

## News, Updates, & More

# Varner Family Genealogy

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**December 2018**

### FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR

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

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

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

By now everyone should have the news of the death of Don Varner (Donald Ray Varner b.03/05/1934-d.10/21/2018). He will be missed. The work of Judy and Don on the annual reunion is well known.

Sorry about no newsletter last month. I found myself very behind in several areas, and could not devote the necessary time to produce the newsletter.

I hope everyone has a Happy Christmas with family and friends.

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## QUESTIONS / NEWS

None this month.

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### George Varner of Missouri Direct Line DNA

FamilyTree DNA had a sale recently that reduced the cost for DNA upgrades a substantial amount. As a result the Y-67 DNA status for both Billy Joe Varner (03/07/1944-), and William Virgil Varner (12/06/1933-) were upgraded to Y-111.

You may recall that at the Y-67 level, Billy Joe and William Virgil matched with a deviation of 4 markers.

We know that the ancestors of both Billy Joe and William Virgil crossed paths in the same area of North Carolina, during the same timeframe. What we do not know is if the MRCA (Most Recent Common Ancestor) was in North Carolina or somewhere before that location.

The results of the testing upgrades are in, and the new deviation is now 6 markers.

This is not as good as if the separation had remained at 4, but testing of these extra chromosomes provide additional information.

The bottom line is that even through there are 2 extra deviations, the MRCA

still is as likely to be in North Carolina as not.

The main article this month is again about DNA. But a more detailed understanding of the results were needed so that everyone could reach their own conclusions about what this new information meant.

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### Riggs/Varner Connection

I also upgraded my DNA to Y-111, to refine my known Riggs DNA matches. Have not had time to study the results yet. Trying to see on which Riggs lines the close matches hold up. Might help bolster our Edmund Riggs line.

Hope to have results for the next newsletter.

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### Adopted Varner Cousin

The main article in the October issue of the newsletter concerned a Kim Kelley Corcilus. As you recall, Kim had an Autosomal match to a Eugene Varner on Ancestry. Eugene is a 1<sup>st</sup> cousin to William Virgil Varner. Kim's mother is Diane Marie Hurlburt, and was apparently "adopted" at about eighteen months. She had been born in Tuscumbia as Alice Ann Varner (01/26/1943).

Unfortunately I did not receive a single lead to this article. I am still trying to follow-up and learn more about this

subject, but there are no good leads at this point.

If you can help, please re-read the article in the October 2018 newsletter for the details, and let me know if you have ANY information. Even the slightest detail could result in a breakthrough.

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### Again With A DNA Lesson?

I am sorry that so many of these newsletters end up on the subject of DNA. I really am! But DNA is how many unknown details of our families will be solved as time progresses. Only by having a basic understanding of DNA, can you make informed decisions about what to believe, or how much to believe.....

Here is how the Billy Joe Varner and William Virgil Varner deviations compare to each other, as the number of chromosomes tested are increased:

1 Deviation = Y-12  
1 Deviation = Y-25  
1 Deviation = Y-37  
4 Deviation = Y-67  
6 Deviation = Y-111

Understand that if you only look at the first 37 chromosomes, Billy & William remain 1 deviation apart. Three more deviations occur in chromosomes 38-67. Then two additional deviations happen in chromosomes 68-111.

Different numbered chromosomes mutate at different rates. So, one deviation could be as close as father to son, or could be several generations back.

Predictions are based upon how often the chromosome in question "normally" changes.

So it needs to be clear which chromosomes are involved in the mutations. Slow mutators or fast mutators. A person could be say 3 deviations from the MRCA while another is only 1 deviation from that same MRCA. But if that 1 deviation is a slow mutators and the 3 are fast mutators, then the person with the 3 deviations could be a closer relative.

Different groups have created different calculations to establish probabilities for the number of generations back an MRCA is likely to have occurred. Here is the chart that FamilyTree DNA uses and the predictions for Billy Joe and William Virgil:

| Generations | Percentage |
|-------------|------------|
| 4           | 14.72%     |
| 5           | 31.58%     |
| 6           | 47.98%     |
| 7           | 62.23%     |
| 8           | 73.63%     |
| 9           | 82.2%      |
| 10          | 88.32%     |
| 11          | 92.52%     |

| Generations | Percentage |
|-------------|------------|
| 12          | 95.32%     |
| 13          | 97.12%     |
| 14          | 98.26%     |
| 15          | 98.96%     |
| 16          | 99.39%     |
| 17          | 99.65%     |
| 18          | 99.8%      |
| 19          | 99.88%     |
| 20          | 99.93%     |
| 21          | 99.96%     |
| 22          | 99.98%     |
| 23          | 99.99%     |
| 24          | 99.99%     |

At first glance one would take these results as proof that Billy & William are not as closely related as first thought. That the MRCA is not from North Carolina. This certainly could be the case. But not necessarily!

We know that the ancestors of our two relatives were in North Carolina at the same time. We know that they lived near to each other. We know that this time period was early in the settlement of North Carolina. From this we can draw the conclusion that if NC was the location of the MRCA, it had to have occurred 5 or 6 generations back from Billy & William.

If you look at the percentages that the MRCA between Billy & William was in one of those generations, it gives the percentages as:

| Generations | Percentage |
|-------------|------------|
| 5           | 31.58%     |
| 6           | 47.98%     |

That is about a 3 in 10 chance that the MRCA was in the 5<sup>th</sup> generation and an almost 50/50 chance the MRCA was in the 6<sup>th</sup> generation.

If you add in the family facts that we have about the ancestors of these two lines, that seems to increase the probabilities? We know that both lines crossed in North Carolina. We know how few individuals with our matching Varner Y-DNA have surfaced.

So it would seem as likely as not that the MRCA was in North Carolina.

I am still very open to the possibility that NC was not the location for the MRCA for these two lines. Hopefully additional information obtained in the future will resolve this issue.

I want to be sure that others do not just assume that the North Carolina connection is a fact. It is not. Just a very strong possibility. I could be wrong. I am wrong, often! So, I hope that others will keep me in check. Reach your own conclusions.

The last thing I want is for someone to read these newsletters years from now,

and just assume that because something is written here, it must be the truth!

As expected, there still is only the Billy & William match to each other in the database. I have to say an additional word or two about this fact.

Even at the lowest match level (Y-12) Billy & William only match each other and no one else in the entire database! Normally, there are several/many people who are matches at the lower level. They are then thinned out as the number of chromosomes tested is increased. But not here. Seems to indicate a very small family line indeed.

The good news is that as more people DNA test, the likelihood is that any matches to us will be a true family match.

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Merry Christmas !!

***Bruce Varner***