

News, Updates, & More

Varner Family Genealogy

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December 2016

FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR

Previous newsletters and additional genealogy information is found on the Varner Family website.

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

QUESTIONS / NEWS

Q: Betty Held asked about the 2017 Family Reunion date, location, and times.

A: While not all the details have been worked out, here is what is known so far.

Linda Cushman indicated that the reunion will be held again on Saturday of Memorial weekend, which is May 27, 2017. We are hoping to continue having the reunion in the community room of the church at Macks Creek, but that is not finalized. If for some reason this cannot occur, then the reunion would revert back to Bolivar or Wheatland, Missouri where space is available.

More information will be forthcoming in the future.

This is enough information so that any needed reservations can be made now as the specific day is known.

George Varner of Missouri Direct Line DNA

It never ceases to amaze me the lack of matches that we have found so far to the direct George Varner of Missouri line through the DNA sample of Billy Joe Varner (1944-).

Remember that I am speaking about the male to male Y-DNA line from George Varner (1789-1861). NOT those of us that descend from Nancy Ann Varner (1841-1934) and Riggs.

When the Y-DNA sample was tested with FamilyTree DNA from Billy, only a single Y-DNA match was found. That match was to William Virgil Varner, our new found cousin that has been discussed in this newsletter before. Even this single match between Billy Joe and William Virgil was at a genetic distance of 4. Meaning that this match is at a minimum, several generations back to locate the MRCA (Most Recent Common Ancestor).

Early this year I authorized the FTDNA Family Finder test on the DNA of Billy Joe. Even the results of that testing produced no results.

I have recently received notification of a single Family Finder match to Billy Joe for a projected 2nd to 4th cousin. That person's name is Heather Abraham. I sent her an email explaining the possible connections and she responded.

Heather provided the following:

Heather (Bobbitt) Abraham is the daughter of Mary (Clopp) Bobbitt. Mary is the daughter of Lilly Irene (Foust) Clopp. Mary's sister Alice May Foust was Billy Joe Varner's mother.

Therefore, Heather is an established 2nd cousin to Billy Joe. So the Autosomal DNA predictions that FamilyTree made of Heather and Billy Joe being 2nd to 4th cousins was absolutely correct.

Back to my initial comment, it seems so strange that Billy Joe, and therefore the direct Varner lineage, has next to no matches!

When the number of matches is compared for example to the number of matches for myself and Warren Varner (The Riggs male line), we have many, many matches. Not just close matches, but literally hundreds of distant Family Finder matches! How can this be?

One of the answers seems to be that the true Y-DNA Varner line has a string of quite unique DNA.

We know that G Haplogroup of the DNA Varner's is a group that is within only a very small (Maybe 5%) portion of the

world population. That would account for the pool of Y-DNA matches being significantly smaller than the overall population. But only one other person?

That would however, not account for the single FamilyTree DNA match through Family Finder.

Remember that Family Finder is the FTDNA companies name for Autosomal DNA comparison and Autosomal DNA is passed down to both men and women.

A person potentially receives Autosomal DNA from every ancestor they have.¹ Two parents. Four grandparents. Eight great-grandparents. Sixteen great-great-grandparents. Appears that hardly anyone descended from the above 30 direct ancestors to Billy Joe has submitted for FTDNA testing.

Well, the answer appears to be that next to no one from our Autosomal lines has tested with FamilyTree DNA. Here GedMatch comes to the rescue.

I have uploaded the Autosomal DNA results for Billy Joe to GedMatch and the results are more promising. GedMatch matches are much more liberal. Producing dozens of "matches". In

¹ Autosomal DNA is different than Y or mT DNA. Autosomal DNA is much more quickly dissipated each generation. Plus not every ancestor passes Autosomal DNA on. Meaning that of those 30 ancestors, several will not have passed DNA down to Billy Joe..... It is hit and miss.

reality, most are very, very speculative and distant.

There were 17 matches that are suggested to be closer than four generations removed.

Those 17 matches are shown at the bottom of this newsletter with names and the possible generational distance to Billy Joe.

I am in the process of making contact with these individuals. The hope is that not only could this identify new relatives, but possibly identify relatives in locations where we have no evidence that our Varner family line lived. In doing so we might be able to help lock down which Varner's in which locations are our actual Varner ancestors. Keeping our fingers crossed.....

Riggs/Varner Connection

Continuing the theme of DNA matches, I have been doing some comparisons within FamilyTree DNA on my personal Autosomal results. As compared to Billy Joe, mine are providing several advances.

Within FamilyTree DNA Family Finder (Autosomal) results is the ability to compare family trees to your matches. At least in those instances where such trees have been provided by the person.

This has resulted in the surfacing of several new cousins on both my father's

side (Varner/Riggs) and my mother's side (Harrington/Jacka).

The task is then to look through the family trees of those closer matches with two objectives. First to identify surnames of which I am already familiar. The second to study those unfamiliar surnames in hopes of finding proximity matches of those persons in locations where our family is known to have lived.

It is still a tedious task, but as more and more people are DNA tested I believe that it is only a matter of time before new connections are found.

Overview of the Year 2016

I thought I would review those still open questions that have been discussed during the year as a reminder of where potential study could help us find new details and advance our family knowledge.

I used this year's newsletters as my main source for this information. I have tried to reference which newsletter the information came from so that it could be looked up if thought to be beneficial.

In January was an article on Gibson County, Tennessee. This is a location where the Varner family of William Virgil Varner (1933-), whose Y-DNA has matched Billy Joe Varner (1944-), lived for a while in their migrations west from North Carolina. This Varner line is a very promising link to find where our families

separated and is worthy of much ongoing study.

February's newsletter contained a rather detailed article about Autosomal DNA and how it is different than Y-DNA or mT-DNA. It is well worth re-reading because I believe that Autosomal will be the main method of piecing together family history in the future. In helping to fill in those gaps that occur between major discoveries.

In the March newsletter was an article about a specific attempt to find connections between two people who are a distant match of Autosomal DNA. A helpful understanding of how Autosomal try's to help in making connections. Also in that newsletter was a lengthy article about Camden County, Missouri. The county where many Varner descendants of Nancy Ann Varner (1841-1934) ended up, and many still live.

In April was a rehash of the family and DNA connections between the Varner and the Riggs families. Always a good refresher of those details. Also in that article was an overview of how Autosomal DNA can help in our always ongoing search for additional ancestor information.

May's newsletter had an article personnel to me, it was about the Kansas City Leed's Chevy plant and unionization there that occurred in the 1930's. My grandfather Bert Lonzo

Varner (1902-1991) was part of that movement.

No newsletter in June as I was out of the country.

In July was a discussion about how Autosomal DNA was able to help provide additional information about our family connection between Riggs and Varner. Also discussed was an overview of what was discussed at this year's family reunion. The Samuel Philip Varner (1846-1896) line and how it works down to Billy Joe Varner (1944-). That the Varner DNA results have concluded that our George Varner of Missouri line is NOT descended from any of the known DNA Varner lines in Oglethorpe County, Georgia. And finally a discussion about how the Varner, Newton, and Williams families are connected.

In August was a plea for folks to have Autosomal DNA samples submitted. How much that could help put family pieces together and what the benefits might be. There was then a very interesting discussion on who was, and how to find the MRCA (Most Recent Common Ancestor) between William Virgil Varner (1933-) and Billy Joe Varner (1941-). This is likely the most exciting possible link to determining our George Varner of Missouri family link back from Oglethorpe County, Georgia!

September's newsletter discussed another possible promising avenue to

link back the Varner line before Oglethorpe County, Georgia. Following the Owen family instead of the Varner family. I do not believe that this approach has been pursued and could provide just the break we need. Only hard work will bring anything to light. Also, an article on why DNA is so confusing, and another explanation.

October brought information on a descendant of Varner's who had lived in Soddy Daisy, Tennessee. No immediate connection is found, but it is another possibility. Finally made contact with Tracy Lyn Riggs (Leal) who is the daughter of Pat Riggs. Pat is a great-grandson of our Edmund Riggs (1819-1877). We are trying to get her to work to have her father Pat take DNA tests so we may have those results from a known direct descendant of Edmund. The question of why three of the George Varner children moved to Texas as discussed. What caused the move? An interesting article.

November newsletter was short. A small article about other Varner's who are buried at the Floral Hills Cemetery in Kansas City. Who were they?

As you can see, there is a number of topics that deserve in depth study. And this is only the tip of the iceberg!

We all think that genealogy is fascinating or we would not be part of this newsletter. These mysteries do not get solved by themselves. Only with your

help, effort, and input can progress be made. Watch a little less TV and instead commit to something much more interesting and rewarding!!!!

Merry Christmas !!!.....

Bruce Varner

List of Potential Autosomal Matches to Billy Joe Varner

Kit Nbr	Sex	Haplogroup		Autosomal			X-DNA		Name
		Mt	Y	Total cM	largest cM	Gen	Total cM	largest cM	
A018481	F			415.1	68.8	2.6	84.6	47	*Nellie Kellinger
A422299	M			178.5	46.4	3.2	0	0	Norman Gardner, Jr.
A819055	M			154.6	35.8	3.3	0	0	*RKF
A670809	U			116.6	46.3	3.5	0	0	Scott Curtis Gardner
A285262	M			96.7	28.2	3.6	0	0	*jostreed
A546000	M			80.6	19.8	3.7	0	0	Donald Earl Fields
A258882	M			74.8	48.4	3.8	0	0	Stephen A Treadwell
M708052	F	U5b2a2		69.6	43.1	3.8	0	0	Early Gardner
A400445	F	U5b2a2b1	I1 L338	69.4	43.1	3.8	0	0	early gardner
A383781	F	U5b2a2b1	I1 L338	69.4	43.1	3.8	0	0	Early A Gardner
T396376	M	H16-T152C!	G2a or G-Z6764	62.6	23.5	3.9	0	0	*ECP
A905810	F			62.2	30.6	3.9	0	0	*S J
T501190	M		I1 L338	60.1	24.2	3.9	0	0	donald Gardner
A026791	F			57.3	23	4	0	0	Pam
T252459	F			55.7	26.7	4	0	0	Juanita Moore Haskett
A808070	M			53.5	27.1	4	0	0	*WEBarnhart
A672154	U			52.7	19.8	4	0	0	Mary Alline Little Haenssler
T430607	M			52.4	37.9	4	0	0	James R Stevens