

News, Updates, & More

Varner Family Genealogy

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FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR

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

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

84 days until this year's reunion. Fellowship hall at the Macks Creek Baptist Church. Saturday, May 27th 2017.

Starting to think about discussion subjects for this year's reunion. If you have ideas, please let me know quickly!

QUESTIONS / NEWS

Q: Dee Ann (Hunt) Bremer wrote reference last month's topic of the Owen family: "I don't think there is any doubt about the Owen lineage...."

Dee goes on to explain that she matches several individuals in the database. Many are connected through more than one family: Varner, Hunt, Green, Kessler, Meads, Newton, Cushman, Anderton,

Ridener, Horton, Robinett, Luke, Flaughner, & Owen.

"....billo1tx48 is through Francis Marion Owen descended of Thomas and Nancy Owen, and Pamela Pickett also descends from Thomas and Nancy Owen. No other common relatives are found with either of those two....

I figured the best way to sort out the Varner-Owen lineage would be through Vivian (Kessler) since we don't have that many (other) common ancestors.

You, I and others from John and Millie have the Reed/Horton/Robinett/Luke lines that makes it harder to sort. If we could get Vivian to get hers (DNA transferred) on GedMatch, where we could compare between the three of us (Bruce, Dee, Vivian), it might be easier to break out Varner/Riggs and Owen away from the other lines."

A: Great idea! Vivian, contact me if you have any questions, or require guidance on how to upload your DNA result to GedMatch.

Here is a perfect example of how a little work, and some understanding of Autosomal DNA can possibly produce needed results. Another detail that can hopefully be soon nailed down.

George Varner of Missouri Direct Line DNA

Updates coming at this year's reunion.

Riggs/Varner Connection

Updates coming at this year's reunion.

Accessing Your DNA Between Databases

With the letter above from Dee as a backdrop, I thought we would discuss database comparison possibilities for DNA results.

As a general rule, when you pick a DNA testing company, you are only able to compare results with others who have tested with that same company. This really limits the possible matches available to you. Some changes are occurring!

There currently are 3 large DNA testing companies: AncestryDNA, 23andMe, FTDNA (Family Tree DNA). There are several much smaller companies but I will not consider them for purposes of this comparison.

AncestryDNA, the largest, has about 1.3 million samples since inception in 2012. 39% of samples tested.

23andMe has about 1.2 million samples since inception in 2006. 36% of samples tested.

FTDNA, has about 800,000 samples since inception in 2000. 24% of samples tested.

Why is FTDNA the smallest? I think it is likely because they have long focused on the Y-DNA & mtDNA tests which are more expensive than Autosomal. In fact FTDNA is the only company of the three that does Y & mt DNA tests, so they have that market cornered. More people also seem to opt for the less expensive Autosomal test. Now we find that Autosomal may be the best choice for most people anyway.

The many other smaller, and more specialized companies are those such as:
AfricanDNA
ANcestrybyDNA
BritainsDNA
DNA Tribes
Full Genomes Corporation
MyHeritage DNA
ScotlandsDNA
And many more....

“Add mixture” is becoming popular now and many of these smaller companies specialize in this type of testing, even though it is not considered all that accurate yet. Add Mixture is trying to determine percentages of race and/or ancient migration patterns.

If you want Y-DNA (male to male) or mtDNA (female to female) testing, you really only have a single choice, FTDNA. In trying to determine our male lineage, down from Nancy Varner, Y-DNA was

required. But now that we have confirmed the Riggs connection, Autosomal DNA testing becomes much more important to piece together a more complete family picture.

Why is Autosomal now so important? Simply because the number of (Autosomal) cousins alive are much larger than the number of direct line (Y-DNA &/or mtDNA) matches. The downside is that the task of matching Autosomal DNA correctly is harder, and requires genealogic work to actually place the connection correctly.

But whichever company you choose, you still only have default access to matches from other people who have tested with that same company.

The first way to increase access to potential Autosomal tested individuals is using GedMatch.com. There is also Y-Search database, but that database is only for Y-DNA test results.

These are NOT DNA testing companies. You must have your DNA (Autosomal for GedMatch or Y-DNA for Y-Search) tested elsewhere, and then manually load into these free databases. Everyone who has had DNA testing needs to have their DNA uploaded to the appropriate database here. Both are free.

The problem with GedMatch and Y-Search is that only a fraction of those individuals who have tested with FTDNA,

Ancestry, or 23andMe have uploaded results. You still are missing the majority of tested individuals.

Only about 5-10% of those tested at one of the three major testing companies have uploaded. So you are still not comparing your results to the majority of people who have tested.

If you have tested with AncestryDNA or 23andMe, FTDNA has announced the ability for people from those companies to transfer their RAW DNA into FTDNA for free! There is a hitch. You do this for free and this allows you to view your closest 20 Autosomal matches. But to receive full FTDNA access and all matches, requires a \$39 fee. Still a very good way to dramatically increase your potential matches for not much money.

Follow the link [here](#), to upload your AncestryDNA or 23andMe Autosomal DNA results to FTDNA for free, then later pay the \$39 if you wish to have full access.

If you have tested with FTDNA (As I have), you do not have the ability to upload to either AncestryDNA or 23anMe.

The next step would be to test all three companies. Yes, this costs money (The companies are after all there to make money). This remains the only true method to have full access to all databases.

Depending upon which company you have already tested, the cost would be with the other two. Here is the cost for the three companies. They each do have periodic price reductions.

\$99 – AncestryDNA Autosomal Upload
\$99 – 23andMe Autosomal
\$39 – FTDNA Autosomal Upload [\$79 for full Family Finder/Autosomal Test]

So if you belong to AncestryDNA or 23andMe, it would cost you **\$138** (\$99-23andMe + \$39-FTDNA).

If you belong to FTDNA it would cost you **\$198** (\$99-AncestryDNA + \$99-23andMe).

If you have not submitted for Autosomal DNA anywhere, it would cost you **\$277** (\$99-AncestryDNA + \$99-23andMe + \$79-FTDNA 'Price for test since you would not be uploading existing data')

Some caveats, AncestryDNA and 23andMe sell your DNA results to companies such as pharmaceuticals. They sell the results, but do so anonymously, not tied to your specific name. FTDNA does not do this. Each person should make up their own mind as to whether this is a big deal or not.

23andMe began as a medical DNA company and used to provide to you (for a fee), your medical DNA results such as the likelihood of getting cancer and such. They still do so overseas, but are prohibited from doing this now in the

US. If you are interested in such information however, you can still take your DNA results from any of the three companies and upload it into a program called [Promethease](#). For \$5-\$10 you can see for yourself what medical anomalies your DNA may hold.

From reading the Q and A discussion above, you can see where Autosomal DNA can be very useful. Remember that Autosomal DNA matches between men and women, so you do not have to worry about what relationship you might be with the person you are researching.

The more people who test, the better chances we have in the future of answering questions that might otherwise remain unanswered. The current numbers for these big three DNA companies reveals that only about 1% of the US population has done DNA

testing, that still leaves the other 99% untapped.

Autosomal DNA dilutes quickly with each generation. Do not wait, believing that your descendants can submit their DNA at a future date. That one or more generations later can be the difference between being able to make a close match in the future or not.....

As a side note, when you do have DNA testing done, be sure to complete the portion where you provide access of the data to someone else. If you die, and have not done so, your DNA sample can NEVER be accessed by anyone again, and is removed from the database. Lost forever!

Work on genealogy !!!

Bruce Varner