

News, Updates, & More



IN THIS ISSUE:

From the Administrator1

Questions/News.....1

George Varner of Missouri Direct Line...3

Varner/Riggs Updates.....3

2016 Newton/Varner Reunion.....7

April 2016

FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR

Copies of old newsletters and additional genealogy information available on the Varner Family website.

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

Looking for ideas to include in future newsletters. Please provide your input.

QUESTIONS / NEWS

Q: From Vivian Kessler. "Your accounts of Camden County history inspired me to do a little extra reading. E.g., I never heard of "Wet Auglaize" before and at first I thought it was a typo for "West Auglaize"."

A: The State Historical Society of Missouri describes:

"Auglaize Creek....

This stream with its various branches heads in Laclede and Pulaski Counties, in close relation with the sources of the Gasconade River. The branch which perhaps may be designated as Auglaize Creek proper rises in western Pulaski

County and runs west into Camden, joining the Wet Auglaize, a much larger stream, near the center of Auglaize Township. Wet Auglaize Creek rises in northern Laclede County and runs north into Camden. After their juncture they flow northeast into Jackson Township, where they are joined by the Dry Auglaize near the northeast boundary of the township. Dry Auglaize Creek rises near the center of Laclede County, in Lebanon Township, and then turns east into Jackson Township to join its sisters. The combined three streams, often known as the Grand Auglaize, but also as merely the Auglaize, now take a turn into Miller County, running for a short distance through the southwest corner of Glaze Township; then it reenters Camden County, flowing in a generally northwest direction through northern Jackson and Osage Townships, to empty at last into the Osage River in northeast Osage Township.

The name is French, one of the oldest river names in the State. It was originally a French phrase "au glaize," meaning "at the clay," more specifically "at the saline lick." The word "glaize" in standard French means potter's clay or loam; but McDermott says it was used in Mississippi French for superficial deposits of salt in the ground frequented by animals that lick it, or salt licks. He quotes from Dunbar's LIFE, LETTERS, AND PAPERS, 1804: "The soil around consisted of a white tenacious clay, probably fit for Potter's ware: hence the name "Glaize" which the

French hunters have bestowed upon most of the licks which are frequented by the beasts of the forest, although salt is not always to be found in such places so as to merit attention." Dunbar wrote also of "licks, which are sometimes termed 'saline,' sometimes 'glaize'." There is much clay in the region of the stream and its branches, especially near the headwaters. In the spring of the year, when the waters rise, they are often as red as blood. With the retention of the French "au," meaning "at the," compare Auxvasse (for "aux vases," at the swamps)... Pike in his account of his Expedition of 1806 calls the stream the Saline, which his editor Coues thinks was a slip of the pen or memory for Saline Creek in Miller County, which he had passed just a few days before; but he may well have found it in use, as a synonym for "glaize." The frequent variant Grand Auglaize has been explained as used because the stream is the longest, though not the largest, tributary of the Osage, or as referring to the lower part after the junction of all the branches; but Schultz points out that the original French form of the name was Riviere Grande Glaize; and La Grande Glaize, according to McDermott, meant "The Big Lick."

The Dry Auglaize is so called because it is dry over large areas for most of the year, in contrast to the Wet Auglaize, which never goes dry. The name is often

reduced to Grand Glaize, Grand Glaze, Glaize, or Glaze.”¹

The Missouri Department of Conservation, states under Geology & Geomorphology that: “Dry Auglaize Subbasin has no notable springs, while the Wet Glaize Subbasin has six. Four of these have discharges greater than 2 cubic feet per second (cfs). Four of the six, including the three largest, emerge from the Gasconade Formation (MDNR 1995).”²

George Varner of Missouri Direct Line DNA

Correction from last month: I stated that the autosomal testing for Billy Joe Varner completed on 3/8/16. It was actually completed on 2/8/16.

As stated last month, there were no initial matches found within FTDNA to Bills autosomal results. My intention was to place the results into the GedMatch.com database. However the dispute between FTDNA and GedMatch.com has not been resolved as of yet. Currently there is a restriction from uploading FTDNA results into GedMatch databases.

¹ Historical Society of Missouri, http://shs.umsystem.edu/manuscripts/ramsay/ramsay_camden.html

² Missouri Department of Conservation: <http://mdc.mo.gov/your-property/greener-communities/missouri-watershed-inventory-and-assessment/osage-river-east/geolo>

I will keep everyone informed as to the progress with this end of the family.

Varner/Riggs Updates

It has been sometime since we have discussed Riggs genealogy connections. I thought it would be good to have a review and highlight where we currently stand. To lay the groundwork I will quickly provide details from the beginning, so that those who are not aware, or may have forgotten can be brought up-to-speed. There are links in this discussion which when followed provide additional details.

What Is The Riggs Connection?

Nancy Ann Varner (1841-1934) had four children, all of whom grew up with Nancy’s maiden name Varner. Family members never openly spoke of why this was the case, and none of the long dead early descendants passed on any clues.

Therefore everyone who descends from any one of Nancy’s four children falls into the same category. Nancy’s four children were:

John Lawrence Varner (1866-1951)
 William Owen Varner (1869-1937)
 Eurelda Varner Newton (1871-1959)
 Mary Varner Clemons Cove (1877-1956)

Y-DNA tests were conducted in 2012 by Bruce T. Varner (1951-), father Edwin Dale Varner, grandfather Bert Lonzo

Varner, great-grandfather John Lawrence Varner, son of Nancy Ann Varner. This test revealed that genetically, John Lawrence Varner was fathered by a Riggs. Therefore all direct male to male descendants from John Lawrence carry Riggs Y-DNA.

Y-DNA tests were conducted in in 2013 by William Ray Varner (1943-), father Otto George Varner, grandfather William Owen Varner, son of Nancy Ann Varner. This second Y-DNA test revealed that genetically, William Owen Varner was also fathered by a Riggs.

Bruce T. Varner and William Ray Varner are a zero deviation Y-DNA match to each other.

Subsequent research into the Riggs families of Miller County, Missouri revealed that three brothers lived in Miller County during the same timeframe as Nancy.

Calvin Riggs (1810-1863)
Owen Riggs (1813-1875)
Edmund Riggs (1819-1877)

Since the completion of testing, evidence has proven that John Lawrence and William Owen were both fathered by a Riggs, one might assume that the two girls (Eurelda & Mary) could have been fathered by a Riggs also.

Since both Calvin and Owen Riggs were dead by the time the final daughter Mary was born, that leaves Edmund

Riggs as the most likely father of the four.

Estate documents for Edmund Riggs proved that Nancy Varner worked for Edmund Riggs up until Edmund's time of death.

Antidotal evidence from family lore has long stated that Nancy Ann's parents, George and Harriet Varner were living "on the old Riggs place" when they were killed around the start of the Civil War.

Additional Y-DNA results surfaced from four descendants of James Riggs (1662-1744). These four James Riggs descendants showed close Y-DNA matches to Bruce & William Varner. The four Riggs descendants are:

Fredrick L. Riggs (1937-) [1 deviation]
Charles L. Riggs (1954-) [2 deviation]
Lawrence B. Riggs (1932-) [1 deviation]
Michael D. Riggs (1958-) [0 deviation]

Fredrick and Charles Riggs MRCA (Most Recent Common Ancestor) is William Riggs (1750-1833).

Lawrence and Michael, along with our Edmund Riggs MRCA is James Riggs (1742-1815).

Both William Riggs and James Riggs are two generations descended from the Riggs family patriarch James Riggs (1662-1744). A pedigree chart showing the relationships can be found [at bottom of this document](#).

One problem has been that no one in the much studied Riggs family lines knew anything about the Riggs brothers of Miller County, Missouri.

We were able to uncover references in Riggs family documentation that an Edmund Riggs (1783-1876) of what would become West Virginia, did have three sons Calvin, Owen, and Edmund who left and were apparently not found in future local documents again. And until our testing, no other descendants of these three brothers had surfaced.

The study of the Riggs family lines is extensive. It can be followed through the documents on the [Varner Family Genealogy Website](#), and fully via the link to the [Edwardian Riggs Genealogy Website](#) run by Alvy Ray Smith.

Tracing Other Riggs Descendants

The logical next step for our family is to trace descendants of the Riggs brothers of Miller County. This has proven to be difficult so far.

First, the search for Y-DNA descendants is limited to the Edmund Riggs of Miller County family. This is because records indicate Calvin and Owen produced only female children. I will discuss later how expanding the search to include autosomal descendants could help.

Edmund Riggs of Miller County, Missouri was married from 1844 until his death, to Mary Ann Piles (1826-1903). That

union produced four boys and one girl children:

Elizabeth Riggs (1845-1869)
Owen Roby Riggs (1848-1918)
Okey Riggs (1851-1925)
James Carrol Riggs (1854-1936)
William Henry Riggs (1859-1937)

Owen Roby and Okey are only known to have had female children themselves. James Carrol and William Henry both had male children. A full working listing of these descendants are attached [below](#).

Research has revealed that male descendants of James Carrol and William Henry may still be alive. However determining all names and current locations has failed so far.

Here are only known descendants of James Carrol Riggs who may be living. The known pedigree of these people is found using the above link:

Edmund Riggs (Aft 1930-) WA.
Thurman S. Riggs (1927-) OR.
Dale Riggs (1931-) OR.
Bruce Riggs (1936-) OR.

Here also are the only known descendants of William Henry Riggs who may be living. The above link also contains the known pedigree of these people:

Artis Riggs (1935-) OR.
Gary Pat Riggs (1937-) OR.

This is definitely NOT an all-inclusive list. There are several other male descendants who I just do not have information about. There likely are additional male descendants who are children of the above individuals or other sibling that may be living.

I and others have contacted and attempted contact with several Riggs named people in Washington and Oregon. To date, all those who have responded either are not related, or do not know if they are related.

Autosomal Research Possibilities

Earlier in the discussion I mentioned that we should expand the search to include autosomal descendants. Let's explain.

I have been so preoccupied with Y-DNA testing results over the last period of years, that advances in autosomal DNA testing have gone unused. Now there are abilities to use this type of testing to help unravel unanswered questions.

This subject was touched upon last month. You can read the Q&A section of last month's newsletter for one example of autosomal DNA usage. Simply put, everyone is made up of 23 chromosomes. Y-DNA and mt-DNA is determined using one of those chromosomes which determines sex. That leaves the other 22 chromosomes unused in a Y-DNA test.

Autosomal DNA considers those other 22 chromosomes to help determine genetic relationships. These relationships can be suggested between men and women. So now we have another tool in our search to unscramble ancestry.

This determination is not as conclusive as Y-DNA, and dilutes in the gene pool after only a few generations. But it can provide help in the search. Here is an example.

At the first of this year I completed autosomal testing for myself. There is a site where you can upload your autosomal DNA results. This site is called GedMatch.com. The site receives uploads from individuals who have tested from all three of the main DNA testing companies: Family Tree DNA, Ancestry DNA, and 23&Me DNA.

When you test with one of those three organizations, your results are only available for comparison to others who have tested with the same company. This means that you are missing out on possible matches from the other two companies. While you still would have to test with each company individually to find Y-DNA or mt-DNA results, autosomal results can now be compared to anyone who uploads their autosomal DNA results to GedMatch.com for free. This is what I did with my autosomal DNA.

I now have discovered many possible autosomal matches that can be examined to see if it can be determined if you are closely related to others who are either male or female. Proof of its usefulness is described below.

Dee Ann Bremer has also completed autosomal testing. Here tests were through Ancestry DNA. This is a different company than FTDNA where I tested. We both have uploaded our autosomal results to GedMatch.com.

We both find that our closest autosomal match so far is to each other.

My pedigree is:

Edmund Riggs

John Lawrence Varner

Bert Lonzo Varner

Edwin Dale Varner

Bruce Thomas Varner

Dee Anne Hunt Bremer's pedigree is:

Edmund Riggs

John Lawrence Varner

Chloe Bell Varner Hunt

Lawrence Ross Hunt

Dee Anne Hunt Bremer

As you can see, the autosomal comparison helps confirm what we already knew. That we were related. Observing above, our MRCA (Most Recent Common Ancestor) is John Lawrence Varner 3 generations back.

Please understand that with autosomal testing, two additional things are

required. First, you must have or find other non-DNA evidence that supports the findings. Second, you must in most circumstances have several close family members also tested so that the results can be "triangulated" before any strong conclusions can be drawn.

You can see how this could be another tool to help in finding previously unknown connections. While it cannot tell you how you are connected, it can provide places to look.

This additional tool I believe can be put to good use in not only the search for Riggs descendants, but help also in other family connections.

There are two takeaways from this discussion. First, any help with continuing the search for Miller County Riggs descendants would be useful. Secondly, reconsider DNA testing. Especially if you are female, and especially if you are older. Autosomal DNA matches dilute after a few generations. Once a person passes, the chance is gone. However if a person takes the tests, the results will remain after you are gone. This tests could possibly provide answers many years down the line.

**2016 Varner/Newton/Williams
Reunion**

Saturday, May 28th, 2016. The event will be held in Macks Creek:

Macks Creek Baptist Church
Fellowship Hall

Macks Creek, MO. 65786

Opening at 10:00am with most folks
arriving sometime before lunch.

I will be sure to have an interesting topic
or two for presentation at the reunion.

Please attend.

Everyone's input is important! Please
voice your opinions, suggestions, and
family details to the discussion.

Get ready. The reunion will be here
before you know it.....

Bruce Varner

Known Descendants of Edmund Riggs⁴

<<<Number after name indicates the generation of that individual>>>

WARNING Not all of the information below has been vetted.
Validate through other sources before relying on anything below!

Edmund Riggs⁴ [1783-1876] (Maryland to Tyler Co. W. Virginia)

Calvin Riggs⁵ [1810-1863] (Tyler Co. W. Virginia to Missouri)

Owen Riggs⁵ [1814-1875] (Tyler Co. W. Virginia to Missouri)

Virginia C. Riggs⁶ [1852-]

Martha Francis Riggs⁶ [1858-]

Elizabeth Cleona Riggs⁶ [1863-1899]

Missouri M. Rosa Riggs⁶ [1865-1957]

Lorenzo Dow Riggs⁵ [1815-1818]

Ruth B. Riggs⁵ [1815-1818]

Edmond Riggs⁵ [1819-1877] (Tyler Co. W. Virginia to Missouri) Wife **Mary Ann Elizabeth**

Piles [Feb. 22, 1823-Jun. 27, 1903, born in Bellville, Ill.] married in 1842, St. François Co.

MO.. (Illinois to Missouri to Olympia, Washington)¹

Elizabeth Riggs⁶ [1845-]() Husband Mark Jones

Pherby Jones⁷ [1864-](Missouri)

Edmond Lewis Jones⁷ [Aug. 17, 1868-Jan. 13, 1946](Missouri-Washington)

Wife **Ellen Permieca Grimmet** [1872-1916]()

Margaret Riggs⁸ [1890-1943] Husband George Shattuck [1873-1970]

Dorothy E. Shattuck⁹ [1924-1927]

Nelson Henry Shattuck⁹ [Aug. 12, 1919-Aug. 21, 1988](Washington)

Margaret Shattuck⁹

Delores Shattuck⁹

Edmond Shattuck⁹ [1929-]

Mark Edmond Beesley¹⁰ []

Bruce Delone Shattuck⁹ [Jun. 3, 1931-Dec. 25, 2007](Washington)

Ollie Belle Jones⁸ [1905-1907]

Paul Theodore Jones⁸ [1908-1942]

Owen Roby Riggs⁶ [1848-](Missouri) Wife **Mary Ann Teague**. [b. 1856](Denton, TX.)

Rosa Bell Riggs⁷ [Dec. 1, 1868-Oct. 26, 1941](Missouri-California)

Husband Clement Faurot

Owen H. Faurot [Sep. 27, 1908-Aug. 14, 1965](California)

Joseph Lurton Faurot [Sep. 15, 1911-Feb. 20, 1950](California)

¹ Find-A-Grave #38457022, Odd fellows Memorial Park & Mausoleum, Turnwater, Thurston Co. Washington (Wife of Edmund Riggs, E Riggs)

Hattie Florence Riggs⁷ [] Married John Henry Mahan.
Okey Riggs⁶ [Dec. 23, 1852-Sep. 28, 1925]²(Miller Co. MO. To Olympia, Thurston Co. Washington) Wife Chlora Emeline Butcher [Apr. 4, 1859-Sep. 21, 1911](Hoquiam, Chehalis Co. Washington)³ Lost part of hand in 1903 while working at Westside Mill, Olympia, WA.

William H. Riggs⁷ [1876-](Missouri to Washington) Wife Nancy S. [-1924]

Chester A. Riggs⁸ [Jan 15, 1890-Apr. 25, 1954](Washington) Wife Melvina Urena Brown [1895-1986] WWI veteran.

Kenneth L. Riggs⁹ [Mar. 7, 1926-Feb. 23, 2010](Washington) Wife Lillian [] (Four Lakes, WA.)

Sharon Riggs¹⁰ [] (Bow, WA.)

Shirlie Riggs¹⁰ [] (Spokane, WA.)

Gaila R. Riggs⁹ [] (22 S. Buchanan Ave. Apt. #213, Chelan, Wenatchee, WA.) Husband Wellendorf

Artis Riggs⁹ [] () Husband Doner

Gary Pat Riggs⁹ [] ()

Arthur Riggs⁸ [] ()

Jennie Riggs⁸ [] () Husband Fields

Effie Riggs⁸ [] () Husband Merz

May Riggs⁸ [] ()

Margaret (Maggie) Riggs⁷ [1878-Jul. 3, 1952](Missouri to Washington) Husband B. R. Stewart

Maude Riggs [1885-Aug. 26, 1929](Washington)

James Carroll Riggs⁶ [May 27, 1855-May 3, 1936](Missouri, Washington, Oregon, California) Wife 1, Alice M. McFalls [27 at Nov. 12, 1882 marriage to James in Howell Co. MO.]

Edmund A. Riggs⁷ [Aug. 26, 1885-Apr. 5, 1968](Missouri, Washington, California?) Wife Jessie McFalls

Carrell Edmund Riggs⁸ [Feb. 6, 1908-Sep. 30, 1979] Wife **Louise Smith** [1912-1990](Oregon)

Loretta I. Riggs⁹ [Mar. 13, 1930-Jul. 25, 1970](Oregon, Washington) Husband Dennis Nickelson

Gary McWillis¹⁰ []

Charlene Nickelson¹⁰ []

Nancy Nickelson¹⁰ []

Loretta Riggs⁸ []

Edmund Riggs⁸ [] (Florence, Oregon)

Frederick Lee Riggs⁸ [] Wife Christina A. Haverkamp. Married Washington Aug. 5, 1939.

² Find-A-Grave #38457039, Odd fellows Memorial Park & Mausoleum, Turnwater, Thurston Co. Washington

³ Find-A-Grave #38457004, Odd fellows Memorial Park & Mausoleum, Turnwater, Thurston Co. Washington

Thurman Allen Riggs⁸ [Nov. 8, 1916-Nov. 24, 2007](La Grande, OR.) Wife 1, Elsie Marx. Wife 2, Lillian Briggs Sherych married on Feb. 10, 1984.

Dorothy Lewana Riggs⁸ [Sep. 21, 1924-Jan. 16, 1994]

Thurman W. Riggs⁷ [Oct. 6, 1888-May 25, 1965](Missouri, Washington, Oregon) Cpl. WWI.

Thurman S. Riggs⁸ [1927-]

Oswell C. Riggs⁷ [1891-](Missouri, Washington) Wife **Laura Tullen.**

Ione Carol Riggs⁸ [Feb. 4, 1918-Apr. 11, 2009](Oregon) Husband James Harley Smith [1909-1986 married on Jun. 25, 1939.

Lee Smith⁹ []

Karol Smith⁹ [(Oregon, Nebraska) Husband Stroda.

Bruce Riggs⁸ [(Oregon)

Dale Riggs⁸ [(Oregon, California)

Robert L. Riggs⁷ [Feb. 7, 1893-May 14, 1956](Missouri, Washington, California) Wife **Lorena Bell Wiswell.**

Violet Riggs⁸ [Mar. 23, 1916-](California) Husband Stumm?

Ina/Inis/Ione R. Riggs⁷ [Aug. 17, 1896-](Missouri, Washington, California) Husband Luthur K. Frost [1888-]

Jackie Carlos Frost [Nov. 27, 1924-Oct. 16, 2003](Minnesota)

William H. Riggs⁶ [1859-](I) Wife Nancy S. [-1924]

Chester A. Riggs⁷ [Jan 15, 1890-Apr. 25, 1954](Washington) Wife Melvina Urena Brown [1895-1986] WWI veteran.

Kenneth L. Riggs⁸ [Mar. 7, 1926-Feb. 23, 2010](Washington) Wife **Lillian** [(Four Lakes, WA.)

Sharon Riggs⁹ [(Bow, WA.)

Shirlie Riggs⁹ [(Spokane, WA.)

Gaila R. Riggs⁸ [1930-](22 S. Buchanan Ave. Apt. #213, Chelan, Wenatchee, WA.) Husband Wellendorf

Artis Riggs⁸ [1935-](I) Husband Doner

Gary Pat Riggs⁸ [1938-](I)

Arthur Riggs⁷ [(I)

Jennie Riggs⁷ [(I) Husband Fields

Effie Riggs⁷ [(I) Husband Merz

May Riggs⁷ [(I)

Caroline Riggs⁵ [1822-]

Elizabeth Riggs⁵ [1824-]

Josiah Riggs⁵ [1826-]

Okey Riggs⁵ [1826-]

Emaly Riggs⁵ [1829-]

****Use Zoom function of PDF to see image full size****

Family Tree DNA Matches

