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Dues - \$7.00 per year

IF A RENEWAL FORM IS ENCLOSED, YOU NEED TO PAY DUES

DISTINGUISHED NEW MEMBER OF ASSOCIATION
submitted by Jim Vaughters, VVV Historian/Archivist

The newest member of the VVV Family Association is S. Ernest Vandiver, Jr. of Lavonia, Georgia. Mr. Vandiver was Governor of the State of Georgia from 1959 until 1963. He proudly informed us that his paternal grandmother was Eliza Missouri Vaughter, who married William Isom Pinckney Vandiver.

In September 1999, the Association Historian was working at the Vaughter farm in Elberton, Georgia. A cousin in Franklin County informed the Governor, who then called the Historian. The Governor, his wife Betty, and their son Chip graciously extended an invitation to lunch at their home.

Mr. Vandiver gave a beautiful photograph of his grandmother. He went to the cemetery of Pleasant Hill Baptist Church where his grandparents are buried. Near their graves are those of Isaac Davis Aderhold and Martha Missouri Aderhold. Probably she is a niece of Eliza Missouri, whose older sister married an Aderhold.

Eliza Missouri Vaughter was the 9th of 10 children born to Hiram Vaughter and Elizabeth Glenn from 1833 to 1853, all in Franklin County, Georgia. She was born in 1851 and died in 1911. Her brothers were Samuel (the Confederate officer who went to

Oklahoma and whose descendants include Association President Phil and his brother Paul, still using Hiram as a middle name), Hiram (who died in the Civil War), and James M.C. (who went to Arkansas and became a physician). Thus the Vaughter name disappeared from Franklin County. But at least four daughters have been identified who married, stayed in Franklin, and left descendants who are still there.

Hiram was a son of James and Jane, who lived in Franklin county in the 1810s, 1820s and 1830s. They also had 10 children, all born in Franklin from 1812 to 1831. Hiram was the second, born in 1814.

James was a son of John, the Revolutionary War soldier who settled in Elbert County about 1800. That same land is what Swift and Julian Vaughter have now willed to the State of Georgia.

Governor Vandiver and Betty kept the Historian occupied for the entire afternoon. They wanted to know everything about the family history, the Association, and the project at Elberton. They also loaned a commemorative edition newspaper of the 150th anniversary of the county, containing several references to the old Vaughter families.

Mr. and Mrs. Vandiver are highly interested in the newsletter, reunion, and all activities of the Association. They are particularly motivated to attend the reunion in Elbert County when the park is dedicated. We hope that his presence graces the rostrum.

Welcome, Ernest and Betty!

SIMS INDEX TO LAND GRANTS IN WEST VIRGINIA
submitted by Mary Winningham

Name	Acres	Local Description	Year	Book	Page
Vawter, William Jr.	125	Rich Creek	1795	3	302
Vawter, William Sr.	378	Muddy Run	1801	5	549
Vawter, Elliott	70	Dunlap's Creek	1852	2	428
Vawter, James	33	Hand's Creek	1844	2	214
Vawter, James	407	Hand's Creek	1845	2	242
Vawter, John H.	634	Hand's Creek	1836	1	558
Vawter, William Sr.	214	Hans Creek	1805	1	93
Vawter, James et al	500	Peter's Creek	1851	2	561
Vawter, James et al	275	Anglin's Creek	1851	2	275
Vawter, James et al	1,000	Anglin's Creek	1851	2	274
Vawter, James et al	375	Anglin's Creek	1851	2	276
Vawter, James et al	350	Laurel Creek	1851	2	277

A THANK YOU

"The family of Charles Burt acknowledges with grateful appreciation your kind expression of sympathy."

JOHN GRAY VAWTER

According to "The Vawter Family in America," John Gray Vawter was born in Todd County, Kentucky, in 1819 the son of Elliott and Anna Gray Vawter. He married Elizabeth Stewart on 6 February 1851 in Illinois. The book names seven children: Cornelius Lansing, b. 1851; Jane, b. 1854, d. 1858; Alexander Stewart (twin), b. 1858, d. 1858; Elliott Gray (twin), b. 1858, d. 1858; John Gray, Jr., b. 1859; Anna Elizabeth, b. 1864; Benjamin Stewart, b. 1865.

Found in the papers of William Snyder Vawter was the following letter written 13 July 1931 by David Hilger, librarian of the Historical Society of Montana.

William Snyder Vawter
83-10 35th Avenue
Jackson Heights, New York

Dear Sir:

Answering your letter of July 8 there has been but one family of the name of Vawter in Montana or Helena of much prominence.

Col. J. Vawter for whom Vawter St. of Helena was named came to Montana in 1864 and to Helena in 1865. He had large business interest in the city until his death on May 9, 1877, which took place on the steamer Far West on the Upper Missouri River. Col. Vawter went from Marengo, Illinois, to California in the gold rush of 1849, then returned to Winterset, Iowa, from there to Denver and from Denver to Montana in 1864.

He left two sons, Cornelius L. and John G., and one daughter. Cornelius died in Los Angeles, Dec. 29, 1926, aged 76 years. He came to Montana with his father in 1869, lost his fortune in the panic of 1893. In 1898 he was appointed federal marshal for Nome, Alaska, and from time until 1922 was connected with the federal courts of that territory.

In 1926, John G. Vawter was living in Cooke City, Montana.

Col. John G. Vawter at the time of his death in 1877 was 58 years old and while prominent in the territory of Montana had not held any public office.

Very truly yours,
David Hilger, Lib.

A few months ago on eBay auction on the Interact, a telegraph sent by The Western Union Telegraph Company, T. C. Powers & Co. in Helena, to J. H. McKnight & Co., Fort Shaw, sold for \$89.20. A VVV Association member tried to buy the telegraph, but was not successful in getting the winning bid. It was dated May 14, 1877, and read:

"Please have one spare horse for John Vawter. Will be at crossing tomorrow morning. He is on way to Benton to receive remains Col. Vawter who died on board steamer Key West. All expenses will be paid here."

MARION UNITED METHODIST PASTOR ENDS 42 YEAR CAREER

Marion (Michigan) Press, 30 June 1999

sent by Willard C. "Bill" Grant

"My career as a minister has been very rewarding both spiritually and personally,' said Marion United Methodist minister, Jim Grant, this past week. 'It's a career that I would highly recommend to any young person who believes they have been called by God.'

"Grant says he was called to the ministry as a 12 year old while walking in the woods on the farm of his Sunday school teacher. His spiritual conviction and faith led him to become a minister in the United Methodist Church. 'If I had the chance, I would do it all over again,' said Grant.

"On Saturday, June 12th, Jim Grant and his wife Alice were feted in an open house at the Marion Township Hall in celebration of a 42-year career. Representative of every church that Grant pastored (except the first one) were on hand.

"Jim Grant's ministry began in a small country church near Paw Paw. Forty members in the Almena Methodist church and another 25 members in the nearby Glendale Methodist Church kept Grant hopping and provided the experience he needed. 'I was fresh out of seminary and pretty pious. I thought I had a lot of the answers. Fortunately they were very patient with me,' said Grant with a wistful chuckle. '

"From there Grant served six years in Dowagiac, six years in Grand Rapids, three years in Kalamazoo, 10 years in Byron Center, 10 years in Otsego. His last five years were spent in Marion. In an emotion-choked message last Sunday, Grant said good-bye to the Marion congregation and closed the door on a remarkable career.

"I have always been impressed with the loving and caring the members of the Marion congregation have shown to each other and with their deep serious Christian Faith. Another thing that really stands out in Marion is the tremendous hymn singing and the young people that have flocked to the church. It is the young people whom I find it the most difficult to say good-bye to.'

"Through the years Jim's wife Alice has been a source of inspiration, strength and cheer as they raised two boys and met the challenge of ministering to the congregational needs. Alice is an excellent pianist and always active in the women's fellowships and prayer circles.

"Alice is my best friend and my best critic. I just don't know how I could do it without her,' Grant was fond of saying.

"Rev. Grant and Alice have moved from the Marion parsonage this week to their new home in Plainwell. Grant says he will continue to preach on occasion in filling in for vacations and special occasions and hopes to keep in touch with all of his Marion friends."

William C. "Bill" Grant, of Westland, Michigan, is the brother of the Rev. Jim Grant. Their mother, Jessie Marion Jemison Grant, was the daughter of Thomas Henry Jemison and Caroline Adelaide Vawter Jemison. Caroline was the daughter of William H. Vawter (b. 1 Aug 1822, Jessamine Co., Kentucky, d. 1 Jun 1896, Chicago) and Mary O. Ravenel Vawter.

BROWN COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Groundbreaking ceremonies for the new Brown County, Indiana, Public Library was held on 2 January 2000. Will Vawter, artist and illustrator, was a founding member of the library's board in 1919, and the library is being built in a "pony pasture" in front of the house where he lived on Locust Lane at the top of Mound Street.

GRIMES CEMETERY NEAR LUCAS, IOWA

submitted by Gary G. Vawter

Gary G. Vawter is the son of May Vawter of Normal, Illinois, and the late Glen Vawter, a past president of the Association. He lives in Des Moines, Iowa, where he is a pastor. One of the church members was visiting the Grimes Cemetery where she has family buried and noticed several Vawter monuments. The cemetery is located about a one hour drive south from Des Moines, east of the small town of Lucas about six miles. It is on a dead end road off Highway 34. The five stones in the cemetery with Vawter names are:

Emily J. Vawter	born 12 Jun 1838	died 30 Nov 1896
John W. Vawter	born 4 May 1822	died 15 Mar 1877
Homer U. Vawter	born 7 Aug 1873	aged 2 Yr 2 mo 7 days
Bert Vawter	born 22 Aug 1873	aged 1 yr 4 mo 28 days
Thomas Vawter	died 27 Sep 1873	aged 5 yr ? mo 28 days

Gary was told the stones were not easy to read. Each one has a scripture verse, and the stones of the two adults have the words "I am the Life" and "I am the Way" respectively.

3-5 AUGUST 2000 -HAMPTON, VIRGINIA

As is the custom every five years, the 2000 reunion of the VVV Family Association will be held in Virginia. Hosting the August 3-5 event are Ned and Ellen Cummings. They have chosen the Chamberlin Hotel on the Chesapeake Bay in Hampton as the location. A trip will be made to Vauters Episcopal Church in Loretto. Your next newsletter will have information about other planned activities and making reservations. We will also send a brochure from the hotel. This is a reunion you will not want to miss.

THANK YOU!

Thank you to all who continue to send items for the newsletter. Please help us keep up with your family by sending news of marriages, births, deaths, graduations etc. It is also a help when you let us know of address changes.

THE WILL OF SWIFT VAUGHTER

Georgia, Elbert County:

I, Swift Vaughter of said State and county, being of sound and disposing mind and memory, do make this my Last Will and Testament, hereby revoking and annulling all others by me heretofore made.

ITEM I

I direct that my body be suitably buried in the family plot located Harmony Baptist Cemetery, Elberton, Ga. Payment for services of pallbearers is authorized.

ITEM II

I direct that all my just debts be paid by my Co-Executors or General Executor as the case may be.

ITEM III

I will, devise and bequeath all of my property, both real and personal, of every kind, nature and description, and wheresoever located, that I may own or have or may be entitled to at my death to my brother, S. Julian Vaughter. He is to take absolutely and in fee simple.

ITEM IV

I name S. Julian Vaughter and the Citizens & Southern National Bank, Athens, Georgia, Co-Executors of this my Last Will and Testament. I direct that my Co-Executors be relieved from making any inventory or appraisal of my estate, and from making any return to any court, and from giving any bond.

My Co-Executors are authorized and empowered without order of any court to sell, transfer, assign, borrow money on, or otherwise handle privately any or all assets. There shall be no limitations upon my Co-Executors other than those imposed by law.

ITEM V

If S. Julian Vaughter should be adjudged by competent authority to be physically and/or mental disqualified from acting as Co-Executor then and in that event the Citizens & Southern National Bank, Athens, Georgia, is to be the General Executor of my estate subject to the provisions of ITEM IV.

ITEM VI

In the event that my brother, S. Julian Vaughter, and I should die under circumstances making it impossible to determine which one died first, then and in that event I will, devise and bequeath all of my property, both real and personal, of every kind, nature and description, and wherever located that I have or own or may be entitled to at my death to the STATE OF GEORGIA. In such event said STATE OF GEORGIA is to take absolutely and in fee simple.

In the event this ITEM VI should become effective said STATE OF GEORGIA is to use the property for and as a State Park. The realty is to remain a wild life sanctuary and to the extent practical its natural resources are to be maintained and conserved. Said STATE OF GEORGIA is to permanently mark all public entrances to show the property to be a memorial donated as a recreation and wild life area by the VAUGHTER FAMILY

listing members as follows:

Mr. and Mrs. J. Benson Vaughter
Swift, Francis, Miriam and S. Julian Vaughter
Mrs. Frances Vaughter Sanders

If the STATE OF GEORGIA should discontinue use of the property as a State Park then the property is to be used by the STATE in the operation of the School of Forestry, University of Georgia, subject to foregoing provisions of this my Last Will and Testament.

ITEM VII

In the event ITEM VI should become effective the STATE OF GEORGIA is to undertake perpetual maintenance of the two burial plots in the Harmony Baptist Church cemetery. One plot contains the remain of members of the family of J. Benson and Mary Beulah Vaughter. The other plot contains the remains of Frances Vaughter Sanders, Thomas F. Vaughter and Richard B. Vaughter.

If Harmony Baptist Church should be discontinued and unless legally prevented above referred remains with curbing and monuments are to be removed by the STATE OF GEORGIA from the church cemetery and transferred to the vicinity of the home site area of J. Benson and Mary Beulah Vaughter and there reinterred and thereafter perpetually maintained by the STATE OF GEORGIA.

ITEM VIII

If any person should contest this my Last Will and Testament the sum of Five Dollars shall be paid to such person in full and final payment and satisfaction of any and all claims on account of such contest.

Erasing and retyping herein are my own.

In WITNESS WHEREOF I, Swift Vaughter have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal to this my Last Will and Testament this 16 day of July, 1986.

IN REMEMBRANCE

Charles Burt, 64, of Dawsonville, Georgia, died 27 September 1999 at Baptist Medical Center in Cumming, Georgia. Funeral service was held 30 September at Concord Baptist Church, with burial at Bethel Baptist Church Cemetery.

He was a native of Forsyth County, Georgia, and had lived in Dawson County for the past 19 years. He worked for Colonial Printing, which became Engraph, and retired after 25 years. For the past 14 years, he was in the poultry business and served on the Dawson County Development Authority. He was a former member of the Pioneer RESA School Board, and a member of Concord Baptist Church, serving as financial secretary.

Survivors include his wife, Betty E. Burt; three daughters, Pam Schlesinger and Cheryl Kelly, both of Buford, Georgia, and Ellen McDaris of Rapid City, South Dakota; a son, Charles "Chuck" Burt, Jr. of Dawsonville; and six grandchildren, John McDaris, Jared McDaris, Tim Glasgow, Kristy Glasgow, Franklin Burt and Camilla Jaid Burt.

Charles was a longtime member and supporter of the VVV Family Association, and served as treasurer for several years. In June 1999, he helped organize a reunion for the descendants of James and Jane Vaughters that attracted over 100 people. The will of Swift Vaughter that appears above was sent by Charles a few weeks before his death.

IN REMEMBRANCE

Jean Vawter Robinson, 77, of Charlotte, North Carolina, formerly of Tryon, North Carolina, died 10 May 1999. She was born 4 October 1921 in Springfield, Massachusetts, the daughter of James Hardy and Mary Virginia Glover Vawter.

She was a graduate of Michigan State University and an active member of AAUW.

Survivors include her husband, Chan Robinson; two sons, Greg Robinson of Bolingbrook, Illinois, and Kermit Robinson of Portland, Oregon; two daughters, Rebecca Guinagh of Gainesville, Florida, and Pamela Elsass of Cornelius, North Carolina; a brother, Ralphe Vawter of Pensacola, Florida; and four grandchildren. Burial was at North Carolina Veterans Cemetery in Black Mountain.

Jean was proud of her Vawter roots and had made a trip to Trematon Castle with her daughter Becky. She made a well received presentation on the trip at the 1990 VVV reunion in Richmond, Virginia. Her grandfather was Willis Isaiah Vawter.

* * * * *

Paul W. Wooden, 93, of Westport, Indiana, died 22 August 1999 at his home. He was born 19 September 1905 in Madison, Indiana, the son of William D. And Daisy M. Lepper Wooden. He married Edythe Arnold 23 September 1929 in North Vernon, Indiana.

He was a graduate of Hope, Indiana, High School, attended DePauw University, and was former news editor with the *Holland Evening Sentinel* in Holland, Michigan. In 1945, he moved to Westport and joined his father in the Wooden Thompson Lumber Company. He was a member of Westport Baptist Church.

Surviving with his wife are two sons, William Wooden of Indianapolis, and John Wooden of Greensburg, Indiana; two daughters, Carol Seideman of Boulder, Colorado, and Mary Gonneau of Shelter Island, New York; seven grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by a sister, Vivian Thompson.

Mr. Wooden's grandparents were Milton H. and Elizabeth Wolf Wooden. His great-grandparents were Michael and Artemicia Stribling Wolf, and his great-great-grandparents were Thomas and Sarah Vawter Stribling. He was the uncle of VVV Association member Judy Thorpe.

* * * * *

Elizabeth Vawter Lanier, 96, died 5 September 1999 at the home of her daughter in Brownsville, Tennessee. She was the daughter of James Alma and Bessie Bryant Vawter, who lived in Milan, Gibson County, Tennessee.

She was a homemaker and a retired employee of Martin's Department Store. Mrs. Lanier was a member of the Second Review Club, the Women's Missionary Association Prayer Group, and the Brownsville Baptist Church, where she had for many years taught a women's Sunday school class.

Survivors include a daughter, Mary Jane Felker of Brownsville; a sister, Ann Felton of Jackson, Tennessee; three grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

Funeral service was held at the Brownsville Baptist Church, with burial at Oakwood Cemetery in Brownsville.

Mrs. Lanier's daughter and sister are both longtime Association members.

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2000 REUNION IN HAMPTON, VIRGINIA
AUGUST 3 - 6

It is time once again to make plans for attending the annual VVV Association reunion. Ellen and Ned Cummings have extended an invitation to Hampton, Virginia, on August 3 - 6. The following information is sent by Ellen.

Dear Family Association Members,

Plans are rapidly taking place for this summer's reunion. A detailed schedule of events will be provided in the next newsletter, but this information will give you an idea of what to expect and how to prepare.

The site of the 2000 VVV Reunion is the Chamberlin Hotel in Hampton, Virginia. The Chamberlin is located on the grounds of historic Fort Monroe, and within easy walking distance of the Casemate Museum, where Jefferson Davis was incarcerated during the Civil War. The Chamberlin itself is situated on a point right on the Chesapeake Bay. The room rates are \$99.00 for doubles with water view, and \$89.00 for doubles with historic view. The hotel underwent a complete renovation three years ago, and is a dream - a truly grand old hotel. It has indoor and outdoor swimming pools, bike and jogging trails, tennis courts, shuffleboard, fishing pier, exercise facilities and golf courses nearby.

The Chamberlin is an hour and a half from Vauter's Church, which we will visit on Saturday, August 5. It is halfway between the Virginia Beach oceanfront and Colonial Williamsburg. Williamsburg is also home to Busch Gardens and Water Country USA. The Air and Space Museum with its huge IMAX Theater is located in Hampton, as is the departure point for the ferry which provides daily tours of the Chesapeake Bay and trips to the Norfolk Waterside area.

Registration will be held between 3:00 and 9:00 p.m. on Thursday, August 3. I encourage everyone to arrive in time for the free Army Band concert, which is held on the grounds of the Chamberlin Hotel every Thursday evening from 5:00 - 7:00.

A Family Association meeting will convene at 9:00 a.m. Friday, August 4. After this meeting, which should last approximately one hour, we will adjourn until dinner at 6:00 that evening. During this time, you can avail yourselves of any number of activities in and around the hotel, or travel to destinations designated further in this letter. In addition, Jim Vaughters will hold three genealogy sessions that day: 11:00 - noon, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m., and 4:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Saturday morning we will depart for Vauter's Church, where we will be served lunch and tour the church and grounds. Afterward we will travel to the Glebe, which is approximately 6 ½ miles away. Ned and I met Bob and Donna Vawter in Tappahannock in March, and spent three hours looking for the Glebe. In addition to photos, a map is enclosed so no one will ever have to do that again. For those of you who are wondering about the Glebe, it is the house and surrounding property provided by a church for its minister. More information about this particular Glebe will follow.

Our traditional banquet dinner will be held at the Chamberlin Hotel Saturday evening. Afterward another genealogy session, led by Jim Vaughters, will be available for those interested.

It is traditional for family association members to attend the 11:00 a.m. service at Vauter's Church on Sunday, and we will plan to do that again this summer. During this service, we will have the privilege of being served communion from the church's silver service that is over 200 years old. This is always a highlight for me. The parishioners will serve lunch after the service, and Jim Vaughters will hold one final genealogy session on the grounds.

Last summer a request was made for activities with just the younger VVV's in mind. That has been addressed in the following manner. For those who arrive in the early afternoon on Thursday, Ned will supervise a trip to the Virginia Beach oceanfront or to the Hampton Ferry. That night, Ned will take everyone interested to Busch Gardens amusement park. These plans are in addition to the times the kids will surely want to spend at the pool, tennis court, on bikes or just "hanging out."

Upon registering, you will receive a complimentary packet of brochures and other materials concerning tourist attractions and opportunities here in the Hampton Roads area. However, I wanted to give you a brief preview of some of these opportunities, in case you need to plan ahead, or perhaps want to stay longer than the weekend of the reunion. Hampton Roads would be an ideal vacation site for you and your family this summer.

Enclosed you will find a color brochure of the Chamberlin Hotel and all its

amenities. Other points of interest are as follows:

PHOEBUS - The waterfront community of Phoebus near Hampton, Virginia, has a rich history dating back to the early 1600s. Located next to Fort Monroe, Phoebus is the exit you will take from I-64. Its Victorian era downtown is home to restaurants and specialty shops, as well as established local businesses. You will drive through this charming town on your way to the Chamberlin Hotel.

FORT MONROE - The construction of Fort Monroe began in 1819 and was completed in 1834. It protected Hampton Roads, and played an influential role in all our nation's conflicts since then. Sometimes called the Gibraltar of Chesapeake Bay, it is the largest stone fort ever built in this country and the only moat encircled fort still used by the Army. Today, the installation is the headquarters for the United States Army Training and Doctrine Command.

THE CASEMATE MUSEUM - The Casemate Museum opened June 1, 1951, to display the cell in which Jefferson Davis had been imprisoned after the Civil War. Since then, the museum has expanded to depict the history of Fort Monroe and the Coast Artillery Corps. Exhibits include weapons, uniforms, models, and drawings by Frederick Remington and R. F. Zogbaum. The museum also serves as the Army's coast Artillery Museum.

VIRGINIA AIR & SPACE CENTER - From historic air and space craft suspended below the 94-foot ceiling to giant screen IMAX films, your imagination will soar when you visit this award-winning Center. Of interest are NASA artifacts including the Apollo 12 Command Module and a three-billion-year-old moon rock. See what you would look like as an astronaut, experience launching a rocket and ride a motion simulator.

HARBOR CRUISES - Cruises depart daily (10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.) from Downtown Hampton, a historic seaport city settled in 1610. View Blackbeard's Point, where the Pirate's head was hung after his capture, see the landing site of Capt. John Smith and the first settlers, and sail past Fort Monroe. Enjoy a brief walking tour of Fort Wool; a 15-acre island active during the Civil War, World Wars I and II, and slowly pass the entire two-mile waterfront of the world's largest naval installation: the Norfolk Naval Base.

SUNSET CRUISE - Enjoy a fascinating harbor sunset aboard the narrated cruise of Hampton Roads Harbor, Fort Monroe, Chesapeake Bay and the Norfolk Naval Base. Watch for dolphin and other marine life. (6:30 - 8:30 p.m., every Wednesday and Thursday, reservations suggested.)

SUNSET DINNER CRUISE - A romantic sunset and dinner under the stars highlights this popular catered evening cruise. Entertainment varies from either a jazz band, stand-up comic, or DJ and dancing. Relax on the upper deck with your favorite beverage and watch the sights of the harbor. (Every Friday and Saturday, 6:30 - 9:30 p.m., reservations required: 1-800-757-BOAT)

EVENING ADVENTURE CRUISE- Featuring "Sea Sagas" and Twilight Tales", this cruise offers a river and open bay trip into history-rich Hampton Roads Harbor. Skilled, costumed interpreters and nationally recognized historians use eyewitness accounts to chronicle the exciting stories about the World's Greatest Harbor during this 2 ½ hour tour. (7:00 - 9:30 p.m.)

RAPPAHANNOCK RIVER CRUISE - Virginia's Rappahannock River is full of adventure history and excitement. It all comes alive in a 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. trip aboard the Captain Thomas. Your destination is Virginia's premier winery, Ingleside Plantations, for tour and tasting. Catered lunch is available. (Reservations required: 804-453-BOAT)

TANGIER ISLAND CRUISE- A relaxing 1 ½ hour narrated cruise takes you to Tangier Island. Spend 2 ½ hours walking around this quaint island, or take a tour on a mini-bus. (10:00 a.m. - 3:45 p.m., reservations required: 804-453-BOAT)

THE MARINER'S MUSEUM - Thirteen spacious galleries showcase a treasure chest of figureheads, ship models, navigational instruments and a world-renowned August Crabtree collection of miniature ships afloat on waves of silence. Also, hands-on exhibits, costumed interpreters, an award winning film, "Mariner," and much more is contained in this 77,000 square feet museum.

VIRGINIA LIVING MUSEUM - When you look at exhibits in this museum, they look back at you. From bobcats to horseshoe crabs, this indoor/outdoor attraction is a wild, unforgettable encounter for all ages, and is located in Hampton, Virginia.

VIRGINIA WAR MUSEUM - The meaningful saga of military history unfolds in the galleries of the Virginia War Museum, with displays documenting America's wars from 1775 to the present. Numerous tanks and cannons are displayed on the grounds.

JAMESTOWN SETTLEMENT - Within hailing distance of Jamestown's original site, three tall-masted ships lie at anchor in the James River. A short distance up the river's bank, the wood palisade of a recreated colonial fort encircles the wattle-and-daub buildings within. In the woods beyond the fort, smoke wafts from reed-covered dwellings of the Powhatan Indiana village. The history depicted here is more than just something you'll observe and hear. You'll touch it, smell it, even try your hand at some of it. Original artifacts, fascinating exhibits and an informative 15-minute film can be enjoyed in the settlement's indoor galleries.

YORKTOWN VICTORY CENTER - At Yorktown Victory Center, outdoor living history interpretations, hundreds of original artifacts and an evocative film, "A Time of Revolution," paint a vivid picture of the times surrounding the war's end. The American Revolution and the Battle of Yorktown were events of epic proportions. At Yorktown Victory Center, you will discover that both also had intriguing human dimensions.

HISTORIC YORKTOWN - The port town of York resonated in the early and mid 1700s with the clatter of tobacco merchants, watermen, and ships' chandlers. Five years after English taxes precipitated the Revolutionary War, cannons of the final, decisive battle bombarded York Town. Here, on October 19, 1781, American and French forces defeated the British Army. Today no cannons boom here, nor are battles being fought. But a closer look at this now tranquil setting reveals an important time in our nation's history.

COLONIAL WILLIAMSBURG - Visitors to Colonial Williamsburg are completely submerged in the 18th century experience. This town is a living, breathing lesson in history. But you will have so much fun, you won't even realize you are learning something. Smile for the camera with your head in stocks, march with the town's colonial militia, debate with a founding father, or tour homes or museums. Here in Colonial Williamsburg, it's always 1775.

BUSCH GARDENS & WATER COUNTRY USA - For spectacular rides, wild water adventures, fabulous shows, great shopping and feasts fit for the gods, Busch Gardens Williamsburg and Water Country USA are family adventure parks you won't want to miss.

I have merely hit the high spots. There is much more to see and do in the Hampton Roads and Tidewater areas. I am listing my telephone numbers, e-mail and "snail" mail addresses in case any of you wish to get in touch with me for any reason. I am looking forward to this reunion and to seeing each of you. Every effort is being made to provide something for everyone. I hope you will make your plans now to be present at the Chamberlin Hotel for the 2000 VVV Family Association Reunion.

Sincerely,

Ellen Cummings
4708 Bradston Road
Virginia Beach VA 23455
Home: (757) 464-2963
Work: (757) 464-2423
HYPERLINK mail: efcned@aol.com

As you can tell from this information sent by Ellen, there is much to see and do in the Hampton area, and the time of our reunion is the high tourist season. Be sure to call the Chamberlin Hotel soon to make your reservations. The telephone number can be found on the enclosed hotel brochure. Our rooms are being held only until July 25, so it is important to not put off making your call. As usual, we remind you to state that you will be with the VVV Family Association.

If you would like to help with registration or in any other way, be sure to contact Ellen. Anyone who has planned an event such as this knows it is quite a job and that all help is certainly welcomed.

NEWS FROM JIM VAUGHTERS, HISTORIAN/ARCHIVIST

ELBERT COUNTY GEORGIA

Jim Vaughters, Historian/Archivist of the Association, lived in Elberton, Georgia, for two weeks in September and another week in October while working in the buildings at Swift and Julian Vaughter's farm. The volume of documents and memorabilia is now several times larger than what was displayed at the reunion in 1999.

This spring, the Estate of Julian Vaughter will deed title to the 850-acre farm to the State of Georgia. It takes approximately one year from that point to transform the property into a park. Jim is in constant contact with the State, and hopes to host the 2001 reunion in Elbert County, Georgia, concurrently with the park dedication ceremony.

NEWSLETTERS

Jim has a complete set of newsletters that have been published by the Association, beginning in 1977. He will have his available at the 2000 reunion, and anyone who needs to make copies of particular issues can do so. Jim also suggests that a detailed index be made of the newsletters. They are full of individual items, articles, histories, etc., and would be an excellent source for research if indexed.

FAMILY STORIES

All members are invited and encouraged to collect their favorite stories about grandparents (and further back) and to bring them to the reunion. Jim wants to make a special program of them. (A note from the news editor: Another good project is to make taped interviews of your parents, grandparents and other relatives.)

THE VAWTER FAMILY IN AMERICA

As many of you know, the reprint edition (1969) of *The Vawter Family in America* is available from the Association. This book was written in 1905 by Grace Vawter Bicknell, and reprinted in 1969 with a supplement update of the O'Conner family. The purchase of the remaining books from the late Walter and Edna Reynolds was made possible by an interest-free loan from an Association member.

None of the books are in fine condition. Many have entire sections missing, out of place or upside down, or have much of the index missing. However for some it is just a matter of one or two pages missing or having faint print, and those are the books being sold now. We send the best available and supply replacement pages for you to insert.

The softbound books have 442 pages, including an index, and are being sold for \$20.00, plus \$3.00 shipping.

Order from: Bonita Welch, 4145 N 900 W, Scipio IN 47273

QUERIES

From: Jim Vaughters, 5981 S Lima Street, Englewood CO 80111

Hiram Vaughter, son of James and Jane, was born in Franklin County, Georgia, in 1814. He married Elizabeth Glenn in 1832 and all ten of their children were born there, from 1833 to 1853. Someone listed his death date as July 6, 1853. Does anyone know what document so states? Please contact Jim if you can help with this death date.

From: Anita Lucas, P.O. Box 2448, Cheyenne WY 82003

Anita is interested in Russell Vawter of Virginia, and his son Chadwell Vawter, who moved to North Carolina. Chadwell's daughter, Pauline was the great-great-grandmother of Anita. Please contact her if you can provide information on this line.

ABSALOM GRAVES VAWTER Submitted by Willard C. "Bill" Grant Westland, Michigan

Absalom Graves Vawter was the third son and also the third oldest child of William and Mary Ravenel Vawter. He was born 18 August 1852 in Bedford, Trimble County, Kentucky. "Ab" was small of stature, being not five feet tall. This may have hampered him in later life.

Bedford being off the railroad, it was necessary to carry the mail miles. When Ab was grown, he got the job of carrying the mail from Campbellsburg, which was about eleven or twelve miles away. He bought a jenny, a small specie of mule, and with the mail thrown over the jenny's back he would trudge the twenty-four miles walking and leading the jenny. That was one of the good jobs of the day. You were sure of your money; it came from the government.

Ab moved with his family to Chicago in 1880. He continued in the transportation business, having worked as a superintendent in the Northeastern Railroad yards outside of Chicago, and as an oiler for the Chicago-Northwestern Railroad.

At one time, Ab lived in a two-story wooden building on Superior Street in Chicago. After the death of his wife, his widowed sister, Jessie Vawter Hughes and her two children, Allan and Virginia, came to live with him.

He attended Lamon Avenue Methodist Church, and never missed a young people's meeting even though he was in his seventies. They say that Ab once mortgaged his house to pay for the pipe organ at church. Others say it was to rebuild the church after it burned. His favorite testimony was, "There's so much good in the worst of us, and so much bad in the best of us, that it little behooves any of us to talk about the rest of us."

Absalom Graves Vawter died in Chicago in 1927. He and his wife are buried in the Odd Fellows Cemetery in Bedford, Kentucky. They had no children.

BITS 'N PIECES

Congratulations to Leonard and Marcella Kimmick of Lancaster, Texas, who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on 17 December 1999. Marcella has been a member of the Association for several years, and hopes to attend a reunion sometime.

A change of address was received for William Snyder Vawter. The new address is: 6420 Orchard #1, Dearborn MI 48126-2008. He sent a note that he was baptized at Vauter's Church in Virginia the same day as his father, also William Snyder Vawter. Do we have other members who were baptized or attended there?

Another change of address is for Ralphe E. Vawter. His new address is: 1700 Scenic Highway, #504, Pensacola FL 32503. Ralphe and Caroline have missed getting mail because of the #504 not being on the envelope, so please be sure to include that.

Congratulations to Courtney Vaughter, daughter of Phil and Peggy Vaughter, on her engagement. The wedding is planned for 12 August 2000, the Saturday following our reunion.

For a interesting web site, check out www.pursesnuggage.com. Matt and Suzan Vawter of Simpsonville, Kentucky, have a line of handbags named after the Vawter family. They are called "Charles Vautie".

IN REMEMBRANCE

Katherine Boziak Vawter Thomas died 14 May 1999. She was born in Jaramchy, Austria, on 16 April 1902, and came to the United States through Ellis Island when she was nine years old.

She was house manager at the Phoenix Women's Club for several years, and retired from Maricopa County Hospital in 1972, where she served as the hospital dietitian. She was affectionately known by all her family as "Nanie."

Survivors include a daughter, Marguerite Lindstrom; a son, Charles Vawter, Jr.; granddaughters, Jacque Ryan, Gwen Gabbert, Catherine Rouse, Linda Vawter, Susan Vawter and Mary Curfman; grandsons, Larry Vawter, James Vawter and Charles Vawter III; and 17 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband Charles Vawter, who died 25 January 1967, and a son, Larry Vawter, who died in February 1999.

Mass was at St. Gregory's Catholic Church, with burial at Greenwood Memorial Cemetery.

Katherine's husband, Charles Vawter, was the son of Robert Newton Vawter of Nacogdoches, Texas, and the grandson of Lorenzo Dow Vawter.

Thanks to Helen Dart Johnson of Fullerton, California, for sending this obituary.

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Dues - \$7.00 per year
IF A RENEWAL FORM IS ENCLOSED, YOU NEED TO PAY DUES

3 - 6 AUGUST 2000 HAMPTON, VIRGINIA

A last reminder of the 2000 VVV Reunion to be held 3 - 6 August 2000 at the Chamberlin Hotel in Hampton, Virginia. Only a few rooms remain, so if you have not made a reservation, it needs to be done as soon as possible. The last day the rooms will be held for the Association is July 25. The costs of rooms and meals are:

Water View - \$99.00 for single or double
Historic View - \$89.00 for single or double
Friday Picnic - \$11.00 adults, \$5.50 ages 5-11
Saturday Lunch - \$10.00 adults, \$5.00 ages 5-11
Saturday Dinner - \$18.00 adults, \$9.00 ages 5-11
No charge for children ages 4 and under at any of the meals

Saturday lunch is at Vauter's Church, and is to paid there instead of at the time of registration, which begins at 3:00 p.m., Thursday, August 3 at the hotel.

The official opening of the reunion is Friday at 9:00 a.m. with the traditional ringing of the cowbell. After this meeting, which should last about one hour, we will adjourn until

the picnic at 6:00 p.m. Three genealogy sessions will be conducted by Jim Vaughters on Friday, and everyone is free to attend any or all of them. Those who prefer to visit area attractions will find a list in the April newsletter.

Saturday morning we depart for Vauter's Church for a tour and lunch, followed by a visit to the Glebe. We are also invited to the Sunday Worship Service and Coffee Hour.

Saturday evening is the traditional banquet dinner at the hotel, entertainment by the VVV Family Singers, business meeting and door prizes. Jim Vaughters will lead another genealogy session later in the evening for those who are interested.

For reservations at the Chamberlin Hotel, call 1-800-582-8975. As always, meals and staying at the chosen hotel are optional. Ellen and Ned Cummings are planning this year's reunion, and to help them we ask that you please return the form that was mailed about two weeks ago. If you have misplaced that form, Ellen and Ned can be contacted in the following ways:

Address - 4708 Bradston Road, Virginia Beach VA 23455
Home Phone - 757-464-2963
Work Phone - 757-464-2423
E-mail – efcned@aol.com

DOOR PRIZES

One of the more popular events at the reunion is door prizes. They have become so popular, of fact, that we are asking the gifts you bring be limited to one per family. A few years ago, we had nearly 100 door prizes and it took over an hour each night to distribute them. There is always a wide variety: hand crafts, items unique to the area in which the donor lives and items purchased as souvenirs from the area of the reunion.

MEMORIAL SERVICE

Another tradition of the annual reunion is the Memorial Service on Saturday night. At this service, we honor the memory of those members and friends whose obituaries have appeared in the newsletter during the past year. If you have other loved ones to add, please bring that information with you so they, too, can be remembered.

TRADITIONS

As you can tell from this information, the VVV Family Association is full of traditions. Among them are the "ringing of the cowbell," VVV Family Singers, door prizes and Memorial Service. For many Association members, attending the reunions is a tradition. Some of the young adults we see each year were small children when they first started attending with their parents and grandparents. If you have never been to a reunion, consider making this the year to begin your tradition.

REUNION T-SHIRTS

Connie Bugos of Farmington, Illinois, has designed a T-Shirt for the reunion and needs to hear from those who want to place an order. One side of the shirt has Vawter-Vauter-Vaughter(s) Family Reunion and an outline of the state of Virginia. The other side has a picture of Vauter's Church. The shirts are \$9.00 for sizes S - XL, \$10.00 for XXL, and \$11.00 for XXXL. Children's sizes M(6-8), L(10-12) and XL(14-16) are \$9.00. To have them ready by the reunion, Connie must order them no later than July 20. She can be reached in these ways:

Home: 309-245-4391

Work: 309-245-4214 Mon-Thurs 7:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.,
Fri. 7:00 a.m. - noon

Fax: 309-245-4937

Email: buggram@worldnet.att.net

Her answering machine will be on at home, and she doesn't mind getting calls at work. Please remember, she must hear from you on or before July 20.

VAUTER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Vauter's Episcopal Church, located in Essex County, Virginia, not far from the Rappahannock River, is the Upper Church of St. Anne's Parish.

At one time, authorities believed the original portion to have been built in 1719 and enlarged by the addition of the South Wing in 1731. However, a 1969 renovation of the interior revealed that the church was built in its entirety in 1731. Its brick walls, two feet thick throughout, are laid in Flemish bond with glazed headers, and its two doorways are in the classic, pedimented style. It appears to have retained its original doors, sash windows and shutters, with most of the hand wrought hardware.

Subsequent to the American Revolution, Vauter's Church passed out of service, a fate common to many colonial church buildings. Vandalism threatened to destroy it during this period of practical abandonment, but it was saved by Mrs. Muscoe Garnett, of Elmwood, who claimed the building as standing on her property. The foundation for her claim lay in the fact that although the church was built on land originally adjoining that of the Vauter family, Mr. James Garnett had purchased from that family before the middle of the 18th century the land next to the church property. Mrs. Garnett was successful in giving Vauter's her protection.

Although the church continued closed for many years except on rare occasions, a handbill advertised a lottery held in 1792 to raise "the sum of Three Hundred Pounds, for the purpose of repairing the Churches and Glebe of St. Anne's Parish."

During the War of 1812, the churchyard was the scene of a duel. It occurred before the South door, and the participants were reconciled after firing one shot.

The year 1822 saw the resumption of regular services at Vauter's for the first time since 1776. The interior was repaired and remodeled in 1827, with the high, box pews being reduced in height and the chancel moved from the East to the North wall. A two-story pulpit replaced the colonial three-story pulpit.

FROM THE PARISH POST

The Parish Post, newsletter of Vauter's Church, tells that a committee has been formed to support the collection and preservation of the history of the church. Areas of work may be records, research, preservation of artifacts, inventory and appraisals, oral histories, current history, information for tour guides, and the publication of a written history of the parish. Anyone interested is invited to attend the first meeting on Sunday, July 23 at 1:00 p.m. in the Parish House.

The newsletter also states that plans have been finalized for the August 5 tour by the VVV Family Association. Prints of a watercolor of Vauter's Church by Blanchette Jones will be available for purchase.

THE GLEBE, ST. ANNE'S PARISH ESSEX COUNTY, VIRGINIA submitted by Judge Fred Wicker

Robert Rose was ordained and licensed for Virginia Parishes and came to Virginia in 1724. At the age of twenty-one, in 1725, he became Minister of St. Anne's Parish, Essex County, Virginia.

He was born in Scotland near Inverness and died in Virginia in 1751. During his ministry of St. Anne's Parish, Vauter's Church and its parish glebe were erected in 1731. Edward Vawter, son of one of three immigrant brothers, is said to be the builder of the church.

The glebe was the house and (usually) 200 acres provided by colonial parishes for their ministers. Parson Rose's house, the oldest brick glebe still standing in Virginia, is located in Thomas Neck below present Chance, Virginia, in Essex County.

The building is two stories high and one room deep. The exterior brickwork of Flemish bond and glazed headers is similar to that of Vauter's Church erected the same year some sixteen miles to the north.

On the glebe lands were a frame schoolhouse, a wharf on nearby Occupacia Creek, a grain mill, a spring and probably several outbuildings. Only the glebe building now remains.

The property went into private hands beginning in 1803. It is now owned by Mr. James R. Hundley, Jr., and is situated on Cloverfield Farm. The building is in a rundown condition, although some repairs have been made recently. Mr. Hundley is very much interested in its restoration.

The structure is listed on the Virginia Landmarks Register and the National Register of Historic Places.

This glebe is part of the tour planned for Saturday, August 5, while visiting Vauter's Church. Several people were able to visit it in 1995 when the reunion was held in Ashland, Virginia. Pictures of the glebe and a map were included with the April 2000 newsletter. If you have misplaced yours, we do have a few remaining.

A LESSON BEFORE DYING
South Bend, Indiana, *Tribune* - 25 April 2000

John Vawter knows he is living on borrowed time. Twenty years ago, when he was 61, a doctor told him a heart condition would prove fatal within five years. As decades passed and he defied the odds, John watched more and more of his friends die.

Once an enthusiastic woodworker, John hoped to build a grandfather clock for each of his seven children. Now he knows he has neither the time nor the money to complete that task, so instead is building them each a small, table-top clock. Sometimes he can work for only an hour before needing to rest.

In addition to congestive heart failure, John suffers from obstructive lung disease. Only about one-third of the cells in his lungs are functioning and this causes him to be dependent of liquid oxygen 24 hours a day. He also has incurable lymphoma. He cannot use the most effective treatments because they would further damage his heart. Recently, doctors told him he needed to decide which mattered most to him: more time or better quality time. He chose the latter.

John feels he has already left his legacy. He built communion tables, a wedding kneeler and a podium for his church, St. John's United Church of Christ. He also built a baby cradle that each of his children and grandchildren has slept in. Each of their names and the date is inscribed on the bottom. He likes to think that 100 years from now, future generations of his family will continue to sleep in the cradle.

Through the years, John and his wife, Lois, have learned the meaning of the marriage vow: " 'Till death do us part" She has had seven hip replacement surgeries, each leaving her a little less nimble. They encourage each other and divide the household chores depending on how each is feeling.

This is part of an article "A Lesson Before Dying" that appeared in the 25 April 2000 South Bend, Indiana, *Tribune*. John Elden Vawter and his wife, Lois, live at 1511 Birch Drive, Elkhart IN 46514. They have attended several VVV reunions, most recently the 1997 reunion in Townsend, Tennessee.

John's father, James Thomas Vawter was one of six children of Jesse Monroe and Martha Melissa West Vawter, who were married in 1877. James Thomas Vawter married Ina Ruby Gore on 14 April 1918.

John's great-grandfather, William Vauter, was born 4 September 1803 in Virginia and married Matilda Carter, who was born 13 April 1797 in Virginia. They first went to Kentucky, then to Ripley County, Indiana, where they both died in 1882. They are buried in unmarked graves in the Shelby Christian Church Cemetery in Ripley County. William was one of five deacons and elders who organized the Shelby Christian Church in 1855. They were the parents of ten children.

This branch of the family spelled their name "Vauter" until Pearl Amy Vawter, a granddaughter of William and Matilda changed it during her school years. All of her brothers and sisters then began using "Vawter."

For more on this family, see the Summer 1993 VVV Family Association newsletter.

WILLA VAWTER JACKSON
by her daughter, Martha Jackson Compton

"I miss the hills,' my mother used to say. She was remembering the hills along the Ohio River in Madison, Indiana, where she spent sixteen of her growing up years in the home of my maternal grandmother, Georgianna Leland.

"The eldest son of William H. and Mary Ravenel Vawter was Alex, my grandfather, who died in 1888 before his 42nd birthday. A year later his five children were orphaned by the death of his wife, Ella. Nellie and Clarence, the two older ones, went to Chicago where their Vawter grandparents, aunts and uncles had moved having left their ancestral home in Bedford, Kentucky.

"The three younger children, 7 year old Willa, 5 year old Mary Louise (Mayme), and little 2 year old Martha were taken in by Grandma - born Georgianna LaMar Briscoe. She was born in Virginia, reared in Missouri, the daughter of a physician and the granddaughter of several generations of Dr. John Briscoes dating back to the first one who came to Maryland from England in 1634, by the invitation of Cecil Lord Baltimore.

"Grandma was the mother of eight children by two marriages; the step-mother of seven; the grandmother of many; mid-wife, nurse, comforter to the townfolk and a lover of forsaken children. She was a rebel, a staunch Democrat, stubborn, strong-willed, self-reliant and her heart took in the universe.

"Many memories were stored while Willa, Mayme and Martha lived with Grandma at 612 North Walnut Street. They loved Madison and the river where they watched the excursion boats dock to take passengers for a pleasure trip. A pride of Indiana, the historical Lanier Home at Madison was at that time occupied by Mr. Davidson, who owned a particular cow whose milk was prescribed by the doctor for Mayme to drink while recovering from typhoid fever. Martha took a little bucket and walked each day to fetch the milk for her sister.

"Their social life centered around the activities of the Presbyterian Church. Willa received a book for each year of her regular Sunday School attendance. The title of one book was 'Girls, Faults and Ideals.' During these years Willa became an expert seamstress and was a paid dressmaker. She also sewed for her sisters and other relations.

"The day came when Mayme left Grandma's to live with her aunt Mary Vawter Wertzler in Chicago. Later, Willa joined her sister and soon became enchanted with the sights and sounds of the big city.

"On 29 June 1905, Willa was married to Charles E. Jackson. A yellowed newspaper clipping reads in part: 'After the marriage ceremony the bridal party returned to the home of the bride's aunt, Mrs. C.J. Wertzler, 651 Washington Blvd., a sumptuous wedding breakfast was enjoyed and immediately following amid the congratulation of many friends and showers of rice and old shoes, the couple left for their future home in Bridgeport, Indiana.'

"The Jackson family, young and old, soon moved to Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin. Aunt Jessie Vawter Hughes, accompanied by her daughter Virginia went there to take care of her niece Willa and her first born when I entered the world on May Day 1906.

"The Jacksons made several moves after their return to Indiana, but always kept in close contact with the Vawter kin. Indianapolis was halfway between Chicago and Bedford, Kentucky, so the Vawters came to see us when they were 'passin' through. Uncle Ab was a regular and always gave me a silver half dollar and I felt rich.

"My brother LaVern was born in 1914, and during that summer Jessie Jemison stayed with us for a while. Another brother, Charles, was born in 1916 and in 1920 our baby sister, who lived only a year. We had just moved to Wanamaker where I still live. Our mother never ceased to grieve for her precious baby.

"Willie's health began to fail and we learned that she was in a very advanced stage of tuberculosis. We took care of her at home when she lay for many months. Her room was kept heatless in winter to ease her breathing. On some winter mornings ice would have formed on her water glass. Only 10 year old LaVern could turn her fragile body without causing her pain. Through her long ordeal of wasting away, she made no complaint. For many days she was too weak to speak audibly. Her loved ones gathered for her departure and her last words were hesitantly whispered, 'Get rolls for Aunt Hattie,' as she knew it was the breadman's delivery day. She had previously thanked everyone for being so good to her, especially her beloved husband. She was only 42.

"She felt the sorrows of those who suffered. Her joys came from the happiness of others, the well-being of her family, setting her table with a white linen cloth while preparing a sumptuous meal for company and kin, writing letters of cheer, and looking into the faces of the children in her Sunday School class. There was an aura of supreme goodness in her lovely face that revealed her inner spirit and radiated a response of love in all who came within her bounds.

"There will never be a book written to honor her achievements. No one ever sought her autograph. She never saw an ocean or a mountain, but she cherished Queen Anne's lace and purple clover alongside the country road leading to the hills - the hills she always missed."

Martha Jackson Compton, who wrote this tribute to her mother, died 5 March 1997 in Indianapolis at the age of 90. Her obituary appears in the January 1999 newsletter.

IN REMEMBRANCE

James Vawter Wood, 87, of Buena Vista, Virginia, died 4 May 1999. He was born 17 April 1912 in Amherst County, the son of Edgar and Mary Rhodes Wood. He was retired from National Wholesale Company.

Mr. Wood is survived by three sons, James W. Wood of Bethesda, Maryland, Vawter Eugene Wood and Herman Beverly Wood of Buena Vista; two daughters, Mary Elizabeth Ramsey of Portsmouth, Virginia, and Doris Jean Turner of Buena Vista; 16 grandchildren; and 14 great-grandchildren.

A note: Obituaries are need for Lowell G. Vawter, 69, of Bloomington, Illinois, and Carrie Beazley Schools of Milford, Virginia.

THE POLITICAL GRAVEYARD

An interesting Internet site is "The Political Graveyard." These Vawters are listed:

Vawter, David G. (1824-1884) Nephew of John Vawter; cousin of Smith Vawter; brother of James H. Vawter. Born in Vernon, Indiana, 18 February 1824. Member of Indiana state house of representative, 1867. Died in Franklin, Indiana, 24 May 1884.

Vawter, James H. (c. 1832-1867) Nephew of John Vawter; cousin of Smith Vawter; brother of David G. Vawter. Born in Vernon, Indiana. Member of Indiana state senate 1865-67.

Vawter, John (1782-1862) Father of Smith Vawter; uncle of David G. Vawter and James H. Vawter. Born in Madison County, Virginia, 8 January 1782. Candidate for Lieutenant Governor of Indiana, 1816; member of Indiana state house of representatives, 1831-36; member of Indiana state senate, 1836-39. Died in Morgantown, Indiana, 17 August 1862.

Vawter, Smith (1806-1882) son of John Vawter; cousin of David G. Vawter and James H. Vawter. Born in Scott County, Kentucky, 3 November 1806. Member of Indiana state house of representatives, 1848-49, 1857, 1879-81; candidate for Indiana state senate, 1851; alternate delegate to Republican National Convention from Indiana 1868. Died in Vernon, Indiana, 10 April 1882.

IN REMEMBRANCE

Charles Dorn Vawter, 68, of Port Richey, Florida, formerly of Louisville, Kentucky, died Monday, 1 May 2000, in Hudson, Florida. He was a native of Oakley, Kansas.

He was a former design engineer for Hardee's Corporation, a former president of the old Dixie Land, Inc., a former cattle rancher and quarter-horse breeder in Kansas. A Marine Corps veteran of the Korean War, he was a member of Marine Corps League Post 567 in Holiday, Florida, and Faith Baptist Church in New Port Richey, Florida.

Survivors include his wife, Lillie M. Vawter; sons Michael D. Vawter of Tampa, Florida, Charles D. Vawter Jr. of Douglasville, Georgia, and Matthew D. Vawter of Simpsonville, Kentucky; daughters Catherine M. Vawter of Frankfort, Kentucky, and Caroline V. DeMuth of Louisville; sisters, LoRee Dennis and Lucene Dennis, both of Golden Colorado; and six grandchildren.

Charles Dorn Vawter was a member of the Association, as are his children.

* * * * *

Florence Victoria Vawter, 77, of Westminster, Colorado, died 6 January 2000. She was born 16 February 1922 in Bertrand, Nebraska. On 6 June 1942, she married Allen E. Vawter in Denver.

A homemaker and former sales clerk, she was a member of Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary and Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church.

Survivors include her husband; two daughters, Sandra Van Doren of Wichita, Kansas, and Pamela Sherman of Federal Heights, Colorado; four grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

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2000 REUNION REPORT

The annual reunion of the VVV Family Association was held 3-6 August 2000 in Hampton, Virginia. Location of the event was the historic Chamberlin Hotel on the grounds of Fort Monroe. Registration began on Thursday, although several members had arrived earlier in the week to take advantage of the many attractions in the area.

Official opening of the reunion was on Friday morning with the traditional ringing of the cowbell. Four-year old Jesse Roberts, son of Jim and Korbi Roberts of Virginia Beach was given the honor of ring the bell this year. Invocation was by the Rev. John H. Vawter of Nacogdoches, Texas. Letters were read from the mayor of Hampton and Sally Vawter of Houston, Texas.

Jim Vaughters, historian/archivist of the association, gave a report on a reunion held in Dawsonville, Georgia, and stressed the need for local reunions. He announced the times for the genealogy and story-telling sessions.

Association president, Phil Vaughter, introduced the officers. He then asked all those attending for the first time to introduce themselves and tell their connection to the family.

Many items were on display. Jim Vaughters brought the Swift and Julian Vaughter Collection, along with other items belonging to the association. In 1984 at the reunion held

in Nacogdoches, Texas, all of those in attendance signed squares of cloth that were then made into a quilt by Betty Burt and her mother, the late Jewell Mae Ellenburg. This quilt was one of the more popular of the displayed items.

Friday afternoon, many of those in attendance took part in the genealogy and storytelling sessions. Others chose to visit local attractions or to just spend time with long-time friends.

On Saturday, the group traveled to Vauter's Episcopal Church for a tour of both the church and the Glebe. A welcome was given by the Priest-in-Charge, Karen Woodruff. A delicious lunch was served by the ladies of the church. Prints of the church, as well as note cards and post cards, were available for purchase. Several members who had not been at the hotel in Hampton attended this part of the reunion.

The traditional Saturday dinner was held at the Chamberlin Hotel, beginning with invocation by Bill M. Vawter of Oklahoma City. During the dinner, a video of the reunion events, including the registration time, meetings, trip to Vauter's Episcopal Church and the Glebe, and the Virginia Beach trip made by the youth was shown by Ned Cummings. Copies of this video are available.

Following dinner, the annual memorial service was led by Fred and Wordna Wicker. The service began with a trumpet solo and a vocal solo, both by Kristy Glasgow. She was accompanied by Ellen Cummings, and dedicated her music to her grandfather, the late Charles Burt.

Entertainment for the evening was the VVV Family Singers, directed by Ellen Cummings. They presented "Faith Hall of Fame." This group originated several years ago as the VVV Children's Chorus, and as the children grew it became apparent the name needed to be changed. Now, it is not only children who sing, but young adults as well.

Named as a committee to assist in the restoration of the Glebe were: Bob Vawter of Middletown, Delaware; Ellen Cummings of Virginia Beach; Annie Storr of Silver Spring, Maryland; Judy Blanks of Maryville, Tennessee; and Betty Callis of Hendersonville, Tennessee. This committee will keep the association membership informed of the fund raising plans and progress of the restoration.

Phil Vaughter presented Presidential Citations to Ellen Cummings, for hosting the 2000 reunion; Fred and Wordna Wicker for doing the memorial service each year; and Bonita Welch for work on the newsletter.

The roll call of states showed there to be 25 different states represented at the dinner, with Texas and Virginia each having 15 in attendance. Special recognition was given the following:

Youngest: Peter Graubard, two months, of Cross Junction, Virginia
Oldest: Virginia Modell, 90, of Annapolis, Maryland
Longest married: Evert and Maxine Joling, 55 yrs, of Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin
Traveled the farthest: Jackie Gruman of Wilkinson, Washington

After the distribution of door prizes by Korbi Roberts and many of the children, the reunion was adjourned. Site of the 2001 reunion was chosen as Hot Springs, Arkansas.

MEMORIAL SERVICE

The following VVV Family Association members and friends were remembered at the memorial service conducted on Saturday evening at the reunion:

1. Phillip Andrew Hoyt, 67, Indianapolis, Indiana - died 20 July 1999
2. Vallie Wiley Cox, 96, Nash, Texas - died 6 August 1999
3. Lula Vaughters Thompson, 87, Dawsonville, Georgia - died 1 August 1999
4. Charles Burt, 64, Dawsonville, Georgia - died 27 September 1999
5. Jean Vawter Robinson, 77, Charlotte, North Carolina - died 10 May 1999
6. Paul Wooden, 93, Westport, Indiana - died 22 August 1999
7. Elizabeth Vawter Lanier, 96, Brownsville, Tennessee - died 5 September 1999
8. Katherine Thomas, 97, died 14 May 1999
9. James Vawter Wood, 87, Buena Vista, Virginia - died 4 May 1999
10. Velma Tidwell, 101, Yukon, Oklahoma - died 11 July 2000
11. Peggy Lorine Vawter, 69, Noble, Oklahoma - died 4 July 2000
12. Lowell G. Vawter, 69, Bloomington, Illinois - died 27 May 2000
13. Charles Dorn Vawter, 68, Port Richey, Florida - died 1 May 2000
14. Florence Victoria Vawter, 77, Westminster, Colorado - died 6 January 2000

OFFERINGS

As is the custom when the reunion is held in Virginia, an offering was taken for Vauter's Episcopal Church. Given for the church this year was \$1168.00. Another offering was taken to be used for the restoration of the Glebe, and that amount was \$1930.00. If you would like to make a donation to either cause, a check can be sent to Norma Jean Vawter, treasurer of the association. Be sure to state if your check is for the Glebe restoration or the church.

The following note was received from Jimmy and Pauline Hundley, on whose farm the Glebe is located.

Dear Vauter's Church Family,

Thank you for the generous gift we received for repairs to be made to the Glebe house. The Glebe is a very important part of the Vauter's church history and to its members. The origin and history of the house is always a great conversation topic to all who visit the farm.

Your interest and generosity is very much appreciated.

Sincerely,

Jimmy and Pauline Hundley

IRWIN FAMILY HAS HELD FARM NEAR CENTURY

Madison Courier, 23 January 1948

by Anna Vawter Irwin

"As a follow-up to a *Courier* report some months ago of Jefferson county [Indiana] farms that have remained under ownership of the same families 100 years or more, Mrs. Anna Vawter Irwin has written an interesting account of her family farm property which will soon attain the century ownership mark.

"At the same time she listed a bit of interesting history regarding Monroe township. Her letter follows.

About the year 1808 Joseph Lane, Sr., and wife Mary Bates, moved from Kentucky to Indiana and resided for a few years in the vicinity where Madison now stands.

"The reason they stopped there was that quite a number of other settlers had located there - they kept close together because of the hostility of the Indians. Growing restless he ventured farther north and located on a farm in what is now Monroe township, which farm is now owned by Vawter Irwin, his great-great-grandson.

"The said Joseph Lane, Sr. acquired this land in 1813 and built a hewn-log house, with basement, which is in a good state of preservation and still stands on the original foundation, and has been the home of his great-granddaughter for fifty years.

"He and his family were Baptists and in 1830 he helped organize Hebron Baptist church. In this same year he, in the interest of spiritual welfare and education, gave or conveyed a parcel or corner of this land for school house, burying ground, and church lots as follows: Joseph Lane, Sr., of the first part and Ruel Custer, Thomas Jameson, Caleb Lane, James Wildman and Jacob Bryan trustees of burying ground and school house of the second part witnesseth that the said Joseph Lane, Sr., for and in consideration of one dollar lawful money of the United States, to have in hand will and truly paid by the said trustees release the following piece of land to-wit: A part of the NW Qr of Sec. No. 36 in town 5, north of range 10.

"This indenture made the 13th day of April, 1830, between Joseph Lane, Sr. of the first part and Caleb Lane, William Hinton and Levi Cline trustees of the Baptist church at Hebron for the sum of one dollar lawful money of the United States to have in hand truly paid by said trustees, hath conveyed to said trustees the following piece or parcel of land, to-wit: Beginning eight rods from the NW corner of Sec. 36, town 5 and range 10.

"Deed recorded April 14, 1930, [1830?] Madison Indiana.

"Joseph Lane, Sr. died in 1839 leaving the farm to his widow as a dowry. She followed him in death in 1851. Both are buried in the old part of Hebron cemetery, just north of the main drive way.

"Their resting place is marked by a double headstone. I have been told that the bricks for building the first old church were burned in a kiln just east of the present structure (between it and the cemetery entrance.) My mother, Maria Lane Vawter, attended school in the old stone building that is in good repair today.

"The Hebron church has taken over the old school house as a community center.

"I have quite a warm spot in my heart for the Hebron community as I travel down

'memory lane.' In 1851 Parmenas Irwin, father of my late husband, Charles Irwin, bought this same farm from the heirs of Joseph Lame, Sr. This farm will soon have been in the same family for one hundred years. (Three more years.)

"My paternal grandfather, Beverly Vawter, (a Christian minister) also came to Monroe township about the same time that the Lames did, and bought several hundred acres of land on Indian Kentucky creek. He built a water power grist mill (just about a quarter of a mile below the bridge at the foot of the Irwin hill) in which he ground corn and wheat for the countryside for miles around so they might have their shortenin' bread and biscuits. A Mr. Stout later bought the mill and a part of the farm. His family also attended school in the old stone, one room house. One son, William Stout, who graduated from Indiana University, became a nationally noted chautauqua lecturer. He is the only one of the family now living.

"No trace of the old mill is left nor of the old mill race. The NW corner of Sec. 36 is truly sacred ground."

QUERIES

From: Lois Vawter, 1511 Birch Drive, Elkhart, Indiana 46514
e-mail: lavawter@skyenet.net

Carl Emmit Vawter moved to Genoa, Texas, from Indiana about 1907, married and divorced Lila Phillips. Their children were: Clyde, born about 1908; Martha, born about 1913; and Evelyn, born about 1916. Carl Emmit Vawter was a hay broker for the U.S. Cavalry, and died in Bay City, Matagorda Co., Texas, in 1947. Lois is trying to find Carl's children or their descendants.

From: Melton E. Durant, Jacksonville, Texas
e-mail: mdurant@sat.net

Walter Lewis Vawter was born 27 September 1897 in Pipe Creek, Bandera County, Texas. He homesteaded in Powder River County, Montana, and was a single man on the 1920 Powder River census. He returned to Kendall County, Texas, in 1959, died in Kerrville Hospital 31 January 1965, and is buried in Boerne, Kendall County. He married Zelda Ann McKandles of Pipe Creek. They had no children. Melton would like to know when Walter Lewis Vawter and Zelda Ann McKandles were married. He is Zelda's cousin.

NEWSLETTER ITEMS

Please continue to send items to be considered for the newsletter. We always need marriage and engagement announcements, obituaries, births, and anything else that would be of interest to the membership. All help is very much appreciated!

ANNE VAUGHTERS BURT STOVALL

Anne Marian Vaughters Burt Stovall was born 13 February 1908 in Dawson County, Georgia, the daughter of William Oscar and Maggie Dora Brice Vaughters. She was first married to Elbert Henry Burt and later to William Stovall. She died 2 April 1993.

The following was written by her as part of a paper on the history of Dawson County.

"On a personal note, I was born in the sticks three miles north of Dawsonville. My father saw the need for us to be nearer than three miles to school and sold the big farm and bought 60 acres just outside the city limit of Dawsonville on the Gainesville road. We could walk home for lunch from school. A little country school house burned when I was in the tenth grade. There were no teachers available the first of February. When they got the new one built the County School Superintendent sent me down there to teach. I taught one day before I was 16 years old. That was an experience being ten miles from home, having to learn to eat food that I would never eat at home. I kept up my school work, went back to school at the end of six weeks, and made my pass to the eleventh grade."

IN REMEMBRANCE

Charles Edmond Vawter, 91, of Florence, Alabama, formerly of Corinth, Mississippi, died 15 September 2000. He was born 2 October 1908 in McComb, Mississippi, the son of Charles E. and Florence Vawter. He was retired from ITT Telcomm in Corinth, and a member of Woodmont Baptist Church. Before moving to Florence, he had been a member of First Baptist Church in Corinth.

Funeral service was held at Greenview Memorial Chapel in Florence, with burial at Forrest Memorial Park in Corinth.

Survivors include a daughter, Mary Janice Vawter Lard of Florence; a brother, Richard Vawter of McComb; four grandsons, Michael David Lard of Tuscaloosa, Alabama, Jeffrey Alan Lard of Florence, Charles Neal Lard of Muscle Shoals, Alabama, and Bradley Wayne Lard of Birmingham, Alabama; seven great-grandchildren, Josh, Alan, Dylan, Tyler, Chris and Ashley Lard, and Clint Patterson.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Ruby Wall Vawter and two sisters.

* * * * *

Lowell G. Vawter, 69, of Bloomington, Illinois, died 27 May 2000 at Asta Care Center in Bloomington. He was born 8 April 1931 in Superior, Iowa, the son of David Guy and Myrtle McCoy Vawter. He was a veteran of the Air Force and retired from GTE.

Entombment was at East Lawn Memorial Gardens Mausoleum Chapel. Survivors include his former wife, Sharon Garrett; two sisters, May Schapmire of Bloomington and Wilma Schapmire of Cooksville, Illinois; a sister-in-law, May Vawter of Normal, Illinois; and 12 nephews and nieces.

He was preceded in death by a brother, M. Glen Vawter; two sisters and a niece.

IN REMEMBRANCE

Velma Tidwell, 101, of Yukon, Oklahoma, died 11 July 2000 in Yukon. She was born 27 October 1898 in New Albany, Mississippi, and had lived in the Yukon area since 1926, except for a few years spent in California.

Mrs. Tidwell was a member of First Baptist Church in Yukon; Order of Eastern Star, where she was a past Worthy Matron; Rebekah Lodge; American Legion Auxiliary; and sang with the Silver Cords Singers from Yukon Senior Citizens. She had been an extra in the early western movies of Hopalong Cassidy and George O'Brien, including the movie "Timber Stampede." She had been employed in the Yukon City Clerk's office, the Yukon Sun, and had sold Avon and Tupperware for a number of years.

Survivors include a son, Don Tidwell of Yukon; two grandchildren, Denise Tidwell of Oklahoma City and Bruce Tidwell of Laurel, Maryland; a sister, LaVerna Murray of Oklahoma City; and a brother, Emery Read of Jacksonville, Florida.

* * * * *

Peggy Lorine Vawter, 69, of Noble, Oklahoma, died 4 July 2000 in Noble. She was born 24 December 1930 in Harden County, Tennessee, the daughter of Sidney and Pearl Hopper Rinks. She was adopted at the age of three by John and Anna King of Nashville.

She married Joe Don Vawter on 10 February 1951 in Fort Worth, Texas. They moved to Noble in 1963. She was employed in housekeeping at Norman Regional Hospital, the Holiday Inn of Norman and Howard Johnson's, and was a member of Noble Church of Christ.

Surviving with her husband are two sons, Don Vawter and Joseph Vawter, both of Noble; two daughters, Judy Power and Lee Ann Idell, both of Noble; 10 grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren; two sisters, Pauline Russell of Burleson, Texas, and Katie Burin of Tennessee; four brothers, Hollis Rinks of Flint, Michigan, and Willie Rinks, Billie Rinks and Charles Rinks, all of Miland, Tennessee. Funeral service was held at Noble Church of Christ, with burial at Fairview Maguire Cemetery.

In the July 1996 newsletter, we printed a query from Paula Myers of LaVergne, Tennessee. Paula is a granddaughter of John and Anna King, and was trying to find Peggy. The search was successful, and the two women were able to see each other again after many years.

MEMBERS AND FRIENDS ATTENDING THE REUNION

ARIZONA

Noel and Mace Vaughter Moreland
John T. and Agness Vawter

CALIFORNIA

Amanda and Jesse
Gordie Vaughter Spencer
Garry B. Vawter
Marjorie Vawter

COLORADO

Jim C. Vaughters

DELAWARE

Thom and Valerie May
Robert L. and Donna Vawter
Mary and Robert L. Vawter II;

FLORIDA

Doreen Vawter Clevenger
Gary L. Clevenger
Barry and Becky Guinagh
Dave and Marie Vaughter

GEORGIA

Betty Burt
Richard and Ann Greene
Cheryl Kelley; Tim and Krista Glasgow
John and Pam Schlesinger

IDAHO

Cheri Jex

ILLINOIS

Paul and Connie Bugos
Edith Vawter

INDIANA

Mary McDaniel
Milton and Charlotte Pickett
Doug and Judy Thorpe
Joe and Bonita Welch

MARYLAND

Joel Greer and Annie Storr;
Jesse Vawter Greer
Virginia Modell

MICHIGAN

Patricia Vawter Klein
Stanley and Janet Read

MISSISSIPPI

Judith Crawford
Martha Hudson
Caroline Vawter Scarlett
Fred and Wordna Wicker
Ken and Norma Wicker

NEW JERSEY

Daryl Smith

NEW YORK

Jim and Dorothy Vawter
Richard and Dorothy Vawter

NORTH CAROLINA

Lisa Vaughter Strandberg; Eric and Meredith
OHIO

Clare and Sue Vawters Ashton

Nancy and Clare Ashton III

Betty May

Sharon Patrick; Amanda

Dorothy Phillips;

Jessica and Deborah Johnson

OKLAHOMA

Sharon Coursey

Billy and Betty Dyer

Bill and Diana Loch; Taylor

Stephanie Lofton

Bill and Virginia Vawter

Joe Don Vawter

Oscar and Erma Vawter

PENNSYLVANIA

Clara Vawter James

Glee Krapf; Allen Krapf

SOUTH DAKOTA

Georgene Jurgensen

TENNESSEE

Bill and Judy Blanks
Nolen and Eloise Bradley

Pat Brislin

Betty Callis

Caroline Vawter Scarlett

Norma Jean Vawter; Wendy and Katelyn

Barbara J. Vawter; Emily DeFur

TEXAS

Juanita Baker

Sylvia Clevenger Crispin

Karla Quigley; James

Tom and Patricia Vawter Renton

Phil and Peggy Vaughter

J.W. and Di Vawter

John and Sue Vawter

Jesse and Laneil Vawter;

VIRGINIA

Ned and Ellen Cummings; Rebecca and Frederick

Steven and Karin Graubard;

Henry, Mayme, Emma and Peter

Erika Gruman

Ann Martin Harpole

John Martin, Jr.

Eugene and Josephine Oglesby

Korbi Roberts; Kelsey and Jesse

Roderick and Jacqueline Vawter

Virginia Ann Vawter

WASHINGTON

Jackie Vawter Gruman

WASHINGTON D.C.

James G. Vaughter

WISCONSIN

Evert and Maxine Joling

Jim Joling

An attempt was made to list everyone who attended. If a name was missed, please accept our apology.

Thanks to Ned and Ellen Cummings for all the work they did in preparation for the 2000 reunion. Anyone who has hosted a reunion knows how much time is involved in planning the annual event.

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Dues - \$7.00 per year
IF A RENEWAL FORM IS ENCLOSED, YOU NEED TO PAY DUES

MARY JESSAMYN WEST
18 July 1902 - 23 February 1984

Mary Jessamyn West, better known as just "Jessamyn West" was born 18 July 1902 in Jennings County, Indiana, the daughter of Eldo Roy and Grace Anna Milhous West. She lived in Indiana until the age of six, when the family moved to southern California.

Jessamyn's father, Eldo Roy West, was born in Jennings County 27 September 1879, the son of J. Judson and Clara A. Clark West. Eldo's paternal grandparents were Achilles and Sarah Glover West, his maternal great-grandparents were James and Elizabeth Vawter Glover, and his maternal great-great-grandparents were Philemon and Anna Vawter. Eldo Roy West married Grace Ann Milhous on 4 September 1901 in Jennings County.

Jessamyn describes her father as being "six feet one, black-haired, olive skinned - a quiet man, easily discouraged and given to melancholy" Although having only nine years of education, he taught school in Indiana, and became relatively prosperous in California. He wrote poems of praise of California that he sent back East for publication in the Vernon, Indiana, *Banner Plain Dealer*.

Grace Anna Milhous, the mother of Jessamyn, was born in 1884 near Butlerville in Jennings County to Jesse G. and Mary Frances McManaman Milhous. The family was

Quaker and ran the Maple Grove Nursery. (Jesse G. Milhous' brother, Frank, was the grandfather of former president Richard Milhous Nixon.)

At the time Eldo Roy West married Grace Anna Milhous, he was viewed by her family as a non-Quaker of little means or promise. Eldo and Grace rented land in Jennings County, now a part of the former Jefferson Proving Ground.

Life on the farm continued, but in the meantime, Uncle Frank Milhous had invested in California real estate and moved his family to Whittier. Grace Milhous West's father had also invested in Whittier land by buying an orange grove. In April 1909, Eldo Roy and Grace Anna Milhous West and their children boarded a train for California, where Eldo would manage this orange grove until he was able to make his own investments.

Jessamyn began keeping notebooks of ideas for stories at about the age of 12, with many of her ideas coming from the stories told by her mother of life in Indiana. She began writing seriously after a long debilitating bout with tuberculosis contracted at the age of 29. Her first story collection, *The Friendly Persuasion*, was about the lives of a midwestern Quaker couple. This book was made into a movie in 1956 starring Gary Cooper.

A 1951 novel, *The Witch Diggers*, is based on stories told to Jessamyn about the former County Farm in Jennings County, Indiana. Grace Anna Milhous West's grandfather, James McManaman, had been Superintendent of this institution, and she loved to tell about the needy and others who lived there.

Jessamyn West was a prolific and varied writer. Among her works are.

Fiction: "The Friendly Persuasion" (short stories), Harcourt, 1945
"The Witch Diggers," Harcourt, 1951
"Cress Delahany" (short stories), Harcourt, 1953
"Little Men," Ballantine, 1954, republished as "The Chile Kings," 1957
"Love, Death, and the Ladies' Drill Team," Harcourt, 1955
"South of the Angels," Harcourt, 1966
"A Matter of Time," Harcourt, 1966
"Leafy Rivers," Harcourt, 1967
"Except for Me and Thee: A Companion to 'The Friendly Persuasion'"
(short stories), Harcourt 1969
"Crimson Ramblers of the World, Farewell," Harcourt, 1970
"The Massacre at Fall Creek," Harcourt, 1975
"The Life I Really Lived," Harcourt, 1979
"The State of Stony Lonesome," Harcourt, 1984
"The Collected Stories of Jessamyn West," Harcourt, 1986

Nonfiction: "To See the Dream," Harcourt, 1957
"Love is Not What You Think," Harcourt, 1959
"Hide and Seek: A Continuing Journey," Harcourt, 1973
"The Woman Said Yes: Encounters with Death and Life,"
Harcourt, 1976
"Double Discovery: A Journey," Harcourt, 1980

- Plays: "A Mirror for the Sky" (opera libretto), Harcourt, 1948
"The Friendly Persuasion" (screenplay), Allied Artists, 1956
"The Big Country" (screenplay), United Artists, 1958
"Stolen Hours", (screenplay), United Artists, 1963
- Others: "The Secret Look: Poems," Harcourt, 1974
(Contributor) "Cross Section 1948: A Collection of New American Writing," Simon & Schuster, 1948
(Contributor) "O. Henry Memorial Award Prize Stories of 1946"
(Contributor) "The Living Novel," 1957
(Editor) "A Quaker Reader," Viking, 1962

She was also contributor of many fiction and nonfiction articles that appeared in numerous periodicals, including *Mademoiselle*, *Collier's*, *New Mexico Quarterly*, *Town and Country*, *Ladies' Home Journal*, *Good Housekeeping*, *Kenyon Review*, *Redbook*, *Harper's*, *McCall's*, *Saturday Evening Post*, *Yale Review* and *New Yorker*.

One story told about Jessamyn West is that she enjoyed shocking people by telling them she had slept with former president Richard Milhous Nixon. She would then add that Nixon was a second cousin and this had been when he was a baby and she a little child.

On 16 August 1923, two months after graduating from Whittier College, Jessamyn married Harry Maxwell McPherson in the Yorba Linda Friends Church. She died of a stroke on 23 February 1984 in Napa, California.

THE PARISH POST

Newsletter of Vauter's Episcopal Church and St. Peter's Episcopal Church

The following article appeared in the January 2001 issue of *The Parish Post*.

Wedding at Vauter's

"When Lynn Reid Daniel of Nashville and James Fred Nixon, Jr. decided to be married they decided the service should not be at either of their own churches. So they completed their marriage preparation at home and will come to Vauter's for the marriage on Sunday, January 7, 2001. Lynn has visited during the Vauter's Family Reunions.

"The congregation is invited to be witnesses to their vows and have wedding cake at the regular Coffee provided by the ECW after the service."

We congratulate Lynn and James on their marriage and welcome James to the Vawter, Vauter, Vaughter(s)Family!

Several members of the association have asked for the address of Vauter's Church so they can send contributions to this historic church. The address is: P.O. Box 54, Champlain VA 22438-0154. This same address can be used if you would like to be put on the mailing list for their monthly newsletter.

2001 REUNION

As announced at the 2000 Reunion in Hampton, Virginia, the site chosen for the 2001 Reunion is Hot Springs, Arkansas. Jim Vaughters and Vernon Vawter have been busy the past months making plans for the reunion, and have chosen the Arlington Hotel as the location for the event. The reunion begins with early registration on Thursday, August 2, and concludes on Saturday, August 4, with a dinner, business meeting and entertainment.

Those who want to make reservations now can call the hotel at 1-800-643-1505. The cost for a room is \$79.00 for up to four people. This is a special rate for the association, so be sure to state that you will be attending the reunion. Details of meal prices and other plans will be given in the next newsletter.

CONGRATULATIONS

News was received from Norma Jean Vawter that her granddaughter, Wendy Vawter, is to be married 9 June 2001 at First United Methodist Church in Savannah, Tennessee. Wendy has attended many reunions and will be remembered by some as the youngest person at the 1978 reunion held in Brady Mountain, Arkansas. She was then three months old.

On 2 December 2000, Wendy presented her Senior Recital at Wright Music Building, Middle Tennessee State University. This recital was given as partial fulfillment of the degree requirements for the Bachelor of Music with a concentration in School Music Education.

Sarah Elizabeth Reynolds was born 28 April 2000 in Syracuse, New York, to William and Anne Elizabeth Vawter Reynolds of Auburn, New York. Anne is the daughter of Alfred Thomas Vawter II of Lansing, New York, and the late Catherine Bloom Vawter, and granddaughter of Walter Bachman Vawter.

THE LAST DANCE

If you did not watch *The Last Dance* when it aired on CBS last October 29, be sure to catch it when being shown as a re-run. It is the story of a former student (Eric Stoltz) learning from his old teacher (Maureen O'Hara) what is important in life. Marc D. Allan, columnist for *The Indianapolis Star*, calls the movie "a lovely tearjerker," and says, "Stoltz, as always, is a calm and sure presence."

Eric Stoltz is the son of Jack Stoltz of Santa Barbara, California, and the late Evelyn Vawter Stoltz. His grandparents were Francis Marion and Hazel Ellen Roten Vawter. Great-Grandparents were Albert Calvin and Frances Churchwell Vawter.

QUERIES

From: Sheila Rice, skrice@charter.net
This query was found on Vawter-L@rootsweb.com

Sheila is looking for information on Samuel A. Vawter or Vawters who married Sarah Jane Farrell. Their daughter was Nannie Estelle Vawters, b. 16 October 1902, Oletha, Texas?, d. 3 July 1980, Falls County, Texas. Nannie married Willie Sapp, b. 1896, d. 6 November 1981, Falls County, Texas.

From: Don Tucker, 103 Bluebird Drive, Dothan, Alabama 36303 dtuck@ala.net
Great-Great--Grandson of Linsey Vaughters of Dawson County, Georgia

In the late 1830s, soldiers from Alabama, Georgia, Tennessee and North Carolina volunteered for service in the Cherokee Indian removals in North Georgia. In the recently published book, "Volunteer Soldiers in the Cherokee War 1836-1839," a Linsey Vaughters is listed as serving as a private from Georgia serving in Cleveland's Co 2 Ga Mil-Turks.

Which Linsey (Linzey) (Lindsey) Vaughters (Vauters) (Vawters) is this? Is this the Linzey Vaughters born on 28 June 1820 in Franklin Co., Georgia, who settled in Dawson County? Or is this Linsey the brother of James Vawter/Vaughters of Elbert County, Georgia? This Linsey was born probably about 1808. James Vawter/Vaughters was the father of Linzey of Dawson County.

Source: Page 191, *Mountain Press*, P.O. Box 400, Signal Mountain, Tennessee 37377.

From: Doyle Fenn, doylefenn@aol.com
Found on the message board of www.familyhistory.com

George W. Vawter m. widow Mary E. Simpson on 24 Dec 1861 in Tipton Co., Indiana. Mary E. had two children by James G. Simpson when they married: 1) George Washington Simpson b. 21 Oct 1850 in Marion Co., Indiana, and 2) John G. Simpson b. c. 1854. James G. and Mary E. Simpson are on the 1850 Marion Co., Indiana, census and the 1860 Hamilton Co., Indiana, census. James Simpson appears to have died shortly after the 1860 census was taken.

Doyle is seeking the maiden name of Mary E. Simpson Vawter and the county in Kentucky where James G. Simpson was born c. 1820.

GLEANINGS

Marriage Bonds & Ministers' Return of Charlotte Co., Virginia (1764-1815)
Patsey Vaughter & John Faris, 24 January 1799
Sister of Lemuel Vaughter who is surety with Ludwell Vaughter

1850 Kentucky Mortality Schedules
Elizabeth Vaughters died July 1850, typhoid fever, age 32

IN REMEMBRANCE

James W. Vawter, 75, of Memphis, Tennessee, died 7 August 2000 at Methodist Healthcare-North in Memphis. He was a retired chemical operator for Velsicol Company. He was an Air Force veteran of the Korean War and retired as a Captain.

Survivors include his wife, Mavis Vawter; two sons, Dennis Vawter of Bartlett, Tennessee, and Rick Tucker of Hernando, Tennessee; and three grandchildren.

James was a longtime member of the VVV Association. He was a cousin of the late Robert M. "Pete" Vawter.

* * * * *

Sarah Alice Vaughters Disharoon, 86, of Dawsonville, Georgia, died 29 October 2000 at Gold City Nursing Center in Dahlonega, Georgia. A lifelong resident of Dawson County, she was born 24 June 1914, the daughter of Linzey and Tomie Vaughters. She was a member of Bethel Baptist Church.

Survivors include her husband, Hoyt Disharoon; two daughters, Marie Disharoon of Dawsonville and Elvie Mooney of Dahlonega; two sons, Curtis Disharoon and Marcus Disharoon, both of Dawsonville; three sisters, Eler Tanner, Ola Swafford and Flara Waters, all of Dawsonville; a sister-in-law, Lois Vaughters of Smyrna; ten grandchildren; 16 great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild.

Preceding her in death were a sister, Lula Thompson; and a brother, Charlie Vaughters.

Funeral service was held at Bethel Baptist Church with the Rev. Phillip Burt officiating. Burial was at the church cemetery.

Alice attended several reunions during the early and mid 1980s with her sisters, Flara and Lula.

* * * * *

Thurman Emery Mayer, 89, of Blue Springs, Mississippi, died 12 November 2000 at North Mississippi Medical Center. He was born 28 March 1911 in Marshall County, the son of John Kenlock and Anna Wise Mayer. He was a carpenter and a member of Shannon Church of Christ.

Survivors include two daughters, Martha Hudson and Judith Crawford and her husband, Robert, all of Blue Springs; six grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren; one great-great-grandchild. He was preceded in death by his wife Clarice Vawter Mayer; and a son, Thurman Ray Mayer.

Burial was at McKay Cemetery in Hickory Flat, Mississippi.

Emery was a longtime member of the association and attended the reunions regularly, the last one being 1999 in Indiana.

* * * * *

Carrie Beazley Schools, 85, of Milford, Virginia, died 19 November 1998. Survivors include her husband of 65 years, Roland Schools; a son, Russell C. Schools of Capron, Virginia; two daughters, Patty Driver of Milford, and Delores Creech of Fredericksburg; seven grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren

Funeral was at Bowling Green Baptist Church, with burial at Greenlawn Cemetery.

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2001 REUNION IN HOT SPRINGS, ARKANSAS

Jim Vaughters has sent this information about the 2001 reunion of the Association.

Vernon and Traudl Vawter hosted the first nationwide reunion of the Association in 1978 at Brady Mountain, a few miles from Hot Springs. They brought us to Hot Springs in 1981. Now, they are brave enough to do it again this year.

The Arlington Hotel is the grand old hotel of the city. In recent years, extensive renovation has been done, including new furniture for 400 of the rooms. Meeting rooms are abundant, the restaurant is excellent, and the sales staff are experienced in handling large groups.

The Association has booked 75 rooms for Thursday through Sunday, August 2-5. Each room can accommodate from one to four persons. The rooms are \$79.00 per night for one or two adults and one or two children. Each additional adult is \$20.00 per night. The special rate given to our group is largely because of Vernon and Trudy's connections with and participation in events at the Arlington. The telephone number for reservations is 1-800-643-1502. The deadline for reservations is July 2. After that, the availability and special rate are not guaranteed. Please mention the VVV Reunion.

Vernon and Jim spent a day in January meeting with hotel staff, viewing facilities,

and checking other attractions in this old resort town. Scenery, tours, theme park, storytelling sessions and genealogy meetings will be available throughout the weekend. Former Association President Marvin Vawter will be speaking on his Revolutionary ancestor. One event planned is a three-hour river cruise Friday afternoon on the Belle of Hot Springs. Cost of this will be \$20.00 per person for the cruise and lunch.

Many members have attended reunions for years, some a few times, and still others have never attended. Make this a year to renew acquaintances and meet your cousins.

SOME OBSERVATIONS OF THE 2000 REUNION

Submitted by Jim Vaughters

The following are personal observations that seem worthy of committing to writing. Hopefully, every attendee has his or her own impressions and memories.

The Chamberlain Hotel in Hampton, Virginia, was headquarters for the reunion in the year 2000. As with all the gatherings in years that end in 0 or 5, the VVV clan exuded calmness, relaxation and confidence. Meeting in Virginia is literally "going home" for all of us. If we were to have nothing else in common, we know that we all descend from early Virginia settlers regardless of the spelling, be it Vawter, Vautier, Vanchier, Vautorte, Valletort, or any of the other dozen or so variations.

The point of land known as Hampton presides over the spot where the York and James Rivers empty into the Chesapeake Bay. A very few miles to the north, both the Potomac and the Rappahannock also flow into the Bay. Practically within sight of Hampton, the Chesapeake joins the Atlantic Ocean. Although we did not talk about it, surely many of us found ourselves thinking about our ancestors at that location. Where did they enter the Chesapeake? Did they land where we were standing? What did the place look like? How did they choose to go up the Rappahannock River rather than one of the others? It was a humbling experience just to be there and to contemplate their lives. Whether the first one was Elliott in 1652, John in 1676, or the legendary brothers John, Angus and Bartholomew in 1685 might not be any more significant than their courage determination, and adventuresome spirit in going to a new country.

Fred Wicker shed more light on the history with his insight into the 1685 Monmouth Rebellion in England as being likely motivation for the journey. He has written an article that appears in this issue of the newsletter. For those who missed his telling the story, now you get a chance to read it.

Ellen and Ned Cummings were their usual affable and well-organized selves in planning the facilities, playing hosts, taking children to the beach, performing music with the Vawter Family Singers, and enjoying every minute while seeing to it that the rest of us did, too.

My thanks to all the participants in all the genealogy sessions. The "story-telling" was truly a cross section of American history. Sad recollections of great-grandparents, serious stories of hard work, and more funny stories than a joke writer could create!

The highlight was the trip to Vauter's Church and the glebe. The members of that congregation have become almost like family members. Their interest in history, our

Association, the connection and in keeping the church going are things that we must appreciate and of which we should be proud. Their written communications after the reunion confirm all of this.

The drive to and from the church deserves one special comment. For the entire two hours each way, Georgene Jurgenson wanted to see a plantation. A noble thought, but she might have to wait until we meet further south, such as Georgia or Alabama.

The Sunday morning service at the church was the most formal and dignified of the many that I have attended there. Those who were not able to go missed a wonderful experience. In the year 2005, please plan to stay for the service.

Worshiping in the church of our ancestors, walking their land, meeting descendants of their neighbors, and getting a feel for that part of the country are all important facets of the Association. We have built some beautiful memories on 325 years.

DAWSON COUNTY, GEORGIA

A reunion of the descendants of James and Jane Vaughters of Dawson County, Georgia, will be held Sunday, June 10, 2001, beginning at 11:30 a.m. at Bethel Baptist Church in Dawsonville. The late Charles Burt was instrumental in starting this reunion a few years ago. For more information, contact Charles' daughters, Cheryl Kelly or Pam Schlesinger.

Jim Vaughters has joined the Dawson County Historical and Genealogical Society. On a January visit to Georgia, he happened to hit the monthly meeting date, and ended up being the speaker. It was a enjoyable experience, especially at the end of a day when he and Richard Greene had spent the day in Franklin, Lumpkin and Dawson Counties "chasing ancestors." Richard lives in Cartersville, Georgia, and is a descendant of Delila Vaughters Anderson.

The society honored the Vaughters family in their February 2001 newsletter:

"Although his grandfather insisted that "the Vaughters have always been in Dawson County," James Vaughters discovered roots going much further back. He described some of those roots and the joy he has found in tracing them.

"From Englewood, Colorado, Jim was in Dawson County last month doing some of the 'discovering' and agreed to share his findings at the January 23rd Society meeting. Vaughters ancestors came from France to England to Virginia to North Carolina, and then to Georgia, where there are records in Elbert and Franklin counties dating back over 200 years.

"It is in Elbert County that a nationwide reunion of Vaughters relatives is planned for next August [2002], on a family estate which is being donated to the state for a wildlife preserve.

"When Jim declared, 'I hope every Dawson County Vaughters relative will be there,' he had made it sound so interesting that all of us at the meeting began to wish we fit that category."

ANSWER TO A PUZZLE?

Submitted by Fred Wicker

Information contained in the Grace Vawter Bicknell book, *The Vawter Family in America*, and other publications indicate that the Vawters in Devonshire and Cornwall, England, were substantial if not wealthy landowners. Records strongly indicate that Trematon Castle near the city of Saltash in Cornwall was owned by the family.

The Bicknell book states that three Vawter brothers, John, Bartholomew and Angus, came from England to Virginia in about the year 1685. I have heard it stated many times at VVV reunions that they came as indentured servants. I may have seen documentation of this, but am not sure and do not find anything relative to this in records in my possession.

When these facts have been related, people have asked the obvious question. If the Vawters were well to do, why did they leave England and emigrate to America, and why did they come as indentured servants?

Assuming that the aforementioned facts are true, I have a theory based on known history. Charles II had an illegitimate son, the Duke of Monmouth. The King had a brother, the Duke of York. The King, aware of his approaching death, made arrangements that resulted in the Duke of York succeeding him as King, rather than the Duke of Monmouth. He became James II.

The Duke of Monmouth in France gathered an army and landed at Lyme, on the coast of Dorset, hoping that enough people would flock to his standard to defeat the King and be placed on the throne. Vawters and Wickers lived in Devonshire, and they joined as part of Monmouth's army, which was defeated at the Battle of Sedgemoor.

A reign of terror ensued. James II sent Chief Justice Jeffries to that area which resulted in what is known as the Bloody Assizes. Many were executed and many were exiled to the Barbados off the Florida coast. Prison ship manifests show that Vawters and Wickers were among those exiled.

All this occurred in 1685. In October, Thomas Wicker, my ancestor, desiring neither to be exiled nor executed, left Colyton and went about twenty miles west to Exeter. He signed on as an indentured servant with Captain Lyles and thus went to Virginia, arriving in December of 1685. A ship's captain having no need of an indentured servant sold, assigned the indenture or contract to a local farmer.

Since the Vawters joined forces with Monmouth, were defeated, left England in 1685 arriving in Virginia as indentured servants, it is my opinion, theory, whatever, that they did as Thomas Wicker did and for the same reason.

If someone has evidence to support my theory or in indicate otherwise, it would be interesting to hear it.

YOU CAN HELP

Items are always needed for the newsletter. Please send information on research that you have done, queries, gleanings from publications, or current news.

E. B. VAUGHTERS RESEARCH PRESERVED

When Grace Vawter Bicknell's book was published in 1905, it triggered one of the deep and notable characteristics of all VVV's; a love and appreciation of the family history. Many significant researchers have since gotten into the act: William Snyder Vawter, W. T. Vawter, L. G. "Bill" Vawter and E. B. Vaughters to name a few. Present-day genealogists draw upon those materials regularly.

In an effort to avoid duplication and to try to create a central repository of those research materials, a suggestion came out of one of the genealogy sessions last year. The idea was to identify, locate, and gather that information. One of the first names to come up was E. B. Vaughters, who did prodigious amounts of research, contributed many items to our newsletters, and answered questions and filled in holes that many of us without his brilliant mind were not able to figure out. His death a few years ago meant that his work was stashed in his house - maybe we could find it.

Jackie Gruman descends from the line of William and Frances Vawter of Indiana. She has traced her family lines for years and has been a member of the VVV Association, but the first reunion she attended was in 2000. She lives about an hour from E. B.'s widow, Adele, who lives in Seattle, Washington. She volunteered to take on the project of obtaining E. B.'s research.

His well organized records fill a file cabinet. He has specified that they go to his daughter, Suzanne McLennon, a lawyer in Canada. Adele would not let the records leave the house, so Jackie kept trying until she found a way to copy them. She borrowed a portable copier from a friend, arranged dates with Adele, and spent a couple of twelve-hour days making copies. Adele was not only delighted that the copies are being kept by the archivist/historian of the Association, she made cookies and tea for Jackie all day while she worked. Jackie described Adele as a delightful person who was pleased to help with the project.

Our thanks to Adele Vaughters and Jackie Gruman for preserving E. B.'s research.

THE VAWTER FAMILY IN AMERICA

A reminder that the reprint edition (1969) of *The Vawter Family in America* is available from the Association. This book was published in 1905 by Grace Vawter Bicknell, and republished in 1969 by Edna Reynolds and her sister, Vera Wheatly, with a supplement update of their O'Conner family.

There has been some criticism of the book because of errors. We need to keep in mind it was originally published in 1905, and research for the book probably took several years before that. This was long before copiers, fax machines, computers, the Internet, e-mail and dot-coms.

None of the books are in perfect condition. Many have entire sections out of place or upside down, or have several pages or much of the index missing. They will need to be repaired before being sold and that will add to the cost. For some, though, it is just a matter

of one or two pages missing or having faint print, and those are the books being sold at this time. We send the best available and enclose replacement pages for you to insert. The books are softbound and have 442 pages including an index, plus the supplement. Cost is \$20.00 plus \$4.00 shipping. Order from: Bonita Welch, 4145 N 900 W, Scipio IN 47273.

CATHERINE STOLTZ
submitted by Jack Stoltz

Mezzo Soprano Catherine Stoltz will be a principal soloist in Verdi's monumental *Requiem Mass* this summer at St. Paul's Outside-the-Walls Basilica in Rome. Scheduled for Wednesday, June 27th, this once-in-a-lifetime event commemorates the 100th anniversary of the death of Giuseppe Verdi and is the opening concert of the Vatican's *Festival of St. Peter and St. Paul*.

Dr. William Hall, Director of the William Hall Master Chorale, based in Orange County, California, will conduct a choir of 800 singers from throughout the world, a full symphony orchestra, consisting of instrumentalists from Rome's world-renowned Santa Cecilia Orchestra, and internationally acclaimed soloists.

Pope John Paul II will bless the concert, numerous Cardinals and other Roman Catholic luminaries will be in attendance, and it will be broadcast by Vatican television. The audience is projected to be nearly 10,000.

Shortly after returning from Rome, in mid-July Catherine Stoltz will perform in Boston with Opera Aperta singing Rosina in Rossini's opera *The Barber of Seville*.

Catherine Stoltz has appeared with numerous opera companies throughout the United States and abroad, including the Chicago Lyric Opera, Pittsburgh Opera and the Vienna Staatsoper. She is a frequent concert soloist, and has sung many of the great choral works, including Mozart's *C-Minor Mass*, Prokofiev's *Alexander Nevsky*, Bach's *B-Minor Mass*, and Beethoven's *Missa Solemnis*.

She was a National Finalist in the 1987 Metropolitan Opera Auditions in New York City, and that same year was a national winner of the Bel Canto Foundation Opera Auditions and was awarded six weeks of study in Busetto, Italy.

A New Hampshire resident, in private life she is the wife of Continental Air Lines Captain Kent Hammon and the mother of two young daughters. Catherine Stoltz is the daughter of Jack Stoltz of Santa Barbara, California, and the late Evelyn Vawter Stoltz. Her maternal grandparents were Francis Marion and Hazel Ellen Roten Vawter. Her great-grandparents were Albert Calvin and Frances Churchwell Vawter.

Thanks to Jack Stoltz for sending this press release about his oldest daughter, Catherine. Many Association members have enjoyed following the movie and television career of Jack's son, Eric Stoltz. Eric is currently starring in "The House of Mirth" in theatres around the country, and has just finished directing his first film, "My Horrible Year," for the Showtime Channel.

INDIANA BOOK OF MERIT
Indiana Historical Collections, Volume XVII
Published by Historical Bureau, Indianapolis, 1932

FRED BEVERLY VAWTER, Clark County, Indiana

Sergeant, 1947857, Company D, 332d Infantry, 83d Division

Military Valor Medal, bronze (Italy). No. 55940. Ministry of War, Rome, March 15, 1921: Volunteer for a daring reconnaissance on the Tagliamento, he was a constant example of courage and calmness, boldly attacking enemy patrols and succeeding in capturing prisoners and machine guns. Ponte della Delizia, November 3, 1918.

Record. Born December 28, 1891, Salina, Kansas; son of James Mavity and Lura Jeannette (Sanderson) Vawter. Came to Indiana 1901. Salesman, Jeffersonville. Entered service September 6, 1917, Akron, Ohio.

Training: Camp Sherman, Ohio; Camp Perry, Ohio. Assigned to Company D, 332d Infantry, on detached service on Italian front. Sergeant. Overseas June 8, 1918 - April 14, 1919. Battles: Vittorio-Veneto, Piave River, Tagliamento River. Discharged May 2, 1919.

QUERY

From: Marlene Aboussouan, P.O. Box 1996, Apple Valley CA 92307
maboussouan@webtv.net Phone: 760-248-2022

Marlene is searching for information on her great-grandfather, Newton Vawter, who married Melissa Sanford. They had a daughter, Ruby, who married a Hutchcraft. Newton and Melissa Sanford Vawter died about 1912.

IN REMEMBRANCE

Neva Jean Findley, 90, of Seymour, Indiana, died 19 April 2001 at Memorial Hospital in Seymour. She was born 3 September 1910 in Bartholomew County, Indiana, the daughter of Alva and Bertha Wilson Pickett. She married Joseph Findley, who preceded her in death.

Mrs. Findley was a member of Central Christian Church, Order of Eastern Star, and Memorial Hospital Guild, all in Seymour. She was a retired nurse.

Surviving are a son, Jerry Lee Findley of Clarksville, Tennessee; four brothers, Raymond Pickett of Indianapolis, Denver Pickett of Sun City, California, Ralph Pickett of Ames, Iowa, and Milton Pickett of North Vernon, Indiana; and a sister, Nina Duckett of Freemont, California. She was preceded in death by two brothers, Maurice and Dallas Pickett.

Funeral service was held at Central Christian Church, and burial was at Riverview Cemetery in Seymour.

Neva Jean Findley's brother, Milton Pickett is a member of the VVV Association. He and his wife, Charlotte, have attended several reunions.

IN REMEMBRANCE

Jack Thomas Smith, 87, of Tulsa, Oklahoma, died 29 August 2000. He was born 12 March 1913 in Lawton, Oklahoma, the son of Thomas Gardner and Pearl Queenie Pulliam Smith. He was a graduate of Temple (Oklahoma) High School and Cameron College, also attending Southern Methodist University and the University of Oklahoma. He married Jane Proctor on 2 October 1937.

He was in the first graduating class of the Oklahoma Highway Patrol in 1937, and was one of only two survivors of that class. During his early career with the patrol, he served in a variety of posts, rose to the rank of second lieutenant and was sent to the National Highway Traffic Institute in Evanston, Illinois.

In January 1943, he joined the United States Naval Reserve and served as a lieutenant in the South Pacific during World War II with the Acorn 10 unit, which supported "Pappy" Boyington's famous Black Sheep Squadron.

After being discharged from the Navy, he return to Indiahoma, Oklahoma, to operate the family ranch with his brother, Paul. He was an organizer of the Oklahoma Quarter Horse Association, and served as president in 1949-50.

In 1953, he rejoined the Highway Patrol and was stationed in Purcell and Blackwell before moving to Tulsa in 1959. He was named commander of the OHP Tulsa troop. After retiring from the Highway Patrol in 1967, he worked in the Everett Lowrance Ranch in Claremore and for the Rooney Co. before joining the Tulsa County Sheriff's Office in 1973, retiring from there in 1983.

He was a member of Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, a 50-year member of Cache Lodge #391, lifetime member of American Legion Post 0308, Akdar Shrine, lifetime member of the Oklahoma Quarter Horse Association, member of Fraternal Order of Police, Retired Oklahoma Troopers Association, and Will Rogers United Methodist Church. He loved horses, helping people and traveling.

Surviving are his wife, Jane Proctor Smith; a son, Johnny P. Smith of Houston, Texas; a daughter, Joan Carol Cotton of Tulsa; a brother, Paul Gardner Smith of Tulsa; five grandchildren, Stephanie Cotton, Melanie Cotton, and Lorrie Reibert of Tulsa, Lani Luza and Lindsey Smith of Houston; and four great-grandchildren, Tyler and Sarah Reibert of Tulsa, and Hayleigh and Kara Luza of Houston.

Funeral service was held at Will Rogers United Methodist Church on Friday, 1
September 2000. Memorial contributions can be made to the church building fund.

Jack Thomas Smith's mother, Pearl Queenie Pulliam Smith was the daughter of Joseph Terrell Pulliam and Queenie Elvira Vaughter Pulliam. His maternal grandparents were Samuel Hiram Vaughter and Sarah C. Williams Vaughter.

A special thanks to Jane Smith for sending this information about her husband's death and ancestry.

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2001 VVV REUNION

Jim Vaughters has sent this last minute information about the 2001 reunion which is to be held August 2-5 at the Arlington Resort Hotel and Spa, 239 Central Avenue, Hot Springs, Arkansas. If you have not yet made a reservation, please do so as soon as possible. The number for reservations is 1-800-643-1502. Before the cut-off date of July 2, our special reunion rate was \$79.00 per night for up to 2 adults and 2 children per room. You will need to ask if this rate is still in effect. Valet parking is \$9.00 per day; self-parking is free.

The tentative schedule is as follows:

Thursday, August 2 - 3:00-9:00 p.m., registration in the Magnolia Room foyer
6:00-8:00 p.m., reception in the Magnolia Room
8:00-9:00 p.m., executive meeting, Board Room

Friday, August 3 - 9:00 a.m., opening meeting, Conference Center
10:00 a.m., genealogy session #1
12 noon, leave for cruise
12:30-2:15 p.m., luncheon cruise on the Belle of Hot Springs,
\$20.00 per person

Friday, August 3 - 3:30 p.m., genealogy session #2
6:00 p.m., buffet, Crystal Ballroom, \$25.00 per person
7:30 p.m., genealogy session #3

Saturday, August 4 - 10:00 a.m., genealogy session #4
2:00 p.m., genealogy session #5
6:00 p.m., banquet, \$20.00 per person

Sunday, August 5 - depart for home

The Arlington Resort Hotel & Spa is inside Hot Springs National Park, where bath houses are built on the famous hot springs of the park. Bath houses are available at the Arlington and Majestic Hotels, and at the public Buckstaff, which is within walking distance. Cost is \$16.00 for the bath and \$25.00 for a massage. The Arlington has swimming pools, outside hot tub and its own shopping mall.

The recent redevelopment of the city and area has resulted in several major attractions, including a horse racing track, several golf courses, art galleries, wax museum and Mid America Science Museum. For the younger and younger at heart, the Magic Springs & Crystal Falls is a combination theme park and water park. There is a good choice of recreation for those who do not attend the genealogy sessions.

When you register, you need to commit to and pay for your choices of the three group meals: luncheon cruise, Friday buffet, and Saturday banquet. As always, we let you know that all group meals are optional. The hotel uses a ticket system for the meals, and you must have a ticket in order to be served. We must give the hotel a guaranteed number 24 hours before each meal.

As has been the tradition for several years, entertainment will be the Vawter Family Singers. Don't forget to bring a door prize, and Jim asks that we bring liquid refreshments for the Thursday reception.

VAUTER'S CHURCH PRINT

One of the items available for purchase at Vauter's Church when we visited during the 2000 reunion was a print of the church. An association member recently contacted the church about getting a print, and was told they have sold out. However, consideration is being given to having more made if there is enough interest. The prints are \$40.00, and measure 18 x 24, unframed. There would probably be postage added to the cost. If you are interested, contact Julie Stuart, c/o Vauter's Episcopal Church, P.O. Box 54, Champlain VA 22438.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

We send "Happy Birthday" greetings to Ann Vawter Felton of Brownsville, Tennessee, who celebrates her 100th birthday this month.

DEATH OF SAMUEL L. VAWTER
THE VERNON (INDIANA) BANNER

January 28, 1868

(From *the St. Paul (Minnesota) Press*, January 16th)

It is a painful duty at any time to record a death, but the duty is rendered doubly painful when death has come to one well known, respected, loved, by the community as in the case of him whose name stands at the head of this article. Yesterday, at about 7 a.m., peacefully and quietly, surrounded by weeping friends and the members of his family, Mr. Vawter breathed his last.

The deceased was born in the State of Indiana, where he spent the early part of his life. He was married in that State, and remained there until 1852, in which year he removed to St. Anthony, Minnesota, where he resided for a number of years. He went back to his old home and remained for a while, returning to St. Anthony in 1856.

During his residence in St. Anthony, he made hosts of friends, not only there, but in various parts of the State. He became connected with the Presbyterian church in 1858, and ever after remained an active, consistent, useful member thereof.

In 1863 he removed to St. Paul and went into the wholesale drug business. Messrs. Simms and Rose were associated with him, and the business was transacted under the firm name of Simms, Vawter & Rose. He subsequently bought the interest of Mr. Simms, and Mr. Etter went into the firm, which took the title of Vawter, Rose & Etter. The firm changed its name again on the first of the present year by the retirement of Rose & Etter, and the advent of Pett and Moulton. The name of the new firm was Vawter, Pett & Moulton. In a business of the magnitude of that transacted by the various firms with which the deceased has been connected, he was necessarily brought into contact with a large number of the business men of the State, and thus he became intimately known and highly esteemed and respected for his many good qualities of head and heart. Upright, prompt, energetic and courteous, he had few superiors in business qualifications. His loss will be deeply felt in this community, for he was identified with all matters of public interest, and was connected with many of the societies and public institutions of the city. He was a member of Rev. Dr. Brown's church, (Central Presbyterian), a member of the Board of Trade, and one of the Directors of the Chamber of Commerce. He was also a member of Ancient Landmark Lodge of this city. He was very attentive to business, and somewhat over-taxed his strength, frequently laboring till a late hour of the night, especially since about the time of the last change in the firm. The books requiring considerable attention, and he being thoroughly posted, he spent whole evenings in going over them, and assisting in getting everything in running order.

About three or four weeks ago he took a violent cold, which settled in his back and confined him to the house. He soon recovered sufficiently (as he supposed) to resume his duties at the store, but in a few days he was compelled to return home. After careful treatment and a little rest he improved so much that he ventured out to hear a lecture (we believe it was the first one by Miss Anna Dickinson). This greatly increased his cold, and he returned home and soon after became confined to his bed. Dr. Wharton attended him, and

we believe, in the latter part of his illness, Drs. Willey and Stewart were called in as counseling physicians. He grew worse so rapidly that it was evident some days ago that he could not live. He accordingly made a will directing the disposition of his property, and with true Christian resignation, committed himself into the hands of an all-wise God. To those who conversed with him near the hour of his death, he expressed himself as perfectly resigned and willing to die, saying that it was "all well."

He leaves a wife and three small children to mourn his loss. Quietly and peacefully he fell asleep, *'Like one who draws the drapery of his couch about him, and lies down to pleasant dreams'*

His father and brother were expected on the train last evening. After their arrival arrangements will be made for the funeral services. It is not yet determined whether the remains will be removed to Indiana for interment or be placed in Oakland Cemetery.

In addition to the foregoing very chastely written obituary notice, we would remark that at St. Paul a funeral discourse well suited to the occasion was delivered to a crowded house, by the Rev. Dr. Brown, at the Central Presbyterian Church, after which, the remains of the deceased were conveyed to the Masonic hall and the usual rites of the order on such occasions attended to.

The remains were brought from St. Paul by the father and brother, to this place, and on Thursday, the 23d inst., consigned to Earth, in the grave-yard south of town.

FROM *THE VAWTER FAMILY IN AMERICA*

The following information on Samuel L. Vawter was taken from *The Vawter Family in American* by Grace Vawter Bicknell. The dates vary a little from those in his obituary.

Samuel Logan Vawter, son of Smith and Elizabeth Vawter, was born 20 January 1836 in Vernon, Indiana. While quite a boy, he clerked in the drug store of his brother, John T. Vawter, in Franklin, Indiana. A few years later, he bought a drug store at Martinsville, Indiana. In the year 1859, he went to St. Anthony, Minnesota, where he owned a drug store. In a few years, he and his partner moved to St Paul, Minnesota, where they started the first wholesale drug house in the northwest. Samuel Vawter was married 16 December 1856 at Franklin, Indiana, to Maria L. Bright, who was born at Franklin 18 March 1837. Their children were Irene, Mary and Charles. Samuel Vawter died 16 January 1868.

Irene E. Vawter, daughter of Samuel and Maria B. Vawter, was born in Martinsville, Indiana, 24 September 1857. She was married 17 October 1878 at Franklin, Indiana, to George Caldwell Banta.

Mary J. Vawter, second daughter of Samuel and Maria Bright Vawter was born in Martinsville, Indiana, 25 April 1859.

Charles Bright Vawter, son of Samuel and Maria Bright Vawter, was born in Minneapolis, Minnesota, 29 April 1862.

The Atlanta Journal
March 4, 1974
4 Rescued In Mountain Plane Crash

KANAB, Utah (UPI) - Verne Vawter, 49, aimed his helpless plane toward an opening in the snow-covered trees, touched down on frozen Navajo Lake and skidded to a bumpy stop.

The Bonita, Calif., man then crawled from the wreckage where his wife, Doris, 47, and two other passengers lay injured. He crossed the ice to a summer cabin and returned with blankets, coats and a sleeping bag.

After stuffing the apparel in the Cessna 210's windows to keep out the blistering winds, a snowstorm completely covered the craft.

However, the wreckage at the 9,000-foot level of the Cedar Mountains had been spotted and snowmobilers arrived at the site Sunday to carry the Vawters, Keith Hollenbeck, 52, and his wife, Joan, 50, of La Jolla, Calif. to safety.

Vawter told Kane County Patrolmen the plane was forced down after getting caught in 80-mile per hour winds over the mountains while the foursome was returning to California from a 10-day skiing trip to Aspen, Colo.

They were taken by ambulance to Kane County Hospital in Kanab, 65 miles from the crash site. Mrs. Vawter suffered a broken back in the crash, Hollenbeck broke his arm and his wife had a fractured vertebra. Vawter had cuts and bruises.

Vernon (Indiana) Banner
November 10, 1875

Martha Vawter, widow of Achilles Vawter deceased, died at the residence of her son-in-law, H. T. Read near Vernon, Ind., on the 17th day of Oct. 1875 in the 77th year of her age. She was born in Fayette county, Kentucky, and when quite young, with her father, Samuel Smith, moved to the State of Ohio; and when about 17 years of age she, while visiting relatives in Madison, Jefferson county, Ind., became acquainted with Achilles Vawter, to whom she was married in the year 1815, and about 1817 removed with her husband to Vernon, Jennings county, Ind., where they commenced keeping hotel, which business was continued by them for many years; and many a weary traveler has had occasion to bless their hospitality; always finding in their house a comfortable home with ample provision for their rest and refreshment.

Martha united with the Vernon Baptist church soon after its organization and continued a faithful working member, always bearing her share of its burdens until sore afflictions prevented her from active service. For about 25 years she has suffered much from disease of the eyes and a broken limb, but her sufferings have been borne with much fortitude and Christian patience.

She was the mother of 10 children, of whom only two sons and one daughter remain to mourn the loss of an affectionate mother. The funeral services were conducted by Rev. Thomas Hill.

UPDATE ON SWIFT AND JULIAN VAUGHTER PROJECT

Submitted by Jim Vaughters

Here it is the year 2001, exactly 200 years after John Vawter owned land and thereby appeared on the 1801 Tax Rolls of Elbert County, Georgia. The last descendent to own that same land, Julian Vaughter, willed it to the State of Georgia to be maintained as a wildlife preserve. Although Julian died in March of 1999, title to the property was not conveyed until late May of this year. Some of the technical procedures took more time than expected.

In 1999, the boundary surveys, internal identification of cemeteries and buildings, environmental tests, and exclusion of the house, store, etc. were done. In 2000, some interesting events occurred:

1. The Georgia Attorney General took months to decide that the State cannot honor the condition in the will of maintaining family graves at Harmony Baptist Church, property over which the State has no authority.

2. Title research revealed an additional two acre tract across Ruckersville Road, owned by the Vaughter brothers. The Colored School District deeded the land to them as its last act before disbanding in the 1950s. Because the school building is standing, the State decided not to accept it. (Maybe the Association wants to buy an old school?)

3. A dirt road touching the farm is owned by a neighbor who lives out of state and could not be located to sign an encroachment agreement.

4. One of the co-executors of Julian's estate was in an Atlanta hospital for months and unable to sign a deed.

Betty Burt, Pam Schlesinger and Jim Vaughters met in January to check out motels, restaurants, and the convention center. Plans are proceeding to have the 2002 reunion of the VVV Association in Elbert County.

IN REMEMBRANCE

Frances Willard Vawter Utley, 86, of Atwood, Tennessee, died Sunday, 27 May 2001, at Jackson-Madison County General Hospital of a stroke. She was a homemaker.

She was preceded in death by her husband, James Utley; and a brother, Brooks Vawter. She is survived by a son, Bobby Lee Utley of Atwood.

Mrs. Utley was the aunt of VVV Association member, Evelyn Vawter Williamson.

SYMPATHY

Sympathy is extended to VVV Association member, Hannah Williams, of Gary, Texas. Her husband passed away 27 May 2001, and was buried at Rosewood Memorial Park in Humble, Texas.



FAMILY ASSOCIATION

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Vol. 25 No. 4

NEWSLETTER
October 2001

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2001 VVV REUNION REPORT

From reports submitted by Cheryl Kelley and Jim Vaughters

The 2001 VVV Reunion was held at the Arlington Hotel in Hot Springs, Arkansas. Registration began on Thursday, August 2, in the Magnolia Room with a reception that evening. This year's hosts, Vernon and Traudl Vawter greeted everyone and Jim Vaughters had the archives on display. Fun and memories were shared by all. The reception was headed up by Ken and Norma Wicker.

FRIDAY

Registration continued on Friday morning in the foyer of the Ballroom. The opening meeting, held in the Ballroom, was called to order by the president, Ken Wicker, with a welcome to all. The traditional "ringing of the cowbell" was by James Quigley, son of Karla Vawter Quigley, and grandson of Jesse and Laneill Vawter. (Some may not know that the cowbell was made many years ago by Vernon Vawter.) Invocation was given by Karla Vawter Quigley. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by McDaniel Wicker, son of Roger and Gayle Wicker, and grandson of Fred and Wordna Wicker. Several items of business were discussed and new members were introduced.

The center aisle was "decorated" by Georgene Jurgenson's paper, including a listing of all the various spellings of the name that have appeared in public records. The number of spellings is amazing - 45!

The first genealogy session was to have been Marvin Vawter's presentation of his paper, "The Forgotten Man." He was unable to be present, so those who knew the story filled in for him. Marvin is a former president of the association. His great-great-grandfather William Vawter, son of David, was an officer in the Continental Army during the American Revolutionary War. The Continental Army was the professional and prestigious army, different from the militia. After the war, the officers formed the Society of Cincinnati, in which membership is limited to one male descendant of each officer. Marvin has the honor of holding membership as a descendant of William. As far as is known, William was the only V/V/V who was an officer in the Continental Army.

Georgene distributed and explained the "Cousins Chart," which always works in calculating relationships such as your half-uncle's 3rd cousin twice removed! If you would like a chart, please let us know.

Friday midday was the luncheon river cruise on the Belle of Hot Springs. It was a pleasant trip and the only way to see the homes of the wealthiest families in the area.

Friday afternoon's genealogy session was a display and description of the archives we have collected through the years. Our historian/archivist Jim Vaughters has promised to have them organized and indexed by the next reunion.

A buffet dinner featuring barbecue and catfish was enjoyed on Friday night. A highlight of the evening was good ole country music on the keyboard, played by our host, Vernon Vawter.

Jim Vaughters gave an update on the Swift and Julian Vaughter project in Elbert County, Georgia, and had more of their documents on display. He also told that it will be possible to hold the 2002 reunion in Elbert County.

SATURDAY

Saturday was reserved for everyone to do their own thing. Many attended genealogy and story telling sessions; others shopped and toured Hot Springs.

The morning genealogy session was one of the best ever. Georgene drew on her years of research in describing and charting the first four generations of V/V/V in America. She made it interesting in addition to being accurate and detailed.

The story telling session in the afternoon was a wide mixture of reminiscences, jokes, sad times, and serious thoughts. This family has no shortage of stories to tell!

The Saturday night banquet was a wonderful way to close the reunion. The hotel food was delicious, the V/V/V Family Singers, led by Ellen Cummings, were entertaining, and the door prizes were delightful. Vernon was given a standing ovation, and he and his cousins made a beautiful sight when they all got together.

The Memorial service was conducted by Fred and Wordna Wicker, with flowers being placed in a vase by James Quigley and Jordan Joling. Jackie Hudson sang "Precious Memories"

The nominating committee recommended the following be elected as officers for the coming year: President, Ken Wicker; Vice-President, Jesse Vawter; Secretary, Judy Blanks; Treasurer, Norma Jean Vawter; Assistant Treasurer, Barbara Vawter; Historian/Archivist, Jim Vaughters; Newsletter Editor, Bonita Welch; Associate Editor, Caroline Scarlett. All were elected by acclamation.

The youngest person in attendance was James Quigley, age 11; oldest was Silas Vawter, age 88; and the longest married were Evert and Maxine Joling, 56 years. Traveling the farthest was Marjorie Vawter from California. The roll call of states showed Texas having the largest number present - 16.

An invitation was extended by Jim Vaughters for the 2002 reunion to be held in Elberton, Georgia.

POSTSCRIPT FROM JIM VAUGHTERS

After the banquet on Saturday night, Sherry Neal showed up at the hotel with three relatives. She lives in Hot Springs, had just heard of the reunion, and had stories of being raised by "Grandpa Vawter." We are sorry Sherry missed the weekend, but welcome her to the association and hope to see her next year.

FUND RAISERS

A highlight of the reunions for several years has been the door prizes. Patricia Vawter Renton, of Pipe Creek, Texas, brought a lap quilt she had made, and instead of giving it away, it was decided to hold an auction. It was bought by Bob and Donna Vawter of Middletown, Delaware for \$140.00.

Vernon Vawter donated about 100 of his sketches of Vawter's Church. They were quickly sold out, with all the money given to the association.

With the money from the quilt auction, the sale of the sketches, and many people making donations, several hundred dollars were added to the treasury.

DIRECTORY

Before the Saturday night banquet, Jesse and Laniell Vawter took pictures of each one in attendance, and Cheryl Kelley got information from everyone so a directory can be compiled. If you did not attend the reunion, but would like to be included in the directory, please send a photograph - family or individual - to Jesse and Laniell. Jesse is vice-president of the association, and his address can be found at the beginning of this newsletter. Be sure to include your name, address, phone number, e-mail address, birthdate and how you fit on the Vawter(s)Vawter/Vaughter(s) family tree. They need to received this no later than December 1, 2001. There will be a nominal cost for the directory.

WHERE IS ELBERT COUNTY, GEORGIA?

Those V/V/V members who are accustomed to staying in luxury hotels, taking guided tours in air-conditioned buses, and sitting in comfortable meeting rooms to listen to presentations will have a different experience at the 2002 reunion. The Association voted, after hearing the hardships described to them, to meet in the area where John Vawter appears in the records in 1801. Elbert County, Georgia, is east of Atlanta and Athens, on the Savannah River that forms the boundary with South Carolina, and between Interstate Highways 85 and 20. The enclosed brochure describes the town of Elberton and the county.

Headquarters will be at the Civic Center, not a hotel. Suggested accommodations available in Elberton are the Holiday Inn Express (43 rooms), 706-283-8811, and Day's Inn (35 rooms), 706-283-2300. Ten miles out of town is Richard Russell State Park, with ten cottages. Each will sleep about six people. If you want to stay at the park, it is important to call now. The phone number is 1-800-864-7275.

The tentative schedule is as follows:

Wednesday, July 31, late afternoon -
Early birds arrive and visit the farm of Swift and Julian Vaughter.

Thursday, August 1, 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. -
Trip to Franklin County, historical society, James and Hiram Vaughter's farm, cemetery, etc.
4:00-9:00 p.m. -
Civic Center in Elberton, registration, reception, executive meeting

Friday, August 2 -
Opening meeting, ceremony at farm to dedicate park, tour the farm buildings, original house on farm, courthouse, monuments in town, Sons of the American Revolution ceremony, church cemetery - Sons of Confederate Veterans

Saturday, August 3 -
Go to Winder to see furniture from Swift and Julian's house,
Visit Ruckersville, return to Elberton for story-telling and banquet

Sunday, August 4 -
Service at Harmony Baptist Church, visit 200-year old restored house

As you can see, the genealogy sessions will be a matter of "go to where they lived" rather than sit and talk about them.

It is guaranteed to be hot and humid, and the woods will be full of chiggers. But, this is a once-in-a-lifetime event, so plan to be there!

HIRAM VAUGHTERS
submitted by Jim Vaughters

James and Jane Vawter/Vaughters settled in Franklin County, Georgia, in the early 1800s. James' father, John Vawter, was living in adjacent Elbert County with his second wife, Joanna Vernon. All ten of James and Jane's children were born in Franklin. The first was named William, probably for James' brother who, like James, was born in North Carolina to John's first wife, Franky Ward.

They named their second child Hiram S. Vaughter. Jane had been born in 1794, and living near them and selling land to them was Hiram Bennett, who was born in 1796. There is a good possibility that Jane and Hiram Bennett were siblings.

Hiram S. Vaughter was born in 1814, and lived his entire life in Franklin. He married Elizabeth Glenn in 1832. Their second child, Samuel Hiram, was born in 1837 and became a teacher, an officer in the Confederate Army, a P.O.W., and finally a teacher in the Indian Territory of Oklahoma. Their fourth child, born in 1841, was named Hiram J. He joined the Confederate Army at the same time as Samuel, but died in camp at Athens, Georgia, in 1862. Hiram J. was the second Hiram to die. His father, Hiram S. had died in 1853.

By the time Hiram J. died, his uncle, Lindsey Vaughters, brother of Hiram S., had married and was raising children in Dawson County, Georgia. His last child was Hiram Bennett Singleton Vaughters, born in 1865. The old matriarch Jane, who had moved to the mountains after James died, took all of her children except Hiram S. Having lost that son and his son of the same name, undoubtedly she was influential in the choice of name for Hiram Bennett Singleton, the 4th Vaughters man to have the name (including Samuel.)

Jane died in 1884. A short newspaper article in 1886 stated that Hiram Vaughters died in a prison in Atlanta. The only Hiram living at that time was Hiram Bennett Singleton. The article said that he was buried in Dawson County.

By that time, the patriarch of the family was Rev. George Robinson Vaughters, oldest son of Lindsey and Marinda Hicks Vaughters. George and his wife, Epsey Bennett, had sons in the following years: 1881, William Oscar Aiken; 1883, Linzey; 1885, Homer Charley.

After Jane and her grandson Hiram Bennett Singleton Vaughters had died in 1884 and 1886, George and Epsey Vaughters had one more son in 1891. What should they name him?

Living in that Shoal Creek area of Dawson County was an elderly couple who were relatives. Robert Bennett had married Jane Vaughter, a daughter of James and Jane who was born in 1829. Robert and Jane had a son whom they named Solomon Andrew Jackson Bennett. His tombstone at Bethel Baptist Church has his full name as well as the Masonic emblem.

"Uncle Jack," as Solomon Andrew Jackson Bennett was known, wanted to have that Vaughters boy named for him. It is not yet known exactly how Epsey was related to Robert, but the Bennett's and Vaughters' have been related forever it seems. George and Epsey agreed to give that name to him.

The Solomon Andrew Jackson certainly recognized the long and distinguished history of part of the Bennett family. But George and Epsey were not satisfied. They probably were thinking of Jane and her long life in Franklin, Lumpkin, and Dawson Counties. They surely thought of Hiram S., who died of a stroke while mining for gold in Lumpkin; of Samuel Hiram, who by then was living in Oklahoma; Hiram J., who died in a Confederate camp; and Hiram Bennett Singleton, George's youngest brother. And if Hiram Bennett was in fact a brother of Jane, there was another component in honoring the Bennett family.

Hiram Vaughters (Con't)

George and Epsey culminated many colorful family histories by naming my grandfather Hiram Solomon Andrew Jackson Vaughters. He was the last in that long line of Georgia Vaughters to carry the honored name of Hiram.

In the Samuel Hiram Vaughter family, the name has been passed to his descendants, and now belongs to Samuel's great-grandson, Paul Hiram Vaughter, Jr. of Sauk Rapids, Minnesota. Paul is the brother of former VVV president, Phil Vaughter.

- Jim Vaughters

SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

The events of September 11, 2001, affected us all in some way. It is a day that we will always remember "where we were" and "what we were doing."

For Paul and Connie Bugos of Farmington, Illinois, it was a day of personal loss. They had worked all day, and kept their business open late because of the long lines of people wanting gas. They were the only ones in their town still selling at a decent price, and at times there was a 1 ½ hour wait. After arriving home about 9:30 p.m., Paul was watching the reports on television and Connie was in the kitchen when she smelled something like plastic burning and discovered their house was on fire. Their bedroom, bathroom, a half bath and laundry room were completely destroyed. They lost all their clothing and bedroom furniture, and the rest of the downstairs had heavy smoke damage. Much of the house will need to be rebuilt and it will be four to six months before they can move back in. Still, they are thankful, realizing what could have been.

For Richard and Dorothy Vawter of New York City, the actual events were closer to home. They live in Manhattan at 211 East 18th Street, only 2 ½ miles from the site of the World Trade Center. So, while we were watching television and listening to the radio, Richard and Dorothy were "there."

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to first time grandparents, Phil and Peggy Vaughter of Austin, Texas. Reid Alen Marsh was born 9 June 2001 to daughter Courtney and her husband. Reid weighed 7 lbs 15 oz, was 21", and had, as Grandpa said, "a smile and curly brown hair."

A PERSONAL NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Family obligations kept us from the 2001 reunion, and Joe and I want to thank everyone for the card sent from those in attendance. We look forward to seeing everyone in Georgia in 2002.

LOOKING FOR COUSIN

Mary Beth Norwich is looking for her cousin, Richard "Richie" Vawter. He is the son of Amelia Norwich Vawter, who is deceased, and Theodore "Teddy" Vawter. Richard is in his 40s, his wife may be named Patricia, and he has an deceased older brother named Teddy, who is buried in Morgantown, West Virginia. She said he may have lived in Houston, Texas, at one time.

Mary Beth's need to locate her cousin involves the sale of timber on the Norwich farm in West Virginia. Her address is 2024 Mason-Dixon Highway, Core WV 26529, and her phone number is 304-879-4568. She does not have e-mail.

IN REMEMBRANCE

Thomas Lamar Wiley III, 26, died suddenly Saturday, September 15, 2001, at Baptist Memorial Hospital in Oxford, Mississippi.

He was a 1993 graduate of Jackson, Mississippi, Preparatory School, where he participated in football, basketball and track, and served as president of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. He was a member of First Baptist Church Jackson's Boy Scout Troop 8 and attained the rank of Eagle Scout. An active member of the church, he was president of the youth council, a member of the New Revelation youth choir and participated in many mission endeavors.

Mr. Wiley graduated from Mississippi State University in 1997 with a degree in communications. While there he served as president of Roadrunners student recruiters, was a senator in the student association, a member of Kappa Sigma fraternity and an officer in the Baptist Student Union. He served as a student summer missionary in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, and was employed as a summer intern at World Com.

On June 21, 1997, he married Laurie Michelle Dabbs, and they moved to Murfreesboro, Tennessee, where he was vice-president of corporate communications for American School Directory. He was an active member of River Oaks Community Church in Murfreesboro, serving as a member of the leadership team and the staff search team and was a couples Bible study leader. At the time of his death, he and his wife were relocating to Tupelo, Mississippi, where he was associated with Document Imaging Services.

Surviving with his wife are his parents, Thomas Lamar and Merrie Wiley of Jackson; a brother, David Arthur Wiley of Jackson; sisters, Mary Elizabeth Wiley and Julia Katherine Wiley of Jackson; grandmothers, Mary Helen Coburn of Ridgeland and Pearl Robbins Wiley of Tupelo; a great-uncle, William Wiley, of the U.S. Navy Retirement Home in Gulfport, Mississippi; and a great-aunt, Addie Edwards of Concord, North Carolina. He was preceded in death by his grandfather, Thomas Lamar Wiley.

Funeral service was held the First Baptist Church in Jackson, with burial at Parkway Memorial Cemetery in Jackson.

Thomas Lamar Wiley, grandfather of Thomas Lamar Wiley III, was a brother of Ora Wiley Wicker, the mother of Ken and Fred Wicker.

IN REMEMBRANCE

Funeral service for Shirley Ellen Vawter Byler, 92, of Sweeny, Texas, was held Saturday, September 8, 2001, at First Baptist Church in Old Ocean, Texas. Burial was at Sweeny Cemetery.

Shirley was born May 1, 1909, in Neosho, Missouri, the daughter of Albert Calvin and Frances Josephine Churchwell Vawter. She graduated from Southwest Baptist College and William & Jewell College and received her Master of Arts Degree in Counseling and Education from Missouri University at Columbia. She also attended Southwestern Theological Seminary in Ft. Worth. She was a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution for over 35 years. At the age of 11, she was saved and then baptized into the membership of the Woodland Baptist Church. In early years, she was a missionary volunteer and in later years became a member of the Mission Service Corp, which is a volunteer group of the North American Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Denomination.

Through the years, she kept busy as a mother, pastor's wife, school teacher and doll maker. She learned how to make marionettes and used them in church and school. In addition to teaching school for 33 years, she had also been a writer for many years. She sold her first poem while in high school. In junior college, she won 1st place in the state of Missouri Sunday School prohibition contest and 1st place in the Southwide WMU Tithing Story contest. After retiring from teaching school, she learned to use the computer and wrote and published two family history books. In October 1997, Southwest Baptist University conferred the honor of Life Service Award to her in recognition of outstanding Christian service.

Survivors include her husband of 67 years, the Rev. Roger L. Byler; a son, David Byler; a daughter, Elizabeth Melton; grandchildren, Robert Howard, Richard Howard, Randall Howard, Beverly Cowan, Gregg Howard, Daniel Byler and Matthew Byler; and great-grandchildren, Robyn Mathews, Austin Howard, Aisha Howard, Spence Howard, and Austin Byler. She was preceded in death by a daughter, Susan Esther Byler; and grandsons, Bert Howard and Timothy Byler.

Shirley and Roger have been members of the VVV Association for many years, and their daughter, Beth Melton, is a past president and secretary of the association.

One of the family history books Shirley wrote is *The Family of Albert and Josie Vawter*. This book tells not only about the descendants of Albert and Josie, but also the ancestors of Albert. It is an especially interesting account of the life of William and Frances Vawter, who were the great-grandparents of Shirley. William had kept a diary of sorts by writing on the backs of old letters and on scraps of paper. Most of his notes were dated and signed. Shirley was able to borrow those papers from the late Wallace Vawter, a grandson of William, put the notes in chronological order and included them in her book. An example of a note is: "26 May 1838 Received of my Mother-in-law Anna Vawter for safe keeping \$2.50."

Shirley attended many reunions, the last one being in 1998 in Austin, Texas. She was very proud of her Vawter heritage.



FAMILY ASSOCIATION

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Vol. 26 No. 1

NEWSLETTER
January 2002

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WHAT IS THERE TO DO IN ELBERT COUNTY, GEORGIA?

2002 Reunion Information From Jim Vaughters

Now that we have decided to go to Elbert County, Georgia, for the 2002 reunion, some may be wondering what will go on that is so interesting. With Swift and Julian Vaughter gone, we will be walking the ground that ancestors walked 200 years ago, honoring their lives and reconstructing some events.

Finding Elbert is the first job. From the west, I-20 goes through Atlanta, then exits at Madison (Jim's hometown) or Thomson will get to Elberton. From west and northwest, take interstate highways to Chattanooga (I-40 to Nashville, I-24 to Chattanooga, I-75 from Knoxville). Take I-75 to Atlanta, north loop of I-285 around Atlanta, then east on I-85, Athens Highway, or I-20. From the northeast, take I-85 south to Lavonia (where former Gov. Vandiver lives), then south to Elberton.

Housing has changed slightly. The cottages at Richard Russell State Park are full. The Holiday Inn Express, 706-283-8811, and the Days Inn, 706-283-2300, are more than half full. The reunion host does not recommend staying in any of the other motels in Elberton. The nearest other acceptable one is a Days Inn at Hartwell, 15 miles north of Elberton. That phone number is 706-376-4707.

Several professional catering services are bidding for our business for the evening meals on Friday and Saturday. The motels and other cafes serve good breakfasts, and a variety of restaurants offer lunch.

The reunion host spent parts of a week in December making some of the arrangements. The schedule has changed slightly (this is only the first change):

Wednesday, July 31 – View the farm, cemeteries, buildings.

Thursday, August 1 - Drive to Franklin County; visit courthouse, historical society, Vaughter farm and cemetery; lunch in Lavonia; Gov. and Mrs. Vandiver have asked to host a reception at their home; registration and executive meeting at Elberton Civic Center.

Friday, August 2 – Opening meeting; State of Georgia ceremony at farm to dedicate land; tour house, store, barn; lunch in Elberton; view original records at courthouse; drive to Winder to Doug Vaughters' house to see furniture and other artifacts from buildings; view 200-year old restored house; catered supper at Civic Center.

Saturday, August 3, Sons of Confederate Veterans ceremony at grave of Swift and Julian Vaughter's father; Sons of American Revolution ceremony at grave of John Vaughter (deep in the woods), if the S. A. R. accepts the evidence we are submitting as sufficient proof that he was a soldier in the war; Ruckersville; story-telling; banquet and closing meeting.

Sunday, August 4, Attend service at Harmony Baptist Church.

The main attraction are the Granite Museum, which is adjacent to the Civic Center; Veterans Park; the Georgia Guidestones; and the Nancy Hart cabin. Each one is unique, and will be described in the next issue.

For those who are worried about chiggers, we have the good news that former VVV president Beth Melton has volunteered to be the "chigger patrol." She is making a quantity of her sulphur compound, which she guarantees will keep the redbugs off!

NEWSLETTER INDEX

About two years ago, the Historian/Archivist suggested that because the newsletters have become so voluminous, an index is needed. Patricia Vawter Renton, of Pipe Creek, Texas, immediately volunteered to do the job. The CD she has created arrived just in time to announce in this issue that the job is done.

On this CD, Patricia has included all the newsletters from the very first one in 1977 through 2001. She added a section of excerpts pertaining to Vawters taken from Sudie Rucker Wood's "The Rucker Family Genealogy." As an added bonus, the CD also has the entire Grace Vawter Bicknell book, "The Vawter Family in America."

In the next newsletter, we will give information on how to obtain copies of the CD.

Meanwhile, we say "Thank you, Patricia! Your hard work, dedication and wisdom have created a wonderful work that will endure and be helpful to many."

ONCE A HOOSIER

Members of the Indiana Genealogical Society are invited to submit information about their 19th century ancestors, either native born or temporary residents who moved on to other states. The following biography appeared in the August 1993 Vol. 5 No. 4 issue of the society newsletter.

WILLIAM HAMILTON STAPP, born in 1843 in Madison, Jefferson Co., Indiana, to William and Margaret Julia Norris Stapp; married Anna Cornelia Robinson (born 25 July 1843 in Jefferson Co., Indiana, died 4 February 1936 in Dallas, Dallas Co., Texas) on 12 February 1867 in Madison, Jefferson Co., Indiana. Children: William E., Mary Margaret and Florence Elizabeth.

William H. Stapp worked in his father's cap and boot store in Madison, Indiana, and served as a sergeant in the Indiana cavalry during the Civil War. In 1878 he moved to Taylorsville, Williamson Co., Texas, to raise sheep. He left Texas in the 1880s to dig silver in Colorado and California. His death date and place are unknown.

Elias Stapp, William's grandfather, born 11 January 1786 in Orange Co., Virginia, to Achilles and Margaret Vawter Stapp, died 1 February 1867 in Madison, Jefferson Co., Indiana; married on 29 June 1810 in Jefferson Co., Indiana, Susan Branham (born 1 March 1789 in Kentucky, died 15 May 1859 in Jefferson Co., Indiana); moved to Kentucky with his parents in 1789 and later to the Madison, Indiana, area.

William Stapp, William H. Stapp's father, born in 1814 in Jefferson Co., Indiana; died 1902 in Jefferson Co.; married Margaret Julia Norris (born 1822 in Jefferson Co., died 6 February 1865 in Jefferson Co.,) on 30 April 1840 in Jefferson Co., Indiana.

Submitted to the Indiana Genealogical Society by Edward Robert Whittlesey-Stapp, 8348 Lullwater St., Dallas, Texas 75218.

SOME INDIANA WRITERS AND POETS

Edited by Alonzo Rice
Teachers Journal Printing Company
Marion, Indiana, 1908

Clara Vawter was born in Boone county, Virginia, September 25, 1873. She removed to Greenfield with her parents when she was quite a child. She graduated from the Greenfield High School. Her principal work in "Of Such is the Kingdom." A writer said of her, "Too much cannot be said in praise of the literary ability of Miss Vawter. She is natural, modest and unassuming in her writings and it may be said that this is one of the reasons of her success as a writer and for the enthusiastic way in which her work has been received." The illustrations were by her brother, Mr. Will Vawter, and they fulfill their mission – they illustrate. We see the genuine child attitude, unconscious as a bird or a bee; the artless turn of the head, and turn-in of the toes, the girls' funny little pigtail and her round-cornered apron, the boy's home-cut hair and home-made trousers.

THE ATLANTA JOURNAL-CONSTITUTION

Atlanta, Georgia January 21, 2002

Senior Couple to Sell Last Farm in DeKalb

Sunday suppers at Nannie and Papa's farmhouse are a cherished childhood tradition Beth Henley is having a hard time saying goodbye to. After attending church in Decatur, Henley recalls, her parents would take her and her two sisters to the Lithonia farm that has belonged to her grandfather for 56 years.

"They would cook homegrown vegetables from the farm and have fried chicken and roast and all the fixin's" remembers the 28-year old Henley, who now lives with her husband and two children in Conyers. "Nannie would make a cake when she was well."

A lot has changed since then. Nannie and Papa – known to the rest of the world as Rebecca and S. B. Vaughters – are admittedly "of age, and 89 and 90, respectively. They've sold the livestock and let the gardens go. They lease their property to a truck driver who cuts the hay to sell. And soon, their 141 acres of rolling hills lined with century-old oaks and rare granite outcroppings – believed to be the last working farm in DeKalb County – will be no more.

In the next few months, the state will complete the lengthy process of purchasing the farm as part of a green space initiative supporters hope will one day connect Arabia Mountain Park and Panola Mountain State Park. The 940-acre site – part of a planned 4,000-acre preserve stretching across three counties – will be the largest undeveloped tract of land in highly urbanized DeKalb County.

Vaughters is a Dawsonville native and University of Georgia graduate who goes by his initials. He dropped Silvey Brice from his name because it sounded too feminine. He said he agreed to the appraised \$2.8 million price tag for his farm "so it would stay like it is. I didn't want it to become houses or an office park".

Vaughters paid \$4,230 for the land in 1946 to raise cattle. He says he declined dozens of requests to sell to commercial real estate developers for much more than the state is paying. The state is leasing the land to DeKalb County for "a nominal fee" as part of the county's green space initiative, according to Paul Michael, chief of real estate for the state Department of Natural Resources.

The property is located near Evans Mill Road in Lithonia, not far from the explosion of retail and commercial development surrounding the Mall at Stonecrest. "Nearly all the rest of DeKalb County is covered up with homes and businesses," Vaughters said. "You can drive from Lithonia to Dunwoody and not find a piece of open land. I didn't want that here."

Neither did a lot of others. Vaughters' quest to leave his land virtually unchanged has the support of community groups, neighbors and lawmakers, including Gov. Roy Barnes and U.S. Sen. Max Cleland, a Lithonia native. "If Mr. Vaughters had not been willing to do this, it would have become a subdivision, no question about it," said Kelly Jordan, president of the Arabia Mountain Alliance, a nonprofit corporation that advocated green space preservation in south DeKalb. "A lot of lucky things happened, mainly that Mr. Vaughters was willing to stick it out."

Once the transaction is complete in the next four months, state officials plan to put a park ranger's station on the current site of the Vaughters' two-bedroom stone ranch house. Vaughters built it for \$2,200 in 1947 with the help of family members and a seventh-grader hired from a nearby school, according to his autobiography, "Real Life Experiences," published in 1989.

The couple is looking at houses now in Newton and Walton counties, still within a 30-minute drive of their four children, six grandchildren and four great-grandchildren scattered throughout Rockdale, DeKalb and surrounding counties. "We're going to miss knowing that it's there. We did most of our growing up at the farm," Beth Henley said. "But we're glad it's going to be preserved, and it won't be a big neighborhood or shopping center."

Looking back, Vaughters says he has no regrets about giving up his property so others can enjoy its beauty for years to come. "I bought this land because I got a good deal, and nobody wanted it," Vaughters said while surveying the land one recent afternoon. "I'm glad I held on this long, so others can take advantage of it. But I'm going to miss it, for sure."

“HOW CAN THESE BE SAVED?”

By Jim Vaughters

In her 1905 book, “The Vawter Family in America,” Grace Vawter Bicknell wrote A Personal Word before launching into the history. In the first paragraph, she showed her motivation for the work:

“My father had some old records in his possession which came to him from his father. These were yellow with age and falling to pieces. In another generation they would probably have been lost. In looking those records over, the thought came to me: ‘How can these be saved?’ It was then that the present history was begun, with no hope or prospect of pecuniary reward, but with the desire of preserving to our children the records of their fathers.”

These words are as true today as they were when they were written 97 years ago. Family members collect writings, photographs, letters, research (census, wills, deeds), and now CDs, Internet printouts, etc. How can all this data be saved?

First, it needs to be organized (the nemesis of many genealogists). Second, a family needs to talk and decide who gets the data in the next generation. Third, if no one wants it, don’t throw it away. Consider donating it to the VVV Archives.

Many people have given their records to the Association during their lifetime. Their material makes up a major portion of the archives. But most people want to keep their records all of their lives.

A simple thing to do is to include a paragraph in a will that has the effect of giving the records to the Association. The following could be used as a model:

“During my lifetime I have collected genealogical information only ancestors named Vawter/Vauter/Vaughter(s). These records contain writings, photographs, letters, research, deeds, wills, CDs, computer programs, etc. I hereby give all such records to the archives of the Vawter/Vauter/Vaughter(s) Family Association. I direct that my executor contact that Association and arrange for the organizing, packing and shipping of such records to the Association. I further direct that my executor pay all expenses of such organizing, packing and shipping from my estate as an expense of administration, before distributing any proceeds to my heirs or devisees. In the event that my estate does not have funds available, my executor shall request the Association to bear the expenses. Finally, I give such records to the VVV Family Association with the hope and expectation that the Association will maintain them and make them available to members in perpetuity.”

BITS ‘N PIECES

Fred Wicker is recuperating and doing well after having quadruple by-pass surgery on January 21.

The Rev. Karen B. Woodruff has resigned as Priest in Charge of Vauter’s Church in Virginia. Her last Sunday service was December 30, 2001.

QUERY

From: Cheryl Dewey Cheryl---dewey@ram-mail.com

Cheryl is seeking information on Rachel Crawford who married Peter Smith. Rachel was the daughter of James M. and Lucy Vawter Crawford.

IN REMEMBRANCE

Ann Vawter Felton, 100, died 30 January 2002 at Methodist Healthcare-Brownsville Hospital in Brownsville, Tennessee. She was born in Milan, Tennessee, the daughter of James Alma and Bessie Bryant Vawter.

Mrs. Felton was a graduate of Milan High School and West Tennessee Business College. She worked for Carroll Paper Company for twenty years and was a retired Staff Member of the American Red Cross, having served for ten years. She was a member of St. Luke's Episcopal Church.

Survivors include two stepsons, Paul Felton of Sugar Land, Texas, and Robert Felton of Baton Rouge, Louisiana; and a niece, Mary Jane Felker of Brownsville, who was her caregiver. She was preceded in death by her husband, Henry D. Felton.

Funeral service was held at St. Luke's Episcopal Church. Burial was at Ridgecrest Cemetery.

Mrs. Felton had been a member of the association for many years. She was a cousin of the late Robert M. "Pete" Vawter.

Thomas H. Vawter, 68, of Milan, Tennessee, died January 2002 at Memphis Veterans Medical Center. He was a truck driver for Travis Pallet Company, and an Air Force Veteran of the Korean War.

Survivors include a daughter, Angela Manne of McKenzie; his mother and step-father, Ida Mai Vawter Earls and Carson Earls of Milan; three sisters, Mary Medlin of Collierville, Martha McLeod of Oakland and Linda Dison of Conway, Arkansas; and a brother, John Vawter of Walls, Mississippi.

Burial was at Oakwood Cemetery.

Julian Carey Pike, 88, a lifelong resident of Prentiss County, Mississippi, died 10 February 2002 at Booneville Baptist Hospital. He was born 3 December 1913, the son of James Edward and Julie Lyle Pike.

He was a member of Tuscumbia Baptist Church and a farmer

Survivors include his wife of 65 years, Trana Barker Pike; a son, Jerry Pike; three daughters, Elizabeth Mathis, Martha Lindsey, and Linda Martin; a sister, Martha Barker; several grandchildren and several great-grandchildren, all of Booneville. He was preceded in death by four brothers, Wythel, Keith, Rupert and Randy Pike.

Carey Pike, his brother, Rupert, and their families attended the reunions that were held in Tupelo. Many will remember being entertained by Rupert's excellent Harmonica playing.

IN REMEMBRANCE

Francis Elizabeth “Beth” Vawter Sabel, 82, of Portland, Oregon, died 29 December 2001, at St. Jude Care Center in Portland. She was born 29 September 1919 in Fruita, Mesa County, Colorado, the fourth child and eldest daughter of Vernon Day and Renabelle Eliza Cope Vawter.

She graduated from the eighth grade in Grand Junction, then stayed home to help with chores. At age nineteen she went to Salvation Army Officers Training College in San Francisco, and was a Salvation Army officer for about six years. Beth worked as a fur finisher for several years, then as a seamstress. She was proud of the fact that she helped make the first uniforms worn by waitresses in the restaurant of the Seattle Space Needle.

For twenty years, Beth worked as a housekeeper in the maternity department of the Multnomah County Hospital. She was devoted to the babies, and would buy bolts of fabric to make layettes for the poor families who had nothing for their newborns. After retiring, she crocheted hundreds of tiny hats for “preemie” babies so they would not lose body heat from their heads. She also crocheted stocking caps to give to the Salvation Army for poor people at Christmas. Her goal was to make 100 caps each year.

Then she starting crocheting little Christmas wreaths. After entering an assisted living facility, she made a wreath for each of the staff members, then one for each of the residents, then 100 for the Christmas tree in the activity room. Finally, there was a basket of them on the counter with a sign that read “Made by the loving hands of Beth Sabel. Help yourself.” After she forgot how to make the little wreaths, Beth kept herself busy at the facility by clearing the tables after each meal. Her entire life was spent helping others.

Survivors include a son, Thomas Vernon Griffith of Portland; a granddaughter, Deborah Cheryle Griffith; two brothers, James Byron Vawter of Springfield, Missouri, and Charles Dalton Vawter of Crooked River Ranch, Oregon; four sisters, Alberta Vander Mei of Portland, Eleanor Marie Spink of Boring, Oregon, and Bertha Rose Craft and Dorothy Irene Vawter, both of Reno, Nevada; and many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by three brothers, Harry Cope Vawter, Virgil Dale Vawter, and Ronald Earl Vawter; a niece, Pamela Ann Vawter; and a nephew, Ronald Dean Vawter.

At Beth’s request, there was no funeral or memorial service. Memorials may be made to Doernbecher Children’s Hospital Foundation, 1121 SW Salmon St., Suite 201, Portland OR 97205.

Beth was a longtime member of the association, and before Alzheimer’s Disease made it impossible for her to travel, she enjoyed attending the annual reunions. She was a past officer of the association and had assisted with the newsletter.

THANK YOU

Special Thanks to Ellen Cummings, the Rev. Ralph Fall, Richard Greene, Alberta Vander Mei, Jim Vaughters, Norma Jean Vawter and Wordna Wicker for providing information for this newsletter. All help is greatly appreciated.!

Members and Friends Registered at 2001 Reunion

Because of lack of space, this list was not printed in the October 2001 newsletter.

ARKANSAS

Terry and Nancy Haynes
Gene and Gay Herndon
Harold and Sybil Lansdale
Jean Lee
Charles and Janis Vawter
Vernon and Trudy Vawter

CALIFORNIA

Glena Swinburn
Garry B. Vawter
Marjorie Vawter

COLORADO

Jim Vaughters

DELEWARE

Robert and Donna Vawter

GEORGIA

Betty Burt
Richard Greene
Cheryl Kelley; Tim and Kristy Glasgow

ILLINOIS

Paul and Connie Bugos
Edith Vawter

INDIANA

Milton and Charlotte Pickett

MICHIGAN

Patricia Vawter Klein

MISSISSIPPI

Judith Crawford
Sue Hunt
Jackie Hudson
Martha J. Hudson
Norma S. Vaughters
Fred and Wordna Wicker
Ken and Norma Wicker
McDaniel Wicker

NEW YORK

Richard and Dorothy Vawter

OKLAHOMA

Bill and Sharon Coursey
Melba Harris
Bill and Virginia Vawter
Joe Don Vawter
John N. Vawter
Oscar and Erma Vawter
Patricia Vawter
Silas Vawter

SOUTH DAKOTA

Georgene Jurgensen

TENNESSEE

Bill and Julia Blanks
Nolen and Eloise Bradley
Caroline Vawter Scarlett
Barbara J. Vawter; Emily J. Defur
Katelyn Vawter
Norma Jean Vawter

TEXAS

Randy and Donna Joyce
Beth Melton
Rick and Judy Pennington
Karla Vawter Quigley; James
Patricia Vawter Renton
Joy Vawter Richter
Phil and Peggy Vaughter
J. W. and Diannia Vawter
Jesse and Laneil Vawter
John H. and Sue Vawter

VIRGINIA

Ned and Ellen Cummings; Frederick

WISCONSIN

Evert and Maxine Joling
James Joling
Jordan Joling



NEWSLETTER

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April 2002

Volume 26. No.2

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Dues - \$7.00 per year

IF A RENEWAL FORM IS ENCLOSED, YOU NEED TO PAY DUES

2002 REUNION UPDATE FROM JIM VAUGHTERS

Elbert County, Georgia, will host more VVVs August 1-4, 2002 than it did 200 years ago when John and Joanna Vawter settled there. With the help of former Governor Ernest Vandiver, Probate Judge Susan Saxton, Doug Vaughters, Richard Greene and many others, the plans are coming along.

Early-early birds need to arrive on Wednesday, July 31, to visit the farm that evening, then tour Franklin County the next day. The Franklin County tour includes the court house, Historical Society, three cemeteries, house foundation, church and lunch. It will be capped off by a reception hosted by Governor and Mrs. Vandiver at their home in Lavonia.

Later on August 1, the Elberton Civic Center will be the site of the registration, reception and executive meeting. Vaughter's and Vaughters' from Georgia, mostly Dawson County, will host the reception, and rumor has it that some of that Dawson County moonshine might show up!

Friday, August 2, is the State of Georgia ceremony dedicating the land given by Swift and Julian Vaughter. We will tour the buildings, now owned by David and Shelly Lester of Ruckersville, the courthouse and town monuments. A trip is planned to Winder to see Doug Vaughters' collection of Vaughter/Vaughters furniture. Then it is back to

Elberton Civic Center for supper and a tour of a 200-year-old house.

Saturday, August 3, we begin with a ceremony honoring James Benson Vaughter, father of Swift and Julian, who was a Confederate soldier. Another ceremony will honor John Vawter, tentatively approved by the Sons of the American Revolution. Also that day will be a trip to Ruckersville, storytelling, and the annual Saturday Night Banquet, featuring a sing-along of all patriotic songs.

The reunion closes with a worship service on Sunday, August 4, at Harmony Baptist Church. The church is the site of the Confederate Ceremony and across the road from the land dedication.

A brief schedule of the reunion:

- Wednesday, July 31 - Early-early birds
- Thursday, August 1 - Trip to Franklin County for the early birds
 - Registration
 - Reception, hosted by the Georgia Vaughter/Vaughters
 - Executive meeting
- Friday, August 2 - Opening meeting
 - Ceremony by the State of Georgia and tour of buildings
 - Visit Doug Vaughters' home in Winder
 - Evening meal (about \$15.00)
 - Tour a 200-year-old house
- Saturday, August 3 - Confederate Ceremony
 - S. A. R. Ceremony
 - Visit Ruckersville
 - Storytelling
 - Banquet (about \$15.00) and sing-along of patriotic songs.
- Sunday, August 4 - Service at Harmony Baptist Church

Welcome to an All-American Reunion. Be sure to watch for all those granite displays as you drive into Elberton.

WHAT TOURIST ATTRACTIONS ARE IN ELBERT COUNTY, GEORGIA?

"The Granite Capital of the World" not only attracted John and Joanna Vawter to settle there 200 years ago, it has now attracted the VVV Reunion for August 1-4, 2002. Almost every title and every activity in the area has some relation to granite. Swift and Julian Vaughter's old story about the granite foundation of the original house being quarried on the farm is typical.

Reunion headquarters is the Civic Center. Next door is the Granite Museum and Exhibit. In an hour or two you can learn more than you ever wanted to know about the nature of granite, the history of quarrying, the tools and equipment, and the uses of this rock. Thirty-five quarries and 100 manufacturing plants contribute to the museum.

The Georgia Guide stones are seven miles north of town. They pose a mystery and a

philosophical message providing “guides” for the preservation of mankind. Known as the “Stonehenge of America,” the Guide stones are mysterious in origin, for no one knows the identity of a group of sponsors who provided specifications for the 19-foot high monument.

Veterans Park, on the north edge of town, is unique. Each war from the Revolution to Vietnam has its own separate monument. No two are alike; they vary in design, shape, size and color. It is a pretty and innovative park.

Nancy Hart Historical Park honors the tallest, ugliest, meanest woman of the Revolutionary War. The stories of her single-handed feats are everywhere. The park and cabin are ten miles south of Elberton.

The grave of Old Dan Tucker, six miles east of town, honors a patriot, a minister and champion of slaves. (The years of his birth and death are almost identical to those of John Vawter.)

On August 1 as we travel to Franklin County, we will pass the Ty Cobb Museum in Royston, Georgia. He was the first member of the Baseball Hall of Fame, and grew up in Royston. This is about half hour north of Elberton.

ACCOMMODATIONS

The hosts are recommending the Holiday Inn Express, 706-283-8811, and the Days Inn, 706-283-2300. Both are near the Civic Center. Originally recommended was Richard Russell State Park, but all the cottages there are now full. Those who have already made reservations at the Holiday Inn Express are urged to call or write for a confirmation.

REUNION T-SHIRTS

Again this year, Connie Bugos has volunteered to have t-shirts made for the reunion. She expects the price to be about \$1.00 or so more than in the past. If you are interested, call her at 309-245-4931 after 3:30 p.m. Or, she can be reached by way of e-mail at buggram@att.net.

ANOTHER REUNION: DAWSON COUNTY, GEORGIA

The fourth annual reunion of Dawson County Vaughters will be held on Sunday, June 9, 2002. This reunion was first organized in 1997 by Becky Vaughters McCord, Gary Vaughters, and the late Charles Burt.

Bethel Baptist Church in the Shoal Creek community is the location, and the tentative schedule is:

11 a.m. – Visit the church cemetery (Maybe the largest concentration of VVV graves anywhere)

11:45 a.m. – Photograph on front steps of church

Noon – Family History (Jim Vaughters has a surprise)

1 p.m. – Potluck Dinner

If you are a Georgia Vawter/Vaughter/Vaughters, you need to attend.

GOVERNOR VANDIVER'S BOOK

“Ernest Vandiver, Governor of Georgia” was published in 2000. Our cousin is proud of the work, which was years in the making. It is Georgia history through and through and an important biography.

He recently gave a copy to the Historian/Archivist, who will display it at the reunion. The first chapter, “Franklin County Roots,” will look very familiar to us. His Vaughters grandmother is mentioned on page two.

Congratulations and thank you, Governor.

IDENTIFICATION OF PHOTOGRAPHS

The January 2002 newsletter featured an article by Jim Vaughters that emphasized the importance of the preservation of our genealogical records. Along this same line is the identification of photographs. Many of us have pictures of a happy couple on their wedding day, adorable babies, family groups, etc. Unfortunately, we don't know who they are.

Just recently, a cousin give me an old photo album. At first glance, I was thrilled! Although the album was falling apart, it was filled with pictures; some were still pasted to the pages, but many had come loose and I could see writing on the backsides of a few. My elation soon turned to frustration. Most of what I thought would be identification will require detective work. Written on a picture of an elderly woman and several young children sitting on a porch step is “the children.” Three young boys are identified as “brothers.” Another picture has “my aunt in the car.” But the one that really caught my eye was of an elderly couple, a younger woman and a cow. It says, “Our old cow Blackie.”

We should all take the time to write names and dates on our photos. Also, copies should be made to share with other family members.

CLEVELAND VAUGHTERS

Cleveland Vaughters, formerly of Madison, Georgia, recently moved. His new address is:

c/o Magnolia Estates Retirement Center
624 Gainesville Highway
Winder, Georgia 30680
Phone: 770-867-4256

Magnolia Estates has two other retirement homes. One of them is in Elberton where Julian Vaughter lived from 1997-1999.

Cleveland's younger son, Doug, lives in Winder. His older son, Jim, credits Cleveland with getting him interest in family history; every time he went somewhere he would look in phone books for other Vaughters. This must be a family trait, as many members of the VVV Association do the same thing!

THE UPPER ROOM
Daily Devotional Guide
July-August 2001

The Blanket Angel

“My family has just kissed me goodbye, and the nurse is rolling my bed toward the operating room. As I wait for the anesthesiologist, I am moved to the coldest, hardest cart on this planet. The gap in the back of my “fashion gown” seems to grow wider and wider as the cold from the cart starts to freeze my body.

“All of a sudden a beautiful voice speaks to me, ”Would you like this warm blanket?” It is the voice of the “blanket angel.” A nurse takes the softest, warmest, most cuddly blanket I ever felt and spreads it across my body. I no longer feel alone, cold, or afraid.

“After surgery, my doctor tells me that he has discovered cancer in my body. Inwardly, I fell as cold and lonely as when I lay on the cold, steel cart. But as the days pass and my family and friends begin to get word of my condition, I keep hearing those phrases: “We just want you to know that we are praying for you,” or, “You are on our prayer list.” As the blanket warmed my body, so these prayers bring me God’s warm love. I am strengthened day by day through the power of prayer.”

Prayer: Warm us, dear God, by your love. Strengthen us through the faith of your children. Amen.

Thought for the Day

Our prayers can help to warm those who are enduring cold and lonely times.

Sam Vaughter * (Texas)

* Mr. Vaughter died during the production of this issue.

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PRINTS OF VAUTER’S CHURCH

As always, a highlight of the reunions held in Virginia is a trip to Vauter’s Episcopal Church. When we visited in 2000, prints of the church were available for purchase, either framed or unframed. The supply was sold out shortly after the reunion, and several people were disappointed that they did not buy one while in Virginia. The April 2002 issue of “Vauter’s Parish Post” tells that they now have more prints. The cost is not given. For information, contact Danna Dickinson c/o Vauter’s Episcopal Church, P. O. Box 154, Champlain VA 22438. A phone number given is: 804-443-4788. This same address could be used if you are interested in being on the mailing list for the church newsletter.

LINDSEY VAUGHTERS
Submitted by Jim Vaughters

By the time John Vawter and his second wife, Joanna Vernon Vawter, moved to Elbert County, Georgia in about 1805, many of the traditional family names had been given to John's children. He had brought those names from Virginia, where he was born, to North Carolina where he moved as a young adult. He and his first wife, Franky Ward Vawter, names their children Franky (who married Cooper Bennett and settled in Pendleton, South Carolina), William (who never married and is buried beside John in Elbert), and James (who lived briefly in Elbert and then moved to adjacent Franklin County, where he married Jane.)

The years in Surry and Stokes Counties, North Carolina, produced John and Franky's children. Franky died about 1791, and shortly thereafter John married Joanna, the daughter of his good friend Richard Vernon. Around 1795, they had a son Richard (named for both of his grandfathers.) Elizabeth was born about 1800 and Nancy about 1804.

By that time, John owned land in Elbert and was selling his land in Stokes. After they moved to Georgia, they had a son and broke tradition by giving him a name that the family had not previously used. A record has been found of a prominent businessman in the area named Reuben Lindsey who did some business with John. The baby born in 1808 was named Lindsey Vawter.

Lindsey was the next to last child of John. (Russell was born in 1813 and was named for John's brother, who had moved from Virginia to North Carolina also.) When Lindsey was young, John, Joanna and William died. His older brother, Richard, was the elder Vawter in Elbert for many years and undoubtedly was influential in Lindsey's life.

Of his generation, Lindsey was the only one who both stayed on the original farm and married. He and Mary Polly McMullen Hulme had their first child in 1844. His first name was that of an older half-brother of Lindsey – his full name was James Benson Glean Vaughter. He became the father of Swift and Julian Vaughter.

When Lindsey's older brother Richard died in 1856, he willed all his property to Lindsey's five children, but not to Lindsey. The children had to have a guardian appointed to protect their property. Their father, Lindsey, was appointed, and the amount of the bond that the Probate Court required him to post was \$11,000.00, a huge sum for 1858.

Meanwhile, the older half-brother, James, had been raising a family in Franklin County. After naming sons William and Hiram (one name for each side of the family), James honored his younger half-brother by naming the third son Lindsey, born in 1821.

At a young age, Lindsey Vaughter became the man of the family. His older brother, Hiram, married in 1832; his father, James, died in 1836; and his oldest brother, William, has been described in several documents as being not of sound mind. By 1839, the widow Jane had completed the probate of James' estate, had sold the family farm to her son Hiram, and had packed up the other eight children and moved to the mountains of Lumpkin (later Dawson) County. Eighteen-year-old Lindsey was the leader of that group of children.

In the 1840s, Jane bought two 40-acre lots and Lindsey bought a lot almost every year. While his younger sisters were marrying, he farmed, acquired land, and supported his mother, his older brother William, and all the girls. He continued the same life patterns throughout the 1850s.

In 1857, several significant events occurred: The last of Lindsey's sisters married; Dawson County was formed; Jane wrote her will (a wonderful genealogical document); and Lindsey finally married. His bride was Marinda Kesiah Hicks. Photographs of her are consistent with the story that she was Cherokee. Ironically, Lindsey married a woman of the very nation from whom white man had taken the land that was not his. Perhaps he was making up for some of the past wrongs. That kind of attitude might have led to his demise. Lindsey and Marinda had a baby a year for the rest of his life. He became a Christian, was active in Bethel (Shoal Creek) Baptist Church, and volunteered to work for the County Commission for the Poor. The responsible attitude that he had developed early continued to be his trademark.

Lindsey was 40 years old when the Civil War began in 1861. He was enrolled in the Home Guard, a form of local militia. These men were supposed to protect the local population – they took this as a license to loot and steal from locals and even to kill them. Some of the family grudges that had burst out in the Southern Appalachian Mountains during the Revolutionary War were leading to an internal civil war within a civil war. Lindsey rebelled against the Home Guard and became pro-Union, as did much of northern Dawson County and other mountain counties.

His activities led to his arrest at one point in 1864. The war ended in April 1865, but the grudges continued. A Gainesville newspaper reported that in October 1866, three men were hanged in Gainesville, one of whom was Lindsey Vaughters. Story has it that the old Home Guard did the hanging.

Lindsey and Marinda gave all of their children names from the Vaughters' side and none from the Hicks'. One son, George, continued the tradition. His sons, the grandsons of Lindsey, were named: William Oscar Aiken, born 1881; Linzey, born 1883; Homer, born 1885; and Hiram S. A. J., born 1891.

Linzey was a fun-loving man. He lived on the same land that his namesake had farmed. He married an Anderson cousin, worked hard, and was a dedicated 'coon hunter. The house where he lived his adult life still stands. His five daughters have been proud of their Vaughter heritage and have attended many VVV reunions.

When Uncle Linzey died on 1960, he left one son. Charlie Lindsey lived from 1924 – 1994. He was the fourth Vaughters man, going all the way back to Elbert County, to have the name. When he died, the name might have died with him.

If any members of the VVV Association know of any other Lindsey, please write a paragraph or article about him and send it to the news editor.

Edna Bowers, of Choctaw, Oklahoma, has sent information about her grandparents, Henry Alfred and Winna Juliann Vaughters Waters, who left Georgia between 1888 and 1890. This will appear in the July 2002 newsletter.

Thank you to all who continue their support by submitting information!

JONATHAN VAUGHTERS

Those who follow the career of professional cyclist Jonathan Vaughters, son of Jim and Donna Vaughters, should check out his web site: www.vaughters.com You might want to sign his guestbook, too.

SOME HELPFUL HINTS

If there is no marriage bond for a second marriage, look for an age gap between children to try to determine when the first wife died.

Often, a later child was given the same name as one who had died earlier.

An “orphan” could be someone under 21 whose father had died; the mother might still be living.

Watch for occupations being capitalized as identification following a name, without a comma. John Williams Carpenter in 1785, was possible John Williams, carpenter. John Henry Taylor may well have been John Henry, tailor.

When examining a Bible record, notice if the handwriting is all the same. If it is, all entries were probably made at the time of the latest entry. Entries made at the time the event occurred are more apt to be accurate.

IN REMEMBRANCE

Katherine Marjorie Boutz Baskin, 84, died 30 October 2001. She was born 12 May 1917 in Harris, Saskatchewan, Canada, the youngest child of Frank Anton and Maude Jane Vawter Boutz.

Survivors include five children, Joyce Katherine Baskin Peterson and her husband Lynwood Peterson of Hockley, Texas, John Young Baskin and his wife Betty of Rockville, Maryland, Linda Joan Baskin Ryder and her husband Ronny Ryder of Pueblo, Colorado, James Douglas Baskin of Houston, Texas, and Claudia Baskin Collins; 14 grandchildren; and 20 great-grandchildren.

Mrs. Baskin enjoyed attending the Wisconsin and Tennessee reunions of the VVV Association with her daughter, Joyce Peterson. Her grandparents were William Franklin and Melissa Iowa Stapleton Vawter; great-grandparents were John Wesley and Emily Jane Wheeler Vawter; great-great-grandparents were Hiram and Mary A. Good Vawter; and great-great-great-grandparents were Edward and Phoebe Vawter.

Sympathy is extended to Georgene Jurgensen and family. Her husband, Russ Jurgensen, died 21 February 2002. A memorial service will be held for him in the summer.

A note was received from an attorney in Wichita, Kansas, notifying us of the death of Elsie M. Hill on 17 June 2001. Her husband, Dale L. Hill, died in December 2001. Mrs. Hill was a longtime member of the association.



NEWSLETTER

FAMILY ASSOCIATION

July 2002

Volume 26. No.3

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Dues - \$7.00 per year

IF A RENEWAL FORM IS ENCLOSED, YOU NEED TO PAY DUES

REUNION REMINDER

If you have not yet made plans to attend the 2002 reunion in Elberton, Georgia, now is the time to do so. The event will be held August 1-4, although a tour is planned for Wednesday, July 31, for those who arrive early.

Our host, Jim Vaughters, is recommending that reservations be made at either the Holiday Inn Express, 706-283-8811, or the Days Inn, 706-283-2300. If both of these are already filled, there are other motels in Elberton.

The Elberton Civic Center will be the site of the registration, reception and executive meeting on Thursday, and will be the gathering place to begin the several tours. It is also the location of the Friday evening dinner and the annual Saturday Banquet.

Once again, we will be entertained by the Vawter Family Singers under the direction of Ellen Cummings. This group is open to anyone and a rehearsal time will be scheduled.

At the Memorial Service on Saturday night, we will remember those members and friends whose obituaries have appeared in the newsletter during the past year. If you have others to add, please send the information to the newsletter editor before July 22 or bring it with you to the reunion.

The tradition of giving door prizes continues, so be sure to bring something. Some people contribute an item that is VVV related or symbolic of their area of the country.

A schedule of the reunion is in the April 2002 newsletter.

WATERS FAMILY

Written by Edna Bowers of Choctaw, Oklahoma

My grandparents left Georgia and came to Texas between 1888 and 1890. I do not know the way they traveled, either by wagon train or by rail train. Between 1895 and 1899 they moved into Oklahoma, which was Indian Territory. Many people were migrating west at that time to get out of the deep southern states, which had been torn up by the Civil War.

Grandpa and Grandma settled in Lincoln County, ten miles southeast of Davenport, Oklahoma. This was almost on the bank of the Deep Fork River. My Grandfather Waters was a farmer and a good one.

Grandmother Julia was a loving and precious woman. As far back as I can remember I dearly loved her. I was always thrilled to know Grandma was coming to see us or I was going to her house. Everyone who met her loved her, for she had two wonderful things she gave to everyone. One was a pleasant smile and the other was love that flowed from her. She was truly like Will Rogers in the fact that she never met a person that she didn't love.

It was through her chaste Christian living that won my grandpa to accept the Lord Jesus Christ as his Savior. My grandpa fell in love with Jesus and faithfully served Him. He and Grandma had their devotion every morning after breakfast. I have heard him pray for everyone in the family many times. Each summer when he got all the crops laid by, he and another preacher would go to a schoolhouse or put up a brush arbor and hold a few weeks revival. They would take turns preaching. Each Sunday while the revival was in progress we had a delicious dinner at the church. My how those country ladies could cook! When I was a child on the farm, this was all the church we would have all year. Everyone in the community was eager to attend. The only transportation we had was wagons drawn by mules or horses. This was the only way we had to hear the Gospel preached.

I thank God for giving to us a great Christian heritage. Very few, if any, members of our families died without Christ as Savior. God certainly does answer prayer.

Henry Alfred Waters b. 14 Jan 1863, Georgia d. 10 Dec 1925, Oklahoma
Winna Juliann Vaughters b. 12 Jan 1863, Georgia d. 1 Sep 1951, Oklahoma
Henry and Winna Juliann were married 16 Sep 1880 in Lumpkin Co., Georgia

Children:	Dilmas	b. Sep 1882, Georgia	d. Jul 1884, Georgia
	*Florence Edith	b. 1 Apr 1884, Georgia	d. 23 Feb 1924, Oklahoma
	Flora	b. 9 Dec 1886, Georgia	d. Oct. 1887, Georgia
	Minnie Viola	b. 14 Feb 1888, Georgia	d. 14 Nov 1973, Oklahoma
	Eva	b. 26 Jan 1890, Texas	d. Feb 1895, Texas
	Jane	b. 9 Nov 1891, Texas	d. Aug 1916, Oklahoma
	Mamie Ethel	b. 19 Sep 1893, Texas	d. 27 Nov 1965, Oklahoma
	Alfred Parks	b. 24 Nov 1895, Texas	d. 11 Apr 1965, Oklahoma
	Lillie Belle	b. 17 Apr 1899, Oklahoma	d. 24 Nov 1980, Oklahoma
	Bertha Mae	b. 17 Aug 1902, Oklahoma	d. 12 Aug 1976, Texas

Winna Juliann Vaughters Waters was the daughter of Linzey and Kisiah Marinda Hicks Vaughters.
Linzey was the son of James Vaughters.

* Edna M. Bowers is the daughter of Florence Edith Waters

A TRIBUTE TO WINNA JULIANN VAUGHTERS WATERS

January 12, 1863 – September 1, 1951

Written by her granddaughter, Edna M. Bowers

Grandmother Waters lived in Oklahoma from 1900 until her death in 1951. My wonderful grandmother was a woman of wisdom, love, and a strong character.

She loved the Lord dearly, but her family of ten children were the dearest thing she treasured on this earth. Grandma never forgot her dear mother and relatives in Georgia. She talked of them often. I wrote letters to them for her several times. Besides her family, she was always ready to help others who needed help.

My grandmother was always fascinating to me. I loved how she said some things and I enjoyed watching her cook, etc. She brought some of her sayings with her from Georgia, such as “jeir” instead of jar. I loved to hear her say, “Edna, go to the cellar and fetch me a ‘jeir’ of pickles.”

Even though she did not know how to read or write, she was the best cook in the south. She cooked by using a pinch of this and a pinch of that, never measuring anything.

When she made pie crust and bread, she put flour in a big, round wooden bowl; made a well in the center; put in a pinch of salt, pinch of baking powder or soda, lard and milk; and mixed it with her hands.

When making biscuits, she put it on a board and kneaded it some. She then pinched the biscuits off and placed them in the pan. They were always perfect. They were baked in a wood stove without a heat controlled oven. She knew the right amount of wood to put in the stove to cook what she was cooking.

She made dumplings that melted in your mouth. She was called the “Dumplin’ Lady”, for she made them with so many things. She would make them with white beans, wild green grapes, and of course chicken and stewed beef. She made a dough and rolled it rather thin. Then she cut the dough in strips and dropped the strips into hot broth.

She always kept a jar of everlasting yeast alive to make her light bread. It was the best homemade bread I ever ate. I have always been thankful that she taught me to make light bread and dumplings plus other things.

Grandma was always happiest when her family was around her. On all holidays and some Sundays, all of us would get together. She always loved this.

I remember Christmas 1928 in Stillwater, Oklahoma. We started gathering in Christmas Eve night. Grandma lived with her daughter and son-in-law. Two grandsons lived there, too. They had five beds and cots. Everyone went to bed except Grandma and I. We stayed up until my cousin came in from the picture show. To our surprise, he came bringing a friend home with him to stay the night. We barely found a place for them to lie down. Grandma and I spent all night sitting in rocking chairs.

When morning came, Grandma was the first one in the kitchen preparing biscuits for breakfast. We had a big dinner of ham, turkey, and all the trimmings. Would you believe Grandma cooked a big opossum for her meat? My dad ate some of it also.

I was always thrilled to get to go stay all night at Grandma’s home. I especially liked

to go in the winter, because I always slept with her in her soft feather bed. I would sink into it and it would almost cover me up.

I remember so well when Grandma was getting ready for bed. The first thing she did was take her long hair down and comb and comb it. Then she braided it for the night. The next morning she took the braids out and combed and combed it again. Then she would roll it in a bun on the back of her head and put in hair pins and a comb on each side to hold it in place.

Grandma always stayed busy all day. When evening came and she sat down, she always worked on something in her lap. She pieced many, many quilts and comforters as well as braided many rag rugs. She never ate the “bread of idleness.”

Grandma did not get to attend church very often, but the Fruits of the Spirit – Love, Joy, Peace, Longsuffering, Gentleness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Meekness and Temperance – were always manifested in her daily life.

My grandfather respected and loved Grandmother because of her Godly life, which brought conviction upon him and led him to repentance and he became a new creature in Christ Jesus.

My grandmother taught me many things and I loved her dearly.

Edna Bowers is a longtime member of the VVV Family Association, as are her Daughter, Betty Dyer of Choctaw, Oklahoma; her sister, Edith Goodson of Roseville, California; and her cousin, Juanita Baker of Dallas, Texas.

Edna stated that her grandmother, Winna Juliann Vaughters Waters never returned to Georgia to see her relatives after going to Oklahoma.

Do you have memories of your parents and grandparents that could be shared?

VAWTER DIARY

The Spring 2002 issue of *The Hoosier Genealogist*, a quarterly publication of the Indiana Historical Society, has an article telling of the diary of Jennie Vawter that is in their collection. The diary runs from 1 January 1869 to 20 August 1879.

Jeanie Vawter was born 18 April 1847 in Shelby Township, Ripley County, Indiana, the daughter of Abraham Pardun. She married John M. Vawter, son of Beverly and Elizabeth Vawter of Monroe Township, Jefferson County, Indiana, on 15 April 1869.

The diary tells of the establishment of their home in Smyrna Township, Jefferson County, Indiana, and the births of their two children. Much of the diary centers on social activities, celebrations and events at churches in Hopewell and Shelby. It also mentions trips to Dupont, Lancaster, Madison and Wirt in Jefferson County and New Marion and Rexville in Ripley County.

Jennie makes references to friends and neighbors in the areas of southwestern Ripley County and northwestern Jefferson County. About forty family names are mentioned, but most are referred to by the titles Mr., Mrs. or Miss. Only a few have their full names given.

WILL VAWTER
BROWN COUNTY, INDIANA, ARTIST

At an auction held May 18 and Jackson & Wickliff Auctioneers, Inc., in Carmel, Indiana, six signed illustration by Will Vawter, illustrator of many of James Whitcomb Riley's books, sold with the proceeds going to Riley Hospital for Children in Indianapolis. The only framed one was *Babyhood*, a 16 by 11in gouache showing a grandfather with a small child which brought \$5,500. The estimate had been \$1,200-1,500. The other five, all slightly larger, brought between \$1,000 and \$1,300. A Will Vawter 24 by 29in oil on canvas, *Vivid Brown County Summer Landscape*, brought \$12,500.

The same auctioneers sold other Will Vawter works at an auction on March 26. A 14 by 17in oil on board, *Blossom Time*, sold for \$6,500. *Curley Locks*, a 15 ½ by 14in gouache, which was an illustration in a book by Riley, brought \$1,350. Other illustrations averaged \$1,000 at the auction.

CONGRATULATIONS

Glee Krapf of Tamaqua, Pennsylvania, is happy to announce the arrival of her first grandchild. Laura Rose was born 1 May 2002 at Montgomery Hospital in Norristown, Pennsylvania, to Jeffery and Stacey Krapf Cooper. Congratulations to the proud parents and grandmother!

SOME RESEARCH RULES TO REMEMBER

1. "Junior" did not always mean "son of." It could be a designation for a younger man of the same name in the same area. A man could be a "junior" at one period and "senior" at a later period.
2. "Infant" could mean someone under legal age, not necessarily a babe in arms.
3. An illegitimate child usually took the surname of the mother.
4. Title to land could be conveyed either by inheritance or deed or marriage.
5. If no executor is named in the will, the Court appoints an administrator "cum testamento annexo" to carry out the provisions of the will.
6. According to the laws of intestate succession, the widow receives 1/3 of all property, and the remainder goes to the children.
7. All males and females enumerated in the census records prior to 1850 are not necessarily members of the immediate family; they could be members of the household and may not even be related.
8. Be careful about accepting information on a death certificate, as the information was given under stress by someone who may not have a full knowledge of the facts. The same holds true for obituaries.
9. Spelling of names can be tricky. The clerk or census taker wrote down what he heard, i.e. Anne Eliza or Annie Liza.

MARTIN FAMILY CEMETERY RESTORED

Dresden Enterprise, Dresden Tennessee

3 August 1994

The Martin Family Cemetery has been recently restored by descendants of those buried there.

The old cemetery, located just three miles north of the Weakley County Courthouse, has been brought out of complete wilderness to full restoration.

The final resting place of the Martin family's ancestors didn't even have a sign to mark its location until restoration of the grounds were undertaken.

The Martin Family Cemetery is located at the site of one of Weakley County's pioneer family homesteads, that of Thomas Martin, who was originally from Halifax County Virginia.

Thomas and his wife, Drucilla (Vawter) Martin, moved into this area when it was just a wilderness, and many of their children and their families came along with them. The others followed them to Tennessee later.

William Martin, the only son of Thomas and Drucilla, preceded them by five years. He had come with John Glass and his family, to which his wife belonged. It was this William Martin for whom the town of Martin, Tennessee, was named in 1873.

When his father, Thomas, came, it seems that William left his home place, where the Martin Cemetery now lies, to his father's family, just north of the present East Side Cemetery of Martin.

The children of Thomas and Drucilla Martin married into families well known among Weakley County residents of today, including: Elizabeth (born 1802) married John Farmer; Mary C. (born 1804) married Francis T. Williams; William (born 1806) married Sarah Glass; Caroline (born 1808) married David K. Nowlin; Martha Bates (born 1812) married Alfred Higgs; Susan L. (born 1813) married James Adams, Jr.; and Malinda (born 1823) married Thomas Glass.

Much early history of Weakley County can be found in these old deserted cemeteries, which are located on farms and other remote areas scattered here and there.

Unfortunately, many of these old cemeteries have been plowed under or otherwise destroyed.

THE VAWTER FAMILY OF AMERICA

The reprint edition of *The Vawter Family in America* by Grace Vawter Bicknell is still available from the association. First printed in 1905, it was reprinted in 1969 with a supplement update of the O'Conner family. None of the books are in fine condition. Many have entire sections missing, out of place, or upside down, or have much of the index missing. However, for some it is just a matter of one or two pages missing, and those are the books being sold now. We supply replacement pages for you to insert.

The softbound books have 442 pages, including an index, and can be ordered from Bonita Welch, 4145 N 900 W. Scipio IN 47273. Cost is \$20.00, plus \$4.00 shipping.

QUERY

From: Dorothy Vaughn Lacefield, 474 Nash Road, Guston KY 40142
momndad@bbtel.com

Dorothy is seeking the burial place of her great-grandmother, Amanda Vawter Vaughn, daughter of Richard and Sarah Snelling Vawter. Amanda married George Washington Vaughn 17 Jul 1837, and died 25 Oct 1842. Amanda and George Vaughn had two children, Amanda Frances and Richard Vawter Vaughn. She is also looking for the burial place of Richard and Sarah Snelling Vawter.

IN REMEMBRANCE

Selma A. Vawter Vanderford, 80, of Indianapolis died 7 April 2002. She worked 22 years for the U. S. Postal Service, retiring in 1984.

Funeral service and visitation were at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, of which she was a member.

Survivors include three daughters, Leann Ronan, Robin Lincoln, and Margaret Greganete; a son-in-law, Mario Breganete; and three grandchildren.

This obituary appeared in *The Indianapolis Star*.

Lt. Col. Leonard Kimmick Jr., (USA-Ret.), 75, of Lancaster, Texas, died Thursday, 14 June 2001. He was born 7 June 1926 in Honolulu, Hawaii, the son of Leonard and Florence Kimmick.

He served in the U.S. Army from 1945 until his retirement in 1967, and had received the Bronze Star Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Air Medal with First and Second Oak Leaf Clusters and numerous other medals and citations. After retirement from the U.S. Army, he became the ROTC Commandant at David W. Carter High School in Dallas, retiring from that position in 1988. He was a part-time history instructor at Cedar Valley College, and was honored with the "Excellence in Teaching" award in 1990.

He received a bachelor of science degree from the University of Nebraska at Omaha and a master of arts degree from Southern Methodist University. He was lifetime member of the TROA, a member of GDROA, and a member of First United Methodist Church of Lancaster.

Survivors include his wife, Marcella Kimmick of Lancaster; a daughter, Karen Morse of Dallas; a son and daughter-in-law, Bruce and Anne Kimmick of Denver, Colo.; a son-in-law, Norman Martin; seven grandchildren, Amanda Wallace, Meagan Martin, Kathryn Kimmick, Jacob Harris, Matthew Martin, Kyle Kimmick and Keenan Kimmick; And a great-grandson, Shane Moore.

He was preceded in death by a daughter, Florence Lynn Martin; and a son-in-law, Joseph "Buck" Morse.

Marcella Kimmick has been a member of the association for several years. We thank her for sending this obituary of her husband.

IN REMEMBRANCE

Edwin Vawter, lifelong rancher and member of a prominent pioneer Bandera County family, died April 28, 2002 at his home at the age of 93. His wife, Thelma Jeane, and many family members were at his bedside. Born Francis Edwin Vawter in Pipe Creek, Texas, March 30, 1909, he was the son of George Lewis Vawter and Junie Ettie Dickerson.

David and Lucinda Vawter were Edwin Vawter's great-grand parents. {From *The History of Panola County*: In 1844 David Vawter bought property at Grand Bluff, Texas and bonded to operate a ferry across the Sabine River. At his death his widow, Lucinda, continued to operate the ferry for many years. }

Edwin was the grandson of one of Pipe Creek's early day founders, John Milton Vawter, who first settled in the Pipe Creek area in the early 1870s. And to quote the *Vawter Family History* "While he lived in the Bandera Mountains, forty miles west of San Antonio, he, for years, amid drought and Mormon opposition and persecution, carried on a Sabbath-school, which was at times the only religious service held in that part of the country."

Active in the fledgling community, the Vawter family provided postal and telephone services and much of the leadership so badly needed in the sparsely settled region. The family, in 1909, provided the land for the Pipe Creek Baptist Church.

Around 1925 Edwin joined his brother, Walter, to work in Montana. While there, he participated in cattle drives and wild horse drives. He remained there about 18 months, but came back home before the second winter. He just couldn't take that cold weather. Walter stayed with the homestead south of Miles City, Montana.

On December 7, 1936, Edwin married Miss Thelma Jeane Johnson of Pipe Creek, and they were married for over 65 years.

In addition to his wife, survivors include daughters Patricia and husband Thomas Renton and Joy and husband Thomas Richter, all of Pipe Creek. The Vawters were blessed with five grand-children, Jordan, Daria, Marcus, Susan and Tommy; five great-grandchildren, Frances, Kaitlin, Krista, Luke and Malaena; and one great-great grandchild is "on the way."

One of eight children, Edwin was preceded in death by sisters Eugenia, Matie, Junie and Rebecca, and brothers Wyatt, Walter and Ferris.

Bandera County Judge Richard Evans, on learning of Vawter's passing, observed that "Mr. Vawter was a gentleman of the old school. He was always there when needed, always steady. He always knew where he stood on any question. Bandera County has lost one of its old settlers".

Services for the retired stockman / rancher were held at 10:30 a.m. May 1, 2002 at Grimes Chapel in Bandera. The Reverend Dennis Thompson conducted the impressive service. Neighbor and lifelong friend J. B. Edwards delivered the eulogy. He described Vawter as "a Christian, a gentleman and a man of his word."

Daughters Patricia Renton and Joy Richter are members of the VVV Family Association. We thank Patricia for sending this obituary of her father.



NEWSLETTER

FAMILY ASSOCIATION

October 2002

Volume 26. No.4

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IF A RENEWAL FORM IS ENCLOSED, YOU NEED TO PAY DUES

REUNION THANKS FROM JIM VAUGHTERS

The 2002 reunion in Elbert County, Georgia, probably more than any other, took an army of people and a mountain of work to put together. The reunion host has sent out 40 thank you letters, and highlights of some are given here:

John Vawter, his wives and their children, for settling the area, staying, preserving property, and leaving a paper trail.

The State of Georgia for accepting the land, agreeing to the dedication during our reunion, and paying for a first-class ceremony.

The dignitaries: U. S. Senator Max Cleland, U. S. Representative Charlie Norwood, State Representative Tom McCall, and County Commissioners Tom Allgood and others for honoring us with their presence.

Former Governor and cousin Ernest Vandiver and his wife, Betty, for their encouragement, ideas, influence, speech and reception.

Tom and Pam Allgood for the tour of their historic house.

Doug Vaughters for remembering what Swift and Julian told him about the family cemetery, for purchasing the contents of the buildings, and for honoring the Confederate and Revolutionary soldiers.

Judson Barton and the Sons of Confederate Veterans, and Debra Denard and the United Daughters of the Confederacy for the dignified ceremony honoring Confederate veterans.

Larry Wilson, Stuart Lyle, and the Sons of the American Revolution for the beautiful ceremony honoring Revolutionary soldiers.

Richard Greene for his thoughts on plans and programs, his constant research, his many days of physical labor clearing the cemetery and house site, his parts in the ceremonies honoring soldiers, and his providing water on those hot trips.

Gilbert Adams for purchasing the marker for the Franklin County cemetery, for his perspective on Georgia history, for obtaining the records of Hunter's Creek Baptist Church, for introducing us to 102-year-old Tom Austin, and for bringing more cousins.

The Dawson County Vaughters for venturing out and seeing the "old Georgia Vaughters."

Glenn Herndon for his sermon relating to family history and for loaning his photocopier.

Ellen Cummings for her beautiful rendition of the national anthem and for the sing-along of patriotic music.

Bill Clark for his presentation at the S.A.R. ceremony on Lt. William Vawter, the only known VVV officer in the Continental Army.

Lynn Kellum and Harmony Baptist Church for the prayers at the ceremonies, the lovely framed sketch of the church, and the delicious lunch.

Silvey B. Vaughters for his stories and for giving away his autobiography book.

Cheryl Kelley for loaning the CD player so that we could listen to the official Georgia state song, "Georgia on My Mind."

Kristy Glasgow for her skillful playing of "Taps" at both the Confederate and Revolutionary ceremonies.

President Ken Wicker for his leadership and speaking at all the activities.

All those who honored their Confederate ancestors.

Connie Bugos for the appropriate colorful T-shirts. (Please order one from her now.)

Fred and Wordna Wicker for their solemn memorial service.

Probate Judge Susan Sexton for her intense interest and unwavering support of this project.

Everyone who came and appreciated and enjoyed what we had put together.

ASSOCIATION THANKS TO JIM VAUGHTERS

Only those who have planned and hosted a reunion can understand the amount of time and effort it takes to have a successful event. Jim Vaughters made several trips from his home in Colorado to Georgia to insure that we would have a reunion to remember. This reunion truly was a learning experience as we heard the stories and saw the land of our ancestors. It helped us realize the purpose of our association: to learn of and preserve our heritage. To all of those involved with the planning, especially Jim, we say "Thank you!"

REUNION PROGRAMS

Jim Vaughters is receiving requests for additional copies of the 2002 reunion programs. He has extra copies of the programs for the land dedication ceremony and the Confederate and Revolutionary ceremonies, but none of the basic program for the reunion. This is the one with the picture of Vauter's Church on the front. If someone picked up the box containing those programs, please let Jim know and arrange to have them sent to him. Or, if you have extra copies, please send them to Jim so they can be forwarded to those who have contacted him.

REUNION T-SHIRTS

If you were unable to attend the 2002 reunion, or failed to get a T-shirt while in Georgia, Connie Bugos still has a few remaining. She has four xx-large, five x-large, ten large, one child size 14-16, and one child size 10-12. These are being sold at \$12.00, \$13.00, and \$14.00 each, depending on the size, plus \$4.25 shipping for one shirt and \$1.00 for each additional shirt. Connie is making these available at her cost, and would like to recoup her expenses. Her address is: 480 E Pearl Street, Farmington IL 61531. Connie's e-mail address is: buggram@att.net.

REUNION TAPES

Video tapes of the 2002 reunion, made by Bob Vawter, are available at a cost of \$20.00 including postage, with all proceeds going to the association. The two-tape set can be ordered from Norma Jean Vawter, and her address can be found with the list of officers. Please make your check to the VVV Family Association.

REUNION HANDOUTS

Jim Vaughters prepared several handouts for the reunion, and has offered to send them to anyone interested. His address and phone number can be found at the beginning of this newsletter with the list of officers.

WISHES FOR SPEEDY RECOVERIES

Robert L. "Bobbee" Vawter, 1121 Bayview Road, Middletown DE 19709, and Richard Greene, P. O. Box 1792, Cartersville GA 30120, have had health problems since the reunion. Our best wishes for speedy recoveries are sent to both.

(state seal)

STATE OF GEORGIA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
ATLANTA 30334-0900

Roy E. Barnes
Governor

August 2, 2002

Mr. James C. Vaughters
The Vaughters Family Association
5981 South Lima Street
Englewood, Colorado 80111

Dear Mr. Vaughters and Members of the Vaughters Family:

Today is a very special occasion for both you and the state of Georgia. I regret very much that my schedule does not allow for me to be here with you personally. I want you to know just how much we appreciated the generosity of your family, as evidenced by the donation of 850 acres of land in Elbert County through the S. Julian Vaughters Estate. This property will forever be managed as a public recreation and wildlife management area in Georgia.

Georgia has been blessed over the years with outstanding public servants like Ernie and Betty Vandiver. As our 73rd Governor, Ernest Vandiver served with distinction and continues to give of his time unselfishly to benefit Georgia. His participation in today's celebration is an honor to the Vaughters family and to our state.

On this special day as members of the Vaughters Family Association gather to commemorate the outstanding gift to the State of Georgia, which easily exceeds \$2 million in value, this letter is to express my sincere appreciation for this magnificent donation that will mean so much for future generations of Georgians.

Warmest regards to each member of your family. I sincerely hope that your visit to Georgia will be memorable and enjoyable as you meet as a family to enjoy fellowship and to celebrate your family's legacy.

Sincerely,

Roy E. Barnes

REB:fv

REVOLUTIONARY MARKER TO HAVE NAMES ADDED

Memorial Park in Elberton, Georgia, is a unique tribute to veterans. Each war has its own monument, and each is a different design, style, and color. The monument for the Revolutionary War has inscriptions of the names of veterans who were buried or had estates in Elbert County.

As the result of the work and ceremony by the VVV Association, and by Richard Greene in particular, two new names are being inscribed. Richard did the research and made contacts in the Elbert County Historical Society and the Sons and Daughters of the American Revolution. They have promised to add the names of John Vawter and his brother-in-law, William Ward. (The will of Jacob Ward in Virginia names William Ward and Frankey Vawter, John's first wife, as two of his many children.)

Thank you, Richard, for honoring those soldiers.

IN REMEMBRANCE

Thelma Jeane Vawter died September 18, 2002 in Bandera, Texas, at the home of her grandchildren, Daria and Jason William. She was 88 years old.

Born Thelma Jeane Johnson in Wagoner, Oklahoma, March 28, 1914, she was the daughter of Edward Asa and Bessie Sheppard Johnson. Asa and Bessie married October 1907 in the Indian Territory, about a month before Oklahoma became a state. The family moved to Texas in 1916 in a covered wagon.

On December 7, 1936, Thelma Jeane married Edwin Vawter of Pipe Creek, Texas and they were married for over 65 years. He preceded her in death in April of this year.

Survivors include daughters Patricia and husband Thomas Renton and Joy and husband Thomas Richter, all of Pipe Creek. The Vawters were blessed with five grandchildren, Jordan, Daria, Marcus, Susan and Tommy; five great-grandchildren, Frances, Kaitlin, Krista, Luke, and Malaena; and one great-great granddaughter, Brooklyn.

The youngest of three children, Thelma Jeane was preceded in death by sister Faye Ivy and brother Edward Johnson.

T. J. loved to play card games, especially bridge, and she loved to travel. With her husband, Edwin, she traveled to Hawaii, Europe, Alaska and to Las Vegas many times, and yet she was happy sitting at the kitchen table beating her family in a card game. She will be greatly missed by a loving family and many friends.

Services were held Saturday, September 21st at 11:00 a.m. at Grimes Funeral Chapel, with the Rev. Sheryl Owens officiating. Mona Thaxton, a long time friend of the family delivered a touching eulogy. Music was by another family friend, Aleta Domingue.

Daughters Patricia and Joy are members of the VVV Family Association.

THANK YOU

Several members send information for this newsletter. Your continuing help is greatly appreciated!

NEWSLETTERS, BICKNELL AND RUCKER

As reported in a previous newsletter, Patricia Vawter Renton has completed a project for the association by creating a CD. This CD, which is in Microsoft Word format, contains the VVV Family Association newsletters from 1977 thru 2001, the entire *Vawter Family in America* by Grace Vawter Bicknell, and excerpts from *The Rucker Family Genealogy* by Sudie Rucker Wood.

Patricia brought several of the CDs to the reunion and quickly sold all of them. She will make additional copies for those interested and donate the proceeds to the association. The Executive Committee has set the price at \$20.00.

Please order from: Patricia V. Renton, 2372 Bear Creek Road, Pipe Creek TX 78063. Patricia's telephone number is 830-510-4625, and her e-mail is pvrenton@ev1.net.

IN REMEMBRANCE

Duncan Carlyle Brown, 82, of Tulsa, Oklahoma, died at his home 30 June 2002 surrounded by family and friends. He was born in Bemiji, Minnesota, on 31 December 1919. He graduated from Central High School in Tulsa in 1936, and from Tulsa University with a degree in business in 1943. There he met Sara Jane Kerr, who would be his wife for the next 58 years.

Duncan served in the Marines during World War II in the South Pacific. After leaving the service, he worked in the oil fields and for Bryan & Sons. In 1956, he started working for Marsuco, and retired as Vice President and Treasurer in 1980.

Duncan was active in the community and the Episcopal Church. He was Senior Warden at Trinity Episcopal, chairman of St. Crispin's Conference Center, member of Diocesan Council, and Oklahoma delegate to the National Episcopal Convention four times, and was a long time member of St. Dunstan's. His community work included being Master Counselor of DeMolay, a 29-year member and Paul Harris Fellow of the Downtown Rotary Club, a 50 + year member of the Men's Forum of Tulsa, and helped with Troop 20 of the Boy Scouts of America when his sons were members.

He is survived by his wife, Sally; his daughter, Susan and husband, Doug Haas and their children, Sara and Kim; son, Stephen and wife, Barbara and their children, Clint, Mark and wife, Anne Marie, and Scott; son, Jim and wife, Nancy and their children, Jennifer and Amanda; and daughter, Mary and husband, Mike O'Meilia and their children, Christopher and wife, Merrilee, and Jacob; and brothers, Bill and wife Joanne, and Jerry and wife, Jane.

Duncan loved his family and friends, enjoyed traveling, listening to music and writing poetry and limericks about his grandchildren and life experiences. He had a wonderful sense of humor, sterling qualities of character and a capacity for friendship.

Duncan was a longtime member of the association and attended many reunions. He and Sally hosted the 1983 reunion in Tulsa.

GLEBE UPDATE

Robert L. “Bobbee” Vawter has sent this information to update us on the Glebe project in Virginia.

The committee has made contact with Mr. Gordon Lohr, the director of the Historic Property Revolving Fund operated by the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities. Mr. Lohr visited the property on Cloverleaf Farm during the summer, and is interested in the preservation. He will be talking with the present owner, James R. Hundley, Jr.

Mr. Lohr is of the opinion that there are industries and businesses in the area that would contribute to the restoration of the building, and he will investigate those possibilities. The most important thing now is to get the building stabilized to prevent further deterioration. The new roof has been a great help in preventing continuing damage, but there is a need for stabilizing parts in the brick work.

Ellen Cummings and Bob are following the progress and developments of this project and will keep the association informed.

LETTER FROM YOUR PRESIDENT:

October 20, 2002

Dear Cousins,

First of all, I would like to thank Jim Vaughters for the time and effort which he put into the 2002 reunion. The family history is important to remember as a part of our heritage. The Confederate and American Revolution ceremonies were impressive and memorable, and the land dedication ceremony was unforgettable. Thanks again for a job well done.

While reading the 2002 survey responses, I was shocked at one anonymous comment “I do not feel there is a complete commitment to continue the VVV Association.” Our goal is to change this attitude. The four main concerns voiced by the 2002 survey were (1) there were no children, there were not enough for Ellen Cummings to have VVV Family Singers as entertainment on Saturday, (2) keep the cost down, the expenses were too much for young families to bear, (3) without younger people, the VVV Association will cease to exist. The survey also pointed out the desire (4) to have the annual reunion in a locale which could be used as a scheduled family vacation. Pensacola certainly addresses the 4th concern.

Ralphe and Caroline invited Laniel and I to come to Pensacola to see what possibilities existed for the 2003 VVV reunion. On the weekend of September 26-30, between Isidore and Lili, we drove from Houston to Pensacola to visit with them and to review and visit the places which Ralphe had scheduled.

We visited several hotels, and saw typical rooms. The one we agreed on was clean and neat, not luxurious, had in-room amenities, a large swimming pool, and will include a hot breakfast. Their conference room accommodates over 60. We can set up the VVV archives there, and when we are not there, the room can be locked. It is large enough for us to all stay under one roof, which was another survey concern.

Results of the survey suggested an informal get together on Friday rather than a formal dinner. Ralphe's Condo has a large pool where we could have an around-the-pool party. We visited several establishments which could cater such a party. We ate meals at several, and agreed on one. Several VVV'ers have volunteered to bring desserts for Friday night. This will save us about \$2 each and will give us a chance to sample our cousin's specialties.

As a possible VVV Group activity, Ralphe took us to the National Museum of Naval Aviation. Excellent!! We found it to be at least as good as the Air and Space Museum in Washington DC. And it is free, the IMAX Theater (\$5.75 for groups of 20 or more). The feature film, 'The Magic of Flight' was filmed as if you were flying with the Blue Angels. Awesome!!

Ralphe has planned for a genealogy session at the Family History Center, and one at the hotel. If you're interested in genealogy you need to go to one or both.

For the Saturday night banquet, we visited several places, and selected one which has a glassed in dining room at a Country Club overlooking the golf course. The owner said he could provide us a good meal for a budget price.

For those that want to stay on the beach, there are several hotels, but they cost about three times as much. The beaches are public. We will have a list of restaurants and fun activities in the area for our free time and to help you plan a fun vacation. The food places we selected for Friday and Saturday nights serve good food, at a reasonable price.

For individual budget concerns, we have firm prices as follows: Hotel room (1 to 4 people) - \$54 a night; Friday night meal – about \$8.25 ea; Saturday night meal (buffet) with dessert - \$13 ea. These figures are all inclusive.

Ralphe and Caroline have done an excellent job at organizing the 2003 reunion. But we must each tell lots of people about it or it will all be for naught.

As we parted on the 29th, we pointed out to Ralphe and Caroline that they had treated us like royalty. To which they replied, "But you're Vawters." That is the way we should all feel about each other. After all, we are cousins and friends, too.

This reunion is being organized around the idea of attracting more families, younger families and families who have not attended a reunion in several years. We are not excluding the older or retired family members. But as we look around each year, we miss those who are no longer with us. We see the empty places that they leave. When enough of us die, so will the VVV Association if we don't attract our young cousins.

Using these ideas and other information, Laniel and I plan to interest as many other Vawters as possible.

After spending a weekend in Pensacola, we plan to spend some extra time there next year doing those "fun vacation things". There are lots of affordable attractions in the area. Plan to spend some extra time in Pensacola before or after the 2003 reunion. Watch for the next newsletter, we will have a list of things to see and to do, good places to eat and all sorts of good ideas, and a tentative schedule, and some other special promotions.

Jesse L. Vawter
Phone: 281-485-6437

Email: JessVawter@aol.com



FAMILY ASSOCIATION

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Vol. 27 No. 1

NEWSLETTER
January 2003

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Dues - \$7.00 per year

IF A RENEWAL FORM IS ENCLOSED, YOU NEED TO PAY DUES

REV. PETER “UNCLE PETE” VAUGHTERS

In Franklin County, Georgia, many stories of the old Vaughters family in the 1800s and into the early 1900s area beginning to surface. One of the most interesting is that of Peter, who was a slave, became a teacher and preacher, and left behind a sterling reputation among whites and blacks alike.

A great-granddaughter of Hiram Vaughters, Mary Dilworth, missed the reunion in Elbert County, Georgia, but she had told Jim Vaughters, the historian/archivist some information that bears repeating. Her father, Charlie Dilworth placed the highest priority on his “kinfolks” and wanted to preserve the old stories.

Hiram Vaughters went to Athens one day, probably around 1850. At the end of the day, he went by the slave market. All the business was done and everyone was leaving. But one black baby boy was sitting there crying, looking sick, and he had no connection with anyone. Hiram took him home and explained the situation to his wife, Elizabeth Glenn. She did not like it, but she and Hiram agreed to keep the baby. They raised him in their home, taught him to read and write, and made him a member of the family.

Hiram died a few years later, and Peter stayed with the family. After the Civil War, he took the name Vaughters and remained in the Red Hill area. He became a teacher and

built what was called the Vaughters School. Those who took part in the tour to Franklin County during the 2002 reunion will remember meeting 102-year-old Tom Austin who attended this school.

Peter was a preacher for many years. His grave marker reads “Rev. Peter Vaughters, 1852-1922.” He was known as “Preacher Vaughters” and “Uncle Pete,” both of which are terms showing great respect.

All of Hiram’s daughters married men in Franklin County, stayed there, and produced families whose descendants still live there. His sons had different fates. Hiram J. died in Athens two months after enlisting in the Confederate Army. Samuel Hiram, also a teacher and perhaps Peter’s mentor, was in the Civil War for three years, came home and married, and went to Arkansas and later Oklahoma, where he taught Indian children. James M.C., the youngest, stayed until 1873 when he and his wife also went to Arkansas.

Jim, as James M.C. was called, was also a preacher. Years later he came back to Georgia on a visit and was asked to preach at Allen’s Methodist Church. Two of his sisters, Mary Frances Adams and Julia A. King, are buried in the cemetery at the church. Jim began the service and saw old Peter slip in and sit in the back row. Jim stopped the service, went to the back and told Peter, “You come up front and sit with the rest of the family.” They hugged each other and cried and had an emotional reunion. Peter invited Jim to stay with him at his home. The two chimneys of this house are still standing.

Descendants of Hiram still refer to “Uncle Pete,” who passed the Vaughters name on to generations in Franklin County. He married three times and had 18 children. His grandchildren have reunions in North Carolina, and some of them come to Franklin County to research and see old-timers like Tom Austin.

Thank you, Uncle Pete, for a wonderful legacy.

And we thank Jim Vaughters for sharing this story of Peter Vaughters with us. Do you have family stories of traditions? Please send them to the news editor.

FRANKLIN COUNTY CEMETERY

Thanks to all who donated toward the total of \$644.00 for fencing the Vaughters Cemetery in Franklin County. The cost is a little more than what was collected, but our cousin, former Governor Ernest Vandiver, has agreed to pay the difference to complete the job. His generosity is greatly appreciated. Thank you!

2003 REUNION

As reported in the last newsletter, Ralphe and Caroline Vawter will be hosting the 2003 reunion in Pensacola, Florida. Other than the tentative plans that have already been given, we have no further information to share at this time. Details of the event will be given in the April newsletter. Anyone wanting an update now could contact Ralphe at 850-439-1380, or the association president, Jesse Vawter.

PAST AND PRESENT OF TIPPECANOE COUNTY, INDIANA

Volume II

Richard P. DeHart

B. F. Bowen & Company, Publishers

Indianapolis, Indiana

1909

PHILEMON C. VAWTER

Seventy-nine years have dissolved in the mists of the past since the birth of the honored subject of this review. He springs from an old and highly esteemed pioneer family whose first representatives in the West settled in Jefferson county, Indiana, as early as 1806, migrating to this state from Kentucky, though originally from Virginia. These early comers were William Vawter and Frances, his wife, who located on the hill near Madison, where Mr. Vawter secured a tract of land which he cleared and improved and in due time become one of the leading farmers and representative citizens of his part of the country. He was made captain of a militia company soon after his arrival and took an active part defending settlers against the Indians during the troublous times which marked the pioneer history of southern Indiana. Later, in 1829, the family located in Jennings county.

William and Frances Vawter were the parents of ten children, six sons and four daughters, only two of whom survive, a daughter who has reached the ripe old age of eighty-eight years, and the subject of this sketch, who is the youngest of the family and the only one born in Jennings county. Several of the children lived to be quite old, one dying in his ninety-fourth years, and the majority were past the half century mark when called from the scenes of their struggles and triumphs.

Philemon C. Vawter was born in Jennings county, Indiana, November 7, 1830, and spent his childhood and youth on the home farm near Vernon. While still a mere lad he attended a three-months subscription school taught in a small log building furnished with slag benches, the writing desk a rough board resting on pegs driven in the wall, the room being warmed by means of a large fireplace with clay chimney and lighted by two long narrow windows, one containing oiled paper, the other filled with glass. In this backwoods college young Vawter obtained a knowledge of the rudimentary branches, reading, arithmetic and geography, and learned to write with a goose quill pen using the juice of pokeberries for ink. By diligent application, however, he soon mastered the common branches and in due time was sufficiently advanced to enter Franklin College, which he attended at intervals for about five years, completing the prescribed course during that time and leaving the institution with a high standing in all of his classes.

In 1855, Mr. Vawter came to Lafayette, and during the ensuing three years taught in the schools of the town, discontinuing the work in 1858 on account of the public funds being cut off by the supreme court. Returning to Jennings county, he worked on the farm in the summer time and taught in the country schools during the winter months until 1860, when he went to Decatur county where he had charge of a school for one year and earned an honorable reputation as a capable instructor and successful disciplinarian. Meantime he

accepted a position in a dry goods store and between clerking and teaching he spent the time until 1863, when he returned to Tippecanoe county and took up the profession of civil engineering, to which he devoted his attention for a number of years thereafter, serving eighteen years as county surveyor, five years as deputy in the office, five years as city engineer and ten years as engineer of West Lafayette, besides doing a great deal of private work the meanwhile in his and other counties and cities.

Mr. Vawter has seen West Lafayette grow from a wooded tract into a flourishing city of five thousand inhabitants, much of the progress of the place being due to his interest and energy in inaugurating and carrying forward many important improvements. The city is modern in all the term implies, and with its excellent streets and sidewalks, electric lights and waterworks, street railway, etc., has taken on not a few metropolitan airs and compares favorable with any other city of its size in the state.

Mr. Vawter's long and honorable career as a civil engineer has kept him prominently before the public and there are today in the county of Tippecanoe few men as well known and highly esteemed. As a matter of his profession he has rendered valuable service in a number of important public enterprises and as a citizen his influence has ever been on the right side of every moral issue. Of noble aims and high ideals, he has always had the good of his fellowmen in view and to this end all movements for the advancement of the community along social, moral and religious as well as material lines have found in him a willing and generous helper.

On November 25, 1858, Mr. Vawter was united in marriage with Sylvia Hunter, daughter of Joseph and Rhoda Ann Hunter, of Jennings county, a union blessed with two children, Everett B., whose biography appears elsewhere in these pages, and William H., whose birth occurred in 1868, and who, after devoting ten years to the drug business in Lafayette, became traveling salesman for a wholesale drug house, which position he now holds.

Mr. Vawter is a Republican in politics and well versed in the history of parties and in the current issues of the day. He keeps abreast of the times on all matters of public import and takes an active interest in questions concerning which men and parties divide, and is a man of strong convictions, whose opinions carry weight and command respect. He was reared under the influence of the Baptist church, to which both his parents belonged, and for a number of years he has been a zealous and respected member of the church of that denomination in the city of his residence.

In person Mr. Vawter is somewhat below the average stature, of small, though strong and well-developed physique, clear cut features and pleasant countenance, his appearance, bearing and manner indicating the man of thought and action who has always stood for the right and whose optimism makes his presence a welcome addition to the social circle. His life has been somewhat strenuous and, though well advanced in years, he is still alert and vigorous and his friends united in the wish that he may be spared to bless the world by his personality and influence for many years to come.

VAUGHTERS' IN SCIOTO COUNTY, OHIO

From *History of Scioto County*, no date or publisher:

John Alexander Vaughters was born August 9, 1814, in Caroline County, Virginia, a son of John and Catharine (Mason) Vaughters. The family was English. The form of the name as used in Virginia was Vawter. Among the Revolutionary Continental Land Warrants named from the Land Office at Richmond, Virginia was one to William Vawter for 2,666 $\frac{2}{3}$ acres of land, another to Benjamin Vawter for 200 acres. These are believed to be members of the same family. Our subject's father died in Virginia, and his mother moved with her family to Ohio, and located in Ross County in 1830; but in 1831, removed to Coalton, Jackson County. His mother died in 1833.

Our subject had no means, but he had a good constitution and a wonderful quantity of energy. He and his brother came to Scioto County in 1844, and for a number of years he was a tenant farmer. In 1849, he began to purchase land. By industry, thrift and economy, he prospered and at his death his farm was one of the largest and best kept in the Ohio Valley. At that time he was the owner of 503 acres of valuable Ohio river bottom land and in the upper part of Nile Township, about seven miles from Portsmouth.

In 1847, he married Mary Dorich of Kentucky. They have five children, two of whom lived to maturity: Mrs. Harry S. Grimes of Portsmouth, Ohio, and George A. Vaughters of Chillicothe. Mrs. Vaughters died in April, 1860, and in December, 1861, he married Mrs. Ada J. Brouse, who had two children: Mrs. Chancey M. Holcomb of Gallipolis, and Mrs. W. C. Brouse of the West Side. Mr. Vaughters was always a Republican. He was a man of the most remarkable energy and strict integrity. He was more successful than either of his brothers in accumulating property. He died April 14, 1891, honored by all who knew him.

William H. Vaughters was born in Caroline County, Virginia, in 1817, the third of a family of four sons; John, Thomas G., and Richard M., and one daughter, Mary L. In 1831, [the account of William's brother, John, says 1830] his mother settled in Ross County, and in the same year in Jackson County. In 1838, he moved to Scioto County. In 1842, he married Miss Sophia Graham, by whom he had two sons and one daughter: John of the West Side, Thomas of Wetmore and Mary Margaret in Illinois, all married. In 1850, he married Mary Bryson by whom he had five children, four sons and a daughter: Richard, William, Carey, Sherman and Ella. He died July 26, 1880. His wife survived him. He was a Republican and served two terms as Infirmary Director from 1871 to 1874 and from 1875 to 1878. He was a prosperous and successful farmer and left a good estate. He held the confidence of his neighbors and associates as a just man.

William C. Vaughters was born on the old homestead in Washington Township, Scioto County, Ohio, in 1857, the second son of William H. and Mary J. Bryson Vaughters. He was reared a farmer, receiving his education in the district school. He married Mary E., daughter of E. A. Moore, an old settler of Scioto County. They have one child, William. Mr. and Mrs. Vaughters are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

IN REMEMBRANCE

Edith Vawter, 87, of Farmington, Illinois, died 7, Nov 2002 at Methodist Medical Center in Peoria, Illinois. She was born 8 Aug 1915 in Bevier, Missouri, the daughter of Ralph and Flora Gilbert Gilstrap. On 27 April 1935, she married Harry L. Vawter in Macon, Missouri. He preceded her in death in November 1995.

Most of Edith's early years were spent in Bevier, but she also lived in Iowa for seven years before moving back to Missouri, where she married Harry. The couple moved to Farmington in 1937. That same year, Harry built the house that would continue to be Edith's home until she passed away. They were married for more than sixty years. She was a member of First Baptist Church in Farmington.

Surviving are sons, H. Richard Vawter and his wife, Patricia, and Donald Vawter and his wife, Alice; a daughter, Connie Bugos and her husband, Paul; a sister, Mary Simpson; eight grandchildren; and 15 great-grandchildren. The 15th great-grandchild, Drew Richard Vawter, was born on the same day Edith passed away, in the same hospital and just down the hall from Edith's room. She was able to know about the birth. Preceding her in death were her husband; and two sisters, Alice and Helen.

Harry and Edith Vawter were longtime members of the association. After Harry's death, Edith continued attending reunions with Connie and Paul. Harry was a descendant of Jennings County, Indiana, pioneers, William and Frances Vawter through their son Jesse R. Vawter. Harry's grandfather was John S. Vawter, a son of Jesse R. and Sara Parks Vawter.

John E. Vawter, 83, of Elkhart, Indiana, died 25 July 2002 at his home. He was born 16 Feb 1919 in Indianapolis, the son of James T. and Ina Gore Vawter. He married Lois Greer on 1 May 1971 at St. John's United Church of Christ in Elkhart. She survives.

John was a graduate of Arsenal Technical High School in Indianapolis, studied aeronautical engineering, and graduated from Purdue University with a mechanical engineering degree. During World War II, he was a civilian instructor for the U.S. Air Force for two years at the Eretrea base in Eastern Africa. There he supervised a crew who taught recruits assembling and repair of airplanes and their engines.

John was employed by Allison Engineering and Ransburg Electrostatic Coating Systems, both in Indianapolis. He was plant manager of SaniMetal Co., and Swartout Mfg. in Cleveland, Ohio; Vice-president of Manufacturing for Henry Weis Mfg. Co. in Elkhart; group manager for ILC Products; and retired from Keene Products Division of CTS Corp. in Middlebury, Indiana, where he was vice-president of Keene Products and general manager of their Monon, Indiana, plant.

Since semi-retirement in 1982, John had been a consultant for Omega Industries, made prototypes, and loved working with wood in his hobby shop. He enjoyed making home and church furniture, and several of his pieces are in St. John's United Church of Christ. He made mantle and grandfather clocks, and loved restoring antiques. He had made an heirloom rocking cradle that was used by all his grandchildren and great-grandchildren, with their names being written on the underside.

He enjoyed encouraging children to excel in many ways and also through the Junior Achievement Program. He had a remarkable memory for telling jokes, and was an entertaining public speaker and motivator. He wrote and delivered several sermons at St. John's United Church of Christ, where he had been a member since 1957. He served for many years as an Elder and Deacon of the church, President of the Consistory, Property Committee Chairman, and enjoying singing in the church.

Survivors include his wife, Lois Greer Vawter; children and spouses, Hale (Mary) Newman of Cincinnati, Valarie (Martin) Moorhead of Elkhart, J. Brett (June) Vawter of Duluth, Minnesota, and Andrea Vawter (Scott Powell) of Elkhart; step-children, Ralph Greer of Arizona, Stephen (Rhoda) Greer and Gary (Janet) Greer of Goshen; five grandchildren; five step-grandchildren; and six step-great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by a brother, James T. Vawter, Jr.

John E. Vawter's grandfather was Jesses Monroe Vawter, a son of William and Matilda Carter Vawter, who lived in Ripley County, Indiana. Information on this family can be found in the Summer 1993 newsletter. Longtime members of the association, John and Lois attended many reunions.

Roy Taylor, 94, of North Vernon, Indiana, died 23 November 2002 at his home after being diagnosed in early October with cancer of the gall bladder. He was born 13 June 1908 in Jefferson County, Indiana, the son of Charles and Lillie Grace Robbins Taylor. He married Hilda Beree Clarkson on 15 June 1929, and she preceded him in death 16 July 1983.

Mr. Taylor was a 1926 graduate of North Vernon High School, and was the last survivor of the class. He had worked during the 1940s for Thompson Dairy, Eaton's Hatchery, and was a brakeman on the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad. An accident while working on the railroad on Labor Day 1951 resulted in the loss of a leg. He was then employed as a bookkeeper at First National Bank, retiring in 1963 after suffering a stroke. For more than thirty years, he was self-employed in bookkeeping for small businesses in the area and tax preparation.

Over the years, Mr. Taylor served the community as volunteer treasurer of many organizations, including the North Vernon Youth Center, the Boys' Club and the Associated Church Charities. He was a former member and treasurer of the North Vernon Lion's Club and a 50-year member of the United Transportation Union. He served on the Jennings County Board of Revue during the 1960s. In 1987, he was named Deacon Emeritus of First Baptist Church in North Vernon, where he was a member and treasurer for many years. He helped distribute baskets at Christmastime and privately counseled those who were recent amputees. He enjoyed fishing, collecting and polishing rocks, and collecting coins.

Surviving are a son, Thomas Charles Taylor of North Vernon; a daughter, Bonita Fern Welch of Scipio, Ind.; seven grandsons, Donald Robert Taylor and James Daniel Taylor, both of North Vernon, Anthony Brian Welch, Darren Michael Welch and Alan Wayne Welch, all of Indianapolis, Eric Jason Taylor of East Point, Georgia, and Joshua Adam Taylor of Dupont, Ind.; four granddaughters, Deborah Jean Taylor of New Albany, Ind., Cynthia Sue Burton of Dwight, Ill., and Jessica Rose Taylor and Summer Beree Taylor, both of North Vernon; six great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Hilda Beree Clarkson Taylor; a son, Roy Taylor, Jr.; two grandsons, David Brent Welch and Jacob Thomas Taylor; a great-grandson, Benjamin Brand Burton; and two brothers, Ernest Taylor and Orval Taylor.

Although not a Vawter descendant, Mr. Taylor was proud of his family's Vawter heritage. His wife was a descendant of Jennings County pioneers William and Frances Vawter through their son Jesse R. Vawter. Her grandmother was Elizabeth Vawter Clarkson, a daughter of Jesse R. and Sara Parks Vawter.

A personal note from the news editor: My dad had many challenges during his long life. Among them were the Depression; the loss of a leg; a telegram during the Korean War that a son had been wounded, and not knowing for days the seriousness of the injuries; strokes; caring for his aged parents; the death of his wife and nearly twenty years of widowhood. At the age of 90, he faced the death of his oldest son, followed seven weeks later by the death in an auto accident of that son's 19-year old grandson, and then nine months later the death of his 88-year old brother. All of this he faced with dignity and a positive outlook, and that is how he passed away. I share this with you because over the years, many of you have known of my increasing involvement in helping Dad remain independent in his home, and have shown an interest in him. I want to thank everyone for being patient with me when the newsletter was late or correspondence was not quickly answered. I also want to thank those who knew of his death and sent expressions of sympathy. Your kindness is appreciated by my family.

The following tribute written by his six-year old great-grandson was read at the funeral service:

MY GREAT-GRANDPA TAYLOR

When me and Anna went to his apartment, he let us have chocolate pudding.
When I was one, he held my hands so I could stand up.
When I was three, he made me smile.
He is very, very, very special.
He is 94.
I love him.

By William Welch

MEMBERS AND FRIENDS REGISTERED AT THE 2002 REUNION

California

Garry B. Vawter
Marjorie Vawter

Colorado

James C. Vaughters

Delaware

Robert L. and Donna Vawter
Robert L. and Mary Vawter
James Jesse Vawter

Florida

David C. Vaughter
Ralphe and Caroline Vawter

Georgia

James G. Adams
Dorothy Vaughters Ayers
Helen Vaughters Bearden
Betty Burt
Jimmie Chester
Sara D. Coffey
Ralph and Virginia Fall
Richard Greene
W. J. Hall
Glenn and Pat Herndon
Cheryl Kelley;
Tim and Kristy Glasgow
Mary Sue Kimberly
Nick and Gladiola Nickerson
John and Pam Schlesinger
L. Neal and Eva D. Smith
Ernest and Betty Vandiver
Brice Vaughters
Doug Vaughters
Silvey Brice Vaughters
Flara Waters
Jo Waters

Illinois

Paul and Connie Bugos

Indiana

Joseph and Bonita Welch

Maryland

William L. Clark

Michigan

Patricia Vawter Klein

Mississippi

Judith Crawford
Martha Hudson
Fred and Wordna Wicker
Ken and Norma Wicker

New York

Richard and Dorothy Vawter

North Carolina

Lisa Strandberg;
Eric and Meredith Strandberg
Hank and Evelyn Woodward

Oklahoma

Bill and Virginia Vawter

Tennessee

Judy Blanks
Caroline Vawter Scarlett
Barbara Vawter;
Emily and Jake DeFur
Norma Jean Vawter

Texas

Roger Byler
Beth Melton
Jay and Karla Quigley;
James
Patricia Renton
Joy Richter
Phil and Peggy Vaughter
J. W. and Diannia Vawter
Jesse and Laneil Vawter
John H. and Sue Vawter

Virginia

Ellen Wicker Cummings;
Frederick Cummings

Washington D.C.

James Gordon Vaughter

(There are others who attended some of the ceremonies, but did not register)



FAMILY ASSOCIATION

April 2003 – Page 1
Vol. 27 No. 2

NEWSLETTER
April 2003

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Dues - \$7.00 per year

IF A RENEWAL FORM IS ENCLOSED, YOU NEED TO PAY DUES

2003 REUNION INFORMATION
from Jesse Vawter, Association President

Why not combine the 2003 VVV reunion with an awesome family vacation? Pensacola is certainly the place to do it !! Gulf Island National Seashore – beautiful “sugar like” white pristine beaches with emerald water.

The dates are Thursday, July 31, through Sunday, August 5. As many know, at the banquet you were given a survey seeking input to make the reunions better and more what the cousins want. Those that were completed and returned were tabulated, and the most requested single item was to hold down or reduce the cost.

Ralphe Vawter volunteered to host the 2003 reunion. Ralphe has done a fantastic job of retaining quality while holding down the cost. Laneil and I visited Ralphe and Caroline. Ralphe had several options for most items. We visited each item that Ralphe had scheduled, and agreed on the ones that best met our objectives. The reunion schedule of events is as follows:

Thursday, July 31:

Check into the Days Inn - Historic Pensacola, 710 N Palafox St., Pensacola Fl 32501, (850)438-4922. Cost: under \$50.00 per night, includes hot breakfast.

Noon – 5:00 p.m., registration at 1700 Scenic Highway

5:00 – 7:00 p.m., Dinner on your own

7:00 – 9:00 p.m., Reception at 1700 Scenic Highway hospitality room

Friday, August 1:

8:00 – 8:45 a.m., Opening meeting of 2003 reunion

9:30 a.m. (sharp), Present at Navy Air Museum (free)

10:00 a.m., 1 ½ hour guided tour of museum

11:30 a.m., IMAX movie – Magic of Flight with the Blue Angels (under \$7.00)

12:30 p.m., Lunch on your own (CUBI Bay is an excellent choice)

2:30 – 4:30 p.m., Family History Center – genealogy session

6:00 – 7:30 p.m., Fried chicken at 1700 Scenic Highway – Scenic Dinner catered (under \$10)

8:00 – 9:30 p.m., Informal hospitality room – games and get to know each other.

Saturday, August 2:

8:00 – 9:30 a.m., Business meeting

10:00 a.m. – Noon, Genealogy session with Georgene Jurgensen and Jim Vaughters

Noon – 5:30 p.m., Lunch on your own and Fun on the Coast

6:00 p.m., Dinner program, The Grill at Osceola is a good possibility (under \$13.00)

Sunday, August 3:

8:00 a.m., Morning devotional before getting on the road

10:30 a.m., Christ Church Worship service

We visited Days Inn – Historic Pensacola and found the staff to be friendly, and their rooms clean. They have a large swimming pool and the room price of under \$50 per night that includes a complete cooked breakfast. Other hotels are available, some with beachfront, but they cost several times this price.

Registration and reception at 1700 Scenic Highway – This is Ralphe and Caroline's high-rise residence. There is a swimming pool available, and an area where we can visit. At the Friday night cookout, there will be games, swimming and a tour of Ralphe and Caroline's eclectic art collection.

There will be a letter following this newsletter. It will contain many more details and lots of information about things to see and do in the area. There will be opportunities to order T-shirts. After having been there for a weekend, Laneil and I plan to spend a whole week enjoying Pensacola. We certainly hope to see you there. Jesse

OTHER REUNIONS

On page three of this newsletter, we have an announcement of a Vaughters reunion being held in Georgia in June. We know there are other branches of the family that also have annual reunions. Please send the information to the newsletter editor several months in advance, and we will include our reunion news.

SMITH WILLIAM STORY

A Holiday tour of Homes was sponsored by the Jennings County (Indiana) Historical Society in December. One of the homes on the tour was built about 1869 by Smith William Storey in Vernon, Indiana. The stone walls on each side of the home were part of the foundation of the former Vernon Woolen Mill.

Smith William Storey was born 23 December 1833 in Vernon, the son of Thomas J. and Jane Vawter Storey. His grandparents were John and Polly Smith Vawter.

JESSAMYN WEST

As part of the 42nd annual Sassafras Tea Festival and Civil War Living History program, the Jennings County (Indiana) Historical Society had a showing of the Oscar-nominated 1956 film “The Friendly Persuasion” on April 26. This film was based on the book by the same title written by Jessamyn West, who was born in Jennings County. A discussion of the book and film followed. VVV Association newsletter editor, Bonita Welch, provided a display of the author’s books and information about her connection to the Milhous and Vawter families. The home where she stayed while in Jennings County to research and visit cousins was open for tours.

Jessamyn West’s great-great-grandparents were James and Elizabeth Vawter Glover. Philemon and Anna Vawter were the parents of Elizabeth Vawter Glover.

The January 2001 VVV newsletter has more information about her life and books.

GEORGIA VAUGHTERS REUNION

Charles Burt organized the first Georgia Vaughters Reunion in 1999, along with Gary Vaughters and Becky Vaughters McCord. We have continued to meet every year since then.

The 2003 reunion will be on Sunday, June 8, at Bethel Baptist Church. The church is two miles north of Dawsonville, where the road meets Highway 136. The church is on one side of the highway, and the cemetery on the other.

Last year, Gary bought a box of 50 American flags and tried to put one on each Vaughters grave. There are more than 50 graves, so this year we will need to buy more.

The schedule will be about the same as previous years:

11:00 a.m.	Walk through the cemetery and identify Vaughters
Noon	Brief family history and introduction of all the families attending.
12:45 p.m.	Photographs on front steps of the church
1:00	Covered dish dinner

Please bring all those old photographs, family Bibles, rolling pins and stories. Contact Jim Vaughters at 303-771-3937 for more information.

ANOTHER CONFEDERATE CEREMONY

Hiram Vaughter, son of Hiram S. and Elizabeth Glenn Vaughter, and grandson of James and Jane, was in the Confederate Army in 1862. He is buried in the family cemetery on the family farm in Red Hill, Franklin County, Georgia.

The VVV Association and the Hartwell Camp of the Sons of Confederate Veterans will conduct a ceremony honoring his grave and a new marker. The ceremony will be on Saturday, June 14, 2003. The schedule for the event is as follows:

- 9:00 a.m. Music
- 10:00 a.m. Ceremony, including flags, soldiers in uniform, reading of the charge, telling of the life of Hiram, history of the 52nd Georgia Infantry Regiment, black powder salute, playing of Taps, names of other Confederate ancestors, and presentation of the ceremonial flag to a family member.
- 11:00 a.m. Refreshments at Hunter's Creek Baptist Church

Hiram's siblings include Mary Frances Adams (Franklin County Adams family), Samuel Vaughter (Confederate officer), and Eliza Missouri Vandiver (grandmother of Georgia Governor Ernest Vandiver.)

The landowner has cleared the trees and bushes in the cemetery, and the \$644.00 donated by the VVV Association was used to put a chain link fence around the cemetery. The Veterans Administration has contributed the marker, four feet high and white marble.

The United Daughters of the Confederacy and the Franklin County Historical Society will also participate in the ceremony.

CONGRATULATIONS

Eric Jason Taylor is being recognized for having the best term paper by the faculty of the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies at Georgia State University. He has also been nominated by the school to Pi Alpha Alpha, the National Honor Society of Public Affairs and Public Administration.

Eric is the son of Tom and Diana Taylor of North Vernon, Indiana, and the nephew of VVV newsletter editor, Bonita Welch. He is a graduate of the International School of Kenya in Nairobi, and Earlham College in Richmond, Indiana. He and his wife, Jennifer, also an Earlham College graduate, live in Atlanta, Georgia.

Eric's parents were educators at the International School of Kenya for ten years, and their four children are all graduates of the school.

Please send news of your family, whether it be an engagement, marriage, birth, graduation, death or a special honor.

A LETTER FROM EVERETT B. VAWTER

CITY OF WEST LAFAYETTE
ENGINEER'S OFFICE
WEST LAFAYETTE, INDIANA

Jan 4, 1929

Mr. & Mrs. Will Holsclaw
North Vernon, Indiana

My dear Cousins – A very good likeness of you two published in the Indianapolis Star of today moves me to write you.

Sixty five years is a good long time to live and that you folks lived long enough to have good sense before starting in on the sixty five year program puts you in a class almost alone. It has been about three years since I saw you last and if this picture of you is a recent one you are surely holding your own in a splendid way.

Some of May Smartz' children in Indianapolis phoned me of May's death but the phone was working so badly I did not get any particulars. From a brief notice I saw in the Star later I take it they buried her at North Vernon. Have wondered of Bessie is still on the old place and Jim Will, tho it seems in my mind that Bessie went again to Indianapolis. I have not the address of any of May's children or of the near relatives and have not written them. The last I saw of May was about three years ago I think when she attended a Rail Road meeting here and at that time she seemed real well.

When Wallace lived in Indianapolis I would call her up from his home but he is not there any more. He gave up his work with the State (the conservation department) and located at Memphis Tenn., where he is a Civil Engineer on the Mississippi flood control under the War Department. It has been some months since we have seen him or his little family and we plan to go down there next week for a few days visit. Wallace has a nice wife and a little boy now nearly a year old. Had we been picking a wife for Wallace we could not have suited ourselves better and the baby of course is a wonder in every way. We rejoice that they are all well and enjoy living in that place tho we wish we might see them oftener than is possible for us to do now.

The flu is taking off many of our old folks here and it behooves you my good cousins to be on your guard these days. I am nearing 70 myself and while I am well and have had as busy a summer just past as any in my life, yet I am careful during the sudden changes, tho my work takes me out the most of the time.

I never forget the homecomings you people have observed near your abode and wished I might be there. I plan to give more time to rest and recreation before I am too old to enjoy it but like many others may wait too long to make the start.

If Bessie and Jim Will are still in your neighborhood remember me to them and let them know I was thinking of them when May was called to her long rest.

I believe Bertha is not with you now and in fact I don't know if any of your

children are near by. I wish I might spend a while in that vicinity looking over the scenes of my own and my parents childhood and renew the acquaintances of my relatives and their children. But it is a habit of life to become engrossed in things that are near about us to such an extent that we neglect those that meant much to us in earlier life.

We are just embarking upon a new era in our church here with a pastor formerly in Iowa City and if we follow closely the program he has laid out we will be a busy people. We have a goal of 100 new members for the year and expect to launch a campaign for the erecting of an education plant that will tax our giving ability.

With a wish that you may live to travel together for more years yet, I am affectionately yours- Everett B. Vawter

Bro Will is still practicing his profession and lives with us.

Notes: The letter was written by Everett Bates Vawter to William T. and Almira King Holsclaw. Everett and Almira were cousins, both being the grandchildren of William and Frances Vawter of Jennings County, Indiana. Everett was the son of Philemon and Sylvia Hunter Vawter, and Almira the daughter of George and Frances Vawter King. Although he congratulates them on being married for 65 years, it would actually have been their 67th anniversary. Several records show the date they were married to be 2 Jan 1862.

He writes of the death of May Smartz. That would be another cousin Emma May Feagler Smartz, the daughter of Ormand and Mary (Polly) Vawter Feagler. “Bessie and Jim Will” are Bessie Feagler and James William Feagler, sister and brother of May Smartz.

“Wallace” is Everett B. and Helen Read Vawter’s son, Wallace Read Vawter, who died 24 June 1988. His wife, Helen Cripe Vawter died 28 Aug 1992. Everett speaks of wanting to visit the “scenes of my own and my parents childhood.” We don’t know if he did that, but in 1982, Wallace and Helen traveled from their retirement home in Ajijic, Jalisco, Mexico, to attend the VVV reunion in Madison, Indiana. One day of the reunion was spent in Jennings County, and Wallace was able to visit those “scenes” his father remembered. The “little boy” Everett calls “a wonder in every way” is W. Read Vawter, who is now retired and living in Ajijic. He is a member of the association.

“Bertha” is Bertha Alice Holsclaw, the daughter of William T. and Almira Holsclaw.

“Bro Will” is William Hunter Vawter, the brother of Everett Bates Vawter.

A biography of Philemon Vawter, the father of Everett Bates Vawter, appeared in the January 2003 newsletter.

This letter had been kept for many years by Florence Beeman, a granddaughter of William T. and Almira King Holsclaw, and a copy was given to us by her nephew. Do you have old letters to share? It is important that the information gleaned from these letters be preserved. In this time of e-mails and cell phones, not many people write long letters (or even short notes) filled with family news. Please send copies of letters for possible inclusion in the newsletter.

THE PLAIN DEALER AND REPUBLICAN
North Vernon, Indiana
31 May 1923

Mrs. Mayme Vawter Dead

The body of Mrs. Mayme Vawter, seventy-four years old, whose death occurred at her home at Vawter Park near Syracuse, Ind., Saturday morning, May 26th, was brought to Vernon Tuesday evening. Funeral services were held at Vernon Presbyterian Church on Wednesday morning, and the burial took place in Vernon Cemetery.

Mrs. Vawter was the widow of Smith K. Vawter and was formerly a resident of Vernon. She is survived by three children: Mrs. Louise Green and Mrs. Edna Hess, of Syracuse; and John Vawter of Los Angeles, Calif.

(Although her name is given as “Mayme” in this obituary, marriage records and other sources have her name as “Mary.”)

THE PLAIN DEALER AND REPUBLICAN
North Vernon, Indiana
31 May 1923

Obituary

Ruth, daughter of George and Margaret Vawter, was born April 6th 1893 and passed to her reward May 19th 1923, age 30 years, 1 month and thirteen days.

At the early age of fifteen years, she united with the Christian Church at Queensville [Indiana] and remained a devoted member until her death. Ruth's life was one of sacrifice and service, every sacrificing her own pleasures to devote her time and strength to her aged parents.

Until her health failed, she was a faithful teacher in the Sunday school in the church of her choice, having been the primary teacher for 13 years. She was also a member of the C.E. Society. Indeed her whole life was one of service to her parents, to her church and Sunday school.

She leaves a fond, devoted father, a loving mother, five sisters and one brother to mourn her death, and, so we who loved her and shall long be conscious of the vacant place she leaves, can scarce regret the call of death which crept upon her to reward her high faith, to release her from the pain of life and bring her to that “peace that passeth understanding. So we will not say that Ruth is dead, she is just away!”

Ruth Vawter had a sister, Sarah Frances, born 28 May 1890, and died 14 Sept 1891. In the Jennings County, Indiana, Coroner's Book 1, Page 24, we find: “Sarah Frances Vawter, age 15 months, drowning by falling into barrel in ground for receiving slop.”

NEWSLETTERS, BICKNELL AND RUCKER

As reported in a previous newsletter, Patricia Vawter Renton has completed a project for the association by creating a CD. This CD, which is in Microsoft Word format, contains the VVV Family Association newsletters from 1977 thru 2001, the entire *Vawter Family in America* by Grace Vawter Bicknell, and excerpts from *The Rucker Family Genealogy* by Sudie Rucker Wood.

Patricia brought several of the CDs to the reunion in Georgia, and quickly sold all of them. She will make copies for those interested and donate the proceeds to the association. The Executive Committee has set the price at \$20.00.

Please order from: Patricia V. Renton, 2372 Bear Creek Road, Pipe Creek, TX 78063. Patricia's telephone number is 830-510-4625, and her e-mail is pvrenton@ev1.net.

VIDEO TAPES

Video tapes of the 2002 reunion, made and donated by Bob Vawter, are available at a cost of \$20.00, including postage. All proceeds from the sales go to the association. The two-tape set can be ordered from Norma Jean Vawter, and her address can be found with the list of officers. Please make your check to the VVV Family Association.

IN REMEMBRANCE

Oscar Lee Vawter, Jr. of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, died 8 August 2002. He was born on 13 January 1924 in Sherman, Texas.

Oscar was a veteran of World War II (1943-45), serving on a minesweeper; and a veteran of the Korean War (1950-51), serving on an aircraft carrier. In between his wartime service, he was in the U.S. Reserves.

He retired from Rainbow Bakery in 1987. He was a member of Emmaus Baptist Church; an active lifetime member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, where he was part of the honor guard; and a member of Disabled American Veterans. He enjoyed listening to gospel music and traveling. Oscar was proud to have served his country.

Surviving are his wife of 53 years, Erma; two daughters, Shirley Troyer and her husband, Dan, and Sharon Coursey and her husband, Bill, all of Oklahoma City; a son, Richard Griffie of Velma, Oklahoma; three brothers, Billy Mac Vawter of Oklahoma City, James Earl Vawter of Iredall, Texas, and Joe Don Vawter of Noble, Oklahoma; five grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents and an infant son.

The funeral service was held at Emmaus Baptist Church on 12 August 2002. Burial was at Sunny Land Cemetery in Del City, Oklahoma.

Oscar was a longtime member of the association and attended the reunion almost every year. Our sincere sympathy is sent to Erma and all of the family.



FAMILY ASSOCIATION

July 2003 – Page 1
Vol. 27 No. 3

NEWSLETTER
July 2003

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Dues - \$7.00 per year

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2003 REUNION INFORMATION FROM JESSE VAWTER

2003 VVV Reunion in Pensacola Florida

Thursday, July 31 through Sunday, August 3

This will attempt to briefly summarize the letter that I recently sent to each of you. We continue to make minor adjustments to the schedule you received in the previous VVV Newsletter. You will receive the official reunion schedule at registration.

Registration will begin Thursday at noon and last to 5 PM at the Days Inn – Historic Pensacola, 710 N. Palafox St., Pensacola; The phone number is (850) 438-4922. Be sure and call soon to make your reservation. Just mention you are with the Vawter group to receive the group discount.

Reception at 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM at “1700 Scenic Hwy” – Definitely worth the time and effort.

A group trip to The Navy Air Museum located at the Pensacola Naval Air Station. An IMAX movie (about \$6), called ‘The Magic of Flight’ Parts of the movie are filmed while flying in the cockpit with the Blue Angels. This was the high point of our trip to Pensacola last year. Lunch will be on your own, but the CUBI Bay restaurant, located in the museum, has good food and the walls and ceilings are covered with memorabilia. We will have our VVV Opening ceremonies here (10-15 minutes).

The Family History Center agreed to stay open for our group, and show us how to use their files to research our ancestry. Don't miss this one.

The Scenic Diner will cater our Friday night meal. Many suggested we bring our favorite dessert and share. Those who want to, please bring a favorite dessert and share it with the rest of the family. Bring the recipe, because you are sure to be asked for it. Any leftover desserts can be eaten the rest of the weekend.

The Saturday morning Genealogy session, led by Georgene Jurgensen and Jim Vaughters, will take a slightly different turn. In addition to us all telling our favorite family story(s), we've asked them include some of the more interesting stories that they have uncovered in their VVV genealogy research. Both are great storytellers!

The banquet on Saturday night will be held at the Angus Restaurant. They are known for their food and Ralphe negotiated a great price.

On Sunday morning, we will have an informal morning devotional before we get on the road. For those who have the time, consider worshiping with Ralphe and Caroline. Services are at 10:30 AM at Christ Church.

Don't forget to pass to Jesse and Laneil Vawter the names and pertinent information for any VVV family member that has passed away since our last reunion so that your loved one can be remembered in the Memorial Service.

Don't forget:

- make your hotel reservations
- bring your favorite dessert and recipe to share if you want to
- order and pay for the Vawter Crest shirt and or the 2003 VVV Pensacola shirt if you want one
- send in headcount and names of those who will attend
- come prepared to have a great time and meet new 'old friends'

Our phone numbers are:
(281) 485-9733 Home
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Our mailing address is:
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11506 Sagecountry Ln.
Houston, Tx 77089

email address:
jessvawter@aol.com
LMVawter@aol.com

DOOR PRIZES

A popular tradition at the reunions is the giving of door prizes. These items are donated by the members. Some bring handcrafted items; others bring something that is unique to the area in which they live. There is always a wide variety.

RESERVATIONS

Please be sure to return your meal reservation form to Jesse and Laneil Vawter. They also need to know the names of those who will be attending.

VAUGHTER CEMETERY
ELBERT COUNTY, GEORGIA

By Jim Vaughters

Among the many legacies that Swift and Julian Vaughter left us was the knowledge of the original house and the family cemetery. They are on the first 125 acres that John Vawter owned. As was typical, the cemetery is about 200 yards from the house. Both are in the center of the 850 acres that were given to the State of Georgia and that were the subject of the first big ceremony at the 2002 reunion.

The State is now a partner with the family in preserving these landmarks. While the cemetery was the site of the Sons of the American Revolution ceremony honoring John's grave, it is important to recognize all the family members buried there.

1. John Vawter, born Virginia about 1750, son of Richard Vawter and Frances Towles, lived in North Carolina about 1775-1800, moved to Elbert County, died 1817, probate estate 1818-1834.

2. Joannah Vernon Vawter, second wife of John, daughter of Richard Vernon and Saran Tinsley, born Virginia about 1763, married John about 1792 in North Carolina, wrote a will and died 1826. A sister, Sarah, married William Ward, a Revolutionary soldier, and a brother of Frankey Ward, first wife of John Vawter. Another sister, Elizabeth, married Anthony Dearing who, along with John Vawter, acted as Richard Vernon's power of attorney for land he owned in North Carolina.

3. William Vawter, son of John and Frankey, born about 1780 in North Carolina, never married, headed the lawsuit of John's estate vs Cooper and Frankey Bennett (John's own daughter) to recover slaves leased out in Pendleton, South Carolina, wrote a will and died in 1828.

4. Richard Vawter, son of John and Joannah, born about 1795 in North Carolina, never married, became guardian of three slaves and sued John's estate and won their freedom and \$3,000.00, acquired much of the land that made up the final 850 acres, wrote a will and died in 1856, gave all his property to the children of his brother Lindsey, inventory recently found.

5. Lindsey Vaughter, son of John and Joannah, born 1808 in Georgia or South Carolina (census records vary), might be the Lindsey Vaughter listed as being in Indian Wars in the 1830s, married Mary Polly McMullen Hulme in 1844, was appointed guardian of his own children under the will of his brother Richard (the original guardianship order was in Swift's house) in which bond was set at \$11,000.00 (!), died in 1863.

6. Mary Polly McMullen Hulme Vaughter, born 1812, married and widowed, married Lindsey in 1844, had six children, signed an employment contract with her former slaves in August 1865 (original was in Swift's house), showed as Mary Vorters in 1870 and 1880 censuses, died in 1890.

7. Jesse Richard Vaughter, son of Lindsey and Mary, the only child of theirs not buried at Harmony Baptist Church Cemetery, born 1846, he and his brother named in an 1847 deed in which their uncle Richard gave his property to them (original in Swift's house), four years old in 1850 census, not named in Richard's will of May 1, 1856, probably died before.

The edges of the cemetery have some miscellaneous unmarked stones lying on the

ground. While there is no documentation of the other family members buried there, the following ones are likely permanent residents:

Elizabeth Vawter Crump, daughter of John and Joannah, born about 1800 in North Carolina, named numerous times in John's estate, married Pleasant Crump 1822, had a baby 1823, died 1823, no record found of her burial.

L. Vawter, 1850 census "Female, 76 years old, born Virginia, farmer, lived with Mr. and Mrs. Hanks." No other record of this person in Elbert County, before or after. Possibly a cousin of John and had lived in North Carolina. Possibly a widow of a Vawter man, such as the elusive Warton. Being born in 1774, prior to the Revolutionary War, and living until the eve of the Civil War, certainly makes her an interesting historical figure.

Query: Do other members of the Association have information or thoughts on this cemetery?

CONGRATULATIONS

Heather Jean Gipson of Indianapolis received the Juris Doctorate Degree on May 11, 2003. The ceremonies were held in the Sagamore Ballroom at the Indiana Convention Center, with 264 candidates. She received the bronze level pro bono award, and is a member of Alpha Kappa Delta and the American Health Lawyers Association.

She is practicing in the area of health law and is employed by the Indiana University School of Medicine, office of compliance services, and continues to teach as an adjunct faculty member at the University of Indianapolis.

Heather is the granddaughter of VVV Association members Milton and Charlotte Pickett of North Vernon, Indiana.

NAMES LISTED AT VETERAN'S PARK

Following the 2002 reunion in Georgia, the Historical Society of Elbert County, Georgia, placed the name of John Vawter on the list of Revolutionary War soldiers. His name was chiseled onto the granite monument at Veteran's Park in Elberton. The name of William Ward, brother of John's first wife Frankey Ward, was also placed on the monument.

Thanks to Richard Greene for following through and persevering in order to complete this project.

PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS

Do you know someone who might be interested in becoming a member of the association? Send their name(s) to the news editor, and we will mail complimentary issues of the newsletter. Several of our members have learned of the association in this way.

Melba Vawter Ashburn has sent this obituary of her daughter, Diane Marie Wilmonen. Those who attended the 1993 reunion in Oklahoma City will remember Diane and the solos she sang. Melba is writing a book about her daughter's long journey with breast cancer, and will call it "God is Using Me." Melba also said the Vawters in Idaho are having a reunion at Hells Gate State Park on the Snake River in July, and expect about 80 people to attend. We hope someone will send a report of this reunion for the newsletter.

DIANE MARIE WILMONEN

Diane Marie Wilmonen passed away at Lewiston, Idaho, August 25, 2002 at age 54. She was born at Lewiston, Idaho, April 30, 1948, to Robert and Melba Vawter Ashburn.

"God is using me," became Diane's focus during her 6 ½ year journey of faith with breast cancer. When in 1997, she learned the cancer had metastasized to the bones she was told there was no cure. Her faith in God did not waiver as she continued with four surgeries, four sessions of Chemotherapy, and radiation. Appointments with doctors, regular hospitalization, and continual MRIs, scans, and tests consumed much of her time and energy after breast cancer was diagnosed on Good Friday, April 5, 1996.

Diane received a bachelor of science degree from Lewis Clark State College and became a classroom music teacher in Lewiston's Elementary Schools. Her love of music and teaching children was a dream come true for Diane. However, due to the ravishes of cancer, she was unable to continue and sadly retired in 1998.

Music was Diane's passion. She studied music at WSU and her lovely soprano voice was appreciated as she was a choir member and soloist for twenty-five years at the Congregational Presbyterian Church. Also she participated in the Stuart Churchill Chorale for many years, and she sang with the Washington Idaho Symphony Chorus, Sweet Adelines, and had leading roles in musical productions at Lewis Clark State College.

Nothing was more important to Diane than her family. She planned and organized for every occasion. She loved every precious moment she was able to spend with grandson, Michael 3, and said of baby granddaughter, Hana Marie, ten months, "I just want to live to see Hana walk down this hall."

Diane worshiped at the Congregational Presbyterian Church her entire life. Her baptism there was in 1948, by Pastor Douglas Vance, and her marriage was officiated by Pastor Paul Hovey in April, 1967.

Diane loved the vacations that her family managed during the years of their marriage. Favorite places were the Oregon Coast, Crooked River, Dworshak Dam and the Canadian Rockies. She longed for one last trip to the ocean in May where they had reservations in Lincoln City.

Her collection of angels symbolized a connection to Heaven. These beautiful gifts from family and friends were a comforting presence to Diane when life was so unpredictable. During her last

month at home before she was hospitalized, she selected angels to be given to friends and family who were her special angels.

Diane was a member of the Congregational Presbyterian Church, Xi Chapter of Alpha Delta Kappa, Chapter AR of PEO, the Lewiston Education Association, and the Valley Breast Cancer Support Group.

Survivors are her husband, Kenneth Wilmonen, at the family home; son, Robert Wilmonen of Lewiston; son, Scott Wilmonen and his wife, Miki Kurosawa, of Meridian, Idaho; two grandchildren, Michael and Hana Marie Wilmonen, of Meridian. Also she is survived by her parents, Robert and Melba Ashburn, Lewiston; sister, Julie Kay Randall, and her husband, Gary, of Sammamish, Washington; brother, Douglas Ashburn, of Genesee, Idaho, and his wife, Susie. She is also survived by four nephews, Casey and Corey Bayless, and Teague and Gavin Ashburn, and numerous aunts, uncles, and cousins.

FLORENCE BEATRICE FITCH

Florence Beatrice Fitch, 91, of North Vernon, Indiana, died Thursday, 15 May 2003, at St. Vincent Jennings Hospital in North Vernon. She was born in Jennings County, Indiana, 21 March 1912, the daughter of Jesse Francis and Elizabeth Leahigh Clarkson. She married Earl Fitch on 11 January 1936.

Mrs. Fitch worked for 14 years at Muscatatuck State Developmental Center, retiring as a ward clerk. She was a member of Church of the Nazarene in North Vernon and the adult Sunday school class of the church. A lifelong resident of Jennings County, she was a graduate of Hayden High School. She enjoyed mowing the grass, gardening, flea markets and yard sales.

Surviving are a son, Earl Fitch Jr. of North Vernon; two daughters, Juanita P. Speer of Coral Springs, Florida, and Brenda K. Bennett of North Vernon; grandchildren, David Speer of Reddington, Indiana, Dennis Speer of St. Cloud, Florida, Daria Fish of Coral Springs and Chris Bennett, Gena Allen, and Jennifer Penegar, all of North Vernon; and ten great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband in 1978; brothers, Omar, Wilford and Jennings Clarkson; and sisters, Goldie Hyatt, Ethel Peterson, Gladys Engle, Pearl Engle, and Lottie Clarkson.

Florence Fitch's grandparents were Thomas and Elizabeth Vawter Clarkson. Her great-grandparents were Jesse R. and Sarah Parks Vawter, and her great-great-grandparents were William and Frances Vawter, all of Jennings County, Indiana. For many years, Florence placed flowers on the graves of her ancestors buried in the old Vawter Cemetery near North Vernon every Memorial Day. Just a few days before her death, she purchased flowers for this year.

FLORENCE MAUDE FITZGERALD VAWTER

Florence Maude Vawter Fitzgerald, 99, died 22 December 2002. She was born 21 February 1903 in Franklin, Indian Territory, the daughter of James Wesley and Martha Ann McCasson Vawter.

She was a member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and was one of the last few original enrollees of her tribe. Her grandfather was removed to Oklahoma on the Choctaw "Trail of Tears." She later moved with her family to Bethany, Oklahoma.

She graduated from the high school at Oklahoma Nazarene College, now known as Southern Nazarene University, where she was active in the Shakespearean Club and the Platonic Literature Society. She received her Life Teaching Certificate from Central State Teachers' College in Edmond, Oklahoma, and moved to Pernell, Oklahoma, to teach at Wyatt's Chapel School and help her family during the Great Depression. Later, she moved to Dale, Oklahoma, to teach first grade and music. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree from East Central College in Ada, Oklahoma, in August 1957.

Florence taught school for 36 years before retiring. She also spent approximately 75 years giving vocal and piano lessons privately, and accompanied many vocal and band students in competitions. In her lifetime, she witnessed many changes in world history. She was four years old when Oklahoma became a state; six years old when Geronimo, the leader of the Apache nation, died at Ft. Sill, Oklahoma. When she was born, automobiles and airplanes were a novel new idea, and television, space travel and antibiotics were not even in the experimental stage.

Surviving are a son, David Fitzgerald; a daughter, Dr. Marcia Fitzgerald Guinn; a son-in-law, George Guinn; a brother Silas M. Vawter; three granddaughters, Milynda Guinn Moore, Lia Guinn Ingram and Lisa Fitzgerald; and great-grandchildren, Sascha Ingram, Leif Moore, Ashley Ingram, Davey Ingram, and MacKinley Moore.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Eugene Frank Fitzgerald, in 1961; and sisters and brothers, Eula, Eunice, Ethel, Beatrice, Alice, Elbert, Albert, Zona and Lillian.

This information was taken from an obituary that appeared in the *Pauls Valley Daily Democrat* on Dec. 26, 2002. It was sent to us by Fred Wicker. Florence Fitzgerald and Fred's mother were first cousins. Florence's brother, Silas, has attended several reunions, and will be remembered by some for having defeated Jim Vaughters in a tennis match at Lake Murray State Park. At the time, Silas was 70 years old.

INFORMATION NEEDED

As always, we thank the many people who have provided information for this newsletter. Please remember to send news of your family, such as marriages, births, deaths, graduations, special events or awards received. Perhaps you see something in the newspaper with a Vawter/Vaughter/Vaughter(s) connection. Please send a copy of that article.

ROBERT LAVERNE VAWTER

Robert Laverne Vawter, 71, of Newaygo, Michigan, died 7 April 2003 in McAllen, Texas. He was born 15 April 1931 in Grand Rapids, Michigan, the son of Robert C. and Margaret G. Hamacher Vawter.

He was a member of First Baptist Church in Newaygo and retired from Rapistan in 1986.

Surviving are his wife, Ila Dygert Vawter; a son and daughter-in-law, Robert Dale and Colleen Vawter; a grandson and granddaughter-in-law, Peter John and Kristin Vawter; a granddaughter, Aimee Louise Vawter; and his mother, Margaret G. Hamacher Vawter.

He was preceded in death by a daughter, Bonnie Jean Vawter DeHaan; a brother Duane Vawter; and his father, Robert C. Vawter.

Burial was at Merriman Cemetery in Lowell Township, Michigan.

Robert was a longtime member of the VVV Association, and along with his wife and parents attended many reunions. Ila has provided violin music for the Memorial Service several times. We thank Ila for sending Robert's obituary. She said that although he had pancreatic cancer, he had little pain and was a great witness to all who visited him and to all his caregivers.

DEWEY VAWTER, JR.

Dewey "Buddy" Vawter, Jr., 74, Zionsville, Indiana, died 28 June 2003. He was born 8 February 1929, the son of Dewey and Lora McDaniels Vawter.

He was an electrician 40 years for Ashpaugh Electrical Service, and an Indiana National Guard Sgt. From 1947 to 1950.

Surviving are his wife, Jeanette L. Leonard Vawter; a son, John E. Vawter; a daughter, Linda S. Potter; and eight grandchildren.

Funeral Service was held at John Wesley Free Methodist Church, where he was a member, with burial at Mt. Pleasant Cemetery.

Dewey Vawter, Jr. was a longtime member of the VVV Association. He and Jeanette attended the 1987 reunion held in Columbus, Indiana. We thank Esther Barker Vawter of Fresno, California, for bringing this obituary to our attention.

OCTOBER NEWSLETTER

The October newsletter will have a report of the 2003 reunion in Florida, information about Van's Creek Baptist Church records, and a report of the ceremony honoring the grave of Confederate veteran Hiram Vaughter at the family cemetery in Red Hill, Franklin County, Georgia.



FAMILY ASSOCIATION

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NEWSLETTER
October 2003

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Dues - \$10.00 per year

IF A RENEWAL FORM IS ENCLOSED, YOU NEED TO PAY DUES

2003 REUNION IN PENSACOLA
Submitted by Jesse Vawter

The family met at Pensacola for the 2003 VVV reunion. Most had a great time, from the reports we received. There were some minor problems like 1) problems with some of the rooms, 2) daily afternoon thunderstorms (which cleared the pools and beaches), and 3) a minor parking problem on Thursday and Friday nights. Otherwise, every one seemed to have a good time. Our family has a history of overcoming problems, great and small, and enjoying life in general. Some of our people went fishing, parasailing, enjoyed the beaches, and were amazed that the “barking sand” actually “barked” as you walked through it. Some were impressed with the clean bright white sand. Everyone, except a hardened Air Force veteran or two, was impressed at the Naval Air Museum. They suggested we go to Dayton, Ohio, to see the Air Force Museum. Who knows? Maybe?

We had a very lively business meeting that was well received by most of those who attended. We visited the Family Life Center for a short introduction to their genealogy files and how to use them.

At the Saturday Banquet, Caroline Scarlett did a great job with the memorial service, honoring twelve members of the family that departed this life in the last year or so. James Quigley and Tommy Hudson assisted Caroline. Jackie and Margie Hudson sang

“The Battle Hymn of the Republic (a capella) and did an excellent job.

The members of each branch of the armed forces were recognized. We played a game called Human Bingo; some remember playing it at the reunion in Austin. We sought out personal answers related to the squares of the bingo card from our family members. Then we recognized those represented by each square. We learned something new and interesting about the members of our family. Most of the squares applied to several individuals.

We had the roll call of states and there were 13 states represented. There were 16 from Texas, followed closely by Mississippi, represented by 14. All enjoyed the drawing for door prizes. Patricia Renton had a beautiful handmade quilt that was the center of a spirited auction. It finally was sold for \$230 to Ralphe Vawter. The proceeds went to the VVV Family Association. Thank you, Patricia and Ralphe and all who participated.

We honored those that have served in the military at registration, at the Saturday banquet and at Georgene Jurgensen’s genealogy and story telling session. Our family is and has been well represented in the armed forces of our country.

On Sunday morning, Karla Quigley lead a devotional for those that had to get on the road early. Karla loves to read fiction books about Bible characters. At the time, she was reading one about the apostle Peter, and his daily walk with Jesus. From the final days of his life, Peter is sharing how he became convinced that Jesus was more than just a man. Karla did a great job. Several asked for more information about the book. It is “The Fisherman” by Larry Huntsperger. Several family members later attended worship services with Ralphe and Caroline Vawter.

2004 REUNION

The committee to find sites for future VVV reunions researched several sites, and selected Colorado Springs, Colorado, for the 2004 reunion. Depending on the results of the vote, the dates will be July 15-18 or August 5-8. As soon as the vote is counted, we will get the dates to you so that you can schedule vacation if necessary and begin planning to have a great time in Colorado. As we did this year, we will research fun things to do in the area, and will furnish ideas for a great family vacation. See you in Colorado Springs next year.

-Jesse and Laneil

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

The Executive Committee met on August 2, 2003, and voted to increase the dues from \$7 per year to \$10 per year. This mainly supports the cost of printing and distributing the VVV Newsletter. As we are all aware, costs have greatly increased for materials and postage. The committee also voted to change the reunion registration from \$5 per adult to \$10 for an individual adult or \$15 per family living under the same roof.

The Executive Committee also discussed changing the reunion date to the middle of

July. This could make it easier for our young people and their families and those working for various school systems to come to future reunions while having little or no negative impact on our older membership. It would even make it possible for some of us to bring our grandchildren. Several of our members do not come or must leave early to get back for school activities and classes. The subject of changing the date has been well discussed in previous years. However, since schools begin earlier now than they did 15 or 20 years ago, it has become apparent that we must change the date or routinely exclude a growing number of our younger people from the reunion. If we exclude the younger family members, the organization will die within a few years.

The Bylaws of the Vawter, Vauter, Vaughter(s) Family Association state “The Annual Meeting shall be held on the 1st weekend in August.” In order to change the date of the reunion, the Bylaws must be amended. The Bylaws provide a method for the change.

“The Bylaws of the VVV Family Association may be amended, altered, or added to by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present at the Annual Meeting or by absentee ballot, provided that written notice of at least ten days is given to the membership so stating the amendment to be voted upon when voting is necessary absentee ballot.”

The legal minds at the Executive Committee meeting agreed that we could not have a binding vote on the issue at the 2003 reunion because the general membership had not been given written notification ten days in advance. We could meet this requirement, however, if the next VVV Newsletter contained a written notification, and it also contained a ballot with instruction to return the completed ballot after ten days. The vote would be those ballots returned after ten days have passed but postmarked prior to a cut-off date. The votes would be counted and if at least 2/3 of the votes returned favored changing the reunion dated as described, the next reunion could then be planned for July 15,16,17, and 18 of 2004. A non-binding vote was taken at the business meeting, and overwhelmingly favored changing the date to mid-July.

The ballots are included with this newsletter, and should be returned to the address listed on the ballot. The ballot will be counted and re-counted by several individuals. They will be available for inspection at the next reunion. The results of the vote, along with the dates of the 2004 reunion will be available in the next newsletter or by a special mailing.

THANK YOU

We want to thank Ralphe and Caroline Vawter for all the work they did in planning the 2003 reunion. Only those who have hosted a reunion can appreciate the amount of time and effort it takes. Thank you!

[A note from the news editor: Because we were unable to attend the 2003 reunion, a special thanks is sent to Jesse and Laneil Vawter for providing all the reunion news.]

A LETTER FROM ELLEN CUMMINGS

Dear VVV Members,

When I first began to be active in the VVV Association, there were eight or nine children in attendance. Because there was no where else for them to go, they were brought to the business meetings with their parents and grandparents, where they cried, fidgeted, fussed, and were generally miserable. Having a degree in music education and experience in directing children's choirs, I decided to try to organize a group of VVV children, to give them something to do during the business meetings, and provide entertainment for the Saturday evening banquet.

The first effort toward this end took place during the summer of 1991 in St. Louis, Missouri, with eight children ranging in age from four to nine years. The rest, as they say, is history. The children enjoyed having an activity planned just for themselves. They had fun getting to know each other, didn't have to sit through a boring business meeting, and the adults looked forward to the children's performances from year to year. This VVV Children's Choir grew in numbers annually, and in Ashland, Virginia, and Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin, in 1995 and 1996 respectively, there were over 20 of our young people in attendance.

I anticipated additions every year as younger children reached the age where they were comfortable leaving their parents and participating in such an activity. It didn't happen. Those who started out in the VVV Children's Choir continued to attend into their teenage years, enjoying each other's company and catching up on the events of the past year. However, there were no more primary and elementary children in attendance. None. Our choir was getting smaller and smaller and the teenagers were starting to rebel.

As I began to wonder about where the children were, I heard from grandparents that their grandchildren wanted to come, but schools were starting earlier and earlier, some in the first week of August, therefore prohibiting trips of any kind during the first weekend in August, which has been our standing reunion date for years. Virginia public schools still start the Tuesday after Labor Day, so I was unaware the earlier start of school was as wide-spread as it obviously is.

I am concerned that this association is no longer drawing families with young children. I know from experience how much fun they can have getting to know each other and seeing each other year after year. I don't know if the early start of school, which seems to be so prevalent now, is the over-riding reason we are no longer drawing the younger set. No one wants to change the longstanding reunion date if it's not necessary, but we are willing to adjust if it will better accommodate families of school aged children.

I hope you will give careful consideration to the possibility of moving the reunion date to the middle of July. If you are the parent of primary and elementary aged children, please let us hear from you. If this date change will make a difference in your family's ability to join the VVV Association and attend its yearly reunions, I hope you will let your feelings be known. If we are moving in the wrong direction, we need this input as well.

My almost 19-year old son has not missed a reunion since 1990. He and I drove for

14 hours through the night – twice – going to Pensacola and back for this year’s reunion. It was not a good time for him to be away, but he wanted to be with the young people he has known for 15 years now, and five of them were there. On the way home, Frederick and I talked about what it is that keeps us coming back year after year. We finally decided it’s like being in Brigadoon. Although a full year has passed since we last saw the members of this family association, we are able to step back into each other’s lives and pick up as if it was the very next day. We are richer for the associations we have with VVV family members, and want to continue to add to our numbers.

Again, I hope everyone will prayerfully consider the direction we should take concerning this proposed date change. I hope to see everyone in Colorado Springs next summer.

Sincerely,
Ellen Wicker Cummings.

NEWS FROM VAUTER’S CHURCH

The following is a portion of an article written by the Rev. Dr. Christopher Agnew for *Vauter’s Parish Post*, the newsletter of Vauter’s Church in Virginia.

“We are not sure when this issue of the Parish Post will be able to be published. We are still suffering the effects of the storm. This past Sunday we worshiped at Vauter’s without power. The choir helped give us leadership in singing the hymns and service music without any accompaniment. The mighty oak that has stood in front of Vauter’s Church for generations was toppled by Isabel’s winds, and, thanks be to God, when it fell, it fell over the highway and not over our beloved colonial structure. Our lectionary has an amazing way of so often giving us an assigned collect and lessons that are most appropriate for the moment. On this past Sunday, September 21, the collect of the day had us pray, *Grant us, Lord, not to be anxious about earthly things, but to love things heavenly; and even now, while we are placed among things that are passing away, to hold fast to those that shall endure.* A mighty oak was gone; our prayers and praise endure.

“I had no idea what I would find when I drove to the Church. It was quite a sight to see the tree and Randy Silvers with his machinery already well advanced in cleaning up the mess. I know that those I saw when I was at the church were only some of those who turned out to help take care of the churchyard. When there are so many people involved in something like this, it is always risky to mention people by name. Inevitably someone’s feelings get hurt, and so I generally avoid naming individuals, but all of us thank each and every person who turned out both before and after the storm to tend to the building and grounds. And we thank Randy for the many hours he put into the clean up and for the tremendous job he was able to do with his equipment.”

Address for the church: Vauter’s Episcopal Church, P.O. Box 154, Champlain VA 22438

MEMBERS AND FRIENDS REGISTERED AT THE 2003 REUNION

ALABAMA

Al and Ann Montgomery

CALIFORNIA

Garry B. Vawter

DELEWARE

Robert L. and Donna Vawter

FLORIDA

Rebecca Cornette
Barry and Becky Guinagh
Ralphe and Caroline Vawter

GEORGIA

Betty Burt
Richard Greene
Cheryl Kelley;
Tim Glasgow, Kristy Glasgow
Mary Sue Kimberley
John and Pam Schlesinger

ILLINOIS

Jerry and Shirley Beasley
Paul and Connie Bugos

INDIANA

Tanner Deisch
Milton and Charlotte Pickett

MICHIGAN

Patricia Vawter Klein

MISSISSIPPI

Judith Crawford
Martha Hudson
Richard and Margaret Hudson;
Jackie Hudson, Tommy Hudson,
Ryan A. Shipley
Jeff and Kathy Terry;
Drake Terry
Fred Wicker
Ken and Norma Wicker

NEW YORK

Richard and Dorothy Vawter

OKLAHOMA

Bill and Sharon Coursey
Shirley Troyer
Bill and Virginia Vawter
Erma Vawter
Diana Vawter Loch

SOUTH DAKOTA

Georgene Jurgensen
Tara Downing;
Ethan Downing, Halle Downing

TENNESSEE

Bill and Julia Blanks
Gene and Eloise Bradley
Mel and Nan Scarlett Overton;
Taylor Overton, Jackson Overton
Caroline Vawter Scarlett
Barbara J. Vawter;
Emily J. DeFur
Norma Jean Vawter

TEXAS

Jordan Johnston
Robbie and Courtney Marsh;
Reid Marsh
Karla Quigley;
James Quigley
Tom and Patricia Renton
Phil and Peggy Vaughter
J. W. and Di Vawter
Jesse and Laneil Vawter
John H. and Sue Vawter

VIRGINIA

Ellen Cummings;
Frederick Cummings

[This newsletter is only six pages instead of the usual eight.]



FAMILY ASSOCIATION

ABSENTEE BALLOT

October 24, 2003

The Executive Committee proposes the following amendment to the Bylaws of the Vawter, Vauter, Vaughers(s) Family Association:

The Annual Meeting shall be changed from “the 1st weekend in August” to “the 3rd weekend in July.”

If you favor amending the Bylaws to read:

The annual Meeting shall be held on the 3rd weekend in July

Vote FOR _____

If you are opposed to amending the Bylaws

Vote OPPOSED _____

Name (optional) _____

Important:

After ten (10) days, mark one (1) of the above and mail the completed Absentee Ballot to the address below prior to November 22, 2003.

Jesse L. Vawter
11506 Sagecountry Lane
Houston TX 77089

*Ballots with both choices marked will not be counted.

*Ballots with no choice marked will not be counted.

*Ballots postmarked earlier than 10 days after the VVV Newsletter publication date will not be counted.

*Ballots postmarked after November 22, 2003, will not be counted.



FAMILY ASSOCIATION

January 2004 – Page 1
Vol. 28 No. 1

NEWSLETTER **JANUARY 2004**

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Dues - \$10.00 per year

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Family,

Thanks to the excellent response from our wonderful family, the vote to amend the VVV Bylaws to change the reunion date passed overwhelmingly. The vote was 68 FOR, 7 OPPOSED and 1 “I don’t care, I will come anytime.” I wish to take this opportunity to express my thanks to those who voted. As I promised before the vote, the ballots will be available for your inspection at the 2004 reunion.

The dates for the 2004 reunion will be Thursday, July 15, through Sunday, July 18. The location is Colorado Springs, Colorado. We are in the process of gathering data on lodging, restaurants and things to do in the area. Shortly several of us plan to meet in Colorado Springs and inspect the lodging and meeting facilities, and have a preliminary schedule for the 2004 reunion. I will have a more precise schedule including the name, address and phone number of the lodging facility for the next newsletter.

If you need to know before then, contact me by email (Jess Vawter @ aol.com) regular mail (11506 Sagecountry Lane, Houston TX 77089) or by phone after 6 p.m. (281-485-9733). If you call after 6 p.m. and we are not there, I will return your call. If you call before 6 p.m. while we are at work, shame on you, please call again after 6 p.m. Both Laneil and I will freely share any data

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we have at the time. If it is not firm at that time, we will tell you that also. Since there will only be one more newsletter before the 2004 reunion, I plan to contact you by mail. So be sure Bonita Welch, the newsletter editor, has your current mailing address.

Colorado Springs is a great place for a family vacation. Some of the attractions of Colorado Springs are: Pikes Peak, the Pikes Peak Cog Railway, the Air Force Academy, the Manitou Cliff Dwellings, the Cave of the Winds, the Western Museum of Mining and Industry, Glen Cove and Crystal Reservoir, the Cheyenne Mountain Zoo, the Garden of the Gods, the Pro-Rodeo Hall of Fame & Museum, and Seven Falls and Rock Ledge Ranch. In addition, there are many things to do in nearby areas such as: the town of Cripple Creek, the Cripple Creek & Victor Narrow Gauge Railroad, the Mollie Kathleen Mine and Canon City with the Royal Gorge.

We will meet you in Colorado Springs on July 15, unless we see you earlier.

Until then, Jesse.

VAN'S CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

Van's Creek flows through the old Vaughter farm that now belongs to the State of Georgia. Four miles downstream, at the old town of Ruckersville, stands Van's Creek Baptist Church, formed in 1785. Assuming that if the Vaughter family attended any church it would be Van's Creek, the association Historian/Archivist recently researched the church records. The church has placed them in the Probate Court of Elbert County.

The pages from 1785 until 1856 were read, including the list of members who were granted permission to form Harmony Baptist Church in 1856. No mention of any V/V/V appears in the records. Even after Harmony was formed, the first reference to a V/V/V is to James Benson Glean in 1885.

This information is passed along so that duplicate research of those church records will not be necessary.

NEW PHOTOGRAPHS

Interest in the family history continues to result in the discovery of photographs in attics and Bibles. Recent discoveries are:

Eliza Missouri Vaughter Vandiver (1851 – 1911), grandmother of former Georgia Governor Ernest Vandiver

Mary Frances Vaughter Adams (1839-1886), grandmother of Gilbert Adams, found by Sara Nell Coffey.

Samuel Hiram Vaughter (1837-1924), grandfather of Gordy Spencer, Digitized by James G. Vaughter.

Delia Vaughter Anderson (1825-1898), found by Richard Greene

HIRAM VAUGHTER

(From the program given at the marker dedication)

Born in 1841 on the Vaughter family farm where this ceremony is held. The Vawter family came from England to Virginia in about 1650. A dozen Vawter men were Patriot soldiers in the American Revolutionary War. One of them was John, Hiram's great-grandfather, who is buried in Elbert County.

Hiram's grandfather James and his parents Hiram S. and Elizabeth Glenn Vaughter are buried in this same family cemetery, along with other members of the family.

Hiram and his older brother Samuel became members of Company K of the Georgia 52nd Infantry Regiment in early 1862. The 52nd had men from all over Northeast Georgia, possibly including some distant cousins from the branch of the family that moved to Dawson County.

The service record of Hiram consists of only four (4) pages. He was paid a fifty dollar bounty in April 1862. By the summer he had been disabled by diarrhea and he died in Athens, Georgia, on July 1, 1862. Whether he ever traveled outside of Georgia or was in combat is not known.

All nine (9) of Hiram's siblings married in Franklin County. Descendants of those marriages are his closest relative. Those marriages were: [dates given are birth and death]

1833-	Martha Catherine to John Burton Aderhold
1837-1924	Samuel Hiram to Sarah E. Williams
1839-1886	Mary Frances to Absolom Quincy Adams
1843	Elizabeth to Jephtha Dickson
1845-1912	Julia Ann to George L. King
1847	Lucinda to Memory Mabry
1849	James M.C. to Margaret Stribling
1851-1911	Eliza Missouri to William Isom Pinkney Vandiver
1853	Hessy to Russell Wheeler

We thank Jim Vaughters for sending this information on the ceremony honoring Hiram Vaughter. It is interesting to note the birth years of Hiram (1841) and his siblings as it shows the "every other year" pattern so common during the 1800s. A break in the pattern, as in this case there is no birth shown for 1835, sometimes means there was a child who died at birth or shortly thereafter.

MARKER DEDICATION FOR PRIVATE HIRAM VAUGHTER

The VVV Family Association and the Sons of Confederate Veterans honored the grave of Hiram Vaughter at the family cemetery in Red Hill, Franklin County, Georgia, on June 14, 2003. Hiram lived from 1841 until 1862. He is buried beside his parents, Hiram S. Vaughter and Elizabeth Glenn Vaughter, and his grandfather, James Vaughter.

Page 4 - January 2004
(Hiram Vaughter, con't)

The Veterans Administration provided the white marble marker; former Governor Ernest Vandiver, a Vaughter descendent, and the association furnished the chain link fence. Cousin Gilbert Adams arranged for the work and cleaning of the trees.

Doug Vaughters, Richard Greene, Eva Smith and Rev. Glenn Herndon participated in the ceremony. The ceremonial Confederate flag was presented to Gov. Vandiver. Refreshments were served at Hunter's Creek Baptist Church, which the family attended in the early and mid-1800s, beginning with Hiram's grandmother Jane.

Research during the week revealed that at least five of Hiram's seven sisters married men who were in the Civil War. Several newly-found cousins from Franklin County attended, descending from Aderhold, Stribling and Roach lines.

Tom Austin
1900-2003

The 2002 reunion in Elbert County, Georgia, featured a tour of V/V/V cemeteries in adjacent Franklin County. The tour also included a visit with Tom Austin, whose cousin was one of the wives of Rev. Peter Vaughter. He talked about Peter and his days at the old Vaughter School. At the conclusion he called the reunion host aside, shook his hand firmly, and said with tears in his eyes, "Thank you for bringing all these Vaughter folks to see me. I appreciate it, because it's the last time I will get to see them."

In April 2003, Jim Vaughters was in Georgia and learned that Tom was in the hospital. He went to see Tom, who immediately recognized him. During a nice visit, Tom said, "I remember you bringing all those Vaughter folks to see me. Thank you." He died a few days later, shortly after his 103rd birthday.

Tom is buried in the Ellis Chapel Cemetery, a few feet from his house and a few feet from Peter Vaughter. One of the speakers at his funeral was Pat Milford, the lawyer who gave the tour of the Franklin County Courthouse at the 2002 reunion.

(For information on Rev. Peter Vaughter, see the January 2003 newsletter.)

Will Vawter

Several association members are known to collect James Whitcomb Riley books and other books and magazines having illustration by artist and illustrator Will Vawter. A few members have Will Vawter paintings, water colors or pencil drawings. And now, for the ultimate collector, we have a suggestion – his home and studio.

Located on North Locust Lane in Nashville, Indiana, the house has been converted into three units and is described as a "large farmhouse style, within walking distance to everything – shops, library, restaurants, etc." Will moved to the home after marrying his second wife, Ola Genolin, in 1923.

During the 1987 VVV reunion in Columbus, Indiana, and again for the 1999 reunion in Nashville, the Brown County Art Gallery Association provided a special display of Will Vawter paintings and memorabilia.

NORMA WICKER – “COOK OF THE WEEK”

Daily Journal, Tupelo Mississippi

Church hostess cooks easily for a few or a few hundred.

For the past 33 years, as different family traditions have come and gone, Norma Wicker has held fast to one. Christmas Eve Pizza.

“I’ve been doing this every year since we moved to Tupelo,” said Wicker, a native of Nebraska. “I make 12 large pizzas and we have anywhere from 25 to 35 people at the house. It’s wall-to-wall family.”

While only family is privy to the Christmas Eve festivities, many others in Tupelo eat Wicker’s cooking every week. That’s because she’s the hostess at First Baptist Church, a position she has held for more than a quarter of a century.

“Twenty-six years ago, Dr. Bill Rittenhouse (First Baptist’s minister at the time) asked me if I’d get Wednesday night suppers off the ground. I said yes, and I’m still here,” said Wicker.

As hostess, Wicker plans and prepares Wednesday night dinners and she oversees all banquets, weddings and holiday dinners at the church. Sometimes, Wicker and her helpers feed 600 hungry mouths at a time.

“It’s gotten to where I can hardly cook at home anymore” Wicker said, acknowledging she’s almost forgotten how to cook for just two. When she does prepare an evening meal at home, it’s something simple, she said, like salon patties, tiny English peas, creamed potatoes and homemade biscuits.

But Wicker’s not likely to be fixing food for just two. She and her husband of 48 years, Ken, have two grandchildren and three children: Tom, an attorney in Tupelo; Jim, who lives in Alabama; and Kathy Terry, who lives in Madison.

So Wicker usually fixes plenty of food, because she never knows who will be at her table; it might even be her nephew, U.S. Rep. Roger Wicker of Tupelo.

“Roger will call and say, ‘What are you having for dinner?’ and I’ll say ‘Are you inviting yourself?’ and he’ll say, ‘Well, if you’ve got enough.’ And I always do.” she said, laughing.

If she’s preparing a Sunday dinner, she’ll likely serve a sirloin tip roast with carrots, onion and garlic; creamed potatoes and gravy; green beans; green salad; and hot rolls.

One reason Wicker believes family and friends enjoy her cooking is because not only does she like to eat, but she also likes to taste.

“I taste it all before I serve anyone,” she said. “Even before I bake something, I taste it. Even if it has raw eggs in it, I taste it. If it’s not right, I can adjust the seasonings. And I never over salt. People can add salt, but they can’t take it away.”

Having grown up in Nebraska, Wicker has had to change some of the cooking lessons she learned as a young adult. In fact, she admits that when she and Ken married, she could fix only white bread dressing.

“My husband wouldn’t touch it,” she said. “He said it was slimy. So I had to learn how to make cornbread dressing.”

And which does she prefer today?

“Oh, the cornbread dressing, definitely.”

PHIL VAUGHTER RETIRES

Phil Vaughter, past president of the VVV Association, retired in September 2003 after 36 years in advertising; the last 28 spent selling Yellow Pages. Phil and his wife, Peggy, celebrated by joining friends on a ten day cruise up the St. Lawrence through Quebec, Nova Scotia, and down to Bar Harbor, Boston, Newport, and New York Harbor past the Statue of Liberty.

Because of a luggage mix-up, they met Charlotte Vaughter, widow of Sam Vaughter (1937-2000), and learned of yet another branch of the family. Sam's grandfather, a physician in Byers, Texas, was the uncle of Phil's father, Rev. Paul Hiram Vaughter. Phil remembers visiting the farm of "Uncle Doc" in the 1940s and that he "got the devil kicked out of him by a calf who refused to be ridden."

Phil sent a newsletter to Charlotte, in hope that her daughters, (all in the Greater Dallas area) will have some interest in the association.

The April 2002 newsletter has a reprint of an article written by Sam Vaughter of Texas that appeared in the July-August 2001 issue of *The Upper Room*. The article ended with a brief note stating "Mr. Vaughter died during the production of this issue."

NEWSLETTERS, BICKNELL AND RUCKER

Once again, we want to make you aware of the CD that Patricia Vawter Renton has created. This CD, which is in Microsoft Word format, contains the VVV Family Association newsletters from 1977 thru 2001, the entire Vawter Family in America by Grace Vawter Bicknell, and excerpts from The Rucker Family Genealogy by Sudie Rucker Wood.

Patricia will make copies of the CD for those interested and donate the proceeds to the association. The price is \$20.00.

Please order from: Patricia V. Renton, 2372 Bear Creek Road, Pipe Creek TX 78063. If you have questions about the CD, she can be contacted by phone at 830-510-4625, or by e-mail at pvrenton@ev1.net.

VIDEO TAPES

Bob Vawter made several video tapes of the 2002 reunion in Elberton, Georgia, and donated them to the association. At this time, there is only one remaining. The two-tape set of \$20.00 and can be ordered from Norma Jean Vawter. Her address can be found with the list of officers. All proceeds go to the association.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulation to Joshua and Teresa Taylor of Dupont, Indiana, on the birth of their daughter, Shea Lilian, who was born August 26, 2003. Proud grandparents are Tom and Diana Taylor of North Vernon, Indiana. Beginning with William and Frances Vawter, Shea is the eighth generation of her family to live in Jennings County, Indiana.

OBITUARY FROM THE PAST

The Plain Dealer & Republican
North Vernon, Indiana, 6 October 1927
Mrs. Eliza Barnett

Word has been received in Indianapolis of the death at her home in Billings, Mont., of Mrs. Eliza Vawter Barnett, age ninety-two, a former resident of Indianapolis and a niece of Ovid Butler, the founder of Butler University.

Mrs. Barnett was born in Vernon {Indiana} the daughter of Dr. Levi Todd and Demia Butler Todd, and lived there until she married to David Vawter and moved to Franklin {Indiana}. In 1884 she came to Indianapolis. In 1893 she was married to William Barnett of Franklin, who died a short time later. She went to Billings three years ago to live with her granddaughter, Mrs. Halleck Brown.

Besides Mrs. Brown, she is survived by a daughter, Mrs. James C. Norris of Indianapolis and two grandchildren, of Richmond, and Frederick D. Norris of Indianapolis. [The name of the grandchild in Richmond is not given.]

-Indianapolis News

IN REMEMBRANCE

Silas Marvin Vawter

Silas Marvin Vawter, 91, of Oklahoma City, died 30 December 2003. He was born 18 December 1912 in Bethany, Oklahoma, the next to the youngest of eleven children of James Wesley and Martha Ann McCasson Vawter.

He was retired from Southwestern Bell Telephone Company. He was a member of Mayfair Church of Christ in Oklahoma City, and had been an elder in University Church of Christ in Norman, Oklahoma.

Surviving are a daughter, Patricia Gayle Vawter of Oklahoma City; grandchildren, Jay and Yvette Morrison, Brad and Angie Morrison and Dena Newhouse; and a great-grandchild, Tayah Nicole Morrison.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Martha Sue Boren Vawter, in 1963, and his wife, Osa Ebeteen Castleberry, in 1996; and ten brothers and sisters.

A graveside service was held on 2 January 2004 at Resthaven Memory Gardens in Oklahoma City.

Several VVV members notified us of the death of Silas, including Fred Wicker who sent the obituary. Silas was a first cousin to Fred's mother, Ora Wiley Wicker, and also to William S Wiley, whose obituary appears in this newsletter. Silas was a longtime member of the association, and had attended several reunions, the last being Hot Springs in 1998.

IN REMEMBRANCE

William S Wiley

William S. “Bill” Wiley, 93, of Gulfport, Mississippi, died Monday, December 15, 2003, in Gulfport. He was born in New Albany, reared in Hickory Flat, later moved to Nettleton and was a resident of Gulfport since 1997.

He retired from the U.S. Navy in 1952 after over 22 years of service. He was a member of the Hickory Flat Baptist Church and a former commander of the VFW in Tupelo. In his earlier years he was an avid gardener and conversationalist.

Survivors include a daughter, Sherry Ann Brock of Memphis; a granddaughter, Holly Cathcart Payne and her husband, Ricky, of Nettleton; a sister, Addie Edwards of Concord, North Carolina; a sister-in-law, Pearl Wiley of Tupelo; and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Thomas Street Wiley and Emma Vawter Wiley; he wife Allene Baker Wiley; a brother, Lamar Wiley; and sisters, Mary Lansdale, Vallie Cox and Ora Wicker.

Ida Mai Vawter Earls

Ida Mae Vawter Earls, 87, of Milan, Tennessee, died Saturday, June 28, 2003, at Milan General Hospital.

She was retired from Milan Mills, and a member of Cumberland Presbyterian Church in Milan.

Survivors include her husband, Carson Earls; a son, John Vawter of Walls, Mississippi; daughters, Mary Ann Vawter Medlin of Collierville, Tennessee, Martha Vawter McLeod of Oakland, Tennessee, and Linda Vawter Dison of Conway, Arkansas; seven grandchildren; and ten great-grandchildren.

Ruth Lucille Morrison

Ruth Lucille Morrison, 94, formerly of Hayden, Indiana, died at 6:50 p.m. Sunday, December 14, 2003, at Asbury Place Retirement Home in Maryville, Tennessee.

Mrs. Morrison was a homemaker and had been a secretary at Farm Bureau Co-op in North Vernon, Indiana, for several years. She was a member of Hayden United Methodist Church, Hayden Order of the Eastern Star and Hayden Home Extension Club.

Born November 27, 1908, in Jennings County, Indiana, she was the daughter of Homer and Jesse Hosclaw Bullard. She married Glen Morrison on May 26, 1934, in Jennings County.

Surviving are sons, Don Morrison of Tennessee and Carl Morrison of California; and grandchildren, Matthew, Carla and Beth Morrison.

She was preceded in death by her husband, on April 2, 1997; two brothers and two sisters.

Ruth Morrison’s mother is listed in *The Vawter Family of America* on page 139.



FAMILY ASSOCIATION

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Vol. 28 No. 2

NEWSLETTER **APRIL 2004**

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IF A RENEWAL FORM IS ENCLOSED, YOU NEED TO PAY DUES

2004 REUNION NEWS FROM JESSE VAWTER

COMBINE THE 2004 VVV REUNION WITH AN OUTSTANDING FAMILY VACATION
Now is the time and Colorado Springs is certainly the place to do it!!!

Built from a gold rush town of the Old West, Colorado Springs is now a thriving center of business and manufacturing. West of the city, 13,110 foot Pikes Peak stands tall, providing a lovely alpine backdrop and a handy reference point for visitors. Colorado Springs is 6,035 feet above seal level and provides a breathtaking view of the Rockies' craggy peaks and the Great Plains sweeping expanse of grasslands.

Dear Cousins,

The reunion dates are Thursday, July 15 through Sunday, July 18. We have a block of 40 rooms at one of the newest (2 years old) full-service hotels in Colorado Springs, with a breathtaking view of the Rocky Mountains adjacent to the Colorado Springs Airport. The rooms are being held for **The Vawter Family Reunion** at a rate of \$90.00 for up to 4 persons in a room

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until June 10, 2004. So hurry and call to make your reservations. This price includes breakfast for two people per room.

Holiday Inn – Colorado Springs Airport
1855 AeroPlaza Dr.
Colorado Springs, CO 80916
Tel: 719 280-8516 or 1-800 HOLIDAY
www.holiday-inn.com/cosapaerotech

This hotel has free airport shuttle, free local calls, refrigerators and safes in all rooms, swimming pool, spa, fitness center, meeting rooms, banquet rooms, elevators and wheelchair accessible rooms. For dining and refreshment, the Alamo Steakhouse and Grille is a great choice and is located under the same roof.

Our Friday night activity is a church wagon supper and western show at the Flying W Ranch. This provides great Western hospitality with supper and show, museums, shops, cowboy humor and lots of fun for all. Check it out at: www.flyingw.com.

Ned and Ellen Cummings are working to make arrangements for touring as much of the Air Force Academy area as possible. Some parts of the academy will not be available, due to enhanced security since 9/11.

Some of the other attractions in the area are: Manitou Cliff Dwellings, Pikes Peak Cog Railway or Drive; Summit House (14,110 ft); North Pole- Santa's Workshop; Buckskin Joe Frontier Town and Railway; Cave of the Winds; Cheyenne Mountain Zoo; Royal Gorge/Bridge and Park; Seven Falls; Garden of the Gods and Visitor Center; Cripple Creek & Victor Narrow Gauge Railroad; Echo Canyon River Expeditions; 4 Corners Rafting; Ghost Town Museum; Iron Springs Melodrama; Mollie Kathleen Goldmine; ProRodeo Hall of Fame; Van Briggle Art Pottery and USAF Academy Visitors Center. All of these attractions have the beautiful Rocky Mountains for a backdrop.

Laneil spent a 3-day weekend in Colorado Springs in late February checking out hotels and gathering information. She came home so excited and is looking forward to a great vacation with our family. We hope to use a few extra days and take advantage of the many things to see and do in the area. We always use the reunion as reason to go to a specific area, but plan to vacation for a few days in the area to see the local sites. We have lots of great memories, and pictures of these times with our family.

Reunion Schedule:

We are still working on the details of the Reunion Schedule. The dates for the reunion have been changed, but the publication dates for the newsletter remain the same. There will not be another newsletter edition before the Reunion, therefore, I will send the completed schedule to those on the VVV Newsletter mailing list well before the Reunion.

High Altitude Tips from Colorado Springs Visitor's Center:

Colorado Springs ranks in the United States cities with the highest altitudes. The lack of humidity, and warm days and cool nights are positive parts of living at this level, and our residents become familiar with the special conditions created by the dry air with its decreased amount of oxygen.

However, visitors to the city often overlook some simple suggestions that can make their stay

free of any negative effects caused by the high elevation. To enjoy your visit in Colorado Springs, here are a few things to keep in mind to give your body time to adjust to the altitude and prevent altitude sickness.

- Stay below 7,000 feet the first day (the city of Colorado Springs is 6,035 feet above sea level)
- Give your body time to adjust (there's lots to see and do at the lower altitude level).
- Avoid strenuous exercise the first day.
- Drink lots of fluids, especially our tasty water, and avoid too much alcohol and tobacco products.

Note: Houston is around 35 feet elevation, and Laneil followed these suggestions for her February visit and had no problems adjusting to the altitude difference. She even went up into the high country with friends on the second day and had a great time and did very well.

2004 VVV Reunion Shirts:

The 2004 Reunion shirt is Kelly green and has a mountain with the Colorado Flag inlaid on the front. The back has the various spellings of our name as before.

Adult Sizes Tax & Setup Number Total

Small \$9.25 X _____ = _____

Medium \$9.25 X _____ = _____

Large \$9.25 X _____ = _____

XL \$9.25 X _____ = _____

XXL \$10.25 X _____ = _____

XXXL \$11.50 X _____ = _____

(Postage \$3.00 ea X _____ = _____

if shirts to be shipped

Grand Total = _____ -

Shirts will be available at the 2004 reunion, but postage must be charged for those to be mailed. Please send a note with the number of each size, and a check for the total order (plus postage if they are to be shipped) to:

Jesse & Laneil Vawter
11506 Sagecountry
Houston, TX 77089

Don't forget:

- Make your hotel reservations
- Order and pay for the Vawter 2004 VVV Colorado Springs shirt
- Watch for letter with complete schedule and meal information. Please be ready to return immediately with names and meal count for those who will attend.
- Come prepared to have a great time.

See you there,
Jesse & Laneil

CURRENT ADDRESSES

Because it can sometimes take several weeks for mail to be forwarded, please help by letting us know when you have a change of address. Both the treasurer and the news editor have membership lists, so the change can be sent to either one. Thanks.!

ROBERT LAVERNE VAWTER

Ila Vawter, of Newaygo, Michigan, has shared this letter of recommendation written in January 1972 for her husband, Robert Laverne Vawter. Robert was a member of the VVV Family Association for many years before his death April 7, 2003. He was the son of Robert Clayton Vawter, who was also a member of the association, and the grandson of William M. Vawter. The letter was written by Norman W. Mochel, General Manager of Weber Showcase & Fixture in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

“Mr. Robert Vawter has been employed by Weber Showcase & Fixture Company Division and Weber Technical Products Division approximately ten years, and for the past eight years has been assigned to our Research and Development Department.

“He has been involved in the development of a wide variety of products related to access flooring, partitions, shelving, clean room systems and store fixtures, in addition to the development of special tooling and jiggging for our manufacturing departments.

“He is well qualified to set up and operate milling machines, metal lathes, grinders, arc welders, and other equipment typically found in a tool room and prototype departments. He is familiar with testing of materials and performance evaluation of various equipment and he is experienced in building prototypes from shop details.

“His performance has been excellent at all times, and we regard him as a very valuable member of our R & D group. I am glad to recommend Mr. Vawter; you will find him to be very conscientious, intelligent and loyal in the performance of his duties.”

IMA VAUGHTER AND URAH VAUGHTER II

Ima Vaughter, while working on his genealogy, has discovered that Urah Vaughter II, his fifth cousin, four times removed, was quite a well known fellow in Montana. In fact, he was hanged for horse stealing and train robbery in the late 1800s. The only known photograph of Urah shows him standing on the gallows. Written on the back of the photograph are the words: “Urah Vaughter II: Horse thief, sent to Montana Territorial Prison 1885; escaped 1888, robbed the Montana Flyer six times, caught by Pinkerton detectives; convicted and hanged 1889.”

Ima is writing a book about the Vaughters, and wants to include Urah, but is rather embarrassed that he has someone of this caliber in the family. His grandfather always told him that all the Vaughter men were businessmen, teachers, ministers or lawyers.

To make his book accurate, Ima has cropped and enlarged the photograph so all that is seen is a head shot. He then says this about Urah:

“Urah Vaughter II was a famous cowboy in Montana Territory. His business empire grew to include acquisition of equestrian assets and intimate dealings with the Montana railroad. Beginning in 1885, he devoted several years of his life to service at a government facility, finally taking leave to resume his dealings with the railroad. In 1888, he was a key player in a vital investigation run by the renowned Pinkerton Detective Agency. In 1889, Urah passed away during an important function held in his honor when the platform upon which he was standing collapsed.”

[The source of this “historical fact” will remain anonymous.]

THANK YOU

As always, we thank those who have contributed material for this newsletter.

ERIC STOLTZ

This update on Eric Stoltz comes from his father, Jack Stoltz of Santa Barbara, California. Eric's mother is the late Evelyn Vawter Stoltz. His Vawter lineage includes grandparents, Francis Marion and Hazel Ellen (Roten Vawter; and great-grandparents, Albert Calvin and Frances Josephine (Churchwell) Vawter.

Last December, Robert Simonson wrote in Playbill Magazine, that "with the addition of Eric Stoltz, the cast of the upcoming Broadway revival of Larry Gelbart's comedy *Sly Fox*, set to open at Broadway's Barrymore Theatre on April 1, 2004, is complete."

Eric Stoltz has an impressive list of film, television and stage credits. *Sly Fox* is not his first time on the stage in New York. He appeared as the George of Gregory Mosher's 1988 Broadway *Our Town* at Lincoln Center. His other New York credits include *Two Shakespearean Actors* and *Three Sisters*. Off Broadway he has acted in *The Importance of Being Earnest*.

According to Simonson, Stoltz is "a dependable presence in commercial and independent films for more than a decade." He will star as Simon Able, the servant of Richard Dreyfuss' conniving miser, Foxwell J. Sly.

Stoltz has more than 35 films to his credit, including "Pump Fiction", "Kicking and Screaming", "Mask", "Little Women", "Rob Roy", "Say Anything", "The House of Mirth", "Grace of My Heart", and "Fluke".

Sly Fox will have an out-of-town tryout at the Shubert Theater in Boston, from February 20-March 7. Previews begin on Broadway March 12. Joining Dreyfuss and Stoltz will be Elizabeth Berkley, Bob Dishy, Rene Auberjonois and other actors of note.

GEORGIA VAUGHTERS REUNION

The sixth annual reunion of the Vaughters family in Georgia will be Sunday, June 13, 2004, at Bethel Baptist Church, two miles north of Dawsonville. The schedule will be similar to previous years:

11:00 a.m. – Visit the cemetery, with those 60 American flags on Vaughters graves.

Noon – Brief family history, with special presentation on William Henry Vaughters

12:45 p.m. – Photographs on front steps

1:00 p.m. – Covered dish dinner

Please continue to bring those things that make these reunions great: your favorite covered dish, pictures and stories.

Jim Vaughters hopes to see you there. He can be contacted at 303-771-3937.

BABY CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Evan and Katy Vaughters of Seattle, Washington, on the birth of their two sons, Forrest Zion and Clayton Sage, who were born on November 23, 2003. Proud grandparents are Jon and Dee Vaughters of Frederick, Maryland.

Thanks to the extensive research done by great-grandfather, E. B. Vaughters, whose wife Adele still resides in Seattle, Forrest and Clayton will be able to trace their family name all the way back to Bartholomew Vawter, eleven generations prior in Virginia.

We thank John Vaughters for sending this news of his grandsons.

GRADUATION CONGRATULATIONS

Jacqueline Renee Hudson will graduate from North Pontotoc High School in Ecu, Mississippi, on May 20, 2004. Jackie has attended many VVV reunions with her grandmother, Martha Hudson, and her great grandparents, the late Emory and Clarice Mayer. She has been a part of the VVV Children's Chorus and the Vawter Family Singers.

Philip Claude Vaughter will graduate with honors from Iowa State University in May. He is the son of Dr. Paul Vaughter of Sauk Rapids, Minnesota, and the nephew of past VVV President, Phil Vaughter of Austin, Texas.

Eric Jason Taylor of East Point, Georgia, graduated December 2003 from Georgia State University with a Master's Degree in Public Administration with a concentration in management and public finance. He is now a project manager for the Office of Economic Development for the city of Marietta. Eric is a graduate of the International School of Kenya, in Nairobi, and Earlham College in Richmond, Indiana. He is the son of Tom and Diana Taylor of North Vernon, Indiana, and the nephew of Bonita Welch.

IN REMEMBRANCE

Wordna Wicker

Wordna Glen Threadgill Wicker, 77, of Pontotoc, Miss., died March 10, 2004, at North Mississippi Medical Center in Pontotoc.

Wordna was a graduate of Big Creek High School, where she was salutatorian. A graduate of Holmes Junior College and a 1948 graduate of Mississippi State College for Women, she was a former public school teacher at Ecu, Thaxton, Randolph and Algoma. For a number of years, she was a legal secretary for her husband.

Wordna was a member of the First Baptist Church in Pontotoc, the American Legion Auxiliary and the Cosmopolitan Club. She was a state officer in DAR and a delegate to several national DAR conventions. An avid genealogist, she was co-author of "Threadgills Book II". She was an active member of the VVV Family Association and the first newsletter editor. For many years, she and her husband conducted the Memorial Service at the reunions.

A longtime friend, Virginia Dillard, said there "was not a better genealogist in the state. She just had an instinct for it" and spent many hours tracking lineage for those who wanted to join the Daughters of the American Revolution. This same friend recalled a time when they were sitting around a bridge table laughing about their ambitions. "When we got to Wordna, she said, 'will just be thankful when Fred has two shirts, and I won't have to iron one each night'."

Surviving are her husband, former Circuit Court Judge Fred Wicker; a son, U.S.Rep. Roger Wicker of Tupelo, Miss.; a daughter, Ellen Wicker Cummings of Virginia Beach, VA.; a foster daughter, Mindy Staten Theile of Canton, Ga.; brothers, the Rev. James C. Threadgill Jr., of Maben, Miss., and Gene Threadgill of Oxford, Miss.; a sister, Margaret Holman of Noxapater, Miss.; grandchildren, McDaniel Wicker, Margaret Wicker and Caroline Wicker, all of Tupelo, and Frederick Cummings and Rebecca Cummings, both of Virginia Beach.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Mr. and Mrs. James Cedric Threadgill; and a brother, David Threadgill.

Memorials may be made to First Baptist Church Building Fund, 31 Washington St., Pontotoc MS 38863.

IN REMEMBRANCE

Silvey Brice Vaughters

Silvey “S.B.” Vaughters, the elder statesman of the Georgia Vaughters family, passed away on April 2, 2004, after a short hospital stay. As the dean of the Georgia Vaughters, he was a leader of the 2002 VVV reunion in Elbert County. He spoke for all of us when he said during a prayer, “Lord, I’m proud to be a Vaughters.”

On August 11, 1911, Silvey Brice Vaughters was born a mile northeast of Shoal Creek in northern Dawson County, Georgia. The Vaughters family had settled in that area in the late 1830s. Silvey was the fifth generation of the family to live there. His parents were William Oscar Aiken Vaughters (1881 – 1964), a farmer, justice of the peace, and long-time county Ordinary, and Maggie Dora Brice Vaughters (1872-1946). His grandparents were Rev. George Robinson Vaughters (1860-1936), Epsey Catherine Bennett Vaughters (1861-1916), John Marion Brice (1828-1917, and Hannah C. Graham Brice (1832-1908).

Silvey was the third of five children. Annie was born in 1908 and was the mother of Charles Burt, longtime VVV member. George William was born in 1909, Grace in 1913, and Flora in 1918. All four of them are buried side by side, just beside their parents and Brice grandparents and one row from their Vaughters grandparents in the cemetery of Bethel (Shoal Creek) Baptist Church in Dawson County.

Born only 50 years after the Civil War, Silvey grew up among the mountain people and the old time honored ways of doing things. Many of these old country people and events are described in his autobiography, “Real Life Experiences”. He was pleased to give copies to VVV cousins at the 2002 reunion.

Each major period of his life became a separate chapter in his book:

- First Years Teaching Schools in North Georgia
- Coaching Basketball and Serving as Principal
- Attending and Finishing College at the University of Georgia
- Teaching Vocational Agriculture at Lumpkin County High School,
Dahlonega, Georgia; Centralhatchee High School, Heard County;
and Murphey Candler School, Lithonia.
- Jersey Cattle Dairy Farming
- Salesman of Insurance, Securities and Real Estate
- Raising Horses

To say that he was successful in each job that he undertook is an understatement.

In 1937, Silvey married Rebecca Cown. He began student life at the University the next day so their honeymoon was delayed a year. They were a devoted couple who complimented each other perfectly. They seemed to challenge each other on who could be the nicer person and on who would live longer.

They had four children. Silvey Brice Jr. was born in 1939, Carol in 1944, Steve in 1946 and Wendell in 1948. They had seven grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

S.B. bought a 141-acre farm in DeKalb County, the east suburb of Atlanta, in 1946. He and Rebecca, the children and grandchildren, Dawson County cousins and friends knew that as home for the next 56 years. That farm was the subject of two interesting stories.

In 1989, the tax assessment on the farm increased by 72 percent, primarily because of residential use being considered more heavily than the agricultural aspect. He filed a court case, lost it, appealed to the Georgia Court of Appeals, and won – all while acting as his own attorney. He was pleased that he won on his principles, and he was proud to remind the VVV Historian/Archivist that he was a competent attorney without going to law school!

The second story of the farm is the final one. In 2002, he sold it to The State of Georgia for its

appraised value rather than sell it to commercial developers for several times that price. His reason was again one of principle – to prevent building and urban sprawl. Georgia agreed to keep it as open space as part of a park. At the 2002 VVV reunion, he was recognized as one of the original Vaughters environmentalist, in the same category as Swift and Julian Vaughter.

He and his entire family played and sang bluegrass and country music for many years. Two years ago, at age 91, he announced that he was learning to play the violin! Typical of his interest and zest for life.

Silvey is survived by his wife, three of his children, and six of his grandchildren. Son Wendell and grandson Steve preceded him in death. He attended all of the Vaughters reunions in Dawson County, and in 2003 he introduced 15 of his descendants who were present.

We will hear his voice, remember his jokes, admire his accomplishments, and appreciated his commitments. He left legacies and standards for all. His immediate family, the Dawson County Vaughters, the VVV Association, and the country are better for his having passed our way. Thank you, Silvey.

We thank VVV Historian/Archivist Jim Vaughters for sending this obituary and tribute to Silvey Brice Vaughters. An article from the Atlanta Journal-Constitution, sent by the Rev. Ralph Fall will appear in the next newsletter.

Merrill A. Jones

Merrill A. Jones, 72, of Indianapolis, Indiana, died Sunday, January 11, 2004, at St. Francis Hospital in Beech Grove.

Mr. Jones was a 1949 graduate of Columbus, Indiana, High School and earned a degree in mechanical engineering at Purdue University in 1953. He operated an architectural and engineering consulting business in the Greenwood, Indiana, area from 1960 until this year, designing churches, health care facilities, commercial projects and Seoul Theological Seminary in Korea. He was a licensed architect and land surveyor. He was an active member of Consulting Engineers of Indiana and was Greenwood city engineer from 1961 to 1979.

He was a member of North Vernon First Baptist Church and former member, officer and Sunday school teacher at Southport Baptist Church. He traveled to 32 countries on behalf of missions and missionaries for Overseas Council International and OMS International, ministered at the jails in Johnson and Jennings counties for 30 years and founded the Brotherhood of Christian Prisoners newsletter and Bible study. He also regularly visited inmates at many Indiana prisons.

Born in Indianapolis on Feb. 19, 1931, Mr. Jones was the son of Elmer and Edith Bullard Jones.

Surviving are his wife of 51 years, Joan Helt Jones; children, Michael M. Jones of Greenwood, Darryl T. Jones of Murphysboro, Illinois, and Joyce Ellen Jones-Myers of Anderson, Indiana; and grandchildren, Matthew Jones and Elizabeth Jones, both of Greenwood, and David M. Jones of Morton, Illinois.

He was preceded in death by his parents; a daughter, Janice Jones Hicks; and a daughter, Virginia Jones Sharp.

Merrill Jones was a descendant of William and Frances Vawter, pioneer settlers of Jennings County, Indiana. William Vawter was a constituent member and first pastor of Zoar Baptist Church in Jennings County. Organized in 1835, the church eventually moved from the country into the town of North Vernon and became North Vernon First Baptist Church. In September 2001, the congregation moved into a new building. The architect of the building was Merrill Jones, and was one of the last buildings to be designed by him.



FAMILY ASSOCIATION

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Vol. 28 No. 3

NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2004

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2004 REUNION REPORT FROM JESSE VAWTER

The family met July 15th through 18th at Colorado Springs, Colorado for the 2004 VVV Reunion. Everyone had a great time, from the reports and surveys that we received. When we went to Colorado, they were 2 ½ years into a drought. However, after the VVV'ers arrived in town, the skies parted and the drought ended. We received no complaints about the facilities, the foods served or the costs of the meals or rooms. We hosted Hospitality night on Thursday, although there was no official count, both rooms of the suite were fully occupied for several hours. Our cousins renewed old acquaintances and met new cousins. Apparently, every one had a good time. The Executive Committee met in a meeting room for over an hour, when the meeting was over, I went back to the suite, and there were cousins still visiting and having a good time together.

On Friday morning, we open the VVV Reunion with the ringing of the cowbell by Krista Johnston, the pledge to the Flag led by Garry Vawter and a opening prayer by Billy Mack Vawter. We were all a little anxious about the 2004 attendance due to its being farther west.

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We were down in attendance a little due to illnesses and schedule conflicts, but we also had 8 new members, and would have had 7 or 8 more. Marcella Kimmick from Lancaster, Texas, brought a total of 8 to the Flying W Ranch on Friday night. We were looking forward to visiting with them, but they were caught in the traffic caused by the downpour on Friday. They arrived after every one was already seated. They stayed for the meal and entertainment and visited with several VVV members, but the soggy surroundings made visiting with the new people almost impossible. A good time was had by all that went to the Flying W Ranch. We enjoyed a chuck wagon meal, and some excellent western songs and bunk-house humor by the ranch hands. For those that were able to go earlier, even though it rained hard for several hours, we were able to visit several very interesting shops, got to see a horse get a new set of shoes, visit a Christian country store, a wonderful book store, with several books about the Duke and other famous cowboys, and an outstanding western clothing store. The Flying W. furnished yellow ribbons if you wanted to remember someone not with us because of their service to our country. Several of our friends are serving in the armed forces in Iraq, and their names were placed on these yellow ribbons for all to see and remember.

During the day on Friday, we had two genealogy sessions, one on the early Vawters, before coming to America by Greg Gruman. Greg did an excellent job. We sure hope to have him back again. The second genealogy session was by Jim Vaughters and Georgene Jurgensen about the Vawters in the western states. As usual, these two did an excellent job.

During the free time on Friday, several went to the Air Force Academy Visitors Center museum and Cadet Chapel, while others saw the sights in and around Colorado Springs.

We started Saturday morning with a business meeting. Due to illness or having other unavoidable circumstances, several of our faithful members were not there and a summary report of the minutes from 2003 was read, the treasury report was read and accepted. The 2003 minutes will be read along with the 2004 minutes and accepted at the 2005 reunion. We had free time until the banquet.

The Executive Committee suggested that a panel of at least five members be appointed by the president to review sites for future reunions. The six members of the panel and their email addresses are: Ellen Cummings (Ellenwickerc@aol.com), Ted Vawter (AdiN@arrl.net) Karla Quigley (Karlaq3663@yahoo.com) Cheri Jex (schatz@jex.org), Georgene Jurgensen (gjurgensen@tampabay.rr.com) and Phil Vaughter (PRV37@aol.com). A suggestion was made to have a website available where we could learn about new cousins and find out what is happening within the family. The current newsletter is mailed to finite number of addresses, but the website would potentially be viewed by many people. The website would not replace the newsletter. Jordan Johnston agreed to head up this venture and will update us in the future on his progress.

At the Saturday night banquet, we began by playing human bingo. We had a delicious meal prepared by the hotel. After the meal, it was leaked that it was Norma Jean Vawter's birthday, so we all sang "Happy Birthday" to her. Melba Ashburn read a poem in the Hoosier dialect, it was enjoyed by all. We recognized those that had served or were currently serving in the U. S. armed forces. We had Army (5), Air Force (3), Navy (8) and Marines (1).

The memorial service was dedicated to Wordna Wicker who had been an active VVV member and had conducted the memorial service for many years. It was also dedicated to Sgt. Kenneth

Grady who was severely wounded in Baghdad. In the memorial service, 16 were remembered with Laneil reading a few short statements about each and Krista and Katie Johnston placed a carnation in their honor.

We had 8 young people, the VVV Singers, volunteer to meet, organize, practice and present a short musical program. We were blessed and entertained by their presentation. We look forward to the VVV Singers entertaining us again in Virginia. If any one has youth, please encourage them to come and participate. The young people enjoyed being the VVV Singers, and the adults enjoyed it also.

We had 76 people east at the banquet, 2 left after eating, so when we had a roll call by state, we had 74 people representing 19 states. Texas has 12, followed closely by Idaho with 9.

Patricia Renton donated a beautiful hand-made quilt and a book “Farm Rhymes” by James Whitcomb Riley and illustrated by Will Vawter for auction. The book was sold to Norma Wicker for \$45. The quilt went to Jim Vaughters for his high bid of \$100. Proceeds from the auction went to the VVV treasury. Thanks to Patricia Renton, Norma Wicker, Jim Vaughters and to all who participated in the auction either by bidding or by cheering someone who was.

The nominations for officers were: Garry Vawter (President), J. W. Vawter (Vice-president), Judy Blanks (Secretary), Norma Jean Vawter (Treasurer), Barbara Vawter (1st Assist. Treasurer), Cheryl Kelly (2nd Assist. Treasurer), Bonita Welch (Newsletter Editor), Caroline Scarlett (Associate Newsletter Editor), Jim Vaughters (Historian, Archivist). The floor was opened for nominations from the floor and discussion as to why we now have a 2nd Assistant Treasurer. After a short discussion, a motion from the floor closed the nominations. The vote carried by all in favor of accepting the nominations, with none opposing. I took the opportunity to thank the association for allowing me to be President for the past two years. With that the gavel was passed to the new president Garry Vawter. Phil Vaughter presented Garry with his new President’s Badge.

Garry then asked Ellen Cummings to come forward and announce that the 2005 Reunion will be in Fredericksburg, Virginia. Ellen discussed what is available in Fredericksburg and invited us all to attend. The dates are July 14-16, 2005. We will see you there. Cheri Jex from Idaho came forward to say she would like to host a reunion in the future, maybe 2006 in Bear Lake Valley, Idaho.

Ellen Cummings led us in holding hands and singing “Bless be the Tie That Binds”.

Karla Quigley lead a devotional on Sunday morning before we started for home. Her topic was “Why did Christ have to Suffer?” Good job, Karla.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the association for allowing me to be President for the past two years, and I would like to thank each one of you who gave a simple word of encouragement either by word of mouth, by card or letter or by email. And last but certainly not least, I would like to thank Laneil and Karla for their continued support and help.

Sincerely,

Jesse

MEMORIAL SERVICE 2004

By Laneil Vawter

Tonight we are going to dedicate our memorial service to two very special people. First to Wordna Wicker, who gave so freely to the VVV Association in many areas. She was especially dedicated to providing meaningful Memorial Services at each reunion. She passed on an attitude of service to many of our young people as she allowed them to assist her with the flowers. I do not think a memorial service will ever be held without our always thinking of Wordna.

Also we want to remember Sgt. Kenneth Grady, son of Judith Crawford, who was wounded in March in Baghdad. He was serving with his unit from St. Louis, Mo. When he was severely wounded. He had emergency surgery in Baghdad for multiple injuries. He was transported to Germany, underwent more treatment and currently remains in Walter Reed hospital. We appreciated the sacrifice given by this young man and his family for our country. We should keep him in our prayers.

Call for assistants for flowers: Krista and Katie Johnston

Read: John 14:1-3

As we read the information provided, please stand in honor of your family member.

Norah Reid Vawter

Norah was born on January 18, 1909 in South Shields, Durham, England and died on September 18, 2002 in Woodstock, Virginia at the age of 93. Norah immigrated at age 13 and there met and later married Robert Leander Vawter in Indianapolis, Indiana. She was preceded in death by her husband and son Robert L. Vawter, Jr. She is survived by 4 daughters, 24 grandchildren and 46 great-grandchildren.

Tom Austin

Several VVV members visited with Tom Austin at the 2002 Reunion in Elberton, Georgia. He remembered the visit with the Vaughters until his death in April 2003 at the age of 103.

Ida Mai Vawter Earls

Ida Mai Earls, 87, of Milan, Tennessee died June 28, 2003. She was retired from Milan Mills, and a member of Cumberland Presbyterian Church in Milan. She is survived by her husband, Carson Earls, a son, 3 daughters, 7 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

Robert Ashburn

Robert Ashburn was born in 1921 in Nebraska and died in Idaho on October 20, 2003. He married Melba Vawter in 1943. He was an engineer for the Northern Pacific Railway and collected railroad memorabilia for 40 years. Robert was a long time employee of the railway and Melba taught school for 30 years. He minded the train while she trained the mind. He is survived by his wife of 60 years. He had 3 children and 6 grandsons.

Ruth Lucille Morrison

Ruth Morrison, 94, of Indiana died on December 14, 2003. She was a homemaker and a secretary for the Farm Bureau, a member of Hayden United Methodist Church and very active in her community. She is survived by 2 sons and 3 grandchildren. Her mother was a Vawter.

Ila Vawter

Bob and Ila Vawter and his parents were long time attendees of the VVV reunions. Ila played the violin for many programs. Bob, as we know, died a few years ago and Ila remarried.

William S. Wiley

William Wiley, 93, of Gulfport, Mississippi died December 15, 2003. He was retired from the US Navy after 22 years of service. He was a member of Hickory Flat Baptist Church and a former commander of the VFW in Tupelo. He is survived by a daughter and a granddaughter, as well as several other family members and friends.

Silas Marvin Vawter

Silas Vawter, 91, of Oklahoma City, OK died on December 30, 2003. He was born December 18, 1912 in Bethany, OK, the youngest of 11 children. He was retired from Southwestern Bell Telephone Company. He was a member of Mayfair Church of Christ in Oklahoma City and was an elder in the University Church of Christ in Norman, OK. He is survived by a daughter, 4 grandchildren, and 1 great-grandchild.

Wendell “Wink” Vaughters

Wink Vaughters, 55, of Georgia, was tragically killed on December 25, 2003. Wink Vaughters was survived by his parents, S.B. (Silvey) & Rebecca Vaughters as well as by siblings Carol Sellers, Brice Vaughters and Steve Vaughters.

Merrill A. Jones

Merrill Jones, 72, of Indianapolis, Indiana died January 11, 2004. He had a degree in mechanical engineering from Purdue University. He was a licensed architect and land surveyor. He designed churches, health care facilities, commercial projects including the Seoul Theological Seminary in Korea. He was a member of his local Baptist church. He traveled to 32 countries on behalf of missions and missionaries. He ministered in jails in several counties for 30 years and founded the Brotherhood of Christian Prisoners newsletter and Bible study, and visited inmates regularly. He is survived by his wife of 51 years, 3 children, and 3 grandchildren. He is a descendant of William and Frances Vawter.

Wordna Wicker

Wordna Wicker, 77, of Pontotoc, Mississippi died March 10, 2004. She was a graduate of Mississippi State College for Women. She was a school teacher and legal secretary. She was a member of the First Baptist Church I Pontotoc. She was a member of the American Legion Auxiliary, and the Cosmopolitan Club. She was a State officer in the DAR and was a delegate to several national DAR conventions. She was an avid genealogist, an active member of the VVV, our first newsletter editor, and she and her husband, Fred, faithfully conducted these memorial service for many years. She is survived by her husband, Fred, a daughter, Ellen Cummings, a son, US Representative Roger Wicker, a foster daughter Mindy Theile, 5 grandchildren, and many other family members and friends.

Silvey Brice Vaughters

Silvey (S.B.) Vaughters passed away on April 2, 2004. He was a leader of the 2002 VVV Reunion in Elbert County, Georgia. He spoke for all of us when he prayed, “Lord, I’m proud to be a Vaughters.” Born on August 11, 1911 in Northern Dawson County, Georgia a 5th generation of the family to live there. He grew up among the mountain people and the old time honored ways of doing things. He was pleased to give copies of his autobiography “Real Life Experiences” to VVV cousins at that reunion. He is survived by his wife Rebecca, 4 children, 7 grandchildren, and 5 great-grandchildren. He left legacies and standards for all.

Charles Franklin Kimberley

Charles Franklin Kimberley was born on October 7, 1962 and died on February 10, 2004. Charles was the son of Sue Kimberley of Dallas, GA and the Grandson of Ola Vaughters Swafford of Dawson County, GA.

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Billy Ueal Coursey

Billy Coursey of Oklahoma City, OK entered into rest on May 15, 2004. Born on August 3, 1950 in Aiken, SC. He was a Vietnam veteran who proudly served his country. He retired from the US Army in 1978. He retired as Director of Operations from Western Sizzlin Steak House in 1991. A wonderful and devoted husband, father, grandfather, brother and friend. He was an active member of Emmaus Baptist Church. He is survived by his wife of 33 years, Sharon, 1 son, 2 daughters, & a granddaughter, as well as his mother-in-law, Erma Vawter. He is also survived by his mother and countless other friends and relatives.

Johnny E. Waters

Mr. Waters died Friday, April 2, 2004, at Northeast Georgia Medical Center following an extended illness. He was born on May 25, 1952, he was a lifelong resident of Dawson County. Mr. Waters was a truck driver. He also was a member of Bethel Baptist Church. Survivors include his wife, Eva Jo Waters, 2 daughters and 5 grandchildren.

K C Vaughters – 1988 – 2004

Kenneth Charles Vaughters of Madison, Georgia died on May 22, 2004, three days after his 16th birthday. K.C. as he was called, was named for his father Kenneth and his oldest uncle Charles. K. C. was a good student and an outstanding athlete. As a freshman he set a school record in the track event of the 3200 meter (2 mile) run. In his first season on the wrestling team he pled 4th at state championships. K.C. is survived by his parents Kenneth Ray Vaughters and Lynn Walker Vaughters, and two brothers.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ROBERT L. VAWTER

Robert L. “Bobbee” Vawter of Middletown, Delaware, was recently recognized for outstanding achievement in the Civil Air Patrol by the Air Force Association Diamond State Chapter. The following statement was issued:

“Colonel (CAP) Robert L. Vawter distinguished himself by exceptional leadership in and command of the Delaware Wing Civil Air Patrol, the all-volunteer, civilian, official auxiliary of the United States Air Force, by serving an extended five year tour of duty as Wing Commander. While no longer the Commander, Colonel Vawter remains extremely active in Wing affairs and has been instrumental in a number of critical areas. Specifically, he has developed and fostered key working relationships with numerous Federal agencies including the Drug Enforcement Agency, U. S. Customs Service, Environmental Protection Agency, and Occupational Safety and Health Association. These associations have resulted in operational opportunities for the Wing and improved stature and recognition of Civil Air Patrol. A strong believer in America’s most precious asset – the youth of today – Colonel Vawter is particularly involved in the Wing’s CAP Cadet Orientation Flights. Colonel Vawter is a stalwart icon through the Wing and the Middle East Region. In recognition of his long, dedicated volunteer service, Colonel Robert L. Vawter has rightfully earned the Louisa Spruance Morse Award for Outstanding Achievement in Civil Air Patrol”.

Jim Vaughters, historian/archivist of the association, has sent the following items:

Missing Archives

The historian/archivist packed the archives after the banquet at the reunion. One item is missing, probably in someone's files accidentally. It is a letter size box, 8 ½ X 11", containing the programs and files of the June 2003 ceremony in Franklin County, Georgia, honoring the Confederate grave of Hiram Vaughters. These documents are the only ones of their kind – there are no extras. Please search your belongings and return them to Jim Vaughters.

Tapes of Greg Gruman's Lecture

The feature presentation at the 2004 reunion was by Greg Gruman of Longmont, Colo. He covered the history of medieval Europe, the Vawter name and towns, the Normans, the Battle of Hastings, early England, and the beginnings of movement to this country. He based much of the lecture on the five trips he has made to the area. The 1 ½ hour talk was videotaped, and tapes of the presentation are available for \$25.00. Checks should be made payable to the VVV Family Association and mailed to Jim Vaughters. He will then send the tapes, which were produced by Robert L. Vawter.

Booklet of James W. Vawter, Oklahoma Pioneer

Silas Vawter's daughter, Pat, printed the booklet of "Uncle Jimmy," as Fred Wicker knew him. They were distributed at the 2004 reunion and more can be printed if needed. Please let Jim know this fall and he will inform Pat. There is no charge for this informative 20 page booklet that includes documents and photographs.

Lithographs of Vauter's Church

The members of Vauter's Church would like to know this fall about how many copies of the painting to prepare for next year's reunion. The prints are approximately 18" X 24" watercolor and cost \$40.00 each. Please inform Jim so he can give them a number. They also have available a small box of note cards picturing the church for \$10.00.

THANK YOU

Again, we thank the ones who help by sending information for the newsletter. Please watch your local newspapers for items about members or friends of the association and mail or fax a copy to the news editor. Many times the only way we know of the death of a member is when a newsletter is returned. There have even been a few times when we have known only because someone sends a not so pleasant e-mail wondering why we continue to send a newsletter to a deceased family member.

CHARLIE VAUGHTERS

The third child of George Robinson Vaughters and Epsey Catherine Bennett Vaughters was Homer Charley Vaughters, born in Dawson County, Georgia, in 1885. Uncle was a hard working farmer, good natured man, and was loved by all the family. He died in 1944 and left three wonderful children – Lella Bruce, who lived in Dawson County, Luna Harben of Dahlonoga, and Boyd Vaughters, who during his lifetime was the second Vaughters preacher at Bethel Baptist Church. (The first was his grandfather George.)

George's brother Henry had two sons and named one Charlie. He was born in 1890 and died in 1930. He did not marry – perhaps the closest he came was being a witness at the wedding of his first cousin Hiram Solomon Andrew Jackson Vaughters to Coie Mae Burt in 1914.

Back in Elbert County, Charlie was the second child of James Benson Glean Vaughter and Mary Beulah Sanders Vaughter. He was born in 1902, but lived only a year. He is buried beside his parents; his brothers Swift, Francis Harrison, and Julian; and his sister, Miriam, at Harmony Baptist Church Cemetery.

George and Epsey's second son, Linzey Vaughters, and his wife Tomie Anderson had five girls and finally a boy, Charlie Linzey. He was born in 1921 and died in 1994. His descendants include several with the names Charlie and Linzey. A girl now carries on the long line of Lindseys.

Homer, Charlie, and Charlie Linzey are buried at Bethel Baptist Church Cemetery.

The newest Charlie, born in 2000, is the son of Jonathan and Alisa Vaughters, the grandson of Jim and Donna Vaughters, and the great-grandson of Cleveland Vaughters. Since he lives in Denver, his grandparents were able to take him to the 2004 reunion in Colorado Springs.

IN REMEMBRANCE

Ila Louise Vawter Gilmore, 70 of Newage, Michigan, died Thursday, February 26, 2004 in Grand Rapids. She was a member of First Baptist Church in Newago and retired from General Motors.

Surviving are her husband, Keith LaMarr Gilmore, to whom she was married just a month before her death; a son, Robert Dale Vawter; two grandchildren, Peter John Vawter and Aimee Louise Vawter; and her mother-in-law, Margaret G. Vawter.

She was preceded in death by her parents, T. Alger and A. Myrl Dygert; her first husband, Robert L. Vawter; and a daughter, Bonnie Jean Vawter DeHaan.

Ila and her first husband were longtime members of the association. Many will remember the violin music she provided for several memorial services. A tribute written by a friend states, "Before playing a hymn on her violin she would always read the words to us in her soft but clear voice so that we could more fully worship as we listened to the beautiful melody of her violin."

Patricia Jane Vawter Flew, 76, of Jackson, Tennessee, died July 2, 2004. Born Dec. 15, 1927, in Chicago, Ill., she was the daughter of Wylie and Goldie Dedmon Vawter. She married Frank Thomas Flew on July 1, 1948.

She was a 1959 graduate of Union University and had worked as an LPN in several nursing homes.

Surviving are sons Frank Patrick Flew of Beech Bluff, George W. Flew of Jackson, and John C. Flew of Medon; a daughter Cissy Nichols of Medon; seven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents and her husband.



FAMILY ASSOCIATION

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NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2004

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Dues - \$10.00 per year

IF A RENEWAL FORM IS ENCLOSED YOU NEED TO PAY DUES

REUNION 2005 NEWS

Once again, we all need to be making plans to attend the VVV Family Association Reunion. As is the custom every five years, the reunion is to be held in Virginia. This time it will be in Fredericksburg on July 14-16. Ellen Cummings, Bob Vawter and Garry Vawter met there in early December, and have chosen the Wingate Inn at I-95 Exit 133 as the location. We do not yet have information on room rates and other costs, but anyone who wants to make a reservation now can call 540-368-8000 or toll-free 1-866-333-6800. Their web site is www.mywingate.com

Fredericksburg is midway between Richmond, Virginia, and Washington, D.C. It is near Vauter's Church, and a visit to the church will be a highlight of the reunion.

If you have never attended a reunion, this would be an ideal year to meet your cousins and learn of your heritage. Several members always have memorabilia to display and are willing to share family information.

**JULY 14-16, 2005
WINGATE INN
FREDERICKSBURG, VIRGINIA
540-368-8000**

CHOKING MAN HELPED BY TROOPER

The Republic

Columbus, Indiana, 16, Sept 2004

A miscue landed two troopers in the wrong seating section at China Buffet [in Seymour, Indiana] Tuesday, but it saved one customer from choking on his food.

Indiana State Police Troopers Rick Roseberry and Gary Thalls arrived at the restaurant shortly after 11 a.m. to beat the lunch crowd, but they were seated in the smoking section by mistake. Not ones to raise a fuss, they began eating.

Roseberry suddenly heard a startled voice at a nearby table, and he looked to see a man behind Thalls stand straight up with his hands to his throat. Roseberry, in plain clothes, raced to the man in seconds.

“I went over there and asked, ‘Are you able to move air?’” Roseberry said. “He shook his head.” So Roseberry set his 6’2, 230 pound frame behind the choking man and delivered the Heimlich maneuver. On the third thrust, it worked.

“He shook my hand and said, ‘I really appreciated that,’” Roseberry said. After that, the officers got another plate of food, ate and left. They never got the man’s name.

Back at the post, Roseberry went about his job as if nothing had happened. Thalls, however, started telling people about it. They Seymour post was so impressed they issued a press release. Predictably, Roseberry downplayed the story when contacted by a reporter. He said he’s a firm believer God puts you in the right place at the right time.

Rick Roseberry is the son of Richard and Marge Clarkson Roseberry of Columbus, Indiana. He lives in Columbus with his wife, Amy, and two sons, Caleb and Conner, His mother is a descendant of Jennings County, Indiana, pioneers, William and Frances Vawter.

JAKE DEFUR

Many longtime association members have known Jake DeFur as he attended reunions with his mother, Barbara Vawter, and grandparents, Norma Jean Vawter and the late Robert M. “Pete” Vawter. Jake graduated from high school in Germantown, Tennessee, last May. A member of his school’s fine arts department, he appeared in a production of *Seussical*, playing the part of Horton. A biography of cast members had this to say about Jake:

“Senior Jake DeFur returns to the stage for his final Poplar Pike Playhouse performance. He appeared as Colonel in *Brave Navigator*, Windy in *Show Boat*, and debuted as Harry in *Crazy for You*. He recently played Benson in the children’s play *Once Upon a Beanstalk*. Last year Jake worked backstage as a crew member for *Crow and Weasel*. Jake is publicity officer for Thespian Troupe #912 and co-chairman for National Forensic League. For GHS-TV, Jake is the sports anchor for Germantown’s daily news show, *Wake Up, Germantown!*. He is also the special events director of Modern Film Club.”

Wake UP, Germantown! Received a National Student Television Award for Excellence from the National Television Academy for its sports coverage. As anchorman, Jake traveled to Los Angeles to accept the award on behalf of the other students who work on the broadcast.

SILVEY BRICE VAUGHTERS
Atlanta Journal-Constitution
April 2004

Again and again, S. B. Vaughters turned away developers offering him big bucks for the 141-acre Lithonia farm he purchased in 1946.

He worked the land for 56 years, selling milk, cattle and hay, and was proud to run the last working farm in DeKalb County.

Only when the opportunity came to turn his land into a park did he consider selling. In 2002, Mr. Vaughters sold the tract along Klondike Road to the state as part of a green space initiative. The state paid him \$2.8 million – far less than he could have made from developers, said his granddaughter, Mandy Richards of Loganville.

His action delighted conservationists.

“DeKalb County was once the dairy capital of Georgia, and Mr. Vaughters’ farm is just about the last place you can see the character of the land and its beautiful rolling landscapes,” said Kelly Jordan, chair of the nonprofit Arabia Mountain Heritage Area Alliance, who spearheaded the campaign to buy the land.

“I’m glad I held on this long, so others can take advantage of it,” Mr. Vaughters said in a 2002 interview. “You can drive from Lithonia to Dunwoody and not find a piece of open land. I did not want that here.”

Silvey Brice Vaughters Sr., 92, formerly of Lithonia, died Friday of complications of pneumonia at his Oxford residence. The funeral is at 2 p.m. today at Henry Funeral Home.

Mr. Vaughters grew up in a log cabin in Dawson County with one brother, three sisters and no electricity or running water. He earned his way through the University of Georgia and embarked on a teaching career. He first taught elementary students and later served as a school principal. He eventually taught agriculture to junior and high school students.

“He was the basketball coach at Centerville Junior High in Snellville for one season, and the team went 26-3.” His granddaughter said.

But Mr. Vaughters’ dream since childhood was to have a dairy farm, said his daughter, Carol Sellers of Monroe. In 1946, he bought a piece of property he described as “worn-out cotton land with deep gullies.” Mr. Jordan said. “he planted kudzu to control the erosion and restored the land with his own labor.”

In 1947, with the help of family members, “he built the granite rock house that still sits on that land from timber off his own land and native granite from Arabia Mountain,” his granddaughter said. It cost him \$2,200.

Mr. Vaughters was a dairy farmer for 20 years. In 1966, he sold his Jersey cows to start an Angus cattle operation. Meanwhile, he worked from 1950 to 1977 as an insurance agent for Cotton States.

“He led a simple life and was good at saving,” Ms. Richards said. “He never owned a credit card. He paid cash for everything.”

Every so often, Mr. Vaughters treated himself to a new car. When he sold his insurance agency in 1977, he bought a Cadillac DeVille coupe that still sits in his garage today. One of his few other extravagances was the quarter horses he purchased for his grandchildren.

He sold off his cattle in the mid-1900s, content to support himself selling hay.

Every Friday night, Mr. Vaughters would take out his mandolin, join his sons Brice on guitar and Wink, now deceased, on fiddle and invite friends over to enjoy some bluegrass music.

He lived his life according to his two favorite maxims, his granddaughter said: “Forget about the past mistakes and press on with the future” and “Plan your work and work your plan.”

Survivors include his wife, Rebecca Vaughters; two sons, Brice Vaughters Jr. of Redan and Steve Vaughters of Lithonia; six grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

We thank the Rev. Ralph Fall for sending this article from the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*.

CRYSTAL VAWTER HODGSON

Crystal Vawter Hodgson graduated May 22, 2004, from Chapman School of Law in Orange, California, with a degree in Juris Doctor. She is a 1997 Honor graduate of Milan, Tennessee, High School and graduated Cum Laude from Belmont University in Nashville with a degree in Political Science in May 2001.

While attending Chapman, Crystal was a member of the Moot Court Team and also associate managing editor of The Nexus Law Journal.

Crystal and her husband, Danner Hodgson, live in Irvine, California, where he is a medical student at The University of California at Irvine.

She is the daughter of Charlie and Barbara Turner of Atwood, Tennessee, and Gerry and Linda Vawter of Jackson, Tennessee. Her grandparents are U.L. and Pauline DePriest and Mary Vawter Hines, all of Atwood, and the late Robert J. Vawter. She has a twin sister, Carla Freeman, of Jackson, Tennessee, who is an administrator and special education teacher at the Cerebral Palsy Center in Jackson.

BARBARA J. VAWTER

Barbara J. Vawter received an “Excellence in Nursing Award” at the Celebrate Nursing Gala 2004 held May 8 at the Memphis Hilton.

The program for the event stated that “Barbara portrays professionalism on a daily basis. As a practicing nurse for twenty five years, she promotes nursing as a positive profession. She holds nursing out as a profession which can make a difference in people’s lives.”

NEWS FROM PHIL VAUGHTER

Phil and Peggy Vaughter have a new granddaughter, Aubreigh Marsh, born August 30, 2004. Aubreigh weight 7 lbs. 14 oz. And was 19” long at birth. Aubreigh’s big brother, Reid, age three, describes her as being “VERY PRETTY!”

Phil also sent the news that Peggy fell in November, breaking her right ankle and left foot. She was leaving a meeting at church and, in the dark, missed seeing a curb.

IN REMEMBRANCE

Louise Vawter Vanover

Louise Vawter Vanover, 83, of Beaumont, Texas, died October 19, 2003, at Lumberton Rehabilitation Center in Beaumont.

The funeral service was Wednesday, October 22, 2003, in Beaumont with the Rev. John Davis of Ridgewood Church of Christ and Chance Vanover officiating. Burial was at Cushing Cemetery.

Surviving are sons, Van Vanover of Beaumont, J. C. Vanover of Houston, Gerry Vanover of Austin and Paul Vanover of Indiana; a sister-in-law, Sally Vawter of Houston; 13 grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren.

Preceding her in death were her parents, Julian and Mattie Gammage Vawter; a brother, L. G. "Bill" Vawter; and a sister, Hazel McCandless.

Longtime members will remember Louise, Bill and Hazel as being active in the association. Bill served as president and Hazel as treasurer.

Maeone Clarkson Davidson

Maeona Clarkson Davidson, 81, of Indianapolis died September 15, 2001.

She was an office worker of 16 years at Forster and Messick Insurance Co., and a member of VFW Post 2999 Ladies Auxiliary.

Funeral service was September 19, 2001, with burial at Memorial Park Cemetery in Indianapolis.

Surviving are her husband, Carl E. Davidson; and cousins, Marilyn Detraz of Milan, Indiana, Marge Roseberry of Columbus, Indiana, and Bonita Welch of Scipio, Indiana.

Gladys Creasy Vawter

Gladys Creasy Vawter, 95, of Trenton, Tennessee, died Tuesday, July 27, 2004, at Gibson General Hospital.

Mrs. Vawter was a great lover of animals and had many cats for companions throughout the years. She was a prolific writer of poems, verses and thoughts, which she recorded from time to time and left as a remembrance to those who cared for her. She was a Baptist and loved her church. She lived in Trenton all her life.

A graveside service was held at Oakland Cemetery.

Born December 18, 1908, Mrs. Vawter was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. B. F. Creasy. She was married for more than 50 years to A. J. Vawter, who preceded her in death. They had no children, and she was the last of her immediate family.

Gladys Creasy Vawter was the aunt of the last Robert M. "Pete" Vawter.

IN REMEMBRANCE

Ruth E. Smith

Ruth E. Smith, 89, of Oxford, died Sunday, December 21, 2003, at McCullough Hyde Hospital.

Mrs. Smith was a 1936 graduate of Miami University, earning a degree in mathematics. While a student at Miami, she began working for the Scripps Foundation as a statistician and continued her work there for 37 years. She was an extensive traveler, visiting China, Australia and New Zealand. She was a long time member and faithful worker at the Oxford Presbyterian Church, serving as Sunday school teacher, bookkeeper and deacon. She also was a member of D.A.R., Colonial Dames, Huguenot Society, King's Daughters and the Oxford Women's Club.

A memorial service was held on Saturday, January 10, 2004, at Oxford Presbyterian Church. Burial was at Harmony Cemetery.

Born August 22, 1914, in Cincinnati, Ohio, Mrs. Smith was the daughter of Jasper and Lillian Sibcy Wiley. She married George Smith on April 4, 1937, in Hyde Park, Cincinnati.

Surviving are three step-grandchildren; a sister-in-law, Charlotte Wiley; nephews, James Wiley, Dean Kerr, Todd Kerr and Bill Hoover; and nieces, Karen Mendoza, Carol Sue Ravenel, Veda Browning and Joan Peters.

She was preceded in death by her husband, in 1969; brothers, Jasper G. Wiley Jr.; and Ernest H. Wiley; and sisters, Veda Holmes, Gertrude Wiley, Amelia Hoover and Marjory E. Kerr.

Mrs. Smith was a member of the association for many years.

John M. Vawter

John M. Vawter, 82, of Indianapolis died September 22, 2003.

Mr. Vawter graduated from DePauw University in 1942 and served in the U. S. Army during World War II as a radar repairman. He earned his master's degree from Butler University in 1950. He served as an educator in the Indianapolis Public School system for 35 years, with eleven years teaching science and social studies at School 32; three years at School 45, two of which he was assistant principal; four years at School 44 as principal; 17 years at School 103, where he was the school's first principal. He was a member of St. Luke's United Methodist Church, Irvington Masonic Lodge, Scottish Rite, Mystic Shrine and Murat Temple.

A Celebration of Life was held at St. Luke's United Methodist Church.

Born March 21, 1921, in Wabash, Indiana, Mr. Vawter was the son of Clarence Merrill and Edyth Barricklow Vawter.

Surviving are his wife, Martha Jane Vawter; a son, James M. Vawter; a granddaughter, Kathryn Vawter; and stepsons, Bradley A. and Scott A. Secor.

He was preceded in death by his first wife, Helen Hoen Vawter; brothers, Paul Edward Vawter and Harold Vawter; and a sister, Mary K. Vawter.

JOHN M. AND PAUL EDWARD VAWTER

Clarence Merrill Vawter, the father of John M. Vawter, was a minister, and in 1926, John was with his parents as they visited members of the congregation. Their car was struck by a train and both parents were killed instantly. According to a newspaper clipping, John “suffered only minor hurts although carried half a mile with the wreckage of the car.”

In his book, *Those Were the Days*, Paul Edward Vawter, the brother of John M., recalls the deaths of his parents and making decisions affecting his family’s future. He was 18, a sophomore at DePauw University in Greencastle, Indiana, and suddenly was responsible for his younger brothers and sister. The Summer 1995 issue of *DePauw Magazine* featured a story of Paul’s experiences of attending school while also caring for his siblings.

In October 1929, Paul Edward Vawter was living in Evanston, Ill., and wrote the following letter to William Snyder Vawter who was gathering material with the hope of updating *The Vawter Family in America*:

My Dear Mr. Vawter,

Mr. F. M. Vawter of 936 Hinman Ave. Evanston, Ill. was telling me about the work you are doing concerning the history of the Vawter family. I have a copy of the old history but am very much interested in the new one. Perhaps you will be interested on getting some material about more of the Vawters.

My father was the son of a Philimon Vawter but since I haven’t the book here I don’t recall which one. However, the Mr. Vawter here in Evanston said that his grandfather was the father of my great, great, grandfather. Perhaps that will help your. Father, together with my mother, was killed in an auto accident Dec. 16, 1927, [other accounts have 1926] at Osceola, Indiana, where he was minister of the Methodist Episcopal church. I was a Sophomore in DePauw University at the time. I graduated from there last June and am now doing graduate work in Northwestern University toward an MBA.

I have a sister who was 17 last February and is now an advanced Sophomore in DePauw. She intends to work for a nursing degree after finishing there. A brother, Harold, was 16 last May 26 and is a Senior in High School at Greencastle, Ind. where DePauw is located. He is undecided at present as to where he is going next year to school. My youngest brother, John, was eight last March 21 and is living with friends at Jeffersonville, Ind. He had a very narrow escape from death when my parents were struck by a train.

I was 21 last March 6th. As soon as I finish here, I intend to connect with some business organization. If you would be interested in more concerning my parents, I will be glad to furnish you any information I have. I have a very complete obituary at home written by a close friend of theirs who knew them all of their life.

I am very glad to have known who you are although I have never met you. All Vawters are very interesting to me. Will certainly be glad to hear from you at any time.

Very respectfully yours,]

Paul Edward Vawter

P.S. My father’s name was Clarence Merrill [Vawter]. He was in Moores Hill College at the time the last History was written.

MEMBERS AND FRIENDS REGISTERED AT 2004 REUNION

Alaska

Karen Klein; Asha

Arizona

Jordan Johnston; Kaitlin, Krista
Ted C. Vawter

California

Garry B. Vawter
John and Aggie Vawter

Colorado

Greg Gruman
Lynn Noll
Jim and Donna Vaughters
Jonathan and Alisa Vaughters
Charlie
Phil R. and Jenny Kuhn Vawter

Delaware

Robert L. and Donna Vawter

Florida

Barry and Rebecca Guinagh
Georgene Jurgensen
Ralphe and Caroline Vawter

Georgia

Berry Burt
Richard Greene
Cheryl Kelley; Kristy Glasgow
Sue Kimberley
Pam Schlesinger

Idaho

Melba Vawter Ashburn
Ellis M. and Gladys A. Vawter
Glenn and Laura Vawter
Roger and Tish Vawter

Illinois

Mark Beasley

Indiana

Tanner Deisch
Milton and Charlotte Pickett

Michigan

Patricia Vawter Klein

Mississippi

Judith Crawford
Jackie Hudson
Martha Hudson
Sue Hunt
Fred Wicker
Ken and Norma Wicker

Oklahoma

Sharon Coursey
Diana Vawter Loch
Billy Mack and Virginia Vawter
Erma Vawter

Tennessee

Norma Jean Vawter

Texas

Karla Vawter Quigley; James
Tom and Patricia Renton
Phil and Peggy Vaughter
J. W. and Di Vawter
Jesse and Laneil Vawter
John H. and Sue Vawter

Virginia

Ned and Ellen Cummings;
Frederick

Washington

Mayme Graubard
Jackie Gruman
Cheri Jex; Emilie

Wisconsin

Judith L. Aue
Priscilla L. Aue
Evert and Maxine Joling



FAMILY ASSOCIATION

March 2005 – Page 1

Vol. 29 No. 1

NEWSLETTER

March 2005

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2005 REUNION IN FREDERICKSBURG

July 14-16

The following is taken from a brochure published by the Fredericksburg Visitors Center. It can be ordered on their web site www.frederickburgvirginia.net or by calling 1-800-678-4748.

“The Fredericksburg area, including the Counties of Spotsylvania and Stafford, as well as the City, have been gracious hosts for centuries. Some have come to Fredericksburg through serendipity, more to find their way in a New World and a budding nation, others when duty called, still others for the pleasures of an escape into the refreshing charms of the Fredericksburg area.

“George Washington came here as a child to Ferry Farm in Stafford with his family. The scene of legends from his youth, the home he bought for his mother, his sister’s plantation home, the house his brother built, later operated as a tavern, are here.

“Before Young Washington’s day, Fredericksburg was founded by colonial barons as a tobacco trading station and the small ports of Fredericksburg and Falmouth grew along the banks of the Rappahannock River. Originally laid out in a simple grid, the mainstays of English life anchored the streets, including a town hall and market square, the Anglican Church, taverns, home and shops. Today the streets are lined with brick sidewalks, antique and specialty shops, more than 40 one-of-a-kind restaurants, private home and gardens.

“Others came with a mission. When war broke out between the North and the South in

1861, the Fredericksburg area stood at the crossroads of battle, midway between Washington D. C., capital of the Union, and Richmond, capital of the Confederacy. Robert E. Lee, U. S. Grant, Thomas E. “Stonewall” Jackson, Ambrose Burnside and thousands of troops came to contest the bitter Civil War.

“Thomas Jefferson made his mark in Fredericksburg, writing the Virginia Statute of Religious Freedom, which was the basis for the First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States. And James Monroe began his illustrious career of public service in Fredericksburg.

“Still others have visited for the delights of discovering rolling hills, tidal and rushing rivers and peaceful lakes. They encounter the richness of the American experience at every turn, and feel the joy of discovering the Fredericksburg area’s unique and entertaining past and present in its galleries, historical attractions, shops, restaurants and golf courses.

“The area has been a memorable place greeting leaders, settlers, soldiers, and visitors through the years. You should come to the Fredericksburg area, too.”

As reported in the last newsletter, the Wingate Inn at I-95 Exit 133 has been selected as the location for the 2005 VVV Reunion in Fredericksburg, Virginia. We have 50 rooms reserved for the reunion and have been given a special rate of \$75.00 plus tax for double or king rooms and \$119.00 plus tax for a suite. The cut off date for reserving a room at this price is July 1. All rooms not guaranteed at the time of the cut off date will be released back to the hotel to be sold at the regular rate. Reservations can be made by calling 540-368-8000 or 866-333-6800. The web site is www.mywingate.com.

All rooms offer:

- Separate desk and sleep areas
- Refrigerator, microwave, coffee maker, hair dryer
- Free in-room high speed Internet access and wireless access
- Cordless phone, 2-line speaker phone
- Pay Per View Movie and Nintendo
- 25 inches remote television with in-room Web TV
- High security electronic locks and in-room safe
- Full size iron and ironing board

The hotel features:

- Complementary expanded continental breakfast
- Coffee and snacks served in the evening
- Indoor heated pool and whirlpool, professional fitness center
- Free 24-hour business center with fax, copier, printer and computer
- Free local calls, no long distance access charges
- High-tech boardrooms and meeting rooms
- Inside corridor rooms
- Children stay free

While there are other hotels in the area, we encourage all VVV members to stay at the Wingate Inn. After all, the purpose of a reunion is to be with family and friends. As the brochure states, “You should come to Fredericksburg, too!”

2005 REUNION SCHEDULE

Thursday, July 14

3:00 – 8:00 p.m.....Registration
6:00 – 8:00 p.m.....President’s Reception
8:00 p.m.Executive Committee Meeting
8:00 p.m.Reunion Site Committee Meeting

Friday, July 15

Complimentary breakfast
8:30 – 9:00 a.m.Registration
9:00 a.m.Opening of Reunion
Welcome
Ringing of Cowbell
Invocation
Pledge to the Flag
Official “Welcome to Fredericksburg”
Preliminary registration report and business meeting
10:30 a.m. – NoonGenealogy Session #1
Lunch on your own
Spend the afternoon touring Historic Fredericksburg
6:00 – 7:00 p.m.Dinner at the Hotel
7:30 – 9:00 p.m.Genealogy Session #2

Saturday, July 16

9:00 a.m.Depart for Vauter’s Church
NoonLunch at Vauter’s Church
1:00 p.m.Depart for the Glebe
6:30 p.m.Annual Banquet

Sunday, July 17

9:00 a.m.Worship Service at Vauter’s Church
10:00 a.m.Coffee and Light Refreshments

REUNION REMINDERS

Please remember that a Love Offering will be taken for Vauter’s Church. If you are unable to attend the reunion and want to make a contribution, please send your check to the treasurer, Norma Jean Vawter. Her address can be found with the list of officers.

Among the items available for purchase at the reunion will be prints of Vauter’s Church. However, please let Jim Vaughters know immediately if you want one as there is a lead time for producing the prints.

VAUTER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Vauter's Episcopal Church, located in Essex County, Virginia, not far from the Rappahannock River, is the Upper Church of St. Anne's Parish.

At one time, authorities believed the original portion to have been built in 1719 and enlarged by the addition of the South Wing in 1731. However, a 1969 renovation of the interior revealed that the church was built in its entirety in 1731. Its brick walls, two feet thick throughout, are laid in Flemish bond with glazed headers, and its two doorways are in the classic, pedimented style. It appears to have retained its original doors, sash windows, and shutters, with most of the hand wrought hardware.

Subsequent to the American Revolution, Vauter's Church passed out of service, a fate common to many colonial church buildings. Vandalism threatened to destroy it during this period of practical abandonment, but it was saved by Mrs. Muscoe Garnett, of Elmwood, who claimed the building as standing on her property. The foundation for her claim lay in the fact that although the church was built on land originally adjoining that of the Vauter family, Mr. James Garnett had purchased from that family before the middle of the 18th century the land next to the church property. Mrs. Garnett was successful in giving Vauter's her protection.

Although the church continued closed for many years except on rare occasions, a handbill advertised a lottery held in 1792 to raise "the sum of Three Hundred Pounds, for the purpose of repairing the Churches and Glebe of St. Ann's Parish."

During the War of 1812, the churchyard was the scene of a duel. It occurred before the South door, and the participants were reconciled after firing one shot.

The year 1822 saw the resumption of regular services at Vauter's for the first time since 1776. The interior was repaired and remodeled in 1827, with the high, box pews being reduced in height and the chancel moved from the East to the North wall. A two-story pulpit replaced the colonial three-story pulpit.

CONGRATULATIONS TO KEN AND NORMA WICKER

We congratulate Ken and Norma Wicker of Tupelo, Mississippi, on the occasion of their 50th Wedding Anniversary. A celebration was held in their honor on January 30, 2005, at First Baptist Church in Tupelo, Mississippi. It was hosted by Jeff and Kathy Terry, Tom and Semmie Wicker and Roger and Gayle Wicker.

QUERY

Bobbi Wilson is seeking any information on Russell Vawter, whose daughter, Nancy, married Samuel Rigg. Bobbi's address is: 11080 E 2250th Street, Adair, IL 61411

THANK YOU

We thank Andrew Cottle for sending the article that appears in this newsletter about his genealogical journey to New Mexico. Stories such as this are always welcome!

THE GLEBE, ST. ANNE'S PARISH
ESSEX COUNTY, VIRGINIA
Submitted by Judge Fred Wicker

Robert Rose was ordained and licensed for Virginia Parishes and came to Virginia in 1724. At the age of twenty-one, in 1725, he became Minister of St. Anne's Parish, Essex County, Virginia.

He was born in Scotland near Inverness and died in Virginia in 1751. During his ministry of St. Anne's Parish, Vauter's Church and its parish glebe were erected in 1731. Edward Vawter, son of one of three immigrant brothers, is said to be the builder of the church.

The glebe was the house and (usually) 200 acres provided by colonial parishes for their ministers. Parson Rose's house, the oldest brick glebe still standing in Virginia, is located in Thomas Neck below present Chance, Virginia, in Essex County.

The building is two stories high and one room deep. The exterior brickwork of Flemish bond and glazed headers is similar to that of Vauter's Church erected the same year some sixteen miles to the north.

On the glebe lands were a frame schoolhouse, a wharf on nearby Occupacia Creek, a grain mill, a spring and probably several outbuildings. Only the glebe building now remains.

The property went into private hands beginning in 1803. It is now owned by Mr. James R. Hundley, Jr. and is situated on Cloverfield Farm. The building is in a rundown condition, although some repairs have been made recently. Mr. Hundley is very much interested in its restoration.

The structure is listed on the Virginia Landmarks Register and the National Register of Historic Places.

GEORGIA VAUGHTERS REUNION

The seventh annual reunion of the Georgia Vaughters Family will be Sunday, June 12, 2005, at Bethel Baptist Church located two miles north of Dawsonville. Charles Burt, Gary Vaughters and Becky Vaughters McCord began the reunion in 1999, and we have continued to make them enjoyable for our cousins.

Schedule:	11 a.m.	Tour the cemetery, where American flags are placed on the graves of the 60 Vaughters descendants.
	Noon	Brief family history with a special presentation on Rev. George Robinson Vaughters (1860 – 1936) his 74 th birthday party in 1934 was the last reunion until 1999. Most descend from him.
	1 p.m.	Covered dish dinner.

Bring your favorite dish, story and photographs.

For more information, contact Jim Vaughters at 303-771-7103.

GEORGIA GOVERNOR SAMUEL ERNEST VANDIVER, JR
(1918 – 2005)
by Jim Vaughters

Our most distinguished member died on February 21, 2005, at his home in Lavonia, Georgia. Ernest Vandiver, Jr. was the 73rd governor of the State of Georgia, 1959- 1963. He and his wife, Betty, graciously hosted a reception of the VVV's at their home during the 2002 reunion, and he was a key participant in ceremonies that year and the next.

Samuel Ernest Pinkney Vandiver, Jr. was born in Franklin County, Georgia, on July 3, 1918, about a dozen miles from the old Vaughter farm in the Red Hill community. Both of his parents were great-great-grandchildren of Revolutionary War soldiers. His mother's ancestor moved to the area during the war and was killed by Tories when he was home on furlough to see his newborn son. His father's ancestor moved into the area in the 1820s.

When the Civil War erupted, his grandfather was not permitted to enlist because he was only 13. He walked 150 miles to the other side of the state, lied about his age, and became a Confederate soldier. When he returned home after the war, he married his next door Red Hill neighbor, Eliza Missouri Vaughter (1851-1911).

Eliza was a daughter of Hiram S. (1814-1853) and Elizabeth Glenn Vaughter (1814-1870). She was one of the children who helped raise the slave, Uncle Pete Vaughters (1852-1922). Her grandparents were James (1785-1936) and Jane Vaughter (1794-1884).

The first child of William I. Pinkney and Eliza Missouri Vaughter Vandiver was Samuel Ernest Pinkney Vandiver, Sr. The Samuel came from Eliza's oldest brother, Samuel Hiram Vaughter (1837-1924), who was an officer in the Confederate Army, was captured at Champion Hill, Mississippi, and spent two years as a prisoner of war. He then went to Arkansas and Oklahoma, where, just as Uncle Pete Vaughters, he continued his profession as a teacher.

Tradition has it that the day Ernest, Jr. was born his father said, "That boy will be governor of Georgia". He prepared his son for such with the best schools, travel, and a tutor in oratory.

At age 18, Ernest, Jr. gave his first political speech, which was widely acclaimed as a success. He completed bachelor's and law degrees at the University of Georgia in just six years. During World War II, he was a well known defense lawyer. After the war, he practiced law in Lavonia and became the state's youngest mayor at age 27.

He was a campaign manager for a governor, then Adjutant General, Lieutenant Governor, and Governor. He is credited with cleaning up the corruption of his predecessor, increasing efficiency so that state government delivered an additional \$100 million in services without raising taxes, cleaning up the state mental hospital at Milledgeville, and, most notable, overseeing the peaceful integration of public schools and the University of Georgia. His voice was always that of moderation and lawful obedience to court orders, unlike any of his counterparts in the South.

History was kind to Gov. Vandiver. As his body lay in state at the Capitol in Atlanta, leaders said of him that he rose above being just a politician and became respected and admired as a statesman.

He was indispensable to the 2002 VVV Reunion in Elberton, Georgia. In addition to the beautiful reception, he arranged for the current state government to pay for the dignified granite

marker and for the ceremony dedicating Swift and Julian Vaughter's gift of the 850 acre farm to the State of Georgia. And he began his keynote address with the phrase, "Good morning, cousins!".

In 2003 he made what was perhaps his final public appearance. A ceremony honoring the life and grave marker of Civil War soldier Hiram Vaughter, brother of Eliza Missouri, was held at the Vaughter cemetery at Red Hill. Gov. Vandiver gave a heart felt talk about the tragedy of that war, the importance of preserving family history, and his pride in being part of our family as well as a spokesman for the state. The commemorative Confederate flag was presented to him, and he then revealed that he had always wanted one, did not have one, and was very thankful for it.

The card on the flowers that were sent for his funeral service read simply, "Governor Vandiver – Thanks for being a great friend and a great cousin. – The Vaughters Family".

Surviving are his wife of 57 years, Betty Russell Vandiver; children, S. Ernest "Chip" Vandiver and Elizabeth Vandiver, both of Lavonia, and Jane Kidd of Athens, Georgia; and four grandchildren.

SUGGESTED AMENDMENTS TO BYLAWS

The Historian/Archivist has reviewed the Bylaws of the Association, written some suggested amendments, and sent those suggestions to the current officers and past presidents. He would like to present them at the business meeting of the reunion in Fredericksburg, Virginia.

Here is a summary of the suggested amendments:

1. Annual Meeting the third weekend of July rather than the first weekend of August.
2. List of officers to delete Membership Chairman, add two Assistant Treasurers, and divide Historian/Archivist into two separate offices.
3. State that the Executive Committee shall consist of all current officers and all past presidents.
4. At the conclusion of a President's two year term the Vice-President shall automatically be nominated as the next President.
5. The two Assistant Treasurers to be alternate signatures on the bank account and to succeed to the office of Treasurer in the event of the resignation or demise of the Treasurer.
6. The Historian to arrange at least one genealogy session at each Annual Meeting, to research the family history, and to communicate with other persons who research the family history.
7. The Archivist to collect, store, and manage the memorabilia, keep an inventory, and bring such historical items to the Annual Meetings.

Splitting Historian/Archivist is suggested for several reasons. The archives have grown in volume, storage space in a house is a problem, and they are not accessible to members except at reunions. Possible solutions are storing them in a central location (rented space or with a member), and shipping them to the reunion each year. The Historian seems to have enough to stay busy, and a separate Archivist could do a better job.

All members are invited to share their thoughts about these changes with any of the officers and to make suggestions.

A GENEALOGICAL JOURNEY

By Andrew Cottle

Elkton, Maryland

A couple of summers ago I was able to get away from the East Coast, back to New Mexico, for a visit with my Aunt Aline (Terry Aline Vaughter Boney). I am distracted by genealogy and wanted to clean up some details of family information in my hometown, Clovis, New Mexico.

I knew some about family history...I knew that my grandfather, William Hershell "Bill" Vaughter, had ridden horseback to eastern New Mexico with his older brother, N. A. "Alsup" Vaughter, from Tennessee, in the very early 1900s. Alsup and Bill had been raised in the Bethel-Leana community, outside of Murfreesboro, Tennessee. Their dad, David Crockett "D.C." Vaughter, was noteworthy in Tennessee in the Masons because of his fabulous memory. D.C. knew more of the "rite work" than anyone around, and knew it better...

Anyway, Doc Richmond told Alsup that he had "lung fever," and that his only chance of having much of a life would be if he moved to a dry climate. My Grandpa, Bill, was sent along by the boys' mom, Tennessee Brown "Tennie" Alsup Vaughter to be a companion for Alsup, and to watch out for him. (One story begets another, right? This "Doc" Richmond was so respected by the Vaughters that John Richmond Vaughter was named for him.)

So, because the good doctor told the Vaughters about Alsup's prognosis, Bill and Alsup set out to claim cheap government land in New Mexico Territory. The boys stopped along the way and made arrangements with the King Ranch people to do a little land and cattle trading on the side as agents for that huge ranching operation. The boys set up homestead in House, New Mexico; then moved on to Taiban, which was in Roosevelt County at the time.

There are all these stories about the "rough and ready" Vaughter boys in Taiban; they did whatever came to hand. In one article, Bill is called the "Barbarous Barber of Butcher Street." We don't know, still, whether that label was Southwestern humor, or what. Bill also sold insurance and ready-made clothes. They boys ran cattle and chickens, and tried to get a garden to grow. Alsup was a lawyer for a time and they say that on one occasion it took three men to get him off a lawbreaker. Another time, Bill was cutting some hair and saw Alsup bushwhacked by a fellow, so he came out and cold-cocked the assailant with one blow.

All these stories came to light when Aunt Aline and I drove over to Taiban from Clovis. We went into the Taiban Post Office, and I said, "Too bad we can't have a photocopy of that historical postmark." Aline went up to the Postmistress and said, "Can we take that into Ft. Summer and make a copy?" The woman took it out of the case for us. Goodness gracious.

We couldn't find a marriage certificate for Bill and Bonnie (Wade Vaughter) in the DeBaca Court House, so Aline asked the Clerk to call around to other counties and track it down. The Clerk dropped what she was doing and made the calls. Several times we opened gates to get to spots that held special memories. As an Easterner, now, I never would have dreamed of "trespassing." Being the Western woman, Aline just said, "You go on up there and open that gate. It will be OK." And it was. We had such a wonderful time, that day, digging up roots.

The punch line for this story is that Alsup, with his "lung fever", lived to be 82 – and outlived Bill by a number of years.



FAMILY ASSOCIATION

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NEWSLETTER **June 2005**

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Dues - \$10.00 per year

IF A RENEWAL FORM IS ENCLOSED YOU NEED TO PAY DUES

REUNION INFORMATION FROM ELLEN CUMMINGS

Dear VVV Family Association Members,

This is a reminder that July 14-16 and the 2005 Reunion of the VVV Family Association in Fredericksburg, Virginia, is almost here. If you have not yet made your reservation at the Wingate Inn, you are urged to do so as soon as possible. On July 1, all remaining rooms, which have been held for the Association, will be released. Room rates are \$75.00 for doubles and kings, and \$119.00 for suites. These are nice, big, modern rooms, with all the conveniences. In checking the records from five years ago, reunion room rates were \$99.00. This is a great deal, in an exceptionally nice hotel with a private location, and I think you will all be pleased.

Thanks for your patience in waiting for meal prices. Last fall I was told I would be dealing with a particular catering company. However, when I contacted the hotel this spring for catering details, I was told a brand new restaurant would be opening next door the first of June, and I would be dealing with them. Because the restaurant is not yet open, things are in a state of flux, and it has taken longer than expected for their catering service to supply me with meal choices and prices.

On the bright side, these prices are much better than what we would have had with the first arrangement. The hotel manager assures me the food will be top quality, and the restaurant staff members have been most helpful and accommodating. Below I have listed the menus and prices. The Saturday lunch will be provided by the ladies of Vauter's Church.

Friday Night Cookout	Saturday Buffet
Hamburgers	Lemon Herb Chicken Breast
Hotdogs	Portabello Pot Roast
Beef Brats	Rice Pilaf
Buttered Corn on the Cob	Vegetable Medley
Tossed Salad	Salad Bar
Watermelon	Rolls/Butter
Chocolate Chip Cookies	Assorted Pies
Iced Tea/Lemonade	Iced Tea/Coffee

We do need to have an approximate count for the meals, so please help by completing this form, and getting the information to me as soon as possible, by FAX, e-mail, phone, or US mail.

_____ Yes, I will attend the reunion. _____ No, I will not attend the reunion.

Friday Picnic: number of adults _____ (including children 12 and over) (\$16.00)
Number of children ages 5-11 _____ (\$8.00)

Saturday Lunch: number of adults _____ including children 12 and over) (\$12.00)
Number of children ages 5-11 _____ (\$6.00)

Saturday Dinner: number of adults _____ (including children 12 and over) (\$20.00)
Number of children ages 5-11 _____ (10.00)

Your name and the names of others attending with you:

There will be a reunion fee of \$10.00 per person, and \$20.00 per family, to off-set the meeting room fee, which the hotel charges.

We will play Human Bingo again this year, as it provides a unique opportunity for us to get to know the scope and diversity of our membership. Please give some thought to unique and interesting facts about those who will attend this year's reunion and pass this information along to me. You can also provide these factoids at the registration table, but getting them ahead of time will be helpful.

It is traditional for the Association to give a love offering to Vauter's Church. This is a small congregation that struggles with the upkeep of a historic building. Please prayerfully consider your gift to Vauter's Church.

Thanks for your prompt reply! I look forward to seeing you in July.

Ellen Cummings

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4708 Bradston Rd. Work: (757) 464-2423
Virginia Beach, VA 23455 FAX: (757) 460-2371
ellenwickerc@aol.com

REMINDERS

In the March newsletter, we encouraged all members to stay at the Wingate Inn. If you have not yet reserved a room, please do so today. As of several days ago, 35 of the 50 rooms being held for the association have been reserved. Any rooms remaining on July 1 will be released to the hotel and a higher rate will be charged. It may be possible to get more rooms, but Ellen must know of the need before July 1. Reservations can be made by calling 540-368-8000 or 866-333-6800. Be sure to state that you are with the Vawter Family Association to get the special rate. And please, do let Ellen know of your plans.

The VVV Singers, under the direction of Christy Glasgow, will perform on Friday evening. Rehearsal time will be during the Friday morning business session. Christy will be remembered as one of the original members of the VVV Children's Chorus. The group is open to anyone, regardless of age.

Also on Friday evening, we will be entertained by Mayme and Emma Graubard, with their Irish dancing. The girls are the granddaughters of Jackie Vawter Gruman of Wilkeson, Washington.

Always a highlight of the reunions is the drawing for door prizes on Saturday night. There is usually a wide variety of items as some people bring handcrafted items or something that is related to the area in which they live. Others donate a prize they purchase in the location of the reunion.

Laniel Vawter will be conducting the annual memorial service, using the names of those friends and relatives whose obituaries have appeared in the newsletters the past year. If you have others that you would like to have remembered, please contact Laniel so she can include your loved ones. Her e-mail is jessvawter@aol.com.

2005 REUNION SCHEDULE (REVISED)

Thursday, July 14

3:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.....Registration
6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.....President's Reception
8:00 p.m.Executive Committee Meeting
8:00 p.m.....Reunion Site Committee Meeting

Friday, July 15

Complimentary Breakfast
8:30-9:00 a.m.....Registration
9:00 a.m.....Opening of Reunion
 Welcome, Ringing of Cowbell, Invocation and Pledge
 Official Welcome to Fredericksburg
 Preliminary Registration Report & Business Meeting
10:30 a.m. – Noon.....Genealogy Session #1
Lunch on Your Own
Spend the afternoon touring historic Fredericksburg
6:00 – 7:30 p.m.....Dinner
 Irish Dancing – Mayme and Emma Graubard
 VVV Singers
7:30 – 9:00 p.m.....Genealogy Session #2

Saturday, July 16

Complimentary Breakfast
9:00 a.m.....Depart for Vauter's Church
Noon.....Lunch at the Church
1:00 p.m.....Depart for the Glebe
6:30 p.m.....Annual Banquet
 Human Bingo
 Invocation
 Meal
 Memorial Service
 Love Offering for Vauter's Church
 Special Recognition
 Youngest and Oldest, Couple Married the Longest, Traveled the Farthest Distance
 Roll Call of States
 Final Registration Report
 Invitation to 2006 Reunion
 Door Prizes
 Adjournment

Sunday, July 17

Complimentary Breakfast
9:00 a.m.....Worship Service at Vauter's Church
10:00 a.m.....Coffee and Light Refreshments

BEVERLY SPARKS VAWTER

During the 1920s and 30s, William Snyder Vawter contacted many members of the Vawter family with the hope of updating “The Vawter Family in America”. Although he was unable to complete the project, much of the material he collected has been preserved and several VVV Association members have copies.

Emma C. Rector, of Wellington, Kansas, submitted the following information on her family. Her letter was dated January 1, 1930. We have printed it as written by Mrs. Rector, making no corrections in spelling or grammar. Some punctuation has been added for easier reading. A brief letter written two years earlier and signed by Mrs. Rector differs a little from the 1930 letter. That information is inserted and enclosed with [brackets.]

“I am the daughter of Beverly Sparks Vawter [born in Stokes Co., North Carolina, May 1, 1819], 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 [born June 3, 1821] 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 other 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 Ninnescah river. He live a good christian the rest of his life. Seven years later he died very suddenly on July 2nd 1885. Burried in Wellington.

“Mother was a sweet and loving mother. She was a great comfort. She passed away March 12, 1902. But three of the twelve childred are now living; Mrs. Sarah Moore, widow of J. K. Moore, a Civil War veteran – living in Wellington. Brother George Allen Vawter lives in Adair, Illinois, and myself, Mrs Edward Tiffin Rector. My husband was born in Circilville, Ohio, [March 31, 1850]. We were married January 23, 1878 and celebrated our Golden Wedding anniversary on the 23d day of January 1928. Our four childred presentind 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 Retailers' Ass'n lives in Wichita, Kansas. Major Elton Rector living in Wellington. My husband is a Mason and I am an Eastern Star. Both of our sons are 32nd degree Masons and Nobles of the Mystic Shrine."

Children of Beverly Sparks Vawter:

Joseph William Vawter	Died in infancy
Joseph Chadwell Vawter	Died in action in Civil War [in the earlier letter, his name is given as Josiah
James Madison Vawter	Died in Illinois [died on 24 th birthday]
Samuel Taylor Vawter	Died in Kansas [born January 13, 1850; died August 14, 1923
Henri Anderson Vawter	Died in Kansas [Henry; born November 16, 1852; died May 7, 1928]
Sara Ann Vawter	Living in Wellington [Sarah; born February 24, 1854; widow of John Kesno Moore, who was born in Bloominton, Ill.
Mary Jane Vawter	Died in Kansas [born May 10, 1855; died October 29, 1924]
Paulina Francis Vawter	Died in Illinois {Frances; born May 8, 1856; died December 11, 1923]
Emma Carolyn Vawter	Living in Wellington [born March 4, 1858]
Elizabeth Bessie Vawter	Died in Kansas [Elizabeth Burse; born March 6, 1860; died December 8, 1926]
George Allen Vawter	Living in Adair, Illinois [born March 23, 1863]
Susan Priscilla Vawter	Died in Illinois [died in infancy]

Children of Beverly Vawter & Harriet Vawter, 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, Ill.
Elizabeth B.	Married Charles H. Lovingfoss of Wellington, Kans.
Emma C.	Married Edward Tiffin Rector of Circleville, Ohio. In Wellington, Kansas
George A.	Married Cora Ruth of Penningtons Point, Ill, living in Adair, Ill

Children born to each son and daughter

Born to – Samuel F. Vawter:
Siloie Harriet – died in infancy

John – Married Edna Cole in Kansas
Hattie – Married George Anthony in Kansas
Nola Fern – Married Mr. Moordy, living in Missouri
 Born to – John Vawter; one child – died in infancy
 Hattie Anthony; six children
 Nola Fern Moordy: five children – two living – three dead

Born to – Mary Jane Munson: four children
 Theodore – died in New Mexico
 Lula Frances Moore – living in Kansas City, Mo.
 Gertrude Inez Widney – living in Kansas City, Mo.
 Daisy Mae – died in New York City
 The wife of Dr. Ames Judd M.D. of New York City.

Born to – Henri A. Vawter
 Henrietta – married Frank Miles, living at Cunningham, Kans., five children
 Stella – married Charles Gamble, living at Kingston, Kans., two children
 Ruby – married Walter Mercer, living at Peck, Kansas, two children
 Jewel – married Albert Clugston, living at Industry, Ill., on child

Born to - Pauline F. Herndon:
 Beulah – died in infancy
 Sturl Arthur – married, lives Industry, Ill.
 Nola Fern – died in Illinois, age 21

Born to - Elizabeth B. Lovingfoss:
 Harold H. – married Fae Rash in Wellington, Kansas, one child
 Charles H. – lives at Dallas, Texas

Born to – George A. Vawter:
 Burdett
 Bertha Lorraine – lives at Adair, Ill.

Born to – Edward Tiffin and Emma C. Rector:
 Cora – married Walter A. Ford in San Francisco, Calif., liv at Fresno, Calif.
 Rex Tiffin Arthur – living in Kansas City, Mo., and Wichita, Kans.
 Helen Edawyn – married to Harry L. Persons at Wellington, Kans.
 Major Elton – lives at Wellington, Kansas

WWW.VAWTERFAMILY.ORG

At the reunion in Colorado Springs last summer, Jordan Johnston of Goodyear, Arizona, took on the project of building a website for the association. It is now online and can be found at www.vawterfamily.org.

Jordan is the son of Patricia Vawter Renton of Pipe Creek, Texas, who has contributed material for the website. Jordan and Patricia deserve a big “THANK YOU” for all the work that has gone into this. Be sure to check it out and let them know what you think.

ENGAGEMENT ANNOUNCEMENT

Molly Ann Hall and Brian Christopher Stundick of Rosedale, Maryland, announce their engagement and approaching marriage.

Molly is the daughter of Douglas and Judy Thorpe of Indianapolis, Indiana, formerly of North Vernon, Indiana. She is a graduate of Broadneck High School and Anne Arundel Community College in Arnold, Maryland. She is a registered nurse in the field of neonatal care.

Her fiancé is the son of Walter and Bernadette Stundick of Kingsville, Maryland. He is a graduate of Loyola High School and Loyola College in Baltimore, Maryland, and earned a master's degree from Johns Hopkins University. He is self-employed in real estate.

The wedding is planned for August 20 at St. Michaels Catholic Church in St. Michaels, Maryland.

Molly's parents are members of the VVV Association and have attended several reunions.

IN REMEMBRANCE

Martha Jane Woolman Rankin

Martha Jane Wollman Rankin, 78, of Big Spring, Texas, died Friday, March 5, 2005, in a Lubbock, Texas, hospital.

Mrs. Rankin was raised in North Vernon, Indiana, and graduated from Ball State University in Muncie, Indiana. She was a music teacher for six years before becoming a homemaker. She and her husband moved to Big Spring in November 2003 after living in Avon, Indiana, for many years. She was a member of First Presbyterian Church; the Daughters of the American Revolution, serving as regent a number of times; and the International Travel Study Club in Avon. She was active with Meals on Wheels for 25 years and enjoyed genealogy.

The funeral service was held in Avon. Burial was at Vernon Cemetery in Vernon, Indiana.

Born April 23, 1926, in Cleveland, Ohio, Mrs. Rankin was the daughter of Earl and Nina Lewis Woolman. She married David L. Rankin on June 6, 1948, in North Vernon.

Surviving with her husband are sons, Jonathan L. Rankin of Plantersville, Texas, and Andrew D. Rankin of Big Spring; and three grandsons, Kaleb, Jakob and Marcus Rankin.

She was preceded in death by her parents, and a sister, Dorothy Ann Blackwood.

Mrs. Rankin's mother was the great-granddaughter of Alexander and Nancy Vawter Lewis. This family can be found on page 351 of "The Vawter Family in America."

SHARE YOUR NEWS

Do you have events happening in your family? Please send items of interest to the news editor so we can keep everyone informed.



FAMILY ASSOCIATION

September 2005 – Page 1
Vol. 29 No. 3

NEWSLETTER **September 2005**

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IF A RENEWAL FORM IS ENCLOSED YOU NEED TO PAY DUES

FREDERICKSBURG, VIRGINIA, 2005

The 2005 reunion of the VVV Family Association was held July 14-16 at the Wingate Inn in Fredericksburg, Virginia. As always, several members arrived early in the week and enjoyed spending time touring the area.

Registration began on Thursday afternoon, followed by a reception hosted by our president, Garry Vawter. The executive and reunion site committees met after the reception.

The Friday morning business session was opened with the traditional ringing of the cowbell, with Luke Williams having the honor this year. Invocation was by John H. Vawter, and the pledge to the American flag was led by Austin Bugos. A report from the reunion site committee was given by Ellen Cummings, and her report is printed in this newsletter. An invitation was extended by Cheri Jex to have the 2006 reunion in Bear Lake, Idaho.

Invocation before the Friday dinner was given by Billy Mack Vawter. Entertainment for the evening was Irish dancing by Mayme and Emma Graubard.

Jim Vaughters and Georgene Jurgenson conducted two genealogy sessions on Friday and both were well attended.

At 9:00 a.m. Saturday, we departed for Vauter's Church. The Rev. Christopher Agnew gave a history of the church and told of the ongoing project of maintaining the building. Following a delicious lunch served by the ladies of the church, visits were made to Elmwood and the Glebe.

The Saturday dinner began with everyone playing Human Bingo. We learned several interesting and surprising facts about each other!

Entertainment after the dinner was by the VVV Singers under the direction of Kristy Glasgow. Special recognition was given to the following:

Youngest: Joshua Williams, age 3 ½ months.

Oldest: David C Vaughter, 84

Longest married: Robert L. and Donna Vawter, 58 years

Traveled the farthest: John and Aggie Vawter, Sacramento, California

The traditional roll call of the states showed there to be 23 states, plus the District of Columbia, represented. Oklahoma was the winner with 19 present at the dinner.

After the always popular door prizes, the meeting was adjourned.

On Sunday morning, many of the group attended the worship service at Vauter's Church.

MEMORIAL SERVICE

Each year at the Saturday night dinner, a memorial service is held to honor the memory of members and friends. The service was conducted by Laneil Vawter and Fred Wicker, with the assistance of Kaitlyn and Krista Johnston. Those remembered at the 2005 reunion were:

1. Maeona Clarkson Davidson, 81, Indianapolis, Indiana, died 15 September 2001
2. John M. Vawter, 82, Indianapolis, Indiana, died 22 September 2003
3. Louise Vawter Vanover, 83, Beaumont, Texas, died 19 October 2003
4. Ruth E. Smith, 89, Oxford, Ohio, died 21 December 2003
5. Ila Louise Vawter Gilmore, 70, Newago, Michigan, died 26 February 2004
6. Patricia Jane Vawter Flew, 76, Jackson, Tennessee, died 2 July 2004
7. Denise Doyle Vawter, 55, Winchester, Virginia, died 22 July 2004
8. Gladys Creasy Vawter, 95, Trenton, Tennessee, died 27 July 2004
9. Carl B Sanford, 86, Dawsonville, Georgia, died 17 November 2004
10. Samuel Ernest Vandiver, Jr. 86, Lavonia, Georgia, died 21 February 2005
11. Martha Jane Woolman Rankin, 78, Big Spring, Texas, died 5 March 2005
12. Clifford E. Vawter, 74, Bloomington, Illinois, died 24 March 2005
13. Charles Carlton Vaughters, 83, Buckhead, Georgia, died 18, May 2005
14. Wilma Vaughters, 87, Dawson Co., Georgia, died 6 July 2005

2006 REUNION INFORMATION FROM CHERI JEX

Bear Lake is in the extreme southeastern corner of Idaho, midway between Salt Lake City and Yellowstone. The 2006 VVV reunion will take place July 13, 14, and 15 at the Canyon Cove Inn and Convention Center in Garden City, Utah, where a block of rooms has been reserved for VVV members. Mention the VVV when making reservations at (435) 946-3565 or toll free at 1-877-232-7525. Rooms can also be reserved online at www.canyoncove.com, including R. V. hook-ups. The inn has an indoor pool and a conference room which will be at the disposal of the VVV.

This information is also on the VVV website www.vawterfamily.org, where you will find an outstanding data base of family research and all the past VVV newsletters.

Friday night reservations have been made at the Pickleville Playhouse where a delicious western cookout dinner of steak, BBQ beef or chicken with all the trimmings is followed by a hilarious musical melodrama in the comfortable theater seats in the playhouse. Those wishing to dine elsewhere can still catch the show. Final booking can't be made until April 1, 2006 at which time rates will be locked in. This is a popular attraction, and any unreserved spots will quickly be taken by the general public after July 1, 2006. For more information, check out the website at www.picklevilleplayhouse.com. The Shoshone-Bannock Native American Dancers have agreed to perform at the conference center free of charge. Theirs is the story of the first inhabitants of Bear Lake.

The Saturday banquet will be catered by the Trapper Steak House and served at the conference center. Details of menu choices will be forthcoming, but this establishment is known for quality meals at reasonable prices.

The National Oregon/California Trail Center in nearby Montpelier, Idaho, features a living history of immigrants on the Oregon Trail. Several Vawters made the journey, and Greg Gruman has agreed to present a session about these pioneers in the theater of the museum. Museum visitors actually pack for a journey complete with a ride in a covered wagon behind a team of live oxen while actors in period costumes retell accounts of real people who made the journey. The museum was built over the actual trail which can be seen inside.

Bear Lake has all sorts of recreational features such as water sports, biking, hiking, horseback riding, swimming and cruises across the lake on the Bear Lake Monster, said to be a distant relative of Nessie in Scotland. Minnetonka Cave in St. Charles, Idaho, is a fairyland of rooms with gleaming rock formations. Fossil Butte National Monument just over the border in Wyoming is one of the richest fossil beds in the world. Fifty million ear old fish, insects, birds and reptiles are nearly perfectly preserved in limestone. The historic Paris Tabernacle erected by pioneers is open for tours in Paris, Idaho. Other area attractions can be seen at www.bearlake.org and pictures of the area on www.bloomingtonidaho.com.

A side trip to Jackson Hole can be planned at www.jacksonholdwy.com or Yellowstone at www.YellowstonePar.com in Wyoming. Salt Lake City is the nearest airport (but Bobby can land his small plane right in Bear Lake County at the Paris Airport). Travel would be north through Logan Canyon. The inn is located on Highway 89 in Garden City, Utah.

Salt Lake City is home to many fine attractions. The Family History Center in the heart of historic downtown houses the world's largest collection of genealogical and vital records in the world. Library staff assist patrons tracing their roots be they beginners or experts.

Join us in beautiful Bear Lake the home of cowboys, Indians and pioneers also known as the Carribean of the Rockies!

I can be contacted at www.schatz@jex.org or (304)264-2017.

SITE COMMITTEE REPORT FROM ELLEN CUMMINGS

I would like to thank Cheri Jex for her invitation to host the 2006 reunion in Idaho. She set a new standard with her slide presentation, and I encourage all of us to make plans to get together at Bear Lake next summer, July 13, 14, and 15.

The members of the sight committee (Georgene Jurgensen, Cheri Jex, Karla Quigley, Ted Vawter, Phil Vaughter, Ellen Cummings) would like to propose that we have a three-year reunion plan. We feel this will be helpful to our membership in the long run. A multi-year plan will assure better accommodation rates and more time for organizing and scheduling events.

We welcome your input. We are trying to compile a data base of reunion possibilities for future use. If you are interested in hosting a reunion, please let us know. So far we have had one offer, which I will cover in a few paragraphs.

Our aim is to provide a variety of different geographic locations and diverse experiences. We are a nation-wide association, and, therefore, we feel our reunion sites should reflect this diversity. By holding our reunions in different geographic areas, we hope to draw new members each year, and thus increase our membership and our scope.

Our recommendation is as follows:

July 20, 21, and 22 of 2007 – Blackwater Falls, West Virginia. I have come to believe that West Virginia is one of the best kept secrets in the country. It is a beautiful state. Blackwater Falls State Park is located in central West Virginia on a mountain top in the Appalachian Mountain range. The back patio of the lodge overlooks a gorge carved by Blackwater River and Blackwater Falls itself. It has slide projectors, overhead projectors, flip charts, screens, TV/VCR units, internet access, and risers, to name a few amenities.

The lodge restaurant offers breakfast, lunch and dinner, serving the best of regional fare. It frequently caters banquets for meetings and family reunions. There is an indoor pool, along with picnic shelters, horseback riding, miles of hiking and walking trails, some of which are handicap accessible. There is a camp-ground, there are cabins, and best of all, in my opinion, a lodge with 54 rooms. We would have the whole place to ourselves.

July 19, 20, and 21 of 2008 – We have been invited to Flagstaff, Arizona, by Jordan Johnston. There is much to see and do in this area. One item of immediate interest is a train ride to the Grand Canyon, which we could take as a family. Jordan will have more on this location next year.

In a newsletter a few years ago, I wrote an open letter to our membership, in which I quoted from a conversation I had with my son, as we drove back from Pensacola, Florida, in 2003. We were both discussing the reasons we come to this reunion year after year, regardless of where it is located. We finally condensed our feelings to this – Our family association is like Brigadoon. Most of us have no communication with each other from one year to the next. But when we get together, we step easily back into each other's lives as if no time had elapsed.

To the new members among us, I hope you will come to have the same feelings for this Association as we who have known each other for years. I encourage you to plan your vacations around this reunion as so many of us have done, and along with us, reap the blessings of Brigadoon.

GET READY FOR WEST VIRGINIA IN 2007

Imagine a place that is peaceful and removed from the interruptions and stresses of everyday living. Imagine a place that provides a cool respite from summer heat and humidity. Imagine a place that creates an atmosphere conducive to productive and family friendly functions in a mountaintop setting. Blackwater Falls State Park, located in the scenic, mountainous Potomac Highlands area of West Virginia, is just such a place.

Blackwater Falls State Park is named for the falls of the Blackwater River whose amber colored waters plunge five stories, then twist and tumble through an 8-mile-long gorge. The “black” water is a result of tannic acids from fallen hemlock and red spruce needles. Numerous observation points afford panoramic views of the half-mile wide canyon. Stairways and boardwalks lead to the base of the falls for an awe-inspiring, close-up view.

Over 20 miles of trails meander through the park’s unspoiled alpine scenery. These trails range in difficulty from beginner to intermediate, and “The Gentle Trail” provides easy access to an overlook of the falls for visitors in wheelchairs and the elderly.

Blackwater Lodge sits on the canyon’s south rim, providing a sweeping view of the densely forested gorge. Each of the 54 air-conditioned guest rooms has a private bath, phone and color television. The lodge also features a game room, sitting room, indoor pool, workout room, and gift shop. A large restaurant overlooking the canyon serves regional cooking and a variety of mouth-watering entrees.

Pendleton Lake is open during the summer for swimming and boating. Tennis courts, a volleyball court, riding stables, a bicycle center, and nature programs are just a few of the amenities available to guests.

Situated in a lovely wooded area about one mile from the lodge are 25 deluxe year-round cabins. All are of modern design with handsome wood-paneled walls and stone fireplaces, and fully furnished. A 65 unit tent and trailer campground has individual sites with centrally located hot showers, laundromat and dumping station. A variety of nearby attractions will be covered in subsequent newsletters.

For the genealogy buffs among us, family history is plentiful. William Vawter and his son went to West Virginia and had lots and lots of children. Families from these lines were instrumental in settling several areas of Monroe County, where churches and graveyards still bear evidence of these early settlers. William Vawter left a wonderful diary, which chronicles life in the early 1700s. This information is from Georgene Jurgensen, who will provide additional West Virginia family history in future newsletters.

Blackwater Falls Lodge has given us an \$86.11 tax inclusive rate for a room for two guests. Providing we book at least 25 guest rooms, there will be no charge for the use of the conference center.

All 54 lodge rooms have been reserved for the 2007 reunion. This block of rooms will be held until January 1, 2007. Any room not rented by that date will be released. Folks, it's a considerable hike down the mountain to the closest alternate lodging.

I encourage all members remotely considering attending the 2007 reunion to make reservations well in advance. Cancellations with full refund will be accepted up to 48 hours prior to previously stated arrival time. A few members of the site committee have already booked rooms for the 2007 reunion. Let's fill this lodge with VVV family members!

www.vawterfamily.org

Have you visited the association website? If not, this is something you should do today! The site was built by Jordan Johnston of Goodyear, Arizona, and is maintained by his mother, Patricia Vawter Renton of Pipe Creek, Texas.

On this site you will find a database of over 7,000 names, association newsletters since 1977, *The Vawter Family in America* by Grace Vawter Bicknell, and works by Georgene Jurgensen and others. There is also reunion information and a bulletin board.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Virginia Wooden Modell of Annapolis, Maryland, who celebrated her 96th birthday on August 22. A descendant of Jesse and Elizabeth Watts Vawter, Virginia has attended two reunions and was the oldest person at both.

IN REMEMBRANCE

Earl Fitch, Jr., 65, of North Vernon, Indiana, died July 19, 2005, at Columbus Regional Hospital.

Mr. Fitch was a veteran of the U. S. Marine Corps and the Indiana National Guard. He was a security guard at Jefferson Proving Ground for 30 years, retiring in 1993. Prior to that he was an attendant at Muscatatuck State Developmental Center for five years. In January 2005, he began working as a security guard at N.V.I.C. in North Vernon, where he was currently employed. He had operated Earl Fitch Lawn & Garden Care since 1993.

Mr. Fitch was a member of First Church of the Nazarene and the Mid-way Café Breakfast Club, both in North Vernon. He enjoyed landscaping, camping and traveling, and collected eagle memorabilia.

The funeral was at 10:00 a.m. Saturday, July 23, at Dove-Sharp & Rudicel Funeral Home in North Vernon with the Revs. Tony Conley and Ray Taylor officiating. Burial was at Vernon Cemetery with military graveside honors by North Vernon VFW Post 2021.

Born December 24, 1939, in Jennings County, Indiana, Mr. Fitch was the son of Earl Roy and Florence Beatrice Clarkson Fitch.

Surviving are sisters, Juanita P. Speer of Coral Springs, Florida, and Brenda K. Bennett of North Vernon; nephews, Dennis Speer of St. Cloud, Florida, David Speer of Reddington, Indiana, and Chris Bennett of North Vernon; and nieces, Darla Fish of Coral Springs and Gina Conley of Columbus, Indiana.

He was preceded in death by his parents; and a niece, Jennifer Penegar.

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2006 REUNION

As told in the September newsletter, the 2006 Reunion will be held July 13-15 in Bear Lake, located in the extreme southeastern corner of Idaho, midway between Salt Lake City and Yellowstone.

Reservations can be made at the Canyon Cove Inn and Convention Center in Garden City, Utah. Phone numbers for making reservations are 435-946-3565 or toll free 1-877-232-7525. Rooms can also be reserved online at www.canyoncove.com. Some people have had problems when calling for reservations, so be sure to mention the VVV Association and that a block of rooms have been reserved by Cheri Jex. Information is also on the association website: www.vawterfamily.org.

A full agenda of events planned for the reunion, along with other attractions in the area, can be found in the September newsletter. At this time, we do not have details about room rates and other costs. This should be available for the next newsletter, but anyone needing that information now can contact Cheri Jex. Her e-mail address and phone number are given with the list of officers.

**THE WHITE HOUSE
Washington
July 8, 2005**

I send greetings to those gathered for the Vauter/Vawter/Vaughter family reunion. Families are a source of hope, stability, and love for every generation. They strengthen our communities by teaching important values. This reunion provides an opportunity to celebrate the special bonds that link us from one generation to the next and help preserve the rich traditions of family life. By providing guidance, support, and unconditional love, families help shape the character and future of our Nation.

Laura and I send our best wishes for a memorable reunion.

(signed) George Bush

A LETTER FROM GUAM

Longtime members of the association have known Rebecca Cummings for many years. She grew up attending the reunions with her parents, Ned and Ellen Cummings, and grandparents, Fred Wicker and the late Wordna Wicker, and always takes an active part in the events. A 2004 graduate of the University of Virginia, she wrote this letter that was published in UVA Alumni Magazine.

Rebecca Cummings (History '04) wrote this account of her days on Guam, at her father's request, as a Father's Day gift. She left Guam in September and is now teaching windsurfing in Hawaii.

Guam is a tiny tropical island in the middle of the Pacific Ocean. And by tiny, I means it's 13 miles wide and takes a little more than two hours to drive around. To drive somewhere 30 minutes away is considered a trek and many people there have never been off of the island. Closer to Asia than it is to Hawaii, and because the economy relies heavily on Japanese and Korean tourists, the locals almost know more about the different Asian cultures than about American culture, even though Guam is a United States territory.

Before I went to Guam, the farthest from home I had ever been was Hawaii. Approximately a 12-hour flight from the East Coast, Hawaii certainly seemed far enough away. Guam, however, is seven hours farther, across the International Date Line, and therefore 18 hours ahead. Moving there to work at a resort, The Pacific Islands Club, after my graduation from the University of Virginia, I was definitely excited but had little idea what to expect. My dad had been stationed with the Air Force on the island 30 years earlier, so I had heard of it. Nevertheless, I had to look it up in an atlas to figure out exactly where it lies. My job, which would consist of teaching windsurfing, taking guests snorkeling and life guarding the pools, invoked jealousy from friends and family, but Guam got a different reaction. Though everyone thought I was amazingly daring

and adventurous for taking such a big step, I received warnings about the brown tree snakes that had overpopulated the island, the fact that I spoke neither Japanese or Korean and the island fever I was bound to encounter from being on such a small place. My impression was that everyone thought it was great that I was doing such an original thing but that no one else would ever consider it. Flying into the unknown, I was overwhelmed with feelings of excitement, nervousness and anticipation ---butterflies, amplified a thousand times.

Immediately, I was taken by the island and its people. Expecting to be greeted a bit standoffishly by the locals, I was surprised to be received in the opposite manner. From the beginning, I was invited to barbecues and local fiestas, on excursions around the island and out to bars and clubs at night. I loved the tropics, the palm trees, the lizards that abound and can be found all over the place all of the time, and the fact that I was amidst all of this during the winter months when my friends and family were freezing. It would be difficult to express in words how much I appreciated everything. I have come to believe the Chamorro people -- people from the Marianas Islands --- are the most welcoming, open and hospitable people in the world.

While I made friends easily, I did miss my friends from home and school. Friendships formed during high school and college are hard to replace. I kept reminding myself that my closest friends were no longer all in the same town, in a five-mile radius of one another, so even if I were back there things wouldn't be the same. I realized that I had definitely taken for granted my education and the experiences I am blessed to have had. To compensate I began reading voraciously, and I studied Japanese whenever I had the time.

I learned so much in Guam about myself and other people. I learned Japanese and windsurfing, which led me to a new job in Hawaii with Kailua Sailboards. I learned about Japanese, Korean and Taiwanese cultures and people on the other side of the planet. I know that I will always have a home in Guam if I return. The bottom line is that it was wonderful experience and I truly enjoyed my time on the island. I did not once see a brown tree snake, or any snake for that matter. I did encounter some island fever, and I saw more lizards than I ever expected to see in my entire life. I got to do something few people ever do in their lives. That is all I could have asked for or expected.

IN REMEMBRANCE

Raymond King Vawter, 70, of Pleasant Hill, Iowa, died 17 February 2005.

He spent most of his adult life in Des Moines, Iowa, and worked for the Iowa State Commerce Commission and the Iowa Utilities Board for a total of 33 years.

Raymond was cremated, and his ashes were scattered in the bay at Bay Beach, Anquilla, as were those of his wife, who died in February 2004.

Surviving are three sisters, Lois Vawter McMorran of Bonita Springs, Florida, Sara Vawter Malone of Hamburg, Iowa, and Patricia Vawter Thies of Cedar, Michigan.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Raymond King Vawter, Sr. and Vena Viola Spencer Vawter; and his wife, Susan Vawter.

ALMOST HEAVEN- A VISIT TO WEST VIRGINIA
Submitted by Ellen Cummings

Part One

On Thursday, August 4, 2005, an article entitled "Almost Heaven - A Visit to West Virginia." written by Peggy Noonan, was printed on the editorial page of the Wall Street Journal. Those of you who were present at the Saturday night banquet in Fredericksburg in July of that same year, will remember that I prefaced my remarks about West Virginia by saying, "In my opinion, West Virginia is one of the best kept secrets in the country."

It would appear Ms. Noonan shares my opinion. In light of our plans to hold the 2007 reunion in this state, I thought you would be interested in the observations of this well known writer. I have taken the liberty of editing her comments in the interest of space.

"It's summer, the country's traveling, and the great pleasure to be had from leaving home is meeting and falling in love with a place you've never been. It's fun to see cultures collide, because that's one of the ways you know they still exist. America continues to be full of 'differentness.'

Local survives. Particular and distinctive survives. Especially in West Virginia.

I have just been there for the first time, and it is a jewel of a state. It is like an emerald you dig from a hill with your hands.

You know when you've passed into it from the east because suddenly things look more dramatic. You get the impression you're in a real place. All around you are mountains and hills and gullies, gulches and streams. The woods wherever I went were thick and deep. From Morgantown to Ballengee a squirrel can jump from tree to tree. It is a tall state - the hills, trees, and mountains - and shadowy-dark, with winding roads, except for where it's broad and beige and full of highway, courtesy of Robert Byrd. The highways are perfect looking, unstained by wear and tear, and not many people seem to use them.

There are little churches in every town, where the highest thing is the steeples, and road signs with exhortations to follow Jesus, and big crosses made of white wood on the side of the road. The ACLU would do well not to come here and do their church-state thing. Three hours into our drive west, a police car drove by, and someone mentioned that it was the first one he'd seen since we crossed the state line. Someone else said, approvingly, "Everyone keeps a gun in West Virginia. Crime is low." Later I would be told it has the lowest violent crime per capita in the United States. It is very nice, when traveling, to see your beliefs and assumptions statistically born out.

Few people I met seemed interested in politics. I got the impression they see it as something dull and faraway, as a normal person would. I was in the southwest corner of the state, in the Fayetteville area of Fayette County, name for the Marquis de Lafayette. When I asked a man tending the grass in front of the statue of Lafayette on the courthouse lawn why they left the "la" off, he said he didn't know but "maybe it was a little lah dee dah." West Virginia has a town named Artie and a town named Bud.

When you are from the Northeast, the talk always goes inevitably to the niceness of the people. "They're real," as a new resident of Charleston, the state capital, told me. People are nice in the northeast, too, but there seems a particular dignity and humility to West Virginians. Because it has been left so alone by history, so hard to get to and get out of, West Virginia's people seem to be largely what they were, of Scots-Irish descent, and have remained vividly so.

(Part two of this article will be printed in the next newsletter.)

CONGRATULATIONS

Jason Daryl Magner and Summer Beree Taylor of North Vernon, Indiana, were married July 23 at historic Walnut Grove School in Muscatatuck County Park in North Vernon.

Summer is a 1995 graduate of International School of Kenya and received a degree in Spanish from Ohio University in 2000. The daughter of Tom and Diana Taylor of North Vernon, she is a human resources assistant at Decatur Plastic Products.

Jason is the son of Christina Pate of North Vernon and Joseph Magner of Silver Spring, Maryland. He is employed at Enkei, Inc. in Seymour, Indiana.

Col. Robert L. Vawter (aka "Bobbee") of Middletown, Delaware, has been selected to receive the Governor's Outstanding Volunteer Award for 2005. The award recognizes those who best exemplify the spirit of volunteerism throughout the state of Delaware and is sponsored by the Office of the Governor and coordinated by the State Office of Volunteerism and the Governor's Commission on Community and Volunteer Service.

Col. Vawter was recognized for his volunteer contributions not only to the Civil Air Patrol, but also to the Friends of Bellanca and other community activities that he supports. The award was presented at a dinner on November 2.

From the *Plain Dealer*, North Vernon, Indiana, October 9, 1903

**S. W. Storey
Died Wednesday From An Attack of Appoplexy
Only Ill Two Hours**

President of the First National Bank of Vernon, and a Wealthy, Prominent Citizen

Smith W. Storey was stricken with appoplexy Wednesday morning at his home in Vernon, and died two hours later. He had not been well for a week and had not been at his store, although he was up and around the house, only lying down on a couch occasionally. He had been suffering from a heavy cold on his lungs. Wednesday morning he got up and dressed as usual, and still ill did not seem to feel any worse than he had been. He was lying on the couch when stricken. Drs. Stemm and Mitchel were called from here, but he was past medical aid, and passed away two hours later.

He was one of the oldest, wealthiest and most prominent citizens of this county. When the gold fever broke out in California in 1849. Mr. Storey went. He remained two years and returned to Vernon and open a drug store, and has kept it continuously ever since. He was President of the First National Bank of Vernon, a member of high standing in the Masonic Order, Treasurer of the City School Board, a zealous member of the Presbyterian church, of which he was a deacon, and superintendent of the Sunday School, which latter position he had held for many years.

Mrs. Lincoln Dixon, of this city was his daughter. A wife and two sons also are living. In his death Vernon loses one of her most widely known and prominent citizens. Funeral services will be held today, Friday, at one o'clock.

WILLIAM HERSHELL VAUGHTER REUNION

The descendants of William Hershell "Bill" Vaughter and Bonnie Catherine Wade Vaughter gathered in Oklahoma City on 17-19 Kime 2005 in family reunion. Joining them were descendants of Mrs. Vaughter's sister, Ruth Wade Stelly. A wonderful time was had by all.

The chairperson for the reunion was Bonnie Dougherty of Enid, Oklahoma. All the Vaughter descendants were full of praise and thanks regarding Bonnie's work and creativity. In attendance were family members from Washington State, and from Delaware, from New Orleans and from Clovis, New Mexico - the family's "home-site". There were also lots of Texans joining in the fun. The founders of the "clan", Bill and Bonnie Vaughter, have passed on; two of their daughters, Rhea Vaughter Cottle and Marian Vaughter Moore, also have passed on. However, the gathering was graced through attendance by Bill and Bonnie's third and fourth daughters, Aline Vaughter Boney (b. 1921) and Margaret Vaughter Dougharty (b.1925).

The reunion program began on Friday night with dinner catered by Earl's Rib Palace (owned by Elvis Presley's ex-personal chef). After dinner, the various people in the room placed pins in a map of the U.S., giving their names, and a brief sharing of what is happening in their lives. Fen Dougharty (age four)) had to have a little help to place his pin at Tacoma, Washington. But, he does very well at telling everyone who he is! A short PowerPoint genealogical presentation by Andrew Cottle was given life and vitality through a celebration of memories by the two family matriarchs, Aline and Margaret. As is often the case in this type of convocation, first one and then another member of the third, fourth or fifth generations would add a thought along the way. It was a rich and wonderful evening.

AmeriSuites was a great location for a reunion because their "bountiful breakfasts" could be enjoyed while the various generations came down on Saturday and Sunday mornings. The members of the second and third generations began to enter the fellowship room a little before seven; but some of the fourth and fifth generation types did not come down until about time for the buffet to cease operation (that is, 10ish).

Saturday's activities included optional excursions to Bricktown in Oklahoma City, to the deeply touching Bomb Memorial, and to other sites offered by the capital of Oklahoma. A lot of the Vaughter descendants were/are baseball fans, so an unbelievable, 4 hour, 13 to 14 batting bonanza was "just the ticket" for the several who attended. It was made more special when the visiting team was from New Orleans - the Zephyrs. The reunion participants from New Orleans made sure their team did not lack for enthusiastic support.

On Sunday, after breakfast, Phil Dougharty (an Episcopalian priest from Buffalo, New York), and Rebecca Taylor Cottle (a Methodist minister from Delaware) led a Father's Day meditation and conversation about Christian parents and the blessings enjoyed by their children and grandchildren. It got a little weepy at times.

So much joy and pride was shared through the good-byes expressed, as the members of the Vaughter family took leave of each other. The plan is for the next reunion to be in New Orleans in 2008 - in part to honor the occasion of the 40th wedding anniversary of Bill and Trish Moore.

We thank Andrew Cottle for providing this report of the William Hershell Vaughter Reunion.

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