

News, Updates, & More



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FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR

This month there is some interesting reading about advancements in genealogical DNA that will produce some striking answers in the future. Read about this in the section for the Varner/Riggs Updates below.

Also, this month’s main article discusses the location differences that occurred with the George & Harriet Varner siblings. This is important to finding a direct George Varner DNA donor. Please read and provide feedback if you know of any family oral history concerning this split.

Copies of all issues of this newsletter are downloadable from the website. The site look has been updated, however it is still located at the same path and should be easy to navigate.

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

Some files require a password to open. That password is: VarnerFamily (Case sensitive, no spaces). Please do not provide this password to anyone else. Send them to me so I can keep track of who might access the information.

QUESTIONS / NEWS

Q: I occasionally am asked what if any, connection we may have to other Varner's around Missouri and the country.

A: The obvious answer is that clues have just not surfaced that allow us to draw any conclusions in regards to the many other Varner families.

While legwork and luck can and do produce breakthroughs, in this day and interconnected age of the internet, we may be nearing a point where it will be increasingly less likely that absolutely new unknown family connections are made.

I believe in the future this will make DNA the top method of uncovering previously unknown genealogy connections. While DNA cannot provide all details, it can provide a breakthrough fact that leads to learning previously unknown family secrets. In the near future DNA testing's abilities will likely increase experientially. Read the below article for more insight into this future.

Varner /Riggs Connection Update DNA Advances

Received an email this month from the Riggs genealogy administrator Alvy Ray Smith. In that email he described new DNA breakthroughs specifically involving the Riggs family tree. Thanks to Alvy for providing this information in an easily understandable format!

FamilyTreeDNA has begun a new set of DNA tests called the BigY test. This test moves the Riggs DNA much deeper by several steps. Alvy explains:

"Mutations are what define the different branches of the family tree of Western European males. We used to call them R1b males.... There are certain mutations which make a male an R1b male. Then the R1b family branches when there is another mutation, those with it and those without it. We now name these branches with the name of the mutation that defines it."

"Specifically, the R1b family of males is now known as the R-M343 group. M343 is a mutation in a single letter of the genetic code (formally one of these mutations is called a "snip" for SNP = single nucleotide polymorphism). The SNP (pronounced snip) M343 is the one that separates western European males from eastern European males, roughly speaking."

"We now know that there have been 9 further such SNP mutations, that define the part of the male tree to which you

Riggses belong..... Well, it was 9 until Keith was given the BigY test. That test took our (Riggs) tree down one further SNP. It was announced as official just a few days ago.”

“There is a special study group at FamilyTreeDNA devoted to learning still more about our particular (Riggs) branch of the genetic tree. It has the unlovely name of the DF41/CTS2501 group. It has that name because until the most recent SNP was discovered, these were the names of the SNP’s that defined the branch of the tree we are on: R-DF41 and R-CTS2501. The new sub-branch is called R-A874. I urge all of you (with Riggs DNA) to join the special group so that your genetic data..... can be used to further refine this sub-branch.....”

“.....Each new SNP that's found from now on will be nearer and nearer to our time. Eventually, there should be discovered a SNP that defines exactly the Edwardian Riggses.....Alvy Ray Smith, Group Admin for the Riggs/Rigg DNA Study Group at FTDNA”

This is exciting news for not only the Riggs family tree, but for DNA results in general. The results that continue to be discovered are amazing! One day we will look back and wonder how we did genealogy without it.

I did join this FamilyTreeDNA study group (DF41/CTS2501). Cannot wait for the next advance. Thanks Alvy!

George Varner of Missouri Direct Line DNA

Still looking for help engaging one of more of the people below in **bold**.

George Varner (1789-1861)

Samuel Philip Varner (1846-1896)

Francis Logan Varner (1874-1939)

Norman Walter Varner (1912-1997)

Raymond Walter Varner (1942-200xs)

Mother Lela Corrnnett

Jason Raymond Varner (40)

Mother Christine Elizabeth Swillium

Micha? Dority Varner (38)

Mother Nancy Dority

Norman Fredrick (Butch) Varner (68)

Mother Alice Ethlene Brown

Michael Logan Varner (43)

Michael Lee Varner (36)

George Henry Varner (1880-1946)

Henry Edgar Varner (1919-2003)

James Varner (??)

William Varner (??)

Henry Lee Varner (55)

Finding George Varner Living Male Descendants

After reading the above article about the DNA advancements for the Riggs surname, I am all the more convinced that DNA sampling is about the only way to obtain any major leaps in Varner genealogy.

We know now that any further male DNA advancements for those descendants of Nancy Ann Varner will lead back through the Riggs family. That is great because there is a large

dedicated group of individuals with Riggs DNA participating in the cause.

We will be happy with these Riggs advancements, but our family does have the surname of Varner. Ties run deep with this surname. Hard work has produced great genealogy results back through George & Harriet Varner of Missouri. Locating documents on George has provided the link back to the Varner's in Oglethorpe Co. Georgia, which is also great!

But records are not complete. Proof for which members of the Varner clan in Oglethorpe County are we directly related to? Which Varner families north into the Carolina's, Pennsylvania, Maryland, are our Varner's related? Which Varner's in between here and the east coast are relatives? Tennessee? Alabama? Ohio? West Virginia? The only way I ever see this being answered is with DNA testing.

I am sorry I have been harping on this for some time now, but I believe this is the direction to proceed with the best chance of producing large results!

I have been trying now since the family reunion in 2012 to track down direct male to male living Varner's descending from George Varner. The single family I have successfully contacted appears not to be interested in helping.

I need help. I cannot believe that none of your reading this newsletter know

any of the Varner's descended through George's other sons.

No know descendants from Thomas, George W., or Glenn have apparently been found. That still leaves Edward (Ned), Samuel, and Francis Marion. Someone must know something about a living descendant from one of these siblings?

Those individuals listed in bold above in the "George Varner of Missouri Direct Line DNA" are people I believe to be living still here in Missouri. Butch (Norman Fredrick Varner) I know to live in Eldon. Butch's sons I also believe to live nearby, possible around Jefferson City. I made contact with Norman Fredrick (Butch) wife Nelda Sue one time only. She said she would pass along my request and have Butch or one of the sons contact me. I have heard nothing nor have I been able to re-contact them.

Someone must have some insight into living members of these branches of the Varner family.

This is the time to help me track down someone who I can speak to about agreeing to DNA testing. I will pay.

Until one person who is directly descended from George Varner of Missouri submits to testing, we do not have any DNA to compare with the large amount of existing Varner DNA already

in the possession of the Varner DNA study group back east. Help!

Here is what I believe to be correct about those living George Varner descendants I have information on.

Edward Varner (1839-1916)
 Sylvester W. Varner (1881-1955)
 Calvin Varner – born in Miller Co.
 Willie Varner – born in Miller Co.
 Robert Alexander Varner (1888-?)
 Ernest Varner (1897-?).

I have no information on Sylvester's children, nor Robert or Ernest. Seems to be a lot of discrepancies with the biological legitimacy of these children so these would be my last choice for DNA comparison even if any were available.

Samuel Philip Varner (1846-1998)
 Francis Logan Varner (1874-1939)
 Samuel Raymond Varner (1898-?)
 Norman Walter Varner (1912-1997)
 Clyde Mason Varner (1941-1943)
 Raymond Walter Varner (1942-200x)
Jason Raymond Varner (1974-) [Alive]
Micha Dority Varner (1976-) [Alive]
Norman (Butch) Fredrick Varner (1946-) [Alive]
Michael Logan Varner (1971-) [Alive]
Michael Lee Varner (1978-) [Alive]
 Clyde Varner (?-?)
 Allen Varner (?-1939)
 Harvey Varner (?-1939)

I have made initial contact with Nelda Sue the wife of Butch but have not received any feedback nor have I been able to re-contact in several months. I do have the phone number for Norman (Butch) and wife Nelda Sue in Eldon if anyone is interested.

Samuel Philip Varner (1846-1998)
 George Henry Varner (1880-1946)
 William D. Varner (1916-1928)
 Henry Edgar Varner (1919-2003)
 Walter Enouh Varner (1950-1972)
James Varner (?-?) [Alive?]
William Varner (?-?) [Alive?]
Henry Lee Varner (1959-) [Alive?]

John Paul Varner (1922-1994)

I have been unable to find numbers or addresses for these individuals.

2015 Newton/Varner Reunion Update

Received last minute information from Linda Cushman. The 2015 Newton/Varner family reunion will again be held in Bolivar at the same facility. The event will occur on Saturday May 23rd. We will have the facility between 10am and 4pm. Most attendees arrive just before lunch.

Please start thinking about what you would like to have occur during the event.

The formal address is:

1850 W. Broadway St.
Bolivar, MO.

Please contact me with subject ideas for future newsletters.

Winter is here.....

Bruce Varner