
Vawter: Early Hugo Investor

William Ira Vawter¹

Born: 03/24/1863, Boston Mills, Linn Co., OR

Died: 02/04/1916, Jackson Co. OR

Father: Cyrus Vawter

Mother: Sarah Finley

Etta May (Hill) Vawter^{1&2}

Born: 01/23/1869, Silver City, Owyhee, Idaho

Father: Henry Sterling Hill

Mother: Sarah Russell (Joyce) Hill

1888 - 1892 “Among the substantial institutions of southern Oregon is the Jackson County Bank of Medford, which was established as a private bank by William I. Vawter until July 1, 1892, when the capital stock was increased from \$25,000 to \$50,000, and incorporated with the following named officers: William I. Vawter, president; William Slinger, vice-president; G. W. Howard, cashier; and J.E. Enyart as assistant cashier.”³

1889 William Ira Vawter married Etta M. Hill February 10, 1889 in Oregon.^{1&3} Children were:

1. Vernon Hill Vawter, born in Medford, Oregon, November 13, 1890, and
2. William Ira Vawter, Jr. born in Medford, Oregon May 21, 1894.

Vernon Vawter would become cashier of the Jackson County Bank of Medford and its chief executive.³

1. Boling, Jean. Historic Sites Chair, Josephine County Historical Society. July 6, 201. *Carr, Gilham Family Tree & Fawcett Family Tree*, Ancestry.com. Grants Pass, OR.

President Jackson County Bank; Oregon Legislator

1903 “*The Three Pines Timber Co. was incorporated last week in Medford. The incorporators are: A. E. Reames president; Geo. E. Howland vice president; J. D. Cook, secretary; W. I Vawter, treasurer. The principal place of business of the Three Pines Timber Co. Will be in Medford, the company having secured rooms in the Palm Lodge building which they will soon fit up for offices. The company has extensive timber holdings in both Jackson and Josephine counties and will probably develop a big timber industry during the present season.*” *Rogue River Courier*. April 30, 1903. [Three Pines Timber Co.](#)

1903, 1907, & 1915 W. I Vawter represented Douglas and Jackson counties in the Oregon House of Representatives.⁴⁻⁵

1911 — Town of Three Pines, Oregon Platted
George A. Steel and Cora Steel dedicate to the free use of the public all the land represented as Streets, Alleys, Drives, Roads, Walks, and Places upon the annexed plat of Three Pines in Josephine County State of Oregon. They set their seals to this on May 30, 1911.

“*The Farwell Construction company is sinking the well that will supply this community with plenty of pure water for all domestic purposes, as well as for local irrigation. Fred C. Farwell, of the company, is clearing a five-acre tract and will plant to pears. Mr. Cook will go to Portland in a few days to purchase pipe for the water system.*” *Rogue River Courier*. June 2, 1911. [Three Pines](#).

“*The Farwell Construction company is rushing work on the deep well, which will supply water to the people here.*” *Rogue River Courier*. June 9, 1911. [Three Pines](#).

W.I. Vawter, Treasurer, Three Pines Lumber Company

1912 Three Pines was recently developed and a going concern in 1912 with over a hundred citizens; a brand new one-year old school, Three Pines Elementary; two stores; the Corliss Hotel; a post office; a planning mill that was connected by a 11.5 mile flume to the upper reaches of Jump-off Joe Creek and the lumber town of Mountain; and a railroad siding and small depot. The town was platted and there was the Three Pines Fruit Tracts just to the east.

1915 “In 1915 Mr. [Vernon Hill] Vawter was married to Miss Aletha Emerick of Boise, Idaho, a daughter of V. J. Emerick, one of the most prominent residents of the city, who for two terms served as mayor of Medford.”³

1916 William Ira Vawter died: February 4, 1916 at Jackson County, Oregon.^{1&6}

1923 Widow Etta May Vawter applied for a passport to travel to Europe.²

Want more information? Contact an officer of the *Hugo Neighborhood* on how you can become involved in your community’s history and land use.

2. United States of America. April 11, 1923. Pass Port for Etta May Vawter. Washington, D.C.

3. Carey, Charles Henry; “History of Oregon”, Pioneer Historical Publishing Co., Chicago-Portland, 1922; pages 564-565 (William); page 178-179 (Vernon).

4. Bicknell, Grace Vawter; “The Vawter Family in America”, The Hollenbeck Press. Indianapolis, 1905; page 333.

5. Duniway, David C; “Members of the Legislature of Oregon 1843-1967”, Oregon State Archives, Bulletin No. 2 Rev., Publication No.30; page 41.

6. Oregon Death Index, 1903-98.

Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society's Mission

This information brochure is one of a series of documents published by the Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society (*Hugo Neighborhood*). It is designed to be shared with neighbors for the purpose of helping protect our rural quality of life by promoting an informed citizenry in decision-making. The *Hugo Neighborhood* is an informal nonprofit charitable and educational organization with a land use and history mission of promoting the social welfare of its neighbors.

Land Use & History

The *Hugo Neighborhood's* land use mission is to promote Oregon Statewide Goal 1 — Citizen Involvement, and to preserve, protect, and enhance the livability and economic viability of its farms, forests, and rural neighbors. It will act, if requested, as a technical resource assisting neighbors to represent themselves.

Its history mission is to educate, collect, preserve, interpret, and research its local history and to encourage public interest in the history of the Hugo area.

Volunteer membership dues are \$10.00 annually per family and normally used for paper, ink, envelopes, publications and mailings. Send us your e-mail address if you want to know what we are doing.

Email: hugo@jeffnet.org

Web Page: <http://www.hugoneighborhood.org/>

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W. I. VAWTER TREASURER, THREE PINES TIMBER CO.

Brochure 401A Of Hugo's Early
Settler Brochure Series



*Three Pines Timber Company's
Mountain Saw Mill: 1910*

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**Hugo Neighborhood Association &
Historical Society
Josephine County Historical Society**

Brochure 401A in Hugo's Early Settler Brochure Series

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