

News, Updates, & More

Varner Family Genealogy

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FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR

Copies of all issues of the newsletter and much additional genealogy information is downloadable from the Varner Family website.

<Link to Varner Family Genealogy>

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

Please provide suggestions for future newsletter subjects. Need specific areas of interest or specific family information you would like to see written up.

QUESTIONS / NEWS

Q) There was a "Dr. Riggs" who was buried in Richland, MO. Could he be related to our Riggs' in Miller County?

A) Further research reveals that this person was a Reuben Riggs [1770-1882] born in North Carolina, died and buried in Richland, MO. Several descendants of Reuben Riggs called Camden County home.

It appears however that Reuben, and therefore his descendants apparently

are not closely related to our Riggs in Miller County. An initial search of the Riggs genealogy website reveals no Reuben Riggs.

Edward Varner, The Civil War Hero?

Ned (Edward) Varner has always fascinated me. His exploits in the Civil War, and then his foggy family life has made Ned an interesting character.

EDWARD D.⁵ VARNER, (GEORGE⁴, FREDRICK³, JOHN², HANS¹) born Feb. 20, 1839 in Missouri, died Jan. 8, 1917 in Pottsboro, Grayson Co., Texas. Military records list Edward as 5'7" tall, Blue eyes, Fair complexion, and Red hair.¹ Apparently married (1) **NANCY JAN KINWORTHY**, born about. 1846, died Dec. 27, 1898.² No records have been located for this marriage that reportedly occurred in August 1862 in Miller County, Missouri. Other Kinworthy's lived in Miller County in 1860. The 1860 census shows Nancy J. Kinworthy (b. abt. 1842 in Indiana) in Miller County, Osage Township, living as a domestic with an Abraham Brasier family.³ This is close to the farm where Edward worked at this same time. Three children who used the last name of Varner were associated

with this relationship.⁴ Married (2) **EMELINE FARR** on 4 October, 1898 in Miller County, Missouri.⁵ License states that both Emeline and Edward were from Brumley, MO. at the time. Emeline is said to have earlier married at least two other men which produced children. Some of these children also have the Varner last name however it is not known if they assumed that surname after the marriage between Edward and Emeline or if they were in fact biologically Edwards. Records need to be further researched.

The 1840 federal census of George Varner in Pettis County, Missouri appears to show Edward listed as one of two children under 5 years old.⁶

The 1850 federal census lists Edward Varner still with the family in Pettis County, Missouri.⁷

In the 1860 Federal census Edward is in Miller County as a farm hand with the Flaughner family. Edward's younger sister Elizabeth also resides with that family.⁸ Elizabeth would later marry a James Monroe Flaughner who was born in 1840.

¹ National Archives Soldier's Certificate #96968 for Pvt. Edward Varner, Co. E, 33rd Missouri Volunteers

² Buried Hawkins Cemetery, Brumley, Miller County, Missouri. Tombstone says: Nancy J, Varner wife of Ed. Varner, Died Dec. 27, 1898, aged 52 yrs.

³ 1860 United States Federal Census. Missouri> Miller> Osage TWP> Page 28

⁴ Myrtle Varner, b. 2/14/1885. Robert Alexander Varner, b. 3/4/1888. Ernest Varner, b. 1897.

⁵ Missouri Marriage Records, 1805-2002, State of Missouri Marriage License, page 479

⁶ 1840 United States Federal Census. Missouri> Pettis> No Twp> Page 5.

⁷ 1850 United States Federal Census. Missouri> Pettis> District 68> Page 80

⁸ 1860 United States Federal Census. Missouri> Miller> Osage TWP> Page 27

Edward was known throughout his life as "Ned".⁹ Edward had two known relationships. There are several children who have the Varner surname from those relationships, but it seems unclear how many if any of those children were fathered by Edward.¹⁰

On 8/8/1862 Edward enrolled in the 33rd Missouri Infantry at Tuscumbia. He went on to participate in the Battle of Helena, Arkansas and the Battle of Old River Lake. He was wounded several times. The complete medical records for Edward indicate very difficult war time experiences:

- 20-22 June, 1863 – Colic
- 5-7 July, 1863 – Gunshot wound to left face
- 8-17 July, 1863 – Gunshot wound to right arm & back
- 28-29 July, 1863 – Intestinal fever
- 6-12 October, 1863 – Incised wound
- 14-26 October, 1863 – Intestinal fever
- 8-10 January, 1864 – Constipation
- 30 March-1 June, 1864 – Diarrhea
- 30 May-2 April, 1864 – Intestinal fever
- 4 or 6 June, 1864 – Gunshot wound to face, entered mouth, exited left of 3rd vertebra¹¹

⁹ Oral history from several sides of the family descending from George Varner

¹⁰ Conclusions of family researcher Dee Bremer based upon research into these children's history

¹¹ National Archives Soldier's Certificate #96968 for Pvt. Edward Varner, Co. E, 33rd Missouri Volunteers

Lest we ever forget how much many suffer in war here is a more detailed accounting of the 4 June, 1864 wound that Edward suffered at the Battle of Old River Lake, Arkansas as described in the medical records. Gunshot wound of mouth, jaw, and neck. Minnie ball entered mouth, wounded lower lip, tongue, fractured lower jaw both sides, and emerged a little to the left of 3rd cervical vertebra.¹²

Edward was treated at the hospital in Memphis Tennessee from 7 June through 27 October, 1864. Operation on 29 June, 1864 anterior half of right side of body of jaw and all of left side of body of jaw, excepting a piece 1 ½ inches in length to the left of Symphysis (Place where two bones are closely joined) removed through mouth. Transferred to the medical facility at Camp Douglas, Chicago, Illinois. Wound was so severe that on 7 February, 1865 he received permanent discharge and ¾ disability from the government. Edward experienced seizures throughout the remainder of his life as a result of his injuries.¹³

Nothing is ever easy and there are conflicts in the documentation as to when Edward received his war ending wound. One medical document states that the wound occurred on 4 June, 1864 during the Battle of Old River Lake

¹² National Archives Soldier's Certificate #96968 for Pvt. Edward Varner, Co. E, 33rd Missouri Volunteers

¹³ National Archives Soldier's Certificate #96968 for Pvt. Edward Varner, Co. E, 33rd Missouri Volunteers

in Arkansas. A second medical document states that Edward was absent from the regiment on June 7, 1864 and thereafter due to the gunshot wound. Further documents state that Edward was treated in the hospital in Memphis beginning on June 7, 1864. Battle reports for the 33rd Missouri Infantry show the Battle of Old River Lake occurred between the evening of June 5 and through the day of June 6. Old River Lake in Arkansas is approximately 170 miles down the Mississippi from Memphis. It appears unlikely that Edward was wounded on the 4th. Instead he was likely wounded on the evening of the 5th or on the 6th of June, 1864. The seriousness of the wound might have meant he would have been ferried as soon as possible to Memphis arriving sometime on the 7th.

The following are excerpts from the Regimental History for the 33rd Regiment Infantry. Ordered into the field in Missouri in September 1862 (Phelps, Dent, Texas, & Wright counties) till December 19. Moved to St. Louis thence to Columbus, KY. December 19-25, thence to Helena, Ark. January 5, 1863. Expedition to Duvall's Bluff, Ark. January 16-20. Expedition to Yazoo Pass, and operations against Fort Pemberton and Greenwood February 24-April 8. Repulse of Holmes' attack on Helena July 4, 1863. Garrison duty at Helena, Ark., till January 28, 1864. Ordered to Vicksburg, Miss. January 28, 1864. Meridian Campaign February 3-March 2. Red River Campaign March 10-May 22. Fort DeRussy March 14. Occupation of Alexandria March 16. Henderson's Hill March 21. Battle of Pleasant Hill April 9.

About Cloutiersville and Cane River Crossing April 22-24. At Alexandria, La. April 30-May 13. Bayou LaMouri May 7. Retreat to Morganza May 13-20. Mansura May 16. Yellow Bayou May 18. Moved to Vicksburg, Miss. Thence to Memphis, Tenn. May 22. Old River Lake June 6. The regiment went on through the remainder of the war involved in several engagements, however Edward had received the war ending wound by this time.¹⁴

The Union command report on the Battle of Old River Lake indicates that on the evening of 5 June, 1864 the Second and Third Brigade commanded by Brigadier General Jos. A. Mower bivouacked on the Bank of the river. It was not until the morning of 6 June, 1864 at 6 O'clock when the 5th Minnesota Infantry and the 33rd Missouri Infantry commanded by George W. Van Beek began a line of march towards Lake Village. After about 4 miles a skirmish began. Pushed the enemy about 2 miles where the main force was concealed in woods on the opposite end of a bayou. The 33rd was positioned on the left which began advancing towards the enemy however the covering artillery stopped prematurely and the advancing infantry faced withering fire in the open as they advanced on the concealed enemy. Battle lasted about one hour until the enemy retreated.¹⁵

¹⁴ Compendium of the War of the Rebellion, Pages 1335 & 1336

¹⁵ Engagement on Old River Lake battle report of Brigadier General Jos. A. Mower

In the 1870 Federal census Edward D. and Nancy Kinworthy are together in Miller County. Beside them in the census is a Elisha Kinworthy household.¹⁶

The 1880 censuses did not capture Edward.¹⁷

An 1886 affidavit provided to the government to support Edward's continued disability claims provide some additional insight into Edward's Civil War injuries. In support of the disability the affiant states that "Edward Varner is not able to performing any kind of manual labor whatever on account of gunshot wound of mouth and right-rist(wrist)." An 1887 affidavit refers to the fact that Edward has epilepsy which produce convulsions as many as twice a day or as rare as once every two weeks. The affiant describes Edward as "crazy" when the "fits" occur.

An affidavit given by Edward himself on 11 February, 1889 in support of an increase in Pension benefits, Edward states he first suffered from the epilepsy in March of 1865 while "clearing land for to plow". That he continues to have many "spells" a day. Edward states that he sometimes can tell when a spell is coming on, but on others it is sudden

and he cannot remember anything. When he comes to he feels stupid, sleepy, and that "even the ground looks greener for 3 or 4 days after one is over". This document along with all others is signed by Edward with an X.¹⁸

A Department of the Interior document dated 5 August, 1898 and signed (X) by Edward for the quarterly disability payment asks some questions that are important in the answers that Edward provided and could help understand the Nancy J. Kinworthy relationship. Those questions and answers were: Q. Are you married? A. No. Wife dead. Q. Where & by whom were you married? A. Line through, no answer. Q. What record of marriage exists? A. Line through, no answer. Q. Were you previously married? A. No. Q. Have you any children living? A. No.¹⁹

On 27 December, 1898 Nancy J. Kinworthy died in Miller County. This was two months after Edward married Emeline Farr. With no records to support a formal marriage to or divorce from Nancy Kinworthy it seems plausible that Edward and Nancy were never actually married. In later documents to the government Edward lists Nancy as a now deceased wife.²⁰

¹⁶ 1870 United States Federal Census. Missouri> Miller> Osage TWP> Page 2

¹⁷ There is a Nancy J. Kinworthy in Maries County listed as widowed and age 40, however with five children ages 7-21 it seems unlikely to be the same person. It is also curious that Edward's sister Nancy Varner also is not captured for the 1880 census.

¹⁸ National Archives Soldier's Certificate #96968 for Pvt. Edward Varner, Co. E, 33rd Missouri Volunteers

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²⁰ National Archives Soldier's Certificate #96968 for Pvt. Edward Varner, Co. E, 33rd Missouri Volunteers

Edward again is not captured in the census for 1900. In a 1904 affidavit Emeline Varner vouches for the seizures that Edward has. Indicates that she has known Edward for 24 years, and that the "attacks" are of a much greater severity then 10 years ago. It should be noted that Emeline also signed the document with an X.

In the 1910 Federal census Edward D. and Emeline Farr are in Equality Twp, District 0080, Miller County. Edward is listed as a Civil War Veteran.²¹

By 1915 Edward Varner is in Pottsboro, Texas where his sister Cynthia is located. In a 6 April, 1915 Department of the Interior document Edward again answers several questions: Q. Date and place of birth? A. Pettis County, MO. Q. Name of Organization in which you served? A. 33rd Mo Infantry. Q. Post Office at enlistment? A. Tuscumbia, MO. Q. Wife's Full Name? A. Nancy Jan Kinweather. Q. When, where, and by whom were you married? A. Aug. 1862, Tuscumbia, Mo. Justice of the Peace. Q. Record of Marriage? A. Don't know. Q. Was present wife married before you? A. Have no wife at this time. Q. Are you living with your wife? A. No. Wife number two is at Tuscumbia, Mo. Q. Names and dates of birth of all your children? A. Two by my first wife. Both dead.²²

²¹ 1910 United States Federal Census. Missouri> Miller> Equality TWP> Page 4

²² National Archives Soldier's Certificate #96968 for Pvt. Edward Varner, Co. E, 33rd Missouri Volunteers

On 27 January, 1916 the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Pensions, Pensioner Dropped form indicates that Edward died on 8 January, 1916 in Pottsboro, TX. His last pension payment of \$30 having been dispersed on 4 November, 1915.²³

On 7 February, 1916 Sintha Quassa (Cynthia Varner Quassa), Edward's sister applied for reimbursement of burial costs for Edward. Cynthia is listed in the document as living in Grayson (Pottsboro), Texas. In the application Cynthia was asked several questions: Q. Was he ever married? A. Yes. Q. How many times and to whom? A. Twice. Nancy J. Kinworthy and Emeline Fair. Q. Did his wife survive him? A. 1st wife is dead. 2 wife is living. Q. If not living, names and dates of death? A. 1st wife has been dead for 20 years. Was separated from second wife. Q. Was he ever divorced? A. No. Did pensioner leave a child under the age of 16 years? A. No. A. Is any children still living? A. No. Q. Did the deceased leave any money, real estate, or personal property? A. No. Had nothing. Q. What is your relationship to the deceased? A. Sister. Q. Are you married? A. No. (Widow) Q. What was cause of pensioner's death? A. Grip (Influenza like symptoms). Q. Give the names of person by whom the pensioner was nursed during the last sickness? A. Paul

²³ National Archives Soldier's Certificate #96968 for Pvt. Edward Varner, Co. E, 33rd Missouri Volunteers

Gabbert and wife. Sintha Quassa. John Varner. Q. Where did the pensioner live/die during the last sickness? A. At Paul Gabberts – Dennison, TX. Amount of expenses: Nursing Care-\$44, Undertaker \$45. It should be noted that in every place where the affiant's name is listed, it is spelled Sintha instead of Cynthia. Including the signature which appears to have been signed by the affiant.²⁴

In a 13 June, 1917 Declaration for Widow's Pension, Emeline Varner declared that she was the widow of Edward Varner. That she married Edward under the name of Emeline Farr on 4 September, 1898 by Rev. AJ. Henderson at Brumley, Miller County, MO. That Emeline & Edward had each been married once before. Later supporting affidavits to Emeline's claim state that Edward & Emeline lived together as husband and wife up until Edward went to Texas because his health had deteriorate and in hopes of improving his health. Further that Emeline remained in Tuscumbia after Edward left. In 1919 Emeline moved to Kansas City, Kansas and has never remarried. This was substantiated by the Widow Division and the obtaining of letters from Miller County in Missouri and Grayson County in Texas that no divorce had been granted to Edward or

²⁴ National Archives Soldier's Certificate #96968 for Pvt. Edward Varner, Co. E, 33rd Missouri Volunteers

Emeline.²⁵ On 5/2/1928 Emeline Farr Varner died in Wyandotte County, KS.²⁶

George Varner of Missouri Direct Line DNA

Attempts to meet Bill Varner (Billy Joe Varner b. 1944) in Versailles have been unsuccessful.

The meeting had to be again postponed because of further medical issues.

I really do believe that Bill is anxious to complete the DNA test. Just a matter of recuperation. The next attempt will be the week of the 10th of August.

Fingers crossed.

Have happy dog days of summer!.....

Bruce Varner

²⁵ National Archives Soldier's Certificate #96968 for Pvt. Edward Varner, Co. E, 33rd Missouri Volunteers

²⁶ Maple Hill Cemetery Records, Kansas City, Kansas. (Emeline Farr Varner, 1856-1928, Rest in Peace)