A PARTIAL HISTORY

Of The

VAUGHT FAMILY

by

Edgar S. Vaught

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

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SEE: THEY CAME TO KENTUCKY
BY KIRKWOOD (CARSON FAMILY)
FOR CORRECTIONS AND UPDATE ON THE
VAUGHT/VOGT FAMILY
A PARTIAL HISTORY OF THE VAUGHT FAMILY

— by —

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Foreword

One is naturally interested in his ancestors. It is not difficult to know about one's grandfather, or even one's great-grandfather, but beyond that point, unless there are written records or documents of some character, the acquisition of definite information becomes almost impossible.

My desire to trace my own family ancestry is not actuated by the idea that the public would have any interest in such a research, but the members of my own family and their descendants would be interested, and it is for their benefit that I have made this research. It would be difficult for them to have reliable information on the subject unless those of us now living should collect and preserve such information as is available to us.
From early childhood I have learned from my oldest relatives that my father's ancestors came originally from Holland, or the Palatinate in Germany, or what was called the "Low Dutch," and my mother's ancestors came from England. The ancestors of both came to this country long before the Revolutionary War, and about 1710 to 1720. Records relating to their immigration are fragmentary and inaccurate.

Some years ago an article was published in the Washington Herald as follows:

"The family spelling the name Vaught seems to be an offshoot of the family of Vought who traces descent back to some Simon Vought, who seems to have spelled the name Vogdt as frequently as Vought. Sometimes in early records the name is spelled Vocht.

"This Simon Vought was a native of the Palatinate in Germany and was a member of a party of Lutherans headed by the Rev. Josiah Kockerthal who left Germany and went to England in 1708 in order to petition the English monarch, Queen Anne, to grant them a tract of land in the New World upon which to colonize. Queen Anne was no doubt favorably impressed by their appearance of thrift and industriousness. At any rate the grant was made and in 1708 the first load of these Palatines came to this country. A second shipload of them came on the 'Lyon' in 1710. Gen. Robert Hunter, newly appointed Governor of New York, came on the same boat. The special tract granted by Queen Anne lay along the Hudson River near Newburgh, N. Y., but Vought was one of those who, having landed with the rest in New York City, preferred not to journey any further. He remained in that city for some time and later, 1711, removed to Western New Jersey, where he made his home either in Middlesex or Hunterdon County.

"Simon and Christina Vought had the following children born in this country: Johannes Christoffle, Margareta, Johannes and Abraham. The eldest of these sons was known by his Anglicized name, John Christopher—usually, according to the German custom of the time, by the middle name. For this reason
in many of the early records he is mentioned as Christopher. He married Cornelia Putnam, of the well-known New York Dutch family of that name. She was the widow of Ralph Traphagen at the time of her marriage with Vought. Christopher Vought was, for some reason, a loyalist in the Revolution. With his son John, who was born in 1759, he marched with Howe to Trenton, and after the surrender of Cornwallis he found it expedient to remove to Nova Scotia till the feeling against the loyalists had abated. His son returned after the death of the father, Christopher, and settled in Duansburgh, N. Y., on a tract of two thousand acres of land. Tradition has it that in Canada he received from the crown a large grant of land comprising almost all of the land on which Toronto is now built. With this land grant went an annuity of 356 crowns a year. Just why, under such royal favor, he chose to leave Canada and live in the United States it is hard to see. It is from some one of these early Voughts that most, if not all, of those who bear that name or the name spelled Vaught are descended."

My investigation has neither confirmed nor contradicted the substance of this article.

My personal interviews with my oldest relatives during my boyhood days disclosed that my direct ancestors came from Pennsylvania and settled in Augusta County, Virginia, and later removed to Montgomery County, Virginia.

My reliable information, however, begins with my great-great-grandfather Christley Vaught, who removed from Augusta County, Virginia, to Montgomery County, Virginia, many years prior to the Revolutionary War. His father apparently was either Casper Vaught or John Paul Vaught, Augusta County, residents there as early as 1750. His wife was named Elizabeth, but her maiden name is not disclosed. He had a large family of three sons and seven daughters.

Montgomery County originally was a large county and embraced a large section of southwestern Virginia. A number of counties were formed from this large coun-
ty, among which were Wythe County and Smythe County. The date of the formation of these two counties was about 1789-90.

Christley's sons were George, my great grandfather, who settled on the headwaters of Cripple Creek, Wythe County; Christley, Jr., who settled south of White Rock Furnace in Smythe County, a few miles west of George; and Henry, who removed to Kentucky about the year 1830.

The daughters, Barbara, who married Henry Copenhaver; Elizabeth, who married George West; Christine, who married John Burket; Rosanna, who married Adam Shaver; Sally, who married Francis Coley; Polly, who married John Burket upon the death of his first wife; and Leah, who married Jacob Dutton. Apparently all lived in Wythe and Smythe Counties as the family names of Copenhaver, West, Burket, Shaver, Coley and Dutton are familiar names in those counties even to this day.

Christley Vaught lived to a ripe old age, as he died August 9, 1830. I have not attempted to trace the descendants of the families of the sons and daughters of Christley Vaught with the exception of George, who as stated was my great grandfather.

George Vaught apparently was the oldest child of Christley, and about 1775 settled on lands on Cripple Creek near what is now Cedar Springs, Virginia. He married Christiana Phillipi and they had twelve children. There was a constant emigration from Virginia about this time to western, northwestern and southern states. His sons were Andrew and John, both of whom moved to Kentucky about 1820; Charles, who reared a family in Wythe County; Abraham (my grandfather), who built a home on a portion of the lands settled by his father and about one fourth of a mile from his father's home; Joseph, who lived in the old home erected by his father and reared a family there; Peter, who reared a family in Wythe County; Jefferson, who reared a family in
Smythe County; George, who died without issue; and David, who reared a family in Wythe County. His daughters were Mary, who married John Carson and removed to Kentucky with her husband; Elizabeth, who married John Nelson and with her husband removed to Indiana; and Christiana, who married Horn and with him removed to Indiana. It will be noted above that two of George’s sons and a daughter moved to Kentucky and two daughters with their husbands moved to Indiana.

From the oldest members of my family I learned much about the descendants of Charles, Joseph, Peter, Jefferson and David, and I remember many of them. They all lived within a radius of twenty-five miles from Cedar Springs. Many of these descendants reared families in these two counties and many removed later to other counties and other states. I particularly recall hearing my father and other of the elder relations discuss the families of my grandfather’s brothers and sisters.

Charles’ eldest son was George, whom I remember well, and from whom I received much of the information recorded here. In 1916 on a visit to Virginia, I had a long visit with him. He was more than ninety years of age but his mind was clear and his memory was almost as accurate as a written document. I also remember George’s brother William, who was a railroad engineer and who died at Knoxville, Tennessee.

Peter Vaught, a brother of my grandfather Abraham Vaught, lived and reared a family of ten children in Wythe County. He was married to Mollie Wampler; the marriage license was dated September 11, 1810, as shown by the county records in Wytheville, Virginia. His family occupies a prominent chapter in the history of the Vaught family. His son Jefferson married Barbara Wynne in Wythe County, the marriage license bearing the date December 11, 1843. Soon after the marriage, he, with his wife and other Virginia families, moved to Crawford County, Illinois. He reared a family of eight children:
James Madison, who married and later removed to Bourbon County, Kansas, and died at Ft. Scott, Kansas, in 1924, and whose daughter, Mrs. Bertha Vaught Moore is living in Covington, Oklahoma; Peter Josiah, who lived, married and died in Lawrence County, Illinois; Nancy Jane, who married Alex Stewart and had no children; David Wynn, who married Mary Rider; Andrew Jackson, who married Mary Dora Allison. They lived on a farm in Lawrence County, Illinois, and reared five children—Rollie, a retired traveling salesman of Terre Haute, Indiana; Gifford, a minister of Kansas City, Kansas; James, deceased; Kelley, a physician of Detroit, Michigan; and Leslie M., a retired chief petty officer of the U. S. Navy and a veteran of World Wars I and II, whose present address is 150 West 190th Street, Bronx 63, New York City, N. Y. Elmira Frances, who married Henry Phillips. Hezekiah Martin, a physician, who lived in Lawrence County, Illinois. He married Elizabeth Parsons in 1877, who died in 1892. In 1895 he married Mary Redmand Arnold, who died at Sherman, Texas, in 1935. John Washington, who died unmarried in 1885. Hezekiah had a son Dr. P. T. Vaught, who now lives in Sherman, Texas. He also had a daughter Clara, who married Chas. D. Carter. She has a son, DeVere Vaught Carter, who lives in Dallas, Texas, and is now chief engineer for Magnolia Petroleum Company; a daughter Marion, who married Herbert L. Strang, an attorney, and who lives in Montrose, Colorado; and a daughter, Barbara Cornelia, unmarried, who is Dean of Women at Vincennes University, Vincennes, Indiana, and who resides with her mother at 710 Jefferson, Lawrenceville, Illinois.

Peter Vaught's youngest daughter Margaret (sister to Jefferson) married Madison Howell in 1854 and with her husband removed to Eastern Tennessee where they lived during the Civil War and thence to Kentucky, near Edmonton. They had nine children, four of whom are living: William Jefferson Howell, Rintha Jane Martin and Ellen Melinda Walker live in Edmonton, and Isaac Cullen Howell lives at Sumner, Okla. Rintha Jane Martin has
a son, Joseph, of Edmonton, a practicing attorney, who has served in the Kentucky Legislature, as county judge, and as county attorney.

Peter Vaught's daughter Sallie married Andrew Fisher whom I remember well. Andrew Fisher was a very substantial citizen. He had a family of thirteen children. He died at the age of seventy-four. His wife, Sallie Vaught Fisher, died at the age of seventy-one. Two of the children died at birth. Mary Jane died at the age of twenty-two. Lucinda died at the age of thirteen. I have no record of Elvira except the date of her birth—1842. Lavina married Henry Neff and died within a year after her marriage, with no children. No record of Ann, except the date of her birth—1845. James Watson Fisher, the eldest son, was born in 1846, lived and reared a family on a farm adjoining my father's farm. John Ganaway Fisher, born 1848, and William Hicks Fisher, born 1849, were farmers and operated a grist mill and carding mill. Stephen Olin Fisher, born 1851, was my first public school teacher. He lived in the community and died at the age of eighty-eight on the farm where I was born. No record of Nancy Elizabeth, except the date of her birth—1853. Charles Crockett Fisher, the youngest son, born in 1855 and the only living child of Andrew Fisher, has had a distinguished career. He graduated with honors at Emory and Henry College, entered the Methodist ministry, was a college president, and has been recognized as a leader in church and education. He is now living a retired life with his interesting and faithful wife, in Bristol, Virginia, at the age of ninety-five.

Abraham Vaught, my grandfather, lived on a portion of the lands owned by his father George, and died in 1864. My father, Noah T., inherited the farm from his father. My brothers, sisters and I were born in this home that had stood for three generations.

I have prepared a diagram or "family tree," beginning with Christley Vaught and ending with the descendants of Noah T. Vaught. The diagram does not pretend to
give the descendants after the fourth generation as above stated. This data may not be exactly correct but it is as nearly accurate as my memory and other available sources of information can make it. It is to be hoped that other members of the Vaught family may be sufficiently interested to make suggestions leading to a more complete record, as information is available to them. In other words this is intended to be a basis from which other members of the Vaught family can add such additional information as may be available.

In a vault in the clerk’s office at Christiansburg, the original and present county seat of Montgomery County, Virginia, was found in August, 1937, a package of old papers, known as “Fincastle Papers,” which contained the muster rolls of Revolutionary soldiers from Montgomery County, among which was one containing the list of Captain William Love’s company as follows:

"Montgomery County
Capt. William Love’s Company
April 5, 1781

William Love, Capt. \(\rightarrow\) John Vaught, Private
James Crawford, Lt. \(\rightarrow\) Christley Vaught, Private
Jarvis Smith, Lt. \(\rightarrow\) David Vaught, Private
James White, Ensign \(\rightarrow\) George Vaught, Private
George Ewing, Sergt. \(\rightarrow\) Casper Vaught, Private"

It is believed that John, Christley and David were brothers and George Vaught was the son of Christley, as listed hereinbefore.

From this family of Vaughts in Augusta and Montgomery Counties came most, if not all, of the emigrants by that name to Tennessee, Kentucky, Indiana and Illinois, and the descendants from those emigrants may be able to trace their lineage back to those pioneers as listed herein.

One striking characteristic of the Vaught family, aside from the very large families, is found in the given
names. The names Christley, George, Peter, David, John, Casper, Charles, Jefferson, Andrew, James and Christopher appear in almost every generation. In the last few generations changes in the given names are noticeable.

Another family of Vaughts landed in this country in South Carolina. I have a statement, undated, written by Anthony S. Vaught, which I am quoting in full:

"My Grandfather was Ten Days old when he landed at Charleston, S. C. He fought under Gen. Francis Marion through the Revolutionary war. He came from Germany, and was the father of Ten children, Thomas, Peter my Father, William, Solomon, Josephis, the Daughters were, Sarah, Martha, Elizabeth, and Rebecca. 'No mention made of one of the children.' My Grandfather was born on the ocean, and died the night the stars fell. He was 83 years old, when he died. We were living at that time in what was called Horry Dist. Alsaints Parrish S. C. There is where my people have always lived."

From this family of Vaughts there were migrations to Florida and other southern states.

I have had letters in recent years from Vaughts all over the United States, and one from Australia.

Some years ago my wife and I made a trip through Glacier National Park. Our guide was an educated young man and was very kind to give us all the information about points of interest. As we passed a beautiful mountain peak he said: "That is Mt. Vaught." He could not tell why the mountain was so named. When we arrived at headquarters, however, I contacted the chief ranger in the park and asked him if he could tell me why the mountain was named Mt. Vaught. He was glad to give me the information. Casper Vaught was a civil engineer with the Great Northern Railway Company and the United States Government secured his services in laying out the park. Casper Vaught surveyed and fixed the boundaries of Glacier National Park, and became its first chief ranger. He lost his life in an accident while trying to save a bridge in a period of high waters. The authori-
ties named the mountain for him, and his name appears on the mountain in the official map of the park. I contacted his widow by mail but she could not give me the Vaught connection.

In the history of the Vaught family, however, the name Casper is as significant almost as the name Vaught. I feel sure that his ancestry is traceable to the Virginia family.

In my investigation I have found that the names Vaught, Vought, Voght, Vogt, Faught, and other similar names are in reality traceable to the same source, as is disclosed by the Pennsylvania records.

It is shown in these very early records that the same given names are used as in later generations.

In the public records of Pennsylvania and Virginia, the names Vaught, Faught, Vault, Vogt, are often used interchangeably, even as to members of the same family, which may be due to inefficient scriveners or clerks. In other instances information which had been handed down from one generation to another orally could have been misunderstood, or misspelled, resulting in the many apparent changes in the family name.

In accumulating this information I have had valuable assistance from Mrs. Rebecca Johnston of the Virginia Historical Society, of Richmond, Virginia. Following are excerpts from her report which may be of interest to many.

"Will of George Vaught, Sr. March 13, 1825-Aug. 11, 1835. Wife Christiania completely and fully to possess all my property. After her death sons David, John, Andrew, George, Peter and Charles and dau. Mary to be paid one dollar each they having been already provided for. Son Joseph $30.00 Sones Abraham and Jefferson to have all my land and my mill with the exception of one acre and a saw mill that I have given to my two sons Charles and Joseph. Sons Abraham and Jefferson to pay to my two daughters Elizabeth and Christiana $280.00.

George X Vaught."

Exrs: Jas. Finney, Rozlal Hillisjaz, Joseph Phillippe

"Will of Peter Vaught, Nov. 6, 1863-Jan. 11, 1864. Wife (not named) are household goods she may need for housekeeping and 1/3 of land. Son Peter remaining 2/3 and after decease of his mother her 1/3. He to pay $200.00 to each of his sisters and brother the children of Peter Vaught, Sr. Elizabeth Pendleton, Sally Fisher, Polly King, Malinda Wampler, Jefferson Vaught, Christina Ward, Nancy Catron, Eliza Strang-er, Malvina Litz and Margaret Howell. Elizabeth Pendleton and her daughter Eliza Pendleton to live with wife 'if they can agree.'

Ex. Son Peter Vaught
Wit: John P. Nye, James W. Williams
Cod. dated Nov. 28, 1863 gives wife 1/2 of land—son Peter 1/2—Peter to have all at mother's death."

Will of Abraham Vaught (in full) "In the name of God, Amen. I Abraham Vaught of the County of Wythe and State of Virginia being of sound mind and memory do make ordain declare and publish this to be my last will and testament hereby revoking all other wills heretofore at any time by me made. After all my lawful debts are paid I dispose of the residence of my estate both real and personal as follows to wit:

"First: I give and bequeath unto my son Noah T. Vaught all my personal property and all my land, and he my said son Noah T. Vaught is to take good care of my wife (Polly Swaker) to give her a good
and peaceable home her life time, pay her doctor bills and defray her burial expenses.

"Second: I give and bequeath unto my son John Vaught twenty dollars — and unto my son J. M. Vaught I give and bequeath twenty dollars to be paid them in the currency of the Commonwealth by my said son N. T. Vaught at the end of two years after my death. I give and bequeath unto my daughter Ann Barber fifteen dollars to be paid by my son N. T. Vaught at the end of two years after my death. Unto my daughter Rebecca Musser I give a good saddle and a good cow which she now claims and also I give her twenty five dollars in money to be paid by my son N. T. Vaught, and unto my daughter Margaret I give and bequeath one good saddle and one cow which she already selected from my stock of young heifers, I also give her thirty dollars in money to be paid by my son N. T. Vaught and I further desire the above named sums of money to be paid in Confederate Money or such money as is most current and as shall suit the convenience of my son N. T. Vaught to pay, and he may also pay off these sums sooner than the time specified if he chooses:

"Now if my said son N. T. Vaught should not live to get back from the War then I give five hundred dollars to his daughter and one hundred and twenty dollars I give to my son N. T. Vaught's wife Minerva Vaught in lieu of a mare that I sold which belonged to her and her husband.

"Lastly I appoint my son N. T. Vaught executor of my last will and testament. In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal this the twenty ninth day of September, 1863.

(Signed) Abraham Vaught (Seal)

Atteste:
I. G. Keesling
Joseph X Vaught"

"An indenture dated June 25, 1816, from George Vaught and Christiana, his wife, the one part to David Horn, Henry Hamilton, Andrew Vaught, William
Newland, Alexander Adkins, Trustees of the other part. A certain lot or piece of land in Wythe County (here follows bounds showing land touches that of said George Vaught's, Mill Creek and Newland's line). The said Trustees to build or cause to be built a house or place of worship for the use of the members of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States of America, to be governed by the rules and regulations of the General Conference. (Here follows local rules, etc. to be observed by the Trustees.)

(Signed) George X Vaught, (Seal) Christiany X Vaught

Wit:
Peter Kisling
Henry Gryder
Charles Vaught"

"Sept. 21, 1846. Deed of gift from Jefferson Vaught and Barbara, his wife, to Abraham Vaught, all their interest in 98 acres part of tract patented by George Vaught, Aug. 10, 1811, sd. land being on head waters of Cripple Creek."

"Aug. 31, 1856. Abraham Vaught and Polly, his wife, to Andrew Fisher, 5½ acres on Cripple Creek. Con. $3500.00. This land adj. the 'Camp Ground.'"

"Feb. 22, 1868. Trustees of Asbury Camp Ground of the one part and Noah T. Vaught of the other part: In Consideration of certain piece of land conveyed unto sd. Trustee in fee simple by Noah T. Vaught for the sole use of the Methodist Episcopal Church South, the sd. Trustees convey to sd. Noah T. Vaught a certain piece of land being a part of Asbury Camp Ground land formerly given by John and James Newland."

"Feb. 22, 1868—Deed of Gift. 'I, Noah T. Vaught for and in consideration of the love I bear for the Cause of Christ and from an earnest desire to promote His heritage on earth' do give to the Trustees a tract of land on Cripple Creek on which Asbury Church now stands, for the sole use of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South."
(1) CHRISTLEY VAUGHT:
Wife: ELIZABETH
Lived in Augusta and Montgomery Counties, Va. Died Aug. 9, 1830.

(2) GEORGE VAUGHT:
Wife: CHRISTIANA PHILLIPPI
About 1775 settled on the farm now occupied by the heirs of Ephraim Vaught; entered adjoining lands. Died Aug. 11, 1835.

(2) GEORGE — Settled on Cripple Creek, Wythe County, Virginia.
(2) Barbara—Married Henry Copenhaver.
(2) Elizabeth—Married George West.
(2) Christine—Married John Burket.
(2) Rosanna—Married Adam Shaver.
(2) Christley, Jr.—Settled south of White Rock Furnace, Smythe County, Va.
(2) Henry—Removed to Kentucky about 1830.
(2) Sally—Married Francis Coley.
(2) Polly—Married John Burket.
(2) Leah—Married Jacob Dutton.
(2) Rose—Married Adam Shaver.
(2) John—Settled south of White Rock Furnace, Smythe County, Va.
(2) Peter—Reared family in Wythe Co., Va.
(2) George—Died without issue, in Va.
(2) David—Reared family in Wythe Co., Va.
(2) Mary (Carson) — Removed to Kentucky with her husband.
(2) Mary (Nelson)—Removed to Indiana with her husband.
(2) Christiana (Horn)—Removed to Indiana with her husband.

(3) In Christley's will be named

(3) Andrew—Removed to Kentucky.
(3) John—Removed to Kentucky about 1820.
(3) Peter—Reared family in Wythe Co., Va.
(3) Jeff—Reared family in Smythe Co., Va.
(3) George—Died without issue, in Va.
(3) Mary—Removed to Kentucky with her husband.
(3) Elizabeth—Removed to Indiana with her husband.
(3) Christiana—Removed to Indiana with her husband.
(3) CHARLES:

(4) George — Lived near Zion Church, Wythe County, Virginia.
(4) Henderson—Died in Texas.
(4) James—Died in Tennessee.
(4) William — Died at Knoxville, Tenn.
   Wife: Orr.
(4) Martha (Vaughan).
(4) Sarah (Gray).
(4) Mary (Gray).
(4) Cena (Whetsel) — Removed to Tennessee about 1878.

(3) ABRAHAM:

Married Polly Swaker, July 24, 1827; died in 1864.

(4) Ann (Barber) — Two daughters and one son, Joe.
(4) Matilda—Died.
(4) Lydia—Died.
(4) Winton—Died at the age of twelve.
(4) Rebecca — Married Wesley Musser or Mercer. Children: Katherine and Lena.
(4) Margaret—Married Henry Neff; reared large family, lived on farm approximately 3 miles south of Rural Retreat, Va. Children: Emmet, Bertie, Hampton, Wiley, Audubon, Lillie, Carrie and Greek.

(3) JOSEPH:

(4) Sallie (Phillippi).
(4) Ephraim (Atkins)—(Fannie Dutton).
(4) Harvey—Died young.
(3) PETER:

(4) Elizabeth (Pendleton).
(4) Sallie (Andrew Fisher).
(4) Polly (King).
(4) Malinda (Felix Wampler).
(4) Eliza (Stranger).
(4) Jefferson — Married Barbara Wynne December 11, 1843; removed to Illinois in 1843 or 1844.
(4) Peter—Lived in Wythe County, Va. —
(4) Christina (Wood).
(4) Nancy (Jacob Catron).
(4) Margaret (Madison Howell).

(3) JEFFERSON:

(4) NOAH TRIGG VAUGHT:
Wife: Minerva Jane Atkins

(4) Dave
(4) Elizabeth
(4) Wesley
(4) William
(4) Moniah (Spangler).
(4) Stephen—Died in the Civil War.
(4) George
(4) Mitchell

(5) Mary Emma (Mollie)—Born July 28, 1863. Died April 28, 1943.
(5) Elbert Lee—Born March 24, 1866; died Dec. 5, 1880.
(5) Sidney Bays—Born Feb. 16, 1868; died Aug. 9, 1935.
(5) Susan Ida—Born Sept. 30, 1875; died July 11, 1912.
(5) William Cameron—Born Jan. 2, 1881; died Mar. 11, 1906 in his senior year at Maryville College, Maryville, Tenn.
(5) Elizabeth Neal (Katherine) — Born March 24, 1886.
(5) MARY EMMA (MOLLIE):


(5) SIDNEY BAYS VAUGHT:

(6) Marie—Bristol, Va.
(6) Garnet—Johnson City, Tenn.

(5) JAMES EDWARD VAUGHT:

(6) Frank Patton—Born Aug. 13, 1903.
(6) Sidney Dale—Born Nov. 16, 1908.
(6) Gertrude May—Born Apr. 14, 1911.
EDGAR SULLINS VAUGHT:


Edgar Sullins, Jr.—Born April 9, 1907, at Oklahoma City, Okla. Educated in public schools of Oklahoma City; Dartmouth College, Hanover, N.H., and University of Okla., from which received A.B. and LL.B. Degrees. Lt. Comm., U. S. Navy, World War II. Now practicing law in Oklahoma City.


SUSAN IDA:

No children.

HERBERT BROWN VAUGHT:

Alice—Married Raymond Girerd; living at Dewitt, Ark.

Mark French—Graduate of Hendrix College, Conway, Ark., and Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Tex. Now a Methodist minister at Mena, Ark. Married Helen Smith. Children; Betty Carol and John Mark.
(5) ERNEST ATKINS VAUGHT:


(5) KATHERINE NEAL:
Born March 24, 1886, at Cedar Springs, Va. Removed to Tenn. in 1888 with family. Educated in public schools in Tenn. and graduated from Sullins College, Bristol, Va., in 1909. Removed to Oklahoma City, Okla., and has been a teacher in the City schools since Jan. 1910. Married W. C. Ayres Sept. 9, 1915.

(6) William—Oklahoma City.
(6) Jack—Oklahoma City.
(6) Janell—Oklahoma City.
(6) Helen—Oklahoma City.
A SKETCH OF THE VAUGHT CEMETERY

BY ELSA VAUGHT*

The site of the Vaught Cemetery which is about five miles northeast of Mountainburg in the Big Frog Valley will be covered with water when the dam above Lake Fort Smith is completed and its reservoir fills. This dam was authorized by the city of Fort Smith to create an additional water supply for that city. According to the contract for building the dam, it will be completed in early 1956.

This century-old cemetery has been used as their burial ground as long as the present generation can remember. A report from B. A. McConnell who had the contract for removing the graves, states that "488 graves were moved from the original Vaught Cemetery and 18 graves from an old cemetery on East—making 506 graves in the new Vaught Cemetery." The site of the new Vaught Cemetery is three and a half miles south of the old location. It is on Highway 71 and near the Shepherd Springs road. This new cemetery was dedicated on Sunday, Aug. 28, 1955.

Many soldiers, one dating back to the War of 1812, are buried in this cemetery. It was started on land once owned by Samuel Caswell Vaught. He settled near Fayetteville in 1842 but moved to Crawford County in 1846 and established his home on the road between Mountainburg (the Narrows, then) and what is now known as Winfrey. About 1850 Caswell Vaught buried an old Cherokee Indian in one corner of his land down by the Big Frog Creek. This Indian had attached himself to the family and befriended them during their first days in the valley. Later Caswell gave the plot to the community to use as a burial ground.

Caswell, himself, at the age of 47, was buried there

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*Elsa Vaught is the wife of Walter W. Vaught who stems from the Pennsylvania-Virginia branch of this family. For 22 years she and her husband lived in Crawford County, about five miles south of Winslow on Hy 71. In 1955 they moved into Fayetteville and are now at home at 853 Jackson Drive.
in 1861 and all of his seven sons (four of them soldiers) sleep near their father's grave. His widow survived him many years and cared for her family through the hectic days of the War Between the States and the Reconstruction Period. Her youngest son, Doctor Mitchell, was but five years old at the time of his father's death.

In 1953 records were secured from the National Archives of the Adjutant General's Office, Washington, D.C., which furnished the necessary data to secure a government stone for the grave of Caswell Vaught. It bears this inscription:


Indian Wars

June 12, 1814—July 28, 1861

Sarah Ann Broyles, 1818-1904

"She raised his seven sons to manhood in this valley."

Recently records have been secured from the Archives of the Arkansas History Commission in Little Rock, which, with other necessary data, will form the basis to petition the Memorial Division of the Quartermaster's Department to place stones on the grave of two of Caswell's sons, John B. and Andrew Marion. These will be placed in the new cemetery to which those buried in the Vaught Cemetery will be moved. "Little Jim," the fourth son, 15 years old at the outbreak of the war and who enlisted in the Federal army at the age of 16, serving throughout the war, already has a government stone.

THE VAUGHT STORY

Samuel Caswell Vaught (he was always called "Caswell" as it was a German custom of that time to use the middle name), was born in the Cherokee Nation in that part which later became Alabama. He was married to Sarah Broyles (born May 24, 1818) on Aug. 6, 1835 near Coffeytown, Jackson Co., Alabama. They were the parents

*The government now furnishes stones to mark Confederate graves as well as Union.

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Clayton has it. Ark. Gen.
liam B. King, attorneys in Washington, D. C.) secured for her more than a thousand dollars on her claim for reimbursement.

WAR SERVICE OF THE SONS


William Vaught, married and leaving one child, when home on furlough was killed by a neighbor who was enlisting men for the Union Army and bushwhacking for the Federals.

Lieut. Andrew Marion (Mack) enlisted at the beginning of the war as a private “on his own horse.” Co. C, First Battalion, Ark. Cav. When his horse was shot from under him early in the war, battle of Prairie Grove, he transferred to the infantry and served the remainder of the war in Co. E, 34th Infantry under Capt. J. C. Wright of Crawford County. Upon Andrew Marion’s death on Feb. 18, 1910, Captain Wright wrote a tribute which was published in the Van Buren Press-Argus. Part of this reads as follows:

“I have been enabled to know something of the sterling qualities of the man both as a soldier and as a citizen. I can say from my heart that in that long and bloody strife, the South had no truer or braver man in its ranks. He was always at the front in every battle or skirmish, and was noted for his reckless, daring deeds. Well do I remember, as if it were but yesterday, the battle we went into on Saline River, in South Arkansas. The fighting was so fierce that one color guard after another was killed or wounded. After the fourth man had fallen, Mack grasped the staff and carried it about thirty yards in front of the line. Major Early saw the deed and commanded him to lie flat on the ground. This he did and in a few minutes the old flag was shot into shreds. After this daring deed he was promoted from fifth sergeant to the rank of First Lieutenant.”

James K. (“Little Jim”, as the family called him) served in the Union Army. His stone bears this inscription:
Corp. Jas. Vaught, Co. A, First Ark. Inf. The story runs: Soon after the death of his father in 1861, bands from both North and South were active in the valley. At one time a company of Federals were camped not far from the widow Vaught's home. One morning a Federal officer with some men rode up to the cabin on a galloping horse, brandishing a gun and demanded food (drinking was going on continually at the camp).

Son Jim who was then 16 years old grabbed a gun, toppling him from his horse. Jim was arrested and taken to Fort Smith. He was tried for murder, found guilty and sentenced to die. His mother rode horseback all the way to Fort Smith to plead for the life of her son. She told about the death of her husband when he was only forty-seven and who had fought for his country in the Indian Wars of Alabama; how he had said when the war started that he didn't think he could ever fight against the U. S.

Three times this pioneer mother made the trip to Fort Smith on horseback. Each time her pleading brought a reprieve. Finally a guard had compassion for this mother and her son, now 17 years old, and he said to young Jim, "Why don't you run away? I won't be looking."

But Jim said, "What good? They'd just bring me back."

"No," said the guard, "I'll tell you what to do. Just head for Waldron where they are enlisting men in the army, and you'll be all right." One day Jim disappeared. Next heard of, he is Corp. Jas. Vaught, Co. A, First Ark. Inf.

Somehow Jim got a bridle the day he ran away, and all the way down to Waldron he was "looking for his horse." "Have you seen a stray mare anywhere?" was his stock question. Being just a boy he made it and enlisted in the Union Army, serving his country well through the war.

One cannot think of this historic cemetery without thinking of George Washington Sims. Sims took bounty land in the area after raising his family in Tennessee and after the death of his first wife. The inscription on his stone which bears a Masonic emblem, reads:

"G. W. Sims, born Jan. 14, 1777, died Jan. 1, 1890, aged 112 years, 11 months and 17 days."
A story handed down from generation to generation is told about Sims to this day. "At the age of 71 he joined the '49ers in the gold rush to California. He brought back much gold carried in a great belt that he always wore. A grandson, Albert Sims, who lives in Mountainburg now, says he remembers his grandfather well and the big 'heavy belt.' It was never known what became of the gold. Some thought it was buried on his farm and occasionally persons can be seen digging for it near Highway 71 north of Mountainburg.

His grave was disturbed approximately 18 years after his death, apparently by someone who thought the gold was buried with him. Records in the Crawford County Courthouse show that Sims married his housekeeper a few months before his death. Book D, page 193, of the county clerk's records reads like this: "Oct. 9, 1889, Geo. W. Sims, age given as 113, was married to Nancy Hamblin, age given as 64." The entry was signed by Reuben D. Gayler, Justice of the Peace, and filed in Van Buren, Oct. 19, 1889." Nancy Hamblin Sims is buried beside her husband. She claimed to be a niece of President John Adams.

Other names found in the Vaught Cemetery are: Anderson, Cartwright, Conley, Dyer, France, Hair, Hatfield, Johnson, Marler, Miller, Moore, Mooney, Orlick, Parker, Pense, Peters, Rankin, Reed, Renfro, Sebourn, Shepherd, Wakefield, Wells and Wright. There are many graves with native stone markers, no inscriptions.

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*Reuben D. Gayler, also a pioneer from Alabama, is buried in the Gayler Cemetery which is located on the highest point of the Gayler hogback.*