

News, Updates, & More

Varner Family Genealogy

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FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR

Varner Genealogy Website:

[http://home.kc.surewest.net/btvarner/
VarnerGenealogy.htm](http://home.kc.surewest.net/btvarner/VarnerGenealogy.htm)

Some files require a password to open. That password is: VarnerFamily (Case sensitive, no spaces). Please do not provide this password to anyone else. Send them to me so I can keep track of who might access the information.

QUESTIONS / NEWS

Nothing new this month.

Varner /Riggs Connection Update

No new updates. Continuing to research.

George Varner of Missouri Direct Line DNA

Need male to male descendants from one or more George Varner male children's line. Trying to firm up the George Varner of Missouri connection with Oglethorpe County, Georgia through DNA.

Male children of George Varner of Missouri:

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-)

Have received no response from the contacts I made last month with Norman (Butch) Fredrick Varner's wife Nelda Sue. They reside in Eldon.

There are three possible male DNA donors in this line. Norman (Butch) Varner and his two sons Michael Logan Varner & Michael Lee Varner.

I will keep trying with this line. If anyone else out there has an existing relationship with these Varner's your help would be appreciated in this matter.

George Varner (1789-1861)
Samuel Philip Varner (1846-1896)
Francis Logan Varner (1874-1939)
Norman Walter Varner (1912-1997)
Raymond Walter Varner (1942-200xs)
Mother Lela Corneett
Jason Raymond Varner
Mother Christine Elizabeth Swillium
Micha Dority Varner
Mother Nancy Dority
Norman Fredrick (Butch) Varner
Mother Alice Ethlene Brown
Michael Logan Varner
Michael Lee Varner

Still looking for contact numbers for Raymond Walter's children Micha and Jason.

I would have thought that one of those receiving this newsletter would have some additional info on these living individuals.

The Draft, Selective Service History (Including World War I)

An interesting piece of history that dovetails in with male ancestors born between 1873 and 1900 is the fact that after the US entered World War I in 1917, a draft was enacted. This means that all males between those birth years were required to register with their draft board even if they did not end up serving in the military. This means there should be a draft registration form for male ancestors of this age.

The United States has had a military draft for varying periods three times during its history.

“In Colonial times each of the colonies required male participation in local militias. Colonial militia laws required every able-bodied male citizen to participate and to provide his own arms. Militia control was much localized, often with individual towns having autonomous command systems. Additionally, the colonies placed relatively short training requirements upon their militiamen: as little as four days of training per year”.¹

“The militia system was originally transplanted to the American colonies from England. At the outset, it was grounded in the principle of universal obligation. Practices differed widely from colony to colony, but everywhere the militia had two coercive elements.

First, it enrolled every able-bodied male between certain ages (usually sixteen to sixty), with only a few exemptions. Colonial governments required those enrolled to furnish their own arms (no small expense) and to muster for regularly scheduled training. Failure to do so resulted in fines. Initially, this mandatory training could be as frequent as once a week or more, but, as the Indian threat receded, most colonies reduced the number of training days to

approximately four per year. The militia thereby provided a compulsory system of universal military training.

The second coercive element evolved when the militia was called forth for active military service. Only in dire emergency, and only for a short period, would a militia district deploy its enrolled manpower in total. Normally, when a colonial government called upon its militia for a military campaign, it would set quotas for each district. The Districts would then try to fill the quotas with volunteers, and sometimes the colonies would encourage volunteering with bounties. However, if volunteers were insufficient, the districts would then meet their quotas through drafts. Generally, the only legal ways of avoiding such militia drafts were by either paying a stiff fine or hiring a substitute. Thus, the threat of conscription lurked behind every resort to the seemingly innocuous power to Call out the militia.”²

“During the Revolutionary War, state governments assumed the colonies' authority to raise their short-term militias through drafts if necessary. They sometimes extended this to state units in the Continental Army, but they denied Gen. George Washington's request that the central government be empowered to conscript. As the initial volunteering slackened, states boosted

¹ The History of the Militia in the United States, by Professor Vernellia R. Randall, University of Dayton

² The American Militia and the Origin of Conscription: A Reassessment by Jeffrey Rogers Hummel, p 5

enlistment bounties and held occasional drafts.

After independence this continued requiring able-bodied males to enroll in the militia, undergo minimal military training, and serve for limited periods of time in war or emergency.”³

President James Madison and his Secretary of War James Monroe unsuccessfully attempted to create a national draft of 40,000 men during the War of 1812.⁴ This proposal was fiercely criticized.

National conscription first appeared during the Civil War. In 1862 the first federal law was passed mandating states to draft individuals into the state militia for federal service if volunteer quotas fell short. It was also met with widespread and stiff resistance and compared by many to slavery.

In 1863 congress passed the “Enrollment Act” which was the first true federal draft. Males between the age of twenty and forty-five were required to be enrolling to fill quotas by state. This system was plagued by evasion, bribery, and resistance including the initial scope of the New York City draft riots of July 1863.⁵

³ Citizens and Soldiers: The Dilemmas of Military Service by Eliot A. Cohen, 1985

⁴ The Oxford Companion to American Military History by John W. Chambers, II, Oxford University Press, 1999, p 150

⁵ Conscription in the United States, Wikipedia

The War with Spain in 1898 was comprised of existing US military personnel, along with state and privately raised volunteer soldiers.

The War with Mexico in 1846 also occurred using the existing volunteer US Army and state raised volunteer men.

“Not until World War I did the United States rely primarily upon conscription. A civilian-led “Preparedness” movement helped persuade many Americans that national compulsion was more equitable and efficient than local voluntarism for an industrial society to raise a mass army. President Woodrow Wilson overcame considerable opposition—particularly from agrarian isolationists and ethnic and ideological opponents of U.S. involvement—to obtain a temporary wartime, national, selective draft.”⁶

During World War I there were three registrations. The first, on June 5, 1917, was for all men between the ages of 21 and 31.

The second, on June 5, 1918, registered those who attained age 21 after June 5, 1917 with a supplemental registration held on August 24, 1918, for those becoming 21 years old after June 5, 1918.

⁶ The Oxford Companion to American Military History by John W. Chambers, II, Oxford University Press, 2000

The third registration was held on September 12, 1918, for men age 18 through 45.

The act was upheld by the United States Supreme Court in the Selective Draft Law Cases, 245 U.S. 366 (1918).

Each draft board used a set of standard "principles" to place men in the deferred classes, including dependency, specific vocations or moral disqualification. Deferment was based on medical issues, family support needs, children, and how recently he had married.⁷

Class I: presently liable for military service. These included most single men, unskilled laborers, and certain married men.

Class II: temporarily deferred from service until Class I was exhausted. They generally included certain married men with dependents and "necessary" skilled labor.

Class III: temporarily deferred from service until Class II was exhausted. Generally included certain men with dependent infirm or "helpless" relatives as well as certain types of government workers and other "necessary" workers.

Class IV: temporarily deferred from service until Class III was exhausted. Included men with families that were

"mainly dependent on his labor for support" as well as merchant mariners and managers of "necessary enterprises."

Class V: exempted or discharged from service. Included legislative, executive, or judicial officers of government, ministers, aliens, and the "totally and permanently physically or mentally unfit" as well as the "morally unfit."⁸

A separate line allowed for a claim of exemption based on religious convictions against participating in war - the conscientious objector

Local draft boards issued cards to men once they had been officially classified for deferment or exemption.

By the end of World War I, some 2 million men volunteered for various branches of the armed services, and some 2.8 million had been drafted. This meant that more than half of the almost 4.8 million Americans who served in the armed forces were drafted.

After the signing of the armistice of November 11, 1918, the activities of the Selective Service System were rapidly curtailed. On March 21, 1919, all local, district, and medical advisory boards were closed, and on May 31, 1919, the last state headquarters closed operations. The Provost Marshal General was relieved from duty on July

⁷ Encyclopedia of Genealogy, US World War I Draft Registrations

⁸ Oregon Historical Society Website, WWI Draft

15, 1919, thereby finally terminating the activities of the Selective Service System of World War I.⁹

On September 16, 1940, the United States instituted the Selective Training and Service Act of 1940, which required all men between the ages of 21 and 45 to register for the draft. This was the first peacetime draft in United States' history. Those who were selected from the draft lottery were required to serve at least one year in the armed forces. Once the U.S. entered WWII, draft terms extended through the duration of the fighting. By the end of the war in 1945, 50 million men between eighteen and forty-five had registered for the draft and 10 million had been inducted in the military.¹⁰

The Selective Service Act of 1948 codified continuance of the draft during peacetime. It stated that:

The Congress hereby declares that an adequate armed strength must be achieved and maintained to insure the security of this Nation....

....in a free society the obligations and privileges of serving in the armed forces and the reserve components thereof should be shared generally....

....it shall be the duty of every male citizen of the United States, and every other male person residing in the United States, who, on the day or days fixed or

the first or any subsequent registration, is

Between the ages of eighteen and twenty-six, to present himself for and submit to registration....

In 1973, as the War in Vietnam was drawing down, active drafting of persons for military service ended. Since that time the US military has been an all voluntary force.¹¹

The Selective Service however is still in operation and the law requires all males between the age of eighteen and twenty-six to register with the Selective Service.

Remember that every male that fell between the service ages during World War I had to register for the draft. Sometime these draft cards can contain additional information that may pertain to genealogy searches.

Please contact me with subject ideas for future newsletters.

Quickly moving towards the end of summer.....

Bruce Varner

⁹ Selective Service Act of 1917, Wikipedia

¹⁰ National World War II Museum Web Site "Take A Closer Look at The Draft"

¹¹ US Department of Defense Web Site