

News, Updates, & More



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**GEORGE WASHINGTON VARNER  
Disappearance of George Washington  
Varner during the Civil War.**

George W. Varner was the second oldest known son of George Varner of Missouri. According to census records George W. Varner was born in 1838. By the age of 25, he was listed as a Union deserter and not know to have been heard from, by anyone again.

George W. Varner appears to be first recorded in the records on the Federal Census of 1840. George Varner of Missouri as head of household in Pettis County, MO., is listed as having three male children. One between 5 & 10 years and two under 5 years. It is assumed the older child is Thomas J. and the two youngest are George W. and Edward D.

In the 1850 Federal Census George W. is again with the family in Pettis County, MO. and listed by name Geo. W., 12 years of age, male, born in Missouri.

By the 1860 Federal Census George W. is still with the family, but in Miller County, MO. Listed as George W., 23 years of age, male, born in Missouri.

We know that the parents of George W., George Varner of Missouri and wife Harriet disappear from records after this 1860 census. Neither can be found to have ever owned land in Miller County. Unsubstantiated family lore says that both parents were killed in Miller County by bushwhackers around the start of the Civil War. Could this be the reason that George W. and later Edward D. both joined the Union army?

Military records from the National Archives show that George W. Varner enlisted in the Union Cavalry in Jefferson City, MO. On August 4<sup>th</sup> 1862. Military records also show him as 5'9" tall, light hair, blue eyes, fair complexion, single, a teamster, native of Pettis Co. Missouri, father born in Georgia.<sup>1</sup>

The Regimental History for the 10<sup>th</sup> Missouri Cavalry shows deployment as follows: Moved to Memphis, Tenn., December 1862. Duty in the District of Memphis, Tenn. Until February 1863. Regiment went on to participate in many actions through the remainder of

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<sup>1</sup> Company E, 10th Missouri Cavalry Muster cards for George W. Varner dated from Sept-Dec. 1862 at Jefferson Barracks. Listed as deserter on cards through 1865. Nothing further located.

the war after George W. is reported a deserter.<sup>2</sup>

Muster Roles for September and December 1862 show George W. at Jefferson Barrack.

On January 27, 1863 George W. is reported as a deserter from the unit located at Columbus, KY. I have not located any action reports for the unit at this time period to determine if the 10<sup>th</sup> Cavalry had been engaged in any activity that could have resulted in George W. being killed but his body never recovered. I understand that this area is swampy and that soldiers were lost and died under similar conditions.

George W. is not known to have surfaced again. So, we do not know if George W. was killed in battle, died and body not recovered, or in fact deserted and lived out his life under an assumed name or in another part of the country?

I have done some initial, high level searching in other locations around the county for George W. after the Civil War without success. It would however be interesting to find out that George W. survived the war and has descendants.

I have placed a copy of George Washington Varner's service record on the web site for others interested in this particular missing link.

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<sup>2</sup> Compendium of the War of the Rebellion, Pages 1309

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## FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR

<http://home.kc.surewest.net/btvarner/VarnerGenealogy.htm> is the Varner Family Genealogy Website. Some of the files require a password to open. That password is: VarnerFamily. Please do not provide this password to anyone else. Send them to me so I can keep track of who might access the information. A password is required to prevent unauthorized changes to those documents.

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## QUESTIONS

No questions surfaced this month.

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## NEWS

### Varner /Riggs Connection Update

We have a new member to the group. Our first Riggs has joined and is receiving the newsletter. Frederick L. Riggs was born in 1937 and lives in Cincinnati, OH. Fred is a one-step DNA deviation from Warren Ray Varner and I.

Fred's father was Wynford M. Riggs (1905-1988) whose family was from Keokuk, IA.

Fred is fascinated by the Riggs/Varner revelations and interested in pursuing

the connections. Fred forwarded me a copy of his direct family genealogy for those interested. It can also be found in Alvy Ray Smith's eBook referenced on the Varner Family Genealogy web site.

Happy to have you Fred!

### 2014 Newton/Varner/Riggs Family Reunion

Next year's reunion will be held Saturday, May 24, 2014 from 9am until late afternoon, at the Polk County Senior Center, 1850 W. Broadway Street, Bolivar, Missouri. Pot luck lunch at noon (contribute your own food) with paper plates, cups, forks, napkins provided.

For questions contact Linda Cushman [lindacushman45@gmail.com](mailto:lindacushman45@gmail.com)  
417-326-4387

Some folks arrive as early as about 10 am. Most others closer to lunchtime.

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### George Varner of Missouri Direct Line DNA

Also nothing new to report on obtaining George Varner DNA candidates. As always, this includes any male to male direct descendants of:

John D. Varner (1854-1929)  
Glenn Varner (1852-)  
Francis Marion Varner (1847-1904)  
Samuel Philip Varner (1846-1896)

Edward Varner (1839-1916)  
George Washington Varner (1838-)  
Thomas J. Varner(1836-)

All clues in this direction are welcomed.

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### **A George Varner Line**

This month's outline is simple and short. George W. Varner (Story above), one of George Varner of Missouri's sons. If you have additional information please let me know.

**George<sup>4</sup> Varner** (Fredrick<sup>3</sup>, John<sup>2</sup>, Hans<sup>1</sup>)  
b. abt. 1789 – d. abt. 1861  
Married *Harriet Owen* (b. abt. 1817 – d. abt. 1861)

**George Washington<sup>5</sup> Varner** (George<sup>4</sup>, Fredrick<sup>3</sup>, John<sup>2</sup>, Hans<sup>1</sup>)  
b. 1838 – d. Unknown  
Joined the 10<sup>th</sup> Missouri Cavalry and listed as a deserter in 1863.

He might have undiscovered descendants out there somewhere?

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Please make subject suggestions to help me provide a wide monthly perspective for everyone.

***Bruce Varner***