

News, Updates, & More

Varner Family Genealogy

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FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR

Copies of old newsletters and additional genealogy information is downloadable from the Varner Family website.

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

Please submit ideas for future newsletters. Need to include everyone's input so as many questions as possible can be asked and hopefully answered.

QUESTIONS / NEWS

Q: From a Julia Dodson. My mother is a match (Autosomal) with btvarner, says they connect about 5 generations back. I am hoping you will share surnames or a tree with me and maybe we can find the link.

A: Here is a good example of the new leads that are becoming available with autosomal DNA results. This is a stranger who found my DNA match on the GedMatch.com website and subsequently contacted me. This is where leads can surface out of thin air.

Before DNA such contact could not have occurred.

Remember that autosomal DNA provides matches between both men and women. A perfect reason for more people of either sex to now do DNA testing. I will provide a more in depth explanation of autosomal DNA in a future issue.

I responded to Julia by providing a basic family tree. After looking our tree over, she responded back that none of the surnames seemed familiar. Julia did provide me a link to her family tree that she had loaded into FTDNA. I also was unable to find any matches. But that does not prove or dis-prove a family connection. More research is required.

To explain further, an indication of a possible match 5 generations ago is of itself not a highly probable match. Maybe the percentage of being a valid family match is 30%? 50%? Who knows. But without such leads, the likelihood of ever finding out about a match with a stranger is very remote.

In addition, her family tree, like all family trees, contains gaps, so there are other family names that are at this point just unknown.

The only way to possibly resolve this question is with additional study of both families' details. What was the migration path of that families

ancestors? Then trying to match locations between our two families. Plus, using other common genealogy techniques to help prove or disprove connections.

It could be that additional study will fail to produce any family connection. Even so, we now know those new surnames MIGHT somehow connect to our Varner family. Someday another unlikely match might reveal itself with the surnames from this possibility as the connection.

Will this example turn out to be anything? Maybe so. Maybe not. This is however, exactly the type of clues that are now surfacing with the autosomal matches. And there are many.

Q: I was contacted by Betty Sue Varner Held in California. Betty asked about the information I might have on Harriet Owen Varner (George's wife) and her family.

A: I responded to Betty with an overview of what I have.

Rather than repeat that information here, I thought I would take this opportunity to re-emphasize the rich amount of data available on the Varner Family Genealogy website.

In this case there are two separate downloadable files on the site that deal with Harriet and her family. One details ancestors that we believe are Harriet's

family, with why that is believed. The other is the will of her father.

I am passing this refresher on because I want folks to really understand that a wealth of information is already available on this site. It is there to provoke researchers into looking for more answers. And also to place the information up for challenges to its validity. Very little in genealogy is a 100%, undisputable fact. Do not re-invent the wheel! Check first to see if the information is already available. On the Varner Genealogy Website or elsewhere first...

This is a good time to re-state the fact that no one should ever accept the genealogical findings of anyone else as fact. You should not add any information to your family tree until, and unless you are satisfied those assumptions are accurate!

Please do not assume that my information is accurate. Each researcher needs to check for themselves. Are there references to the statement or belief? If not, how do you know it is accurate? Ask the person who provided the information how they came by it and decide. If there are references, study them enough to where you conclude the references are in fact valid. Then, and only then should anyone add any facts to their own tree.

Remember that with the internet, once something is out there, it NEVER, NEVER goes away! Even if you were to make changes, there will be others who have already copied your tree information into another documents, or their own tree and will continue to pass it along as true information.

I cannot count the times I have come across information that seems to provide validation of that missing piece of genealogical data. Only upon closer examination to find that the only supporting reference to the "fact" is that "My cousin's mother, told her brother, who gave the information to another cousin, who gave it to me. I do not remember the name of that cousin however." Well I am sorry, but a genealogy detail that has no more detailed validation than the above, should not be listed in anyone's family tree as a fact. I do not totally discount such information. Rather, I only place it in notes about that person, and never post such information on a family tree.

This prevalent problem is why I have never placed my full family tree online. I am too afraid that some of the connections and information I have might be inaccurate, and someone would copy my tree into their tree. It would then forever be "out there" somewhere, someone passing it along as a fact.....

George Varner of Missouri Direct Line DNA

Again, still waiting on Family Tree DNA to complete the additional autosomal DNA test results on Billy Joe Varner. Anxious for the new autosomal possibilities from a true George Varner of Missouri DNA descendants.

Just beginning to study my own results from autosomal testing at GedMatch. Along with the inquiry received above in the Q & A section, I find that I have 207 possible matches through autosomal DNA. Now most of these are likely not valid (Within the timeframe required) matches. But even if 5% are matched, that is 10 new DNA leads. More to come.

Camden County History

We have discussed Miller County history. I thought it would be nice to learn something about early Camden County. The county that Nancy Ann Varner migrated to upon leaving Miller.

I have also placed an animated .gif file of [Camden County](#) on the website that shows changes to the county lines over the years. After the file loads, it will switch about every 5 seconds to the next change in the counties layout. The green dot on the map indicates where Camden County is located.

Several references were used in the creation of this article. As always,

footnotes are used to provide those references. Pleasant reading of these old accounts for this county.

“In Camden County there are many places provided by nature that are of special interest to the tourist. Among these are its many caves, springs and precipices¹.”² “The Osage River is navigable for vessels of light draft, as far up as Linn Creek, for about nine months in the year. Before railroads were constructed both north and south it was navigated quite extensively, the vessels then running as high as Warsaw, sixty miles above Linn Creek. Not being a first-class water-way, navigable at all seasons of the year, its navigation has been neglected; hence.... abandonment of industries along its line.”³

“Along the streams the timber consists of sycamore, black and white walnut, elm, ash, hickory, sugar and soft maple, hackberry, honey locust, linn or basswood, wild cherry⁴, oak, etc., while on the ridges and table-lands it consists mostly of post, black-jack and laurel oak,

¹ Precipice: a very steep rock face or cliff, typically a tall one

² History of Laclede, Camden, Dallas, Webster, Wright, Texas, Pulaski, Phelps and Dent counties, Missouri. 1889/1974, Missouri State Library p 284

³ Ibid. p. 281

⁴ Now located in the Camden County Museum is a large cherry flower bin, donated by my family, & built by my great grandfather Wiley Alvado Vance 11/30/1880, from wood he harvested in Camden County. The lid consists of a single plank of cherry wood some 28” across. This is an example of the size of trees back in the day.....BTV

crab apple, persimmon, etc. A great deal of white oak is found on the ridges and hill-sides near the streams. Everywhere throughout the county, where the timber has not been cleared away, it is much more dense than it was when the country was first settled.”⁵

“That French or Spanish explorers, hunters and trappers ascended the Osage River long before the permanent settlement of its borders began by the whites, there has been abundant evidence. Upon the landing of the first permanent settlers the hull of a keel-boat was found sunk in the Osage, opposite the deserted Indian village, above the mouth of the Niangua, and a wooden fur-press was found at the mouth of Linn Creek.”⁶

“A number of mounds built by a prehistoric race of people are found to exist in Camden County, among which are a few near Chauncey Post-office, several miles southeast of Linn Creek, and others are situated in the eastern part of the county, near Wet Glaize Post-office.

The aborigines which inhabited the territory of Camden County were the Osage and Delaware Indians, who under treaty with the Government had relinquished their titles and ceased to

permanently occupy these lands before the settlement of the country by the whites began.

There was an Indian village or town in the forks of the Osage and Big Niangua Rivers, about half a mile above their confluence. The site of this village has since been cultivated, and bones and other relics of the Indians have been plowed up.

For many years after the treaty in which the Indians surrendered the territory, they were allowed to return for the purpose of hunting. So after the white settlements began these ‘earliest pioneers’ made annual hunting excursions through the country, camping at various places, but they were always friendly with the settlers.

The last of these hunting excursions was by a band of Delaware’s, who camped for several weeks in the year 1846 on the Big Niangua, about two miles above its mouth.”⁷

“**Kinderhook** County was organized January 23, 1841, and Oregon was made the county seat. February 23, 1843, the name was changed to **Camden**, and the county seat to Erie. Linn Creek afterwards became the county seat.”⁸

⁵ History of Laclede, Camden, Dallas, Webster, Wright, Texas, Pulaski, Phelps and Dent counties, Missouri. 1889/1974, Missouri State Library p 282

⁶ Ibid. p. 290

⁷ History of Laclede, Camden, Dallas, Webster, Wright, Texas, Pulaski, Phelps and Dent counties, Missouri. 1889/1974, Missouri State Library p 288

⁸ Campbell’s Gazetteer of Missouri, 1874, p. 99

"The County of Kinderhook (was) so named after the residence of President Van Buren..."⁹ "The slogan of 'Old Kinderhook', used by the supporters of Martin Van Buren (whose home was at Kinderhook, New York) in those exciting campaigns (of 1836) and its abbreviation in the letters 'O. K.', was according to a plausible theory the true origin of what has been called the best known and most characteristic term in the American language. But Van Buren lost most of his popularity after his crushing defeat in 1840, and both the counties named for him changed their names. (The other county, Van Buren, is now known as Cass County)."¹⁰

"Camden County, 1843, was named for Earl Camden (Charles Pratt) of England (1714-1794), leader of the Whig Party, and chancellor of England from 1766 to 1770."¹¹

"In 1827, Harrison Davis and a son-in-law, Reuben Berry, of Kentucky, after a tour through other parts of the state, pitched their camp on the Dry Auglaize, near what is now Chauncey, eight miles east of Linn Creek, and not far from the encampment of three tribes of Indians, among whom was a band of the Osages. Negotiations were entered upon, and

they soon exchanged sundry blankets, bridles, etc., for the possession of sufficient land for their needs. Returning to Kentucky for their families, they settled there in 1828, their nearest neighbors being the 'Fulbright Settlement' in what is now Laclede county, which had been established about a year previously. To the west of them lay an unbroken wilderness."¹²

"The year 1832 was the most momentous in the settlement of Camden County. The frontier of civilization advanced, at one stride, as it were, from the Gasconade to the Niangua, the intervening territory being bought for the first time directly under the sway of civil authority.

William Capps settled on the Niangua, near the Allison ford, in 1832 or earlier, and died soon after. His widow remained on his clearing or claim for some years, raising a few hogs and sheep and such other stock as she was able. William Boyce is said to have located on the Little Niangua in 1832, but probably the first farm opened on that stream was the one now owned by George J. Moulder. It was settled by a man named Walmsley, who was attracted to the spot by the waters of a copious spring, one of the finest in the county. It is thought by some that

⁹ A Directory of Towns, Villages, and Hamlets Past and Present of Camden County, Missouri

<https://thelibrary.org/lohist/moser/camdenco.html>

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ University of Missouri Bulletin: Our Storehouse of Missouri Place Names, 1952. Robert L. Ramsay, p. 55

¹² As compiled by J. W. Vincent, editor of "The Reveille of Linn Creek, Mo. & Published July 2nd – Sept. 3rd, 1896. From interviews with some of the oldest settlers living in Camden County at the time.

Capps and Walmsley immigrated as early as 1829 or 1830, but of this nothing can be known with certainty.

In 1833....There were remains at that time of an Indian village about one mile above the mouth of the Niangua, and traces of it and of their devices for catching fish, etc., could be seen after 1870. There was the hull of an old keel boat nearby, which was said to have been abandoned by French traders who were forced to leave the country on account of trouble with the Indians. A town was afterwards laid off on the 'point' but never amounted to much.

By 1837 settlements were becoming more or less general in various parts of the county. ...up to that time would give but an imperfect idea of the population, whichnumbered several hundred."¹³

"On the Dry Auglaize, the first settlement is said to have been made by Reuben Berry...."¹⁴

" 'Slicker War.'—The 'Slickers' were local vigilance committees whose purpose was to rid the country of undesirable characters, and they grew out of the inefficiency of the courts in the punishment of crime. Their usual mode of punishment was to trice up the offender, and 'slick' or whip, him with

hickory withes, and from this came their name. They brought many to trial, 'slicked' and banished many more, and executed a few. In some cases innocent persons suffered. It became known that, while the greater number of the "Slickers" were of the most respectable class, a number of thieves were also members, and made use of the organization to wreak vengeance upon personal enemies. This led to the formation of 'Anti-Slickers,' and in some regions long continued feuds existed between the two bodies.

"The Slickers in Camden County were first organized about the year 1836, when it was discovered that a number of counterfeiterers and horse-thieves infested the country."¹⁵

"In 1846 Capt. W. D. Murphy discovered lead ore, erected a furnace about three-fourths of a mile north of Linn Creek, and during the year 100,000 pounds of mineral were taken out, but in 1847 the mine was abandoned. Since that time several other lead mines have been opened, and partially developed, the principal ones being the Anderson Hollow Mines, about six miles southeast of Linn Creek; the Brush Creek Mines, four miles from Linn Creek, in the same direction; the Ferry Mines, at Linn Creek; the McCrery Mines, two miles south of

¹³ Ibid.

¹⁴ County History (Camden)

http://genealogytrails.com/mo/camden/hist_county.htm

¹⁵ History of Laclede, Camden, Dallas, Webster, Wright, Texas, Pulaski, Phelps and Dent counties, Missouri. 1889/1974, Missouri State Library p 326-328

town; the Hunter Mines, five miles northeast of the county seat; the Bailey Mines, three and a half miles northwest; Mineral Hollow Mines, ten miles, and Hoon's Diggins, twelve miles west of Linn Creek, and Harrold Mills Mines, near the eastern boundary of the county."¹⁶

"The first religious denomination to establish a church in Camden County was the Baptist, which started a church on the Little Niangua in 1846."¹⁷

"The religious denominations known as the Baptist and Southern Methodist were the first to organize church societies in the territory composing Camden County. Occasional preaching was had among the early settlers, either in the rudely constructed school-houses, or at the residences of some pious individuals, for years before any church organizations were effected. Among the pioneer ministers who labored in this county were Rev. John H. Robertson, a Methodist and early settler of the county, and Revs. John Brockman and Lewis Shelton, both Baptist ministers, the former of Miller and the latter of Morgan County. These preachers organized the first church societies within the county, Rev.

Robertson forming a Methodist Church, South, in the southeastern part of the county, and Revs. Brockman and Shelton organizing a Missionary Baptist Church on Little Niangua River."¹⁸

"Early in the spring of 1861 the governor of Missouri, feigning neutrality but undoubtedly in full sympathy with the cause of secession, sent out from the city of Jefferson munitions of war to be, and which were, concealed in the hilly country on the premises of certain citizens of Camden, Pulaski and other counties. Camden, Laclede and Wright Counties were on the eastern border of the loyal counties of Southwest Missouri. East of these counties, the country extending far toward the Mississippi was thoroughly under the control of the secession element.... The adjacent counties of Pulaski and Texas, being under the control of the secession element, afforded safe retreats for recruiting parties for the Southern cause. A desperate plot was formed to overrun Camden, Laclede and Wright Counties, and overawe those who had pronounced in favor of standing by the Union, which only the shrewd vigilance of the latter prevented.

A few individuals went out of Camden County and enlisted in the Confederate service. It is estimated, however, that less than 100 men of the county served

¹⁶ History of Laclede, Camden, Dallas, Webster, Wright, Texas, Pulaski, Phelps and Dent counties, Missouri. 1889/1974, Missouri State Library p 383

¹⁷ County History (Camden)
http://genealogytrails.com/mo/camden/hist_county.htm

¹⁸ History of Laclede, Camden, Dallas, Webster, Wright, Texas, Pulaski, Phelps and Dent counties, Missouri. 1889/1974, Missouri State Library p 349

in the armies of the South. During the Civil War Camden County suffered less from its ravages than some of her sister counties in the same section of the State, although a few houses were pillaged and burned, some men were murdered, and property was destroyed or carried off by the contending forces.

On the 13th day of October, 1861, a fight took place on the Wet Auglaize, in Camden County, called Shanghai, or Henrytown, or Monday's Hollow.... the Federal troops were enabled to surprise and attack the enemy from the rear, so that the surprise planned for the Federal cavalry was received by those who planned it. The result of the fight was: Killed, sixty-two Confederates and one Federal, and thirty-seven Confederates captured, a decided victory for the Union troops.”¹⁹

“MACK'S CREEK. This village is located on the southwest quarter of the northeast quarter of Section 12, Township 37, Range 19, entered by Charles Wescott, and was named for the stream on which it is located. Hugh Ellison, who settled about the year 1840, was the first settler in that vicinity. In 1870 Woods Lea built the first residence in the place, a log house 14x16 feet in size. The second house, a frame, was erected the next year by J. E. Fowler, and the same year Joseph and Lewis Fowler opened the first store in the

village. The next year Jasper Wilson opened the first drug store. Woods Lea opened the first blacksmith shop in 1870. The post-office was established in 1869, with Charles Wescott postmaster.... The first school (public) was taught there in 1873 by Benj. Wilson. Rev. William W. Palmer held the first religious service in the village in the school-house. There are two church societies, Baptist and Christian, in the village; also a Masonic lodge, organized in 1875, with eight charter members, having now forty-three members, and a post of the G. A. R., organized in 1887, with nineteen charter members, having now fifty-four members.”²⁰

“The first weekly newspaper published in Linn Creek was the Weekly Stet, established about the year 1873 by L. S. Wright. It was Democratic in politics, and its publication continued about two years, after which the Camden County Rustic was established by John W. Armstrong, who continued publication here for a year, or thereabouts, and then moved it to Stoutland, where he published it a short time, and then moved it to Lebanon. About 1876 or 1877 the Village Echo was established at Linn Creek by Frank Wilson, who published it only a short time. This paper was followed by the Enterprise, which was established and published about two years by D. B. Dudley and J.

¹⁹ Ibid. p 334

²⁰ History of Laclede, Camden, Dallas, Webster, Wright, Texas, Pulaski, Phelps and Dent counties, Missouri. 1889/1974, Missouri State Library p 339

W. Edgell. The Reveille was established in June, 1879, by J. S. Vincent, who continued its publication about a year, and then J. W. Vincent, its present editor and publisher, took charge of it, and still continues its publication. It is a five column folio, and is Republican in politics. The People's Tribune was established in January, 1888, by E. F. Shubert and A. S. Churchill, and its publication was continued to the end of the year, and then suspended. The Messenger (successor to the People's Tribune) was established January 1, 1889, by E. F. Shubert and W. T. S. Agee. It is a six-column folio, and advocates Republican principles."²¹

"August 6, 1929, is a date to remember in Camden, Miller and Benton Counties. For it was on this date that construction of Lake Benton was begun. (Today, Lake Benton is better known as The Lake of the Ozarks.) Lake Benton was to have honored the memory of Senator Thomas Hart Benton (1782-1858), Senator, 1821-1851. Known as "Old Bullion." However, the forgetful public persists in referring to it as Lake of the Ozarks; in 1931, by act of the State Legislature, the official name was declared to be Lake Benton. The construction of the lake left its unmistakable mark on two towns: Linn Creek, the county seat was forced to move, since the site was to be covered by the waters of the lake. Also, several cemeteries were moved to a

²¹ Ibid. p. 342-343

higher location. And it brought into being, a new town, Camdenton, which was designated by popular vote, as the new county seat."²²

2016 Newton/Varner Reunion

As stated last month, this year's family reunion will occur on Saturday, May 28th, 2016. The event will be held this year in Macks Creek:

Macks Creek Baptist Church
Fellowship Hall
Macks Creek, MO. 65786

Opening at 10:00am with most folks arriving sometime before lunch.

Please make every effort to attend this year. Should be a larger event than normal (Hopefully).

Everyone's input is important! Please voice your opinions, suggestions, and family details to the discussion.

Three months until the reunion! It is fast approaching.....

Bruce Varner

²² A Directory of Towns, Villages, and Hamlets Past and Present of Camden County, Missouri
<https://thelibrary.org/lochist/moser/camdenco.html>