
News, Updates, & More

Varner Family Genealogy

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FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR

This year's Family reunion is just about here! **This is the last newsletter before this year's reunion.** Please attend if you are able!

2014 Newton/Varner/Riggs Family Reunion

This year's reunion will be held Saturday, May 24, 2014 from 9am until midafternoon, at the Polk County Senior Center, 1850 W. Broadway Street, Bolivar, Missouri. Pot luck lunch at noon. Contribute your own food which will be placed with the food of others on the family table. Paper plates, cups, forks, & napkins provided.

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

Folks arrive as early as 10 am. Most others closer to lunchtime.

<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 get to Bolivar, Missouri?

A:

From Kansas City area-

Option #1: South on I-49 (Old 71 Hiway). East on 7 Hiway to Clinton. South on 13 to Bolivar. (127 miles)

Option #2: East on 50 Highway to Warrensburg. South on 13 to Bolivar. (139 miles)

From St. Louis area-

West on I-44 to Lebanon. West on 32 to Bolivar. (191 miles)

From Springfield area-

North on 13 to Bolivar. (32 miles)

Q: Where did the Varner surname come from?

A: The spelling of V-A-R-N-E-R could have derived from several different places and spellings. One of the best answers I have seen on the subject is from Don Varner, as placed on Genealogy.com. Not our Don Varner but rather Don Varner who lives back east and is involved in Varner genealogy. He states:

DERIVATION of the WARNER / WERNER / **VARNER** / VERNER / VERNOR Surname:

GERMANIC:

WARNER/WERNER/WOERNER

The surname WERNER / WERHNER / WARNER / VARNER / VERNER evolved from either of two ancient Germanic words WARINHARI or WARINHEER. Each has two root words. The first being WARIN meaning "Guard" and the second HARI meaning "Army" or HEER which means "Volk" (People). As a surname, it seems to have first appeared in the 15th Century and was, most likely, an honorary title granted as a reward for some service well done.

ENGLISH/SCOTTISH/IRISH:

VERNER / VERNOR / WARNER

The English surname has the same root as the German surname as it was based on the French Version of the old Germanic name Warneheri (see above). Warenheri was a common Norman personal name. In some cases the English WARNER seems to have derived from the French names VARNEY/VERNEY which are NOT Germanic but were probably associated with a geographic locale or feature.

The IRISH Warners seem to have come from Germany via England or Scotland and, in fact, many Irish Warners have German ancestry.

AFRICAN-AMERICAN & ASIAN: WARNER/VARNER

Appear to derive from a continuation of slave names, "adopted" names, or by marriage.

OTHER ETHNIC GROUPS: WARNER/VARNER/WERNER

From other geographic areas of the WORLD or are "Americanized" spellings.

SPELLING/PRONOUNCIATION of the GERMAN based name:

The German letter 'W' sounds like an English 'V', thus, the name Warner/Werner when spoken by Germans sounded like Varner/Verner. In early America, the English speaking people

tended to pronounce Warner/Werner using the English "W" sound. This caused the German-Americans to adopt the VARNER/VERNER spelling so that the "English" would pronounce the names in a manner that was phonetically correct.

Those of you who travel to Germany today will hear your name "mispronounced". As a result, VARNERS and VERNERS may expect to be addressed as FARNER or FERNER. If you are a WARNER or WERNER, you will be called VARNER or VERNER

Remember, in German, Volkswagon sounds like "FolksVagen".

I thought it would also be interesting to provide such info for the **Riggs** surname. Thanks to the Guild of One-Name-Studies in England for this information.

DERIVATION of the RIGGES / RIGS / RYGGS / RYGGES / RYGS Surname:

RIGGS is a 'Wessex' surname, found primarily in Dorset and to a lesser extent in the adjoining counties of Devon, Hampshire, Somerset and Wiltshire. It is part of a group of 'cognates' (words of the same linguistic family developing in parallel) that also includes REAK(E)S, REEK(E)S, RICKS and REX - but not apparently RIX which is a Norfolk name. Each of those is

predominantly centered in one of those five counties, and they appear to vary because of differences in dialect.

The Wessex dialect in the UK is a strong one and each West Country county has its own distinctive form. In Dorset, the surname of families in the early records are shown to have evolved from REEKS to RICKS and then RIGGS. William Barnes's 'Glossary of the Dorset Dialect' explains that evolutionary process as the replacement of the softer 'k' sound with the more guttural 'g' sound, and the standard vowel 'e' with a form of the vowel 'i' unique to Dorset in which the vowel sound is drawn out as a long sound.

Also interesting is the **Newton** surname. Thanks to the Suriname Database for this information.

DERIVATION of the NEWTON Surname:

This is an English surname of locational origins. There are believed to be eighty-three places called Newton or Newtown in England and Wales, and it is said that the place name appears in every one of the forty three English counties, except for Westmoreland and Rutland. The place name spelling and hence the surname does vary, and includes for instance the villages

called Naunton, Newington, Newnton, Niton and Nyton, all in the south of England. All places, however spelt share the same basic derivation and meaning, which is "new homestead or village" from the Olde English pre 7th century word "neowa", meaning new, and "tun", a settlement or village. During the Middle Ages when migration for the purpose of job-seeking was becoming more common, people often took their former village name as an easy means of identification. This resulted in a wide dispersal of the name. Given that spelling was at best erratic and local dialects very thick, this often lead to the development of "sounds like" spellings. Early interesting examples of the surname recording include John Newton, an early emigrant to the New World. He left London in November 1635 on the ship "Expedition", bound for Barbados, whilst Sir Isaac Newton (1642 - 1727), the early scientist, is perhaps the most notable bearer of the name. He discovered the laws of motion and gravity. The first recorded spelling of the family name is shown to be that of Alward de Niwetuna. This was dated 1086, in the Domesday Book of Norfolk, during the reign of King William 1st, known as "The Conqueror", 1066 - 1087. Throughout the

centuries, surnames in every country have continued to "develop" often leading to astonishing variants of the original spelling.

NEWS

No news to report. Please contribute you research finds.....

Varner /Riggs Connection Update

We know that most of the Riggs family members from Miller County eventually moved to the states of Washington and Oregon. Have been trying to run down living descendants in those areas without success to this point.

The other roadblock, as large as the Riggs family genealogy research is, encompassing Riggs members from all over the US and England, no one from this direct line had been identified as involved in the Riggs database.

I say identified, because a couple of those in the Riggs genealogy database have DNA matching me, but are not aware how.

Seems like Riggs families that moved from England to America and on westward went to many states. The research members however seem to have a blank on those that came through Missouri.

Continuing to research.

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-)

George Varner Of Missouri Direct Line

This month I will focus on those George Varner of Missouri children that seem to have disappeared.

George W. Varner, (1838-) joined the Union Army and is listed as a deserter. This occurred in a swampy area and he could very likely have died.

We know nothing however about the oldest, Thomas J. Varner (1836-). Also missing is Glenn Varner (1852-) Seems strange that all three would have just disappeared? One or more of them

almost had to have gone on to live and raise a family. But where?

Are they hiding in plain site? In census records in other states and we just have not made the connection? We still need to try and find answers to these and many other questions.

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

Bruce Varner