

News, Updates, & More

Varner Family Genealogy

IN THIS ISSUE:

From the Administrator	1
Questions/News.....	1
George Varner of Missouri Direct Line...	2
Riggs/Varner Connection.....	2
Things Are Found in Darn Crazy Places.....	2

December 2017

FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR

Prior newsletters and much additional family genealogy information can be found on the Varner Family website.

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

QUESTIONS / NEWS

Q: Vivian Kessler writes, Where can I find good definitions of "patent property" and "private purchase property"?

A: It is simple really, once you know it.

Patent Land: The first time purchase of land from the government. All land (Especially outside of the colonies) was first owned by the government. Only after the federal government allowed it, was the land then sold or "patented" to the public. Sometimes the land was squatted on before purchase. But the first true owner of any land was the government. Patent land was most often paid for in cash.

Warrant Land: Warrant land is also patent land. But the buyer was a military veteran who could be awarded specific amounts of virgin "Patent" land for service in Wars. If congress passed such legislation & if they could prove they had served in that conflict. That is why warrant land records are so important if the ancestor received a "Warrant". The paperwork involved was often several pages long as the soldier themselves recounted facts of their life to "prove" they are the person who served in the military.

Conversely, if you did not serve in a war, you had to have money to pay to the government for Patent land. Not much information there as it was a simple cash sale.

The word Patent is the name of the document you received in place of a deed for said land.

When you go to a county office to check land records, this first patent is not on file there because it was with the federal government, not the county. The first county record of that land would be the initial sale from the Patentee to the first subsequent buyer.

Q: You sent out a list of DNA tests on sale for the holidays. These tests are through FamilyTree DNA. I already took the Autosomal DNA test through Ancestry. Are these better?

A: No. The Autosomal DNA tests through either FamilyTree DNA or Ancestry DNA are both good. They both test about the same thing.

Remember that where ever you test, your results by default will only be available to match with others that test with that same company. So you need to upload autosomal DNA to GedMatch.com.

Also, if you have tested with Ancestry, FamilyTree DNA allows you to upload your Ancestry results to FamilyTree for a smaller fee. Then you can directly access both companies matches. Unfortunately Ancestry will not allow you to upload your FamilyTree DNA results.....

George Varner of Missouri Direct Line DNA

Nothing new this month.

Riggs/Varner Connection

Nothing new this month.

Things Are Found in Darn Crazy Places

It is amazing where one can sometimes stumble across genealogical information or artifacts.

Only last week I received an email from Betty Sue Varner Held. A cousin had told her about some old photographs for sale on eBay. Those photos reportedly were of Betty's grandparents, William

Owen Varner, his wife Alta Williams Varner, and other family members.

I found the two images on eBay. They were being sold from Ijamsville, Maryland.

I recognized both photographs as images I had seen before, so I know there are other copies in the possession of family members.

Still, I could not chance that these family memories might fall into the hands of strangers. I immediately purchased them. They were an inexpensive \$6 each plus a couple of dollars shipping.

I contacted the seller after I made the purchase, asking if she had any additional details about the origination of the photographs, and if she might have any additional? It appeared from observing her eBay store, that she sells trinkets and such.

She responded that her husband had found them in a thrift store located in Damascus, Maryland. Damascus is located about 35 miles north of Washington DC.

Both images arrived this Monday. Each image is a matted size of 8" x 10". The images themselves are approximately 8" x 5" and glued onto black matting. This was a common method of presenting photographs during the time period they were exposed.

The first sepia photograph has written on the back "Summer 1909, Group picture of Wm. O. Varner". Then below is listed each family member in the image. There is water and age damage to the matting, along with much fading and spotting on the photo itself.

The second sepia photograph also contained writing on the back, "George Robert William" and those other family members pictured. Again there was water damage on the matting and photo, along with fading and spotting.

Copies of these two photographs are provided below. Also, not that I have higher resolution copies of each on the website where one can download the file and have printed out a copy of the photos that in all probability would be clearer than the original. I did some cleanup of each image on the final copies and some sharpening to help improve the final product.

The William family photo was not nearly as in focus at the time of capture, as the William Owen Varner image.

Of interest to read below, is the captions I have with each image. Both images had writing on the margin &/or back that was very faded. I did my best to decipher what each said.

Everyone have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Bruce Varner

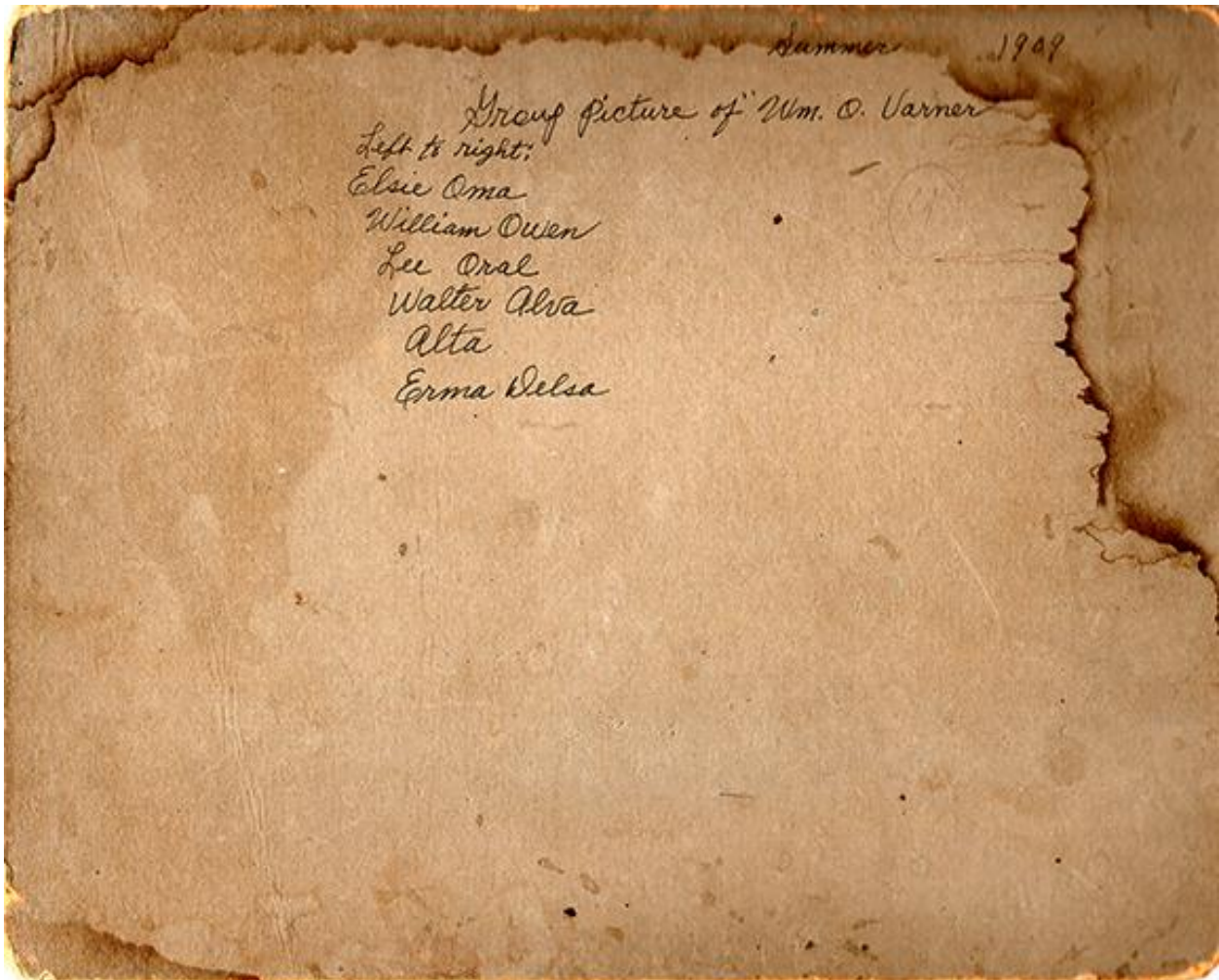
William Owen Varner & wife Alta Williams Varner. Children from left: Elsie Erma, Lee Oral, Walter Alva, & Erma Delsa.



Note the left side of the above image that you can just see some writing. By flipping the image and enhancing the contrast, I was able to tell what was written: "Wm Varner, Max Creek. Aug 1, '09". There is a couple of letters under this which I am unable to make out.



Here is the writing found on the back of the William Owen Varner family image.



See next page.....

Finally, here is the final image after some restoration work. Again, a digital copy of this image is found on the website that can be used to print your own hardcopy for display.



See next page.....

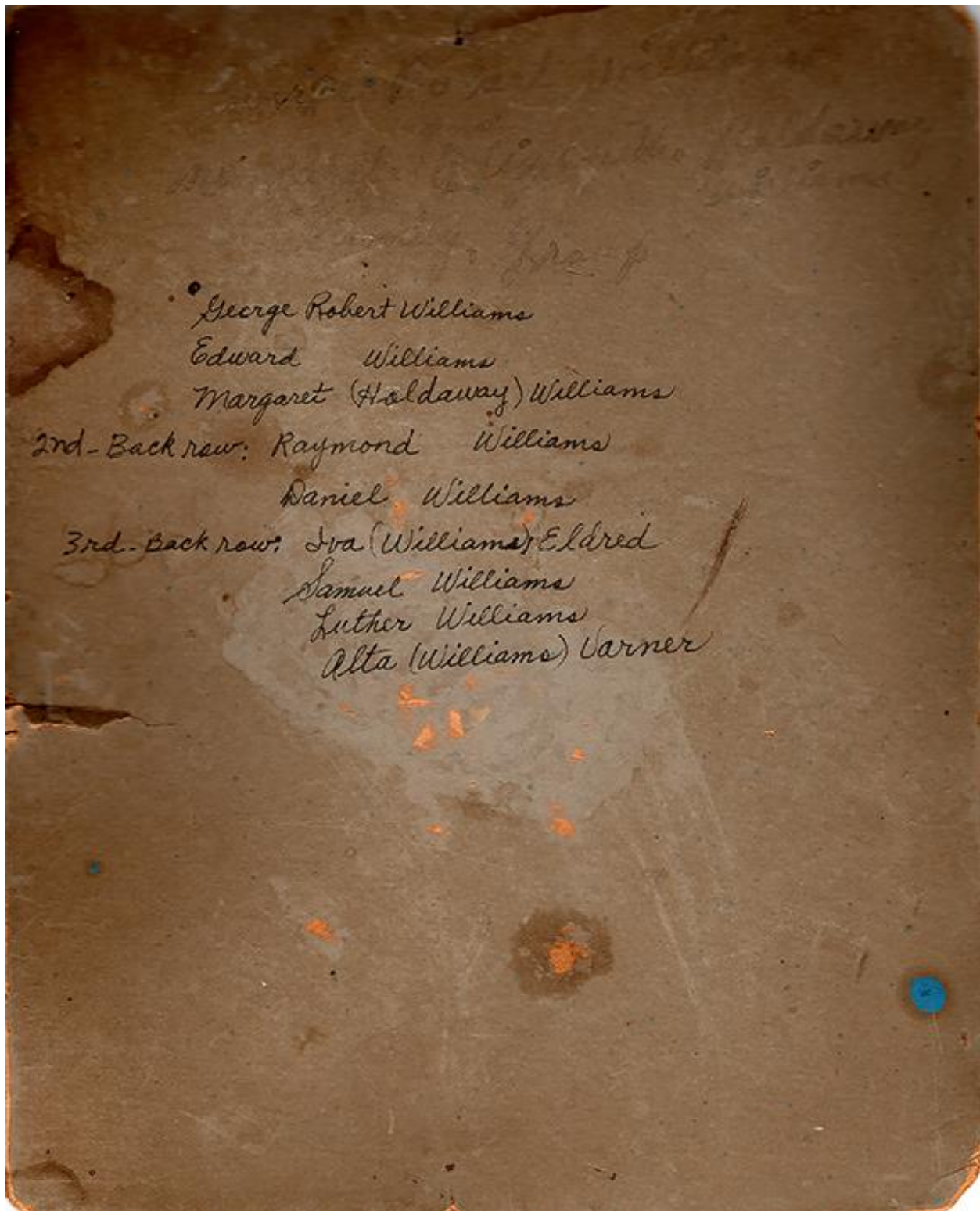
George Robert Williams & wife Margaret Elizabeth Holdaway Williams. Children from left: Erva Williams Eldred, Raymond, Samuel, Edward, Luther, Daniel, & Alta Williams Varner.



Note the back of this image above the newer ink writing is some very old faded ink. By converting to black & white, and enhancing the contrast, I was able to tell what was written: "George Robert Williams and Margaret Elizabeth Holdaway Williams Family Group".



Here is the writing found on the back of the George Robert Williams family image.



Finally, here is the final image after restoration work. A digital copy of this image also is found on the website that can be used to print your own hardcopy for display.



The above images are intentionally very small with low resolution. This is required so that the final newsletter is small enough to go through the email account of most folks. For that reason you cannot enlarge these images very much. Please go to the website and download any of these image from there in order to see them in a larger scale! Thanks!