
News, Updates, & More

Varner Family Genealogy

IN THIS ISSUE:

From the Administrator	1
Varner's & World War I.....	1
Questions.....	4
News.....	4
- Varner/Riggs Update.....	4
-2014 Reunion.....	4
-George Varner Line DNA.....	5
-A George Varner Line.....	5

FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR

I hope everyone had a pleasant holiday season and is now ready to tackle a new year.

I am sorry I have been unable to produce the newsletter for the months of December and January. Purchasing and moving into a different home has consumed all my time.

Although Charlene and I were not really looking, in late October we found a house that we quickly decided to buy. That started a chain of events that lead to tasks we have yet to finish.

We are moved, but the work of settling in is ongoing. The new house is in Overland Park, Kansas.

Two of the main draws for this change were a master bedroom on the main floor and the neighborhood is maintenance free! The recent snows have already proved the benefit of such

an arraignment. It is wonderful to have the snow shoveled for you!

Because I am still digging items out of boxes, I do not have a lot of new details to share, so I decided to go a different route this month. Instead of a profile, I am challenging everyone with a theme to which all families should be able to relate and provide some family details to contribute. I hope for ongoing feedback all year revolving around this timeframe in history.

I would like to present stories throughout this year of Varner experiences during the war years of World War 1. Do not limit input to just those that actually served. Accounts of everyday life at the time would also be very interesting.

The only Varner who I have personal knowledge of serving during "The Great War" was Clarence Sheridan Varner (1895-1988). While I do not have much information yet on this part of his story, I hope to study it further and obtain input from his descendants to round out a fuller picture of his life while in the service.

I currently have only the most basic information about this part of my great uncles, **Clarence Sheridan⁷ Varner** (John⁶, Nancy⁵, George⁴, Fredrick³, John², Hans¹) life. My knowledge is limited to the fact that Sheridan served in the US Army, and was in the 52nd Balloon Squadron. I intend to search

records and have conversations with direct descendants to provide additional details in a future issue.

Please send me what you find about your family members. Good hunting.

<http://home.kc.surewest.net/btvarner/VarnerGenealogy.htm> is the Varner Family Genealogy Website. Some of the files require a password to open. 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. A password is required to prevent unauthorized changes to those documents.

VARNER'S & WORLD WAR I

History from the war years: 1914 to 1919.

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the start of World War 1. Like many other times in history, I think that we tend to overlook this period. The timeframe is really fascinating and I know that this war touched most everyone at the time.

While we gather more Varner family details about this period, I have used this space to provide some history about "The War to End All Wars"¹.

¹ Believed derived from the book: "The War That Will End War" by H. G. Wells (1914)

The roots of this first true “World War” occurred in and around the Balkans and are well documented. Many longstanding political and ethnic differences culminated in the assassination of Archduke Ferdinand and his wife on 28 June, 1914. Anyone with an interest can find much intriguing information on the subject.

Austria declared war with Serbia on 28 July, 1914. Germany declared war with Russia on the 4th of August, 1914. Germany then declared war with France on 3 August and Britain on 4 August, 1914.²

The United States at the time was very isolationist and did not actually enter the war until 4 April, 1917. Several factors precipitated entry of the US. Germany’s harassment and sinking of US merchant ships, and discovery of Mexico’s talks with Germany to possibly enter the war on Germany’s side.³

While the period of formal war participation by the United States spanned only slightly over two years, significant effort to the war was provided by the United States which affected the whole nation.

At the entry of the United States into the war, the Congress created the

Selective Service Act. This act required all males 21 to 30 years of age to register for military service. A year later the act was amended to include all males 18 to 45 years of age.⁴

During the period of US participation in the war over 4 million men entered military service.⁵

The American Protective League was created and worked with the Federal Bureau of Investigation to support the war and at the same time identify slackers, spies, draft dodgers and anti-war organizations.⁶

The Espionage Act of 1917⁷ and the Sedition Act of 1918⁸ attempted to punish enemy activity and extended to the punishment expressions of doubt about America’s role in the war. The Sedition Act criminalized any expression of opinion that used “disloyal, profane, scurrilous or abusive language” about the U.S. government, flag or armed forces.

⁴ National Archives, Guide to Federal Records, Records of the Selective Service System (World War 1), 163.1

⁵ National Archives, Prologue Magazine, Fall 1998, Vol. 30, No. 3. “They Answered the Call”, by Mitchell Yockelson

⁶ Tulane University, Howard-Tilton Memorial Library Special Collections, “American Protective League records, 1918 | Louisiana Research collection” by Deirdre Barr

⁷ University of Texas at Austin, The Espionage Act and the Limitations of the First Amendment, “The Espionage Act of 1917” as passed by Congress

⁸ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sedition_Act_of_1918

² http://PBS.org/greatwar/timeline/time_1914.html

³ US Department of State, Office of the Historian, Milestones: 1914-1920: World War One and Wilsonian Diplomacy

Liberty gardens were promoted to encourage people to plant their own vegetables to help reduce pressure on the food supply during the war.⁹

As has always been the case during conflicts, the ultimate loyalty of immigrants was questioned and such individuals were looked upon with suspicion. Many citizens of recent German extraction were interned for the duration of the war.¹⁰

Campaigns were launched to encourage people to buy "Liberty Bonds".¹¹

Also occurring during this timeframe was the flu pandemic of 1918. The 1918 flu pandemic (January 1918 – December 1920) was an unusually deadly influenza pandemic. It infected 500 million people across the world and killed 20 to 40 million.¹²

Wartime censors minimized early reports of illness and mortality. However newspapers were free to report on the pandemic's effects in neutral Spain, creating a false impression of Spain as especially hard

⁹ University of California, Davis, "Sowing the Seeds of Victory: World War I" by Rose Hayden Smith

¹⁰ Brigham Young University, Presented to the Society for Military History Annual Meeting, April 1998, "The War Department: Keeper of Our Nation's Enemy Aliens During World War I" by Mitchell Yockelson

¹¹ Special to The New York Times. (1919-04-14). "New Loan Fixed at \$4,500,000,000; Interest at 4¾%"

¹² Stanford University, "The Influenza Pandemic of 1918", by Molly Billings, June, 1997

hit. Thus the pandemic was nicknamed the Spanish flu.

These are just some of the efforts on the home front that occurred during the war to end all wars. In future issues more details will be provided, including those specific to the military.

QUESTIONS

No questions this month.

NEWS

No Varner /Riggs Connection Updates

2014 Newton/Varner/Riggs Family Reunion

This year's reunion will be held Saturday, May 24, 2014 from 9am until late afternoon, at the Polk County Senior Center, 1850 W. Broadway Street, Bolivar, Missouri. Pot luck lunch at noon (contribute your own food) with paper plates, cups, forks, napkins provided.

For questions contact Linda Cushman
lindacushman45@gmail.com
417-326-4387

Some folks arrive as early as about 10 am. Most others closer to lunchtime.

George Varner of Missouri Direct Line DNA

Always looking for new George Varner DNA candidates. This includes any male to male direct descendants of:

John D. Varner (1854-1929)
 Glenn Varner (1852-)
 Francis Marion Varner (1847-1904)
 Samuel Philip Varner (1846-1896)
 Edward Varner (1839-1916)
 George Washington Varner (1838-)
 Thomas J. Varner(1836-)

A George Varner Line

Since I have already touched on Sheridan Varner, this month's outline is about him. Additional information welcomed.

George⁴ Varner (Fredrick³, John², Hans¹)
 b. abt. 1789 – d. abt. 1861
 Married *Harriet Owen* (b. abt. 1817 – d. abt. 1861)

Nancy⁵ Ann Varner (George⁴, Fredrick³, John², Hans¹)
 Not Married. DNA indicates at least one child with *Edmund Riggs* (b. 1819 – d. 1877)
 b. 1841 – d. 1934

John⁶ Lawrence Varner (Nancy⁵, George⁴, Fredrick³, John², Hans¹)
 b. 1866 – d. 1951

Married *Millie Jane Horton* (b. 1878 – d. 1977)

Clarence Sheridan⁷ Varner (John⁶, Nancy⁵, George⁴, Fredrick³, John², Hans¹)
 b. 1895 – d. 1988
 Married *Mary Olivene Rogers* (b. 1900 – d. 1994)

Dorothy Lee⁸ Varner (Clarence⁷, John⁶, Nancy⁵, George⁴, Fredrick³, John², Hans¹)
 b. 1921 –
 Married 1 *Roy Heimbeaugh* (b. 1908 –)
 Married 2 *Homer Walter Johnston* (b.???? –)

Denzel Edward⁸ Varner (Clarence⁷, John⁶, Nancy⁵, George⁴, Fredrick³, John², Hans¹)
 b. 1923 –
 Married *Jean Louise Miller* (b. 1925 – d. 2002)

Donald Ray⁸ Varner (Clarence⁷, John⁶, Nancy⁵, George⁴, Fredrick³, John², Hans¹)
 b. 1934 –
 Married 1 *Carol Jean Silvara* (b. 1938 –)
 Married 2 *Judy Ann Capps* (b. 1940 –)

Please make subject suggestions to help me provide a wide monthly perspective for everyone.

Bruce Varner