



#### Our Cemeteries

In the 1800s there were no grave stone makers in Warren **There were no funeral homes. The body was laid out at the family home for friends to see.** Sometimes a coffin was constructed but that depended if there were planks available and someone who had a saw and was skilled enough to make one. Many were buried without a casket or marker on the farm as there were few cemeteries around. Families often did not have money to pay for a cemetery lot. **Often several family members died within a short time due to diseases we now have cures for such as scarlet fever, cholera, diphtheria, typhoid fever, small pox, etc.** Both the 1854 St Clement and 1845 Warren Union cemeteries appear to be preceded by the Bidell-Green-Weier Indian Cemetery but no one knows and it is not important. This was located west of Bunert and North of Martin. Here is a foto.

During construction of Briarwood School a skull and other human bones were discovered. (Per Tri City Progress 4 14-1967) In May of 1969 children playing in the school playground discovered more human remains. Imagine the look of shock on the teachers face when they brought the remains into the classroom. One contractor dug a load of dirt for fill dirt and dropped it off on someone's property. The homeowner receiving the fill dirt saw human remains and called the police who contacted the contractor. Imagine asking for fill dirt and getting human remains dropped off in your driveway. The funeral director William Duross told historian Wesley Arnold that Theuts, Greens, Hessels, and Schoenher were probably buried there. So it was for sure a pioneer cemetery.

Mt Olivet (opened in 1888) down Van Dyke, Mt. Elliott opened in 1841 but to farmers in Warren village that was a long trek with wagons especially if the weather was bad or in the Winter.

**The St Clement Cemetery** is located on Engleman east of Van Dyke. The first known recorded burial was in 1854.

Staff members of many cemeteries have stated that they have hundreds of children buried without markers. St Clement Cemetery is the sister pioneer cemetery to Warren Union Cemetery in Warren Michigan. Records show 451 child and 299 adult burials before 1898 of which only 28 markers now show a child burial. That gives a ratio of 1.5 child burials for each adult. There were 17 scattered years when there were about twice the children buried than adults. 5 years had about three times the child burials. One year had 12 times and one year 4 times. This is from their records and is verifiable.