
News, Updates, & More

Varner Family Genealogy

IN THIS ISSUE:

From the Administrator	1
Questions/News.....	1
A Letter Between Aunt & Niece.....	5
George Varner of Missouri.....	9
Direct Line	
Google Maps of Saline Valley.....	10
Wildlife Area	

September 2015

FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR

As always, copies of all issues of the newsletter and much additional genealogy information is downloadable from the Varner Family website.

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

Looking for future newsletter subjects. Specific areas of interest or specific family information is needed.

QUESTIONS / NEWS

Q) From Vivian Sibyl (Bruce) Kessler:

"The James C. Piles you cited [*Sic-Newsletter*] as being an administrator for the estate of Edmund Riggs. Was he the James Carroll Piles who married Emily Jane Berry, daughter of Phillips Hawkins Berry and Mary "Polly" Jenkins? I have him in my tree because Rachel Jenkins Newton, my ggg-grandmother, also married Phillip Berry."

A) Yes he was. I believe he is also mentioned in other spots in the Edmund

Riggs estate documentation. Edmund Riggs wife was Mary Ann Elizabeth Piles. It is always amazing to see how interconnected everyone is.

Q1) Both from Don & Judy (Silvara) Varner:

Many years ago when Norman Varner was still alive and attending Varner Reunions, he took us to that exact same spot that you mentioned in *[Sic-A previous]* newsletter. He said that is where his grandfather Samuel buried his parents, George and Harriett. He also took us to the Flaughner farm. He told us that Samuel was buried up on a hill but we would have to get there by tractor or 4 wheel drive.

No one was home so we didn't go looking for the grave. Now I don't remember what Flaughner lived there or if it was where he used to live. It was on Hwy 52 west of Capps Landing.

Q2) There is a man named Noah Adams. He always came to the Varner Reunions. His wife was doing research on the Dallas Co. Varner's. There was a Samuel Alexander Varner living in Miller Co. working for a farmer named Robert Alford about the same time that Samuel Phillip Varner was in Miller Co. in 1860. His father's name was Jacob Varner. The two Samuels are only 10 years apart. Samuel Alexander of Dallas Co. married the daughter of the farmer, Robert Alford. He named one of his sons Bert Owen. His first wife Martha Lucinda Alford died after having 8

children at the age of 32. He married again and had four more. One was Bert Owen. I find that name interesting. I wonder if the two Samuels were cousins?

A1) Cecil Daniel Varner, 05/28/1919-01/11/2012 (William Owen⁶, Nancy Ann⁵, George⁴) is who told me this information. Cecil described where he had been told the location was.

"North out of Tuscumbia on 17. Take first left (about 4 or 5 miles). Goes to Saline Valley State Wildlife Area. After crossing creek as you go up the hill on the left back off of road".¹ There are discrepancies to these directions as the "first" left on 17 comes several times before 4 or 5 miles. Cecil said the this was passed onto him by Francis Logan Varner 12/03/1874-05/06/1939 (Samuel Philip⁵, George⁴), so Cecil heard this story at an age under 20 years old since Francis Logan died in 1939.

About 12 to 15 years ago, after hearing this information from Cecil at a family reunion, dad and I went looking for this location. Cecil did not want to go for health reasons, and because he could not speak from knowing the place, just from being told about it. We limited our search that day to those left turns off of 17 that seemed to go into the wildlife area. There was one that had us

¹ As written down by Bruce Thomas Varner (1951-), when told by Cecil Daniel Varner (1919-2012), during a Varner reunion at Ha-Ha Tonka in about the year 2000.

crossing a small creek shortly after turning off of 17 on a gravel road that began climbing a hill. (That road eventually became very rough and travelled completely through the wildlife area, coming out on north/west of the state controlled park. I also remember that we almost drowned the car having to cross a creek where you had to drive right through the creek as there was no bridge.) As further identification for the road we picked as most likely, there were two or three houses on the right or north side of the gravel road in the first ½ mile from 17 even though the road was supposed to be within the wildlife park.

So we did our best to interpret the instructions. The gravel road did seem to level off about ¼ mile in, so we assumed that the area between the creek and the top of the first hill was where we should be. All the land on the left (south) side of the gravel road was either farm, cattle, or fallow acreage. Some behind fence, some not. We looked without success for paths back off the road and for possible old footings or foundations where buildings might have been.

Is this the area were George and Harriet are buried? Maybe. But that assumes we were on the correct gravel road. That it was not in fact much further off the main highway then where we looked. And that Cecil had remembered the directions even half-way accurately

60 years after those instructions had being told to him.

I also recall hearing many years ago from a person I cannot remember now, that stated some of the other family descendants of Nancy's siblings also maintain a legend for the same area.

I have tried to look on Google Earth and relocate the road without success. Everything looks different 15 years later. I assume I would have to go again myself to find the same spot.

I still think that it is worth others looking at this with fresh eyes. Maybe starting from scratch with Cecil's instructions, in hopes of finally locating the spot. The most promising thing about this story is the fact that the area described is not built up. Being in or around the wildlife boundaries have prevented much building from occurring. That gives us a fighting chance that some of the original clues might still be there, somewhere.

I do have some doubts about this location. 1860 census data of the people listed in that census before and after George and Harriet seem to all be closer to what is now Mary's Home. So, the true location might be closer to Mary's Home? The area where Cecil described is 3 to 4 miles from Mary's Home as the crow flies.

I have included two maps at the end of this newsletter that depicts the general

area where Cecil describes George and Harriet's possible place of rest.

Maybe I have misread Cecil's instructions. Can anyone else come up with a different interpretation of the location as provided by Cecil's instructions?

As far as where Samuel is buried. Cecil mentioned that also, but I cannot find any place where I wrote down those instructions.

Dad and I did seem to find the spot that same day. There was someone home at that property. We asked about Samuel Varner's grave and were told that there were some unknown graves up the hill, but it is very hard to get to. The owner suggested that the way we were dressed, and without a guide, we could not find it. I never went back.

It seems (But this is very vague.) that the property is on 52 east out of Tuscumbia which would place it on the east side of the Osage river. Not very far. On the right side of 52. You drive back a long ways on the gravel driveway and get to a single story house. It is not a road, but a driveway as it ends at the house. The area is mostly fenced. To the left as you are facing the house in the driveway is a large hill and that is where the man pointed to the graves being located. He may have said that they had markers, but were not legible.

A2) There is another Samuel Varner in this part of Missouri during our Samuel Philip Varner's lifetime. It is unknown if they are closely related, or related at all? There are members of our Varner family out of Oglethorpe County, Georgia that settled in Tennessee.

We know the history of our Samuel Varner. Lived in Miller County his whole life. What I found about Samuel Alexander Varner is shown below. I have not done any serious research on this myself.

1850 Subdivision 22, Meigs County, Tennessee census:

Jacob Varner, 24, Born Tenn. Blacksmith
Nancy Varner, 23
Mary Varner, 3
John Varner, 1

**Odd thing. The very next census entry is another Jacob Varner? Jacob Varner, 24. Jane? Varner, 30. John Varner, 1.*

1860 Miller Township, Marion County, Missouri census:

Jacob Varner, 33, Born Tenn. Blacksmith
Louisa J. Varner, 28, Born Mo.

1870 Jasper Township, Dallas County, Missouri census:

Jacob Varner, 45, Born Tenn.
Matilda Varner, 21, Born Mo.
Sarah Varner, 20, Born Tenn.
Jacob A. Varner, 16, Born Tenn.
Samuel A. Varner, 14, Born Tenn.

1880 Jasper Township, Dallas County,
Missouri Census:

Robert Alford, 38

Mary Alford, 39

John Alford, 11

Samuel Varner, 24, Son-in-law

-Born-Mo, Father-Tenn., Mother-Tenn.

Lucinday Varner, 18, daughter

1900 Jasper Township, Dallas County,
Missouri census:

Samuel A. Varner, 44, b. Feb. 1856,

-Born-Mo, Father-Tenn., Mother-????

Emma P. Varner, 33,

-Born-Iowa, Father-PA, Mother-Iowa

William R. Varner, 18

-Born-Mo, Father-Mo, Mother-Mo

James M. Varner, 14

-Born-Mo, Father-Mo, Mother-Mo

Everett Varner, 12

-Born-Mo, Father-Mo, Mother-Mo

Nettie J. Varner, 11

-Born-Mo, Father-Mo, Mother-Mo

Rosa P. Varner, 4

-Born-Mo, Father-Mo, Mother-Iowa

Henry C. Hudgeons, 9, stepson

-Born-Mo, Father-Mo, Mother-Iowa

Floyd A. Hudgeons, 7, stepson

-Born-Mo, Father-Mo, Mother-Iowa

1910 Jasper Township, Dallas County,
Missouri census:

Samuel Varner, 44,

Emmie L. Varner, 42

Rosa P. Varner, 14

Minnie O. Varner, 8

John M. Varner, 6

Berta O. Varner, 2/12

Evert Varner, 22

Mrs. Anna E. Cutsinger, 21

Arthur D. Cutsinger, 3

Emmie G. Cutsinger, 1

Georgia A. Cutsinger, 4/12

This Samuel Varner does not seem to appear in any censuses after 1910. I have not follow up on any of the descendants. Would be nice to know what if any relationship there is to our Varner family.

A Letter Between Aunt & Niece

A while back Vivian Kessler provided me with a letter written in 1950, from Cora Lee Varner Meads to her aunt Eurelda Varner Newton.

I thought that the letter was in interesting insight to both those families lives and the family in general in that time period. Thank you to Vivian for providing a copy of the letter, and allowing me to reproduce it here.

I had to limit the size of the image file, so the letter cannot be enlarged very well. If you have problems seeing the image clearly, at a large enough size, I have also placed the letter here on the website.

The letter is from **Cora Lee (Varner) Meads** [10/28/1899-01/02/1983], daughter of John Lawrence Varner, to **Eurelda (Varner) Newton** [11/15/1871-01/11/1959], daughter

of Nancy Ann Varner & sister to John Lawrence.

The letter mentions several family members:

John Lawrence Varner [12/17/1866–12/11/1951]

Melvin Roscoe Meads [05/22/1895–01/16/1980]

Bert Lonzo Varner [05/10/1902–03/14/1991]

Ethel Eunice (Varner) Dimoush [10/05/1904–12/30/1979]

Pebble May (Varner) Bennett [09/21/1910–04/26/2003]

Howard Andrew Bennett [09/12/1910–06/1983]

Thomas Arnel Meads [09/13/1918–????]

Roy Lee Meads [07/07/1930–]

Millie Jane (Horton) Varner [12/30/1878–11/22/1977]

Lonnie Ray Varner [03/09/1914–03/04/1998]

Walter Alva Varner [06/19/1904–07/26/1961]

Ida May (Whitworth) Newton [12/03/1998–10/25/1975]

Arlie Loranzo Newton [07/29/1896–01/18/1958]

Mollie Newton [?] Eurelda's daughter

Rosa Evelyn Meads [11/11/1932–]

Have fun reading a slice of the past....

1 - 31 - 50
P.O. Summit Mo
P.R.S.
Dear Old Auntie
Will ans your letter rec'd yesterday was
sure glad to hear from you. and that all
is well with you & yours. Well I'm so proud
I can say that our daddie is getting along
just fine so far. Roscoe saw Bert at the
Plant yesterday and he saw Pa & mother
Sunday and all was just fine. up getting
around in the house. but of course things
can happen and do happen all at once. but
the drs is watching his blood pressure pretty
close. yes mother is nervous I know but if
something should happen to Pa I sure don't
know how she would make it. but she is
on a diet and the drs told her to prepare
light foods for him but you know they are
close to the grocer store and they both get their
pension and they have anything they want &
need to eat for nourishment. I don't get
to go see them as often as I'd like to but
Ethel Bert & Pebble go every little bit and
see about them and they all have telephones
and the next door neighbor has a telephone
and they hear that way when they can't go.

2

you see Pebble & Howard both have
 just had an operation but they are just
 getting along fine. All our kids live
 pretty close to us except Lancel he lives
 at Marshall Mo. And you know Roy Lee
 is in the Army his Stationed in Fort Bliss
 Texas. havnt heard from him for about 2
 weeks now. But he was just fine the last
 time I heard from him. Well its not so cold
 here this morning. Boy it was cold here
 yesterday. 12 above yesterday morning.
 Well Aunt Relda I know mother &
 daddy would simply be tickled pink
 if you could come and see them. I think
 Lonnie is staying there now. you see he
 moved his family to Calhoun down
 where Walter Varner lives. And his working
 in N.C. tell Mae & Arlie I said hello.
 I still have 3 kids at home yet. And 4
 thats not married yet. when you write
 Mollie tell her I said howdy and that I
 write her and am still hoping I'll get an
 answer. Well Aunt Ive got to finish
 my feeding. So Ill close and let you
 write me. Rosa & I are piecing on quilts of
 lays. And we Pieced over a hundred blocks
 yesterday. Ive almost Pieced four sets of blocks

What do you do for past time? Ive embroidered a pair of pillow cases this winter
 and when I go back to town Im going to get some more to work on.
 the mail has come so good bye. and soon

this winter

George Varner of Missouri Direct Line DNA

The stars aligned on August 10th and I was able to meet with Bill Varner (Billy Joe Varner b. 1944) in Versailles. MO.

Bill and I had a long discussion, with me telling him more details of our side of the Varner family and Bill telling me about his line. It appears that none of the living members of Bill's line were really aware of our side of the family. They knew some Varner's were in Camden County, but not the relationship.

Bill provided me with a boatload of information surrounding his siblings, and descendants. The bad news is that as I sit here to put some of that information in perspective, I find that it has all been mistakenly thrown away! Apparently, when I recently used the same folder to attend a last minute meeting, I removed the pages of my scribbling and later threw them out. The trash is long gone now, so I guess I will be having another long conversation with Bill to reproduce the same data.....

The good news is that Bill provided the DNA samples!

Family Tree DNA must be very busy right now. I mailed in the sample on the same day it was provided (August 10th). Family Tree DNA however did not post receiving the sample until the 25th. A

check on the website reveals that the expected timeframe for completion of the testing is between November 11th & 25th. So, it looks like we will not know any answers until around Thanksgiving.

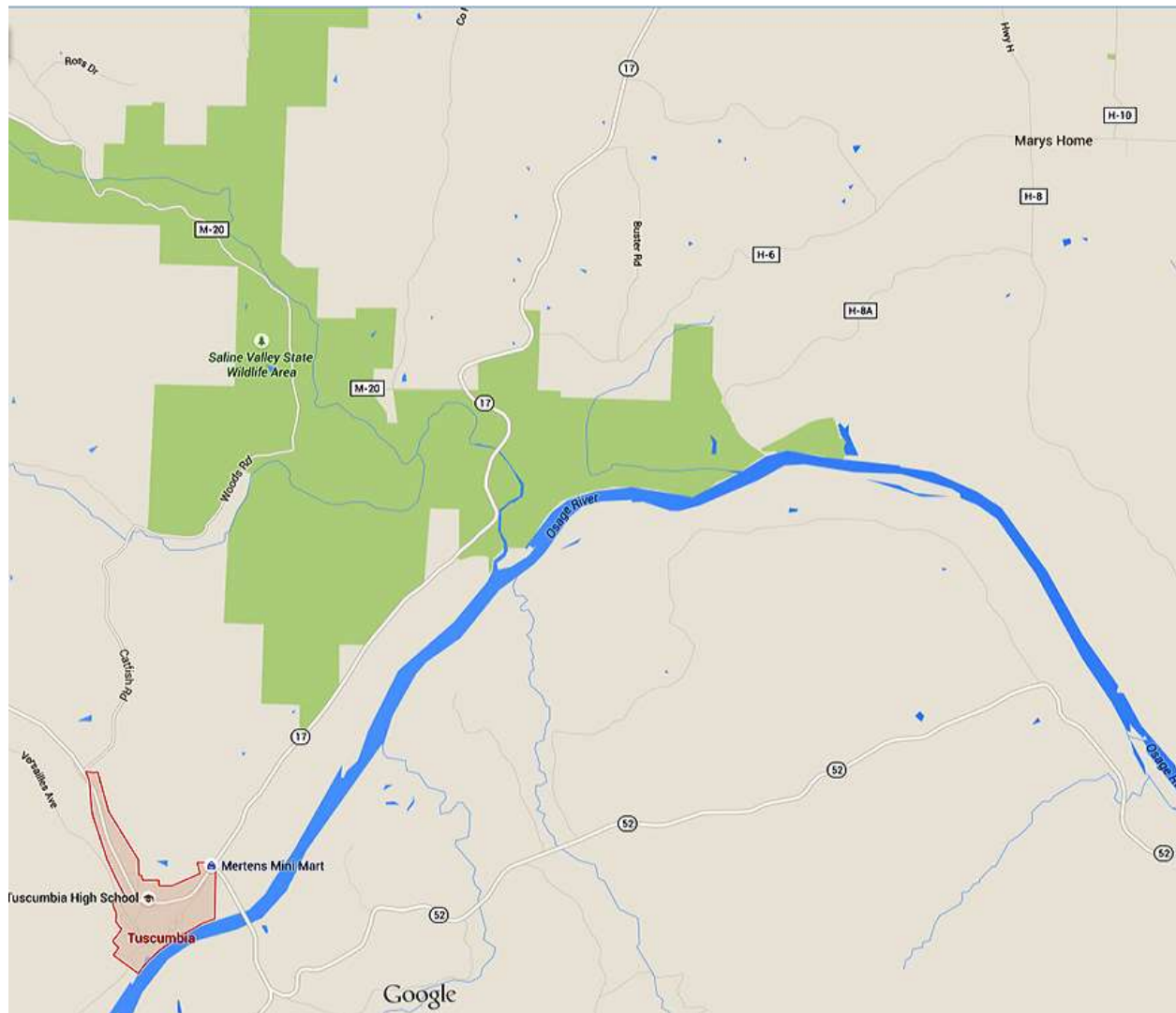
Something to look forward to.

Enjoy the fall.....

Bruce Varner

See Google Maps of the Saline Wildlife Area below!!!!!!

Google map of area where George and Harriet are likely buried. Saline Valley Wildlife Area and in the upper right is Mary's Home. From the junction of 17 & 52 (Mertens Mini Mart) in Tuscumbia, the state park first touches highway 17 on the left, about one mile north. The state park last touches 17 on the left between three and four miles north.



Google Earth map of the same area above.

