

News, Updates, & More

Varner Family Genealogy

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February 2017

FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR

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

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

Not too early to start your planning to attend this year's family reunion. Should be another great turn out. Fellowship hall at the Macks Creek Baptist Church. Saturday, May 27th 2017.

QUESTIONS / NEWS

Q: Cheryl Varner Walker wrote that "have not previously considered the possibility that our forefathers committed crimes against the crown and were shipped here (colonies) against their will. Georgia was a large penal colony, perhaps worth taking a look at. Not for George, but perhaps his parents as the practice ended prior to George's birth. It would also be something all close descendants would

rather forget.” Cheryl also included links of additional information which I have listed here.

1) A National Archives link on further research about Criminal transportees from Britain to the colonies. That link in turn referenced two books that describe the practice and list some of those passengers to the colonies.

‘The Complete Book of Emigrants in Bondage, 1614-1775’

<http://www.genealogical.com/products/The%20Complete%20Book%20of%20Emigrants%20in%20Bondage%201614%201775/1098.html>

‘Bonded passengers to America’ (3 Volumes)

<https://www.amazon.com/Bonded-Passengers-America-9-Volumes/dp/0806310030>

A: Thanks Cheryl. Good idea! That could be a reason why all the other Varner’s do not seem to match DNA with our George & William Varner line?

It appears that the contents of the above books have been added to Ancestry.com. Googling both books resulted in links to Ancestry.co databases from the books. Entering the Varner surname did not produce any results. Obviously the Varner name could have derived from a similar name like Warner, but there did not seem to be many of those Soundex names either.....

The books lists of names are far from complete, so the failure of the Varner surname being there does not mean this is not a viable possibility.

Cheryl also mentioned the religious repressions of the time in Europe and Britain, and the large numbers of oppressed that were transported to the colonies and settled in North Carolina and Georgia. If anyone has not studied this phenomenon, it is fascinating and is one of the subjects I would like to cover in a newsletter article sometime in the future.....

George Varner of Missouri Direct Line DNA

No updates this month.

Riggs/Varner Connection

No updates this month.

The Owen Family

I have mentioned in past newsletters that possibility of following the true Varner line back from George Varner of Missouri or William Virgil Varner through those other associated families that married into our Varner family. One of those is the Owen family. Let’s see what can be deduced from this connection.

The wife of George Varner of Missouri (1789-1861), Harriet is believed by much circumstantial evidence to have had the

maiden name of Owen. This has never been proven beyond a doubt, but there does exist overwhelming evidence to support this conclusion.

A finalized determination could still come from various sources of missing documentation.

- a) Location of a Boone or Howard County Marriage Certificate between Harriet & George. This is if they were married before moving to Pettis County.
- b) Location of a Pettis County Marriage Certificate between Harriet & George, if they married after moving to Pettis County.
- c) Some other kind legal references to Harriet.
- d) Positive maternal DNA tests between a known female to female direct descendant of Harriet Varner and a known female to female direct descendant of Thomas Owen (1792-1864) wife Nancy Varner Owen (1793-187?).

Irregardless of whether such evidence ever surfaces, it is overwhelmingly assumed that Harriet was an Owen. We can still move forward to see if previous proximity of these two families might help shed light of our Varner family migrations prior to Georgia and/or North Carolina. With that in mind, this article will discuss what we know of the Owen family and hopefully spark some interest for research in this direction.

I have created a flow chart with main ancestors of the Owen family. It is arraigned in an unorthodox style that I hope does not confuse people. My goal was to get all the people onto one page which required changes to the normal layout for a descendant chart. That chart is found at the end of this newsletter.

The circumstantial evidence for Harriet being the daughter of Thomas & Nancy Owen was previously provided on page 4 of the [Varner Family Newsletter v1i5.pdf](#) and will not be fully recounted now. Please see that newsletter online for those details (Family naming conventions. Same Missouri locations. Newspaper articles, etc.).

We will discuss those additional details that might be used to help tracing our earlier Varner line.

Before moving to Missouri, Thomas Owen was born in 1792 in Wilkes Co. Georgia. His wife Nancy Varner was born in 1793 in Oglethorpe Co. Georgia. Thomas and Nancy were married in Oglethorpe County in 1810.¹

“Oglethorpe County was created on December 19, 1793 entirely out of Wilkes County. “It was named for General James Edward Oglethorpe, who founded the colony of Georgia, at Savannah, in 1733. A soldier and

¹ Warren, Georgia Genealogist, Marriages 1800-1810, p. 147. Thomas Owen to Nancy Varner, 10 Nov. 1810, Oglethorpe County.

philanthropist, Oglethorpe created the colony as an asylum for British debtors.....The area that encompasses Oglethorpe County was originally inhabited primarily by the Creek and Cherokee tribes. It was opened to settlement by a treaty with the tribes in 1771. These "Ceded Lands", as the area was called, became Wilkes County in 1777. In 1793, a northwestern portion of Wilkes County was cut aside to form the new county of Oglethorpe."²

In fact the references on the attached Owen Family Chart to that family living in Wilkes and then Oglethorpe counties refers to the exact same property. It just became part of Oglethorpe upon its creation.

It has yet to be determined who were the parents of Thomas Owen's wife Nancy (Varner) Owen (1793-187?). Much has been made of her Varner surname. Were George Varner of Missouri and Nancy (Varner) Owen cousins? Now that we know none of the known Varner's in Oglethorpe Co. GA. at the time match our George Varner of Missouri's DNA. So if Nancy was a daughter of any known Varner families in Oglethorpe, she would NOT have been of the same DNA Varner family as our George.

Thomas Owen's father Glen Owen (1730-1805) had migrated to Wilkes (Before it was Oglethorpe) County, GA.

² <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~gaogleth/>

by 1785. The family came from Guilford Co. North Carolina, where they had first appeared about 1773.

Glen Owen's father, also a Thomas Owen (????-????), had moved to NC. Sometime before 1773. He had moved his family from Pittsylvania Co. Virginia around 1770.³

Our recently found cousin William Virgil Varner's family is first known to have come from Rowan Co. North Carolina. Guilford was created mostly from Rowan County in 1770. So this places both the William Virgil Varner and the Glen Owen families in the same county about the time of the new counties creation.

This whole area of Virginia, North Carolina and Georgia were on the very western frontier of the colonies during that time. Their migrations all seemed to be along the frontier. See map [below](#) for a view of the county lines of those states the Owen family migrated through during the latter half of the 1700's.⁴

It is also known that Thomas¹ Owen, his son Glen² Owen, and grandson Thomas³ Owen who moved to Missouri each owned slaves.

³ <http://michalfarmer.com/hardeman/page41.html>

⁴ http://www.wikiwand.com/en/Province_of_North_Carolina

On 28 February 1793, a George Varner and Elizabeth, his wife, and William Walker and Judith, his wife, of Wilkes County, Georgia, "sold to Glen Owen, for £100, 300 acres on Long Creek waters..."⁵

It seems that this same George Varner, one of two George Varner's living in Oglethorpe Co. at the time, might be the father of the Nancy Varner who married Thomas³ Owen in 1810 before moving to Missouri.

Glen and Dorothy Owen were received by letter to the Sardis Baptist Church at Rayle, Wilkes County, Georgia, 17 July 1819. Glen and Dorothy Owen were members of County Line Baptist Church in Oglethorpe County, Georgia. The death of Glen Owen was announced to the church on 6 July 1839.⁶

A George Varner was also a member of the County Line Baptist Church at that time.⁷

In summary, here is the known timeline (working backwards) for the Owen family. It is our job to use those details to help the search for more Varner family details.

⁵ Farmer, Oglethorpe County, Georgia, Deed Books A – E, 1794-1809, p. 220. Deed Book D, p. 238.

Witness: Geo. Swain, J.P.

⁶ Minutes of the County Line Baptist Church, Georgia Archives.

⁷ I have this established somewhere but cannot locate it at the moment.....

1870 Census – Nancy Owen, 78 & son Francis Owen, living in Pettis Co. MO.

1864 Will – For Thomas Owen filed in Pettis Co. MO. Items to son Francis M. and daughter Elizabeth E. (Owen) Miller.

1860 Census – Thos Owen, 67 & Nancy, 66 & Frances, 26 living in Pettis Co. MO.

1850 Census – Thomas Owen, 58 & Nancy, 57 & Mary E., 20 & John F., 18 & George J., 18 & Frances, 15 & Mary H., 8 living in Pettis Co. MO.

1850 Census – George Varner and Thomas Owen families both living close to each other in Pettis county.

1840 Census – George Varner and Thomas Owen families both living close to each other in Pettis county.

1835 – George Varner land patent in Boone Co. MO.

1833 – Two letters at Post Office in Columbia, Boone Co. MO. for Thomas Owen.

1832 – Appraisal in Rocky Fork Township, Boone County, of a lost horse by our George Varner of Missouri and Thomas Owen.

1827 – In Boone Co. MO. Thomas Owen purchases 80 acres of land.

1827 – Letters at Post Office at Franklin, Howard Co. MO. (Nearest town to Rocky Fork) for Thomas Owen

1825 – Letters at Post Office at Franklin, Howard Co. MO. (Nearest town to Rocky Fork) for Thomas Owen

1824 – Thomas Owen runs and loses for the office of Howard County Corner.

1821 – Letters at Post Office at Franklin, Howard Co. MO. (Nearest town to Rocky Fork) for Thomas Owen

1819 – Letter at Post Office at Franklin, Howard Co. MO. (Nearest town to Rocky Fork) for George Varner

1810 – Thomas Owen & Nancy Varner married in Oglethorpe Co. GA.

1800 Census – Glen Owen family in Oglethorpe Co. GA.

1792 – Thomas Owen born in Wilkes Co. GA.

1789 – George Varner of Missouri born in Oglethorpe Co. MO.

1785 – Glen Owen family in Oglethorpe Co. GA.

1784 – Thomas¹/Glen Owen family in Guilford Co. NC.

1770 – Thomas¹ Owen family in Pittsylvania Co. VA.

Make time for genealogy !!!

Bruce Varner



