

News, Updates, & More

Varner Family Genealogy

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November 2015

FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR

You will find copies of this newsletter and more genealogy information downloadable from the Varner Family website.

<http://brucevarner.com/VarnerGenealogy.htm>

Please provide any ideas you may have for future newsletters. I need to have the input of others so that all different subjects and different perspectives can be covered.

QUESTIONS / NEWS

No questions this month. I think everyone is still trying to absorb the new Varner DNA information and how that impacts research! See below for much more information..

George Varner of Missouri Direct Line DNA

Subject is being addressed this month in the main article below. Pleasant reading!

What to Make of The New Varner DNA Facts?

Thanks for everyone's patience while I sifted through some of the details which came to light as a result of the DNA submission by Billy Joe Varner, a true male to male genetic descendant of George Varner of Missouri.

This information has disproven some of what we had presumed about George Varner of Missouri! Last month the early ancestry that mostly pre-dated surnames was discussed. Wonderfully interesting, and more will be pursued in coming months. This month however, is about where these new DNA results might lead in understanding more about George Varner of Missouri's other ancestors.

I thought I would break this information down into three parts, hoping to make it easier to follow. Those three parts are: New Facts, Changes to Previous Assumptions, and What Direction Next.

I have not fully vetted all the information herein contained. Please do not assume that because I write it here, it must be true. Challenge me where you see inconsistencies or just if additional explanation is required to clear up fuzzy areas. This is a journey, not an all-inclusive answer.

What New Facts Do We Know?

- Y-DNA 67 DNA from Billy Joe Varner revealed him to have a G-M201 Haplogroup.
- Results showed only 1 match to Billy Joe Varner in the entire Family Tree DNA databases. That is a 4 deviation match to a William Virgil Varner at Y-DNA 67 (Was a 1 at Y-DNA 37!). This just changed as William V. complete the Y-DNA 67 testing.
- G-M201 Haplogroup does not match any other members of the Family Tree DNA Varner Surname Group.
- All members of the Varner Surname Group that are proven to descend from Johannes "Hans" Adam Werner/Warner, are of a different Haplogroup.
- William Virgil Varner (The 4 deviation match to Billy Joe) has proven genealogical family history ending in Oklahoma, having come from Tennessee, and prior to that living in North Carolina as early as 1819.

Changes to Previous Assumptions?

Before delving into these changes, I think it might be a good time to provide a quick overview of our new Varner cousins family. Going forward we will become very familiar with this line, and attempt to determine exactly where we intersect with this branch.

A detailed PDF document authored by new cousin Cheryl Diane Varner Walker of Oklahoma will be available on the website for additional details. I will forward that document in another email shortly. I thought it was wise to send out that PDF document separately to prevent bogging down the normal monthly email. Please read that interesting account. A very condensed overview is provided here that concentrates solely down through direct male to male lineage.

John¹ Varner (b. abt 1740 d. ????) was born in Maryland. Which Varner line this John¹ is from has yet to be proven. I believe this might be the same John Varner as George Varner of Missouri's grandfather.

Known Children:

John² Varner

John² Varner (b. abt 1765 d. 1826) son of John¹ married Rebecca Lucinda Davis in 1784 in Rowan County, NC. Died in North Carolina. (Part of Rowan County where these Varner's lived became Davidson County.)

Children:

Nancy³ Varner

Lucy³ Varner Smith

Thomas³ Varner

John³ Varner

Mary (Polly)³ Varner Harrison

Eli³ Varner

Elizabeth³ Varner Ward

William³ Varner

Matthew³ Varner

Rebecca³ Varner Cooper

William A.³ Varner (b. 3/20/1802 d. 7/15/1871) son of John² was born in Rowan County, NC. William married Mary (Polly) Unknown in 1824. They moved to Gibson County, TN. Between 1838 & 1840, where William's married sister Polly was already located. Both died in Gibson County, TN.

Children:

John W.⁴ Varner

Rebecca⁴ Varner Haste

Cassa Ann (Cassie)⁴ Varner Glascock

Sarah Jane (Sallie)⁴ Varner Henderson

William H (Sandy)⁴ Varner

Mary Maria⁴ Varner

Elizabeth⁴ Varner Haywood

George Marion⁴ Varner

William H. (Sandy)⁴ Varner (b. abt 1836 d. abt 1902) son of William A.³ was born in Davidson County, NC. Married wife unknown, who apparently died after only one child. According to 1870 census lived in Pottawatomie County, KS. but died in Gibson County, TN.

Known Children:

George Washington⁵ Varner

George Washington⁵ Varner

(b. 6/25/1868 d. 4/18/1949) son of William H. (Sandy)⁴ was born in Dyer, Gibson County, TN. Married Nancy Ellen Evans in 1891 in Indian Territory (Now OK.). Died in Pawnee, Pawnee County, OK.

Children:

Sandy Joseph⁶ Varner

George Virgil⁶ Varner

Janie⁶ Varner Taylor

Vernest McKinley⁶ Varner
Walter Washington⁶ Varner
Clara Mirel⁶ Varner Stafford
William Roy⁶ Varner

William Roy⁶ Varner (b. 3/11/1910 d. 6/20/1977) son of George Washington⁵ was born in Zoe, LeFlore, OK. Married Geneva Louvie Gentry in 1930. Died in Pawnee, Pawnee County, OK.¹

Children:

William Virgil⁷ Varner

William Virgil (Billy)⁷ Varner (b. 12/6/1933) son of William Roy⁶ was born in Oklahoma. He resides in Oklahoma City. Married Barbara Ellen Gambill (b. 1933 d. 1937). William Virgil provided the matching DNA to our Billy Joe Varner.²

William Virgil and Billy Joe matched with a 4 deviation as stated previously. Deviations are randomly occurring changes to the DNA code. A father and son could have the exact same Y-DNA, or they could have a 1 deviation if a deviation occurred at that point. On the other hand several generations can and do pass without a single deviation. This is why the DNA testing companies only

¹ A short biography of William Roy Varner is found in Appendix A below.

² William Virgil Varner joined the Air Force after high school, then married Barbara Ellen Gambill and was stationed in Texas. After the military he attended Okmulgee Tech (now a campus of Oklahoma State University) and studied electronics. He was hired at Tinker Air Force Base in Midwest City, Oklahoma and later took a job at the FAA in Oklahoma City where he retired.

give chance percentages of very close relationships.

As an example, when Warren and I obtained DNA results that produced the Riggs surname finding, Warren and I were a 0 (Zero) deviation match, no Y-DNA differences. Warren is three generations back to Edmund Riggs and I am four generations back to Edmund Riggs. That is where we both intersect with the same male ancestor (Edmund Riggs). Yet there is no DNA deviation that had occurred. More interesting is the fact that one of the Riggs surname individuals that matches Warren and I at 0 (Zero) deviation goes back seven generations before there is an intersecting ancestor between the three of us.....

I bring this up to show that a 4 deviation difference in DNA between Billy Joe and William Virgil would have occurred over many generations. We need more corroboration from standard genealogy research to find where our Varner line and their Varner line last intersected!

Most of the William Varner line seems to have stayed in North Carolina. Some moved to Tennessee. We do not know about any movement into Georgia, so William's Varner line had no current knowledge about family from Georgia until the DNA test results.

Moving on to George Varner of Missouri, this news does not cancel out the Georgia connection. There is just

too much evidence that our George Varner had been a farmer in Oglethorpe County, GA. Match that with the known information about the Owen families ties to Oglethorpe County, GA. and it is clear our George Varner was there. But were other members of our Varner line also there?

In reality, the connection between our George Varner of Missouri and any other specific person in Georgia was never sufficiently proven. It is also a fact that several of the Varner's in Oglethorpe County, GA. during the early 1800's have not been fully proven to be related to each other. Only in those specific cases where Varner descendants have additional proof of their ancestry, can a proven connection be validated.

What this all boils down to is the fact that even with all those documented Oglethorpe Varner heads of household, the relationship between other Varner's living nearby is only assumption based upon location. Unless or until other evidence comes to light through wills and such, no proof is available to show blood relationship between our George Varner of Missouri and other Varner's in Georgia.

We know that at least in the case of our George Varner, he had been in Oglethorpe County. There very well could be others. Assumptions that need to be reevaluated and researched.

Our George Washington Varner (Son of George Varner of Missouri) was missing during the civil war around Cairo, IL. That is only about 88 miles north of Gibson County, TN.

Edward Varner (Son of George Varner of Missouri) moved to Grayson, TX. Sister Cynthia and brother John also moved there. Were they aware of kin folk nearby?

What Direction Next?

I really have only scratched the surface. Many new avenues are opening and will give researchers new life and new sets of leads to follow. Below are some general ideas of things that can be done to pursue this wonderful evidence.

- Find a second George Varner of Missouri male to male descendent willing to submit for DNA testing. I am confident that Billy Joe's DNA is the George Varner of Missouri direct line, it would however be conclusive to have a second specimen to compare.
- I have already submitted Billy Joe's DNA for additional SNP testing. While this will likely not help narrow recent ancestors, it will provide additional information on ancient G-M201 groups to which our Varner's belong.
- North Carolina, Georgia, and Tennessee records need to be researched again, having this new

information and trying to find the connection between our two Varner lines.

- Is there another avenue to look at for our missing George Washington Varner (Son of George Varner of Missouri)? Did he have contact with what we now know is our Varner line in Gibson County, TN.?
- Need to re-look at the Varner Genealogy books owing this new information.
 - Varner Families of the South, Volumes One & Two, by Gerald H. Varner
 - Varner, Verner, Werner Families of America, by Janice Palmer
- I will attempt to submit the DNA information to a wider array of DNA databases outside of Family Tree DNA in hopes that it may result in other DNA matches from individuals who did not use Family Tree DNA.
- The Varner's that moved to Dennison, TX. Moved through Oklahoma. Was there known contact between our Varner's and the Varner's of William Virgil Varner?

New and exciting details are surfacing all the time. We need to redouble our efforts to pursue these new leads!!!!

Appendix A:

Biography of William Roy Varner

Dictated to tape in 1970. Transcribed 12/20/1998 by Carissa Walker.³

Way back in 1915, far back as I can remember, I guess, we lived at Whitesboro, Oklahoma. My dad and grand-dad [Evans] was blacksmiths, operated a blacksmith shop. We left Whitesboro by wagon and team coming out through the, over the Kiamichi, Winding Stair Mountains and ferried across the Arkansas River on a ferry, going to Boynton, Oklahoma.

We lived at Boynton approximately a year and a half and I went to school there at Boynton [Muskogee County], for about a term or so. And while we were at Boynton, my dad was employed with the Carter Oil Company, a roustabout and then pulling wells with teams and horse teams, back in them days, shallow wells. We left there, shipped out of there at Boynton, to Ranger, Texas in about the year 1919.

When we was in Ranger, Texas, my dad worked for oil company on a dray. First we moved there and we run a dray. He did that for probably a year, or less. Then he bought big horses and mules and he went in the teaming business for oil companies, by connection wagon. The word dray, we used to use it, the same as we do now, hauling freight from

³ Provided by Cheryl Varner Walker

a depot to their merchants, and this explains the dray part of it.

We moved from Ranger, Texas back to Jennings, Oklahoma in 1920 there where Doc Varner lived. We moved from Jennings over to Maramec that same year, which is 1920. I went to school there at Maramec, and that's where we lived for approximately 18 years.

My dad (George Washington Varner) at that time was in the trucking business, and we moved from Maramec to Panhandle, Texas [16 miles ENE of Amarillo] in 1924. Trucking from Panhandle, Texas over to Borger, Texas in February of 1925. It was a pretty rough place [laugh].

In 1926 we moved over to Spearman, Texas and trucked from there back to Stinnett, Texas which is on the north side of the Canadian River [north of Borger] trucking oil field equipment. We moved from there back to Maramec in 1927.

So my dad and I went to wheat harvest in 1928, western part of Oklahoma and west Texas. We came back that fall in 1928 to Maramec.

When we came back to Maramec we still had trucks and we went down to Yale, Oklahoma to start buyin' tank tops and tin and lumber, and went in the business of selling that tank top material to all the farmers all over the country for two dollars a square, ten foot square.

Lumber in those days, used lumber, was some five cents a foot.

In 1929, my mother and my dad went back to Tennessee, Dyer Tennessee, on a visit We was doin' pretty fair financially, sellin' tank top stuff, and he bought, of course, some pretty nice used cars for those days and the year 1930 come along, depression.

And we moved from Maramec out on farms and existed, and moved out on farm, workin' for Ray Privit, we lived out on his place. He bought the Ball place that year and we was farmin' it, and that was the year from '30-'32. And I'd run the tractor 12 hours and Red would run it the other 12 hours, and that's the way we would farm the place and put it in oats, wheat, back there in them days.

So we finally left that country, left there and we moved to west Texas in about the year of '34. We lived in west Texas from '34 to '42 employed with the City Service Oil Company during that time. We moved from Kermit, Texas to back here in Pawnee, Oklahoma in 1942, and I went to work here for general contractors, and I went to work time before cars for the Mitchell brothers, and I worked there for about one year. Then I went into business for myself, and that was in about '44...'43 I went into business for myself and I bought the building where I'm at now in 1944 and there was an old blacksmith shop and I operated there until 1955, and this is 1970.....

Geneva L. (Gentry) Varner ObituaryTuesday, December 5, 2006 10:22 am⁴

Geneva L. Varner, 94, died Friday, Dec. 1, 2006, in Moore. Services will be at 2 p.m. Wednesday in Poteet Funeral Chapel, Pawnee, with the Rev. Bob Copeland officiating. Interment will be in Highland Cemetery, Pawnee, under the direction of Poteet Funeral Home, Pawnee.

The daughter of Joseph Grundy Gentry and Bettie Ellen Shirley, she was born near Masham, Pawnee County, in October 1912 and lived most of her life in the area.

She married the love of her life, William "Bill" Roy Varner, July 3, 1930, in Drumright. They lived and worked in Pawnee all but about six years, when they worked in the oilfields in Texas. She helped her husband in the family business of Bill's Repair Shop, later named Varner Motor and Implement, located on the east side of the courthouse square in Pawnee, where they had the Ford tractor dealership for many years.

She was very active in the Pawnee community, where she was a member of the Rebekah Lodge, serving in every capacity in the lodge and the district and

one of the founding members of the Lake View Home Demonstration Club. She entered many items in the Pawnee County Fair, usually winning blue ribbons on dresses she had made for her daughters and granddaughters.

The couple were charter members of the Chief's Good Sam Club, where they enjoyed the last years of their life, not only camping with the club, but also traveling throughout the United States.

She served on the board of the Nutrition Site for a time, before she could no longer live by herself on their farm west of Pawnee.

A lifelong member of the First Baptist Church of Pawnee, she served many years as a Sunday school teacher and was always a faithful member. She put the Lord above all else in her life and lived the life she knew the Lord wanted her to.

The last survivor of her generation on both sides of her family, she was preceded in death by her husband, her parents, three sisters, Madie McConnell, Demie Chadwick and Dorothy Lake; two brothers, Herchel Gentry and Herman Gentry; her son, Raymond Joe Varner; her daughter-in-law, Barbara Gambill Varner and a granddaughter, Brenda Varner.

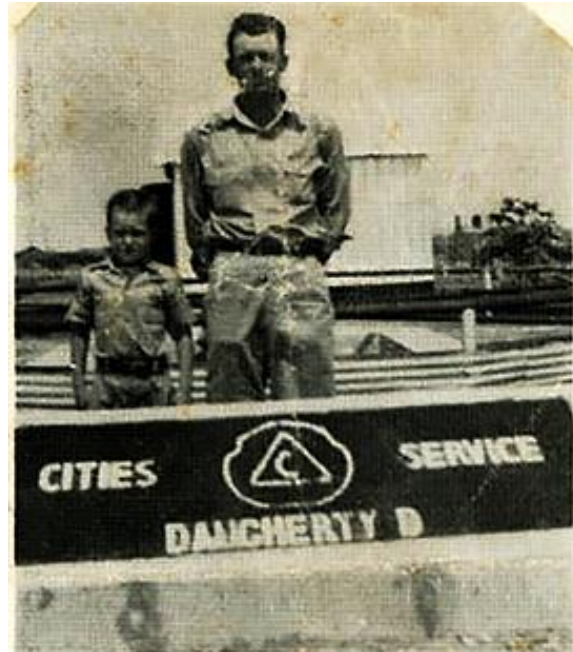
She is survived by two sons, Robert L. Varner and his wife, Betty, of Henryetta and William V. Varner of Oklahoma City;

⁴ Provided by Cheryl Varner Walker

two daughters, Shirley A. Kelly and her husband, Lawrence William Thomas Kelly Jr., of Moore and Kathryn S. Broad of Oklahoma City; eight grandchildren, Cheryl Walker and her husband, David, of Oklahoma City, Michael Varner and his wife, Kim, of Moore, Jan Brown and her husband, Kevin, of Henryetta, Terry Varner and his wife, Judy, of Schuler, Lawrence W. T. Kelly III and his wife, Tina, of Del City, Marilyn DiSalvatore and her husband, Roger, of Oklahoma City, Teresa Seabolt and her husband, Mike, of Oklahoma City and Jennifer Broad of Norman; 15 great-grandchildren, one great-great grandchild and many loving nieces, nephews and a host of friends.

Memorials may be made to the First Baptist Church, 720 Sixth Street, Pawnee, Okla., 74058.

Image of William Roy Varner & son William Virgil Varner.



Value of first aid training and the Company Snake Bite Kit was well demonstrated on the Company's Daugherty-D lease in Winkler county, Texas, this summer when "Billy," 6-year old son of W. R. Varner, Company pumper, was struck on the leg by a rattler. Varner administered first aid on the lease and then drove 10 miles to the nearest doctor. After 14 hours "Billy" was released from the hospital, and 10 days later he was back at play. During July and August, Varner killed 16 rattlesnakes on the 80-acre lease, which represents a density of two snakes per well.

Have Happy Holidays.....

Bruce Varner