

News, Updates, & More

Varner Family Genealogy

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FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR

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

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

Please forward any suggestions so I can have additional topics from which to choose.

QUESTIONS / NEWS

See main article.

George Varner of Missouri Direct Line DNA

I spoke with Billy Joe Varner (1944-) in reference to this month's subject. During that conversation he told me he just completed brain surgery in mid-August. He says it has affected some of his memory & he could not describe to me exactly what specific surgery he had. He did say that they had to cut a hole in one side of his head. He further said

that it was congenital and that he would need to go back in and have the same surgery on the other side of his brain in about six months.

Riggs/Varner Connection

No updates this month.

Adopted Varner Cousin

This month we have a very specific mystery that needs to be solved, so that a cousin can find her ancestors.

I was contacted by Kim Kelley Corcilus. Kim had an autosomal match to a Eugene Varner on Ancestry. Somehow she contacted Cheryl Varner Walker, who had Kim contact me. *(I was unable to find a Eugene Varner or anything similar in the member directory of Ancestry.com.)*

Kim is also working through the issue of her mother not wanting to talk about the history. Her story is explained here.

Kim's mother is Diane Marie Hurlburt, but the story goes that she was "adopted" at about eighteen months. Her birth certificate name is apparently Alice Ann Varner (01/26/1943). The certificate is said to indicate Alice was born in Tuscumbia, Miller Co., Missouri. It is not known where the transfer of Alice took place.

I have no family records for an Alice Ann Varner. I do have an Alice Frances

Varner (1902-1977), daughter of Francis Logan Varner (1874-1939), but this is obviously not the same person.

I recalled the Hurlburt surname and found in my records a Henry Hurlburt, but with no additional personal details about him. Henry had married Goldia Clemons (1917-?). Goldia is a daughter of Mary F. Varner (1877-1956). As we know, Mary is a daughter of Nancy Ann Varner (1841-1934).

Kim responded with additional details. Her grandmother was Goldie Marie Hurlburt (1917-1962). Goldie was married to Alvin Hurlburt. Goldie and Alvin had lived in Raytown, MO., and Kansas City, both Missouri & Kansas.

I think it is certain that the Goldia Clemons & Henry Hurlburt in my records are Goldie & Alvin Hurlburt, Kim's grandparents.

This does not solve the mystery of who actually bore Alice Ann Varner (aka. Diane Marie Hurlburt). But, it is curious that Goldie Hurlburt's mother was a Varner.

So the search to resolve, needs to be focused on Varner cousins in an around Miller County in the 1940's. I hope that because of the number of people who read this newsletter, someone will have additional information that will help to resolve this question.

Census records show only a single Hurlburt family in Saline Twp., Miller Co. in the 1920 census, but none in the 1930 or 1940 censuses.

We know that many in our Varner lines had moved on to Camden County and other locations by this time. Census does show the following Varner cousins in Miller County during the 1940 Federal Census:

1940 Fed Census, Miller Co., Osage Twp., MO:

Warren Varner, Head, 28 yrs, Farm
Lela Mae Varner, Wife, 17 yrs,
Betty Varner, Daughter, 2 yrs,
Ann Varner, Daughter, 2/16 yr,

1940 Fed Census, Miller Co., Equality Twp., MO:

Elsie Varner, Head, 64 yrs, Town
Raymond Varner, Son, 42 yrs,
Alice Varner, Daughter, 37 yrs,
Rebecca Varner, grDaughter, 12 yrs,
Virginia L. Varner, grDaughter, 7 yrs,
Jackie Varner, gSon, 5 yrs,
Wilma Varner, grDaughter, 2 yrs,

1940 Fed Census, Miller Co., Franklin Twp., MO:

John W. Varner, Head, 58 yrs, Farm
Clara E. Varner, Wife, 67 yrs,

1940 Fed Census, Miller Co., Osage Twp., MO:

2 of 18 People at: Miller Co. Alms House (County Poor House)¹

Sylvester Varner, Lodger, 64 yrs,
Emma Varner, Wife, Lodger, 50 yrs,

We of course know these Varner's, but I have listed them here to help provide possible likely parents of this Alice Ann Varner.

It seems unlikely that the household census entry for Warren Varner, Head, 28 yrs, Farmer, is suspect. No one of the age range to be the mother. From my records this is the family of:

Norman Walter Varner (1812-1997)
Lela Cornett (1920-1992)
Betty Lee Varner (1937-)
Frances Ann Varner (1939-)

Elsie Missouri Varner (1877-1942), wife of the by then deceased Francis Logan Varner (1874-1839) had four daughters that fell within age range to have bore this child. Only two, Alice & Rebecca seem to be living in Miller County in 1940.

John Wesley Varner (1882-1965) & wife Clara E. (1873-) appear too old.

¹ The new county home (also once called an almshouse) was opened on August 4, 1931. It was located southeast of Tuscumbia on Highway 17. It contained 198 acres of farmland., SOME INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT MILLER COUNTY, MO., by Peggy Hake Smith

The family of Sylvester Winchester Varner (1881-1955) could be very good candidates. There is a rich and obscure history for this line.

Emma Ratcliff (1885 or 1889-1948) might be within the realm of possibility for the mother of this child. There is some discrepancy in the DOB for Emma. She would have been either 55 or 49 yrs of age in 1940?

Daughter Emma E. Varner (abt. 1920-) would have been 23 in 1943. I do not know where she actually was at that time. She is not listed as Emma Varner in the 1940 census.

Daughter Bertha J. Varner (abt. 1923-) would have been about 20 in 1943. Again I do not know where she was at that time. While both Bertha and her sister Emma are listed with the family in the 1930 census, neither are known after that.

I have in my records, that Sylvester and Emma had two other daughters. I do not however have anything on their ages. Their names were Stella & Eula Mae.

In 1940 both Sylvester & Emma were residents of the Alms House, the Miller County Poor House. More than one of their children were believed to have had learning disabilities. It is unclear if this was actually the case. It might have

been because their diet and upbringing might have been very poor.²

Sylvester is listed as the son of Edward D. (Ned) Varner (1839-1916). There are strong suggestions that Sylvester was actually a stepson. The mother being one of Ned's wives child. That would complicate the DNA trail.³

Kim Kelley Corcilius did her DNA testing through Ancestry, but is unfamiliar with the system. I tried to obtain her member or login name for Ancestry.com but to this point she is not sure what that name is. I tried several obvious combinations without success. This will be good to obtain so that several of us can compare to see if we match Autosomal DNA with Kim.

So, just throwing this information out there in the hopes someone can provide additional detail to help resolve this mystery. If you have any information on this mystery, please let me know. Thanks everyone!

Happy Halloween !!

Bruce Varner

² Much of this information is from Dee Hunt Bremer, who has studied this line.

³ Ibid