

News, Updates, & More

Varner Family Genealogy

IN THIS ISSUE:

From the Administrator	1
Questions/News.....	2
George Varner of Missouri Direct Line...	2
Riggs/Varner Connection.....	2
Topics Overview from 2016 Reunion.....	3

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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>

Sorry there was no newsletter for June (Issue 6). I was out of the country much of the month. Thanks!

Hope I speak for most everyone who attended the reunion in stating that we had a great time on May 28th! Sorry about those of you who could not attend. We had several people from far off who found their way to the event. Everyone was glad to see all those who attended.

The facility was great! Also a big thank you to the church audio/video director who allowed us to use their equipment when mine burned out a bulb!

For those who could not attend, a portion of this month's newsletter will highlight some of the topics discussed.

If this is your first newsletter, some or all of the information about the George Varner of Missouri Direct Line and the Riggs/Varner Connection may be unknown to you. Information to bring you up to speed can be found online at the above Varner Genealogy website link. If you still have questions please let me know and I will attempt to fill in any blanks!

QUESTIONS / NEWS

The subject of any questions received this month are part of the newsletter in other spots below.

George Varner of Missouri Direct Line DNA

Please see the reunion overview below.

Riggs/Varner Connection

I do not want to use this space to re-hash the details of the Riggs/Varner connection. If you are unsure of how this connection occurred, and that it likely makes ALL children of Nancy Ann Varner (1841-1934) as having been fathered by a Riggs, please go online to the Varner Genealogy website and read those documents associated with that event. If you still have questions, please email me and I can provide insight.

As we have discussed in the past, efforts have been underway, attempting to locate and contact any living Riggs family members who are descendants of

Edmund Riggs (1819-1877) the presumed father of Nancy's children.

Up to now this have not produced any substantiated descendants. We know from research that many of the Edmund Riggs descendants moved from Missouri to Washington and Oregon.

Due again to the tireless and intelligent efforts of Dee (Hunt) Bremer, she has located such a descendant through an autosomal match!

We received an email response to Dee's query from a Destiny (Riggs) Wellendorf, who lives in that area of the country.

As expected, she was not familiar with the Varner surname. Dee was able to coax Destiny into placing her DNA results on GedMatch.com.

I have completed a One to One Comparison at GedMatch between myself and Destiny. The results produced a one cM segment match with a size of 23.6 and a likely MRCA (Most Recent Common Ancestor) at 4.6 generations.

This is exactly what would be expected between a Varner descendant of Nancy Ann and a Riggs descendant of Edmund Riggs, as Edmund is 4 generations back from me.

While all this is preliminary, this looks very promising, and would be a gateway

into the entire Riggs family descended from Edmund!

This is great news and could be a major break-through for one of the most puzzling pieces of our family genealogy.

More to come on this exciting topic.....

Topics Overview from 2016 Reunion

The following is an overview of those subjects that were discussed during this year's reunion in Macks Creek. The Power Point (In pdf format) that was presented at the reunion is now available online here:

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

at the bottom of the page. Sorry I did not get this document online until now. Note that the version online does NOT contain the family member images. I did not want to just place this online for anyone to access. If you wish to have the version with images, please email me and I can provide the full version to you directly.

Expanding the Circle

With new distant family members surfacing, we need to learn more about these Varner's.

The Samuel Philip Varner Line

Now that DNA had helped establish the true genetic Varner line, Billy Joe Varner (1944-) has become the person we now

reference in searching for other Varner DNA.

As you know, Billy Joe Varner descends from Nancy Ann's brother Samuel Philip. The current research to validate Varner ancestors is being based around this information. Here is what we have learned.

- Billy Joe Varner DNA closely matches only one other person in the FTDNA database, William Virgil Varner (1933-).
- Billy Joe Varner does not closely match anyone on GedMatch.com except for the aforementioned William Virgil Varner
- None of the other FTDNA Varner Surname Project members matched Billy Joe or William Virgil Varner
- Billy Joe Varner's DNA Haplogroup is G. G is an uncommon Haplogroup. The detailed signature is: G-L91

We do not know: Where the connection between Billy Joe Varner and William Virgil Varner occurs? Or, Why are there so few Y-DNA matches found at this point?

Deductions that can be made from current information are as follows:

- Billy Joe Varner's Y-DNA is George Varner of Missouri's DNA (We should have a second genetic Varner take the tests so as to confirm this link)
- The Billy Joe Varner lines and the William Virgil Varner lines have a

common ancestor within the last few generations

- George Varner of Missouri is NOT genetically descended from those known, tested, Oglethorpe County, Georgia Varner lines
- The George Varner of Missouri line is NOT descended from Johannes Adam Werner family
- The currently thought, likely place where the George Varner of Missouri genetic line & William Virgil Varner line join is John Varner (1765-1826) from William Virgil's line in North Carolina.

The updated information refocuses out search from Georgia to North Carolina for answers. This does not mean that the Georgia connection is false, only that the believed genealogic connection between our George Varner of Missouri and many tested Varner's from Georgia linked to the Johannes Adam Werner family line is not our Varner line. See the Power Point for additional details. More work awaits.

What is the Varner/Newton/Williams Connection?

I am sure that some are not familiar with how our three families are connected. Why are all these people getting together anyway?

Why? Our three families have joined through marriage. As a general statement, our three families connected through two children of Nancy Ann Varner, (03/27/1841). Many of the

descendants of these unions still live in or around central Missouri.

Varner/Newton Connection

- No evidence has found Varner's and Newton's in the same location before Miller Co. MO. in 1852-1860
- William Andrew Newton (1867-1944) moved from Miller to Camden Co. in 1890's
- Eurelda Varner (1871-1959) moved from Miller to Camden Co. between 1880-1890
- The marriage bonding the Varner's/Newton's occurred in Camden Co. MO. on 03/26/1893 with the wedding between William Andrew Newton & Eurelda Varner

Varner/Williams Connection

- No evidence has found Varner's/Williams in the same location before Camden Co. MO. between 1886-1894
- William Owen Varner (1869-1937) moved from Miller to Camden Co. between 1880-1890
- Alta Williams (1886-1967) moved from Polk to Camden Co. between 1885-1894
- The marriage bonding the Varner's/Williams occurred in Camden Co. MO. on 06/21/1903 with the wedding between William Owen Varner & Alta Williams

Newton/Williams Connection

- No evidence has found Newton's/Williams in the same location before Camden Co. MO.
- No direct marriage is found to have occurred between Newton's & Williams
- So the only genetic connection is through the Varner family.

There is apparently no other subsequent marriages between the three families.

Please make suggestions for future newsletter topics. Ask any genealogy related question that is on your mind.

Happy 4th of July! Now in the sweltering heat of summer. Stay cool and work on your genealogy!

Bruce Varner