

News, Updates, & More

Varner Family Genealogy

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MURDER AND INTRIGUE

Fair Play & Shinny Your Own Side

All records so far located indicate that our George Varner (c. 1789-c. 1861) was the first person of that name to locate in Missouri. The date was 12 November, 1819 in which the Missouri Intelligencer (Published in Franklin, MO.) indicates a letter awaits George Varner in the Post Office.

So it seems intriguing that others with the last name of Varner at this same small place during the same timeframe might indicate family relationship. Another Varner family (John Varner from NC) that has not been established as related to our Varner lines, did in about 1840 settle and prosper in nearby Cooper County, Mo. It is however very likely that our George Varner and the Jacob Varner discussed below would have been aware of each other in such a settlement.

In the newspaper pages found [here](#) you will be exposed to the murder of Henry Carroll in 1820 in Boon county. In or around the settlement of Franklin, Missouri. Robert Gentry, who was tried

and acquitted of that crime. Jacob Varner, who was to have submitted evidence at this trial, and other suspected witnesses and/or coconspirators. Most of the details came from newspaper articles in 1824 when one of those possibly involved, was running for Congress in the area.

MISSOURI INTELLIGENCER

By Nathaniel Patten, Publisher of the
Laws of the United States

Franklin, Monday January 3, 1820

As I am unable to locate my copy of this issue, therefore no exact quotes can be provided. My notes indicate an article in that issue referenced a murder that had occurred in that timeframe. The victim was a person named Carroll. Jacob Varner is listed to be a court witness.

Since the above paper was reporting on a murder that has already occurred, it is possible that the actual event happened at the end of 1819.

Boone County was not created until November of 1820 so at the time this crime occurred, the area would have been part of Howard County. Before creation of Boone County, Howard consisted of everything north of the Missouri River and just west of Jefferson City. The area that became Boone County had been called Boone's Lick Country. Before 1819, Howard consisted of all land north of the Osage River.

Not every issue of the Missouri Intelligencer has been saved. No additional Missouri Intelligencer references to Jacob Varner were available until the year 1824. It appears that people involved the court case in 1820 were also involved in political activity in 1824 and that is what generated the rehashing of this crime.

On the [George Varner of Missouri Family Genealogy](#) web site you will find the full articles as they appeared in two additions of the Missouri Intelligencer from 1824. The back and forth between candidates and/or their surrogates is somewhat hard to follow. "Fair Play" is how one faction signs their articles and "Shinny Your Own Side" the opposition. The high level details as they involve Jacob Varner are however plain. The original and complete newspapers for these dates can be found on microfiche at the Missouri Historical Society Library on the MU campus in Columbia, Missouri.

To follow all the details of this intriguing story, [download](#) the copies I have provided on the web site. Just another of the many bits of information about the Varner's that is just waiting for someone to study and discover new family history details.

FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR

Additional Varner Related Family Members

If you know of any others who might be interested in receiving this newsletter please let me know. Anyone who is connected to the Varner's is welcome. Please provide me with their email information or have them contact me directly. I would rather you not sent this update to them offline. By interacting with them directly, I can be assured I have the email address correct and know who is on the list. Thanks!

Password for Website Files

I did not originally provide the password that is required for some of the Varner genealogy files located on my website. That password is: **VarnerFamily**. Please do not provide this password to anyone else. Send them to me so I can keep track of who might access the information.

The reason for a password on some of the files is not to prevent some from seeing the content but rather because the files are locked to prevent changes from being made. For example in MC Word to enable locking the file it requires a password.

New Additions

The initial newsletter has prompted several new Varner related researchers

to begin receiving the newsletter and consider DNA testing. This is great. When a larger number of relatives interact we have a better chance to find answers to some of the vexing questions.

QUESTIONS

Can genealogy DNA samples be used without a person's knowledge or approval for other purposes?

The question has been raised concerning fear that the DNA results might later be accessed by others (government, insurance companies, employers, etc.) for purposes that are not in the best interest of the individual. FamilyTree DNA has strict policies that prevent the use of a person sample for any other reason than genealogy. Also, the markers tested are not those needed to determine things such as medical disease propensity. Further, in my opinion, if someone wants your DNA, it is very easy to get it. Have you even left a drinking container unguarded after taking a sip? Whether this fear is founded or not can only be answered by each individual.

NEWS

Varner /Riggs Connection

Dee Bremer primarily, and as I have time.... have been working to locate descendants of Riggs family members

who lived in Miller County during the timeframe for births of Nancy Ann's children. And an approach is being discussed on how to first approach this with those descendants. Since it might not be good to ring up a Riggs descendant and say "Hi, I am your long lost illegitimate relative!"

It appears that only a limited number of Edmund Riggs male to male direct descendants exist and we want to make sure we are tactful in our first approach. Stay tuned.

George Varner of Missouri Direct Line DNA

Still working on identifying and contacting one or more direct male to male descendants of Thomas Varner (1836-Unk), George W. Varner (1838-Unk), Samuel Philip Varner (1846-1896), Francis Marion Varner (1847-1904), Glen Varner (1852-1929), and John Varner (1854-1929).

We do have two possible male descendants of Samuel Philip Varner. Henry L. Varner (1959-) and Raymond W. Varner (1944-). If anyone knows these two individuals personally and/or has contact information, please let me know.

It would also be nice to have a second donor from another different sibling descendant. So if you know of any please drop me a email. Please do not assume that I would know of everyone

who you might know. Any information would be helpful.

Starting with the next issue I will pick a line of descendants from George Varner and list that line from George Varner down through current descendants, or as far as I am currently aware. I hope that will spark others to provide additional family members or life details about that line. I will try not to list dates of birth for living individuals.

Please let me know of topics that interest you, family history details that you may have, or questions about Varner and related genealogy. I will attempt to include any received in future issues.

Happy 4th of July !!!!!!!!!!!!!

Bruce Varner

[George Varner of Missouri Family Genealogy Website](#)