his father for Montana. The youngest son, Benjamin Stewart Vawter, came west in 1881, with older brother Cornelius

Goodrich, Elias J. from J. G. & E. Vawter, 01 April 1872, \$1950.00, Book 52, page 3. Filed 28 June 1872. It gives the property description as follows: "(Part sec 35.44.5=) A part of the E half of the NE Quarter of Sec #35 is in Twp #44 North range 5 east to & now known as lot 59 according to the assessors plat of said section #35 as recorded in the recorders office at Woodstock in said County of McHenry and being the same pl.... purchased of George Hebard and wife as his deed of 18 April 1866 and recorded in Book 9 of Deeds page 10." It also states that this was a Warranty Deed and that J. G. & Elizabeth Vawter were "of" McHenry County and Elias Goodrich was of "same place

Goodrich, E. J. from Elisha Vawter, 18 Mar 1872, \$950.00. Book 50, page 440. Not abstracted

Bismarck Semi Weekly Tribune (ND) 16 May 1877

River News, arrivals and departures, Death of Col. Vawter

At Carroll, on the 12th, it was learned that Col. Vawter, of Helena, died on the Key West on the 9th (the Key West was a steamboat rear paddle wheeler traveling the Missouri river from St. Louis to Montana). At Cow Island she took on board sixty tons of ore, and at Ft. Peck, Lt. Day and a detachment of the 6th infantry. The Key West met the Peninah near Wolf Point with 2 companies of the 6th Infantry, enroute to Fort Peck. And at 3 pm of the 13th meet the C. K. Peck.

Butte Miner (Butte, MT) 22 May 1877. The Steamer Key West, Nick Buesen, Master, A. A. White, Clerk, arrived at Benton on Sunday, May 13. The Key West brought about 225 tons of freight and 26 passengers. Col. C. L. Vawter, a well known and highly esteemed merchant of Helena, died on board, at or near the town of Carroll. (GJNote: this was actually John G. father of C. L. Vawter)

The Helena Independent 23 Sep 1877 (the notice was first published 14 Aug 1877 and ran numerous times) Administrator's Notice

Notice is hereby given to the creditors of and all person having claims against the estate of John G. Vawter, deceased, to exhibit their said claims with necessary vouchers within four months after the publication of this notice to the undersigned Administrator of said estate, at his place of business on Broadway, Helena, County of Lewis and Clarke, and the Territory of Montana. C. L. Vawter, adm. Of the estate of J. G. Vawter, dec'd. Helena 8 Aug 1877.

The Helena Independent 27 Sept 1877 and 28 Sept 1877 and 29 Sept 1877. Administrator's Notice In the probate court of the county of Lewis and Clark, Montana Territory.

In the matter of the estate of John B. Vawter, deceased

Cornelius L. Vawter, administrator of the estate of John G. Vawter, deceased, having filed his petition, herein duly verified, praying for an order of sale of real estate of said deceased, for the purpose therein set forth. It is therefore ordered b the Judge of said court that all persons interested in the estate of the said deceased appear before the said probate court on Monday, the 24th day of September, A. D. 1877 at ten o'clock in the forenoon of said day, at the Probate Court Room at the Court House in said County of Lewis and Clark and Territory of Montana, to show cause why an offer should not be granted to the said administrator to sell so much of the real estate of said deceased, at private sale, as shall be necessary. Signed Cornelius Hedges, dated August 20, A. D. 1877 Probate judge

The Helena Independent 2 Oct 1877 (this ran numerous times until Jan 1878)

Notice of Administrator Sale of Real Estate

Notice is hereby given that in pursuance of an order of the Probate court of Lewis and Clarke county, Montana Territory, made on the 24th day of September, A. D. 1877, in the matter of the estate of John G. Vawter, deceased, the undersigned, will sell at public auction to the highest bidder, for cash, and subject to confirmation by said probate court, son Saturday, the 20th day of October, A. D. 1877, at 12 o'clock m., at the front door of the court house in Helena, M.T., all the right, title, interest and estate of the said John G. Vawter at the time of his death, in and to all those certain lots, pieces and parcels of land situate, lying and being in the town of Helena, county of Lewis and Clarke, Montana Territory and known and designated on the official plat of said town as lots numbered forty-five (45), fifty (50), fifty-one (51) and fifty two (52), in block numbered twenty-seven in said Helena.

Terms of sale- cash on confirmation of sale by said probate court; decd at the expense of the purchaser. Cornelius L. Vawter, adm. 24 Sep 1877

The Helena Independent 20 Sep 1878

Order

It is ordered: that the fifteenth day of October, A. D. 1878 being a day of a term of this court, to wit, of the September term A. D. 1878, 10 o'clock a. m. be and the same is hereby appointed for the settlement of said account; and all person interested in the estate of the said John G. Vawter, deceased, be and appear before the probate court of the county of Lewis and Clarke, Montana Territory at the court room of said court, at Helena in the said county, on said sate and then and there to show cause why an order of distribution should not be made of the residue of said estate among the heirs of said deceased according to law. Cornelius Hedges, probate judge 16 Sep 1878

The story of John G. Vawter's life in Montana and his children are shown in the newspaper article narrated by John G. (jr), found after the information of John G. Vawter (jr). It tells of his death on the paddle wheeler and of fortunes found and lost.

Cornelius Lansing Vawter

Cornelius was born in 1851, he may never have returned with the family to Illinois in 1865, as he was in Montana before 1869. He and his father continued the business in the new Montana territory, where gold and silver strikes created a need for supplies. A nephew of John Grey (sr) named John E. Vawter was in Colorado and in Montana and was involved with the companies they operated. Several newspaper articles note their travel back to the "states" where C. L. mother still lived and to Washington and California where Benjamin Stewart Vawter (younger brother) moved and worked. John E. Vawter and Benjamin S. Vawter, brother of C L, also were in California, where eventually Cornelius moved and died.

1870 US Census Helena Lewis and Clarke Co., MT 172/115 p. 166

John G. Vawter age 50 b. KY grocer

Cornelius age 18 clerk grocer

In 1875 the Helena Montana newspaper noted several advertisements from a dry goods store and doctor's office stating they were opposite of Vawter and Co, Broadway street.

The Helena Independent newspaper 20 October 1875. Benton Items.

Pekins train arrived from Cow Island yesterday, and the remainder of the freight of the Mead and Benton will be in during the coming week. Among the consignments are the following: W. S. Wetzel & Co, Benton 44,320 pounds; C. L. Vawter & Co., Helena, 2 wagons and 2,984 pounds; T. C. Power & Bro., Benton, 3 buggies and 15,667 pounds.....

AILY INDEPENDENT: HELENA, FRIDA

WAGONS ! WAGONS ! !



Fish Bro's and Bain Wagons
VAWTER & CO., AGENTS.

WAGONS FOR SALE AND HIRE BY THE FISH BROS AND BAIN, HELENA, MONTANA. ALSO FOR RENT AND HIRE BY THE FISH BROS AND BAIN, HELENA, MONTANA. ALSO FOR RENT AND HIRE BY THE FISH BROS AND BAIN, HELENA, MONTANA.

Groceries, Provisions and Grain,
ALL OF WHICH WILL BE SOLD LOW FOR CASH

VAWTER & CO.,
BRADWAY ST., HELENA, M. T.

1876.  1876.

OVERLAND Freight Line.

The Independent Helena 10 March 1875, advertisement of Vawter & Co., the ad to the left ran for several months in 1875 and 1876

The Helena Independent 3 Jan 1878

Mr. Neil Vawter has returned from the States, and has the appearance of having enjoyed his visit. (GJnote: interesting that Cornelius is called Neil)

The Helena Independent 19 Feb 1878

Messrs. Sam Schwab, C. L. Vawter, Moses Morris and John Kinna were passengers on this morning's Overland. They will be absent two or three months.

The Daily Miner (Butte, MT) 21 Sep 1879

The Utah and Northern

C. L. Vawter, who arrived yesterday, informs us that the trains are now running through to the "Divide" with regularity, making the trip through from Ogden in fifteen hours. The express train leaves Ogden at 2pm and reaches

the new terminus at 1 o'clock the next day, making close connections with the overland stage line. In conversation with some of the railroad officials Mr. Vawter was informed that the Utah & Northern would be pushed forward without delay as far as Sheep Creek, near Williams' Junction, which would probably be the winter terminus. Sheep Creek is about thirty miles. It is probable that freight teams will also be able to run between the terminus and Helena during the entire winter which will be an immense advantage to our merchants.

1880 US Census Helena, Lewis and Clark, Montana

Cornelius L. Vawter head of household single m. age 28 b. IL grocer f. b. KY m. b. Sco

John G. Vawter brother single age 20 b. IA f. b. KY m. b. Sco

The sons Cornelius Lansing Vawter and John Grey Vawter are found in Montana. This equates to about ¼ section. Lewis and Clark County Montana land patents (year unknown) are shown for:

Cornelius L. Vawter 4.99 acres

John G. Vawter 15.91 acres

John G. Vawter 20.66 acres

Montana History CHAPTER VIII

ARMELLS, 1881-1887: GROWING YEARS – GOOD YEARS

The Ferguses emerged from that first trying winter with approximately 600 head of cattle. They lacked capital to buy a larger herd, yet they had an abundance of superior free land; therefore, James decided to use land and labor to increase their operating finances by caring for someone else's cattle. With this in mind, James Fergus and Son contracted with Cornelius L. Vawter, Helena, to raise his cattle for a three-year period. Fergus agreed to furnish needed range and help from October 1, 1882; Vawter promised payment of one dollar per head for each calf branded and two dollars for each beef steer or other animal gathered, counted and delivered to purchaser of said cattle. Vawter held the privilege of selling at will. [No record is available to verify this but it is a reasonable assumption. A December 1885 entry in the James Fergus Ledger and Daybook, 1882-1886, p. 259, notes a James Fergus Homestead entry (No. 2374).

One duty assumed by the local Moccasin Roundup came to be the range riding assessment, first initiated the fall of 1884. Area ranchers paid an assessment based on the number of calves owned, "for the purpose of keeping men on the range all winter to watch Indians and cattle thieves, keep the cattle away from the Missouri River and from drifting off the range," the same type of thing Andrew and his men did alone that first winter of 1880-81. The Fergus brand, an "F" on the right hip and a — on the right side, was assessed \$179.69 and the 72 brand, those Fergus raised for Vawter, paid \$147.25, for a total of \$326.94 in 1884-85. [James Fergus Ledger and Day Book, 1882-1886].

The Daily Miner (Butte, MT) 7 Sep 1881 Neil Vawter, a leading merchant of Helena, and who has long been prominently identified with the interests of the capital, is spending a short time in our city.

The Helena Independent 1 Jul 1881. St. Louis Flour, just received one carload Plant's Extra St. Louis Flour. C. L. Vawter, Broadway

21 Feb 1882 C. L. Vawter left Ogden last night for Helena, returning from an extended eastern trip.

22 July 1882 Auction Sale of Groceries and Fixtures on Saturday July 22, 1882. I will sell at auction remnants of my grocery stock. Also, the entire stock of fixtures, sale at 2 pm C. L. Vawter.

3 Aug 1882, Second National Bank of Helena Montana, C. L. Vawter became a member of this new bank

15 Sep 1882 C. L. Vawter was elected treasurer of the Republican party of the territory at Butte. The Helena Independent

16 Sep 1882 C. L. Vawter, who has been attending the Republican Territorial Convention at Butte, returned yesterday.

The Daily Miner (Butte, MT) 17 Jun 1883 Mrs. L. R. Maillet and children, and Mrs. Marchesseau, left for Montreal and Mrs. Vautour for New Brunswick yesterday morning, all in search of health and pleasure amid the scenes of their old time homes.

The financial collapse and fire at Wickes in 1883/84, forced C. L. and John G. to sell out and liquidate to pay off creditors. He filed suit to sell property. Elizabeth was forced to sell the land she most likely inherited from husband John G. Vawter (sr.)

19 Sep 1883. C. L. Vawter sells by auction all his stock, of equipment and tools and dissolved the partnership of C. L. Vawter and Co. This was advertised thru 1885.

Summons, District Court 3rd Judicial District Territory of Montana, county of Lewis and Clark Deere & Co., Owen Kean, Henry, Lines, partners; E. M. Mille, E. H. Hood and SD Muller partners vs. Cornelius L. Vawter and William E. Mead, partners of C. L. Vawter & Co., M. Bullard, E. Knight, R. Hamilton, J. Fergus and Elizabeth Vawter, defendants, action brought against them made on 14 Sep 1883 by C. L. Vawter & Co. to Bullard is fraudulent against plaintiffs and directed to pay over to the plaintiffs all money received by him on account of sales of assigned property. Sale of property declared void and must be sold to cover mortgages due.

The Helena Independent (MT) 23 Mar 1884

Real Estate Transfers

March 21 Elizabeth Vawter to John M. Blake \$600, lot 54, block 27 Helena

The Independent Record, Friday 27 April 1945 (Helena, MT) Summons, in the district court, of the First judicial district, state of Montana, county of Lewis and Clark. Eva Brooks plaintiff vs. Helena Lodge #193 BPO Elks Association, Helena Association of Credit men, assignee, Moses Morre, Roy Crago, Rose Marie Crago, Elizabeth Vawter and Denver Joint Land Bank self or heirs, clearing of title of property, lots 66 and 67 in Block 27 of the Helena Town site of Helena, MT 27 Day April 1945.

The time frame of the arrival of the family to Montana can also be found with the history of a Montana pioneer and Helena resident, Mr. Samuel Hauser. Getting supplies into the territory after the discovery of silver required over land routes or upriver from Ft. Benton and then overland. Since Cornelius and John Grey (jr) already had equipment and contacts, they connected with Mr. Hauser and set up a freighting business. In the story of Wickes, Montana, these silver mines were among the earliest found. In 1864 and 1867 early deposits were found. In 1869 a huge strike near Wickes was set up. Wickes became a boom town in the mid 1880's. It is stated "the camp boasted a public library and the firm of Vawter & Wickes built a substantial stone building that sold everything which the people of the camp required". The Helena and Jefferson County Railroad gave Wickes its needed access in the late 1880's. In 1885, Wickes boasted the territory's first telephone directory and 9 phones. By 1900 the railroad had abandoned the line and the town declined. Prior to the railroad coming, the town was alcohol free, but after the railroads the "rip roaring" mining camp had 900 to 1500 residents, 5 dance halls, 22 saloons, a general store, post office, two hotels, a meat market and blacksmith and a church. (GJNote: Vawter & Wickes store was connected to John G. Vawter (jr))

1889, 1890 and 1891 Helena Montana Directories

Cornelius L. Vawter, 128 Broadway, Helena. Sec., Treas. and Gen. Mgr. of Elkhorn Mining Co., Relief Mining Co. and Gold Mining Co.

1891 Montana Directory

Pres., Sec., and General Mgr. Location 127 Vawter Street.

The Merchants Hotel, Relief & Independence Gold Mining Co., Elkhorn Mining Co.

C. L. Vawter had left the Helena Montana area by 1900 and went to Nome, Alaska, when he secured a job as US Marshal. The big Nome Alaska gold strike of ca 1900 again brought opportunities. Cornelius probably married in Montana, to Sarah F. (nee?) Brother John G. was married to Mary L. (nee?) and was still in Montana in 1900 and then moved to South Dakota, only to return to the land he must have loved and died in Montana.

1900 Census Fourth Judicial District Alaska

Cornelius L. Vawter b. ca 1852 (index only, no family shown)

In 1900, Rex Beach the famous author witnessed a bold attempt by North Dakota political boss Alexander McKenzie to steal gold from the placer miners of Nome, Alaska. When the scheme failed, McKenzie and his cronies were arrested. Beach transformed the events into a series of muckraking articles, "The Looting of Alaska" for Appleton's Century magazine in 1905. From this series came his first novel, "The Spoilers". Many remakes of this book were made into movies including a famous one by John Wayne. It is said that Rex Beach knew C. L. Vawter and later chose him as the original for the character Vorhees, the deputy marshal of "The Spoilers".

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**VAWTER WILL BE
DEPUTY MARSHAL
IN THE IDITAROD**

Sourdough Who Has Been
Outside for a Year Is on
Way Down River to Take
Deputy-Marshalship.

**WILL LEAVE EAGLE
ON NEXT MONDAY**

Has Wired Local Officials
That He Arrived From
Dawson on Mail Launch
and Will Leave Monday.

Wiring the local officials that
the U. S. mail launch had been
used as a conveyance from Daw-
son to Eagle, C. W. Vawter, who
is on his way to the Iditarod re-
ports that he expects to be able
to leave Eagle on next Monday
morning for the lower river.

Mr. Vawter is an old-time Alas-
kan, having been deputy marshal
under Shoup in 1898, and later
marshal for the second division of
Alaska under President McKinley's
administration, with headquarters at
St. Michael and later at Nome; and
after having spent several years
around the Prince William' sound
region, with one year Outside, is
now on his way to the Iditarod,
there to accept the position of de-
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In the history of the Nome, the famous swindle is noted. The original gold discoverers were instantly swarmed by claim jumpers and later they and many other miners were threatened with dispossession by Alexander McKenzie, the notorious political boss and sharper from the Middle West. McKenzie managed to fill all important offices in Nome with his friends. The most influential of these henchmen were perhaps Arthur Noyes, C. L. Vawter and Joseph K. Wood, whom McKenzie appointed as district judge, marshal and district attorney respectively. When the scheme was accomplished McKenzie left the area. Noyes appointed McKenzie receiver for the choice claims and tried to exploit the miners. McKenzie was finally brought before the circuit court of appeals in San Francisco and in February 1901 he was sentenced to a year in prison for his actions. President McKinley pardoned McKenzie in May 1901 (less than 90 days later) on a plea that he would die unless released immediately. He returned to North Dakota and the bracing prairie air must have acted as a rare elixir, since he soon resumed his numerous activities as a leading citizen. There is now a town called Alexander located in McKenzie county North Dakota where he became famous. Most of his henchmen were arrested or served some time. Some paid fines but law and order were soon restored in Nome and the town grew to its peak today.

Since C. L. Vawter served as deputy marshal, it is interesting to note who he associated with in Nome at that time. In 1897 Wyatt Earp and Josie operated a saloon in Nome, Alaska during the height of the Alaska Gold Rush. In 1901 they left and went to Nevada where saloon, gambling and mining interests again proved profitable. Later they went to Los Angeles and mingled with many Hollywood celebrities.

From the Nome Daily News, Wednesday September 12, 1900 it was reported "Wyatt Earp was arraigned for assaulting a soldier". The crime against Earp was continued till 2 o'clock September 13th but that day's paper is missing so what exactly happened is left unclear. The Nome Daily News on September 18th reported, "Mrs. Wyatt Earp, Mrs. C. L. Vawter and Mrs. L. Lowenstein have collected \$70 for the relief of the sufferers of the late storm". On October 20, 1900, the Nome Weekly Chronicle reported on the "social event of the year", a dance opening the new court house, among guests were W. Earp.

Bismarck Daily Tribune (ND) 14 Jan 1901 Tried to Bribe Noyes Washington, Jan 13. US Marshal Vawter of the federal court, Cape Nome, whose resignation was handed President McKinley late

yesterday afternoon by Senator Carter, is according to affidavits filed by Judge Noyes people with Attorney General Griggs, implicated in one of the attempts to bribe Noyes. In brief, the story told in affidavits follows. Vawter, who was appointed from Montana on Senator Carter's recommendation, fell under the influence of the Lane syndicate at Nome and one day approached Judge Noyes with an offer of \$20,000 gold, if Noyes would dismiss Alex McKinzie as receiver of certain mining properties. Noyes reported the matter to the district attorney who with Noyes had an interview with Vawter in which Vawter's resignation was demanded. Vawter promptly resigned in writing and the resignation was forwarded to Senator Carter who carried it in his pocket until he got ready to recommend a successor, which was yesterday.

The story told in the affidavits may or may not be true, but it is interesting in connection with the resignation. Vawter will hold office until his successor can reach Nome, in July.

Idaho Daily Statesman (Boise City, Idaho) 24 Oct 1901.

Judge Noye's Case

Court Decrees Bought and Sold with McKenzie as Principal

San Francisco, Oct. 23 – There was more delving into the operations of the gang which controlled the litigation in the court of Judge Arthur H. Noyes in Nome when the hearing of the contempt case was resumed before Commissioner Heacock yesterday.

C. L. Vawter, who was appointed United States marshal at Nome, and who was later compelled to surrender his office because he would not co operate with McKenzie, was on the witness stand. His testimony was strongly corroborative of the general line of evidence already submitted to the effect that the decrees in the federal court were bought and sold, with McKenzie figuring as the chief conspirator.

The Valdez News (Valdez, Alaska) 26 Nov 1904. The declaration that "honesty is the best policy, but it keeps a man d—m poor," was never better exemplified then in the case of C. L. Vawter, who has been made a deputy U. S. Marshal and placed at Unga, a little God-forsaken hole out on the Aleutain peninsula Mr. Vawter was U. S. Marshal at Nome during the high handed robbery by the Noyes crowd, and not liking the trend of affairs, after several vain attempts to stay the tide of frauds by reporting to those responsible for Noyes' appointment, he sent in his resignation, which was at once accepted; and as a recognition of his honesty as a man and official he is almost banished from the world. It is any wonder that there are skinflints among the officials in Alaska when there is a premium placed on being a rogue? Had Vawter stolen everything in sight, he probably would have pleased senator Carter of Montana, and might now be minister pleni-potentiary to some foreign court.

The Alaska Prospector (Valdez, Alaska) 9 Aug 1906

The Dera arrived from the Westward Tuesday with the following passengers for Valdez: Mrs. J. E. Thwaite, Miss J. Warren, B Wilson, C. Wintes, Wm. Thomas, C. Lindhal, K. Anderson, E. Johansen, L. Bailey, C. L. Vawter, L. L. Bowers, W. L. Lambking, K. S. Waterman, 12 Japs, 5 natives.

Mr. Vawter, US Marshal at Unga, brought several prisoners out to attend court at Valdez.

Fairbanks Daily Times, Seattle Sept 6, 1911 -, The steamship Dolphin, which sailed for Skagway last night, carried as passengers for interior Alaska; Abe Maim, Mary Hammond, O. L. Howard and C. L. Vawter

Fairbanks Daily Times 1911

Deputy is Appointed for Native Settlement

Special Field Deputy Has Been Appointed for Indian Mission Near Tanana

For the purpose of assisting Deputy Marshal Vawter in preserving order at the Indian Settlement above Tanana, Chief Deputy Marshal Charles has appointed William Rider for a special field deputy to assist in quelling any trouble that my arise in the village among the natives. Numerous

reports of rowdyism have been received lately from the mission, because of unwarranted invasions by the whites.

Fairbanks Daily Times, Jan 8 1913

Because of insurmountable snow blockage on the Copper River and Northwestern Railway, Interior Alaska stands no show of getting mail from the Outside until January 24.....from "Cordova, Alaska, Jan. 7 Marshal Love, Fairbanks. Best information available indicates will be week, probably more, before road open. Marshal Sullivan reporting trail open. Waite, Vawter and I are leaving.....All first class mail from Mariposa and Northwestern left at noon today with a rotary over the railroad."

Jan 9, 1913 from Marshal Love, Fairbanks

No trains probably 10 days. Will make effort to get in by way of Valdez. Deputy Marshall Waite and Vawter are still here.

Jan 13, 1913 wire from Marshal Love

.....Deputy Marshal C. L. Vawter of Tanana. Mr. Vawter is on his way in from the Outside, and has been delayed because of the snow slide and blockade on the railroad.

Fairbanks Daily Times 24 Jan 1913

Vawter Starts for Fairbanks

Tanana Deputy Leaves Cordova Today for Valdez and Fairbanks

A wife to the marshal's office tells of the intention of Deputy Marshal George Vawter of Tanana, who has been awaiting the opening of the railway at Cordova, to start for the Interior today. Deputy Vawter states that he will leave Cordova today for Valdez, there to continue his trip to Fairbanks by way of Thompson's pass. He has been at Cordova for the past two weeks, not caring to venture by way of Valdez sooner because of ill health. The deputy characterizes the railroad situation as hopeless. It is probably that Deputy E. C. Heacock will come with Deputy Vawter. Temperature Wednesday max minus 36 degrees, min. minus 17, and Thursday max minus 16 min. minus 16.

Fairbanks Daily Times Feb 11, 1913

Rig Makes Trip Over Old Trail

Stage arrives with passengers taken from McIntosh Rig

The stage that arrived yesterday afternoon from the coast was the first Orr rig to make the through trip over the Valdez trail with passengers. Other rigs had met the McIntosh stages at Ernestine and transferred mail, but yesterday's stage was the first with passengers. The list carried by the rig was as follows: Edgar C. Raine, Albert Cohen, C. L. Vawter, E. C. Heacock, Mrs. Jay C. Johnston and son Charles, Mrs. Georgina Anderson and Roy Vestal.

At the time the passengers on the stage reached Teikell, the double sled trail had not been broken through to that point, and the Orr stage was not met until Ernestine was reached.

C. L. Vawter was still in Alaska in 1914 at the death of his mother and served as marshal from 1900 to 1921.

TRAVEL DELAYED AT MANY PLACES, REPORTS VAWTER

Fifty-One Days Were Spent
by Tanana Deputy in De-
lays Alone During His
Trip to the States.

AT HOLY CROSS AND ST. MICHAEL

Ten Days Were Spent at
Each of Two Yukon Points
While Thirty-One Days
Was Time at Cordova.

Fifty-one days of delay waiting for connections since leaving Tanana, Alaska, on August 30, is the record established by Deputy Marshal C. L. Vawter, of that point, during his trip to the States. Deputy Vawter returned yesterday afternoon on the stage from the coast, after twelve days of traveling from Valdez by stages.

After leaving Tanana in August, Deputy Vawter was held up ten days at Dikeman on the way to Iditarod, and then was delayed ten days more at St. Michael, awaiting connections with steamships for the Outside. In the States, the Tanana deputy visited with friends and relatives, spending his accumulated vacation there.

Asked concerning the railroad situation in Cordova, Deputy Vawter said that he expected the road would be open next summer some time, after the sun had had a chance to act on the snow and ice that have blockaded traffic very effectively on the Copper river road. In Cordova he was informed by the railroad officials and others that the road would be open within a few days, so often that it was only after he had been there 31 days that he decided to make a break for home. On the steamship Northwestern he went to Valdez and then took passage on the McIntosh stage line for the interior.

On the trail, Deputy Vawter was bothered considerably by a skin affection which he contracted on the way. The ailment is being attended to now by physicians, and it will be probably a week before he can get away for Tanana by the lower river trail.

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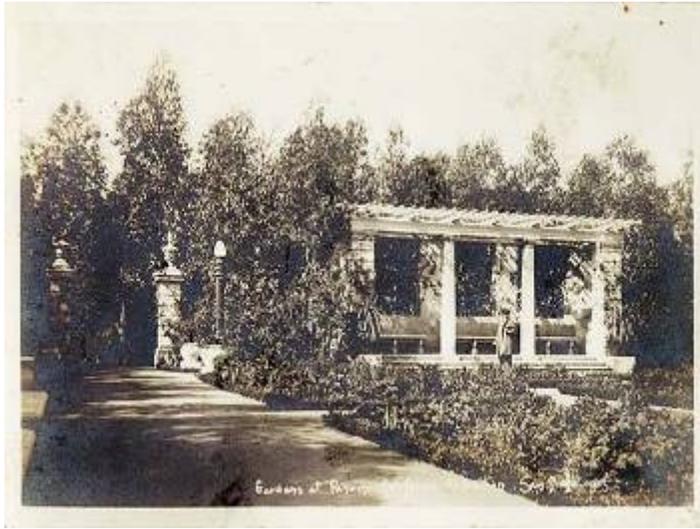
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Fairbanks Daily Times Aug 13 1915

Marshal's Party Safe at Seattle

Seattle, Aug. 12 Deputy US Marshal Vawter, with a number of prisoners and insane patients from Interior Alaska, arrived here last evening. The trip was made without incident of special interest.



One of the pavilions of the 1915 San Francisco exposition is shown at left. Cornelius Vawter had become something of a celebrity by 1915. The front page article about him shows his favorable position.

Fairbanks Daily Times, Thursday
November, 18, 1915

Dean of Alaska Officials Here On Way Home

Deputy Marshal C. W. Vawter, of Tanana, arrives on Stage from Coast; Leaves Next Monday. Enjoy the Big Show at Frisco

Business in San Francisco and California Quiet, and even worse through the Northern States Ready to get back into the harness again after two months spent Outside, Deputy marshal C. W. Vawter, of Tanana, arrived in from the Outside yesterday. He will start for Tanana next Monday and will end the last lap of his long journey the latter part of the week. Mr. Vawter left for the

Outside last fall as on one of the last boats, taking out several prisoners for the penitentiary. Since that time he has visited San Francisco exposition and a number of cities along the coast.

While in the States, Mr. Vawter was a much "written-up" man owing to the fact that he been a government official in Alaska for the past 17 year, having served as marshal at Nome when that camp was a hotbed of corruption. At San Francisco, and in fact, through out California, he found business quiet, while in Seattle, conditions were even worse.

The Deputy Marshal was greatly pleased with the exposition at San Francisco, as it was far better than be anticipated. Everything about the fair was run on a business-like basis, while the visitors were looked after well.

As soon as the deputy marshal returns to Tanana, he will relieve deputy marshal Jack MacCormack, who will then come to Fairbanks for duty.

1920 US Census, Fort Gibbon, 4th Judicial District Alaska p. 19A

Cornelius L. Vawter age 68 b. IL Renting home Sarah F. age 56

After 1921 he went to Los Angeles, near family and friends and died in 1926. The article on the left was located in the Helena Montana Independent Paper in 1926.

C. L. VAWTER, PIONEER OF THIS CITY, DIES AT LOS ANGELES HOSPITAL

The death of Cornelius L. Vawter, a pioneer of Helena, took place yesterday of pneumonia at a Los Angeles hospital. Arrangements for his funeral were not ready for announcement last night. He is survived by his widow and one brother, John G. Vawter, of Cooke City; a sister, Mrs. Myron Barnes, of Rockford, Ills., and distant relatives at Santa Monica, Cal.

Mr. Vawter was in his 76th year. He came to Montana via the Missouri river in 1869. He was associated in business here with his father, Col. J. G. Vawter, who died in 1877, and was a member of the city council for two terms in the eighties. He was general manager of the Elkhorn Mining company from 1884 to 1889.

Mr. Vawter was one of several who suffered financial losses in the panic of 1893. Five years afterwards he was appointed federal marshal at Nome, Alaska, and was connected with the courts in the territory until 1922 when he moved to California.

Havre Daily News Promoter (MT) 29 Dec 1926 Cornelius Vawter Dead

Helena Dec 29 (AP) Cornelius L. Vawter, 75 Montana pioneer who came to Helena in 1869, died yesterday at the California Lutheran hospital at Los Angeles, according to telegraphic word received today by his brother, John G. Vawter of Cooke City. Pneumonia was the cause of his demise.

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

Another Cornelius L. Vawter young enough to be a son is found in Denver, CO, however these are the children of Charles A Vawter and they came from Kansas.

Denver Colorado 1913 City Directory p 1757

Vawter, Bert F. workman Hewitt Candy Mtg. Co. res. 1919 Lawrence

Vawter George, salesman Burrough's Adding Machine Co., Res 1412 14th Av

Vawter Cornelius L., laborer Res 4726 Gilpin

Vawter Eva G Mrs. Re 4726 Gilpin

1920 US Census Denver Colorado (index only)

Cornelius L. Vawter b. ca 1893

John Grey Vawter (junior)

John Grey was in Montana with his brother Cornelius L. in the 1880's as told above, he would have been in his early 20's. It seems John (jr) was married in Montana to Mary L. (nee?).

The Helena Independent 3 May 1881

District court, May term 1881 civil cases

#2649 John G. Vawter et al vs Dallas Haskell

The Helena Independent 28 May 1881

Delinquent tax list 1880

Vawter and Modies estate 20 66 100acres, Ten Mile, Lulu lode, tSn.r5W

\$105 total

The Helena Independent 16 Jun 1881

Failure of J. G. Vawter

We regret to learn that Mr. J. G. Vawter, merchant at Jefferson City, has failed in business, his stock of goods having been attached and an assignment made. We are not advised of the extent of the liabilities or value of his assets, but trust that Mr. Vawter's resources are abundant to liquidate all demands and leave a handsome balance with which to make another start.

9 Jul 1881 Mr. J. G. Vawter has been appointed agent for the overland express at Jefferson City.

9 Dec 1881 Mr. J. G. Vawter has returned from a pleasure trip to San Francisco

Helena Independent 10 Jun 1882

Agent for Gilmer & Salisbury

John G. Vawter has been appointed Northern Pacific terminal agent of the Gilmer & Salisbury stage line and left Helena yesterday morning to assume charge of the position. He will be located at Forsyth, the terminus of the line. Mr. Vawter will fill the position with efficiency and will give complete satisfaction to the stage company and the traveling public. We wish him success in his future home and calling.

The Helena Independent 14 Nov 1883

J. G. Vawter has been appointed agent for the Northern Pacific at the mouth of Little Blackfoot.

Mitchell Daily Republic newspaper 6 Dec 1888

A New Dakota Bank

Minot, Dak. Dec. 6 The Bank of Towner, McHenry county, has filed articles of incorporation to commence business Jan 1, 1889. E. Ashley Mears is president and John G. Vawter cashier. The capital stock is \$100,000.

1900 US Census Helena, Lewis and Clark Co., Montana p. 8A

John G. Vawter age 40 b. IA

Mary L. age 35 b. PA

Bessie Vawter age 14 b. Minnesota (ca 1886)

Lillian Vawter age 12 b. North Dakota (ca 1888)

Infant child died ca 1890

Obituary transcripts of Montana NAME: VAWTER, - AGE: INFANT- RESIDENCE: ELKHORN - PL OF EVENT: HELENA DATE OF PAPER: 1890/05/15 - FATHER: VAWTER, JOHN - NAME OF PAPER: SENTINEL

According to the census another child died before maturity

"South Dakota State Business Directory," published by The Gazetteer Publishing Co., Denver, Colorado in 1909.

A new and growing town in Walworth county, on the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Ry., 25 miles north-west of Bangor, and 98 miles west of Aberdeen. Division point for both passenger and freight. A supply point for a large surrounding country, which is being settled rapidly. Mobridge promises to become one of the important cities of the state. Present population 700.

Last Name	First Name	Business
Vawter	John G.	justice peace and postmaster

1910 US Census Helena, Lewis & Clark Co., Montana pg. 6A

Mary L. Vawter widow age 42 b. PA 4 children, 2 living f. b. PA m. b. PA

Lillison Vawter age 21 b. ND dau. single f.b. IL m. b. PA

In the 1910 census, Mary L states she is a widow, but John G. had left for South Dakota and later returned to Montana and died in 1936. He worked for the railroads, was a justice of the peace and a post master. John states in the 1920 census in South Dakota he is a widow, neither she nor daughter Lillian are found in Montana in 1920 census. Daughter Lillian is single in 1910 and no more is known of her, daughter Elizabeth (Bessie) is married and shown in Montana 1910 census with husband Fred Pilling and is listed as the only heir in 1936 obituary of John G. Vawter (jr). Perhaps they simply parted company and never filed for a divorce.

Emmetsburg Democrat Emmetsburg, Palo Alto, Iowa 25 Mar 1914

The news of Mowbridge, South Dakota of March 13 says:

"Yesterday M.F. RYAN received a message from Washington informing him that the senate had confirmed his appointment as postmaster at Mowbridge. The appointment of Mr. RYAN comes as a well deserved recognition of his generous efforts of the democratic party and because he is qualified to attend to the duties connected to the office. While the News regrets the retirement of Judge VAWTER from the position, there is no one in the democratic ranks we could sooner see have the job than that good old warrior- Matt F RYAN". Mr. RYAN is a brother of the Supt. Margaret RYAN and step son of Mrs. Matt RYAN of this city. He is well known to all of our citizens.

When his mother died in 1914, her obituary stated he was still in South Dakota.

1920 US Census Mobridge, Walworth Co., South Dakota

John G. Vawter age 60 b. IA, widow, boarder at the boarding house of Joe Schmidrack

The Helena Independent 20 Jun 1930

There was a primary election held in South Dakota on May 6 1930 and when the votes were counted the majority of Senator McMaste, as belated returns were tabulated reached 12,500 for his re-nomination for another term in the senate of the United States. Signed John G. Vawter

Helena Independent
 Monday 14 Jul 1930
 Lewis and Clark County votes to vote tomorrow in primaries
 Helena Township, Justice of the peace
 J. H. Brass (incumbent)
 John G. Vawter and A. J. Lemkie opponents.

18 Jul 1830 Helena Independent

Vawter Expends Sum of \$24 in Campaign; Have 15 days to file
 John G. Vawter candidate for the office of justice of the peace in the primaries Tuesday, was he first to file a statement of his campaign expenses. His report was left with the county clerk and recorder yesterday.
 Vawter's total expense was \$24 of which \$15 was for filing fee and \$9 for advertising.
 In this connection, County clerk A. J. Dunedin called attention to the state law requiring that candidates must file their campaign expense accounts within fifteen days after the primaries.
 Failure to comply with make them subject to a penalty of \$25 a day for each day over the 15 that the account remains unfiled.

THE HELENA DAILY INDEPENDENT, SUNDAY, JUNE 1, 1930

<p>bruary 24 and ting, commonly ntana Develop- s held at Hel- representativen to and many n other states, t I had the op- ng a somewhat lement of the and the offer er to the states. rst meeting for permanent or- ot thought wise id-out endorse- but the resolu- in the following to the subject: peration should federal commis- n and adminis- : domain recent- ie president of and to I. M. a's representa- sion, in the ab- le facts and l by various ile of the state, ensive program at shall operate</p>	<p>would be required to provide this structure. Proceeds from Lands. He discusses the use of the proceeds from the state lands when passed on the states and private grantees of the latter, and the effect of the transfer on conservation and development, and disapproves of continued federal control of grazing lands. The report includes a letter from Governor Erickson commending Commissioner Brandford's conclusions and suggestions. The letter also expresses the hope that the transfer of the lands will not reduce the income from the government for reclamation and highway construction. It urges that the transfer include all mineral rights, oil and gas, and suggests that grazing land in forest reserves and Indian reservations also be given the states or made available to the public by other means. The letter</p>	<p>closes with the following tribute to Commissioner Brandford: "And permit me to say further that Montana is very fortunate in having a representative on this commission, and you, with your wide experience in the administration of state lands, your intimate knowledge of the public domain within our state, and your capacity for investigation and research, assures us that the interests of Montana will be well cared for." LUXURY IN AIR London.—The monoplane air yacht recently finished for the Hon. A. E. Guinness is the latest word in air luxury. It has accommodations for six passengers, and these include: Wardrobes, dressing tables, bookcases, and a bathroom. The ship has a cruising radius of 550 miles and a normal speed of 100 miles an hour. With full tank and crew it can cover 2,000 miles.</p>	<p>FORMER S. D. J. P. IS CANDIDATE FOR SAME POSITION IN HELENA A new candidate appeared in the race for justice of peace yesterday when John G. Vawter of the Grandon hotel filed notice with the county clerk that he would seek the nomination for the office on the republican ticket. Mr. Vawter believes he is particularly fitted for the place by reason of 14 years experience as justice at Moberge, S. D. He issued the following frank and comprehensive statement of policy: "If nominated and elected I will show no respect to the person of the poor nor honor to the person of the mighty, but in righteousness</p>	<p>render and enter judgment in every case submitted to me. Tells Defendant of Rights "I require all civil cases filed with my court to be tried to a jury unless a written waiver of jury trial is signed by the parties to the suit, and in all criminal cases I notify every defendant of his rights. "First, to employ an attorney to defend him. "Second, to a change of venue before any proceedings are had. "Third, to a trial by jury." Mr. Vawter asks that this slogan be placed on the ballot: "Experienced 14 straight years as justice of the peace at Moberge, S. D." It is estimated that out of every 100 boys on Manhattan Island, 80 spend their leisure time upon the streets, and that of all the things they can do there, 50 per cent are inimical to character and 20 per cent are downright illegal.</p>
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1930 US Census Helena. Lewis and Clark Co., Montana
 John Vawter age 71 b. IA Inmate Lewis & Clark County Hospital, widow, never attended school, could read and write

The Helena Independent 25 Feb 1936
 John G. Vawter, an early day resident of city, is called.
 John G. Vawter, 76, a pioneer resident of Montana and the man for whom Vawter street here was named, died early yesterday morning following an extended illness. Mr. Vawter came to Helena about 1876 and for several years was agent for an early day express company. In 1883 he went to Garrison as agent for the concern and remained there a time. Later he returned to Helena and

engaged in mining, the real estate business and general merchandising. At one time he operated a store on Broadway. He was interested in mining ventures at Elkhorn and Cooke City. Surviving him is a daughter, Mrs. F. E. Pilling of Divide. The body is at the Opp and Conrad mortuary and funeral arrangements will be completed later

Montana Death Records 1930-1939: John G. Vawter male age 76 died 23 Feb 1936, Hel 337 (this means Helena, MT)

Daughter Elizabeth V. Vawter married Fred E. Pilling in Montana.

Butte, Silver Bow County, Montana Directory, 1902
Fred E Pilling, secretary The Butte Adjustment Co.

1910 US Federal Census Butte Ward 4, Silver Bow, MT
Ignatious Mattingly age 48
John E. Mattingly age 35
Fred E. Palling age 38 b. WI married 4 years f.b. Eng. m.b. OH Lodger
Elizabeth V. Palling age 23

1920 US Census Butte, Silver Bow Ward 88, MT 273/273
Fred Pilling age 46 b. WI
Elizabeth wife age 31 b. MN
Fred Pilling age 7 b. MT
John Pilling age 8 months b. MT

1930 US Census Butte, Silver Bow, MT Dist 44 #23/24
Pelling, Fred E age 52 m. age at marriage 34 b. WI
Elizabeth wife age 42 f. age at marriage 23 b. Minnesota f. b. IL m. b. PA
Fred Pelling age 17 son b. MT
John Pelling age 10 son b. MT
Park Lowther age 68 step father b. Canada

1900 US Census Butte Ward 7, Silver Bow, MT
Park Lowther age 36 b. Feb 1864 married 7 years b. Nova Scotia
Grace Lowther age 32 b. Sept 1868 b. Montana
Babe Lowther age 4 b. Dec 1895 b. Montana
Amos Campbell age 20 lodger
Spencer Tripp age 28 lodger

1902 Butte, Silver Bow Co., MT
Park Lowther, butcher for DC Smith
Address: boards at 715 South Wyoming

1910 US Census Butte Ward 8, Silver Bow MT arrived 1880
Park Lowther age 46 married 17 years b. Canadian English
Grace Lowther age 40 married 17 years b. Scotland Gaelic arrived 1890
Evangeline Lowther 15 b. MT fb. Can mb. Scotland

1920 US Census Butte Ward 8a, Silver Bow, MT
Park Lawther age 52 b. Canada owns home immigrated 1880 fb. Canada mb. Canada
Mae L. Lawther age 49 b. PA fb. PA mb. PA

1920 US Census Dillon Beaverhead, MT dist. 6
Watson, Findley jr m. age 28 b. Poland fb Poland mb Poland
Evangeline A. age 25 b. Montana fb Canada mb Poland
Robert J. son Abe 1yr 9 mo b. Montana
Isabel M. dau age 11 mon b. Montana

Seattle Passenger and Drew Lists, 1882-1957

Park Luther arrived Aug 1923 age 60,
b. 1863 Canada male, English
Port of arrival, Sweet Grass, Montana

Montana Death Index 1907-2002
Park Lowther age 73 b. 1860 d. 29 April 1933 Bt.8990

The Helena Independent 3 Apr 1925

Boulder Man is Fined \$100 for Killing Elk

Butte, Apr 2 David Barney of Boulder, charged with killing an elk has been fined \$100 according to Deputy Game Warden Fred Pilling of Butte.....

(numerous other newspaper articles chronicle his job activities)

Sons of Fred E. and Elizabeth (Vawter) Pilling, grandsons of John G. Vawter (jr)

California Death Index, 1490-1997, Frederick Ellis Pilling m. b. Montana d. 23 Dec 1985 Orange Co., CA mother's maiden name Vawter

Last residence 92802 Anaheim, Orange, CA b. 27 Dec 1912, d. Dec 1985

The Helena Independent 8 Sep 1940

Mrs. F. E. Pilling, Jr. and small son Fred II, of Miles City are guests at the home of Mr. and Mrs. John D. Pope 424 Harrison Ave

US WWII Army Enlistment Records, 1938-1946

John C. Pilling b. 1918 Silver Bow, MT

Enlisted 14 Feb 1945 UT, married

Occupation fireman, locomotive

Montana Death Index #3722, 1907-2992

John C. Pilling age 56 b. ca 1920

Died 27 Jul 1976 Silver Bow, MT

Married or separated

1930 US Census Montana, Silver Bow shows the only other Vawter families found. Crawford Vawter b. ca 1903, Ella Vawter b. ca 1902 and Ben Vawter b. ca 1912.

Butte Montana 1928 City Directory lists Vawter, Edgar C. (Ella) clerk Symons home 736 S Montana. They are related to another Vawter lines.

The Helena Daily Independent, Sunday, May 29, 1932 by A. Nash

PIONEER MINING MAN RELATES INTERESTING STORIES OF THE LAST CHANCE GULCH AND LINCOLN PLACERS OF EARLY DAY

Long, long ago when the earth was much younger than it is now, Mother Nature hid a considerable part of her treasure in Last Chance gulch. Other hiding places she found in Lewis and Clark county, as it is bounded now. This treasure was in the form of yellow nuggets and shining dust which men call gold – the magic word which brings the crowd when treasure boss is discovered. You may know something of the value of this dust when you learn that ore hiding place near Lincoln, Montana, gave up about \$7,000,000 worth of the precious metal. Another hiding place was discovered at Marysville, in the same county, yielding several millions of wealth, and more of it is still, being recovered at each of the locations mentioned.

“When God made the hills and the mountains,

The gold was thrust under their sides;

Or scattered in dust by the fountains.

Where nature still provides.”

In the rocks of the towering mountains around Helena, vast fortunes in gold were hidden. These rocks were gnawed and milled by the teeth of time, and fortunes have been garnered from the debris, in Last Chance gulch. Other fortunes are now being blasted out of the rocks. For a thousand years in the future, men will still be recovering and selling this flashing, shining dust which seems to be so very necessary in making the wheels of trade go around. Little difficulty do they find in selling it after it has been recovered. Up to the United States assay office the miner carries his bag of dust there it is very carefully weighed, melted, assayed and paid for on a basis of \$20.00 per ounce of pure gold. Very little of it is pure, but the assay shows the percentage of pure stuff.

In 1863 some roving miners found the colors in the gravel beds. In the gulch, near where Edwards street corners into Main street in Helena. Near by on Broadway, in 1865, a pioneer merchant, John G. Vawter decided to locate. He chose the site at the corner of Broadway and Jackson streets. There he erected a building of native stone and stocked it with groceries which he shipped from St. Louis, Missouri, up the Missouri river to Fort Benton; and freighted from Fort Benton to Helena.

His success seems easy to us now, but he had many obstacles to overcome. In order to wash out the gold from the gravel beds, the miners needed three square meals every day. Col. Vawter was ready and willing to supply the groceries from which the three squares might be prepared. So he helped the miners and they in turn helped his business to prosper. It is not likely that Col. Vawter was commissioned as a colonel, but he was a native Kentuckian, and many of his friends gave him the honorary Kentucky title.

The difficulty arose, chiefly in trying to get the supplies into Helena. Slowly moving bull teams tolled over rough and muddy roads, dragging heavy loads from Fort Benton. One trip overland required 10 days time or more. Some of the freighters had good mule teams, and could make the trip in about one week. Soon the Union Pacific railroad was completed to Corinne, Utah, and freighters began to move a string of freight wagons over rough roads from Corinne to Butte and Helena. The wagons were loaded with supplies to feed hungry miners in the gulch.

Soon big covered wagons were bringing recruits for the camp. Some of them carried the slogan "Last Chance gulch or bust," painted on the wagon covers. Those were the days when business was booming in the little mining camp at the foot of Mount Helena, Colonel Vawter's invoice showed \$14,000 net profit in one year. Sugar was retailed in those times at five pounds for \$1. Flour sometimes sold as high as \$50 per sack and even more when the supply was low. Some of the men afterward prominent arrived here about that time. Among others were A. M. Hollier and Uncle Joe Horsky. Each of them accumulated a fortune by good business methods and good investments. Uncle Joe was pleased to tell his friends, as his time drew near the close, that he had spend 65 winters in Helena. He failed to finish the 66th winter here, because the death angel led him gently home before the spring days came in 1931. Because those hardly pioneers are passing on, one by one, there is ample reason why these pioneer stories should be published now. They are stories of men who did their part well in helping to build the great state of Montana.

The Overland Stage

Col. John G. Vawter continued to prosper in business in Helena. In 1871 he made a trip back to Illinois, by way of stage coach to Corinne, Utah, and there on the Union Pacific railway. He returned in the spring of 1872, bringing his son, John G. Vawter, Jr. with him. He was a husky youngster less than 12 years of age and weighing about 200 pounds. They traveled from Corinne on the old overland stage coach line, owned by Gilmer, Salisbury and company. The agent at Corinne was named Tim Henderson. He looked the boy over when they were ready to start and then he smiled and said "Colonel you can ride for half fare, but this boy will have to pay the full fare."

They traveled from Corinne to Malad, Idaho, where they had supper. Teams were changed and they hurried on over the low mountain range to Marsh creek valley and then down the valley over the old toll road to Harkness station on the Portneuf river. Near the old stage station is now located the town of McCammon, Idaho. At the station teams were changed, the passengers had breakfast and the driver settled the toll charges with Mrs. Harkness. They hurried on without sleep to Pocatello and on to Eagle Rock, now Idaho Falls. There they crossed the Snake River and sped on over Pleasant Valley pass, down Redrock canyon to Dillon, which was not a town at that time. They went over Boulder hill to the town of Boulder; then by way of Jefferson City and Clancy and on into Helena.

Teams were changed on the way at stations about 20 miles apart on an average. The time required for the trip was about 84 hours, or three and one-half days. There were no stops for sleeping on the way.

Young John G. Vawter was dressed with fur cap, buffalo pants and buffalo overcoat. He rode on the driver's seat with the heavy leather apron to hold him in place securely. In that way he put in many hours sleeping as they traveled along the way. His father was able to get some sleep on the seat inside the coach. They arrived in Helena on the evening of May 2, 1871. The stage carried mail, express and passengers. A stage coach, with four horses, left Corinne early every morning.

Six and sometimes eight horses were used in making the heavy grades. One of these stage coaches arrived in Helena about 4 o'clock in the afternoon. Bad roads often caused delay in the time of arrival Gilmer, Salisbury and company had about \$1,000,000 invested in equipping the line for business. Colonel Vawter had another son, C L Vawter, helping him in the store and he placed young John on the delivery wagon to pilot a team of mules.

A "Necktie Party"

One day some members of a Vigilante committee rushed into the store and asked Mr. Vawter for the use of the team and wagon for a brief time. An employee of the store, William Julius, was ordered to go with them and return the team. Two men had been condemned to hang. The Vigilantes hauled the victims over to the old trees east of Rodney street, fastened the rope ready for the final swing and the wagon pulled quickly from under their feet, leaving them suspended between the earth and the sky until they were dead. In this crude way was law and order enforced in the rushing, booming days in Last Chance gulch. The victims had been charged with murdering a rancher in the valley.

The last Journey

In 1877 Col. Vawter placed an order with the wholesale dealers in St. Louis for a load of groceries to be shipped by boat to Fort Benton. The old "Key West" was loaded, mostly with this order, and started up the Missouri river for Fort

Benton, a 3,000 mile journey by the river route. Several days after it started on the trip, Col. Vawter and his son, John, boarded the boat at Yankton, Dakota territory, as it was then known. Fate had decreed that this should be the last trip for the pioneer merchant. The next morning after they started up the river, he complained that a pimple on the back of his neck was causing him trouble, and he requested his son to look at it and see what he could do to help. After inspection the son reported "no pimple there." A day or two later it had developed into a carbuncle of a malignant type. The merchant was suffering much pain, but he refused to land and seek the professional services of an army surgeon at one of the forts along the river. He regarded it as very important that he should go on to Fort Benton. An army surgeon boarded the boat at Fort Sully. He examined Col. Vawter and declared the case fraught with serious danger. He made the declaration that the patient would not reach Fort Benton alive. His advice was to land and seek medical attention at a hospital conveniently located near the Missouri river. Col. Vawter said to his son: "These doctors are trying to make me believe that I am going to die because of this little trouble on the back of my neck, but I am going on to Fort Benton." An army surgeon was secured at Fort Peck to accompany him on the trip to Fort Benton. When the boat reached a point near the mouth of the Musselshell river, the merchant passed peacefully away. The son had the body removed from the boat and embalmed. He hired a swift courier to go on horseback, carrying the death message to Helena. John E. Vawter, a nephew, hurried back with the messenger carrying \$10,000 with him for expense money. The body was buried near the old home at Marengo, Illinois. He left an estate valued at \$50,000, which was divided among his legal heirs, a widow and four children. The old home still stands on Vawter street in this city, which was named in honor of the pioneer merchant. The old Elks' temple stands now on the lot where the store building was located in the boom days of Helena.

The Sons

C. L. Vawter and his brother, John G. Vawter, were stockholders in the Elk Horn Mining company, which owned a silver producing mine near Elk Horn, Mont., about 18 miles from Boulder. Associated with them A. M. Holter, J. H. Shober, John Kinna and M. N. Holter. C. L. Vawter was secretary and manager and Holter was president of the company. This mine produced about 1,000 ounces of silver daily for several years. Then it was sold to an English syndicate for \$500,000 cash. After that sale the Vawter brothers built the Merchants hotel at the corner of Broadway and Warren streets. They conducted a hotel business there for several years and Marcus Daly was often a guest there, when he had business in Helena. During the panic of 1893 their little fortune was wiped off the slate by the foreclosure of a mortgage.

C. L. Vawter secured appointment as US Marshal at Tanana, Alaska. His friend, the late Senator Thomas Carter, made it possible for him to secure the position. He remained there until after the close of the World war. He died in Los Angeles in 1926.

In the spring of 1880, the Alta Montana Mining company started development on the big scale near the place now known as Wickes.

Wm. W. Wickes was president of the company and Cole Saunders was vice president and managing director and Horace F. Brown was general superintendent. They started development of the Alta mine by building a 500 ton concentrator at a point about four miles south of Jefferson City. A stock of merchandise was needed and John G. Vawter formed a partnership with Thomas A. Wickes, a nephew of the president of the Alta company. A store building was erected and a stock of merchandise was freighted over from Helena. The Alta mine proved a bonanza. The concentrator proved a success. A town was built and named in honor of President Wickes. One day in June, 1881, at noon time, when the employees were off shift for lunch, a fire was discovered in the concentrator. It was a \$250,000 loss with very little insurance. Four hundred men were jobless and John G. Vawter found himself with a \$30,000 stock of merchandise on hand. He moved the stock to Jefferson City and sold it to Kleinschmidt Brothers at a sacrifice price. After that experience he secured work at Miles City, Montana, handling passengers, mail and express for the stage company.

When the Northern Pacific railroad was completed into Miles City, the company took over the mail and express business and John Vawter came into Helena as messenger on the first express car that arrived in Helena.

After the Merchant's hotel was closed, John Vawter went to South Dakota as an employee in the station service of the Milwaukee railway. He located at Mobridge and remained there for 15 years. In 1909 he received a commission from President William Howard Taft as post master at Mobridge. He held the office until 1914, when President Wilson appointed his successor. Then he served as justice of the peace and US commissioner until 1923. He now makes his home near Helena and is still hale and hearty at the age of 72 years.

Anna Elizabeth Vawter

Anna Elizabeth was born 1864 in Denver, Colorado, USA, and died 20 June 1934 in Rockford, Winnebago County, Illinois, USA m. 29 Sep 1886, Rockford, Winnebago, IL to Myron E. Barnes b. 22 Jun 1863 Newberry, NY (not verified)

1880 Census Rockford, Winnebago, IL
Jermiah Barnes m. age 44 b. NY shipping clerk
Annis Barnes wife age 38 b. NY

Mary Barnes dau age 20 b. NY
Myron Barnes son age 17 b. NY
Lizzie Barnes dau age 10 b. NY
Charles W. Warner son in law age 25 b. IL millerite
Florence Warner grand dau age 8 mon b. IL

1880 Census Marengo, McHenry, IL
Elisabeth Vawter widow age 50 b. scot
Anna Vawter dau. age 16 b. CO f. b. KT m. b. scot
Benjamin Vawter son age 14 b. IL f. b. KT m. b. scot

1910 US Census Rockford, Winnebago, IL p 17A
Miron E. Barnes age 46 b. NY
Annie E age 46 CO
Kenneth B son age 13 b. IL
Elizabeth Vawter age 85 boarder widow, immigrated from Scot. 1834

1920 US Census Rockford, Winnebago Co., IL p.9A
Myron E. Barner (Barnes) age 56 B. NY
Annie E. wife age 56 b. CO
Philip B. Barner son age 22

1930 US Census Rockford, Winnebago Co., IL p4A
Myron Barnes age 66
Asanna age 66

(Source: Obituary, Rockford Daily Register-Republic, Wednesday, 20 June 1934, Page 9 column 4,
Death Claims Wife of City Music Leader

Mrs. Annie E. Barnes, Prominent in Church, Clubs, Dies at Home Mrs. Annie Elizabeth Barnes, wife of Myron Barnes, and a prominent church and club woman here, died at 5:15 a. m. today at her home, 504 North 1st street. In failing health for several years, Mrs. Barnes had been seriously ill for the last six weeks, and little hope had been entertained for her recovery. The daughter of Joseph Grey Vawter, pioneer merchant in Denver, Col., Mrs. Barnes was born in Denver on Jan. 31, 1864. She was one of the first white girls born there. At the age of a year she moved with her parents to Marengo, where the home was made for years. She latter attended Ferry Hall, at Lake Forest, and Rockford college. She was a member of the Second Congregational church, and had been affiliated with the Mendelssohn club, Rockford Woman's club, and the Rockford Art association. Married in 1886 Her marriage to Mr. Barnes took place on Sept. 29, 1886. The husband is well known here as a vocal teacher and as director of music for the Second Congregational church. A son, Kenneth, a brother, John G. Vawter, of Helena, Mont., and a granddaughter, Elizabeth Ann, also survive. Funeral services will be held at 2 p. m. Friday at the Congregational church, with the Rev. John Gordon, pastor, officiating. The body will be taken to Marengo for interment. The church quartet will sing at the services, with Ralph Brigham at the organ. Note: The grave of her father in Marengo City Cemetery reads "John G. Vawter" not Joseph.

Child: Kenneth Boyd Barnes b. 28 Jul 1896 Winnebago, IL m Elisabeth J., Child Elizabeth Ann b. ca 1928 OH as noted in the obituary of her grandmother and father .

1917-18 WWI Registration Kenneth Boyd Barnes, Rockford, Winnebago Co., IL b. 28 Jul 1896 Winnebago, IL

1930 US Census Tiffin City, Seneca Co., OH p12B
Barnes, Kenneth B. Head 33 Illinois New York Colorado Professor College
Elizabeth J. wife 30 Wisconsin Illinois Wisconsin
Elizabeth A. daughter 1 1/12 Ohio Illinois Wisconsin

SSDI Death Record

Kenneth B Barnes b. 28 July 1896 d. 31 March 1970, Tiffin, Seneca, Ohio

Benjamin Stewart Vawter

John Grey Vawter and wife Elizabeth left Denver and returned to Illinois with baby Anna and sons. A deed dated April 1866 shows the purchase of property in IL. Elizabeth (mother) sold this property in 1872 and moved to the same location as her daughter. John Grey (sr) returned to IL to sell the property and took John (jr) back to Montana with him. After John (sr) death in 1877, Benjamin stayed in IL but in 1881 went to Montana with his oldest brother, leaving his sister and mother in IL. Benjamin was in Washington State about the time his oldest brother was in Alaska and then again when Cornelius L moved to California, we find Benjamin in the vicinity. No children are known of Benjamin.

1880 Census Marengo, McHenry, IL
Elisabeth Vawter widow age 50 b. scot
Anna Vawter dau. age 16 b. CO f. b. KT m. b. scot
Benjamin Vawter son age 14 b. IL f. b. KT m. b. scot

The Helena Independent 24 Jun 1881 Mr. Ben S. Vawter arrived from Chicago by Wednesday's coach. He is a brother of C. L. Vawter.

1890-92 Duluth, Minnesota Directory
1890, 1891 Benjamin S. Vawter
506 Clough Ave, Superior, MN
Occupation: Bill poster

John G. (jr) was in Minnesota and North Dakota during this time. His daughter, Elizabeth was born in Minnesota in 1886 and Lillian in North Dakota 1888. John (jr) also worked at a bank during this time in North Dakota. Benjamin likely was still single at this time.

1900 US Census Seattle Ward 7, King Co., Washington
Benjamin Vawter age 34 b. IL
Maggie M. wife age 33 b. Ireland

1910 US Census Assembly Dist. 45, San Francisco, CA
Benjamin Vauter age 44 married b. IL
Maggie (wf) age 44 b. Ireland
Benjamin is noted to be in San Francisco in 1914, found in his mother's obituary.

1920 US Census Assembly Dist. 33, San Francisco, CA
Benjamin Stewart Vawter age 53 b. IL Widower, Roomer

1930 US Census San Francisco, CA
Benjamin Vawter age 62 b. IL Roomer, widow.

Oakland Tribune (Oakland, CA) newspaper 28 Dec 1933
S. F. Deaths (San Francisco)
Vawter, Benjamin S. – 68 years

Descendants of John G. Vawter

JOHN G.¹ 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,

JOHN G. and ELIZABETH STEWART VAWTER are both buried: Marengo City Cemetery, Marengo, McHenry County, Illinois, USA

Children of JOHN VAWTER and ELIZABETH STEWART are:

a. CORNELIUS LANSING VAWTER, b. 07 November 1851; d. 28 December 1926 age 76 in Los Angeles, CA

Burial: Los Angeles, CA

b. JANE VAWTER b. ca 1854 IA d. 1858 Winterset, Madison Co., IA

c. ALEXANDER S. VAWTER b. 1858 IA d. 1858 Winterset, Madison Co., IA

d. ELLIOTT G. VAWTER b. 1858 IA d. 1858 Winterset, Madison Co., IA

e. JOHN GREY VAWTER, b. Abt. 1859 IA d. 23 Feb 1936 Helena, MT age 76 buried in Montana

g. ANNA ELIZABETH VAWTER b. 1864, Denver CO; d. 20 June 1934, Rockford, Winnebago County, Illinois, Burial: Marengo City Cemetery, Marengo, McHenry County, Illinois, USA

g. BENJAMIN STEWART VAWTER, b. 1866 Denver CO or poss. IL d. 28 Dec 1933 age 68 bur in San Francisco, CA

A Nephew of John Grey Vawter (sr) and son of Presley G. Vawter was connected with the family. He worked with the family in the grocer business and is mentioned at the death of John G. Vawter in 1877, assisting with the body when he died on the paddle wheeler in North Dakota.

John E. is the nephew of John G. found in the 1850 Census of IL

934/955 Presley G. Vawter age 42, wife Margaret 32, Elizabeth 8, John age 12

All three brothers, C L, John G and Ben S. traveled to Los Angeles and eventually settled in the same area as John E. Vawter. He possibly was the father figure they no longer had, as others of the Presley G. Vawter family also migrated to CA

1860 Montana Terr. Page 192

Family 379/379

Louis L Miller age 32 Grocer b. NY

Samuel M. Hall age 52 grocer b. NY

Gonomour??.....Irwin J. age 27 day laborer b. NY

John E. Vawter 21 grocer b. ILL

All single males

The Helena Independent 7 July 1877

J. E. Vawter Mineral Patent

J. Winscott et al. McClellan & J. E. Vawter lode

1890 John E. Vawter, 593 S. Olive, Los Angeles, CA

Occupation: Groceries

1900 US Census Los Angeles Ward 3, Los Angeles, CA

John E. Vawter age 62 b. Feb 1838 IL widow Lodger f. b. KY m. b. VA

1910 US Census Los Angeles, CA

John E. Vawter age 72 b. IL employee

Father b. KY mother b. VA divorced male

Another Vawter also inhabited the area. One L. A. Vawter/Vawater a doctor who was well known in town. This Vawter descends from the family of William Vawter of Monroe Co., WV. His history is listed here to separate him from the John Grey Vawter family. GJNote: The article below is about Louis Vawter, son of the Monroe County West Virginia Vawters. The item is full of errors and should not be used as genealogical fact.

Louis A. Vawater History of Montana, by Joaquin Miller, 1894
USGENWEB Montana Archives May be copied for non-profit purposes.

Dr. Louis A. Vawater, one of the leading physicians of Boulder, was born in West Virginia, October 22, 1840. Edward Vawater, the first of the family in this country, came from England to Virginia in the early part of the seventeenth century. He settled in Essex County where his two sons, Edward and William were born and both served on the Colonial side in the Revolutionary War. William, the grandfather of our subject, secured the appointment of Government Surveyor from the Governor of Virginia, moved to West Virginia in 1791, and pushed as far down as the mouth of the Kanawha River and there met and married Miss Margaret Henderson, a native of Point Pleasant West Virginia and a daughter of James Henderson. After their marriage they located on Hans Creek, Monroe County, that state, where they lived until death, the husband dying at the age of eighty six years and the wife reached the age of ninety years. Six children, three sons and three daughters were born to that union.

The eldest child, Jonah Vawater, the father of our subject, was born at the old homestead in West Virginia in 1800. He inherited his father's estate and continued to reside there until his death in 1878 at the age of seventy-eight years. He was a successful planter and prominent citizen and represented his district several terms in the Legislature. In 1827 he married Miss Clara S. Peck, a native of Giles County, Pennsylvania and they had thirteen children, twelve of whom grew to years of maturity. The mother died in 1882 at the age of seventy-two years. They were worthy members of the Methodist Church for many years. Louis A. Vawater, the third child in order of birth, received his primary education under a private tutor, later attended the Union Academy in Union and then entered the Emery & Henry College, in Washington County, WV graduating from the latter institution in 1854. He was then for a short time engaged in engineering, after which he turned his attention to the study of medicine under Dr. E.W. Peck of Red Sulphur Springs. In 1860 Mr. Vawater received his first course of lectures at Richmond Virginia. At the opening of the late war, in 1861 he entered the Confederate service, as Captain of volunteer infantry, Thirtieth Battalion, was taken prisoner at the battle of Winchester, September 19, 1864 and held at Fort Delaware until in July 1865 when he was set at liberty. Returning to his home in West Virginia the Doctor had charge of his father's plantation for a time. During the winter of 1867-8 he took a course of lectures at Cincinnati in the Ohio Medical College in the latter year began the practice of his profession at Ballardsville, West Virginia and from that time until 1882 practiced medicine with R.E. Barnett in Hancock County, Indiana. Dr. Barnett died during the latter year and our subject then received the appointment of Physician to the Round Valley Indian Agency in California. He resigned his position there in 1884 and came to Montana where he followed his profession at Radersburg, Jefferson County, until 1893. Since that time he has been engaged in the practice of medicine in Boulder. The Doctor is also interested in mining interests in Montana, but has given his undivided attention to his chosen profession. Dr. Vawater was formerly identified with the Democratic Party but is now decidedly in favor of the free coinage of silver.

Obituary transcripts of Montana

NAME: VAWTER, L. A. (DR) - SEX: M - AGE: 70 - RESIDENCE: BOULDER - PL OF EVENT: HELENA - DATE OF PAPER: 1900/01/10 - NAME OF PAPER: AGE - BURIAL: GREENFIELD, IN

NAME: VAWTER, L. A. (DR.) - SEX: M - RESIDENCE: BOULDER - PL OF EVENT: HELENA - DATE OF PAPER: 1900/01/06 - NAME OF PAPER: BASIN

NAME: VAWTER, LA. A. (DR.) - SEX: M - AGE: 60 - RESIDENCE: BOULDER - PL OF EVENT: HELENA - DATE OF PAPER: 1900/01/11 - NAME OF PAPER: SENTINEL - BURIAL: GREENFIELD, IN - COMMENT: 2ND ART:02/16 (FP) MUCH INFO ABT DAU WHO WAS A WRITER. WAS MARRIED

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