

News, Updates, & More

Varner Family Genealogy

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May 2017

FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR

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

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

This year's reunion comes the end of this month! Hope to see a large turnout. The event is being held in the Fellowship Hall, Macks Creek Baptist Church on Saturday, May 27th 2017.

QUESTIONS / NEWS

Q: From Dee Bremer.going to purchase a ydna kit for a cousin.....would you go with Y37 or 67 with a difference of \$80?

A: I definitely think you would be wise to go the Y-67 test. Think beyond the initial test. If there are several people in the area at that timeframe and with the same surname, then it is likely some or all are related DNA wise. A Y-37 test is only really good to tell that whether you do or do not match, but not how closely.

Example: If there are 5 families in the area during that timeframe with the same surname, Y-37 would tell you that your male donor is related to several. But that same comparison done at Y-67 could determine which family he is "closer" to.

Being an exact or very close match at Y-37, could become in fact only a distant match at Y-67. That difference means that you would get the close match at Y-37 and believe the two might be more closely related than they actually are, only to find out later at Y-67 (or Y-111) that the both have the same surname, but probably relate so far back so as to not be significant in the timeframe during which you are looking.

Y-25 = The two match perfectly. (Not much use. Many people could match at this level)

Y-37 = The two match perfectly. (Likely both have a common surname ancestor, but possibly very far back)

Y-67 = The two match perfectly. (Now you know that the two people are likely related within a few generations. Or, if the two people match with say 2 or more deviations, you would know that would likely place the common ancestor further back.)

Y-111 = The two match perfectly. (With this highest level you are more likely to distinguish more detailed family

branches. If enough others have also submitted this highest level of testing.

Remember the above only works if BOTH people have taken the same level or higher of testing.

Of course we are aware that other details can be filled in through Autosomal DNA of various family members.

George Varner of Missouri Direct Line DNA

Updates coming at this year's reunion.

Riggs/Varner Connection

Updates coming at this year's reunion.

Nancy Ann Varner

A large part of what will be discussed at this year's reunion is Nancy Ann Varner descendant connections between the Varner, Williams, Newton, and other surnames fit together. With that in mind I have put together this narrative about Nancy. It has been a while since she has been discussed in much detail. We can always use refreshers.

Nancy Ann Varner, daughter of George Varner, born 3/27/1841 in Pettis County, Missouri. No record of marriage has been located for Nancy Ann. She raised four children with the Varner surname. This conundrum was taboo and not spoken of within the family. Only DNA testing finally

revealed a Riggs as the true biological father of Nancy's children. Nancy Ann died on 22 July, 1934 in Mack's Creek, Camden County, Missouri.¹

Nancy Ann is the fourth child and first daughter of George Varner and Harriet (Owen) Varner. She is listed in the 1850 census with her family in Pettis County.²

For the 1860 census Nancy Ann (19), is living with a John J. Denton family in Miller County,³ likely serving as a domestic. John Denton went on to join the Union Army early in the Civil War and was killed in Springfield, MO. This precluded him from being the father of any of Nancy Ann's children. John J. Denton was found to have died outside of Springfield, MO. During the battle of Wilson's Creek. He was buried in the Springfield National Cemetery on 11/27/1864. However, this does not mean he was killed in 1864. The lost from the Battle of Wilson's Creek on 8/10/1861 were initially buried in mass graves after the battle. Then they were transferred to the new Springfield National Cemetery in 1864.

The whereabouts of Nancy Ann after the 1860 census and before the 1880 census has been partially resolved. Published in the Miller County Vidette Newspaper on 1 July, 1875 was notice of a letter at the Tuscumbia Post Office for "Miss Nancy Varner".⁴

Nancy Ann is found nowhere in the 1870 Federal census.

¹ Buried in Pleasant Grove Cemetery near Mack's Creek, Camden Co. MO. Nancy Varner, Mar. 27, 1841 – July 22, 1934

² 1850 United States Federal Census. Missouri> Pettis> District 68> Page 80

³ 1860 United States Federal Census. Missouri> Miller> Jim Henry TWP> Page 159

⁴ Miller Co. Vidette Abstract. (Published 1872-1879 in Tuscumbia)

In 1877 a Miller county resident named Edmund Riggs died. On Mar. 3, 1877 probate of Edmund Riggs was filed with Mary A. Riggs and James C. Piles as principal administrators. Affidavit states said Edmund Riggs died at Miller County, Missouri in 1877 leaving as his heirs: Mary A. Riggs his widow, Owen Riggs, Okey Riggs, James Riggs, William Riggs, Phirby Jones, Edmund Jones, children of Elizabeth Jones, formerly Elizabeth Riggs, now deceased.⁵ Initial appraisal of personal property totaled \$907.45. \$35.75 in cash. Real Estate totaled at least 509 acres. Included were 4 notes of loan due the estate.⁶

Claim #15 against the estate of Edmund Riggs submitted on Apr. 2, 1877 was for \$13.15. The claim is from **Nancy Varner** who swore she had been employed by Edmund Riggs and was due 3 ½ months' pay @ \$7.00 per month, totaling \$24.50. \$11.35 had been received but Nancy Varner was still due \$13.15. Payment was allowed in open court on Feb. 13, 1878.⁷

Estate records indicate that Edmund Riggs appeared to have others as caretakers for his many parcels of land throughout Miller county. Edmund Riggs was married. But it could have easily been that the other Riggs household members were unaware of any arraignment with Nancy Ann.

⁵ Miller County Missouri Probate Records for Edmund Riggs, Mary A. Riggs & James C. Piles bonded as administrators on 3 Mar. 1877. Recorded in Book B, page 373. File now located at the Miller County Historical Society Museum, next door to the Miller Co. Courthouse.

⁶ Initial inventory of the Estate of Edmund Riggs. File now located in Edmund's probate records at the Miller County Historical Society Museum, next door to the Miller Co. Courthouse.

⁷ Note of demand from estate of Edmund Riggs by Nancy Varner. File now located in Edmund's probate records at the Miller County Historical Society Museum, next door to the Miller Co. Courthouse.

This information lead to the DNA sampling. Two separate samples of male descendants of Nancy Ann Varner, were submitted. The results revealed that both were zero distance matches to the Riggs family line who had lived in Miller County during that timeframe. Samples were from descendants of Nancy Ann's children John Lawrence Varner and William Owen Varner.⁸

There were two other Riggs brothers in the county during the timeframe of births of Nancy Ann's children, along with one older child of Edmunds. No association between Nancy Ann and any Riggs family member, other than Edmund was found. Of all the Riggs males of this timeframe, only Edmund had opportunity to father all four of the children. For this reason, Edmund is the likely father.⁹ Additional DNA testing in the future could provide a more definitive conclusion. Whether we can every positively confirm Edmund Riggs as the Riggs who fathered the children or not, we know that a male in this Riggs family was the father.

In the 1880 Federal census Nancy Ann is still living in Miller County. Note that as a response to the children's father's state of birth, for each, it indicates "don't know who fathered the children"¹⁰

⁸ DNA results through FamilyTree DNA were conducted on Bruce T. Varner & Warren Varner. Diagram showing where Bruce & Warren fall into the Riggs family tree can be found on the Varner Family Genealogy website.

⁹ More information about this family can be found on the Varner Genealogy website:

<http://home.kc.surewest.net/btvarner/VarnerGenealogy.htm>

¹⁰ 1880 United States Federal Census. Missouri> Osage TWP> Page 186

No data for the 1890 Federal census is available.

In the 1900 Federal census Nancy Ann is living in Camden County.¹¹ Alta Williams the future wife of William O. is located a few households away living with her own family.¹²

In the 1910 Federal census Nancy Ann is in Camden County listed as mother-in-law living with the Newton's.¹³

In the 1920 Federal census Nancy Ann is still in Camden County and again listed as mother-in-law living with the Newton's.¹⁴

Nancy has not been located in the 1930 Federal Census. Nancy Ann died on 22 July, 1934 in Mack's Creek, Camden County, Missouri.¹⁵

Children of Nancy Ann Varner and Edmund? Riggs

John Lawrence Varner, born 17 December, 1866 in Miller County, MO. and died 11 December, 1951 in Kansas City, Missouri. He is buried at Floral Hills Cemetery KCMO. Wife **Millie Jane Horton**, born 30 December, 1878 in Ulman, Miller County, Missouri. Died on 22 November, 1977 in Kansas City, Missouri and buried at Floral Hills Cemetery KCMO.

¹¹ 1900 United States Federal Census. Missouri> Camden> Russell TWP> Page 6

¹² 1900 United States Federal Census. Missouri> Camden> Russell TWP> Page 7 (George & Margaret Williams & 7 children)

¹³ 1910 United States Federal Census. Missouri> Camden> Russell TWP> Page 4

¹⁴ 1920 United States Federal Census. Missouri> Camden> Russell TWP> Sheet #7

¹⁵ Buried in Pleasant Grove Cemetery near Mack's Creek, Camden Co. MO. Nancy Varner, Mar. 27,1841 – July 22, 1934

William Owen Varner, born 8 February, 1869 in Miller County, MO. He died 7 November, 1937 and is buried in the Mack's Creek Cemetery, Camden County, MO. William Owen was called "Wil" throughout his life. William Owen was a member of the Mack's Creek Masonic Lodge. He was Master of that lodge for one year.¹⁶ Wife **Alta William**, born 4 August, 1886 near Bolivar, in Polk County, Missouri. Alta died on 8 February, 1967 and is interred with her husband in the Mack's Creek Cemetery, Camden County, MO. She was one of twins.

Eurelda Varner born 15 November, 1871 in Miller County, Missouri. She died on 11 January, 1959 and is buried in the Pleasant Grove Cemetery in Camden County, MO. Eurelda was called "Relda". Husband **William Andrew Newton**, born 17 February, 1867, died 22 February, 1944 and is buried in the Pleasant Grove Cemetery in Camden County, MO.

Mary F. Varner born 29 May, 1877 in Miller County, Missouri. She died 7 Jun, 1956 and is buried in the Hopewell Cemetery, Dallas County, MO. Mary is described as having blond hair. She was apparently married twice. First husband **Bluford Covington Graham**, born 31 August, 1874 in Camden Co. MO. and died on 17 August, 1920. The union of Mary and Bluford apparently produced one child named Lillie Graham. Second husband **George Clemons**, born 17 January, 1877 in Kentucky, died 27, May, 1952 in Dallas County, MO. George married Mary F. on 18 February, 1901. He is buried in the Hopewell Cemetery, Dallas County, MO. This union produced ten children.

¹⁶ Willis/Varner family tree

The last page below contains an image of the bill for 3 ½ months' pay between Nancy Ann Varner and Edmund Riggs that is found in the estate documents for Edmund, located at the Miller County Historical Society.

See you at the reunion!!!

Bruce Varner

187
Ossimbiu M. April 277
mind Kipp H J B Ferguson Dr
Grote 3 1/2 Months @ 7.00 for the 24.50
In
By Cash 11 35
To Balance 11 35
I trans for the above
account to Nancy Warner
J B Ferguson