

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>

QUESTIONS / NEWS

I have several copies of the Gerald Varner books: **Varner Families of the South**, Vol's 1 & 2 left. I will shortly be placing these volumes on eBay. If you wish to purchase copies before that time, please let me know. I am selling them to recoup my cost. Both volumes together members of this list can buy for \$10 + shipping. That's volume 1 & volume 2 for \$10 total. They will be more costly on eBay because of the additional overhead.

George Varner of Missouri Direct Line DNA

See main article.

Riggs/Varner Connection

Nothing new this month.

We Now Know Some of Our NC Varner Ancestry Linkage!

In last month's newsletter I briefly mentioned research that Cheryl Varner Walker has recently completed on a trip to North Carolina, about her direct Varner line. I also mentioned that I re-compiled the slideshow presented at the reunion. This new version reflects the details that Cheryl has resolved.

I assume no one got the significance of the information. I say that because I did not receive a single comment. I would have thought that the findings would have produced more response. For that reason, I am presenting this information again.

As we know, Cheryl's father, William Virgil Varner (1933-) matches our Billie Joe Varner (1944-) with a Y-67 DNA deviation of 4.

A deviation of 4 means positively related, but at some distance. It could mean an MRCA (Most Recent Common Ancestor) that occurred in the 1600's or even further back, long before settlement in North Carolina. However, it also means that there is a 50/50% possibility that the MRCA might have been in North Carolina around the time of the Revolutionary War. This is the

same timeframe when Varner families first settled in the area.

With the above in mind, let's look at some of the evidence to date.

Billy Joe Varner Facts:

- 1) Billy Joe Varner is the genetic g-g-grandson of George Varner (abt. 1787-abt. 1861) of Missouri.
- 2) George Varner's own statements proclaim he was a farmer & born in Oglethorpe Co. GA.
- 3) George Varner census records indicate an approximate year of birth as 1787.
- 4) During this same time frame, only a Fredrick Varner of Oglethorpe Co. GA. had a known son named George who is unaccounted for in any later records.
- 5) Billy Joe Varner matches William Virgil Varner, at Y-67, with a deviation of 4.

William Virgil Varner Facts:

- 1) William Virgil Varner is the genetic g-g-grandson of William Varner (1802-1871) of Rowan / Davidson Co. North Carolina.
- 2) William Varner of NC is the son of John Varner (abt. 1765-1826) of Rowan / Davidson Co. NC.¹
- 3) John Varner lived within 1.5 miles of John Varner on Yadkin River.

¹ Concluded from evidence recently substantiated from records in North Carolina

- 4) William Virgil Varner matches Billy Joe Varner, at Y-67, with a deviation of 4.

Early John Varner of North Carolina Facts:²

- 1) A John Varner on the Yadkin River 1st appeared in then Rowan Co. records in 1778.
- 2) This John Varner's property along the Yadkin River in old Rowan Co. became part of Davidson Co. in 1822.
- 3) John Varner, g-g-g-grandfather of William Virgil Varner had his will probated in Davidson Co. in 1826.
- 4) Some records from this immediate area of Alleghany Township, Davidson Co., North Carolina during this timeframe, discuss a John Varner Sr. and John Varner Jr.
- 5) The property of John Varner, g-g-g-grandfather of William Virgil Varner, is located about 1 ½ miles from the Yadkin River property of the John Varner from 1778.
- 6) John Varner, g-g-g-grandfather of William Virgil, also at one point owned property on or near the Yadkin River.

² 1) Several of the Family Tree DNA Varner Surname Project participants claim descentance from early NC Varner families. The only support for such a claim any have produced, is their family oral history that their ancestors came from NC. Y-DNA matches between these same project individuals & known northern Johannes "Hans" Adam Werner descendants has caused the prevailing belief that ALL early Varner's in NC. Are also descendants of Hans.

- 7) These John Varner properties belonging to Sr. & Jr. all are within a two miles of each other.
- 8) This and other evidence seems to allow for a very reasonable conclusion that the 1778 John Varner on the Yadkin River, is father of the John Varner, who's will was probated in 1826.
- 9) The John Varner from 1778 on the Yadkin River, is also the father of the same Matthew Varner, Revolutionary War soldier who later lived in Oglethorpe Co. Georgia near Fredrick Varner.

More collation of the details needed to be completed. I am putting together a more through overview of those facts, that should be completed in the near future. This month has been very hectic.

This is very interesting and exciting evidence that seems to get us closer to determining who might be the MRCA between William Virgil & Billy Joe.

The other Varner families that migrated into North Carolina during this timeframe seem to very much be separated by their places of settlement. Adam Varner's family settled along the Uwharrie River in what became Randolph Co. The other Varner families settled in other counties. But this John Varner and his son John Varner, and his son William Varner all lived close together.

Also, from the stand point of Matthew Varner of Oglethorpe Co. GA., this could help with the missing DAR/SAR link of who are living male descendants of Matthew. So far several female lines have proven descendence from Matthew, but no one from a direct male side. Since Matthew Varner is the son of John Varner of Yadkin River, then Matthew and John Varner, g-g-g-grandfather of William Virgil, are brothers?

Where does George Varner of Missouri fit into the picture? It is still unclear.

- The Fredrick Varner, George Varner, and Matthew Varner of Oglethorpe Co. GA. All initially lived near to each other in Oglethorpe County.
- If these are the same persons as it seems, they all three appeared in Rowan Co. NC. Records prior to moving to Georgia.
- As stated, we know that Matthew's father was the John Varner on the Yadkin River in Rowen, later turned Davidson County in North Carolina.
- We strongly suspect that Fredrick Varner is our George Varner of Missouri's father.
- The older George Varner of Oglethorpe Co., if the same person, owned land in Rowan turned Davidson Co. NC. Within this same 2 mile radius of William Virgil Varner's known g-g-g-grandfather John Varner. Would

it not seem logical that he is also related?

- The Adam Werner/Varner families lived far enough away in old Rowan Co. NC. to be located in what would become Randolph County, not Davidson County.
- Could it be that these three particular Varner's (George, Matthew, Fredrick) from Oglethorpe Co. Georgia are all sons, or sons and cousins, or sons and brother of John Varner on the Yadkin River?
- Maybe the long held stories of all these North Carolina & Georgia Varner's being descended from Hans Werner of PA. has a twist. Might that twist be that these Rowan, then Davidson County Varner's are in fact ALL related to us and not to the Hans Werner line.

Do I have proof? No. Does anyone have evidence that contradicts this scenario? Not that I have found.....

Additional details coming soon. More work to be done.....

Have a safe 4th of July and enjoy the summer. Work on genealogy!

Bruce Varner