

News, Updates, & More

Varner Family Genealogy

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FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR

All previous newsletters and much genealogy information is found on the Varner Family website.

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

Fall is in the air. Summer is over. Soon another year will be gone. I will again make the new year's resolution to spend more time on genealogy. Just never seems to work out as planned. Life always gets in the way.

There is always the hope that new and exciting information will open up and solve another mystery. That is what gets us by from event to event.

Thank you to everyone who expressed concern about the passing of my mother earlier this month. Mother was well liked by all.

Ruth Leon Harrington (Varner)
06/31/1926 – 09/14/2016)

She had much genealogy information about her side of the family. I have that information but not gotten around to delving much into the maternal side of my family. Some interesting characters there.

I know I am a very distant cousin to President Franklin Pierce through mother. Also, a different maternal family immigrated as farmers from Canada into Kansas.

Maybe one day.....

QUESTIONS / NEWS

No questions this month

George Varner of Missouri Direct Line DNA

Only one minor event this month on George Varner of Missouri. Was contacted out of the blue by a Sharon Hagan who lives in Tennessee. The Varner side of her family was from Florida, and she believes even further back from Oglethorpe County, Georgia. Apparently she had found our website while looking for Varner's.

Sharon currently has some health issues and I was not able to yet obtain much about her Varner line.

What did surface is that her "Varner" Grandparents lived in Soddy Daisy, TN. As you may recall, Soddy Daisy is very close to where Camp Hiawassee was

located when George Varner travelled from Georgia to enlist in the US Army in 1810. Could it be that is why our George travelled there? Were there Varner's already in that location?

I seem to recall that record checks did not confirm any Varner's in that area of Tennessee at the time George would have enlisted, but who knows?

Hopefully more will come of this new found possibility.....

Riggs/Varner Connection

As reported here last month, our Riggs family contact in Washington state, Destiny had provided information about a Pat Riggs. Pat is a known direct blood descendant of our Edmund Riggs of Missouri.

I had made several unsuccessful attempts to contact Pat's daughter Tracy. Finally after some prodding, Destiny again made contact with Tracy.

Tracy Lyn Riggs (Leal) sent Dee and I an email. She provided her known lineage as follows:

Edmund C. Riggs (Our Edmund)
William Henry Riggs
Chester Arthur Riggs
Gary Patrick (Pat) Riggs
Tracy Lyn Riggs

Here is a quote from Tracy's email:

"I haven't gotten into family trees and research much. I did recently end up with an old trunk containing some long ago family photos, odds and ends from a couple generations back, a couple quite old bibles and such. My dad has some photos and stories as well."

As you can see, there is potential for much important information here. Tracy's acknowledgement that she now has possession of 2 old Bibles and photos, could produce additional details and maybe even an important photo or two!

Tracy indicated that her dad (Pat) was willing to submit DNA but because it is a busy time right now, we would have to be patient.

I will check again with Tracy as the holiday's near. Maybe new information is around the corner!

Why Did Three George Varner Siblings Move to Texas?

Another family mystery. We know that the three George & Harriet children who ended up in Texas were Edward (b. 1839), John (b. 1854), and Cynthia (b. 1856). But why?

All three siblings are buried in Grayson County, Texas in two cemeteries about 4 ½ miles apart.

Edward (Ned) Varner, (b. 02/20/1839 – d. 01/08/1916) is buried in Georgetown Cemetery, Pottsboro, Grayson Co. TX. [Find A Grave Memorial #75035404]

**Note: Find A Grave Memorial #72229823 shows a "Ned Varner" memorial listing in the Massey-Steel Cemetery where John is buried, with a birth year of 1916 & death year as unknown. There is no image of any gravestone so it is unclear if there is confusion with Edward (Ned) Varner's grave in the nearby Georgetown Cemetery, or if this is another unknown individual? Seems unlikely that this would be a child of John, Edward, or Cynthia as they would have been too old....*

Cynthia Elizabeth Varner Quassa, (b. 02/10/1856 – d. 03/03/1929) is also buried in Georgetown Cemetery, Pottsboro, Grayson Co. TX. [Find A Grave Memorial #75036063]

John D. Varner, (b. 08/29/1854 – d. 03/10/1929) is buried in Massey-Steel Cemetery, Preston, Grayson Co. TX. [Find A Grave Memorial #72229804]

In the Georgetown cemetery there are four Quassa's buried:

Lucy May Quassa (1922-1929)

Edna Ruth Quassa (1928-1929)

Infant Quassa (1939-1939)

Evelyn L. Quassa Podhajsky (1934-1994)

Cynthia (Varner) Quassa (42) is shown in the 1900 census for Equality Township, Miller Co. MO. with husband Wm Quassa (37). Also in the household is:

James Quassa (13)

Wm Quassa (7)

Luther Quassa (6)

Lucy Quassa (6)

Louis Quassa (3)

Edward Quassa (1)

Antha (Cynthia?) Quassa (54) is shown in the 1910 census for Precinct 8, Grayson Co. Texas. Also in the household is:

Luther Quassa (15)

Lucy Quassa (15)

Lewis Quassa (12)

Edward Quassa (10)

James Varner (22)

Wattie (Mattie?) Varner (17)

Synthia Quassa (64) is shown in the 1920 census for Pottsboro, Grayson Co. Texas. Also in the household is:

Lewis Quassa (22)

Edward Quassa (20)

J. D. (John D.?) Varner (76)

From these records we know that Cynthia moved there after 1900 and before 1910. Also that John Varner was living with Cynthia by 1920.

I admit I have not thoroughly studied John, but he seems to be an enigma. I have been unable to narrow him down through census or other records. I have references from unknown sources that he married Regina Martin. I know he had children. But I have not confirmed any records of his life between childhood and his old age with Cynthia in Texas. Maybe others have more? If so please let me know.

Edward (Ned) Varner lived in Miller County through the 1910 census. He died in Texas in 1916.

We also know that Edward was still in Miller County in 1910. We know Cynthia was in Grayson County, Texas before 1910.

Did she follow John, who was already there? Did John follow her there? We know that Cynthia and John died 7 days apart.

I have some fleeting details that I obtained from unknown sources, and therefore I have no way of knowing if they are true or false. Here is what I recall as having been told. Again, with no validation.

I believe that the Quassa family lives in Oklahoma and seem to recall being told that Cynthia travelled from Missouri through Oklahoma because of the Quassa family? Then went on to Texas?

I guess that this topic has morphed into a lack of knowledge about the details of Cynthia and John's lives. Maybe others out there who receive this newsletter can provide more details, so we can answer "Why Did Three George Varner Siblings Move to Texas?".

Enjoy the cool fall weather.....

Bruce Varner