
News, Updates, & More

Varner Family Genealogy

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FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR

Family reunion is fast approaching! Please attend if you can. This event is a good chance to meet other related individuals and ask those questions you have been wanting answered.

There are always tables setup at the event to display participants old family photos. Also the capability to display a computer screen on an overhead projector for those digital items one might want to show everyone.

I will be displaying an updated DNA chart which contains lineage of those individuals validated as related through DNA results.

I am sure other activities will occur.

See the "2014 Newton/Varner/Riggs Family Reunion" section below for time and date details.

Any updates from anyone on ancestors that served in World War I?

I have placed 2 new pdf documents on the website about the Owen family to go along with the main article about the lineage of Harriet Owen further down in this newsletter.

As always:

<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 (Case sensitive). Please do not provide this password to anyone else. Send them to me so I can keep track of who might access the information. Most of the documents do not require a password. A password is required on some documents to prevent unauthorized changes to those documents.

FYI: Remember you might have to reload the webpage by pressing the reload/refresh button on your browser to see the latest version. Sometimes if this site is already in your history it will load the old site instead.

QUESTIONS

Q: How do I request military records from the National Archives?

A: Records for those who served in the US military are available upon request.

Requests are free for the service member and their immediate family. A flat fee of \$25 is charged for record retrieval of records of 5 pages or less. Records of 6 pages or more are charged \$70. As I recall you are asked to pay the \$25 before they will search for records. If no records are located the fee is returned. If over the 5 page limit, the additional cost is required to be paid at that time.

Retrieval time is anywhere between 10 days and 6 months depending on the difficulty in gathering those particular records.

Also note that often additional records are found that you were unaware of or did not know to request. This is how I found that George Varner had served in the Seminole Wars.

Military records prior to WWI are held by the National Archives in Washington DC. Records from WWI and later are stored in the National Military Personnel Records Center in St. Louis.

Records become available for retrieval by anyone 62 years after the persons separation from military service. So at this moment records of individuals who left the military in 1952 and before are now accessible.

Veteran's name as used in service is required to submit for such records. All additional information further helps:
Timeframe served

Date & place of birth
Branch of service
Place of enlistment
Service number
Social Security number

Form number NATF 85 is completed either online or sent in via mail. Additional details for submissions can be found:

<http://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/pre-ww-1-records.html>

Q: Some people are getting emails from FamilyTree DNA indicating new matches. When checking on the site, no new matches are found.

A: Be sure and check your settings. Go to My Account, Match & Email Settings. Make sure the setting to notify you of Y-DNA matches is set to No for Y-DNA 12 matches as this level includes many people who are not necessarily close relatives. You might even set to No for Y-DNA 25 matches as these are still likely far enough from your direct lineage to be on no immediate, practical use.

NEWS

In last month's newsletter, several resources were mentioned that might assist genealogists. Received responses about these genealogy resources.

Please be aware that all LDS Family History Centers which have internet

access allow free access to several of the paid services mentioned in last month's newsletter. Keep that in mind if you will be near one of these sites.

I was also asked to mention that Ancestry.com which obtained records from New York City, provides free search of those indexes. The arraignment made with New York City required this free access. Wanted to be sure that everyone interested in these records was aware they could be searched without a subscription to Ancestry.com.

This information came from our own Vivian Kessler who herself worked on indexing of these records.

HARRIET OWEN LINEAGE

Thought I might write this month about another Varner Family detail that has not been proven. The wife of George⁴ Varner of Missouri (c1789-c1861) (Fredrick³, John², Hans¹).

Harriet Owen (c1817-c1861) was the wife of George Varner. We however, have only strong speculation as to Harriet's lineage.

In the article I will lay out what has been found to date about Harriet so that others can draw their own conclusions or work to find additional details that would conclusively prove or disprove.

Below are those details about Harriet that are known.

Stringing these details together seem to result in a conclusion that could use some additional facts to help strengthen the premise.

The first known appearance of George Varner in Missouri occurs in November, 1819. The Missouri Intelligencer references a letter waiting at the Howard County town of Franklin, Missouri Post Office for George Varner.¹

In an 1832 copy of the Missouri Intelligencer & Boones Lick Advertiser of Fayette, Howard County, MO. Is referenced in an appraisal in Rocky Fork Township of a lost horse in Boone County. Appraisal was conducted by George Varner and Thomas Owen.²

In 1835, Land Patent #6997 for 40 acres was issued to George Varner for "SW 1/4 of the NW 1/4, Section 12, Twp 49 North, Range 14 West" in Boone County, Missouri. This property is located a few hundred feet north of the original Boone's Lick trail as it leads into Franklin, Missouri.³ This is also very close to the Rocky Fork Township.

¹ Missouri Intelligencer (Franklin) dated 11 November, 1819

² Missouri Intelligencer & Boon's Lick Advertiser (Fayette) dated 7 July, 1832

³ US Land Patent Certificate #6997. Dated 11/14/1835. Signed President Andrew Jackson.

No marriage record has been located between George and Harriet in order to validate when and where.

The 1840 federal census lists George Varner in Pettis County, Missouri with George named as head, 1 male 40-50, 1 female 20-30, 1 male 5-10, 2 males under 5.⁴ Thomas Owen and family are also found in Pettis County.⁵

The 1850 federal census lists George Varner again in Pettis County, Missouri.⁶ A Glenn Owen, possibly a son of Thomas, is located in the household enumerated just before George.⁷ Thomas Owen is also still in Pettis County.⁸

By the 1860 census George, Harriet, and family had moved to Miller County, Missouri. No Owen family is known to again live close to the Varner family.

The leads provided above begin to show possible insight into the two families.

⁴ 1840 United States Federal Census. Missouri> Pettis> No Twp> Page 5.

⁵ 1840 United States Federal Census. Missouri> Pettis> No Twp> Page 7

⁶ 1850 United States Federal Census. Missouri> Pettis> District 68> Page 80

⁷ 1850 United States Federal Census. Missouri> Pettis> District 68> Page 80. Glen Owen 32, Elizabeth Owen 24, Child Nancy E. Owen 1 living in the household of a John Simpson.

⁸ 1850 United States Federal Census. Missouri> Pettis> District 68> Page 159. Next on the list to Thomas was Wm. Owen 22, b. MO., Prudence Owen 27, b. KY., & Davis under 1, b. MO.

Both George Varner and Thomas Owen were in Missouri as early as the 1820's.

Thomas Owen and family were located in the same Missouri county and township as George Varner in the 1830's.

Thomas Owen and George Varner were known to be acquainted as early as 1832. I have been told that it was common for people to run an ad in the newspaper in those days listing something they had found, to ensure that the rightful owner might come forward to claim the item. If the item was not claimed, then the person or persons who found the item could legally keep or sell the item.

In 1932 both had listed together a found horse. Since the listing mentioned both Thomas and George it would seem logical that they both found the horse. If they found the horse together, they must have been friends or neighbors.

By the 1840 census, both families had moved to Miller County. In the 1850 census a Glenn Owen family was listed in the census next door to George & Harriet.

Next is the similarities between given names in the two families. Thomas, Nancy, Elizabeth, Philip, Glenn, and Francis are all Owen family first names also occurring in the next generation of Varner's.

We will now go backwards for both families of George Varner and Thomas Owen.

Thomas Owen was from Oglethorpe County, Georgia. George Varner was from Oglethorpe County.

Thomas Owen married Nancy Varner (c.1783-) in the year 1810 in that same Georgia county.⁹

Thomas Owen brother Glen Owen lived in Missouri and died near Presido del Norte on the Rio Grande. Glen's estate was settled however in Howard County, Missouri.¹⁰

George Varner's presumed father in Oglethorpe County is Fredrick³ Varner (c1755-c1826). Fredrick's father was John² Varner (Unk-After 1800).

John, (George Varner of Missouri's grandfather) had a child named George. In 1793 George Varner (brother of Fredrick) sold land in Wilkes County, Georgia to Glen Owen (Father of Thomas).¹¹

There you have it. The current case for the lineage of Harriet Owen. Need for

⁹ Warren, Georgia Genealogist, Marriages 1800-1810, p. 147. Thomas Owen to Nancy Varner, 10 Nov. 1810, Oglethorpe County.

¹⁰ Missouri Intelligencer, 10 June 1825 issue: Sale of the personal property of Glen Owen will be sold 7 July 1825. Elizabeth Owen, administratrix.

¹¹ Farmer, Oglethorpe County, Georgia, Deed Books A – E, 1794-1809, p. 220. Deed Book D, p. 238. Witness: Geo. Swain, J.P.

others to continue this search for additional details.

Prolog: Going through the above information for this article got me thinking about some possible new directions of inquiry for Varner clues in general.

#1- We now know that the land which George Varner of Missouri obtained through bounty warrants for military service was flipped by George very quickly. Sometimes immediately. This leads to the now know likelihood that George did not live on any of these pieces of land.

That would provide some understanding why when studying the different census entries for George and family, it is difficult to find land for those enumerated beside George. Maybe this is because George and family did not actually reside at the locations we thought???

Need to try new census and location searches based upon those names enumerated immediately around George and family, and let that lead to what property George might actually have been living on at the time.

#2- Harriet Owen female to female descendants would be perfect candidates for MT-DNA testing to validate that our Harriet Owen Varner is in fact related to the Owen family of Oglethorpe County, Georgia. MT-DNA is mother to daughter, to daughter. This would require some effort.

Need to trace down the 5 or so female to female generations on both the Varner and Owen of Oglethorpe County sides to find the correct females to submit for testing. Would be very interesting however.

Varner /Riggs Connection Update

This work has lay fallow. Moving has kept me from devoting any time this last

winter to pursuing new details for this connection. I will get back into it this year. Might even make the trip to West Virginia to see where Edmund Riggs was from before coming to Missouri.

2014 Newton/Varner/Riggs Family Reunion

The 2014 reunion will be held Saturday, May 24, 2014 from 9am through the 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 specific reunion questions contact Linda Cushman

lindacushman45@gmail.com

417-326-4387

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

George Varner of Missouri Direct Line DNA

Please consider contributing DNA if you are a direct male descendant from George Varner. Always looking for new candidates. There are holes to fill. 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-)

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

Bruce Varner